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Furnishing a Home on a Moderate Income

By JESSIE E. RORKE

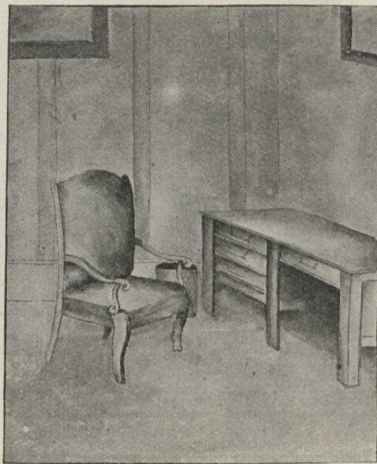
THE HALL.

THAT the hall should be pretty and attractive is more important than we might at first suppose. To be sure, but little of our time is spent there, but it is this room that gives the first suggestion of what the house will be to all who come, and they carry that impression with them, unconsciously adding or detracting from the effect of the other rooms. The planning of a hall has its difficulties also, as it opens into

furniture, though if the hall is large enough a couch or window-seat will make it more attractive. The hall is more exposed to dust and draught than any other room in the house and appropriateness, which is essential to beauty, demands that its furnishings shall be substantial, dainty draperies and delicate colors seeming entirely out of place. Where upholstery is used, leather is the most durable and satisfactory, but any of the plain heavy materials that are used for the purpose, would be suitable for a window-seat.

Little can be done in decorating to improve a defective stairway, though this is the most important part of the hall, either adding beauty by its strong, graceful lines, or making the whole hall appear awkward and ungainly. The stairway of the Colonial period was one of its greatest beauties, with its broad, low arch in the hall below, framing in the stairs with their wide white steps and spiral spindles with mahogany rail and panelling. The window at the top of the stairs was always particularly effective, repeating the graceful, curving lines of the arch below.

The hall window is frequently of stained glass and, if there is not a good view to exclude, this may be very beautiful, the subdued light that comes through the colored glass being quite sufficient for the purposes of the room. But all stained glass is not beautiful, and even the softening influence of the sunlight will fail to harmonize crude contrasts of brilliant colors that have no beauty in themselves, and introduce a clashing note into the harmony of the other furnishings; a plain glass with some simple and pretty

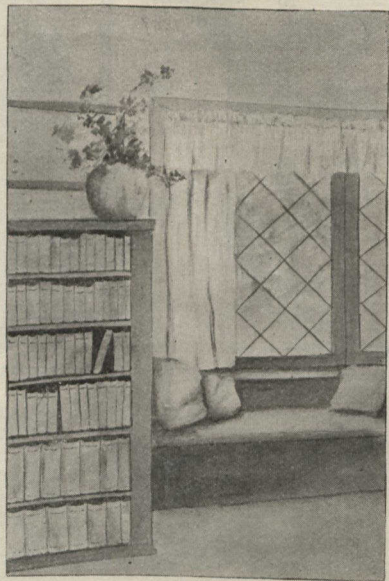


MISSION WRITING TABLE.

many rooms and must harmonize with each, while keeping a character of its own.

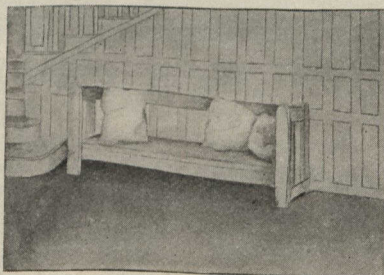
Usually there are a few windows, and the colors should tend to the warm cheerful tones; not necessarily light shades but bright enough to avoid all suggestion of gloominess. The yellows, yellow and red browns, reds and the warmer greens may be depended upon to give this effect. Of these, red is the most difficult color to handle, for though a warm color it is inclined to absorb the light, and though very rich and brilliant, in sunshine, may be even gloomy in ordinary daylight. Both the upper and the lower halls should be treated in every way alike, and the color scheme must be considered in relation to the rooms on both floors. Papers with inconspicuous designs are the most pleasing. The fabric effects are very pretty, as are some of the strictly conventional designs in self tones, or quiet harmonious colors. If the ceiling is at all high, papers with stripes should be avoided on account of the long stretch of wall at the stairway. A narrow hall may be made to appear wider by using the same paper that is hung in the adjoining rooms. It is rarely economical to buy cheap paper as the price per roll is small compared with the price of putting it on, and a good durable paper will prove less expensive than one that must soon be replaced.

So little furniture is necessary for the hall that it is usually wise to be even



TREATMENT OF LIBRARY WINDOW

arrangement of curtains is much to be preferred. The curtains would have a substantial effect rather than that of daintiness. The plain or printed linens or Russian crash are good materials, but if more light is desired madras will be found more satisfactory than the thinner nets. If the window is low and wide, the curtains will be pretty shirred over a brass pole at the top and falling only to the sill; or they may be hung with a valence which brakes the long line between the curtains when they are drawn back. The crash and linen are both very pretty with some simple design in embroidery or a stenciled border. The valence may be used with the high, narrow windows if one desires, but it is not needed unless the curtains are hung well apart for the sake of admitting more light. If the window in the door is plain glass, net shirred at both top and bottom makes a pretty and inexpensive curtain.



HALL SEAT

what may seem a little extravagant in the outset and have it good. It is better to have a really good mirror provided with a few hooks for hats rather than a cheap hat-rack. In selecting a hat-rack, choose straight, simple lines and good material, if possible the same wood as the woodwork of the hall itself. A little table to hold a card tray and a comfortable chair or two, complete the necessary

PORTIERES are frequently used in the doorways from the hall, and if different color schemes are used they must form the connecting link between the two. If browns are to be used in the hall, and greens in the drawing-