

II.—PROGRESS OF EGYPTOLOGY.

A.—HIEROGLYPHIC STUDIES, &c.

EGYPTOLOGY continues to move forward with rapid strides: the field for work is inexhaustible, and each year new means of cultivating it are provided, and new labourers are attracted in numbers that far out-balance the loss by death or defection. The land itself also holds a vast quantity of treasures in store for the spade of the excavator, who, unless he be engaged in a scientific search for such antiquities as are likely to be disturbed by the native diggers, has to be adjured to hold his hand until the monumental crop above ground has been safely gathered in.

There is, however, a black cloud overhead which threatens to burst immediately and utterly destroy the harvest that we hoped for from the land of Lower Nubia. Whatever alleviation of the calamity may be effected by the Government and by private surveys and excavations of the threatened ground, the Aswân dam will be the cause of a more rapid and wholesale destruction of antiquities than has ever before been known; and, as such, it must be contemplated with horror by all Egyptologists, to whom this year is likely to be one of painful memory. The happier aspect of the scheme—the material benefit to the country—must not be insisted on in these archæological pages, and as our Society has already done all that it can to obtain a reconsideration of the question, we may leave it, and turn to the record of work done.

EXCAVATION AND EXPLORATION.

The excavations of our Society at Dêr el Bahri have been already described in M. Naville's Report. Prof. Flinders Petrie spent the season at Coptos, working chiefly on the site of the destroyed temple of Min.