

The exhibition of objects of interest in connection with meteorology, terrestrial magnetism, and allied sciences has already been referred to in the columns of NATURE. Arrangements have been made with the view of exhibiting the formation and physical properties of the remarkable vortex ring of smoke produced by the discharge of a mortar of the same type as those which are extensively used in southern Europe with the object of mitigating hailstorms.

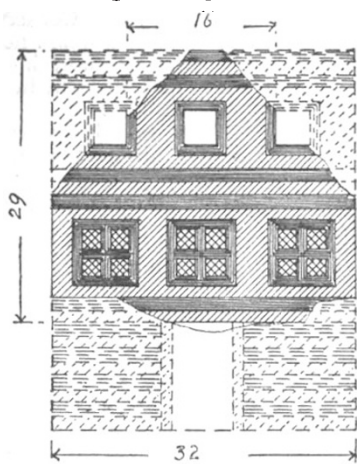
By way of illustration of the method adopted by the Meteorological Council for dealing with telegraphic weather reports, a weather chart for north-western Europe, with remarks and forecasts for the British Isles, will be prepared each morning during the meeting on the receipt of telegraphic information at Southport, and a limited number of lithographed copies will be available in the reception room.

THE OLDER CIVILISATION OF GREECE.¹

STUDENTS of the older civilisation of Greece, which we usually know as "Mycenæan," will welcome the appearance of the eighth volume of the British School at Athens Annual, which, we are glad to say, this year is printed on much better paper than formerly, and shows a great improvement both in editing and arrangement. The volume contains the chief results of the excavations which were undertaken in Crete in 1902, both by the officers of the British School itself and by the Cretan Exploration Fund, of which Mr. A. J. Evans is the prime mover. More than a third of the book is occupied by an elaborate paper by Mr. Evans, who continues his annual description of the results of his excavations at Knossos; this is profusely illustrated by no less than seventy-four reproductions from photographs and line drawings, a map showing the state of the excavations at the present time, and two plates. Mr. Evans's paper is exceedingly interesting reading, and his discoveries appear to have been, as is usually the case, of first-class importance; we earnestly hope that good fortune may attend his labours in the future at Knossos as it has done in the past! It is, however, obvious that, for extensive excavations of this kind, which involve heavy and prolonged expenditure, increased funds are necessary. It is well known that Mr. Evans has contributed to the expenses of the work from his own private means far more than was right, but it is clear that no archæologist, however enthusiastic he may be, can continue to spend his own money

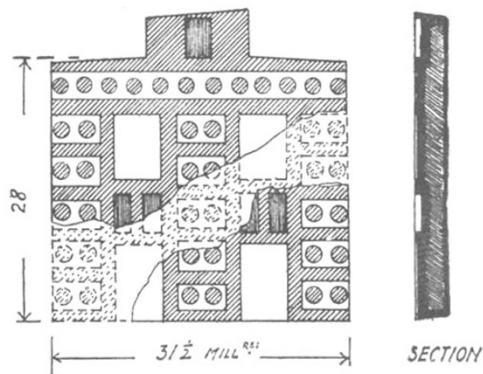
indefinitely on researches which would, in any other country but England, be undertaken either by the Government or by some wealthy academy.

The most important objects described by Mr. Evans are:—(1) A series of tablets of porcelain mosaic representing houses and towers, which are curiously like children's dolls' houses, with a door in the middle and the windows divided by mullions. (2) A series of similar porcelain tablets with representations of warriors and animals. (3) A set of terra-cotta models of pillar-altars, with figures of doves perched upon the top of them. (4) Fragments of ivory figures of leaping youths, with the hair represented by bronze spirals let into the ivory. (5) A small shrine discovered *in situ* in the southern part of the palace. The shrine and its contents have been carefully kept in their original position, and a small house has been built over them to protect them from the weather. The contents consist of rude iconic figures of deities, and a horned altar, which is somewhat Canaanitish in type. These horned altars are familiar objects in Cretan diggings, and they are usually described by Mr. Evans as "horns of consecration." (6) Objects inscribed in ink with Cretan hieroglyphics. These are of great importance, for they show that the Cretans employed the Egyptian means of writing as well as the Mesopotamian; they used both pen and ink as well



DARK GREY GROUND, WITH CRIMSON STRIPES & WINDOW FRAMES
UPPER WINDOWS OPEN RIGHT THROUGH
LOWER WINDOWS, SUNK, WITH SCARLET FILLING

MEASUREMENTS IN MILLIMETRES.



ALL GREY & WHITE.
WINDOWS, SUNK, WITH SCARLET FILLING

FIG. 1.—Porcelain Tablets in Form of Houses (slightly enlarged).

as clay tablet and stylus. (7) The sanitary arrangements of the palace, which appear to have been extraordinarily modern in character. The latrines were water-closets, which were provided with carefully constructed drains made of terra-cotta pipes, the sections of which remind one (see Fig. 7, p. 13) of a sanitary engineer's catalogue of the present day. The exigencies of space will not allow us to enumerate the minor discoveries, and we refer the reader to the Annual itself for a full account of them.

Mr. Evans ends his paper with some speculations as to the possible connection of Crete with Egypt as early as the time of the fourth and fifth dynasties, *i.e.* about B.C. 3700-B.C. 3200, and it is of interest to note that Mr. H. R. Hall, of the British Museum, publishes in this volume of the Annual a paper dealing more or less with this very subject. Mr. Hall traces the history of the connection between Egypt and the peoples of the Ægean, and the southern coast

¹ "The Annual of the British School at Athens." No. viii. Session 1901-1902. Pp. 348, 20 plates, and many illustrations. (London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd.)

of Asia Minor, from the periods of the sixth and twelfth dynasties down to the reign of Rameses III., *i.e.* for a space of more than 2000 years. The great value of his paper to Greek archæologists consists in the fact that he derives his materials from the Egyptian monuments alone, and he has shown pretty conclusively from the Egyptian records that the Mycenæans, or "Minoans," of Crete were in close communication with Egypt as early as the time of the eighteenth dynasty, about B.C. 1650 to B.C. 1400, and probably much earlier. We may note in passing a point of interest, namely, his identification of the true name of the Island of Cyprus in the time of Thothmes III., viz. Yantanay, which is undoubtedly the same as the Assyrian name for the island, "Yatnana." Mr. Hall also gives new material to the student of Mycenæan art in his identifications of Cretan vases among the tribute depicted on the walls of the tombs at Thebes, about B.C. 1550. The rest of his paper is occupied with an account of the relations of the Egyptians with the Mediterranean tribes who successively invaded Egypt under the nineteenth and twentieth dynasties. He proves that the period of peaceful relations between Crete and Egypt under the eighteenth dynasty was the period of the Minoan civilisation of Knossos and



FIG. 2.—Upper Part and Head of a Model of an Ape found at Mycenæ.

Phæstus, and that the post-Minoan, or true Mycenæan, period in Greece was the time when the peaceful relations of Cretan civilisation with Egypt had come to an end, and, in the author's words, "in the days of the degenerate Ramessids of Egypt, its place had been taken by wandering tribes, amid whose internecine struggles the older civilisation of Greece slowly degenerated and finally passed away.

The excavations which have been carried on by the British School itself at Palaikastro, at the eastern end of Crete, are described by Mr. R. C. Bosanquet, the present director of the school.

He has found there the remains of a palace and houses, some remarkable interments in painted terra-cotta coffins, and a great quantity of pottery of the pre-Mycenæan or Kamares type. We understand that Mr. Bosanquet's excavations this year have been even more productive than those of last year, and his exploration of the Eteokretan country has given us much new information about this remote but interesting portion of the island. Two or three years ago Mr. Bosanquet discovered on the site of Præsus, the ancient capital of the Eteokretans, another example of an inscription in the non-Greek language of eastern Crete. This is critically examined by Mr. R. S. Conway in this number of the Annual, but we think that his attempt to prove that the language is Indo-European is unsuccessful. Kretschmer has shown that the languages of southern Asia Minor, of which Lycian is the best known example, were not Indo-European, and legend connects the Eteokretans with Lycia. Of the Lycian language Mr. Conway naively admits (p. 156, note 2) that he has no knowledge, but yet criticises Kretschmer! The remaining article in the volume, which is by Mr. Marcus N. Tod, is of interest to classical scholars only. The above remarks are sufficient to indicate the interest and importance of the new volume of the British School at Athens.

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THE MARQUIS OF SALISBURY.

THE death of Lord Salisbury has robbed us of a great statesman. He had been ill for some weeks and the peaceful end came during the evening of Saturday last. At the beginning of June of this year an attack of nephritis, complicated with a weakness of the heart, set in, and from this illness Lord Salisbury never recovered. Since the preceding Wednesday, when his heart began to fail, it was generally known that there was no hope, and the quiet, painless passing came as a fitting conclusion to a distinguished career, marked always as it was by a dignified reserve and an unusual love for seclusion.

Born in Hatfield on February 3, 1830, Lord Salisbury died in his seventy-fourth year. He was the direct lineal descendant of the great Lord Burlington, and was educated at Eton and Christ Church, Oxford, where he graduated in 1850. The few years following his stay at Oxford were spent in travel, and included a somewhat prolonged visit to Australia and New Zealand. During this period he learnt from personal experience the dangers and charms of life at cattle stations and at the gold diggings. Returning in 1853, he was elected to an All Souls Fellowship, but as subsequent events showed he preferred the activity of politics to the quietude of university life. In the autumn of the same year he entered the House of Commons as Conservative member for Stamford, and for fifteen years he continued to represent this constituency, until, in 1868, on the death of his father, he took his seat in the House of Lords as Marquis of Salisbury.

It is unnecessary, even if it were appropriate, to give in these columns an account of the numerous incidents in the political career of this renowned statesman. The barest catalogue of the important offices of State occupied by him with consummate ability serves adequately to indicate how intimately his life has been intertwined with the history of the Empire during the latter half of the nineteenth century, and how large a part the dead statesman has taken in the government of the nation. He was twice Secretary for India and President of the Indian Council. In 1876 he was special Ambassador to the historic conference at Constantinople; and in 1878 Plenipotentiary at the celebrated Berlin Conference. Four times he was the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and in this capacity more than any other, perhaps, he inspired the complete confidence of his countrymen. In 1886 he was First Lord of the Treasury, and three times he was called upon by his Sovereign to form a Cabinet. His premierships lasted respectively from 1885-6, 1886-1892, and 1895-1902.

But an account of Lord Salisbury's political career gives no proper idea of the versatility of his genius. When a member of the House of Commons he was actively engaged in journalistic work, and his contributions to the *Saturday Review*, the *Quarterly Review*, and other papers would have secured for a less gifted person a sufficiently high reputation. To men of science, however, the most interesting recollection in connection with Lord Salisbury is the fact that in 1894 he was President of the British Association, and that throughout his political triumphs his great pleasure was, in his leisure hours at Hatfield, to pursue scientific researches in physics and chemistry.

In commenting on the Presidential Address delivered by Lord Salisbury at Oxford in our issue for August 9, 1894, we remarked:—"Many of those who know Lord Salisbury only as a politician and as Minister for Foreign Affairs will be surprised at the wide range of thought and reading displayed in his