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May Improve Nursery Without Extensive Cost

A Little Ingenuity and the Proper Use of Inexpensive Materials will do the Trick.

The nursery is one of the most important rooms in a home and the wise mother spares no effort to make it the most attractive. This need not be expensive. A little ingenuity and the proper use of inexpensive materials can produce unique and pleasing effects.

If extensive modernization of this room is planned, funds may be obtained from a bank under the Home Improvement Plan.

A home was modernized and the owner attempted to create a model nursery, but at the same time every effort was made to keep the cost of the room within the range of the average home-owner.

The walls were covered with paper of a light pastel plaid. The woodwork

was painted a deep cream and a corner of the room which protruded had a guard placed to prevent the wall being chipped when games were in progress.

A composition floor, resembling planking was laid. This was easy to clean, thus safeguarding the health of the occupant. It also lessened the burden of the person who cleaned the room. Venetian blinds, also washable, were hung at the windows and there were no curtains to hold the dust.

No ceiling light was used and wall brackets had shades which completely eliminated any possible glare.

The furniture was finished in the honey colour so popular in modern rooms, but borders of turquoise blue removed any air of sophistication. A juvenile design was applied on the

headboard of the bed and the doors of chest and book case. A washable rug covered the floor.

Space was provided for the many toys and the young owner was taught to put things away at the end of a busy day.



PLEASANT HOMES

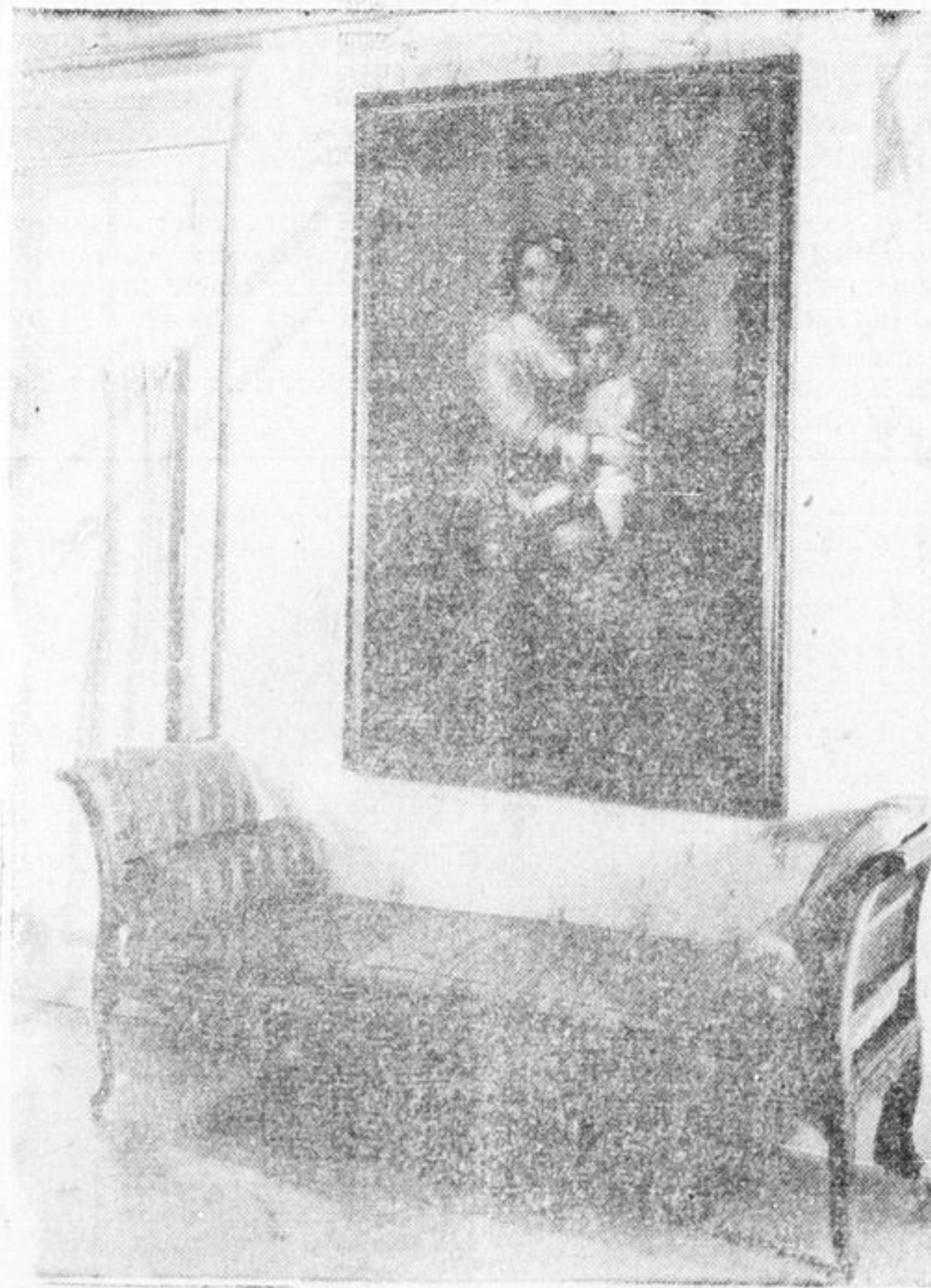
by Elizabeth MacRea Boykin

PICTURE YOUR PICTURES

The Pattern Your Pictures Make on the Walls is Just as Important to the Decoration of the Room as the Design of the Chintzes—Consider Them in Relation to Each Other and the Furniture in the Room.



Here a series of old prints are hung in a way that gives them more significance than if they were hung separately here and there, and at the time give importance and individuality to the corner of the room.



A large picture ensembled with a bench of interesting proportion suggests a pleasing way to handle a wall dominated by a reproduction of an old master.

There's no incentive of fame and fortune to induce a lady to take pains to make a pleasant home. But as anybody who has one whether it's worth the trouble!

The difference in a place that feels like home and a place to hang your hat is mostly a matter of such little things—pictures on the wall, for instance. They're usually left till last, and sometimes by then just about anything goes. But remember that's one reason a hotel room seems so aloof and lonely—when there are pictures on the wall, they're noncommittal and impersonal.

Pictures at home shouldn't be there just to fill up space. Etchings in themselves are lovely provided you are especially interested in their subject, but too often they are used just because a picture seems to be needed. Whatever type of picture you choose, be sure you find positive enjoyment in having it there on your walls.

Consider particularly the very fine reproductions of the old masters' paintings

which are now so easily available. The one you like best may well provide the colour theme for an important room in your house. And there's no better way to familiarize a growing family with the history of art than to have copies of great pictures as a part of their cultural background. To give them a wider appreciation, you might keep rotating the pictures from time to time—this means simply having more pictures than wall space and changing them so that they never grow stale on the walls. Be sure that the children know the stories of the painters and pictures—they'll always enjoy them more if they do.

On the other hand your pictures need not be famous to be fine. Maybe you have a sunny landscape that reminds you of your wedding trip. Or a picture of flowers like those in your mother's garden when you were a little girl. Or some tenderly old-fashioned prints. Or something bold and modern and bright.

Little old family photographs can be



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charming decorative details if they're attractively framed and hung in a quaint group, as we saw them in a corner of a Victorian bedroom. In fact, little pictures are usually better if you consider them in relation to each other rather than separately in the midst of wide empty wall spaces where they'll likely be lost.

It's important, too, to keep your pictures and your furniture in proportion and balance. A huge picture over a small piece of furniture is awkward, as is a tiny picture over a large piece of furniture. Usually it's more gracious to hang pictures in an ensembled relation to each other or to the furniture. . . . a single bed in a corner of a room we saw recently had a collection of flower prints hung uniformly around this corner wall the same distance each way that the bed extended. This idea has been pleasantly worked out with book cases built around a corner too. Another picture grouping we noted just yesterday had two large oval pictures on either side of a beautifully curtained window, then under each picture was a lovely side chair.

Interesting Grouping of Pictures
A vertical row of small pictures can be very effective between windows or flanking a mirror or in difficult corner space. Four pictures, hung on adjoining walls, can make an interesting group, two on each wall, one above the other. This will give individuality and interest to a corner and importance to the pictures. Combinations of large pictures and small ones and of square, rectangular and oval frames in a group can make the nicest patterns on walls otherwise plain.

Picture frames need a good deal of attention if the pictures are going to do right by the room. Natural blond wood frames, very simple and flat, are

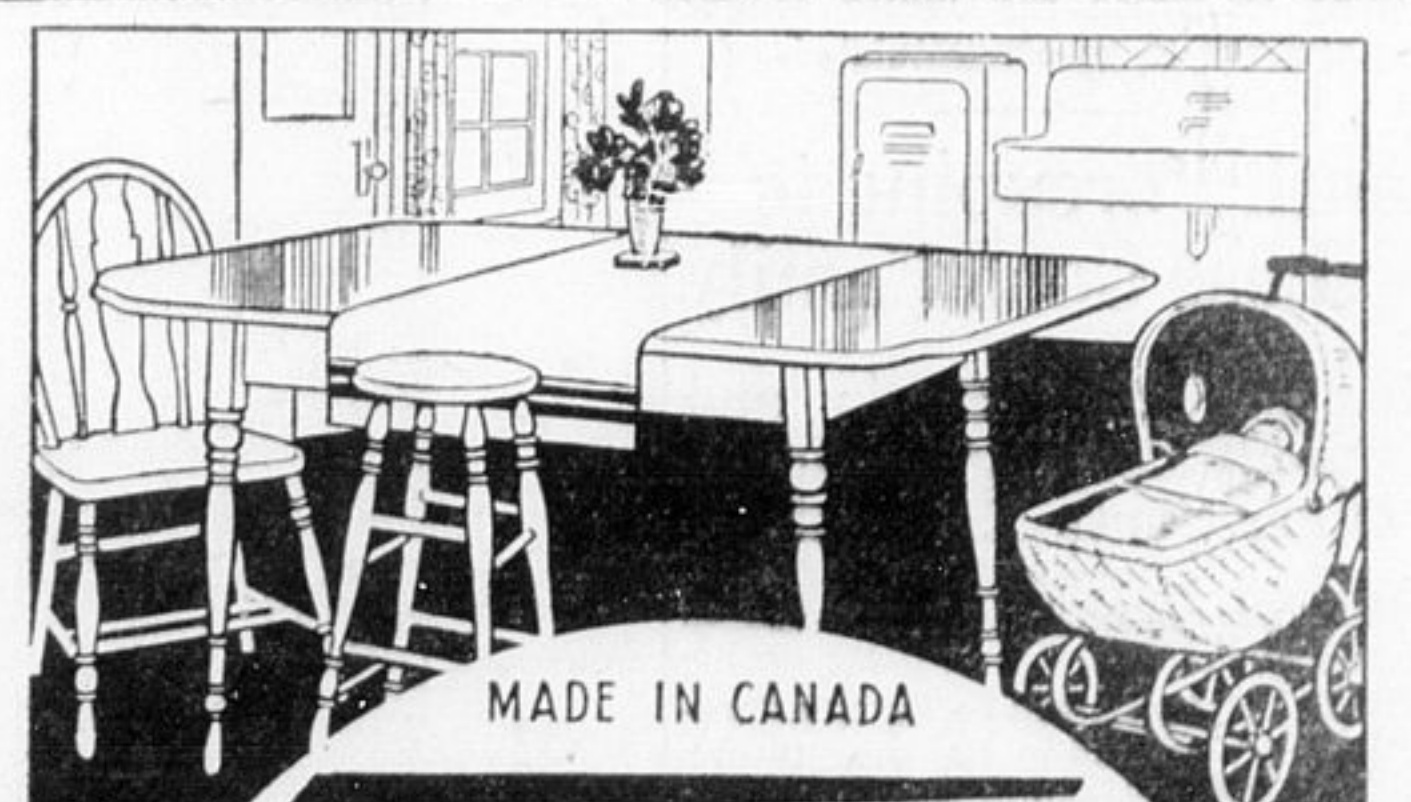
probably the smartest thing right now, and they suit a great many types of pictures, though not all that you might be having. White painted frames are interesting too, so are frames painted to repeat a colour note in the room. And very flat gold leaf molding with a gold mat has a stylish charm. Speaking of mats, you can achieve distinction with mirror mats too, (either clear or tinted) or with wood grained mats. These are better for incidental pictures of course, for your old masters' traditional gold moldings are still best, though occasionally something interesting in walnut or mahogany is different and appropriate. In gold moldings you can keep to the simpler types if you prefer them for informality to the wide heavy ones which require more formal backgrounds.

Visit the picture department of your favourite store for ideas about the new frames and decorative pictures. You'll be surprised how refreshing they are and what "decorator touches" they'll add to a room.

If possible, hang your pictures so that wire or cord doesn't show. You can as a rule do this with all but very large and heavy pictures. And for a group of pictures consider having a panel of a colour contrasting to the balance of the wall. These pictures will contribute unexpected distinction to the design of the room, especially if the colour of the panel repeats a significant note in the ensemble. Or use a mirror panel to "frame" a large picture hung by cords from the molding.

Other suggestions for hanging and grouping your pictures are given in our bulletin "How To Hang Pictures" which will be sent on receipt of a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

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Any good valuator can put an accurate market price on your home. Where needed improvements have not been made this value would be a shock to the owners! Yet a little money spent now on paint, roofing, insulation or modernizing rooms would more than repay its cost by the increased value of your home. So it is actually good business to keep your home as enjoyable a place as you can.

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