

FLOORS ARE FOUNDATIONS

Practical Suggestions For Good Furnishing

By "ROSALIE"

FURNISHING begins at foot level. The woman who is wise enough to get her floors right will get the best results from her furnishing schemes. She can make the simplest pieces look charming if their setting is harmonious.

Let me tell you about some good floor treatments; they may give you just

not matting, sewn and bound. This harmonises with both modern furniture and old. A scrubbing brush will remove spots and the matting will wear for years.

RUGS and carpets should know their place—which is on the floor. The carpet which rises and "hits you in the eye" will overpower everything else in the room. It is sometimes happier to have your design in the texture of the

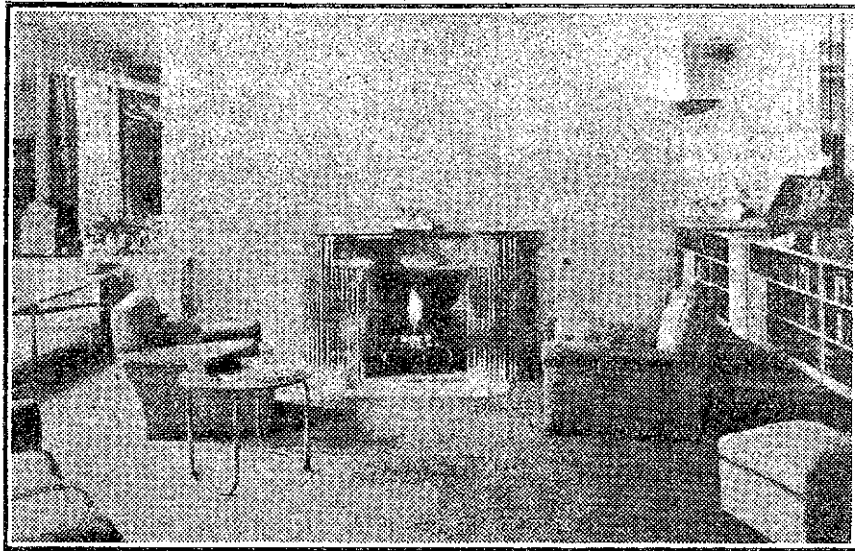
wear and look better than one made of cotton. A cotton rug can look very dazzling when it is new, but soon becomes faded and "dead" when it is on the floor. This is specially true of cheap "Oriental" rugs, which are made of a mixture of cotton and jute, and have their designs stamped on, not woven into the yarn.

Antique rugs, which always look very lovely, can be tested by pulling out a thread from the pile. If the surface colour is more yellow and "antique" than the thread at the root, you may be sure the rug has been artificially "faded."

Very light coloured rugs and carpets are seldom practical, except in show houses and childless homes. From then they are not popular for, after all, rugs are meant to be walked on, and most shades go down under the test of feet.

Thin rugs and carpets are much improved by padding which protects them from wear, especially if the floor is uneven. Thick felt under any carpet is sound economy always. Smallish rugs can be padded by an amateur and lined with a smooth, tough material.

All carpets can be shampooed, but it is better to entrust plain ones to an expert. You must not use much water, and you must work quietly. Thick suds on a damp cloth, immediately removed with a clean damp rag, will work wonders on a soiled carpet. If the carpet is small, it is a good plan to tack down the edges to prevent shrinkage.



Plain, fitted carpets give a foundation on which to build a modern room.

the idea you want for your own house. A varnished floor is the most difficult one, in my opinion, to keep in order. A polished floor, on the other hand, is easy, once you have acquired a good surface. Water and oil stains give a smooth mellow finish. I did a whole room with vandyke-brown water stain for less than sixpence. I bought sixpennyworth of powder from the ironmonger and mixed it till it was smooth and "runny." Then I rubbed it in with flannel rags. You need a lot of rags, a deft touch when you get near the skirting boards, and a tin of good polish when the floor is dry. Try the stain on an odd piece of board until you get the right consistency and colour. The shades can be varied from pale gold to nigger-brown, but the mid shades are most successful. The floor must be well polished at least twice before it comes into use, as the wax seals the stain.

If you want to modernise a room a plain fitted carpet is your best choice. For the height of comfort choose pile, but for good looks, hard wear and a low price, choose haircord. If you think plain carpets are not practical for a family house, ask to see some of the spotted and small checked carpets which have recently come into fashion for floors.

For a warm, cheap carpet use coco-

carpet or rug, rather than in the pattern. Modern rugs make a special feature of "textural design." Generally speaking, it is a good rule to put plain carpets in a room where the walls and curtains are patterned.

A wool carpet will in every case

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IF you are lucky enough to have tiled walls, give your bathroom floor the very best covering you can afford.

Add the money you might have had to lay out on wall decoration to the amount you have allowed for the floor and curtains.

One of the pleasant mottled or plain linoleums is a better choice than more tiles. Paint and varnish on a wooden (Continued on page 54.)

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