



NEWS IN FURNISHINGS

Here is the new idea of what is what in your home, and there's undoubtedly something to be said for it on the plea of coolness and cleanliness. Beauty, too, in the simple sweep that supports the table—of chromium, with black top and base. Different again, yet still simple, is the portion of the taller table in the background. Everything's on the severe and "tailored" line—from fabrics of check or of horizontal stripe, and the truly charming floor covering, to tall and "tailored" jug and glasses. The bowl in the corner is of beaten pewter, a perfect setting for a multi-coloured pyramid of fruit.

Colours here are all blacks or greys on whites. Rather like your super smart black tailored suit, your room must depend for its brightness on your flair for accessories.

—W.V.

The Unusual in Pets

Talking of dogs, a goat is not to be despised! He's often a friendly pet, comical and clever. He can draw a tiny cart, or walk with you, on a lead.

There are several things, though, that are important to him. It makes him happier if the garden or paddock where he runs or is tethered is sandy, and not clay, soil. He hates rain and cold wind. He will eat almost anything but meat—even your hat!—so long as it's clean and fresh. He should have a rack for his hay and a bucket for his food, and if this were not New Zealand I would suggest that his coat should be groomed every day with a stiff brush.

—B.J.

Turning New Soil

Making a new garden at this time of the year can be rather a maddening job. You're full of ideas and ideals about the business. Your friends promise you all kinds of plants and seedlings and then add, "But of course you'll have to prepare your soil." And you're so keen to get on with the job and show a result.

Still, it's true. Soil, at the moment, is for the most part too wet and gluey. If a handful squeezed tightly remains pressed in a shape it is just all wrong. You must turn it and wait for the frosts and winds to dry it out. When it crumbles in your hand



SHOP PROWL

IT'S in those odd between-times—say, lunch with a friend and your dentist appointment—that you find the really interesting novelties that, in the end, prove invaluable, isn't it?

I came upon a "Stole-bag" the other day that is simple and sane and a definite saving. Your newly-acquired silver fox can come to every kind of harm without it. It is a ten-inch-wide bag with a hanger, and inside, a hook from which your fur is suspended. It is made in dainty chintzes that will fit into most colour schemes. It is lined with rubber. It is fastened with a circular zip. It is guaranteed moth, damp and dust proof.

I'd say that even a cheap fur deserved one, wouldn't you?

you may begin your task of manuring. But now another point crops up. You must see that your organic manures are dug well in. Then cover the surface with a three or four-inch layer of artificially manured soil in which to sow. In the case of seedlings be sure that the roots do not reach down to the too richly prepared under-bed.

WHILE THE KETTLE BOILS

Dear Friends,

Last week we had a chat about women's part in preparing for the Centenary. To-day I thought we might make a more leisurely survey of the home, and see exactly where that touch of paint, that renovation, can be made to the best advantage.

I mentioned last week the great desirability of painting the exterior of your house—if it possibly can be managed. With that accomplished, it should be an easy task to wangle a few extra tins of paint inside the house!

Your bathroom and kitchen are the two places where it can be used to the best advantage.

An English friend of mine gave me a valuable hint regarding the treatment of these two rooms. It will save you a few shillings if you follow her method.

Her kitchen furniture, cupboards, table, chairs, are painted white, with white frilly curtains outlining the windows. But the walls are her chief triumph. Originally they were a buff colour, and as she wanted a green and white effect, she bought some ordinary green distemper and gave the walls two good coatings; letting the first one dry thoroughly before applying the second. When they were perfectly dry, she gave them a coat of white varnish. The effect was a smooth gleaming surface, indistinguishable from paint.

The same can be done with your bathroom walls. Green is lovely or wedgwood blue. Try to get some of the new rubber flooring to tone. Your bath, too, must be painted the same colour, and with the latest gay printed oil-cloth curtains to match, you will have a modern and artistic bathroom.

The verandah will play an important part during the festive months ahead. There will be few such places, I think, that will not be utilised for sleeping out during this time.

Cretonne is quite cheap now. Get busy and make your sleeping-stretchers new covers with a wide frilly valance all round. In the daytime, if you heap this with cretonne or plain coloured linen cushions you will find yourself blessed with an extra sitting-room. If the verandah-boards are of plain wood, give them a coat of verandah paint, red, blue, or green, to match your cretonnes. With a rug or two, a few easy chairs, and some hanging basket-ferns, you will own a delightful retreat.

Your living-rooms will require less change—unless, of course, you are feeling opulent and decide to invest in a new carpet or an extra piece of furniture.

If you have loose covers on your lounge suite, see that they are freshly laundered, or if they are faded, a dip in the dye-bath to tone in with your general colour scheme will refresh and renew them. Next week I am going to give you a list of hints for cleaning and freshening that I think will help you.

The spare bedroom is important. There is nothing lovelier than a light airy effect. Cream painted walls and woodwork—with bed, dressing table and wardrobe painted to match. Carpet a deep beige, with coverlet and plain linen cushions a rusty brown. Curtains of leaf green and beige linen. Or, perhaps a wedgwood blue scheme, coverlet, cushions and curtains to match, with a plain beige carpet.

Your own bedroom, too, may lend itself to this transformation. Even if the woodwork is not painted cream, you can adventure on all sorts of colourful effects with your curtains, coverlet and cushions. The main idea is to achieve something new—something different. It will not only make you feel different, but give you a brighter slant on life.

Till next week,

Yours cordially,

Cynthia