

# GIZEH AND RIFEH

## INTRODUCTION

1. THE work of the British School of Archaeology in Egypt, during the past winter, lay partly at Gizeh, and partly in the district between Asyüt and Sohäg. The reason for this division was that only a small part of Gizeh was available, not enough for a season's work, the whole of the pyramid region being already occupied by American and German claims. A large and speculative district in Upper Egypt was therefore also occupied by the School, and the greater part of the season's work was carried on there. The whole party began work at Gizeh on December 1. Mr. Ward and myself explored the western desert, from Asyut to Sohag, December 24 to 29. I returned to Gizeh, and then went back to Mr. Ward to begin work at Rifeh on January 10; Mr. Rhoades left Gizeh and began work at Deir Balyzeh January 18, and was joined there at the end of the month by Mr. Mackay, who had finished packing at Gizeh. At the end of February Messrs. Mackay and Gregg went to Deir el Ganädleh, and Mr. Rhoades joined us at Rifeh. By March 11 the whole party was reunited at Rifeh; March 17 I left, and the rest of the party gradually diminished till Messrs. Rhoades and Mackay finally closed the packing on April 2.

The importance of Gizeh in the IVth dynasty is known to every one by the three pyramids of the kings; but discoveries of late years indicated that there had been an earlier cemetery to the south of the pyramid region. Half a mile south of the Great Pyramid a ridge of rock rises from the plain, above the Arab cemetery and a group of trees, which form a well-known landmark in many pictures. This ridge runs south for half a mile, and is riddled with tombs, especially at its southern end: it was this cemetery which we examined during December. In the plain beyond it lay two patches of pottery and stone-chips; the nearer was around a tomb of the Ist dynasty, which had been opened by M. Daressy for the Cairo Museum; the further or southern patch

was of the age of Ramessu II, and had apparently been a monument of his son Kha-em-uas. The division of the work was that Mr. Ward, Mr. Mackay, and Mr. Rhoades took charge of the workmen, and began to measure up work and keep accounts, and Mr. Mackay also took some photographs; Mr. and Mrs. Firth did much of the drawing; while I organized the work and also did drawing and photographing. I have to thank Dr. Reisner for kindly allowing our cases to be deposited at his camp, between the close of the work at Gizeh and the end of the season.

2. At Deir Rifeh our work extended from the well-known Coptic village by the ancient tombs, at about six miles south of Asyut, for about three miles southward to beyond Zowyeh. The finely sculptured rock-tombs, now in possession of the Copts, were not touched by us, as Mr. Griffith had carefully copied them twenty years ago (*The Inscriptions of Siüt and Dêr Rifeh*); but I copied some remaining painting in two other of the great tombs. In front of these we searched the banks of chips, and found a few unopened tombs of smaller size with fine burials; and the whole of the small rock-tombs were cleaned out, but very little was found in them. Our principal work lay in the cemeteries of graves dug in the plain below the cliff (see Pl. VIII). Here we found burials from the VIIth dynasty down to mediaeval times, but mostly of the XIth, XIIth, and XVIIth dynasties. Our huts were built by the side of the modern cemetery just south of this ground; and south of us lay another cemetery, of the Hyksos age. Going further to the south we pass a cemetery of the XVIIIth dynasty near Zowyeh, entirely plundered recently; and the next group is a small cluster of burials of the VIth dynasty at the mouth of a valley, and another group out in the plain a little further to the south. Some eight miles south of our camp is another small cemetery of the VIth dynasty at Zaräby. The work at Rifeh was mainly superintended by Mr. Ward, while I was engaged in drawing and photographing.