

PREFACE.

THE results of the excavations undertaken by Mr. Petrie at Kahun and Gurob were published by the explorer in two volumes entitled *Kahun, Gurob and Hawara* (Kegan Paul, 1890), and *Illahun, Kahun and Gurob* (Nutt, 1891). The papyri alone were reserved for separate treatment and fuller consideration, and now at length the best of these are given in the present work. At some not too distant date the editor hopes to issue a catalogue with full particulars of the whole collection, and supplementary facsimiles, for the gleanings are still considerable.

Now, however, the editor desires to record his gratitude to Professor Petrie for placing these valuable papyri in his charge, and for providing the heavy cost of printing so large a selection out of a publications fund which Professor Petrie himself set aside, and for the administration of which he is mainly responsible. The restorations of the papyri were mostly completed in 1890. It was at first intended to publish hand copies, and with Mr. Newberry's aid a number of tracings were prepared, of which only one small piece has been utilized, namely, the copy of the fragment IV. 5 on Plate XXVI^a. It was found impossible to represent blurred and indistinct writing adequately by tracings, and it was therefore agreed that the facsimile plates should be made by the excellent photographic process of the Autotype Company. These facsimiles were all executed in 1893, but a variety of other work interfered with the completion of the task. In September of that year Professor Erman of Berlin kindly checked the transcriptions of Plates I.–III. and V.–VII. with the facsimiles, and suggested several important alterations. For the medical papyri the editor has had the privilege of consulting several eminent representatives of