

ANCIENT GREEK CHARM FROM CRETE REPRESENTING WOMAN IN LABOUR.

By ALBAN DORAN for ERNEST HART.

THIS small object in gold was found in an ancient Greek tomb in Crete which Mr. Hart had recently



visited. It was in the form of a gold charm, *repoussé*, in yellow beaten gold, the subject being a woman seated with legs parted in the attitude of labour; the shoulders being expanded and the hands resting firmly on each

thigh. The genital parts are exposed and the abdomen is characteristically enlarged. This specimen is rare and of archæological value. Its date is probably three to four years B.C., according to the other objects contained in the same tumulus. It is executed in a very archaic and yet spirited workmanship. It is interesting to note that the sitting attitude of labour which is here seen is that which is still adopted by the women of Crete. A special chair, termed *σκαμνος* in the island, has been devised to facilitate delivery in that position.