



Milady Papers Her Own Boudoir

AND now the humble paper hanger feels the advance of fashion. His mussy labors, hitherto exempt from interference on the part of the housewife, is threatened and his very occupation faces extinction. His supposedly indispensable services are no longer required, for Milady is doing her own paper hanging!

The annual paper hanging has long been a dread season of the year, as unwelcome as the spring house cleaning. But no more. Mrs. Housewife, be she never so wealthy or her social position never so commanding, now rolls up her sleeves, pins on a voluminous apron and fearlessly wields huge paste brush and heavy shears.

Previously, the house has been turned over to white-overalled workmen, who though humble enough in themselves, have been regarded with the awe akin to that accorded the plumber. The magic process of transforming a few rolls of wide, coarse looking paper into a smooth, artistic, decorative mural background has been watched with the respect and admiration bestowed the magician who pulls a globe of gold fish out of a lighted cigar.

But the advance of fashion has changed all this. No woman who values her artistic reputation would now think of turning over such an important matter as the decoration of her walls to a mere day laborer. She does the work herself, one room at a time, and it must be admitted that, for once, fashion's fancy meets with the unanimous approval of the other members of the household, who now recall the days when every room in the house was dismantled, meals were snatched in the kitchen and sleeping a precarious and none too sure a luxury, with the same amused disdain with which they glance at a picture of the first bicycle.

Of course, women are paper hanging or hanging paper for the satisfaction of their artistic temperament. They feel, in their new emancipation, that man can no more be depended on to decorate walls properly than to direct the destinies of the nation without their approval at the polls.

And besides, there is the satisfaction of taking a friend throughout the newly papered house, showing her the masterpieces of decorative effects and then proudly saying: "And I did it all myself." Friend neighbor can be depended on to spread the news of the achievement with the inevitable and dramatic climax: "She did the whole thing herself."

For the woman that feels that she has not the strength to undertake the repapering of the whole house herself, there is left the decorative touches, the putting up of panels, borders, crowns and skirtings.

And then her boudoir. Pride forbids that the clumsy hand of man desecrate its sacred walls. Being her own domain, woman must paper it from wall to ceiling and even the ceiling itself, although this is no easy job. In fact, the whole business is no easy job, however simple it may sound and look to paste up paper.

Wall paper comes in rolls from twelve to twenty yards long and in widths of from twenty to twenty-four inches generally. It is not a simple matter to cut this paper the proper lengths and then get it straight on the walls. But practice makes perfect in paper-hanging, as in every other art. And art it is, as any novice will attest after a trial.

You paste the paper on the back and simply stick it on the walls. But your first experience will lead inevitably to the conclusion the professional paper hanger is a wizard, sec-

ond only in necromancy to the fitter of linoleum who walks into your house with a roll some seven feet high and a sharp knife in his pocket and proceeds without delay to put in practice the problems of Euclid on the floor.

If one could only be certain of hanging those pieces of paper fairly straight it would not be so bad. But they seem to have an unaccountable knack of getting out of the vertical. Then they are heavy and wet with paste. You are at the top of the steps and your assistant down below to see that it is all right by the skirting. And you must be quick, or the paste will dry and won't stick. So what with hurry, nervousness and the limpness and perfectly incomprehensible behavior of the length of paper you get it out of the true and there is a

cockle somewhere which has to be smoothed this way and that until it finally decides to change into a crease.

Then you stand back and wonder whether it is better to pull it off at once before it has a chance to dry, and try again, or let it go and hope for better luck with the next strip.

Yes, putting up a tent in a gale of wind is child's play compared with getting properly fixed your first sheet of wall-paper. But woman's well known and primordial virtue will triumph in the end, and this time patience will have its reward.

The little decorative effects and touches which only a woman can manage are ample reward for the trials and tribulations of learning the paper hanger's art. There are innum-

It's All the Result of the Arts and Crafts Tendencies of the Day, That Madame or Mademoiselle Must "Do" Her Own Room So That It May Reflect Her Own Pretty Characteristics— But Oh, What a Mussy Time She Has Doing It.

able little touches which can be added to a room and the end justifies the trouble.

Paneling is the first and simplest of the decorative devices. Woman must use her shears and use them often in order to attain the best results. It sometimes seems a sin to cut into a nice, fresh piece of wall paper and discard so much of it in order to get an effective border, but it will be economy in the end.

For paneling, buy a roll of paper with a narrow border of stripes. Cut it up into long ribbons according to the design. Now paste down a strip, perhaps it will be three inches wide, all around the room immediately under the frieze rail. Do the same just above the skirting. Then paste strips down the wall vertically in all corners. This has divided the plain paper into panels exactly the same size and shape as each section of the wall area.

If the wall area be extensive, just as many panels can be made as desired. But a word of warning to amateur house decorators. In mishapen rooms, they are apt to make the walls look even more irregular than before.

For this kind of a room, other effects are desirable. A little delicate decoration just under the frieze rail sometimes helps. Choose a paper having stripes some seven inches broad. Take a pair of scissors and cut these stripes as before. Instead, however, of each strip having a straight line each side, one edge must be cut carefully around the details of the design, your scissors following the outline of each flower and leaf. In places, too, it may be necessary to piece the pattern. You now have a border, the straight edge of which is pasted close up to the moulding, the serrated edge falling on the plain paper below. Wall paper manufacturers call it a "crown" frieze when it is ten and a half inches deep or more. But yours is simply a cut out border.

A good thing for the beginner is to roughly sketch the outline of the wall and figure on paper with red and blue pencils the probable effect of frieze, rail or skirting decoration.

While Milady naturally devotes most of her attention to her own room, carefully planned touches can be added to each room that will give a distinctive and original effect to the entire house. And in the nursery, the amateur decorator can run riot with her ideas.

It's a pretty good room to practice in, second only to hubby's den.