

WALL PAPER AND DECORATIONS.

SOME SUGGESTIONS AS TO THE SELECTION OF WALL PAPERS.*

By J. F. Douthett, New York, in Painter and Decorator.

THE object of wall decoration, when properly considered, is as much to protect or preserve the wall from defacement or injury as for its ornamentation; and, this conceded, it follows that covering with some extraneous material is necessary. And therefore, although through tinting in distemper, and by painting, not only desired coloring but very delightful effects in mural finish may be produced, neither tinting nor painting is altogether to the purpose.

A tinted or a painted wall is not only as easily soiled, but is as liable to injury as a

rules of art, with color-harmony as the inception, and the result inevitably delightful. But mural decoration of this character being unavoidably costly, the next best method of wall treatment is by papering.

One would be hard to please, indeed, if, in the plenitude of design and finish in which wall papers now appear, there could not be found what would satisfy æsthetic taste. It need not be that at any great expense decoration should be entered upon. There are to be found papers as low as 10c. a roll, of eight yards, that are not only in good colorings, but of pleasing and artistic designs. At 25c. per roll, very handsome paper may be bought. When the price reaches up to 50c. per roll the papers become elegant, and at all figures above this the papers are sumptuous enough in quality and design for almost any purpose or effect demanded either by taste or opulence.

The present trend of fashion in wall papers is to delicate tints and tones of the positive colors, without very pronounced floriation, with very little gold, or no tinselry at all in the design. Happily for taste that may be offended by tawdriness, the corruptions growing out of Japanese art in wall papers have well nigh disappeared from our market, and designs much more modest and pleasing have superseded them. There could be little objection, certainly, raised against the elegant pressed papers that we see now for drawing-rooms and other apartments of ceremony, if the designs are continued on artistic lines, and the colors introduced should not become so pronounced as to be offensive. When a piece of pressed paper is shown in a design conceived in the art idea, of one or two tones of cream or ivory white, pale ecru, Volga green, or other delicate tint, there could be no question of its beauty or elegance; but where strong colors are introduced, and the design is accentuated by the introduction of metallic effects, it ceases to be even pleasing.

Some of the most charming of the recent manufactures in wall papers for dainty purposes are of silk finish, and delicate tones of blue, rose, green and other positive colors are taking the place of the pale neutrals which have for so long a time found place upon the walls of parlors, boudoirs and other dainty apartments. When the design is suitable, present fancy inclines, after the idea in France, to carry the paper up to the cornice and finish with a picture moulding to match in color. Many papers, however, are designed with a frieze of equal width to match, and the frieze obtains very generally in the family sitting-room and bedrooms.

For basement dining-rooms, libraries and halls, canvas paper is much used, special

favor attaching to designs having the grounding color and patterns seen in the "wrap now devised for mural decoration. Canvas paper is also seen in delicate colors, and some of fine design have found place on the walls of elegant drawing-rooms.

For halls, when the matter of expense is waived or not taken into account, papers of leather finish are preferred, the choice being for those in two or three tones of leather color, but hall papers for cottages, of pleasing design and effect, are to be had at the lowest figures at which papers are manufactured; and when plain colors are insisted upon, the cartridge papers are at hand, with all the desired effect of tinting in distemper or painting, and the added



No. 478.—Watson, Foster Co., Limited.

plain white wall, and once soiled, bruised or broken, the only remedy is to do the whole work over again, the expense in the end being far greater than if, in the first instance, the wall had been covered.

A recent method of wall decoration, and one that, for practical reason, cannot be too highly commended, if the question of expense be not adverse to it, is that of Mr. J. F. Douthett, who first, with paste and glue applies to walls a tapestry material, and then paints upon it a design. In some cases this is brought out in two or three tones of a single color, or in two or more colors, a faultless imitation of satin damask, or a rich arabesque, a Moorish conceit, or a set pattern—the design always after strict copyright.



No. 458.—Watson, Foster Co., Limited.

merit of preserving the wall from defacement or injury.

In the choice of wall papers it is difficult to advise. If the trend of existing styles be slavishly followed there is little need to advise, but it is well to think twice, and oftener, before hanging walls with papers which may ere long become eyesores and which have a tendency to aggravate nervousness. Above all things color-harmony should not be ignored in the selection of wall papers, wood finish or coloring, carpets, curtains—all the details of furnishing coming into consideration.

WALL PAPER FOR CARPETING.

A lady hit upon a happy scheme to cover her hardwood floors for temporary purposes.