

cate itself to our Indian workmen. With the greatest care they removed dirt and stones, and by noon we had exposed the upper part of nine figures, three on the south, three on the east, and three on the north wall. The entrance to the chamber had been from the west, and on this side we found the blocked door. These nine figures delicately modeled in low relief are some of the finest pieces of art as yet found in the Maya area.



FIG. 97.—Comalcalco, Tab. Tomb showing East wall and four pillars.

By noon the next day the small chamber had been cleared. We had reached its highly polished red cement floor (figs. 97 and 98).

On this floor stood four low pillars built of brick, and from the dirt around these we extracted a large amount of clam shells, all squared and filed, and with two holes in each for suspension. They had once formed part of a necklace worn by the noble or high-priest who had been laid to rest in the chamber. All these shells had been painted with a red earth. Some fragments of human bones were also found, and these too were covered with the same red substance. Whether this is a case of secondary burial with painted bones, or whether the red colour came from the great

amount of shell ornaments found all over the floor of the grave, we were not able to judge (fig. 99).

It looked as if a wooden slab had been placed on the pillars on the floor of the chamber and on this table the body had been laid. Due to moisture percolating through walls and ceiling of the chamber, all had decayed except the shell ornaments and a few bits of bone.