

if the face is viewed in its proper plane it will be seen that the forehead is very receding, showing the cranial deformation that was considered beautiful and proper by the Maya. Probably the headdress was originally much larger and more ornate. The nature of the original fillet which is represented by a row of disks with central knobs is uncertain, but it may have been of jade, pyrite or shell. The form of the headdress suggests that it may originally have represented, in conventionalized art, the upper jaw of a serpent. Possibly the lower jaw was also represented below the chin. This motive of a human head framed in the mouth of a monstrous serpent is a very common one in Middle American art.

J. A. M.

*Mesopotamian
Excavations*

THE twelfth season of our joint expedition, with the British Museum, to Ur has now begun. This will be a short campaign, principally devoted to completing certain unfinished tasks and to getting all in order, with the idea that with the close of the season, excavations at Ur will be brought to an end.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, it has been necessary to abandon for the present season our expedition to Tell Billa and Tepe Gawra. It is hoped that another year will see resumption of activities at these ancient north-Mesopotamian sites.

Publications

THIS, the first number of volume 5 of the *Bulletin*, is dated January instead of December, and the succeeding numbers will appear at two-month intervals, thus bringing all numbers of the volume within one calendar year and eliminating the long period from June to October, when, heretofore, no *Bulletin* has appeared.

The Museum has for free distribution to members only a few copies of the *Illustrated Souvenir* of the Exhibition of Persian Art which was held in London in 1931. This book contains a brief