

believe there is enough substance to make it wear long enough for this purpose. It struck me, however, that it would be capital for a wood-panelled dado, and last week I heard that Messrs. Fraser of Ipswich had for the first time used it in this way, with a most satisfactory result. If your landlord does not think it too expensive I would decide on this for the hall and staircase, and paint it white with a plain lettuce-green paper above it. All the rest of the paint should of course also be white. It does not get dirty sooner than light colours. If however there is much smoke in your neighbourhood substitute a dark olive-green dado, and yellow paper above. The umbrella stand is a very pretty one, and occupies a minimum space: it is of wrought iron with copper knobs.

A Japanese china drain-pipe would of course answer the purpose and cost less, but if you have room for the other I feel sure you will prefer it.

Over each door have a shelf matching the sitting-room door, which I hope may be polished mahogany; on these shelves blue china jars or plates are a great improvement.

On the hall side of the front door hang a thick curtain of dark olive-green sheeting from Burnet's, with a twelve-inch border of Friesland velvet at the bottom. On the small oak table with turned legs there should always be writing materials and a Bradshaw. If you have any family swords, etc., a rack can be made by a local carpenter for a few shillings. Our limited sum will only allow an ordinary carved oak chest. A very nice one can be had at any old furniture shop.

The passage to the right of the staircase can be cut off by placing across the hall about twelve inches from the ceiling an ordinary shelf. In front of this fix a brass curtain rod. Lovely, inexpensive, striped Indian curtains can be had for a mere song. The shelf should be stained to match the

doors. Blue plates or Devonshire art pottery can be added when you can afford a little money for oddments. Pegs for coats can be hung in the passage behind the curtain, although I cannot help hoping that all the necessary things having been bought, we may still be able to afford a delightful piece of furniture which I saw at an old shop in London for £8. The carved back draws forward and has hooks for coats, the seat is a box for holding rugs or hats. Modern ones are to be had for about the same price at most good shops. In any case do not have coats and waterproofs hung in our pretty hall!

The etchings or autotypes for the hall and up the staircase should all be framed alike in narrow black frames. Our only chair is one of Chippendale's best and simplest designs.

One warning with regard to the arrangement of a hall (which I see constantly recommended) I would beg you to avoid: bamboo furniture and bead curtains of any kind. The latter always remind one of a dentist's. They are by no means cheap and certainly very hideous.

In a long, narrow hall the oak chest must of course be the only table. There will be room for two plants and a silver or brass salver to bring notes into the drawing-room.

I hope the hall will be tiled, but as this is very probable I would suggest a green tiled linoleum from Oetzmann.

The lamp is of wrought iron. This and a gong complete the furniture of our little hall. I have only one parting injunction. Be content with three pictures hung low. Really beautiful sepia photographs of pictures by Romney, Vandyck and Gainsborough, etc., can be had for 2s. 6d. Lithographs of St. Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, Colleges at Oxford and Cambridge which only an expert could tell were not real etchings, can be had for 10d., and plain narrow wooden black frames three feet by two feet can be had

for 1s. 9d. You may like to substitute your favourite musicians, painters, poets or statesmen, for it is always more interesting when the house indicates the character and tastes of its owner.

Do not add any bookshelves or small cupboards which give a gimcrack appearance. Although if there is a recess, a number of bookshelves are a distinct addition. Below I give an estimate of the exact cost. You may think the stair carpeting is expensive. I can only say it is very poor economy to buy poor stair carpeting, the wear and tear is so great, also first appearances go a long way: I always imagine that I can judge to a great extent the character of the inmates by the appearance of the hall.

ESTIMATE FOR HALL AND STAIRCASE.

	£	s.	d.
Wrought-iron umbrella stand			
with copper knobs	0	10	9
One Chippendale chair	1	10	0
One oak chest	2	0	0
Linoleum	1	10	0
Six brown lithographed etchings			
at 10d.	0	5	0
Six frames at 1s. 9d.	0	10	6
Twelve yards best Axminster			
carpet (Hampton) at 3s. 9d.	2	5	0
Two dozen stair rods	0	15	9
Four dozen stair eyes	0	4	2
Heavy door mat (Fraser,			
Ipswich)	0	4	9
Three yards art sheeting or			
serge (Burnet's)	0	5	9
One palm 5s., pot 1s. 11d.	0	6	11
Brass and copper hall lamp	0	12	6
	£11	1	1

During a sale last year's patterns can often be had for nearly half price.

(To be continued.)

AN AFTERNOON WEDDING.

By MARY POCKOCK.



SINCE it has become the fashion to be married in the afternoon, a "breakfast" is seldom given. Twenty years ago the so-called wedding-breakfast was the rule, though it then was really a luncheon, being generally served between one and half-past one, and frequently commencing with clear soup. I remember about that time a wedding at the Grosvenor Hotel, at which, besides clear soup, two hot *entrées* were handed. I never saw tea or coffee at a wedding-breakfast, but longer ago than that, both of these used to be on table at weddings. Breakfast was then usually at noon, sometimes even earlier. Of course, if the newly-married pair were going any distance, it was necessary to leave much earlier in the day than it is now; express trains did not run fifty years ago at the present rate of speed. It was not possible to start for a long journey after afternoon tea with the expectation of arriving at one's destination in time for dinner! The quickness of locomotion, I think, has had a great deal to do with

the change to the more comfortable and convenient arrangement of afternoon weddings, which were made possible by the alteration of the law which formerly obliged people to be married before noon.

A wedding reception now is much the same in most respects as an ordinary afternoon party.

The drawing-room is usually reserved for the display of presents, which are placed with the donors' cards (usually sent with gifts) on them.

If there are many presents, they are placed on tables round the room, jewellery, and small articles of value, being put in glass cases. At wedding crushes in towns, it is necessary to have a detective in the house, for it is impossible that the bride's family should know all the bridegroom's friends, consequently strangers can go in with little risk of detection, and many thefts have been perpetrated in that way. It is only necessary for a well-dressed person to present himself at the door to gain admission to the house.

On the return from church, the bride and bridegroom go to the drawing-room, where the guests follow, and offer their congratulations. After, the newly-married pair go into the tea-room, followed by as many of the guests as can find room. The bride cuts, or, if she cannot cut, she sticks the knife in the cake. The remainder of the guests come in

for refreshments, as there is space made for them by others leaving or returning to the drawing-room.

The refreshments are usually in the dining-room; if a very large party, special arrangements must be made. A long narrow table should be provided, and would be placed back, only allowing room for the waiters or waitresses (the latter are generally preferred, and really seem more in place pouring out tea) between it and the wall. On the narrow table a white cloth is used that reaches within eight or nine inches of the ground. Milk and cream-jugs and sugar-basins are arranged along the front of the table, the tea and coffee-pots, urns, cups and saucers, are arranged along the back of the table conveniently placed for the attendants to fill the cups, leaving the guests to help themselves to sugar and cream. The cake occupies the centre of the table, the remainder being covered with flowers, light refreshments, fruit, etc., with piles of small plates, fruit-knives and forks, spoons and glasses for wine and lemonade. Ices are usually served; these the servants hand from the back of the table, the ice-pails being placed on the ground out of sight. Sometimes Neapolitan ices are liked; being in papers ready to serve, they are rather convenient.

In this article I wish to speak more especially of the arrangements for a moderate-sized