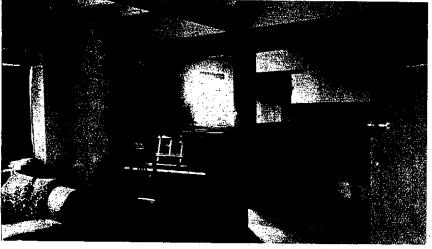
A word as to cost will be of interest. It will be seen that while everything is solid and substantial, there are no moulding to split and shrink-no superfluities. Nothing but walls, floor, and roof, nothing but pure building. The cost was about £750, inclusive of everything, fencing, etc. The same plan could hardly be built in wood for less than £700. In England, where the climate is more severe, there are many brick houses 300 years old still standing. We know that few wood houses will last forty years. In addition, the brick house is warmer in winter, coolerin summer, and is fire, draught and dust proof. This is enough to show that temporary building is the wildest extravagance. Indeed, until we in this country learn to do things once and do them well, we shall remain comparatively poor.



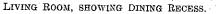
PROGRESS



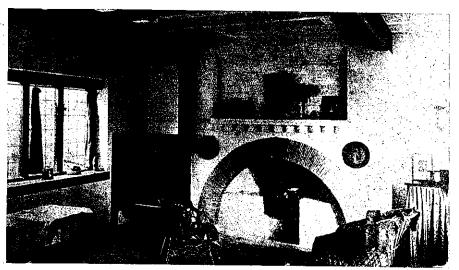
However, before we go in for permanent building, let us "wander away" once more with Nature and learn her lessons of beauty, so plentiful to those humble enough to see them.

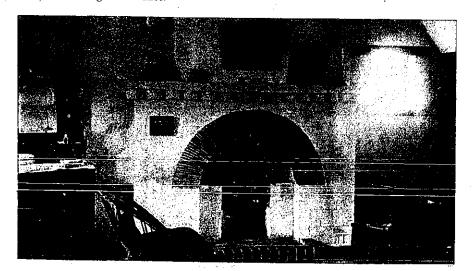
## A Chat about French Polishing. (By W. J. Mosley.)

There is an indefinable something about the finish of most of our household furniture, in-terior fitments of the larger houses, and furnish-ings of public buildings which, so long as it is clean and reflects through a bright, transparent. film the beauties of the figure or markings of the woods, prompt most people to say, "It is French polished." The term, though a common one, does not imply that the finish we so much admire has been brought about by workmen hail-ing from France. On the contrary, it simply means that we are merely copyists—copying, as 'ar as we know how, a process of finishing wood-work that had its origin in France. There is an indefinable something about the work that had its origin in France.



ventors cared to reveal. At this time the varnish or polish, lay on the surface of the wood, with-ont any successful attempt at filling up the open grain, and was mostly of a yellowish or golden colour. But as the process became more uni-versally adopted efforts were made to build up a more solid surface by working it well into the grain—efforts which were crowned with success about 1823, as described in "The Mechanics" Magazine" for November 22, 1823, where it says: says:- ""The Parisians have now introduced an entirely new mode of polishing, which is called





BEDROOM.

LIVING ROOM WITH FIREPLACE.

plaque, and is to wood precisely what plating is plaque, and is to wood precisely what plating is to metal. The wood by some process is made to resemble marble, and has all the beauty of that article with much of its solidity. It is even assorted by persons who have made trial of the new mode, that water may be spilled upon it without staining it." As already explained, the finish up to this time was mostly of a golden hue, owing no doubt to the fact that the oldest known recipe of its chief ingredients, "shellac, the yellow the better."

The process was originally known as "Vernis Martin," which means "Martin's Varnish." For the use of this and the method of its applica-

For the use of this and the method of its applica-tion a monopoly was granted to the Brothers Martin in 1730 for a period of four years, which is equivalent to saying that they secured for that length of time a patent right for their pro-cess. After this it apparently became public property, or at least as much of it as its in-ventors cared to reveal. At this time the varnish or polish lay on the surface of the wood with

As time went on, and perfection in building up a solid surface was assured, this golden hue on solid surface was assured, this golden hue on everything thus treated was objected to, and a finish free from colouring matter was sought after. In 1827 the French Society of Arts offered a prize "for a polish or varnish made from shellae or seedlae, equally hard, and as fit for use in the arts as that prepared from the above substance, but deprived of its colouring matter." matter."

The result of this was the production of what is now commonly called white shellac, which is used mainly on light coloured woods that are