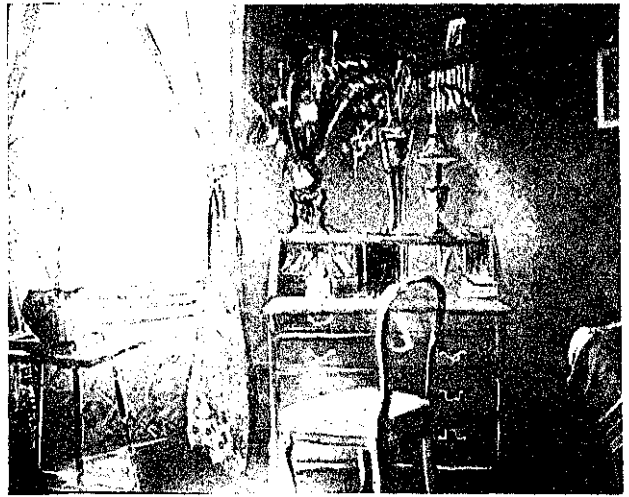


palms and ferns on tall blue china pedestals; quaint bowls are full of flowers, a tall Japanese cabinet contains rare china; paintings of the Christ and the Madonna in Florentine frames, screens, pictures, deep-seated chairs and couches, all combine to make a harmonious whole. Not a colour note jars: all is in uncommon and perfect taste, not only in the writing-room but throughout the whole house. The oak and silver of the dining-room has a setting of crimson, handsome bronze ornaments adorn the mantelshelf, and in one corner a quaint oak cabinet, framed as a dresser, contains a collection of quaint china, among which is some of the old "candle" china presented to "Rita" as parting gifts from some of the farmhouses in Devonshire.

The morning-room, which opens to the garden, is a study in old rose. There is nothing modern or commonplace, from the rosewood cabinets, odd shaped tables and window settles, to the unique collection of paper knives—presents from India, China, Ireland and other places. Among treasures from Ireland are specimens of Irish bog oak, a harp, a spinning-wheel, a walking-stick



THE WRITING-ROOM AND BUREAU ON WHICH MOST OF HER WRITING HAS BEEN DONE.

quaintly carved, presenting, whichever way you turn it, the Irish cross. Photographs signed by eminent people are everywhere, and make quite an interesting study.

"Rita" herself has a striking personality: her figure is slight, her hair dark, but her chief beauty is her eyes, which are large and of a beautiful brown, and so expressive that it is not necessary for one who knows her to hear her speak to gauge exactly what is passing in her mind: laughter, scorn, admiration, tenderness, all are expressed. She has remarkably small hands and feet,

and is one of those few women who can wear costly rings—they seem in some way to be the proper setting for her. She is always well dressed, and in that perfect taste which suits the costume to the occasion. Not a great talker, she is yet a charming hostess, and possesses that rare faculty of shutting commonplace people out of her acquaintance, and drawing about her men and women of intellect and charm. Not a bit "groovy," you may, therefore, meet in her rooms an actor, a noted divine, a great critic, a musician, a



CORNER OF WRITING-ROOM.