

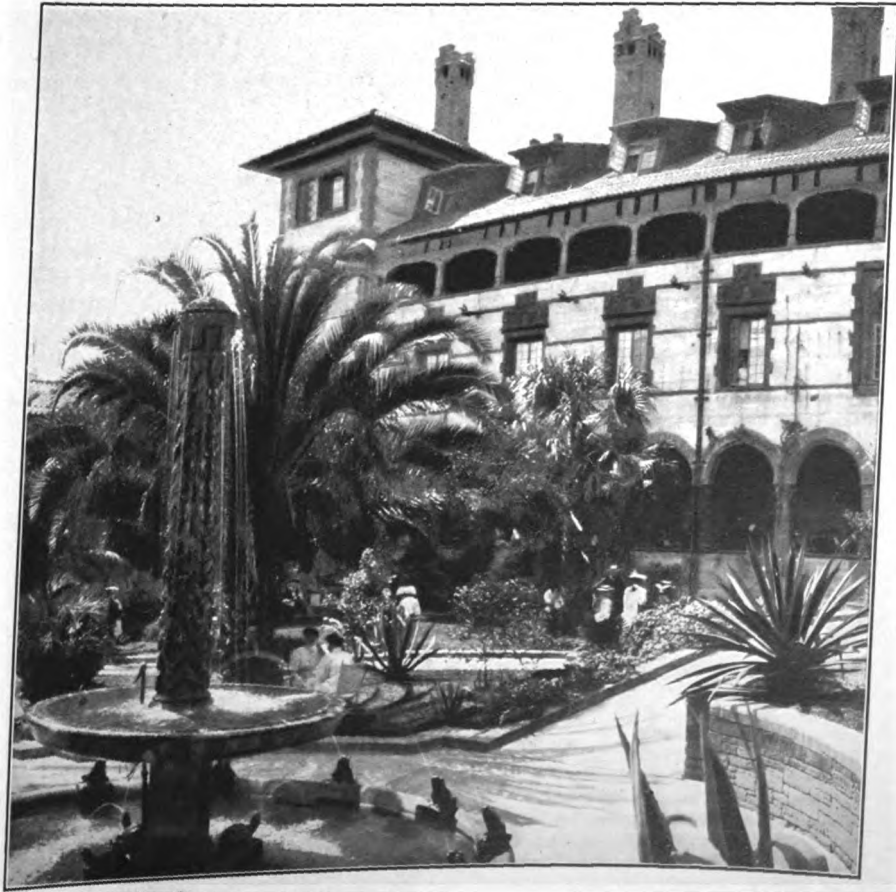
to him more strongly than to any other man I ever met. He has often told me that he does not wish to keep on spending money for maintenance of way, but to build for all time; while a corporation, especially where the country has to grow up and the paving traffic is all in the future, will do barely enough to supply the pressing needs, and make improvements gradually, as the profit comes in. But that is not Mr. Flagler's way. "I was told to make my studies and my estimates. We had lots of problems to solve, and I was quite a long while he desired to hear heard a word of taste. When the and I took it we proposed e came to the Flagler stood l: 'Well, let's serious work ia. Perhaps some com- d said very efore I die'.

one of us who wouldn't give a year of his life to have Mr. Flagler see the work completed!"

It is to be doubted whether mere figures can give an adequate idea of the magnitude of Flagler's work. He has spent \$41,000,000 in Florida; that is, his investment in incorporated enterprise amounts to that, divided roughly as follows: \$18,000,000 in the old railroads, including the development of towns, \$10,000,000 in the Key West Extension, \$12,000,000 in hotels, and \$1,000,000 in steamboat and outside enterprises. This sum does not include his charities, churches, and divers donations, for neither he nor any one else has kept the figures. The value of the taxable property in the counties exclusively reached by the Flagler roads has increased over fifty millions since he began. And there are to-day only about 25,000 acres under cultivation for fruit and vegetables out

of a total of about 3,500,000 acres now available for such cultivation. Flagler has "made" the East Coast of Florida.

The construction of the Ponce de Leon Hotel began in 1885. The house opened in December, 1888. The Alcazar was completed shortly after. The Ormond Hotel was purchased in 1890, and enlarged from time to time. The Royal Poinciana at Palm Beach, originally a five-hundred-room house, was opened in February, 1894; it now has 2,000 rooms. The Breakers was completed in 1895, destroyed by fire in 1903, and entirely rebuilt on the old site. It is a four-hundred-room house. The Royal Palm at Miami was completed and opened for the season of 1896-97. At Nassau, the Colonial, a four-hundred-room house, was opened in 1899. Flagler purchased other property there, including the Hotel Victoria, from the English Government. The Continental, at



Courtesy Frank Presbrey Co.

COURT OF THE PONCE DE LEON AT ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA.