

Your Five Foot Shelf

By THE EDITOR

THERE are days that come to all of us when all we want is the chance to creep away to our own private corner and forget our cares and worries between the covers of a favorite book. It may be a dog-eared copy of a volume of poetry, of travel or perhaps of fiction, but it is essentially restful and comforting.

When I wish to be myself I curl up in the worn and shabby morris chair and bury myself in "Alice in Wonderland," or "When We Were Very Young," by A. A. Milne. I love the one about the poor king who had such a struggle for a little bit of butter and especially this one:

"James, James
Morrison Morrison
Weatherby George Dupree
Took great
Care of his Mother
Tho he was only three.
James, James
Said to his Mother,
'Mother,' he said, said he,
'You must never go down to the end of
the town if you don't go down with
me.'"

It is only when I feel worldly and scholastic as I should, that I resort to Theodore Dre'ser, Willa Cather or Dorothy Canfield. I feel much more comfortable by myself with Alice down in the rabbit hole.



Picture from Vogue.

But whatever I read I must be comfortable. The place is as important as the book at hand. A "book corner" you will find to be the comfort center

of every home that boasts a real one. Some member of the family can be found in its comfortable seclusion every available minute of the day.

In those homes which are fortunate enough to have a library, there is room and to spare for every one. I remember that our library—originally intended for my father's "den," but soon invaded by the rest of the family—was plainly the comfort center of the house. At first its walls, lined on three sides by built in bookcases, loomed hopelessly empty and barren. One whole section was assigned to me alone and its five shelves seemed enormous in size for my small books and magazines. Slowly the section was filled by the addition of carefully selected sets of books, "The Children's Hour" and "The Book of Knowledge," bound copies of children's magazines and the ordinary accumulation of children's books. "The Children's Hour," a set of ten volumes with selected stories and myths, saw the three of us safely through a six weeks siege of the measles and pneumonia combined. Though we have passed the age of children's stories, the section in the library is still filled with them and several of the small children of the neighborhood can usually be found

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A book lined room is always homelike.

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there, deeply engrossed in one of our worn old books.

To those who do not have room in their homes for this generous book space, a more careful selection of place and book is necessary. Their sanctuary, instead of being an entire lazy room, is often limited to a corner only. This means having only the most needed books at hand, and perhaps in dispensing with some of the old favorites to give place to the ones used more often. In giving too much largesse in books, as in anything, the art of selection is never gained.

In this modern day we do not have time to browse around in a library anyway; we want to put our hand on the very book we wish to read. The fitting of these book corners calls for as careful selection of furniture as of books. Hanging bookcases, brightly painted, may be hung on available wall space, and convert an otherwise uninteresting space into one of fascination. Or an old secretary may have its upper shelves, reaching nearly to the ceiling, filled to overflowing with books. Small tables whose lower parts are shelves for books, can be purchased reasonably and fit easily into a small corner by a big chair. Or modern needs build into a wall a few shelves. Arch the top and circle the whole with trim woodwork to give it interest. Paint the shelves a bright vermilion or a strange green-blue and the color note of the room may be accented.

And not alone the bookcase, but the books themselves make or spoil the beauty of the corner. I often find myself buying a book for its cover alone. My latest prize is a new volume of "Alice" (plainly my weakness) bound in black with the covers in white printed with a conventional design in

orange. It is put out by Boni and Liverwright. Every one of the deckle edged pages is bordered in orange. The woodcuts are charming. Such bindings of course make the book a little more expensive, but once you have learned to bind them yourself you will find that you can save enough for an-



Picture from Vogue.

other new book by re-binding a cheaper edition, granting that the paper is of good quality.

It is possible to block print your cover, but it is really a tedious task. One smear, and an afternoon's work is ruined. Rather, marbleize your own

paper. It is such fun to see what results you can get with a few tubes of oil paint and sheets of charcoal paper. Is the process of marbleizing familiar to you? If not, secure a large pan, one that will hold a sheet of paper 12x18, and fill it with an inch of water. Take the colors you wish to use on your paper, say cerise and blue and a soft green or mauve, and mix each with a little turpentine. Then with a brush shake drops of the paint on the water. The turpentine prevents the paint from sinking to the bottom of the pan and the drops look like globules of oil on the surface of the water. Now blow across the surface of the water and watch the colors blend and merge in graceful designs. By blowing, always from the same side of the pan and in the same direction, you can proportion the colors as you wish. Roll the sheet of paper across the water quickly, being careful to get all the surface touching without getting any water on the reverse side of the sheet. At first it is hard to get all the paper wet and some spots, barren of all color, will glaringly spoil the sheet. Others will be miraculously lovely in design and color. Special linen enamel paper for binding can be obtained in any shade at most any book store and you can choose any subtle shade to match the marbleized paper. After you start marbleizing you will not want to stop because you will find it so fascinating. By the way, tissue paper, marbleized with gold or silver, is lovely for wrapping Christmas gifts.

This quartet—a bookcase, a good shaded lamp, an easy chair and a good book beautifully bound—spells comfort. You do not have to be an avid book collector to love these things; comfort and peace belong rightfully to everyone.

New Happenings

The fellowships in the division of Home Economics of Iowa State College for the year 1926-1927 have been announced as follows:

Miss Grace Elizabeth Harribine, a graduate of the Rhode Island State College has been granted a fellowship for the coming year in the Household Administration Department. She is interested in the Household Equipment section of this department.

Miss Zoe O'Leary, who has been granted a teaching fellowship in the Home Economics Vocational Education Department for the year 1926-1927, is a graduate of Kansas State Agricultural College.

Miss Margaret Gail Redfield has been chosen for the Junior Industrial Fellowship under the Ball Brothers Industrial Fund. The work under this fellowship will be in conjunction with the Food and Nutrition Department. Miss Redfield is a graduate of Iowa State College.

Miss Gertrude Laura Sunderlin is Senior Industrial Fellow under the Ball Brothers Industrial Fund. Miss Sunderlin is also a graduate of Iowa

State College and for the past year has been graduate assistant in the bacteriology department.

Miss Zorada Zerna Titut, a graduate of Kansas State Agricultural College, is to be teaching fellow in the Foods and Nutrition Department.

The Applied Art Department will have as their teaching fellow for the coming year Miss Marian C. Lepley, a graduate of Iowa State College.

Ten new members are added to the Home Economics Department with the advent of the new quarter. Miss Henderson has been on leave of absence for some time and we are glad to welcome her back.

Bishop, Helen A.—Home Administration.

Fisher, Jean A.—Physical Education.

Grandprey, Medora—Home Administration.

Henderson, Anna M.—Applied Art.

Hinderman, Myrtle—Physical Education.

Johnson, M. Orinne—Non-Collegiate.

Miller, Ruth—Physical Education.

Mumford, Mary—Home Administration.

Sykes, Viola—Textiles and Clothing.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Ferguson of Ames, Iowa are the parents of a son born Sept. 11. As Elizabeth Storm, Mrs. Ferguson was editor of the Home-maker and since her marriage has been a member of the Publication Board of the Homemaker and editor of the State Home Economics Association page.

Orena M. Bourland, H. Ec. '19, is employed as a bacteriologist by the U. S. Public Health Service of Cincinnati, Ohio.

M. Regina Brennan, H. Ec. '11, is supervisor of Home Economics in the schools at Grand Forks, N. D.

Mabel M. Hall, H. Ec. '22, is a teacher of Home Economics in Shepard College, Shepardstown, W. Va.