

Scrim curtains are inexpensive and pretty and it is surprising how the addition of a bit of brightly flowered cretonne enhances the cheerfulness of a room.

Empty boxes may be joined together to form a cupboard, and with a bit of curtain across the front, we have a convenient place for all little knick-knacks which seem to keep our house untidy. Inverted boxes of a larger size with a cretonne curtain will serve as a dressing table. Hang a small mirror just above.

An old chair may be brightened up by painting it the colour of the wood-work in your room, or an amber yellow or a dull green or mauve. Put a little pad on the back and a small cushion of common material such as linen or burlap on the seat, with a bit of very bright cloth with the edges turned under, button-holed around with black or any shade you prefer and put a cross stitch or a few French knots in the centre. Then with a simple darning stitch run in some green stems (wool, silk or cotton thread will do). Place the stems in the form of a bouquet and put a few little lazy daisy stitches at irregular intervals along the stems to form leaves. If you cannot draw a bow knot to be darned in where the stems join at the base of the bouquet, sew on a little bow of real ribbon. After making one design many things will suggest themselves to you.

We love our work in proportion to our skill in doing it, and the little home which we have pieced together out of odd bits of this and that is often much dearer to us than a home which we acquire in later life when economy and thrift are not a necessity.