

dragons cast in relief on the brick and the workmanship and skill of the designer as may be seen from the accompanying illustrations is of no mean order.

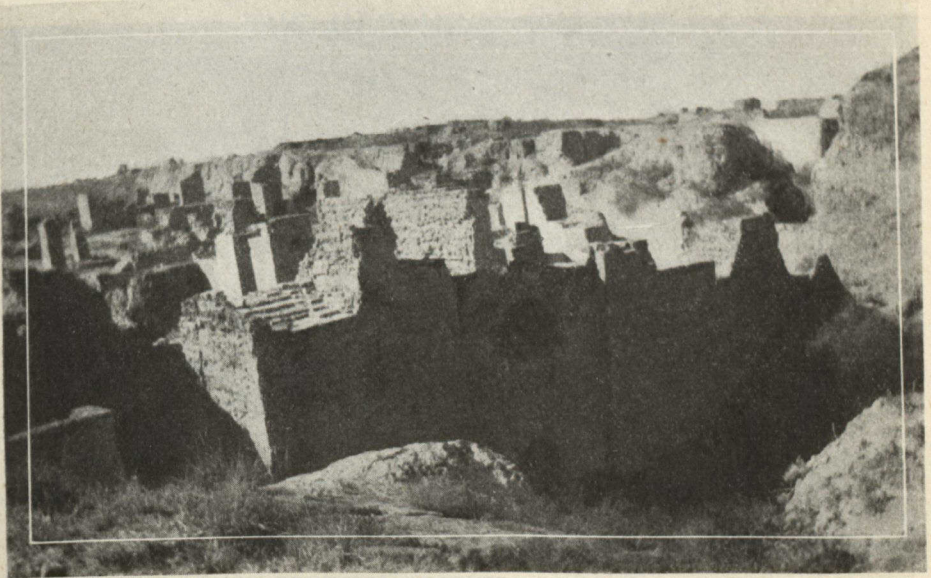
I have already made mention of the Greek theatre. Its ruins lie near the city walls, but it requires some effort of the imagination to reconstruct that home of the arts which followed everywhere in the wake of the Greek civilization.

On the right bank of the Euphrates opposite the palace mound, there are remains of the City's outer wall, while some miles away to the south-west, in the heart of the desert is Birs Nimrud, where a temple pyramid, of zigurrat constructions, rears its graceful outlines to the sky. This is believed by many to be the famous Tower of Babel.

Of the treasures discovered by Dr. Koldewey and his assistants in the course of their excavations at Babylon some few still remain in the Museum built by him on the banks of the Euphrates. But the war came as a great shock to this zealous body of workers at Babylon. Between the time of Dr. Koldewey's retirement and

the British occupation of Babylon most of the Museum treasures which were not carried away by the Germans were looted by the wandering Arabs of the desert. At the time of our visit to Babylon, there was a guard—an Arab guard—over the ruins, and signs were placed here and there warning visitors not to remove anything from the ruins. But visitors, unfortunately, have very often too little respect for the memorials of the past, and Arab guards can be bought too easily with a little baksheesh. The inevitable result ensues. But I am told that the ruins are now very carefully protected, and as a British director of excavations has recently gone to Mesopotamia to supervise the work, no doubt the various archaeological sites will receive the protection which their importance demands.

As to the work of excavation in Mesopotamia much remains to be done. The entire Mesopotamian valley from Bagdad south to the Persian Gulf is a vast cemetery of buried cities. Mounds, scattered over the plain, mark ancient sites. Some of the oldest of these mounds in the South cover the cities of the Sumerians and Babylonians,



Ruins of the Palace of Nebuchadnezzar at Babylon