A CONTRAST TO NEOLITHIC BURIAL:
A CYPRiot ROYAL TOMB, 4TH CENTURY B.C.

This royal tomb of the fourth century B.C. contrasts strongly with the primitive Neolithic grave at Erimi (Figs. 6 and 7, page 97), and these two burials mark the long period of cultural evolution in Cyprus covered by the excavations.

Regarding the above photographs, M. Dikaios notes: "The doorway of the royal tomb (Fig. 11) was blocked with a large slab, against which lay three alabaster-like marble vases. In the interior (Fig. 12) the door-slab which blocked the doorways leading to the side-chambers had been thrown down by robbers, who entered the tomb in ancient times through a hole made in the roof. After the excavation, a large group of villagers from Pyla (Fig. 13), with the village priest at their head, gathered near the tomb, and claimed to be allowed to visit the interior. Fig. 14 shows the three limestone reliefs inset above the doorway leading to the north chamber, in which three sarcophagi were found. The central relief represents a Gorgon's head; the side reliefs sphinxes. Both the Gorgon's head and the sphinxes appear on ancient Cypriot coins." (See Figs. 9 and 10 D, opposite page.)