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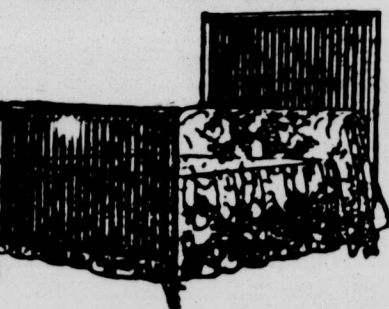
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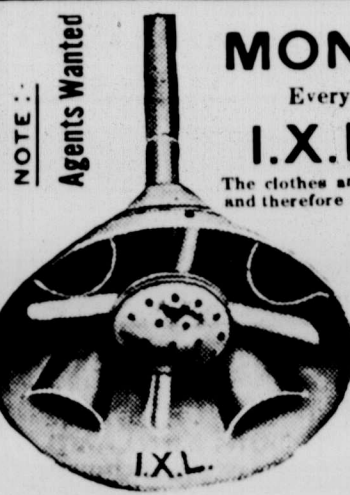
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House Decoration

FLOORS

In our last article on house furnishing we spoke of the negative side of house decoration—the clearing out of ugly things that detract from the beauty of the rooms. But even making a bonfire of gaudy calendars, and consigning to the scrap-heap hideous vases with outrageous tinsel-edged flowers would not make some rooms beautiful. One needs to begin at the floor and work up.

It is a principle of house-decoration that the floor should be the darkest color in the room, the walls lighter, and the ceiling lightest. There is another principle of decoration which forbids the floor or floor covering to be startling in design. It is not always easy to observe the first of these rules. If linoleum is used it is almost imperative that it should be light in color, or it shows the dust so badly and makes so much work for the housewife. For this same reason many people prefer to have their hardwood floors finished natural, but they give the rooms a very bare and unfurnished appearance. From the standpoint of beauty, hardwood floors should be stained with a light oak stain before they are varnished and waxed.

Several readers have asked for full instructions as to how to finish floors. If yours is a maple or fir floor, you will get good results by applying the stain right to the floor and varnishing over it, or a combined stain and varnish will do equally well. Be sure to ask for floor varnish. This should be wiped off every day or two with a floor wax or oil, and it will grow richer and more beautiful with use.

A reader sent us in some time ago the following recipe for floor wax, which she says is excellent. The only kind that I have had personal experience with are the prepared floor waxes sold in the hardware stores, and of these there are many excellent makes.

FRANCIS MARION BEYNON

STAINED FLOORS

Dear Miss Beynon:—Here is a hint how to stain floors, which I hope will be of use to someone.

Instead of covering with carpet or linoleum, take two ounces of permanganate of potash, (costs five cents), put into a bucket of boiling water and while hot stain the floor a deep oak, with an old hand-brush. When quite dry polish with furniture polish given below. It is rather hard work the first time, but really looks lovely with a few good rugs, for they can be taken up at any time.

Homemade Furniture Polish

Save all the ends of wax candles. Take a quarter pound of this waste wax, one ounce of odd bits of soap, half a teaspoonful of washing soda and boil in half a pint of water until melted. Remove from fire when quite melted, put into a stone jar, add to it one tablespoonful of paraffin and half a pint of turps. Stir until cold. It should be like cream when finished. It cleans marble, oak floors, furniture of any kind, leather; gives life to linoleum, makes it look bright and wears twice as long. Clean picture frames and glasses with this and the fly will not rest on them, while the glass keeps brighter than when cleaned with a leather.

May I come again? From a

“COUNTRY COUSIN.”

WHERE RUGS ARE WOVEN

Dear Miss Beynon:—As I enjoy the Homemakers and Sunshine pages so much, I must tell you so. Am looking forward to the Mother's Number. Had intended sending you a picture of the “three cutest babies in Saskatchewan” for it, but didn't attend to it in time.

I am writing for information this time, as I would like to know if one can get rag rugs woven in Winnipeg. If so, could you kindly supply address thru The Guide, as some others, like myself, might like to have some woven.

Just a pointer for those who may wish to make up rugs for rugs. You want to tear them nearly twice as wide

as you would for carpet rags, so your rugs will be heavier. They will then lie flat and not kick up easily. Cut the thin rags quite a bit wider than the heavy ones, so your rugs will be more smooth and even.

“PUSS.”

Rag rugs are woven by the Handicrafts Shop, Industrial Bureau, Winnipeg, at the rate of one dollar for a rug thirty inches by a yard and a half, and one fifty for a rug a yard by two yards. —F.M.B.

STAIN OR PAINT?

Dear Miss Beynon:—I was much interested in your reply to Shamrock's letter in The Guide of February 11.

I had stained one bedroom floor some time ago, but felt that some polish was wanting. I knew that one polish was made with some kind of soap, turpentine and beeswax, but did not know what kind of soap it was nor what proportions to use.

I would therefore be much obliged if you would give, thru your columns, a recipe for polishing a stained floor, what quantities to use and how to apply same, as I have a small sitting-room floor which I wish to do this spring.

You might also say which would be preferable for a kitchen floor, such a stain or common floor paint, if one cannot afford linoleum.

I would like to hear from some member in what way gardening could be made to bring in some extra pennies, as well as for our own comfort.

SCOTCH THISTLE.

I would advise the use of paint on a soft wood floor for the kitchen in preference to a stain. I must confess that the old cheerful, yellow floor still appeals to me. The recipe for wax is given elsewhere.—F.M.B.

CURTAIN HANGING

Dear Miss Beynon:—We have recently moved into town and have purchased a house and lot, so my bugbear is getting suitable curtains and so forth. Will you please advise me? I cannot give exact size of house, but think it is about 18x24. It is divided off as follows, but possibly a rough plan might explain better.

The kitchen door has upper panels in glass, and is used as a window. Inside is finished in smooth white plaster and woodwork in dark varnish. Outside, white paint and dark green trimming and green blinds, purchased with house. This house stands in a prominent place, and I want pretty curtains that will stand frequent washing. I do not care for lace, as with little children they would soon get dirty. Are brass rods used as much as wood poles, and about what price would one have to pay to get good rods? Are rods run thru a casing in curtains? Will you please tell me how those over curtains with valance are put up. Do they go on the same rod with the white curtains?

Then what would you do with that large open door? I have heard of sliding panels. What are they and are they expensive? We intend having the house painted in the spring. I enjoy your talks on house decoration very much. They are a great help. Thanking you in advance, I remain;

Yours for the Suffrage.

“G.”

Answer

Cream scrim makes a very pretty curtain, and for over-curtains, madras or cretonne. The color of these will depend upon what color you intend to have your walls when finished. To have the valance at the top, two curtain poles are necessary. Slip the rod thru a casing in the curtain, leaving a beading at the top. Brass rods are neater for this, and cost from twenty-five cents each to ten cents a foot, according to quality.

For the doorway I would recommend curtains of one of the heavy materials I am sending you privately, or a double faced cretonne.

F.M.B.

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