

bedroom—Who has not heard this phrase. "Now, let us see something cheap for the bedrooms." What snobs we are! We regularly go to church and piously repeat the refrain "Good Lord, deliver us" when the clergyman implores that we be saved from the deceits of the flesh, and we go to a home that gives our friend whom we occasionally have in our reception room a wrong conception of our life. While a bedroom should be light and dainty, something that is at once sweet and refreshing, and yet not so expensive that we cannot replace it every few years, yet our last vision at night and the first to greet us in the morning is entitled to more than the scant attention it gets. It is our private closet, and should in its way be as good as the best room we have. In our selections we should always exercise care that we get not prettiness but good decorative effects, and depend upon it the maker will not be behind in responding to our demand.

W. L. C.

WALL PAPER NOTES

Colin McArthur & Co. report receipt of some good orders from Australia. This is significant as showing that Canadian goods are gradually working their way abroad.

THE ANNUALS.

THE annuals this year are up to their usual high standard. We have just received from Messrs. Warwick Bros. & Rutter copies of *The Leisure Hour*, *The Boys' Own*, *The Girls' Own* and *Sunday-at-Home*.

The Leisure Hour is a fine family present, suited to old and young, and the 1896 volume has a colored frontispiece and eleven plate illustrations, besides the numerous pictures with which articles are illustrated. The literary contents are characteristically up-to-date. A series of papers on America deals with the social habits and institutions of the Republic from an English point of view. Many short biographies appear of living celebrities, and also the presidents of the Royal Society. Current Science is the subject of many short articles. There is a good deal about Africa and its present problems. Two or three continued stories, complete, as usual, in the volume, and a number of short stories, supply ample fiction of a high class.

Sunday-at-Home for 1896 is better than ever. Its colored plates are very fine and several plates on toned paper, including one of Canterbury Cathedral, will prove attractive. Biographies of famous divines are a feature. The principal complete serial is "Doctor Adrian," a story of Old Holland, by D. Alcock, and the Sunday sermons,

poetry, and practical papers, etc., make up a rich programme.

The Girl's Own is a perfect gift volume. The binding, like that of the other annuals, in itself fulfils the purpose of the present-seeker, and the contents are for women of all ages. Fiction is plentiful, a number of serial stories being in the list. Lord Beaconsfield's song, the "Green Cavalier," is set to music by Princess Beatrice, and both artists and writers in this volume are of established rank.

The Boys' Own will meet the most fastidious taste. The colored plates are larger than double-page size. Every phase of youthful sporting life and pastime is dealt

with in capital articles—electric toy, fishing, the kennels, the rabbitry, outdoor sports, etc. *Gordon Stables*, *G. Manville Fenn* and *David Ker* have long stories of adventure. They are among the leading writers of the day. The volume will sell.

The praiseworthy effort made by the publishers to have the annuals sold at the legitimate price, without cutting, is now being tested. After holding off for some time, the big departmental stores are now buying supplies. The local bookseller should take care to exhibit the volumes in the window open at the colored plates, and as far as possible aid the established reputation of the books by showing the special attractions for 1896.

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