

§ 78. THE EAST POSTERN AND BASTION: RUNNELS WITH PARABOLIC CURVES—
CHRONOLOGICAL PLACE OF THAT BY EAST STEPS OF 'THEATRICAL AREA'.

'Court of Stone Spout' and Old Frontage line of N.E. 'Insula'; Stepway down East Slope; Four lines of massive exterior walls; East Postern—its relation to Bastion; Recess for Warder; Staircase down E. Bastion with descending runnel; Fall of water controlled by parabolic curves; Extraordinary evidence of hydraulic knowledge; Settling basin and further course of runnel; Presumed tank for washing linen; A second staircase; Faintly incised signs on blocks—M. M. III b date; Stepway with similar runnel South of 'Domestic Quarter', overlying M. M. III Magazines; Further chronological materials; Similar descending runnel by East steps of 'Theatrical Area'; New stratigraphic results regarding this Area; Painted Pottery with racquet and ball motives—of Senusert II's time; Section beneath the East steps—runnel of M. M. III a date.

IT has been shown that the 'Taureador Frescoes' were originally displayed in a structure adjoining, on an upper terrace level, the South-West corner of the little Court that has received its name from the stone spout projecting from its Western wall, and by which the water from the 'East Hall' light area had here found its way to a blind well.¹ The structure in question may have also partially overlain the area occupied by the so-called 'School Room' above the floor of which, on the West side, several of the painted stucco fragments were found.

'Court of Stone Spout' and Stepway down to East Bastion.

The 'School Room' itself, as we shall see,² represents a later adaptation of a fore-hall or vestibule of a corridor that brought the Court into connexion with the fine architectural complex of the 'Domestic Quarter'.

On its Northern side this little Court gave access to a stepway leading down the slope and finding its exit in the 'East Bastion' below. It thus afforded access to the comparatively level tract, with its ancient olive grove, bordering the stream beyond, already referred to as an ideal site for the 'Dancing Ground of Ariadnê'. If the Minoan 'bull-ring' or arena, with its grand stands, also stood—as seems most likely—somewhere in the same direction, the choice of the 'Taureador Frescoes' to decorate the walls of

¹ *P. of M.*, i, p. 378 seqq. and p. 381, Fig. 276.

² See below, p. 266, and cf. *P. of M.*, i, pp. 366, 367.