

triangular hole in its lower part in order to protect the springing and twisting of the clay in burning. The foot of the altar table (fig. 15) has clay rings around it. (beside it is an open wash basin) The round table top was simply laid upon this. The story of the origin of the table is reserved as represented lying on the round table top. Even today it is said that food is often served in the Orient in a plate which is laid down on a round or polygonal pedestal. The Arabs knew of this eating to which the word (khnan) seems to show a close connection with the common Egyptian work for the offering table: khewi. The typical things laid on the altar table in the earliest times are flat bread cakes, or possibly red leaves (the Egyptian understood.) (Compare fig. 17) On them food was placed in addition to fresh cereal, fruits, etc. The flower demonstrations were never lacking.

B. The Four-cornered Table (fig. 16)

Is generally made out of wood. The four heavy corner legs are often connected together with cross-pieces. Stands are made quite strong through right arrangements of the supports and cross pieces between the table top and the feet. Special matched tables, like those which stood in the middle of the two rear courts in the temple of El Amarna had other legs in the middle of the sides in addition to those on the corners. Sometimes one or more hotep projections were added to the table top in order to show the sacred character clearly. The material placed on the four-cornered table was the same as that on the round table and there only seems to be missing, as a rule, the can with water for washing the hands, which usually stands under the round table and makes it stand out against a regular eating table (cf. fig. 15) In the temple a quadrangular table appears to have been more common, doubtless because of its much greater stability.

7. Offering Stands. (figs. 18-20)

In addition to the tables, which are the most common movable altars, the Egyptians had a great many stands for solid offerings, Cases