

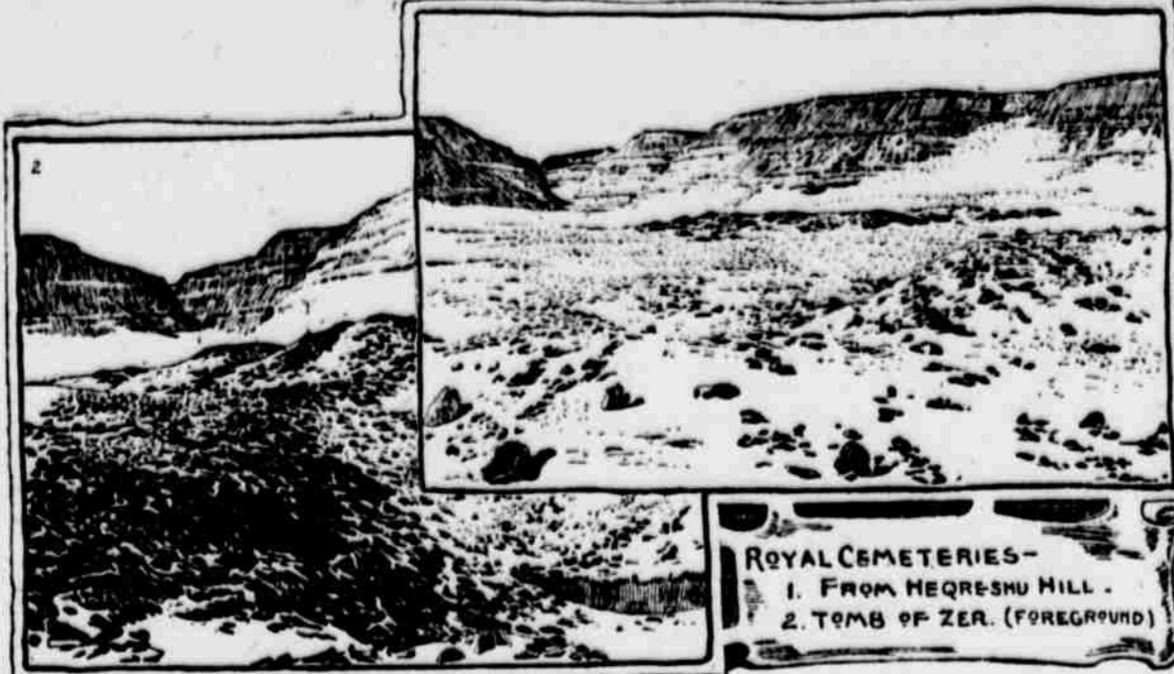
LIGHT UPON OLDEST EGYPT

Discoveries in the Tombs of the Ancient Egyptian Kings at Abydos.

FADS AND FRILLS OF EARLY MONARCHS

Played Games of Chance, Collected Works of Art, Imported Rare Woods, Kept Accounts and Enjoyed the Fat of the Land.

(Copyright, 1901, by C. H. Levy.) If ancient monarchs made history, modern explorers are creating it anew by their discoveries, and the most notable triumph in this direction is one just achieved by Prof. W. M. Flinders-Petrie, the explorer of the Egypt exploration fund at Abydos in Egypt, famous in the inscriptions as one of the most ancient settlements in that land of remote dates. Abydos has been visited before and so late as 1855 by M. E. Amelineau, a French explorer, who claimed to have swept the ground clean and found whatever was worth finding. Mr. Petrie was struck by the importance of the Frenchman's discoveries, but did not believe that the ground has been exhausted and his work on the same site has established the value of this preconception...

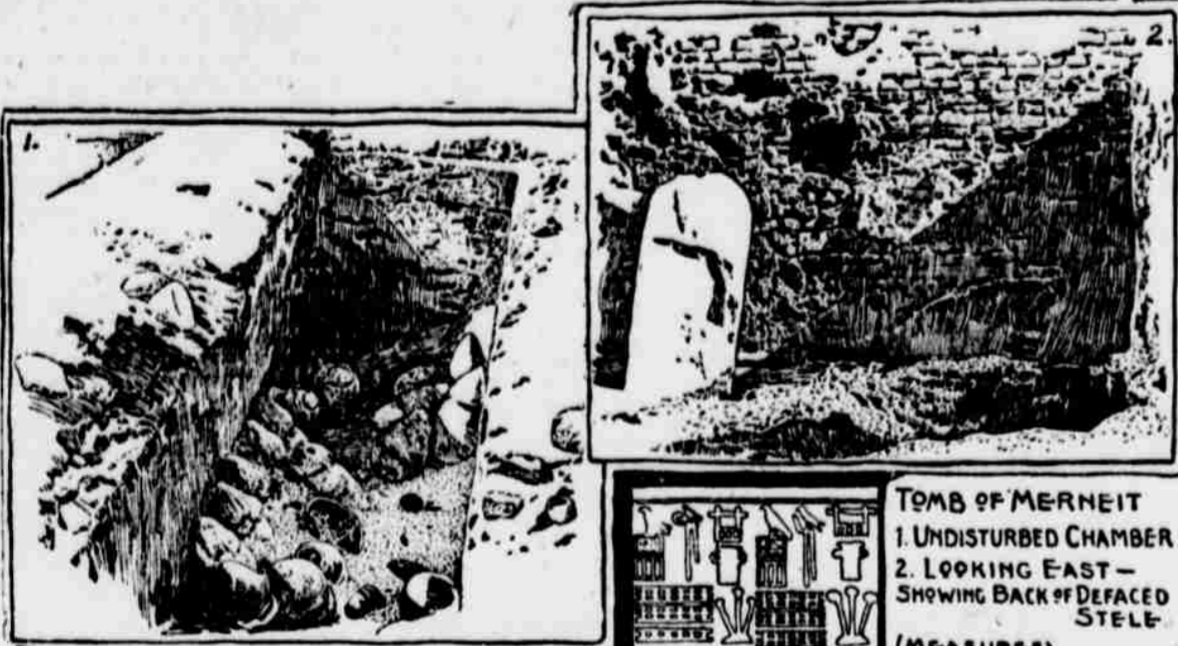


ROYAL CEMETERIES- 1. FROM MEQRESHU HILL. 2. TOMB OF ZER. (FOREGROUND)

constituting the eight kings of the first dynasty and two of the second, let in a flood of light upon the life of that very ancient day. Of course the hieroglyphs of that period are very primitive and may

that interest was revived in this cemetery connected by tradition with the early kings. Offerings of pottery were made at the tombs until now the place is piled high with thousands of fragments and is called by the owners. Ivory was found in considerable quantity, either in tablets or in small pieces used for inlaying, showing that this delicate art was practiced then. The ivory carvings of boats and the legs of animals are remarkable for their realism and faithfulness to nature. It was the custom to deposit jars containing food and drink in the tombs, and each jar was sealed with a clay stopper bearing the stamp of the king for whose tomb the jar was intended. An examination of these clay stoppers has helped greatly in the reading of the names of the monarchs. On the base of a dish of brown pottery is a fragment of accounts, the oldest known. It is evidently a scribe's tally of some sort of article. The number 20 occurs often and 100 and 200 are several times repeated. On another series of scale measures for water or wine and for corn or other dry produce are found, showing that so early a distinction was made between measures for liquids and dry measure. The remarkable ivory carvings of heads from an inlaid cabinet date from the earliest period and are unique instances of the advance of art in that time. The ivory tablets are easy to account for, being made of tusks easily secured in Egypt or from surrounding countries, but the large amount of ebony used on other tablets points to a wide commerce, even at this date, for ebony did not grow anywhere in the neighborhood of Egypt, and must have been brought from distant parts of Asia.

The most perfect stela of a private person found was discovered near the tomb of King Qa, and belonged to Sabef. The block of stone was ground all over with rounded edges, and the inscription was sketched on it in red ink, and then drawn in black ink. This ground was roughly



TOMB OF MERNEIT 1. UNDISTURBED CHAMBER 2. LOOKING EAST - SHOWING BACK OF DEFACED STELE (MEASURES)

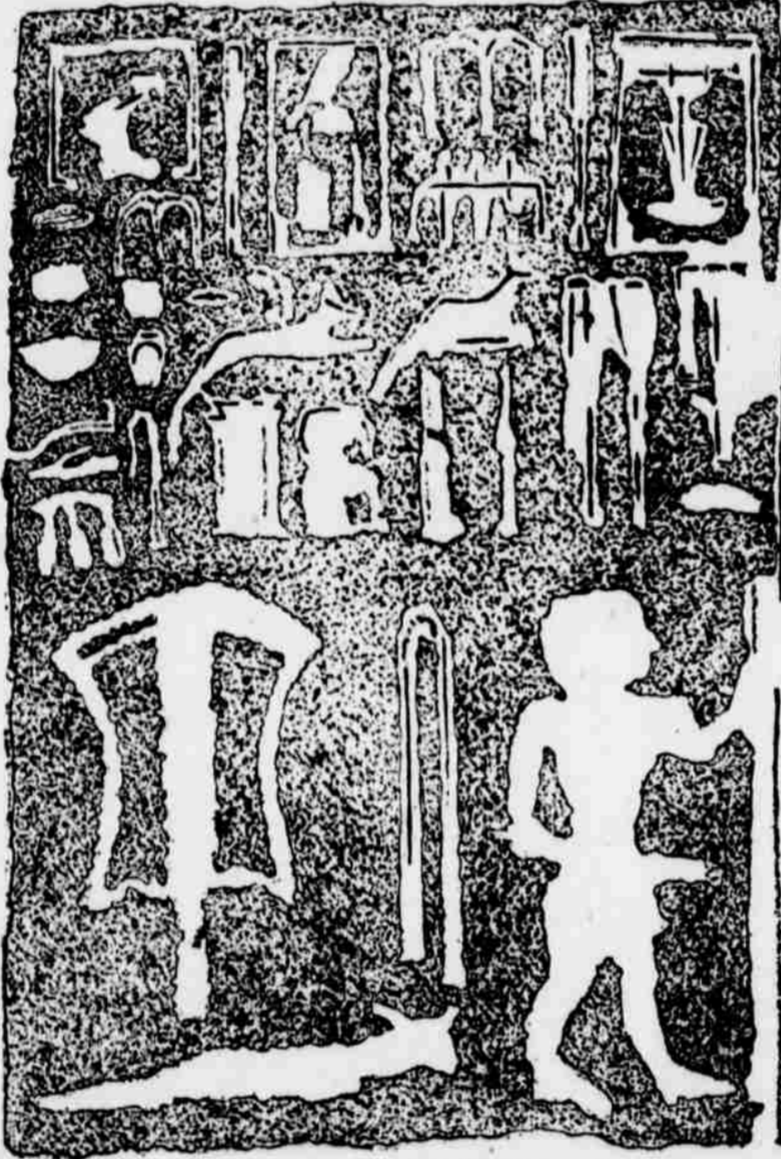
tion. Amelineau did find the tombs, but he worked in so unscientific a way that, although he astonished the learned world, he did not add as much positive knowledge regarding the ancient kings, whose tombs were found, as has since been brought to light by the careful work of the greatest archaeologist now living.

The work which Mr. Petrie did at Abydos has been hinted at in the public organs from time to time since its announcement, but the first authoritative account of this work from him is just appearing in England. Not only does it fill in the spaces in the history of Egypt with names of authentic kings, but it tells the twentieth century how mankind lived 100 centuries ago. Fortunately it was the custom of the ancient Egyptians to reproduce the life of the people in their tombs, burying with their kings many of the jewels and utensils by which they were surrounded in life.

be read variously, but it will be generally taken for granted that Mr. Petrie is right in identifying Menes, Athothis, Kenkenes, Venefes, Uafais, Mielis, Semenspes and Binekhes of the list given by Manetho, the ancient Egyptian historian, with the persons buried at Abydos, the great royal cemetery. Manetho says of the place that the site selected for the royal tombs was on a low spur from the hills, slightly raised above the plain, with a deep ravine on the west of it, so that it could never be flooded. This accounts for the perfect preservation of the tombs with their priceless contents.

Royal Holes in the Ground. Each royal tomb is a large square pit, lined with brickwork. Close around it, on its own level, or higher, are smaller chambers in rows, in which were buried the domestics of the kings. The tombs as they were left by the kings seem to have been

natives Om el Ghabu (Mother of Pots). The articles found by Mr. Petrie are infinite in number and variety. Between 10,000 and 20,000 pieces of vases were found, ranging in date from the earliest to the



EPITAPH OF A PRIVATE INDIVIDUAL.

latest times. Some 200 of these vases have been restored. Many of the vases and crystal cups bore inscriptions which made it possible to trace them to some of the royal

hammered out, but the final dressing and scraping of the stone was omitted. It is plain from the inscription that Sabef was keeper of the tombs, companion in the royal palace, and overseer of the Sed festival; titles which appear in the age when the pyramids were built, proving the existence of a thorough political organization even in these early days.

Games were played by the royal hands and probably by the people, for a record used in the game of chance has been found in the tomb of Qa. Small objects in gold, bronze, copper, ivory and stone were found in great number. An ivory toilet dish, carved in two halves out of a single block of ivory, each in the form of a half a duck must have stood upon the toilet table of the consort of one of these early monarchs, while her maidens decorated her face with the colors befitting her rank. This was found in one of the earliest tombs with pottery of the most primitive form. Another toilet institution which receives the stamp of ancient lineage from these discoveries is the hair pin. One of these utensils of beautifully carved ivory was found in the same tomb. A pair of copper pinchers is a remarkable tool for so early a time. The pottery ranges all the way from the coarse, ill-formed bowls and jugs, made simply by putting a lump of mud into a hole scooped out on the ground and trimming and slipping the vessel with the hand, up to those formed with the art of the potter's wheel, the earliest invention made by man. The art of the potter made rapid strides and was succeeded by that of the sculptor who cut crystal vases and hard marble into artistic shapes. Alabaster bowls and jars of almost classic shape produced at a very early period, were found. One of the most astonishing facts in connection with the inscription found at Abydos, dating from the first dynasty, is that, differing as they do from the later script, the principles and many of the characters seem to be already generally established. This is additional proof that with the civilization even of the remote first dynasty we have not yet reached the dawn of civilization, although we have come nearer to it by a few thousand years.

That Mr. Petrie could come after the French excavator and find so much of value, reading many of the inscriptions which baffled the earlier investigator, and finding places for all the kings in lists which have been known but never corroborated is a great triumph for English scholarship. In stead of a number of tombs of unknown persons, we have now a new chapter in early history extracted from the sands of ancient Egypt. C. H. LEVY.

THE TURN OF THE SEASON

The seasons of life are measured by years instead of months. For the summer season of womanhood Nature allots about thirty years and then comes the turn of the season. Many a woman shrinks from this turning place, which she significantly names the "change of life." It is not simply the change of a season to her but the change of her whole life. Henceforth motherhood lies behind her. And sometimes she feels almost rebellious at the thought of such a change. At forty-five she feels herself in her prime; she is at her ripest and richest of mental and physical development. It seems as if the turn of the season came too soon.

But more than all else the healthy woman shrinks from the consequences which so often attend this change of life: the physical pain, the mental suffering, the gibbering spectre of insanity even casting a dark shadow across the future. But there is no need of alarm if women will take natural and intelligent precaution against such disastrous results. It is reasonable to suppose that such a great functional change should have far-reaching physical effects. It is also reasonable to assume that at such a time Nature may need some assistance.

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Recommended by Women.

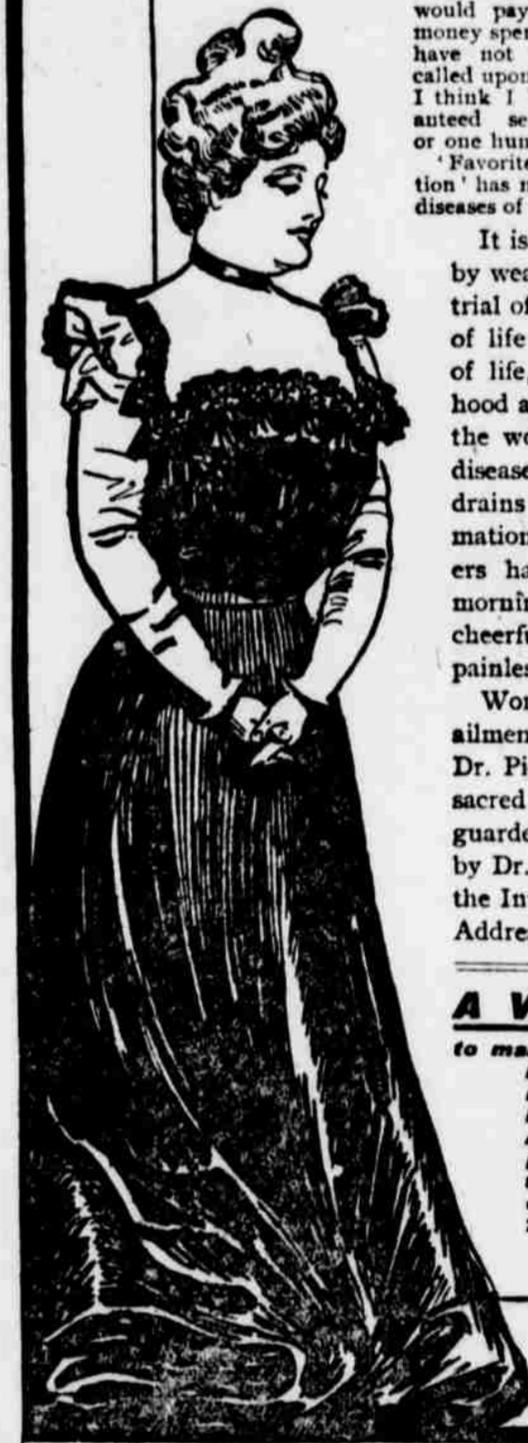
Mrs. M. Barnes, of Balls Ferry, Shasta Co., Cal., writes: "My physician said I was suffering from the effects of 'change of life.' I had heart disease and uterine trouble and rheumatism. My head was so dizzy I could hardly stand up. When I began to use Dr. Pierce's medicines I improved right along. I took seven or eight bottles of the 'Favorite Prescription,' a teaspoonful three times a day, and the 'Pleasant Pellets' at night. I feel as well as ever I did. I take great pleasure in recommending Dr. Pierce's medicines to suffering women. I think they are the best medicines in the world. I can't say enough in their praise. The 'Favorite Prescription' cured me after I had been sick for two years so I was hardly able to be about."

"I feel it my duty to write to you as I have received so much benefit from the use of your medicine," says Mrs. Lizzie A. Bowman, of New Matamoras, Washington Co., Ohio. "I have taken four bottles of 'Favorite Prescription,' for female weakness and 'change of life.' Before I began taking it I could not do anything. I had such pains in my head and in the back of my neck that I thought I would lose my mind. Now I can work every day. I recommend 'Favorite Prescription' to all females suffering in the period of 'change of life.' It is the best medicine I have ever found."

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Women who are weak and sick, especially those whose ailments are of long standing, are invited to consult Dr. Pierce by letter, free. All correspondence is held in sacred secrecy, and the written confidences of women are guarded by the same strict professional privacy observed by Dr. Pierce in personal interviews with sick women, at the Invalids' Hotel and Surgical Institute, Buffalo, N. Y. Address Dr. R. V. Pierce, Buffalo, N. Y.

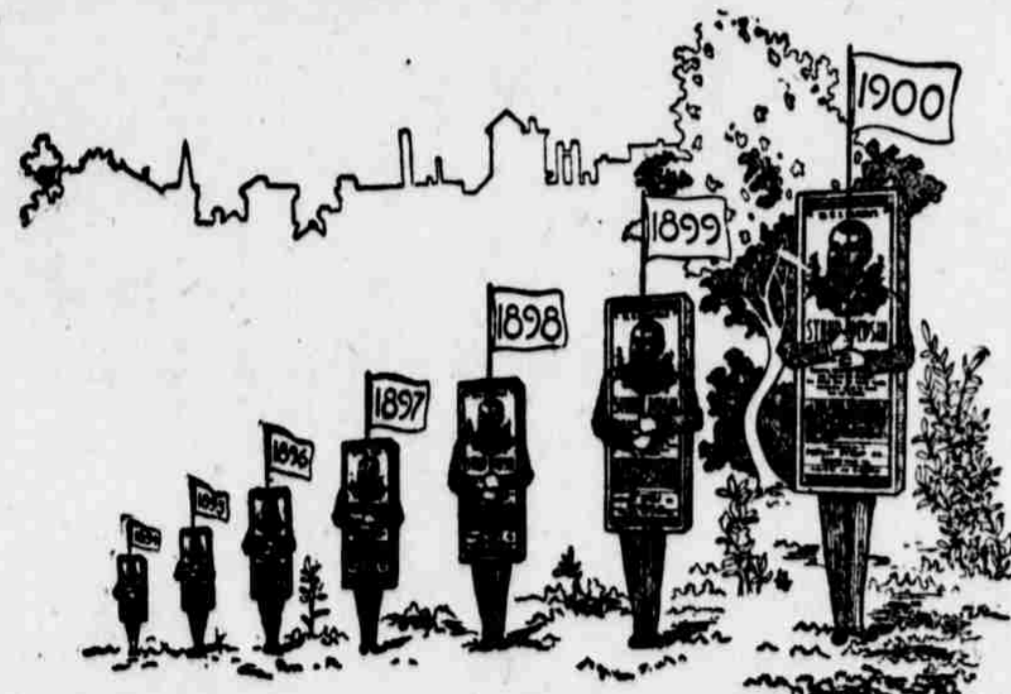
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TOMB OF ZET LOOKING WEST.

one of the most interesting and important of the tombs identified by Mr. Petrie is the tomb of Menes, the first king of united Egypt, who is now by this discovery reclaimed from the limbo of myths to which modern historians had consigned him. The date of his reign is not determinable, for Egyptologists differ widely in the chronology of the kings, but it is certain that he lived not later than 5000 B. C. At this remote period one might suppose that civilization was in its infancy, but the finds in this and other tombs give evidence of an art that must have taken many centuries for its development up to that point. Menes' tomb and those of his successors,

slightly heaped up. The roofs of the great tombs were discovered about six or eight feet below the surface. The massive beams easily supported the weight of the drifted sand. On the flat or almost flat ground of the cemetery the graves were marked by stone steles set upright in the open air. Each royal grave seems to have had two great steles. Two of Merneit were found by Petrie. Amelineau found one stele in the tomb of Qa and Petrie found a second. The royal cemetery seems to have gradually fallen into decay; the steles were blown over and the whole site was neglected in the later ages. It was not until the glories of the XVIIIth dynasty (about 1400 B. C.)



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