

**THE HOUSE OF THE VETTII AT POMPEII.**

The excavations at Pompeii have for quite a long time been uninteresting; commonplace houses, amphoræ and human remains have been found, but nothing of special note. At last, in 1894, the House of the Vettii was discovered at Pompeii, and the excavations have been continued during the last two years. The excavations which led to the discovery of this important house were in what was known as the Sixth Region, at the north of the city. It was soon discovered that it was the habitation of a Pompeiian of rank and that the house was one of the greatest importance. The removal of the rubbish was conducted with all possible care, and the result was that the house, which was one of the most interesting in Pompeii, has been kept in the most excellent state of preservation. The authorities who have charge of the excavations made the necessary repairs to the roof and pillars and restored the gardens. Contrary to the usual course, the paintings and statues were not removed to the museum at Naples, but were left in situ. It is a matter of history that the Vettii were among the principal citizens that Pompeii numbered in the year 79 A. D. All the Vettii then occupied or aspired to high municipal offices, so that it is little wonder that their house rivals the finest specimens of Roman habitations with which we are acquainted.

The house is a large one, having a ninety-seven foot front. Near the entrance is found the room of the doorkeeper, with two wall paintings in it. There are two atriums, and the dining room was on the second floor. Beyond the tablinum is a great court with eighteen Corinthian columns and at the foot of each column is a statue and fountain, the water being supplied from the street.

There is another small court adjoining this one, and there is also another dining room with many pictures of Cupid and Psyche on the walls. The peristyle, which we show in our engraving, contained many statuettes and fountains and various tables, some of them with hollowed surfaces and some with circular tops supported by griffins. All of these are of white marble. The frescoes on the walls vary greatly. Some of them are among the finest which have ever been obtained from the wonderful buried city, while others are wretched. All of them help, however, to give an idea of what the Roman painter of the time considered

as the proper scheme for a decoration, and as such they are very valuable memoranda.

The entablature in the peristyle is nearly intact and the columns are well preserved. The action of the government in leaving each of the decorative features of the house intact almost doubles the value of the house to the archæologist, to say nothing of the casual

**KITCHEN, HOUSE OF THE VETTII, POMPEII.**

visitor. The Vettii might also live over again their old life in their house. They would find again in the interior garden of their habitation the groups of flowers which they may have contemplated on the morning of their catastrophe. Most of the houses in Pompeii look so bare and desolate that this house is a great relief.

Our small engraving shows the kitchen, with the bronze kettle on the hearth in the exact position in which it was when it was overwhelmed by the shower of ashes. Some other metal vessels will be noted at the right of the engraving. The large white object in the center is the front of the oven. It is composed of cement.

One reason that the remains which are found at Pompeii are so interesting is that the city had been destroyed by an earthquake some sixteen years before the eruption, so that the entire city shows the taste of

one epoch. Pompeii was really a summer resort, and is comparable to something between Newport and Long Branch.

**Robert Edwin Dietz.**

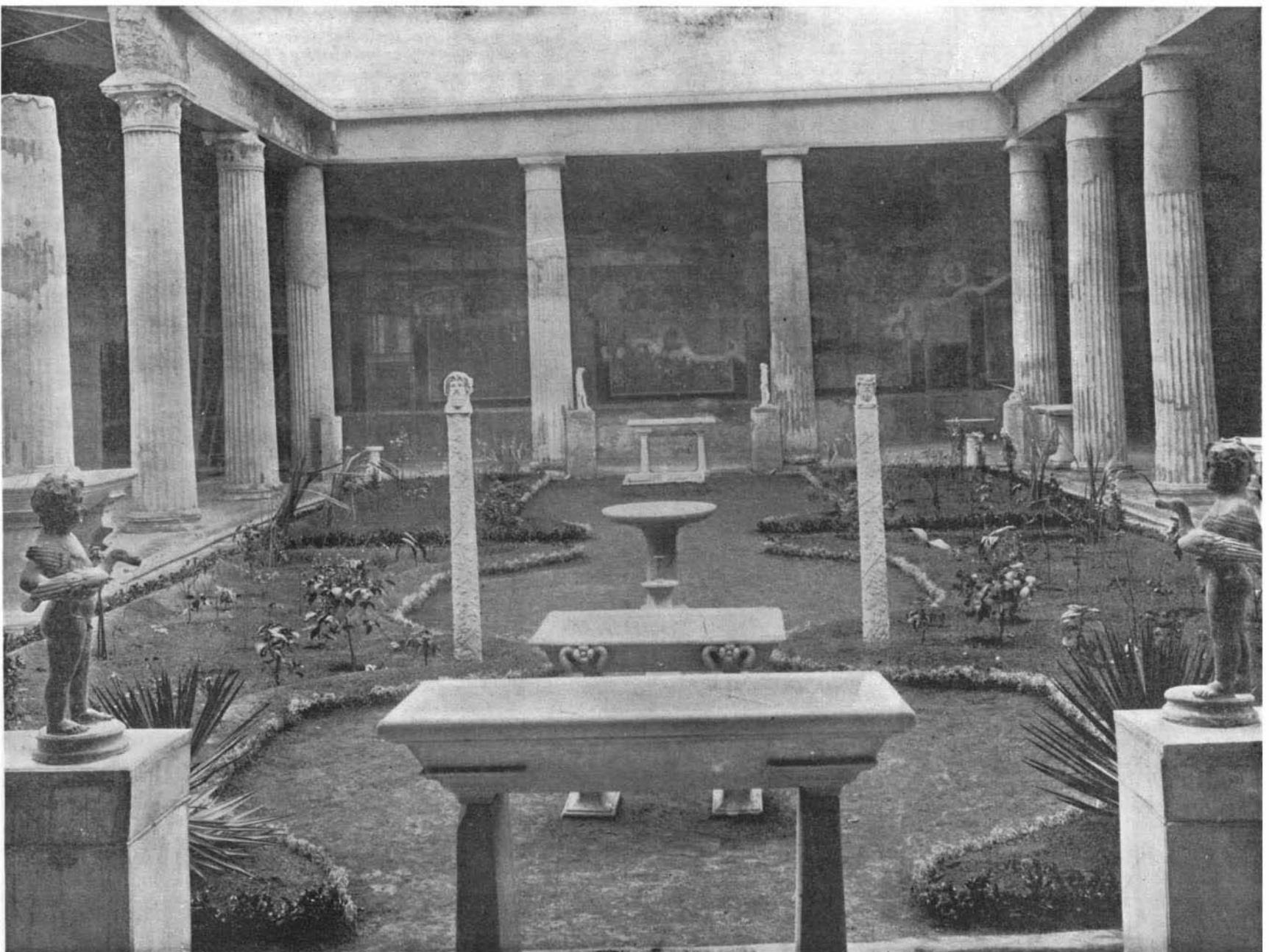
Mr. Dietz, who died in his ninetieth year at his home in Hempstead, Long Island, N. Y., on September 19, was noted for his energy as a manufacturer and promoter of improvements in the city of New York. He survived six brothers and three sisters. He began business in a hardware store and in 1840 started in the manufacture of lamps, burners, gas fixtures, etc., being a pioneer in this line.

When the famous opera singer, Jenny Lind, first appeared in America, the contract was awarded to Dietz Brothers & Company to illuminate Castle Garden for the opening, and when the great showman, P. T. Barnum, opened his first museum, on the southeast corner of Broadway and Ann Street, where the tall St. Paul office building now stands, his firm had the contract to fit it throughout with gas fixtures.

When coal oil, or kerosene, first came into use, he and his brothers, in 1857, invented the first flat wick chimney burner. In 1868 Mr. Dietz took up the manufacture of a new hand lantern called the tubular, which has largely superseded all other kerosene lanterns and has a world-wide reputation.

The R. E. Dietz Company, of which Mr. R. E. Dietz was the founder and former president, are large manufacturers of lamps, lanterns, etc., in this city, having branch houses in Chicago and London, England, and give employment to several hundred men.

The articles of incorporation of a ship canal to pierce the Florida peninsula have been filed in New York State, the capital being \$75,000,000. The assent of the Tallahassee Legislature has been secured and there seems some possibility of the canal being built, still a \$75,000,000 canal for Florida would be an ambitious enterprise, in view of the fact that the Erie Canal only cost about \$51,000,000 and the Suez Canal \$101,000,000. The projectors say that the canal would be of the greatest importance to the commercial interests of this country. The width of the waterway will be 200 feet through its entire length, and it is thought that it will take five years to complete the canal.

**PERISTYLE OF THE HOUSE OF THE VETTII, POMPEII.**