

Luggage Labels

INDIEN  
INDIA

AGYPHEN  
EGYPT

PALASTINA  
PALESTINE

were concentrated upon one place in all the world: Abbazia. The whole passionate longing of that poor devil for sunshine, the South, life and the great world was embodied in this one word. I still have the melody of this word ringing in my ears and the stage setting rises before me: in the waiter's bare and hideous little room there is but one picture on the wall and that is a hotel poster, incredibly azure: "Grand Hotel Abbazia".

Probably there is no-one who remains entirely unmoved by the pictures of hotels in the midst of palm-trees, terraces sloping gently down to the lake and mighty mountain chains rising behind. The inhabitants of the northern regions naturally react most strongly to the sunny charms of the famous hostelries of the south; the greyer the atmosphere of everyday, the easier it is to succumb to the charm of the "blue distances".

I have been told that in Paris there is a shop in which one can buy any hotel label from all over the world. What a delightful idea to be a shop assistant in this wonderland and have charge of such rich merchandize, freighted with imagination and longing.

Transb. by F. T. S.

