

out a handsome peasant woman with a lusty baby at her breast, and turning to our guide enquired, with an air of maternal interest, "E suo?" ("Yours?")

Meleda is a volcanic island, and this may account for the striking difference between its flora and that of other Dalmatian islands and seaboard. The famous "detonations of Meleda", which continued from March to September 1822, were attributed to volcanic activities at work.

Leaving Porto Palazzo, with Sabbioncello still on our left, we pass the mouth of the inlet on the mainland at whose inner recess lies Stagno Grande, with its Ragusan fortifications running up the hill, hardly two kilometres away from Stagno Piccolo on the Narentine estuary, across the low neck that just prevents Sabbioncello from being an island. Stagno Piccolo is more picturesque than Stagno Grande. The little town is enclosed in walls that reach up to a circular fort; all of it is Ragusan work.

We now leave the channel between Meleda and Sabbioncello and, opposite Slano, turn sharp in towards the mainland shore, taking the channel that runs between the mainland and the islands of the lesser Archipelago, Giuppana and Mezzo. Mezzo is worth a visit, best made from Ragusa in con-