

WALL PAPER AND DECORATIONS.

A JUBILEE DESIGN.

AN English wall paper firm, desiring to produce a Jubilee pattern to commemorate the Queen's year, commissioned Mr. Stuart W. Proverbs, vice president of the Society of Designers, to design a wall paper, with a double frieze, of an original character.

The design is now complete, and is very elaborate. We extract from an English contemporary a description of it which may interest wall paper men. This wall decoration is in several selections. The picture frieze is an allegorical cartoon representing Her Majesty Queen Victoria receiving homage and gifts from representatives of the arts and sciences that have made such marvellous progress during the 60 years of her beneficent reign. In the centre of the picture is Her Majesty upon the throne, supported on her right hand by Peace, with her broken sword, and on the left by Justice, with her scales of truth. From a draped archway on the Queen's right hand, issue a goodly crowd of children hastening to present their gifts; first comes Architecture, the first art practised by man; Horticulture, with her gift of fruit is not far behind; and Painting brings his palette, eager to take his part in the display. Next comes Sculpture and Design, with their vase and scroll, closely followed by Poetry and Music, carrying their book and harp. Behind them comes Drama, with her masks of comedy and tragedy, and crowding behind are scores more, anxious to pay their homage unto the Queen. From the archway upon the other side also issue a joyous crowd bringing their offerings. Here is Chemistry with his retort, and Agriculture carrying his sheaf. Naval Architecture is bringing his steam ram, and Engineering offers his locomotive as a triumph of his skill. Here, too, is the Motor Car, latest but not least of the inventions of the age. Coming to the foreground of the picture is to be seen a ring of happy romping children, symbolizing British Commerce encircling the world. Here are represented the great Colonies who take part with the Mother Country in the festivities of this joyous year. The figure directing the free play of the Colonies is that of Liberty leaning upon a staff surmounted by the caduceus of Mercury, symbol of Commerce. In the band of the frieze are the arms of the British Nation, and the whole of the work is most artistically and decoratively treated, for the purpose of obtaining a good effect when in position on the wall. This pictorial frieze can be used to go round a room, or, if it is preferred, it can be cut up, and the spray of oak leaves joined on to the rose and thistle frieze.

When the two are thus used together the effect is enhanced, as the rose frieze can be taken round the corners of a room, and the panel introduced in the centre of each wall. This frieze is equally beautiful, and in it the rose, shamrock, and thistle (legendary symbols of the United Kingdom) are shown upon a rich velvet curtain background. The filling which has been specially designed to go with this frieze is a very beautiful one, in which the same flowers again appear, but treated with remarkable delicacy and skill. The firm issue colored prints showing a room in which the paper has been used, and it is certainly a striking and effective wall covering.

UNITED STATES NEWS.

A large wall paper factory has just been opened in Long Island City, the firm name being the Williamson Wall Paper Co. This company has secured the plant of the Long Island Wall Paper Co., in that city, and began operations a few weeks ago. The Williamson brothers have been for 40 years with the well-known firm of W. H. Mairs & Co, one of them being manager there for a number of years.

On May 21 the wall paper factory of Benton, Heath & Co., New Jersey, was burned to the ground. The fire was the more serious at this time of the year when all the designs and samples were almost ready, the loss of which meant the loss of the entire season's trade. Many of the designs, samples and rollers were lost. They intended beginning to sample a week later.

BEST YET.

"Not only the largest but the best colored and altogether the most attractive lines we have ever turned out." That is what Mr. Foster, of Watson, Foster & Co., said the other day in speaking of their new samples.

PRASED CANADIAN ENTERPRISE.

A prominent New York wall paper manufacturer was in Montreal a few days ago and called on Colin McArthur & Co. He paid them a high complement, which was at the same time a testimony to Canadian enterprise. On looking over the samples they were preparing, he said that in the same class of goods there was nothing in New York to beat them.

EMBELLISHING THE NEW FACTORY.

Watson, Foster & Co. have improved the appearance of their factory, and at the same time added to its comfort, by planting a row of trees along the boulevard on two sides of

the building. Trees are an improvement at any time, and these have the added value of shading the building and helping to make the intense summer heat more bearable. Many other places of business could spend a little time on such things without doing their business any harm.

A SURPRISE PROMISED

Watson, Foster & Co. have been meeting with great success in getting out their new lines. They promise a surprise to the trade in some novel and attractive designs.

WALL PAPER DESIGNING.

"The day for smattering in any kind of art work is over; only well-grounded knowledge and thorough training are effective; the demand for a higher grade of excellence having steadily advanced, all superficial effort is barred out of the market." This is the gist of opinion as set forth by the manufacturer, the designer—both practised and aspiring—and the connoisseur, who has arrived at just conclusions from long acquaintance with both sides of the question. "I get all out of patience with schools that try to teach girls how to design without first teaching them to draw," said the artist in charge of the designing department in a wall paper factory. He had just bought a design from a young woman, had it put into a stout wooden box, and shut the lid as though he did not mean soon to lift it. "That is the fourth student I have seen to-day who was trying to sell designs. Every day from November until the end of May I go through the same experience. Where one design offered is worth having, 99 are mere variations of older styles, and the work so poor that but for the coloring it would not pass at all. Out of 400 designs submitted I buy, maybe ten, and eight out of that ten I buy simply because they are so much like the designs we are using in the factory that it is worth our while not to let other manufacturers get hold of them. The design I have just put in that box is one of that kind. It is almost a fac-simile, except in the shading, of a paper we have just had set up. I don't want any other factory to get it. I have 98 designs shut up in that box that are bought from that dog-in-the-manger motive.

"Now, here," he continued, "is a good design. This is done by a hundredth amateur in Cincinnati," and he held to view a square of mounted paper. The design was conventionally unconventional, and was distinctive. The large flowers and blade-like leaves were perfect and artistic, but they were interwoven into a figure. The coloring was admirable. A woman's name was penciled on the margin. "We may not use this either," said the manager,