

industries open to women, but I have only stated facts, each one of which can be verified; I am sure that it merely needs that many of the women now living at home unoccupied, and therefore unhappy, should see that there is a sphere of work open to them, calling for merely average capacity, although certainly demanding business-like habits and energy, but which offers interest and a good livelihood; and we should have many more embarking in these various branches of work allied, if remotely, to agriculture. Above all I should like to urge upon our Irish sisters the voiceless petition of their richly endowed and beautiful country, that her resources should be called forth.

Look at the rich garden land uncultivated, see mile upon mile of sweet pastures, which could support double and treble the number of cows, tread the hundreds of miles of sweet, heather-clad hills and moors, and see where are the bees to gather the honey distilling from the fragrant flowers. Surely Nature calls us not to leave her treasures wasting and uncared for, and richly will she reward those who, in the peaceful scenes of country life, find active employment and interests, and last, though not the least, the blessing of health, which is rarely denied to the worker in fresh air and out-of-door industries.

I have, in what I have said so far, only touched upon life in England and Ireland;

but I desire very earnestly to call the attention of all those who are interested in this great question of employment for women to the useful work being carried on at the Leaton Colonial Training Home, near Wellington, in fitting young women in the most thorough manner for life in the colonies. Training in all branches of housework is given, as well as in dairy-work, the care of poultry and bee-keeping. There are many who feel that life in the old country offers a sense of home and rest which cannot be obtained elsewhere. But to those who feel drawn to the wider sphere of work in the colonies open to women, I would heartily commend the training given at the Leaton Home.

## HOW WE FURNISHED OUR FIRST HOME FOR £150.

THERE are very few young girls who do not enjoy talking over and planning a possible home of their own.

Let me tell you who I have in my mind in writing this paper. Young people who because they are really in love, are prepared to sacrifice many unnecessary luxuries, who are not afraid while they are full of health and strength of helping to make their hard-worked husband's home lovable even although this result can only be attained by a good deal of hard work on their part.

Those of my readers whose marriage is in the near future may not have the necessary time at their disposal to buy one thing here and another there, until they find out where the most artistic and durable things are to be had for a moderate price. Two months ago when choosing furniture for a friend's flat in London, we discovered how enormously prices vary for the same piece of furniture. At one shop in the West End a Sheraton sideboard bookcase and table, were exactly double the price elsewhere.

Some rooms must be furnished inexpensively, but I have avoided everything which will not last. By all means have a strong kitchen table in the dining-room with a deal top, but it is a great mistake to have a very cheap carpet. Artistic art squares are to be had from 9s. 6d. to 24s. but they will be shabby in two years. Feather pillows can be had for 2s. 11d. each, but what sort of feathers do they contain? Leave one sitting-room unfurnished. The dining-room table and chairs will do admirably for this room when we are able to afford Chippendale ones upholstered in tapestry. Those who have time to look about can often pick up really good furniture for very little at an auction, but it is always safer to buy second-hand things at a gentleman's house rather than at a shop.

Space prevents my saying much about the all-important question of choosing a house. A vital point is of course the drainage. Ask for a sanitary certificate, and if there is none, it is money saved in the long run to pay a guinea to a competent inspector. Inquire if town's water is laid on. Well-water, where there are many houses near, is pretty certain to be infected. Remember sparkling water is often the most unsafe for drinking purposes. Clay soil means rheumatism to all predisposed to it. Where money is an object, never take a house on a repairing lease. Quite lately a friend took a house in London at £80 a year, and the compulsory papering and repairs, etc., come to that sum every three years. Many people do not realise how much is thus added to the rent. Find out who the previous tenants were, and whether there have been any cases of fever, etc., since it was papered, for germs are well known to remain

on wall papers for years. Do not hesitate to go to several agents. The firm known to be the best in the neighbourhood may not happen to have exactly what you want. Calculate the cost of railway journeys to and fro before you decide on a house some way out of town, and recollect that a larger house generally means an extra servant. If possible the principal rooms should face south or west, although an artist must of course have a north light for painting. I must not omit to mention that it is wiser to buy rather than rent a house in a neighbourhood where the demand is greater than the supply, and property is increasing in value, for it is often a very good and safe investment. In any case arrange with the landlord that you shall choose your own papers, for colour is almost everything. Quite recently I went over a house in Kensington, the rent of which was £110 for a long lease, and the paper and paint were so hideous it would have been a constant eyesore to any tenant.

The rent of our house I have fixed at £50 in town and £30 in the country. There are three sitting-rooms, a bathroom and five bed-rooms; if a third sitting-room is wanted it must be upstairs. We will now proceed to choose the papers, and here I will let you into a secret. Beautiful papers at 2s. 6d. the piece can often be had for 9d. if you are content with last year's patterns, many of which are prettier than the newer ones.

### THE HALL.

If we live in the country we may be fortunate enough to find a "cottage residence" with a small square hall which of course makes all the difference to the appearance. These picturesque old houses however are few and far between for this rent, and in town we should only have a passage hall, if we were willing to pay double the amount.

If the house faces south or west, I would suggest pale green or soft china blue for the hall paper with a conventional pattern in a deeper shade, or plain paint would look equally well. Nothing is so restful as plain colour or so fresh and pretty as white paint. A pale olive green with a panelled wood or lincrusta dado painted white or a darker shade of green always looks well. The doors of the sitting-room facing the hall should be mahogany colour. The front door would look best painted a soft olive green. If you like a knocker, have one made for you, after

an old pattern; the one I like best, is a thick large ring almost round in shape. There is a new kind of panelling for dados even better than lincrusta or anaglypta, made of very thin wood. I was told it was to be used instead of linoleum for a hall, and would have much the same effect as parqueterie, but I cannot



THE HALL.