

a pen or pencil, and this being satisfactorily accomplished, he or she can be delighted with a paint brush and color to fill up the outlined pattern.

"Any child soon learns this simple process. I gave the children two lessons of two hours each, every week, and kept them for the first year working on paper, after that they were allowed to try their hands on wood, and had made some ornaments, that they could give to relations and friends as their 'very work.'

"We often made use of heraldic designs, monograms and the like, filling them up with color, sometimes even bronze. Many a rainy day or wet holiday has been delightfully

spent in this occupation, which is a source of real pleasure to my children, and for my own part I can assure my readers, that, in thus teaching them, I was cultivating my own sense of the beautiful, and was learning while teaching.

"Some of the children got on so quickly we had to set about inventing new outlets for their ingenuity, and my courage in this respect advanced with the demands made upon it. If mothers and teachers will try to follow my advice they will soon find out for themselves what a pleasure it is to encourage latent talent, not only in the little ones under their care but also in their own minds."

A BOY'S ROOM.

HARRIET FRANCENE CROCKER.

WE all know the power of influence which our rooms exert over us. Who has not been conscious of an uncomfortable feeling when sitting in an untidy, disorderly room, and who is there that does not know the sense of peace and satisfaction which is ours when our surroundings are pleasant and orderly?

There are minds so sensitive that a curtain awry, a bit of paper on the floor, or the corner of a rug turned over will produce a feeling almost akin to pain.

Fortunately such abnormally sensitive persons are greatly in the minority. But we are inclined often to undervalue how great an influence is constantly exerted over us by the rooms in which we live.

The boy's room should be as pleasant, as pretty and as comfortable as sister's. Why not? Boys appreciate pretty things more than we think. Not long since I heard a boy say, "Mother, why can't I have pillow-shams on my bed, too?" He got them. To be sure, boys are so essentially different from girls that the hundred and one little knick-knacks so dear to a girl's heart, are not usually found in their rooms, but a dainty bit of decoration here and there is most assuredly pleasing to a boy's eye and taste.

Too often, alas, in many homes the boy's

room is the least pleasant and comfortable in the whole house. The busy housewife thinks perhaps, "Oh, anything will do for Harry, but Jennie must have a pretty room because she's a girl, and a pretty room means so much to a girl!" It does, good mother, mean a great deal to your girl, but it means a great deal to your boy as well,—more than you dream. Somehow it never seems necessary to re-paper and re-paint and otherwise freshen up the boy's room as it does the girl's.

Possibly it seems as though it were useless since the boy occupies his room so very little, comparatively; but has it ever occurred to you, mothers and sisters that your boy might grow to spend his evenings at home instead of on the street, if he had a pleasant little room of his own in which to read and study and entertain his boy-friends? I believe this would be the case in many instances.

The boy should early be taught habits of careful neatness and order about his room and should be made to feel such a pride in it that he would be careful about keeping it in order. Many boys take the entire care of their rooms, even to making their bed, sweeping and dusting. Even if he does not do this he can greatly lesson mother's and sister's work by keeping "picked up."

On rising in the morning he should never

fail to turn the bed-clothing down over the foot-board to air, and open wide the windows. If possible let the boy choose the color and furniture of his room for himself. Let everything be substantial and not too crowded; plenty of room is what the growing boy requires.

Do not banish to the attic or wood-shed those things so dear to your boy's pleasure-loving heart, but which may seem to the bustling mother or particular sister mere "rubbish." Those very things give character to the room and proclaim it to be the especial sanctum of a real, live, growing boy, the average young America. Fishing-rods and tackle are as ornamental in the eyes of the boy as dainty bric-à-brac is to the girls. Skates and polo-sticks, bow and arrows, tennis racquet and ball, gun and powder-horn, base-ball bat and cap and even the boy's jig-saw, if he possesses one, are not out of place in a boy's room. They are as essential to his happiness as the girl's airy trifles of lace and ribbon, her Japanese fans and umbrellas and all the really useless but dainty accessories of her room are to hers.

Encourage the boy to make for himself pieces of furniture, a little table, a book-case, a towel-rack, a specimen cabinet or whatever else he can manufacture. Ornamental scroll-sawed brackets of his own work will be useful and pretty receptacles for photographs of his friends.

Speaking of photographs, mothers, allow me to digress a little. Guard against the cigarette pictures which are so perniciously prevalent now among the young of both sexes. Teach your boy that his room is too good a place for anything that is impure and that his hands are too clean for handling these objectionable photographs. Make him feel that first of all he must cultivate absolute purity, or *true* manhood will not be his inheritance, that his influence and his example will be the means of helping other boys to live purer, better, healthier lives.

Make his room a means of refinement and culture. Do not allow anything there which will undo the work of your kind and unreserved teaching. The picture upon which he opens his eyes every morning cannot help having an influence over him. Let that picture be *good*, whatever it be, engraving, painting, chromo, or wood-cut.

If there is any disabled chair or table in the house do not shuffle it off into the boy's room to get rid of it. He has as much right to nice furniture as that apple-blossom of a girl, and will appreciate it fully as much.

Let him make for himself a little cabinet for curiosities and help him to make a collection of specimens, then notice how proudly he exhibits it to his boy friends.

Help him to fill his little bookcase with the best of reading. Encourage him to spend his pocket-money for books instead of useless and harmful things. Make him see the importance of this and if he be at all given to reading he will himself desire to be constantly increasing his library. Above all, cultivate in him a refined taste in reading. Tell him that at the longest, life is too short to waste over *some* books and that really good and elevating books are as interesting as the tale of impossible adventure.

Give to the boy's room the cosey home-air so much loved by a genuine boy. Do not neglect the "mother-touch" which adds so much to anything already dear. Let him have a large round table with a cherry red cover (boy's like red) for his lamp and upon which to write. Perhaps he will want his hammock stretched across one corner of his room. Why not let him have it? You will admit that it gives the room a certain artistic touch and is vastly comfortable.

Do not encumber his floor with rugs to be always tripping over. Instead of carpet, straw-matting is pretty and inexpensive and can easily be renewed. A bouquet of flowers on the table or bureau is a graceful addition and is not lost upon the boy.

The sister's hand can give many delicate touches to the arrangement of the room. Do it, dear girls, make your brothers feel and know that you are really interested in them and their belongings and it will do them good.

Make the boy's room such a place of rest and comfort that he will want to stay in it evenings.

Make it such an elevating and refining agent that he will all unconsciously grow up to be a better man for having had such a room.

Do not object to his entertaining his school fellows and friends in his own room. Keep plenty of games always ready to amuse them

with. Make them feel welcome and thereby you will help other mother's boys as well as your own.

If your boy is musically inclined, let him practice in his room although the harmony he makes may not be soul-inspiring. If he takes comfort in it, let him manipulate his battered old accordeon to his heart's content. Let him play "Home, sweet home" as often as he likes on his harmonica. Do not refuse him the joy of hardening his finger-tips on his banjo, and, yes, even let him practice on his violin. These afflictions can be borne with martyr-like resignation if it will do your

boy good or keep him from worse things. We cannot do too much for the boys.

We must sympathize with them in all their boyish pursuits and pleasures, and keep their confidence.

Let us never grow too old for our boys, O mothers and sisters, but look for the best that is in them and expect it of them. Faith in our boys will help them to accomplish even what we desire. Once let a boy know that you believe he can do a thing, and he is almost sure to do it.

Let us believe in them more and more and gradually they will approach our ideal.

THE COSEY CORNER.

MINNIE R. RAMSEY.

IN these days of lavish flower-wearing, and a delightful indulgence it is, — perhaps a few words on the care and preservation of flowers may not be unwelcome. Flowers when worn on the person, are observed to wither much quicker for some than for others; a fact possibly owing to the difference in quantity of animal heat. Some persons are so much warmer than others; some are nearly always inclined to be chilly. It is worth your while to notice, and find out whether or not you are a preservative person. You may give the flowers just the same care and attention as another wearer does, and yet for you they will die.

For the unfortunates who cannot wear fresh looking flowers for one hour, here is a help, said to be unfailing. Surround the stems in powdered alum and charcoal, moistened and wrapped in a piece of paraffine paper. When the bunch is fastened in belt or corsage, this will not show. Try it.

If a teaspoonful of powdered charcoal be put into the bowl of water in which you place fresh flowers they will keep several days, if the stems are cut a little each day. Through the ends of these, the flowers receive their nourishment, and of course they must be kept open to the moisture. I once received a box of rosebuds which had traveled seven hundred miles, and yet when opened they were as crisply fresh as when cut, and this in warm

weather too. The end of each stem had been inserted in a small cube of potato, and had gone on drawing its nourishment from this instead of from the plant it had left.

The carnation is a sturdy flower and will outwear most any other. Violets and heliotrope soon fade. For some persons hyacinths and lilies-of-the-valley wear equally well with roses.

For lovers of perfumes, there is a little novelty called the *cassollette*, a small round ivory box, perforated in the old fashioned *vinaiquette* style and filled with perfume. It is carried in the pocket, and the scent is supposed to pervade the whole person. There are also scent-pencils, fitted in silver, worn on the *châtelaine*. The pencil is a solid piece of perfume, and where it is rubbed on the hands or dress the dainty odor remains.

Here is a way in which to effectually restore images or carvings of ivory which may have become yellow from age. Leave it to steep in cold water for two or three days. After taking it out, brush briskly with lemon juice, which will leave it quite white. The polish will now be gone; then take putty and water and rub thoroughly, you will in a short time find the polish returned.

So much for eliminating a yellow tint; now a word as to restoring it, this time to "cream" curtains, which have become a lifeless white from washing. Put an ounce of druggist's