

Ribbon,' we had Dutch dishes served at all our meals, we dressed Dutch, sang Dutch songs, and quoted Dutch sayings; and when she was writing a Scotch story, oatmeal porridge, bannocks, and barley cakes are always to be found on the table, and we live in duty bound to the Kirk, Scotch songs, and Scotch proverbs."

Her study is as unlike as it can be to the pictured retreats of so many of our well-known authors. It is a large room, from the windows of which one can look over the hills and far away; the curtains are always tucked very far back to let in all the sunshine. At one stands a tall office desk—for Mrs. Barr stands while writing; the floor is uncarpeted, but covered with quaint rugs, and every one of which is rare and beautiful. And the only picture on the walls is an oil portrait of her husband, whose memory is very sacred to her. Two or three comfortable chairs, a small table, and a chest of drawers in which is kept the first draft of all her books, comprise the furniture, and on one side of the room in neat rows are a lot of office hooks, on which are arranged papers, letters, and notes.

Her reference books and note-books are in themselves a valuable library, especially her note-books, which contain full notes upon many subjects made during long hours of study in the Astor Library, her favourite "hunting ground," as she calls it; for Mrs. Barr believes that no writer can afford to give up the study of good books, she herself spending many hours in useful reading. Her Bible is never far from her, for she believes in its "grand teachings." Although English by birth and education, she loves America, especially New York City, which was her residence for many years, having come there after the death of her husband and three sons during the fever epidemic of 1867 at Galveston, Texas, then her home. She had buried three of her little ones some years before, and it was for the support and education of her three remaining daughters that she adopted the profession which she so thoroughly enjoys.

She is a large, fine-looking woman, with clever conversational powers, plays both the organ and the piano, and is a good artist in that quaint, old-fashioned work known as coloured crayon; a most devoted mother and an exceptional housekeeper, although of late years her second daughter (also an author) presides over her home.

Mrs. Barr works hard, and plays or rests just as hard, for life means a great deal to her.

During her working hours—which in the summer time are from 4 a.m. until noon—no one is allowed to disturb her; but after her noonday nap one will be as apt to find her just as busily employed