

buildings were richly overlaid with leaf-gold. Much of this must have fallen off and mingled with the dust when these structures crumbled away, not to be recovered until the soil could be washed by the method now followed.

The stratum from which this gold is obtained consists of



TERRA-COTTA FIGURINES FROM YOTKAN.

(Monkeys playing musical instruments, eating, &c. Scale two-thirds of original.)

decomposed rubbish and humus, in which are embedded fragments of ancient pottery, plain or ornamented, bones of animals, pieces of much decayed wood, and ashes, all indications that we have here the débris that accumulates on a site occupied by buildings for centuries. The copper coins, which are found plentifully, range from the bilingual pieces of the indigenous rulers, showing Chinese characters as well as early Indian legends in Kharoshthi, struck about the commencement of our era, to the square-holed issues of the Tang dynasty

(618-907 A.D.). The stratum which represents the deposits of these and possibly also of earlier centuries, shows a uniform brownish colour, but varies in thickness. On the south and west it is on the average from 5 to 8 feet deep. But on the north of