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More Uncanny Thirteens

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expressing annoyance or amazement, e.g.
 ἡ ἐ κακόμοιρε, *Oh poor fellow!*

R. M. DAWKINS.

θ is also pronounced τ' in the word θέλω, so that I cannot quite accept Mr. Dawkins's notes; but I have no doubt that they are substantially accurate. I have a considerable collection of Astypalitic stories etc. in manuscript which I hope to publish. From them many other peculiarities of this dialect will appear: e.g. the intrusive sibilant in groups like *πουλτσά* = *πουλιά*. σσ is sounded τσ in Cephalos, an isolated district of Cos, which has a peculiar dialect. This pronunciation may possibly be ancient: see Mr. Foat's note on T in the current *Journal of Hellenic Studies*.

W. H. D. ROUSE.

ON *Malaxo* AND *μαλάσσω*.

THE evidence adduced above for a pronunciation of σσ as *ts* (the existence of which in the Greek world I have long held and taught, though I have never published my belief) encourages me to offer my explanation of the correspondence in the words which head this note. *Malaxo* is one of the older borrowings of Latin from Greek: for the compound *commalaxo* shows that the sense of its foreign origin was lost. Now *malaxo* cannot have come from *malasso*. For *ss* is a stable Latin group and *lassus fassus* etc. would have helped to keep the correspondence true. But take the hypothesis that the word borrowed was *malatso* and all is in order. *ts* differs but slightly in sound from *cs* or *x*, and *c*, as we all know, has replaced *t* in the sound group *tl*.

J. P. POSTGATE.

MORE UNCANNY THIRTEENS.¹

IN the *Classical Review* of December 1905, p. 437, I suggested that thirteen in Greek (and Latin) writers was not, as Mr. J. Elmore had said, used simply for an indefinite number, but that it had, as I expressed it, a sinister tinge. To put the matter in a word *ἄνθρωπος τρισκαίδεκάπῃχς* 'a man of 13 cubits' in Theocritus 15. 17 does not so much mean, we might say, a lumbering guardsman, but a misbegotten Goliath.

Since I made this suggestion I have come across some passages which appear to gain in point if the popular associations of this number were malign.

One of the most formidable mutinies in the army of a successful general was that which was quelled by the promptness and address of Alexander in the year B.C. 323. In order to strike terror into the hearts of the army, Alexander ordered certain of the ringleaders to be arrested and executed. Arrian and Plutarch do not state the number; but Quintus Curtius (x. 2) and Justin (xii. 11) give it as thirteen.

Another place in which the number may be not only actual but significant is Suetonius *Gaius* 38, where one of Caligula's monkey tricks is related.

Auctione proposita reliquias omnium spectaculorum subiecit et uenditavit, exquirens per se pretia et usque eo extendens ut quidam immenso coacti

quaedam emere ac bonis exuti uenas sibi inciderent. Nota res est Aponio Saturnino inter subsellia dormitante monitum a Gaio praecone ne praetorium virum, crebro capitis nutu nutantem sibi, praeteriret, nec licendi finem factum quoad tredecim gladiatores sestertio nonagies ignoranti addicerentur.

There is an added grimness, quite worthy of the imperial madman, in this deadly jest, if the thirteen gladiators were a fatal number.

The last incident to which I shall refer was brought under my notice by Dr. A. J. Kronenberg of Rotterdam. It is recorded by Diodorus Siculus xi. 92. 5, but I give the narrative in the words of Grote's *History*, Part II. ch. 90.

'Statues of the twelve gods, admirably executed, were carried in solemn procession into the theatre: immediately after them, the statue of Philip himself as a thirteenth god.' [The sequel is given thus] . . . 'Unconscious of the plot Philip was about to enter the theatre, already crowded with spectators . . . At this moment Pausanias, standing near with a Gallic sword concealed under his garment, rushed upon him, thrust the weapon through his body, and killed him.'

All will agree with Dr. Kronenberg's comment 'is numerus si ominosus est, parum prudenter fuisse putandus est Philippus.'

J. P. POSTGATE.

¹ Read before the *Cambridge Philological Society* on October 25, 1906.