

WALL PAPER AND DECORATIONS.

CANADIAN WALLPAPER IN EVIDENCE.

VISITORS to the Toronto Industrial Exhibition in September, who are interested in wallpaper, will doubtless recognize the accompanying illustration, reproduced from a photograph of M. Staunton & Co.'s exhibit. Many of those who saw the display congratulated the firm on the handsome collection of patterns, and the artistic colorings in which they are produced. A very excellent use was made of

offered the dealer are bad, and nine out of ten dealers do not know a poor design from a good one, so where does the poor householder come in? I have talked with manufacturers in a large way of various lines of housefurnishings, and many of them knew little or nothing of the first principles of design. It is a rather doubtful prospect when the head of an artistic industry has to depend entirely on his staff for the production of his "line." And yet, if we live in



the space assigned to them at the Exhibition, the panelings on the walls and ceiling showing effectively the appearance the designs would have when hung in a room. The original and effective colorings of the papers are, of course, wanting in the half-tone reproduction, but it serves to convey a general idea of the exhibit.

HOUSE DECORATION.

It is customary in beginning an article on house decoration, to abuse the owners and occupants of houses for their sad lack of taste in the furnishing and decoration of their habitations. I do not purpose doing this in the present case, because I think it is not quite fair to attack the lay section of society when there are so many vulnerable points in the position of the high priesthood of household art—I mean the manufacturers and distributors of wall paper, furniture and such like articles. Nine out of ten designs

houses, and some of us in fine houses, it is our duty to ourselves to know and practise some of the simpler rules of house adornment. One of the first of these simpler rules is simplicity. If we could only subdue the barbarous longings in us for tawdry show, how much would be gained at once! There is a perennial freshness in the sight of a comely hospital nurse in her simple attire. We turn on the street to look after her, and the feeling is how appropriate and complete the costume. As much might be done with twenty other costumes were we to confine ourselves to simplicity. Who of us has not been in some perfect room in a friend's house and almost envied him his possession? And yet, there were no elaborate hangings, no gorgeous upholstery, no fearfully and wonderfully-constructed divans. But the windows had delicate, lacy curtains, the furniture was light, strong and artistic. A few pieces of original china and

bric-a-brac (not reproductions, remember, sold at the bargain-counter), some good pictures, and there was your room. I believe there is a place for gorgeous decorations, rich materials, elaborately-carved furniture, but I know the average man cannot afford to have the genuine and the copy is an abomination. I would say, then, sink and subdue your barbarous inclinations, and elect to have the simple in everything. If you must have a very handsome room, seek out a man of unerring taste and experience and commit your room to him.

Of almost equal importance is the quality of originality, or, I should say, independence. It is, I suppose, hopeless to expect that society will cease from sheeplike following of a leader. Yet, until our houses are made outside and inside to fit us, their occupants, there will be always a sad lack of satisfaction in the result of our expenditure. The lady who wanted her book all bound in red to match her carpet is not much worse than many a slavish imitation of some other slavish imitator of someone else who hadn't the knowledge sufficient for his own needs. One may go through house after house of a certain social set, and see the same poor old fuzzy ideas, slightly altered, indeed; but there, in all their painful decrepitude. Let me say again, then, cultivate simplicity in your taste, and originality in your selection, and whatever your means, and however little you may possess, that little will be an abiding joy. Simplicity and originality, I know, are not easily acquired, but they are habits of life, which will repay sedulous cultivation.—W. H. Elliott in Canadian Painter and Decorator.

BUSINESS IS GOOD.

M. Staunton & Co., Toronto, report their having been exceptionally busy during the past few weeks. The sales in September of 1897 were, till then, the best on record, but in September of this year their sales were almost double that of the same month last year. Their line for the season of 1898-9 has, no doubt, proved to be just what the trade was looking for.

HOW TO APPLY A TRANSFER.

The proper handling of a transfer is a very plain and simple process, yet, somehow the slightest deviation from the proper method will spoil the ornament. The chief requisites to the successful handling of a transfer ornament are: (1) A good transfer. (2) proper sizing for transferring and a proper varnish for covering. (3) The proper degree of baking, if the article upon which the transfer is placed is to be baked. The simplest method of handling a transfer in its application as an ornament or name plate is as follows: Coat either the transfer or the