

not finished, so that we may assume that the god stood with his back to the wall of a building. The preservation is, in general, excellent, only the tip of the nose and the ridges of hair having suffered serious abrasions.

This head of Aesculapius was found on the classical ground level at the southwest corner of a temple which was erected about 45 or 40 B. C. and which has been tentatively called the Temple of Julius Caesar. It seems possible that the statue once stood in the vestibule of this temple, along with a number of other works of art, one of which Dr. Johnson described in the last issue of the *Bulletin*. The head is not to be dated in the period of Caesar, however, as the incision of the pupils of the eyes and the thoroughgoing use of the drill to obtain deep, black shadows in and under the hair point rather to a date in the third century. A. D. The head was presented to Mr. Gustav Oberlaender by the Italian Government in recognition of his assistance in launching the excavations at Minturnæ.

The new season of the Minturnæ Expedition began the latter part of March. Dr. Johnson, the field director, plans to resume work simultaneously in the theatre and in the forum of the Imperial city, while proceeding with cautious soundings in the sixth century (B. C.) strata of the pre-Roman city which lies to the east of the present excavations, on the bank of the River Liris. It is hoped that we will shortly have fresh news from this exceedingly fertile archaeological deposit.

The splendid mask of the Augustan period from Minturnæ which is the subject of our cover design this month will receive in the near future the more complete publication that it merits.

*An African
Wood-carving*

AN addition to the African Collection has been made through the gift by Mrs. William Godfrey of the fetish figure shown at the left in Plate VI. The figure, which is fifty-eight

centimeters high, seems to belong to a large group of figures peculiar to both the Cataract District and the Stanley Pool Region of the Lower Congo. Also on exhibition in the African section is a figure (shown at the right in Plate VI) identified as coming from either the Basundi, in the Cataracts District, or from the Bateke, in the Stanley Pool Region, and the similarity in type of these two figures is evident. The *Annales du Musée du Congo*, Brussels, figures a series of carvings from a variety of tribes within both regions, among which the newly acquired figure seems to take its place. As far as the general style is concerned, both figures seem to be of Bateke origin or at least of Bateke inspiration. However, the attribution of a definite tribal type to a definite tribe is problematical, since within a single tribe can be found figures possessing divergent elements (as for example, the use of the pointed headdress and the rounded headdress among the Bateke, or the use of the pointed and of the trapezoidal beard at Leopoldville, Stanley Pool, as shown in several carvings in the Congo Museum publication).

Many of the figures, including the two now in the Museum, have an opening in the abdomen, made to receive 'medicine,' without which the figure had no magical power. The new figure bears on its head a mass of resinous substance in which are embedded two cowrie shells. Similar material is found on the bodies of other figures from the Lower Congo and bears a magical significance. The significance of the iron ring with a small work knife and a typical Congo bell suspended from it is unknown. E. H.

*Objects from
Meydûm*

THE objects received from the Meydûm excavations of the season 1931-1932 are, although chiefly of the later periods, very varied in character. Largest in bulk is a great quantity of pottery ranging in date from the Fourth Dynasty to early Christian times. In addition to the normal types of pottery sent us by Mr.



AFRICAN WOOD-CARVINGS FROM THE LOWER CONGO