

buy a few rolls in different tints, which they lay perfectly level, all in good colors, easy to work, instead of laying the ground color, which is difficult to get nice by the designer. Leave a margin of half an inch on each side. The colors can be bought dry, five cents' worth of each color will last a long time. Make a tint in tone with ground of paper, mix color with mucilage and water, no need to get many different colors, two shades of color and one of gold are enough. It is only professional designers who can harmonize many colors well, they often do from eight to twenty colors, but all the colors of the rainbow look no better than three tints in perfect tone.

It would be well to get a few fine, modern designs as samples to look at. Most of the manufacturers have the same size, width eighteen and a half inches wide by eighteen

and a quarter long, or double that size, which they call a double block, though not often done, only in hand painted papers. Borders can be nine or twelve inches in height. The design must repeat both ways.

Now in regard to selling designs, the best three firms are F. Beck & Co., Warren & Lange and Campbell & Co., the first on Seventh Avenue, the other two on Forty-second Street, New York. They will buy any time good, fine, original designs. No doubt the most important matter is, how much they give for them. It just depends on the design. If it is a new idea, something beautiful, they will pay well to get it. They pay from \$10 to \$100 for a design; sometimes they give \$300 to \$500 to a first-class designer, and advertise them as such. It is not well to send designs by post; a personal call is better, and safer. LOUIS J. RHEAD.

#### TAKING CARE OF SILVERWARE.

VERY often valuable silverware or valuable plated-ware is so ruined by exposure to certain influences, and by improper cleaning and rough usage, as only to be fit for breaking up and melting. The vapors that rise from our heating apparatus and from illuminating gas will tarnish the finest silver, and make it so black that no ordinary means of cleansing it, such as may be found in the household, are of any avail. Silver should be looked after every day when in use, and should be washed in hot water with castile soap and chamois, a soft brush being required for cleaning out the sunken portions of relief work, and two pieces of chamois for drying the article. It is not safe to use for more thorough cleansing any of the many nostrums sold in fancy stores for polishing silver, as most of them are too coarse and too cheaply prepared to be good for their avowed purpose. Go to some silversmith of good repute for your polishing powder, and use it as seldom as possible. Careful daily washing will, however, obviate the necessity of many more troublesome operations. The following are said to excellent recipes for cleaning silver: To clean silver by washing, mix two teaspoonfuls of ammonia in a quart of hot soap suds: put in

the silverware, and wash it with a piece of chamois, using a soft brush for chased or relief work. Dry thoroughly with clean chamois before putting away, as any moisture which may remain will tarnish the silver. Another recipe for cleaning silverware and plated silver is to boil the pieces in soft soap and water for five minutes; then put them in a basin with the same hot soap and water, and scrub them gently with a very soft brush and chamois; next, to dry with chamois, then place the articles where it is hot and let them dry thoroughly. A third recipe is to moisten very finely powdered whiting with spirits of hartshorn, and rub the silver with chamois dipped in it letting the moistened powder dry on the silver, then rub it off with clean chamois and polish.

To keep silver clean that is not in daily use, place each piece, well wrapped up in fine tissue paper, in a fine, long-napped Canton flannel bag made with draw-strings, which must be drawn tight; then wrap bag and all closely and as air-tight as possible in wrapping paper or in an oil-silk bag, to exclude the air and gaseous vapors which exist in heated houses in the winter, and the dampness which appertains to them in spring, autumn, and summer. — *Exchange.*