

Minoan palaces. Some archaeologists had already had strong suspicions of Mycenaean influence there in the Late Minoan II period. The decipherment has proved them right.

Professor Beattie, in the *Journal of Hellenic Studies*, vol. lxxvi (1956), still declined to accept the validity of Ventris's decipherment, and a 'special correspondent' in a respectable Sunday newspaper did his worst to kindle controversy; but this can only be looked on as a rearguard skirmish. It should be noted that Professor Beattie's article was written before the publication of Ventris and Chadwick's *Documents in Mycenaean Greek* (Cambridge, 1956), and that it was partly based on misunderstandings as to the actual methods of decipherment employed. Virtually all other scholars both in this country and abroad have been convinced. Their joint efforts in the study of the texts have already thrown much new light on the history of the Greek language, on the Mycenaean world, and on the relation to it of the Homeric world. Difficulties still remain even in understanding the texts; and Linear A and the Cypriot linear script (Suppl. Pl. CLXXVIII (c)) still present new worlds to conquer; but there is no doubt that Ventris's decipherment of Linear B is the greatest event in Greek studies for many decades past.

## CORRESPONDENCE

*Comprehensive schools, we are told, count their pupils in thousands. A correspondent reports evidence that there may be danger in numbers.*

### EDITORI COLMANVS S.D.P.

Certiozem te facere volo me nuper lapidem carmen subrusticum continentem vidisse, cuius exemplar perperam exaratum subiungo. mortem, ut videtur, archididascali cuiusdam narrat poeta. haud scio an scholae dictae comprehensivae praefuerit vir ille infelix. nihil sane huiusmodi in schola nostra evenisse memoriae proditum est. vale. dabam Salopiae in schola regia.

Non procul hinc fertur ludi periisse magister  
 quem rapuit fato mors necopina novo.  
 namque per ambages vasti dum devius errat  
 gymnasii, oppressit languida membra fames.  
 praetereunt stolido pueri bis mille iacentem  
 agmine, nec quisquam quis sit et unde rogat.  
 sic positum quid mirum ingens si turba reliquit?  
 nulli vel facie (credite) notus erat.