

oom both colors should be found in the portieres; but if the hall were done in tan and green and the drawing-room in green and gold the portieres might be of the plain color. In our desire for costly fabrics and elaborate arrangements, we are inclined to forget that color, which is a more important consideration in a beautiful home, is almost entirely independent of expense, and its greatest beauties may be ours simply for the trouble of planning and carrying out a harmonious scheme of color. It matters little whether we prefer to use doors or portieres between our rooms, but, having decided upon the curtains it is most important that they shall introduce an added note of color that will complete the beauty and harmony of the room. Homespuns, monks cloth, velours, tapestry, and repp are all satisfactory materials for portieres, and some of the canvases, while less expensive, give very pretty and artistic effects.

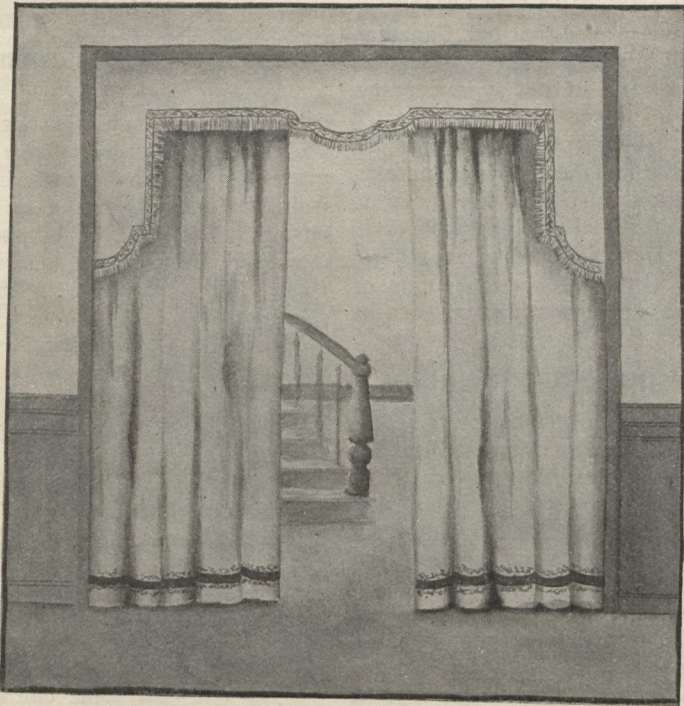
Some very pretty lanterns are to be found for the hall, and the best of these are characterized by their lack of ornament rather than by its abundance—depending for their beauty on their simple, pleasing lines, and the rich, glowing colors of the light reflected from the brass or copper from which they are made. Another type is made from bronze and leaded glass and is very quaint and pretty in design. Shades of colored glass that give an unnatural appearance to whatever the light falls upon should be avoided.

Though any good pictures may be hung in a hall, etchings and engravings seem particularly suitable and so few are

paper alone for the decoration of the walls; but certainly in a room where so much of our time is spent we cannot afford to do without our pictures and we turn instead to the quieter self-toned papers in simple conventional designs or fabric effects, that make a suitable background, not only for the books and pictures but for the other furnishings of the room.

The curtain materials that are offered now for sale in the same designs as the wall paper are not as satisfactory as the salesmen would lead us to suppose, as curtains in plain colors are in better taste with a figured paper; very artistic results, however, are obtained by repeating some motif from the paper in a stenciled or embroidered border. Figured materials may be used with the plain papers and give an opportunity of introducing the brighter shades of our scheme of color where the subduing influence of the play of light and shadow softens their crude effects and makes them infinitely more beautiful. It is entirely a matter of choice whether one or two sets of curtains shall be used, but if the material is opaque and heavy its hard lines will be softened by the use of sheer curtains next the glass.

The question of light is an important one in either a library or living-room, and the curtains should be so arranged that they will slip easily on the rod and may be drawn back to the full extent of the window. They should reach only to the sill unless the casement extends to the floor. There is no better artificial light for working or reading than the low reading lamp, either oil or electric, that may be moved at will, and shines over the left



ARRANGEMENT OF PORTIERS WITH A VALANCE

needed that these are not usually too costly. Though bare walls are unhome-like, they are not so trying as those that are over-crowded and tire the eyes while dividing the interest so that it fails to centre on anything.

THE LIBRARY AND LIVING ROOM

IN a small house, the same room must frequently answer the purpose of both library and living-room and even where this is not the case the treatment of the two is so similar that they may be easily discussed together. In these rooms beauty must be attained without any sacrifice of comfort, but the restriction which this imposes, instead of adding to the difficulties, sometimes leads us to the desired results by a surprisingly simple way, and we find ourselves wondering why the living-room is so much more attractive than the drawing-room where we have displayed our daintiest embroideries and choicest bric-a-brac.

The warm colors are to be preferred for these rooms, being both more serviceable and more cheerful than the cooler, more delicate shades. Tans, browns and dull reds and greens that incline rather to brown than grey shades, are all good colors, and the soft shades of old blue are so pretty that one is sometimes tempted to use them but only in a very bright room, and if possible, with yellow as a contrasting color. The warm weather tempts us so much out of doors, that it is better to choose furnishings that will be most attractive for the longer part of the year when we use the rooms the most.

So many exquisite papers are to be found among the years' offerings that the difficulty is in choosing among so many, rather than to find one that would be suitable. Some of the most elaborate designs are so beautiful that one is almost tempted to have them hung and depend upon the

shoulder upon the book or work, the room itself being lighted by a low hanging lamp.

Strong, simple lines, good workmanship and little or no ornament should characterize the furniture for the living-room. Large comfortable chairs that look strong enough to sustain any weight, a couch that is really made for resting, on and a table large enough to be serviceable where one might work or write or read with ease will go far toward making an attractive room. To these, in the library, must be added the book cases. Those which are built in are probably the most satisfactory, but some very beautiful ones are to be found in the shops.

The cheery comfort of an open grate seems almost indispensable, and though we may be quite as warm in a room that is heated by steam or hot air, we lack the agreeable companionship of the flickering blaze of glowing coals. Either brick or tile fireplaces may be used in the living-room. The brick is almost always harmonious in color and dull soft colored tiles that harmonize with the wall tones are even more beautiful, but those with a high glaze are always to be avoided. Stone fireplaces are very attractive, but are only appropriate in large rooms that have an effect of space and strength in their appointments. They seem most suitable in rooms with dark woodwork and beamed ceilings. The same simplicity that characterizes the furniture should be found in the mantel and its ornaments. The latter need be very few. One good cast to which it would be a real pleasure to raise our eyes sometimes from work or book might be quite sufficient and give more pleasure than several ornaments of less interest. Candlesticks or decorative pieces in china or pottery are other suitable ornaments for the mantel. Cut flowers or a potted plant are always beautiful, but they should be arranged with care.



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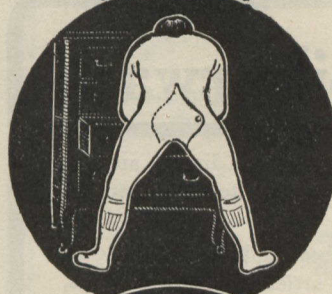
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