

has gone on steadily ever since the original discovery and new discoveries are constantly being made in its interpretation. There are now many thousands of tablets which have been published, tablets of all sorts. I, myself, prepared what you might call a book of a town which was destroyed in 1400 B. C., giving a list of the people who lived there, with their relatives and what you could learn about them from the study of the great many hundreds of tablets, and we call the book NUZI PERSONAL NAMES, because the town was called Nuzi. It is published as Volume 57 in the publications of the Oriental Institute at the University of Chicago, and that is typical of the various studies which have been made in this field. A whole civilization there which was unknown previously has become known to us from this cuneiform writing. It would be extremely valuable if it stood absolutely alone but along side of it we have the discoveries made of actual material and that is the other phase which I wish to take up. Before I mention this other phase, though, just another word about this cuneiform, the idea of writing was taken over by the Egyptians and by the Chinese from the Sumerians, but the actual writing, the actual symbols were taken over by the Babylonians and also by the Hittites and by various other peoples so that we have over twenty different languages now which have been found written in this cuneiform writing. It was a type of writing which came to be used very widely throughout the ancient world, and when a king of Egypt in about 1400 B. C. desired to write to a king of a city in Palestine, though the king of Egypt spoke Egyptian and the king of the city in Palestine spoke Canite, they would write in the Babylonian language and write on the clay tablets in cuneiform. That was the established custom of diplomatic usage even among people who didn't speak this particular language, and of course, that's very useful to us because these cuneiform tablets were discovered down in Egypt and if they had been written on papyrus they would have just disappeared, but we have these cuneiform tablets throwing great light on Palestine about 1400 B. C. we will look at them a little next semester when we deal with that earlier period of our history, these other so-called tablets, but they are