

Movable Wall Decorations.

Too much reliance is placed upon pictures for wall spaces. Some pictures are not decorative at all—for example, small water color drawings, with broad white margins. More may be done by the use of small hanging mirrors, Venetian or



ARTICLES FOR WALL DECORATIONS.

chippendale in style, and wall cabinet or brackets carrying fine china and the use of sconces, which have the great advantage of being a means of lighting the room and rendering the enemy gas unnecessary.

Numbered with wall decorations of the kind referred to, Decorator and Furnisher gives illustrated descriptions of a chippendale mirror in mahogany, which is partly gilt, two brass sconces made of the lids of old time warming pans, with sockets for candle illumination, and a hanging wall bracket in walnut, backed with stamped leather showing some pieces of fine porcelain. Other objects, equally effective, suggest themselves to ambitious women with artistic tastes.

The Hot Water Bag.

When the india rubber hot water bag is as inexpensive as it is at present, it becomes almost a duty to possess one. The water to fill them is always attainable, and the comfort of the possession will amply repay the expense. Frequently they relieve pain in a far simpler and more effectual manner than does any medicine. A bag placed on the side of the neuralgic face will cause the blood to flow to that part and bring nourishment to the starving nerve. A fit of indigestion may be overcome in a similar manner. The weak heart may be assisted by a very scantily filled bag being placed under the left arm against the side. Then, again, says a writer in Good Housekeeping, carefully concealed in its dark colored bag, what a comfortable companion for a long, cold country drive! Always soothing, never contradictory, it is actually a life saving machine.

'Tis well to work with a cheerful heart
Wherever our fortunes call,
With a friendly glance and an open hand
And a gentle word for all.
Since life is a thorny and difficult path,
Where toil is the portion of man,
We all should endeavor while passing along
To make it as smooth as we can.

New Life In the East.

Whatever one may think of the restoration of the Jews to Palestine, one thing is certain, new life is being infused into the old land, and prosperity such as has not been seen for ages seems dawning. Jerusalem is fast outgrowing its old limits. A new quarter in the western suburb has arisen in the last few years. Every available piece of land is rapidly being bought up. Trade is increasing, and last year a public garden was opened outside the Jaffa gate. Two boats on the Dead sea are employed in gathering bitumen. It is proposed by steam launch and barges to bring produce from Moab by a shorter route to Jerusalem. The railroad from Jaffa to Jerusalem is also working wondrous changes in thought and style of doing things in this ancient land.

Missionary Enthusiasm.

Open doors stare invitingly on every side. Activity such as the world never before saw is pushing the borders of Christ's kingdom far into the borders of heathenism. Not to be thrilled at the stories of heroism coming up from every land is to show oneself either ignorant of the most important movements of the times or indifferent to the condition of one's brethren in distress. The regular church papers, special periodicals devoted to various fields and departments, the secular press and even the reports of United States consuls teem with information.

Reflex Influence of Missions.

The evangelization of a heathen people will do more to start the wheels of industry than all possible tariff legislation. One New England firm has sold more agricultural implements in South Africa since the Christianizing of the native tribes than are sufficient to pay the whole expense of the missions from the beginning.

An Indian Summer Lay.

Oh, how the evening streaming
On autumn's golden store!
(The shivering, or I'm dreaming,
John, kindly close that door.)

Oh, fields of grain so yellow
Sweet smiling to the sky!
(I wonder if a fellow
Will have much coal to buy.)

Oh, days when winds are sighing
All musical and low!
(I see that cold flag flying,
I wonder if 'twill snow.)

Oh, dreamy Indian summer,
When airs from Eden float!
(That wind outside's a hummer,
John, where's my overcoat?)
—Atlanta Constitution.

THE PIANO ACCOMPANIST.

Some of the Numerous and Varied Acquirements Necessary.

Few listeners have any adequate comprehension of the arduous and responsible duties devolving upon the person who is modestly placed as accompanist. The requirements of an accompanist are numerous and varied and demand a much greater amount of attention and study than is generally supposed or than the exponent of the art of accompanying is credited with giving. He must be a quick and accurate reader, able to readily grasp the intention of the composer as in progress the ideas of the composition are unfolded. To this end the phrasing must be correct, and the quality of the touch employed must be such as will produce the tone required to properly represent the sentiment expressed by the composer. While having a fairly decided conception of his own, he must be prepared to absorb the conception felt by the soloist, and so mold his own ideas that they blend with those of the soloist and form a complete and well developed background to the musical picture of which the solo is the central figure. In carrying out this design great care is necessary, so that the soloist receives just the proper amount of support.

The accompaniment should not force or override the solo; neither must it be of that dragging character which causes the singer to feel as if pulling a heavy burden up a steep incline. To preserve this "happy medium" is, says a writer in The Etude, the crucial test of a true accompanist, and the possession of such ability may well condone the lack of some other traits. For the time being soloist and accompanist should be as one.

To accomplish this desirable result the player should have as complete knowledge of the composition as the singer.

While he must be a correct timist, it is necessary to possess that flexibility of temperament that will enable him to flow along with the principal through bars of everchanging value, irrespective of what the time signature may be. Of course he must be able to transpose to meet the requirements of pianos of incorrect pitch or the effect of the weather upon the voice of the soloist.

A Few! Hit.

The hen fanciers are making efforts to get up a harder breed of hens to stand our cold winters better by producing a cross between the Plymouth Rock hen and the old fashioned wether cock.

Geese as Grazers.

It is not advisable to keep over 25 geese on an acre of land. Geese being great grazers, it would probably be better to keep even less in the space.