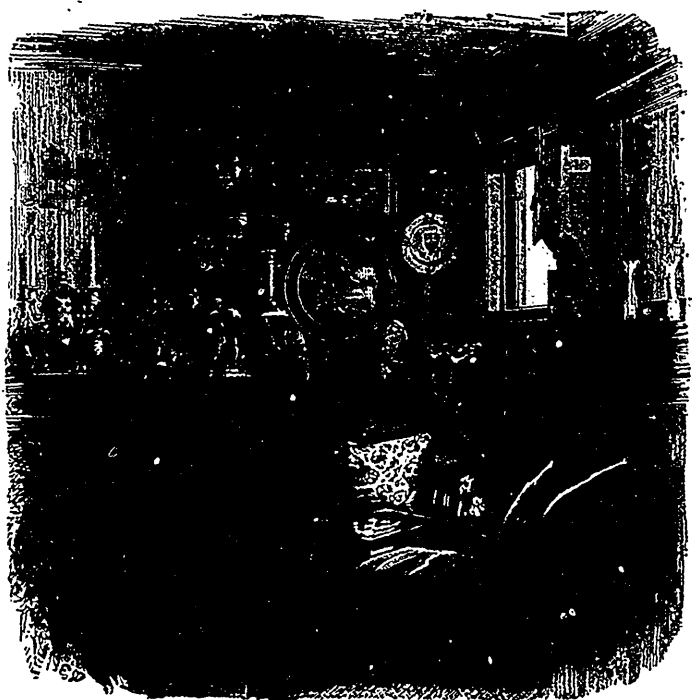


hurst would find that by breakfast-time the mistress of the house had at her fingers' ends all the contingencies of the coming day; she could inform each what horse was ordered for him or her to ride or drive, who was going to shoot, what rooms were ordered for this or that expected guest, and by what trains they were to be met at the station; and, with all this, she would find time to look round to the school-room at the children's lessons, or to make inquiries after, or very possibly to call in person to see, some invalid tenants.



A COSY CORNER ON THE "SUNBEAM."

She was exceedingly fond of animals; she had quite a menagerie of beasts and birds at Normanhurst, and would make a round to feed them, never omitting the stables, where every horse seemed to know her, and to look out for a piece of carrot or sugar so soon as she appeared at the stable-door. She was a woman of great natural kindliness of disposition, and was never more delighted than when she had succeeded in pleasing some one else by some good office or attention. She used to say that she always felt.