



After High Wall was built to the design of Mr Walter Cave, the garden was taken in hand by Mr Peto. It is a good example of what can be done to make an attractive setting for a house with simple elements - walls, terraces, pergola and garden house. The danger of formal design is an excessive multiplication of features, and especially of small elements which confuse the main outlines of the scheme. It becomes

rather tiresome when a garden reveals a little statue at every turn, and especially which such figures are battered waifs which affect to have strayed into their new home from old gardens. The use of old figures in new gardens is a modern fashion which requires careful handling. As Vernon Lee has written: "We wish to buy associations ready made, like that wealthy man of taste who sought to buy as half dozen old statues, properly battered and lichened by the centuries, to put in his brand new garden." The essay from which this is taken "About Leisure" was published just twenty years ago. As lately as 1897, then, the desire to use old statues struck a great lover of gardens as a novelty. Today their employment has



become so usual that the absence of a host of leaden armorini at High Wall strikes the eye almost as a novelty and as something of a relief. Mr Peto has laid out his garden with due reference to the house

which it enshrines. From the loggia a flagged path crosses the south lawn to where the high enclosing wall runs at an angle to the axial line of the house. At this point we go under a pergola that leads round to a stairway and also to the garden house which figures in three of our illustrations. West of the house the ground falls rapidly and Mr Peto has taken advantage of this to provide a broad balustraded terrace held up by a high retaining wall. Further south the drop is not so great, but enough to provide a long bowling green below the level of the main lawn. The site is a difficult one in its levels and awkward in its shape, but the combined skill of Mr Cave and Mr Peto has created a house garden which give an added charm to Headington Hill.

LAWRENCE WEAVER



LOOKING OUT FROM THE LOGIA



THE BOWLING GREEN



FROM THE GARDEN HOUSE



TERRACE AND STEPS ON THE WEST FRONT



ON THE WEST TERRACE