

A STATESMAN AT HOME

The Family Life Of Sir Stafford Cripps

NOBTRUSIVE dark clothes for London and conventionally casual grey flannels and rough tweed jacket for country wear make Sir Stafford Cripps (in spite of his progressive leanings), lock the typical public school product, says a writer in News Review. And although the speed with which he makes his decisions and the austerity of his appearance make people suppose him all intellect and no emotion, Lady Cripps and his son and daughters know better. And realising the importance of the "personal touch," Lady Cripps has been engaged in furnishing and equipping a new home for her family near Stroud, in Gloucestershire.

Frith Hill was just a two-roomed cottage on a lonely hill when they bought it, but by the time Lady Cripps had finished, it had 10 rooms and central heating. Grey stone from a local quarry was used for the additions, and the whole now makes a plain squarish blob which almost melts into the grey of the hill-side.

"This home is the last one I'll ever need, I hope," says Lady Cripps. Looking to the future when people might have to do their own housework, she designed it so that it could be run very easily, if necessary, entirely by the family.



SIR STAFFORD CRIPPS
Diana grates his carrots

de.

The dining room is one of the original cottage rooms; six people at the polished table would fill it. Mats and no table to the future when people might cloth save laundry.

Next door is a streamlined modern pantry, where the eldest daughter, Diana, grates the raw vegetables for herself and her vegetarian father. Beyond it again is an equally modern kitchen. The stove is of glistening white enamel, and the boiler something that would thrill an engineer. Most of the furniture is from the Cripps's old manorhouse home at Filkins, which was given up when the war began. The furnishings are modern in trend, and the beige loose covers on the chairs are brightened with splashes of blue.

On a pouffé in front of the log fire in the big lounge Sir Stafford likes to sit and talk by the hour about the kind of world we can build after the war.

Fashion Front

COMING fashions will not be extreme, judging by Norman Hartnell's recent London fashion parade.

No ball dresses were shown.

A number of dresses were made to look like suits, and the cut of every model was slim, eco-

nomical of vardage.

A slim black dinner gown was christened "Defence Line," another "On Leave." A beige wool trock was called "Neutral," and a navy blue day dress with big white tassels went by the nautical name of "Eight Bells."

Apart from these playful indications of topical awareness there was nothing warlike about the models, no troggings, epaulette effects or glorified glengarry bonnets, once the popular idea of keeping in step with the times.

The keynote was given by bead embroidery.

