

THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE MUSEUM

Two sizeable undertakings have occupied the Museum staff this year. The "upstairs" group, in the Museum Office, directed by Assistant Curator David Nasgowitz, has published three volumes in a new format called Text/Fiche (issued by the University of Chicago Press). In this system, a large number of photographs are included on each microfiche (a film strip, approximately 4 x 6 inches in size, that can hold up to eighty-four images and is read with a machine similar to a microfilm reader) with pertinent text and captions printed in normal size in an accompanying booklet. The Institute's first two volumes in the series include all the surviving photographs (nearly eleven hundred)—of both archeological sites and some contemporary scenes—from James Henry Breasted's two expeditions in 1905-7 to Egypt and the Sudan. The third volume, *Persepolis and Ancient Iran*, was compiled by Ursula Schneider. For many years associated with the publication of the Institute's expeditions to Persepolis and with long service as the Institute's Photographer, Mrs. Schneider returned as a full-time volunteer in the Museum Office to prepare this publication. The approximately nine hundred photographs included in the Persepolis volume date primarily from Erich F. Schmidt's 1934-39 expeditions to Iran. A fourth Text/Fiche is promised for October; it will cover Breasted's 1919-20 expedition through the Near East, which constituted the very first activity of the Oriental Institute.

"Downstairs," in the basement laboratories and in the museum itself, the staff supervised by Assistant Curator Judith A. Franke has

been completely remodelling the Babylonian Hall. The latest techniques in museum display and graphics are being used so that the Institute's unmatched collection of Babylonian antiquities will be shown not only to highlight magnificent individual pieces but also to clarify aspects of Mesopotamian history and culture. Sections of the gallery will focus on medicine, writing, music, astronomy, technology, agriculture, and various other fields to give a well-balanced view of the Cradle of Civilization.

Reports on the Conservation and Photographic Laboratories and on the Tutankhamun Exhibit appear separately.