

SANDRINGHAM, NORFOLK.

IT is matter of no common gratification to be able to include in this volume a very beautiful and complete series of pictures of the interiors of rooms at Sandringham House. Both the King and Queen are very deeply attached to the beautiful house and estate in East Anglia. One might almost say of it that it has everything in its favour. It is approached through natural moorland, well-planted, but not over-planted, with conifers and other trees, up a sharp hill from which there is a fine prospect of the Wash. Sandringham is not a palace, for there the King and Queen are the squire and the lady of the manor.

Certain special characteristics are particularly noticeable. First, both the King and Queen have been great travellers, and collectors while they travelled, and there is not a corner in the house, not a passage nor a corridor, which is not full of mementoes of days of travel. Next, of mere splendour there is not much, but of substantial comfort there is a great deal. The sunlight penetrates everywhere; the rooms are bathed in it. Then there are flowers and plants in every place where room can possibly be found for them, stately palms in the flower court, cut

flowers and plants without number in the Drawing Rooms, so that the air is sweet, but by no means heavy, with their scent.

There is no particular reason for describing the rooms in the house in any order of precedence, and they shall be taken in the order in which the writer saw them. First came the Ball Room, which is really noble in its proportions, with its grand coved ceiling in geometrical patterns. Over the musicians' gallery hung a magnificent white tiger skin presented to the King by the Maharaja of Kuch Behar, and the trophies of the chase were many. For the rest, the Ball Room needs scarcely more of description; but it is perhaps permissible to point out that the armour and weapons on the walls, collected by the King during his travels in the East, are of quite exceptional beauty. There is a large window immediately opposite the fireplace, and by it stand some camel-drums, reminiscences of the Soudan, presented by Lord Kitchener, and the gorgeous caparison of the elephant ridden by the King when, as Prince of Wales, he was present at a great occasion of State in India.

Hardly less interesting than the Ball Room are its anteroom and corridor, of which the



THE EAST FRONT.