
"A GARDEN OF GOD."

INDIA OFFICE DECISION.

We announced on May 6 that Miss C. M. Faithfull, of Tunbridge Wells, as the result of a letter to *The Times* from Sir George Birdwood, had offered him her freehold house and grounds at Walton-on-Thames for the purpose of a general burying-ground for Muslims in England, and that he had transferred the offer to the Secretary of State for India, with the suggestion that the cemetery should be administered by a committee chiefly composed of leading Muslims.

Miss Faithfull's legal advisers have received a letter from the India Office requesting them to convey to her Mr. Chamberlain's high appreciation of the generous motives which have prompted her action. After careful consideration as to whether circumstances would justify acceptance of the offer, he has reluctantly come to the conclusion that they would not.

The Indian Army Corps having now left France, the Indian hospitals in England have been closed. There will therefore be no more burials of Mahomedan soldiers in this country. Of the interments that have already taken place, most have been in the special Mahomedan burial plot in the Brookwood Necropolis, and the rest in the vicinity of the mosque at Woking, where ground has been acquired by the Secretary of State in Council for the purpose. Arrangements have been made for the proper maintenance and preservation of this enclosure and its graves for a permanent memorial of those who are buried there.

To remove the bodies to the site offered "would be an act for which no adequate necessity could be urged, and would, Mr. Chamberlain is informed, be repugnant to the religious sentiments of many Mahomedans."