

MAKING THE HOME BEAUTIFUL

BY MARGARET GREENLEAF.

THE room in which the family gathers three times a day is important in the house, but it is frequently the one to which the least thought and care in furnishing is given, even when a great deal of money is expended for the necessary tables, chairs, buffet and glass closets.

A woman often feels that when these are in place, and a rich, dark carpet or rug covers the floor, and the walls are also hung in rich, dark colors, with draperies to correspond, she has a handsome and appropriate dining-room. This is true, but the same setting and style of furniture are found in the private dining-room of any first-class hotel. There is in them no sense of individuality, and consequently there is no charm in such a room. While a dining-room must be in some degree conventional, there are many departures in color and in form and shape of furniture which will help to make it charming and characteristic.

My advice to the amateur house furnisher is to expend much thought on this room. The result will compensate for any amount of trouble. Some dining-rooms seem to suggest faintly feasts, gay conversation and prolonged lingering over meals. A festive air of hospitality can be conveyed by outfitting and coloring, and however simple the menu offered on the tastefully-spread boards, everyone has a distinct sense of pleasure in the room.

If the dining-room is large and high ceiled and with a gloomy outlook, this last defect should not be accentuated by dark walls, woodwork and heavy draperies. Rather select a wall paper which is strong and brilliant. A two-toned pumpkin-yellow striped paper, or one of conventional figures, is good; or figures of vivid green or yellow or pomegranate red upon an ivory background may be more pleasing. With any of these wall coverings, egg-shell-white enamel on an ivory tone would look well. If the woodwork is of some darker wood, and it is desired to retain it, the brightness of the walls will go far toward lightening the aspect of the room.

Draperies of heavy white figured net, with over-curtains of dull green or yellow or pomegranate-red raw silk will give tone and quality to the window dressing, and add nothing to the



DINING ROOM OF EXTREME REFINEMENT.

A BUILT IN CLOSET

lawn with the sun upon it. The corner cupboard shown will furnish a good suggestion to those wishing to have one built in. It is of good dimensions, and while adding greatly to the comfort of the housekeeper, makes largely for the beauty of the room.

Answers to Correspondents.

"Dolly of Detroit" writes: "I am about to refurnish my two rooms. The exposure is south and east; front room south, rear east, dressing room and bath between the two rooms. I wish to use the front room as sitting-room and parlor. The bedroom has yellow-flowered paper on the walls, which is good. I would like to retain it. The woodwork in both rooms must be painted. Would you advise white or colored enamel?"

"The parlor must be papered also. I have two small Turkish rugs, green, dull blue and pinkish effects predominating. I must buy all the furniture for this room. I have some old furniture I should like to paint or enamel for my bedroom. Would you advise any willow chairs, as I must use the same furniture all the year round?"

heaviness of the room. When sash curtains are necessary, very thin China silk in a shade of clear, pure yellow will produce almost a sunny effect in the least cheerful room. When these sash curtains are used, the over-draperies may be dispensed with, if desired.

In many homes the dining-room, in order to be in keeping with the architecture of the house and the mode of life of the occupants, must be stately. But stately without gloom and dignity without depressing solemnity should be sought for.

The problem of making smaller and simpler rooms attractive is less difficult. The first considerations in planning the color scheme of any room are its exposure, lighting, dimensions, and the coloring of the rooms which open from it. Not to over-decorate and to keep to simplicity of line and design must be the motto of the wo-

man who has determined to make her small dining-room pretty, unusual and characteristic. It does not do to be too unusual, however, for the line is very closely drawn between that and freshness.

To show what can be done with very little money to improve a commonplace, small dining-room, I cannot do better than quote a letter from one of my correspondents. She says: "I am not writing this time to ask your help, but to tell you what I have been able to do with my ugly little dining-room. Perhaps you will remember advising me some time ago not to be afraid of color in doing it over, and you also warned me against a terra-cotta paper, which I wished to use; otherwise the room is my own idea."

"I am sure you would approve the paper I have used. It shows a pure white ground. I have had the wood-

work, including the plate rail, treated with enamelac in leaf green, which matches beautifully with the light green of the hops. I had a carpenter build for me a corner cupboard, with drawers half way up; the rest in shelves enclosed by glass doors. Under my directions, he made a criss-cross lattice from one-inch smooth laths. This formed long diamonds against the glass of the door, when fastened securely in place.

"All of the woodwork was treated with the enamelac in the soft, cool green, and it is as pretty as it can be. The furniture is my old walnut set, but I put new green denim covers on the seats. The floor has an art square upon it in shades of green, tan and brown, and I curtained the windows with white muslin. These curtains are ruffled and tied back on each side.

"As these windows overlook my neighbor's kitchen, I hung thin yellow

silk sash curtains next the glass, and I made a shade of some of the same yellow silk to fit over the wide white porcelain one on my swinging lamp about the table. I trimmed this all about the edge with a two-inch fringe of tiny yellow glass beads.

"Everyone pronounces it a lovely room. I use a brass fern dish on the center of my table; under it I use a heavy white-embroidered center-piece. There are two tall brass candlesticks on the narrow mantel shelf, and a low black clock is set in the center. I hope this room will please you, and believe it would if you could see it."

"The pictured dining-room is a very good one, though not in the least unusual. Its color and well-thought-out arrangement make it attractive as well as handsome. The room being square, the striped paper suits it thoroughly, and the rich lush green of this wall paper is as cheery as a green

The Gold of King Solomon

WE READ in the Books of Chronicles a great deal about the enormous quantities of gold received by King David and King Solomon and their people. We are told how the Temple was "overlaid with fine gold," and even the nails weighed "fifty shekels of gold;" how the princes of the tribes of Israel and others "gave for the service of the House of God gold of 5,000 talents;" and how Hiram of Tyre's sailors "went with the servants of Solomon to Ophir and took thence four hundred and fifty talents of gold and brought them to King Solomon."

In many cases exact details of the quantity and value of these gold shipments are given in the Books of Chronicles, and a careful perusal of them will show that during the twenty-three years ending 992 B. C., gold to the value of at least \$50,000,000 was received by Kings David and Solomon and their subjects. This estimate has been made by Professor A. H. Keane and other distinguished authorities.

Where did this vast quantity of gold come from? The researches recently made by Professor Keane, Mr. Theodore Bent and others prove that "Ophir" was not the source, but merely the distributing center on the coast of southern Arabia for the gold brought from "Havilah," and further that the "Havilah" of ancient historians was the "empire of Monomotampa" of the old Portuguese voyagers. That is to say, it is simply the vast mineralized region in Africa situated between the

Lower Zambesi and the Limpopo—the Southern Rhodesia of to-day. Practically all the mines now being worked in Rhodesia were worked by Solomon's miners. Thousands of adventurers who flocked there after Cecil Rhodes opened up the country are simply continuing the work begun during the Hymyaritic and Phoenician occupation of the territory—a period included probably between the fifteenth and ninth centuries before the Christian era.

Frank Johnson, who commanded the first pioneer expedition into Southern Rhodesia, and who has had great experience in gold mining there, recently made an estimate of the amount of gold extracted by the ancients from the country.

He took 1,000 typical claims which they had worked and ascertained the value of the lode extracted by their modern successors in the same extent of working. Then he assumed that the percentage of gold obtained by the Hymyarites was equal in value—it was probably worth more. By this means he arrived at the conclusion that nearly 16,000,000 ounces of gold, worth between \$300,000,000 and \$400,000,000, were taken from the mines for Solomon and David.

"I have the utmost respect and admiration for the prospecting and mining abilities of our Hymyaritic predecessors," said Mr. Johnson. "I am not prepared to suggest that there are no valuable properties in the country untried by them, but I know, as a result of eleven years' development, that no reef has been turned into a promising mine that does not carry evidence of their work."

Who Was the Inventor of Spectacles?

Though the use of spectacles is rapidly increasing in the United States and, in fact, in every civilized land, it is in Germany that they are most common. That is because the German type is so much harder to read than the Roman.

This circumstance is one of the strongest arguments put forth by the German advocates of the return to Roman type in the Empire of the Kaiser, for originally the letters used in Germany were exactly the same as those used by the English, the French, the Spanish—and in fact all the European nations save the Russians, the Greeks, the Turks and a few small principalities in the Southeast.

Nobody knows who invented spectacles, or in what age he lived. In "Quo Vadis" the Emperor Nero is represented as using an emerald cunningly cut as we use a monocle, and more sober writings than this story bear witness to his use of the stone in that way.

There is a record that Roger Bacon, the friar who devoted more of his time to science than to religion, was the first man to make spectacles in the year 1280, and it is probable that it was he who first made practical spectacles. Yet on a tomb in Florence, dated 1290, there is an inscription which awards the honor to another in these words: "Here lies Salvino degli Armati, inventor of spectacles. May God pardon his sins."

By 1500 spectacles were not at all uncommon in Holland and Germany, though the very rich had used them more than a full century earlier. It was Ben Franklin who invented the "comfort glasses," the lenses of which are bisected horizontally, the upper part being cut to make it easy to view objects at a distance while the lower part is cut to facilitate the examination of near-by objects.

The Chauffeur's Idea.
"What," asked the license board of the chauffeur, "is a pedestrian?"
"I have never see one altogether, monsieur," said the chauffeur, "but ze pieces, zey look like he was something alive before we hit him."

Famous Books that Went Begging

ALot of nonsense is being given typewritten these days about the good manuscript that is rejected by periodical editors and readers for the big publishing houses. Yet it is a fact that many of the great literary successes of to-day, yesterday and before that even, had to go begging from door to door among the publishers before they could find a market.

Thus the first and most successful of Irving Bacheller's books, "Eben Holden," whose sale was wonderful-making and still continues, though reduced, was turned down repeatedly in its first form and under its first title, "The Shadow of the Lone Pine," in its first form this story was written long before "David Harum," of which it was frankly advertised as an imitator, and which had a much longer and more disheartening period of begging among the publishers than Mr. Bacheller's book passed through. Practically all the imitation of "David Harum" shown in "Eben Holden" as it stands was the crystallization of the whole story about the one central character of "Eben."

"Mark Twain's" "Innocents Abroad" was peddled and peddled and peddled among the "standard" publishers in the metropolis, and failure was predicted by the majority of the directors of the subscription book house that finally decided to bring it out. Ten years ago his royalties from the book were much in excess of \$100,000, and it is still selling.

It took General Lew Wallace two years to sell "Ben Hur," and after its publication, even the book languished until President Garfield took it up and made it a best seller. After that it became a great seller, its returns exceeding that realized from any American book save "The Innocents Abroad," until the days of "David Harum," "Eben Holden" and Mary Johnston's "To Have and to Hold."

Edward W. Howe, who began his successful literary career with "The Story of a Country Town," could get no publisher to take up his book, and finally in desperation put it into type in his own printing office.

The Food of Some Famous Men

ALMOST every man who has made a success in life, and who at the same time has retained his health, is prone to believe that his special habits of eating and drinking and his general mode of life have been of great benefit to him. Yet every successful man I have ever known," said the veteran observer, "has carried out a daily formula quite different from the formula of every other successful man."

"The late Roscoe Conkling, for instance, a robust man who would have lived to a green old age, probably, had it not been for the exposure he suffered in the great blizzard of 1888, was the most abstemious man imaginable. He never ate rich viands, and the quantity of food he took regularly was so small that those who knew him well were amazed at it. Frequently they remonstrated with him seriously. On many occasions he would breakfast on rolls, coffee and fruit, work all day till six in the evening without luncheon, then dine at a restaurant on a glass of milk and a chicken sandwich, and then continue his work until late in the night."

"Chauncey Depew, who has many more chances than most of us to contract indigestion, because of the numerous public dinners he has to attend, never contracts it because his eating is extremely simple. He never eats pastry, iced or highly seasoned dishes of any sort, confining himself to plainly-cooked meats and vegetables. He is very temperate in the use of wines; never drinks more than one kind at the same meal, and prefers champagne to any other. Champagne, he says, is much more likely to be pure than any other vintage."

"Until lately, at least, Russell Sage has taken three square meals a day, but they have resembled the meals of an up-to-date farmer more than the meals of a New Yorker and a multi-millionaire. Breakfast at 7:30 or 8, consisting of a steak or some chops, baked potato, a roll, coffee and some wheaten grits; for luncheon (with him this meal is really a midday dinner) he has a cut of roast beef or lamb with bread, butter, fruit and tea if it be winter, claret if it be summer. His 'tea' at 6 o'clock is practically like the first two meals, the meat being steak, chops or broiled chicken, and the beverage tea. He rarely drinks whiskey most of the year, but in cold weather he likes a tablespoonful of bourbon in water just after breakfast. Discussing diet with a friend, Mr. Sage said one day, that he ate what agreed with him and let other food alone, adding that he ate wheaten grits on 365 days in every year, and on 366 days every leap year, adding that he ate baked or stewed apples six months every year. He is very particular about his bread, and considers bourbon whiskey the best tonic going."

"Robert Barnwell Roosevelt, fisherman, millionaire, author of 'Five Acres Too Much' (which he wrote as a satire on Horace Greeley's 'Ten Acres Enough'), and uncle of the President, prefers American cookery to French, or any other, and means some day to give a great dinner composed wholly of American dishes. Describing such a dinner one day he said the fish should not be salmon, for it is too rich, but one of the simpler fish of American waters. Next

he would serve roast turkey, then terrapin and fried oysters. For game he would set forth Minnesota venison or canvas back duck. He would give his guests their choice of pumpkin pie, mince pie, plain pudding, Indian pudding and cabinet pudding. He believes frankly in griddle cakes, and as for wines he says, 'Why not drink the wines that take prizes abroad, but which we are ashamed of here at home—the wines of California?'"

"From this it may be guessed that Mr. Roosevelt is not so simple in his living as some others, yet Robert Barnwell Roosevelt is one of the most robust old gentlemen now alive."

The First Styles in Furs.

Advanced styles in furs show the most elaborate combinations seen in years. Lace, particularly Irish point and guipure, is combined with fur in wraps, coats and stoles. The muffs have great ruffles of lace on either end.

Wraps are trimmed elaborately with narrow fur bands. A favorite combination is black velvet with sable fur and Irish point. For wear with such a wrap there comes an enormous director's hat of black velvet, and around the crown is a four-inch band of Irish point, edged with narrow black bands. Sable tails droop from the back of the hat, and tucked under the brim in the front, close to the face, is a bunch of American beauty roses.

Molasses for Grass Stains.

One of the most difficult stains to remove—grass stain—can usually be removed with molasses. Rub the molasses well into the fabric where the stains appear, and after several hours rinse the garment thoroughly.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell's Plans

Ida M. Tarbell has been spending the summer in the Catskills in "The House in the Forest," made famous by Arthur Henry in the book of that name. Miss Tarbell loves nature and solitude, and amid them she finds herself able to do her best work.

Here she has completed her "History of the Standard Oil Company," and is laying plans for future work. Following her historical bent, Miss Tarbell is deeply interested in the period of reconstruction in the South, and also in the personality of General Robert E. Lee, whom she considers, in his time, second only to Lincoln in all that makes for greatness in a man. Miss Tarbell would also like very much to rewrite her "Life of Lincoln" in the light of further research. The historian's work is never finished.

No National Russian Drama.

It is curious that in a country so overflowing with loyalty, despite the Nihilists, very few of the stage performances have any national flavor, but so it is. An American resident of some time in Moscow says that during all his stay there did he see but one play with Russian characters, nor did he hear one stage song appeal to Russian sentiment as the "Bowery Girl" or "Dixie Land" appeal to popular sentiment in this country.

The Zoology of Matrimony.

"Monster!" said she, weeping. "Now you call me a hen, but before I married you, you called me a duck!" "It was an ass to do it," said he gloomily. "I didn't know you were a goose then."

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