

CHAPTER VI
COMBINATIONS OF COLOUR

combinations of colour: yellow-green, iron
Malcovite, fire-green; Naples yellow, Venetian red, lime
green, Solferino; Mille-yellow, Yale

With other tones: Coquelicot, dark yellow-green,
marlins, cycne.

With other colours: drab, orange, blood, Timp black,
crimson, khaki brown, ultramarine, minken, neutral tint,
piment white, micot, very dark blue, Tramette,
witch.

With mythological elements: Minerva, Min, yellow,
Pygmalion, Hebe.

This list is sufficiently extensive for our purpose but it is
by no means exhaustive nor is the variety of nome-clature
likely to decrease.

The reason why up to this time there is no reliable source
of information on colour-aesthetics is that the multitudinous
possibilities in colour combination have not been taken into
account.¹ Aesthetic laws have to be found empirically,
mathematical deduction is only conditionally applicable and
even then within very narrow limits. Investigation with the
purpose of ascertaining empirically aesthetic laws has only
begun, and the enormous task is still before us. The only
experimental works on colour combinations are those of
Jonas Cohn and Miss Baker, of which the latter seems the more
important since Cohn has worked with too small a number of
qualities and apparently relied with regard to complementarity
simply on conventional statements. Both worked
on binary combinations; Miss Baker's work refers to the
colours in full saturation only and thus treats of a side of the
question which, though fundamental, is not of great importance
with regard to practical application; for it is scarcely
ever binary combinations of highly saturated colours which
we use for architecture, decoration or dress. The colours
used for the purposes thus stated are mostly the so-called
broken colours with here and there an interspersion of a

¹ Kirschmann, *Conceptions and Laws in Aesthetics* (Univ. of Toronto
Studies, Psych. Series, vol. I, p. 200).