The Home Circle

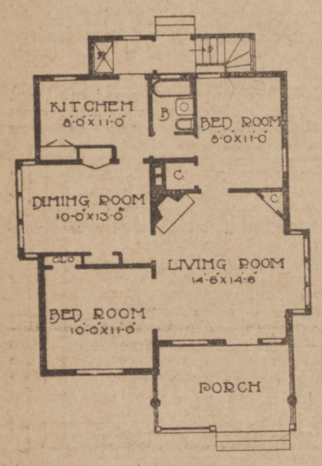
Home Decorating and Furnishing.

BY CHARLES. S. SEDWICK.

The decorating and furnishing of the home is a subject of daily conversation and one of common interest to all lovers of home, to the young couples and to those of maturer years. It is a subject that brings out the qualities of people and develops all that is good in them. It tends toward better life and better aspirations; it cultivates the mind, elevates it above the common and sordid thoughts that arise from the daily necessities and it often shows qualities of mind and artistic taste beyond our expectations.

In the homes of the lower classes, the uncultivated and even among the savage tribes, we find indications of the love of beauty and ornament. This is especially true in oriental countries, where decoration of home and dress is thought more of than any other one thing. Thus it is that we often form our opinion of people by their surroundings, and it is not always fair, as oftentimes people are credited with having poor taste when, if the truth is known, it is not so much the lack of taste as it is the lack of opportunity and means to gratify their best thoughts along this line.

In this article we are confining ourselves to the modest, economical home or cottage. Thirty years ago decorating, fresco painting, etc., implied art work in oil colors with elaborate designs, such walls and ceiling required the outlay of large sums of money and could only be used in the homes of the wealthy. This high class of work had a permanence to it not seen nowadays and required constant care. The simpler homes were plastered with smooth walls and papered with highly colored and cheaply made papers. All of this work has greatly changed of late years. The wall papers have become more refined, while the cost has not materially increased, the result being that the simplest homes can be papered and finished in harmony of color with the more simple house furnishings. Many of the smaller homes of the present day are gems of beauty, and that without great outlay of money, and in the matter of wall tinting the rough finished walls are in much more common use, the tinting of the same and the ceilings being done in water colors. Where it is desired to obtain the best wall without reference to cost, the walls should have a rough sand finish and be thoroughly painted with good lead and oil paint without the use of "glue size." This will allow the oil to soak into the walls, but it will require at least four coats of paint. The wall then becomes very hard and is impervious to water and can be cleaned without injury. A very pretty wall effect for small rooms is obtained by selecting a paper with not too large figure, the ground color of which should be the same tone as the general furnishings of the room, carry the paper up clean to the ceiling line without border or frieze. Where it is desirable to give height in appearance a stripe will be found advantageous. However, such a striped paper looks well only where a small amount is used, as, for instance, in a vestibule hall or in a small den. The common living-room looks well with a soft moss green color on the walls, and if there is a small den or library opening from the same room it can be treated with very rich, warm colors, a dark venetian or rich shade of brown, and in some places a dark shade of blue looks well, although this latter color must be used sparingly and only in a small room or alcove and where there is not much sunlight, as this color fades quickly. Plain colored walls always look well, and if done with ingrain papers, a modest amount of fresco decoration can be used with very good effect around the top of the room, always taking thought not to overload with too much decoration, as too little looks better than too much. The ceilings can be quite plain, always in lighter tints, in harmony with the wall, also the color of the floor should blend nicely with the wall colors.



In regard to the treatment of the woodwork, a small amount of wood showing in the casings is preferable and may be in hard woods stained to suit the taste of the owner or may be finished in enamel white, cream or pearl These latter finishes are purely colonial and date back to the old New England home when the woodwork, casings, stairs, etc., were always white and in which case the home feeling was always present.

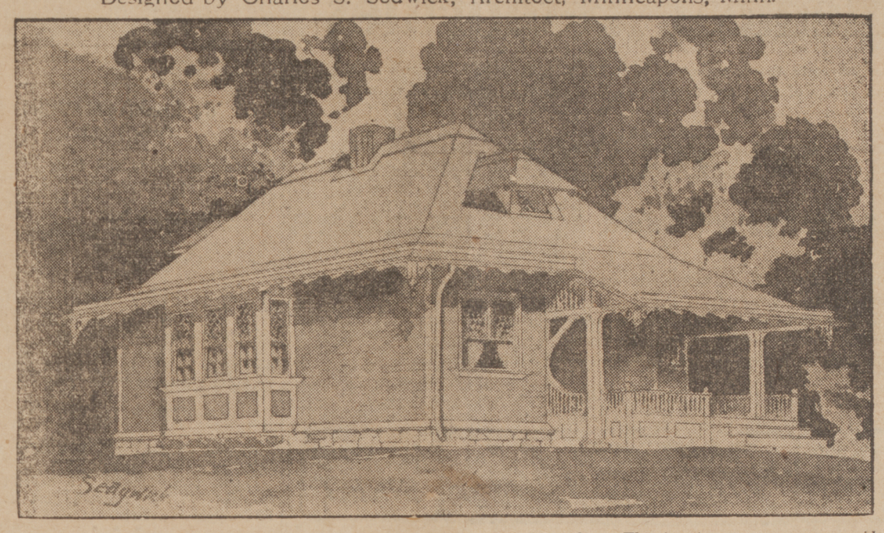
The furnishing of the home is something that depends altogether upon the taste of the owner and the size of his pocketbook. It is a fact, however, that many homes are over furnished and the rooms look loaded and stuffy. Many years ago it was customary to furnish each room throughout with a different style of furniture, all of the furnishings in one room being in the same style. Now it is quite different, "odd bits" of furniture are scattered about. The small den or library has its reading table and desk, book shelves, a davenport is admissible with a few odd chairs. The furnishings in this room look best very simple, plain oak in dark Flemish finish in the mission style; such furnishings cannot be too simple to look well. The furnishings of the living-room also may be very plain. If there is a reception hall or small parlor it may have a few bits of more delicate furniture, depending somewhat on the treatment of the walls and woodwork.

The selection of pictures for the walls forms a very important factor in the house-furnishings. In the "Olden Times" the family pictures were reserved for the most conspicuous places, and this feature is still observed in the old colonial homes and seems to form a part and portion of such a home, but in the newer modern homes the family groups are not given prominent place, but are reserved for the nursery or sleeping-rooms. A few pictures of this kind do not look out of place in the den or library. A failing with many people is to select too large pictures. A few carefully selected pictures with one or two etchings and a few in color is all that is required to make a pleasant room Oftentimes, however, where there are many pictures of various sizes they can be grouped irregularly on the walls or at one corner; the regular hanging of pictures in a mechanical sort of way is not so pleasing. There are many dainty and pleasing effects that can be had at little expense, and some of the good housewives are very skilful, in devising and planning such schemes of decoration, but too much "cheap stuff" soon becomes tiresome, and the simple adornment of the room that does not call special attention to any one feature of the furnishings or decorations makes a much pleasanter home, shows more refinement and has more lasting qualities.

Floor rugs have taken the place of the old-fashioned carpets, and are not only more healthful and cleanly, but add very much to the beauty of the interior. Here again a little money judiciously expended, selecting colors that harmonize with the floors and with the wall decorations, simple and plain in design, will complete the furnishings of a modest pretty home.

A PRETTY SWISS COTTAGE.

Designed by Charles S. Sedwick, Architect, Minneapolis, Minn.



The size of this little cottage is 25 by 30 feet exclusive of the windows projections and front porch. The peculiarity of the design is the low wide projected eaves carrying down over the front porch and the timber construction showing with peculiar constructed timber porch. The low pitched roof is pierced by small dormer windows. There is one central chimney with a fire place in the living-room, a small cellar under the rear part divided in two rooms, one for heater and one for vegetables.

This cottage is suitable for a small family for a permanent home or for a summer cottage. The cost is estimated at $1,200. The rooms are finished in natural pine and varnished. A broad liberal porch in front affords ample space for sitting and can be very nicely screened in. The exterior would look very pretty painted in dark green with white trimmings and the roof red.

The interior arrangement provides for five nice rooms, the front door opening to the left of the living-room, with a kitchen back of same. There are two bedrooms provided and bathroom. The rear porch covers over an enclosed entry way, with space for refrigerator and stairs leading to cellar. The outside of the house is sheathed, papered and sided and the roof shingled and the rooms plastered. The construction throughout is good and substantial.

Facts, Fancies and Fads.

The first postoffice, established in 1464, was a private scheme, and paid well.

The strong room in the Bank of England is 60 feet below the street level.

The United States leads in the acreage of forests, with 400,000,000.

While France yearly realizes $40,000,000 from her tobacco crop, yet she is a heavy importer of American tobacco.

The frame of a whale, stripped of sperm and meat, weighs 45 tons.

There is more nourishment in one baked banana than in eight loaves of bread.

It costs more to keep a high-priced autocar than it does to maintain a horse and buggy.

The sweatshop evil has invaded England, and prompt action is being taken to eradicate it.

The man who can weave three yards of cotton a day under the crude methods employed in Africa is considered an expert operator.

To "market," to "market,"
A fortune to win;
Home again, home again,
Shorn to the skin.—Puck.

THE MEN'S CORNER.

BY A. RICHMOND PARKHURST, JR.

Industrial Activity Restores Confidence.

An avalanche of statements from banks insurance companies, and the big industrial corporations have been hurled into print for the perusal of the public at large and especially that portion of it which is ever alert to the possibilities of a good investment. After carefully reading these myriads of statements one would never suppose for a moment that there had been a panic of as recent date as October.

Nevertheless, even should the statements of the industrial enterprises be left unread, there is a tremendous revival of activity among the plants of these big concerns throughout the country, and work is looming up in large proportions for the great army of unemployed. The new division of information of the Bureau of Immigration at Washington has received requests for 20,000 men during the past week. This department was created by a recent act of Congress to assist immigrants and find them work. T. V. Powderly, who was placed in charge of the bureau, received up to January 1 requests from big manufactories for help aggregating 50,000 men. After that date many of the requests were cancelled, but within the past few days many of these have been renewed. Dispatches have been received from many points urgently requesting that labor of all descriptions be furnished.

This in itself is an earnest that business is resuming its normal shape and that capital is being withdrawn from its hiding places and again put in circulation. Of course in some localities it is hard to convince the residents that confidence has been restored, as their banks still continue to issue script instead of currency. This is especially applicable to the South, and the banks themselves are mainly responsible, by this course, in keeping alive the fears which so recently assailed the depositors.

Developments affecting financial markets within the past few days have followed familiar lines. Trading on the various stock markets has been more or less restricted by the continued high rates for call and time loans. But in looking over the weekly volume of business transacted it can readily be seen that the stock markets performed their share of the work towards diminishing the strain upon money markete, which are, as it is plain to all, in need of a temporary rest.

The general business of the country for awhile, contributed after the same fashion to this relief of the money situation through further concentration in practically all lines of activity. Evidence of contraction was also obtainable from the railroad earnings' statements as well as by the announcement of the reduction in working forces and in the wages of employes still retained. But this has been found unnecessary now, and those corporations which sought relief in curtailment are now working with full forces on full time.

Pleated Shirts Are Here to Stay.

Last summer, when waistcoats were discarded, it was soon manifested that the pleated shirt was the most popular of the season's offerings. When fall set in and the neglige mode of dress gave way to the more conventional styles, it was seen that the pleated shirt was still with us. A little later, when winter styles were shown by the smartest of the haberdasheries, there was to be found, in undiminished numbers, the pleated shirt, and here it is to stay, if one of Fifth avenue's most fashionable shirtmakers is to be believed. The demand for this latest conceit in shirtings, he declares, eclipses all others, and even in dress shirts they are to be seen. This last statement, however, may be true, but the smooth front of an evening shirt will ever be the most popular.

A glance at the neckwear this winter reveals every hue found in Joseph's coat. The quieter shades are in the ascendency for the best-dressed men, but those who run to the bizarre find ample scope in this season's assortment. Plaids are coming into favor again, and many beautiful designs are seen. A noticeable fact is that men purchasing plaid neckwear immediately try to match the color scheme and design as nearly as possible in their hosiery.

"In the Sword We Trust."

No end of comment has arisen over the "In-God-We-Trustless" coins now in circulation, which recalls a coin which made its appearance during the administration of President Washington. Just 113 years ago the coin in question was placed in circulation, and on its reverse side it bore the imposing figure of the "Father of Our Country" armed with a sword. On the reverse side was the figure of an Indian in the act of burying his hatchet. When the new coin was shown to an Indian chief of great renown, he gazed long and earnestly at the new gold piece, and then said: "Hump! Indian bury tomahawk; why can't great White Father bury sword?"

EVEN LOVE FAILED.

On the mighty deep.
The great ocean liner rolled and pitched.
"Henry," faltered the young bride, "do you still love me?"
"More than ever, darling!" was Henry's fervent answer.
Then there was an eloquent silence.
"Henry," she gasped, turning her pale, ghastly face away, "I thought that would make me feel better, but it doesn't!"—Chicago Tribune.

SOME EXCELLENT NEW GOWN MODELS.

BY DOROTHY DALE.

The accompanying illustrations show several unusual, though not difficult, designs for afternoon and evening gowns. At the special sales great bargains are to be had in dress fabrics, and often lengths of fine imported material are sold at very great reductions from the original price. Very often, however, there is not sufficient in the piece for what is generally considered necessary to make an entire gown.

Either of the designs illustrated, however, would be excellent ones for a small dress pattern, and this season, when so much lace is used upon the bodices, and the deep yoke and sleeves are almost entirely of lace, there are a great many other models which could be satisfactorily used for a limited dress pattern, almost the entire material being used for the skirt of the gown.

The gown for the elderly lady pictured was very beautiful in the original model, which was designed for theatre, dinner, and evening wear. The trained skirt was of pearl-gray liberty satin, the corsage being of black filet lace, displaying fan motifs embroidered with jet, gilt and silver. Black and gold tassels were used on the points of the bodice, and on the ends of the long lace points, which fell somewhat in redingote effect over the skirt. Panne velvet in deep violet edged the sleeves and the top of the corsage, and formed the folded girdle, and the neck was partly filled in with folds of white tulle.

The seated figure shown among the sketches shows a smart gown of brokn dotted net, made over white taffeta, with a veiling of brown mousseline. Bias liberty satin was used to form the twisted design which decorated the high girdle, and the design on the bodice and sleeve finish. White chantilly lace formed the yoke and undersleeves, a band of very heavy cluny being used on either side of the front.

The skirt was laid in small plaits about the hips, and was finished about the bottom by bands of brown liberty satin.

The midwinter season brings into notice a great many black and black-and-white gowns, which are much in favor, and among the more expensive novelties are shown those made of tulle with beaded embroidered and beaded borders, mixed with silver embroidery.

The vogue of the all-black frocks brings jet into great demand, in both fine and heavy embroideries. One very smart frock worn by a New York actress was in black silk mousseline, made with a deep, square-cut bodice, outlined and banded with jet, and with the loose kimono sleeves of cream lace, also bordered with a heavy applique line of jet. The decolletage had a "tucker" of white lace and tulle and the overskirt, which fell in a point in the middle of the front and back, was bordered by bands of jet.

For full evening dress the tendency among the imported gowns shown is to eliminate the sleeve as far as possible, a few folds of tulle being made to do duty, or else a transparent drapery more or less on the wing order, or else of the wide-sling description. The elbow sleeve is still in favor, but one finds the closely fitted sleeve or some form of loose sleeve rather than that in puff form.

Among the high-neck gowns of less elaborate character than those just described I have recently seen several novelties. One very stunning costume, which was intended for carriage or reception wear, had a short coat of moleskin, worn with a bodice and skirt of soft, rich satin matching the fur in color. The skirt of the gown was cut circular, with the seam down the middle of the front, and was absolutely clinging and plain, the bodice being embroidered in self-color, with a pointed yoke of fine lace. A little cravat in a light shade of cerise gave a relieving note of color.

Velvet gowns mostly on the princesse order, with a suggestion of Empire lines, are also shown for the midwinter season, and are especially fashionable in the dark shades of taupe, plum, and drab grays, in black, in nattier blue, and also in the striped velvets and velveteens.



Theatre or Reception Gown for Slender Figure.

Pompadour silk petticoats are being worn by fashionably gowned women in New York in company with the plainest of tailored promenade suits. These are in the darker tones, such as black, blue and green grounds with flowers in soft blues, pinks, greens and white.

Mamma—Jimmie, your little brother has the smaller apple. Did you give him his choice?

Jimmie—Yes'm. I told him he could take his choice—the little or none—and so he took the little one.—Pittsburg Leader.

Leather-covered Bridge Score.

The bridge score illustrated could be easily made by buying an ordinary score pad at a stationer's, and afterwards decorating it with a cut-out leather cover such as is pictured in the accompanying sketch. An oblong piece of tan suede leather was used for the cover, the simple design used as decoration being first sketched on the leather strip in pencil. The outlines of this scroll should then be gone over with brown water color in an even line or else burnt in with a pyrography needle. The spaces inside the



LEATHER-COVERED BRIDGE SCORE.

scroll were then cut out with a sharp scissors and underlaid with tan-colored taffeta silk, the heart-shaped hole in the middle being filled in with the eye of a peacock feather. Water colors were used to tint the design, the space around the peacock eye being colored a light green and the rest of the scroll a darker shade of tan than the leather.

BEATRICE CAREY.

DAINTY LUNCHEON DISHES

Chipped Beef Stewed in Cream.—Mince the beef, place in a pan and cover the same with cream; add a pinch of salt and cayenne, and let the beef simmer for fifteen minutes. It will then be ready to serve.

Oysters a la Maitre d'Hotel.—Wash and drain two dozen oysters. Put them in a stew pan or chafing-dish with one tablespoonful of butter; stir carefully, and when the edges of the oysters begin to curl, add the juice of half a lemon, one tablespoonful of finely chopped parsley, and a little salt and pepper. Serve on slices of hot buttered toast.

An odd, but especially delicious omelet is made by mixing six eggs, beaten, two tablesponfuls of melted butter, two of grated cheese, salt and pepper, with tarragon, chives and parsley chopped fine. Put butter size of a walnut in a pan and cook as an ordinary omelet, or finish in the oven as for a souffle.

HOW TO RESTORE ANTIQUE FURNITURE.

BY BEATRICE CAREY.

Strange to say, as the march of modern improvement goes on, there is an increasing desire for the old and picturesque, and this feeling finds expression in house-furnishings. Some extremists are so fond of the old-fashioned rooms that they try to metamorphose the most modernly constructed house into similitude with those in which their grandmothers held sway.

This desire is becoming every year more difficult to satisfy because the genuine antique furniture has almost all passed into the hands of collectors. However, some of the more remote country districts of Pennsylvania, Massachusetts and New York still hold veritable treasures of Sheraton, Chippendale, Hepplewhite and other styles that can be obtained by the careful and systematic searcher. No fad is more entrancing than this, as all the skill of an expert is sometimes brought into play in detecting a valuable piece of furniture under the disguise of modern paint put on by unappreciative or ignorant owners. This demand for skill merely serves to add zest to the game, however.

It is almost as great a pleasure to obtain such a piece of old furniture, disguised and disfigured by lack of care and understanding and restore to it the pristine beauty of polish and color, as it is to the physician who restores the injured person to condition.

Oftentimes beautiful old pieces are discovered stored in barns and covered with the dust of years. Once a very valuable desk was quite unwittingly purchased in this way. It was observed that the shape was odd and quaint, and on this account it was secured at a much reduced rate. After being delivered at her home the owner fell to work on it and began to discover its real worth.

After the coating of dirt had been removed the piece was found to have been thickly spattered with white paint, as if it had been carelessly allowed to remain near some other object that was being painted. This misfortune probably accounted for its being exiled to the barn.

While these marks were being removed a coat of brown paint was found beneath, and, letting the edge of the knife cut too deep, the owner was amazed to see the unmistakable grain of mahogany underneath.

The value of the piece established, great care was taken not to mar the wood in the process of restoration. The desk was scraped carefully all over with a broad knife, care being taken to hold the blade at right angles in order not to chip the wood. This operation employed all the spare time of several days, but the labor was amply rewarded by seeing the piece at last in its own color. There were scars left to mark the places where heavy objects had been shoved against it, but the roughened surface was rubbed with pumice-stone to a uniform smoothness.

The piece was then rubbed with boiled linseed oil, using for this a piece of old blanket wrapped around a flat, smooth stone to give it resistance. Dents were filled in with a cement of resin, beeswax and a little vermillion heated together, and this proved to be entirely satisfactory.

The polish obtained by rubbing with boiled linseed oil is very lasting and beautiful, but furniture-makers use a preparation of one pint of alcohol, four ounces of finely powdered shellac, and half an ounce each of powdered gum sandarac and gum arabic. The solution must be perfectly clear before it is used, and this will require several days in a warm temperature.

This preparation must, however, be applied with a great deal of care, and is, therefore, best left to the care of an expert, who has knowledge of the grains of wood and other things necessary to make this polishing successful. It is unsafe to use lye or any chemicals to remove the paint, for these spoil the beautiful glow of the wood, leaving it dull and unresponsive.

There are very few people who doubt the wisdom of the woman who believes in rugs and hardwood or stained and polished floors. Any man who does cleaning by the day or hour can be hired to take the rugs to the yard or the roof and beat them clean, so the mistress of the house is not confronted with the carpet-cleaning bugbear, involving the drawing and hammering in of many tacks, etc.

"Here's a story of a big landslide in the west. Under what head shall I put it?"

"You might throw it in with the real estate transfers," caustically suggested the "old man."



Gown of Dotted Chiffon.