

as cheerful and pleasant as is practicable. It makes a wonderful difference in the worker's attitude toward her work and in her general habit of mind and disposition if her kitchen surroundings are agreeable or otherwise. "The bec is a housewife; her song is a grumble;"—wretched working surroundings are largely accountable for this uncenviable reputation of the housewife.

2. **Fittings**—(1) Walls—it is well to have the walls and ceiling of a kind that can be easily cleaned and kept free of dust; colors cheery and soft, clean and cool looking. Painted or tinted walls in soft, flat colors answer the purpose very well.

Wall oil-cloths or papers with varnished surface are prettier and daintier than painted walls. If varnished over they keep their colors unfaded and are all the more easily washed off. Blue and white as colors seem to fulfil all the conditions necessary, provided the blue is of a soft neutral tint. Some of the patterns in these colors are very beautiful as are also some of those in green and white. Often green and white patterns have touches of brighter color, very desirable for cheeriness, especially if the kitchen happens to be not a very bright one. Oil-cloth is very satisfactory. There is no danger of tearing or cracking and it will with care, keep in good condition for almost any length of time. It can be bought at from three to four cents a square foot. The paper with varnished surface can be bought at about one cent a square foot. It is not as durable as oil-cloth but it can be wiped off and kept fresh and clean.

(2) Woodwork—baseboard, cupboards etc., should be painted in a color that harmonizes with the other color schemes; sometimes it is difficult to get nice soft shades in paint. Some of the blues are very glaring. A very nice shade may be obtained by mixing one of the light shades with one of the soft gray shades. One can experiment until the desired tint is obtained. Blue may also be toned with orange. A soft shade of green may be obtained by adding a little red; a soft shade of red by adding green, etc.

After being once well painted a fresh coat every spring will usually suffice to keep a surface in good condition. It is easily cleaned by using warm water with a few drops of ammonia in it; soap is hard on paint. The floor may be painted in the same color as woodwork but a few shade darker. The ideal floor covering is a good linoleum. It is expensive at first for it pays