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79. Note Upon Excavations Made 1904-5.

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## ORIGINAL ARTICLES.

Egypt.

With Plate K.

Garstang.

**Note upon Excavations made 1904-5.** By John Garstang, M.A.,  
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Hierakonpolis (Kom-el-Ahmar) was the place selected for first investigation. The palace site is well known from the researches of former explorers, and consequently the present excavations were made rather in the outlying township, which proved to be almost wholly of proto dynastic age. Immediately below the rubbish of more recent times, strata representing the third and earlier dynasties were come upon; it was even possible in some instances to trace the walls of houses and the disposition of rooms and passages of that remote date, about 3,000 B.C. Vases of alabaster and granite, as well as flint knives of conspicuously delicate workmanship, and other small objects, served to illustrate the archæology of the time and locality. As the dry season came on, however, the ground in general proved too hard for the careful excavation demanded by so important a site, and work thereon was postponed until a more favourable season.

Meanwhile within the great fortress which stands immediately opposite upon the edge of the western desert, and seems to have been built in a contemporary age for the protection of this palace, it was found by experiment that previous excavators had not penetrated deeply enough to reach its lowest historical strata. At a depth which varied according to the accumulation of sand from two to three metres below the existing surface, a whole necropolis of the prehistoric age was discovered and excavated; 188 graves were registered and photographed in detail. They seem to range in date from about the middle portion of the predynastic sequence until the beginning of the first dynasty. The plate shows some of these burials, selected either as being typical examples of the series or for some special feature described in the letterpress. In themselves they have provided much that is of interest, and in relation to the walls of the fortress, associated with the tomb structures of later date upon the outside, have furnished reliable evidence that the fortress itself belongs to a date lying between the first and third dynasties. A photograph in the plate illustrates the approximate relation between the stratum of the necropolis and the walls of the fort.

After the completion of that excavation, after nearly two months of work, explorations were made throughout the whole region lying southward as far as Hissayeh. Tentative excavations were made at several points. At Edfu the remains seem to be of Ptolemaic times, while at Hissayeh some interesting funereal furniture and hieroglyphic papyri of pre-Ptolemaic date were discovered in the *débris* of a former excavation. Plundering during very recent times had rendered these sites unsuitable for the continuous work of an organised expedition; consequently, after the third month, camp was fixed at Esna on the northern limit of the concession.

As is often the case, rumours that the place had been plundered had in some measure saved it for the excavators. The smaller tombs of the great necropolis at once gave evidence of their origin during the Hyksos period; it seems probable (though the results of further excavation must be awaited before a definite conclusion can be established) that the site came into being during the pressure from the north in those troubled times upon the capital at Thebes. During the XVIII and XIX Dynasties the site at Esna seems to have fallen into neglect; but from the XX Dynasty, which heralded the period of the decline of the Egyptian power, about 1000 B.C., Esna again came into prominence.

Two great mounds, conspicuous in the desert from afar, proved to be tomb structures of this later date. These, cleared of their accumulated sand, disclosed great structures of brick in good preservation, which comprised a series of eight or ten chambers upon the ground-floor with a stairway leading up to a similar series above. The arches and vaults were pointed in nearly every case. In a stone-lined chamber within the largest

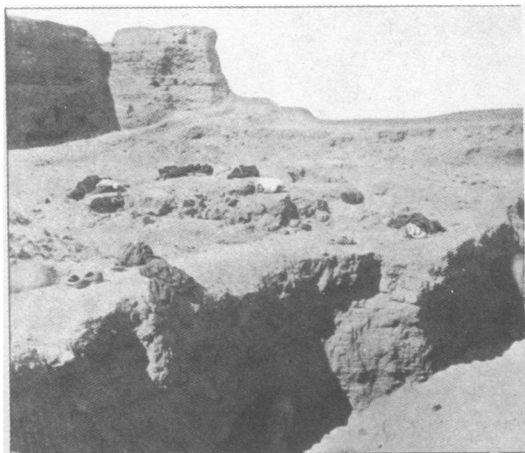


FIG. 1.—RELATION OF BURIALS TO WALLS.

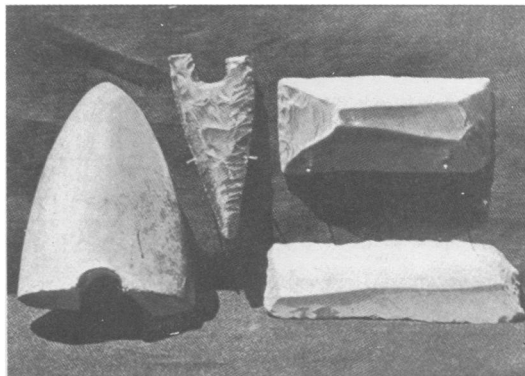


FIG. 2.—FLINT AND STONE OBJECTS.

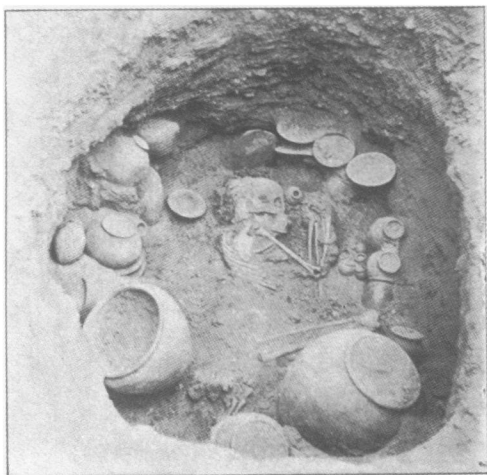


FIG. 3.—TYPICAL BURIAL.



FIG. 4.—BEADS ON THE HEAD.

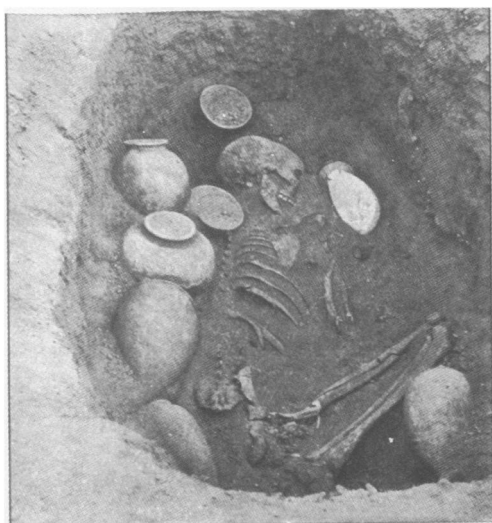


FIG. 5.—TYPICAL BURIAL.



FIG. 6.—BURIAL OF CHILD IN POT.

EXCAVATIONS AT HIERAKONPOLIS.

structure there was found the head of an apis carved in stone of the time of Ramses VI., and numerous remains of animals sacrificed at that shrine were found within the chamber. These structures were in reality great tombs, built, it would seem, for the permanent use of some family. Unfortunately a conflagration within the chambers, which seemed to have been deliberately brought about, had destroyed much archæological evidence, but the architecture illustrated is of a new interest. The largest of these tombs stood upon a base 14·8 metres (nearly 50 ft.) square, and its height was half its length, measured from its lowest course deep in the sand to the existing summit, which seems to be original.

The exhibition of antiquities discovered is being held in the premises of the Institute of Archæology of the University of Liverpool, and will remain open until the middle of October, 1905.

JOHN GARSTANG.

### Archæology : Eoliths.

Abbott.

**Machine-made Eoliths.** *By W. J. Lewis Abbott, F.G.S.*

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The note of Mr. Dalton in the August number of MAN will be gladly received by all interested in the subject of the greater antiquity of man. But, unfortunately, there is a number of facts presented by the note which prepare us for what we may expect when we see the actual specimens and hear the arguments brought forward. But as I have not seen either of these I will confine myself to Mr. Dalton's extract. The inaccuracy of the general statements at once precludes the possibility of their truth, the terms are too loose and generalising to be of any scientific value. Fancy, for instance, making such an assertion as, that the flints in the washers are subject to every conceivable kind of pressure and shock ! Assuredly the writer of this sentence has never watched the multifarious beach operations or studied the vicissitudes of gravel making ; the collective results of which produce altogether closer counterfeits of plateau flints than the process of washing in cement-making. Then, again, evidently the writer thinks that blows, pressure, and shock, exhaust Nature's possibilities. Starchy or prismatic fissure, internal disruption, spontaneous brecciation, expansion and contraction under thermic changes with their pseudo-flaking and all the other natural processes, leave their mark upon some of the plateau flints ; how, then, could the cement-maker's vat produce examples of all the eolithic forms ? There is yet the important fact that the "discovery" is by no means new. By the irony of fate, one of the collectors of plateau flints, Mr. Percy Martin, is himself a cement and whiting manufacturer, and for over forty years he has been examining all the refuse flints of his vats for anything of scientific value, but up to the present he has discovered nothing to throw doubt upon the human origin of the things under consideration. For many years I did the same, not only at this manufactory but at any others I could find. But after living eight years by the sea shore and daily walking over and noting the possibilities of shore action, I unhesitatingly maintain that I can produce better results at rude simulation from the beach, than anything I have seen from the cement-maker's vat or gas-engine blast hole.

I am quite willing to admit that I have very many hundred specimens from the beach, that none but he who had specially studied the subject could distinguish from the plateau flints except by colour, but I can go further than this and include many palæoliths and even neoliths. Will our good friends be satisfied with ruling only plateau flints out of court, and not the palæoliths and neoliths also ?

Very many years' careful study of the subject leads me to maintain that although we may never be able to draw a hard-and-fast line between man's earliest attempts at altering the shape of a flint and the operations of Nature, any more than we can say where one colour ends and another begins in the spectrum, yet as we can with safety put our pointer upon what we can fearlessly call a red, or a blue, so also there are certain