

The Welfare of the Home

The Girl's Own Room.

By ADELINE B. WHITFORD.

Having one's own room is the beginning (the very small beginning, of course) of having one's own life; for it sets apart a place where one is to do and think for herself, express her own preference in coloring and furnishings, gather and arrange as she likes, her first possessions—the little personal belongings which have begun to accumulate. It is to be not only the place where one sleeps comfortably at night but a quiet lovely room where one rests a little now and then by day; an ideal spot for study, reading, letter writing, or sewing, and possibly for what is more important at times, an hour's quiet thinking.

For the years lived here are the growing, shaping years of a girl's life, and every inspiration which comes to her, whether through church or school or friendships, will be brought into this room to be worked out and thought over until the finest ones, let us hope, become her own. No other room in later years, even in memory, can mean quite as much as this one and for this reason it should be from the first, whether large or small, an especially lovely room, and fortunately, it may be so. It hardly matters how simple and inexpensive the materials are, such a room responds to the owner's personality more quickly than any other in the house; possibly because youth counts for so much, and the spirit of youth is so easily captured and brought into a room's atmosphere by the right touch in color and furnishings.

The freshness of spring and some of its delicate coloring belong here; simple, light weight furniture, and the owner's careful choice of pictures and small belongings expressing her own taste, for the room will gain much in personal charm if it is worked out by slow planning and as far as possible, by her handiwork.

This last does not mean an endless amount of old-time embroidery, crocheting and drawn-work, for artistic bed chambers of to-day have but little if any, decoration of this kind. Dresser and table covers, bedspreads and cushions, are more plain than of old, but more attention is paid to having these articles of colored materials, to carry out the room's definite color scheme. Instead of colored embroideries on white, colored cottons and linen materials are used in plain or figured designs, and these are frequently selected from cotton dress goods, or lining materials, as from the regular drapery stuffs. Whatever gives the right color-effect in a room is the thing decorators use. Volts, satens, poplins, cretonnes and colored linens in cheap or expensive qualities are used and aside from the things one may buy, there are great possibilities in the home dye-pot. Old pieces of coarse cotton cloth become very dignified and attractive when colored different shades of old gold, pale yellow, or orange for chair pillows in a north room, or shades of green, gray, lavender or dull blue for use in a south room. The different shades of color being obtained, of course, by using more or less water to each pound of material to be dyed. A little practice gives one courage to do a room's complete outfit if necessary.

In using these simple materials their good style is brought out, not by fancy trimmings, but by making them up carefully, with straight smooth hems, and often with the narrow gimp edgings which cost but a few cents a yard. These are used on window hangings, bed spreads, box covers, and so on, and are made to take the place of hand-work edgings wherever possible.

Fight the Corn Borer.

Observations recently made in Elgin County, Ontario, particularly in the district of St. Thomas, by officers of the Entomological Branch of the Dominion Department of Agriculture, and others, indicate that the European Corn Borer found in Canada for the first time in August, 1920, has come through the winter in a very healthy condition. The Department urges, therefore, the assistance of all farmers in affected districts, in the efforts which are being made in controlling this dreaded pest and preventing its further spread.

The borer or caterpillar is the destructive stage in the life of the insect and it is in this stage at the present time within corn stubble, pieces of stalk, old ears, or other

Of course, a well-planned room never has in it a careless mixture of colors, nor mixtures of figured materials. Its one color harmony is kept in view definitely throughout the work of furnishing and no other equally strong color is allowed to creep in. If, for instance, soft rose is the color one wishes to emphasize, and cretonne is to be used for part of the furnishings, the principal design in the cretonne should be in soft rose shades. If this material were used for window hangings and one or two chair cushions and a dress box cover, that amount would be all that the average room should contain of figured stuff. The other articles such as dresser and stand cover and book shelf curtain, should then be of plain material exactly matching one of the rose shades in the cretonne. This brings the whole room into a harmony of rose. As a background for this color, walls and rugs should be a neutral tone in gray or soft gray green, and ceiling and woodwork, cream, while the floor would be painted a darker tone of dull green.

In such a room the simple furniture would be especially good if painted in pale gray, or gray-green similar to the wall color, the gray willow chair given rose colored cushions, and, as a note of contrast, a blue or green flower bowl filled with lilacs or sweet peas would supply the final bit of color charm.

You will see from this description that such a room as this is not built up out of one which is already furnished. It has no mixtures but shows a definite plan throughout. This is the secret of a successful room.

In deciding about the use of color in your room, you may have it in one of two ways. The first method is to paper or paint or kalsomine the walls in a soft hazy tone, which must be a yellowish cream, or a pale soft blue in north or sunless rooms, or a cool gray, gray-green or hazy blue tone for a south room, or one having plenty of sunshine. With these soft tones on the walls, you would then have gaily figured window hangings, chair cushions and so on, with the principal color of these repeated in plain materials for other articles.

The other method is to use an all-over pattern of flowered paper on the walls, the design being usually of spring blossoms with yellows or pinks predominating if the room is north or dull, and with blues, greens or lavenders as the principal color if used in south or sunny rooms. With this figured wall, window draperies, bed spread, cushions and so forth, should all be of plain stuff, either white, or of cottons matching the principal color of the paper, and on a much flowered wall there should be only one or two pictures used, if any.

You can manage either of these methods if you remember first: for the plain-toned walls, be sure to use only soft tints, never the strong colors. Tones which make your walls look like a lovely fog of smoky yellow or dim greens and grays are what you should have. For the figured-papered rooms should be very indistinct, or the walls will soon be extremely tiresome. Ceilings are cream, or as white as the background of the figured wall paper.

Woodwork is usually ivory white when used with creamy or yellowish walls, and a very light gray if walls are gray.

Floors are always darker than walls and walnut brown, or dull olive green are good colors.

parts of the corn plant which were large enough to shelter it during the winter. Farmers, therefore, should realize the importance of destroying, at once, preferably by burning, all unused portions of corn stalks, cobs, waste, etc. Crop refuse around silos, and also that left during the winter in infested corn fields should be carefully gathered up and destroyed by burning. Fields within the infested district should be kept free from weeds, as the borer has been found in thick stemmed grasses, ragweed, smartweed, lambs' quarters, etc.—Arthur Gibson, Dominion Entomologist.

Send flowers when the sick friend gets well, instead of when he doesn't. An optimist is a man who believes he can grow even better vegetables than the catalogue shows.

Poultry

After years of experience in raising poultry on the farm, I find that my best aid in clearing the poultry houses of vermin is the kerosene brush.

For the eradication of the pestiferous red chicken mite I take an old brush and some kerosene, and go over all the roost supports, joints, seams in the nest boxes, uprights, and wall cracks with a penetrating coating of the kerosene. It is sure death to each and every mite it touches. I find that this is all the care needed in the hen houses, winter and summer, after the spring and fall cleanings and the usual whitewashings or creosoting of the interior surfaces, nests, and roosts. I examine the roosts occasionally in the winter, every three weeks in the summer, brushing the seams and joints with the kerosene. If there are any mites, they will appear. If none, you can be thankful. But if your numbers seem legion, go over every inch with kerosene.

And this is not its only use. If the scaly-leg mite appears in your flock, take up the kerosene brush again and paint the scaly leg with it, being careful not to touch any of the feathers around the knee joint. Usually one application will kill the mite that works and causes this scaly appearance of the legs; but if not, I continue the applications until the legs are cured.

The powder shaker, with a good commercial house powder, is the easiest remedy for lice. But with a farm flock on range, with boxes of ashes and dust baths available, it is seldom that remedies will have to be resorted to. The average hen will take care of herself under ordinary conditions. I use the powder on the setting hens at least three or four times, being careful to make the last application a few days before the eggs are to hatch.

The Strawberry Plantation.

Whatever else is neglected, one should not fail to start a strawberry plantation during the spring. Any fairly dry area will grow strawberries. The ground should be one on which water will not stand during the winter to form ice.

Manure at the rate of ten to fifteen tons per acre may be applied and plowed under, or even more may be used to advantage if no other fertilizers are to be used. It is usually considered wise to apply five hundred pounds of a 4-8-4 fertilizer per acre. That is, one containing 4 per cent. of nitrogen, 8 per cent. of phosphoric acid and 4 per cent. of potash. However, if the soil is in good fertility

this is not necessary and manure alone may be all that is necessary. All fertilizers should be scattered broadcast and harrowed in.

Thorough preparation of the soil by plowing and working deeply is advisable. The land is finally leveled with a smoothing harrow and the plants set in rows three and a half feet apart and fourteen inches apart in the row. Closer planting is unnecessary and does not permit of easy cultivation between the rows and opportunity of picking without tramping on the vines.

The planting is done by pushing a spade into the soil, pressing it to one side and dropping a plant with roots spread fan-shape into the opening, holding the crown of the plant to the top of the level soil and pressing the earth firmly around the plant with the heel or some other way, and finally leveling with loose earth around the crown of the plant. This is quickly done. The importance of pressing the soil firmly around the plant is very great and the plant should be sufficiently firm, so that if the plant is pulled by a leaf the leaf will break before the plant will pull out. Only young plants should be set; that is, plants of the previous season's growth.

The planting should be done early, in fact, the earlier the better. Much of the failure with strawberries is due to late planting. This is a job that can be done in the early spring, the sooner the plant becomes established the earlier the formation of runner plants, and the earlier these runner plants form, the larger and better developed are the crowns, without which strong stalks of well formed fruit are impossible.

The summer cultivation should be shallow to kill weeds and form a loose surface in which the plant can root without difficulty. As the runners develop the cultivator should be narrowed, so that the runners are not disturbed after they commence to form plants and great care is necessary to avoid disturbing the plants at this time. Some of the runners may be shifted to give a more even distribution of plants along the row, and some hand hoeing will be necessary to prevent weeds from growing later.

It is wise to plan for a new plantation every year, as it is difficult to keep weeds under control the second year without much hand hoeing. It will be found that the Senator Dunlap is one of the best varieties to plant. Blossoms are likely to develop on the spring set plants and these should be removed to throw all energy into the development of runners as early as possible.

Success is ten per cent. opportunity and ninety per cent. intelligent hustle.

My Visit to England's Glass-House Farmers

The little river Lea, rising in southern Bedford, flows eastward across Hertford to the border between Hertford and Essex, where it is joined by the Stort, coming down from the north, and turning south in a broad, flat valley, it reaches the Thames near the eastern limit of London, a total course of some 50 miles.

In this Lea Valley, there has grown up a great glass-house industry, more than 1,000 acres now being covered with glass in a district some 12 or 13 miles long, in which are half a dozen towns and cities of 5,000 to 50,000 population each.

The men engaged in this industry have become so impressed with the value of scientific research in the problems related to their work, largely as a result of the Rothamsted investigations, that in 1913 they decided to establish an experiment station in their midst, having for its sole object the study of these problems. They therefore organized an association for this purpose, under the name of the Nursery and Market Garden Industries Development Society, Limited. In the spring of 1914, a site of about two acres, within the limits of the town of Chesham on the main London to Cambridge road, was purchased and buildings were erected, consisting of an office, one botanical and one chemical laboratory, five cucumber and five tomato houses, and an isolation house for pot experiments and disease inoculation work.

The county councils of Hertford and Essex made small grants in support of this work; the Duke of Bedford contributed \$2,000; the members of the society raised among themselves about \$4,000 for construction and as much more for a maintenance fund, and the National Board of Agriculture and Fisheries agreed to furnish nearly \$10,000 for construction and maintenance. The equipment was not completed until September, 1915, and by that time the war had seriously interfered with the work, although the work was kept alive and some progress was made during the strenuous period of the war.

From the outset the work has been closely associated with that at Rothamsted, a part of it being conducted in the Rothamsted laboratories. With the end of the war increased interest was taken in the work of this station. The number of shareholders increased, and the larger annual subscriptions permitted the employment of specialists in entomology and plant diseases. Some idea of the character of the work may be gained by the following brief summary of the work reported for 1919:

In an experiment on slow versus forced growth of tomatoes the forcing of the crop by raising the heat caused

an earlier ripening of a small part of the crop, but decreased the total yield by about 10 per cent.

Houses in which the moisture in the air had been increased by overhead spraying have given somewhat larger June pickings of tomatoes, in three seasons out of four, than those not so treated.

In experiments with fertilizers on tomatoes the omission of nitrogen increased the yield, while the omission of potash caused a material reduction in yield. The largest yield was produced by phosphates and potash combined. No further increase was produced by the addition of manure to the chemical fertilizers.

In the case of cucumbers, increasing the temperature above 85 deg. F. sufficed to prevent the leaf-spot disease, and considerably increased the weight of the early pickings as well as the total yield.

Experiments in soil sterilization are being made in co-operative commercial greenhouses, under the guidance of extensive research conducted in the Rothamsted laboratories, in which the effect on the soil and on the growing plant of a large number of chemical substances is being studied in comparison with steam.

Most of the difficulties encountered by the gardener, under glass, are due to microscopic soil organisms. These, under the glass-house conditions in which the natural action of such organisms upon each other is interfered with, attain an importance that is not reached in the open field. Among these are the nematodes (small earthworms that infest the roots) and the bacteria and fungi that cause the "damping off" of seedlings, and some forms of blighting of the mature plant. All these may be reached by soil sterilization; but there are other organisms in the soil that are beneficial—for example, the nitrifying bacterium. How so to adjust our treatment as to hit our root without injuring our friends is a delicate problem of strategy calling for the most elaborate scientific research. To the solution of this problem a very large part of the resources of the Rothamsted Station are now being directed.—Charles E. Thorne.

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Soils and Crops

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Minerals in Swine Ration.

It is true that mineral requirements for swine is practically a new thing in feeding swine, yet it promises to be one of the foremost steps in improved methods of securing maximum growth and health. Practical feeders for years have been allowing their hogs access to wood ashes and to charcoal or soft coal and the like for the supplying of these minerals. Such substances have been very good, and did supply some very essential material, and yet in the very experiments that are being made at any of the stations at this time will bring out some very valuable facts. Up to the time it seems that about the same errors are being made in the use of minerals to swine that were originally made in the earlier feeding tests, in which they attempted to argue from the complex to the simple rather than from the simple to the complex, which seems to be the logical way to approach these subjects. It took scientists many years to awaken to the fact that some things about our common feeding practices would never be understood until we began with the use of a very simple ration and then worked into a complex one, so that an accurate check could be made upon the true value of various feeding materials, under varying conditions. The wonderful discoveries made during the past decade have been ample proof that this was the proper method of making the feeding trails and more actual history as to the value of feeding materials than has been accomplished during several such periods previous to this time.

It is a common practice for some swine feeders to feed certain minerals not for any specific action which they expect to obtain, but simply because it has been a time-honored custom. Such agents as sulphur, copperas, charcoal, seem to have very little, if any, beneficial action for swine, and may, if not given properly, actually prove harmful, and yet swine breeders have long used them in their tonic and mineral mixtures. We must depend more on our late experiments to tell us about these materials. At this time sulphur is rarely used as a medicine by veterinarians, and then usually in an ointment for its effect in killing parasites of the skin. If it is taken into the animal's body in fairly large doses over a long period it may bring about a serious blood condition. It turns the feces, or manure, very dark in color and gives it a very foul odor, and should be given in very small amounts until we learn more about it.

Copperas, or iron sulphate, is a common remedy, and while it may be given in small quantities for some time, it can not safely be given in very large doses; our latest information on iron is that it is a food rather than a tonic or a medicine, and later day veterinarians use it in that way. It is also thought to be a worm destroyer, but tests have proven this without any foundation; it is very readily changed into another form when exposed to the ordinary atmosphere and if it was to be given it should be kept as nearly dry as possible. With the knowledge that we have of this material at this time it is doubtful if it is advisable to feed it to swine.

Charcoal is found in two forms, that which is made from wood and that from bones. The action of charcoal is that of an absorbent, and its function in the intestinal tract is to absorb any methane gas that may be generated in the intestines. This can

be of value only in cases of fermentation, and then only for a very short period of time. Extensive tests have proven that it is eliminated from the body in the same form that it is taken in and has but very little use in a swine mixture.

The minerals that are most likely to be deficient are calcium or lime, chlorine, sodium and phosphorus. These are the elements that enter into the formation of the skeleton in the larger amounts. It may be possible that iodine is sometimes needed, but this only in sections where there are no salt licks, and that is due to the fact that in some sections the soil is depleted in these elements and therefore the crops do not contain a normal amount. This can be easily and cheaply supplied. The following materials furnish the minerals commonly used very cheaply and at a very slight cost: Sodium chloride or common salt, ground rock phosphate, ground bone meal, either raw or steamed, wood ashes, and many others. Common salt or sodium chloride furnishes both sodium and chlorine in sufficient quantities. Steamed bone meal or ground raw bone meal furnishes both calcium or lime and phosphorus; wood ashes or kainit furnish potash, but this is not so often needed. A very good mixture consists of equal parts of salt and steamed bone meal; another of salt and raw bone meal; another of salt and wood ashes; another of salt and raw rock phosphate, very finely ground. All of these may be mixed equal parts and fed in a self-feeder.

Animals will consume about one pound of such mixtures each month; this can be provided for in this way: Mix a pound of the mixture with an amount of tankage that they will eat in about a month. If they are eating about fifty pounds of tankage per month, then add two pounds of the mixture to each one hundred pounds of tankage and you are certain in this way that they get that amount. If they are eating more, increase it, and if less, decrease it. This should be very well mixed and fed in a self-feeder; most animals will eat about this amount of it, if it is fed alone in a self-feeder; this will depend somewhat upon the individual.

It is not advisable to attempt to furnish all the minerals that are needed by the animal in this way, but there are certain feeds that are very rich in minerals, and much of the minerals should be supplied through them. Among these feeds are alfalfa and clover hay, bran and soy beans. The hay can be and should be, fed to brood sows in a rack during the winter months, or when they are not on pasture; sows will consume about one to one and one-fourth pounds per each one hundred pounds of body weight per day when it is fed in this way; the use of pasture crops, such as alfalfa, clover, rape and the like, also provide large amounts of minerals for the breeding and growing animals. The mineral requirements for swine need occasion the breeder no alarm; it can be very easily handled, and quite inexpensively also; all it requires is a little good judgment in the selection of feeds, and possibly some simple mixtures that we have outlined in this article.

Well-ventilated quarters that are clean and cheery, and supplied with an abundance of bright straw litter, tend to make healthy birds, and such are the birds that lay the golden eggs.

THE PICTURE I WOULD PAINT

The man who can paint the innocence in a child's smile, the purity in a woman's eyes, the loving tenderness lurking in the drawn corners of a stern man's lips, is the world's greatest artist. His model is in his heart. He can have no other.

I can not draw a straight line. I can not amuse the youngsters who play at my knee by making a picture in any wise resembling a dog or a cow. By dint of herculean effort I can draw what I proudly think looks somewhat like a house, with square doors and windows; but the wisp of smoke which I add (with a Spencerian flourish) atop the chimney, is usually taken by the juvenile spectators to be a pig's tail. Yet I should rather be an artist than anything else in the world.

In my mind's eye I can see the picture I should like to paint. There is a doorway as a sort of frame for a mother and a little girl. The love light is shining in their eyes, their faces are aglow with welcome. Up the lane, toward the house, comes he who is King of the little household, monarch of all he surveys. A tousled-haired youngster is enthroned on one of the big horses coming in from the field, while a younger brother rides astride his father's shoulders—shoulders stooped but a little since with the day's toil, now straight and squared, because love has thrilled the man anew. Father and boys are waving to the mother and girl who stand in the doorway, through which streams the welcoming light of Home. They call cheerily to each other, these loved and loving ones. The peace of night falls again over that humble, yet glorious, castle of Love and Faith and Hope.

There would have to be a companion picture, to get it all in. A little brood is gathered about the father's knees, while the mother does her chores nearby. The brood listens eagerly while the father reads or tells such stories as children have loved since the beginning of time; childish eyes grow big, but there are strong arms nearby to protect, fear vanishes. Slowly but surely the father leads them on, from King Arthur to Him who is Lord of lords and King of kings. Night comes on apace. The stars come out. The stairs creak. The little brood gets closer. Mother joins the circle. And the heads of all, old and young, bend low, while a deep, tender voice, supplemented by childish treble, intones "Our Father, which art in heaven." Then one by one the little folks go "piggy-back" up the creaking stairs to bed.

Who can paint such a picture? Yet who can not see it in his mind's eye? The man who can not see it has lost two-thirds of his life; the woman nineteenth. There are no tears hot enough to drown that picture from our memory.

You say it can not be painted; there are problems of technique which can not be overcome. Our art will not be Art until such a picture is painted. Our life will not be Life until such a picture is in every man's and every woman's mind, visible alike in the light and in the dark.

"He who is far from home is near to harm." As the journey ends, and we pass through our own door, that peace which passeth understanding settles down upon us. We drop the pack from our shoulders. We are free men again. Behind the closed door is the solace of sympathy, the tenderness of love.

"This be the verse you grave for me: Here he lies, where he longed to be; Home is the sailor, home from the sea; And the hunter home from the hill."

Making Biddy Exercise.

A fairly common practice among poultry keepers is to suspend cabbage or mangels in a string sack on a cowl. The object of course is to encourage chicken exercise. I find it best, however, to hang the green food only a reasonable distance off the floor. Jumping is strenuous exercise. It brings parts under strain that the hen normally little uses. When a flock is laying heavily, there is danger of rupture if the cabbage is hung high. Dry, deep, new litter, in which scratch grain is sprinkled, is a better exercise.

Cabbages and mangels may be spiked to boards or impaled on wall spikes. I like to split the mangels in half. Any green food can be mixed and fed in a hot wet mash.

To Figure Paint Needs.

In figuring the amount of paint required for your home, you will find the following rule quite helpful:

While the quantity of paint required varies somewhat with the nature of the surface to be covered, and the conditions under which it is applied, a good grade of prepared paint will ordinarily cover at least 350 square feet to the gallon, using two coats.

First, measure the distance around the house and multiply by the average height, then divide by 350, and the result will be approximately the number of gallons to buy.

Of this quantity, one-fifth will represent the paint required for trimmings, cupboards, etc.

One hundred mature fowls require approximately 400 square feet of floor space. A house sixteen feet wide and twenty-five feet long will be satisfactory for a flock of this size.



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