

definite shade of the color scheme. Perhaps some of my busy readers laugh at the idea of a color scheme for the every-day table and think that the people who gather round it will care little what colors are there so long as there is plenty that is good to eat; and, indeed, it is very probable that not one of them would be able to tell you anything about it afterward, but the same no doubt is true of the last pretty gown you wore. Probably not one, of the men of the house, at least, knew what you were wearing, but they knew you were more than usually sweet and attractive; and in the same way, they will feel the charm of your dinner table (as indeed you will yourself) and find it a pleasanter place to linger and talk things over before going back to work.

There are few homes where flowers are not used as table decorations when company comes at least. This is one of the things that we may have every day without additional cost, and only at the expense of the few moments time that it takes to place them there. Usually only a few flowers are best, unless the table is large, and these arranged simply in some pretty receptacle. A clear glass vase is best for tall flowers such as iris, long-stemmed roses or the tall, white garden lilies, while there are many pretty bowls for the shorter blossoms. If your table colors are blue and white a dark blue bowl with yellow daffodils will be beautiful. Any flowers that are yellow, white or crimson, or the nasturtium shades, will be pretty with blue, and yellow. Yellow, red, or blue flowers are exquisite in a brass bowl if you are fortunate enough to possess one. Pink and lilac and the paler blues are all lovely with silver. But there is not one of all the flowers that will not look well in clear glass.

In winter when flowering bulbs or some small potted plant must largely take the

the simplest designs have a way of taking queer fanciful shapes or forming geometric patterns, or insisting on being counted up and down and across, till the weary patient can find no relief but in shutting out the light and the whole tiresome view. White is not a satisfactory color, for the walls as it gives a glare of reflected light that is most trying.

Have few pictures in the room and these of a kind that will be sure to interest the invalid. It is a good plan to change them occasionally.

The furniture should be the plainest with no carving or ornamentation to collect the dust, and where covers are re-



TRAY CLOTH IN DELFT BLUE AND WHITE

quired, a plain white linen that can be renewed daily is the best. A bed, a dresser, a table (or two if the room is large enough to permit) and two or three chairs make up the necessary furniture. The best bed is of white enamelled iron and of medium width so that the patient may feel there is abundance of room, while it is still not too far for the nurse to reach from either side. The bedding should all be light and warm, and plenty of pillows, both large and small, and extra blankets should be conveniently near.

Two tables will be a decided convenience, one for the nurse, and a small one to hold



STENCILLED CENTREPIECE

place of cut flowers, a small jardiniere is almost essential. This should be in the same colors as the china or in some neutral or harmonizing color, and always sufficiently unobtrusive in decoration not to draw attention from the plant which it contains. In summer a small jardiniere such as this may often be used to hold cut flowers that may be massed together, such as roses, dahlia or golden-glow.

The Sick Room

A LITTLE time and thought spent on the furnishing and arrangement of the sick-room will often greatly comfort the invalid. The long days of enforced idleness become so wearily monotonous that trifling inconveniences become real causes of irritation, and the smallest thing that brings a change of interest gives a pleasure that the strong and healthy find hard to realize.

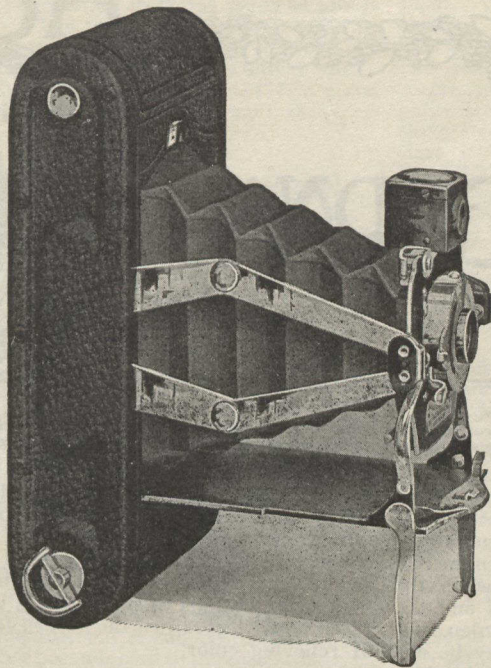
It is important that the room should have abundance of fresh air and sunshine, and be so arranged that it may be kept immaculately clean with as little work as possible. The absence of all draperies and upholstery will help materially to this end, and if there is a carpet on the floor, it may be covered with white cotton, for a space around the bed at least. An uncovered hardwood floor is better in many respects, but the rug will deaden the necessary sounds that would be trying to the patient. Plain tinted walls will prove the most pleasing. Even

the reading lamp, books or flowers. The room should contain an easy chair, but not a rocker. Few rockers move without some slight noise, and the motion is apt to be most trying to the patient. Bed-tables are so great a convenience that in a long illness they seem almost a necessity. The less expensive kind have four small legs that rest on the bed over the knees of the patient; but a better style has a base resting on the floor while the tray on top swings over the bed. This tray may be tipped to hold a book in position, or left flat when used for dishes.

A large screen is essential in the sick room, being needed to regulate both air and light.

Polishing Furniture

THE prudent housekeeper will be wary of doctoring her furniture with polish that is recommended to cover all defects. Bad results often follow. A simple and effective polish for cleaning furniture and removing scratches is made of one-third linseed oil and two-thirds benzine. It should be applied with a paint brush which has very soft bristles and rubbed dry with an old soft piece of muslin or soft flannel. For polishing, dampen a cloth with the mixture, fold it into a pad, sprinkle a few drops of alcohol over the surface of the pad and rub the furniture firmly and quickly. Rub only a small part at a time and be sure to rub until the surface is quite dry.



*Photography
with the
bother
left out.*

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