

Simplicity in House Decoration

A VERY marked change in the general character of interior decoration has occurred during the past few years in Germany. The present school of architects, painters, decorators and designers is aiming at artistic effects in which simplicity is the dominant note. The current "Jugendstil" seeks its results through symmetry and grace of outline and broad, even surfaces with effective chromatic harmonies, but discards the mass of minor accessories and the elaborate detail which have hitherto characterized the treatment of a German interior and the art of the upholsterer.

This change was strongly pronounced last year in the exhibits of furniture and decorative designs at the industrial exhibitions held at Nurnberg, Zwickau, and other points and especially at the Exposition of German Industrial Art at Dresden. At the latter there were exhibits of over 100 completely furnished rooms. No where were fringes, tassels, galleons or the like visible. Woodwork was almost invariably smooth and but rarely touched by the carver's tools.

The change in public taste is so marked that it has seriously affected several well-established Saxon industries so seriously that the government has felt compelled to carefully consider the situation and ascertain whether any measures can be taken to relieve the stagnation in the group of trades directly involved. The minister of the interior recently called upon the Chemnitz chamber of industry for a full report upon the matter, with recommendations. Chemnitz, like other German cities, has in addition to its chamber of commerce also a chamber of industry—Gewerbe-Kammer—directly representing, in the productive industries, both labor and capital. The chamber has just communicated its report to the minister. The following is a summary of its conclusions:

In regard to such upholsterers' accessories as are produced by a branch of the so-called passementerie manufacture, there is no question on the

part of the trade but that the tendency of modern art is completely opposed to the further utilization of their creations. This is strongly marked in the coarser forms of furniture, less so in the cheaper forms. The chief cause is the demand for smooth, even surfaces, in harmony with the prevailing canons of taste. In the category of less expensive furniture the unwillingness to pay present prices for trimmings of good quality has limited the use to some extent.

Upholsterers complain that heavy fringes, tassels, and similar accessories which formerly gave them much remunerative employment, now are completely banished or are replaced by modest, inexpensive, edgings. Until recently they were frequently called upon to undertake complicated designs of folded stuffs in the interior decorations of rooms which involved preliminary sketches and a high grade of artistic ability in the execution of the plans. The present style of decoration calls for simple materials, free from folds, with a limited amount of embroidery, which are found ready-made in stores and involve no special ability in arranging.

Plaster decorations and wood carvers and turners state that their trades have all suffered seriously from the prevalent fashion for smooth surfaces on furniture and in decorative architectural features. The chamber has appointed a special commission of experts to study the case, and the opinions of the members of this commission are worthy of note. One member, an architect and professor in the technical college, declared that from the hygienic standpoint he was strongly opposed to any return to former styles and in favor of extreme simplicity in all furnishings. The older styles were dust collectors and breeding places for disease germs.—Daily Consular Report.

SPEEDING IN GERMANY.

The reckless pace at which automobiles and motor bicycles are run in Germany, and the injuries resulting therefrom to the health, comfort, and property of people using the highways,

or living alongside of them, have produced a somewhat unfriendly feeling towards these vehicles.

To this feeling may be attributed in part the lessened demand for automobiles. The Farmers' Association of the province of Nassau, in the Frankfurt consular district, at their general meeting last month adopted a resolution to request the convention of the United Farmers' Association of Germany to move in favor of legislative action to restrict the fast running of these vehicles for the following reasons:

"Owing to the steadily growing automobile traffic and the excessively fast pace at which these vehicles are run, serious accidents are of frequent occurrence, by which the life and property of the public are strongly endangered and actually injured. Furthermore, these risks are greatly increased by the automobile races which also incommode and hinder public traffic particularly among the farming population of the districts where these races come off, by the shutting off for days of the roads over which the competing automobiles race. The executive officers of the farmers' associations are requested to urge upon the public authorities that in future automobilists be held under stricter control, so as to avoid excessively fast running, especially when passing through towns and settlements, and that they be made to conform to municipal or police regulations, and that the violation of them be atoned by inflicting severe penalties than now in vogue."

The running of races on highways used for public traffic is also sought to be prohibited. No doubt similar action will be taken by many other associations. The medical fraternity may join the protestants, because it is well known that the clouds of dust raised by the fast-running automobiles are great enemies to the lungs of people and prolific generators of consumption and other diseases.

The burst of a balloon at Milan a year or more ago has been traced by R. Nannas to phosphoric and arsenic acids present in the impure hydrogen used for inflation. Spots on the envelope showed where these acids had attacked and weakened the fabric, which was strong elsewhere. This risk in ballooning can be avoided by using pure materials for generating the gas.

Causes of Indian Unrest.

BUT beyond these common grievances of India I am most struck in Damras by the uneasy suspicion that justice is not pure. One had always supposed that, whatever our other faults, our government could be depended upon for a justice that took no thought of persons or gain. It is disconcerting to find that it is exactly the suspicion of injustice that is here rousing the widest feeling of disquiet and irritation. Men of the highest official position in the law courts tell me that the common people are coming to believe in British justice at all. There is, too, the standing sense of wrong because an Englishman has the right to a different form of trial from an Indian; because in most cases throughout the country the official who brings an accusation is also the official who decides the case; and because the native police are promoted on the number of convictions they obtain.

Unhappily all these three grievances are familiar to any one who has taken any notice of Indian affairs at all. Lord Ripon's attempt gradually to remove the first, though it failed, is one of the well-remembered events of his famous viceroyalty. The second is a scandal so obvious and so universally recognized that one can only suppose its removal is now a matter of money. The third, which I think is more bitterly resented here than anything else, will require a complete reorganization of the police, especially of the system which leaves the prisoner on remand in their hands and makes it worth their while to extort "confessions" by means which, rightly or wrongly, are spoken of with horror among the people.

Peaceful and backward as Madras is supposed to be in comparison with places like Poona, I have seen more signs of active unrest here than in other places. The Swadeshi movement is very strong. In the native papers you see advertisements of Swadeshi goods of every kind, and exhortations to "try our Bande Mataram cigarettes." One wealthy Hindu has determined to do without imported machinery, and collecting members of the old weaver caste has set up a bamboo factory of

hand looms, where they turn out beautiful Indian cottons, very little more expensive than the English stuffs and lasting four times as long. He cannot keep pace with the demand of the Hindu women. There is a small party here also which says: "Let the English go their way. We will ask no share in their government and take none. We will neither appeal to their law

courts nor accept salaries as their officials. We must pay the taxes, but otherwise we will forget that the foreigners are among us at all."

Last night I was introduced by a Brahman into the house of one of his party. It was the festival of Siva. The rooms and courtyards sparkled with little lamps, and at the door a band of pipers drove cars, I hope, very far away. The gods were collected on the table, and dressed in all their best, little girls tended them with lights and flowers. But, for the first time, the

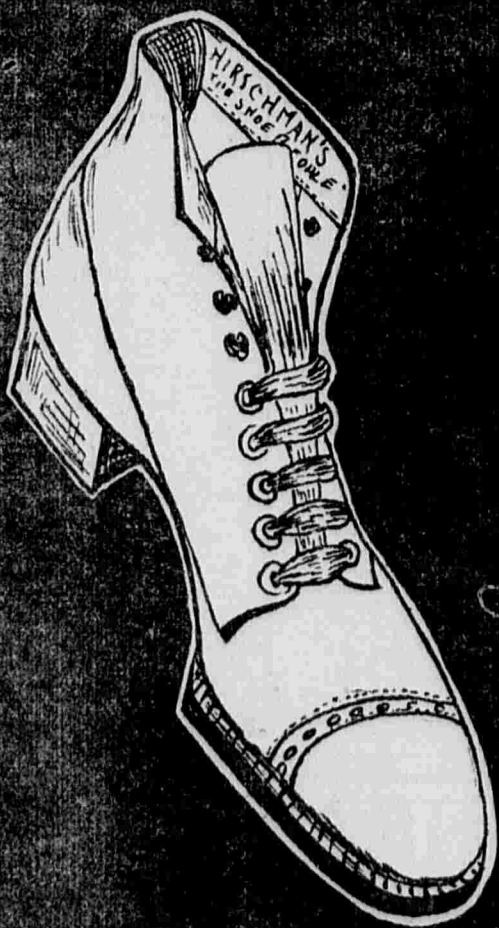
master of the house did not give me a Hindu welcome, and when I went out into the great temple of Vishnu the excited crowd, waiting for the procession of the gods, swarmed round me with wild shouts of "Bande Mataram! Bande Mataram! Hail to the Motherland!" My Brahman told me afterwards that it was in compliment to my Liberal opinions. But I think it was not in compliment to my English clothes, which were much more conspicuous than my opinions.—Henry W. Nevins in London Chronicle.

HOW WOMAN SUFFRAGISTS CONDUCT A CAMPAIGN IN ENGLAND.



The cut shows a parade of suffragists arrayed in sandwich boards which was made recently outside a London police court. It represents the latest phase in the campaign of protest against the enforcement of man-made laws in the British police courts. The movement has made great progress on the other side.

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