

### The Megalithic Monuments of Malta.

AT a meeting of the Royal Anthropological Institute held on November 15 last Miss M. A. Murray gave an account of her recent excavations in Malta. The excavations were carried out with the consent and kind help of Prof. Zammit. Three sites were explored, all three being in the south-east of the island. The first excavation was of a mound called Santa Sña, near the village of Hal Far; this proved to be a megalithic site re-used later, and yielded no result. The second excavation was at Santa Maria tal Bakkari, about half a mile away. Here the remains of a double edifice, locally supposed to be two churches, were found. But various indications, amongst others a torba floor, suggest that the building was pre-Christian, and the form and position of many of the stones show that it was originally a megalithic structure. The supposed dedication of the double building to Santa Maria and Santa Katerina may indicate that the shrine was dedicated to two goddesses, and may therefore throw some light on the early deities of Malta. The name of St. Mary is too universal to be any guide, but as St. Katherine has taken the place of a goddess of beacons and light-houses, we may have here a sanctuary of that divinity. The position of the shrine lends itself to this conjecture, as it stands on high ground in a direct line with a tiny creek, now unused, but sufficiently large for the small fishing-boats of Neolithic times. The name Tal Bakkari is probably connected with the Arabic Fagr, "dawn, daybreak"; the name "St. Mary (or the goddess) of the daybreak" would be appropriate for a shrine built on a hill, from which the open sea due eastward across the Bay of Marsa Scirocco is clearly visible. The first rays of the rising sun strike directly on the shrine.

The third excavation was at Borg en Nadur, close to St. George's Bay. A group of megaliths have always been a well-known feature of the site; this group consists of two dolmenic structures and a building which now appears to be a semi-circular apse, like the apses at Tarxien and the other Maltese temples. In the short time that could be devoted to this excavation it was possible only to prove that the building extended over a wide area, and may possibly be a double temple like those already known. Behind the uncovered apse and on a level with its highest stones is a field, terraced up to its present height in the usual way by a wall of stones. The axis of the "temple" runs directly into this field, and it is very probable that the whole building remains intact hidden under the soil, as was the case at Tarxien. Excavations in the field in which the uncovered apse stands showed a megalithic building extending more

than a hundred feet northward from the apse, and a broken bætyl was found *in situ*. Time did not permit of more than a cursory examination of this portion of the site, and it is still uncertain how far or in what way this building is connected with the apse. South-eastward from the apse is another dolmenic structure built into the wall of the field, and adjoining it in the field behind is an apse filled in and covered with stones, but retaining the characteristic semi-circular form. Excavations on the site will be continued next year.

In the course of the discussion which followed the paper Sir Arthur Evans said that, taking the megalithic monuments in Malta as a whole, it was clear that they belonged to a western Mediterranean province which included Sardinia, the Balearics, and possibly the African side. In the Bronze age the evidence was clear; the implements fitted on to the Spanish group. In Spain are found small segmented beads of faience which were a stage in similar forms found in Scotland and parts of England, and began in Egypt with the XVIIIth Dynasty, and appeared in Crete at about the same time. Possibly they were diffused by the Cretans. Although the segmented beads had not been found in Malta, an imitation, associated with them in Spain, had been found there, and it was probable that the segmented beads would also be found. The Neolithic ornament showed a regular progression, starting from Hagia Kim, but it appeared at so advanced a stage that it could not have originated there, and was, possibly, to be derived from Egypt. A vase from Kamares showed strong affinities with a vase from the Neolithic chambers of Malta. The deduction was that the later stage of this culture in Malta came down to about 1600 B.C.

Mr. Peake referred to the rapid development which had taken place in our knowledge of the prehistory of Malta. In 1013 nothing was known of the Bronze age, but the knowledge of an independent type of pottery had now been developed. The evidence pointed to 1800 B.C. as a possible date for Hal Tarxien. The culture was identical with that found all over the megalithic area. The pottery, for instance, was common to Taranto, Spain, Brittany, Guernsey, Arran, Scandinavia, and also Algiers. The only locality outside the megalithic area in which it occurred was Sicily, where, however, a double spiral stone occurred, similar to one from Hal Tarxien, showing that it belonged to the same order. In connection with his suggestion that this culture came from the East, it was interesting to note that Prof. Zammit had also suggested a connection between Malta and the Persian Gulf.

### Graft-Hybrids.

AMONG the departures in procedure which marked the Edinburgh meeting of the British Association was the prominence given to a botanic lecture which aimed at a scientific, but non-academic, account by Prof. Weiss of "Graft-Hybrids." Grafting had been a horticultural practice from very ancient times, and was said to date from that of the Phœnicians, and was certainly practised by the Romans, who believed that the stock exercised considerable influence over the scion.

The question of the production of hybrids by grafting first came to the notice of scientific observers in connection with the *Bizzaria orange*, raised in Florence in 1664, and described in the second volume of

the Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London. In this case an orange grafted on a lemon stock bore a large variety of fruits, some resembling oranges, some lemons, while others were intermediate in shape and colour. The most curious combination appeared to consist of an orange shell with lemon pulp. This latter feature was significant in relation to the "graft-hybrids" afterwards obtained, probably the best known and most frequently discussed of which is *Cytisus Adami*, obtained in Paris in 1825 by grafting a small purple-flowered *Cytisus purpureus* on an ordinary yellow laburnum. The graft did not succeed, but from a small bud arising close to the place of insertion a branch was produced inter-