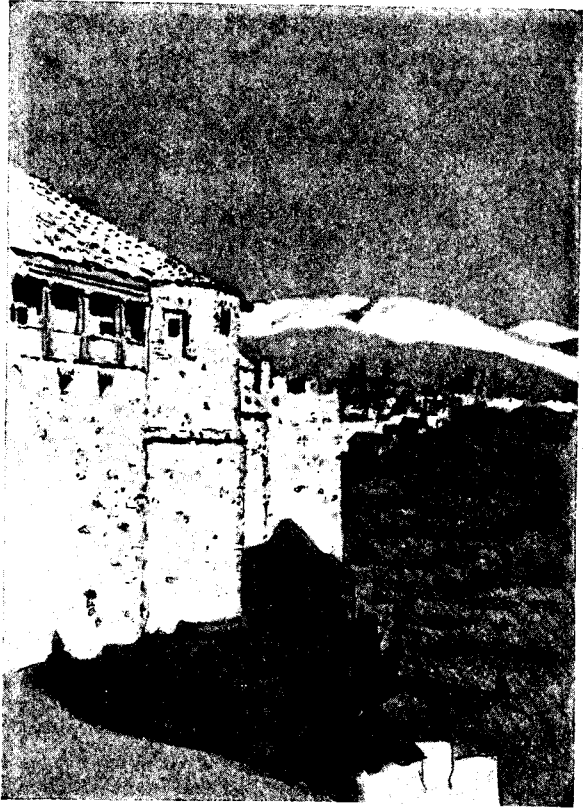


O'Shea) repelled us for some reason, but I would say to possible travellers to Segovia, *take the other*; it cannot possibly be any worse than the "Burgalesa," and there is a wide range of possibility of its being better.

And yet, to be perfectly just, we had a most enjoyable view from the balcony: we looked out upon the principal plaza; on our left was the florid-Gothic cathedral, and on the right a multitude of irregular towers and chimneys against snow-covered hills, and fields at their base which were fast becoming green. So there were things which compensated in part for Spanish cooking and badly ventilated rooms.

History and tradition do not agree in their account of the aqueduct; the latter asserts that its author and builder was the devil, who reared his structure in a single night to save one of the fair maidens of Segovia the trouble of fetching water from the river; and there is a suggestion of this presence of the "eternal feminine" in the city arms, which consist of a shield bearing upon it the arches of the aqueduct, and surmounted by a female head. But history assures us that Trajan, who was born near Seville, was its author. It consists of a double row of arches, all the upper ones being of the same height, while the lower ones vary with the level; there are 320 of these arches, and the greatest height is 102 feet. The stone is black and grey granite, no cement has been used, and on each block are plainly visible the holes made for the grappling irons. Some of the arches were broken when the Moors sacked Segovia, and were not rebuilt until four centuries later when Isabella, the Catholic, took the matter in hand.

The Alcazar, or palace, was unfortunately destroyed by fire some twenty-



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five years ago, and though it has been built up again as nearly as possible like the former structure, it has a fine, new appearance, which does not invite, but rather repels. We interested ourselves in searching out the old parts of the building, displaying to our little guide, a girl of about twelve years, an intense interest in all the original portions, and supreme indifference to the "restored" apartments, with their glaring colors, except those rooms which contained, amid restorations, portions of the old Moorish stucco work on the walls; she entered fully into the spirit of our quest, eagerly pointing out parts which she assured us were *vieja*, and passing over those freshly built and decorated. But in spite of the ravages of the restorer, the Alcazar is an interesting building, and its associations with historical people and events give it another interest for us. It has been used as a palace, for-