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 Coeur 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 Coeur 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 Troodos, 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 Troodos, 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 Troodos. Nicosia is quite an imposing walled city, with eleven bastions and

A TYPICAL SCENE IN THE HILLS OF CYPRUS: KAVO-PETRIA, A HILL-VIEWGEI ON THE ROAD TO TROODOS.

IN Nicosia, a city which forms a convenient centre for seeing Cyprus: A Photograph taken looking towards the charming residential quarter.

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