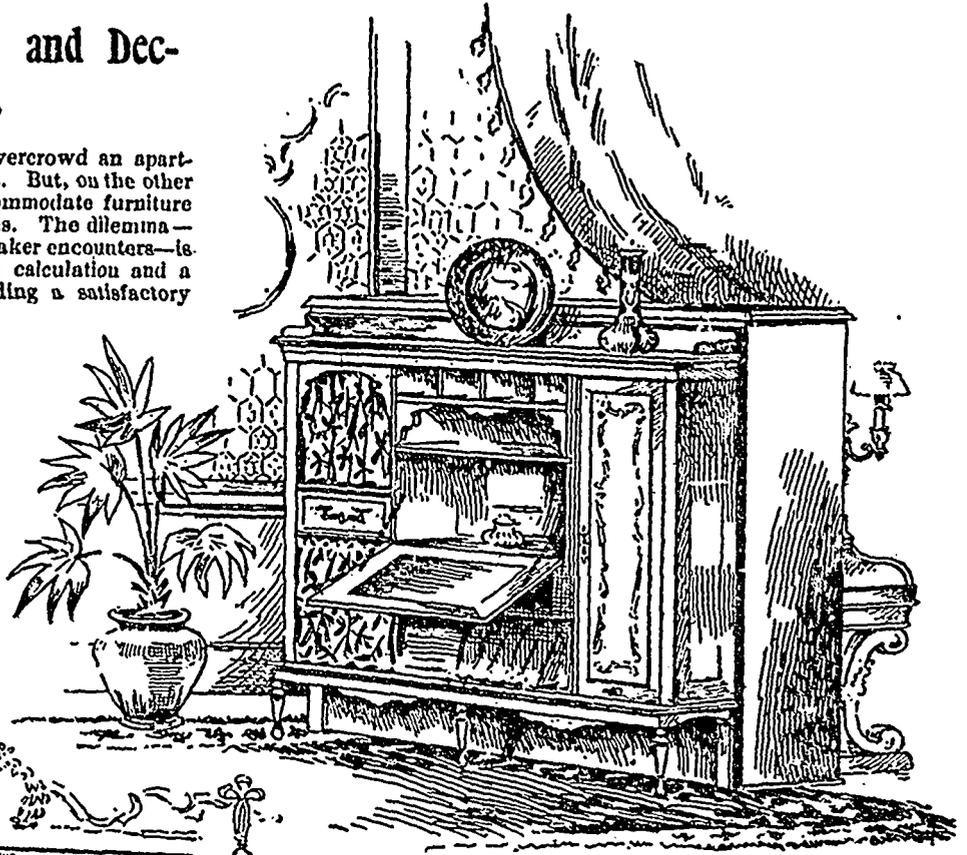


House Furnishing and Decoration.

It is not in good taste to overcrowd an apartment with furniture or draperies. But, on the other hand, it is often difficult to accommodate furniture to a room of limited dimensions. The dilemma—only one of the many a home-maker encounters—is by no means insoluble, careful calculation and a few experiments usually affording a satisfactory result. A practical idea for an apartment which must serve in the double capacity of drawing-room and library is illustrated in the upper engraving. An upright piano stands out from the wall, a position which improves its sound. Close against the back of the instrument is placed a secretary of cherry wood matching the piano. The desk is furnished with the usual conveniences, drawers, pigeon-holes and the like, a recess at the left side being curtained with a flowered China silk drapery—a device



as ornamental as it is practical in concealing the odds and ends that find their way to desks. A fancy plaque and a vase ornament the top of the desk. The piano is furnished with candle-sconces, reminiscent of old-time pianos. The light from the candles is softened by colored paper shades. Dainty candle shades may be made of pale-pink or deep-cream crêpe paper and covered with rose petals of silk or paper to match.

Glass cups placed under the castors of a piano improve its sound; they are frequently employed when the piano stands in a room hung with heavy draperies, which rather muffle the sound. These cups may be procured from any music dealer. Piano scarfs are still in use, and for them light-textured silken drapery fabrics are preferred to heavy materials. The scarf is, of course, selected with reference to the rest of the hangings. If ornaments are desired for the top of the instrument, they should be very few in number—a small bust of a composer and one or two trines of light weight. The floor is protected by a rug and may be polished or covered with velvet filling, always a favorable background for either fur or oriental rugs. A growing foliage plant stands near a window, broad, low and having small leaded panes. The curtains are of rather heavy casement muslin, finished with cotton fringe, and extend only the depth of the sashes, being held back near the bottom with white satin ribbon. Flowered or plain Liberty silk or satin curtains edged with silk ball fringe could be hung at the windows.

Suggestions for draping a long hall or room window are given in the lower picture. A deep and elaborate grille is placed at the top and from behind it falls a lambrequin drapery of old-rose velours with cascaded ends. A long flowing curtain is held back near the bottom by a gold band. The window has also a Holland shade and a Japanese reed curtain, used in lieu of a lace curtain with artistic effect. A tall, decorated stand holding cat-tails is placed near the window and contributes its share to the pleasing ensemble. If a grille is not available a pole may be used, though with less ornamental effect. Both the lambrequin and curtain should be hung from the pole. Tapestry curtains bearing heraldic devices are much used for both hall doors and windows. Burlaps are also liked for draperies. In these materials the coloring is fine and the draping qualities are excellent.

