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Furnishing a Home on a Moderate Income

By JESSIE E. RORKE

THE DINING ROOM.

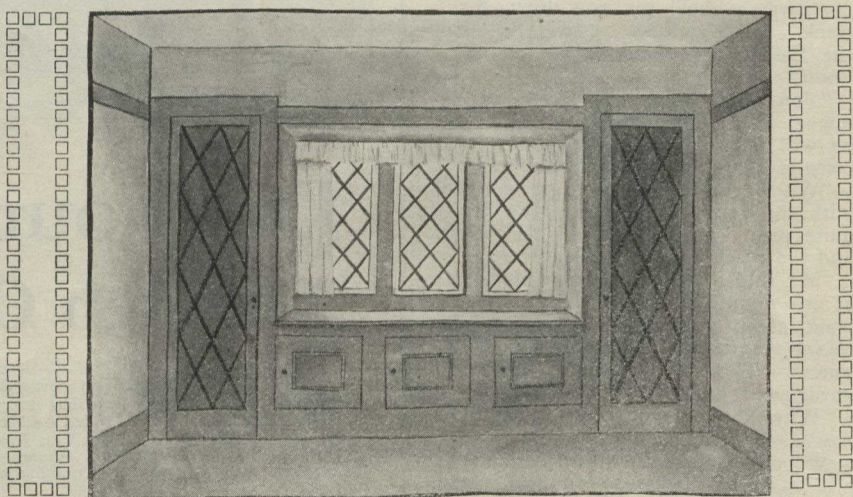
WITH the exception of the living-room the dining-room should be the most cheerful room of the house. Meals are much more attractive if served in a room that is bright and airy, and the family are tempted to linger and discuss plans and subjects of interest, as this is often the only place where they are sure to be all together during the day. Plenty of windows that open readily will go far toward making it a charming room—and where one may choose, an eastern exposure, or, better still, both eastern and southern, is most desirable. It is a pleasant beginning for a day that promises to be chilly and depressing, to come down to breakfast in a room that is flooded with sunshine. Later in the day our environment has less effect upon our feelings, and when the evening meal comes, in the cooler months, the position of the windows makes little difference, as the days are so short as to make artificial light a necessity. In summer, however, it is very necessary to have the dining-room windows well shaded, by trees or vines, if possible, as these make much the coolest shade, but if not by awnings. The housewife whose dining-room opens upon a wide, cool verandah or a shaded corner of the lawn, where the summer meals may be

When curtains are not plain they usually emphasize the contrasting rather than the prevailing color in the room. In hanging the curtains nothing is more attractive than straight, graceful lines from the pole to the sill.

Casement windows that may be swung wide open at pleasure are very suitable for the dining-room, admitting as they do abundance of fresh air and sunshine. Where the panes are leaded only the simplest of hangings should be used and these preferably of some sheer material. Shades may be omitted entirely unless they are needed to temper the glare of sunlight where the window is not otherwise protected.

IN arranging the artificial lighting, top lights should be avoided. The lights should be arranged on the walls, on the table itself, or hung low from the ceiling, so that the brightest light centers upon the table and glitters and glances charmingly upon the silver and glass.

In selecting paper one must decide in the outset whether the walls are to be decorative in themselves or whether they are to form a background for the pictures and china. In either case they should be subdued in coloring, and, in the latter, inconspicuous in pattern as



A BUILT-IN SIDEBORD

served, is very fortunate indeed, but if this cannot be accomplished plenty of fresh air without sunshine or even too strong a light will make the dining-room a pleasant place to linger after the heat of the office or the fields.

The curtains should be so arranged that they will either admit or temper the light as one may desire, and at all times allow the air to enter freely. This is accomplished easily by using different curtains for the different seasons, in the winter hanging only one set of madras or some other transparent material, and in the summer using fine net curtains next the glass and inner curtains of plain or printed linen, or any material that is woven closely enough to be opaque and yet is cool and light in effect. A pure white in curtains is often not pleasing with the color scheme, a slight shade of cream or ivory harmonizing much more readily. If one prefers to use the same curtains during the whole year nothing is more satisfactory than madras or net. Madras is to be had in pretty designs with quiet harmonious colorings, particularly the soft dull shades of red, green and blue that make attractive colors for a bright dining-room. The net comes in pure white ivory, deep cream or ecru. It is well to remember in selecting the curtains that unless the walls are plain, or have only a very inconspicuous design, figured materials are better avoided.

If the paper has a bold and decorative design no pictures should be hung and very little china displayed on the plate-rail or in any place where it comes in close contact with the paper. This season's tendency to use extremely dark background in the wall paper should not tempt one to introduce such gloomy surroundings into a small home, even a very strong light will not counteract the dull and contracted effect of such walls. Any division of the wall, such as the use of a plate-rail will have a tendency to make the ceiling appear lower, and the use of a ceiling paper with a noticeable design or in any but the lightest tints will have the same effect. In some of the simpler dining-rooms the plaster is left with a rough surface and tinted some soft tone that makes a pleasing neutral shade for the color scheme. This often gives a very good effect, but does not, of course, correspond with expensive woods or draperies.

Plain rugs, or rugs in several shades of one color, are always pretty for the dining-room, though with plain walls and hangings the Oriental colors may be used on the floor. Hardwood floors entail so much labor that most housekeepers prefer to use a large rug, leaving only two or three feet of space at the wall.

Mahogany and walnut are at present the most popular wood for dining-room