

OUR HOME PAGE

Your Home and You

By HELEN KENDALL.

THE BLACK BACKGROUND.

If any one had told us, perhaps a dozen years ago, that there would come a time when we would have black rugs on our floors, black wall paper on our walls, and black enameled furniture, I am sure we would all have given a shudder.

"How funny!" we would have exclaimed. "Why, I would feel as if I were living in perpetual mourning. I know I would."

But of course what we wouldn't have thought of would be the brilliant color for which the black walls and floors are only a background. A black gown and hat aren't gloomy if the face and hair for which they are a background are fresh and clear and shining. So a black room is anything but depressing when over against its soft blackness are placed cushions of vivid orange vermillion velvet, curtains of richly colored silks in orange and blue and sage green—all in a batik design—and when masses of bitter-sweet in Chinese blue jars stand out against the walls just as the stars stand out against a black night sky.

It was just such a room as this that I stood in recently, and caught my breath with delight. On the floor, which was blacked off in large squares of black and orange, there lay a deep black velvet rug, catching glints of light from the reading lamps placed here and there. Book shelves ran around the sides of the room, the bindings of the books gleaming red and gold, blue and silver, some with white title caps, some bound in soft grey or tan canvas—precious books, all of them. Above the book shelves was a top shelf upon which stood bright

pieces of brass and silver and copper, photographs in shining gold frames, colored candles in splendid deep orange and blue and golden yellow, standing out from the soft black wall paper.

The quiet straight chairs of black enamel were cushioned in orange velvet, with the pattern blocked in silver. The deep divan and lounging chairs were upholstered in orange vermillion velvet, and cushions here and there were all in the shades of glowing nasturtiums.

Black! Why, there wasn't a suggestion of black in that whole warm gleaming, palpitating room!

WORDS OF WISDOM

Mystery magnifies danger as a fog the sun.

He who can at all times sacrifice pleasure to duty, approaches sublimity.

Uneasy lies the head that wears a crown.

There are approaches without praise.

He who punishes for revenge, himself commits a crime.

By ignorance we make mistakes—and by mistakes we learn.

The greatest talkers are always the least doers.

There's nothing agrees worse than a proud mind and a beggar's purse.

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Mr. and Mrs. Augustine Healy of Chicago are spending their honeymoon in African jungles, and succeeded in bagging at least one lion.

HOME-MAKING HELPS

"Everything About the House Helps to Make the Home" By WANDA BARTON.

Ways of Using Decorative Wall Shelves to Save Space.

The convenience and decorative value of wall shelves are recognized by builders and decorators, and much time and thought are being spent upon their situation in old and new houses. Perhaps a closer acquaintance with homes of the far east, where there is less furniture and more thought is given to decoration is exerting its influence upon western minds.

In one narrow hall between sitting room and bedrooms, behind a soft brown curtain are bookshelves that run up as far as the arm can reach. Here on the lower shelves all the children's books are kept, and above a stock of choice fiction. These are books which their owner does not want to lend, so it is wise to keep them on this secluded shelf.

A rather new idea was shown in the building in of book shelves on the outside of a hall stairway, running them back so that they formed a closet under the stairs for coats and wraps. This made a very harmonious arrangement. As the stairs were polished there was little or no dust to sift down onto the upper row of books. The shelves were just wide enough to extend a little beyond the backs of the books.

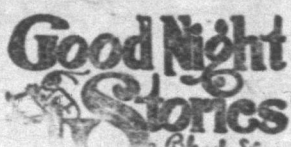
Instead of a sideboard, a very attractive shelf arrangement above a narrow side table is one of the newer houses is useful and ornamental. The shelves are artistically boxed at the ends, grooved to hold trays and serving dishes upright, and carved at the front to appear narrower. Either end is cut for the insertion of serving spoons, which gives a quaint appearance to the shelves.

A real novelty is the swinging shelf

hung on light chains above the refectory dining table. When not in use, this shelf carries the silver pieces. When they are on the table it accommodates the glazed fruit dish and candlesticks used for decoration between meals. The shelf is twenty inches wide, and just two inches shorter than the table.

One woman solved the problem of a too abrupt entrance from a side porch into the living room by building in a little square entrance hall, which took three and a half each way off the large room. At the right and left of the inner door, running cornerwise to the wall, deep shelves were built. On one side they were enclosed by doors, and on the other they were arranged as bookshelves. This practical use of the space took away the ugliness of the protective entrance and took a surprisingly small space off the room. The entrance hall was made of closely fitted boards, filled and painted. The cracks were well weather stripped.

The chimney bookshelf idea has been used in many old houses, where remodeling has engaged the attention of the owners. The old chimney-places that intruded into the room left deep niches at either side. In rebuilding the chimney-face, or perhaps putting in wooden mantels that extended to the ceiling, the niches have been filled with serviceable shelves and bookshelves. The newest idea is to use wall shelves above a long, narrow table on either side of the fireplace. They are quaint and unusual. The shelves are fastened to match the woodwork, so that they seem to be a part of the decoration.



BIDDY HAWK GOES WITHOUT ANY BREAKFAST.

I can't see for the life of me why you couldn't get at least one chicken out of that large flock, growled Mrs. Biddy Hawk. "Here I've been working myself to death trying to get the place cleaned up so we could have a good meal. I certainly wouldn't have worked so hard if I hadn't thought I was going to get a good breakfast."

"I'm sorry," sighed her mate sadly. "I tried. But the old funny face as you call him, travels with the flock and wouldn't let me—"

"What," screamed Biddy Hawk wildly. "You were afraid of that 'funny face' as you call him? Any old time I'd let such a thing stop me from having a good square meal! I'll show you how it's done. No funny-faced thing like that will ever stop me from getting my breakfast!"

Mrs. Biddy Hawk spotted the chick she thought would taste the daintiest, and sailed down toward it. But she changed her mind before she was within reaching distance, and flew for her very life. The funny-faced creature had seen her and had given her chase. She, like her mate, Willy, took to the topmost limb on the highest tree.

There sat Mrs. Owl blinking at the light. She had heard the noise and had ventured out to see what it was about. She smiled drowsily as Mrs. Biddy Hawk, out of breath with her flight, settled on the limb.

"What's the rush?" she asked. "Had such a good breakfast that it has made you overly limber?"

"Breakfast," screamed Mrs. Biddy Hawk. "I'm lucky to get off with my life! What in the world is that funny-faced thing that gets after us when

we hawks try to catch a chicken? My, but it's a savage thing. I've never seen anything like it before in all my life. What is it anyway?"

"What, you a hawk, and don't know what that funny-faced thing is?" laughed Mrs. Owl. "Why you'll find a good many of them scattered over here in Guiana. They call them Ankimias, whatever that means. Haven't you ever seen none before?" Mrs. Hawk shook her head and hid behind the trunk of the tree as the queer bird in question flew by. He was an ugly-looking fellow with a long beak. Just above his eyes there ran out a long, sharp horn or hook that made the shivers run up and down Mrs. Biddy Hawk's back, as she thought how close he had been to her back.

"I'm glad he didn't get close enough to strike me," Mrs. Biddy Hawk shuddered. "I don't know whether his horn is sharp or not. But I'm just as well satisfied not to find out. And you say he takes care of the flock?"

"Indeed he does," replied Mrs. Owl. "Every morning as I'm coming home to bed I find that animal driving the chickens out to the meadows, and you know as well as I do that I see him driving them into the pen. He's as good, if not better, than a watchdog any day."

"I'll say he is," laughed Mrs. Biddy Hawk, who by this time was feeling better. "I guess I'll go home now and tell Willy I'm sorry I spoke so crossly." And bidding Mrs. Owl good-bye she sailed away.

The Willy Hawk family went without their breakfast that morning. That very afternoon they moved away to another part of the country where folks had never heard of such things as an ankimias.

LESS UNEMPLOYED IN GREAT BRITAIN

LONDON.—Unemployment in Great Britain in the last week of January numbered 1,409,000 or 28,000 fewer than in the preceding week, and 412,000 fewer than in the corresponding period of 1922.

ONE MAN ONE VOTE

Bill Rejected in the Ontario House.

On Wednesday, the thirty-first of January, a bill introduced by Karl Honnath, of South Waterloo (Labor), establishing the principle of one man one vote in the municipal elections was defeated by 28 to 33. This bill, one of Labor planks in their political platform, was supported solidly by the Labor group.

Mr. Haney, Attorney General, also Mr. Nason, Provincial Secretary, spoke in favor of the bill going to the municipal committee. Mr. Walter Rolfe, Minister of Labor, made a stirring speech in favor of the bill.

After which debate, a glaring example was shown of how the old parties are really in sympathy with Labor ideals of equal opportunities. Men like the Hon. Howard Ferguson and the Hon. Theo. Crawford spoke and voted against the bill for the Conservative party, as did Mr. Wellington Hay, Mr. Hartley Dewart and Mr. Curry of the Liberal party. The two Ottawa members split their vote, Mr. Hill, the Conservative member, from Ottawa West, voted for the bill, and Mr. J. A. Pinard, Liberal member from Ottawa East, voted against the bill. Only one half of the farmers on the Government side of the House voted for the bill. Mr. Castleman led the farmers in opposition.

COAL WAR IN TORONTO SECT

TORONTO.—Toronto coal dealers have brought a little war upon themselves. A number of independent buyers have found out that soft coal can be laid down in Toronto between \$8 and \$9 a ton and as the regular dealers are holding out for \$15.50 or the same quotation as for hard coal, a number of trucking concerns have jumped into the field to make a fat profit margin and still undersell the big companies.

Coal is purchased by the trucking agencies from brokers and as there is little other business, this keeps trucks and men at work. Most of the coal companies have been obliged to re-quisition the assistance of many of the trucking agencies to deliver coal, and the prices paid according to the carters, have not been sufficient, having regard to the profits the coal men are making out of the soft coal.

"The condition of the roads makes it hard on trucks and the cost of repairs in consequence are much larger than when the roads are good."

Better fare hard with good men than fight with bad.

QUESTION AS TO SALARY REVISION

Vancouver M. P. Wants to Know If Bonuses Continue.

The salaries and bonuses of civil servants are the subject of questions placed on the order paper of the Commons by Hon. H. H. Stevens, Conservative member for Vancouver Centre.

Mr. Stevens asks if the Government intends generally to revise Civil Service salaries. If so, he asks, will Parliament be informed, and when.

Mr. Stevens also asks if the existing bonuses to civil servants will be incorporated in whatever revisions take place, and whether the Government intends to continue the present bonuses for the next year or pending a general revision.

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