

nine in all being opened. Twenty-six out of this number were found to have been anciently robbed and their burials broken up, and therefore will not be dealt with in this chapter, with the exception of grave 242. The graves were of two kinds: I. Family graves in which rough chambers were cut in the side of a hill to hold from two to six, or more, bodies. II. Single burials placed at the bottom of a rough hole, or in a chamber provided to take only one body. The orientation of the bodies was not constant, as is usual in this period, and frequently bodies in the same chamber were placed in different directions.

A feature in many of the graves was cist burial. These cists were always well cut in the soft rock and roofed over with slabs of local stone carefully cemented down. They were excavated in the floors of the chambers, or at the bottom of rough hole graves.

*Grave 99* (Roman) was undisturbed. It contained a female body with head to the west and facing upwards. The attitude was in a straight position on the back, with both hands placed beneath the hips. A gold ring (pl. xxxix, 24) much worn was found close to the left hand, a white stone bead (23) on silver wire was worn as a pendant, and a necklace of gold was around the neck (pl. xxxix, 22).

*Grave 237*. Ptolemaic. In this grave was laid a male body with head to west and facing north. The position was straight on back. The body, which was wrapped in a light linen shroud or garment, was laid in a cist cut at the bottom of a rough hole, measuring 87 inches on N. × 56 inches on E. × 53 inches deep. The dimensions of the cist were 71 inches on N., 19 inches on E. × 24 inches deep; it was carefully covered over with slabs of stone, the joints being filled in with cement. A chaplet of bronze leaves and berries, heavily gilt, was in position around the head (pl. xxxix, no. 32). At the feet were two sandals, with leathern soles and network uppers of the same material. These were secured to the ankles by leathern thongs. Two small pottery jars, each with two handles, were lying close to the feet (pl. xxvii, nos. 35 and 36). At the north of, and above, the cist upon a ledge was lying an iron reaping-hook with a wooden handle (pls. xxxvii, 1, and xxxviii, 8).

*Grave 242* (Ptolemaic). This consisted of a chamber measuring 84 inches on N. × 55 inches on E. × 46 inches high. The entrance to it was formerly sealed up, but plunderers had broken down the upper portion of the walling and entered the grave. Curiously enough, though articles of value were left inside the chamber, yet the bones of the

burial were found to have been completely removed. Inside the chamber was a large black *crater* (pl. xxxviii, 13), two small *canthari* (6, 7), and a small black pottery dish (3). With these was a carved horn of an ox (1) and a long alabaster jar (2).

68. During a brief stay at Atfieh, which is situated on the eastern bank of the Nile about forty miles south of Cairo, a finely painted Ptolemaic tomb was unearthed and copied. The tomb, which was constructed of limestone throughout, was 15 feet 5 inches long × 12 feet 10 inches wide × 9 feet 9 inches high, with a vaulted roof. The spring of the arch was 38 inches from the pavement. The doorway of the tomb was 6 feet 10 inches wide, 6 feet 3 inches high, and 32 inches long, and was found blocked with large rectangular pieces of stone (pl. xl, no. 1). One of these pieces was found to be inscribed, and is shewn on pl. xl, no. 7. The tomb had been entered anciently by means of a small square hole in the top of the roof, which can be seen in the photograph. When the sand that partially filled the interior was removed, a deep well was seen in the stone pavement measuring 95½ inches long × 43 inches wide × 57½ inches deep. This was provided to take the burial, which had, however, been entirely removed with the exception of a few small bones. Lying alongside this well was a roughly dressed limestone cover, 10 feet 7 inches long × 5 feet 3 inches wide × 18½ inches thick at the edges, and 21 inches thick down its axis. As far as we could see the cover had never been placed in position upon the well.

The pavement of the tomb was of thick limestone blocks, some of these being inscribed on their underparts with the cartouches of Rameses II. A portion of a bas-relief figure of the same king was also found among the paving blocks, shewing that a building dated to the sixth dynasty must have been somewhere in the vicinity. Tracings of this tomb will be found on pls. xli-xliv. Unfortunately the stucco face of this stone, which bears the painting, peels away very readily, so that it is impossible to remove the tomb and preserve it.

## CHAPTER XV

### OLD KINGDOM DAM IN WADY GERRAWY

By ERNEST MACKAY

69. AN examination was made by me of the stone dam, first discovered by Dr. Schweinfurth, which is situated seven miles to the east-south-east of