

DEPARTMENT OF ANTIQUITIES

A

Guide

Through the ruins of

BABYLON

AND

BORSIPPA

(With 18 pictures and 2 maps.)

BAGHDAD

PRINTED AT THE GOVERNMENT PRESS

1937

09 ANT

Price: 2B. P. 1/4

LP-GEN 53.

DEPARTMENT OF ANTIQUITIES

Guide

Through the ruins of

BABYLON

AND

BORSIPPA

*Laid down by DR. J. JORDAN,
Technical Adviser of the Antiquities Department.*

(With 18 pictures and 2 maps.)



FAGHDAD .

PRINTED AT THE GOVERNMENT PRESS

1937.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE.
A. The situation of Babylon	1
B. Summary of its history	2
C. Excavations at Babylon	4
D. The topography of Babylon after the results of excavations	5
1. The fortifications of the outer and inner-town. The course of the Euphrates. The canals	5
2. The palaces of Nabukhodnozzer	8
<i>Qasr. Procession Street. Ishtar Gate. Babil</i>	
3. The temples	12
<i>Esagila. and Etemenanki, the Tower of Babylon. Emakh. The temples for Gula and Ninurta. The temple for Ishtar of Agade</i>	
4. The dwelling quarters in the <i>Merkez</i> . The burial places.	14
5. The <i>Persian building</i>	15
6. The <i>Greek Theatre</i>	16
E. Walk through the ruins of Babylon	16
F. Borsippa	19
G. List of Maps and figures	21

A.—THE SITUATION OF BABYLON.

BABYLON is situated 95 kilometres south of Baghdad on the main road which leads from Baghdad-West to Hilla and the Euphrates region of 'Iraq. One can reach it in about two hours time by car and in $4\frac{1}{4}$ hours by railway. The road leads near to the palace mound of Babil through remains of ancient water canals and hardly recognizable traces of the town-wall into the town area, passes through it for a little more than four kilometres and leaves it at the south through dam-like remains of the outer-town fortification. Close by the road is the line Baghdad—Basra of the 'Iraq State Railways which has established a halt about in the middle of the town area for visitors to the ruins. Here the car leaves the main road and turns up to the right, across the line of rails and passes through the remains of the inner town fortifications into the inner town.

For the visitors who come from Baghdad by car it is worthwhile to stop for a short time at the entrance to the town area on the base of the marked high mound of *Babil* on the right side of the road. This "tal" contains the excavated remains of a big palace of Nabukhodnozzar which has been erected on a high terrace. While climbing up to the top of the mound one can clearly see the thick walls of its substructures. One recognizes on the top the courtyards and rooms of the high-situated palace by some remains of pavings and walls in baked bricks. Now the high and steep "tal" grants a capacious view over the entire town area of Babylon:

While the remains of the town fortifications which include *Babil* in the north, are very little prominent and their course towards west to the Euphrates may be recognized but by a few traces, the long side of the town fortification which runs to south-east, may be clearly and well seen by the yellowish dam of its ruin. If the air is not too dusty, one can see in a far distance the eastern corner of the town. The groves of palm trees in the south let guess the course of the Euphrates of to-day, the so-called Hilla branch. Above the heads of the palm trees the yellowish silhouette of the palace mound of *Qasr* just stands out a little bit and, close on the left, in the far distance, the reflex-lights of the two glazed cupolas of the tomb of Amran ben Ali flash in the sunshine. (see fig. 1).

Herewith we have got a first glance over the extended ruin-field of the old holy metropolis of Babylon. We descend the mound of *Babil* and go by car on the road to the south until the above mentioned cross spot where a sign post denotes the road to the right, to the remains of the inner town.

Before turning towards the topography of the town which ought to be understood as completely as possible, a brief summary of the history of Babylon may here be inserted.

B.—BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE HISTORY OF BABYLON.

The earliest inscriptional documents of the existence of Babylon originate from about the year 2600 B.C. when it appears as a rival of the town of Agade-Akkad. It therefore has not played a political rôle during the long periods of earliest and early history of this country. This earliest history essentially has existed at the then mouths of the rivers Euphrates and Tigris, not far from the mounds of Abu Shahrain-Eridu, Warka-Uruk, Muqayir-Ur, Senkere-Larsa, Tello-Lagash and at the north of the country, on the border of the mountains, the ancient province of Eshnunna. It was there where after a first colonization which belongs to the copper-stone-age and lasted from about 4000 to 3500 B.C., the first and hitherto most ancient culture of the world arose, that of the Sumerians. The excavations at Uruk, Ur, Eshnunna, Khafaji, Lagash and Kish have given very rich and important informations of that culture. In the middle of the third millennium the Semitic princes of the dynasty of Akkad had begun their rulership over the Sumerian south and taken possession of the Sumerian culture goods. Babylon has therefore existed already during that period and entered political competition with Agade-Akkad, the ancestral seat of the Akkadian rulers which probably was situated not very far away. But we do not know particulars of those first beginnings of Babylon and cannot say anything what importance the town has had during the following centuries of the third millennium, that means the period of the Sumero-Akkadian rulers or the Sumerian "renaissance." The most prominent king of the Amurru dynasty, Khammurabi (about 1900 B.C.), terminates the political confusion in the south which resulted from the invasions of the eastern neighbours, the Elamites. Their capital was Susa near the Iranian town of Disful of to-day. Khammurabi makes Babylon the capital. Already his predecessor

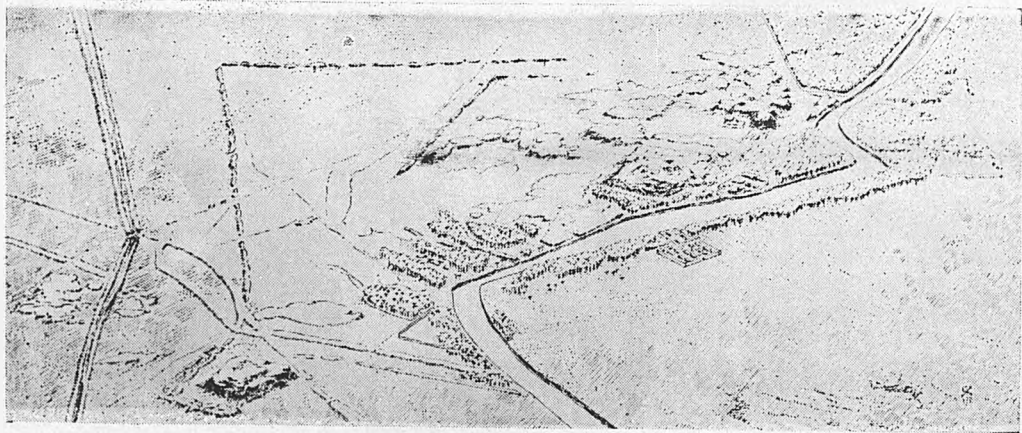


FIG. 1. PANORAMA OF THE MOUND OF BABYLON FROM NORTHWEST.

had built a town wall around it. Herewith the political central power passes over from the southern to the northern district, that of Babylon. North and south are united to a large empire with Semitic preponderance under the great organizer and statesman Khammurabi. From now on there is a kingdom of Babylon.

The invasion of the Kassites from the Iranian mountains, probably Luristan of to-day, into the Mesopotamia plain brings the so-called First Dynasty of Babylon under one of the successors of Khammurabi to an end in the 18th century B.C. Their rulership over Sumeria and Babylonia is proved for the time from 1746 to 1171 B.C., i.e. for 576 years. The excavations at Uruk and Ur have given an insight into the art and architecture of the Kassite in Babylonia. The town of Dur Kurigalzu with its remains of a temple-tower or Zikurrat, to-day called Aqr Quf, near Baghdad, belongs to this period. In the town of Babylon we recognize it by extended dwelling quarters in the so-called *Merkez*. (See p. 15). Into the end of the rulership of the Kassite kings falls the invasion of the Hittites-Khatti who boast of having conquered Babylon, but apparently have not advanced further south. A basalt stela, found in Babylon, with a bas-relief of the god Teshup on one side and a hieroglyphic Hittite inscription on the other proves the presence of the Khatti at the town. During the following centuries Babylon is the apple of discord between native princes on one hand, and the Elamites and kings of Assyria in the north on the other. The later had, through fights against peoples who since the earliest times were sitting on the upper and middle Tigris towards the mountains, grown up to a strong and well organized kingdom with the capitals Qalat Sherkat-Assur, Nimrud-Kalakh, Mosul-Nineveh and Khorsabad-Dur Sharrukin. The occupation of Babylon through the Assyrian king Tukulti-Ninurta I, in the year 1256 B.C., indeed was not of a long duration. An invasion of the Elamites however about 1180, terminated with the conquest and sacking of Babylon and brought the dominion of the Kassites to an end. Invasions of the Aramaic Sutu nomads moreover contributed to injuring the prosperity and political importance of the country and the town of Babylon. The rulers of Babylon saw themselves compelled to ally with the old foes, the Elamites, against the great Assyrian kings Ashurnazirpal II and Shulmaneser II. But also this could not prevent Babylon finally getting under the dominion of Assyria. Tiglat-Pileser IV,

named Pulu, made himself king of Babylon in the year 729 B.C. and ruled as well as his successor Shulmaneser V—729 to 722—over Assyria and Babylon as a common king. The Chaldaean king Mardukapaliddina after initial successes against the Assyrians, was driven away from Babylon and Sargon II of Assyria became ruler. Sargon's son Sennacherib destroyed Babylon, his son Esarhaddon however built it up again soon. The constructions of some parts of the fortifications of the town and some temples trace back to Esarhaddon and his son Ashurbanipal. A new and last floruit saw Babylon from the year 625 when the Chaldaean general Nabopolasser made himself independent and gradually brought the entire country of Babylonia under his sceptre. To him—625 to 604—and his son Nabukhodnozzar II—604 to 561—the town of Babylon owes essentially the shape which has been ascertained by the German excavations with nearly all its topographical details, and established its world-wide renown. Only a few decennia lasted the government of these so-called Neobabylonian rulers. In the year 538 Babylon fell into the hands of the Persian king Cyrus who subjected the land and town including the entire south to his dominion and incorporated it to the empire of the Akhamenian great kings as the richest province of Persia. Also this time has been proved in the ruins. Alexander the Great destroyed the Akhamenian empire. On his grandiose triumphal procession he came down the Tigris to Babylon, advanced through Iran to the Indus valley and died at Babylon on his way back in the year 323 B.C. His successor Seleucus I—320 to 280 B.C.—founded Seleucia on the Tigris, Tal Unar to-day, and sentenced therewith the town of Babylon to death. Though Babylon came to some respects again under the later Seleucid kings and was even given the honourable name and rights of a "Greek town", though it continued to exist as a small town under the Parthian kings, it never achieved again any political importance.

Babylon is the Greek name of the town which in Sumerian language was called KADINGIRRA and in Akkadian BABILI, the gate of God.

C.—EXCAVATIONS AT BABYLON.

During the years 1899 to 1917 the ruins of Babylon have been excavated by a scientific Mission of the Berlin Museum and the German Oriental Society. The results of this excavation have been

published in the Volumes Nrr. 15, 32, 47, 54, 55, 1, 2, and 4 of the "Wissenschaftliche Veröffentlichungen der Deutschen Orient-Gesellschaft" and the book by Professor R. Koldewey, the head of the Mission: "Das wiedererstehende Babylon." J. C. Hinrichs, Leipzig, IV. An English version of the first three editions of this book under the title "Excavations at Babylon" has appeared 1914 at Macmillan & Co., Ltd., London. The last, fourth edition which alone gives a summary of all results won through the excavations up to now has only appeared in German language.

The other scientific and nonscientific literature about Babylon is immense. If we add here of the ancient writers Herodotus I, 178—187; Diodorus II, 7—10; Strabo XVI, 5—7; Flavius Josephus Ant. X, 11; Q. Curtius Rufus, hist. Alex. V. I, 24—35 and the Holy Bible, it will be sufficient for the visitor of Babylon who is wise enough to prepare himself by studying these sources before going out to the ruins.

D.—THE TOPOGRAPHY OF BABYLON AFTER THE RESULTS OF THE EXCAVATIONS.

A short enumeration of the most important buildings which have been more or less unearthed through digging, may be anticipated in order to facilitate understanding to the visitor. The ruins show themselves as enormous heaps of débris also to-day, after having been excavated and newly decayed since 1917. They would be ununderstandable for the visitor unless he endeavours to get some theoretical information by studying the maps and figures. In doing so the visitor will find his way through the confused remains of walls and pavings. (*See map I*).

1. THE FORTIFICATIONS OF THE OUTER AND INNER-TOWN. THE COURSE OF THE EUPHRATES. THE CANALS.

(*See maps I and II*).

From Babylon of the III and II millennium no remains of the fortifications have come down to us; at least they have not yet been excavated, if they exist. At that early time the town consisted of the area of the temple Esagila with Etemenanki, the Zikurrat, and a dwelling town on the place of Nabukhodnozzér's Southern Palace;

called "irsit Babil." There is nothing to be seen in the ruins of that condition. The map Nr. I shows the entire town of Babylon on the left bank of the Euphrates, surrounded by the *outer-town fortification* which, on one side, encloses Babil on the north stretches towards the Euphrates on the west. On the other side it took its course for a length of about four kilometres towards south-east, turned then in a right angle and ran at an angle-side of 3, 8 kilometres to the Euphrates about there, where to-day the village of Jumjuma is standing. Into the southwestern part of this, on the map nearly triangular gigantic town-area, the *inner-town* is imbedded, in plan rectangular-like. The "*enceinte*" of this *inner-town* which is situated on the left bank of the river, continues on the right bank and surrounds a likewise rectangular, but smaller town-area, the Western or so-called New Town. It has not yet been excavated. The orientation of the inner-town fortification of the eastern and western town as well as the streets, buildings and canals therein are prescribed by the direction of the Euphrates which in Babylonian time flew from north to south, but a little bit more towards east than to-day.

The *outer-town fortification* consisted of a wall in sundried bricks—"libbn"—, 7 metres thick, and in front of this, at a distance of 12 metres, a second wall in baked bricks, 7,80 metres thick. In front of the latter a baked brick wall, 3,30 metres thick, is built, forming the border—escarpe—of the moat. On the top of the inside "libbn"—wall stood wall—towers, big and small ones alternating, at intervals of 52,5 metres.

The town surrounded by this outer-town fortification comprises about 13 kilometers square.

The fortification of the eastern *inner-town* consists of three parts at the north, south and east. These are two "libbn"-walls at a distance of 7,20 metres from and parallel to one another. The inner one, in Babylonian language *duru*, named Imgur-Ellil, is 6,50 metres thick, the outer one, in Babylonian *shalkhu*, bears the name Nimitti-Ellil and is only 3,70 metres thick. In front of both is a circuit, 20 metres broad, fastened at its outside through a quaiwall in baked bricks, thus forming a retaining wall for the inner border of the water moat. The moat was 80 metres broad. Along the river Euphrates was at first only a simple quaiwall which afterwards was replaced by a real fortress-wall with towers. On the

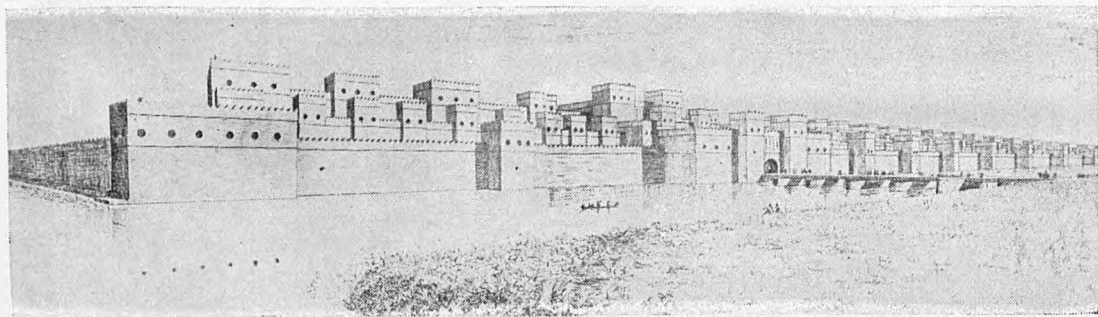


FIG. 2. RECONSTRUCTION OF THE INNER-TOWN FORTIFICATIONS

map (see map Nr. II) as well as at the ruin the parallelogram-shaped range of the inner-town fortification may be recognized which surrounded the capital proper. We already have passed through them when we turned aside from the main Baghdad-Hilla road through a breach. At the place of this breach was a town gate. A second gate on the same western side of the inner-town wall fortification has been ascertained further south, about 500 metres from the southern corner of the town. The third gate is at the course of the southern inner fortification near the south corner of the town. A fourth gate lies in the middle of the river side in the prolongation of the street which led from the inner-town to the Euphrates bridge. (See fig. 2). The fifth gate at the northern front giving passage to the great north-south-road, the *Procession-Street*, is the famous Ishtar-Gate. Of these five gates only the last one may still be recognized in the ruins. Four of them are double-gates; for they gave access to the town through the double fortification wall.

The moat which accompanied the inner-town fortification, outside, was filled with water which was led to it probably from the Euphrates at the western corner. It formed, as it was 80 metres broad, a considerable obstacle against an aggressor. The course of the Euphrates inside the town and the northern moat in Neobabylonian time were called *Arakhtu*.

From an inner-town canal, named *Libilkhegalla*, which passed south of the palace, nothing is to be seen to-day.

In the Hellenistic period the Euphrates has changed its course; it flew north of the palaces, broke through the eastern part of the northern town fortification, where on the map breaches may be seen, and found its road towards the south where it made use of the above mentioned *Libilkhegalla* canal. Thereby the palace-complex at the Qasr came to lie on the right bank of the Euphrates, as it has been reported by the Greek writers.

A look at the map (see map Nr. II) shows us the interior of the thus surrounded inner-town, the situation of the main buildings which have been unearthed mostly through the excavations.

In the northwestern corner of the town the big *Southern Palace* is situated within the "enceinte." On the western side of the Procession Street the *Principal Palace* is put across the "enceinte,"

and on the eastern side a sort of large *fort*. Southeast, next to the Ishtar-Gate, lies the temple *Emakh*, dedicated to the goddess *Nimmakh*. South of the Southern Palace, at the so-called *Sakhn*, we see the large area *Etemenanki*, the *Zikurrat* or the *Tower of Babylon*, surrounded by walls and rooms. The Procession Street, named *Aiburshabu* which passed through the Ishtar-Gate and ran further towards the south, goes by on the east side of *Etemenanki*, turns up at a right angle by its southern corner and follows its southern enclosure. In the prolongation of this part of the *Procession-Street*, a gate through the river wall leads to the *Euphrates bridge*. South of *Etemenanki* is the main sanctuary of Babylon, the temple *Esagila*, dedicated to the town god *Marduk*. It has been excavated only partially, most by small underground galleries which are filled up now. At the so-called *Merkez*, east and northeast of *Etemenanki*, a large part of the *dwelling town* with quarters and streets has been dug out. The religious centre of this dwelling town was the *temple*, dedicated to the goddess *Ishtar of Agade* which is still to be seen to-day. South-south-east of *Esagila* the temples for the goddess *Gula* and for the god *Ninurta*, the later named *Epatutila*, can still be recognized.

To the Hellenistic period belongs the *Greek Theatre*. It stands about 400 metres west of the inner-town gate through which we have entered the inner city. It has suffered much from rain and wind, but one can still see its outlines.

Near the northeastern corner of the inner town some mounds stretch to the south. The very northern and highest of them, called to-day *Homeira*, is, as proved by digging, an accumulation of broken bricks. Alexander the Great has cleared the ruin of the Babylonian tower in order to rebuild it. On this occasion he has carried the débris of *Etemenanki* to this place at *Homeira*.

2. THE PALACES OF NABUKHODNOZZER.

(See map Nr. II).

There are two big palaces of this king, one at the *Qasr*, as the mound is called to-day, which consists of two parts, the *Southern Palace* and the *Principal Palace*; and a second one at *Babil* which has been mentioned above (see p. 2). The situation of the double-palace at the *Qasr* has been described on pages 7 & 8. Its parts, the



FIG. 3. RECONSTRUCTION OF THE SOUTHERN PALACE, SEEN FROM NORTH.



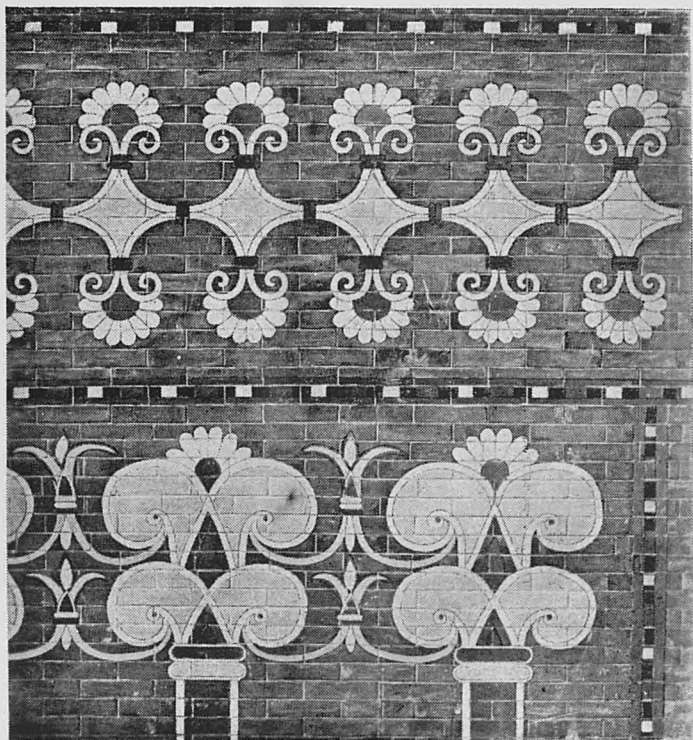


FIG. 4. ENAMELED ORNAMENT FROM THE
THRONE HALL.

Southern and *Principal Palace*, are separated from one another through fortifications of the inner-town, the walls *Imgur-Ellil* and *Nimitti-Ellil* (see p. 6). Best preserved and nearly completed excavated is the *Southern Palace*, (see map No. II and fig. 3) the western part of which had already been built by Nabupolasser, the father of Nabukhodnozzar. At the *Southern Palace*, five courtyards, surrounded by rooms, range one to the other. The middle one of them is the large *representation-courtyard*. On its southern side is the *Throne-Hall*, 17 metres broad and 52 metres long. We have to realise that Belshazzer's banquet took place in this enormous hall, the largest room of all at Babylon. Only the trenches of its foundation-walls are preserved. The bricks of the walls have been robbed here like everywhere. The front of the *Throne-Hall* towards the *representation-courtyard* was decorated with enameled pairs of volutes on treelike vertical stripes (see fig. 4); the basis of this decoration was formed by stepping lions in flat email. While the rooms between the courtyard served as doors of communication, those on the northern and southern sides of the other courtyards were intended for the family of the king, his "suite," the officials, or served as offices or archives. To the west of the *Southern Palace* there is an *outwork* at the river which shows that one has thought it necessary to protect the fortress by special measures at this place. Between it and the western side of the fortress walls a canal with sluices passed through. At the time of the *Persian* kings a small *palace* of the style of the palaces at Persepolis has been built in between the western outside of the *Southern Palace* and the fortifications which were along that canal.

Quite different from the dwelling—, representation—or administration-rooms which are in plan like to each other, is a big group of rooms at the northeastern corner of the *Southern Palace*. In spite of some destruction one still sees to-day the entire excavated building. Fourteen equal and arched rooms have been arranged on both sides of a long corridor in the middle and surrounded by a thick wall. Around this irregular quadrangle runs a narrow corridor. On the side of the latter corridor apartments are constructed where it is not limited by the enclosure wall of the palace. In one of the western outside rooms is a well of peculiar shape. The excavator explains it as a part of a lifting mechanism and restores on the top of the arched building in the middle, a

garden-terrace, which he identifies with the *Hanging Gardens* of the Greek writers. (See p. 5 and figs 5 and 6).

Along the eastern side of the Southern Palace runs the Procession Street; the map II shows its course. Coming from Esagila in the south, this street must have crossed the Libilkhegallacanal south of the *Southern Palace* by a bridge and led up to the high level of the palaces. It passes through the Ishtar-Gate further north and gradually down to the town level between the *Principal Palace* and the "outwork". When coming out of the palaces it is about 30 metres broad. The *Southern Palace* has been raised considerably at various times. This alteration of level may be observed best by the *Procession Street* there where the street passes through the *Ishtar-Gate*. In the southern part of the gate the earlier paving is still preserved. The visitor stand on the highest spot, on the stone paving of the upper street level which corresponds to the niveau of the raised floor level at the palace. The big white stone slabs were formerly bordered with reddish slabs of a breccia-like hard stone, called by the inscriptions "turminabanda." On this upper street paving the big limestone block with a cuneiform inscription has been found which handed down the name of the *Ishtar-Gate*. It lies now a little lower. The walls of the northern part of the *Procession Street* on the right and left were decorated with enamelled brick reliefs of lions. One specimen is at the 'Iraq Museum now. (see fig. 7).

On the holy road the religious processions took place, especially for celebrating the New Year's feast. Then the statues of the gods and goddess from Esagila, Epatutila, the Nimnakh— and Gula-temple and even from the Nabu temple of Borsippa were carried in solemn procession to the so-called festive building of the New Year, a temple like one has been found at the excavations of Ashur-Qalat Sherkat.

The *Ishtar-Gate*, (see fig. 8) is with its wall which are still standing 12 metres high, and its brick reliefs the largest and most impressive building of Babylon. It is a double gate through the two walls of the inner fortification. On the right and left of both entrances are projecting towers and behind each a gate-room, the outer one broad, the inner one long stretched and a free space between. Smaller doors are also arranged through the intermediate

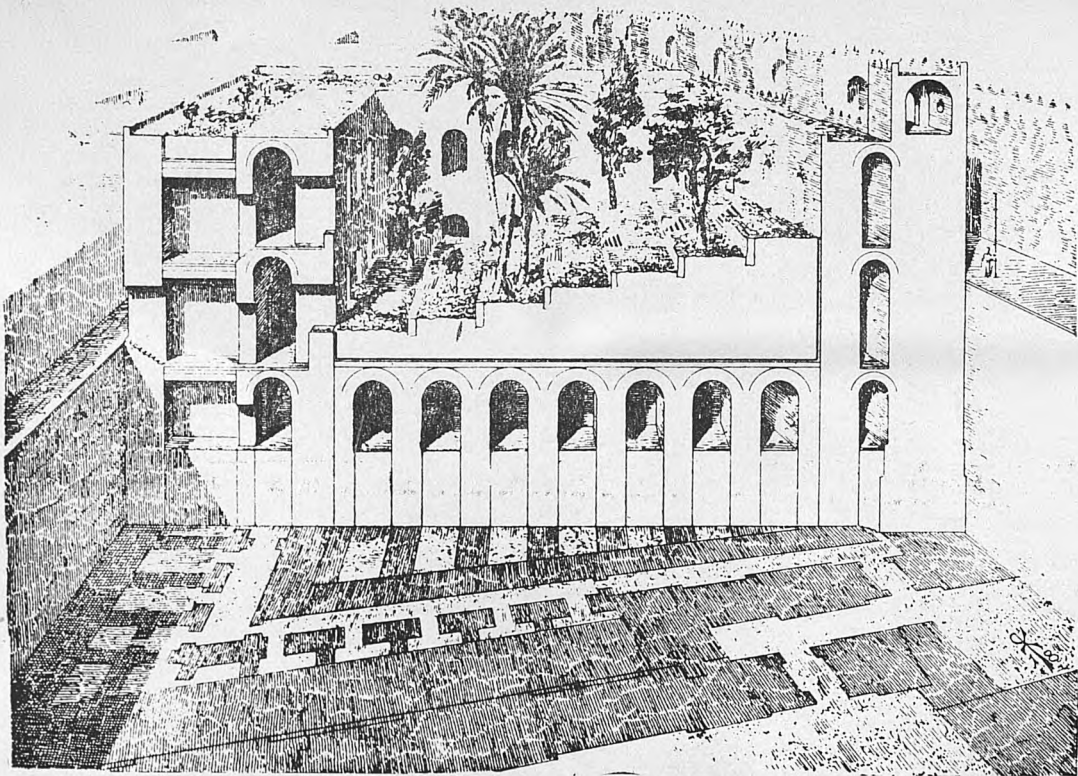


FIG. 5. RECONSTRUCTION OF THE HANGING GARDENS.



FIG. 6. THE HANGING GARDENS. ACTUAL CONDITION.

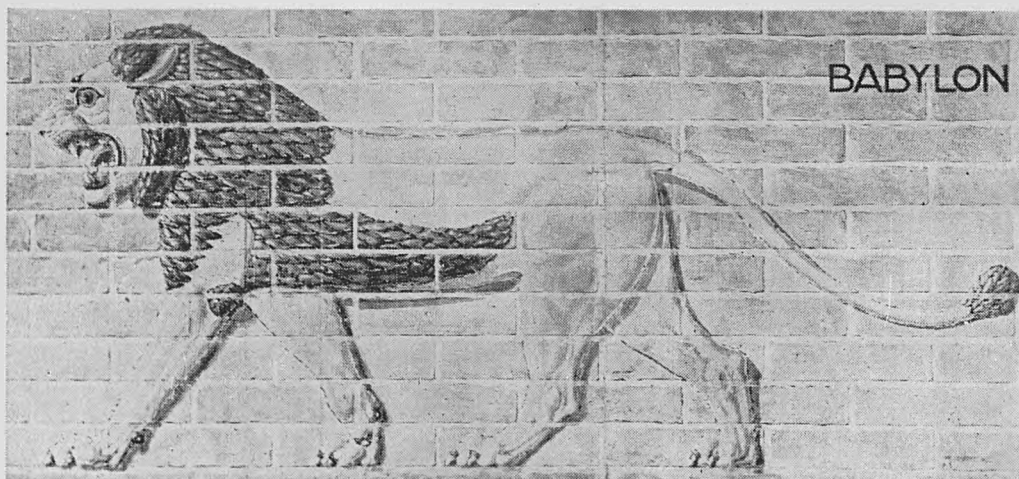


FIG. 7. ENAMELED LION FROM THE PROCESSION STREET.

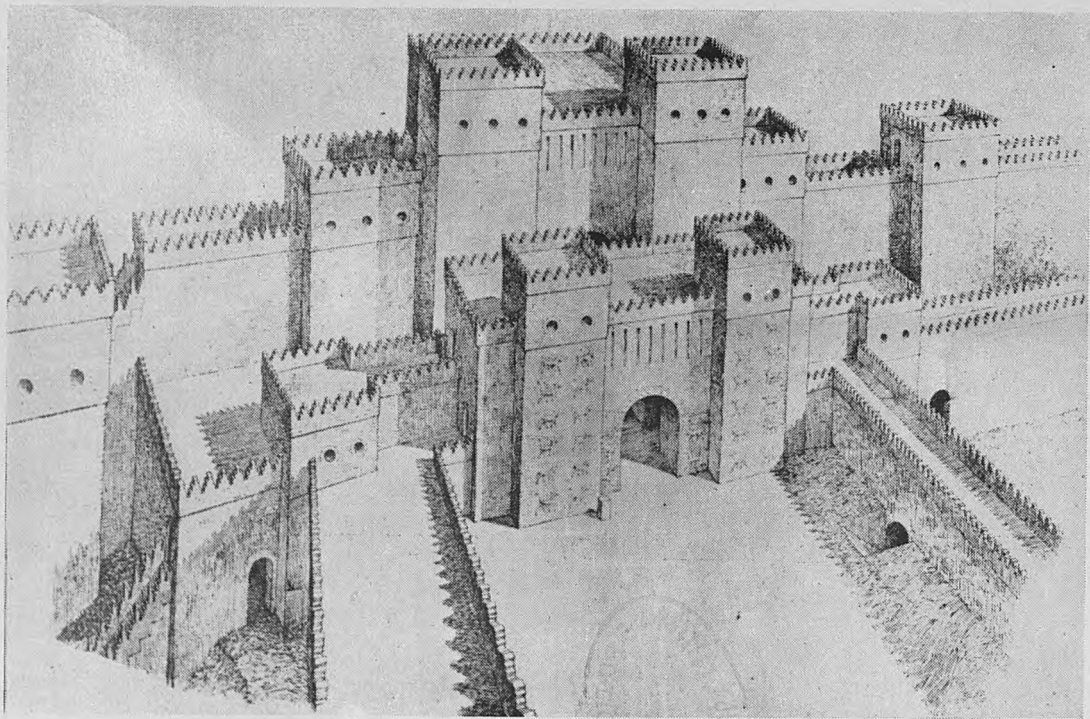


FIG. 8. RECONSTRUCTION OF THE ISHTAR-GATE.



FIG. 9. THE ISHTAR-GATE. ACTUAL CONDITION.

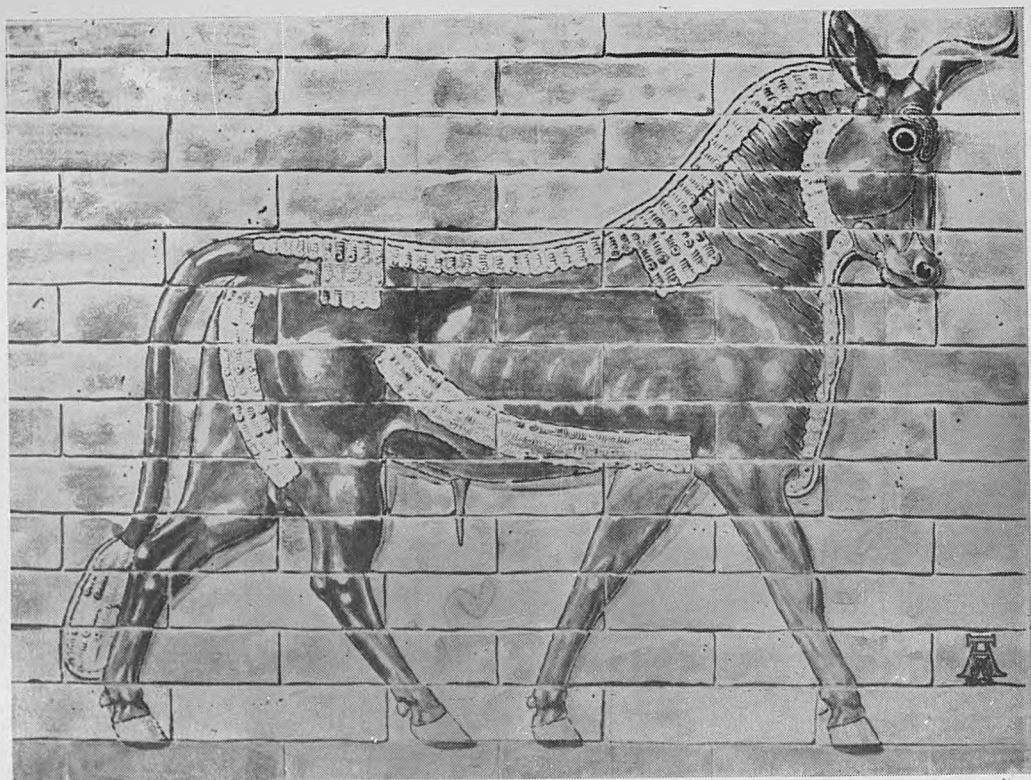


FIG. 10. ENAMELED BULL FROM THE ISHTAR-GATE.

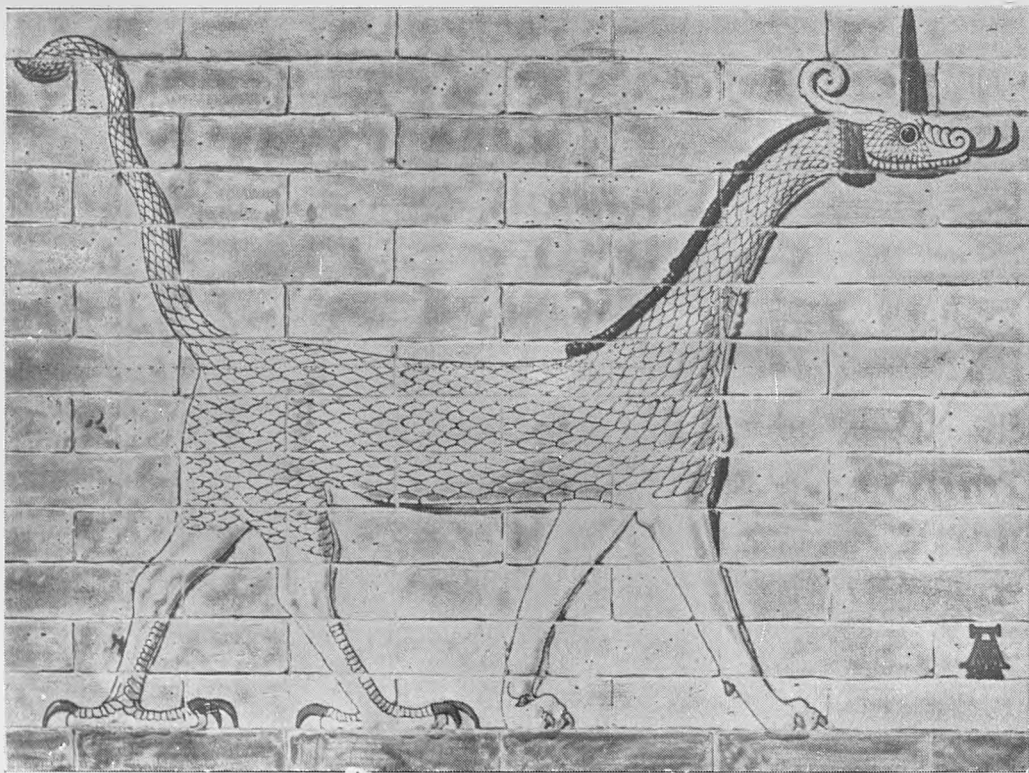


FIG. 11. ENAMELED DRAGON FROM THE ISHITAR-GATE.

wall parts on the right and left, through which the gate joins the "libbn" walls *Imgur-Ellil* and *Nimitti-Ellil*. (See p. 6). The gate is constructed in baked bricks and bitumen.

The gate walls which are directed towards the entering people, were covered in horizontal rows with animal figures in brick reliefs. To-day one can still see 152 animals, in nine rows. Bulls (see fig. 10) and dragons (see fig. 11) alternate. There were at least thirteen rows one above the other. On the top of the upper row which is now preserved, must have been at least one row of bulls and one of dragons in flat email and above these one row more of bulls and one of dragons in enameled brick relief. Thus may be counted 575 animals on the whole. These were not visible at the same time. The level of the gate has been raised several times in the course of time. By raising the lower parts of the walls a number of animals disappeared below the raising. Before raising the level of the street, one has covered the relief animals carefully with mud or gypsum plaster in order to protect them. The lower rows of relief animals are not as exactly sculptured as the upper ones, from the ninth row. Perhaps they never have been visible.

The enamelled relief animals have not been found "in situ." They all were broken and the fragments of them covered the surface of the mound before excavating was started. The expedition has collected hundreds and thousands of these fragments and put them together after having made a restoration by painting. One specimen of either animal is at the 'Iraq Museum. There is a reconstruction of the decorated *Ishtar-Gate* in natural size at the Berlin Museum.

The *Principal Palace*. If we do not look at the map of this palace (see fig. 12) the preserved remains of decayed walls will remain ununderstandable. As the palace has been very much destroyed by brick robbers and not been excavated completely, we can only say about it the following: It was confined at the east through the fortification wall which runs along the *Procession Street*, Then it turned up to the west. Nearly half of it is unearthed. The end of the mound denotes the approximate course of its western boundary near the river. In the south, the moat with its quaiwall, called *Arakhtu* formed the boundary. Special substructures of enormous blocks in composed bricks and filling material between, bear the walls of the palace. It has a ground-plan similar to that

of the western part of the *Southern Palace* which proves that it has been erected during the later years of Nabukhodnozzzer. While building the architects have changed details of the palace several times, probably ordered by the king who personally interested himself in all buildings of his citadel. Presumably the king has resided here with his family in a later time, when the *Southern Palace* served merely a centre of administration for the court and the government. Two of its large square courtyards have been excavated. Here, in courtyards or the rooms, plastic works of art in stone might have been displayed which have been found. Amongst them is also the huge basalt figure of a lion stepping over a man lying on the ground. This figure is still standing at the area of the *Principal Palace* probably not far from its original position. There is a cast of it at the 'Iraq Museum. As a good deal of stone statues and reliefs from different periods have been found within the *Principal Palace*, one is authorized to assume that the king has here had a museum of booty or other pieces of art from ancient times.

Babil. (See map Nr. 1 and fig. 13). On page 1 already the palace of Nabukhodnozzzer has been mentioned the remains of which are contained in the mound of *Babil* at the north of the town. It has been founded on substructures, 18 metres high below the walls and shows a ground-plan similar to that of the *Principal Palace* (see fig. 13). It is distinguished through large halls with unusual broad doors. On the back sides of its inner rooms already occur the vertical shafts for leading in fresh air from the roof terrace similar to those in old Baghdad houses. The excavators have named the building because of these air shafts the *Summer Palace* of Nabukhodnozzzer.

3. THE TEMPLES.

The principal temple of Babylon is that for the chief-god of the town, Marduk, called *Esagila*. It is situated on the high mound on the top of which stands to-day the tomb of Anran ben Ali. Only a part of it has been excavated (see p. 8). It consists of two buildings adjoining one another, one on the west and another on the east. Of the eastern part only the outside contour has been ascertained by subterranean digging. An accumulation of débris, 22 metres high, has made this excavation very difficult. Inscriptions on baked bricks prove that this *Esagila* has already existed at the

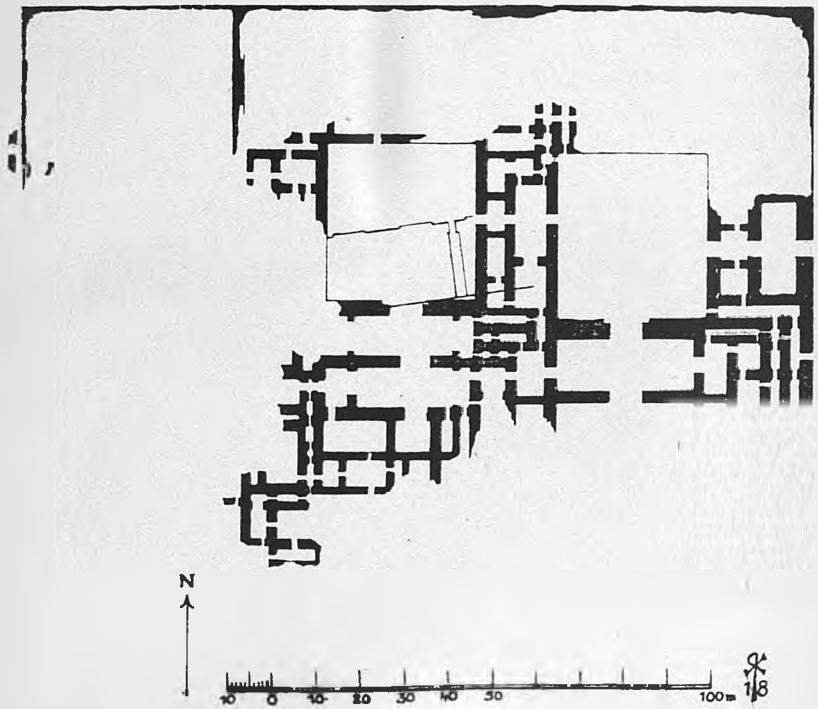


FIG 12. GROUND-PLAN OF THE PRINCIPAL PALACE,

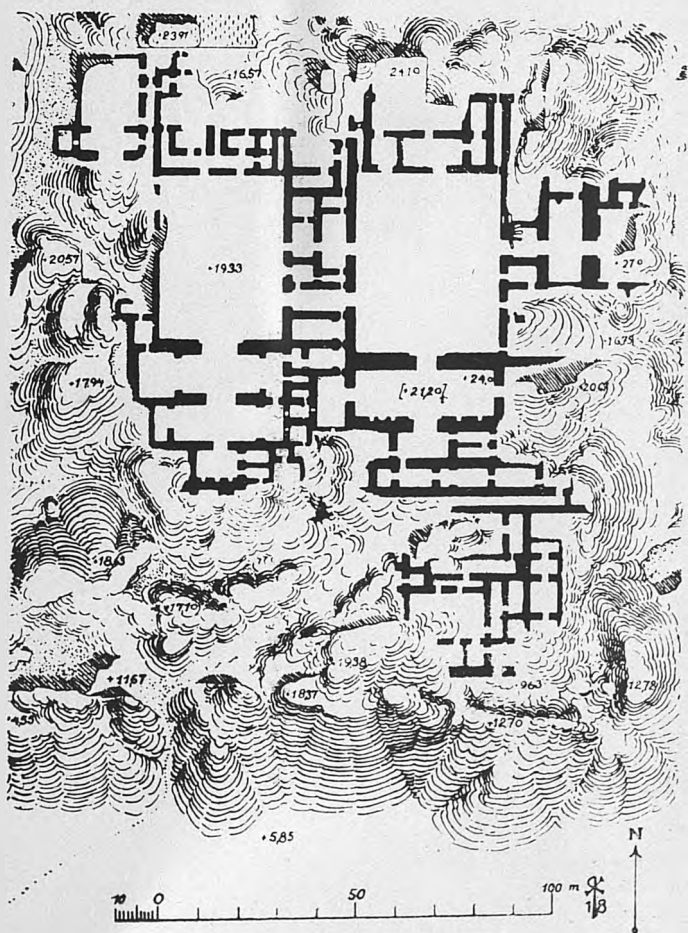


FIG. 13. GROUND-PLAN OF THE SUMMER PALACE AT BABIL.

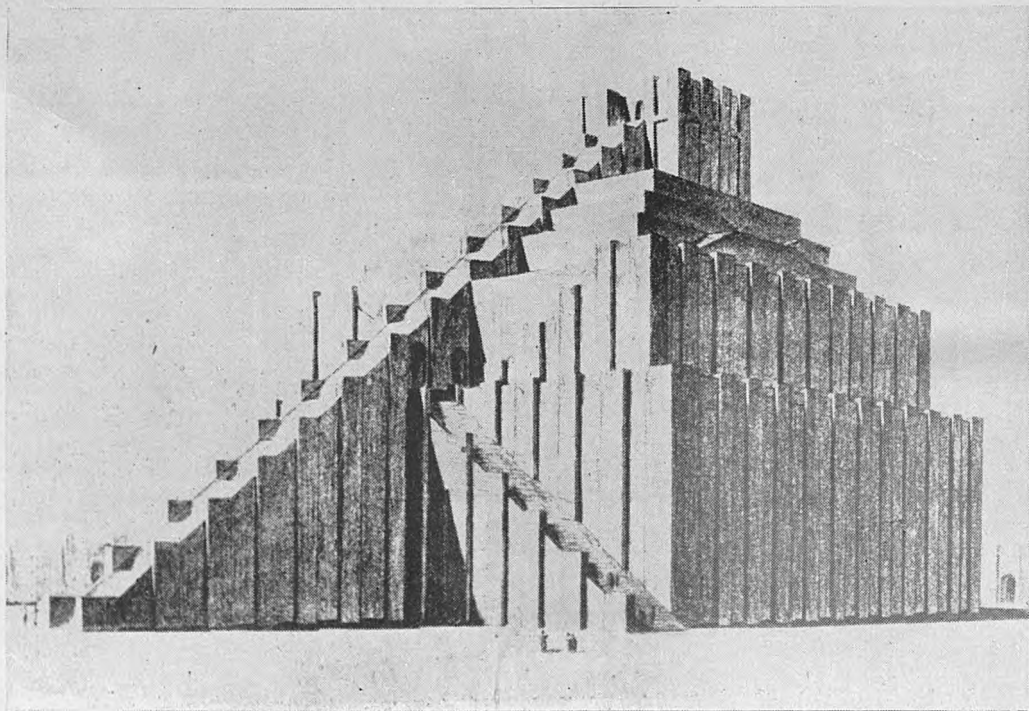


FIG. 14. LAST RECONSTRUCTION OF THE TOWER OF BABYLON.

time of Esarhaddon and Ashurbanipal of Assyria. The western part of the building has been partially excavated. It contains the "cellae"—shrines—for Marduk and two secondary cellae. The task to complete the excavation of Esagila, one of the most famous religious buildings of the past, is still to be solved.

North of Esagila lies a gigantic holy district with *Etemenanki*, the Zikkurrat, the world famed *Tower of Babylon* as a centre. A big enclosure wall surrounds the nearly square area which is 450 metres long and 400 metres broad. Inside this area some compartments have been formed by transversal walls three of which have been ascertained by the excavators. The northern and western compartment consists of long stretched large courtyards which are surrounded by rooms. In the middle compartment, next to its western wall, stood the Tower, ascendable from the south. The area could be entered from all four sides through gateways.—The tower ground-plan forms a square of 91,55 metres length, built in baked bricks. The central core however, 61,15 metres long, consists of a solid mass of unburned bricks "libbn". The ascent shows three steep stairs, two from the sides and one in the middle. They very lowest steep, constructed in baked bricks, of the middle staircase, were still preserved. The proportion of slope is fixed by these preserved bricksteps. All outside walls bear a brick decoration of recesses and projections.

That is all what has come down to us from the world-renewed *Tower of Babylon*. Its former height, 91,55 metres, like the length, the course of the stairs, the temple on the top may be taken from the written tradition which, however, permits only a doubtful restoration. The last attempt of restoring it is given on fig. 14. To-day, nothing of the remains of the stairs can be seen, they are under water which to-day stands round the "libn"-core, thus filling up the trench which once has contained the baked brickwork of the outside.

As mentioned above, the southern part of the *Procession Street* takes its course between Esagila and Etemenanki, passes through the bank fortification by a gateway and leads straight to the *Euphrates Bridge*. This bridge was constructed on pillars in baked bricks, 9 metres thick. Seven of these pillars have been excavated but are now covered with earth again. Between the pillars are intervals

of 9 metres. The pillars show in plan the shape of a boat. The excavated length of the bridge is 123 metres its breadth depended upon the length of the pillars, 21 metres.

The upper parts of the bridge probably were constructed in wood. The existence of this fixed bridge gives witness of the liveliness of traffic between the eastern and New Town of Babylon. It is also possible that the bridge, as a straight prolongation of the southern part of the holy road, has played its rôle in the procession.

Besides Esagila four more temples have been dug out at Babylon. Two of them lie in the very south of the inner-town, the temples for the god, *Ninurta* and the goddess *Gula*, a third one, dedicated to the goddess *Ishtar of Agade* in the dwelling town, and the temple for the goddess *Ninmakh*, called *Emakh* (*see fig. 15*), east close to the *Ishtar-Gate*. All these sanctuaries are, following an old tradition, constructed in "libbn," not in baked bricks. They resemble more or less one another and cover ground-plans of approximately the same size. The cella, which lies on one side of an inner courtyard, may be recognized in each case by the flat recess on the back wall. In front of it was a base, built in bricks and slightly elevated on which the statue of the deity stood. All temples with the exception of the temple for *Ninurta*, have in front of the cella an antecella of similar shape and size. Characteristic are the narrow corridors which lead inside around the shrines. They owe their origin to the conception that the holiest rooms, the cellae, were to be protected against the outer world through a special isolation. The ground-plan of these Babylonian temples, the idea of which is everywhere the same, has been found out for the first time at Babylon.

4. THE DWELLING QUARTERS IN THE MERKEZ. THE BURIAL PLACES.

The dwelling houses of the inhabitants of Babylon were situated east and northeast of Etemenanki at a group of mounds called to-day *Merkez*, 1000 metres from south to north and 400 metres from east to west. A good deal of the system of quarters with the houses and courses of streets has been excavated. The orientation of the streets conforms essentially to that of the *Procession Street* which is directed north-south. On its eastern side lies the dwelling town.

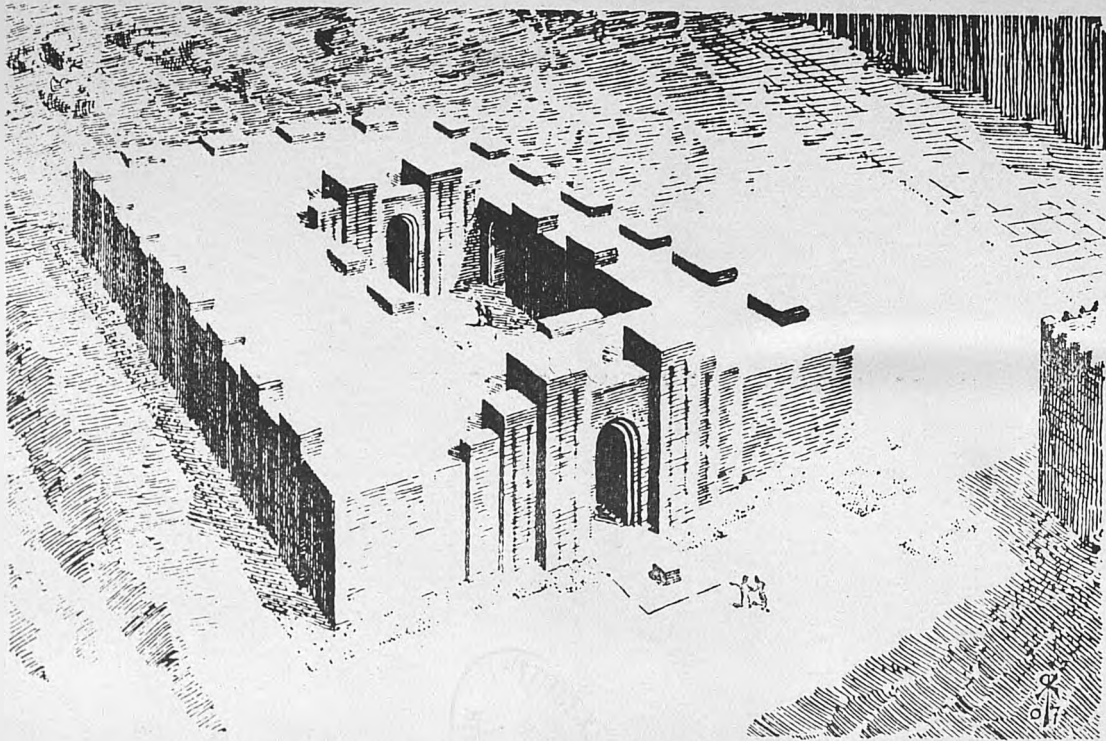


FIG. 15. RECONSTRUCTION OF THE TEMPLE FOR NINMAKH.

While the excavations of the official buildings as palaces, temples and fortifications chiefly have elucidated Nabukhodnozzer's period, it was possible at the dwelling town to follow the course of the streets and arrangement of the houses through several centuries. It thereby has been shown that this dwelling town essentially has not been altered very much from the middle of the second millennium to the Parthian period. In the upper three metres of débris below the surface of the *Merkez*, poor Parthian houses have been found, at a 4 metres thick stratum below the houses from the most glorious days of Babylon under the Neobabylonian rulers up to the Persians and Seleucids were unearthed. A Babylonian-Assyrian dwelling stratum from the time about 1200 to 600 B.C. shows the next period. A still lower stratum contains remains of houses from the Kassite period (*see p. 3*). And quite below, already at the ground water of to-day, ruined buildings from the period of the First Dynasty of Babylon, the Khammurabi time, came to-light, dated through inscribed tablets of this period, when Babylon became the capital of the united north and south. (*See fig. 16*).

The ground-plan of the Babylonian dwelling houses never has been very different from the houses as they are still built to-day in 'Iraq. Shut off the outside, the rooms inside arranged directly or indirectly around one or More inner-courtyards, the dwelling houses Babylon give a good idea of Babylonian domestic life. Especially well built are, of course, the houses of the Neobabylonian period. One of the northern quarters at the *Merkez* is taken by the temple for *Ishtar of Agade*. (*See p. 3*).

It was in the dwelling town where a big quantity of *tombs* of the Babylonian history from 1500 to 300 B.C. have been found. The dead were buried very often in clay jars of different shapes, most in squatting position, within ruined dwelling house-quarters. Nearly all excavated burials as wells as the dwelling houses have been recovered with earth after excavation so that nothing can be seen of them to-day. Only the Ishtar-Temple may be still recognized.

5. THE PERSIAN BUILDING AT THE PALACE.

(*See fig. 17*).

A Persian building on the western side of the *Southern Palace* (*see p. 9*) gives the impression of a heterogenous part within its Babylonian palace environs. The here reproduced reconstruction by

professor Koldewey reveals its relationship to the palaces of the Akhemenian kings at Persepolis. There is nothing to be seen of the building on the ruin. One has found fragments of enamelled ciment bricks, part of Persian cuneiform inscriptions and column bases in stone, exactly like those from Persepolis, in the place of this Persian building.

6. THE GREEK THEATRE.

(See map Nr. II).

Of the three rubbish heaps east of the palaces, to-day named *Homeira*, the highest northern one contains probably the débris and broken bricks which Alexander the Great has removed from the ruined *Tower of Babylon* (see p. 8). For therein inscribed brick fragments have been found and a fragment of Nabukhodnozzér's consecration inscription for Etemenanki. The excavator suppose that in the middle *Homeira*-tal the funeral pile stood which Alexander has erected for his friend Hephaistion. Also the southern tal of *Homeira* contains accumulations of débris. A *Greek Theatre* has been built into it. The semicircular spectator-room with the stage-building and adjoining sport school for wrestlings—*palaestra*—could be unearthed. Such buildings might have existed at all so-called *Greek towns* of the Near East. To-day one can see only destroyed remains.

E.—WALK THROUGH THE RUINS OF BABYLON.

On page 1 we had proposed to the visitor who can spend but one day's time on the visit of Babylon, to get a first view over the entire ruin-field from the top of Nabukhodnozzér's summer palace at *Babil*, thereafter motor to the point where a road leads to the right. Just before reaching this cross-point one sees on the right, parallel to the railway-line, remains of the inner-town fortifications and inside them, the mound called *Homeira*. Climb up to the northern tal of *Homeira* and you see at the digging trench through its summit the sloped layers of broken bricks, brought here from Etemenanki (see p. 8). You walk further south over middle *Homeira* (see above) and turn to the right where the remains of the *Greek Theatre* easily may be found. Then the car brings you to the base of a large dump of débris, east of the *Qasr* palaces. These débris have been carried out from the palaces by the excavators. Climb up to the highest point of the dump and look round.

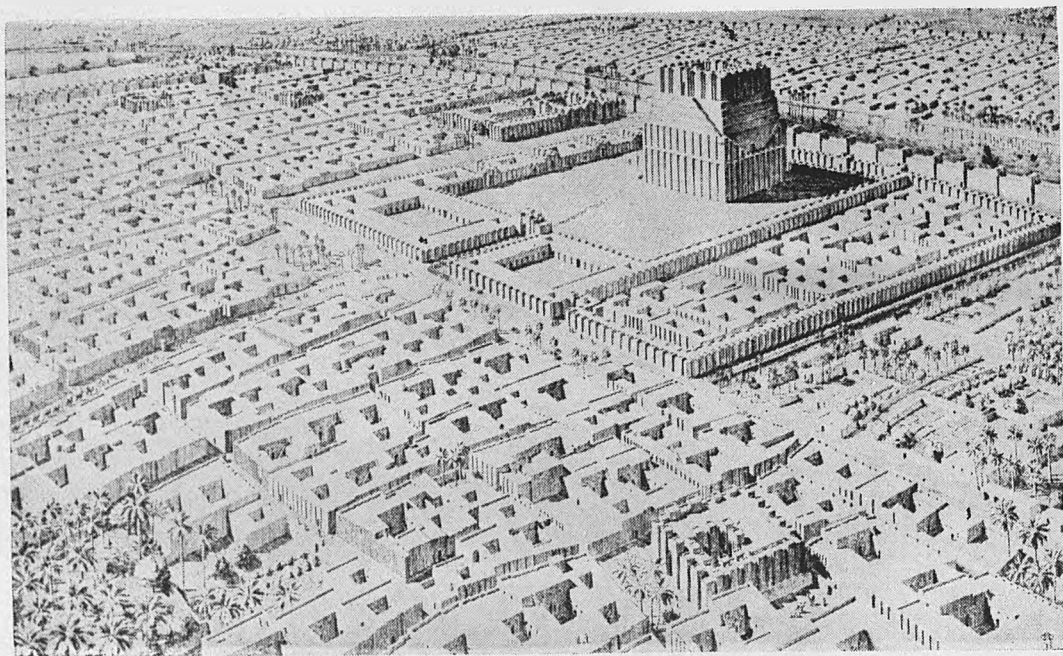


FIG. 16. VIEW ON THE DWELLING QUARTERS WITH ETEMENANKI.

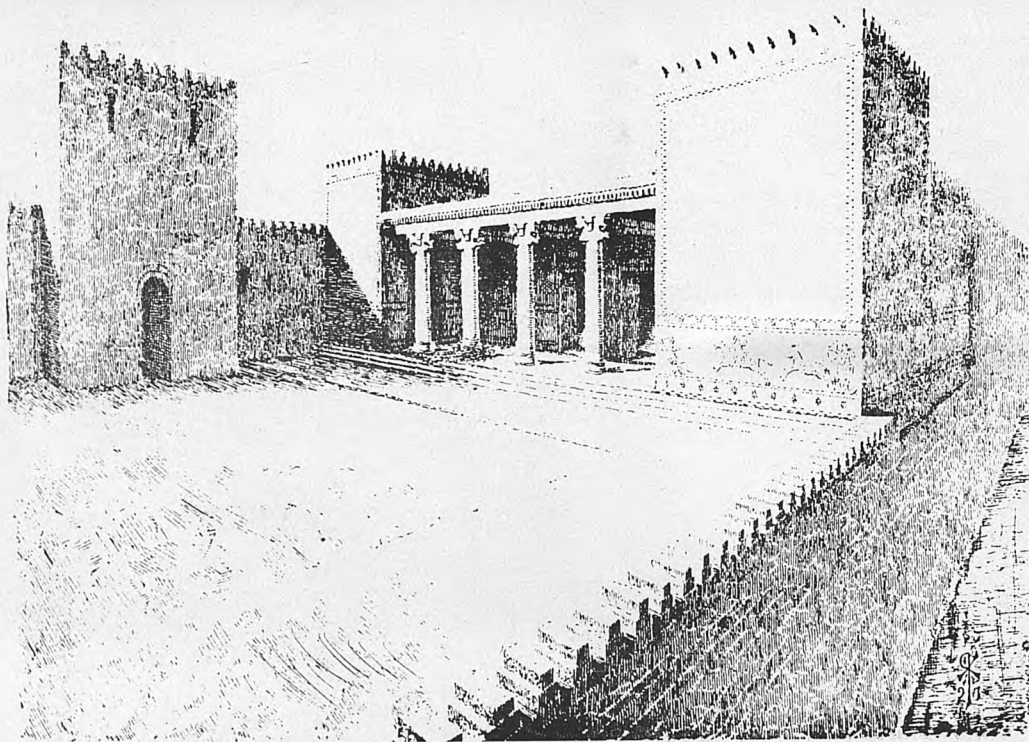


FIG. 17. RECONSTRUCTION OF THE PERSIAN BUILDING.

You see on the west the enormous ruins of Nabukhodnozzér's palaces and behind them, the palm trees by which the village of Qoweiresh or Nil is hidden. At southeast are the green heads of small palm bushes close by Etemenanki. The high mound of Amran ben Ali farther on the south is marked by the glazed coupolae of the modern Saint tomb. Nearer to your standing point, a little bit to the left, you ascertain the large place of the dwelling town at the *Merkez*. When the weather is clear you see far in the east a tiny reddish conical mound on the horizon. This is the Zikurrat of Al-Oheimir, a part of the ancient town of Kish.

Descend the rubbish dump to the west and enter, passing through some "libbn" walls, the temple *Emakh* which is fairly well preserved so that you may still see the well in the courtyard, remains of the brick paving and, adjacent the courtyard, towards south, the antecella and cella of the temple. The cella is marked through a flat recess on the southern back wall. On the right and left side of the entrance to the cella the groved decoration of the façade is still visible. The main entrance to the temple from outside you can see on the northern front. Looking carefully at the floor of the courtyard, you see that the paving in the door to the antecella has been raised here three times and at the cella twice more.

Follow the little path and climb up to the highest point. You stand now in the axis of the Ishtar-Gate on one of the limestone slabs which have formed the paving of the *Procession Street* after it had been raised for the last time. To the south and west in front of you lie the ruins of the *Southern Palace*. To the north is the *Ishtar-Gate* with its decorated walls. Before descending to it turn to the left. Here you get a look at the building with the arched rooms and corridors; there are the *Hanging Gardens*. (See p. 10). Then get down at the axis of the *Ishtar-Gate* by about five metres, passing by a large limestone block which bears Nabukhodnozzér's inscription concerning the building of the *Ishtar-Gate*. You are now in the long stretched second gate-room, reckoned from outside, north, near the first door which leads through the inner "libbn"-wall, called *Imgur-Ellil*, on a middle paving level, 4,75 metres below the upper level with the limestone paving. From here you have a good view of the relief animals, the bulls and the dragons. All these reliefs are not enamelled. Imagine that the upper parts of the walls have entirely disappeared and all those visible to-day were covered with clay

and sand when the level was raised to its very height with the limestone and "turminabanda" paving. (See p. 10). Do not overlook the square brick base which stands in the southwestern corner of the place between the two gates. There are similar bases at the northern gate-room and outside by the eastern front tower of the northern part of the gate. Perhaps these bases have borne stone stele with inscriptions.

Now go round the western part of the gate, cross the brickwork of the walls and get to the north of the gate. From here you have a fine view into the Ishtar-Gate from the other side and see a good deal more of the brick animals. You also recognize that the gate has not been excavated entirely to its foundations. The lower parts of the southern gate with hundreds of brick reliefs are still covered with the clay and sand of the raising.

The round cylindrical column-like pillar, north of the gate might have served as a base for a statue.

The top of the mound here is formed by some limestone slabs, one of them inscribed, which belong to the paving of the upper-level of the *Procession-Street*. You follow now the brick underpaving for the slabs to the north. Leave the course of the street to the left and look, after 150 metres walking, back. You see the regular slope of the northern part of the *Procession-Street* well marked and gradually leading down to the plain level. Some paces more bring you down to the basalt figure of the lion which has been put on a modern base. (See p. 12).

On a little path you go on and walk over broken bricks to southwest, passing first through excavated parts of the *Principal Palace*. (See pp. 11 & 12). Then you pass by the enormous brick blocks of the foundations of that palace (see p. 11) and turn towards south. At a distance of about 150 metres from those blocks you pass over a high, canal-like long depression which runs from west to east. This is the interval between Nimitti-Ellil and Imgur-Ellil, the chief walls of the fortifications of the inner-town and the palace. Over some destroyed brick walls you enter now the chief courtyard of the *Southern Palace* (see p. 9) have its western parts with Nabu-polasser's palace on your right and the *Throne-Hall* in front of you. (See p. 9). It is not easy to recognize all the walls and rooms the excavation has laid bare. Many of them have been destroyed during

the last twenty years so that it requires much imagination to restore the innumerable rooms which surround the two eastern courtyards you are now passing through. You walk towards southeast and descend from the rubbish heaps to the road which leads you to the west, the village of Qoweiresh or Nil amidst the palm trees on the river Euphrates. There you may have a look at the house the German Mission has built when they excavated Babylon. Now it contains a Government school. On the bank of the Euphrates you take rest for a little while and then go back on the same road, but follow it further south. The palm bushes, recently planted, denote approximately the place of the large courtyards which surrounded the *Tower of Babylon* Etemenanki (*see* p. 13). Conscientious visitors may cast a look at the place of the Euphrates bridge, though only the refilled digging trenches let them guess at the excavated pillars. You turn to the right of the road, walk along the palm-rows and climb up to the débris which surrounded the remains of the *Tower*.

If you turn to the east of the road you enter the dwelling quarters of Babylon at the *Merkez* (*see* pp. 14 & 15). In its northern part the excavated *Ishtar-Temple* (*see* p. 15) shows you a second instance of Babylon temple architecture.

The excavated remains of Esagila, south of the *Tower*, have suffered too much from rain and wind than to pay the trouble of climbing up to the mound of Amran ben Ali. A rather inconvenient walk east round the Amran ben Ali brings you to the two temples at the very southern part of the inner-town (*see* p. 14). You find your car where the road leaves the mounds at the south, pass through the remains of the inner-town fortifications and join soon the main Hilla road. There are no traces of the outer-town fortifications here, but you will pass through them when you motor back on the Hilla road to the north.

F.—BORSIPPA.

The walk through the ruins of Babylon as described above costs you about two hours. If you motor from Baghdad and back, you can do the visit in six to seven hours time. If you spend two hours more, you are able to go by car to Hilla, pass through Hilla town and follow first the road to Kif-Kufa for about 15 kilometres. Here you will find a sign post directing to you "Borsippa," to the right. The whole distance from Babylon to the ruins of Borsippa, may be

covered in about half an hour's time. You stop at the northwestern side of the high mound and climb up the 44 metres difference in level between the level of the plain and the top of the platform from which a free standing part of brickwork is still rising by twelve and a half metres. The large blocks of brickwork laying on the platform must have been exposed to a very violent fire. For they are baked to an homogenous mass and turned into dross. From here you have a magnificent view over the land round the town of Borsippa. Realize that you stand on the ruin of the Zikurrat which belonged to the temple of the god Nabu called Ezida. At the base, not far from the mound on the top of which you are standing, you see the excavated reddish remains of this temple. It has been built by Nabukhodnozzar and was dug out by the German excavators of Babylon in the year 1902.

The grand-plan (*see* fig. 18) shows you the results of digging and makes you understand the shape of the temple, its Zikurrat and the surrounding enclosure of magazines too. Southeast of a central courtyard is the cella; before reaching it you had to pass through two antecellae.

To-day the modern name of the temple area with the tower is Birs. Northeast of the mound Birs lies another mound of minor height, to-day named Ibrahim al-Khalil after the cupoled Saint tomb on its top. This mound contains the palaces or dwelling quarters of the town. A later period may have reused paving slabs of limestone and "turminabanda" (*see* p. 10) on its surface which originally have belonged—so says the inscription thereon—to the paving of a procession street of god Nabu, a counterpart to Marduk's holy road at Babylon.

Erroneously the high remains of Borsippa's Zikurrat have been taken for those of the *Tower of Babylon* previously. The excavations at Babylon have given evidence that the *Tower of Babylon*, of course, only could be situated at the town of Babylon where its remains have been excavated (*see* p. 13).

Borsippa was a neighbour town to Babylon like Kish (*see* p. 17). There must have been a lively exchange of material and spiritual goods between these three towns.

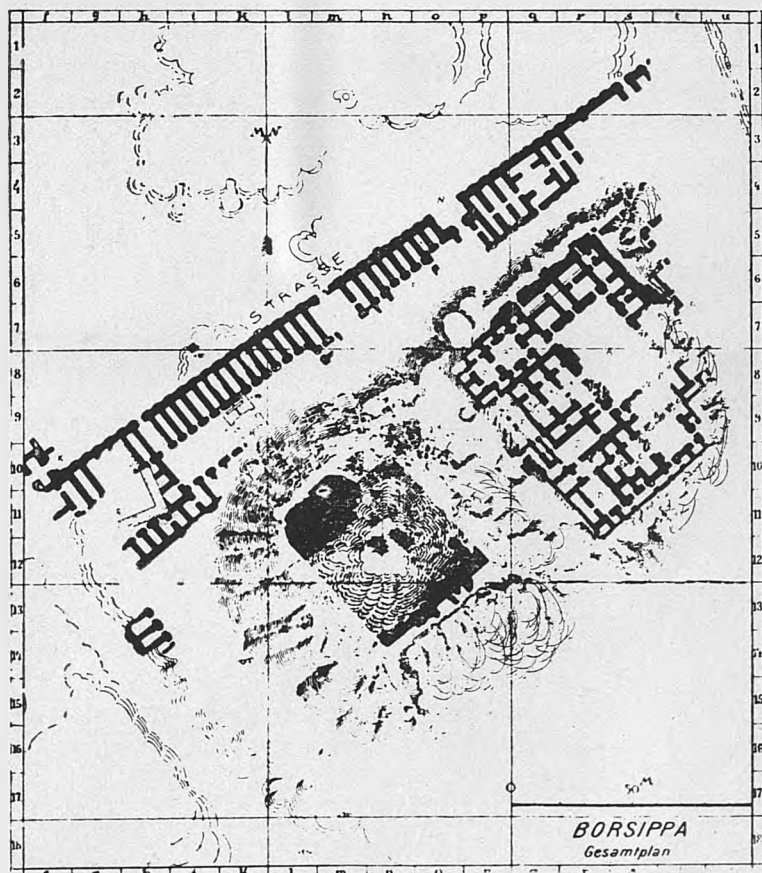


FIG. 18. GROUND-PLAN OF THE NABU-TEMPLE AT BORSIPPA.

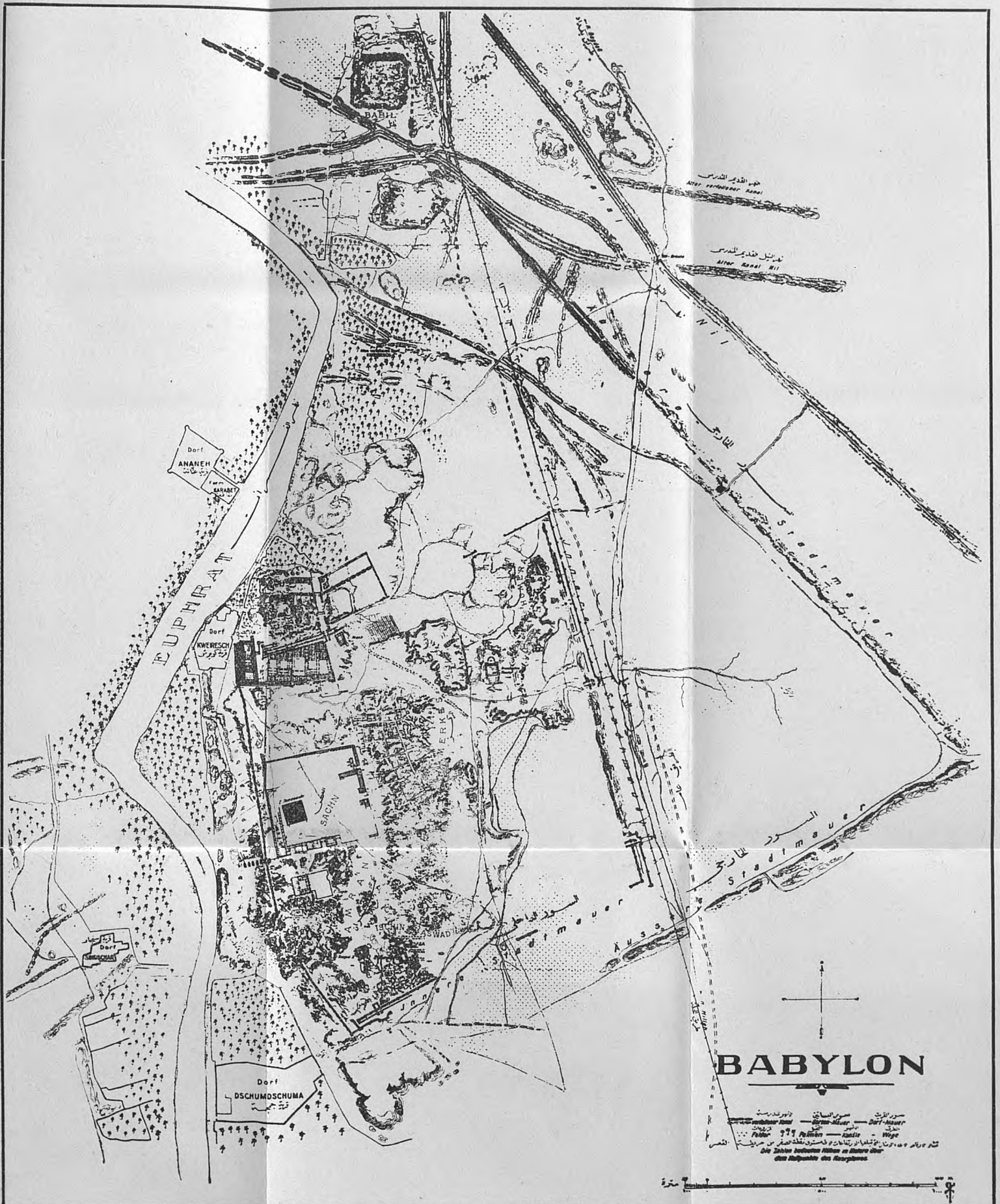
G.—LIST OF MAPS AND FIGURES.

- Map I. Map of Babylon.
- „ II. Map of the inner-town of Babylon.
- Figure 1. Panorama of the mound of Babylon, from northwest.
- „ 2. Reconstruction of the southern side of the inner-town fortifications.
- „ 3. Reconstruction of the *Southern Palace*, scen from north.
- „ 4. Enamelled ornament from the *Throne-Hall*.
- „ 5. Reconstruction of the *Hanging Gardens*.
- „ 6. The *Hanging Gardens* actual condition.
- „ 7. Enamelled lion from the *Procession Street*.
- „ 8. Reconstruction of the *Ishtar-Gate*.
- „ 9. The *Ishtar-Gate*, actual condition.
- „ 10. Enamelled bull from the *Ishtar-Gate*.
- „ 11. Enamelled dragon from the *Ishtar-Gate*.
- „ 12. Ground-plan of the *Principal Palace*.
- „ 13. Ground-plan of the *Summer Palace at Babil*.
- „ 14. Last reconstruction of the *Tower of Babylon*.
- „ 15. Reconstruction of the temple for *Ninmakh*.
- „ 16. View on the dwelling quarters with *Etemenanki*.
- „ 17. Reconstruction of the *Persian building*.
- „ 18. Ground-plan of the *Nabu Temple* at Borsippa.

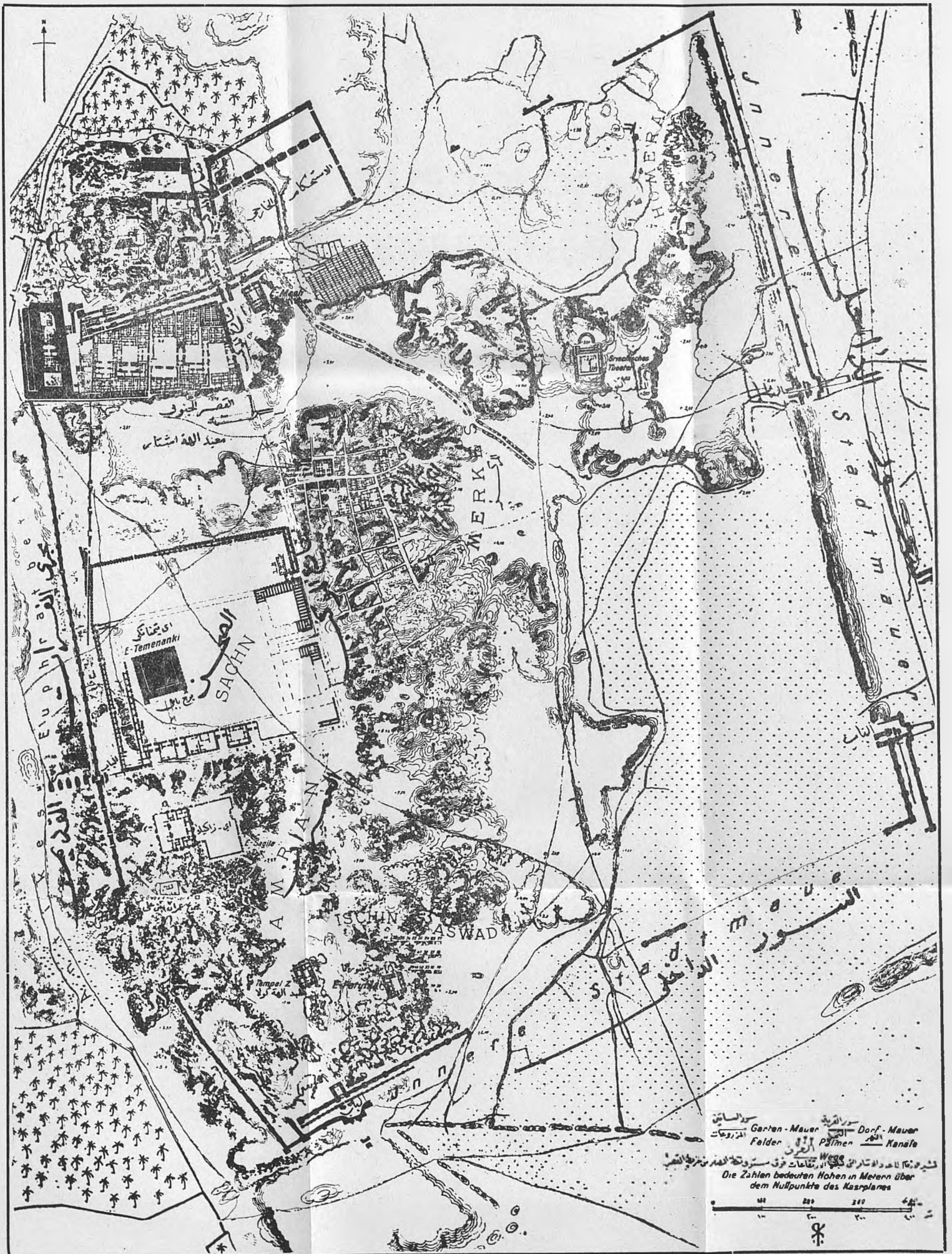
All the maps and figures are taken from the publications by the German Excavators of Babylon, except the figure 6 and 9 which give photographs taken by the photographic section of the Department of Antiquities, Baghdad.

<u>PAGE.</u>	<u>LINE.</u>	<u>ERRORS.</u>	<u>CORRECTIONS.</u>
3	12	Kassite	Kassites
8	16	religions	religious
8	29	ocassion	occasion
8	30	of Etemenanki	from Etemenanki
9	3	completed	completely
9	14	enameled	enamelled
10	14	stand	stands
10	26	status	statues
11	11	enameled	enamelled
12	8/9	in courtyards	in the courtyards
13	19	they	the
13	20	steeps	steps
15	22	More	more
15	31	as wells as	as well as
17	5	coupolae	cupolae
19	20	Babylon	Babylonian
19	36	to you	you to
20	15	grand-plan	ground-plan





MAP I. BABYLON.



MAP II. THE INNER TOWN OF BABYLON.

LP. GEN.