

What to Put on the Floor

Shall It Be Carpets or Rugs? Treatment of Floors.

By ADELINE B. WHITFORD.

Many of us still remember the old Brussels and Ingrain carpets which were sewed and fitted to the room's exact measurements, pulled—stretch—left to their utmost—and tacked down; left to gather six or twelve months; dirt, and then lifted, beaten, and laid again, year after year; moth-gathering, difficult to sweep, and seldom really clean.

We have learned much since those days, and no one who has once tried rugs on bare floors has ever known to go back to the full-sized carpets. True, one has to think now of the finish of the floor as well as of the rug expense, and it takes time and study to hunt up materials, and decide upon the suitable colorings and quality, but it pays to do the work thoroughly, for when once the room's floor and rug problem is well settled, the result outlasts the life of any ordinary old-time carpet, and in cleanliness and artistic charm gives even greater value.

Treatment of Old Floors.

In old houses the usual objection to rugs is that the floors are too poor for finishing. Sometimes this is true, but often a good lot of crack filler and hard wax will make a very nice covering for a fairly good surface.

If wide boards are warped and roll up along the edges they may be planed down (always seeing to it of course, that nails are first driven down farther than the plane will run), and for the extremely wide cracks it is possible to get any carpenter to finish very thin soft pine strips, 3/4 to 5/8 of an inch in thickness, and these may be driven in and then planed down to the level of the floor. Such thin strips may also be driven under the mop-boards when the floor is drawn away from them; though a neatly laid quarter round would be better put down all around the floor edge and painted or stained the floor color. The filling up of all shabby openings, either with strips or of the new crack fillers (which are called elastic because they do not shrink, as putty does, when they dry) will greatly improve the floor surface, and this work should be done before the rug is laid.

In bedrooms, however, one large rug is usually not as desirable as several smaller ones, and here the whole floor should be smoothed and filled.

Very old floors should be finished with two coats of paint, and for especially good results add a little good hard floor varnish to the paint used for the second coat. Let the first coat dry well before putting on the second, and let this, too, become thoroughly hard before using. It is a poor plan to hurry any job of wood finishing, where paint or varnish is used.

If an old floor of hard wood and not too poor, it is refinished by first removing all of the old varnish or wax, and then using a mixture of raw linseed oil and turpentine in equal parts. Give the wood all it will absorb of this, rubbing it on with one cloth and wiping dry with another. Or the floor may have a coat of shellac on the first, second, and let this, too, become thoroughly hard before using. It is a poor plan to hurry any job of wood finishing, where paint or varnish is used.

Knowing that we should avoid all strong contrasts in the colorings of the large surfaces in our rooms, we will see to it that the floor color and the rug are equally dark. A dark rug on a light floor downstairs, and light colored rugs on dark floors upstairs, are common mistakes, which, in each case, make the floor colors conspicuous and the room appear much smaller. The rug and floor do not need, of course, to be of the same color, but a medium dark green rug on a medium dark oak or a brown painted floor will make a room appear richer and larger than if the same rug were bordered by a strong contrast of light yellow flooring.

This statement is not made for the purpose of condemning all rooms having light floors of hard wood (for these of course are genuine and fortunately, their colors will darken) but simply to show why artists advise staining a new oak floor to a medium dark tone before shellacking same.

corn at night, will fatten healthy ducklings in ten days to two weeks.

If you are to keep ducks in summer for breeding, give them a grass run and do not feed any fattening food.

Whether or not one can make a profit on ducks depends on whether there is a good market within comparatively easy shipping distance, or right at hand. Ducks for the table are always in demand, however, if properly fattened and afford a welcome addition to the home bill of fare.

Have You a Garden?

Are you one of those farmers who live on canned vegetables all the year round? A man may be justified in devoting his whole farm to some more profitable crops and buying his horse feed, but he is never justified in cheating his family out of fresh vegetables when a half-acre and a few hours' care will give them all they can eat.

And yet—it is a shame to have to say it, but it is true, there is many a fifty-foot lot in the city that boasts a better garden than thousands of other—well regulated farms.

How many farmers there are who do not know the taste of asparagus, and yet there is not a more delicious, more healthful or more easily grown vegetable. It requires little space and will produce year after year with very little care. It seems especially good because it comes so early in the spring before any other vegetables are to be had. Horseradish and pieplant are two other perennials which should never be left out. Of course everyone has a strawberry bed, some currants, gooseberry and raspberry bushes and some more cultivated blackberries.

Celery is another vegetable which is sadly neglected. Almost any garden will produce acceptable celery. Nor is it as much trouble as most people seem to think. There are satisfactory varieties on the market now which do not have to be killed up every few days, which need no water, and which do not rot in the winter. What is a salad without celery, and how much soup is improved by a few dried leaves for flavoring.

Beets, carrots, cabbages, parsnips, rutabagas and turnips can all be used as fresh vegetables in the winter in the same way. Maybe everyone knows that, but there are thousands who never do it.

Beans, spinach, tomatoes, peas, corn and cucumbers are no longer the luxury of a few short days in the summer and they were once. Through the development of early and late varieties, a judicious series of plantings and the easy, safe methods of canning now in use, they have become a year-around food.

If you have a good garden you can truthfully say that you live on a farm; if you have not you only exist there.

You might just as well be in the city. Have you ever seen any new flowers there? Try one or two new ones of them—and you will have lots of fun watching them and will soon develop a splendid variety.

Fertilizing Potatoes

By Prof. Henry G. Bell.

The row and works it in beside the seed piece. Fertilizer is soluble plant-food and is quickly taken up by the young potato plant as soon as the roots get well started. Some potato growers prefer applying two-thirds of the fertilizer broadcast, that is, they drill it in through the fertilizer dropper of the grain drill before the potatoes are planted, at the same time they put on from 200 to 300 lbs. of fertilizer with the potato planter. This gives a wider distribution of the fertilizer. If you do not have either a grain drill or potato planter, strike out the furrows for the potatoes and sow the fertilizer along the furrow. Follow this by putting in a light covering of soil before you drop the pieces of potato, after which proceed as usual. Do not let a piece of potato fall directly on top of the fertilizer, or injury will be done to the seed piece. This precaution is taken care of in the potato planter.

Profits—Yields and profits are closely allied. Investigation among the New Jersey potato growers brings this out very clearly as the following table shows:

| Relation of Potato Yields to Labor | Income on 149 Potato Farms: | Average |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------|
| Av. Yld. Ac. | Bushels. No. Farms. Lab. Incomes | |
| 41.1 | 4 | \$ 178 |
| 67.7 | 22 | 859 |
| 76.9 | 41 | 587 |
| 86.2 | 44 | 815 |
| 96.0 | 30 | 1,066 |
| 106.9 | 8 | 1,693 |

Other Information That Counts—Besides fertilization, the soil should be thoroughly tilled, should contain an abundant supply of humus, and potatoes of high yielding type should be planted. Numerous diseases and insects prey upon the potato. These must be controlled by spraying if best results are to be obtained.

Be Ready—Potato planting will soon be here. Be prepared to take advantage of the earliest opportunity. If you have not already purchased your supplies of seed, fertilizers, and spray material, see that these are obtained at the earliest date possible and stored in your barn, so that not a minute may be lost when conditions become proper for potato planting. Most profitable results are obtained by proper soil management, plant-food supply and crop handling.

The Sunday School

INTERNATIONAL LESSON, MAY 2.

The Boy Samuel—1 Sam. 1: 24-28; 2: 1-21. Golden Text, Prov. 23: 23.

1: 24-28. Lent to the Lord. The son of a pious mother, the child of prayer, Samuel was consecrated from his birth to the special service of Jehovah. First of all, in fulfillment of his mother's vow, he was to be a Nazirite (v. 11). The Nazirite (see Num. 6) appears to have been subject to such a vow, either for life, or for a certain limited time, during which he was required to abstain from wine, from touching a dead body, and from shaving or cutting the hair. The vow was, we may believe, a protest against drunkenness and certain other forms of vice, which prevailed at Canaanite altars, and which were being imitated at the altars of Jehovah.

In the second place, Samuel was dedicated to the service of God in the sanctuary at Shiloh, where he was to be in the care of, and to be instructed by, the chief priest, Eli, a descendant of the priestly family of Aaron. On the occasion of his coming to Eli gifts were brought, and a bullock was slain in sacrifice, as a dedicatory offering. Thus solemnly was he "lent to the Lord."

3: 1. Ministered to the Lord. He acted as attendant or servant to Eli, and was in training for the priesthood. The linen ephod which he wore (2: 18) was the distinctive garment of the priesthood. It is worthy of note that Samuel did not belong to the tribe of Levi (see 1: 1), and therefore the law which required all priests to be of that tribe cannot yet have been in force. It is also clear that the writer of the history regarded the ministry of the child as really as that of the high priest, as a service rendered to the Lord.

The word of the Lord was precious, or rather was rare, in those days. That is to say, that there were few prophets. The words even vision men either frequent or widely spread prophetic gift. It was not until the time of Samuel that prophets became numerous, and came to be recognized as the religious teachers and leaders of Israel.

2-3. In the temple. This was the old temple of Shiloh, which was shortly after destroyed by the Philistines. Eli was advanced in years and his eyes had begun to wax dim (Revised Version). This is stated as the reason for Samuel's solitude and attention. When he heard the voice he supposed it to be that of his master who required his assistance.

The lamp was lighted in the evening and burned all night in the sanctuary (Exod. 27: 20-21; 30: 7-8).

4-8. "Here am I." Samuel is presented here in a very attractive light.

Household Weights and Measures.

The following comparisons of quantities may prove useful to the housewife: (All measurements are taken level.)

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------|
| 10 tsp. | 1 cup |
| 12 tsp. (dry material)..... | 1 cup |
| 14 tsp. (liquid)..... | 1 cup |
| 2 cups (liquid), packed solid..... | 1 cup |
| 2 cups sugar..... | 1 cup |
| 2 cups meat, finely chopped..... | 1 cup |
| 2-3 cups powdered sugar..... | 1 cup |
| 2-3 cups brown sugar..... | 1 cup |
| 2-3 cups oatmeal..... | 1 cup |
| 4-4 cups rolled oats..... | 1 cup |
| 4 cups flour..... | 1 cup |
| 9 or 10 eggs..... | 1 cup |
| 2 tsp. butter..... | 1 oz. |
| 4 tsp. flour..... | 1 oz. |
| 1 egg, slightly beaten..... | 4 tsp. |
| 1 lemon (juice)..... | 3 tsp. |

Respect for the Child's Possessions

It is no wonder that during infancy and early childhood life's lessons are so difficult for the small beginner when the laws which govern them must seem to him just or unjust, consistent or inconsistent, according to the knowledge or the caprice of the adult administering them.

One of the first lessons which the little child should learn is the proper care of his own possessions and respect for those of others, and a mother has the first opportunity to inculcate this important life lesson.

Since one of the strongest instincts of the child is to imitate, there seems no more logical way to teach this lesson than by example. If a mother teaches her child not to touch the articles on her desk or dressing table without her permission, then has she the right to dispose of his toys without her permission?

The writer recalls an instance where a mother secretly put away a doll which had been given to her little girl, and for no reason except that the child already had a number of dolls and this particular one was "too beautifully dressed to be played with until the child was older."

Another common way of disregarding children's rights is to force them to give up some new or much-prized possession. For example, a little girl of six, who was delighted with the gift of a doll's fan, was obliged by her mother to hand it to her screaming baby in order to quiet him. In his excitement he soon crushed the tiny toy, his screams increased, and his little sister was broken-hearted! Nor had the unjust and short-sighted mother "saved the scene" which she had hoped to avert.

In each of these cases the child should have been consulted and her permission given before the mother disposed of the plaything. In this way the mother could have explained the reasons for her own action, and the child, in her turn, would have had an opportunity of expressing herself, a habit which should be encouraged. Then, too, personal responsibility for her possessions and the recognition of the right of ownership would have emphasized the difference between "mine" and "thine."

There is no better way to create habits of orderliness and a sense of responsibility than by giving the child a place for keeping his playthings, and then allowing him full control of these possessions.

Show him how to use his books, how to take care of his toys, how to protect his pets, and then see to it that he has a shelf or a small bookcase for his books, a play corner for his toys, and an appropriate home for his pets.

After playtime require him to put away whatever he has been using, and let him understand the necessity for regular attention to his possessions. Such training will of necessity react upon his character since possession entails responsibility. Ownership also teaches generosity, for without possessions how can a child learn to share?

It may not be out of place in advising parents to respect their children's possessions to add a warning on behalf of the children. Do not surround them with numberless ready-made toys. Give them blocks, boards, nails, a few tools, hammers, saws, planes, spoons, scissors, thread, cloth, dolls, paper, crayons, clay, sand, and books. They will get more happiness from these possessions of constructive possibilities than from all the finished toys shops in the land.

Childhood has its own way of seeing, thinking, and feeling, and nothing is more foolish than to try to substitute our own for them. Respect your child's right to his possessions and he will learn to respect the rights of others, and, with such recognition, there will be no fear for the outcome of his place in society.

Why the Little Dog Laughed.

Little Bo-Peep, she lost her sheep; Couldn't tell where to find them; So she sent out the call to look for them all—

The sheep and their tails behind them.

Then Jack and Jill went up the hill Determined for to find them; And Little Boy Blue he looked for them, too—

But the sheep kept their tails behind them.

Old Mother Hubbard went to the cupboard; If haply she might find them; But the cupboard was bare,—no mutton was there—

Not even the tails behind them.

Then the little dog laughed to see such sport; For he was the one to find them; And up through the meadow he drove them home, Wagging his tail behind them!

Chosen seed will grow no weed.

Soak handkerchiefs in a pail of salt and water before putting them into the ordinary wash water.

Laugh at your own troubles, never at others. Troubles will be strangers to you, men be brothers.

Tipsy Plants

Sir Jagadis Chandra Bose, an Indian scientist, has invented a wonderful microscope with which one can actually see a plant growing!

The instrument is composed of a simple magnetic lever, which, by movements, rotates a delicately poised actuating a small mirror. It causes a spot of light to be reflected upon a screen, giving a magnification of from 1,000,000 to 100,000,000 times.

Particularly interesting is a recording of the erratic effects in growth of a plant caused by Sir Jagadis states that there has been forestalled by the plant, which with animals is the heaviest of all. "Identical effects caused by stimulants and poisons animals and vegetables."

With reference to the difficult recording these "incessant vibrations" in the apparently perfect plant, he states that the slow movement of a small insect moving faster than the movement of the plant, the average rate which is one-millionth part of an inch per second.

The growth of a plant can be observed to the will of the eye by experimenting in this direct regard to agriculture discovered vast importance are likely to be made. Sir Jagadis claims that it is no wonder if his microscope is to wait a whole season as at present to witness the result of experience.

Giant Star-Spotted.

The largest telescope in the world has just been built at the Mount Wilson Observatory in California point nearly 6,000 feet above level.

It is a quarter of a million more powerful than the human eye and will enable astronomers to see stars that were formerly invisible. It is also smaller than the average telescope in its class.

This telescope is a permanent for solar research. It is five feet tall and has a diameter of 100 inches and has a tower as a protection against vibration.

The tube of the telescope has walls with air spaces between them, and the second mirror in the design is on the front surface, as one foot thick.

There are three lenses. The top lens is 12 in. in diameter, the middle 15 1/2 in. in diameter, and the bottom 17 1/2 in. in diameter. Three lenses are mounted on a base that are swung out of the way when not in use.

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