

## SHLIEMANN'S EXCAVATIONS.\*

**I**N this volume of moderate size and cost we have at length what very many have desired, a connected account of the remarkable work done by Dr. Heinrich Schliemann in restoring to historical reality "the tale of Troy divine." His own large and costly volumes on Troy, Tiryns, and Mycenæ, have been beyond the reach of many small libraries and private persons; besides this, they were largely occasional productions, written at intervals as the work of excavation went on, and the discoverer had reason sometimes to change his opinions as to the date or meaning of a find. Only a special student can, with all of Dr. Schliemann's works before him, make out a consistent and complete scheme of all the discoveries, and the views of primitive history founded upon them. To Dr. C. Schuchhardt, the director of the Kestner Museum in Hanover, who was engaged on the excavations at Pergamon, the task was intrusted by Dr. Schliemann, in 1886, of preparing a concise account of all the doctor's labors. He has performed the duty admirably; few works of this sort have been more successful in avoiding the extremes of hasty inaccuracy and labored detail. Miss Sellers' translation is uncommonly good, and the book is as readable as if it had been composed in English.

The illustrations are many and excellent. First should be named the two portraits of Dr. Schliemann and his wife—the latter fittingly decorated with Trojan ornaments. The three hundred smaller illustrations are mostly taken from the larger works on the

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three cities excavated, but some proceed from Dr. Schuchhardt's own hand, and a few have been selected from other writers. Altogether, they make a picture gallery of great attractiveness. The majority of the seven maps are from other sources than Dr. Schliemann's volumes.

Dr. Schuchhardt naturally begins with a sketch of Dr. Schliemann's romantic career, which exhibits the rare spectacle of an early passion fully gratified. To Troy and Tiryns he then gives two chapters, which recite the history of the excavations in all the detail which most readers will desire. Mycenæ, with its beehive tombs, and shaft-graves, receives fuller treatment, and two other chapters describe the minor excavations at Orchomenos and Ithaca, and give a brief historical survey of the heroic age of Greece. Dr. Schuchhardt thus sums up:

Mycenæan civilization prevails on the east coast of Greece, and over the islands to Asia Minor. It bears a strongly Asiatic stamp, yet its analogies to Homer are important enough to prove that by the Homeric "Achæans" the representatives of Mycenæan civilization are meant. It is to be concluded that these Achæans were a mixture of several tribes, Minyæ, Ionians, Carians, and perhaps other immigrants. The uniform distribution of the civilization is explained by the temporary welding together of the different races into one kingdom, which, after the subjugation of its opponents, especially Troy, established for the first time peaceful commercial relations in the Ægean. Speaking broadly, this civilization covered the years 1500 to 1000 B. C. It was destroyed by the Dorian invasion. The greater part of the "Achæans" migrated to the islands and to Asia Minor, where the further developments of Mycenæan art may be traced. The earlier portions of the Homeric poetry belong to the meridian of Mycenæan civilization. Its continuation and revision followed after the Dorian invasion, so the epic bears, almost throughout, the stamp of this later time.

Two valuable appendixes give the report of the excavations made at Troy last year by Dr. Schliemann and Dörpfeld, and a description, with a plate, of the remarkably beautiful gold cups from the Vepheio tomb. In an introduction, Walter Leaf, Litt.D., diverges somewhat from Dr. Schuchhardt's conclusions, but warmly praises, as all his readers must do, the orderly and complete account of these epoch-making discoveries which the German author has here given.