been founded by King Prœtus, the brother of Acrisius, who was succeeded by the hero Perseus. It was the scene of the early life of Heracles, who is hence called Tiryn­thius. The massive walls were said to have been the work of Cyclopean masons. Its period of greatest splen­dour was during the 11th and 10th centuries B.C.; but the city continued to exist till about 468 B.c., when it was destroyed through the jealousy of the inhabitants of the neighbouring Argos,@@1 who had not assisted in the final de­feat of the Persians at Platæa.@@2

Excavations made in 1884-85 by Schliemann and Dörpfeld over part of the rock on which Tiryns stood have exposed a most interesting building, quite unique as an example of a Greek palace of the 11th or 10th century B.c., and of special interest from the way in which it closely illustrates the Homeric palaces of Alcinous and Odysseus, and throws a new light on scenes such as the slaughter of the suitors *(Od.,* xxi. and xxii.).

The rock on which Tiryns is built is of an irregular oval shape, about 330 yards long by 112 at the widest part, and is surrounded

by a very massive wall, varying from 30 to 40 feet in thickness and averaging when complete about 50 feet in height, measuring from its base outside. Inside, the wall was probably not more than 10 or 12 feet high above the ground, so the masonry acts as a retaining wall to a considerable depth of earth which covers the rock (see fig. 2 below). The wall is built of very large hammer- dressed blocks, some as much as 10 feet long by 3 feet 3 inches or 3 feet 6 inches wide, with smaller ones to fill up the interstices. The whole was bedded, not in mortar, but in clay, which has mostly been washed out of the joints ; originally the surface was probably protected with a coating of stucco. The only important gateway, which was on the east side, away from the sea, probably resembled the “lion gate” at Mycenæ. The other entrances are mere slits in the wall. One of these and the chief gate are shown in fig. 1. Internally the area of the city was divided by cross walls into three parts at successive levels. The lowest and middle divi­sions have not yet been excavated ; the upper part at the south end of the rock was completely exposed in 1884-85 by Schliemann and Dorpfeld, and the almost complete plan of the various struc­tures clearly made out. This division contains the palace of the ruler of Tiryns, a building which shows careful and skilful con­struction, elaborate decoration, and a well-arranged plan, suitable to the wants of a wealthy autocratic chief, who lived in a manner which partly recalls the luxury of an Oriental king, and also re­sembled the feudal state of a mediæval baron, surrounded by a crowd of vassals. From the main gate, which was defended by a tower, a strong passage led between the outer wall and an inner one to an inner gate, thence to a propylæum or double porch, with two wooden columns on each side,@@3 adjoining which were chambers for guards. Then came another similar, but smaller propylæum, and opposite to that was the entrance to the great court (αύλή), nearly 53 by 70 feet, in which stands the altar to Zeus Herceus, with a circular pit beneath it to catch the victims’ blood. This court was surrounded by wooden columns supporting a roof, like a mediæval cloister ; on the south side are chambers for attend­ants (θαλάμοι). On the north side is the great hall (μέγaρov @@4), with an outer portico supported by two columns (αίθουσα') and an inner vesti­bule (πρόδομος) with three doors.@@5 The hall is about 40 by 30 feet, with a cir­cular hearth-stone in the centre (έστίa or έσχάρα). Four col­umns supported the roof, the central part of which probably rose above the rest like a mediæval “lantern”; and in this there was prob­ably a door leading out to the flat roof round it—possibly the όρσοθύρη of Homer (Od., xxii. 126), through which one of the suitors escaped and so got arms from the treasury or armoury, which was on an upper floor (see Od., xxii. 142 and xxi. 5). On the west side of the hall are a number of small chambers (θαλάμοι) for the unmarried men, and a bath-room about 12 by 10 feet, with its floor formed of one great slab of stone, sloped so as to drain out at one side through a pipe which passes through the wall. The women’s part of the house is of equal importance to that of the men, and has its hall and two open courts with pillars. It is approached in a very cir­cuitous way,@@6 either by a passage (λaυρn) leading from a side

@@@1 Homer (Il. ii. 559) speaks of the Tirynthians as subject to Argos.

@@@2 See Diod., iv. 10 ; Paus., ii. 25 ; and Herod., vi. 83, ix. 28. Schlie­mann (Tiryns, London, 1886) and Mahaffy (in Hermathena, Dublin), however, deny the truth of this statement, believing that Tiryns ceased to exist some centuries earlier, in spite of the strong evidence given by the inscription on the bronze column (now in Constantinople), formed by three twisted serpents, which once supported the golden tripod dedicated to Apollo out of the spoils from Platæa. Tiryns occurs in the list of allied states present at that battle ; moreover, recent dis­coveries have brought to light remains of an important building of about 600 b.c.

@@@3 The arrows in fig. 1 show the way from the city gate to the palace court and hall.

@@@4 The women’s hall is also called the megaron ; see Οd., xviii. 198.

@@@5 The πρόδομος is mentioned by Homer (Il., ix. 473, and Οd., iv. 302) ; but in the palace of Odysseus the αίθουσα seems to have been the only vestibule to the megaron. In several respects the palace of Tiryns is more magnificent than that of Odysseus, whose hall was paved with clay, not concrete as at Tiryns ; see Οd., xxi. 122, where Telemachus άμφ'ι δέ γaîav έvaξϵ, after cutting a trench to fix the row of axes.

@@@6 The way to the harem in a modern Oriental house is similarly made as circuitous as possible, for the sake of privacy.