

HOME MAGAZINE

LIFE · LITERATURE & EDUCATION

Beautify The Farm Home.

(By J. A. Tefft.)

The farm home is the place where millions of boys and girls are bred and taught. The character of this home will impress itself on these young minds. Do you wonder that many a boy and girl, looking out into life, are attracted to the homes they see in the city? It is not enough that houses merely be built; after they are built, they should be made homelike by means of serviceable furniture and purposeful decoration. The taste and knack of the housewife may make even the commonest home attractive and restful.

It is a great study to try to bring the rooms and their furnishings into one harmonious effect. It brings zest to the daily work, and adds comfort and refinement to the home.

Comfort and good taste are excellent motives in decoration. The first law of good taste is simplicity. Two kinds of flowers do not grow on the same stem, although we are sometimes guilty of placing a conglomerate mixture of flowers in one vase.

In seeking materials with which to decorate, combine utility and beauty if possible. This makes the most attractive decoration.

As far as possible, avoid objects that catch dust and that need constant attention. Modern sanitary home-making avoids "dust lines." Such dust-collectors as picture moldings on the walls, deeply-grooved and fligreed picture frames, and heavily-tasseled, thick draperies, make much extra work, and are unsanitary. Dust is one of the friends of disease.

In decorating a home, it is best not to begin with movable objects, but to bring the walls and floors into harmony with each other in a way that shall mean most for the space and for the use to which the space is given. Furniture, draperies, and pictures, not necessarily the most expensive, may then be brought into use to complete the picture, not for show, but because they are needed, and they may at the same time be harmonious with other things in the rooms.

While the walls of a room lend a strong impression to the eye, the floor is the foundation, and upon its treatment, especially as to color, depends much of the success of the decoration of a room. Many houses were built before the value of hardwood floors was appreciated; with the need of completely covering the floor, the problem has confined itself to the nature of the floor covering rather than to the floor itself. Generally it is best to use a color several shades darker than the prevailing tints in the room, and in harmony with them. From a truly artistic point of view, the hardwood floors in light colors, as in oak, somewhat destroy a successful color scheme when it is the intent to make the walls and ceiling light. However, this may be remedied by rugs of a darker shade, giving completeness and the added strength lost in the light color of the wood.

If the floor space must be covered with carpet, it is well to relieve a plain carpet by mats, or small rugs, in which are pleasing figure and color. Or the carpet may contain an unobtrusive design in tones varied from the background, but not conflicting with it. The repetition of design in a carpet in a large room is sometimes trying. Study to secure a design that will produce reflectiveness as the eye dwells on it.

The size of the room may determine the size of the figure of the carpet. A large figure is obtrusive in a small room. Wide and pronounced borders may be successfully used in a large room, thus

leaving smaller space to admit small designs or plain surface. The color of the carpet should be chosen with reference to the tone of the walls. The color may be in strong contrast, and still be pleasing. Brownish-green is safe, for it has a kindly relationship with other colors.

Lacking hard floors, good pine floors may be well fitted; or if a lack of thought in this direction at time of building has given the housekeeper an uneven floor, patient toil in putting the cracks will give a surface suitable to be painted or stained, and which will admit of the use of rugs instead of coverings that are fitted into regular floor spaces, and that remain until the annual cleaning. It is safe to advise never to use a carpet when the floor itself may

the carpets, unused in the summer, are not being worn during the muddy and dusty season, when most sweeping is required.

A real Oriental rug, even the possession of but one, always makes the heart proud, but many of us will not attain to this luxury; and it might not be in keeping with our surroundings, in which case it would be very poor taste to use it. The custom seems to be growing to gather the old, worn-out Brussels and ingrain carpeting, pack it into a bundle, and ship by freight to a weaver, where it is cut into shreds and woven into a rug, very different in appearance from the original carpet, but really very handsome and extremely durable. This will cost about seventy-five cents a yard, and

along with this utility goes their important function as surface for decoration. The amount of wall decoration, and the great number of designs in wall paper, are very nearly our undoing in trying to preserve artistic simplicity.

The real use of walls—that of confining space—is not pleasant in itself, hence the desire to arrest the thought with something attractive in color and adornment. A person who rents a house, cannot materially change the conditions therein, but the walls themselves may be so ornamented that the whole atmosphere of the place is changed to one of refinement and pleasing beauty. The best treatment for walls is such that the attention of the visitor is not challenged when he enters the room. When you are "struck" by wall decorations, you may well question whether the decorations are in the very best taste.

Paper is the expedient oftenest resorted to with which to cover walls. Brica-brac and draperies may be removed and replaced at will, but the wall paper must last through more than one season, a constant object for the eye to rest upon. The ingrain papers have proved a blessing in the way of wall decoration, since they have a plain surface, and, lacking the presence of conflicting figures, are a good background for pictures. Glaring designs and violent colors are to be avoided. "Styles" in wall papers should not necessarily guide the purchaser. Certain rooms, because of a small amount of light, demand light-colored paper, while a well-lighted room will admit of darker shades. A room in light colors always appears larger than one papered in dark colors. White is too glaring if used freely, although it may produce a light effect in a room. Cream or light yellow is more desirable, for when it reflects the light it gives a warmer glow than white. Deep yellow, deep blue, or heavy drab often lack delicacy, and usually are inharmonious with all else in a room. Vertical stripes in the paper seem to add height to the room, while bringing the paper down to the picture-molding about two feet from the ceiling, gives the room a lower appearance. Large figures in wall paper, as in carpets, are suited only to a large room, while small figures suit the eye better in a room in which one wants the shut-in, cozy feeling, as in the small family sitting-room, or in the bedrooms.

China's Next Step.

By Dr. Sun Yat-Sen.

[By permission of "The Independent." This remarkable utterance appeared first in the form of an address at the farewell banquet given in Sun Yat-Sen's honor at Shanghai, by the Revolutionary Association, April 18, 1912.—Editor.]

The Republic is established in China, and though I am laying down the office of Provisional President, this does not mean that I am going to cease to work for the cause. After laying down my office, still greater affairs demand my attention. China has been under the domination of the Manchus for 270 years. During that time many attempts have been made to regain independence. Fifty years ago the Taiping Rebellion was such an attempt, but this was merely a revolution of the race (China against Manchus). Had the revolution been successful, the country would still have been an autocratic government. This would not count success.

Some years ago a few of us met in Japan and founded the Revolutionary Society. We decided on three great principles: (1) The (Chinese) people to be supreme as a race, (i. e., not to be under the dominion of an alien race). (2) The people supreme in government. (3) The people supreme in wealth pro-



A Lover of Art.

From a painting by Sir L. Alma-Tadema, who died in Germany last week.

be treated and the plain surface relieved by rugs.

However, there is an argument in favor of carpets when the house is not evenly warmed. If stoves are used, the person sitting in a room is disturbed by cold to the feet, unless there is a warm covering underneath. A rug which thoroughly covers the floor will remedy this difficulty; or a more satisfactory expedient in many farmhouses is to cover the floor in winter with carpeting, remove it in summer, and place a sufficient covering of rugs to make the room attractive. The initial expense is greater, but

furnish a richer, more-durable rug than can be secured at a store for the same amount of money. One objection to rugs is the fact that they are harder for a woman to lift, carry out of doors and whip, than to sweep the carpets indoors. But in cleaning a rug, man or boy power is a welcome expedient, and insures thorough and more frequent cleaning than that given by a broom; and this kind of power ought to be available oftener than it is. [The vacuum cleaner solves the problem.—Ed.]

The walls of a room are regarded as the dividing lines of house space; but