

terraces of hard clay cropped up. Of poplars there were none. In the midst of this desolate scene we found the tolerably well-preserved wall of an old house, the plan of which is reproduced in the annexed sketch (fig. 326). The material of which it was built consists of hard tenacious clay, plastered on to a framework of beams. The wall is in most places 3 to 4 m. high, though at its highest it measures 5.8 m. At *a* there is a staircase leading to the top of the wall; and *b* and *c* represent small orifices in the walls. Small fragments of red burnt brick lay scattered about the interior. On the east there is a high tamarisk-mound, growing in close intimacy with the outside of the wall. The walls are 2.80 m. thick. The interior forms very nearly a square, its dimensions being 13.35 × 13.90 m. At the south-east corner there exist traces of yet another old wall.

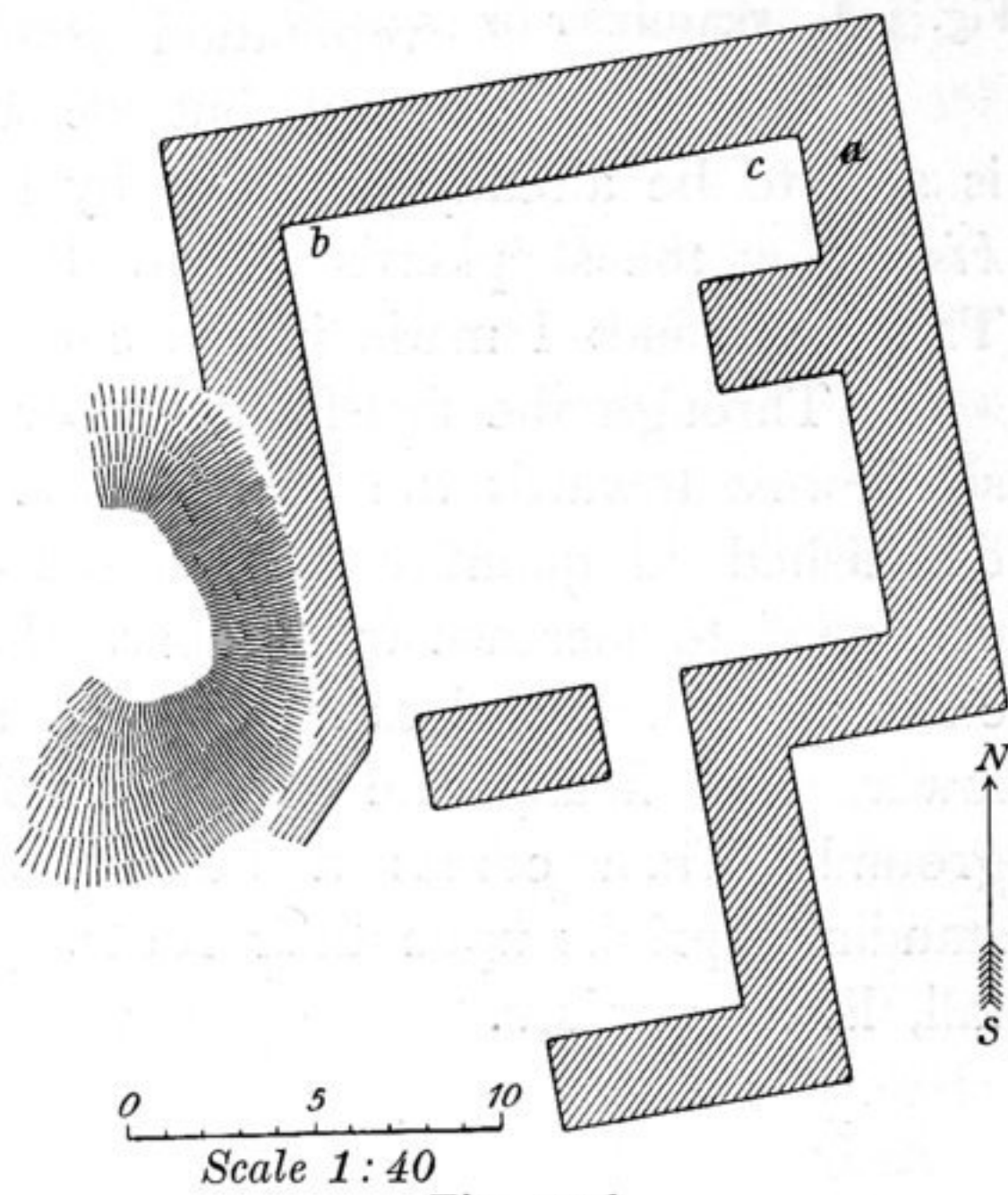


Fig. 326.

That evening we encamped beside the ruins of a wall which appeared to have been once very substantial, and stretched from S. 10° E. to N. 10° W. It really consisted of two thin walls, standing parallel to one another, the space between them being filled in with earth and dust. In the vicinity are other ruins of similar walls, but in an advanced stage of decay. I did not succeed in finding a house; but our search was unfortunately greatly hampered by the snow, which lay a foot deep. There is however the bottom portion of a round *potaj*, surviving up to the height of two or three meters. Towards N. 30° E. there extends an old river-bed, 20 m. wide, with distinctly marked clay escarpments; possibly it is an old arik that issued from the Bostan-toghvak or Andere-darja on the right. On its right-hand side stands, on a clay hill, a tower (*gumbes*), 10.5 m. high and 24.2 m. in circumference; the last measurement was taken at the man's feet on the accompanying illustration, fig. 327. The tower is round and solid, and is built as usual of sun-dried clay. Towards the top there is an aperture, through which access can be obtained to the summit. The tower possesses no door, though lower down, at *a*, there is, it is true, a hole; but it appears to have been excavated by somebody desirous of investigating the interior of the edifice.

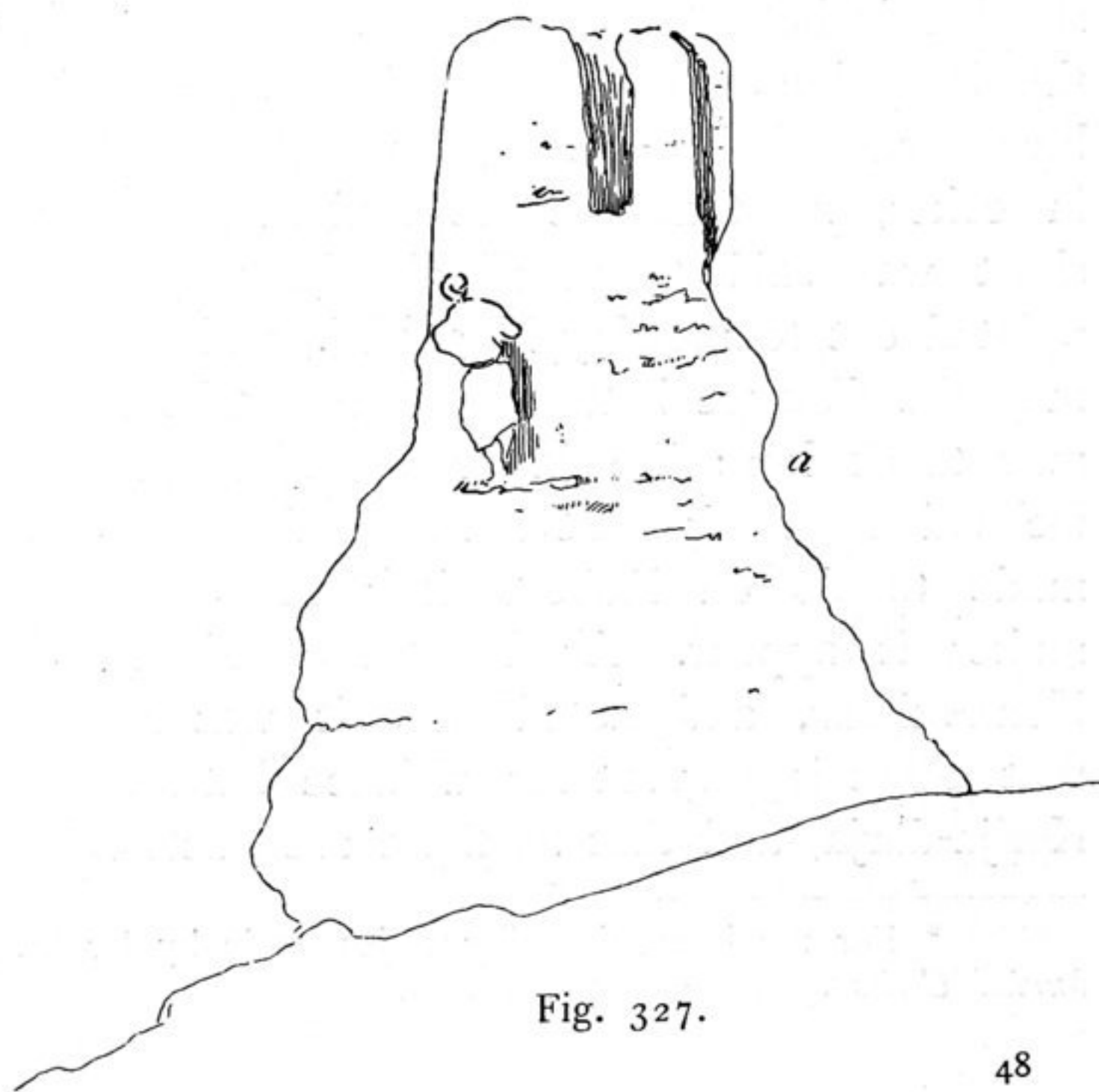


Fig. 327.