

EXCAVATIONS AT DEIR EL-BAHARI.

7

excavations of next season will show. There are also traces of a building of the XVIIIth Dynasty.

On the south side of the platform a court on the lower level was found like the north court, but necessarily much smaller, owing to the narrow space available between the platform and the hill-slope. In this court an important discovery was made. Six black granite statues of King Usertsen III, of the XIIth Dynasty, were found. They probably stood on the platform, and were broken and thrown down into the court. All have been broken off at the knees, and the lower parts of all have disappeared. The heads of four are well preserved, with the exception of the nose. There is a certain difference between the portraits, which shows that they represent the King at different periods of his life. The statue in pl. iv, fig. 8, has the oldest portrait.

Many votive statues of this kind, as well as stelae, were dedicated in the temple at different periods. Besides those of Amenhetep I, already mentioned, the most important found are two figures, unluckily somewhat damaged, of Paser, the well-known governor of Thebes in the reign of Ramses II. They are of sandstone, painted red, white, yellow and black, with blue hieroglyphs. They stand about four feet high. A very beautiful face of a limestone statue of a man must be specially mentioned. No more of the figure was found: it has been assigned to America. A large number of fragments of the reliefs of the wall of the ambulatory on the platform have been found, as last year. Many of the scenes represented are of considerable interest (especially some representations of birds), but the actual workmanship does not equal that of the shrine-reliefs already mentioned, some of which are sculptured in a delicate-coloured relief of remarkable height (*see* pl. iv, figs. 6, 7), a technique previously unknown. This high relief is, of course, original XIth Dynasty work, untouched in later times; the wall reliefs, especially on the south side of the pyramid, may have been re-touched under the XIXth Dynasty.

Among the objects found in the *débris* covering the platform the most important and interesting was a beautiful alabaster head of a cow (pl. iv, fig. 9) about half life-size, whose eyes were originally inlaid with lapis-lazuli, while its horns were probably of silver with a golden disk between them. This was no doubt the head of one of the holy images of Hathor, preserved in the speos-shrine of the great temple. It is a very fine specimen of the Egyptian sculptor's art.

A large number of workmen's tools, hoes, mallets, etc., were found, and also a fine copper graving tool, mounted in a wooden handle, which was retained at Cairo, like the chisel found last year. The interesting