DECORATING THE INTERIOR OF THE HOME

It is a simple matter to make our homes attractive when we have at our command cash to buy those things which we need, but when we establish ourselves on a farm and buy the hundred and one little things we really had not "counted on", we find the cash which we had hoped to use in touching up our homes has disappeared and we must rely upon our ingenuity to add those feminine touches which a house must have to make a real home of it.

It is surprising what a half gallon of paint and a brush will do, and a few rolls of wall-paper will transform a sordid looking room into an attractive place.

Painting.—If your woodwork has previously been stained and varnished, one coat of varnish, applied thinly, will usually give the desired effect. A flat finish ivory paint makes a cheerful, clean-looking room, and two coats will nicely cover any other wood finish, or you may lay on any sort of priming coat (a light paint is preferable), and then apply the ivory paint. Bluish grey and dull green also make good shades for woodwork. Brown and yellow paint are rather sordid for woodwork, but a yellow wall is very cheerful. If you wish the natural woodwork, apply a wood filler and when thoroughly dry, varnish it. If a dark finish in the natural wood is preferred apply the wood filler, then a wood stain, and if a glossy surface is desired, varnish it after the surface is dry. Some prefer the prepared wood stains, as they stain and varnish at the same time, but in the long run the work is not so satisfactory as if it had been done in the proper way. In painting or varnishing it is much better to apply two or even three thin coats than one heavy application.

Papering and Tinting.—Wallpaper catalogues which any mail-order house will send on request give rules for papering walls, but first the walls must be prepared to receive the paper. If the walls are plastered or of beaverboard, it is a simple matter to decorate them. If you wish to paper such walls, dissolve a small amount of glue in boiling water, then fill the pail with cooler water and brush over the walls with a paint brush, or better still with the larger size brush which is used for applying the paste to the paper. These brushes are large and inexpensive, and can be used later for whitewashing outside buildings. This glue and water treatment is called "sizing."

If the walls are plain boards they must have cloth tacked on, stretching it very tightly and then "size" before applying the paper. The easiest and most satisfactory cloth to use is cheesecloth, but old clothing, flour and sugar sacks or any such thing can be used, care being taken that all wood is well covered and the joining edges well tacked down. If these smaller pieces of cloth are utilized it is well to first paper them over with newspaper or brown wrapping paper, then paste on a figured wallpaper, as plain or striped paper should only be used for a smooth wall surface.

Many pretty wallpapers can be bought for a small sum and as the border is the most expensive part of the wall, buy a roll of striped wallpaper with the colours in the stripe harmonizing with your wallpaper, cutting out the stripe and using it as a border. If the ceilings are high, paste a band of the ceiling paper around the top of the wall to form a "drop ceiling", then join to the wallpaper with the cut-out band. This "drop" can be nine or eighteen inches in depth.

Left-over wallpaper may be used to do a small room, by pasting one kind on the lower part of the room as a wainscoting about a yard and a half up from the floor and using a contrasting shade for the top of the room, joining the two with a cut-out band for a border. If there are several pieces which do not blend, paste them on to the walls with the plain side out and make a plain white room, then tint over with any shade of wall tint you prefer. This wall tint, such as alabastine, muresco, etc., makes a less expensive room than a