NOTE.—Subscriptions may be paid to the account of the Cretan Exploration Fund at Messrs. Robarts, Lubbock & Co., Lombard Street, E.C.; or to the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. George Macmillan, St. Martin's Street, W.C.

The Cretan Exploration Fund.

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REPORT FOR THE SEASON 1903-4.

A.—Excavations at Knossos.

THE campaign of 1904 at Knossos had a threefold objective:—(I) The continued Exploration of the Palace itself, with the special object of ascertaining its original elements, on which the Cists and Repositories found in 1903 had already thrown so much light; (2) the further investigation of dependencies lying beyond what may be called the inner *enceinte*; and (3) the search for the Tombs.

(I) The Palace.—The researches in the Palace area have been very extensive, and a variety of new data have been acquired for distinguishing the first and second period of the Later Palace. In the west wing of the Later Palace the original plan can now be clearly distinguished from the existing scheme, which is shown to be the result of subsequent remodelling. Fresh stone repositories belonging to its first period—like those found in 1903 containing the farence figures and Snake Goddess, but less rich in relics—were found to extend

north of the others beneath the later stepped portico, which here descends to the Central Court. A whole line of earlier gypsum walling facing this court could finally be made out, a little within the later wall. This original façade was seen to have been partly incorporated in the later constructions and partly to have been broken through by them. The west wall of the Palace itself and the adjoining magazines belonged to the original work, but the entrances to the magazines were found to have been altered. At one time they were provided with comparatively narrow doors appropriate to the valuable contents of the cists along their floors. Later the entrances were widened, the cists reduced to mere shallow cavities, and the whole fitted out for the reception of huge oil jars. From the superficial deposit of some of these cists belonging to the second period of the Later Palace were brought out a variety of painted stucco fragments which had fallen here from a N.W. hall above. Among these were illustrations of the bull ring, together with other frescoes, slightly larger than the "miniature" paintings found in 1900, showing part of the façade of another shrine, with the "fetish" double-axes stuck into its columns.

Dr. Evans had the invaluable help of Monsieur Gilliéron in carrying out an elaborate scheme for grouping together the earlier discovered fragments of miniature frescoes into connected designs. Two panels were thus reproduced, one showing a small temple and halls on either side, with ladies seated or standing in the foreground and throngs of men behind. The other depicted walled enclosures with trees and similar spectators overlooking a court where gaily-dressed women were engaged in a mazy dance. Fresh interesting fragments had also been detected of the painted reliefs, exhibiting parts of a male figure with a fleur-de-lis crown, and these permitted the restoration of the entire figure of what was not improbably one of the priest-kings of Knossos. The centre of the crown was found to be adorned with peacocks' plumes. A clay sealing of still earlier date supplied what appeared to be an actual portrait of a Minoan dynast associated with his son, but in this case the head was crownless.

In the West Court of the Palace a section was cut, which has the highest importance in its bearing on the stratification and comparative chronology of the characteristic stages of Minoan culture that preceded the construction of the Later Palace. The foundation of the Later Palace was shown to have been posterior to the great "Middle Minoan" age of polychrome pottery. Its second period, as appeared from Egyptian associations, did not come down later than about 1500 B.C., but there were now traceable six distinct periods of culture that separated the initial stage of the Later Palace from the latest Neolithic deposit. Below this again the Neolithic stratum, which was itself superimposed on the virgin rock, attained a depth of from six to eight metres. On the western borders of the Palace the total depth of the human deposit was from twelve to fourteen metres.

In the north-east part of the site some of the great *pithoi* belonging to a magazine of the Earlier Palace have been built up. These are larger than any vessels of the kind yet discovered, attaining a height of over two metres. The magazines have been roofed over for their preservation. The roofing of the Throne-Room had also to be carried out in a more permanent and efficient way.

(2) Outlying Structures.—A Minoan roadway paved with fine slabs has been traced running westwards from the Theatral Area for a distance of over 200 metres. The work here

has been very severe, as the pavement lay at a depth of nearly twenty feet below the surface, and involved the clearing away of a mass of later structures of no account. Pits sunk to the north of this line, moreover, revealed the existence of important Minoan buildings, and in order to make a preliminary exploration of these a wide cutting had to be carried out in this direction. The traces of important buildings have been thus brought to light, which derive extraordinary interest from their associations. A rich deposit of inscribed clay tablets was here found referring to the royal chariots and weapons. Near one of these, mentioning a store of 8640 arrows, were found the remains of two officially sealed chests containing a large number of carbonised arrows with small bronze heads. It is possible, therefore, that the structures form part of the Royal Arsenal. At this point, owing to the difficulty and expense of the work, and the advance of the season, the excavation had to be broken up. It is most necessary, however, that this promising area, extending along the newly discovered roadway, should be fully explored. Owing to the vast mass of earth to be removed a Décauville railway will probably be necessary.

(3) The Tombs.—On a hill about a mile north of the Palace a considerable cemetery was discovered. One hundred tombs were here opened, the contents of which showed that the bulk of them belonged to the period immediately succeeding the fall of the Palace. The civilisation was, however, still high, and the character of the art displayed by the relics found showed the unbroken tradition of the Later Palace Style. Among the objects brought to light were a number of bronze vessels, implements, and arms, including swords, some of them nearly a metre in length. One of the shorter swords has a gold-plated handle engraved with a masterly design of lions hunting wild goats. The jewellery and gems discovered were of the typical "mature Mycenaean" class, and a scarab found in one of the graves is of a Late Eighteenth Dynasty type. Among the painted ware "stirrup vases" were specially abundant, some with magnificent decorative designs. The tombs were of three main classes: (a) Chamber tombs cut in the soft rock and approached in each case by a dromos; in many cases these contained clay coffins, in which the dead had been deposited in cists, their knees drawn towards the chin. (b) Shaft graves, each with a lesser cavity below, containing the extended skeleton, and with a roofing of stone slabs. (c) Pits giving access to a walled cavity in the side below; these also contained extended skeletons. Unfortunately, owing to the character of the soil, the bones were much decayed, and only in a few cases has it been possible to secure specimens for examination. A certain number of skulls are to be sent to England.

On a high level called Sopata, about two miles north again of this cemetery and forming a continuation of the same range, a still more important sepulchral monument was discovered. This consisted of a square chamber, about eight by six metres in dimensions, constructed of limestone blocks, and with the side walls arching in "Cyclopean" fashion towards a high gable, though unfortunately the upper part had been quarried away. The back wall was provided with a central cell opposite the blocked entrance. This entrance, arched on the same horizontal principle, communicated with a lofty entrance hall of similar construction, in the side walls of which, facing each other, were two cells that had been used for sepulchral purposes. A second blocked archway led from this hall to the imposing rock-cut dromes. In the floor of the main chamber was a pit grave covered with slabs. Its contents had been rifled for metal objects in antiquity, but a gold hairpin, parts of two silver vases, and a large bronze mirror remained to

attest the former wealth of such. A large number of other relics were found scattered about, including repeated clay impressions of what may have been a royal seal. Specially remarkable among the stone vessels is a porphyry bowl of Minoan workmanship, but recalling in material and execution that of the Early Egyptian dynasties. Many imported Egyptian alabastra were also found, showing the survival of Middle Empire forms besides others of Early Eighteenth Dynasty type. Beads of lapis lazuli were also found, and pendants of the same material, showing a close imitation of Egyptian models. Four large painted "amphoras" illustrate the fine "architectonic" style of the Later Palace of Knossos, in connection with which the great sepulchral monument must itself be brought. The form of this mausoleum, with its square chamber, is unique, and contrasts with that of the tholos tombs of mainland Greece. The position in which it lies commands the whole South Aegean to Melos and Santorin, and Central Crete from Dicta to Ida. It was tempting to recognise in it the traditional tomb of Idomeneus; but though further researches in its immediate vicinity led to the discovery of a rock-cut chamber-tomb containing contemporary relics, it was hardly considerable enough to be taken for that of Meriones, which tradition placed beside the other.

Mr. Evans had, as before, the assistance of Dr. Duncan Mackenzie in directing the works, and Mr. Theodore Fyfe was also able to devote some time to the architectural plans and drawings. Mr. Evans is also much indebted for the valuable assistance afforded by M. Gilliéron and Mr. Bagge in the work of delineating and reconstituting the works of art discovered.

It is evident that the discovery of what appears to be the site of the Royal Arsenal to the north-west of the Palace, and the exploration of other dependencies that may lie about the newly-discovered paved approach, may entail operations on a very serious scale during the coming season. Probably, for Knossos alone, at least another 2,000/. will be required.

B.—Excavations at Heleia (Palaikastro) and Praisos in Eastern Crete.

The British School again excavated at Palaikastro the Minoan town which has yielded important results in two previous seasons, from March 25th to June 17th, with the help of grants from the Cretan Exploration Fund (including two special donations, of 100l. and 50l. respectively), Emmanuel College, and the Fitzwilliam Museum. The expedition consisted of Mr. R. McG. Dawkins, Fellow of Emmanuel College, Cambridge; Mr. Heaton Comyn, architect; Mr. C. T. Currelly, of the Egypt Exploration Fund; Mr. J. L. Stokes, scholar of Pembroke College, Cambridge; and the Director.

(1) Late Palace.—The further excavation of Block Delta, the largest and best built of the insulae opened up last year, showed that this was the Palace or Government House of the latest Mycenaean period. It has an imposing façade, of huge ashlar blocks, and the general plan of the ground floor, broken up by light wells and other paved areas, can be recovered; but it has been much plundered, and many walls of this exceptionally fine masonry have been destroyed in recent years. Some well-preserved magazines yielded an important series of painted vases, and some terra-cotta figures of a goddess, in one case grasping a snake. Careful dissection of the lower strata, when they were not obliterated by the massive substructures of the Palace, revealed remains of three earlier periods. The sequence of some early varieties of pottery was determined

by Mr. Dawkins, and plans illustrating the stratification prepared by Mr. Comyn. Fragments of an ostrich-egg, found at a very low level, point to early intercourse with Africa.

- (2) Other Work in the Town.—The main street was followed in both directions, and two low hills to the west and south-west of it were excavated. On one of them four blocks of somewhat poor houses were opened up, and yielded some very valuable finds, notably two delicately carved ivory statuettes, a large bronze ewer, and a richly-painted bath. The ivories may be importations from Egypt; while an ivory plate, carved with conventional crocodiles, betrays indirect Egyptian influence. The other hill was covered with houses of a better type, divided by what may prove to be a continuation of the main street.
- (3) Cemeteries.—The curious ossuaries of the Middle Minoan period were further excavated. Among the objects found were seals of ivory and steatite, a miniature gold bird, and small models of a dagger and of sickles. A very early burial-place, discovered by Mr. Dawkins near the headland of Kastri, contained beaked jugs of an exaggerated pattern and a remarkable clay model of a boat. A later cemetery, containing larnax burials, yielded bronze implements, beads, and vases like those in the Palace magazines. In searching for tombs south of the town Mr. Currelly discovered a steatite libation-table, on which are engraved seventeen characters of the Minoan linear script.
- (4) Temple.—In trenching the area within the Minoan town, where scattered remains of a Hellenic sanctuary have long been known to exist, Mr. Bosanquet found a broken slab of grey marble inscribed with a Doric hymn in honour of the youthful Zeus. The lettering is of the Roman age, the composition genuinely archaic. It refers to his nativity in the Dictaean cave, and leaves no doubt that we have here the Temple of Zeus Diktaios, the territory of which was a subject of dispute between Hierapytna and Itanos, until the matter was settled by arbitration in the second century B.C. It can hardly, however, be the temple mentioned by Strabo as having existed at or near Praisos before the destruction of that city, for Praisos is five hours' ride from Palaikastro.

We may now restore to the plain of Palaikastro its classical name of Heleia mentioned in the arbitration award.

(5) Researches at Praisos.—The steep west face of the Altar Hill (the top of which was cleared in 1901) had never been examined. Numerous architectural members and fragments of inscriptions have now been found here by Mr. Bosanquet, built into dykes or buried under fallen masses of rock. A temple on the summit seems to have been demolished and its materials thrown over the cliff, presumably when the Hierapytnians destroyed the town. In view of the public character of some of the inscriptions it is probable that this was the chief sanctuary of Praisos, possibly the temple of Dictaean Zeus mentioned by Strabo. The most important inscription is one in the ancient Eteocretan language, which was hitherto known only from two inscriptions, both found on this hill. The newly-discovered document is in Greek characters of the third or fourth century before our era.

It is proposed to carry these excavations further during the coming season, and probably not less than 500% will be required for this purpose.

The net result of this Report is to show that in order to carry on the important work now in hand on these two sites it will be necessary to raise a further sum of £2,500 during the coming season of 1905.

LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS TO THE

CRETAN EXPLORATION FUND

November 1st, 1903, to October 31st, 1904.

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					s.			£	5.	ď.
Abercromby, Hon. J				15	0	О	Gardner, Prof. Percy, Litt. D	2	2	О
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Anderson, J. R				1	I	O	Gifford, Rev. Dr	Ī	I	О
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Bonney, Prof. T. G			,	3	I	0	Harris, H. B	I	1	0
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Oxford Philological Society	 		15	O	0	Sturge, W. Allen, M.D	10	0	0
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Pelops Photograph Exchange	 			15	0	Ernest Gardner	12	О	0
Penrose, Miss Emily	 		I	I	0	Thompson, Sir Herbert	3	0	0
Percival, F. W			2	2	0	Tod, Mrs. Hedwig	10	0	0
Philips, Mrs. Herbert	 		10	0	0	Tozer, Rev. H. F	2	0	О
Picton, J. A			I	I	0	"Trinity Friend"	2	2	0
Pilcher, G. T			5	5	0	Vaughan, E. L	I	1	0
Pope, E. E			I	I	0	Wagner, Henry	10	O	0
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CRETAN EXPLORATION FUND.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.—NOVEMBER 1, 1903, TO OCTOBER 31, 1904.

HON. TREASURER'S ACCOUNT.

To Balance at Bank, Nov. 1, 1903 Subscriptions as per List Interest on Deposit Account	£ s. d. £ s 279 15 1,860 6 10 1 9 2 1,861 16	i
	£2,141 11	

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Exploration a	t Palaikast	ro				400	0	0
,, to Mr. Arthur l	Evans					1,500	0	0
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Report			27	18	2			
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	ts from An	nual						
of Brit	tish School	at						
Athens	, Vol. IX.		8	16	9			
Paper for above			2	14	9			
Stationery, Postage	, and Rec	eipt						
Stamps			7	0	5			
Commission, per Ba	nk and Sur	ndry						
Expenses				17	6			
•		_		-		47	7	7
Balance at	Bank, Oc	t. 31,	190	4	•••	194	3	9
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MR. ARTHUR EVANS' ACCOUNT.

To Balance in hand, Nov. 1, 1903 Received from Hon. Treasurer	£ s. d. 304 19 6 1,500 0 0
Balance due to Mr. Evans at	Oct. 31, 1904 244 11 8
	£2,049 11 2

	. £	s.	đ.
By Workmen's Wages, including Overseer an Menders	. 845		
Materials and Transport		14	4
Purchase of Property and Compensation for		-	
Crops		19	О
Photographs and Reproductions	. 39	14	O
Stores	. 47	10	0
Gilliéron (Drawings and work of Restoration	108	О	6
H. Bagge (Drawings, Assistance in Mending	(,		
etc.)	. 88	4	0
House Rent and Caretakers (Candia and	d		
Knossos)	. 44	8	0
Household Expenses (Candia and Knossos)		13	8
Assistant and Architect, including Travelling		_	
Expenses		4	01
Miscellaneous Expenses		15	
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account		0	0
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INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
To	Expenditure as per Hon. Treas-				, ,			
	urer's Account	47	7	7				
	Expenditure as per Hon. Treas-							
	urer's Account (Palaikastro)	400	О	О				
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By Balance in hand, Nov. 1, 1903 Receipts as per Hon. Treasurer's Account	 £ 584 1,861	s. 14 15	d. 10
Net Deficit on the year	 50	7	11
	€2,496	18	9