

and where Ismenus gives answer by fire.

For the city, as thou thyself seest, is now too sorely vexed, and can no more lift her head from beneath the angry waves of death; a blight is on her in the fruitful blossoms of the land,

11. 4 the Theban heroines are asked to come πὰρ Μελίαν (because she shared Apollo's temple) 'to the holy treasure-house of golden tripods, which Loxias hath honoured exceedingly, and hath named it *Ismenian*, a truthful seat of oracles' (MSS. *μαντείων*, not *μαντίων*, Fennell): for the tripod dedicated by the *δαφναφόρος*, or priest of Ismenian Apollo, see Paus. 9. 10. 4. Her. saw offerings dedicated by Croesus to Amphiaraus ἐν τῷ νηῷ τοῦ Ἰσμηνίου Ἀπόλλωνος (1. 52), and notices inscriptions there (5. 59). The Ἰσμήνιον, the temple at Abae in Phocis, and that on the hill Πτώων to the E. of Lake Copais, were, after Delphi, the chief shrines of Apollo in N. Greece. 24 βυθῶν, 'from the depths,' *i.e.* out of the trough of the waves which rise around. Cp. *Ant.* 337 περιβρυχίοισιν | περῶν ὑπ' οἰδμασιν, *under* swelling waves which threaten to engulf him. *Arat.* 426 ὑπόβρυχα ναυτίλλονται. φοινίου here merely poet. for θανασίμου, as *Tr.* 770 φοινίας | ἐχθρᾶς ἐχίδνης ἰός. But in *Ai.* 351 φοινία ζάλη—the madness which drove Ajax to *bloodshed*. ἔτ' οὐχ οἶα τε: for position of ἔτι, cp. *Trach.* 161 ὡς ἔτ' οὐκ ὦν, *Phil.* 1217 ἔτ' οὐδέν εἰμι. With οἶός τε the verb is often omitted, as 1415, *O. C.* 1136, *Tr.* 742, *Ar. Eq.* 343. 25 φθίνουσα μὲν κ.τ.λ. The anger of heaven is shown (1) by a *blight* (φθίνουσα) on the fruits of the ground, on flocks and on child-birth: (2) by a *pestilence* (λοιμός) which ravages the town. Cp. 171 ff. For the threefold blight, Her. 6. 139 ἀποκτείνασι δὲ τοῖσι Πελασγοῖσι τοὺς σφετέρους παῖδάς τε καὶ γυναῖκας οὔτε γῆ καρπὸν ἔφερε οὔτε γυναῖκές τε καὶ ποῖμναι ὁμοίως ἔτικτον καὶ πρὸ τοῦ: Aeschin. *In Ctes.* § 111 μήτε γῆν καρποὺς φέρειν μήτε γυναῖκας τέκνα τίκτειν γονεῦσιν εἰκότα, ἀλλὰ τέρατα, μήτε βοσκήματα κατὰ φύσιν γονὰς ποιέισθαι. Schneid. and Blaydes cp. Philostratus *Vit. Apoll.* 3. 20, p. 51. 21 ἢ γῆ οὐ ξυνεχώρει αὐτοῖς ἴστασθαι· τήν τε γὰρ σπορὰν ἦν ἐς αὐτὴν ἐποιοῦντο, πρὶν ἐς κάλυκα ἦκειν, ἔφθειρε, τοὺς τε τῶν γυναικῶν τόκους ἀτελείς ἐποίει, καὶ τὰς ἀγέλας πονηρῶς ἔβοσκεν. 25 κάλυξιν ἐγκάρποις. The datives mark the points or parts in which the land φθίνει. κάλυξ ἐγκάρπος is the shell or case which encloses immature fruit,—whether the blossom of fruit-trees, or the ear of wheat or barley: Theophr. *Hist. Plant.* 8. 2. 4 (of κριθή and πυρός) πρὶν ἂν προαυξηθεῖς (ὅ