

About the House

WHAT TO BUY IN A RUG.

Color and pattern are the first two things to think about when buying a rug. The quality and kind you can determine afterward, but once that color and that pattern are down on the floor we have to live with them, willy-nilly, for many years.

How can you tell what color? Study your walls first. If they are brown or any of its relations—tan, cream, ecru, or even ivory—the chances are that your best choice in rugs will run to one of three things.

First, a slightly darker tan or brown. Remember, we must keep the general tone of our floors darker. It may be a tan background with many small notes of darker brown in it, so that it gives an impression of something quite dark. It may be a solid body color of darker brown. But keep it darker if you want your room to be comfortable to live in.

Second, a tan with some blue and possibly some touches of rose or mulberry in the pattern.

Third, a solid contrasting color, as blue, which is the best color always to use in large quantities in contrast with tans and browns. Again, these may be plain or patterned, but the total effect of that color mixture on your floor must be dark enough to hold the floor down in place below the wall.

For all colors of walls the principle of color selection in rugs remains the same—either showing the same color, a contrasting color, or a combination of the two.

As for pattern in rugs, again study your wall paper. But this time study also your curtains and the coverings on your chairs and sofa. If the paper has a marked pattern—a little inconspicuous one doesn't count—and the draperies are plain, then you are safe to use a pattern in the rugs and keep your upholstery plain. But if the paper is plain, the curtains patterned, and the upholstery also patterned, then the rug would be better plain too. It is all a question of balancing the attention-compelling spots in the room. Always we try to keep some quiet space, and some decorated spaces. If either one gets overdone the room is uncomfortable. But there is no need of having a decorator to tell when you have enough pattern. Just look around. If the wall is strong in pattern, and curtains and furniture weak, of course the floor has to have something lively to balance it. On the other hand, if the wall is simple and curtains and upholstery much decorated, there's no room on the floor for anything more. You need quiet and rest down there.

JUST SOAP.

To wash or not to wash? Soap and water as a cleanser seem to be going out of style these days. But I confess to being old-fashioned. For I like the tang of water and the deep, cleansing feeling of a soap on my face. Perhaps you are the same? Then you'll be glad to know that I am going to talk about soap this month.

A simple test is to touch the soap with the tip of your tongue. Free alkali will burn and sting. Such a soap may be all right for the kitchen floor, but not for your face. You can disregard that soapy taste. That only means that the soap has everything in it a soap should have.

Many women have an idea that colored and perfumed soaps are bad. This is not so. It is impossible to give a soap a pleasant perfume unless it contains pure ingredients. In the same way, you can't make a bad soap pure white. But that doesn't mean that only white soaps are good soaps. For a natural green tone comes from the use of certain rich oils. Other soaps shade all the way from a creamy tan to a warm, dark brown. These colorings are caused by the secret processes with which these soaps are cooked, while those dainty pink and lavender tints are the rich ingredients in the perfumes.

So, you see, most soap is good soap. It only remains for you to select the one that will help you. In general, cream soaps, oatmeal soaps, and olive-oil soaps are for thin, dry skins. Medicated soaps and sulphur soaps are for skins that have eruptions. Butter-milk soaps, lemon and lime soaps, and peroxide soaps help to whiten, while the perfumed soaps are for the normal skin. If you are inclined to superfluous hair, it is well to select a bland, mild soap.

WHEN JAR TOPS STICK.

"Is there an easy way to open sealed jars?" demanded the young house-keeper, very exasperated and red of face. "I'd much rather prepare fresh fruit or vegetables than try to open a jar of canned ones. I've cut my

fingers, spoiled my best paring knife and nicked ever so many of my new jars in the process."

"Hot water," answered her experienced friend. "Pour hot water into a dipper or small basin to the depth of a couple of inches or more. Invert the can in it and leave for five minutes. Do not, of course, plunge a very cold glass jar into boiling water. At the end of a few minutes you will find that the cover comes off very easily. 'Obstinate corks are readily removed in the same simple way.'"

WHEN HEMMING NAPKINS.

To crease your hem perfectly before beginning hand sewing on napkins, run the edges through a hemmer on your machine, with the needle unthreaded. What is usually a dreaded task becomes greatly simplified if this precaution is taken.

FARM WOMEN'S WANTED COLUMN.

Nickproof chinaware.
A self-picking cherry tree.
A rainproof wash day.
A self-filling school lunch box.
An automatic self-starter for the day's work.
A cluck that can be glued to her eggs for the full period of incubation.
A formula for finding a teen-age youngster when you have need of him.
A portable telephone that need not be trotted after from the top floor of the house or the end of the garden.
Chemically treated garden seeds guaranteed to produce a crop of ready canned vegetables.

A spiral wash cloth that will enable Junior to get his ears clean without maternal assistance.

A silencing device for father's auto horn when it is used to hurry the family in the getting-ready process.

A DAINTY SET FOR THE "LITTLE GIRLS" WARDROBE.



4283. This comprises a neat yoke dress that may be finished with or without the ruffle, and a petticoat and comfortable drawers. One may use voile, lawn, batiste or crepe for the dress and cambric or nainsook for petticoat and drawers. It will require 1½ yards for the Dress, ¾ yard for the Drawers, and 1½ yards for the Petticoat, of 36-inch material for a 2-year size.

The Pattern is cut in 4 Sizes; 6 months to 1 year, 2, 3 and 4 years. Pattern mailed to any address on receipt of 15c in silver, by the Wilson Publishing Co., 73 West Adelaide St., Toronto. Allow two weeks for receipt of pattern.

Tracing Winds in the Upper Air.

The Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute at De Bilt, near Utrecht, with branches elsewhere in Holland, used until some years ago for wind observations in the upper air, small rubber balloons, which were obtained from France. Then information came from Paris that the manufacturer of these balloons could furnish no more. The institute was thus reduced to the choice of ceasing the upper air observations or having the balloons made in Holland. Experiments began at once and continued for some time, and now it is said that they have been entirely successful.

It is stated that the small and light rubber bags made in an automobile garage at Utrecht can, after undergoing a certain chemical process, be easily inflated into large balloons that are plainly visible in the air. Further, it is claimed, observations with these balloons can be made at a greater height than was ever possible with the imported ones. On favorable days, observations have been made at a height as great as 9,322 miles. As these balloons are pure white and transparent as glass, they are said to form a peculiarly favorable image in the telescope, different from the former imported balloons.

Largest Unexplored Area.

One of the largest unexplored areas in the United States lies in a triangular space, between the Colorado and the San Juan River, in southeastern Utah. Here an area as large as some of the smaller Eastern states still remains practically unknown to white men.

Cannibals recently discovered in New Guinea are reported by an explorer to have features of a distinctly Jewish type, although their skins are bronze.

CHILDHOOD INDIGESTION

Nothing is more common in childhood than indigestion. Nothing is more dangerous to proper growth, more weakening to the constitution or more likely to pave the way to dangerous disease. Fully nine-tenths of all the minor ills of childhood have their root in indigestion. There is no medicine for little ones too equal Baby's Own Tablets in relieving this trouble. They have proved of benefit in thousands of homes. Concerning them Mrs. Jos. Lunette, Immaculate Conception, Que., writes: "My baby was a great sufferer from indigestion, but the Tablets soon set her right, and now I would not be without them." Baby's Own Tablets are sold by medicine dealers or by mail at 25 cents a box from The Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.



Heavy.

"Gruet always liked fat girls, and he has finally succeeded in getting one for a wife."

"Yes, love will find a weigh."

Thomas A. Edison

Noted inventor, recently celebrated his seventy-seventh birthday. In honor of the occasion he took two hours at mid-day from work in his New Jersey laboratories.

SUN LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY OF CANADA

HEAD OFFICE - - MONTREAL

The Record of a Great Year Simply Told

AT DECEMBER 31st, 1923

The Company had assets, invested in the best classes of securities, of **\$209,257,000**
(An increase for the year of \$35,168,000)

The total liability of the Company (including reserves and other liabilities to policyholders of \$185,586,000) amounted to **\$187,885,000**

The Company has set aside for unforeseen contingencies the sum of **\$3,500,000**

Leaving a surplus over all liabilities and contingency funds of **\$17,872,000**
(An increase for the year of \$3,603,000)

The cash income for the year, from premiums, interest, rents, etc., was **\$46,965,000**
(An increase for the year of \$10,714,000)

Total payments to policy holders or their representatives for death claims, maturing policies and other benefits, in 1923 amounted to **\$22,145,000**

New paid assurances issued during the year totalled **\$107,391,000**
(An increase for the year of \$16,593,000)

The Company had assurances in force (net) amounting to **\$703,765,000**
(An increase for the year of \$72,360,000)

The 318,443 ordinary policies of the Company protect homes and businesses at home and abroad, while in addition 22,731 commercial and industrial employees are protected under Sun Life group assurance policies

Dividends to policyholders again materially increased

Every figure in this statement sets a
NEW HIGH RECORD
in Canadian Life Insurance history