

Schliemann. Bericht über die Ausgrabungen in Troja

CHAPTER XIX.

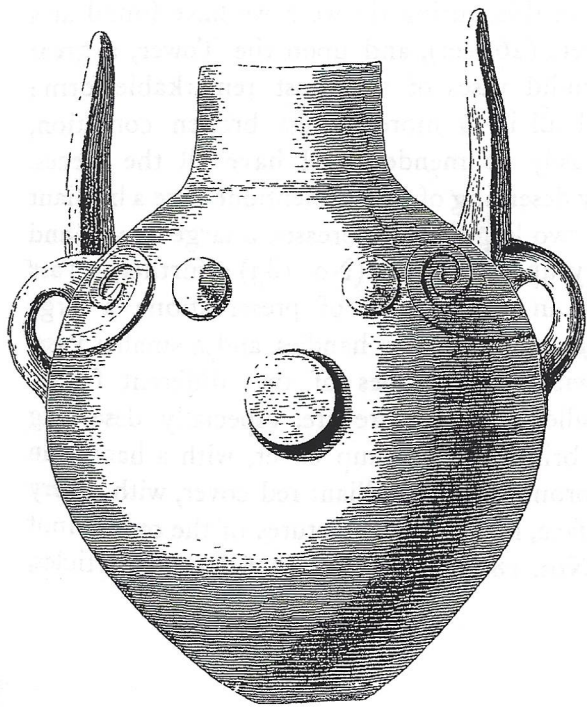
Splendid vases found on the Tower — Other articles — Human skull, bones, and ashes, found in an urn — New types of whorls — Greek votive discs of diorite — Moulds of mica-schist — The smaller quantity of copper than of stone implements explained — Discussion of the objection, that stone implements are not mentioned by Homer — Reply to Mr. Calvert's article — Flint knives found in the Acropolis of Athens — A narrow escape from fire.

Pergamus of Troy, March 29th, 1873.

SINCE my report of the 22nd of this month I have unfortunately made little or no progress, for most of the villagers are trimming their vineyards during this week; and besides this, we have been tormented by a horrible icy-cold high north wind, which yesterday and to-day rendered it impossible to carry on the works.

But in spite of this, during the week we have found at a depth of 8 meters (26 feet), and upon the Tower, a great number of splendid vases of the most remarkable form; they are indeed all in a more or less broken condition, but they can easily be mended, as I have all the pieces. Those especially deserving of being mentioned are a brilliant black vase with two large female breasts, a large navel, and with two mighty upraised arms (No. 183); further, a vase $33\frac{3}{4}$ inches high, in a good state of preservation; a large mixing bowl (κρατήρ) with two handles, and a smaller vase, round below, with four handles of two different forms. Among the smaller vessels there are, especially deserving of attention, a brilliant black cup cover, with a handle in the form of a coronet, and a brilliant red cover, with a very curious human face, in which the features of the owl cannot be mistaken. (Nos. 184, 185, p. 268.) Of the other articles,

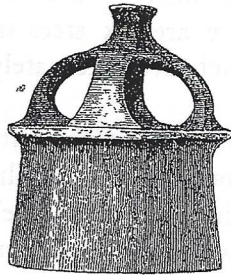
I can only mention a little plate of gold in the form of an arrow-head, with a small hole at the lower end (No. 186); an ivory tube with very curious decorations (No. 187); and a well-preserved skull with neat little teeth, which I discovered, together with a few bones and a quantity of human ashes, in a vase (unfortunately broken) $27\frac{1}{2}$ inches high and broad, at a depth of 26 feet, upon the Tower. This is the first time that I have found such well-preserved



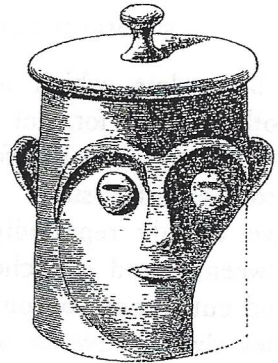
No. 183. A brilliant Black Vase, with the Symbols of the Ilian Athena, from the Tower (8 m.).

human bones and even a skull in an urn. Funereal urns, indeed, we dig out daily, but the bodies are always completely burnt to ashes; and, with the exception of the skeleton (already described) of an embryo found in a vase at a depth of 51 feet upon the primary rock, I have hitherto never found an entire bone in a funereal urn. The vase in which I found the skull is made of that excellent Trojan

terra-cotta which I find only at a depth of from 36 to 46 and 52½ feet, except upon the Tower; the skull must have belonged to a Trojan woman, for it is too delicate to have been the skull of a man. In the same urn I also found a copper hair or dress pin. Upon the Tower we also met with two marble idols without owls' faces, one of which is 6 inches long, the other 6½ inches. We likewise discovered quantities of terra-cotta whorls with symbolical decora-



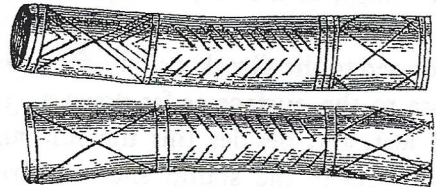
No. 184. Vase-cover with Handle in shape of a Coronet (8 M.).



No. 185. Vase-cover with a Human Face: found on the Tower (8 M.).



No. 186. Flat piece of Gold, in the Form of an Arrow-head: from the Tower (8 M.).



No. 187. Prettily decorated Tube of Ivory. From the Tower (8 M.).

tions, twelve of which are of types not previously found. One is the form of a shirt stud,* 1½ inch high and 1½ inch broad, with the never-failing perforated hole and an engraved flower, the four petals of which form a cross round the central point; in three of the petals there

* See a similar example in Chapter XX., p. 286.

are very large dots, which may denote suns or moons; upon another, in the form of a top, there are six trees in the circle, the top and the foot of which are alternately directed to the central sun.*

I have already repeatedly mentioned the terra-cotta discs, between 1 and 2 inches in diameter, thick in the middle and cut smooth on one side, in the shape of a Greek lamp; they always have at one side two very small perforated holes, and frequently a round or oval potter's stamp, in which one can recognise either an altar and a bee with outspread wings, or a swan, an ox, a horse, a man, or something of the kind. I have also said that these discs must have belonged to the Greek colony, for I generally find them quite close to the surface as far down as $3\frac{1}{4}$ feet and rarely below $6\frac{1}{2}$ feet, and besides this the fine and almost microscopical figures in the stamp show a Greek style of art.† The small holes at the sides leave no doubt that the articles have been used as votive offerings to be hung up in the temples or beside the idols. These discs, which have hitherto only occurred in terra-cotta, I have this week found at a depth of 1 meter ($3\frac{1}{4}$ feet), made of diorite with two holes on one side, which, however, are not perforated; owing to the hardness of the substance it was no doubt found difficult to make the two perforations.

During the last few days we have again found upon the Tower, at a depth of 8 meters (26 feet), a mould of mica-schist, 11 inches long, upon five sides of which there are forms for casting twelve lances, knives, and extremely curious implements, the use of which is a puzzle to me.

The many stone moulds for casting weapons, knives, and implements, which are met with here, sufficiently prove that Troy possessed a number of copper weapons, knives, and instruments. It is, however, quite natural that I should find comparatively few of them, for the copper implements

* Plate XXXIV., No. 404.

† See p. 65.

could of course easily be melted down and re-cast, and it must not even be supposed that I shall find any except those which were lost in the tumult of battle, or were preserved amidst the destruction of the city. Therefore the fact that I find immensely larger numbers of silex knives than of copper knives, and by far more axes and hammers of stone than of copper, by no means proves that at the time of the Trojan war there were more stone than copper instruments. Stone lances are, moreover, very rarely met with; this year I found only two of which I know positively that they are lances; the one was discovered at a depth of $11\frac{1}{2}$ feet, the other at 20 feet deep.

Mr. Frank Calvert of the Dardanelles, who wishes to convince me by the hippopotamus which I found at a depth of 23 feet, that the *débris* at this depth belongs to a period when hippopotami inhabited the rivers of the Troad, has expressed the opinion, in his article in the *Levant Herald* of the 25th of January, 1873, that Homer would necessarily have mentioned stone knives and instruments if they had existed in Troy, and that, as he speaks of none, there could have been none; consequently, that none of the ruined strata which I have cut through, containing stone implements, can belong to the Homeric Troy, and that the stratum directly following the Greek ruins, which extend as far down as $6\frac{1}{2}$ feet, must be more than 1000 years older than the Trojan war.

If Mr. Calvert had taken the trouble to look into Homer, he would have found that the word 'hammer' (*ῥαιστήρ*) occurs only once (*Iliad*, XVIII. 477), and that is in the hand of Hephæstus. It is, indeed, not said of what material the hammer was made; the fire-god, however, would probably have had none other than a copper hammer. Mr. Calvert also does not appear to have ever seen a silex knife, for otherwise he would know that they are almost always only from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$, and rarely 3, inches long; and moreover, with but few exceptions, they are made in the