DESERT CLASSROOM



LABORERS engaged in excavation work at Sakkara stop to look at the bus on arrival.

Students at the University of Cairo do not have far to go to get first-hand information about their country's early history. Members of the class in Egyptology are loaded on buses at the university, taken past the famed pyramids of Cheops and Chrephren to their outdoor classroom at Sakkara, 25 miles east of Cairo, on the very edge of the Sahara desert. There in the shadow of the Step Pyramid, the world's oldest monument, built by King Zoser 5,000 years ago (3rd Dynasty), they watch the restoration work going on under the supervision of the Egyptian government, study the antiquities which are being unearthed and learn all about the glories of ancient Egypt. At present, the government's excavation work in the area is being centered on the tomb of Snefru, first king of the 4th Dynasty and the father of Cheops. Its restoration work on the main entrance to the Temple of Zoser is nearly completed. The students are getting a full view of these efforts. Cairo University's outdoor classroom is pictured here.



MUMMY BEARERS. Instructor and students watch workmen bring up 3,000-year-old mummy.



OLD SUBJECT. Professor tells students about the mummy. It's encosed in gold coverings.



INSTRUCTION. At the partially reconstructed columns of the temple of Zoser, the class holds a study period. In background is the base of Step Pyramid.



SKULL IN HAND, Professor of Antiquities Dr. Motwally uncovers a skull of mummy removed from tomb.



PROFESSOR Pierre Buchard points out inscriptions, corved figures inside tomb.





