

P R E F A C E.

IN preparing a new Catalogue of the Vases it has been found convenient to classify the collection into separate sections, each representing a definite phase in the art of vase painting and each having its own enumeration. Section B, comprising the black-figured vases, has been the first to be completed. The other sections are in hand and will be issued in the order in which they are finished.

In the present volume the actual catalogue is preceded by an Introduction, in which Mr. Walters has discussed several important questions connected with the black-figured vases in general and with those of the Museum collection in particular. One of these questions is the persistency with which certain types of subject were repeated with little or no variation, as if the imaginative faculty which was so active in the subsequent red-figured stage had been still under severe restraint. Mr. Walters has collected these types and given illustrations of them. The opportunity has also been taken to include illustrations of a number of vases hitherto unpublished.

The proof-sheets have been read and revised by Mr. Cecil Smith and Mr. Arthur Smith, Assistants in the Department of Greek and Roman Antiquities, and by myself.

A. S. MURRAY.

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