

# Beautifying by Electricity

How the Lounge, Drawingroom  
or Sittingroom may be improved  
by Schematin Lighting



OR the attainment of good artificial lighting, it is highly necessary to recognise and understand the important functions that a lamp is called upon to perform, viz., decoration and illumination. Contrary to widespread ideas, all beautiful lamps can be useful, and all useful lamps can be beautiful, if a discreet selection be made. Attention is focussed upon lamps at night because they become vitalised by light, and the lamp in good taste will become such a harmonious part of its surroundings, that one is not conscious of the lamp itself, nor even of its subtle artfulness in providing the necessary and desirable illumination.

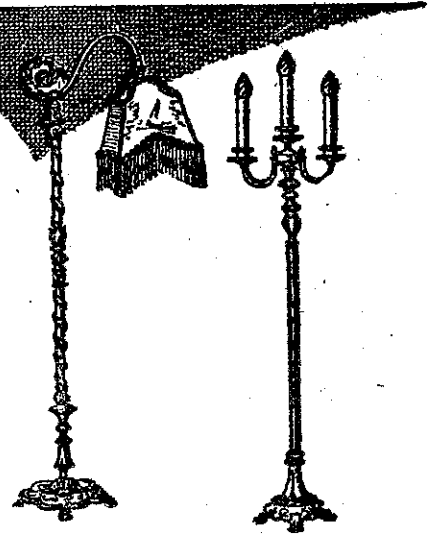
The lounge, sitting-room, or living-room is probably that in which most consideration is called for and rewarded, and the number of lamps is necessarily fixed by the size of the room and the purpose for which it is used. Lamps, although useful adornments, should never dominate.

**L**IGHT is needed at times around the entire room, as well as lesser or more concentrated lights for reading, sewing or card-playing; and

in a good-sized room, if wall brackets are employed over or near the mantelpiece, the central light can often be dispensed with. During winter, especially, it aids in forming an hospitable group around the fire-place. Used in conjunction with one or more mirrors, these wall brackets form a most effective addition to any scheme of decoration. A standard lamp that can be placed behind or at the end of a sofa, is a definite asset toward both illumination and decoration; and one or more table-lamps fulfil a very useful as well as decorative purpose. It will therefore be seen that any number of lamps from two to eight can be employed to advantage.

Where a centre fitting is desirable to light the entire room, the best form is that of one or more lamps enclosed in a fitting, through which a portion of the light is directed upward toward the ceiling. The lamp is covered by the texture of the fitting and is not itself visible. Part of the light is, of course, directed downward through the bowl or fitting, but the greater portion strikes the ceiling, and is again reflected back into the room in generous, softly-diffused quantities.

This is known as semi-indirect lighting, and



its value lies in the absence of irritating glare, owing to the bulbs being invisible.

**O**NE of the simplest means of improving light and avoiding glare is to use only "obscured" or frosted bulbs. "Obscured" is a misleading term, because the light from the bulbs is better diffused, and therefore seems actually brighter than that of clear glass bulbs. The introduction of opal glass bulbs is a great step forward, for they emit a light that casts no shadows and eliminates all danger of eye-strain, even for close work.

In many rooms, we fear, there is still only one chair or one place in which anyone can see comfortably to read, write, sew, or enjoy any other occupations which require close

(Concluded on Page 40.)

