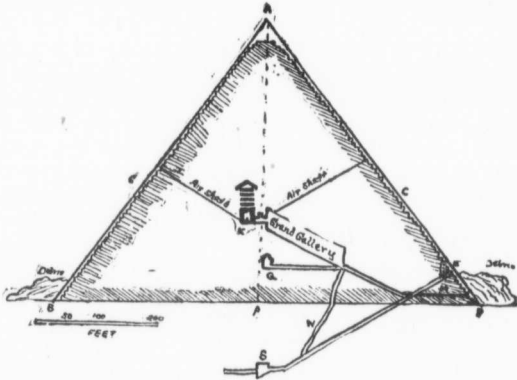


mid is built of enormous blocks of a cream-coloured limestone, very fine grained and hard. Some of these blocks are thirty feet in length, by five feet in width and four in height. The blocks are laid in layers, which gradually recede in a succession of stages until the summit is reached, which in its present condition has an area of twelve square yards.



• Originally, as indicated by the exterior straight lines (*cc*) in the diagram, the structure was covered with a casing of polished granite, which has been quarried off by the Moslems to build and beautify the mosques and palaces of Cairo ; a portion of this casing still remains in place at the top of the second pyramid. The entrance to the interior, which was first penetrated by Caliph Al Mamoun, in the year 825 A.D., through a forced passage (*m*), is on the north side of the Pyramid, about 70 feet above the original base and runs obliquely down to a subterranean cavity (*s*) in the solid rock, 100 feet below the surface. At some distance from the entrance an ascending passage begins, and after a distance of about 120 feet, divides in two, one leading horizontally to the *Queen's Chambers (q)*, the other expanding into a lofty gallery 150 feet long and 28 feet high, which terminates in a low passageway leading into the *King's Chamber (k)*, the most wonderful of all. This chamber is 34 feet long by 17 feet broad, and 19 feet high. Its walls are cased with granite and its ceiling composed of 9 huge blocks of the same material, each of them 19 feet long by 4 feet wide. Above this ceiling is a hollow space, surmounted by another similar ceiling. This is four times repeated, after which a fifth space, triangular in shape, is roofed by two large sloping blocks, as shown in the diagram. The object of these