

House Beautiful Oct 18/2 141-144

AFTER THE HOUSE IS FINISHED PAINTING INSIDE AND OUT

By CHARLES E. WHITE, Jr., M. A. I. A.

SOME house owners have good taste and others have not. Some seem to have a natural talent in the selection of colors; a sort of intuition of what is good and what is bad, and to such people the selection of tints for inside and outside the house can be safely intrusted.

Unfortunately, many painters, while practical when it comes to mixing and applying pigment, have not a very good idea about color schemes that harmonize best with any particular style of house. To them, paint is paint. A combination of colors which looks well on some houses they have seen appears to them correct for any other house.

The selection of colors is about the final thing required of the house owner before the new house is completed. His architect has an advantage over the owner in this regard because, usually, architects have a definite idea of color for the new house from the start. Even when working plans are being drawn most architects have a mental image of the completed building, a picture showing the grounds all planted and the house painted throughout. Thus,

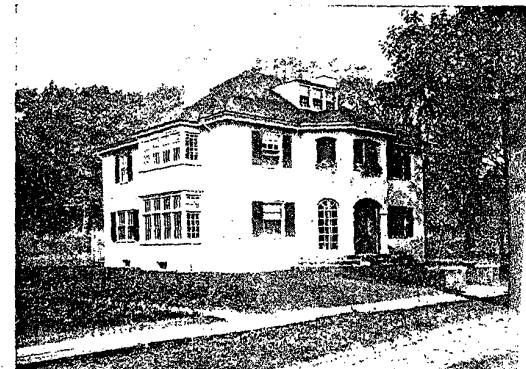


Fig. 3. Frank Chouteau Brown, Architect. Green Blinds U Enliven a House of White Cement Plaster

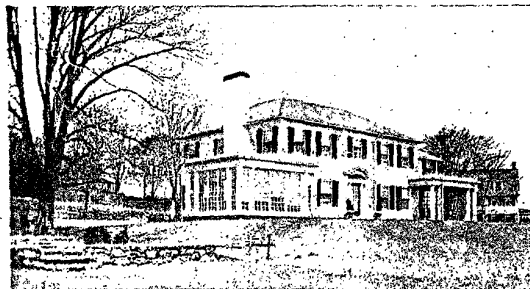


Fig. 1. Green Blind and White Paint in a New England House

There is a sort of cohesion of the entire scheme in the mind of the architect, which is not always understood by the owner.

In considering the color scheme for the exterior of a house the first thing the owner should remember is that paint is for two purposes,—to preserve the work by rendering it waterproof, and to give the house a pleasing appearance. If neither of these reasons apply to one's scheme—in other words, if the materials of the house need no protection (as is the case with brick or cement houses), or if the materials need no color to improve their appearance, there is no need of paint. But most houses need paint of some nature—either oil paint, cement paint or stain. They need it for protection as well as for appearance sake and that is why

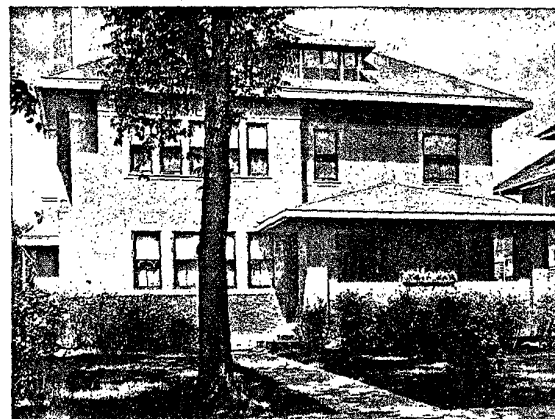


Fig. 2. Tan-Colored Trimmings Look Well with Plaster on This Chicago House. Tallmadge & Watson, Architects

there are so many brands of paint on the market, of every conceivable color for every imaginable purpose.

Brand-paint stamped with the name of a reliable concern—hand-mixed paint made from a white lead and linseed oil—guaranteed pure by some well-known trade-mark, or the name of a reliable manufacturer of these ingredients, are safe to use. Paint is perhaps the most variable in quality of anything used in the new house. Even to experts, a paint that looks very much alike and nothing short of a chemical analysis will enable one to detect the difference between bad and good. For this reason the house owner should insist on using goods that are plainly marked with the name and the manufacturer. Undoubtedly, many brands made by manufacturers are of good quality, but the safest way is to use well-known brands.

The best paint for exterior work is composed of pure white lead and linseed oil or pure zinc oxide and linseed oil, or a combination of both. Manufacturers of lead paint insist that their paint is made by the old, reliable method—is the only thing to use. Manufacturers of zinc paint insist that their paint is equally strong statement. The house owner need not put his head about the color of his paint provided it is from a reliable dealer.

Here again the safest way is to rely upon the skill of a manufacturer who will put the proper ingredients in the paint which he sells, whether they be lead or zinc. Where hand-mixed paint is preferred, the lead and zinc goes to make up the paint known reliability.

White was one of

Is this really true?

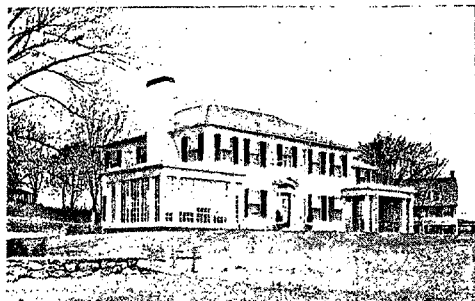
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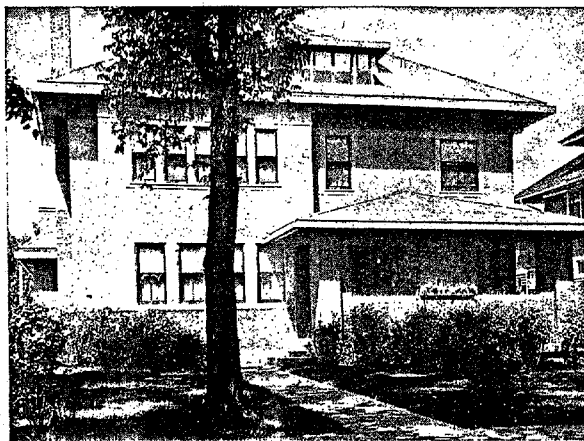


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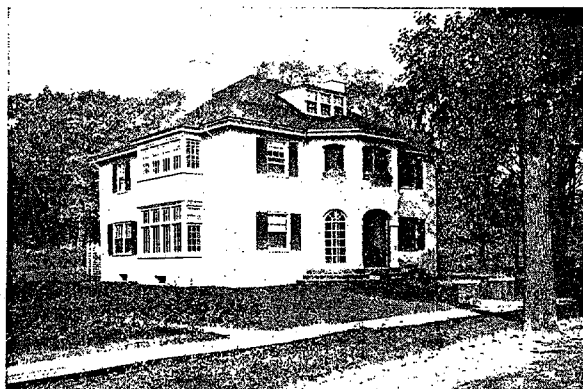


Fig. 3. Frank Chouteau Brown, Architect. Green Blinds Used to Enliven a House of White Cement Plaster

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Brand-paint stamped with the name of a reliable concern or hand-mixed paint made from a white lead and linseed oil guaranteed pure by some well-known trade mark, or the name of a reliable manufacturer of these ingredients, are always safe to use. Paint is perhaps the most variable in quality of anything used in the new house. Even to experts, all paint looks very much alike and nothing short of a chemical analysis will enable one to detect the difference between bad paint and good. For this reason the house owner should insist upon using goods that are plainly marked with the name and brand of the manufacturer. Undoubtedly, many brands made by obscure manufacturers are of good quality, but the safest way is to use well-known brands.

The best paint for exterior use is composed of pure white lead and linseed oil or pure zinc white and linseed oil or a combination of both. Manufacturers of white lead insist that their material—made by the old, reliable process—is the only thing to use. Manufacturers of zinc paints make equally strong statements, and the house owner need not bother his head about the composition of his paint provided he selects it from a reliable dealer.

Here again the safest way is to rely upon the skill of the honest manufacturer who will either put the proper ingredients into the paint which he makes whether they be lead or zinc; or, where hand-mixed paint is preferred, the lead and oil which goes to make up the paint is of known reliability.

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Fig. 4. House at Hinsdale, Ill. Brown Stain Used in Connection with Grey Plaster Is Usually Pleasing

colors to be used on houses (if white can be called a color). White is probably the most durable of all paints as the lead or



Fig. 5. Rough-Sawn Lumber—Stained Golden-Brown. Frank Lloyd Wright, Architect

zinc of which it is composed has greater wearing qualities than other pigments. White, of course, grows slightly yellow with age and it becomes discolored, but as a general thing when good



Fig. 6. Grey Cement, Weathered Shingles and Red Brick in a Concord, Mass., House

paint is used, white wears longer than other color.

Houses entirely white, with trimming no other color are usually ghastly in appearance. For this reason, to get the effect green blinds or trellises should be used to relieve the monotony of the white. Old-time New Englanders knew this and they always used green blinds when blinds were needed for shade or not, as illustrated in the Concord (Massachusetts) house shown in Fig. 1.

When it comes to a plaster house, unless the plaster is quite dark, white is not a good color to employ as others. White does not give so good a contrast as light tan or some other "warm" color usually required to relieve the cold tone of plaster (see Fig. 2, light tan trimmings on ordinary plaster). White can be used with good effect, however, even on a house of white plaster if green blinds are used to warm the color scheme (Fig. 3).

An excellent color for English timber work houses is brown. Timbers used in these old houses in England were usually uncolored—but years of wind and weather have given them a beautiful nut-brown tint that can be quite satisfactorily approximated in modern houses by using stain (Fig. 4). When stain is used, however, woodwork will take the tint much prettier and more permanently if rough-sawn timber is used (not planed smooth). An excellent example of this is shown in Fig. 5, a Chicago house where rough-sawn trimmings stained golden brown are particularly effective. Combinations of shingle stain and plaster are most always attractive. Plaster in itself is somewhat "rustic" appearance and stain seems to have just the informal look that plaster needs. Brick is also frequently employed successfully with stained shingles and plaster (Fig. 6), brown brick appearing unusually well with brown shingle stains. Care should always be taken to use but few colors in the color scheme otherwise the effect will be bewildering when it ought to be quiet and restful.

Grey stain is excellent for shingled houses especially where there is plenty of shrubbery to lend color to the composition (Fig. 7). White trimmings look well with grey stain, for the latter grows dark making a pleasing contrast with white. As a matter of fact, grey harmonizes with all colors since grey is a "neutral" tint. For this reason it is safe to use in any color scheme.

So many beautiful shades of green come in every brand of shingle stain it is possible to get beautiful green effects. Creamy red brick looks well with green stain—or for that matter



Fig. 7. Shingle Work Harmonizing Perfectly with Surrounding Swampscott, Mass.



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Grey stain is excellent for shingled houses especially where there is plenty of shrubbery to lend color to the composition (Fig. 7). White trimmings look well with grey stain, for the latter soon grows dark making a pleasing contrast with white. As a matter of fact, grey harmonizes with all colors since grey is a "neutral" tint. For this reason it is safe to use in any color scheme.

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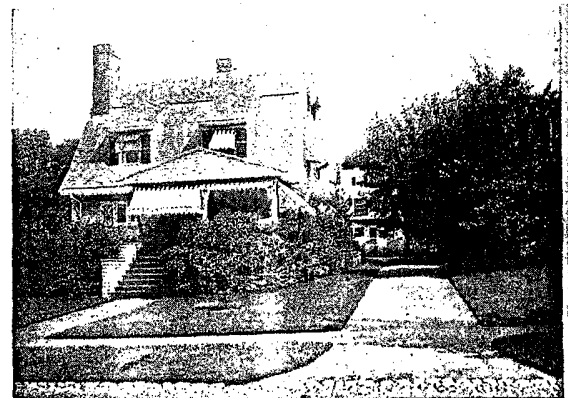


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st kind of mahogany stain to use on interior trim is what as "dark" mahogany stain. This is about the color of mahogany furniture, and it is a good color to wear. Ma- tain can be applied to mahogany or to birch. The latter appear precisely like real mahogany but it looks very well. n be stained prettily in a hundred different tones, from tique" oak to light "fumed" oak. The tendency, how- o treat oak in very light tones, as it has been found that : makes rooms more cheery than dark oak. In many oth living-room and dining-room are finished in oak, as he hall. For an oak dining-room, oak furniture is best, e—preferably finished to match the woodwork of the in Fig. 10.

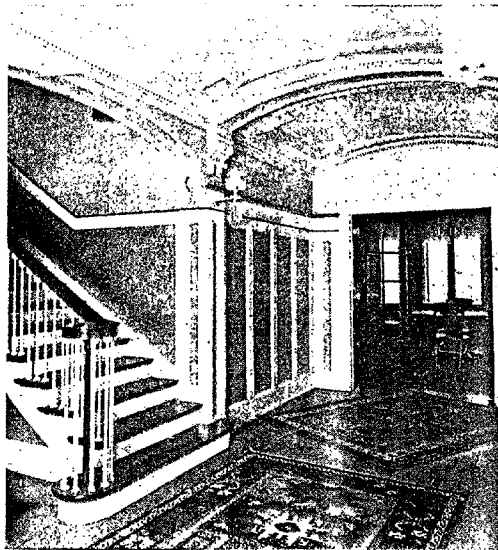


Fig. 9. Hall in White Enamel



Fig. 8. House at Topsfield, Mass. Presenting Excellent Combination of Colors—Green Shingles, Red Brick and Ivory-White Trimmings

In bedrooms, mahogany or birch-mahogany trim and doors can be used with mahogany furniture and brass beds or white enamel paint can be employed. Both methods are equally satisfactory, and both equally durable.

Stained-woodwork, whether oak, birch, southern pine or ma-

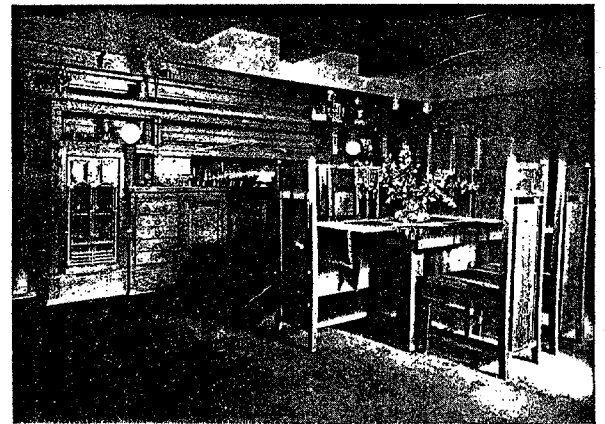


Fig. 10. Dining-Room in Light-Finished Oak in a Western House. Frank Lloyd Wright, Architect

hogany, is usually protected after staining, by varnish, shellac or wax. A durable finish for any stained woodwork is undoubtedly varnish, which covers the wood with a transparent skin very tough and elastic. Any reliable brand is the right kind to use; look out for inferior varnishes made of poor gums, improperly mixed and sold at low prices. Floors require special floor varnish, manufactured to give the greatest possible wear. Reliable brands of wax are also excellent for floors and trim.

Varnish is not necessarily "shiny" for there are many good brands of dull varnish which give that dull, satin-like effect so pretty inside the house. Don't try to have the outside of the house dull finish, however.

No part of house building is more interesting than painting, and no part of the work will come out more satisfactorily when colors are selected with intelligence, and good materials are used.

brown brick also (Fig. 8). Trimmings of ivory white give a crisp, clean look to such designs.

Shingle stains, like paint, should be bought from reliable dealers, using only well known brands. It is rarely advisable to let a painter mix shingle stain, himself, with ordinary color and oil, for manufactured shingle stain is vastly superior as to color and durability. Many manufactured stains contain creosote—others contain oil. There are plenty of excellent brands of both kinds.

When it comes to inside paint, white again comes to the front as excellent for all 'round use. There is nothing which looks so fresh, and white paint has the happy faculty of harmonizing with most colors. Most shades of wall paper or tint look well with white paint.

White enamel is the best to use because most durable. Applied in five or six coats, white enamel gives a wearing surface almost as firm as ivory. "White enamel" does not mean that the paint is necessarily "shiny" in appearance, for the last coat may be "egg shell," which is really dull finish. Use only a reliable brand of enamel paint or enamel made from best white lead. The hall illustrated in Fig. 9 shows the charm of white enamel when used in connection with mahogany doors and stair rail.

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Oak can be stained prettily in a hundred different tones, from dark "antique" oak to light "fumed" oak. The tendency, however, is to treat oak in very light tones, as it has been found that light oak makes rooms more cheery than dark oak. In many houses both living-room and dining-room are finished in oak, as well as the hall. For an oak dining-room, oak furniture is best, of course—preferably finished to match the woodwork of the room, as in Fig. 10.

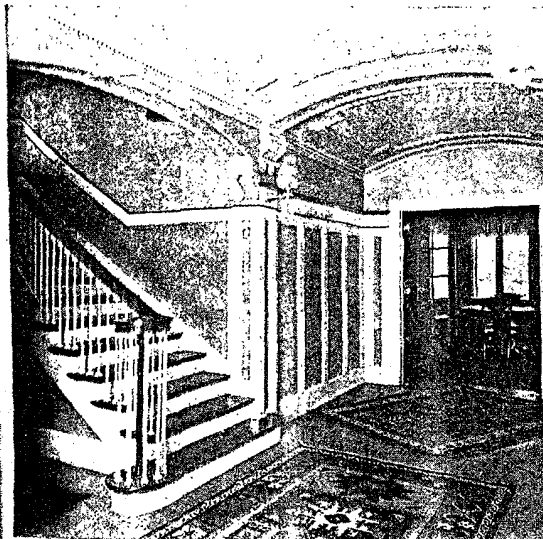


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Fig. 10. Dining-Room in Light-Finished Oak in a Western House. Frank Lloyd Wright, Architect

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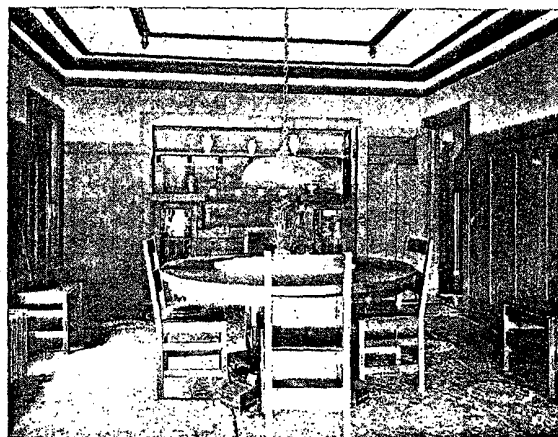


Fig. 11. Light Brown Oak, Orange Yellow Frieze and Cream Ceiling

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In Fig. 11 and Fig. 12, two interesting interior schemes are shown. Manufacturers of paint are always glad to see that the



Fig. 12. A White Dining-Room with Mahogany F

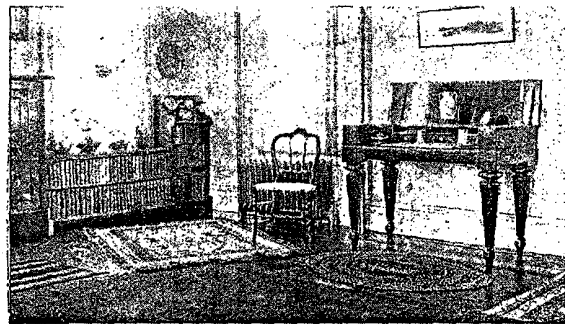
goods specified are actually used by the painter. We consult the nearest dealer, who will tell you if your purchased the brand you want.

COLLECTING ANTIQUITIES SAVING DIMES

WITH a love for the antique and not the necessary means, my husband decided to save his dimes; giving them to me, five dollars at a time, which I deposited in the bank. Until the scheme is tried one does not realize how quickly the money accumulates. If you plan

By C. Y. H.

My first piece of furniture (shown in one picture) was an old rosewood melodeon which I had made into a desk, not only a handsome piece of furniture but very useful. My husband designed and drew the plans of the interior in accordance with my ideas and the work was done by a cabinet maker. The part against the wall is the original cover, which closes over the entire desk.



A Rosewood Spinet Case Made Into a Desk

to save five dollars at a time it is difficult, but with this method the dimes seem hardly to be missed.

My first purchase was a good Oriental rug, the pride of my heart, as I had used shabby rugs rather than have something I did not want. Then when I saw a good piece of antique furniture at a reasonable price, I purchased it. Sometimes my bank account would get low and I would have to wait for more dimes.

The chair is semi-antique, bought cheap and done over at home. It had originally a dark stain, then several coats of white paint; over that it had been gilded, so the scraping was a tedious task, but it came out well.

The book-cases shown in the corner and duplicated on the other side of the fireplace were home-made, built of common pine and stained black to harmonize with the mantel.

The wire hanging basket in the window was purchased for a dime, in which I placed a piece of Indian pottery for the plant. I only mention these two things as they are in the picture, and show how things can be made effective without much expense.

The next picture shows an old bureau, bought of an antique table, which tips and revolves, was very cheap at an auction sale and being scraped at home was sent to

An old haircloth sofa has been repaired and will give good years. The old blue and white cover I like to think was made by some lady, I bought for a few dimes in hand store.

A dressing table, stool and lamp with other pieces of furniture secured in a similar way—also glass purchased for a mere song sales. They are a great pleasure to the household and the money was well spent. I have been offered good prices for the furniture and feel that it is a good investment.



An Old Mahogany Bureau

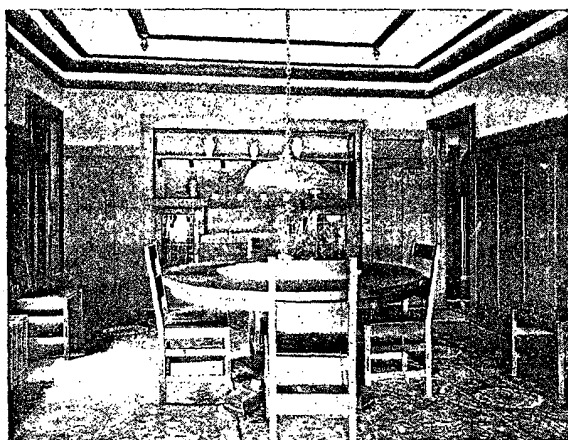


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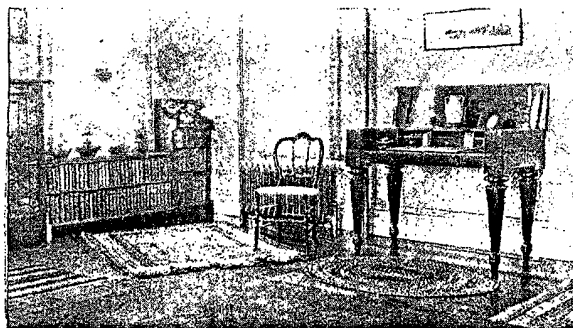
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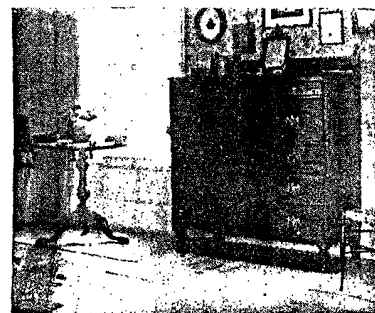
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The next picture shows an old mahogany bureau, bought of an antique dealer. The table, which tips and revolves, was purchased very cheap at an auction sale and after being scraped at home was sent to a finisher.

An old haircloth sofa has been carefully repaired and will give good service for years. The old blue and white cover, which I like to think was made by some dear old lady, I bought for a few dimes in a second-hand store.

A dressing table, stool and large mirror, with other pieces of furniture, I have secured in a similar way—also china and glass purchased for a mere song at auction sales. They are a great pleasure to our household and the money was not missed. I have been offered good prices for some of the furniture and feel that it has been a good investment.



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