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II. Early Town and Cemeteries

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fragments of inscribed clay tablets were thrown out without attracting observation, shows how necessary is a minute examination of all the earth in which finds occur.

II.

EARLY TOWN AND CEMETERIES.

BY D. G. HOGARTH.

PLATE XII.)

THE operations of the British School for the first two months of the excavation season of 1900 extended more or less over the whole site of Knosso the summit of the Kephala hillock excepted, which had been bought and reserved by Mr. Evans. In selecting this wide area I had for objective the cemeteries prior to the Geometric Period, the situation of which was, and I regret to say still is, unknown. In the event I found what I had not expected, namely a well-preserved early town.

I began the search on March 13th, near the crest of the gypsum slope facing Kephala on the south-west, intending to probe round the heart of the site until I hit on "Mycenaean" graves: and, though often diverted by the necessity of following up discoveries made by the way, I completed the circuit on May 7th.

The gypsum hill to south-west was found to contain on its higher slope poor graves of the first century A.D., in which the corpses were laid in simple trenches beneath terra-cotta lids. Bronze coins were found in the skulls and rarely one or two common vessels of glass and pottery occurred. Foundations of a small *heroon* of the same period were cleared on the hill top.

Coming to the lower slope near the modern high road, where early sherds lay thick on and near the surface, I sank pits in a plot of unsown land (*v.* Map and Plate VII., CISTERN), and immediately struck a deposit of vases, of the "Kamares" period, lying huddled together, whole and broken, on the thinly plastered floor of a ruined chamber at a depth of 1.70. Later walls appeared built over this and actually resting upon the vases themselves; and, finding large blocks of squared gypsum

SECTION A-A

SECTION B-B

in situ in pits close by on the south, I saw that I had to do with no cemetery, but with early house-remains, disposed on two terraces. The soil was so rich in early pottery (Kamares vases and sherds coming not only from the plastered floor, first found, but from two circular pits cut in the soft rock close by to the north-west, and Mycenaean ware being found in all the rest of the region), that I intermitted the search for tombs, and devoted three weeks to opening out completely a considerable area on each of the Terraces, where the preliminary pits had revealed the existence of well-constructed walls and pavements.

On the Upper Terrace a large house (A), contained by a gypsum wall, was cleared completely. Mr. D. T. Fyfe's Plans and Sections are appended. The whole ground scheme, as will be seen, is well-preserved, but the walls are standing to a considerable height only on the west, where they were deeply buried. On the east the fall of the ground brings the top of the first course almost to the level of the general surface of the field. The site was cleared to the bed rock, on which the foundations of the outer wall and most of the inner walls rest.

Mr. Fyfe makes the following architectural notes on his plan of this house:—

Gypsum is largely used for external work in the first and second courses above the foundation, and occasionally also as quarry-hewn blocks in the foundation itself. In internal work, thin slabs make pavings and wall linings, visible *e.g.* in rooms 18 and 16. Though quarry-hewn blocks perish quickly, well squared and dressed surfaces are found fairly intact, preserved perhaps by the filling of the pores of the stone with the white dust that results plentifully from crushed or chipped flakes. The other wall material is a close limestone, grey or yellowish. A good stratified paving-stone is used for floors, but seldom in pieces of any great size.

The outer walls are of superior character, being of large blocks well dressed with good squared joints. The front stones are often splayed back from the vertical joints. A foundation of rougher walling, in parts several courses deep, occurs throughout externally and projects a few inches from the face of the wall. There are a few large bond stones in this foundation, heading through the wall and often beyond.

The inside of the external walls is mostly rough rubble work, but in a few cases, as at the north-west corner, the large blocks of the exterior form the whole thickness of the wall. Probably in many cases, gypsum lining was used, as is seen in the fragments in Room 18.

The inner walls (Plate IV., Nos. 1, 2) are difficult to separate into distinct groups. Doubtless, however, there were at least two periods, as can be seen very well in the north wall of Room 3, which has a rough rubble mud wall below, and from the existing floor level upwards, a good squared rubble wall projecting a few inches over the lower one. A few other squared rubble walls exist, such as the north wall of Room 10, and the inside of the main outer wall in Room 16. The remaining rough walls are of larger or smaller unhewn stones and mud plaster, with here and there a piece of gypsum, but mostly of limestone.

The outer main wall opposite Room 16 has three courses of good ashlar worked limestone in large blocks, and is one of the few large faces of wall in the building which are worked to a true face.

The floors were bedded on a rough concrete of large pebbles and pottery fragments.

The building becomes clearer as a whole when the later addition above Rooms 14 and 15 is not taken into account. But except that No. 18 on the Plan undoubtedly appears to have been an entrance to the house (entering possibly from the south side where there are traces of a passage between two houses), very little can be made of the arrangement of the rooms. There are distinct traces of thresholds at the entrance and a door-jamb stone at the large opening on the south side, but also fragments of gypsum wall-lining, a rather puzzling combination. The one square column-base occurring in Room 10 does not appear, in its position, to have much connection with anything else, but though at present appearing irregular, it is not impossible to imagine this large space (Room 10) to have been a hall of some kind.

There is nothing very remarkable about the other rooms. Traces of doors and thresholds occur in Rooms 17, 15, 9 and 8, and floors in Rooms 18, 17, 16, 15, 8, 7, 2, 3 and 4 (Plate IV. 2).

Of the floors, those in Rooms 3, 4 and 7 (upper floor) are practically on the same level. That in Room 18 is slightly higher.

There are remains here of three constructions at least. First those of a poor two-roomed house of Roman date, shown by dotted lines on the plan. A lamp and some glass were found in it at a depth of only .25. The single course of its walls rested on earth. After this house had been photographed and measured, it was removed. Below that is a primitive house, probably restored by "Mycenaean" builders. Kamares sherds occurred thickly on the rock level outside it on the west, and two complete Kamares vases (Figs. 14, 15) were found under the lowest pavement level in the south-west corner of Room 15. The round pits shown to the north-west on the Plan Plate, which were found choked with ware of that period, probably were filled by the first restorers of the partly ruined house to the south, who wished to be rid of its refuse contents. I had occasion to observe later, on the slope of Kephala, that pits full of earlier pottery occur in association with later houses.¹ Inside the houses, however, both above the lower, and under and above the higher pavement, the sherds were of all Mycenaean varieties, but of them only. No later ware occurred until near the surface of the field; and a single primitive black sherd, with punctured decoration, found on this part of the site, must have been a straggler from the Neolithic village on Kephala.

The objects, complete or otherwise, worthy of individual mention, found in this house on the main floor level were not numerous. (1) A tiny

¹ It is worth suggesting that there is some connection between these pits, which are not suitable for holding either grain or water, and the (probably) baetylic shrines hard by (House B). Pits would hardly be dug expressly to contain pottery, unless there were a religious or superstitious reason for carefully hiding it. I suggest that these pits contained the remains of *dedicated* vessels, removed, when no longer needed, from risk of profanation, just as did the trench in the Apolline precinct at Naukratis (Petrie, *Nauk.* I, p. 20), and, probably, a pit found full of early ware just outside the walls of Phylakopi in Melos. (*B.S.A.*, iii. p. 19.)

KNOSSOS.—VIEWS OF HOUSES A AND B.

[Face p. 72.]

squatting image in rock crystal, pierced for suspension. The execution is rude, and the features and human outline are very summarily indicated. (2) A small object in steatite (Fig. 13), apparently complete. On the flat face is a rude incised pattern of lozenges hatched and plain: on the other face a ridge with two spoon-shaped hollows in which are divers scratchings, resembling symbols of the linear Cretan script.

FIG. 13. (1:3)

(3) Bronze axe head (cf. Schliem. *Myc.* p. IIII), found under a projecting block in the outer wall on the south-east, and a leaden tool, like a blunt strigil.

(4) Two primitive vases in coarse greyish clay with "Kamares" varnish, unpainted, referred to above as found in a corner of Room 15. Both strongly recall metal forms (Figs. 14 and 15).

FIG. 14. (1:3)

FIG. 15. (1:3)

(5) Four "Mycenaean" painted vases (Figs. 16, 17, 18 and 19). The light buff slip and paint varying from black to a dull red, according to firing, are alike in all.

Certain of the decorative motives, observed on Mycenaean sherds from this house, will be treated of later in a discussion of all the Cretan ware of that period.

The second house (B) cleared on the terrace below the first (Plate VII. shows the relative position) is of a less simple character. This complex of chambers lies within a single excavation of the soft bed rock and is contained by its cut faces as one block north, west and south. On the east the floor level runs out in the slope of the ground, and walls have

FIG. 16. (1:3)

FIG. 17. (1:3)

FIG. 18. (1:3)

FIG. 19. (1:3)

perished. It is not impossible that the southern group of chambers represents a separate house. Mr. Fyfe's notes on the plan are the following:—

This house is much the same as the upper one already described; but there is no visible external walling. The west or best preserved side shows some good flooring slabs laid in order side by side, and heading out from the wall: the enclosing wall here (on the west side) is good, made of large blocks of rubble, some of them roughly squared: material, gypsum and limestone.

KNOSSOS.—HOUSE B. or "EAST HOUSE."

The little cross wall of four courses, heading out from the west wall, is of limestone and good ashlar work (*v.* Plate IV., No. 6). It is not bonded into the west wall in any way, and appears to be of different date. At the south-west corner are some good vertical slabs of gypsum, evidently forming wall linings (Plate IV., No. 5). On the north side, the two cross walls north of the ashlar wall before mentioned are regular, both however being very rough. The last, or enclosing wall on this side, forms a good right-angled corner with the west enclosing wall, and, like it, is of good character, limestone being the principal material, and squared stones being largely used.

The southern pillar-room, roughly square but containing no exact right angle, has evident indication of a plaster floor.

The Pillar is exactly square, 0.55, and is about in the centre of the room. It has eight visible courses of gypsum, of varying heights, probably dowelled together, as in the case of similar pillars on the Palace Site (Plate VI. 1). The other parts of the house do not call for any particular remark.

Generally, there is an appearance of spaciousness and simplicity about the larger part of this house, and the absence of distracting partition walls in the centre space enables the good flooring slabs and walling to be better seen than in the upper house.

There was no sign of any late structure above this house. The superjacent deposit, which on the west varied from 8 feet 9 inches to 9 feet 3 inches in depth, but fell on the east to under 3 feet, was, from one foot below the surface, empty of any remains but Mycenaean sherds and other fragments of the same period. A very little Kamares ware was found on the bed rock. From the oblique position of the southern group of chambers, corresponding roughly to the angle at which the late Mycenaean ashlar wall and adjacent paving in the north-west of the central group are placed, it would appear that an early structure represented by the north and central groups was added to on the south and to some extent also remodelled in the centre at the same time. But of so uniform a character were the objects found within all the chambers that it is certain that the original building, probably of the Kamares period, must have been cleaned out before being re-inhabited by the folk of the new order. In this respect its history is one with that of the upper house described above, and others on the Kephala hillock, to be dealt with presently.

Hardly anything approaching completeness was found in this much ruined house, except some hundreds of small plain cups, whose position is stated below. A vase in coarse blue-veined marble (Fig. 20) is remarkable for its form, clearly (as seems usually the case in Crete) derived from an earthenware original. Among the hundreds of fragments of Mycenaean ware the decoration of that represented in Fig. 21 is preeminent for the rich effect produced. The pigment is lustrous black, applied upon a pale slip. The scheme of ornament is rare, but is represented on sherds from Phylakopi in Melos and the Athenian Acropolis.

Beside the anomaly of its ground plan, to which no Mycenaean houses

found elsewhere, whether in Melos, Mycenae, Ægina or Hissarlik, offer any close parallel, and the well-preserved gypsum wall-linings in the central hall, the chief interest of this house lies in the square pillars with which three of its rooms are furnished. Outside Crete such pillars have been observed in structures of the period at Phylakopi in Melos only. The two examples there (Plate VI., Nos. 5, 6) both stand not in the centre but in the end of chambers, the one in that distinguished by the presence of the remarkable frescoes, published in *B.S.A.* IV. Pl. 3, the other in a chamber where five specimens of the peculiar type of long-footed vessel, called provisionally "fruit-stands," were found. These vessels occurred in great numbers in the Dictæan Cave round about the central altar and in the *Temenos* (v. *infra*, p. 98), and can hardly have had there any but a sacrificial use. Similar

FIG. 20. (1:3)

FIG. 21. (1:3)

pillars, not monolithic, and bearing on every face several inscribed double axes, were afterwards found in the Kephala Palace (Plate VI., No. 4), in every case in very small chambers; and in a house excavated by me to the west of the Palace, two were found standing in a single room, close to its north wall (Plate VI., No. 3).

In the house, with which we are immediately concerned, the pillar in the south chamber is standing to a height of 6 feet 4 inches and is built up of alternate "header and stretcher" courses of limestone. It bears no symbols or marks, but round about it were found arranged bottom upwards in orderly rows on the floor nearly 200 small wheel-made cups, each of which, when lifted up, was seen to cover a little heap of carbonized vegetable matter (Plate VI., Nos. 1, 2). The pillar in the central group is a

1

2

3

4

5

6

VIEWS OF PILLAR ROOMS, KNOSSOS AND MELOS (PHYLAKOPI).

single block only 10 inches high, standing up from a paving block of gypsum, which is in one piece with it (Plate IV., No. 5). It is in the centre of the most elaborately constructed of the rooms. The northern pillar is also only a single block 5 inches high, cemented into the bed rock (Plate IV., No. 4).

While the rooms of which these three pillars are the centres seem too small to need such supports for their roofs, the Melian pillars do not stand in a position which suggests any structural use at all. What purpose then can the pillars have served in these narrow chambers? can they have been *bethels* or sacred stones, and can the rare chambers, where they have been found both in Crete and Melos, have been shrines devoted to stone worship? The remains of no other kind of Mycenaean shrine have been actually found, yet shrines assuredly there were in the period: and there is much positive evidence for Mycenaean stone or pillar worship.

FIG. 22. (1:3)

As however this subject has been studied in detail by Mr. A. J. Evans, and his inferences from glyptic and other representations will appear very shortly in an article on "Mycenaean Tree and Pillar Cult," in the *Journal of Hellenic Studies*, xxi., I will not pursue the conjecture here.

A pit to the east of this house revealed the existence of a third group of chambers, with which, however, I did not persevere. The grave of a new-born infant was found under the flooring, but contained only bones. The sherds found were all Mycenaean, and, besides a second axe head (Fig. 22) formed of two pieces of bronze soldered together precisely as are two blades forming a dagger, found at Mycenae (Schliem. *Myc.* p. 164), we lighted on the beautiful vase represented below (Fig. 23).

Since virgin earth comes up almost to the surface about 100 metres to the south of this group of houses, and no sign of buildings appears there,

and since too in probing to west we found only late graves, it is evident that these houses stood at one extremity of the settlement of their period. Wherever I could avoid destroying growing corn, I tested to northward the lower west slope above the main road as far as the tributary brook which falls into the main river to south of the Kephala hillock; and at points 2, 4, 9 (*v. Map*) I tapped remains of houses of similar character and containing similar pottery to those on the south. But higher up, at point 13, where I was able to test very thoroughly, there appeared no house remains. On the south, therefore, of the tributary brook the Kamares and Mycenaean settlements extended from Kephala southward in a narrow ribbon along the left bank of the main stream to about the point where I first found houses.

FIG. 23. (1:3)

On the left or north bank of the brook I established later the existence of well-preserved houses of the same period at points 10, 11, 12, lying in a half circle about the west and north of the Palace hill; but within a certain radius these rest on a stratum absent elsewhere, *viz.*, a bed of yellow clay from a few inches to many feet thick, containing much primitive hand-made and burnished pottery mixed with primitive implements in stone and bone. Here are the remains of the earliest settlement of Knossos, a small Neolithic village, probably of wattled huts, confined to the summit of the Kephala hillock (*v. supra*, p. 6).

As all the Kephala hill falls within Mr. Evans' sphere of future operations, I contented myself with establishing on its lower slopes the existence and the approximate limit of early houses, by sinking trial pits to the rock. Everywhere, within a circle indicated by points 10 to 12, I tapped such

[Face p. 78.]

KNOSSOS.—PLAN SHOWING RELATIVE POSITION OF THE SOUTHERN HOUSES, AND OTHER REMAINS.

remains, and Mr. Evans himself exposed similar houses on the steep south-eastern and eastern faces, descending from the Palace to the brook and the limit of the ancient river bed (*v. supra*, p. 7). Three of my pits on the western slope struck rich deposits of pre-Mycenaean pottery and were enlarged to exhaust these. At point 10 near the south-western corner of the Palace, in deposit averaging 6 feet deep on the northern side, occurred the considerable remains of a large limestone house with two chambers containing square gypsum pillars (in the larger chamber two side by side) and several smaller rooms. The door-sills and pavements are of gypsum. Just outside the thick eastern outer wall was found, at a depth of 2 feet, a heap of Kamares vessels and sherds, but no pottery of this class occurred within the house. Down to its pavement level all ware was Mycenaean. Below the pavement and also below the Kamares rubbish heap outside lay uniformly the primitive yellow clay. The inference is obvious. The house was originally a Kamares structure bedded on the primitive stratum, but was summarily cleared of all its original contents by the "Mycenaean" newcomers, and then re-inhabited.

At point 11 for the first time I found a distinct ground plan, filled in with earth mixed with Kamares sherds, underlying the Mycenaean. The rock dips here to as much as 19 feet below the present surface, and the Kamares walls and refuse pottery were perhaps covered in to some depth by silt, ere the advent of the Mycenaean. These last levelled the site at some 4 feet above the Kamares foundations, which rest on 5 feet of primitive yellow clay, and put in new foundations, instead of utilising as elsewhere an earlier structure. The latest foundation courses, of small unhewn stone, are four feet deep, supporting walls of which the most complete is preserved to a height of 5 feet.

At point 12 close to the main road were remains of four periods but none of the most primitive. At only six inches below the surface occurred thin walls resting on earth and associated with Roman tiles and glass. Immediately below these was a stratum of potsherds of the late Geometric period, and other walls of more solid character resting on a foundation course of small stones. Below these again at 4 ft. 6 in. from the surface, the tops of fine gypsum walls, carried down to the virgin earth. The deposit within these walls contained only Mycenaean stuff; but in one chamber occurred an irregular pit, excavated in the rock to a depth of three feet and full to the brim of nothing but Kamares sherds; while on

the rock immediately south-west of this chamber, and apparently without the southern containing-wall of the house, was a refuse deposit some 2 ft. 6 in. deep of Kamares vessels of all kinds, broken and unbroken, the richest collection found by me. Thus here again we have an early house, carefully cleared out to receive Mycenaean inhabitants. This lies outside the area of the Neolithic settlement.

Of two wells, cleared to the bottom, one near point 11, 32 ft. deep, contained only Geometric and Mycenaean sherds, the other at point 13, 44 ft. deep, yielded after the first 10 ft. only Kamares stuff. Both were

FIG. 24. (Circa 1 : 10)

plain circular shafts in the rock, unlined, but furnished with footholds. A third well which proved dangerous, and had to be abandoned, was lined with masonry for the first 10 feet; but since down to the lowest point, cleared by my men (22 ft.), the pottery was late, this lining is almost certainly of Roman period. Pending fuller publication in the coming issue of the *Journal of Hellenic Studies* the group of Kamares vases above (Fig. 24) will be of interest. They represent the more complete vessels found at points 10 and 12, already briefly mentioned.

A group of about 25 pits sunk to east, south, and among the buildings

of the *Metochi* immediately west of Kephala (*v. map*), revealed considerable remains of houses, water-conduits and cisterns at depths varying from five to thirteen feet, but associated with Graeco-Roman sherds (late red-figure, black and red "Samian"), until the bed rock was reached. On that lay a thin and rare deposit of Mycenaean painted fragments. This region appears to lie outside the early settlements. The hill, which rises behind it, was tested by me on its north-eastern, eastern and southern slopes and its summit, by means of some sixty pits. On the north were found late surface burials in plastered cists, on the upper east slope graves with terracotta covers of the Roman imperial age, and on the lower slope, rock-cut chamber tombs with parallel *loculi* all rifled, and of a common Roman type. Fragments of bronze mirrors, glass vessels and lamps were found in those that I cleared out as specimens. The largest group of these is just below the aqueduct. Under the summit on the north-east slope has been a large Roman cistern or reservoir for the supply of the town below, and to its system the conduits, noted near the *Metochi*, probably belong.

On the lower hill, which faces southward to Kephala, a number of pits, (14, 15, 16), showed only Roman houses of poor class; but on the summit of this slope has been a larger building, perhaps a small temple (15). The upper structure is certainly Roman; but below this appeared in my trial pit, other walls and a lower pavement, the intervening space being filled with Mycenaean stuff. Below the lower pavement occurred Kamares sherds. But nothing testified to the building having any important character, and, the site being under cultivation, the trial pits were not enlarged after reaching rock at twelve feet.

Round the east and north of the city site, my search was prosecuted outside the probable line of the Roman circumvallation. I tried the right bank of the river at various points from opposite Kephala to an opened Mycenaean grave, at a mill about a mile down stream. This grave, which was a *tholus* built of small stones, contained three rudely painted chest-urns standing side by side, all rifled in antiquity. I found no other grave in all the region explored. Traces of an early settlement exist in the slope immediately facing the hamlet of Makryteichos, but its structures have been carried away to their foundations; and here and there lower down the stream are signs of farm buildings, but neither of cemeteries nor of any continuous town. The hope that the lords of the Kephala

Palace might have been buried across the water proved entirely fallacious. Nor was I much more successful on the left bank, immediately north of Makryteichos. This point is outside the limit of the early settlement, but there are no early graves. At point 17 occur groups of Roman rock-tombs shown by coins to be of the second and third centuries A.D., and all more or less thoroughly plundered. The slope on the north or left bank of a gully descending from Fortezza, which seems to mark the boundary of the Roman city, was tried without success; and the single important cemetery which exists in this region, is the late Mycenaean and early Geometric one, of which the northern end was tapped some years ago on the farm of Ali Bey Mazaraki, and the southern end was explored by me in the cliff which rises above the north-eastern angle of the Roman city (18).

Here I opened eight graves, of which seven had been rifled in antiquity. As the character of tombs of this period in Crete is not well known, these may be more particularly described. A further note on their contents will be found below in Mr. F. B. Welch's article on the Knossos pottery. All the graves are cut in soft rock.

(1) A vaulted chamber, about 8 feet square, which had been entered in antiquity by way of the roof; approached by a sloping *δρόμος*, 16 feet long, whose walls almost converge to form a pointed arch, as in the west cemetery of Mycenae. At one end of the *δρόμος* a step 2 feet 7 inches high leads to the outer air, and at the other end another step 1 foot high leads down into the tomb, originally closed at this point by a built up door, the stones of which were found lying loose in the *δρόμος*. The parts of a male skeleton were scattered on the floor just within the tomb. Fragments of five painted "Mycenaean" vases, including a large squat *aryballos* in unglazed greenish ware with black spiraliform ornament, were found in the tomb, and parts of two bronze depilatory tweezers. Hardly covered by the earth, just outside the entrance to the *δρόμος*, I found another skeleton, accompanied by a bronze mirror, and a small object in blue paste with rosettes in relief. These objects were probably thrown out of the tomb by the early robbers.

I searched in vain for more tombs of this late Mycenaean type along the cliff face to south. To northward a vineyard prevented further exploration.

(2) An oval pit, at the cliff foot, roofless, 7 feet in longest diameter, approached by a short *δρόμος* on the lower long side. Empty except for a

cylindrical stone, 1 foot high and 1 foot 4 inches in diameter, with a central hollow 6 inches in diameter. This appears to have been a funerary altar of the same type as the altar found before the Palace at Tiryns.

(3) An oblong pit, at the cliff foot, roofless; 9 feet 3 inches by 7 feet 10 inches. On the north side a recess 2 feet deep and 6 feet long, evidently a *loculus* for the corpse. Approached on the lower long side by a *δρόμος* 8 feet long. Though robbed in antiquity it still contained remains of about fifty Geometric vases (twenty unbroken), a bronze tripod of larger size than, but identical in form with, one found at Enkomi in

FIG. 25. (*Circa* 1 : 10).

Cyprus, not yet published, (cf. also the tripod from Curium published by Cesnola *Cyprus* p. 335), a fibula and a mirror, and several iron blades in very bad condition. A selection of these vases is represented above (Fig. 25).

(4) Similar tomb, beside No. 3, also robbed, containing fragments of six vases, including a late *Bügelkanne*, two bronze blades, a pair of bronze depilatory tweezers, and some fifteen stamped clay beads of a well-known Geometric type.

(5) A chamber 7 feet 3 inches by 7 feet 6 inches, approached by an inclined *δρόμος* 16 feet 6 inches long and 8 feet high, which expands from

an opening 3 feet 10 inches wide to 4 feet 8 inches at the low arched tomb-door. Inside the door is a drop of 3 feet into the tomb chamber. The door was in place and the tomb untouched. It held two skeletons laid side by side full length on the floor, heads to south, both perished by salt and damp to mere outlines of discoloration. The outer was about 5 feet 7 inches long. From the fact that a number of small bronze hairpins were found about the head of the inner corpse, it may be inferred that it was female. Four vases only accompanied the dead, two large Geometric amphorae, and two small pseud-amphorae of late type. One vase of each type was placed in the north-west and the south-east angles of the chamber.

FIG. 26. (Circa 1 : 10).

(6) A *tholos* chamber beside No. 5, approached by a precisely similar *δρόμος*, with built door; longest diameter 10 feet and height 5 feet 8 inches to the crown of the vault. It had been robbed in antiquity, but I still found thrown into a heap, on the north side of the tomb, twenty-three complete Geometric vases and some fragments (Fig. 26); a plain gold taenia, pierced with two holes at one end; seven bronze hairpins, and fragments of a mirror; a number of pieces of iron blades among which could be distinguished a spear head and a sword; hundreds of flattened circular beads in blue paste, and one round bead in lapis lazuli.

Not far from the mouth of this *δρόμος*, lower down the slope, three

skeletons were found lying one upon another loose in the earth close to the surface. The only object associated with them was a bronze knife-blade.

As the southern slope of the hill, in which these tombs lie, was found, when tested at various points, to contain no graves, and the Roman cemetery at point 17 lies just below it, the circle is complete. I can offer no more evidence as to the probable situation of the earlier cemeteries. If they lie within the Roman circumvallation in the northern part of the city site, which has not been explored, they must be covered by later buildings, and will probably be found entirely rifled and partly, if not wholly, destroyed. In the circular belt, explored by me, the only likely situation is near the western *Metochi*, where I found later structures and no sign of graves, but an underlying stratum of Mycenaean sherds (*supra* p. 81); but there again they could hardly have escaped destruction. Royal *tholi* may yet be found by Mr. Evans on Kephala, though no indication of their presence has been observed. The native diggers seem never to have found graves earlier than Geometric; and after a two months' search I fear I leave the solution of the Knossian cemetery problem but little advanced.

III.

NOTES ON THE POTTERY.

BY F. B. WELCH.

THE pottery found during the course of excavations this spring on the site of Knossos falls naturally into two groups, of which the larger and earlier, extending from Neolithic to Mycenaean times, came from Kephála and the houses south and south-west of the Kephála mound; while the smaller and less important group was found in tombs of Geometric date, discovered about a mile north of Kephála. Most of the finds belong to a few well-defined groups, and specimens of transitional periods are conspicuous by their absence.

Taking the pottery in chronological order, the earliest types come from

KNOSOS

GENERAL PLAN OF THE SITE :