

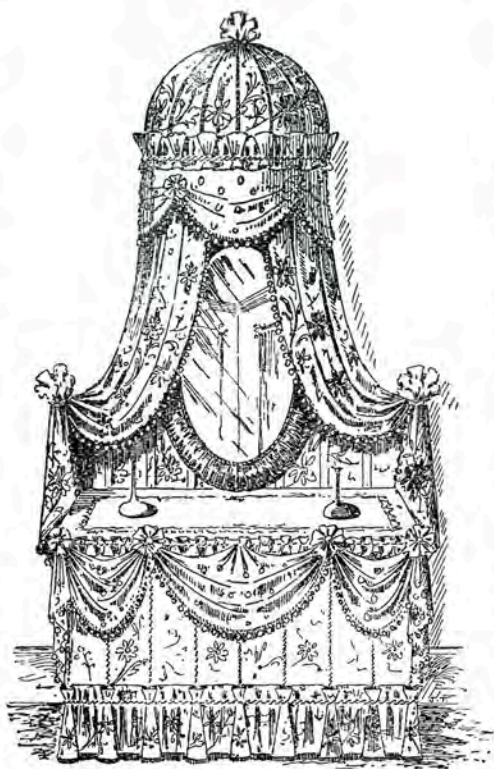
DRESSING-TABLES FOR GIRLS' ROOMS

By James Thomson

We are now having a revival of the dressing-table of our grandmothers' days. In the shops we are confronted with them in every conceivable form and manner of finish. In the days of Louis Quatorze and Quinze, onward to the time of the French Revolution and beyond, the toilet-table was an object of especial consideration to the grand dames of the brilliant French court, the best talent in the land being drawn upon to meet the demands of the frivolous and much-bepowdered beauties of those days. In these days, when we have so great a variety of draperies from which to choose, and the art of drapery is so well understood, it is small wonder that so many girls are determined to have these pretty dressing-tables as part of their bedroom furnishing. With the dainty figured mulls, the English art muslins, the soft India silks and the aid of a skilled carpenter in preparing the frame, one of these tables may be the possession of any girl who has sufficient energy to carry out any one of the designs suggested on this page.

THE DUCHESSE TABLE

A FORM of table that may be developed with any of these materials is that known as the "Duchesse." It is one that in its various shapes and modifications appeals to those having a taste and inclination for home cabinet-making and decorating. The frames are made of pine or poplar, after which they are draped with cretonne or dotted Swiss muslin, the more



DUCHESSE DRESSING-TABLE (Illus. No. 2)

MORE ELABORATE TABLES

THE more elaborate of these toilet-tables are furnished with domes, as shown in Illustration No. 2, and are very handsome. The scheme represented in Illustration No. 1, which shows the table completely finished, is simple in detail. Any ordinary oblong table, supplemented with two back braces and mirror, will provide the skeleton, on which may be fashioned an artistic triumph in silk, muslin, Madras, in any one of the soft quiet colors, or cretonne. We are not confined, as our grandmothers were, to white muslin and glazed cambric in pink or blue. In selecting a color for one of these tables care must be taken that it shall harmonize with the paper and carpet. Harmony should be the key-note of a girl's room, not contrast.

Illustration No. 2 represents a table of a more ornate character, and is drawn to represent the upholstery and drapery in cretonne. In draping a piece of furniture with this material, however, one need not look for that lightness and delicacy of line obtainable by the use of the thin goods. However, what one loses in this respect is more than counterbalanced by the feast of color made possible by the use of cretonne.

THE MATERIALS REQUIRED

ABOUT sixteen yards of muslin or any fifty-inch material, eight yards of silesia, thirteen yards of fringe or other edge trimming, twelve yards ribbon, one and a half yards thick canton flannel, with which to pad the table top under the silesia and muslin, will be required. Any mirror frame of suitable size will answer and may be round, square or oblong, and covered or showing the wood, as one may desire. Those finished with a box-plaiting of muslin, silk or ribbon are the most suitable. The carpenter part of the work may be easily executed by any one having the knack of using the hammer and saw, or the work may be intrusted to the professional worker in wood, who should be furnished with a sketch of the article and also given the required dimensions.

A WHITE DRESSING-TABLE

A VERY pretty toilet-table seen recently at one of our large shops, and intended for a young girl's room, was finished entirely in white, the entire frame being covered with double-faced white canton flannel. The mirror was a large square one. Across the top was a broad band of finely-plaited dotted Swiss muslin, caught at each corner with rosettes of white gros-grain ribbon. The side draperies were trimmed with narrow ruffles of the muslin, and the lower part with the muslin laid in large box-plaits, finished at the upper edge with a quilling of ribbon. Over the top of the table was a cover of the muslin lined with white silk and finished with five rows of narrow white ribbon. This was made as a sachet, and perfumed with orris powder. The pincushion which was to accompany this table was a large one of white silk and muslin, trimmed with tiny lace-trimmed ruffles.

In making these tables the under side of the canopy should be lined before being put in place; the skirt drapery should be laid in well-defined plaits and fastened securely to the table before the drapery is attached. It is well, also, in addition to having the frame of the dressing-table made secure, to arrange the drapery so that it may be easily removed, as nothing can be more unsuitable for a dainty maiden's room than anything which is in any degree soiled.

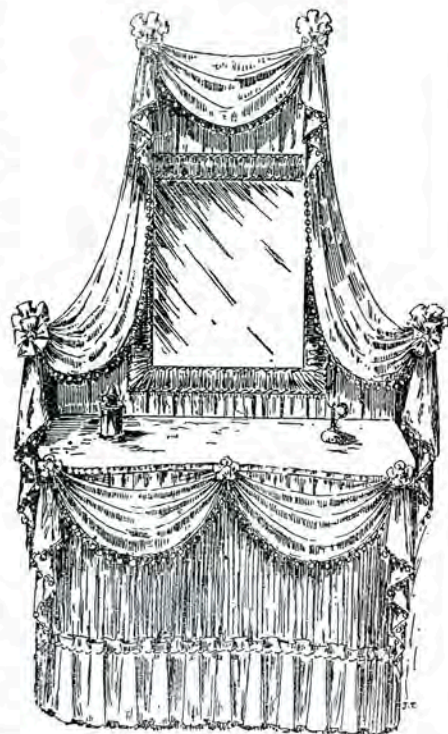
TEXTURE OF DRAPERY

NOTHING gladdens a cheerless apartment so cheaply and well as a dainty cretonne. One can warm or cool a room by the color chosen; therefore, for rooms with a northerly exposure, the warm tints, such as the yellows and reds and russet olives, should be chosen, reserving the blues and grays for the rooms in which the sun shines. Cretonnes may now be purchased in all the desirable colors at prices ranging from fifteen cents to two dollars a yard, the best of them having a texture of sateen or rep; the color scheme running the gamut from the most delicate tones to the most brilliant tints. Some of the more striking designs show large figures of peonies, chrysanthemums and lilies.

For the festoons in Illustration No. 3 it may be advisable to employ some pretty pattern in India silk, thus securing a lighter and more graceful effect, or the entire table may be covered with the thinner material. Satisfactory effects may be obtained at a merely nominal cost by utilizing the printed cotton imitations of the silk for the purpose. Pretty designs can be had in these materials as low as fifteen cents a yard.

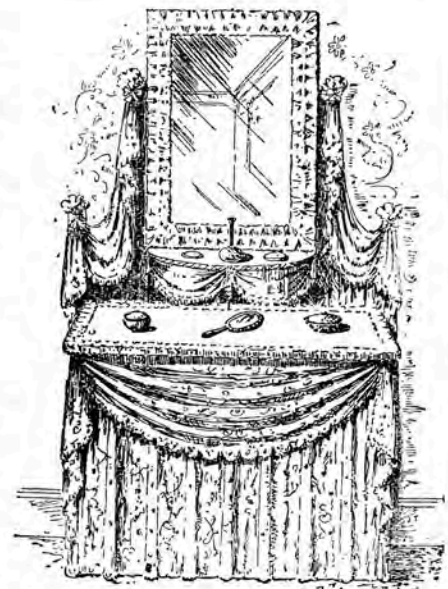
DESIGN IN CHEESE-CLOTH

A VERY simple and effective table is shown in Illustration No. 4. This was gotten up in cheese-cloth, the lines being accentuated by the use of a dainty ball fringing of red and white, the drapery being caught up and fastened with red ribbon bows, the edge of the table having a finish of ribbon box-plaiting. Cheese-cloth comes in so many and such dainty hues that there ought to be little difficulty in arranging with it an attractive dressing-table in almost any

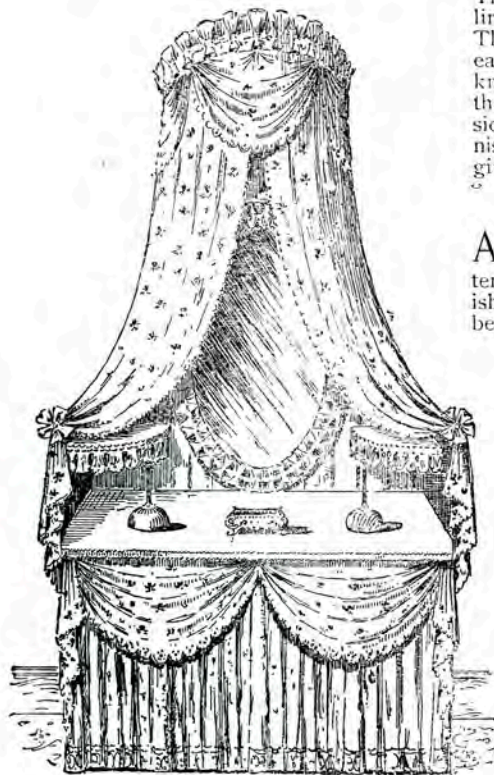


SIMPLE AND EFFECTIVE DESIGN (Illus. No. 4)

scheme of color. The paler shades of pink, blue and yellow, or the cream white trimmed with ball fringe and bows of soft silk ribbon, will make the table a place of all others for the many dainty silver and china articles which the girl of to-day is apt to own, and which will shine reflected in the mirror which is draped above them. Pretty seats are made to be used with these tables; they are the quaint, old-fashioned four-legged stools of either bird's-eye maple, cherry, mahogany, light oak or walnut, with seats of the whitest cane; a silken cushion filled with down is their accompaniment.



ARTISTIC TOILET-TABLE (Illus. No. 1)



DEVELOPED IN INDIA SILK (Illus. No. 3)

ornate of the latter being trimmed with lace. Should the muslin be employed it is essential that a colored lining or background should be used. The inner side of canopy and back may be trimmed with a different material from that used for the curtains.