

VIEW FROM THE CHÂTEAU DE L'ESPÉRANCE.



A CITADEL OF HOPE:

THE HON. LADY MURRAY'S HOME OF REST
FOR AUTHORS AND ARTISTS.

By E. LEUTY COLLINS.

THE Riviera is the luxury of the rich. Year

after year the great social world flits there to enjoy its sunshine, its warm south winds, its wealth of flowers, while most of us, less favoured by fortune, are sitting in darkness, bitten by the sharp east winds of a London spring. For those who enjoy fairly good health this is only one of many forms of taking the rough with the smooth. For those who suffer from weak lungs, or even less serious affections which make a winter abroad imperative if health is to be restored, it is a heart-aching deprivation that on the score of expense the Riviera is impossible. "He tells me to go abroad," we have ourselves heard a hard-worked young writer with a short purse say after an interview with a great chest specialist. "I told him I could more easily go to heaven."

It is for people of this last type that Lady Murray's Home of Rest at Antibes, near Cannes, is especially designed. She has called the beautiful villa she possesses there, with its commanding views of a country which is the garden of the South as Merv is the garden of the East, the *Château de l'Espérance*, and indeed it is well calculated to bring hope to lives where hopelessness is unnatural, intolerable. Lady Murray's aim has been to provide a home for artists and

authors in search of rest after an illness which has made immediate return to work impossible, and a residence of a few weeks or months in a warm climate necessary, or at



THE HON. LADY MURRAY.
Photo by Byrne, Richmond.

least advisable, if they are ever to regain strength to resume their work. It will be seen that this is more or less an original scheme, devised in the interests of those who have hitherto been neglected by philanthropists, and whose position in the world is such that their hardships are for the most part unknown. There are homes for the aged and the dying, homes for the consumptive, homes for the incurable, there are

the young alone, but it strikes us that it is to them in particular that it will be a means of salvation from life-long disappointment, from invalidism, from failure. It is the young author, insecurely established in his profession, the young artist, who has worked and gained no prizes, to whom the verdict "A winter abroad would set you up," has hitherto brought bitterness because of its impossibility. We can imagine how their despair of being able to work again will be lightened—

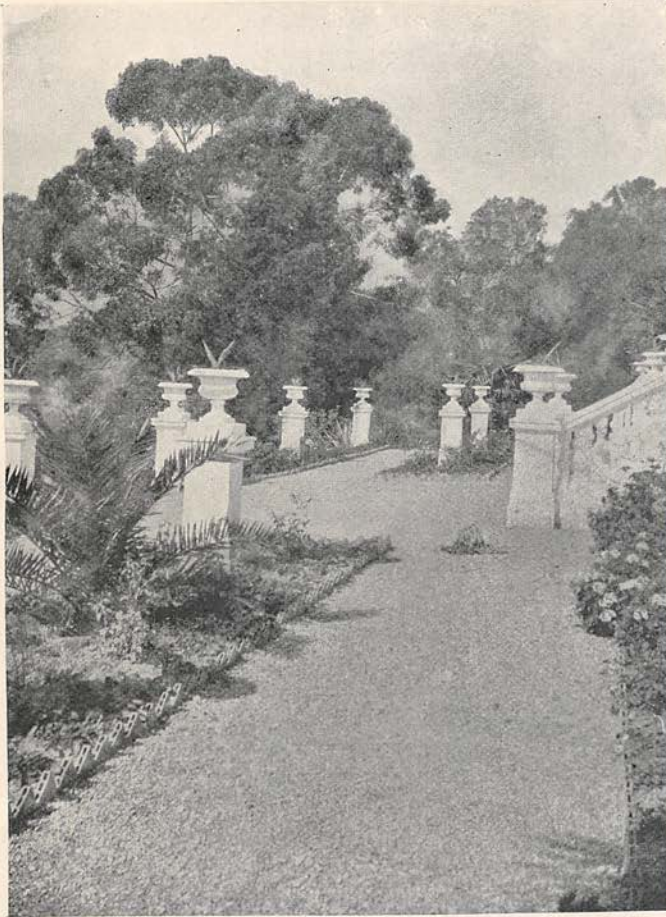
How soon a smile of God can change the world—

when they hear of Lady Murray's home and realise that the coveted South is within their reach, that rest is within their reach, at last.

It will be as well to give a summary of the rules Lady Murray has laid down for the guidance of those who desire to go to the Château de l'Espérance. First, the health of the applicant must be such as to make a winter in a mild climate necessary, or at least advisable. Second, he must be unable to obtain this without assistance. Third, his medical advisers must be able to give some hope of his being able to return to his work after the benefit of a winter abroad. Fourth, those admitted must pay their journey expenses, and a pound a week for board and lodging.

Antibes is only a few miles from Cannes, and Messrs. Cook have recently arranged to issue tickets to Antibes direct, the price of a return ticket, second class, of six weeks' duration, being £7 4s. 6d. The health-giving properties of the air

are, of course, well known. It is soft, balmy, yet fresh and exhilarating. As to the beauty of the country in which Antibes is situated, it needs no praise; but the immediate surroundings of the Château de l'Espérance are particularly attractive, being finely wooded and undulating. In the grounds the terrace shown in the illustration is a charming feature, and the views from every part of the garden are a delight to the eye.



THE TERRACE.

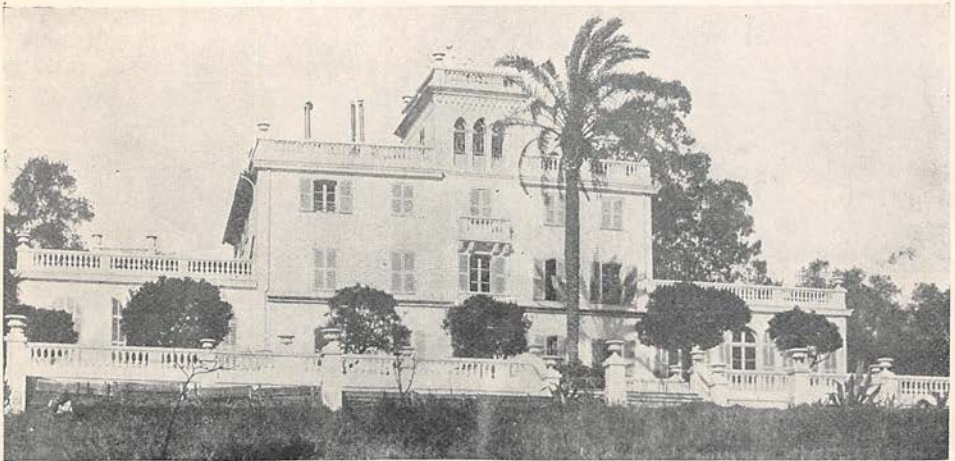
institutions for the relief of indigent authors who have fallen on evil times, but there are, we believe, no homes which take into account the bitter needs of the young and ardent workers in literature and art who through illness are thrown out of the race, with small chance of entering it again if they are not helped through the period of enforced inactivity. Not that Lady Murray offers her harbour of refuge in southern sunshine to

The interior of the Château is equal to its fine, well-proportioned exterior. The rooms are lofty and spacious and bright with sunshine. It would be impossible to imagine a more cheery place for a young author or artist, suffering from the depression natural after illness, and which bears so hardly upon that kind of temperament. Lady Murray has secured the services of an Englishman to see to the comfort and amusement of the visitors. She herself lives at Cannes during the winter months, and takes a lively interest in the welfare of the institution which owes its existence to her.

One word as to the circumstances which led Lady Murray to conceive and carry into execution the project of the Château de l'Espérance. She is a daughter of Lord Castletown, and widow of the Right Hon. Sir Charles Murray, K.C.B., younger son of Lord Dunmore, who was for many years employed in important posts in the Diplomatic Service. Sir Charles was successively Envoy and Minister Plenipotentiary to the Courts of Sweden, Portugal, and Persia. After his death Lady Murray's chief hopes and interests were centred in her only son, who

while still very young showed promise of a distinguished career. He was an extraordinarily good linguist, and published articles in French in some of the leading French reviews. Not long ago he went to America, and on the voyage home he met with a tragically sudden death, being accidentally poisoned by a remedy for sea-sickness. He was young, strong, gifted, and had enough motive power to drive a dozen lives. His death was a cruel blow to his mother, but with the fortitude of generous souls, which catastrophe cannot overcome and pessimism cannot invade, she determined not to spend her life in useless grief, but in some practical way to attempt the alleviation of a fragment of the great mass of pain in the world. We have mentioned this pathetic incident in Lady Murray's life because it serves to show the source from which the Home for Authors and Artists at Antibes has sprung, and why these brain-workers in particular were chosen for the good work.

The Château de l'Espérance was open for its first season until April the 15th of this year, and will reopen on November 15th, and remain open until April, 1900.



CHÂTEAU DE L'ESPÉRANCE.