CUNEIFORM TEXTS
FROM
BABYLONIAN TABLETS, &c.,
IN THE
BRITISH MUSEUM.

PART XXXVII.

(50 Plates.)

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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:—1. 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, l. 13), "the countryman"; compare the Syriac dal=a. This native explanation of the name of the dialect 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 ŠE.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 upon a large series of careful and accurate observations of the physical symptoms of sick people, and of various accidental happenings. From these observations the witch-doctor 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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1. A number of fragments of the series Šumma amelu marsu ina teḥīlu, “if a sick man on thy (i.e., the ašipu) approach,” which formed an early section of the large treatise Šumma ana bit ameli marṣi (amelu) ašipu ililhu, “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
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 summa alittu aratima, “if a bearing mother is about to bear (a child),” another but later section of the large treatise “if an ašpu 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. (K. 2372 + 2464, 8335, 9537, 9739.)

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No. 102404. BOLE.

COL. II. (contd.)

(omits 73-74)

75-6

Variants from 102404. Base.
PLATE 24.

No. 108861. REVERSE.

(1) Read tar.
The left hand column gave at least 16 ideograms explained by $\text{au-du-u}$. 
No. 108859. OBVERSE. COL. I.

No. 108859. OBVERSE. COL. II.
PLATE 35.

K. 4014. OBVERSE.

K. 4014. REVERSE.

(Sic.)
K. 3743. REVERSE (?)

Obverse (?) 4 lines beginning

and 12 beginning

and 2 beginning

(i) Uninscribed.

K. 8627.