

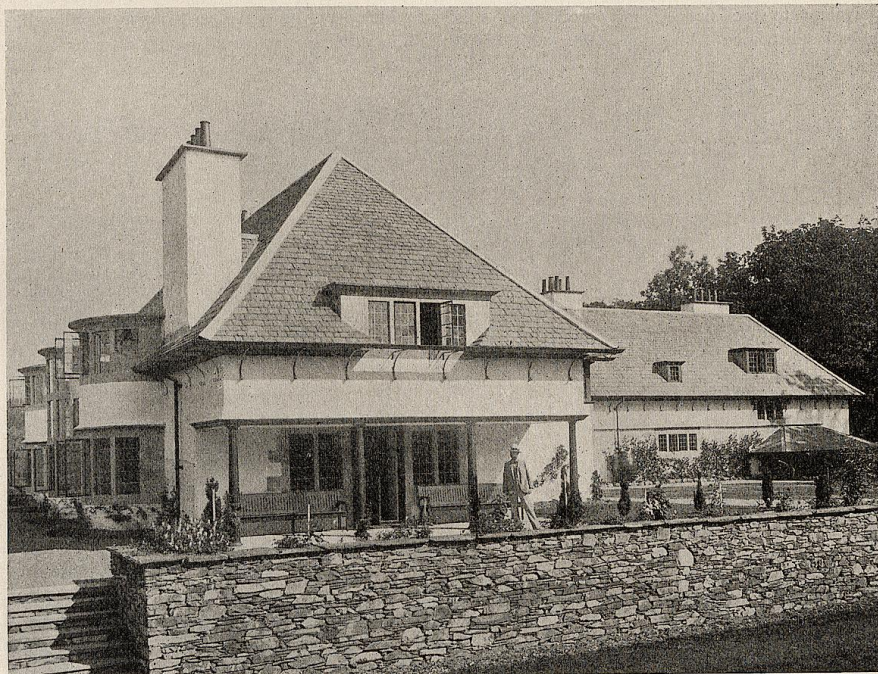
*C. F. A. Voysey*

SOME RECENT WORK BY MR. C. F. A. VOYSEY. BY AYMER VALLANCE.

It sometimes befalls an artist's work that the aspect of it with which his name becomes associated in common estimate is not that which is habitual to him, but rather what is exceptional, especially if the latter be marked by striking peculiarities. And it is natural enough that this should be so, for what is pronounced necessarily arrests attention and is remembered, while the more normal, on that very account, escapes observation or is forgotten. Something of this sort appears to have happened in the case of Mr. Voysey, who, his name having once become connected with a certain type of building, is scarcely credited with the versatility of powers that belongs to him.

It is true there are many architects who, on principle, would employ only such building materials as are produced in the particular locality; but Mr. Voysey is no purist, nor has he any prejudice against importing from wherever he may. At the

same time, when a perfectly suitable material is ready to hand, he would naturally prefer to take advantage of it. And it is a matter for regret to the artist should a client insist on having what he or she deems a thoroughly characteristic house instead of one more properly native to the soil. Thus the house designed by Mr. Voysey for Miss G. C. Conant at North Luffenham, near Stamford, Rutland, notwithstanding the district yields excellent building stone, was required to have brick walls covered with cement rough cast. Happily it was roofed, after the manner of an Oxford college, with slabs of local stone. Another feature of the exterior is a large gable, with a clock, surmounted by an old fourteenth-century bell, weighing upwards of three hundredweight. It is fitted with a hammer, plugged with wood to deaden its harsh, metallic clang, for striking the hours. In the interior all the fireplace tiles are of special design, different in every room; the tiles themselves executed by Mr. C. Dressler at Marlow. The parlour walls are lined to the height of six feet with pink silk, the woodwork being enamelled in white. The floors



"BROADLEYS," WINDERMERE

C. F. A. VOYSEY, ARCHITECT

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