

a pale fresh green, it suggested to one's mind one of those fair sweet daffodils that have already bloomed and died for us in this sweet spring-time. On entering the Home I was much struck with its appearance. I had expected a fairly comfortable house, furnished in a fairly comfortable common-place way, with something of a lodging-house appearance about it, and perhaps a certain bareness too. But here I found, on entering, a good-sized entrance hall, which from its colouring and decoration gave one a pleasant welcome to the Home, and was the key-note which struck for one the whole tone of the house and its belongings. On the floor was a pretty linoleum of good design and colouring, while the walls were papered with the most charming large-patterned paper of a lovely shade of old rose, the doors and all the woodwork being painted a dark red colour. A pretty little black oak hall-table, and two high-backed oak chairs upholstered in a dull blue patterned velvet, made ample furnishing for the hall, with some prettily coloured Eastern prayer-rugs on the floor, and, on the hall table a beautiful palm in a large blue jar. On the right-hand side was the dining-room—a large airy room with two windows, with lace curtains showing from beneath curtains of a shade of peacock blue. As a dining-room the room was perfect. The walls were tinted a pretty yellow, with a plain wooden dado of a dark shade, and the floor was stained round some feet from the wall and carpeted with a blue Axminster carpet, with a pretty design running over it with a good deal of yellow in it. The furniture was in black oak—a very large handsome oak dining-table, and at the end of the room, facing the windows, a very handsome black oak cabinet, while at one side stood a pretty little oak buffet. The chairs were straight high-backed oak with embossed cowhide seats, and in each window stood a neat little oak writing-table, provided with all necessary materials for writing. Every detail of the room was perfect. The fender was in wrought-iron and brass, and I noticed even the coal-box was the most lovely thing of brass in a framework of wrought-iron. Some pretty plates and jars on the mantelshelf gave a nice little touch to this most cheerful of dining-rooms. On the same floor was the sitting-room of the Matron, whose good fortune it is to have charge of this most delightful Home. A charming little room, papered with a pretty little yellow-patterned paper, wood-work of dull yellow, curtains of white lace and gold brown serge, a blue Brussels carpet, a writing-table with all sorts of convenient little drawers and ledges, and some pretty little tables covered with books, flowers, photographs, and all sorts of natty little things.

Two of the tables I noticed were of the new green-stained wood, and there were two chairs of the same with rush-bottomed seats. In this room were two large basket chairs, beautifully cushioned, and covered with a pretty cretonne—one of them was of that charming shape with wings, which at once suggests to one the most delightful rest and ease. Each of these chairs I noticed were provided with the dearest little frilled cushion, just the size to tuck comfortably behind one's neck, and make one perfectly and fully happy. Farther along the hall was a quaint little low window, draped with a lovely yellow-flowered muslin, and with a window-sill all gay with flowers; while farther on a door led down to the kitchen regions, which were most roomy and cheerful, and quite perfect in arrangement and furnishing. Ascending the broad staircase, which was carpeted with a beautiful Brussels carpet with a peacock-green ground, I passed another daintily-draped window, and found myself on a broad carpeted landing on the first floor, on which was the drawing-room, and here indeed I was surprised. What I had already seen of the house had in some measure prepared me for something pretty and in taste, but the room I found myself in was simply charming. The walls were papered with a patterned paper of hedge-sparrow tint, and the floor carpeted with a lovely Axminster of a shade something between Indian-red and vieux rose. The woodwork was toned to suit the paper, and the three large French windows which opened on a roomy balcony were curtained with frilled lace curtains and others of a greenish blue. The large two-leaved door, which opens into a small drawing-room beyond, was draped with a yellowish muslin, and along the top of the door were grouped fans and fire-screens in a beautiful harmony of colours—old gold, dull Indian reds, and the prismatic shades of the peacock's lovely feathers. Then the furniture! It was simply charming! A delightfully low, deep, roomy Chesterfield sofa, in dull hedge-sparrow velvet, with a pillow of pretty flame-coloured silk, two large easy-chairs to match, and four of the most lovely chairs in old Dutch Marqueterie that I have ever seen, with the seats covered with the same velvet. There were, too, an exquisite cabinet and a table both in Marqueterie, and a long low bookcase of the same. This last I noticed was quite empty of books; but I am sure it will not remain so long, but will soon be filled by the many visitors that must go to see and admire this charming Home. A very pretty Japanese screen in white with gold birds and crimson flowers was draped with daffodil-coloured silk; and I noticed two lovely old Chippendale arm-chairs, rush-bottomed chairs with wood-

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)