

results. Likewise in further studies of radioactive decomposition no evidence has been found for an element having the properties of an alkaline metal.

No work reported has been done in an attempt to isolate element 85 which when discovered will be in the same group with iodine.

MOST RECENT CHEMICAL ELEMENTS DISCOVERED

Number	Name	Discoverer	Country	Year
72	Hafnium	Coster and Hevesy	Denmark	1923
43	Masurium	Noddack	Germany	1925
75	(Rhenium	Noddack		
	Bohemium	Heyrovsky and Doleyssek	Czecho-Slovakia	1925
61	Illinium	Hopkins	United States	1926
87	Ekacaesium	Undiscovered		
85	Unknown halogen	Undiscovered		

There are places for 92 chemical elements in the scheme of things as now conceived by the chemists. All but 87 and 85 have been filled. But some believe that there is a possibility that there may exist elements 93, 94, and 95, heavier than uranium, which is 92. Discovery of 75 is disputed.

UR EXCAVATORS DISCOVER TOMBS AND RARE GODDESS STATUE

The chance discovery of great coffins of hammered and riveted copper and the unearthing of the earliest female statue in all Mesopotamia are among the achievements of the Joint Expedition of the British Museum and the museum of the University of Pennsylvania which has over two hundred men at work excavating Ur of the Chaldees, Iraq, one of the most famous sites of antiquity.

In the shrine of the Moon goddess, worshipped by the ancient Chaldeans, there was found a diorite statue of the goddess, Bau, patroness of the poultry yard, and, in the report of C. Leonard Woolley, leader of the expedition, just received, it is declared that this is the only female statue of early date ever found in Mesopotamia. Only the goddess's nose is missing; other less fortunate statues and vessels had been smashed to bits upon the brick floor of the temple Gig-Par-Azag, when that place of worship was sacked and burned, probably during a rebellion against an ancient king of Babylon, the great Hammurabi.

During January the Moon goddess temple was laid bare by the excavators. This really magnificent structure was built about 2220 B. C. and then rebuilt in fine burnt brick a hundred and fifty years later by Enanatum, son of Ishme-Dagan, king of Isin. This is the most imposing building at Ur, with the single exception of the Ziggurat, covering a very large area and laid out on a bold and spacious plan. One of its two temples is that of Nin-Gal. It has a court with wide gateways on

three sides, brick-paved and thickly set with bases for statues or stelae, with water tanks and lustral stands, and it forms the central feature. From it three massive doorways lead to the sanctuary, a small chamber entirely taken up by a high statue-base with a flight of steps on one side of it. Altars in the gateway recesses and in the chamber next to the sanctuary seem to show that these served as side chapels for the cult of lesser gods. The court is flanked by long rooms, store or service chambers, and behind the sanctuary is the temple kitchen. Mr. Woolley reports that this ancient kitchen and all its furnishings are extremely well preserved. Near one wall is the well sunk through the brick floor. Made fast in the brick pavement is a bronze ring to which the bucket-rope was secured, and against the wall stands the bitumen-lined brick tank for water. Against the other walls there are two cooking-ranges, one with an open trough-fireplace for burning wood, a cup-fire for charcoal and a furnace whereon probably the great cauldron stood, the other an elaborate covered stove with two fireplaces, circular flues and top vents for the cooking pots and a flight of steps so that one might mount on the top of the stove to lift or shift them.

"On the floor we found the quern and grinder-stone and the clay vessels left lying when the last meal had been cooked," Mr. Woolley reports.

Another curious feature of the temple is a small chamber lying in the center of a maze of corridors symmetrical in plan. It had two doors at the southeast end of its longer sides and at the other and there was a tall stela of white limestone standing upright with two other stelae of dark gypsum lying side by side at its foot, embedded in the bitumen which here covered its brick floor. Each stone was inscribed with the name of Bur-Sin, King of Ur, and his dedication of the temple. "One can only suppose that this chamber was the shrine in which was celebrated the cult of the building's deified founder," Mr. Woolley reports. "Certainly it is unique in Mesopotamian discoveries."

But the worship of the Moon goddess, Nin-Gal, antedates even the foundations of the original building that Mr. Woolley and his assistants unearthed. In more ancient ruins offerings to the same goddess were found. One of these is a lunar disk in alabaster which bears on one face an inscription recording that it was dedicated by the High Priestess, the daughter of Sargon of Akkad who reigned about 2700 B. C., and on the other side a relief illustrating a sacrifice to the goddess in which the chief part is played by a priestess in flowing robes and mitre who can scarcely be other than the princess herself. And as if to show how conservative was Sumerian religion, we find the same scene reproduced on a limestone plaque which dates from well before 3000 B. C., a complete and admirable example of the earliest art of the country. There are two registers; in the lower a naked priest pours his libation before the door of the shrine, behind him is the High Priestess, robed and crowned, and behind her an attendant carrying a kid for the sacrifice and a second bearing a wreath; in the upper register a man, naked but with long hair, probably the king, pours libation before the seated Moon God, and three small draped figures, perhaps his children, look on from behind.

Some spiders catch fish.
