

we find it hard to describe in a way that will be easily understood.

Notice what was said to "A. P." in the December number, as to purity of color and the best way of obtaining it. The coloring of these copies is too dull throughout. One of the chief beauties of this method is the clear, brilliant tones which may be obtained.

These sickly tints and muddy greens are the outcome of an imperfect knowledge as to the proper mixing and application of color.

We hope to be able to give in future numbers of the Magazine such thoroughly practical instruction in this branch of work as will enable our readers to overcome these difficulties.

LITTLE HOMES.

RUTH HUBBARD.

HOW many young people all over our land are waiting indefinitely for some unheard of "piece of luck" to befall them, before uniting their fortunes or want of fortune together, and making a home or their own. Even those who have precipitated matrimony linger in boarding houses, because they think housekeeping such an expensive luxury. To all such we would advise the haunting of furniture stores for a few days for prices, ideas, etc.; also the close reading of all the HOME MAGAZINES obtainable. We think, after such a careful study, they will conclude there is a less expensive way of setting up their household gods than their imagination deemed necessary. Never was there a time when young people could so easily begin life in a humble way, and with so much comfort.

As often has been remarked, it is not the most elegant and elaborate house that contains the sweetest and most happy home. A good old housekeeper told her story of a beginning made almost fifty years ago. After she was married, in 1840, she and her husband boarded in the city until his savings amounted to five hundred dollars. This was to provide their future home; and sure enough, they bought a little place consisting of a bit of carpenter's shop, with a trifle of land, in a busy village on the sea-coast. The shop was converted into a dwelling, and never, said the old lady, were they happier than the bright day so many years ago, when she and her husband drove to their first home with their small stock of household goods, and set up housekeeping in the little "dry goods box." Years have rolled by since, and

children's children love to hear the story of the little home with its "turned-up" bedstead, which was quite as convenient as its more elegant successor, the "folding-bed." If one lives in the city, comfortable little flats of five or six rooms can be obtained at a moderate rental. In the country cosy cottages are being built all over the land, and what could make a prettier home than one of these little houses. Therefore, the rest seems easy to procure; it must be in the furnishing that bothers our would-be housekeepers.

Begin with the kitchen and dining-room, for they are the most important, as it seems essential that people must eat. If in the city there will probably be a stationary range; but if not, a small cooking stove will cost ten or twelve dollars, four dollars extra getting the tea-kettle, pots, frying-pan, broiler, etc., that go with it. A nest of boxes, some tins, two heavy cups and saucers, and a few other cooking utensils, are also necessary. Then there is a kitchen table and two wooden chairs, three dollars. Oil-cloth for the floor, for we have found by experience it is better for a kitchen than a bare floor. For no matter how much cleaning one does, grease spots are sure to get on the wood, and once there remain to stay till the wood is worn away; so we advise oil-cloth, with one or two rag rugs where the most wear comes. Now the kitchen is provided for in a very small way, but quite sufficient for a beginning; and as time goes on different articles can be added when necessary.

The dining room now claims attention, and the first thing to settle is the crockery. There

can be bought an entire set of brown patterned porcelain as low as thirteen and a half dollars. It is a very easy thing to do to buy one of these sets, and at one purchase provide all that is needful; but a much better way is to study just what is necessary, and buy that first; and then, if there is money to spare, get a few pieces of pretty ware. There will be a half dozen plates for each meal, and the same numbers each of tea and coffee cups and saucers, two pitchers, three each of meat and vegetable dishes. With this modest outlay one could certainly afford to get a Wedgewood sugar bowl and teapot, with bread plates to match. This ware is both pretty and very durable, and is in much better taste than the coarse majolica ware that did not always show the most artistic coloring. Two low preserve dishes, and a half dozen individual ones, are necessary, as well as the little butter pats. Pretty salt and pepper shakers are obtainable for twelve cents each, and do away with the lofty structure of a caster. A table set with such an outfit will always present a more attractive appearance than one which has an all one-patterned set to decorate it. For knives and forks, it is much better economy to get the triple plate, which is just as reasonable as the steel, and much less trouble in caring for. It is to be hoped the young couple will have had plenty of spoons provided by considerate friends; indeed, we trust that the gifts which have been or are to be made are sensible, and will help out our scheme of getting the young people into a little home in the first days of their happiness.

Table linen is the first consideration, after the crockery and glass ware have been procured. This will not cost so much, when one considers three table cloths enough to begin

with. One nice and two ordinary ones, with a half dozen napkins, are all one needs, besides a dozen towels, and four cup linens. This, it is hoped, will be the commencement of a dainty linen closet, which the young housekeeper will take much pride in, adding thereto as is necessary and can be afforded. Table cloths keep clean longer, and look better, if very slightly starched in doing up. An extension table will cost about ten dollars, and chairs about the same. Cherry is much used for dining rooms at present, and if the furniture is of that, the floor will be handsome stained to match; always remembering to go over the floor first with a preparation of wood filling, this insures a smooth surface. The ingrain dining squares are both pretty and reasonable, coming as low as six and a half dollars; so that there is a way of covering the floor at a moderate outlay. A buffet can be made of an old-fashioned, wide wash-stand. This can be stained cherry as well, and have a set of shelves, each narrower than the one above it. Back of these shelves can be stretched a bright canvas or holland, which has had a delicate shaded background painted upon it. If painting is out of the question, felt cloth will do, and if bright, will show up the china and glass quite as well. However, we trust our young housekeeper can paint; if she does not, success will surely come, if she follows out Miss CLARKSON'S lucid directions. A needle and brush in the hands of an ingenious woman work wonderful results in the making beautiful a home, which we hope will prove a little paradise on earth for the two who will work in it hand in hand, perhaps having to bear many privations, but always feeling that in their little home is a safe and happy refuge from the world and its strifes.

[To be continued.]

FOR THE COMPLEXION. — The white of an egg beaten with five grammes of alum in five grammes of sweet almond oil, applied as a paste on retiring, prevents wrinkles, keeps the flesh from becoming flabby, and is strengthening and softening to the skin. To

swallow the white of an egg, fasting, is likewise a wonderful medicine to make the skin white and smooth. There is no danger in this as there is in arsenic, and it may be discontinued at any time without any evil effect on the health.

— Dress.

and those in which to envelope boiled corn on the cob, rolls, etc., as well as doilies to place under vegetable dishes, sauce boats, etc., are made of plain linen, fringed or hemmed, as fancy may dictate. These may be daintily embroidered in outline designs suggestive of the use to which each is applied. Reference to the catalogue advertised in our columns, will suggest appropriate ones, with directions for procuring them with all necessary material. This will furnish dainty and pleasant employment for the little fingers which are thus learning the easiest way through the more practical work of "by-and-by."

Table mats may be crocheted of white German cord, procurable in the same way. While table napery and cotton sheets, pillow cases, etc., are plainly hemmed by hand, "hemstitched" hems are seen on the finest

bed linen, towels, and toilet belongings. Dainty pillow shams are embroidered in designs of lotus, poppies, hops, or almost anything suggestive of sleep. The words appropriate are wrought in old English or German. A heavy linen lace is sometimes added.

The fashion of shop-made articles of feminine underwear has had its day, and the better class of ladies prefer that this work shall be done at home—fells and hems being done by hand—with no adornment save a simple garniture of fine ruffle, embroidery, or lace. This necessitates a supply of white goods, and the season affords the best opportunity we shall have for manufacturing the necessary garments.

Sham towels for the rack may be daintily embroidered with the initials of the owner. These few words are simply suggestive of the wider field.

LITTLE HOMES.

RUTH HUBBARD.

IN the last article, the kitchen and dining-room were provided for, excepting the curtains for the latter. These are better made of colored madras, and hung from poles. If the room is not well lighted, it is best to dispense entirely with curtains, and have only the necessary shades. A gloomy dining-room is to be avoided. Some who wish to economize in the provision of shades, get stout bleached muslin, and make them, using the "Hartshorn" roller. It is better economy, however, to get the colored shades of a dealer, for white ones soil quickly, and after they are once laundered, they never hang so nicely.

We now come to the third room, which we will not call the drawing-room, neither parlor nor library, for it will have to do duty for all three; therefore we shall call it by the good old-fashioned name of "sitting-room." The greatest expense is in the carpet; but now that carpets are so reasonable, it is not such a very great outlay. A good quality of tapestry is sold as low as sixty-five cents a yard. If a small, medium-colored pattern is

chosen, and care is taken of it, the carpet will last some years. If it is wiped with borax water after being swept, the colors will be brightened, and the carpet freshened like new. Rugs are next in order: not absolutely necessary, but a great addition to the furnishing, and a saving in wear to the carpet.

Smyrna rugs are the best in the low-priced ones, giving the most satisfaction. The same material comes by the yard in plain and figured borders. A square rug for the center of the room is easily made from this Smyrna carpeting. A beautiful one was recently made of deep red for the central portion, with bright gold and black for the border.

Fur rugs are now quite reasonable. One of these will impart an air of elegance to an otherwise plain room.

The furniture is the next consideration. A fashion which is a great advantage to young housekeepers, is that of having a variety of furniture in the same room; the one-patterned set of older days being now *passé*. For this our young people will be truly thankful, and furnish accordingly, only bearing in mind

there must be harmony in the color scheme. First, there must be a table, for this is a sitting-room, and we hope there are to be many happy evenings spent here; where "Hermann" will read, and possibly smoke, and where his "Dorothea" will contentedly sew or knit. Therefore, a table is of great importance. Square or oblong have the preference now, but round ones are the most convenient. However, the square ones with the four spreading legs are very pretty. If a hard wood table cannot be afforded, there are large size pine tables, with fancy ebonized legs and plain wood tops, for three dollars and up. One of these with a velour cover (and one can be purchased for a dollar and forty cents), a library table, can be had at a small cost. Two or three dollars additional will furnish the pretty reading lamp, if the wedding gifts have not already provided it. Then when the young matron has time, she can fashion a little bannerette screen for the lamp, which will shield the light from the "gude mon's" eyes when taking his evening rest on the lounge. About this piece of furniture: we are aware that it is not quite the fashionable thing to have one in this room, but as these little homes are not for style, we will give comfort the preference, and keep the couch lounge in the sitting-room. One made the divan style is the prettiest, and at the same time the most comfortable. It can be made to open and form a bed. A lounge of this style made of embossed velvet, best hair, springs, etc., when made to order, cost thirty dollars. The naked lounge can be bought, doing the upholstering at home, thereby making a saving. With Miss CLARKSON's explicit directions in the February number, it would be quite a simple matter to cover one. Some recommend using a single cot, fastening a mattress at the top, and adjusting a round pillow at one end. These can be upholstered to look very nice, minding to shorten the legs, and tacking a deep fringe all around. Another way is to have a long box with the cover hinged, thereby forming a convenient place for stowing winter garments, etc. Brocatels for the covering are the thing just now, and are rich and handsome, but come generally a little high for home-made furniture. Another material, less expensive, is the velour, having an ap-

pearance similar to moleskin plush, only having a ribbed effect. This material is used for curtains as well as covering, and there is a cheap grade as low as ninety-five cents a yard, which is good for heavy portières.

There is yet another way of getting goods for the upholstering; though never having used it, we could not answer for its wearing quality. That would be to buy a heavy pair of chenille curtains, then for ten dollars one would have enough to upholster the lounge, and enough left for one chair. At the least it would be very pretty, and if it would wear, nothing could be better.

It is to be hoped there will be a few old-fashioned chairs from some old garret, appear on the scene. If not, similar ones can be bought at some furniture or large dry goods store. Straight back shaker chairs are most commonly used for decoration, and can be had for the nominal sum of eighty-five cents. These look best when bronzed, say one in copper the other in dark green; the first to have light blue ribbon and terra cotta cushion; the second, pink and dark green. Willow chairs are reasonable, and are always durable; when ribboned and cushioned off being an elegant addition. After the willow is discolored, it can be made to look like new, with dark brown or red stain. If liked, bronzing can be used, though staining is in better taste. If the young matron can paint or embroider, pretty foot-stools are easily made from the low wooden stools, which come for this purpose. If her fancy leads that way, and there is money to spare, one of the odd shaped tables can be furnished according to directions in a recent number of the Magazine. Also a swing book shelf, which must be either ebonized or stained cherry, and have a brass rod and curtain attached, either of embroidered or painted sateen and plush. That on one side of the mantel, with a wall pocket on the other side, impart a literary air to the room. A new style of wall pocket is of willow, bronzed, with an added bright bow, being quite fine enough for any room.

In the next article we shall consider the sleeping rooms, and discuss a few non-essential articles, which, as time goes on and prosperity admits, can be added to our "little home."

[To be continued.]