

# MAKING THE HOME BEAUTIFUL

CONDUCTED BY MARGARET GREENLEAF

## Furnishing and Arranging an Ideal Dining Room—An Attractive Vine-Covered Porch

RECENTLY heard a young housekeeper voice a sentiment which I am sure will find an echo in the hearts of many other women.

"If I can only have my dining-room attractive," she said, "I am willing to wait for the rest of the house to work itself out. But this room must not be half furnished or crude or uninviting. Rather, it must have a look of cheery hospitality, as well as a certain dignity and charm quite apart from the mere necessary furnishing. It must be restful and of soft, agreeable coloring.

"The dining-room of my dreams is well lighted in the daytime, and has a spreading central light above the table, which, when evening falls, will flood with a soft glow the hospitable board and the guests about it. High wainscot, richness of color and sheen of velvet or rare old tapestries, the gleam of silver and cut glass upon the polished wood surfaces of side-board and table, carpets of Oriental weave and color and everywhere the fragrance and beauty of flowers—this is my dream room."

My own is simpler, but I think it has the dignity and harmonious coloring and also the inviting look that seem to me so essential.

The dining-room here shown has an excellent color scheme and most of the requisites named by the young matron.

The walls are in two kinds of green paper. The woodwork is stained and finished with a dull surface. It is of oak which has been treated with a weathered oak wood tint, to which drop black paint has been added until the required depth of color is given to make it appear almost black in the shadows.

The furniture matches the wood-



AN ATTRACTIVE DINING ROOM



work in color and finish. The rug is a Wilton of Oriental design, showing on a rich red background figures in ivory white and dark green.

The windows are simply draped with Arabian net curtains in a shade of ecru a trifle deeper in color than the ceiling. A Boston fern is set on a black teakwood stand in the bay of the window, the fern's green fronds matching the strongest green in the wall paper.

The built-in buffet is well fashioned and serves to furnish the side of the room in which it is set, and also to display the glass and silver upon it. It seems a particularly clever touch to have used white roses upon the table in this room. This table and the chairs are of good shapes.

While this room is simple and not at all costly, it is exceedingly restful, inviting and cheerful, and has a slight suggestion of the formal dignity that has been mentioned as a necessity.

On the rounding corner of the porch shown in the picture is seen the climbing honeysuckle or woodbine. It is a responsive and hardy vine, but of late years has been allowed to drop somewhat into the background as an ornamental vine. When once well started it is a rapid grower and blossoms freely, filling the air with a delicate and exquisite perfume.

The flower beds below are a charming mingling of roses and heliotrope colored flowers. In the early part of the season the centre of the bed is filled with the purple iris, which show

tones from the faintest lavender to deepest violet. The rooms are very light. Each has four windows. Would it do to have the kitchen also in black? Is there anything I can do to get the paint off the floor? It is a new floor, but has been painted Tuscan red, and I would like to stain it dark."

I am sure you would like the black paint used in your room. You will probably find that four coats are needed. The last coat should have an added quantity of turpentine to give it a dead surface and insure quick drying. I would prefer a yellow tan color for the paint in the kitchen. There is a paint remover now on the market which is said to be excellent. If you will send me a self-addressed postal card, I will furnish you with the address of the firm which makes it.

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I can obtain the wood tint. It is just what I have been wanting. Is it very expensive, and can an amateur apply it?"

The advantages of the rough plaster are purely those of beauty. The tooth of the plaster holds the color and gives a soft, velvet-like appearance to the wall. The smooth surface is hard and unattractive. In rooms where the usage is severe, oil colors are best, as an entirely waterproof surface can be obtained. By adding turpentine to the last coat, a beautifully soft dull finish is given. If plain colored walls are desired, the rough plaster walls tinted are much to be preferred to paper at the same price.

Mrs. C. T. writes: "Will you kindly give me suggestions in regard to furnishing my parlor? I have never had it furnished before, and would like to know what color to use for walls and ceiling. The woodwork is painted red and the old iron mantel is painted black. I would like to change these entirely, as I do not like them. I will have to buy a carpet or large rug. What color and kind would you suggest? I must also have some ad-

ditional pieces of furniture. I have a library table, couch and rocker, all mahogany. The couch upholstered in leather. I have three good oil paintings. The room is 16 by 16 feet. I cannot spend much money on it."

I would suggest that you use ivory white enamel in your parlor. If the room is well lighted and has a southern exposure, use a paper of green foliage design upon it, something suggestive of tapestry; or a dull blue would look equally well with the white woodwork. For the large rug or carpet, choose a good quality of Brussels, something of mixed and indefinite color and very small design. The curtains for your windows should be of cream color net, with overdraperies of plain linen taffeta, if you use a figured wall paper.

If the room is not well lighted, use a plain yellow cartridge paper for the wall covering. With this, the overdraperies at the windows would look well of flowered linen taffeta, something with yellow roses and tulips and green leaves on the ecru background. Any of these wall coverings will make good background for your pictures.

I would suggest that you purchase two wicker chairs at \$6 apiece. Put in these plain colored cushions of yellow and green. Also purchase one or two low stands or tablettes to hold jardinières and ferns. A pretty, low reading lamp for the library table, with a geisha Japanese rice paper shade ornamented with yellow flowers and green leaves, would be an acceptable addition.

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Mrs. G. says: "We have bought a cottage which has all the woodwork done in Tuscan red. It is a very old house and has iron mantels. Would it be correct to have all the paint done over in black? How many coats of paint would it take? Please tell me if it needs anything for a finish,

"A Questioner From Canada" asks: "Would you kindly tell me what advantage rough plaster walls have over smoothly finished ones? Would you advise tinted walls in preference to paper? Which is your choice—water color or oil? I have seen your advice on floor treatment and send an addressed envelope for reply as to where

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