WOOD FINISHING and HOME FURNISHING.

CATHARINE N. WARD.

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### OUTLINE of THESIS.

- 1. Classification of Wood.
- 2. Description of Woods most used.
- 3. Finishing in Oil.
- 4. Finishing with Varnish.
- 5. Finishing with Wax.
- 6. French Polishing.
- 7. Placing the Rooms in a House.
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- 13. Furnishing for Bed-room, with notes.
- 14. Furnishing for Hall, with notes.
- 15. Furnishing for Bath-room, with notes.
- 16. Notes on Parlor Furniture.

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### - WOOD FINISHES and HOME FURNISHING. -

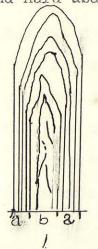
The growth in popular favor of bare wood floors is a part of the sensible movement for beauty, simplicity and utility in home decoration. Always the owner of a polished floor takes pride in it. Not the pride one would take in a beautiful rug or carpet. The credit for that belongs to the mill that made it. But a floor usually is treated under the supervision of the owner who watches it grow into a thing of beauty, and with increasing pleasure observes it gain new mellow luster as the years go by. It is a personal possession, a personal triumph, and a thing of which to feel justly proud. The housekeeper who is to care for these floors should have a thorough understanding of their treatment.

In order to obtain any degree of excelency it is necessary to gain as much knowledge as possible of the materials used for furniture, floors and woodwork. They may be classified into two groups, the Hardwood, and Soft wood. Oak, ash, maple, walnut, mahogany, cherry and beech being classed as hard wood and white pine, yellow pine, hard pine, spruce, poplar, birch, and bass-wood as soft wood.

Woods differ greatly in wearing quality; those which have a resinous substance well distributed throughout its structure do not decay when exposed to the weather as do the woods containing a soluble gum. It is better to use a wood that has had the sap soaked out of it than that which has been dried with the sap in the tissue, as moisture will have a decaying effect.

The way in which boards are sawed is largely responsible for the wearing quality. A log of wood is composed of pitch, which is

soft and open grained; heart wood, just next to it, which is very hard and mature; and sap wood, which composes the larger portion of the tree, lying between the heart and bark. This latter part contains a great deal of sap and is therefore more liable to decay. The growth of the tree is made by adding a new layer each year to the outside of the tree, just underneath the bark, and this is the sap wood. The mode of sawing the wood has much to do with its wearing quality, the best being the quarter sawed. This is a method of cutting across the grain and is the most expensive because it is the most wasteful. The rift or comb grained is next in wearing quality being sometimes taken from the sides of the slash by recutting. The slash does not wear well but is much used for panels of doors where it is protected from weather and hard usage



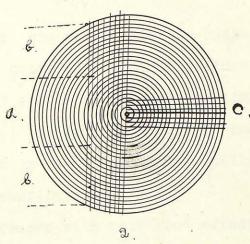


Fig. 1. shows a longitudinal section of a log.

- a. represents the quartered or comb grained;
- b. represents the slash.

Fig. 2. shows a cross section of a log showing the ordinary way of cutting. The center of the board a. shows slash lumber, b,b. shows long annual layers or rift, c. shows method of quartering.

There is a great difference in the texture of wood. This must be considered in obtaining the best results in the finish. Oak and ash are the representatives of open grained, while the close grained are pine, cherry and maple. In finishing the open grained requires a filler while the close grained does not.

Oak is the favorite for wood floors, the most satisfactory being quarter sawed, but the cost is considerable more than straight sawed. This wood has a beautiful grain, rich coloring, takes polish easily and retains it well. There are two finishes now in use, the Golden oak, and Dark oak, the difference being in the stain used. The richness of the color is greatly enhanced ny placing it in fumes of ammonia. Red oak has some advantage over white oak in color but it is not as hard a wood.

Maple, in selected grades, has many admirable qualities as floor wood and has recently become quite popular in furniture as well. It costs more than pine or fir, has a fine grain, and its light color is an advantage in many apartments. It becomes finer and smoother with wear and when used for kitchen or bath room it is usually given a dry polish which makes it very beautiful.

Birch has been used for floors with very good effects but it is too soft for floors where hard service is required, and very careful assorting is needed to match the wood so as to harmonize the varying tones.

Beech is growing in popularity for floors, as for other uses.

It takes a beautiful polish.

Hard pine and fir are the cheapest woods available for waxed floors. Southern pine should be used and especial care should be taken that the wood is thoroughly and properly dried. Veneering has many good qualities. A veneer is a thin layer of rare or beautiful material upon a commoner surface to produce a rich effect. It takes on a higher polish and is much cheaper than the solid. It is usually lighter to handle and with care will remain in good condition for a great many years, although if allowed to remain in a damp place the veneering may become loosened and warped.

There are a great many ways of polishing wood. It may be oiled, waxed, French polished, varnished, or treated with some manufactured stain, filling, wax, and polish combined.

- I. Oil finish is the most simple. The surface to be oiled must be free from dust. Dampen a woolen cloth in boiled linseed oil and rub upon surface. If it is desired that the surface absorb much oil it may be left on over night then polish with a dry woolen cloth. The more vigorously it is polished the more luster it will take on. If not thoroughly polished it will catch the dust and become darkened.
- II. When furniture is varnished it is treated in the following way.
  - 1. Stain wood the color desired.
  - 2. If wood is open grained apply filler.
  - 3. Rub down with pumice stone.
  - 4. Varnish.
  - 5. Rub down with pumice stone.
  - 6. Varnish.
  - 7. Polish with rotten-stone moistened with oil.

The beauty of the finish depends upon the number of times varnish is applied, being rubbed down with pumice stone each time, and the amount of time and strength spent in polishing. The fine finish of pianos is obtained by giving them ten or twelve coats. Floors fin-

ished in this way show scratches much more than the waxed floor, and the scars are much harder to remove. It can only be done by rubbing down with pumice stone and re-polishing in the way described above, even then it is almost impossible to match the new work to the old so that it is not noticable.

Pumice stone is a fine white powder made from a cellular volcanic scoria, used as a polishing material.

Rotten-stone is a fine powder made from a soft friable, silicious rock. It is of a brownish color and is used for polishing.

A weighted brush will be found useful in polishing but a woolen cloth may be used very successfully.

- III. Waxed floors and furniture.
  - 1. Apply stain of color desired.
  - 2. Melt wax and apply with woolen cloth.
  - 3. Polish with rotten-stone and oil.

This treatment gives a very deep luster but not as brilliant as method given under II. On floors much used it requires waxing about once a month. It has a great advantage of not showing scratches but requires almost daily polishing.

Mission furniture first started in the south, being brought over by the French missionaries. It also resembles the furniture called by the English Craftwork. It is made from solid wood, without carving, square cut. It is usually seen in the dull green but is also finished in moss green, weathered oak and all colors in all shades. Craftwork is always made without using a filler, and with wax instead of varnish.

A very good wax is made by heating together two ounces of white and yellow wax then add four ounces of the best spirits of tur-

pentine. Stir until cool then apply in the usual method. In waxed furniture scars may be reduced by polishing with cork.

IV. French Polishing.

The French polish is only another mode of applying shellac varnish.

- 1. Roll a piece of thick woolen cloth which has been torn off leaving a soft edge.
  - 2. Dip in small amount of varnish.
- 3. Enclose in a soft linen cloth which has been moistened in raw linseed oil.
- 4. Apply this rubber quickly and lightly to the surface, rubbing until the desired luster is obtained. This produces beautiful coloring of the wood.
- V. All manufactured wood finishes are made from these fundamental articles and are good only to varnish an old piece of furniture or an old floor that has been badly mistreated and cannot be polished in any other way.

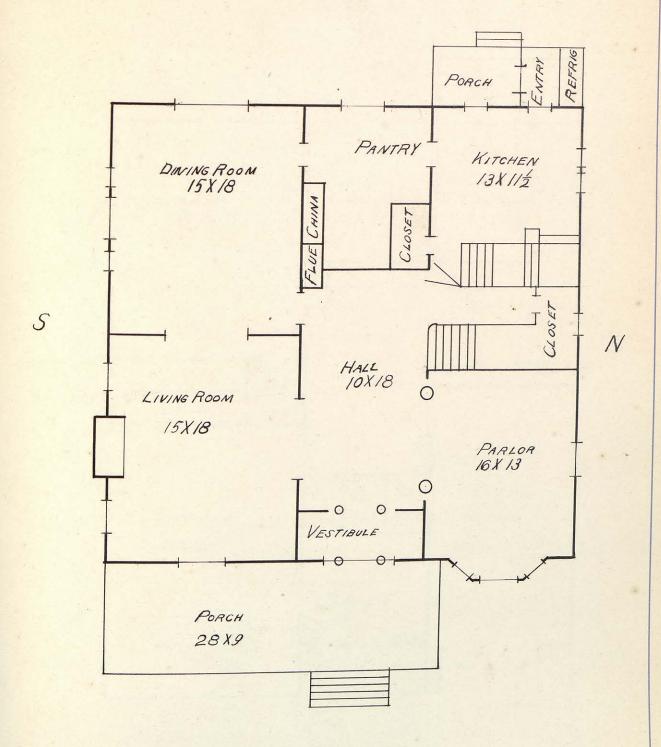
Placing the rooms in a house.

The dining room is the daily reunion room of the family and should be placed having south-east exposures, giving it the morning sun, and sheltering it from the late afternoon sun, which is very annoying when the family is at meals. The dining room and kitchen should be connected through the pantry as it aids in keeping the odor and clatter of the kitchen from reaching the dining room.

The hall may be large enough to serve as a reception room, thus saving the best room for a library or living room, which should properly have south and west exposures. In cities it is sometimes advisable to have the living room on the second floor, above the noise

FIRST FLOOR

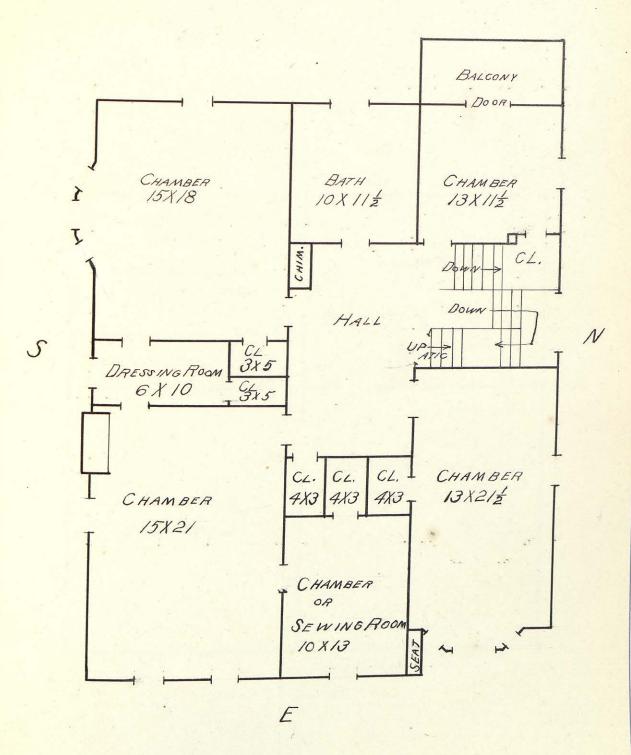
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EAST

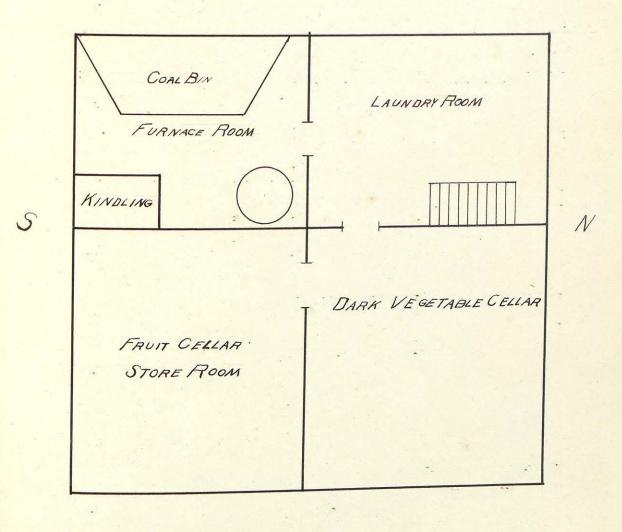
# SECOND FLOOR

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# BASEMENT

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and dust of the street. It is undesirable in cold climates to have the upper rooms extend over the porch if the house faces the north.

The bath room should be directly over the kitchen and pantry plumbing. The nursery should be a large sunny well ventilated room.

A sewing room should also be provided and I prefer to have it in the front of the house, which in the ideal house will face the east, thus the sewing room will be light and cheery in the morning and protected from the heat of the afternoon.

The house should be heated by hot water and for the sake of cheeriness I have placed a fireplace in the living room and also in the front chamber above. This will make the expense more but it will contribute to the comfort of the family more than enough to make up.

The chamber containing the fireplace would make a desirable room for an elderly person.

The upper hall, by artificial lighting might be converted into a comfortable upper sitting room.

Requirements of Basement.

- 1. It should have plenty of light and ventilation.
- 2. There should be a stairway from first floor to cellar. It should be straight or with platform. Steps should be wide and well made.
- 3. There should be an outside entrance, not through a trap door.
  - 4. It should have the following apartments:
- 1. Laundry with plenty of light and sunshine. It must be large enough to have room for the ironing table and must have a chimney besides the room for laundry utensils. It should be close to the outside entrance and reasonably near the source of fuel.

- 2. Fuel and furnace room Fuel supply should be conveniently near the bottom of the inside stairway and also in the furnace room, which should be in the center or north part of the cellar. Coal bins should be constructed with hopper bottoms, with bottom and sides slanting from level of outside grade line to cellar floor. Bins should be lined on the bottom with bricks laid in cement.
- 3. Fruit and general store room This should be near enough the furnace for heat for canned fruit.
- 4. Vegetable and fresh fruit room This should be a dark cellar with earth floors.

Kitchen Furniture. Refrigerator - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - 14.00; 2 Chairs \$1.00 - - - - - - - - - 2.00; Mirror - - - - - - - - - - - 1.50; Range - - - - - - - - - - 59.00; Gasoline Stove - - - - - - - - - - 3.90; 2 Cooking Spoons (Al.) - - - - - - .50; 3 Table Spoons - - - - - - - - .50; 3 Tea Spoons - - - - - - - - - - ..25; Butcher Knife - - - - - - - - - - .60; Bread Knife - - - - - - - - - - - - - - 75; 2 Paring Knives 10¢ - - - - - - - - .20; Cake Knife ----- .75; Case Knife and fork - - - - - - - .50; Scales - - - - - - - - - - - - 1.35;

Meat Grinder - - - - - - - - - - 1.25;

	vair opener 10;
	Ice Cream Freezer, 1 gal 1.00;
	Toweling - 6 roller towels 3 yds. each.(12-1/2¢,yd.)
	Toweling (dish) 18 towels 1 yd, 4 clothes 1/2 µd, 11¢ yd.
	Rocking Chair (low, without arms)2.00;
	Cooking Utensils.
Tin	vare.
	3 Cake tins (square) 20¢60;
	6 Bread pans, .10 or 3 for .2550;
	Dover egg beater 15;
	Small Dover egg beater10;
	Whisk egg beater
	Frying basket 25;
	Biscuit Cutter
	Nut meg grater 05;
	Vegetable grater 15;
	Wire dish cloth05;
	Match box10;
	Collander20;
	Quart cup05;
	Wire cake rack and toaster40;
	Soup strainer10;
	Flour seive10;
**	Large fork
	Bread box
	Dust pan20;
	Fruit jar filler 10;
	Cake spoon

Potato Ricer	30
Potato Masher	10
Cake Box	75
Meat Saw	45
Spatula	40
Garbage Pail with cover	1.50
Coal Bucket	30
Ice Pick	10;
Nut Cracker	25;
Stransky or Enamel Ware.	
Stew Kettle with Lid	1.00;
Stew Kettle with Lid	1.25;
Stew Kettle with Lid	80;
Double Boiler	
Tea Kettle (nickle)	1.50;
3 Milk Pans 45¢	1.35;
Milk Bucket	1.25;
Water Pail	
2 Dish Pans 1.40	2.80;
3 Pudding Pans .30, .40, .50	- 1.15;
Dipper	35;
4 Pie Pans .15	60;
Cup	20;
Soup Ladle	20;
Tea Pot	1.00;
Coffee Pot	- 1.00;
Soup Dish	30;
Wash Basin	35;

Roaster	5
Wooden Ware.	
2 Spoons 0	5
2 Vegetable Brushes .051	0;
1 Scrub Brush2	5;
1 Rolling Pin1	0;
Towel Ring 1	0;
Broom 29	5;
Molding Board (made to order)79	5;
Clothes Hamper (willow)	0;
Iron Ware.	
2 Gem Tins, 8 cups .40 80	);
Steel omelet pan 20	);
Granite omelet pan	);
Baking sheet (Russian iron)65	5;
Pancake Griddle	);
Other Utensils.	
Al. Skillet	;
Bean pot	;
Casserole85	;
2 Glass measuring cups .1020	
Lemon reamer 10	
1/2 doz. fruit jars .70 doz35	
6 spice jars (1 lb11) 66	
10 supply jars (2 lb15) 1.50	
Mixing bowls .3045 75	
2 asbestos mats .0510	
Left over dishes .101520 45	,

The kitchen should be a large airy room. The windows should be large, easily opened, well screened, and if on the south or west, well shaded by trees or awning. The curtains should be white, easy to wash and easy to push back out of the light. The walls should be painted some light shade. The floor may be of white polished maple with two or three rugs of washable cotton material.

This will require great care but is the most handsome floor for a kitchen. A hard pine oiled floor is not out of place and if polished properly will be fair in appearance and cleanliness. It is very easy to clean. It will need re-oiling about every month in order to keep it in good condition. It should never be cleaned with soap or lye as it injures the finish.

Linoleum is used very much at present and with proper care lasts well. It has the advantage of being easily cleaned, as it does not absorb. It should never be cleaned with soap or alkali as it destroyes the finish. It is warm in winter and is much favored by some as it deadens sound.

Notes on Kitchen Furnishing.

There are many things to be considered in furnishing a kitchen.

Among the first requirements are utility, cleanliness and harmony.

The problem of saving labor in the kitchen is of vast importance.

The refrigerator should be enamel lined with shelves which can easily be removed and readily cleaned. Wood absorbs odors and dampness and affords excellent conditions for the growth of mould, so should not be used in the interior.

There should be two tables, one stationary with drawers below to accommodate the small articles most used in preparing meals. It may have a white maple top, which will need daily scouring. The other table should be light and on rollers, and small enough that it may be easily rolled from one room to the next. It is well to have it entirely or partially covered with zinc so hot kettles may be set on it. This will be found very useful on canning days.

Cooking utensils are made of iron, steel, enamelled wares, aluminum, tin, wood, glass, stoneware, earthen ware, and common crockery.

The advantage of iron and steel is that they are not injured by high temperature and that they grow smoother by use. They give a very even heat, but are very heavy to handle and need extra care to keep in a sanitary condition. They cannot be used for foods containing an acid.

Cheap tin ware is poor. It is sheet iron plated with a thin layer of tin which soon wears off and the iron rusts.

Block tin is made of sheet tin and wears well. The advantage of tin ware lies in its lightness and its disadvantage is that it melts at a low temperature and is easily scraped off.

Enamelled ware if of a good qualitymis very satisfactory.

The basis is iron on which is fused the enamel at a high temperature.

The best on the market at present is the Stransky. The granite ware now made is not as good quality as that made a few years ago.

Wooden ware still has its place in the household but is used much less than formerly. Its greatest fault is that it absorbs grease and odors.

## Dining Room.

Floor - hard polished with no rugs.

Table - quartered oak - - - - - - - 15.00;

Chairs - quartered oak 2.00 - - - - - 234.00;

Buffet - quartered oak 25.00
Rubber or felt tips for chairs, .101.20
Pictures, 5.00 each 10.00
Table linen
4 cloths, 2-1/2 yds long, 1.00 yd10.00
1 cloth, 3 yds long 1.00 yd 3.00;
1 cloth 2-1/2 yds.long 1.50 yd 3.75;
3 doz. napkins(to match 1.00 table linen)
1 doz. napkins (fine quality
Tray cloth, two
Center piece, two
Linen for buffet
Sounding cloth, 2-1/2 yds long, .50 yd 1.50;
3 asbestos mats for serving dishes15;
Dishes
White Havalin china 50.00;
Berry set - china - flowered5.00;
3 painted china plates 5.00;
1/2 doz. breakfast plates 2.00;
Glass pitcher 1.50;
12 glasses10 each 1.20;
Individual salt cellars with spoons1.20;
Nickle plate serving dish
Carving set - small size 4.00;
Berry spoon - silver
Sugar tongs
Soup or gravy ladle
ream ladle

Fruit knives 1/2 doz
Nut picks and crackers
Salad fork
6 table spoons, solid 8.00;
1 doz. soup spoons
1 doz. knives
2 doz. forks
2 doz. spoons - solid 24.00;
l doz. sherbet cups .10
Plant stand =
2 vases50;
Notes on furniture of dining room.

I have chosen a hard polished floor because it is more handsome and easier to keep perfectly sanitary than any floor covering. Wool absorbs odors and therefore would not be desirable. Cotton has a cheap appearance.

Quartered oak will not only present a good appearance but is substantial. The table need not be highly polished unless it is desired to use with doilies.

The pictures should be well chosen, with inconspicuous frames .

We usually find that the small figure in table linen wears best. The half bleached will be found much better than the full bleached, but it is undesirable unless one is able to bleach it before using.

In buying Haviland china it is best to buy by the piece as a set contains many pieces which one does not desire, and which you cannot afford to give room in your pantry.

It is usually most economical to use solid silver for every day use as it does not tarnish when in use if properly cared for.

The chairs should be large and comfortable, with little or no carving.

Wooden seats will last longer than cane. They should be rubber tiped as a protection to the floor. Growing plants add much to the cheeffulness of the room.

Furniture for Living Room.

	Rugs	-25.00
	Curtains - net with border	- 9.00
	Mantle Clock	- 5.00;
	Pictures - well chosen -3	-15.00;
	Book case - sectional	27.00;
(	Couch	20.00;
5	Table	-10.00;
4	4 Chairs, 2.00 each	8.00;
	l Morris leather upholstered chair	-12.00;
	l Wicker rocker	-5.00;
]	Leather rocker	-15.00;
F	Rocker - small sewing chair	-3.50;
F	Piano	500.00;
M	fusic cabinet	-8.00;
F	oot rests, two	-1.00;
S	ecretary	-8.00;
S	tand for Plants	4.00;
3	flower vases	1.00;

Notes on furniture for living room.

The rugs should not be too large to be easily taken out and sunned and cleaned. They should contain the same colors but need not

he the same size or design. A fur rug would not be out of place before the fire-place, but any long-napped rug is difficult to clean.

The sectional book case will be found the most convenient.

The ideal conditions would be to need no doors but this is not practical.

The chairs should be comfortable with deep seats and upright backs. Rockers take up much room and should not be used entirely.

A low, wide couch with a generaous supply of pillows adds much to the comfort of the family. Springs in couches are made on steel slats and come to the factory ready to be put into the frame. The head rests are not as substantial as the body of the couch, the springs being tied in this part with string. All tufted upholstering is made before putting on the frames. A heavy canvas is covered with sea moss, then the upholstering is spread over this and tacked at regular intervals by means of machinery giving it the tufted appearance. Leather upholstering is much better than tapestry as it does not allow the fine particles of dirt to sift through.

The vases should be chosen with special care, as to form and color, to accomodate the different flowers of the season.

Bed Room Furniture.

Bed - enameled	15.00;
Springs - coil	- 6.00;
Mattress	- 9.00;
Wardrobe - Glass front	-20.00÷
Dressing table	- 4.50;
Mirror - French bevel	-3.00;
Chiffonier	-18.00;
Couch	20.00;
Rocker	- 5.00;

2 Choine F oo	
2 Chairs - 3.00 each	
Table	-3.00
Rugs	25.00
Wash stand	5.00;
Chamber set	-3.00;
Towels - 1/2 doz. linen	1.50;
Towel rack	50;
Screen	2.50;
Writing desk	8.00;
Curtains, net .\$3 a pair	9.00;
Sheets - 2-3/4 yds at 30¢ - 84¢ each	6.75;
Blankets	5.00;
Light cotton comforter	2.00;
Wool bat comforter	3.50;
Pillows	3.00;
Linen spread	2.00;
Pillow cases - 4 pairs	1.20;
30 yds. muslin for jackets for springs an	đ
mattress at 8¢ a yd	2.40;
Pad of cotton for mattress	1.00;
Stand covers	2.00;
Splasher	.50;
8 wash cloths	.50;

## Notes on furnishing.

A bed stead, of iron, should be chosen without fancy curves, but with lines straight up and down, and enough bars so that they will support pillows and mattress. Brass beds are very beautiful but require much polishing. There is a bed now made called the satin fin-

ished brass, which is even more handsome than the brass. It is made of brass, shellaced. This keeps it from tarnishing, giving it a satiny look. The only care it requires is dusting.

It is much more important to health and comfort to have a good mattress and springs than an expensive bed stead. Springs are made from wire of many different grades. The work of making is the same so there is a much greater difference in the grade than in the The wire comes to the factories in coils where it is straightened and cut given lengths, by an automatic machine. Boys then take it and it is run through gauged machines which puts certain kinks into it. The wire which makes the spring is put through a series of machines which coils it, cutting it off the proper length, then mashes the spring flat with so much force that it acquires the height that it will keep no matter how often it is afterward sprung. Then other machines fasten firmly, the ends and it is tossed over to be put into a very hot oven to be tempered. Boys then take the wires, place them upon the table, slip in the coils, fitting the whole bed together with very few ends to fasten. It is then dipped in enamel and baked at 400 deg. until enamel is thoroughly baked, then they are ready for market. It pays best to buy the best wire. In the best grade more springs are put in and sometimes additional cross wires for strength.

There is even a greater difference in the mattress, not so much in the time or labof required to manufacture it, but in the quality of material used in it. Coarse ticking is usually a sign of a poor mattress. There is a mattress on the market at present known as the Topeka felt. It claims an equal place with the Ostemore. It is made of layers of felt closely packed and comes in fine heavy ticking. The Imperial edge is made by the manner of stitching. A cotton

mattress is made by blowing the fine cotton in with much force.

A box mattress is made on springs with a heavy ticking over top of springs then sea moss and top ticking. This is stitched in the same manner as any other mattress. Another pad or mattress is used over it.

The bedding should be light and warm. Wool is the lightest material in proportion to its warmth and is therfore most useful. Woolen blankets, cut in two, are most convenient to handle. Mattress and springs should be covered with a jacket of muslin for protection. Hangings around the bed are objectionable as they prevent a free circulation of air.

A screen is very desirable in a sleeping apartment as it is needed in day time as a shield and may be used at night to prevent a current of air from striking the bed.

Notes on Parlor Furniture.

The furniture will depend largely upon the wealth of the family. The general expression should be grace and elegance rather than usefulness and comfort. The pictures should conform to the general expression of the room. It is undesirable to use family portraits in any room except a private toom. One of the more formal ferns adds much to the attractiveness of this room.

#### Hall Furniture.

Coat tree 3	75
Umbrella stand	.00;
Hall seat	.00;
Chair 6.	75;
Rug 6	00
Mirror	.00

Stand - - - - - - - - - - - 3.00;

Notes on Hall Furniture.

The hall is the first impression a stranger receives of a home and should therefore be furnished with the utmost care. In a home where the space is limited it can easily be made into a reception room and parlor combined. The floor should be polished or waxed and kept in good condition. There is a wide scope for good taste and originality in the selection of curtains suitable for a hall.

Bath room Equipment.

Bath room Equipment.	
Walls and floor are to be tiled.	
Tub and basin are of enamelled ware.	
Washable cotton rug	
Medicine cabinet 5.00;	
Mirror	
Bath towels - 2 doz	
2 Towel racks at 25¢50;	
Chair 1.50;	
Soap dish 50;	
Paper roller 25;	
Tooth brush and tumbler rack 75;	
Bath brush - long handle50;	

Notes on Furniture.

The medicine cabinet was placed here because it has no other place in the house and it certainly is a necessity in every household. All bottles containing a poison should have a bow of inch wide black ribbon tied around the neck so no one will take it by mistake. The mirror in this room, as well as all others should be French beveled. Cotton or Turkish toweling is most satisfactory for bath towels. If

it cannot be bought by the yard it will be most convenient to trim off the fringe and hem. The floor and walls should be tiled, with a rug of washable cotton. The windows may be placed four or five feet from the floor. It is best to have them of prismatic glass or of a kind that will admit light but cannot be seen through. If curtains are necessary they should be of a washable material without frills, hung inside the casing at the top and reaching just to the sill.

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