

a correspondence between the attitude of the left leg and that of the right arm, or *vice versa*,—a symmetry obtained by an artificial balance of movements¹. It is noteworthy that a standing or walking Philoctetes occurs only on engraved gems, and in one mural painting at Pompeii (of about 30 B.C.) which may also have been suggested by the Syracusan statue. (ii) A very beautiful Athenian vase-painting, of about 350 B.C., shows Philoctetes sitting on a rock in Lemnos, under the leafless branches of a stunted tree; his head is bowed, as if in dejection; the bandaged left foot is propped on a stone, and the left hand clasps the left knee². He wears a sleeveless Doric chiton, girt round the waist; at his right side the bow and arrows rest on the ground. It is probable that the source of this vase-painting was a picture by Parrhasius, who is known to have taken Philoctetes for his subject at a date slightly earlier than that to which the vase is referred. The distinctive feature here is the predominance of mental over physical pain;—a conception which might have been suggested to the painter by the Attic dramatists. (iii) In a third series of representations, Philoctetes reclines on the ground, fanning his wounded foot with the wing of a bird, or with a branch. This type occurs only on gems, and appears to have been originated by Boethus of Chalcidon, a gem-engraver of high repute, who lived probably in the early part of the third century B.C.³

Some other scenes found on works of art, in which Philoctetes is no longer alone, were directly inspired by Attic Tragedy. An engraved gem, now in the British Museum, represents the theft of the bow by Odysseus, as Aeschylus appears to have imagined it⁴. Euripides has been the source of some reliefs

¹ Such equipoise was technically called 'chiasmus,'—a term borrowed from the form of the Greek X, and transferred from rhetoric to sculpture.

² *Ib.* p. 80. Milani has chosen this picture as the frontispiece of his monograph. The vase is an aryballos, now the property of Sign. A. Castellani, of Rome.

³ *Ib.* pp. 85 ff., and *Nuovi Monumenti*, p. 275.—It has been conjectured that the *Philoctetes* of Aeschylus was the literary source used by Boethus. This is not improbable (see next note). But it is not likely that the winged creatures which the sufferer fanned away from his foot are the *δκορνοι* ('locusts') or *φάβες* ('wild pigeons') which were mentioned in that play (fr. 251 f., ed. Nauck).

⁴ The gem is a sardonyx intaglio, no. 829 in the Hertz collection, and shows the