

Spring Changes

Of course there are those of us who send for an interior decorator and say to him easily and casually.

"You know, I really think we need a new house. I have a few preferences; for instance, the dining-room Jacobean, my bedroom Louis XIV, and the living-room Queen Anne—other than those I leave it to you." And bid him go ahead.

Some are that fortunate. The great majority of us have to make a limited amount go a long way, and must study each room carefully, as well as each purchase, that the combination may give us the maximum of utility and beauty.

Spring with its awakening of the flowers and the coming of the birds seems to demand a quite wholesale renewing everywhere. One's thoughts not only turn to new hats for Easter, but toward Spring house-cleaning and what is smart for the porch to wear in the coming season. The careful housewife plans the wardrobe for the house with the same thought of Spring flowers that she gives to her millinery.

In fact now-a-days winter is no longer a dark and dull season with so many sun parlors and breakfast rooms with their "platefuls of light." Especially attractive for these rooms are the painted wooden sets. They seem so joyous in color and generally bettling sunshine. One set I saw recently was a lovely soft green. It included a tea cart, a drop-leaf table, a convenient to put away at one side, where it will occupy a little space, chairs to match of course and best of all a charming china closet wherein to display behind the small panes, a quaint merry tea set of cottage china. Whoever painted this set of furniture wisely forebore to spoil it with profuse decoration, leaving that to appear in appropriate hangings.

In fact one could talk for hours on the subject of fabrics alone. They are so fascinating and varied in color, design and quality. There are printed flannels and cretonnes, for drapes and upholstery, oh, a thousand uses. And glazed chintz and poplin, too, and if one cares to spend that much, tulle is correct for some rooms, one's boudoir, for instance. They remind one of hopscotch days, those fluffly looped up and muffled curtains of tulle with the day bed or chair lounge wearing the same ruffled material.

Printed flannel has its own admirers and is pleasantly used to cover chair seats and backs for reed furniture.

It seems to me a porch would somehow feel a new self respect with a fresh set of reed furniture for its spring decoration. The array of pieces offered for selection is almost bewildering. There are tables of every size and for every use, there are large and small chairs and even settees, those rather conservative members, have taken on new curves. I was especially pleased with a small reed table whose top of wood was a half moon shape. It could be so generally and unobtrusively useful. It could stand by the arm of a big cosy nestful old chair, convenient for magazines for the languid reader or snuggle up to the wall with only a vase of flowers to hold. A pair of these, one at the end of a long settee, are especially graceful for a formal treatment. Then there are reed desks, too, and rockers and oval tables and not-to-be forgotten forgeries, everything in fact to make the old porch feel generally up to the spring.

Where one is possessed of a few lovely old Colonial things, with these as a basis one can construct quite successfully a colonial dining-room. For instance, an old clock, a relic of our grandfather's days, and some quaint old blue plates and some candlesticks perhaps. Windsor chairs are the first necessity—these set about a gate-legged table make a center for the room. Hook rugs are correct but very expensive. Rag rugs are equally appropriate and much more reasonable. The general effect of quaintness and age must be carefully watched lest modern things intrude, and spoil it.

The stores are showing sets of furniture for bedrooms, ranging from oak, walnut and mahogany to white sets in the painted woods. Colored painted bedroom furniture is new and at the same time old. Much of it is copied from old pieces with all the faded effects produced by wear and age. A floor lamp to stand beside the dresser is a new touch. Tulle drapes and bed spreads have been already mentioned—for less expensive outfits, poplin is practicable. Where one is positively limited to a definite sum and that a small one, a wicker or reed furniture with brass beds make a happy combination.

Living rooms above all must be out the feeling of home. If one possesses a fireplace, lucky is he. It makes a natural center of attraction and needs its big upholstered settee to subtly invite a guest to rest at the hearth. Long tables at the back of the hearth.

Another attractive grouping is the

floor lamp at the right place beside it and perhaps a footstool to make the reader as comfortable as possible. An old-fashioned secretary may stand against the wall and of course one wants quantities of books and therefore bookcases. In this room photographs seem as natural now-a-days as organs or melodians in the past, and with the variety of makes and cases now presented, there is no reason why one should not thoroughly harmonize with the general cozy atmosphere of the room.

The subject of personality has been talked about until it is shopworn and frayed at the edges. Let us therefore say "individuality" may be expressed in every corner of the house, if one will only take the time and thought to carry out a definite and attractive scheme of furnishing—especially for the Spring.



Who so hard to dress as the Flapper, and yet who is so particular about her clothes. When she thinks about them? This girlish dress with its note of simplicity is fashioned of palest pink voile with silken shamrocks dotted over it. The square neck and turn back cuffs are of white georgette.

Lucky Months.

According to Dr. Marcello Boldini, one of Italy's greatest scientists, men born between January 1 and March 31 are stronger, taller and superior in intelligence to those whose birthdays fall in other months. This view is borne out by the researches of another Italian scientist, Deola Rovera.



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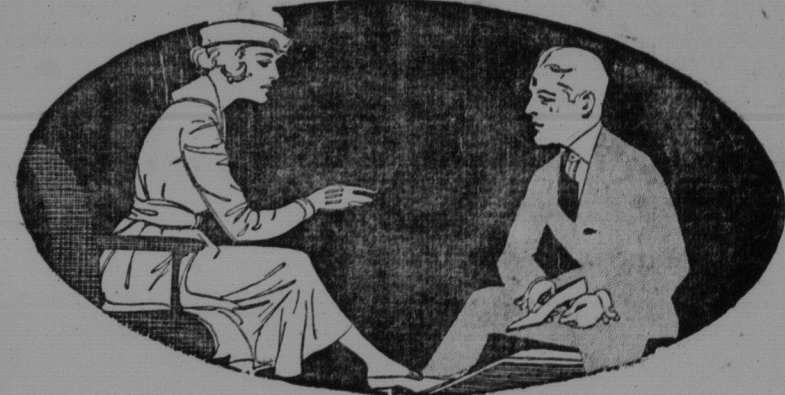
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Spring

The designers of men's clothes seem to have recovered from their debauch of extreme ornamentation in the styling of men's clothes. The reaction has set in. Last spring was the first after the close of the war—the first opportunity that designers had had for two years to exercise



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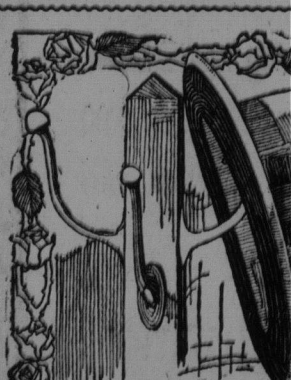
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