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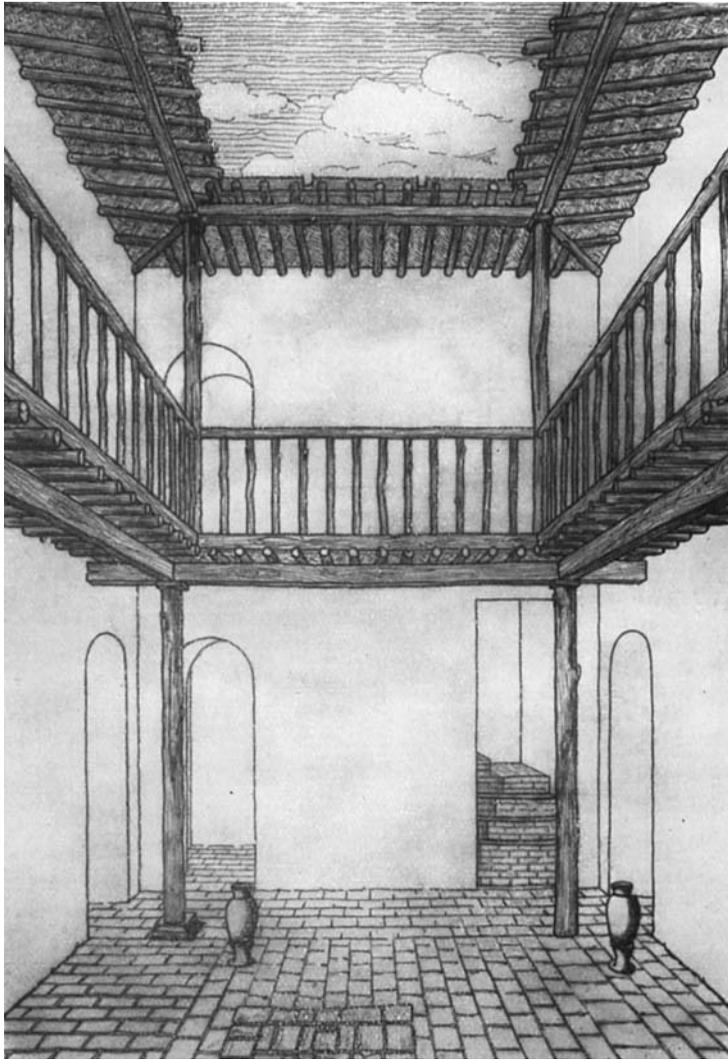
SEPTEMBER 1927

Editorial Notes

ONLY in very exceptional cases can we lend support in these pages to an appeal for funds, but we gladly do so on behalf of the excavations at UR in Mesopotamia. The importance of the joint work of the British Museum and the Museum of the University of Pennsylvania is not fully realized in this country. It is important primarily because here more than anywhere else in the world the origins of civilized life are to be looked for. We know that UR was a flourishing city three thousand years before Christ ; for, in the first season's work there Mr Woolley found an inscribed foundation-tablet of one of its earliest kings, A-anni-padda, whose father, already known but as a name only, had been suspected of being mythical ! A-anni-padda lived about a thousand years—not less—before Abraham, whose home also was in UR ; and to him A-anni-padda must have seemed a dim and shadowy figure, hidden in the mists of antiquity. Yet actually the stone which he laid as the foundation of his temple and on which he inscribed his name, and a seal with the name of his mother upon it, are among the finds of the recent excavations.



But A-anni-padda himself was preceded at UR by many generations of civilized people. During the last season's work three cemeteries were found, the oldest going back at least as far as 3500 B.C. 'The



A PRIVATE HOUSE AT UR OF THE CHALDEES, ABOUT THE TIME OF ABRAHAM
From a drawing by A. S. Whitburn, A.R.I.B.A.

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objects from the graves were such as no previous excavations in Mesopotamia have produced, and it was noteworthy that in richness, in quality, and in technique they were better in proportion as they went back earlier in time. Though we have reached the oldest datable strata yet found . . . it is clear that we have to deal with a civilization which, if not already decadent, had at least been in existence for many centuries.' (*Nature*, 23 July). Mr Woolley then describes the amazing gold and silver implements and jewelry found in the graves ; and he concludes by stating that ' the season's work has produced a mass of material, much of it entirely novel, the importance of which for the early history of Mesopotamia it would be difficult to exaggerate. I am glad to say there is every reason to believe that discoveries of no less importance await us next winter.'



The work at UR has been going on every winter since 1922, and Mr Woolley has gathered together and trained a staff of native diggers. (The excellent photographs of seal-impressions reproduced opposite p. 342 were taken by one of his native assistants). The existence of such a trained staff has a capital value which all excavators will appreciate. Further, there has now been uncovered, systematically and with the greatest skill, a larger single area of buildings than has ever been revealed on a Sumerian site ; previous work on other sites has too often been confined to the unsatisfactory method of trial-trenches. Every future season's work is therefore doubly important, for it adds to the completeness of an already coherent ground-plan. In the next number we shall publish an important article by Dr H. R. Hall, Keeper of Egyptian and Assyrian Antiquities in the British Museum. Dr Hall was actually the first, in modern times, to excavate at UR, in 1918-19 ; and he will give a general and authoritative summary of the results achieved by recent excavations. We have also been promised an article by Dr Langdon, who is directing for Mr Weld-Blundell the excavations at Kish on behalf of the University of Oxford and the Chicago Field Museum. Both articles will deal with the thorny question of chronology. We understand that Dr Langdon and Professor Fotheringham will shortly publish, through the Oxford University Press, a book dealing with the system of astronomical dating recently outlined by them.

EDITORIAL NOTES

We referred recently in these pages to the progressive disfiguration of rural England. The latest area threatened is the immediate neighbourhood of STONEHENGE. It might seem incredible that it should have been seriously suggested to erect a row of bungalows in the Avenue field immediately opposite the old stones, but a tea-shop, complete with flags, has already been built there, and plans are actually in existence for extending waterpipes and drains to the Amesbury road. Readers of *ANTIQUITY* will need no editorial promptings to support the scheme to thwart this vandalism. It is proposed to buy out the owners of the land, vesting it in the safe-keeping of the National Trust. The appeal has the support of the Prime Minister, Mr Ramsay Macdonald, Viscount Grey of Fallodon, Lord Crawford, Lord Radnor, the members of Parliament for Wiltshire and Mr J. C. Squire, the literary critic and editor of the *London Mercury*, who was closely associated with much of the preliminary organization. So strong a lead will, we hope, be followed by archaeologists all over the world, irrespective of nationality. Subscriptions should be sent to the Secretary of the National Trust, 7 Buckingham Palace Gardens, London, S.W. 1.



Most of the recent literature on the subject of GLOZEL has been devoted to acrimonious controversy. One might imagine that controversy would be confined to the subject of the authenticity of the finds, but not at all. M. Camille Julian and Dr Morlet, to mention only the protagonists, are engaged in a lively dispute as to whether the objects are the stock-in-trade of a Gallo-Roman witch-doctor, or whether they belong to the neolithic period. Much ink has been spilt in the *Mercure de France* over this matter. There are also cross-currents which we confess we are unable to follow altogether, and a good deal of heat has been generated.

But the beginning of the end is in sight !



The 'memorable days of scientific control' have begun in earnest with a visit of Monsieur A. Vayson de Pradenne, a civil engineer. He has published an account of his two visits in the *Bulletin de la Société Préhistorique Française* (June 1927). We shall not repeat at length his opinion of the objects themselves, since this opinion coincides very closely with the views given in our last number. Let it suffice that

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he regards none of them as ancient, with the exception of a few scanty relics connected with the glass furnace. This latter he considers as belonging to a type which remained in use until the end of the 18th century. Monsieur Vayson de Pradenne visited Glozel in June and July of this year, and conducted excavations there. He pays tribute to the sincerity, no less than to the fanaticism, of Dr Morlet's faith. Having arrived on the spot, he dug in the neighbourhood of a trench where antiquities were said to be very abundant. They were indeed : but it was observed that they gave out entirely when the excavations were conducted at a distance from the trench. Whereas a few cubic feet of earth near the trench yielded several engraved pebbles, a much bigger excavation at some distance yielded absolutely nothing. But the most interesting and damning result of Monsieur Vayson de Pradenne's work was his discovery in the soil of a hole of soft earth at the end of which was an engraved pebble. There was no doubt in his mind that this hole was the passage, made from the side of the old trench, through which the pebble itself had been introduced, and Fradin himself admitted that these patches of soft earth were the usual sign that 'antiquities' were coming. It is perfectly plain that the 'Spirit of Glozel,' as Monsieur Vayson de Pradenne delicately describes it, has salted the site pretty thoroughly by this means, and that the objects found have been introduced into the ground in this way. Monsieur Vayson de Pradenne concludes that there is 'great need of further work [like his own] to be carried out at Glozel, in view of the importance with which the matter is attended.' He adds a warning that any such undertaking should be hedged around with every kind of precaution 'since the Spirit of Glozel is undoubtedly ingenious.' If one suspects lateral penetration from a short distance, perhaps the objects will penetrate much further ; perhaps an attempt will be made from above. If local preparation of the ground at short notice becomes difficult, perhaps preparations will be made on a much larger scale. In any case, one must prepare for a serious battle, for the game is worth the candle, and the 'Spirit of Glozel' which has already given fine proof of courage and tenacity will fight desperately before admitting defeat.



We regret that in the first impression of number 1 of ANTIQUITY (p. 114) Mr Mackay was wrongly described as an American, instead of British. The error is corrected in the reprint.