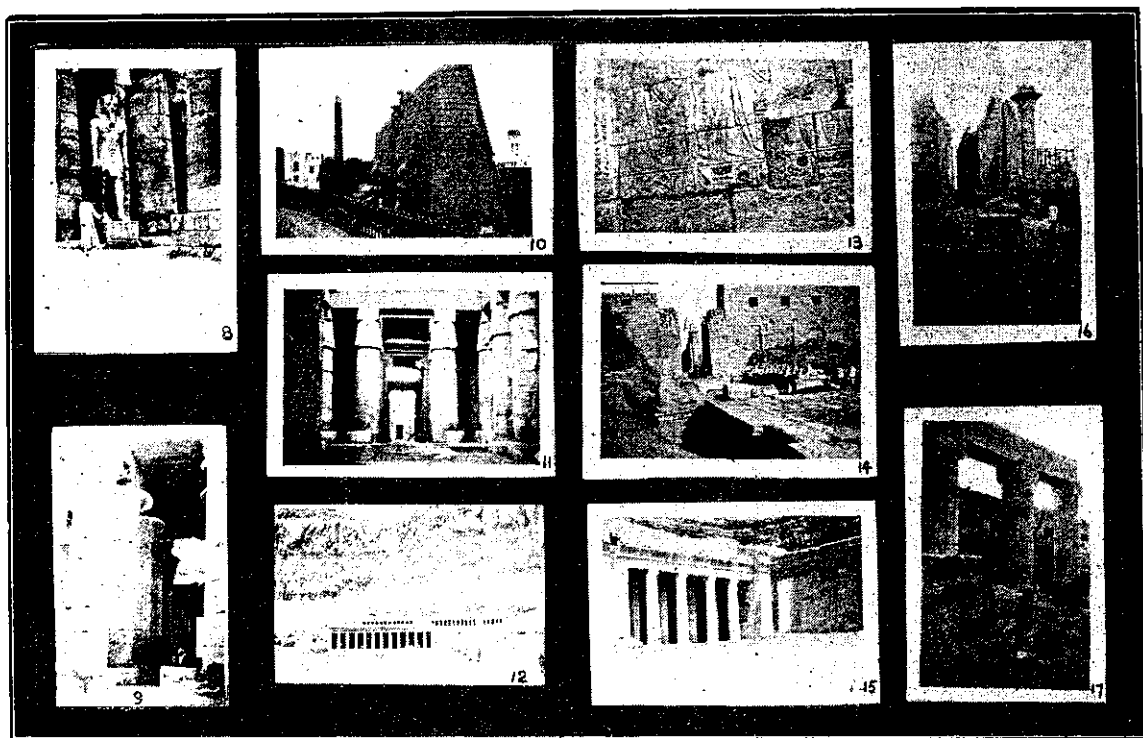


its wonders, and within an hour three fly-worried, sunbaked persons after a dash to be ready, found themselves in a train en route for Luxor via Cairo. Midday brought us to Cairo with the solace of good meals free from bully-beef, rancid butter and sand washed down with really cold liquid. Early in the evening we started on our next journey of over 400 miles by train up the green and fertile strip of Nile valley, sleeping as well as we could on the well upholstered leather seats either in a state of hot suffocation with closed windows or subjected to a deluge of sand. However, early morning saw us nearing our destination and with it appeared on the train numerous would-be "dragomen" (guides). In some doubt as to the wisdom of our choice, we engaged the handsome looking gentleman in flowing tussore silk

to the Temple of Luxor (Figs. 8, 10, 18 and 19), much of which is still buried in the sand and litter of ages, as the tomb of a Sheikh (shewn in Fig. 10), which is on the site, cannot be removed owing to Mohammedan objection. Entering between the two pylons with their seated colossi of Rhameses II. flanking the door, we came upon the forecourt of Rhameses II., (the Great), (Fig. 8), in which will be noticed the enormous statues of this truly vain monarch, all of them severely damaged by Cambyses the Persian King during his invasion of Egypt. The illustration shews the most perfect of the statues, but even this has lost the peculiar mitre-like Egyptian Crown. A small statue by his side shews his Queen—Nefertari. Passing between the enormous central columns of the Hypostyle Hall—attributed to



8. Statue of Rhameses the Great in Temple at Luxor. 9. The Hypostyle Hall of the Rhamesionn Thebes. 10. The Entrance to Temple at Luxor. 11. Forecourt of Temple of Khonsu. 12. The Temple of Queen Hatshepsu. 13. Hieroglyphs in the Temple of Khonsu. 14. The entrance to Great Temple at Karnak. 15. Colonnade in Temple of Queen Hatshepsu. 16. Altar and Unfinished Hall of Rhameses Great Temple of Karnak. 17. Banqueting Hall of Thothmes in Great Temple at Karnak.

garh with a clean tarbouche whose portrait may occasionally be recognised in the photographs—and without doubt Ibrahim Ayan, for that was his name, fully justified our confidence. His knowledge, energy and courtesy were all that could be desired, and withal he shewed that rare quality in the Egyptian—fair dealing. He took us round for two days, paying all entrance fees, carriages, boats and doukeys for a fee of 200 piastres each (a little over £2 each). Our hotel accommodation was also both comfortable and moderate in cost.

After baths to rinse off our coating of sand, and a rest in the cool, we sauntered forth from the gate of the Luxor Hotel a short distance along the river

Horemheb, the court of Emenhotep with its profusion of columns of the lotus bud form, is opened before our eyes (Fig. 19). The grace and dignity of this court and its great extent give a much higher opinion of the work in this temple than is gathered from most writers. In the Sanctuary of this temple was once a Roman altar, and it was evidently used as a Roman Cella; later on the Christians made the same compartment into a chapel, plastering the hieroglyphs over and painting thereon a fresco of a Christian saint said to be St. John, which is still visible.

A carriage drive in the afternoon took us to the Arab village of Karnak, which is the Great Temple