

of the Oriental Institute cuneiformists. The native Mesopotamian scribes compiled long lists of the words of the Sumerian language, often with an Akkadian translation, on hundreds of clay tablets. The words were classified according to the meaning: legal terms, botanical and zoological names, place names, anatomical designations, diseases, stars, and metal implements, to name only a few categories. Other lists are based on grammatical or graphic criteria. The publication of this ancient "encyclopedia" was initiated by Benno Landsberger in 1937 for the Pontifical Biblical Institute of Rome, but only after the Oriental Institute commissioned Professor Landsberger to reconstruct all lexical series for the CAD files did the volumes appear on a regular basis (since 1951), under the auspices of UNESCO. At the time of his death, April, 1968, Professor Landsberger had finished the basic manuscripts, and now the Oriental Institute cuneiformists plan to continue the publication of these texts so valuable not only for the study of the Sumerian language but also for the history of the material and spiritual culture, since they contain a comprehensive anthropological inventory of Mesopotamian civilization. Dr. Civil is preparing at the moment the twelfth volume of the series, scheduled to appear in late 1968.

## *Materials for a Sumerian Lexicon*

IN CHARGE: MIGUEL CIVIL, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR  
OF SUMEROLOGY

The "Materials for a Sumerian Lexicon" (MSL) is, alongside the Chicago Assyrian Dictionary (CAD), one of the long-range projects