



THE ATRIUM IN THE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM MODEL OF A ROMAN TOWN HOUSE

probably ornamented a series of low niches which formed the front of the stage. In one of the outer arcades of the theater was discovered a bronze plaque [Plate VII] commemorative of a Roman consul of about A. D. 500 and bearing the Christian symbols: the first tangible proof of Christianity to be found at Minturnæ.

During the first season a trench sunk against the base of a monument in the Imperial Forum brought to light a deposit of discards from the kiln of a local potter of about 200 B. C. Further investigation and study of this deposit during the past season revealed a hitherto unimagined scope in the work of the ancient potter. Altogether a hundred and ten different sizes and shapes were found: familiar black Campanian ware; other black ware; toy vessels an inch high and clay writing-tablets, belonging rather to the Etruscan tomb furniture of an earlier century; hard, fine, yellow pottery; Campanian coarse ware for kitchen and commercial use; lamps, clay votive offerings, roof tiles, drain pipes, and other objects were among this extraordinarily varied deposit. The presence of three different signature stamps on various pieces indicates that the potter was perhaps not an individual but rather a syndicate or cooperative group. Six coins found in the deposit will be valuable for dating purposes.

#### *A Model of a*

#### *Roman Town House*

**I**N response to many requests coming from all over the country, the Museum is about to publish an accurate scale model of a Roman Town House typical of the residences found during the excavations at Pompeii, Herculaneum, and other south Italian cities and belonging to the period of the first century B. C. and the first century A. D. The model, which measures about two by four feet and stands ten inches high, is printed on water-color paper mounted on cardboard; it is in sections and is accompanied by full directions for assembling and coloring. It was



designed by Mr. George B. Roberts to whom the editor is indebted for the following summary of the principal features.

The front, with its shops opening on the side-walk, is adapted from the 'House of the Faun,' and the pavement of the fauces and the atrium are from the same source. The walls of the atrium [Plate IX] are from the 'House of Sallust,' which is of the same period. The peristyle, tablinum (or master's office), and large triclinium (or dining-room) are copied from those in the 'House of the Tragic Poet.' On the floor of the exedra (open-air living-room) is the famous Alexander mosaic from the 'House of the Faun.' One cubiculum is copied from the Boscoreale cubiculum now in the Metropolitan Museum in New York.

By incorporating individual rooms from various Pompeian houses into the model, it is possible to illustrate how, as frequently happened, an ancient house might be enlarged, altered, and redecorated according to the fashions of successive periods, until it finally illustrated the main steps in the development of domestic architecture through three centuries of Roman history.

#### *A New Expedition to Persia*

IT is gratifying to be able to announce that the Museum's work in Persia—so successfully inaugurated by two seasons of excavations near Damghan—is to be continued under the leadership of Dr. Erich F. Schmidt at a new site of foremost importance, that of ancient Rhages, now called Ray.

Mrs. William Boyce Thompson, to whom the successes of the Damghan expedition are so greatly due, has indicated her desire to establish, under the auspices of the University Museum, the Mrs. William Boyce Thompson Fund for Archaeological Research in Persia, and thus generously to underwrite for a certain term of years a portion of the Museum's projected work in this area. The Ray expedition is to be under the joint auspices of this Foundation and the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, with the