

The Annotations of Annabel

DEAREST:

Urgency of Cheap Sale gives way to clear call of Early Spring Show. Very enticing are the new garments in gaiety of colour and seduction of cut. One enviable frock, built to enhance the lines of a slim figure of grace to be had for "Twenty guineas only, moddam," is fashioned of best and blackest georgette, stole-like drapery round square collar bedizened with eccentricity and success with small, colourful, tropic blooms, similar fiery and futuristic emblems adding interest to brief, billowing skirt

WE live to-day amid strenuous unrest, a perpetual babel, daily and hourly becoming aware of change and improvement in the architecture of the young cities of the Dominion. Oft in the still night are to be observed electrical signs and portents of commercial audacity, indicating huge piles of masonry which, in unmarked stages of the weeks and days, appear to spring up like giant mushrooms of a dream. From Wellington Terrace are to be seen two arresting letters of light, which in flaming simplicity proclaim the biggest skyscraper of them all; in the vastness of which, in the cold light of everyday, may be discerned enterprising shops and offices already hanging out their signs. Verily the Capital grows into something approximating a Big City, fresh emporiums of variety and allure appearing with a suddenness akin

to that of the beloved Victorian beanstalk.

IT is hoped that, with these manifold building activities, unambitious homes of beauty and utility may be evolved for the bachelor of any age or sex. Not yet, however, upon the civic horizon glimmers any indication of this counsel of perfection. Recently conning advertisement column in a contemporary in search of the elusive Perfect Flat, this strange anomaly leaped to the eye: "To Let Urgently, Desirable Bed-Sittingroom for Business Lady. With or Without!" Undeniably ambiguous this, and not particularly alluring to a diffident, homeless girl searching for habitation as feverishly as Japhet in Search of a Father.

IN hats, not much alteration is to be noted in shape, except in that tendency to larger circumference, which it needs no Cassandra to prophesy will wilt on the shelf, remaining high and dry until put up at fifteen and eleven-three-farthings at the summer sales; and finally worn for the subjugation of some Nice Suburban Young Man, such as Miss Delafield depicts in her latest novel, whom with his appalling entourage she describes with meticulous exactitude, and an entire absence of that amusing and malicious sparkle with which she imbued her former stimulating novels of modern social aspects.—Yours, Annabel Lee.

the room space—two or more chairs, a small stool and a cot in the earlier stages. After a small bedstead, another delight for the children is the new musical chair and makes an attractive piece of furniture. Sunshine should be the first consideration in the household nursery—at the same time we need to keep in mind the value of harmonious surroundings in the early environment of the child. Simplicity should be the keynote for the furnishings. First it is advisable to choose the floor covering whatever it may be. Linoleum is most suited for this purpose and a plain-coloured one is the most effective, with, say, a few nursery floor rugs. Using a plain paper, a very effective nursery frieze could be used—a design depicting nursery rhymes. The window treatment plays an important part, something that will launder easily is the best. A perfectly plain net, or a net with a small design is the most attractive—for the side drapings a coloured casement cloth to match tonings of room with a small French valance.

Applied Medallions.

A SIMPLE pelmet could be made with a few applique figures of children or animals worked on. Speaking of transfer designs—have you tried the effect of the wonderful coloured medallions which can transform your furnishings by their simple application with paste. If one has been searching for the finishing touch in the nursery decoration, one's search is ended, for nothing could be more desirable than the charm of these new coloured motifs—all the charm and individuality of a hand-painted motif may be painted and otherwise—to the door panels, beds, waste paper basket, lamp shades, work-boxes, candy jars, and other innumerable articles of their use, and will surely catch and hold the youthful eye and captivate the youthful heart. Incredibly little effort is needed to use these motifs with which one can accomplish great effects. They are so simple to use—being applied with paste and the pressure of one's finger-tips and finished with a coat of

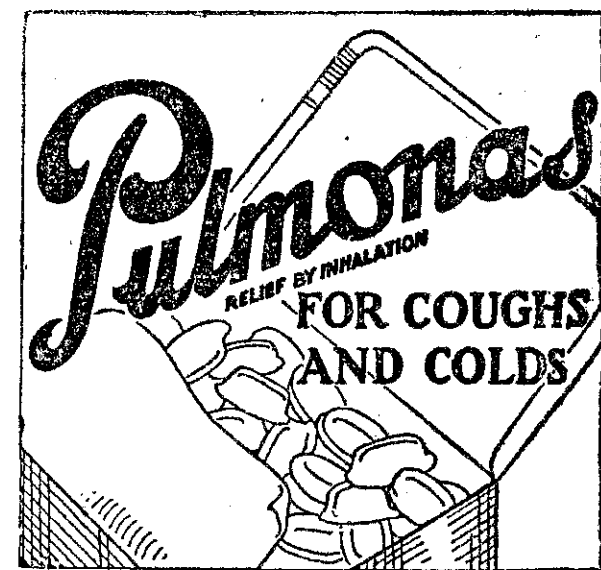
varnish, that the most inexperienced of us can arrive at the same effect as one sees on the most exquisite hand-painted furniture. There is no limit to the number of articles to which one can add both decoration and distinction—at the same time and with so little trouble, by using these medallions.

An Exhibition

Those who appreciate the talent of Mrs. Malcolm Ross, and her achievement in the world of decorative art, have been charmed with her latest show at S. S. Williams Co., Ltd., Lambton Quay, Wellington.

In her paintings of English Gates and Gardens, Mrs. Ross displays true and vigorous draughtsmanship, fidelity of atmosphere, and a loving representation of colour values, while novel indeed and fascinating are specimens of crystal, of every shape and size, enamelled in colour and gold embossed—tumblers, fruit dishes, wine, and cocktail glasses scrolled, flowered, or entrancingly blobbed with gold—these being enviable possessions for those lucky enough to secure them.

Altogether a show to be visited, and a unique opportunity for the collector to add a specimen to the cherished hoard.



A Bedroom for the Children

Lecture by Mrs. Thomas, at 2YA.

THIS is a room which is especially interesting to do, for it puts all our ideas to the test of practicality—a room in which children are going to live must be easy to clean. Everything must be washable. Everything must be solid—nothing is used that can be broken or torn. Thus the margin of fancy is very narrow and the question arises, can so severely practical a room still retain its childish beauty. The question has been answered with a triumphant yes. A children's room can be conceived in a great many ways according to one's idea of childhood. If one thinks of the child as an impossibly ethereal creation "trailing clouds of glory," one will naturally wish to provide it with a setting that is equally ethereal and impossible. If one thinks of the child as merely cute one will incline to the cuteness of the room, and again on the other hand if one regards children as barbarians the only logical place is to put them in a bare room.

The Modern Child.

The modern child objects to being talked down to. He is conscious that the world he lives in is substantially the same worth that the grown-ups live in, with only a minor difference in scale. Both he and his elders are interested in the mechanics of things, in speed and in power, in boats and motor-cars. His boats and his motor-cars happen to be smaller than those of his father, that is all the difference. Every care must be taken to make the room the kind that will appear to the modern child. The mechanical toys are exact reproduction of the machines that children see in the street and demand a degree of mechanical skill in the operation.

Children's Furniture.

ANOTHER thing which simplifies the furnishing of a children's room is the excellent children's furniture which is made nowadays, and few pieces as possible are used, as children require

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