

All plumbing and gas-pipe fittings should be exposed, the pipes should be of the best wrought iron, put together with lead joints and tested so as to be airtight. The plumbing fixtures should be ventilated in the most approved sanitary manner, and the fixtures, without being expensive, should be of the best patterns.

The old fashioned floors made of boards entirely too wide and with open joints are never used in the modern dwellings. Floors can be made of hard pine, as well as of oak or maple. Narrow boards, evenly matched, fitted with elastic filler, and well beeswaxed, cost no more than a good carpet. If desired, rugs, which are easily handled, can be laid on some of the floors.

In finishing the rooms, covered corners should be used at the base at the floor level, and the angles of the ceilings and walls should be covered. Good plaster is best for the walls and ceilings. Wall papers should be avoided; when necessary, paint and enamel should be used. Rooms should be well lighted, the windows and doors extending well up to the ceiling. A judicious arrangement of the openings for light also provides for the ventilation of the rooms, by supplying cross draughts and a good circulation of air. As things go, however, a room cannot be ventilated in stormy or cold weather, unless it is provided with a working chimney flue. Whatever the system of heating a house may be—stoves, warm air furnace, hot-water pipes—it will be found that the presence of chimney flues in the rooms will facilitate the regular escape of vitiated air and the entrance of fresh air. When a warm air furnace is used to heat a dwelling, it is found that it is difficult to warm rooms which have no flues, because, in order to provide for the easy flow of warm air into the rooms, it is also necessary to provide for the escape of air from the rooms.

In probably no room in the dwelling is the evidence of correct hygiene looked for more expectantly than the bedroom. The ordinary hotel bedroom, or the bedroom in a good many houses, is not a thing of beauty; from the standpoint of hygiene it is frequently a source of sadness—dusty carpets, window curtains rarely cleaned, arsenical wall paper, redolent with tobacco smoke, are not conducive to healthy dreams. The bedchamber of the twentieth century is to be a picture of simplicity blended with taste. There will be no microbe-catching carpets to be dusted; just a washable rug beside the bed. The waxed floor will be mopped every morning with a damp woollen cloth. The ceilings and walls will be painted white with enamel paint. The window curtains will be of cotton or some other washable fabric, and will be frequently laundered. The iron bedstead, with its woven-wire mattress will contain just the needful quantity of clothes.

It is to be hoped, however, that less pretentious portions of the home will not be neglected. In a way, the most important parts of a dwelling are the basement and the kitchen.