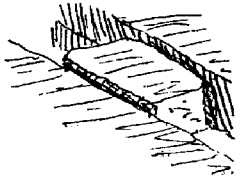
NOTE ON THE CHISEL MARKS ON ROCK DESCRIBED BY HERR SCHICK.

By W. M. Flinders Petrie.

The long strokes which Herr Schick figures (p. 19) are clearly not "long-stroke work," as that is used for the final facing of masonry. These strokes,

in layers 18 to 22 inches high, are the quarryman's work in cutting out

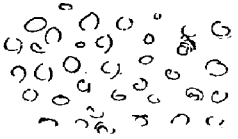


stone by picking a groove, and then breaking out the block left. Such was the mode of quarrying in the Cotton Grotto and in Egypt.

The "long-stroke" dressing is very fine, on the Beit el Khulil it is invisible except with a slanting light. The strokes are not in regular levels as above (each level marking a batch of stone removed), but

irregularly all over the surface in various directions, just as the trimmer moved his position.

The "pock-marking" is used regularly and evenly all over a face to



reduce the surface—the blows bruising away the stone. There seems to be some amount of pocking on the one squeeze.

As to squeezes, it is best to wet the stone thoroughly first, and then to beat on the soaked paper with a brush until it is entirely pulped and

broken away from the prominent points, if deep. Then a second sheet well wetted and beaten on until the prominences just begin to break through, will unite with the first and hold it all together when dry. There is no harm in losing the extreme prominences as they are always most worn and weathered. What is needed is to have a full impression of the hollows, which show the cutting most definitely, and are not worn at all. The best brush is that used for cleaning carriage wheels, all bristles, as it is narrow enough to get sufficient force on the surface beaten, and can be used one end dry for dusting and holding by, and one wet for beating and washing. It is hard work to do a good squeeze, and two square feet is as much as can be done without a rest for the arm, which soon becomes exhausted. It needs a peculiar stroke, exactly square with the stone, and not dragging either way, or the paper is soon broken. Of course the paper should be left on till dry if possible, when it can be dragged off; but if the stone is rough, and the squeeze good, it holds pretty tightly by keying in.

I may as well explain the quarrying more. A trench is cut in the

ground by picking out; each time the workman takes a fresh start at the top, and cuts down, he leaves a slight ledge or line on the side, these lines are about 1 to 2 inches apart, as that is the depth he picks out at one time. These lines are generally curved slightly, and produce a sort of

pattern. The depth of one batch of lines is the depth of the block of stone cut out by one groove. Then if he turns and works from the other end, the lines run opposite. The height of each row, or depth of the groove of

cutting, is decided by the length of the pick handle and power of the workman. It is usually 18 to 30 inches. There are ceilings cut out in this way in the quarries in Egypt.