

NOTES FROM A TRAVELLER'S LOG-BOOK.

By EDWARD E. LONG, C.B.E., F.R.G.S.

CYPRUS—THE ISLE OF ROMANCE.

THE Mediterranean is rich in islands deeply tinged with romance, but few can vie in this respect with Cyprus, the Isle of Aphrodite, the Goddess of Love. It was here that Richard Cœur de Lion married his youthful bride, the fair Berengaria of Navarre. It was in Famagusta, "a sea-port town in Cyprus," that Shakespeare laid the plot of the tragic tale of "Othello, Moor of Venice"; and among its fortifications which remain is a tower known as Othello's Tower, held to be that tower in which Othello brought about Desdemona's end.

Cyprus is rich in history, for, at one time a seat of Mycenaean culture, it fell to conquest by Thothmes III. of Egypt in 1500 B.C. It next became an Assyrian protectorate, under Sargon II.; was conquered by Cambyses of Persia in 525 B.C., and later formed part of the Empire of Alexander the Great. It was made a Roman province; was ruled over by Byzantium, and was raided frequently by the Arabs. After belonging to Cœur de Lion, the Knights Templars, and the Lusignans, Cyprus fell into Turkish hands, and so remained until Britain, by treaty with Turkey, assumed its occupation in 1878, and annexed the island on the outbreak of war in 1914.

It is only since then that it has been found possible to develop Cyprus as a holiday resort in the modern sense, and to-day, with frequent communication by sea, via Genoa, Venice, Athens, Constantinople, or Port Said, and comfortable accommodation at a moderate price in such centres as Nicosia, Famagusta, Larnaca, Limassol, and Troödos, there is every reason why Cyprus should attract visitors from this country who are anxious to spend a pleasant holiday somewhere off the beaten track. The winter and spring climate is one that is sunny and bracing, and these are good seasons for a visit to the island; but at Troödos, 6000 ft. up amongst

the pine-clad slopes of the mountains, life is very pleasant during the summer.

Of the various resorts Cyprus has to offer, Nicosia comes first, not only as the island's capital and chief centre of population, but on account of its advantages of situation, being placed so centrally as to render it a most convenient base for viewing the island as a whole. Nicosia is thirty-seven miles from Famagusta (which is a port of call for the Cyprus-Egypt mail steamer), and is connected with it by rail; twenty-six miles from Larnaca and fifty-four from Limassol, the two other well-known ports in Cyprus. The roads between are good for motoring, whilst it is a few hours' journey only by rail to Evrychou, and thence by motor-car to Troödos. Nicosia is quite an imposing walled city, with eleven bastions and

Orthodox Cathedral are outstanding, and at almost every turn in its narrow streets there is something to remind one of the city's stirring past.

It seems almost an anachronism to mention that



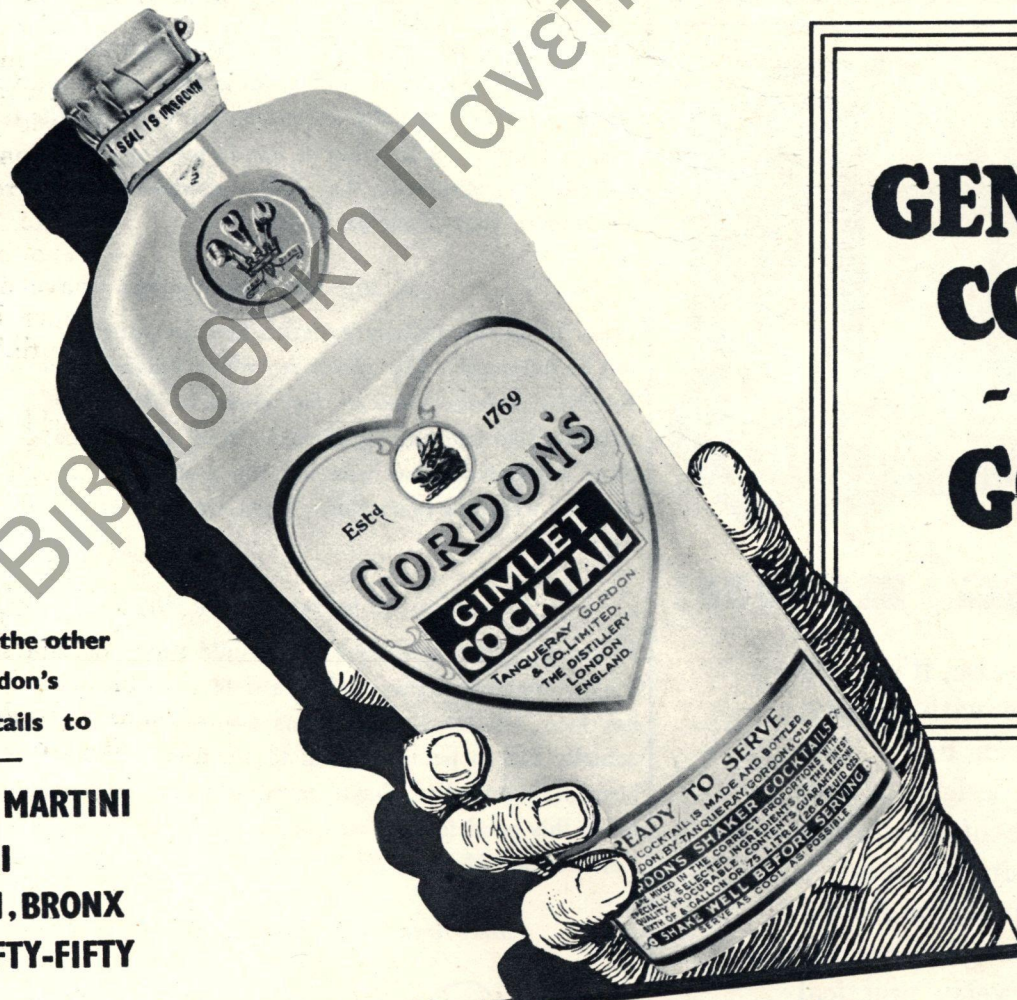
A TYPICAL SCENE IN THE HILLS OF CYPRUS: KAKOPETRIA, A HILL-VILLAGE ON THE ROAD TO TROÖDOS. Photographs by Courtesy of the Government of Cyprus Information Office.



IN NICOSIA, A CITY WHICH FORMS A CONVENIENT CENTRE FOR SEEING CYPRUS: A PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN LOOKING TOWARDS THE CHARMING RESIDENTIAL QUARTER.

many fine mediæval monuments, among which are the tombs of the Crusaders in the Armenian Church. The Arab Achmed Mosque, the great Mosque of St. Sophia (formerly the Latin Cathedral), and the

Nicosia has race-meetings in the spring and autumn, a golf-course (there is golf, too, at Famagusta and Limassol), and tennis, whilst some sixteen miles distant, on the north coast, at Kyrenia, there is good bathing, from sandy beaches. Kyrenia has an old twelfth-century castle guarding its harbour, another on the heights above, and four miles to the east of it is a wonderful old Premonstratensian Abbey, said to be one of the finest examples of Gothic architecture in the Levant. In Limassol is the Chapel in which Richard Cœur de Lion is said to have been married. Situated between the site of the Phœnician city of Amathus and the tower of Colossi, once the headquarters of the Knights Hospitallers, Larnaca is on or near the site of the ancient Chittim of the Old Testament. Famagusta, apart from its attraction of Desdemona's Tower, retains its mediæval walls. Near it are the ruins of Constantia and its huge Roman Forum. At Kouklia is the site of the Temple of Aphrodite, which every visitor to Cyprus should see.



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