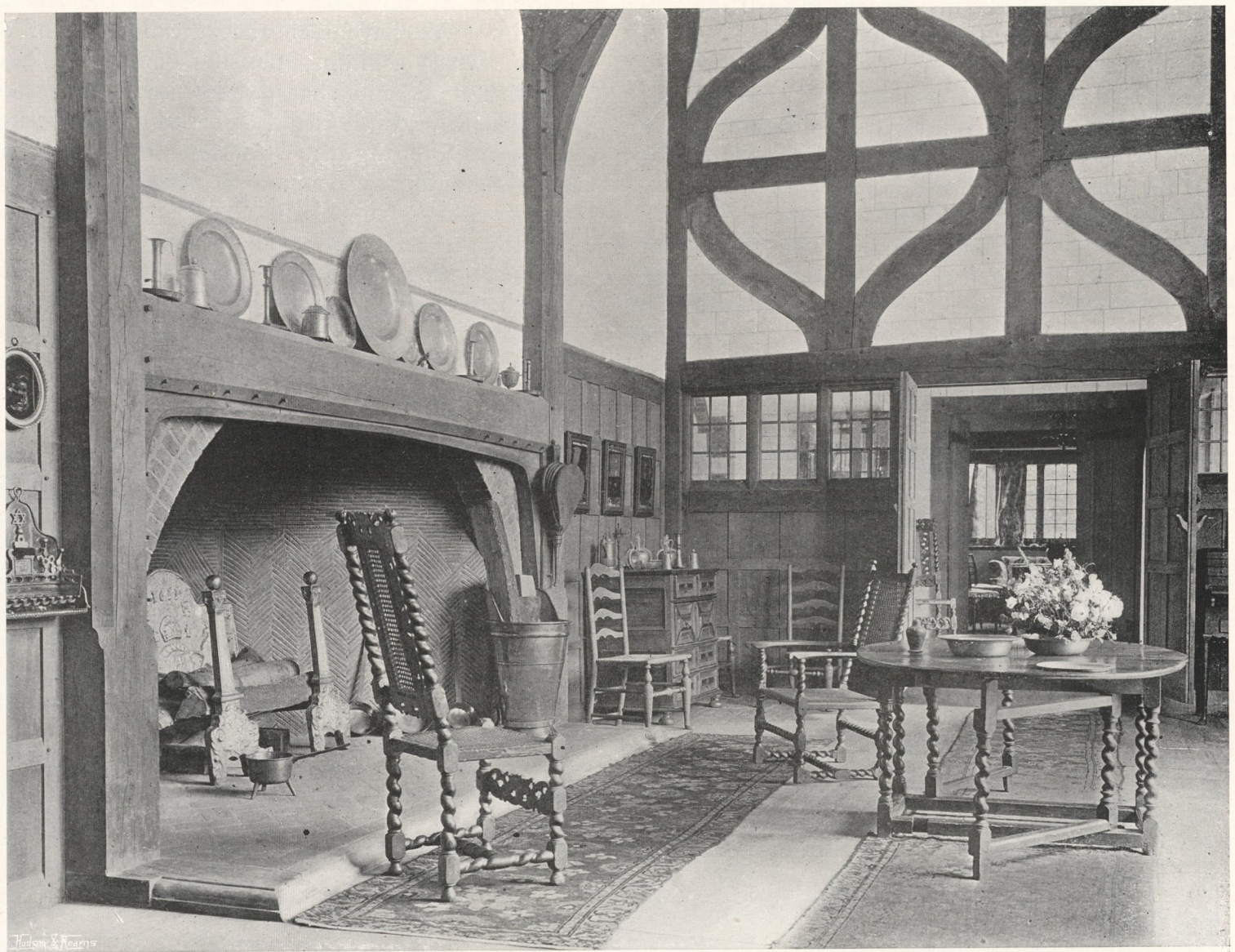


cloister-walk, and the external wall—a cool and pleasant retreat, indeed, in the hot days of summer, with a basin in the centre. A faun pressing a wine-skin feeds this with water, and forms a tiny poem in himself. On one side of the court is a splendid leaden tank, finely worked, and bearing the date 1778, from which water runs in a zigzag course cut in the flagging on its way to the basin. There various water plants flourish, and disposed about the enclosure are magnificent pots of agapanthus, the blue African lily, which, in due season, proudly lifts its azure crowns in sun or shade. There is something peculiarly satisfying to the eye in this cool and

of the garden beyond. On the left as we enter is the oaken staircase, with an excellent balustrade and newel-posts, all admirable, plain, and substantial, and strongly characteristic of the reserve and repose that reign throughout the house.

On the right is the Great Hall, a spacious and beautiful apartment, with a lofty open roof, framed with massive beams of oak, and braces and other structural timbers cut from the curved boughs of the trees. The same framing is seen at the ends of the Hall, where the spaces between the timbers are filled in with chalk, the effect being admirable. The great fireplace is widely arched, and the walls within it are of herring-bone



*THE HALL FIREPLACE.*

tranquil place, and, as we look across and through the cloister, we see another court, lying to the east, which has the garden on one side and on the other a multitude of roses fringing the ancient exterior wall.

We now enter the house itself, and through the open door an admirable vista is disclosed. The cloister-like air is preserved by the succession of round arches in the Entrance Hall, and there is the same aspect of coolness and repose arising from the use of white chalk and red brick, contrasted with the delicate brown of the oak. Right through the house runs this passage-way, and through the entrance at the other end we have a fine outlook over the terraces

brickwork. The iron fireback, dated 1611, has the arms and garter of James I., and doubtless came from one of the old Sussex foundries, in which, for a century and a-half at least, the hammer of the craftsman has ceased to ring. Opposite to the fire is the lofty bay, or oriel, of many lights, with oaken mullions and transoms and leaded panes, through which we gain a lovely prospect of the garden. Here, in the Hall, and afterwards in the other rooms, the visitor divines that all has been planned with wise forethought, and that each window is placed so as to give a view of the garden. There is much oak-work and panelling in the Hall and other apartments, and old, excellent, and appropriate furniture,