

The Housewife's taste and skill are measured to a large extent by her Guest Room

Strikes an artistic note and is strong in its appeal

strong hold on the popular fancy. The plastered ceiling is given an ivory tint.

Dutch doors like casement windows, are always picturesque, and the one at the farther end of the hall seems fairly to beckon the visitor to the garden beyond.

Copper bronze is used for the lighting fixtures, including the supports for small candle globes. One may feel certain that this hall is just as attractive at night as by daylight and fully deserves its important location in our ideal house. The great clock still stands at the end of the hall, although the case has undergone an obvious transformation — there are tall clocks, now, to fit in with almost any decorative scheme — and as the deep-voiced chimes sound the hour, we ascend the easy stairs to visit the owner's private chamber.

**THIS ROOM WE** find to be, as we expected, a large and comfortable apartment in the best of taste, but without display or luxury. "How cozy and home-like," is the tribute paid this room by privileged visitors. This is the feeling suggested by the fire place and the old-time chair before it, by the soft couch, the pictures and the ornaments. It is a room in which to spend waking as well as sleeping hours.

The above describes the room as it is. The decorator has made a few simple changes and shows it as it might be. Has he improved it, or robbed it of its subtle charm? It would be interesting to have the reader's verdict. At any rate, the alterations are worth a moment's study; for they have resulted in a very attractive and well-ordered bed room.

The wood work throughout (cypress or northern pine preferably, for the reasons given before) is done in white enamel. "That is too shiny for a bed room," remonstrates a good housewife, perhaps. "No madam," is the reply, "it is not shiny at all." The general belief seems to be that enamel paint must

be glossy; but that is erroneous. It is always sanitary, however, and easy to clean.

Pale gray cartridge paper is used on the walls, with a cut-out border showing roses on a trellis. When not too elaborate, these cut-out borders are very pretty; but they should always be subordinated to the rest of the decorations. In this room, the rose pattern is carried to the couch and wing chair, which are upholstered in crêtonne, and to the hangings, which are of the same material. This plan, also, is an excellent one if it is not over-done, as is certainly the case when paper and hangings and furniture coverings and bed spreads are made to match. People who arrange such a Niagara of color should learn that there is more harmony in well-chosen contrasts. In this bed room, we find the contrast in the plain walls.

Tiles are substituted for bricks in the fire place, and the simple mantel is given strength by the colonial mirror above it. Mahogany candle sticks are natural complements of the mirror, and few other ornaments are needed.

Probably, brass beds will not soon be displaced. Their sanitary advantages need not be discussed; they are covered with lacquer, which obviates polishing. If the lacquer wears off, the bedsteads may be returned to the makers and done over. If a dull polish is preferred, it is only necessary so to stipulate.

Yet, metal beds offend the esthetic senses of some people, while to them an old four-poster is a thing of beauty, if not a joy for ever. If a man can sleep more restfully in a wooden bed with posts at the corners, then that is the kind of bed he ought to have. That is the theory of the manufacturers, at any rate, and modern beds with slender posts are sold in large numbers. They are preferable to canopy beds, and most satisfactory to refined tastes when but slightly ornamented.

Manufacturers have a rage for carving done with a machine, especially in inexpensive furniture. Often,

it is necessary to pay a high price in order to get plain and simple pieces. There is a reason, of course. The decorations aid in concealing all sorts of imperfections that would spoil the appearance of a simple piece of furniture.

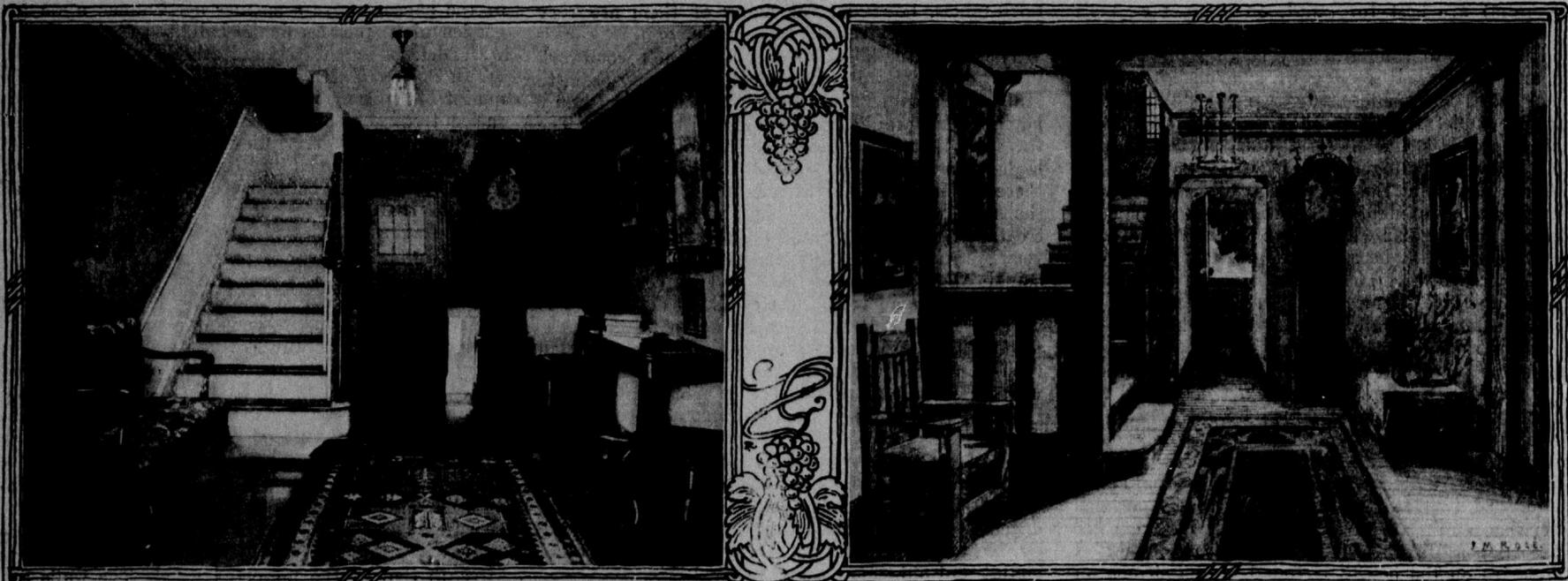
Then, too, there is a belief that customers prefer this over-ornamented stuff. Once, there was an excuse for richly carved beds. When it was the custom of the women of rank in France to receive their guests and to conduct card parties while sitting up in bed, it was quite natural that the cabinet makers should lavish their art on the beds so publicly displayed. But "different times, different manners."

The fine mahogany beds in the revised room of our owner are in the best of taste, and add not a little to its appearance; it is a room that we feel to be a real success.

**WHEN WE LEAVE** this room, we cross the hall to the guest room. Now, some people give up the best bed room they have to their guests, which is n't altogether commendable. Usually, this room stands idle for much of the time, and for that reason should be neither the largest nor the pleasantest bedroom. That does not mean that there is any excuse for slighting it. The average housewife feels that her taste and skill are measured, to a large extent, by her guest room. And truth to tell, this is one of the most difficult rooms in all the house to furnish successfully; for it must be made to appeal to people of widely differing ideas, and seem inviting and home-like to all of them.

The guest room in our ideal house meets these requirements. There is nothing of the transient, "one night-stand" appearance that characterizes some guest rooms. The decorations are conventional, but harmonious; and the fire place speaks of good cheer and cozy comfort. A fire place is always a welcome addition to a bed room, especially if the room has

(Continued on Page 15)



"Consistently simple" is the note for the Ideal Hall

It may be rational and full of charm — and Dutch