

PAINT UP FOR DULL WINTER DAYS

The New Colors and Kind of Paint Have Great Value for Decorative Purposes.

BY JULIA W. WOLFE

These days color has become one of the most important factors in the decoration and beautifying of the home, and one of the simplest and most successful methods of introducing color into a room is by means of paint, and many new paint mixtures have been produced to meet the demand.

The most effective color note, for example, can be produced by painting a wooden floor with a special floor paint, or by using the same paint over a neutral-tinted linoleum. This paint can be procured in a number of shades, from a warm brown or soft gray to a vivid blue or bright buttercup yellow. A floor thus painted gives a note of color and gaiety to an otherwise dull and dreary room, and brings a change with the more usual scheme of intensified colors in wall or furniture.

From an economy point of view floor paint is also a great asset, for it can be used as a covering in the case of shabby or worn linoleum. It has a hard, non-chipping surface, and wears very well.

The painted floor is much in vogue these days. Many charming colors can be obtained by means of a painted floor in conjunction with rugs of contrasting or neutral shades, and soft-toned draperies. The dearest "back-room" or attic can be made "livable" if a colored floor is introduced in keeping with the furnishings.

The value of paint as a beautifier of the commonplace has not been altogether appreciated in the past; yet the most charming results can be accomplished with a little ingenuity. The duldest-looking chair, for instance, can be transformed into a thing of gayety by a coat of enamel and a decoration of fruit and flowers. Furniture painting is not a difficult art, and is sufficiently fascinating to be well worth while. Enamel gives the best results.

Puddings English Children Enjoy.

CINNAMON PUDDING.

Weight of 1 egg in butter and sugar, weight of 1 egg in flour and half as much again, 3 teaspoonful of baking powder, 1 teaspoonful of cinnamon.

Cream the butter, add sugar and add the egg. Mix the flour, baking powder, and cinnamon together and add to the mixture, beating all well together. Put in a basin and steam for three-quarters of an hour. Cinnamon sauce put over it is improvement.

STRAWBERRY PUDDING.

Weight of 2 eggs in castor sugar, butter, and flour; half a teaspoonful of carbonate of soda and baking powder, 2 tablespoonfuls of strawberry jam. (Whole fruit if possible.)

Mix the sugar and butter together. Then add the flour and soda, and the eggs well beaten, and finally the jam. Steam for three hours.

Either less butter may be used. For the quantity the weight of three eggs in butter will be sufficient.

LEMON PUDDING.

Three ounces of butter beaten to a cream; 3 ounces of castor sugar, 3 ounces of flour, 2 eggs, a little lemon rind grated and some juice, half a teaspoonful of baking powder.

Beat all the ingredients well together for 10 minutes. Put into a mold and boil for half an hour. Serve with sweet sauce.

SUET PANCAKES.

One-half pound of flour, ¼ pound of suet, 2 teaspoonfuls of sugar, 1 teaspoonful of baking powder, enough milk to make a stiff dough.

Mix all well together. Roll out about an inch thick. Cut into small rounds and fry in lard until a nice golden brown. Serve hot with golden syrup.

Against Foul Food.

Measures against foul food. An Apiarist, Mr. J. H. Taylor, in his bulletin on "Them," recommends the following:

1. Purchase colonies of bees from a reliable source; they are free from disease; never feed bees with honey of unknown origin; if the bees need feeding give sugar syrup not honey; do not purchase old combs, used hives, or second-hand supplies unless it is certain that they come from healthy apiaries; keep all colonies strong; invite neighboring beekeepers to co-operate in the prevention and treatment of the disease; don't leave colonies to die on their stands and expose combs of honey taken from those colonies for bees to feed upon; transfer bees kept in box hives to hives with movable combs, and thoroughly clean and purify discarded receptacles that have contained honey from a diseased colony. Explicit directions are given for treatment of the disease in the bulletin which is numbered 33 and can be had free on applying to the Publications Branch, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa.

Records recently unearthed show that a good chariot horse brought around £2,000 in Egypt at the time of the Romans.

The preparation of the surface to be painted is an important step, and should be carefully attended to if satisfactory results are to be obtained. Any handles, knobs, etc., should be removed from the furniture and treated separately. The surface must be made perfectly smooth by rubbing well with either pumice stone or glasspaper. It should then be given a thin coating of "filler"—a flat paint for use underneath the final coating.

The "filler" is bought as a thick paste, and needs to be thinned down with turpentine before being used. The surface must then be allowed to dry thoroughly, and afterwards rubbed down once more with paper glass, and remember, all this preliminary care is essential in order to obtain an absolutely flat surface.

If the final coating is of enamel, care must be taken to apply it very thinly, otherwise the result will be uneven. Two coatings of thin enamel, evenly applied, are much more satisfactory than one thicker coating.

If floral decorations are to be first executed, the whole surface should first be painted, and then the portion to which the design is to be applied should once more be rubbed with glasspaper, and the design lightly drawn in with pencil before the colors are applied. A thin coating of light varnish should be finally given. All sorts of things can be treated in this way. A very successful window-box, for example, a man may make by fixing an oblong box of the right dimensions on to an ordinary towel-rack and painting the whole stand black—with perhaps a thin line or border of some gay color. The box can then be filled with flowers and is a distinctive piece in your living room.

Wickerwork lends itself to color and decorating very well, and by using enamel very charming effects can be secured.



FLARED IN THE PARIS MANNER.

Semi-fitted to the figure, in accordance with new style tendencies, this princess frock developed in charmer is distinguished by its four set-on, semi-circular panels. With front fastening, it displays a contrasting vestee and trim collar buttoned close up to the throat with small buttons. If desired the versatile collar may be worn turned down and look equally well. The foundation of this dress is plain both in the front and back. The edges of the flared panels are finished and sewn to the dress just part of the way or all the way to the lower edge. No. 1264 is in sizes 34, 36, 38, 40, 42 and 44 inches bust. Size 36 bust requires 5 ½ yards 36-inch, or 3 ¾ yards 54-inch material. Price 20c.

The designs illustrated in our new Fashion Book are advance styles for the home dressmaker, and the woman or girl who desires to wear garments dependable for taste, simplicity and economy will find her desires fulfilled in our patterns. Price of the book 10 cents the copy.

HOW TO ORDER PATTERNS.

Write your name and address plainly, giving number and size of such patterns as you want. Enclose 20c in stamps or coin (coin preferred; wrap it carefully) for each number, and address your order to Pattern Dept., Wilson Publishing Co., 73 West Adelaide St., Toronto. Patterns sent by return mail.

Easy Stocking Mending.

Do you like mending stockings? I didn't until I devised the following method: Take the sock that requires mending and run a row of stitching around the worn part with a darning needle to prevent it fraying, then cut that part out. Cut the worn part of the toe of a worn-out sock to the exact size of the piece cut out of the first sock, and set it in place, sewing with an over-and-over stitch.

Socks and stockings mended in this way are just as comfortable as new ones and can be mended in a fraction of the time it would require to darn them.

Corn is attacked by 300 different insects.

An After-Christmas Tree Party.

What could be more than an After-Christmas Tree Party for the winter? If the winter has been a cold one, your guests may be getting scarce, and our little feathered friends and helpers will have to face hunger, as well as cold.

Of course, there ought to be a bird somewhere on the invitation. If you have a set of the little colored bird cards, cut these out and mount them on your invitation card. The invitation should read:

"Won't you please come To my After-Christmas tree? If you wish, bring some bread crumbs Or suet, for me."

Signed: Susy Sparrow, Christopher Chickadee, Billy Bluebird.

To be held at _____'s home (your own name here) December — from two o'clock to five.

Add a postscript to your invitation asking each child to find a story about birds—a true one—that he either read, or heard from some one who saw it happen.

Since the After-Christmas tree is specially for the birds, the lunch for the children need be no more elaborate than time and means suggest. Hot chocolate, little sandwiches of chicken (or ham or beef run through the grinder and then thickened slightly) and jumbles cut with a bird-shaped cookie-cutter will be ample. A small evergreen branch stuck upright in a flower-pot or support of any kind and decorated with a few of the trimmings from the real Christmas tree, or any bits of gay paper and ribbon, will make a nice centerpiece. A cute little bird's nest at each child's place may be made by lining a cup or a little box with cotton, or fine hay. And a handful of jelly beans will serve delightfully as bird eggs.

The tree for the birds may be arranged according to your surroundings and the number of children invited. Where there are but few children, and only a small back yard, the After-Christmas tree can be made beautifully of an old broom, to the head of which the children tie their decorations. Put the tree up by thrusting the handle end into a large snowball, and put it as far from the house or any bird-danger point as possible. Or if there is no snow, put the handle in a hole in a box, so the broom will stand upright.

If you have plenty of trees, and expect a number of small guests, have strings a foot long which they can tie round the decorations, and before the party decide upon which tree you will decorate. It should be a small, naked one with boughs within reach of the decorators.

Lumps of suet make beautiful decorations; so do heads of wheat or rye if you can obtain them, and bread crumbs, or a single cruller would be appreciated. Apple cores, too, will be very welcome. Scatter a few crumbs on the ground under the tree, and let the children watch from a convenient window. Unless there are no feathered folk in the neighborhood, you will find Susy Snowbird and all her friends eagerly responding, and flocking round their tree. Of course, the tree decorating should begin as soon as all the guests have gathered.

Tell them of the insect pests that would eat everything we plant, in spite of our continued fighting, if the little winged people did not have nests full of always-hungry babies who are eager for these insects. Then let the children in turn tell their bird stories. Now it will be time for "the party," and afterward—especially if Susy and her friends are enjoying their party—it will scarcely be necessary to have any regular entertainment planned. But, either in the beginning, or else before the party is over, be sure to tell the children of how the people in Norway always gave the dear birds a Christmas tree, by tying a sheaf of wheat to a great pole and erecting it in the barnyard.

Care of Thermos Bottle.

The care of the cork of a thermos bottle which is used constantly for cocoa, milk or soups is a matter of importance, for the pores of the cork absorb and retain the liquids. Ordinary sealding or boiling is of little use, for the cork refuses to remain immersed.

To solve the difficulty take a small glass jar with a screw cover (a pimento cheese jar, for instance), just a little larger than the cork. Fill it with a solution of soda or of powdered soap and put to cork to soak in it. Screw on the top and allow it to stand for an hour or more. After removal rinse the cork thoroughly before replacing it in the thermos bottle.

If the thermos bottle itself is filled after washing with a solution of soda and water and allowed to stand thus overnight, it will keep sweet and clean.

Potato Chowder is Good.

Pare four large potatoes and cut them into neat cubes; chop fine a large onion and a tablespoonful of parsley. Arrange the potatoes, onion and parsley in layers in a kettle and pour a pint of water over them. Cover closely and cook until the potatoes are tender. Meantime cook to a paste a tablespoonful of butter and one of flour; then pour a pint and a half of rich milk which has been brought almost to the boiling point over the paste, stirring constantly till thick, then add to the chowder. Season nicely and serve at once, sprinkling with finely chopped parsley.

SS-LESSON

January 12. Class New Britain and New York City. SS-LESSON. Subject: The Kingdom of God which cometh. The story of the Kingdom of God.

ANALYSIS.

I. THREE CALLED, 35-42.

II. TWO MORE CALLED, 43-51.

INTRODUCTION.—Jesus had a passion for disciples. The choice and training of these men formed a large part of his ministry. The success that followed his efforts is proof of his greatness. Insignificant men do not have a following. Jesus was a great leader, drawing people by the fascination of his personality. He was also able to read character and tell what was in men, while nothing reveals his discernment more clearly than his devotion to those disciples who came to join his kingdom. The first call of the first few disciples is the call of the five. It is the narrative of one who has been present himself and who vividly recalls the important scenes. The chapter is also of great value, as is John's Gospel generally, to make the Synoptic account more intelligible. The apparent absence of preparation for the incident of Matt. 4: 25 is explained by the fact here narrated, that these men had seen Jesus at an earlier time in Judea.

I. THREE CALLED, 35-42.

These men were disciples of John the Baptist and they had come from Galilee to the Jordan because of the deep impression made on them by this religious movement. They were seekers after truth. Their teacher had proclaimed the coming of the Messiah, and had represented him as a fan and sword and fire, but when Jesus appears, the Baptist sees him to be the "Lamb of God." Two of these disciples hear what their Master has said of Jesus and they follow him.

V. 37. Two disciples followed. One of these is unnamed, but most likely supply the name of John, the author of the Gospel. He keeps himself in the background and only refers to himself indirectly as "the disciple whom Jesus loved." 13:33; 19:35; 20:2, 21; 21:7. John dwells on the details of this great day. It meant so much to him. This was the first day he saw his Lord. His memory recalls everything connected with that event. The effect that Jesus produced on John was instantaneous. It was love at first sight. He came and abode that day, and also all the rest of his life. They went to see where he dwelt, but they forgot all about that in the wonder of this man who could reveal to them all the secrets of life, of God, and of heaven. They had found the Christ.

V. 40. One of the two . . . was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother becomes less known to the later church. Here is the agent in calling his brother. V. 41. He first findeth. This may mean that while John went in search of his brother James, Andrew was the first to find his brother Peter. Andrew is again mentioned in ch. 6:9 in the Feeding of the Five Thousand, and in ch. 12:22 where he is associated with Philip in bringing the Greeks to Jesus, the first fruits of the Gentile world. Andrew was a choice missionary spirit to whom people came for counsel, a much trusted friend always included in the first division of the twelve, Mark 3:18.

V. 42. Simeon . . . Cephas. This man was to be the most famous of the group. His pre-eminence is noted from the earliest days. Jesus gives him the new name of Cephas, the Aramic equivalent of the Greek, "Peter a rock." In the early church he is commonly called Peter. His character was impulsive, and he likely longed for the strength that could resist temptation. Jesus promises him that of which he had so often dreamt; and coming years fulfilled the promise. Peter became the rock-man of the Church.

II. TWO MORE CALLED, 43-51.

V. 43. Jesus . . . findeth Philip. In this case Jesus himself seeks a disciple. He is again mentioned in ch. 6:5; 12:21; 14:8, and was a matter-of-fact man, not able to make any great venture of faith. He was inclined to rely on the judgments of others and did not trust himself. Therefore, Jesus seeks him out. Tradition says he was the follower who asked to be allowed to go and bury his father. However, he had the root of the matter in him, and he immediately goes off to call his friend. All he will say is "Come and see," but that is enough.

V. 45. Nathanael. One of the twelve also called Bartholomew, and usually mentioned along with Philip. He belonged to Cana and exhibited the local prejudice of the villager. "Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth?" a rival to Cana, vs. 47, 48. Jesus meets this man with a word of praise and appreciation that surpasses him. An Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile! Jesus did not mean that he had no fault, but that he was absolutely honest and pure in his purposes, like Jacob after his conversion (Gen. 28:28), one of the finest products of Judaism. These words made a deep impression on Nathanael and showed him that Jesus could read the deep thoughts of his heart, and one who could do this must be divine. Hence, the confession of v. 49, containing the highest title that could be given to Jesus goes back to the Old Testament story of Jacob at Bethel who dreamt that there was a golden ladder with angels inviting him, Gen. 28:12. How much Jesus used the Scriptures! Jesus, who has solved the perplexities which Nathanael had faced under the fig-tree will bring him to a place where the flood of heavenly light will make all the future which is now dark as clear as day.

V. 51. The Son of man. This is the remarkable self-consciousness of Jesus who claims to be the ladder between earth and heaven, the Mediator who brings us to God.

This does John describe those memorable hours when Jesus received his first disciples, when these men

CUTTING DOWN THE FARM "OVERHEAD"

BY F. C. CHASE

Of late years we have been giving more thought and study to the farm overhead costs in our farm methods, and we have been able to reduce them a great deal. We began by classifying the amounts that we put back into the farm each year, that couldn't be directly charged up to crops or stock. For instance, what we spent for fertilizer was not counted, as that would be charged against the crops. But there were the sums we spent for repairing or replacing fences, opening up inactive drains, repairing farm buildings, insurance costs, and all those little costs that come along each year to keep the equipment in shape.

When we began our figuring, we found that our farm of 140 acres had 980 rods of line fences. Half of this had to be built and maintained by us, thus making 440 rods of line fence. A highway cut through our farm, thereby adding 160 rods of highway fence. Our interior fences amounted to 560 rods. This made a total of 1,160 rods of fence that we had to maintain. This may seem like a lot of fence for a 140-acre farm—and I'll admit we were a bit dumbfounded when we figured it up for the first time—but I think most farmers will be surprised when they sit down and figure the total investment they have in fences.

A dollar a rod is a conservative estimate of the cost of fence, counting anchor posts, etc., and many farmers place it much higher, but at that low figure, we had \$1,160 invested in fences of various kinds.

LESS MONEY IN FENCES.

Where land is pastured and fences are exposed to the ravages of stock, ten years is a pretty good life for a fence. But assuming that a fence lasted an average of ten years, that meant that we had an annual fence-replacement cost of \$116.

We began by rearranging our fields, making them larger and thereby re-

took his yoke upon them and learned of him. This is the birthday of the church. "The kingdom is now at hand. Man has begun to believe."

Cultivation of Alfalfa.

The most profitable farm crop on the Experimental Farm is undoubtedly alfalfa, remarks the Dominion Field Husbandman, who in his annual report tells of the methods pursued there in sowing and cultivation. It has done well both on sandy soil and heavy clay. Good natural drainage is necessary for success with alfalfa, says Mr. E. S. Hopkins, the Husbandman. The soil should not be acid or sour. The most economical method of trying this crop is to include a few pounds of the alfalfa seed along with the regular hay mixture. Only Canadian-grown alfalfa seed should be used, as the crop resulting from seed produced in southern countries will be killed out in severe winters. On land that has not grown alfalfa or sweet clover previously the alfalfa seed should be inoculated. Care should be taken to clean the field of weeds, especially couch grass, before seeding. If it is intended to leave a field in alfalfa for a number of years, which has not previously grown this crop, continues Mr. Hopkins, it would be wise to grow on it a mixed hay crop, including alfalfa, first and then, at some later period, seed to alfalfa. In any case it is wise to add a few pounds of timothy seed to fill in any low spots in the field in which the alfalfa might get killed. Five pounds of timothy to fifteen pounds of alfalfa will serve. While the choice is not important as a rule barley is preferable as a nurse crops to oats or wheat. At the Experimental Farm in Ottawa it is customary to seed down with oats.

Killing and Dressing Turkeys.

Dress your turkeys before sending to market. This is the advice given by the Poultry Division of the Dominion Experimental Farms. Turkeys are easily dressed because of their thin coat of feathers. Before killing, advises Mr. Taylor of the Division in his bulletin on Turkey management, starve the birds twenty-four hours, during which time they should be confined to a pen and given all the fresh water they will drink. This improves the flavor of the flesh and cleans the intestines. Execution, best results from bleeding in the throat, the sticking being done through the mouth. By pushing the knife up through the roof of the mouth and giving it one turn, plucking is made much easier. A can should be suspended from the beak to catch the blood. The flight wing feathers and the tail feathers may be left on as well as the head and feet and the birds left undrawn. Dressed birds, says Mr. Taylor, should be thoroughly cooled before being packed. Packing may be done in barrels or boxes, the birds being arranged firmly to prevent movement while in transit.

Machine Stitching.

When making a coat or any garment which I wish to give a tailored appearance, I loosen the shuttle screw of the sewing machine slightly. Then fill the bobbin with a rope silk and thread the needle with a bottom thread. I then make several rows of stitching around the collar and cuffs or any other place where a fancy stitching may be used. This resembles the tailor's stitching and removes the home-made look from a garment. A. M.

Care of Turkeys in Winter.

Turkeys should not be inbred. Mr. A. G. Taylor of the Poultry Division, Dominion Experimental Farms, says in his bulletin on "The Care and Management of Turkeys" that in mating the males should be unrelated to the females. Well matured birds of good constitution and vigor should be chosen for breeding. Small birds should not be retained as progenitors, but it is not necessary that the largest should be chosen. Good bone is a necessity. Breeding turkeys, says Mr. Taylor, should not be confined to houses during the winter, but should be allowed to roam during the day. At night the only shelter required is a straw barn or closed shed. A building that will keep the snow being suitable for breeding turkeys. Limited rations, as on other poultry, are necessary to keep the birds in good condition. Hard grains are preferable to soft parts of oats, wheat and buckwheat are suitable during the cold months, but in spring the buckwheat should be discontinued. Once daily in the winter is often enough to feed. The grain should be scattered in a litter (the threshing floor in the barn is a good place) and the birds allowed some exercise in scratching for it. Grit and oyster shell should be placed where the turkeys can help themselves. Clean water should be provided once a day. Turkeys should be wintered where they are expected to lay in the spring.

Clean Battery Tops.

It is a good plan to take the storage battery out of the car occasionally, or whenever its top assumes a wet or moist appearance. Then, after seeing that the vent plugs are tight, turn a hose on it and wash it off thoroughly. This removes the acid that seeps out of all batteries and attacks terminals and battery box.

Corroded terminals can be quickly cleaned with ordinary baking soda or saleratus dissolved in water. However, use care that none of this solution gets inside the battery. A coat of paint applied after the battery box is clean and dry will make it last longer.

Gay Place Cards.

I wished to have something new in place cards for a family dinner. So I bought some of the common honey cakes covered with white icing and wrote the names on them with a toothpick dipped in candy color. Everyone seemed pleased with the novelty. E. J. H.

Large numbers of persons are leaving the country for the city all the time. This is very much as it should be. If all the boys and girls growing up in the country should stay there we should have to spit our farms in two almost every generation, which would be the surest way in the world to make peasants of our farmers.

Walk your corn to market.

No one should fear a decline in our rural population. The fewer farmers there are the more profit there will be for those who remain, and the more profit there is in farming the more competent farmers there will be.

Our brains are capable, if properly trained, of retaining any number of different vocabularies, although some persons have a greater facility for acquiring foreign languages than others.