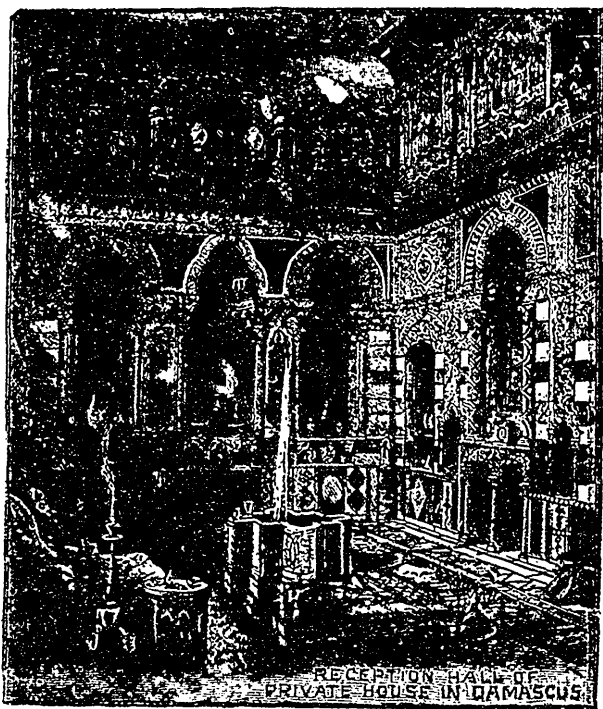


court was entered by a passage leading from the first, and was evidently the feature of the mansion.

It was ablaze with light, reflected from the creamy white walls and the polished mosaic pavement, a brightness that would have been glaring had not its effect been softened by a broad border of tropical plants and shrubs. Palm, orange, citron, pomegranate, rose and jessamine threw their light shadows on the pavement and filled the warm air with perfume.

A graceful colonnade along one side of the court afforded shade at all hours, and the play of water in a large fountain gave



refreshing coolness. All the rooms of the household opened on this charming substitute for a hall. On one side (at right angles to the colonnade) two large and handsome reception-rooms for the master and mistress of the house were divided by a lofty, arched recess (open to the court), where soft rugs, and heaps of silken cushions made a charmingly luxurious nest.

Opposite these, a handsome suite of rooms, finished in marble, was fitted with every appliance for Turkish baths. It had been intimated to us that we might be presented to the lady of the house, but lack of time had forced us to decline. However, as we were leaving, one of the servants motioned us to look through