

DOWN through the ages, light has been the symbol of welcome. The flickering firelight from the cave of prehistoric man welcomed the homecomers with their prey—the tavern lamp told the straying traveller that inside was a welcome and safety; and now the electric lamp shining steadily into the night, dispels the shadows more than ever before.

WHILE, maybe, second thoughts are best, the fact remains that first impressions are always the more lasting. One wonders, after giving an invitation, whether it is due to indifference or miscalculated economy that visitors often are allowed to grope their way along an ill-lighted pathway or fence to find the house to which, presumably, they are welcome. It is so easy nowadays in the heyday of electricity to have a little fixture lighting the gateway—one that will say "Come in, and welcome!" Besides it will still give a sense of passing cheer to those who must go on.

The first cost is so very little and every passer-by will wish to stay or be welcomed some day. Surely that is the idea we wish most to convey—to make all people want to live just here, at our home.

Only a little lantern is needed at the gate, switched on from the time daylight fails until after such time as our guests have been sped upon their way.

Then, when they enter, is there need to ask them into a gloomy and chilly hall? Rather one of a mellow

ELECTRICITY bids WELCOME to all who come within its sphere

light, under which all will look its best. The kindly hostess can achieve all these things. In the gateway, a facsimile of an old English lantern will not only meet the purpose, but in itself will be an object of admiration. In some cases a similar fitting of wrought iron in bracket form affixed to the side of the house is preferable. Should the entrance be an imposing one, say, of stone gates, something more pretentious will be called for—perhaps a couple of fittings of the "flambeau" or torch type, of which so many beautiful examples are obtainable.

WHEN we come to the hall, which, should space permit, deserves a special article, the important feature is that the light should be a becoming one before all things, preferably a kindly rose or a mellow yellow.

The writer remembers, with distaste, how she was shown into an otherwise beautiful hall, where the lamp cast a shroud of sickly green over one and all, and quite destroyed the comforting illusion that one was looking one's best. In the hall, then, bearing in mind the notions of colour forecast in a former issue, we should ask for ourselves and our guests a becoming yellow or preferably pinkish yellow light, in so far, of course, as it accords with other furnishings.

Colour sense must be called into play. For instance, a panelled hall, a thing of beauty in itself, will call for more lighting, but of a subdued order. In either case, there should be no glare and no shadow, so that if the visitor perhaps has arrived late she can see herself as she will appear, but no more kindly. I can imagine no more perfect debacle than to see myself au fait, and to be disillusioned under a more cruel light.

Hall fittings should be of the enclosed order, so that one does not look down on to the bare lamp when descending the stairs. A useful and decorative addition is that of an artistic fitting mounted on the newel post at the foot of the staircase.

DINING-ROOM fittings should be conducive to intimacy and to general conversation, paradox though it may seem. Probably the ideal for most rooms is that of a rise and fall fitting, which will, when required, give some light to the entire room, but can, nevertheless, be so lowered that it casts only a becoming light on the dining table and the diners. It may be complained that this form of lighting provides only for the lighting of the dining table and of the room generally. Surely this is the ideal for dining purposes. It is easily supplemented, however, by the addition of wall-brackets, a standard lamp, or a table lamp or two.

A common mistake, where the room is to be used for study or reading, is to place the wall-brackets too high. Six feet, or even a little less, above the floor is the best height.

The usual method of arriving at the number and size of lamps needed is to allow one watt per square foot of floor area, excluding any bays or recesses. Thus, a room 12 ft. by 10 ft. has a floor space of 120 square feet, and on the basis of one watt per square foot, 120 watts would be required. Three 40-watt lamps, two 60-watt, or one 100-watt lamp of the gas-filled type could be installed in this case, depending upon whether they are to be spread out over one or more fittings.

Here, again, the colour factor of the decorations must be taken into account, for a room decorated in, say, brown or red, will absorb half as much light again as one decorated in ivory or buff. Where more than one fitting is to be installed, each should be considered separately and with regard to the area it is intended to illuminate. It should be impressed upon the furnisher that liberality in fittings is not a source of extravagance, but rather the reverse.

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