

tion bed is one in which the wire spring is part and parcel of the bedstead itself.

The best quality woven-wire springs have a certain amount of resiliency, but their great fault lies in the fact that the only direction in which they can accommodate themselves to the weight of the body is by sagging towards the middle, like a hammock, and the sleeper thereby is not resting in a proper attitude. Our health and well-being depend so largely upon good sleep that I feel sure many "light sleepers" would find themselves materially benefited by the simple expedient of purchasing a new bed of the spiral spring type, of which there are one or two excellent varieties on the market.

Turning next to bed draperies, these, if any, should carry out the general scheme, and a white bedspread should be absolutely taboo. An expanse of dead whiteness, even on a single bed, makes a glaring note in any room. So let the bedspread harmonise with the room, not oppose it.

The electric lights should be conveniently placed in relation to the principal pieces of furniture, and a bedside lamp nicely shaded, or a pendant, with pendant switch, should shed a comfortable glow over those lazy hours of reading in bed.

With regard to the dressing table, the conventional thing with swing mirror attached is no longer our only choice. We have begun to realise the possibilities of antique furniture that was designed for quite other purposes. I myself enjoy the roomy top of an old spinet upon which stands a reproduction of an antique swing mirror. The smaller-sized Sheraton style bow-front or serpentine front sideboards (or their modern prototypes) make charming dressing tables; so also do the fine old chests of drawers. They should have sheets of plate-glass made to fit the top, and be used without toilet covers. Delightful little swing mirrors are to be found in plenty.

Individual requirements and the already selected dressing table will dictate the style and size of the wardrobe, which can be made to accord in colour and polish with the other pieces of furniture we may possess.

Coming to the question of curtains, chair covers and other fabrics, these will necessarily be chosen to suit the style of the room, but in every case it would be best to have them of a washable material—plain if the walls are patterned, or *vice versa*. Cretonne or printed linen curtains need lining, otherwise they look "thin" against the light and present an ugly appearance to the window. There is no necessity for any curtain to come more than, say, 1 ft. below the level of the window sills. If the windows are overlooked and it is necessary to screen them in some way, the result can be achieved very simply by hanging a plain net curtain from a small rod at the top of the window, close against the glass. The modern cream or coloured file net serves the purpose admirably and is beautifully clear, of all colours the golden yellow giving the best effect of light.

The old unhygienic and unbeautiful days of heavy curtains trailing on the floor, or looped up with ropes as thick as one's arm, have departed, and the long Nottingham lace curtains (a pair to each window) are following them reluctantly, but surely, to the limbo of forgotten things.

Finally, it should be possible to render a bedroom comfortably dark, even in the day-time, and if roller blinds are fitted these could be of dark green linen or holland. Or, if preferred, the curtains could be lined with a dark shade of the predominating colour in the room, and for this purpose nothing is more suitable than one of the new fadeless fabrics. M. RITCHIE in *Architecture*.

### Competition for Municipal Offices in Christchurch.

The cash prize of £100 for the best design for the proposed Municipal Offices and Council Chamber for the city of Christchurch, which carries with it the commission to do the work, has been won by Messrs. Greenstreet and Anderson, of Christchurch, against four other competitors. The plans, which were selected by the special sub-committee set up to go into the question with the assistance of Mr. George A. Hart as professional assessor, have been approved by the City Council, and were chosen on the number principle, the name of the successful competitor not being known until the sealed envelope, corresponding with the number on the plans, was opened by the Mayor, Dr. Thacker, M.P. The competition was open to all registered architects. The estimated cost of the structure is just under £30,000. The plans provide for the frontage of the old Canterbury Hall building being utilised as far as possible, and for the erection of a structure 146 feet deep with a width of 100 feet. The building is to be of reinforced concrete, designed on broad and modern lines, with a minimum of columns, principal beams of long spans, and wide window openings. The rooms have been arranged on the banking system, the ground floor having a considerable height. Attention has been paid to lighting, heating, and ventilation on the latest lines. The ground floor will contain the Town Clerk's offices on the right-hand side, with the treasury department on the left; rates, cemetery, and other departments will also be accommodated on this floor, together with the offices of the various inspectors. There will also be a public space 68 feet by 30 feet. On the upper floor, reached by a staircase or an electric elevator, will be situated the Council Chambers, committee rooms, Mayor and Mayoress's rooms, Councillors' rooms, library, and the caretaker's quarters.

The front elevation of the building will cover a vacant space with a 70 ft. frontage on the right-hand side of the building. It is on this unoccupied space that it has been suggested that a hall or a theatre should be erected.