

THE
ROYAL TOMBS OF THE IST DYNASTY.

INTRODUCTION.

1. The work described in this volume is but a portion of that carried out during the past winter, 1899-1900. In most places it is essential to finish the work in one season, and therefore to include everything in one volume. But as Abydos is a subject for several years' work, there is no need to delay the issue of the most important results while the lesser but more tedious matters are being prepared. Hence this volume does not profess to be complete, but is only some advance sheets of a longer publication which will be completed next year. Large quantities of the more bulky materials, such as jar sealings and pottery, have been left undrawn, to await issue in future; and the whole of the results of the periods of the XVIIIth Dynasty and onward will appear in a later volume. The present plates are but a portion of the material from the Ist Dynasty, with a brief account of the subjects, but so important a portion that we do not wish to keep it back for a year or two, or even a month. This has led to reversing the order, and issuing it before last year's results from Diospolis Parva, but the relative importance of the two is sufficient reason for this course.

The materials here published were prepared in Egypt during the excavating season, and some two hundred photographs and the draw-

ings for over forty plates were brought home ready to use. My wife drew the tomb plans and all the marks on pottery, and I have to thank Miss Orme for inking the drawings of jar sealings. Thus I have been able to put everything in the printers' hands within eighteen weeks from the beginning of the excavations. I need not refer to our party at Abydos in detail, as, excepting a little occasional help, the work on the royal tombs, and the photographing and drawing, was my own share of the season's work. Mr. MacIver worked on the prehistoric age and a temple of the XIIth Dynasty; Mr. Mace on the cemetery of the XVIIIth to XXVth Dynasty; I worked some cemetery of the prehistoric and of the XXXth Dynasty; and for the Egyptian Research Account Mr. Garstang worked a cemetery of the XIIth and XVIIIth Dynasties. All this material, of much interest historically, will be published after it has been properly worked up. Some of the photographs need apology; my plates were soon exhausted by the great number of objects, a further batch from England did not arrive, and I had to fall back on very unsatisfactory plates, which were the best to be got in Cairo. Messrs. Waterlow's phototypes are better than I could have expected from such negatives.

2. It might have seemed a fruitless and

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