divided into two areas—'a disaster area, where agriculture was completely disrupted' and 'a survival area'. Only in reference to Carpenter's hypothesis was this mentioned. Nor was it stated, or assumed, as alleged, that 'Mycenaean civilization was destroyed in a sudden cataclysm'. In fact, no statement of any kind was made about the rapidity with which either climatic change or cultural response occurred or might have occurred.

Only two issues were central to the paper. The first was whether Carpenter's proposed drought pattern was possible, and the second was whether such a drought actually occurred at the proposed time. Climatic, rather than archaeological, data was the basis of the analysis. The archaeological evidence cited by Dickinson does not seem inconsistent with a time of troubles induced, at least in part, by a prolonged drought. Certainly it does not disprove the climatic analysis. Perhaps people with Dr Dickinson's grasp of the archaeological data may someday determine the role that such a drought might have played in the history of Mycenae. We hope they will consider our analysis of the climate, not as a theory of cultural decline, but as an environmental factor pertinent to the archaeological analysis.

A pottery drawing aid

This addition to our occasional contributions on technical aids for archaeologists comes from Mr. B. J. N. Edwards, FSA, Archaeology Officer for Lancashire (Lancashire Record Office, Preston).

The device to be described is an aid to the drawing of pottery for archaeological purposes which is simple both to make and to use. It consists of a square of clear 'Perspex' (12 in. square is a useful size) on one side of which are incised a number of concentric circles. The diameters of these are indicated on the surface and a calibrated scale runs up the left side. Precise details, such as the interval between successive circles and the manner of indicating their diameters (or radii, if preferred) can be left to individual choice, as can the decision to employ metric units or otherwise.* My own, having been made some years ago, is non-metric and the interval between diameters of successive circles is $\frac{1}{4}$ in. The diameters are marked outside the circle to which they refer and a note incised on the device 'DIAM. INS. LINE INSIDE' reminds the user of the facts that diameters, not radii, are indicated; that they are in inches; and that the line lies inside the figure which refers to it. All incisions are easily done with a pair of dividers and lettering in reverse is easier to do than it looks, if one prefers all the scribing to be on the underside.

The method of use, seen in FIG. 1*a*, where only a few circles are shown for the sake of clarity, is simply a refinement of the 'concentric-circles-on-paper' method of determining the size of rim from which a rim-sherd has been broken. Its use avoids the necessity of 'standing on one's head' and, more important, the relationship of the sherd to circles of smaller diameter than that with which it is being compared can be seen at the same time as the relationship to larger ones. It is suggested that the values of the circles should be placed in a line towards the top left corner, since this is the area least likely to be obscured by a right-handed user.

In FIG. 1*b* the device is seen used as a square, to help in the drawing of a profile of a complete vessel. This can be adapted to the drawing of a base-sherd plus some profile, or of a rim-sherd plus some wall. Having determined the diameter of the base (by measurement, if it is complete, or by the use of the device in the manner described above, if not) a circle of that diameter is drawn on a sheet of paper. One radius is drawn (XY) and produced beyond the circumference. The pot is centred on the circle and the device placed on the produced radius in such a manner that its vertical side touches the pot at its maximum (or maximum surviving) diameter. Point A is marked on the produced radius and XA, corresponding to the diameter

* Not any more, please! The Production Editor is anxious to discard her conversion tables and be relieved of that tiresome chore, still imposed on her by some of our authors (Ed.).

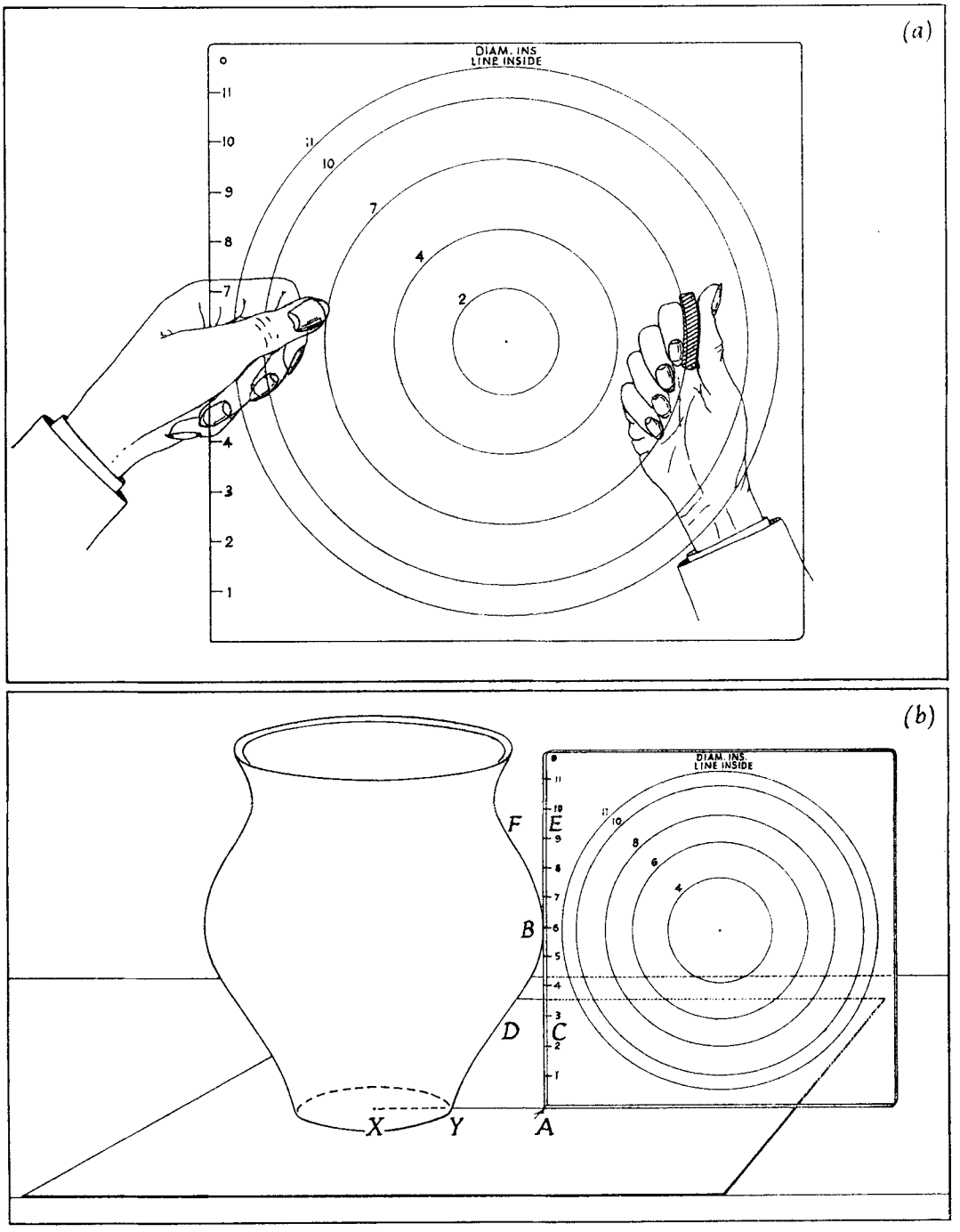

Fig. 1 (a). Method of use; (b) the device in use as a square

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