

ARCHÆOLOGICAL FINDS FROM GREECE AND CRETE

The Annual of the British School at Athens

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IN spite of the difficulties of the times, the British School at Athens has produced its fortieth Annual, and the only marks of trouble are the reduced number of pages and a paper cover instead of the usual boards. The number of plates and text figures is generous, and the contents very well indeed up to the mark.

The article of perhaps the most general interest is Mr. Heurtley's on the School excavations in Ithaca, with his summary of conclusions. Guided by the survival of the name, the general reader has always been content to regard the modern Ithaca, or Thiaki, as the island immortalized in the *Odyssey*, and if the details of the topography could be shown not to fit very exactly in all points, he reassured himself by thinking that Homer was writing an epic poem and not a topographical treatise and, in any event, he had his headquarters somewhere in the eastern part of the *Ægean* and a very long way from the island of *Odysseus* : he aimed, that is, at no more than a general local colour which would pass muster with his hearers. But professional topographers, beginning with Gell, had always felt these difficulties and doubts, and the question came very much to the fore with the activities of Dr. Doerpfeld, who loudly maintained that the real Ithaca of Homer was the island of *Leucas*, and claimed that his excavations there had proved his view. It seems not to have struck him that, as *Odysseus* was only one of a number of island chieftains, it is hard to see how any discovery of remains of the required period could clinch the question. Then the British School began to excavate in Ithaca, and found that it had been inhabited all through the required period, and thus, quite apart from tradition, was no worse off as a candidate for Homeric honours than any other of the neighbouring islands. Finally, the School found a broken mask of the first century A.D. inscribed with the name of *Odysseus*, to say nothing of potters' marks bearing the word *nymphs*. Mr. Heurtley sums up the whole question in his final remark, a model of common sense : "To the doubt as to how *Odysseus*' name came to be associated with Ithaca, the answer is perhaps the simple one, that it was really his home, and it was there that the events took place which supplied the material for Homer's description of the Return."

Of the other articles—there are in all seven—two deal with East Crete. One by Mr. Hutchinson, Miss Eccles and Miss Benton, is devoted to some objects still left unpublished from the excavations at *Praisos* and *Palaikastro*, which began so long ago as 1902. The other is on *Diète* and the Temple of *Diètean Zeus* ; it is a memorandum written before 1910 by the late Prof. R. C. Bosanquet, which seems to have been intended as a historical introduction to the definite report of these excavations at *Praisos* and *Palaikastro*, of which this volume contains the aftermath. It is a learned topographical and archaeological study of the whole of East Crete, the *Siteia Peninsula*, written by one who knew the country well, and it was due to his memory that it should be

published. In it are embedded notes of a visit which he paid in 1903 to the island of *Kouphonisi* off the southern coast of the peninsula, with an account of the remains, Minoan and later, which he found there. Mr. Hutchinson has enriched this study with a note : Where was *Diète* ?

Other articles are an epigraphical study by J. M. R. Cormack, "Royal Letters in *Beroea*", a paper by Miss Benton on the dating of early Greek armour, and a long paper by Anton E. Raubitschek, "Early Attic Votive Monuments". This has an interesting note on the sculptor *Euenor*, the master of *Pheidias*, and a statue of *Athena* which might be a work of *Euenor*, or even (but here the author expresses himself with great caution) of *Pheidias* himself in his young days.

The last article is by Prof. J. D. Beazley : "An Archaic Greek Statuette from South Arabia". A British officer was riding in the *Aden Protectorate* and was offered a bronze statuette, five inches high, of a warrior, wearing corslet, helmet and greaves. To buy it was not possible, but a photograph was secured, and an enlargement is here reproduced. The work has every appearance of genuineness, and Prof. Beazley says it would be "good Greek work from the middle of the third quarter of the sixth century B.C. ; Peloponnesian and very possibly *Laconian*". Nothing else of this sort seems to have been found in Arabia, and it well illustrates the never to be forgotten maxim that single finds of almost any sort of object may turn up almost anywhere : certainly few are more astonishing than this one. Apparently the tribesman still has it, unless he has found a passing customer with more ready money in his pocket.

In conclusion : though the volume is slim, the quality is high, and the British School at Athens is to be heartily congratulated on its appearance.

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THE FREE WILL CONTROVERSY

The Free Will Controversy

By Dr. M. Davidson. Pp. ix+118. (London : Watts and Co., Ltd., 1942.) 7s. 6d. net.

A FEW years ago Dr. Davidson published a work entitled "Free Will or Determinism", which was devoted almost entirely to an exposition and discussion of the bearing of modern science on one of the oldest and most perplexing of philosophical problems. Some readers at least felt that the effectiveness of this work suffered somewhat from the lack of a historical setting, and this lack has now been supplied in the volume under review. In a small compass the thoughts of men on the free-will problem have been traced from the early Babylonian astrologers, through Greek, Roman, Hebrew and Christian philosophy, the doctrines of *Descartes*, *Spinoza*, *Leibniz*, *Hume*, *Kant*, *Mill* and *Haeckel*, to their present preoccupation with the implications of physics and biology. There is a "Conclusion", rightly so called in the sense that it ends the work, but containing no attempt to sum up the evidence or to pronounce a verdict. The treatment throughout is strictly objective and non-partisan, the writing is clear and interesting, and the volume forms a necessary and very useful supplement to the earlier book.