

HOW TO DECORATE THE HOME

Giving the house a new dress for Easter is one of the pretty customs which grow in popularity every year. And this year it will be as general as decorating for Christmas or New Year's.

All the art stores have Easter designs for rooms, and the china and glass stores are arranging miniature dinner tables for the admiration of those who may be on the lookout for something quite new for Easter. Those who can afford the luxury of refurbishing are indulging in that prettiest of all household things, a Japanese room. The model for these rooms is taken from Japanese pictures and from the ideas of those who have visited the Land of Flowers at this season as well



EMBLEMS OF PURITY.

as from the Japanese dealers who are arranging their shop windows into a semblance of what the wily, almond-eyed ones term "Easter in Japan."

The materials for such a room, if one is willing to indulge in it lavishly, are a bushel of quince blossoms, another bushel of apple blossoms, some oriental prayer rugs, a Japanese fire stool, two or three Japanese chairs and tables, a square umbrella as big as the room to form a canopy, some Japanese hangings, a Japanese tea set, some tall Japanese vases and a big Japanese doll to make one feel at home.

In the hands of an artistic woman a room furnished with these things may be made a lovely dream of color. Even an inartistic woman could not make it look bad. The Japanese have such beautiful color schemes that just to look upon their creations is a joy.

For those who are fond of laying in a stock of spring plants at Easter time there are very effective possibilities in the way of room decorations. One of these is the palmroom. And this is such a very lasting thing that it will be sure to be beautiful all the spring months until the family exodus into the country. So never mind if the outlay staggers you a little at first glance.

The background for the palmroom must be a palm. And when you get it you can place it in a corner, and it will be a handsome beginning. For a \$10 bill you can get one big enough to reach almost up to the ceiling and take the place of the dozen pots of little things which you were going to get for the spring conservatory. But for half the sum you can get a palm big enough to give dignity to the palmroom. Next, if you have a tall lamp set it in a big jardiniere and fill the jardiniere with ferns. They will grow well in the heat and will be wonderfully effective. Small pots of ferns, palms and rubber plants complete the greenness of the Easter greenroom.

Set a tall vase of them also at the foot of grandfather's clock, and be as generous in their distribution as you please. Even grandfather himself, strict Puritan though he may have been, would relax into a gratified smile on Easter day at the sight of his old timepiece.

Ribbons are to play an important part in the Easter trimmings.

Easter baskets are wound with ribbons so that the texture of the basket is not seen at all. A very ordinary basket of striped straw may have its handle and rim wound with pink ribbons and then be filled with pink hyacinths until it is a study in pink loveliness. The basket should be as shallow as possible, so that a few sprays of moss arranged under the ribbon wound rim will entirely cover it.

Trimming the house for Easter is such a pretty custom that one feels like bowing to it and conforming to it in all possible ways. Happily the spring novelties in Easter decorations are so numerous, so varied and so cheap that all may indulge in them to a certain extent, even though the Easter bonnet and the Easter wrap be too dear for present purchasing.

THE EASTER LILY.

It Has Held a High Place in Religious Worship For Ages.

While all the flowers of spring find a welcome place in the decorations of the day and win admirers, the white lily (*L. candidum*) is par excellence the Easter flower. A native of the Levant, growing wild in most Mediterranean countries, it has for years been considered emblematic of purity and hope. The Greeks called it the flower of Juno and told this myth in explanation of its origin. "Jupiter," they said, "wished to make his boy Hercules one of the gods. So he snatched him from the bosom of his earthly mother, Alcmena, and bore him to the breast of Juno. The milk is spilled from the full mouthed boy as he traverses the sky, making the Milky Way, and what drops below stars and clouds and touches earth stains the ground with lilies." As the emblem of purity it was contrasted with the passion rose of Aphrodite, and beauty was represented crowned with white lilies and violets, types of purity and modesty.

The lotus holds chief place in all oriental mythologies, its antiquity extending far beyond the limits of Grecian mythmaking. The Egyptians spoke of it as the throne of Osiris, the god of day, and they are represented on monuments as holding the white lotus in their hands at banquets. As a symbol of purity and benediction the lily was culched on the pillars of Solomon's temple and ornamented the great golden candlestick. While honored by specific mention by our Lord, truth compels the statement that the probabilities are against the lily having been the flower particularly referred to.

The lily is not common in the flora of Palestine, and some think it must have been the red anemone, with which the Galilean hillsides are covered in springtime, that suggested the beautiful figure in the sermon on the mount. Others advance arguments in favor of asphodel, amaryllis and narcissus. Whichever it was, and it is not impossible, though improbable, that it was our lily, the figure remains a most beautiful and effective one and has doubtless had a wonderful and wide-reaching effect in giving the lily an added charm and sacredness wherever Christianity has established itself.—Philadelphia Press.

A PEASANT SUPERSTITION.

How the Bells Go to Rome and Return Easter Morning.

In some remote districts of France it is still customary for the priest of the parish to go around to each house at Easter and bestow on it his blessing. In return he receives eggs, plain and painted. In these same regions a belief still lingers that during passion week the bells of the churches set out for Rome in order to get themselves blessed by the pope. During this period of mourning the bells are mute in their belfry, and the peasants firmly believe that they have started on their pious pilgrimage and will return to send forth a joyous peal on the morning of the resurrection. People do not come back from so long a journey without bringing presents to good children. The joy bells then always come first and bring with them various beautiful playthings. The death bells come last and bring nothing. Easter then was like a second New Year's day. The peasant bestowed on his child an egg, dyed scarlet, like the cloak of a Roman cardinal and supposed to come from Rome.—New York Herald.

Easter in Russia.

An Easter feast in Russia usually consists of a sucking pig, lamb, shoulder of veal, a ham, curdled cream, Easter bread, red eggs, colored lights, fiddling and general merry-making. In the good old times the nobility left their tables furnished until Whitsuntide, so that any one who chose to enter their house might partake of what was there set out, nor was food denied any one. This state of affairs could hardly be imagined here; but, strange as it may seem, in the few localities where this ancient custom still keeps up, there is scarcely recorded a case of the betrayal of such hospitality.

A Costly Easter Egg.

In France more than any other country is Easter a season of giftmaking. The egg is the ruling emblem, almost as endless in device and costliness as in form. There is one such gift egg on record that was of white enamel and had doors which when opened revealed Easter gospels engraved on all its walls, and for the yolk there was a tiny music box which played 12 tunes. The cost of this trifle was \$12,000.—Philadelphia Times.

The Easter Bonnet.

Sing to the Easter bonnet
With a lot of strings upon it
New and bright,
And the stonny parade
Of the maidens all arrayed
For the sight.

For sweet the Easter faces
That brighten up the places
Where they go,
With their nodding and their smiling
And our mannish hearts beguiling,
As they know.

Not a man but likes the showing
Of the bonnets in their going
Up the street,
And our admiration rightly
Do we give—the sight is rightly
And a treat.

So let's bang the bells for dollars
That are stiff enough for collars,
Yes, and high,
And pray for decent weather
For the witching maidens' feather—
So say I.

For I love one Easter bonnet
With a lot of strings upon it,
Bright and gay,
For the face that's just below it,
And I care not if you know it,
Right away.
—Phillip Verrill Miles.

Boers Seem to be Getting the Worst of it.

London March 27.—According to dispatches from Thabanchu, the British and Boers in that district of the Orange River Colony are having repeated skirmishes and the burghers seem to have suffered severely during the past few days. Last Saturday night a detachment of British troops, in command of Colonel White, made a night march to a point where a Boer commando had camped and surprised the federalists, with the result that four of them were taken prisoners and a number severely wounded. The remainder of the Boers retreated. It is understood that Colonel White's force suffered no losses.

Dr. White, a British surgeon, while on his way to a farm recently to attend some wounded Boers, was fired on from ambush and had a narrow escape from being killed. Dr. White's horse and that of his orderly were shot and the orderly was seriously wounded.

Last Sunday a detachment of Yeomanry, Lancers and the Remington guides had an encounter with 200 Boers under the command of Fourie. After some brisk fighting, the burghers retreated. The British suffered no casualties during the engagement and the Boer losses are not reported.

Wise Thoughts.

Recollection is the only paradise from which we cannot be turned out.—Richter.

Our affections are our life. We live by them; they supply our warmth.—Channing.

Ambition is the germ from which all growth of nobleness proceeds.—T. D. English.

Vice stings us even in our pleasures, but virtue consoles us even in our pains.—C. C. Colton.

Most men employ the first part of their lives to make the last part miserable.—La Bruyere.

As "unkindness has no remedy at law," let its avoidance be with you a point of honor.—Hosea Ballou.

A humble knowledge of thyself is a surer way to God than a deep search after knowledge.—Thomas A. Kempis.

It is not wisdom but ignorance that teaches men presumption. Genius may sometimes be arrogant, but nothing is so diffident as knowledge.—Bulwer.

Persons extremely reserved and diffident are like the old enameled watches which had painted covers that hindered you from seeing what time it was.—Walpole.

It is only imperfection that complains of what is imperfect. The more perfect we are the more gentle and quiet we become toward the defects of others.—Fenelon.

Cholly—"That fellow Kostique said I was a perfect idiot," Jack—"O! don't mind him. He always did exaggerate a little."

DO YOU GET UP WITH A LAME BACK?

Kidney Trouble Makes You Miserable.

Almost everybody who reads the newspapers is sure to know of the wonderful cures made by Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root, the great kidney, liver and bladder remedy. It is the great medical triumph of the nineteenth century; discovered after years of scientific research by Dr. Kilmer, the eminent kidney and bladder specialist, and is wonderfully successful in promptly curing lame back, kidney, bladder, uric acid troubles and Bright's Disease, which is the worst form of kidney trouble.

Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root is not recommended for everything but if you have kidney, liver or bladder trouble it will be found just the remedy you need. It has been tested in so many ways, in hospital work, in private practice, among the helpless too poor to purchase relief and has proved so successful in every case that a special arrangement has been made by which all readers of this paper who have not already tried it, may have a sample bottle sent free by mail, also a book telling more about Swamp-Root and how to find out if you have kidney or bladder trouble. When writing mention reading this generous offer in this paper and send your address to Dr. Kilmer & Co., Birmingham, N. Y. The regular fifty cent and dollar sizes are sold by all good druggists.

I have used Dr. F. E. White's Worm and Condition Powders as a blood purifier for horses. It improves the appetite, fattens the horse, expels worms and gives a glossy coat.

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Rheumatic pains are the cries of protest and distress from tortured muscles, aching joints and excited nerves. The blood has been poisoned by the accumulation of waste matter in the system, and can no longer supply the pure and health sustaining food they require. The whole system feels the effect of this acid poison, and not until the blood has been purified and brought back to a healthy condition will the aches and pains cease.

Mrs. James Keel, of 707 Ninth street, N. E., Washington, D. C., writes as follows: "A few months ago I had an attack of Sciatic Rheumatism in its worst form. The pain was so intense that I became completely prostrated. The attack was an unusually severe one, and my condition was regarded as being very dangerous. I was attended by one of the most able doctors in Washington, who is also a member of the faculty of a leading medical college here. He told me to continue his prescriptions and I would get well. After having filled twelve times without receiving the slightest benefit, I declined to continue his treatment any longer. Having heard of S. S. S. (Swift's Specific) recommended for Rheumatism, I decided, almost in despair however, to give the medicine a trial, and after I had taken a few bottles I was able to hobble around on crutches, and very soon thereafter had no use for them at all. S. S. S. having cured me sound and well. All the distressing pains have left me, my appetite has returned, and I am happy to be again restored to perfect health."



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