

PUBLICATIONS

The ambitious schedule for the publication of the *Assyrian Dictionary* which Professor Oppenheim has set for himself and his group is proceeding with unabated impetus. Six volumes have so far been published, and four more are in advanced stages of preparation. The most recently published volume is No. 21, "Z," the first to appear of a group of volumes treating words beginning with sibilants, all of which must be dealt with together.

Indicative of the *Dictionary's* usefulness and universal acceptance is the fact that stocks of the first two volumes to be published have been nearly sold out and further copies of these books have been produced by photo-offset. It has also been necessary to bind the 250 extra copies of each of the other volumes which were left unbound for easier storage at the time of printing. Storage of unsold copies of the *Assyrian Dictionary* is evidently not going to be a problem.

No new funds were received during the year from the Canadian and European organizations which had rendered a much appreciated token assistance and whose pledges have now been fulfilled. Though the sales are good and even better than expected, the proceeds still cover only a small part of the printing costs, for which other funds must be found, since other available funds provide only partial support.

The year 1960 saw the publication of the first modern translation of the Egyptian Book of the Dead. This major work, *The Egyptian Book of the Dead, Documents in the Oriental Institute Museum* ("Oriental Institute Publications," Vol. LXXXII) by Thomas George Allen, Editorial Secretary Emeritus of the Institute, is the culmination of several decades of comparative study of all known texts of the Book of the Dead.

Another milestone in the Institute's publication program was the appearance in 1960 of *Excavations in the Plain of Antioch: The Earlier Assemblages* ("OIP," Vol. LXI) by Robert J. and Linda S. Braidwood, with contributions by various specialists. This is a report on the work

of the Institute's Syrian Expedition in the years 1932/38 in an area which has meanwhile become part of Turkey.

In 1960 the Institute's Iraq-Jarmo Project brought out an interim report on its search in the hilly flanks of the Fertile Crescent for the beginnings of man's transition to a settled way of life, *Prehistoric Investigations in Iraqi Kurdistan* ("Studies in Ancient Oriental Civilization," No. 31) by Robert J. Braidwood, Bruce Howe, and others.

In the winter of 1951/52 the Oriental Institute, assisted by the Department of Antiquities of the Government of Israel, conducted a limited operation in the Holy Land. This campaign yielded another excavation report, *A Byzantine Church at Khirbat al-Karak* ("OIP," Vol. LXXXV) by Pinhas Delougaz and Richard C. Haines.

Another new book is *City Invincible*, which presents the discussions of some fifty protagonists at a symposium on urbanization and cultural development in the ancient Near East, held at the Institute in December, 1958.

At present two volumes of *The Egyptian Coffin Texts* are in press, and it is hoped that they will be available before the end of 1961. The appearance of Volume VII ("OIP," Vol. LXXXVII), by Adriaan de Buck, whose recent death is lamented by his colleagues, will complete the record of the texts themselves, but translations, indexes, and glossary are yet to come. With Volume VI of *Medinet Habu* ("OIP," Vol. LXXXIV) the Epigraphic Survey is nearing completion of the task of copying and recording the reliefs and inscriptions in the Mortuary Temple of Ramses III.

As always, manuscripts are now receiving finishing touches in the editorial office. Soon to go to press are *Ptolemais: City of the Libyan Pentapolis* ("OIP," Vol. XC), by Carl H. Kraeling, and the Iraq Expedition's *Private Houses and Graves in the Diyala Region* ("OIP," Vol. LXXXVIII).