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PALERMO

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* * Centre for Archaeological
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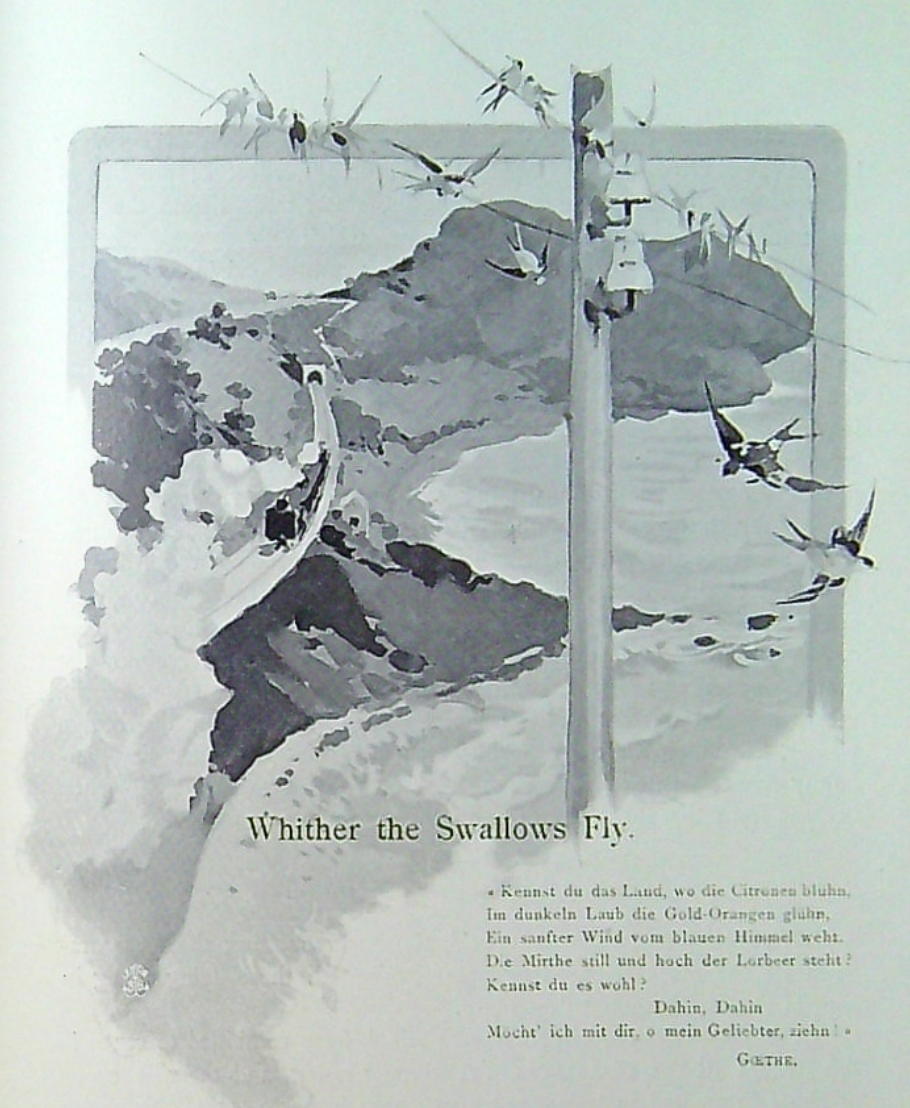
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ôtel Villa Igiea „

A. Pachler.



Whither the Swallows Fly.

* Kennst du das Land, wo die Citronen blühen,
 Im dunkeln Laub die Gold-Orangen glühen,
 Ein sanfter Wind vom blauen Himmel weht,
 Die Myrthe still und hoch der Lorbeer steht?
 Kennst du es wohl?

Dahin, Dahin
 Möcht' ich mit dir, o mein Geliebter, ziehn!

GÖTHE.

In our modern society the search after recreation or the restoration of health, or the dictates of fashion, have extended the interests of life far beyond the boundaries of one's own country, or the aegis of one's household gods. Nomadic restlessness and an intense craving for fresh sensations, fresh emotions, are the forms in which our ideas of enjoyment, take shape now-a-days.

The dreary routine of the ancestral home is gradually giving way to a desire for change and the refined pleasures which are to be found in the natural attractions, charms and advantages of the different countries and places of international resort.

Whether it be at the behest of our nervous system, overwrought by the feverish pressure of modern life; or the effect of progress in therapeutic science — which finds in air, water and climate the best safeguards against those insidious diseases which endanger our health — or our ever expanding culture and increasing desire to see and learn for ourselves; or the result of easier, more convenient and speedier means of communication; be it all this and more, there is the plain fact that the number of people who spend the whole, or at least a part, of their lives abroad, far from their native land, is increasing more and more every day, with a corresponding increase in the number of places adding to and perfecting their blandishments to attract the joyous company of cosmopolitan visitors.

By far the greatest number of these human swallows is, of course, recruited from the ranks of those who cannot boast of a constitution hardened to the inclemencies of a severe and uncertain climate and who are therefore irresistibly attracted to countries where the sun hardly ever ceases to smile, where the frosts and fogs of northern regions, the ocean storms and the scorching heat of torrid climes are unknown, where the almond tree and the violet bloom and bud in the benign winter, heralding the early spring with its glad lightsome days and balmy flower-scented air, the precursor of a summer tempered by gentle breezes from the sea, and where umbrageous retreats abound,

Where the earth is redolent of oranges and palms
Where the pallid olive is mirrored in the sea.

Of all regions in the old world, those surrounding the Mediterranean are the most favoured by nature, of which those lying along its central shores claim the first place.

A concatenation of circumstances which have combined to centre in the Riviera all the advantages of a climatic resort, and the wise action of those interested in its advancement, have hitherto caused this region to take first rank in the affections of the generality of people who feel the want of a genial climate and an equable temperature during the most trying and uncertain seasons of the year.

Recently, however, the tide of fashion — set chiefly by the English — has turned in favour of the land of the Pharaohs, notwithstanding the horrid immensity of its dreadful desert and the dangers of the diseases which scourge the East, and the shores of Nice and Cannes have been deserted for the banks of the Nile.

The hotels and resorts of Alexandria and Cairo rival Monte Carlo and Nice in mundane attractions, and in the eager hunt after pleasure,



the thermometer,
barometer and bills of
mortality are forgotten. Men
of science, however, who allot to
distractions and amusements the very
limited part they should play in the search

of health; and doctors who think that rest moderately relieved by amusement, but not disturbed by excessive activity, is the essential thing for anyone seeking in the gifts of nature a restoration to strength, and the most favourable conditions in which to combat the diseases threatening his health, the doctors look upon these climatic resorts from quite a different point of view and are not led away by the clamorous and pertinacious puffs of the advertiser.

As our best climatologists become more and more acquainted with the health resorts whose reputations are based, not so much on the gaiety contributed to them by the revellers of two worlds as on the advantages with which nature has endowed them, they fix a scale of gradation which it is not advisable for anyone to ignore.

Our modern medical men, while fully recognising the many excellencies of the Riviera, are beginning to realise its inferiority to other localities from the point of view of natural beauty and therapeutical properties of the climate; they are beginning to reckon up the not slight disadvantages which the unduly active life led by the habitués of the present fashionable resorts may entail upon anyone whose chief desire is health and the undisturbed repose of mind and body.

A well-known German physician, speaking of the Riviera, bewailed the close proximity of the mountains to the coast line and the want of long beautiful and level promenades enlivened by views of the sea and the prospect of distant mountains, and concluded his wise remarks by saying that the promenades on the Riviera are like so many inclined

planes converging on the Casino at Monte Carlo, so that when we go out to take the air and enjoy the beauties of nature we find ourselves round a trente et quarante table before we are aware of it.

There is no doubt a great deal of truth in this brilliant paradox: take away the relative bounteous generosity of the climate, and the only beauties and attractions of which the Riviera can boast are all of the artificial variety, among which the most alluring are the least select and the most pernicious.

Under such circumstances Sicily was bound to attract the attention of modern hygienists; the *Pearl of the Mediterranean*, considered from time immemorial as the loveliest, healthiest and most inviting country in the Mediterranean, had to vindicate her glorious reputation and to imbue the highest scientific authorities of Europe with the enthusiasm she has evoked. The result of all this is seen principally in Palermo, where an important movement has been inaugurated for the purpose of transforming Sicily, for the benefit of the modern generation, into the terrestrial paradise which it was to our remote ancestors.

The *Pearl of the Mediterranean* is now transforming that delightful, orange-abounding plain which ancient poets styled the «Conca d'oro» or Golden Shell, into a fashionable centre, challenging those shores



which hotel-keepers have recently christened the *Côte d'Azur*. And now, at Acqua Santa near Palermo, on the slopes of classic Monte Pellegrino, we have in the Villa Igiea Grand Hotel, a climatic station which fondly proclaims its title to the first place among the most magnificent winter resorts of Europe, while in the neighbouring city all manner of attractions and advantages are to be found on every hand.

Is the enterprise too venturesome?

Let us take a rapid glance at this subject, and, with the assistance of the highest scientific authorities, study the essential properties of climate, flora and waters, and guided by the immortal pages of the greatest writers of all ages and all countries, examine the inexhaustible beauties of her landscapes, her historic monuments and relics of her fascinating past.





« Elle s'était assise sur un banc de marbre sculpté auprès d'un buisson de roses, de ces roses frêles, à peine parfumées, qui fleurissent tout l'hiver les haies de cette douce Sicile ».

P. BOURGET, *La Terre Promise*.

« Child of the mountains, among shepherds reared,
I learnt to dream of Sicily; and lo!
A pleasant promise, wafted from her shores,
Comes o'er my heart: in fancy I behold
Her seas yet smiling, her once happy vales;
Nor can my tongue give utterance to a name
Of note belonging to that honoured isle,
That doth not yield a solace to my grief ».

WORDSWORTH.

The ancient Winter Resorts and Sicily.

The walks and gardens about the principal centres of the Riviera are, it is true, enlivened by the presence of palms, witnesses and guarantors of the generous bounty of the sun, but the growth of those solitary semi-tropical plants, despite the exceptional adaptability of the particular species, is not so healthily exuberant as to hide the injury caused by the variations of temperature in Winter and Spring, or to conceal the traces of frost and the assaults of the truculent Mistral; to disguise the ignominy — for plants, born to bask for ever in the rays of the sun — of having, like Alpine pine trees, to bend their branches under snow-load. Nor, indeed can it be otherwise, while latitude continues to be more than a mere name.

And yet the spectacle of gardens rich in plants of all kinds and in all stages of luxuriant, exuberant growth, flowers beautifying the roads and perfuming the air at all seasons of the year, is the most delightful gratification to the mind and represents one of the chief enjoyments to be found in certain privileged localities. For variety of flora, not only imparts the greatest pleasure to our most refined senses, it is not only an infallible testimony to the good properties of the climate; but it is, above all, the essential element in proof of the greater purity of the atmosphere, of its greater wealth in emanations more wholly beneficial and advantageous to a delicate constitution.

From this point of view, Sicily, which had gradually secured the recognition of our best physicians, has now attained to such a prominent position as to render it incumbent to proclaim the fact far and wide. Situated in the centre of the Mediterranean, this happy isle which the ancients knew and valued more than later generations have ever done, glowing with warmth, but not scorched by the sun, bathed by brief and copious showers but not damp, absolutely free from cold, fog and frost, placed in the warm blue sea which surrounds and laps on all sides, this happy isle is now beginning to secure among her sisters on the Mediterranean, that prominent position which is her due for her exuberant natural beauty and incomparable salubriousness: that position, to which she is entitled by being sufficiently remote from the snow-clad Alps not to be affected by the cold, and not too near the coast of Africa to be burnt up by the sun even in the winter season.

This fortunate superiority of Sicily, undeniable by all who know her, is further supplemented by the incredible and exclusive splendours which she possesses in her enchanting Conca d'Oro, that verdant bed of fragrant *zagara* and golden oranges, in which Palermo lies in luxuriant ease.

In a long article on *Sicily as a health resort* published recently in the *Lancet* of London, dwelling on the enormous advantages of an abundant, varied and vigorous flora as an element in a healthy climate and a proof of its mild temperature, the writer says:

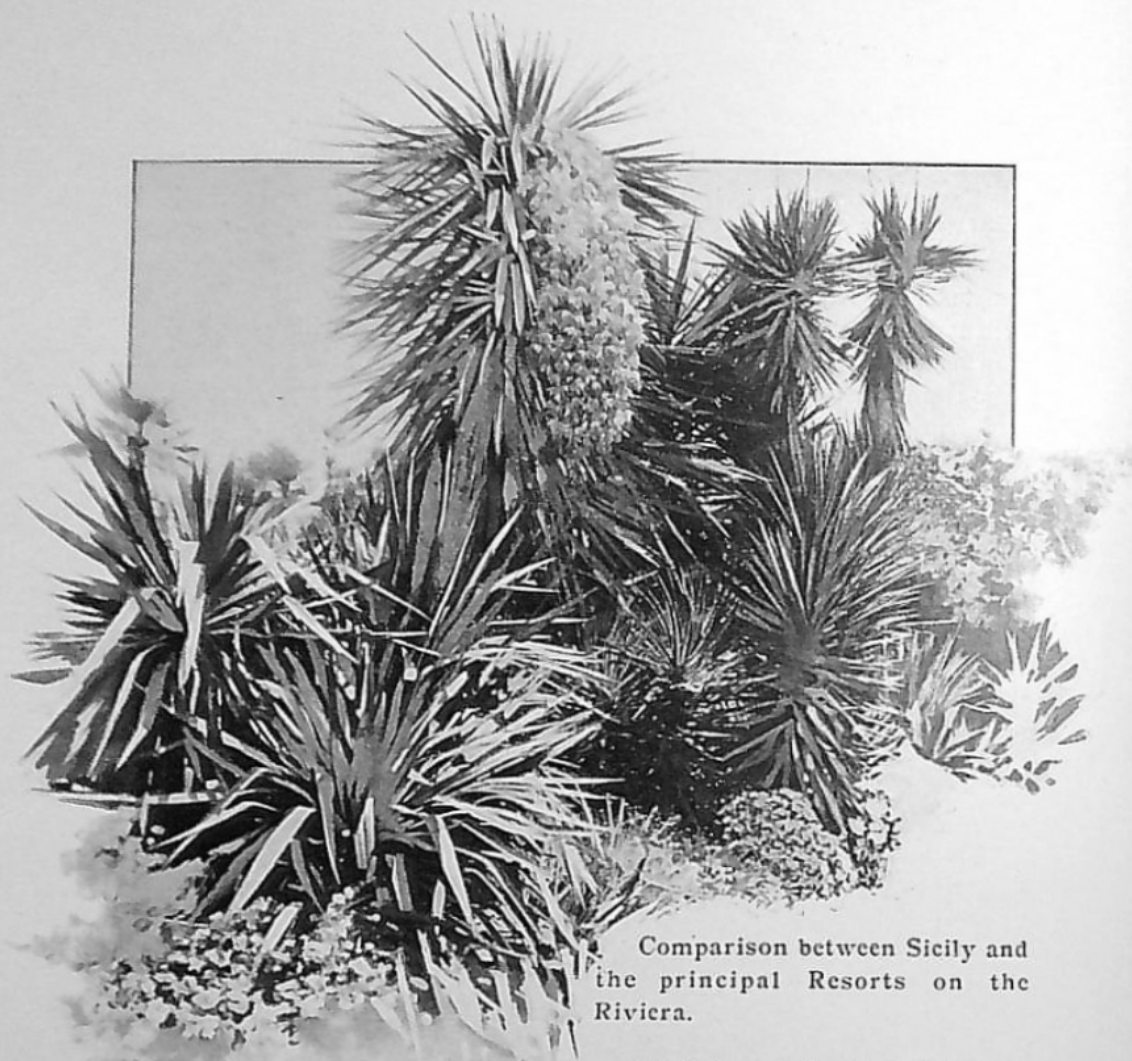
« The flora of the *Conca d'oro* is one of the richest and most varied in the world and the attempts that have been made there to acclimatise tropical and sub-tropical plants have succeeded beyond the most daring expectations. Warmth and uniformity of temperature, copious showers, the almost entire absence of frost and severe colds and, finally, a position largely sheltered from inclement weather, all combine to render Palermo the Paradise of botanists. There are few other places where so many plants, belonging to regions remotely apart, may be found flourishing side by side and which evidently find in the soil and climate the necessary elements in which to develop and reach maturity. »

The infallible index supplied by the flora as to the exceptional equableness of the climate of Sicily generally and Palermo in particular, is amply confirmed by the positive and comparative meteorological statistics.

We take the following data from the above-mentioned valuable article in the *Lancet*.



Nice - The snow.



Comparison between Sicily and the principal Resorts on the Riviera.

The following table sets forth the difference in medium temperature, in the places given below, during winter and spring.

Nizza		Mentone		San Remo		Palermo		Catania	
Fahr.	Cent.	Fahr.	Cent.	Fahr.	Cent.	Fahr.	Cent.	Fahr.	Cent.
November 53.8	= 12.1	54.1	= 12.3	53.54	= 11.9	60.58	= 15.8	61.05	= 16.1
December 48.5	= 9.1	49.7	= 9.8	49.25	= 9.5	54.55	= 12.5	53.76	= 12.1
January 47.	= 8.3	49.	= 9.4	47.23	= 8.4	51.60	= 10.9	49.51	= 9.7
February 48.4	= 9.1	48.6	= 9.2	50.19	= 10.1	52.90	= 11.6	52.67	= 10.9
March 51.8	= 11.	50.7	= 10.4	52.	= 11.1	56.01	= 13.3	54.52	= 12.5

The *Lancet* supplements these figures with the following significant remarks:—



« The superiority of the Sicilian resorts in the months of winter and spring is made strikingly evident by the genial warmth prevailing during these seasons. As a proof of the mildness or severity of the climate we need only note the number of times the thermometer falls to freezing point during winter. Instead of taking the statistics compiled in meteorological offices as a basis for arriving at a correct judgment on the matter, we prefer to rely on trustworthy evidence which says that freezing point is much more frequently touched at Nice, Mentone and San Remo than at Palermo or Catania. It must also be borne in mind that any considerable degree of cold is unknown in Sicily, at the sea-level, but well known, although exceptional, at the Riviera resorts. » — (The *Lancet* 3rd July 1897, No. 3853).

The same journal makes further comparisons between the climate of Sicily and the health resorts of other countries, such as those of the North which lay far in the rear, and the most famous of the South which, for one reason or the other, do not provide half the advantages to be found in Sicily.

As regards Cairo, whatever hold it may have at present on the affections of his countrymen, the well-informed writer in the *Lancet* states that, although it possesses an average minimum winter tempera-



ture some two or three degrees higher than Palermo, it fluctuates daily from 79.2 Fahr. (26.2 Cg.) and 83.7 Fahr. (28.8 Cg.) at 3.15 p.m. the hottest hour, to 38.7 Fahr. (3.7 Cg.) and 39.9 Fahr. (4.4 Cg.) at 3.15 a.m. the coldest hour, whereas the variation in Sicily is so trifling as to be quite unnoticeable. We do not require to be doctors to discern the danger accruing, even to those in the best of health, from these rapid changes of temperature in the course of one and the same day, and to conclude, in the words of the *Lancet*, that « the cardinal defect of the Egyptian climate is its lack of equability. » *Lancet* 3rd July 1897.

The limits of this notice will not admit of our quoting other comparative tables; so we will be content to add the conclusions of the *Lancet*.



« The ultimate result of the comparisons given above is to mark once more the intermediate character of the Sicilian climate — intermediate both as regards meteorological conditions and its position between Europe and Africa. — The climate of Sicily is, in summer and winter, exempt from excessive heat and cold, with a regular average moisture and a regular average daily temperature. It possesses, moreover, a high average of sunshine and fine days and may be said to be free from fogs or other inconvenience of any consequence, with the exception of the scirocco which is, however, a very rare and mild visitor during the winter season, and which, although trying, is not injurious to health and in general is easier borne by ailing persons than by those enjoying good health. Altogether we may say that the climate of Sicily is warmer and more reliable than that of the Riviera, that the dryness of the air and the average of fine days in the latter place show but only a slight advantage over Sicily, but that, on the other hand, during the winter, the hot breezes of Sicily are less frequent and less harmful to health than the cold winds which prevail on the Riviera. »

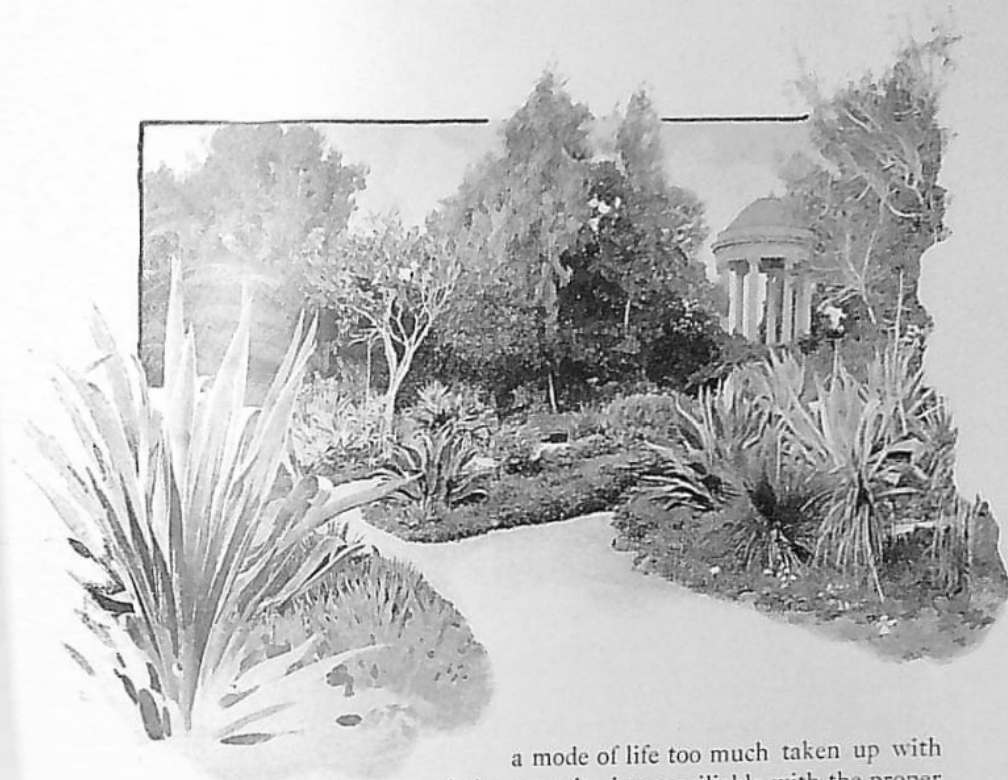
It might be thought, by those who have never been to Palermo and Sicily, that this exceptional superiority of its climate, flora and environs abounding in olive and orange groves, and glorious in its monuments of rare and ancient art over all the most renowned health resorts, would be somewhat diminished by the absence of those amusements and distractions which tend so much to brighten the sojourn of the stranger in a foreign land.

Nothing, however, could be more mistaken, unless we are willing to consider as the sole attractions worthy of attention the hateful *roulette* and noisy carnivals, no longer amusing for anybody.





Reference is made later on to the by no means few or common attractions of Palermo and Sicily from the material and intellectual point of view; these details which are in strict conformity with the truth, will cause no little surprise to those who fancy that on the Riviera alone are to be found, in combination with the advantages of a mild climate, all the handsome promenades, spectacles, concerts and gaieties usually met with in a great city, and the surprise will be all the greater and more pleasing when known what is being done and will be gradually accomplished. But while providing Palermo with all those attractions which may render life and sojourn in this Pearl of the Mediterranean gay, forgetful of all ills and full of happy memories of the past, the admonitions of science have not been neglected, which look upon



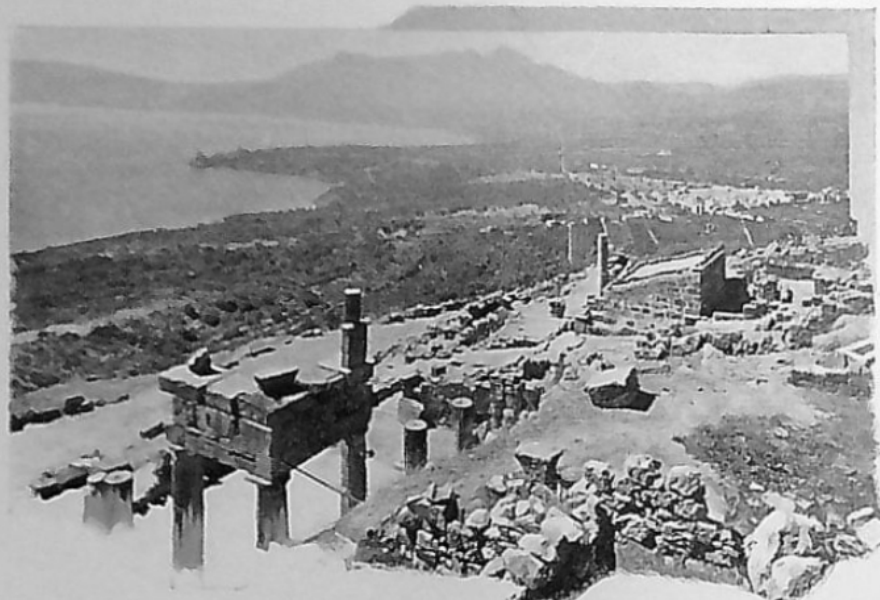
a mode of life too much taken up with gaieties as quite irreconcilable with the proper preservation of health.

« The pursuit of health — we read in the *Lancet* — and the pursuits of pleasure are not easily compatible. The gaiety of life upon the Riviera, for instance, does not add to its utility as a health resort; while no doubt increasing its attractiveness to the holiday maker and pleasure seeker. But there is a mean to be observed in this as in most other things.

« A health resort should not be made a centre of dissipation; neither should it be given up to dullness and gloom: some rational and healthy amusement is absolutely indispensable in any climatic resort which aspires to hold its own place amidst the crowd of rivals whose number goes on increasing every day.

« Parks, covered promenades, where at stated hours good music can be heard, clubs, libraries, reading-rooms tennis lawns and golf-grounds; these are some of the many diversions required in this connexion.

« In choosing a site for such a resort, there can be no doubt that climatological and hygienic questions play the most important part, but they are not the only points to be considered, as the general attractions of the neighbourhood, the facilities it offers for recreation, study and scientific research, the distractions it provides for the tourist, are all matters of high moment. Looked at in this light, Sicily takes a high rank among the chief resorts of Europe. It would be difficult to find in all Europe any spot possessing so much natural beauty, historic interest and so many relics of antiquity, and where are collected things so diverse



and important as to claim the close interest of every person of culture and refined taste.

« I confess — wrote Renan — that it would be impossible for me to live or even to travel with any pleasure, in a country, destitute of history and antiquity. That which constitutes the interest and beauty of places is the imprint of the men who lived, loved and suffered there ».



Amphitheatre (Syracuse).



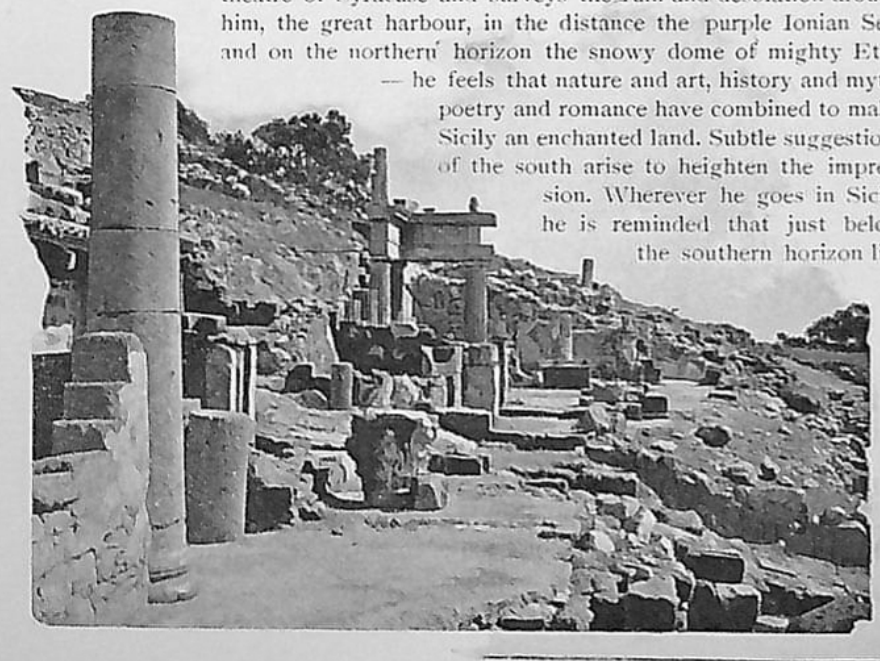
Anapo (Syracuse).

« From this point of view Sicily is almost unique. Her history is one of the most ancient, chequered and pathetic, which human annals present.

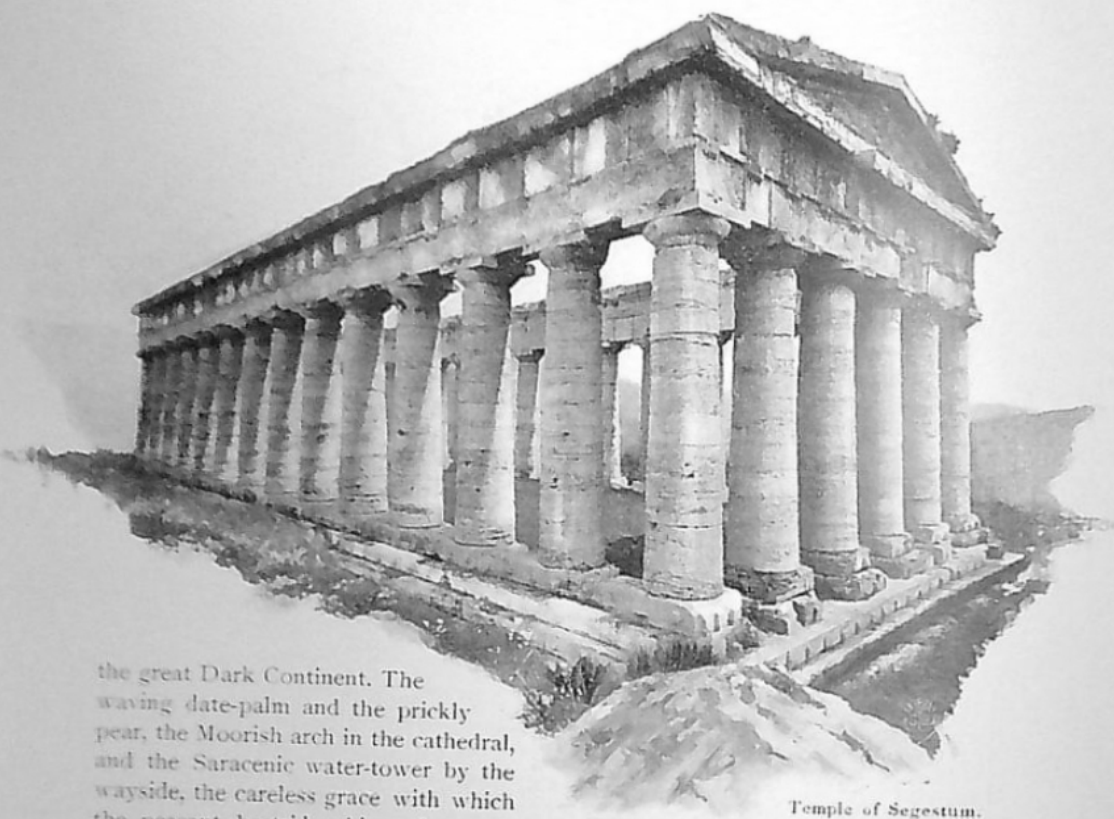
« Her remains of antiquity are among the most extensive and the most moving in the world. As the traveller stands in front of the great temple of Segesta and beholds the majestic ruin standing amidst a scene of indescribable loneliness, or as he climbs the precipitous streets and narrow alleys of modern Girgenti and thinks of the grandeur of ancient Acragas « the most beautiful city of mortals, » as Pindar calls it, or as he takes his place in the Greek

theatre of Syracuse and surveys the ruin and desolation around him, the great harbour, in the distance the purple Ionian Sea, and on the northern horizon the snowy dome of mighty Etna

— he feels that nature and art, history and myth, poetry and romance have combined to make Sicily an enchanted land. Subtle suggestions of the south arise to heighten the impression. Wherever he goes in Sicily he is reminded that just below the southern horizon lies



Temple of Castor & Pollux (Girgenti).



Temple of Segestum.

the great Dark Continent. The waving date-palm and the prickly pear, the Moorish arch in the cathedral, and the Saracenic water-tower by the wayside, the careless grace with which the peasant bestrides his mule, recalling the Kabyle or the Bedouin, the touch of negroid type in an occasional face, the breath of the sirocco — these speak of Africa and of the desert. Many of the greatest minds have felt the subtle charm of Sicily. Homer sang its praises in the dim dawn of poetry, although the vagueness of his references make it improbable that he ever visited the island. The trumpet tones of Pindar proclaimed its glories to a later age. Virgil and Cicero, and in modern times Goethe and Schiller, have written of Sicily. There is a tradition that the first suggestion of Mignon's song came to Goethe as he stood upon the terrace of the church of San Gregorio, which overlooks the straits of Messina. Whether or not this tradition be true, there can be no doubt that this song is full of the odour and subtle suggestion of Sicily and of the South ».

Wit hail these charms of refined intellectuality — which have inspired the grave scientist and phlegmatic Englishman writing for a medical review with such a sparkling style and southern poetical fervour — the principal centres of Sicily combine all possible facilities for study and recreation that may be found in any modern city. There are three universities in Sicily, at Palermo, Messina and Catania, fitted with cabinets and laboratories not inferior to those of the most renowned universities :

there are immense libraries rich in ancient and modern works, Italian as well as foreign; there are walks, theatres, concerts, charming environs affording the utmost variety of excursions, from the leisurely stroll under the shady trees, in the wide green plain of the *Conca d'oro*, to the ambitious climb to the snowy summit of majestic Etna. There is in fact everything that can conduce to the enjoyment of an easy, varied material life, and to the highest form of intellectual activity.





Palermo.

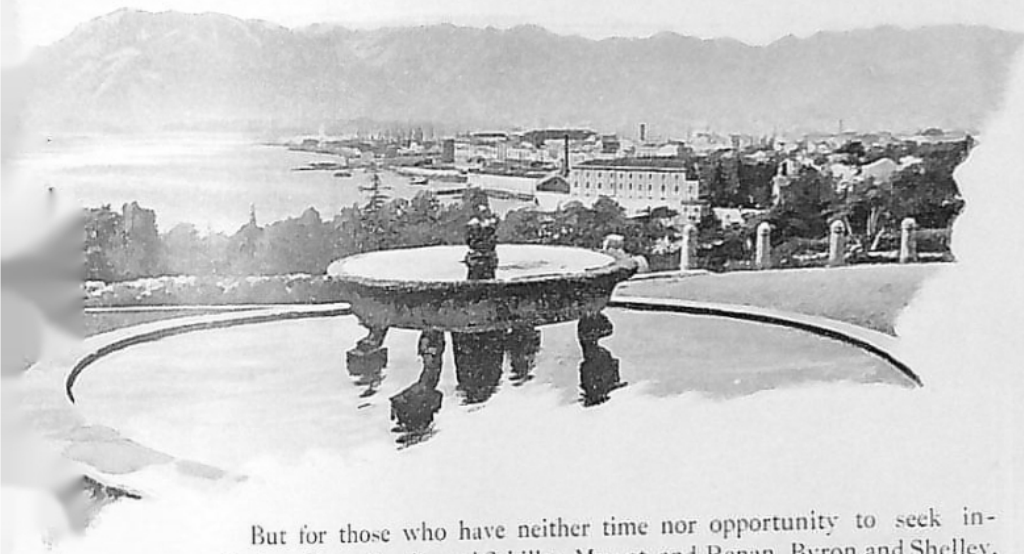
« ... the Heaven's
Breath smells wooingly here ».
SHAKESPEARE.

« Ces beaux lieux, où l'oranger
Naquit pour nous dédommager
Du péché d'Eve ».
A. DE MUSSET, *Poésies Nouvelles*

« ... Palermo, glorious regal city, not unjustly termed « the happy » for happy indeed is the city on which the grace of southern life is ever smiling as on thee, under the beams of golden sun, under the cerulean sky, in view of the sparkling sea, hiding in thy bosom so many marvels of churches, chapels and palaces, on whom fate has bestowed the honour of being the proud custodian of those majestic tombs of porphyry, in which Roger, the Empress Constance and the great Hohenstaufen sleep ».

With this ardent greeting a brilliant German writer, August Schlegel, concludes his learned and enthusiastic work on Sicily, which met with much well-deserved success when published a few years ago.

This book and many others, ancient and modern, on Sicily, should become popular among travellers imbued with the noble desire of feeding the mind on the immortal ideals of the most glorious past, and the senses on the treasures of beauty evolved and nourished by the sun in the regions blessed by his prodigal generosity.



But for those who have neither time nor opportunity to seek inspiration from Goethe and Schiller, Musset and Renan, Byron and Shelley, in their choice of a resort which shall reinvigorate body and mind, there are the usual tourist guide books abounding in information, in which Sicily and Palermo find a prominent place.

The *Official Handbook of watering Places & Health Resorts*, published by Dr. Tiebels, contains the following description of Palermo from the standpoint of its attractions as a health resort:

Palermo (Island of Sicily, Italy).

Route. — London - Naples - Palermo, or London - Naples - Messina (overland) Palermo.

Topography. — Palermo, the capital of Sicily, population about 260,000, occupies a magnificent position in the beautiful Conca d'oro. It is surrounded by picturesque mountains, one of which is the historical Monte Pellegrino, which shelters it from the north winds.

Climate. — Palermo is unequalled as a winter station, possessing the mildest and most equable climate in Europe; the minimum temperature is 54° Fahr. (12.5 cent).

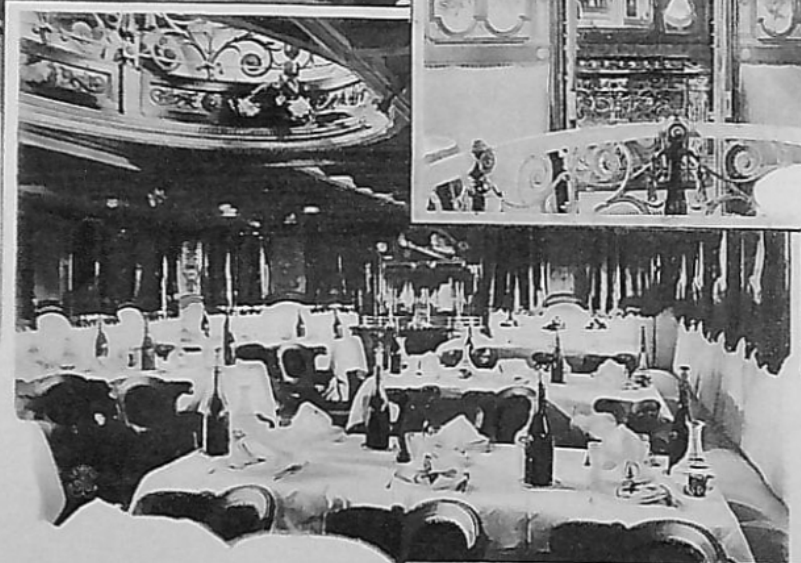
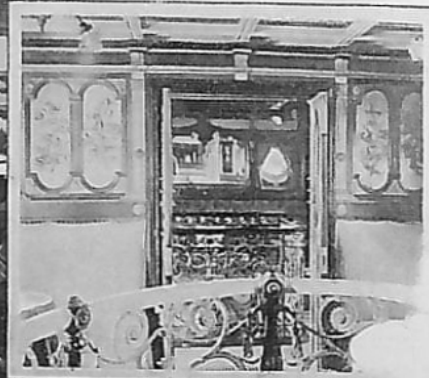
The drinking water of Scillato, fresh and laid on in abundance to every house, is of the utmost purity.

The clean and well-paved streets are lined with handsome shops. *Accommodation and amusements.* — There are first class hotels with moderate charges, Hydropathic establishments, splendid public and private gardens, beautiful walks, including the famous *Marina*, numerous theatres and frequent public concerts, Innumerable ancient churches, rich in marbles and mosaics.

Magnificent royal park, *la Favorita*, open daily to the public.

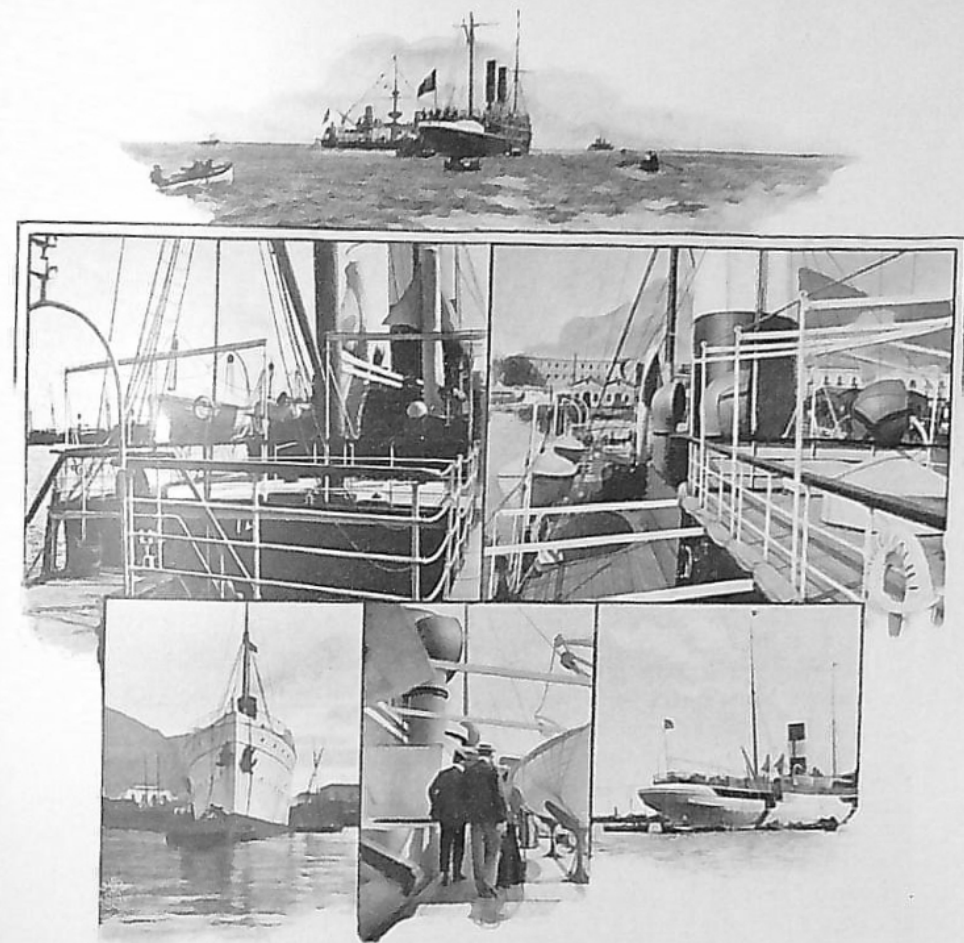
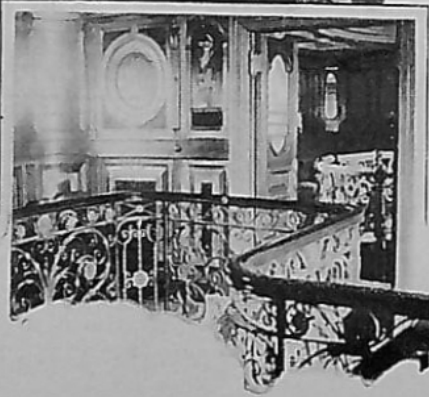
Excursions — Palermo is the centre of the Sicilian Railway system and excursions to the antiquities of Solunto, Segesta, Selinunte, Girgenti, etc., are easy and frequent.

The run from Naples to Palermo takes only ten hours, in well-appointed steamers. The express trains for the overland journey are always provided



with Pullman cars, (1) and including the 25 minutes passage by ferry-boat across the straits of Messina, the whole journey is made in 20 hours which will be shortly reduced to 16".

(2) A new express direct Rome-Palermo has been lately arranged, with Restaurant-Car, besides the Sleeping-Cars herewith mentioned.



The 'Berlin Bäder Almanach' classifies Palermo in this wise:

Palermo, capital of Sicily with a population of over 260,000 lies in latitude $38^{\circ} 7'$ north, on the gulf of the same name, faces north-east and is encircled on the north-west and south-east by a chain of beautiful, picturesque mountains.

Its climate is remarkable for its constant very mild and but slightly fluctuating temperature.

In the city snow may be said to be unknown. Fogs also are rare. From its position on the coast there is generally a fresh sea breeze during the day and in the evening and at night a breeze from the land, or else a total calm. High winds, such as the scirocco and southerly winds which raise the dust, occur rarely and last no length of time; otherwise, Palermo is in winter generally free from dust.

Sanitary conditions have become very satisfactory since the new suburbs were built and the water-works of Scillato, bringing down beautiful mountain water, were opened.





There are many beautiful walks and promenades.

Medical information. — The climate of Palermo is to be recommended for cases of affections of the respiratory organs, in which a treatment in a mountain resort is not specially indicated, and for all, especially the chronic forms of larynxial an bronchial catarrh, pulmonitis, diabetes, neurasthenia, etc.

The climate of Palermo is also splendidly adapted for convalescent, persons suffering from debility, and in short, for all who want plenty of air without the cold of the north.

Again the *Daily Messenger* of Paris, a paper devoted, as is well known, to supplying information for travellers making the tour of Europe, writes as follows about Palermo:

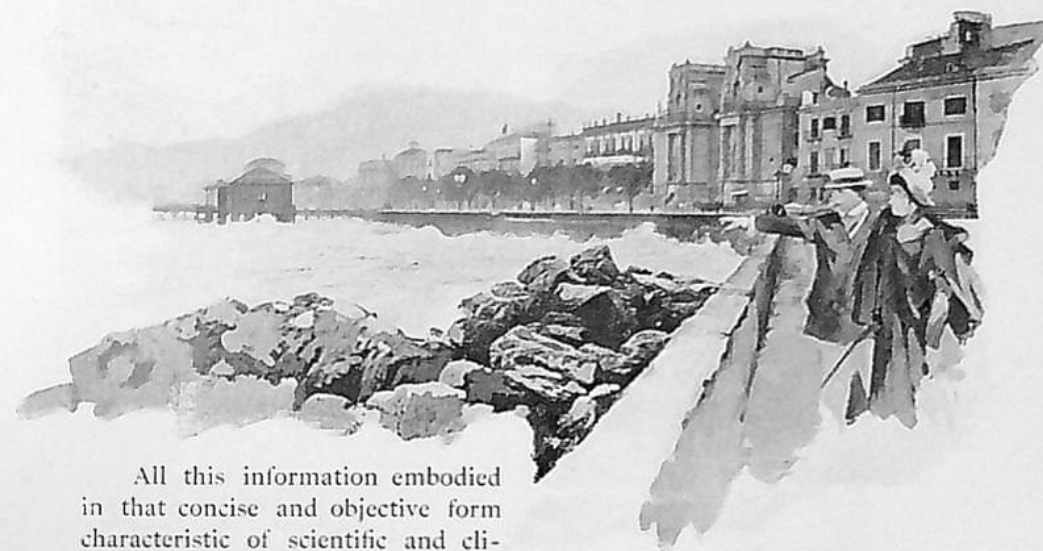
Palermo. — (Sicily). The finest climate in Italy.

Minimum temperature 12° The Conca d'oro, with its tropical vegetation, is the most attractive resort for the winter months.

The journey overland from Naples to Palermo is performed in 20 hours (including 30 minutes in crossing by steamer from Reggio to Messina) and in 10 hours by sea.

Excursions to Monreale, Solunto, Gibilrossa, etc.

Excursions to the ancient monuments of Girgenti, Selinunte, Taormina, Siracuse, etc.



All this information embodied in that concise and objective form characteristic of scientific and climatological guides, is nevertheless sufficient to give a clear idea of the comprehensive value put upon Palermo as a health resort, by those competent authorities, who have had an opportunity of studying the city from the hygienic and therapeutical stand-point.

If we, armed with positive facts, proceed to expand these concentrated data, many interesting particulars are revealed, which constitute so many attractions, particularly for anyone desirous of enjoying the mild climate and all the smiles of nature, and who is at the same time equally eager for healthy and invigorating distractions.





The wide, clean and well-paved streets, enlivened by continuous traffic, are supplemented by public gardens and promenades bright with attractions of all kinds.

Besides the splendid promenade of the Marina, which Dr. Tiebels terms famous and along which runs the adorable garden of the *Villa Giulia*, as Bourget calls it, there is the other one, no less attractive, of

the *Giardino Inglese*: a broad avenue divided into three wide thoroughfares with two spacious footwalks, adorned by two lines of plane-trees and flanked along its entire length by lordly villas, mostly of remarkable architecture, rising from amidst gardens blooming the winter through with roses and geraniums and tended with the most lavish care.

On this road is the splendid garden from which it derives its name (although the official one is « *Via della Libertà* »), a public park luxuriating in trees and flowers, abounding in umbrageous walks, multi-coloured flowerbeds, murmuring fountains and open spaces flooded by the sun.





The world-renowned magnificence of the *Marina* consists not only in the grand amplitude of its sweep winding gently between the ever-green gardens on one side and the boundless sea on the other, but principally in its natural embellishments.



On the hill which overlooks the *Marina*, there is a long «rangée de palais qui étalent de seigneuriales terrasses» (Bourget) the effect of which is to add an original and aristocratically fantastic charm to the scenery; and yonder, away to the north, her rugged precipices glowing in the sun as if the rock were saturated with his rays, stands out in graceful outline the huge pile of Monte Pellegrino.

Seine schöne Form lässt sich
Mit Worten nicht beschreiben.

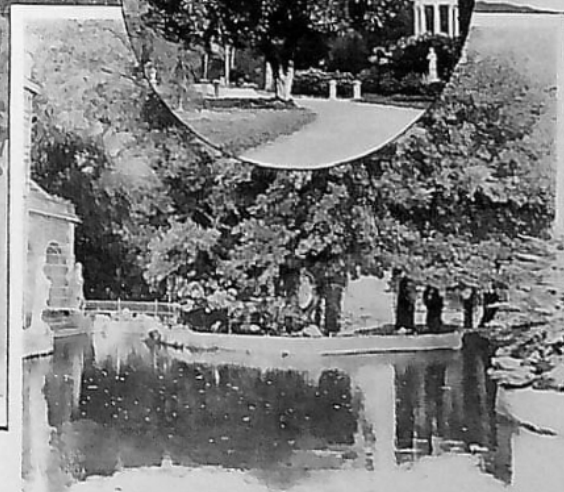
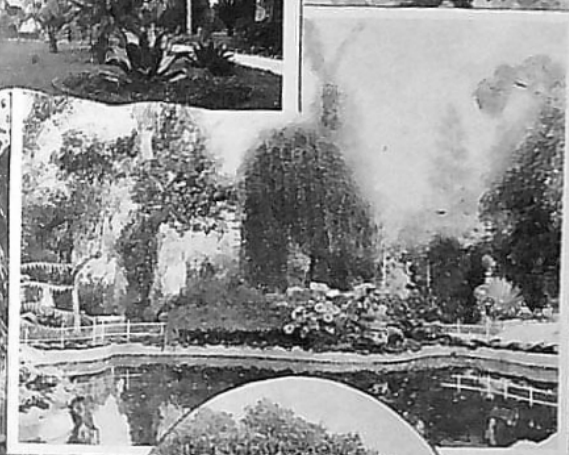
GOETHE.

There is a large wealthy class in Palermo, as most of the well-to-do families of the island reside in the capital of fertile Sicily and dwell in their own mansions, which they keep up in luxuriant style, and driving is the hobby to which they are passionately attached.

In the afternoon carriages and elegant equipages crowd on the *Marina* and in the *Giardino Inglese*, worthy of the greatest cities of

Europe and creating the greatest surprise in all who have never witnessed the scene.

But that which, above all things, cannot be understood by anyone whose veins have never been penetrated by the benign influence exhaling from every flower-laden bush, is the reinvigorating charm of the tranquil morning walks in the Villas in which Palermo abounds. From the Giardino Inglese and Villa Giulia to the Favorita and Botanical Garden and those which adorn almost all the squares, the wealth of tropical forests is everywhere displayed; and the private villas — to which the entrée is courteously allowed to foreign visitors —





contains splendours that the glowing pallet of Paul Bourget has but lightly been able to describe.

Villa Florio, a park whose magnificence would be the glory of many a royal domain; Villa Withaker, the very incarnation of a southern dream of luxuriant verdure, inexhaustible flowers, perfumes and



eternal spring;
Villa Belmonte, a
happy blending of
the grandeur of a prin-
cely seat and the mo-
dest pretensions of an orange

grove; Villa Tasca, an oasis rather than a garden, as the author of the *Terre Promise*, styles it: « *une fantaisie de grand seigneur hospitalier* »; Villa Trabia, an assemblage of all the splendours of the Sicilian flora, complete the opulent array of places where the stranger spending in Palermo the season which in other climes would condemn





him to the seclusion of his own domicile, may revel in the sweet ebriety of light, warmth, fragrance and colour.

These incomparable promenades are not, however, the only distractions afforded by this noble city, so full of life and movement in its centre as it is calm and tranquil in the quarters affected by visitors and wealthy classes.

Palermo has a grand Opera house, the Teatro Massimo, recently built, a truly sumptuous architectural pile, ranking among the best in Italy for the representations given in the winter season, and amongst the most per-



fect in Europe for the convenience and elegance of its internal arrangements. In addition to the Opera-house, there is an Opera Comique and variety theatre, the *Politeama Garibaldi*, capable of seating 3000 people, the Teatro Bellini for dramatic representations, where la Duse, Novelli, Zacconi, Tina di Lorenzo and others appear from time to time. At the Massimo the most talented artists interpret the operas of Wagner and the latest Italian and French productions, and there are, moreover, many other places



At the Massimo the most talented artists interpret the operas of Wagner and the latest Italian and French productions, and there are, moreover, many other places

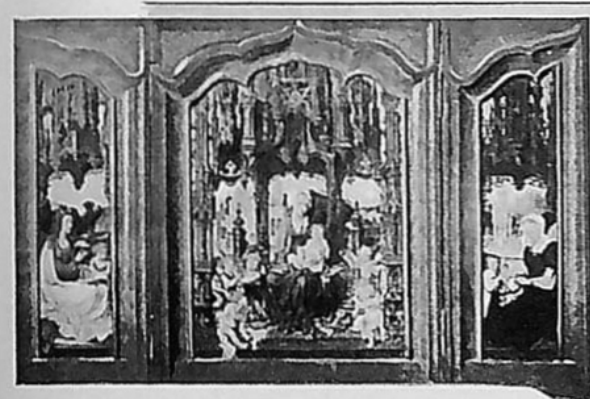


of amusement, such as café concerts, operettas, etc., not inferior, proportionately, to those of any large city.

There is a project on foot for erecting a Wagnerian Theatre, by which, with the approval of the members of the Wagner family, who resided more than once in this city where the great master sought his inspiration for the divine harmonies of Parsifal, Palermo would be converted into the Bayreuth of the South.

Grand concerts and orchestral matinées are of frequent occurrence, and the success of a series of grand Wagnerian orchestral concerts recently given, will still further develop this delightful aesthetic form of entertainment.

Fine bands perform at intervals during the mild afternoons of winter in the public gardens, the most frequented places of resort and the Giardino Inglese, and on the Marina during the evening promenade. Besides there are: *Tir aux pigeons*, Foot-ball meetings, horse-races, regattas, *batailles de fleurs* and similar amusements, all the season long.



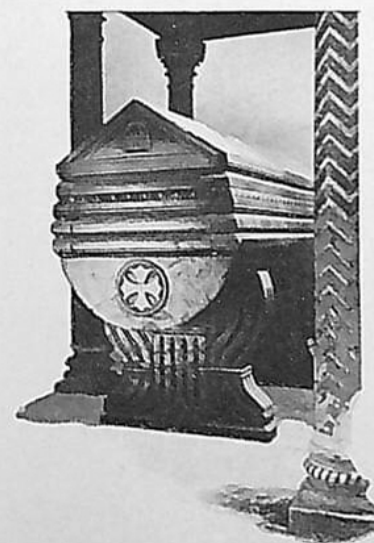
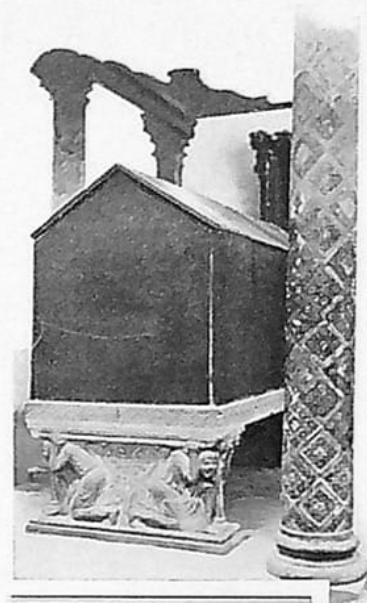


These mundane and modern attractions are ennobled by the monumental solemnity of the temples and the rare and beautiful objects contained in the Museum, churches and palaces of Palermo, telling of a high, vigorous and flourishing civilisation, of which proofs can be found nowhere more completely and perfectly expressed than in those which form the proud boast of the splendid capital of Sicily.

While Eastern and Central Sicily show varied and profound traces of the most ancient classic civilisations, life in Palermo palpates even yet with Norman reminiscences, and old Greece and Roman even enrich the magnificent museum with their precious contributions.

« The Saracen and Norman past — writes Schneegans — are so mixed up in our memory, as to appear to our mind's eye in the light of a single image almost devoid of any distinctive qualities. Yet the two people were enemies. The Normans expelled the Saracens in their sanguinary struggle and adopted a new religion in place of the abhorred Islamism and hence their temples are resplendent as magnificent monuments of victorious Christendom. Yet, in the Palatine Chapel and the Cathedral of Monreale, a gleam of Moslem sunlight mingles with the splendour of this primitive magnificence of the church which still possesses a Christian-Oriental character, sparkling on the altars and playing in fantastic coruscations around the arabesques and pointed arches ».

In the cathedral of Palermo are laid the Norman Princes, the magnificence of the great temple seeming more worthy to receive the sumptuous tombs than the Royal Palace itself, although the latter contains the marvellous Palatine Chapel, which, as the German writer says, raises in us emotions of ecstatic wonderment.

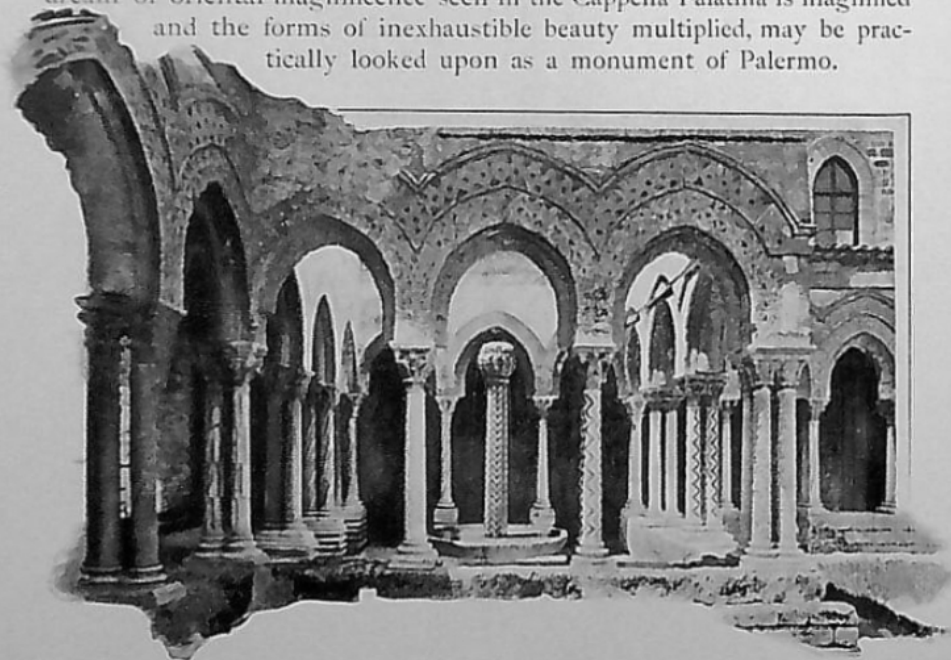




« As in no other
tutiful thing been seen. Within
spacious and illumined
most perfect work that
for this House of God is a
sparkling with jewels. From
altars, and confessionals to the foot of the steps leading to the choir, to the
remotest corners of the aisles wrapped in gloom, all is radiant and resplendent
with mosaics.

place has a more beau-
these limits, narrow, yet lofty,
by the sun, we gaze on the
Christian art has ever produced,
very miniature, a precious casket
floor to ceiling, from columns, walls,

Hardly an hour's drive from the centre of Palermo, to which it is
also connected by an Electric Tramway, is the little city of Monreale, lying
on the slope of the hill dominating the Conca d'oro, ever green with
oranges, palms and olives, so that the splendid cathedral in which the
dream of oriental magnificence seen in the Cappella Palatina is magnified
and the forms of inexhaustible beauty multiplied, may be prac-
tically looked upon as a monument of Palermo.



Here again the enthusiastic pen of Schneegans will put before us, better than any other, this precious treasure of art, unique in the world, with that wealth of colouring worthy of its unspeakable fascination.



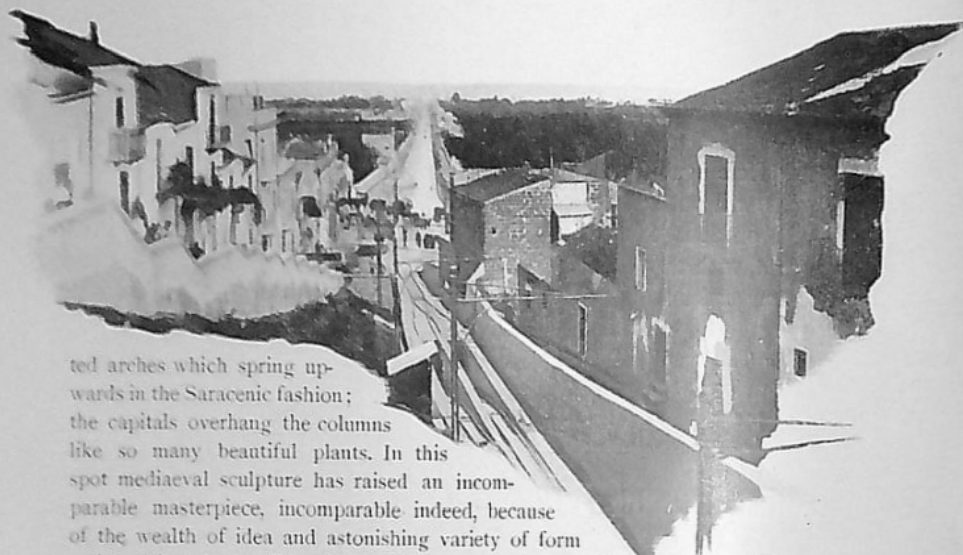
« The ancient doors with their bronze bas-reliefs swing slowly open, creaking on their hinges, and we at once pass into an enchanted land strewn with gold and glittering with the rays of the Cappella Palatina.

The long nave of the Cathedral of Monreale is larger, loftier and more spacious than the latter: the choir is deeper, the vault of the dome more impos-



sing, the windows wider, letting in such a joyous flood of light that we seem to fancy ourselves in an edifice built by the fairies, or, if our imagery is not too bold for the distant reader, of pure crystal made by the condensed rays of the golden sun.

The feeling of pious and almost charitable emotion which thrills us in the temple, is renewed when we emerge into the cloisters surrounding the garden of the ancient monastery, into the silence made more impressive by the murmuring of the fountain among the labyrinth of columns which seem to rise to the deep blue vault of heaven. Three hundred and thirteen columns, elaborately carved, at one time encrusted with mosaics, and always grouped in pairs, support the poin-



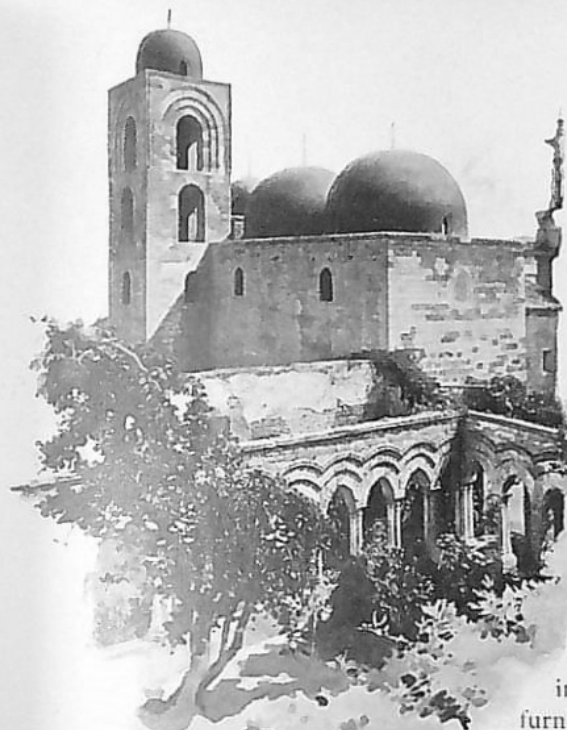
ted arches which spring upwards in the Saracenic fashion; the capitals overhang the columns like so many beautiful plants. In this spot mediaeval sculpture has raised an incomparable masterpiece, incomparable indeed, because of the wealth of idea and astonishing variety of form which strike the bewildered eye. Not one single capital resembles another. It would seem as though, with his creative chisel, the sculptor had sought his glory in producing as by enchantment an unsurpassable multitude of forms in the foliage of this forest of stone.

Then leaving Monreale, and on the high road leading to Palermo, what a spectacle is unfolded to the eye. A spectacle of singular beauty, grace and grandeur, radiance and majesty, all blended in one view.

È un incanto, say the Italians and, indeed, it could not find a more appropriate word; yes it is a charm!

The great city lies between Monte Pellegrino and Capo Zafarana, gazing over the vast expanse of the sea; the church domes rise above the houses, and all around orange gardens on gardens spread away to the foot of the mountain, like a velvet green carpet on which Palermo reposes.

We should go far beyond the limits of this notice, were we to attempt to mention only the most precious jewels of art of all kinds which have made the Palermo Museum one of the principal in Italy, especially for relics which are constantly accumulating from the excavations of the ancient Sicilian, Sicanian, Greek and Roman cities scattered over the whole island: neither may we bestow even a passing remark on the convents, churches and palaces of such diverse, special and intense interest, such as la Martorana, S. Maria della Catena, S. Maria della Pietà, San Giovanni degli Eremiti, the Royal Palace, la Cuba, la Zisa, the Steri the Palace of Chiaramonte and afterwards of the Inquisition, the palace Aiutamicristo etc., etc.



What we have said, however, is more than sufficient to give an idea of the number of places rich in the noblest esthetic associations, which are to be found in Palermo side by side with the varied pleasures and delights of a great city.

It is hardly necessary to add that in a centre like Palermo abounding in all the conveniences and luxuries of modern life, there is no lack of first class hotels, boarding houses with the best of attendance, and all facilities for living

at no great expense in apartments furnished with all that the most fastidious

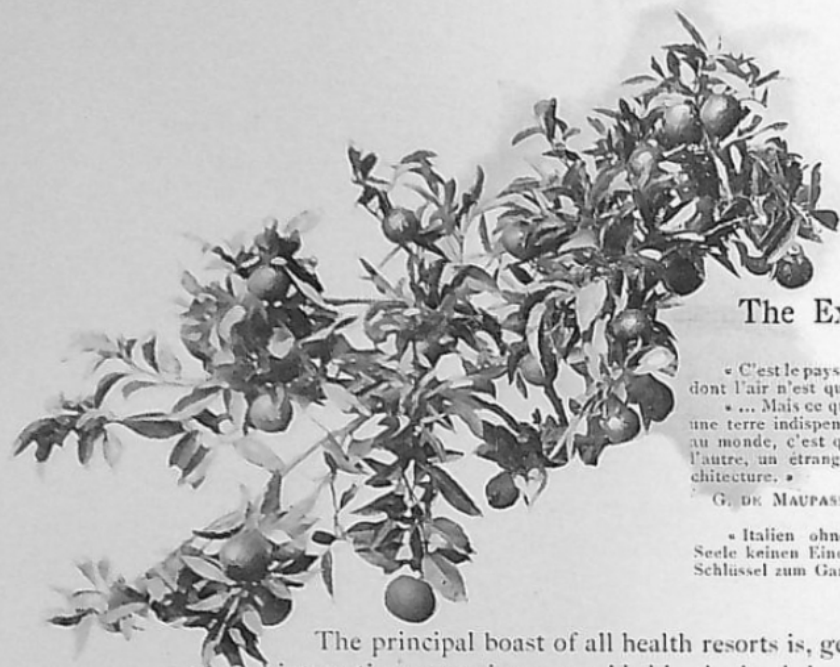
can desire. But in order to procure through all its phases the highest degree of comfort combined

with the pleasures derived from the animating presence of a huge cosmopolitan assembly in the spacious dining saloons and ball rooms and others devoted to recreations of all sorts, there has now arisen on the smiling shore bathing the slopes of Monte Pellegrino the *Villa Igia Grand Hotel*, a sumptuous princely residence, rivalling the grandest and most splendid abodes of the same kind in the greatest capitals of Europe.

On the other hand the last ten years have witnessed the establishment of entirely new quarters, extending over several square kilometres, which are being constantly added to, in suburbs between the country and city and in which every house is set in greenery, copiously supplied with the purest and freshest water, fitted with every refined accommodation, glittering with marbles, and bright with extremest cleanliness in every corner, from the bath rooms and domestic offices to the entrance steps. Anyone desirous of making a lengthened stay in Palermo, and who prefers the quietude of home life to the bustle of an hotel, can do so at a relatively small outlay by taking up his residence in one of these truly palatial suites.

In the spring evenings, when the orange, lemon, and almond trees of the Conca d'Oro are all in bloom, a perfumes envelope the this delightful country believe that Palermo is in very truth a fairyland such as only a





The Excursions.

« C'est le pays des oranges, le sol fleuri
dont l'air n'est qu'un parfum...
« ... Mais ce qui fait d'elle, avant tout,
une terre indispensable à voir et unique
au monde, c'est qu'elle est, d'un bout à
l'autre, un étrange et divin musée d'ar-
chitecture. »

G. DE MAUPASSANT, *La Vie Errante*.

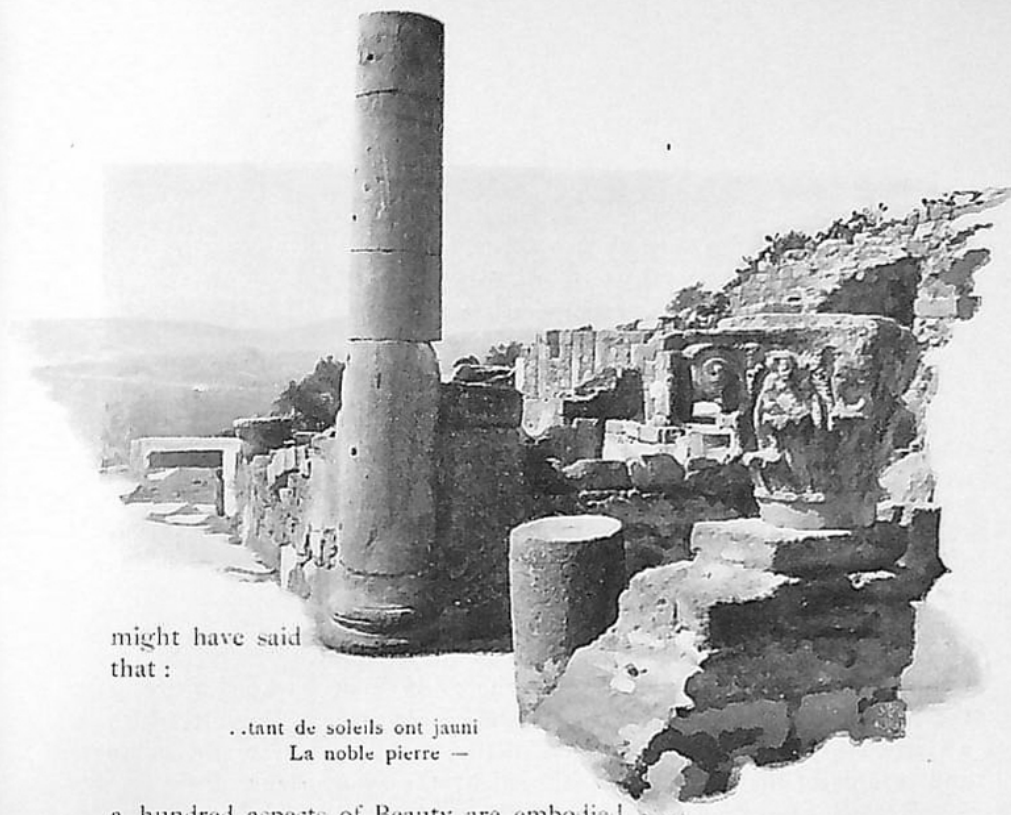
« Italien ohne Sizilien lässt in der
Seele keinen Eindruck. In Sizilien ist der
Schlüssel zum Ganzen. »

GOETHE.

The principal boast of all health resorts is, generally, the pleasant and interesting excursions, provided in the land chosen as a habitual residence by such as seek repose of body and mental relaxation in the charms of nature and local associations. Those who are familiar with the topography of Sicily, its history, its verdure clad hills sloping to the blue sea, its many awe-inspiring monuments, must, when they recall the places immortalised by Virgil and Theocritus, listen with a significant smile to the praises lavished on the pleasant environs and interesting excursions which constitute the delights of many resorts now so much in favour.

The sight of a valley, more or less picturesque, but differing in no way from a dozen others in similar localities, the contemplation of the usual foaming cascades, the meditation along the silent shores of eternal lakes lying deep sunk amidst snow-crowned summits — all of such terrible sameness if we except the five or six more lively resorts of Alpine Italy and Switzerland — exhausting pilgrimages to a set of mountain villages with their never failing barren similitude; these are the material and intellectual delights which those celebrated resorts afford.

These are the beauties which in the eyes of many, far too many, are accepted as of the highest order, the reason being that most people are unaware of the great and rare attractions of Sicily, where every nook and corner breathe the life of ten people and illustrate the story of thirty centuries, telling in the sublime language of stone, their varied and glorious fortunes; where in the monuments, of which, more right-fully than of those of Venice, Florence and Rome herself, Alfred de Musset



might have said
that :

...tant de soleils ont jauni
La noble pierre —

a hundred aspects of Beauty are embodied in the forms in which, across the centuries and the nations, this eternal queen of the spiritworld has revealed herself. To describe, even concisely, the unspeakable enjoyment awaiting the visitor in his excursions into Sicily, would mean the compilation of substantial volumes overflowing with poesy and enthusiasm, like the *Sizilien* of Schneegans, *Picturesque Sicily* of Paton, *La Sicile* of G. Voullier, *La Sicile* of R. Bazin, the works of Maupassant and Bourget and not a few others, not to mention the classic literature of all times and all countries exuberating with undying homage to this land blessed with every beauty.

« Sicily — writes W. Paton — presents to the historian and archaeologist a field the more tempting that it has been so little tilled, and a new world to travellers who delight in everything that is picturesque and romantic. The discovery in all parts of the island of a great number of Greek temples, theatres and other edifices, must excite the interest of antiquarians, while the mere sight of these mighty ruins challenges the admiration of all beholders. To me these relics of classic times were revelations of a forgotten — indeed an almost unknown — era in the history of peoples highly civilized and worshippers of art. I learned that there are more ruins of Greek temples in Sicily than are to be found in the Peloponnesus and all Greece besides.



Not only in examples of Greek architecture, but also in more or less perfect architectural relics of other nations that, at one time or the other have held dominion in the island, is Sicily surprisingly rich. In no other part of Europe (within the limits of so small a territory) there are to be seen so many well-preserved examples of the works of the Mediaeval masters of architecture.

« It has been well said that *Sicily is the Archaeological Museum of Europe*, for in Sicily are to be seen the caves of cliff-dwellers; fragments of cyclopean structures raised by prehistoric architects; walls whose foundations were laid by the Phoenician and Carthaginians; temples, theatres and fortresses of Greek construction; bridges, aqueducts and amphitheatres constructed by the Romans; remains of temples erected by Byzantine architects; Saracenic mosques and towers; while who can tell the number of Norman churches, castles and palaces and describe its magnificence? »

For the resident in Palermo visits to such treasures of art are extremely easy and convenient. A very short trip along a road skirting the smiling, crystal sea, brings us to the classic ruins of Solunto, which a learned writer calls the Pompei of Sicily, so numerous are the relics and records of the ancient city founded by the Phoenicians.

Excursions are not quite so easy, but not at all difficult, to Segesta and Selinunte, to the temples dominating the solemn solitude of the fields, where once stood flourishing cities, of whose grandeur they remain the mute but mighty witnesses.

The railway and well-appointed trains convey us rapidly from Palermo to Girgenti, the Greek Acragas, crowned by temples, whose beautiful remains revive the vision of the wealth, magnificence, and splendour of that Sibari of the island, which Pindar called *the eye of Sicily*.

By the Palermo-Messina line, which crosses the interior of the island, we come to Castrogiovanni, the Enna of the ancients, that mythological city which the Greeks called *the navel of Sicily*, the home of ancient mythes in the temple sacred to Ceres the Mother, not far from lake Pergusa, of which the Greek legend relates that Pluto, rushing in his car from an abyss, overtook Proserpine wandering among the flowers in the valley, which were so dense and fragrant as to cause the hounds to lose scent of their quarry.



« And now from their fountains
In Enna's mountains
Down one vale where the morning basks,
.....
They ply their watery tasks
.....
At noontide they flow
Through the woods below
And the meadows of asphodel; »

SHELLEY.

At the station of Bicoeca at the foot of Etna's gigantic pile, towering majestic to the beautiful Sicilian sky, is the branch railway which brings us to Syracuse, the most splendid city of ancient Hellas, against whose walls the power of Athens broke: sovereign of the sea and land, centre of an incomparable civilisation described by historians and sung by poets.

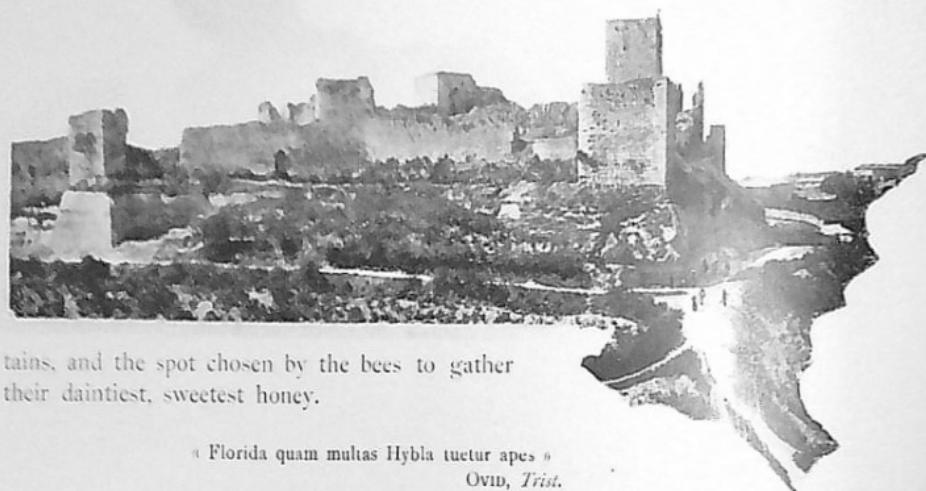
« On t'accuse
d'avoir parlé bien tendrement,
moins en voyageur qu'en amant
de Syracuse, »

writes Alfred de Musset in his ode *To my brother on his return from Italy*, and indeed no one who really understands her, can mention Syracuse without that gentle sigh of lament we utter over a beauty greatly loved, in whose inexorable decline we are bequeathed records for tender remembrance. In the legend of Arethusa, the nymph whom Diana transformed into a fountain, and for whom the river Alfeo crossed the sea without mingling in its waters, in the associations of sweet poesy which linger over the modest fountain shaded by papyri nourished by her limpid springs, may be symbolized the ineffaceable fascination of the few remains of Syracuse.

« Alpheum fama est huc Elidis omnem
Occultos egisse vias subter mare, qui nunc
Ore, Arethusa, tuo Siculis confunditur undis. »

VIRGIL, *Aeneis*.

On the Syracuse line we come to Augusta, on whose site once stood Hyblaea, the home of the poet Epicarmus, near the beflowered moun-



tains, and the spot chosen by the bees to gather their daintiest, sweetest honey.

« Florida quam multas Hybla tuetur apes »
Ovid, *Trist.*

On the other branch of the railway which runs from Bicocca to Messina, we arrive at Catania. At the station of this beautiful and flourishing city we are introduced to the enchanting coast along which the train runs to Messina on the Ionian sea, whose praises Homer sang, through orange groves and vineyards, than which none more luxuriant have ever been.

Ever and anon as we rush on our winding course through verdant scenery, we come on bays and caverns and rocks of lava, among which foams and frets the restless, glorious sea, and yonder flowery landscape on the slopes of Etna, black with rocks, reflecting a metallic sheen where the briny waves have corroded them, possesses the weird character of some mythological haunt. This luminous landscape with its rare and ancient features, recalls memories of Polyphemus — the giant to whom legend ascribes the dominion of the majestic volcano — and gentle, beautiful Galatea, saved by the love of the youth Acis from the tyrant's cupidity.

Thence flows from Etna the stream into which, say the poets, Acis was transformed in order to escape the giant's savage wrath, there flow, amid the mossy banks, the « sacred waters » of ambrosian taste, as Theocritus says, the limpid ripples of erbifer Acis, as Ovid calls it.

At one point the line crosses a series of lofty peaks overlooking the sea, and tunnels follow on each other for a certain distance, broken only, here and there, by a momentary blaze of light, in which the smiling sea and sky flooded by the sun appear and vanish in an instant. On emerging from the last of these tunnels the train halts on a white sea beach glittering with millions of pebbles which the action of the waves from time immemorial has rounded in the silvery sand in which they lie, and here the guard's voice salutes our ears with the welcome name of Giardini Taormina.

The little town whose name evokes so much greatness is perched on the hill overlooking the station, and we reach it in a few minutes along a most interesting road flanked with towers and loopholed walls springing from the rocky eminences.

« Tauromenium, Moezzia, Taormina; in these three words is embodied a part of the world's history... every century has left its traces on these stones; mediæval Christendom on the ogives of the belfries; the East on those richly carved pillars; the Normans on those square and massive towers; Rome and Hellas on the spacious area of yonder theatre, those beautiful Corinthian capitals, slender columns and white marble walls that greet the eye on every hand. And what a spectacle is offered to the visitor seated on the semi-circles highest steps his gaze reaching beyond the theatre and its ample arcades to the silvery sea and rocks of Taormina, to the hills and mountains, even as far as Etna itself, clad with snow and with gently harmonious acclivity rising into the transparent atmosphere crowned with smoke, immense, menacing and completing the view in tranquil classic mood ». — (SCHNEEGANS).

The varied beauties of Taormina exercise such a spell on enlightened minds, that a choice society, formed of artists from all the countries of Europe, has taken up its permanent abode in the ancient city, giving it the character of an intellectual cosmopolitan centre. From Taormina an hour's run brings us to Messina, the noble city on the historic straits between Scylla and Charybdis,

Che al mar le sponde, il dorso ai monti
occupa tutta e tutta a cerchio adorna.

From Messina we return to Palermo by another railway line running by the Tyrrhenian Sea along the northern coast of Sicily, possessing attractions of a quite different character, passing through bounteous



vineyards, which have earned for this region the name of « Paradise of the wine » — or else by sea on the fine rapid steamers belonging to the Italian General Navigation Company, built expressly for the traffic between Sicily and Naples, and in which are combined in compendium all the modern improvements, conveniences and luxuries of the most magnificent transatlantic liners.

This excursion to Messina is, however, not the only easy and pleasant one by sea which Palermo provides. In twenty-four hours it is perfectly feasible to go from Palermo to Naples, visit Pompeii, ascend Vesuvius, or take a trip to Sorrento and Capri, visiting the Blue-Grotto and then return to Palermo.

Excursions to the Bay of Naples, so characteristic with its soft voluptuous beauty, may be followed by others of equally easy accomplishment, yet profoundly different and interesting in regard to scenery, originality of costume, and curious traditions, viz., to Tunis, a few hours, by steamer, from Palermo.

What other country in the world can offer such a sum of varied and fascinating attractions, such relaxations for body and mind and all under the perennial reinvigorating radiance of the sun amidst the most intoxicating wealth, exuberance and inexhaustible fragrance of an unequalled vegetation?

This is the reason why Archaeologists, travellers, Climatologists, historians, compilers of Guide Books and the rest, cannot, even while coldly recording facts, speak of Sicily without succumbing to that poetic influence which, from Homer and Pindar to Musset and Carducci, has transformed into song every memory of this land beloved of the sun and endowed by beauty.

Dell'ombroso pelasgo Erice in vetta
Eterna ride ivi Afrodite e impera,
E fremme tutta amor la benedetta
Da lei costiera.

CARDUCCI.



« The Villa rising in a noble park, is equal in accommodation to the largest hotels of continental capitals and its appointments are as luxurious, as rigorously hygienic in every detail ».

THE LANCET, Jan. 27, 1900, N. 3057.

Villa Igiea.

The influential Company, promoted by Commendatore Florio, for the purpose of transforming Palermo and Sicily into an international Winter Resort, has inaugurated its bold and enlightened undertaking by the establishment of a model hygienic grand hotel: a haunt of pleasure, that is built, furnished, and served in accordance with the most complete and rigorous demands of modern comfort. This pleasing work has been entrusted to Professor Basile, an architect who combines the widest knowledge of modern engineering with the taste, education, and talent of a great Italian artist of other days, and on whom the most ample powers have been bestowed for dealing without restriction with the enormous capital provided for the erection of this magnificent hotel.

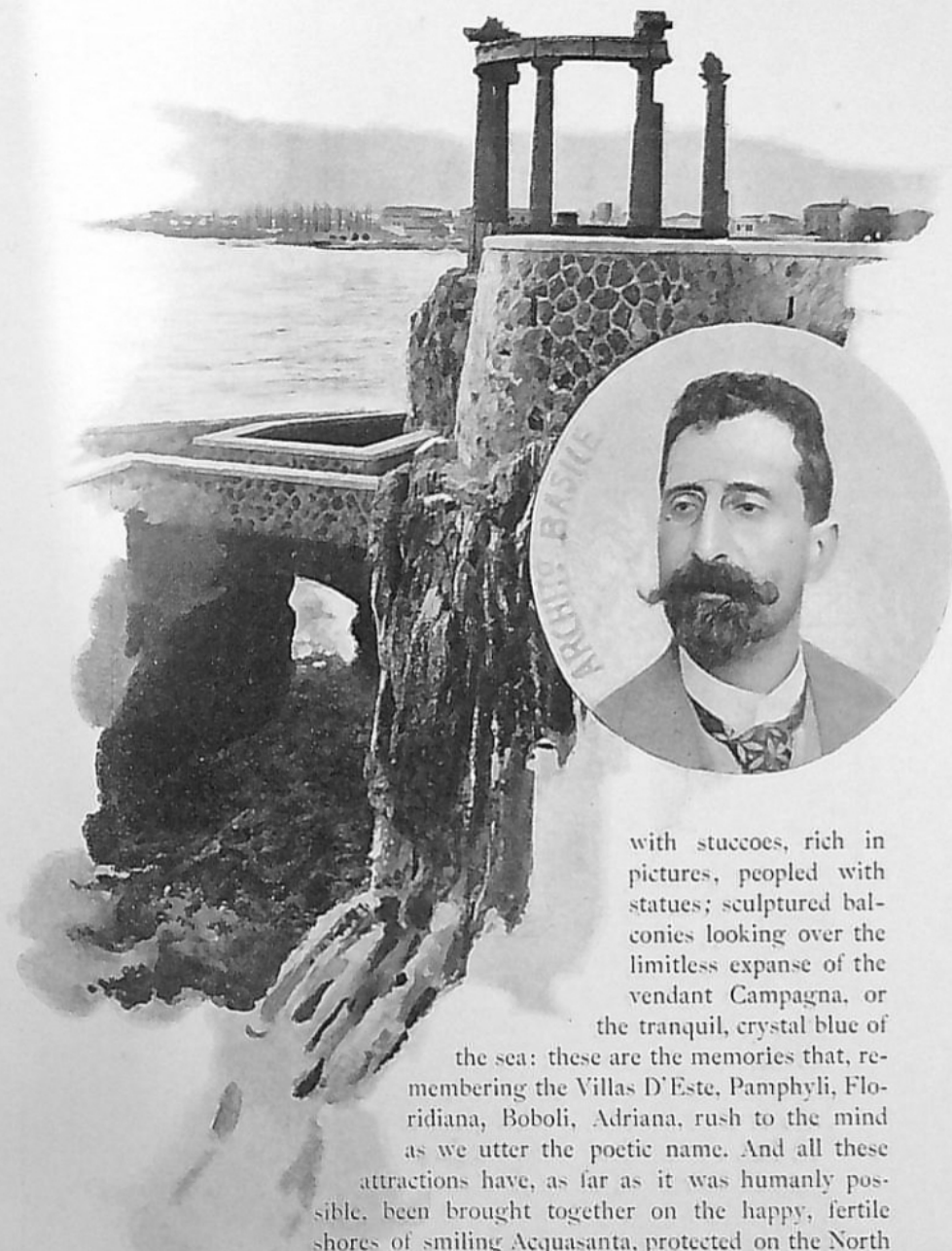


One recommendation only has been made to Professor Basile, viz: that the new international retreat,

while possessing over all others the inestimable advantages of a mild and healthy climate, shall be in everything superior to all others at present in existence from the point of accommodation and entertainment.

Consequently, Professor Basile, profiting by the exceptional latitude granted him, has lavished all the resources of his science, art, and knowledge acquired by long and frequent travels abroad, in turning this delightful Villa into a veritable paradise.

The name of Villa Igiea cleverly embodies the scientific and artistic ideas of the architect which have presided over the creation of this haunt which is absolutely without a rival of its kind. Whoever is acquainted with Italy, although he may not have lived there, knows what manner of delightful places are those near Florence, Rome, on the Northern lakes, in verdant Umbria, or amid the rocky slopes of the Apennines of central Italy on which the name of « Ville » has been bestowed for their profusion of healthy and choice esthetic enjoyments, which only the harmonious co-operation of nature and art is capable of offering. Rushing, sparkling rivers; profusion of marble; fantastic ideas of architects and sculptors, which have taken shape in cascades, seats, and fountains, such to imbue the very stone with the power of revivifying the mind; terraces flooded with the splendid Italian sun, the dream of poets of all times and countries; mysterious shadows in the green paths winding between the ancient cypress and laurel trees, fragrant with the perfume of aromatic herbs and wild flowers; vast halls with wide hearths, adorned



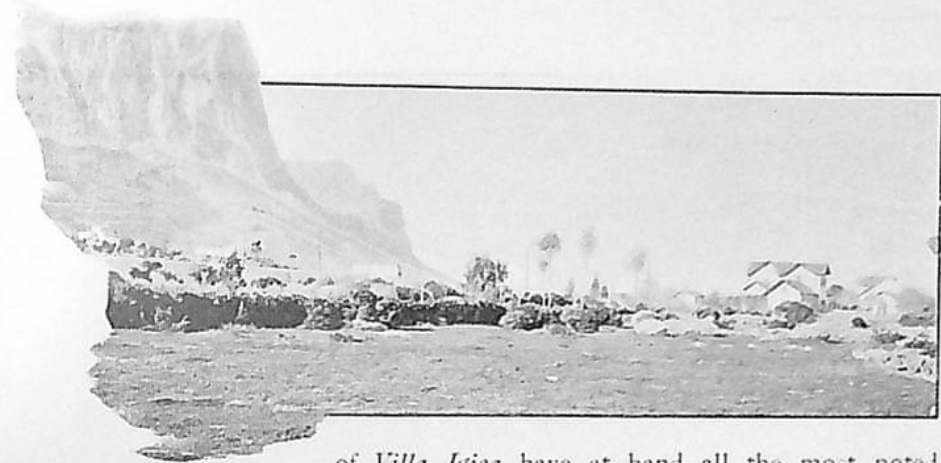
with stuccoes, rich in pictures, peopled with statues; sculptured balconies looking over the limitless expanse of the vendant Campagna, or the tranquil, crystal blue of

the sea: these are the memories that, remembering the Villas D'Este, Pamphyli, Floridiana, Boboli, Adriana, rush to the mind as we utter the poetic name. And all these attractions have, as far as it was humanly possible, been brought together on the happy, fertile shores of smiling Acquisanta, protected on the North by Monte Pellegrino, to make her worthy of her suggestive, auspicious name. Quite twenty thousand square meters from the area of the park surround the sumptuous Hotel which seems, from afar, to be embowered amidst pines, orange and palm trees and gigantic musae. It is only the



exceptional climatic advantages and rigorous hygienic arrangements that entitle it to the second part of its name, taken with legitimate pride from the beneficent Goddess of Health.

Looked at externally, the *Villa Igiea*, with its eclectic beauties of architecture, dense encircling foliage, infinite variety of paths, terraces, verandahs, lawns for open air games, covered walks and greenhouses; or internally, with its magnificent suites of conversation, ball, billiard, dining, and reading rooms, appears as the most delightful country sojourn for high society with refined tastes, the gayest and most attractive it is possible to imagine. *Villa Igiea* more than a Winter Resort with the conventional luxuries of a well-appointed hotel, has the style of a congenial aristocratic haunt, administering with hospitable anticipation of every wish, to merry open air gatherings: to the assembly of groups of friends enjoying in the golden winter sunset the social intercourse of tea parties on flower-bedecked terraces overlooking the limpid sea: to parties going for trips along the Bay in steam launches, rowing boats, or sailing craft, or on the magnificent yacht *Igiea* belonging to the Villa: to blithesome companies indulging in pleasant drives to the neighbouring city in magnificent equipages provided by the establishment: to the attentive audiences at the delightful orchestral concerts frequently given in the spacious saloons: to omnivorous readers of both sexes, who in the library



of *Villa Igiea* have at hand all the most noted works, reviews, daily and illustrated journals of all kinds and all countries, which they may read in the open in their accustomed pleasant corner enjoying the sense of well being which the mild climate of Palermo infused into the veins of the fantastic Countess of Scilly. Do you remember how Bourget commences his *Terre Promise*? « *The end of November was near and an air of divine transparency, gently but powerfully invigorating, enveloped, bathed, caressed the garden.....* »

But these surrounding, so perfect and joyous from every point of view, are at the same time no less salubrious and soothing for the invalid, infirm, and convalescent desirous, like those in robust health, of finding, combined with the luxurious gifts of nature, all that can help to restore their strength and re-awaken in them the joy of living.

The residential rooms, painted, parquetté, and decorated in such a way as to ensure the most perfect hygienic conditions, are fitted with furniture designed expressly in accordance with the minutest prescriptions of modern scientific methods brought into harmony with the most cultivated taste. On the walls, doors, and windows, there are no obscure corners, no recesses which cannot be easily reached and cleansed in the course of the daily domestic service. But all this careful foresight spent in securing an ideal state of cleanliness which might easily have reduced the appearance of the rooms to a dull level of monotonous simplicity, has been disguised in the best and happiest manner by the choice art of Professor Basile, who has ordered and designed all things with the rarest judgment.

In the lines and shape of the furniture, in the patterns and shades of the material, the different artists who, under the orders of the architect, have co-operated in supplying them, were bent on assembling the highest esthetic charms, the most exquisite refinements of the *Art Nouveau*, their constant aim having been to add grace, gaiety, and cheerfulness to the rare beauty of the place.



All this attractive ornamentation invests this residence with a unique character of fresh and vivacious modernity, differing in no way from noble apartments fitted with the most recent fashionable improvements, and, on the other hand, with nothing omitted conducive to the maintenance of health.

To any one not acquainted with the scientific requirements which are concealed behind the fittings of the rooms, it might seem that comfort and elegance were the sole ideas that governed the furnishing of these nests of cosiness and refinement.

The bedrooms — some 150 in number — are nearly all in the front of the vast structure (with a built on area of 4,000 square meters) and each one has its spacious balcony facing south, wreathed with creeping roses, glycines and honeysuckle. The inner rooms are all given up to the servants and the hotel offices. The building is so ingeniously divided that every two rooms are provided with a bath-room and all other immediate conveniences, so that well arranged sets of rooms may be formed into small, complete and independent suites, for families.

It is hardly necessary to add that an edifice erected on such liberal and scientific lines, also possesses a suitable building for a steam laundry fitted with special preventive appliances for the disinfection of linen; it has, moreover, a drainage system constructed in strict accordance with the most particular antiseptic methods; the servants belonging to all nations (and therefore speaking all languages well) have been taken from



among individuals of irreproachable appearance compelled by order and supervision of the management to pay strict attention to their personal propriety and who combine correct, courteous and attentive manners with the highest degree of diligence and activity.

If the rooms in which sanitation is the chief consideration, such as the bedrooms and their appurtenances, have been rendered so tastefully attractive, by the art of Professor Basile, it is easy to imagine what his wealth of fancy must have suggested to him for the decoration of the dining rooms (a spacious saloon flanked by two smaller rooms) and the entire ground floor intended for various gatherings of a social kind at such moments when the radiant beauties of the place, meeting the eye on every hand, invite one to plunge into the enjoyments of social gaiety.

All classes of artists have taken part in this latest creation of international fashion — always however in pure Italian style — which has the appearance of a highly adorned princely castle rather than of an ordinary hotel, howsoever aristocratic.

The outcome of this generous rivalry has been the decoration of a series of rooms (vestibules, dining rooms, assembly and concert rooms, drawing, reading, writing, smoking, billiard and refreshment rooms) with an inexhaustible wealth of conception, form and originality, the mere contemplation of which is enough to recreate the mind and in itself to render the place attractive.



The renown of « Villa Igiea »

« It would be difficult to imagine, in climate and situation, a resort better suited, to its purposes ».

Palermo, Jan. 8, 1900.

Signed: Prof. Dr. T. C. ALBUTT - Drs.
Sir J. L. BRUNTON - W. FOSTER -
G. GIBSON - P. MANSON - M. MORRIS -
J. CANTLIE - S. C. THOMSON.

The news of the rise of *Villa Igiea*, that noble, aristocratic, modern winter resort of Sicily, was received like the proclamation of an event long hoped for by all those who, amid the fogs and snows of the North, sigh for the splendours of the Southern sun.

All were convinced of the superiority of the Sicilian climate — in the centre of the Mediterranean, midway between the western coasts of

the Continent and the shores of Africa, — over all other wintering places, but some were not so equally assured of the suitability of existing localities from the point of view of science and particularly from the other, no less important standpoint, of modern ideas of comfort and amusement. The perfection, however, to which the splendid Villa Igiea Grand Hotel has attained, evoked a universal chorus of enthusiastic praise from all competent authorities who took the opportunity of visiting it, and the echo of their elogiums may be said to be now reverberating through out the world.

It was in January 1900 that, on hearing the news of the impending completion of the Villa Igiea and its possible inauguration for the succeeding winter, a company of high English medical notabilities undertook a journey to Italy, with the twofold object of investigating the important work being carried on in Rome in connection with malaria, and of studying our southern climates as a winter sojourn, in place of the Riviera and Egypt, which all disillusioned English travellers are beginning to forsake. This learned Commission, after visiting Rome and Naples, came on to Palermo to see with their own eyes the new grand cosmopolitan attractions being prepared there, the magnificent palace which presumed to proudly claim the first position among the winter health and pleasure resorts of all Europe.

Among these illustrious visitors were: — Sir T. Lauder Brunton; Sir Walter Foster, M.P.; Professor Clifford Allbutt (Cambridge University); Dr. Manson, C. M. H.; Dr. Cantlie (London Tropical School); Dr. Malcolm Morris; Dr. St. Clair Thomson; Dr. Gibson (Edinburgh); Dr. Norway, etc., etc.

This small scientific company wished to reside for a few days in the Villa itself, and although they could not possibly enjoy all the comforts which the hotel, completed and open to the public, will be able to provide, yet these English scientists, so taken were they with the charms of the enchanting spot, that expressed their desire, when leaving Palermo, to leave some proof of the highly favourable opinion they had formed of the Villa Igiea, and of their own free will, wrote and signed the following declaration:

« We, the undersigned, who have stayed three days at the « Villa Igiea » have formed the opinion that it would be difficult to imagine, in climate and situation, a health resort more suited to its purposes ». (Here follow the signatures).

The English, who are ever ready to consider a thing on its merits, attached to the judgment of their scientific celebrities the importance which it warranted, and all the weekly illustrated journals, which, as we know, enjoy exceptional repute in England, the professional and even some political journals, such as, for instance, the *Times*, went to the pains of verifying the advantages attributed to Villa Igiea in order to enlighten their countrymen, who had, hitherto, been attracted to the Riviera in search of a gentle climate and natural beauties, and to spread abroad the knowledge of the new Cosmopolitan centre, among all those whose means and state of health counselled and afforded the enjoyment of hibernating on the Mediterranean.

The « *Lancet* » in an article headed « Palermo and its future as a Health Resort » in its issue of the 13th. January 1900, wrote:

« The *Conca d'oro*, the picturesque name given to the Bay of Palermo, is entertaining at the present moment a learned company of English medical men desirous of ascertaining the advantages of that country as a winter resort.

The claims of Palermo to become a winter retreat are well-known to our readers.

« Some years ago a distinguished scientist, duly commissioned by the *Lancet*, went to Sicily for the purpose of studying the country, and a series of learned articles on the climatical, meteorological, and topographical advantages of a winter residence in Palermo appeared in these columns.

« Subsequently, in letters entitled *Italy's Opportunity*, we alluded to the falling off (especially in recent years) in the favour which Anglo-Saxons the world over used to show to the French Riviera, and remarked that this gradual abandonment might be utilised not only by the Western Riviera but by the Sicilian and Neapolitan Riviera ».

Again, in No. 27 of the same month, in resumption of the subject, the author, who had himself expressed a wish to visit Villa Igiea, gave the following description of it:

« The building situated in one of the most beautiful positions near Palermo, rises amidst a magnificent park, which is reached by a fine carriage road leading to not a few, picturesque and varied excursions in the vicinity. Internally this splendid Villa is fitted up like the best Grand Hotels of European Capitals; its appointments might be said to be inspired solely luxuriant, were they not strictly hygienic in every detail, so that not only the greatest comfort and elegance but also the most scrupulous and perfect sanitation have been ensured ».



The *Journal of Tropical Medicine*, in its February number, added a splendid illustration giving a view of *Villa Igia* supplementing its descriptive article, from which we take a few extracts, drawing attention to the particular advantages of Sicily as an intermediate halting place between tropical and northern regions:

«...On a limb of this *Conca d'Oro*, as the country round Palermo is called, the *Villa Igia* is built, a magnificent lordly pile in its vastness and appearance. The garden fronting the sea descends gradually to the water level and is exquisitely adorned.

The fountains, terraces beautified with marbles, broad stairs and the tropical wealth of flowers and palms surrounding them, form charming resting places and in front stretch the deep blue waters of the smiling Mediterranean completing a picture unequalled anywhere and indelibly impressed on the mind of any one having the good fortune to contemplate it.

Internally all the resources of modern sanitation and Italian art have been drawn upon to complete this marvellous structure. From the damp proof mosaics of the beautiful clean floors, to the polished antiseptic surface of the walls and admirable system of ventilation, all combine to impress the visitor with the assiduous care bestowed upon every detail of construction.

The bath rooms are spacious and numerous. The kitchens and the domestic arrangements are the best that could be devised. Amusements of all kinds can be indulged in, and there is no lack of rooms for concerts and theatrical performances. Finally there is a steam and sailing yacht of 320 tons at the service of the inmates of *Villa Igia* for making excursions.

« *Villa Igia* will have room for 200 persons, and in point of size, sanitation and attractiveness, should rank as the first of European health resorts.

« It is difficult to find in all Europe a climate and scenery more suited to those who in the months of December, January, February and especially March are in need of a mild climate; particularly those accustomed to life in the tropics and who are returning to England. The French and German resorts are not at all suitable at that season.

« The Riviera claims a high rank in this connection, but it has many faults; the temperature is variable, cold snaps are very frequent and the threat of icy breezes, hangs over the whole season.

« Northern Italy should also be avoided at this season of the year and even at Rome and Naples the weather is uncertain and fluctuating.



« Palermo and the northern coast of Sicily are exempt from many of these defects, if not, indeed, from all of them, and to this must be added the advantage of attractive surroundings, and a mild and equable climate conducive to open air life in its most ample and beneficent form ».

A new shrine of Igia in Sicily, is the title of an article on the new Winter Resort, published in the authoritative *British Medical Journal* in its issue of the 17th February 1900, and this poetical title is well sustained in the text by Mignon's sweet invocation to « the land where the orange blooms », as if to prove, once again, the mysterious power which this sweet land of Sicily has of awakening in the breasts to the coldest natures the sentimental feelings inspired by the remembrances to the gentle girl. That glowing song to the land which contains every beauty, does not, however, prevent a searching scientific enquiry and strict examination of the new international establishment from every point of view.

« *Villa Igia*, writes our competent reviewer, is beautifully situated in the famous *Conca d'Oro* on the Mediterranean coast. The spot it is built on, rises gradually to an average height of 16 meters above the sea level, and extends over an area of more than three hectares. The centre of the building is parallel with the coast and runs from east to west, so that it is open to the south and is sheltered from the North by Monte Pellegrino.

« The rooms are all in front and overlook the sea. Every suite has its bath room and all the requisite sanitary accessories. On the ground floor there are assembly rooms, reading and writing rooms, billiard and smoking rooms, saloons, &c. &c. Some of these have spacious porticoes which form agreeable open air resorts, all looking on the garden towards the sea. *Villa Igia* provides accommodation for 200 persons.

The lifts enable the inmates of the villa to make use of a terrace on the top of the building, which has an area of 3000 square meters. This terrace, with its towers and shelters enclosed in glass, is one of the greatest attractions of *Villa Igia*.

« The configuration of the grounds which descends easily, from the esplanade on which the Villa stands, to the sea shore, has been cleverly utilised to construct a series of terraces connected by broad flights of marble stairs, decorated with balustrades and intersected by paths leading to the sea and boarding stages.



« The gardens, abundantly planted with all kinds of native and exotic vegetation, are dotted here and there with pavillions, one of which is reserved for musical entertainments. The hotel also contains rooms expressly arranged for the celebration of divine service of all creeds, and postal and telegraph offices.

« There are always carriages available for such as desire to make excursions to the neighbourhood or the city, and for those who are fond of the sea, there are rowing boats, sailing craft and the *Igiea*, a yacht of 300 tons.

« The building is fire proof throughout, being built entirely of iron and stone. The flooring of the rooms is in cement and mosaics, venetian style.

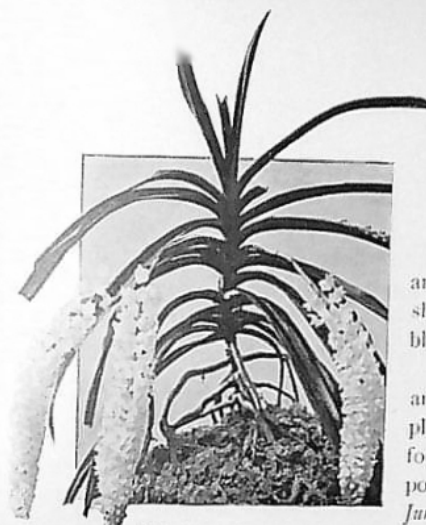
« Special care has been taken to ensure the continuous insensible ventilation of the rooms and the building is heated in every part, where necessary, by different methods dictated by circumstances such as steam, hot air pipes, wood fires or small coal stoves.

« The laundry is set up in a suitable building some distance off. Drainage system has been constructed with particular care and in such a way that the matter goes through several processes of sterilization before it passes completely out of the drains.

« There can be no difference of opinion as to the fine quality of the climate of Palermo, and the perfect arrangements obtaining at the *Villa Igica*. We visited the place early in January, and the weather was like that of the mildest June in England, so much so as to induce us to take a sea bath in the clear tepid waters that lap the Villa's gardens ».

After these authoritative and favourable opinions emanating from learned climatologists, and which we have only shortly summarised, we do not need to adduce any more evidence from competent authorities, to justify the enthusiastic language we have used in describing life in Palermo and at the *Villa Igica*: this enthusiasm represents indeed nothing but the absolute truth.

Before closing these concise notes, however, we cannot help transcribing a short extract from the article in the *Practitioner*, a medical review enjoying the highest repute, and few lines from the *Times* correspondence, just to show, once more, how unanimous opinion is, and how in every respect and in all classes of society *Villa Igica* is held in the highest esteem. In the February number of the *Practitioner* the editor gives his readers an account of his trip through Italy and Sicily, and the visit he paid to *Villa Igica*:



« ... It is situated in the Conca d'Oro, amidst a scenery of exquisite beauty, well sheltered from cold winds and bathed by the blue waters of the Mediterranean.

Although we were in the middle of winter and the weather at Rome, Naples and other places I had visited had not been pleasant, I found at Palermo a temperature such as we poor northerners would be glad to get in leafy June, and a sky such as we can only dream of

Villa Igica has the appearance of a princely palace. Its construction and appointments have attained the very highest degree of perfection, and place it first among similar places now in existence. »

In the *Times* of January 30th. there is a long letter from Rome, in which the writer, inter alia, devotes considerable space to a description of the health resort which has sprung up at Acqua Santa near Palermo.

« ... at *Villa Igica*, a splendid palace — I cannot possibly call it otherwise — those who are in a position to pass the winter season there, will be able to enjoy ad libitum all the advantages which a fine and equable climate, delightful environs and every luxury of life can afford.

« On the undulating land bathed with the sun, terraces and esplanades succeed each other at varying altitudes: flights of steps, balustrades, marble seats, fountains, green houses, pavillions and grottoes are scattered all about, containing a thousand attractions.

« To the perfections of the palace itself, must be added the attractions of the country in which it is built, as Palermo is undoubtedly the country nearest the continent of Europe in which such a delicious climate can be found and which provides so many resources for a happy and tranquil life and so many fascinations for the eye and imagination. »

The tenour of other articles in *Travel*, *Science Siftings*, *Hearth and Home*, *Madame* and many other journals of diverse character, is no less flattering to *Villa Igica*, but we should far exceed the limits of this notice if we were to indulge in further quotations which would be, moreover, quite useless as the unanimity of enthusiasm which has been displayed is the infallible sign and symbol of the pre-eminence to which this Sicilian Winter Resort is bound to attain, as the outcome of the courageous enterprise of its founders.

To anyone arriving from the Continent at morning in the green bay in which Palermo still sleeps on the placid sea, *Villa Igica*, rising on the majestic slopes of Monte Pellegrino, stands out to meet his gaze as the

chief beauty of the Conca d'Oro. Surrounded by broad esplanades on which the rising sun is already streaming in the midst of a verdant park, ringing with the music of its feathered songsters, approached by noble marble stairs, with avenues winding through foliage eternally green on which the dew still trembles and sparkles, lapped by the warm waves fragrant sea weed, it appears in the rosy light of dawn, as the realization of the paradise of Mignon's dream, as a bounteous Eden bestowing the balm of happiness and peace on all suffering from bodily ills or anguish of mind.



Life at Villa Igiea.

« ...ce ciel enchante
Qui montre avec tant de clarté
Le grand mystère
Si pur, qu'un soupir monte à Dieu
Plus librement, qu'en aucun lieu
Qui soit sur terre. »
A. DE MUSSET.

The taste of the artist who presided over the creation of a place combining all the charms of Sicily, sung by Theocritus, Goethe, Shelley and de Musset, and the bold liberality of the capitalists who appreciated the value of the Pearl of the Mediterranean as a place of modern recreation, have invested *Villa Igiea* with all that beauty which rendered this

island, unique in the world, dearer to the ancient Greeks than the very cradle of their own civilisation and greatness.

Although Palermo is a tranquil and clean city, enlivened by those gardens and villas which take away from crowded centres of population the oppressive character of places in which breathing seems a difficult task: *Villa Igiea* has been erected far from the metropolis, in the open country, yet on a spot in rapid and easy communication with the city.

Acqua Santa is the name of a small green peninsula, which proceeding from Monte Pellegrino, runs southwards into the sea and is surrounded, on its three sides, by water so pure, blue and limpid as to merit — in the figurative language of the south — the glorified title of Acqua Santa (holy water).

Acqua Santa and the slopes of Monte Pellegrino where *Villa Igiea* is built, are at the eastern end of Palermo, but the electric tramway, the steam launches belonging to *Villa Igiea*, the splendid carriage roads through orange gardens, make communication so rapid easy and agreeable, as to remove any sense of remoteness from the centre of the city.

This happy situation thus confers on the Sicilian Eden the inestimable advantages of tranquil country and lonely shore, undisturbed by the noise of busy streets, the clamour and smoke of factories, dusty roads, or odors, other than the perfume of flowers and sea weed. All the garden paths are cemented and all the ground covered with grass, so that it is an absolute impossibility for the slightest dust to be present at *Villa Igiea*, no more than if this magnificent palace were set on the deck of a mighty vessel anchored under the lee of that Pellegrino whom Goethe loved so much.

Notwithstanding this isolation, uniting the solemn peace of the woods and the infinite stillness of the sea, it needs but twenty minutes to reach the gay vortex of city life: the Marina, by steam launch, the Teatro Massimo, by electric tramway, the Giardino Inglese, Favorita and Via Maqueda by carriage. The carriages and launches are for the exclusive use of the guests of *Villa Igiea*, as also be the electric tramways, for those availing themselves of it, for there will be arranged a special service of saloon carriages belonging to the *Villa Igiea* running at stated intervals solely for the benefit of its guests. There will be also a special room on the Piazza Teatro Massimo, where a staff specially appointed by the Hotel, will receive parcels of goods sent there from shops in the city where they have been purchased, and also receives telephone instructions to secure places for any particular departure. There will be a similar service in connection with theatres and entertainments both going and returning.



This is all for the benefit of those who desire to enjoy city life; but for those whose ideas of pleasure and tranquility do not extend

beyond the boundaries of *Villa Igiea*, the numerous general rooms for conversation, concerts, balls and private entertainments, permit the enjoyment of the most varied distractions obtainable in the quasi familiarity of social life in a great international centre.

The proximity of the meadows on the slopes of Monte Pellegrino and the extensive park of Favorita, provide opportunities for pleasant walks and picnics, and there are innumerable places, inside and outside the hotel, suitable for more or less private gatherings and amusements.

The situation of *Villa Igiea* makes even summer residence pleasant in this Sicilian health resort. With this view, a portion of the Hotel will be kept open during the summer and in the *Grotta della Regina*, and at other suitable spots along the shore, all conveniences are being erected for sea bathing, and boats, sloops, floats and all other requisites are being provided to enhance the pleasure and gaiety of the hours passed in the blue waters of the gulf dominated by the distant mountains which: —

... si rincorrono tra loro,
sin che sfumano in dolci ondeggiamenti
entro vapori di viola e d'oro.

CARDUCCI.

But all these beauties, conveniences, comforts and irresistible attractions of the *Villa Igiea*, would become almost of no account, if the new health resort were not placed in direct rapid and easy communica-



tion with the largest European centres: if it were not fully equipped with everything necessary to free the traveller from all anxiety or trouble both on his journey to Sicily and during his residence in the island.

Convinced of this necessity, the management of *Villa Igiea* has taken care to organise its own offices and services in connection with the great European express Companies and the steamer lines to Sicily.

In order to attain this object in the best possible way, the office *La Sicile* belonging to the Villa I. G. H., 6, Place de l'Opéra, Paris, which is the centre for enquiries and information for facilitating residence in Sicily, has been supplemented. At Naples, the most capable staff of officials of the *Pro Napoli*, immediately on the arrival of the international train, place themselves at the service of travellers bound for *Villa Igiea* to guide and assist them.

For instance, at the bureau *La Sicile* in Paris all information may be had, illustrated descriptions of Sicily and the *Villa Igiea* Grand Hotel obtained and a vast number of photographs &c inspected. If the journey to Palermo is decided on, the Bureau *La Sicile* will take care to secure in advance for the desired day, a good berth on the steamer to Palermo, with dinner ready on board, and provide as the traveller be freed from the observance of all customs formalities, the trouble of finding conveyances, boatmen or guides, all of which is attended to by a specially appointed staff.

Thanks to special arrangements made by the Italian General Navigation Company, the sailing hours of the steamers, coincide with the arrival of the international trains at Naples, so that only 14 hours are consumed in going from Rome to Palermo, through a comfortable and agreeable journey, undisturbed by worries of any kind.

For those who, notwithstanding the comfort, elegance and speed of the steamers, do not like the passage by sea, the bureau Igiea provides the same assistance for continuing the journey over land, reserving comfortable berths in the sleeping car and attending to the despatch of the bulkier luggage by sea, so as to arrive at *Villa Igiea* even before the travellers to whom it belongs.

There is also at *Villa Igiea*, besides the post, telegraph, money changing, and enquiry offices, a bureau authorised to issue railway and steamboat tickets, register luggage and perform the work of a receiving and forwarding agency.

This tourist agency attached to the Sicilian Winter Resort, possesses a special function of inestimable value for excursions into Sicily. The railway and steamboat office not only supplies all necessary information respecting the various excursions, but the guests at *Villa Igiea* will find at Girgenti, Syracuse, and Taormina expert local guides in the service

of the Hotel, who will attend to all possible wants, from meals to suitable lodgings, should a longer stay be considered necessary or desirable.

In addition to these arrangements for those who like to visit Sicily alone, the great attraction of residence at Villa Igica are the general excursions organised periodically by the management of the Grand Hotel. Companies are formed from time to time under the guidance of learned archeologists, by whom the trip to the ancient monuments is converted into an interesting study relieved by gay open air picnics among classic ruins, the folk songs of the various places visited and the living presentment in their most characteristic forms of the costumes of the different districts for which preparations are made beforehand by the management.

This kind of Cooks agency on a limited scale and of an aristocratic intellectual order, as being promoted by persons of position, conducted with the greatest attention to every comfort and organised for the exclusive benefit of the inmates of *Villa Igica*, gives to a sojourn in this delightful Sicilian retreat the character of being entertained at some splendid hospitable country seat, rather than of a transient isolated residence in a grand hotel. There is, in fact, no other hotel in the world which places at the service of its guests such a magnificent yacht as *Igica*, for making excursions in the Bay of Palermo, to Messina, Syracuse and Tunis, as only a princely house could offer to its illustrious guests.

With all these attractions, worthy of the glorious beauties of the Pearl of the Mediterranean, *Villa Igica* will become, by the very force of things, the haunt most eagerly sought by international swallows.

There is, moreover, one advantage in which Sicily fears no rival, and that is — as the authoritative Journal of Tropical Medicine already mentioned, points out — its situation as an intermediate stopping place for people returning from India or Africa to the North and who need to get gradually acclimatised before passing from one extreme to the other.

Abounding in all that science, comfort and luxury can suggest to facilitate the enjoyment of the greatest intertwined natural and artistic beauties in existence, *Villa Igica*, must inevitably assert its preeminence over all other Winter Resorts of Europe, and hence forward, paraphrasing the ancient saying which resumes the fame of Naples, we shall have to say with equal justice: *See Villa Igica and then die!*



*Among the most celebrated products of Sicily,
one of the most appreciated is:*

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FLORIO

THE FINEST AND MOST
LUXURIOUS WINE OF ITALY

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