

FURNISHING THE BRIDE'S HOUSE

Photographs by courtesy of Eden Smith & Sons

THE point upon which we must all agree is that the bride should have a home of her own. Living with parents is not advisable in most instances. Buying furnishings for the new home is a source of much pleasure with the bride, especially if she has an unlimited purse. Most brides, however, have to count the dollars and make them go as far as they can. It is always advisable in buying furnishings to make each room harmonize.

The days of the old-fashioned parlor are past, and in place of seeing a jumble of rockers and mahogany, silk-covered furniture, we now see the room furnished with mission furniture and the walls and curtains to match.

Living rooms, as they are called, can be used much more freely, and one feels more at home when there is the "comfy" look about the room.

In the dining-room, oak or mahogany furniture is the most popular, and at the same time serviceable kind to buy.

The illustrations of dining-rooms shown on this page give one a splendid idea of styles and arrangements. There is every appearance of good taste; there is also harmony in the furnishings, and the furniture, while costing more than the ordinary kind, gives satisfaction.

As a rule, furniture is bought to last from ten to twenty years, and there is every reason, when buying, to buy only furniture that you will not desire to give away in a few years, owing to its cheap appearance.

Styles in furniture frequently change, but not as often as in women's clothes. Designs that were popular centuries ago are in demand to-day. Perhaps the most-asked-for design in dining-room furniture is the Chippendale, as shown in the illustration in center of page. Other designs asked for are the Jacobean or early French, old English, and the Colonial. Furniture of these styles, made by a reputable dealer, will last a lifetime and will have the appearance of quality about it.

Manufacturers of cheap furniture are becoming so expert in making imitation pieces that a purchaser must make a close examination before buying. Elm can be stained to look like oak, and in many instances pine wood is used and painted and grained to look very much like oak. Birch can be stained to look like mahogany, and so well is the finishing done that only upon close examination can the nature of the wood be discovered.

The best finish for furniture is the dull or satin finish. It is the kind that does not readily show finger marks. The gloss finish looks very nice when the furniture is new, but it is more easily marked, and shows wear much sooner than the satin finish.

A commendable feature that has recently been given attention by furniture manufacturers is the building of articles from four to twelve inches above the floor. This will be appreciated by the clean housewife, as it permits the keeping of floors below the furniture clean and sanitary.

There is a wide range of furniture that can be considered in good taste in bedrooms. Some prefer brass beds, with the balance of the pieces golden oak; others all white enamel, and others all oak, while many prefer mahogany. The same can be said of bedroom furniture as in other parts of the house, the best is the cheapest.

Next to the furniture the most important item to consider in making a home cosy and attractive is the pictures, hangings and rugs: they must harmonize.

In hanging the pictures, before you place the pictures on the walls you measure up the spaces, study the furnishings, and place them where they are to remain in each room. Always try to bear in mind from what angles the light comes in each room, so that each picture shall be placed to the best advantage. Do not try to crowd the walls of a room. Consider each space carefully and the room as a whole, for when they are all up in each room there must be general harmony of color as well as of outline to each wall. Never hang pictures in rows or on a straight line. Vary the monotony of the walls all you can by using oval pictures and circular frames. Indeed, the effect of the best set of pictures can easily be spoiled by improper hanging.

It takes a good deal of artistic taste to make the pictures of a room give the finishing touches to its decorations as they really should. A crowded hall is



A HANDSOME DINING-ROOM, FURNISHED IN CHIPPENDALE STYLE

always ineffective and most inartistic. Each picture worth hanging deserves sufficient space about it to make it show to the best advantage. If you want to be considered a success as an artistic wall decorator, see well to it that your pictures and frames harmonize with the room where they are placed. This is the most important item in the work. The subjects must also be correct in the kind of room in which they are hung, and if you are decorating in a "period" house both subject and frame must correspond to all the rest of the furnishings, and be of the same "period."

Pictures should be the correct finish to a correct home, for they, more than all else, indicate the culture, education, and refinement of its inmates.

In hanging pictures dispense entirely with wire or chains and fasten them flat against the wall, so that they will appear to be part of the wall decoration, and not tilted out, spoiling the line of the wall. Study the lighting of each picture, and if there is a distinct play of light and shade, hang it so that the light from the window will fall upon it from the direction in which the artist represented it as coming. A picture, as a rule, should hang on about a level with the eye, but if a picture of doubtful merit is hung slightly above the line of vision it will tend to minimize its defects.

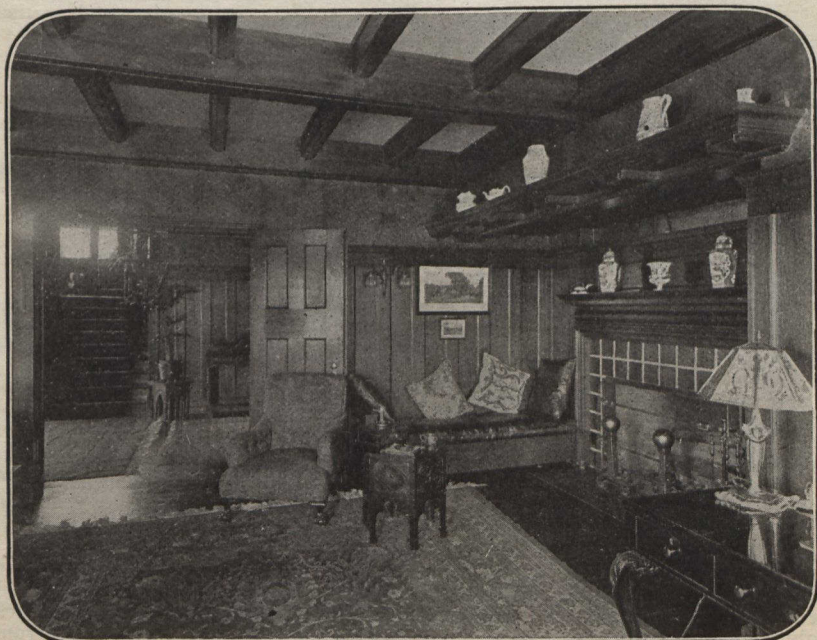
In most homes the fireplace may be arranged without much expense, even if at present there may be the undesirable gas grate with its repulsive odor. The gas piping may be taken out and a pair of grate dogs substituted. In harmony must be the tiling or woodwork, and if at all possible we must work in a little book case in which may be kept our favorite poets and authors, from which to have always at hand those volumes which most nearly express our own feelings, or, to which we usually turn for some message fitting our immediate mood.

But the heart of the home, what of it? Well, to the writer, it is that cozy open fireplace, in the comfortably furnished, living or lounge room. During the long winter evenings how inviting is the crackle of the pine knot, and the leaping up in fantastic forms of the lurid glare, and the warmth shed out from its midst. Around such we are content to sit and dream alone, or with the one we have chosen, to weave around it, into one fabric the story of the past, the ambitions of the present, and the hopes of the future. Around it will entwine the happiest moments of story-telling, of confidences and family ties.

Search high, search low, in the parlor or in the kitchen, nowhere else will you find in any sense "the heart of the home."



A SPACIOUS DINING-ROOM, WITH CHINA CABINET ON LEFT



A BRIGHT, COSY LIVING-ROOM, WITH PICTURES ARTISTICALLY ARRANGED



DINING-ROOM, WITH CONSERVATORY IN THE REAR