

ARCHAEOLOGY IN GREECE 1901—1902.

THE repairs of the Parthenon are drawing to a close and visitors coming to Athens next Easter may hope to see the temple freed from its casing of timber. They must be prepared for other changes also. Already the removal of part of the scaffolding and the re-erection of it in July round the Erechtheum have shown that the Greek authorities intend to carry into effect the scheme for rebuilding the North Porch and West Wall which aroused some vigorous protests when it was publicly announced in April. The Parthenon repairs have been works of conservation. The present scheme is one of restoration, and it is natural therefore that it should have aroused a good deal of hostile criticism. The case for restoration is as follows:

(1) The ruinous condition of the Erechtheum is largely due to injuries received in recent times;

[A Caryatid of the South Porch and a column of the East Porch were removed by Lord Elgin in 1804. Three pillars and the roof of the North Porch, and the West Wall with two engaged columns, fell during the War of Independence.]

(2) Most of the fallen members, excepting those removed by Lord Elgin, are still on the spot and can be assigned with certainty to their original positions;

(3) The proposal to replace them involves no new principle, for important features of the Erechtheum as it stands are the result of a similar restoration;

[Three pillars of the North Porch were re-erected in 1838; it is now proposed to replace the roof which fell when they did. The South Wall was rebuilt in 1844, and the South Porch repaired in 1844 and 1846.]

A paper issued by the Minister of Education, Mr. Momperratos, on April 4, (N.S. 17) of this year, specifies the works which have since been begun. The following is a free and somewhat condensed translation.

‘In view of the Report of the Committee of engineers and architects, Messrs. Saurot, Dörpfeld, Gazes, Kallias, Balanos, and Metaxas, and in accordance with the opinion of the Ephor-General of Antiquities, we resolve to proceed with the restoration of the North Porch of the Erechtheum. Use shall be made of the ancient material lying there, supplemented only so far as is absolutely necessary with new marble.

¹ I have to thank Mr. Kavvadias and Mr. Byzantinos for their courtesy in supplying me with copies of the Report on the Erechtheum by Mr. Balanos, dated October 1901, of the

Report of the Committee, dated March 26, 1902, and of the *ἀπόφασις ἐπουργική* issued by Mr. Momperratos and dated April 4, 1902.
—R. C. B.

'(a) In the third column from the East two damaged drums, the third and fourth, shall be renewed in part.

'(b) In the column at the North-West angle the fifth drum shall be renewed in part, and the sixth which is missing shall be supplied; use shall be made of the new blocks lying beside the Erechtheum which were provided for this purpose on a former occasion.

'(c) In the column on the West side the missing part of the fourth drum shall be supplied by the insertion of a new piece and the injured parts of the fifth and sixth drums shall be renewed.

'(d) The marble beams of the roof shall be replaced in their original positions, supported by steel joists running their whole length which shall be masked with a marble facing three to four cm. thick, so that they shall not be visible.

'(e) The other architectural members shall be replaced in their original positions and shall be tied together with iron cramps and dowels. When a coffer of the ceiling is missing its place shall be filled with an ordinary unsculptured slab.

'(f) For the support of the central marble beam which abuts on the wall above the doorway and might by its weight cause injury to the broken lintel, a steel joist shall be inserted in the wall immediately under the roof-beams.

'(g) Further we resolve that the West Front of the Erechtheum shall be partially reconstructed in its original form and that the half-columns and their capitals which are preserved shall be erected in their original positions. New marble may be used when it is absolutely necessary in place of missing parts of the shafts.

'(h) The technical direction of the works is entrusted to Mr. N. Balanos, the engineer attached to the Ministry of Education; he is to act in consultation with the Ephor-General of Antiquities, who shall have the supreme control of the works. The Minister reserves the right of summoning the Committee of engineers and architects in order to hear their views on questions that may arise during the progress of the works.'²

Of the members of the Committee responsible for this momentous decision Mr. Saurot is director of public works, Dr. Dörpfeld at once an archaeologist and an architect, Mr. Metaxas an architect, Mr. Balanos the skilful architect and engineer who has superintended the repairs of the Parthenon, while Mr. Gazes and Mr. Kallias are civil engineers. It is a local committee of technical experts, familiar with marble architecture both ancient and modern, and well qualified to advise on the methods and materials to be adopted and on difficulties which may present themselves during the restoration. But the experiment of restoration would be watched with less anxiety if the question whether or no it should be undertaken had been submitted to a Committee more international in character and more varied in composition. However, the discretion exhibited in the repairs of the Parthenon affords good ground for expecting that the restoration of the North Porch and West Wall of the Erechtheum will be justified by the result. What many lovers of the Acropolis fear is that the successful execution of these works may lead to a far more difficult and dangerous experiment, that of re-erecting the columns of the Parthenon. They have come to believe that these monuments, the

² A criticism of these proposals by Mr. R. W. Schultz, in the *Athenaeum* of June 28, contains two important recommendations, that the metal supports should be entirely encased

in concrete and made to look exactly what they are—modern expedients; and that the ties or cramps used should be not of iron but of bronze or gun-metal.

heritage which Greece has received from the past, belong not only to Greece but to the whole civilised world. But those who claim a voice in the administration of this trust should remember that Greece, one of the poorest countries in Europe, has for generations borne the whole cost of maintaining her ancient monuments and has maintained them worthily, and that a foreigner may visit the sites and museums of Athens and the provinces without being called upon to pay a penny either by way of admission-fee or as a voluntary contribution to the cost of their maintenance.

The principle of restoration has been accepted at Athens ever since the reconstruction of the little temple of Nike. During the present summer Mr. Kavvadias has been simultaneously excavating and rebuilding the *cella* of the temple of Apollo at Bassae. Many of the blocks, dislodged by earthquakes, lie one on another in a grouping so near their original order that intelligent excavation has made it possible to replace them with absolute certainty course by course.

Another work of reconstruction, which has been on the programme of the Archaeological Society ever since it came into being, is likely to be undertaken soon, the reconstruction of the monumental Lion of Chaeronea. Mr. Skias has been deputed to make a preliminary excavation of the spot where it stood. Some years ago Mr. Cecil Smith as Director of the British School offered to undertake the re-erection of the Lion with funds which had been put at his disposal for the purpose. The offer was refused — a striking instance of the unbending patriotism with which Greeks insist that they, and they only, are responsible for the maintenance of their national monuments.

The wall of the Acropolis immediately north of the Erechtheum has been lowered so as to make the temple more visible from the streets below. In the course of some repairs to the wall further west there was found a fragment of the inscription *C.I.A.* i. 324, relating to the building of the Erechtheum in the year 407.

The diving operations off Antikythera brought little of interest to light in the later months of last year and have now been discontinued. After fruitless negotiations with Herr Sturm of Vienna, whose success in piecing together the bronze athlete from Ephesus I described in this record two years ago (*J.H.S.* xx. p. 179), the Greek Government has entrusted the task of repairing the Hermes of Antikythera to the French restorer, M. André. His experience has been mainly with smaller works of art, such as the treasure of silver plate from Bosco Reale, but he is an artist of extraordinary knowledge and versatility. He reached Athens with two assistants in the last days of August, and by this time the statue should be ready for exhibition.

Among the important events of the summer has been the presentation to the National Museum by Mr. Carapanos of his collection of antiquities including the valuable series of bronzes from his excavations at Dodona and of archaic terra-cottas from Corfu. The collection is to be kept together and will be accommodated in a hall hitherto occupied by sculpture of

secondary interest. Schemes for enlarging the National Museum and for erecting a new Epigraphic Museum, perhaps in the neighbourhood of the Dipylon, are still under consideration. Space has been made for a part of the important series of early vases found in the excavations of the British School at Phylakopi by clearing some cases in the Mycenae Hall. Where the remainder of the Melian collection is to be exhibited has not yet been decided.

Turning to the excavations of the past year, we find once more that the discoveries made in Crete, in the palaces and cities of what we are beginning to call, not the Mycenaean, but the Minoan period, surpass all others in novelty and importance.

Dr. Arthur Evans has furnished the following summary of the results of his third season:—

‘At KNOSSOS the work which began on the 13th of last February and was continued to July has been fertile in results beyond all anticipation. It seemed at first destined to be rather a campaign of finishing up and of rounding off a fairly ascertained area. But, besides the chambers that remained to be explored immediately contiguous to the Hall of the Double Axes and that of the Colonnades, excavated last year, the whole building was found to have a considerably larger extension on the Eastern side than had been expected. The building was thus seen to have climbed down the slope in descending terraces to a point some 80 metres East of the Northern entrance.

‘Considerable remains were uncovered of the Eastern boundary wall, or rather of four separate walls in immediate contiguity with each other. The ‘Hall of the Double Axes’ excavated last year was found to have a double portico at its further end facing both South and East. In the South Wall of this Megaron there had been visible last year a doorway leading to a finely paved passage with a “dog’s leg” turn so constructed as to insure the privacy of the chamber beyond. The chamber thus approached has proved to be of quite original construction. It is flanked on two sides by a stylobate, also serving as a bench, between the pillars of which light was obtained, on the one side from a portico with two column bases, on the other from an area the further wall of which stepped back so as to insure the better lighting of the chamber within. On the West side of this room is a balustrade with an opening giving access to a small bath chamber. Above the gypsum lining slab of this bath-room a fine painted frieze of spirals and rosettes was found still clinging to the wall. Remains of a painted terra-cotta bath were found near.

‘Another interesting feature of the new Megaron itself was a small private staircase in its North Wall, leading up to the thalami or bedrooms above. Of the wall-paintings that had originally adorned the Megaron and its columnar fore-hall some important remains were discovered—including quite an aquarium of fish, with parts of two dolphins. This discovery sup-

plies the counterpart to the fine fish fresco brought to light by the British School at Phylakopê, and the latter work must be now definitely recognised as a product of the Knossian School. One very characteristic feature is common to both works. As the different tones of blue had to be mainly reserved for the fish themselves, and in order to give them greater relief the ground was left white, and the sea water gracefully indicated by azure wreaths and coils of dotted spray.

'Here too was also found the upper part of a lady in a yellow jacket and light diaphanous chemise, whose flying tresses suggest violent action. It had possibly belonged to a scene from the bull-ring. Another fragment found here shows a smaller female figure nearly naked, springing from above and seizing the horn of a galloping bull like the Tiryns figure. It has moreover been possible to put together a large part of a painted panel found in 1901, giving a highly sensational scene from a Minôan circus-show. A Mycenaean cow-boy is seen turning a somersault over the back of a charging bull, to whose horns in front clings a girl in boy's costume, while another female toreador behind in similar dishabille stands with outstretched arms as if prepared to catch her as she is tossed over the monster's back. The whole is a *tour de force* of the Minôan arena. Among other fresco remains were naturalistic foliage and lilies, and in a gallery East of the Hall of the Double Axes, fine veined imitations of marble slabs. A very suggestive piece of wall-painting also found on this side consists of a succession of mazes, more elaborate than those on the later coins of Knossos, and showing that the prototype of the Labyrinth in art goes back here to prehistoric times.

'Throughout all the region of the great South Eastern halls, it has been possible to support a large part of the upper storey, and a most elaborate system of drainage has been found, including latrines with flush pipes and drains of advanced construction, together with a succession of stone shafts descending from the upper floors to a network of stone conduits beneath the pavement of the lower rooms, large enough for a man to make his way along them. Removal of some later constructions has greatly modified the Northern entrance passage, which now, with its massive Western bastion, has a very stately appearance. Outside this have been brought out the remains of a considerable portico, including the bases of a series of large piers.

'Large fresh deposits of inscribed tablets have come to light, the general purport of which was shown by the appearance of certain ideographic signs, such as swords and granaries, and those indicative of persons of both sexes. The largest deposit referred to percentages—some with the throne and sceptre sign before the amount—apparently recording the King's portion. A piece of a Mycenaean painted vase with linear characters and two cups, with inscriptions written within them in a kind of ink, supply wholly new classes of written documents. Great numbers of clay seal impressions were also brought out, including a fragment of one stamped by a late Babylonian cylinder. In magazines below the later Palace level, and belonging therefore to an earlier building, occurred seal impressions with pictographic signs, a striking evidence

of the anteriority of this system of writing on the Palace site of Knossos. Interesting new materials have also accumulated bearing on the metric systems employed and even it would seem on the origin of coinage.

‘Among the finds of smaller objects two stand out respectively as of first-rate importance in the history of architecture and sculpture. One of these was the discovery of parts of a large mosaic consisting of porcelain plaques,—a series of which represent the fronts of houses of two or three storeys. Fragmentary as most of these were it was possible to reconstitute a fair number with absolute certainty, and thus to recover an almost perfect picture of a street of Minôan Knossos in the middle of the second Millennium before our Era. The different parts of the construction, masonry, wood-work and plaster, are clearly reproduced, and the houses, some of them semi-detached, with windows of four and six panes—oiled parchment being possibly used for glass—are astonishingly modern in their appearance. Other plaques found with them show warriors, and various animals, a tree, a vine, and flowing water, so that the whole seems to have been part of a large design analogous to that of Achilles’s shield. The other find, made towards the close of the excavation, which throws a new light on the “Art of Dædalos,” is the discovery of remains of ivory figurines. These are carved in the round, the limbs being jointed together, and seem to have represented youths in the act of springing, like the cow-boys of the frescoes. The life and balance of the whole, the modelling of the limbs and the exquisite rendering of details, such as the muscles and even the veins, raise these ivory statuettes beyond the level of any known sculpture of the kind of the period to which they belong. The hair was curiously indicated by means of spiral bronze wires, and the amount of gold foil found with them suggests that they had been originally, in part at least, coated with gold—in which case they would have been early examples of the chryselephantine process. Some beautiful examples of goldsmith’s work were also found, a small gold duck with filigree work, a miniature gold-fish, exquisitely chased, and a spray resembling fern leaves.

‘The new materials bearing on the local religion are extraordinarily rich. Remains of a miniature temple of painted terra-cotta with doves perched above the capitals of columns occurred in a stratum belonging to the pre-Mycenaean building. In the later Palace a series of finds illustrated the “baetylic” cult of the Double Axe and its associated divinities. A gem shows a female figure,—apparently a Goddess,—bearing this sacred emblem. But more important still was the discovery of an actual shrine belonging to the latest Mycenaean period of the Palace with the tripod and other vessels of offering still in position before a base upon which rested the actual cult objects, including a small double axe of steatite, sacral horns of stucco with sockets between them for the wooden shafts of other axes, terra-cotta figures—cylindrical below—of a Goddess, in one case with a dove perched on her head; and of a male votary offering a dove. The actual discovery within the Palace walls of a shrine of the Double Axe must be regarded as a striking corroboration of the view already put forward in this *Journal* as to the

identification of the building with the traditional Labyrinth, and of the philological connexion of the latter with the *labrys* or double axe arrived at independently by Max Mayer and Kretschmer on philological grounds.

'One very important result of this year's excavations has been the discovery of a whole system of chambers and magazines below the level of the later building showing, as is also proved by the abundance of re-used blocks with more primitive signs, that an earlier Palace had existed on the site. The magazines belonging to this earlier building were full of the remains of painted pottery belonging to the purer "Kamares" class, and of finer fabric than the more transitional and later off-shoots of the class found in some magazines brought to light this year in the S.E. quarter of the Second Palace. Some of the earlier painted vases found in the magazines of this lower building are of an egg-shell-like fineness of fabric, an elegance of shape and delicacy of colouring that was never certainly surpassed in the whole history of ceramic manufacture. Many are embossed in evident imitation of metal-work. We have here the proof of a highly developed "Minóan" culture going back at least to the middle of the third Millennium B.C. Fragments of obsidian vases found in this First Palace are of the Liparite type, unknown in the Aegean, and must have been derived from the Italian island.

'Below the "First Palace" structure again the remains of the extensive Neolithic settlement that underlies the whole site everywhere came to light. A considerable harvest of stone implements, primitive pottery, and "idols" of clay, marble, and shell was obtained from this Neolithic deposit.

'Owing to the constant need for propping up the upper storeys, and for supporting terraces, much of the work has been of a difficult and at times dangerous nature, entailing a vast amount of actual construction in wood, stone, and brick. The Shrine, like the Throne Room, had to be roofed over. Vast masses of earth had also to be removed from parts of the site and nearly 250 workmen, including over a score of masons and carpenters, were constantly employed. Throughout the whole the explorer had the devoted assistance of Dr. Mackenzie in superintending the excavation, and of Mr. Fyfe on the architectural and engineering side.

'The excavation of the S.E. corner of the Palace has still to be completed, and some works of delimitation must be carried out in other directions. The search for tombs must certainly be renewed and the lower Palace strata have also still to be explored at several points, and more "Kasselles" opened. Continued researches into the Neolithic deposit are also desirable, as well as the examination of some neighbouring buildings. Unfortunately the total amount that the Cretan Exploration Fund—including the British Association Grant—was able to contribute towards the year's expenses has again fallen far short of what it was necessary to expend.'

During April and May the British School undertook preliminary excavations at PALAIOKASTRO. Mr. Bosanquet was accompanied by the architect of the School, Mr. Heaton Comyn. The plain of Palaiokastro, the

largest plain on the East Coast of Crete, measures three miles from East to West and two from North to South. Almost uninhabited at the beginning of last century, it has gradually been brought under cultivation, and its olive groves are now the best in the province. There was no important settlement here in Greek or Roman days; the only visible remains of the classical period are some foundations on the little harbour, probably those of a warehouse from which the oil and other produce of the district were shipped. A Venetian writer describes the place as uninhabited in the seventeenth century and explains that it was the resort of corsairs. The Cretan seas have been the haunt of pirates throughout history, and the islands clustered round the North-East corner of Crete afforded them an especially convenient shelter. Whatever the reason, there seems to have been no large settlement at Palaiokastro from Mycenaean times until the middle of the nineteenth century. But in Mycenaean times it was one of the principal centres, perhaps the capital, of Eastern Crete. The excavations were rewarded by the discovery of a Mycenaean town extending over an area of at least 500 by 300 yards, and of cemeteries which throw new light on the burial customs of the earliest inhabitants.

The most conspicuous feature of the plain is a steep table-topped headland called Kastri, which juts out into the sea midway along the low, and in parts marshy, beach. In spite of its acropolis-like form it does not seem to have been fortified. The scanty remains on its summit are those of a very late Mycenaean village. Beneath them we found a few fragments of much earlier pottery, including some Kamárais ware. At the foot of Kastri, and sheltered by it from the north, lies a sandy crescent-shaped bay, the natural harbour of the plain. A smaller promontory forms the southern horn of the crescent, and from this point southward and westward lie the extensive ruins of the Mycenaean town. A building on the southern promontory, constructed of enormous limestone blocks, may be the 'Palaiokastro' which gave its name to the place. The principal ruin-field is called Roussolákkos, *the red hollow*, on account of the red earth formed by the disintegration of the Mycenaean brickwork. It is cut in two by a ridge running north and south on which are the earliest cemeteries. The houses near the sea are built on the gravel cliff and are humbler in character and apparently older than those lying inland. One of them yielded evidence of a primary and secondary occupation, fine pottery of the Knossian Palace style being found beneath the higher floor level. Another contained whole vases of the Kamárais style, but nothing Mycenaean in the strict sense.

The largest of the houses which were examined lies inland, in a group of what appear to be spacious upper-class houses; they are constructed partly in the 'megalithic' style, characteristic of the Mycenaean homesteads so common in the limestone districts of Crete, partly in regular ashlar masonry; the upper storey, where one existed, was of brick. The plan of this house is perfectly intelligible, and in some respects anticipates that of the Greek house of classical times. The entrance is from a large courtyard into an L-shaped *megaron* twenty-five feet long, the roof of which was supported on four

columns placed round a cemented *impluvium*, six feet square. The megaron can have had no windows and derived its light almost entirely from this hypaethral opening. Four doorways give access from the megaron into other living-rooms, one of them containing a sunken bathroom, a reproduction in miniature of those found in the palaces at Knossos and Phaestos. In all thirty-six rooms were excavated here, of which twenty-two lie within the megalithic walls of the original mansion, and the remainder round a second courtyard. The house was originally one-storeyed. Later an upper storey was added in brick, with two staircases leading to it, one of them over six feet wide. This principal staircase ascended to a richly decorated megaron; the rooms below it were full of fallen masses of fresco, and of wall-revetments of polished schist; and in one of them there was found a large column base, fallen from the upper floor and lying in the earth some feet above a smaller column-base *in situ* in the ground floor. At the time of the construction of the upper storey some of the ground-floor rooms were converted into magazines. One of them has a plaster floor painted in colours, and a stone bench against the end-wall. This and an adjoining chamber yielded over 500 vases. Among the smaller 'finds' are a well-preserved tablet inscribed with characters in a linear script nearly related to that of Knossos, a pair of 'sacred horns' in stucco, and jars containing wheat and two kinds of peas.

Still more important results were obtained in the Cemeteries. Hitherto we were very imperfectly informed as to the method of sepulture practised by the Cretans of the Kamárais period: and graves containing Kamárais pottery were practically unknown. Of the beehive tomb, the typical tomb of Mycenaean times on the mainland, only one example was discovered. It is cut in the clay subsoil and approached by a passage twenty-five feet long. It yielded six late Mycenaean vases and three bronze implements, a dagger, a knife and a razor. As a rule the Mycenaean inhabitants seem to have laid their dead in small family burial-places near their homesteads. Groups of two or more earthenware *larnakes*, shaped like bath-tubs or coffers with gable-lids, occur in many parts of the plain. These had contained not complete corpses, but bones which were removed from the earth when time sufficient to decompose the body had elapsed after the original interment. A similar custom still prevails in the island. A still older form of this practice was illustrated by a very remarkable enclosure discovered on the ridge which cuts the town-site in two. It is a rectangle measuring twenty-seven feet by thirty-two feet, enclosed by a wall of rude limestone blocks, and subdivided by four similar walls into five parallel compartments, within which were packed in seeming confusion skulls, bones, and vases, principally cups of various patterns. The date of the deposit is given by the vases, many of which are good examples of Kamárais ware, with a brilliant decoration of white and red on a black ground, and by a three-sided seal bearing pictographic characters. There was also an unique series of miniature vessels carved out of marble, steatite, and alabaster, and of earthenware vessels painted in imitation of them. The bones were in heaps or bundles, not laid

in their natural order. The skulls had been transported from their previous resting place with some care, but for the other bones there was no rule; in some cases the heap beneath the skull seemed to represent a complete individual, in others the minor bones were almost wholly wanting. Sometimes the principal bones were formed into a kind of bed on which two or three skulls were laid.

A second and apparently similar bone-enclosure has been discovered and will be excavated next spring, with the help, it is hoped, of a physical anthropologist, towards whose expenses a grant of £50 has been made by the British Association.

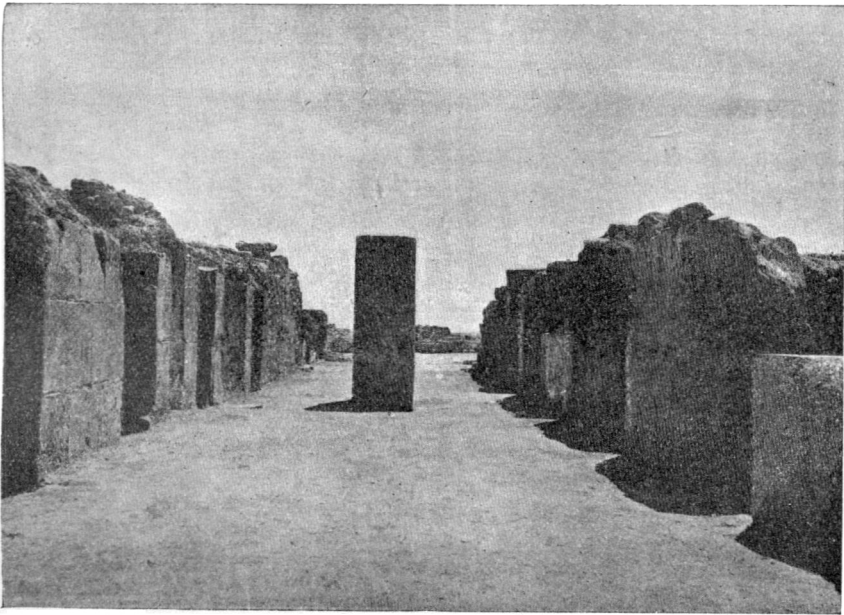


FIG. 1.—PHAESTOS. CORRIDOR WITH STORE-ROOMS ON EITHER SIDE.

At PHAESTOS Professor Halbherr and Mr. Pernier have finished the excavation of the Palace. By their kindness I am permitted to publish here two photographs which give an excellent idea of the corridor with store-rooms opening from it on either side (Fig. 1), and of the great stairway, forty-five feet wide, which leads up from the west terrace to the principal Megaron (Fig. 2), described in the last volume of this *Journal* (vol. xxi. p. 337).

During the past season the excavation has been continued northwards, where the women's quarters are thought to have been. Here are a vestibule with eight entrances and a portico with two columns, more elaborately decorated than the rooms hitherto discovered. The wall-paintings represent foliage and flowers, among which the vivid colouring of the oleander, most characteristic of Cretan shrubs, is easily distinguished. Bath-rooms have

been discovered here as well as in the quarters of the men; the walls are decorated with *gesso duro* and alabaster. Unexpected results were obtained by trial-pits sunk through the floor of the megaron, which revealed a series of store-galleries filled with *pithoi* and smaller crockery, evidently the basement-rooms of a palace of the Kamárais period which had been destroyed by fire. When the palace was rebuilt these rooms, choked with fallen masonry to a depth of six or seven feet, were used as a substructure. The interval cannot have been a long one, for there are indications that the rebuilding took place in the Kamárais or early Minoan and not in the Mycenaean period.

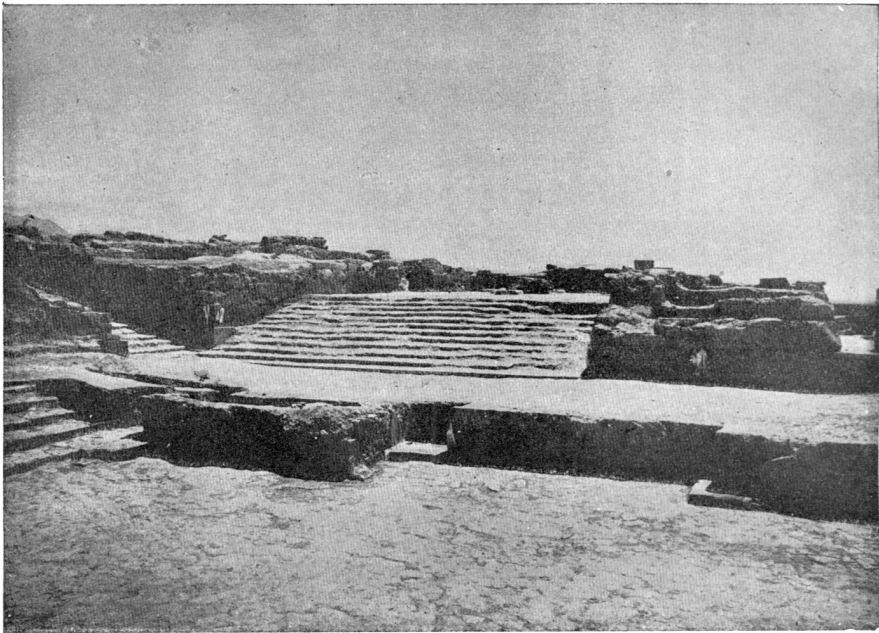


FIG. 2.—PHAESTOS. STAIRWAY TO THE MEGARON.

Having finished the excavation of the palace, the members of the Italian Mission, reinforced by Mr. Gerola who had been occupied previously with the search for tombs, and by Mr. Savignoni, turned their attention to a site known as Hagian Triada where they had noticed surface-indications of Mycenaean remains. Phaestos, it will be remembered, stands on the eastern-most of a chain of heights which break the monotonous level of the great Messarà plain and deflect to the north the slow waters of the Geropotamos some five miles from their outlet into the sea. At the other end of the ridge, two miles to the north-west, is a rounded eminence which takes its name from a Venetian chapel of the Holy Trinity, *Ἁγίαν Τριάδα*. Here the lords of Phaestos seem to have had a summer residence—possibly a sea-side villa, for river and sea must have met near the foot of the hill at an

earlier stage in the formation of the delta. Trial-pits have revealed ashlar walls (and in one of them a window), a stair and a portico, and rooms which seem to have been undisturbed since the day when the occupants fled. Two of the tall-stemmed stone lamps, so characteristic of Minoan interiors, were found standing to right and left of a doorway. There is reason to hope that the minor antiquities and works of art, which were almost wholly lacking in the adjoining palace, may be found here in abundance. Already we hear of frescoes and alabaster friezes; one wall-painting represents a cat stalking a bird, described as a silver pheasant; another shows a hare running across a meadow, woods and rocks being represented in naturalistic fashion. A vase of carved steatite furnishes an equally life-like representation of the human inhabitants. Like many steatite vases it was made in several pieces, ingeniously fitted together; the two surviving pieces formed the upper half of the body and the neck. Round it runs a low relief representing a joyous procession of peasants, dancing and singing, carrying three-pronged forks on their shoulders. The leader is a conspicuous figure with long hair, in a cuirass of scale armour; the remainder, a score or more in number, wear only the characteristic loin-cloth with a tight belt and a small cap. Midway in the procession is a man beating time with a sistrum for three fellows who march behind him with mouths open as if singing lustily. The group which brings up the rear is carrying a man shoulder-high. The discoverers explain the scene as the return from a successful foray, and the man carried aloft as a prisoner. One is rather tempted, in view of the light equipment of the party, to regard it as a 'harvest-home,' and to see in the tridents which they carry the *θρίνακες* or winnowing-forks which are still called *θρίνᾶκια* in Crete.

Dr. Dörpfeld has continued his search for the Palace of Odysseus in the island of LEUKAS. With the aid of Dr. van Hille, a young Dutch scholar, he has sunk a series of trial-pits along the northern edge of the plain where he supposes the home of Odysseus to have been, and has discovered a considerable prehistoric settlement. They have also located an ancient conduit, formed of curious conical earthenware pipes, leading down into the plain from the hills on the west. If the theory be right, this may point to the *τυκτὴ πηγὴ* mentioned in the *Odyssey*. Some of these tapering pipe-sections, with a projecting collar for the joint, are very like those found at Knossos and may therefore be of early date.

Dr. Schrader, the new Second Secretary of the German Institute, has been studying the remains of the pediment-sculptures of the Hecatompodon, the sixth-century temple of Athena on the Acropolis. He assumes as the central figure of one gable a seated goddess, probably Athena herself, seen *en face* between two seated gods, Zeus and another, seen in profile, the angles being filled by two snakes. In the other pediment he places the group of Heracles in combat with Triton and the well-known snaky monster with triple human head and body, the so-called Typhon of the Acropolis Museum. The cornice-blocks above this pediment were decorated with

figures of waterfowl carved in low relief and coloured, those above the 'Zeus and Athena' pediment with figures of eagles.

At CORINTH Professor Richardson and two members of the American School, Mr. B. Hill and Mr. S. Bassett, were at work from the beginning of March until June 14. Once more enormous masses of earth have been removed, bringing to light a fresh region of the Romanised city at a disheartening depth and at a proportionate expense. The most important of the newly discovered buildings is a late Hellenic *στοὰ* which has been traced and in great part cleared for a length of 350 feet along the South side of the Temple-hill, and is believed to extend still further to the West. Its back served as a retaining wall to the temple-terrace. Its front, facing South, was of the Doric order. Along the axis of the portico ran an interior line of Ionic columns with an intercolumniation twice as great as that of the front—a common arrangement. Capitals, architrave-blocks and painted cornices have been found and furnish all the *data* required for a restoration on paper.

It was standing in Roman times, for the fine hard stucco of the architectural members has been overlaid with a thick coat of coarser Roman stucco; but its front was then hidden by a row of vaulted shops built only three feet from it and opening into a new south stoa further forward. Their front walls rest on the foundations of a large Hellenic building terminating in an apse, perhaps a *βουλευτήριον*. A similar street of shops at right angles to that just described was discovered in 1898 to the East of the Temple-hill, and proved to be the continuation within the city of the main road from the port of Lechaion. The whole series has now been cleared, eighteen chambers in all, and the excavation pushed back up the slope of the hill, where there had been an open piazza, bounded on the East by the shops and on the West by a very late, perhaps Byzantine, portico. Under the piazza, which had been artificially levelled up, are the remains of a Greek stoa of larger dimensions than that already described as bordering the south side of the hill, decidedly older and probably dating from the fifth century. Several water-conduits have been discovered. The largest, which has been traced for over a hundred yards, is generally large enough for a man to stand upright in, and seems to be contemporary with the South Stoa, the line of which it follows exactly. In it were found large quantities of lamps, ranging over all possible periods; it is fortunate that Mr. Bassett, one of the excavators, has for some time devoted himself to a study of the forms, ornaments and descriptions of ancient lamps.

Generally speaking, this season has been more productive of small antiquities than any of the six preceding it. In an article in the *New York Nation* of July 31, Professor Richardson mentions 'old Corinthian and Proto-Corinthian pottery in abundance, measured by bushels; terra-cotta figurines, some of them extremely archaic and at the same time finely wrought, and several old Greek inscriptions, one of them as old as the sixth century and in the local Corinthian alphabet.' In 1903 he proposes to clear the stage buildings of the theatre, the position of which to the North-West of the

Temple was determined as long ago as 1896. This spring he cut a trial trench across the orchestra and stage buildings. The fact that this trench was eight metres or over twenty-six feet deep, narrowing, owing to the looseness of the accumulated soil, from six metres at the top to two at the bottom, conveys some notion of the difficulties to be encountered. As was to be expected it revealed only a complex of walls of different dates and a quantity of marble fragments; among them there was one real prize, the head of a young man in Parian marble.

A modest Museum has been built at Old Corinth, at a cost of over 5000 *drachmai*, to house the sculpture and inscriptions, and it is to be hoped that local enterprise may soon provide simple quarters for travellers wishing to pay more than a flying visit to this impressive site. To its old attractions, the view North across the blue gulf or South to Acrocorinthus, the labours of the American School have now added a foreground of ruins which, arid and repellent though they seem, yet enable us to picture Corinth as she was, the city of commerce and of pleasure, of big shops and stately porticoes and cool running fountains.

A useful popular account of the excavations, with a plan of the site, was published by Dr. A. S. Cooley in *Records of the Past* for February and March of this year.

At DELPHI M. Homolle has undertaken no further excavations. The efforts of the French School have been concentrated on reducing to order the excavations already carried out and particularly on the installation of the new Museum, which has been formally opened. At Delos M. Dürrbach, a former member of the School, has been engaged since June in clearing away the unsightly mounds of excavated earth which have long defaced the sacred enclosure. When these 'spoil-heaps' have been removed, the foundations of the temples, porticoes and treasuries ought to tell their story as plainly as those in the Altis at Olympia.

Mr. Vollgraff, of the French School, has kindly permitted us to publish some notes descriptive of his successful first season at ARGOS. He excavated there from May to September. The work was begun with an exploration of the hill, called 'Ασπίς by the ancient and Prophet Elias by the modern inhabitants, which lies to the north of the present town. Its ancient name of 'The Shield' is justified by its shape; it is a low rounded hill, some four hundred feet high and two miles in circumference. At the top, where there is a little church of the Prophet Elias, Mr. Vollgraff came upon the foundations of a dwelling-house—possibly, he thinks, the abode of a chief—of the prehistoric period. The pottery and the construction of the walls are said to present analogies to those found in the lowest strata at Troy and at Tiryns. On a lower terrace girdling the summit are remains of several mansions one above the other, belonging to a period a little more recent, but yet anterior to the Mycenaean period. The lower terrace was surrounded by a strong cyclopean wall about 500 metres in length. Side by side with the foundations of the

cyclopean wall and outside them, run those of a polygonal wall which may date from the seventh century. The Greek wall had four square towers and one round one; it did not surround the top of the Aspis entirely but only defended that part of the hill which does not face the town, the remainder being enclosed between the city walls, the traces of which have been discovered on the slopes of the Aspis. On the west the city wall descends towards a place now called *Portitzes*, where the site of one of the gates of the ancient city has been determined, and then rises again towards the summit of the Larissa, stopping short at the rocky height crowned by the picturesque ruins of the Venetian Castle. On the east the wall is more difficult to follow, and it seems impossible to discover the line of the city-wall in the plain. But various indications warrant the statement that the modern town does not coincide with the ancient, which extended further to the south. On the southern shoulder of the Aspis, Mr. Vollgraff has cleared a remarkably well-preserved reservoir, intended to hold rain-water collected from the roofs of the buildings higher up the hill. It consists of two parts, a circular cistern which served apparently as a settling-tank, its only outlet being at a considerable height, and a long reservoir beside it. Both are lined with fine hard cement. The reservoir is a rock-cut tunnel, forming in section a pointed arch and resembling the built galleries at Tiryns, with the difference that its walls are nowhere perpendicular but curve inwards from the floor-level. The only openings for drawing water are at the two ends. It is almost certainly a work of the Mycenaean age. Finally, in the valley named *Diradha*, which separates the Aspis from the Larissa, Mr. Vollgraff has discovered a Mycenaean cemetery with a number of tholos-tombs; all had been plundered at some distant period, but they still contained a number of Mycenaean vases of the close of the third style. One tomb had been re-used in the geometric period. The continuation of the excavations is assured by a generous donation from Mr. A. E. H. Goekoop, a compatriot of the excavator.

In the course of preliminary excavations undertaken in the island of TENOS, M. H. Demoulin, foreign member of the French School of Athens, has succeeded in determining the site of the sanctuary of Poseidon and Amphitrite. He has cleared the walls of a portico, an *exedra* and the steps of a large building which appears to be the temple. This at any rate is the conclusion indicated by the inscriptions and fragments of sculpture discovered at this spot.

At THERA Baron Hiller von Gärtringen brought his excavations to a close by three weeks of work in the month of June. Dr. Pfuhl has been so kind as to furnish the very important notes that follow.

Within the area of the city itself the ground was cleared in several places and various gaps filled up. An interesting torso of Apollo in the archaic Parian style was found in the wall of a cistern by the Gymnasium of the Ephebi. The 'bag' of inscriptions is over a hundred, including many of the archaic period and some valuable Ptolemaic records. A trial excava-

tion by the chapel of *Ζωοδόχος Πηγή* was unsuccessful but the ground about "*Άγιος Στέφανος* was completely excavated, revealing a Byzantine and a late classical settlement. An inscription belonging to the Byzantine building names the *Άρχάγγελος*.

On the south-west slope of Mesavouno (cf. *J.H.S.* xx. p. 177) Dr. Pfuhl excavated a cemetery differing essentially from that excavated by Dr. Dragendorf on Sellada; the two are contemporaneous (eighth to sixth century) but the nature of the ground necessitated a different arrangement. Beneath the limestone rocks of the hill on which the city is situated the slate rises in great steps. Five of these have been fashioned into terraces, with a roadway in front of each, the difference of level between them being about four metres. In details this extraordinary cemetery exhibits all sorts of irregularities; in one part the graves are arranged in groups and singly between masses of rock fallen from the heights above. Built in most cases with quarried stones, the graves are of many different types. Dr. Pfuhl hopes to be able to show how the forms of chamber- and shaft-tomb, both round and square, developed from a simple lining or packing of the grave with stones for the protection of vases placed in it. There are many oval and round tholos-tombs and intermediate types such as a shaft-grave with two straight walls and one vaulted circular wall. The roof was formed by the overlapping of flat stones, but is always more or less ruined. The direct derivations of all these forms from those which Tsountas has discovered on the Cyclades, especially in Syra, is manifest. It is noteworthy that many primitive forms survived side by side with the developed forms: and that even inside the chamber-tombs the several urns are often sheltered by a packing of stones. The layer of ashes from the funeral offering is often found under and upon the urns. For later offerings special pits were used, hewn in the rock and surrounded with a wall. The bones show that oxen, swine, sheep, goats, and rabbits were in use as victims; the latter occur chiefly in poor graves (the wild rabbit is at the present day the chief meat diet of the peasants of Thera), while the ox is found only in the richest family graves which contain a large number of interments. Cremation was the rule in Thera in archaic times, with the single exception that children up to the age of five or six were sometimes interred unburned in large jars. Certain rectangular enclosures were identified as burning-grounds, some of them public, others attached to family tombs. The usual offerings were eating and drinking-vessels, the former sometimes containing the remains of a meal. Weapons (daggers, lances, sling-stones) and ornaments (necklaces and rings) were rare. A very fine gold ornament of orientaling style, and in other cases brooches and pins, had been affixed to the border of a cloth used to wrap round the bones. The vases furnish new evidence for the late geometric and orientaling style, and indicate that Thera in the archaic period maintained close relations not only with Crete but with Cyprus.

In THESSALY Dr. Tsountas has this summer continued his exploration of prehistoric villages in the plain north-west of Volo. At Sesklo, a site

resembling Dimini, besides stone celts he has discovered one of lead. On the same hill-top he has excavated a prehistoric *μέγαρον*, furnished, unlike the palaces of the Argolid, with an opisthodomos. It is satisfactory to learn that these Thessalian finds are to be deposited at Halmyros, a town which already possesses a vigorous society of local antiquaries, and to form the nucleus of a special Thessalian Museum.

R. C. BOSANQUET.

M. N. TOD.

NOTE.—Since this article was passed for press, we learn from Mr. Bosanquet that the Hermes of Antikythera has been successfully restored and is now exhibited, and that the work on the Erechtheum proceeds apace.

EDD.