

A Husband, for a Secret

A FORMER mannequin who has recently married a wealthy London business man discloses one of the means adopted by dressmaking firms to advertise their confections among wealthy residents and visitors at English seaside resorts. She declares that she was one of many girls, mostly about 18 to 20 years of age, chosen for their beauty and dignity of carriage. Sworn to secrecy, they promenade the seafronts, dressed in clothes that a princess or millionairess might envy, and get into conversation with other women. It is then their duty to mention, quite casually, the name of the dressmaker who supplies their clothes.

This late member of the secret service met her husband at an hotel while displaying her employers' dresses. She states that even he did not know her secret at the time. All her clothes, including hats and shoes, were supplied by the firm and were changed every day. All she had to do was to walk along the seafront on fine afternoons and look into the better-class hotels. There it was easy to make acquaintances and easier still to turn the conversation to the subject of clothes in general and her own clothes in particular.

Arrangements were also made for her to attend balls and dances, where she was expected to do similar work.

Linoleums---Their Variety and Care

The Advice of an Expert

AN expert from overseas, where linoleums are even more popular than they are here as floor coverings, offers the following advice on their choice and care:—

Floorcloth, sometimes called oil-cloth, has for its base a jute canvas with a coating of linseed oil and pigment on which is printed a pattern in oil paint; the printed surface having a varnished finish. It is easily kept in good condition by simply washing with a soft cloth, ordinary yellow bar soap and tepid water. Very hot water should not be used, nor should it be scrubbed.

Linoleum, to all intents and purposes, is a mixture of oxidised linseed oil and cork-dust pressed on to jute canvas. It comes in plain colours of varying thickness. In the cheaper qualities, patterns are printed in oil-paints, but there is no finishing varnish coat, as in the case of floorcloths. Printed linoleums have not the same glossy finish as floorcloths. The treatment is the same, but their life will be lengthened if, after washing and drying, they are polished with a good floor polish. The polish forms a slight film or skin on the paint, and

grit or dirt are therefore not so easily engrained into the printing colour. Plain linoleums in all shades may be treated in the same way, but there is not the same objection to their being scrubbed, should there be any necessity for doing so.

Cork carpet is linoleum made with a much rougher grain of cork. Consequently, the material is softer and much more springy to the tread, but in all colours, except its natural brown, it is much more difficult to keep clean. It should not be scrubbed and careful polishing is necessary if the colour is to be kept fresh-looking.

On inlaid linoleums, the patterns go right through to the jute canvas backing. The mixture composing it is a mixture of oxidised linseed oil again with wood flour, and pigments to get the various shades of colour. It has a smooth and glazed finish without the gloss of printed floorcloth or linoleum. The treatment is the same as for floorcloth, but chemical soaps must be avoided, for they take out the colour. When the floor is dry, it should be polished with one or other of the well-known floor polishes. To obtain the best results, it should not be walked upon until it has been washed, dried and polished. When it shows signs of getting dirty, the processes should be repeated, but it must not be repolished without being washed, as the polishing of soiled linoleum makes the dirt much more difficult, if not impossible, to remove at subsequent washings.

VARNISHING is often adopted in preference to polishing. If a specially prepared floor varnish is used, it can be applied successfully to a surround, and is especially effective in a bedroom. It saves work but loses in appearance as compared with polishing. Varnishing, however, has a particular merit with cork carpet which is to be finally waxed, as it facilitates the work; but too much varnish will destroy even its characteristic appearance and feel.

Plain colours in linoleums and cork carpets look especially well when polished, but undoubtedly any plain floor covering, especially dark blue or dark green, has a tendency to show footmarks, and it is in this respect that patterned linoleums have an advantage. Reproductions of parquet flooring are astonishingly real in effect, and can be used very successfully in dining or sitting rooms and halls. In places where there is much going to and fro, it is always worth while using an inlaid linoleum. The first cost is greater, but as the pattern is integral with the material, it does not become unsightly after being much walked upon, as is inevitably the case with a printed pattern.

The Stool

Useful for Ornament or Service

THERE is much to be said for the inclusion of a stool or two amongst our household gods. Upholstered or fitted with a pad cushion, they can be made to fit in with most furnishing schemes. Long stools, square stools, round stools; stools with four legs, three-legged stools, and some with six legs; high stools and low stools—all have their uses.

When the question of where to place them arises, first there are bedrooms. A fairly large stool is excellent at a dressing-table, and there is an extraordinarily comfortable and sensible piece of furniture that is admirably suited to the bedroom. It consists of an armchair and a long stool, with seats of the same height. When the stool is placed against the front of the chair the two combined form quite a respectable settee. They have the added advantage, that they can be used as quite separate pieces of furniture.

A stool by a window makes a most comfortable window-seat. A sitting-room needs one, especially if there is a bureau in the room, for it is the ideal seat for furniture of this description. From the point of view of appearance, it is inviting. Apart from this use, and not forgetting it as an alternative to the music seat problem, it is a piece of furniture for the odd corners of a room. It will fit under a table without looking out of place, if it is not required anywhere else at the moment.

A pair of stools in the recesses on either side of a fireplace, flanking a table or a chest, will add a finished effect. The best for the front of a fireplace is a long, low stool, about the same length as the hearth-rug. If you are lucky, you may be able to pick up a real old fender-stool, steel or brass lined, and upholstered in leather or some fabric, but modern ones are not to be despised. Moreover, these latter can be constructed to fit the particular place for which they are desired.

Footstools and hassocks are offshoots of the same family, and all add their quota of comfort. Nor must the modern "pouffes" be forgotten, for they are the stool's culminating point in restfulness.

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