

§ 22. M.M. III: (G) FLOOR-CISTS OR 'KASELLES' OF W. PALACE REGION.

*Separate enclosure of section of West Magazines; Enclave of the 'Kasselles' or Floor-Cists; Those of the Long Gallery; Remains of precious contents; Some Cists used as Vats; Original Cists; Closed at end of M.M. III; Stratigraphic evidence of Cists beneath Stepped Porch; 'Kasselles' of Eighth Magazine; Superficial recipients, of later construction; M. M. III relics in filling beneath these; Traces of later use as Oil Vats; Mostly paved over by close of L.M. I; Three Epochs traceable in West Magazines—three Stages in construction of their Entrances.*

THE Western Palace Section, as already observed, seems to have served two main purposes. On the one hand it included the buildings that were the central scenes of the Palace cult. On the other it guarded the principal repositories of stores and precious objects belonging to these sanctuaries.

Disuse of part of W. Magazines.

According to the original arrangement, the whole West frontage of the Palace seems to have been occupied by an uninterrupted series of Magazines, some twenty-two in number. At a comparatively late date the Southernmost of these (A, B, C, in the Plan, Fig. 152 above) were remodelled and converted to other uses. It is further clear that some time in the Third Middle Minoan Period a wholly new system of arrangement was adopted in the case of the central group of Magazines that extend from No. 4 to No. 13, inclusive. While Nos. 1, 2, and 3 were apparently left in their original condition, as well as the separate enclave formed by Magazines 14-18, this central group was now shut off from the rest to form a section apart (see Fig. 322), and a new system of storage by means of remarkably constructed floor-cists, known to the Cretan workmen as 'Kasselles' (*Κασέλλαις*), was carried out throughout its extent.

Separate enclosure of Magazines in M.M. III.

The 'Enclave of the Kasselles'.

In order to secure the enclave containing these floor-cists, the original 'Long Gallery' of the West Magazines was again cut short by a cross wall (see Fig. 323) overlapping a part of the N. wall of the Third Magazine, and provided with a central doorway—98 cm. wide<sup>1</sup>—the gypsum jambs of which were incorporated in the Late Minoan pavement when this barrier itself was subsequently removed. This doorway, it will be seen, was con-

<sup>1</sup> See *Knossos, Report*, 1904, pp. 36-9, and Fig. 12.