

This is a most important concession and one of great moment at this time, for the Isthmus of Corinth and the site of the ancient city of that name have never been excavated. This region, therefore, promises to be a most fruitful field of research. The point which renders it exceptionally promising is the fact that the site of the city of Corinth is now a flat plain with no buildings of any kind about; not as in too many cases the site of some new town or city, rendering excavation almost impossible or only at great cost. So those in charge have every facility to aid them in their search, for Corinth presents a chance of finding remains the equals of any yet discovered. This city, for years one of the leading powers in Greece, was the trade centre and mart for all land traffic between Northern Greece and the Peloponnesus. Here, too, were held the famous Pythian games, which drew together people from all Greece, who contributed each their part to make the city wealthy and beautiful. Corinth was also a great center of art, and held within its walls many masterpieces of sculpture and architecture. It is true that many of these works were destroyed or taken away to Rome by Mummius when he sacked the city in the second century, B.C., but many must have escaped him, and these are now within the grasp of American explorers. If all goes well the result of their work should prove of incalculable value and throw new light on many points of Greek art and history now dark.

THE improvements which W. H. Soulby has lately added to the microphone, or "sound magnifier," make it one of the most marvellous mechanical contrivances of the age. The special construction of this instrument is of no particular interest to any one except experts, but what is told of its wonderful powers as a magnifier of sounds will entertain young and old, as well as the scientific and unscientific readers of "Notes for the Curious." After the instrument had been completed with the exception of a few finishing touches, Soulby found it absolutely necessary to keep the door of his workshop tightly closed, so as to admit no sounds from the outside, otherwise the inarticulate rumblings given off by the "ejector" would have become unbearable. Even with closed doors the cap had to be kept constantly in place on the receiver to keep the instrument from sending forth a roar, which previous investigation had proved to be a combination of sounds produced by watch beats, breathing, the hum of flies, etc. A fly walking across the receiver of the instrument made a sound equal to a horse crossing a bridge, and when Mr. Soulby laid his arm across the box the blood rushing in his veins gave forth a sound which much resembled that made by the pump of a large steam engine. The playing of a piano in a house across the street was, when ejected from Soulby's machine, like the roar of an avalanche, and the washing of dishes in the kitchen of a house across the alley made a sound which the inventor says was a "burden to his soul." When anyone entered the room, walked about, coughed, touched the table or door handles, the shriek which issued from the ejector was most painful to hear. Hundreds of uses have been suggested for the microphone, the most practical being those of blood circulation and lung test.