# CUNEIFORM TEXTS 

FROM

# BabyL0NIAN TABLETS, \&o., 

IN THE

BRITISH MUSEUM.

PART XXXVII.

(50 Plates.)

PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE TRUSTEES.

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Part XXXVII. of "Cuneiform Texts from Babylonian Tablets" contains copies of texts from a group of thirty objects consisting of large clay foundation cones, a barrel-cylinder, and a number of baked clay tablets. The greater number of these documents are here published for the first time.

The principal historical texts are:-I. An inscription of Samsu-iluna relating to the building of the temple E-barra at Sippar. 2. A long and detailed account of the restoration of Babylonian temples which were carried out by Nebuchadnezzar II. The text most closely resembles that of the East India House Inscription, but provides several new passages and important variants.

The bilingual texts which deal with the terms applicable to men and plants are of great linguistic interest. Among them is one which settles the vexed question of what the name of the Sumerian dialect EME.SAL means. The man who speaks this dialect is termed dib-ru-u (Plate 24, col. II, 1. I3), "the countryman";
 settles the meaning of EME.SAL as "broad" or "countrified" speech. Equally important is the text dealing with cereals (Plate 29, col. I, ll. 35-50), from which it is clear that ŠE. BAR and S.E. GIG do not mean "barley" and "wheat," but the " grain" and "straw " of wheat.

Plates 35-50 contain a mass of partly published material which will serve for the reconstitution of the great Babylonian witch-doctor's treatise, entitled, "When an incantation priest goes to a sick man's house." This work is based upona large series of careful and accurate observations of the physical symptoms of sick people, and of various accidental happenings. From these observations the witchdoctor drew inferences as to the probabilities about the recovery or death of the patient, and the nature and course of the disease. There is little doubt that this system of doctoring was in common use in Mesopotamia until the Middle Ages, and that much of the medical system of the Syrians was based upon it.

The copies printed herein have been made by Mr. Sidney Smith, M.A., Assistant in the Department.

E. A. WALLIS BUDGE.

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## I.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS.

I. Text from two large, broken cones, inscribed on the boles and bases, recording the building of the wall of Sippar and the restoration of the Sun-god temple there by Samsu-iluna, after he had defeated eight times in one year the cities which rebelled at the beginning of his reign. ( 102,404, II 5,039 .) $\qquad$
$\qquad$
2. A general account of the buildings of Nebuchadnezzar II, dealing more especially with the reconstruction of shrines, quays, gates and processional boats used during the New Year Festival. The text is a composite arrangement of passages for the most part already known.

3. Fragment of a building inscription of Nebuchadnezzar II, concerning his restoration of the gate of the Sun-god and adjoining
buildings at Babylon, $(38,346$.)

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## IV. MEDICAL TEXTS.

1. A number of fragments of the series summa amelu marṣ ina tehika, "if a sick man on thy (i.e., the ašipu) approach," which formed an early section of the large treatise summa ana bit ameli marsi (amelu) ašipu illiku, "if an ašipu priest goes to a sick man's house." These fragments contain observations of the condition of a patient tabulated according to the various parts of the body, with prognostications as to the nature and course of the disease. The parts of the

## Plates.

body were once arranged in order from the skull to the feet. The tablets here published deal with the skull (K. 4067) ; eyes (K. 7099, 6737) ; mouth (K. $2952+3678$ ), and parts of the mouth (K. 2949); ears (K. 4080) ; face and features of the face (K. 41196 ); private parts and feet (K. 3795, 3826, 4014); internal organs and arteries (K. 3693, 6214, 3743); and a fragment giving apodoses of the type common in this series is included (K. 2536.)

2. Two fragments which belong to the series sunnma alittu aratma, "if a bearing mother is about to bear (a child)," another but later section of the large treatise "if an ašipu priest goes to a sick man's house." The one is concerned with observations of parts of a woman's body and her position at child-birth (K. 6212), and the second, with observation of her breasts in suckling. (K. 8627.)
3. Four fragments of tablets, all belonging to a series which may have been a section of the large treatise but cannot be proved to have done so. They give instructions and prescriptions concerning patients attacked by illness in bed, in an open place, etc., and depend on observation of the position of the patient. (KK. $2372+2464$, $8335,9537,9739$.)

A fragment giving omens drawn from the supposed similarity of a man's shadow to animals (e.g., the wild-ox ri-i-mi), the faces of monsters (e.g., pan ap [scribal error] -za-za) and demons (pan Pa-zu-zu). (K. 3679.)

## II.

## INDEX TO REGISTRATION NUMBERS.



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No. 108860. COL. IV. REVERSE.


No. 108860. REVERSE. COL. IV. (contd.).


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K. 2464 + K. 2372. Sheet 2.

K. 2464 + K. 2372. REVERSE. Sheet 3.


8 lines Colophon d.



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[^0]:    Department of Egyptian and Assyrian Antiquities, British Museum, November 20, 1923.

