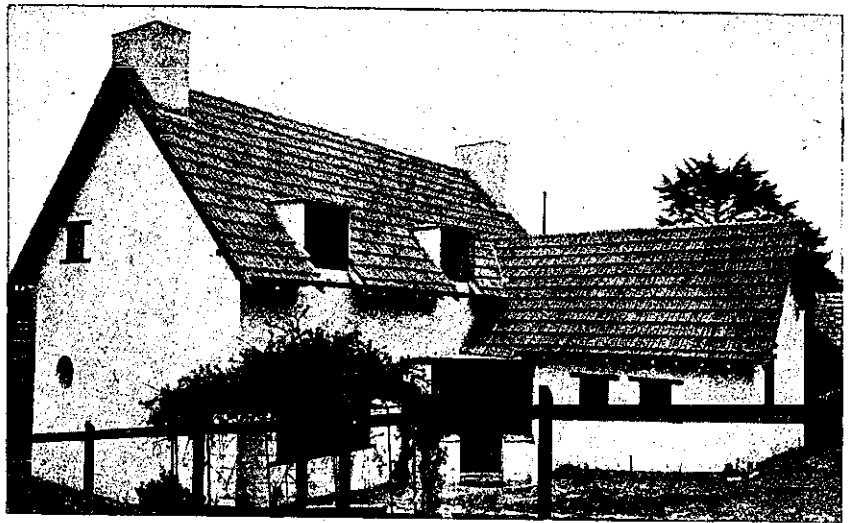


A word as to cost will be of interest. It will be seen that while everything is solid and substantial, there are no moulding to split and shrink—no superfluities. Nothing but walls, floor, and roof, nothing but pure building. The cost was about £750, inclusive of everything, fencing, etc. The same plan 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, cooler in 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.



A SIMPLE COTTAGE—BURNELL AVENUE FROM



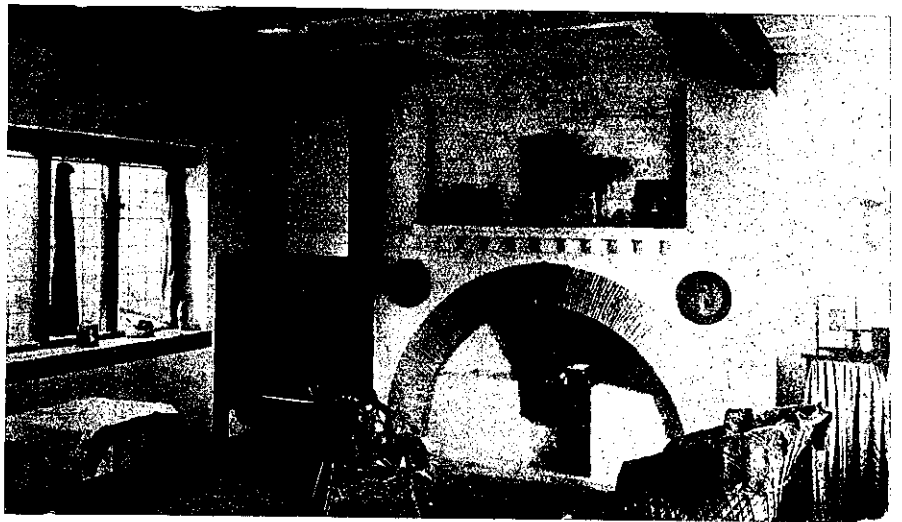
LIVING ROOM, SHOWING DINING RECESS.

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, interior fittings of the larger houses, and furnishings 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 hailing from France. On the contrary, it simply means that we are merely copyists—copying, as far as we know how, a process of finishing wood-work that had its origin in France.

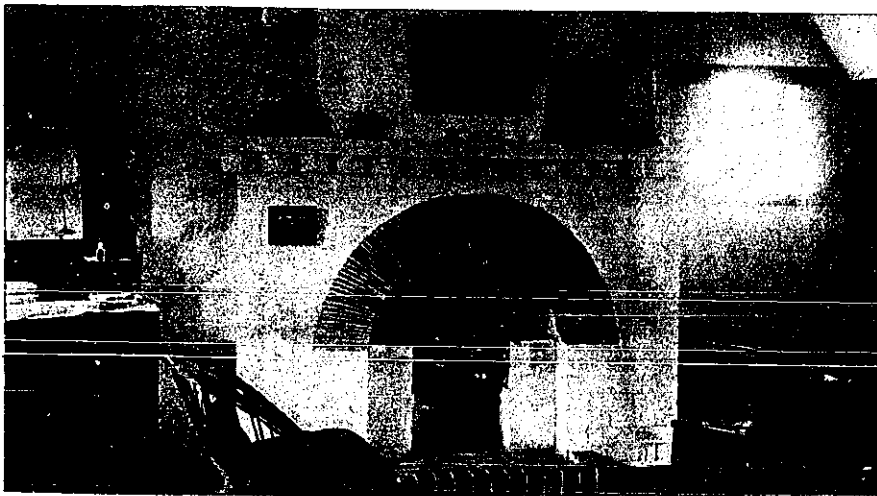


LIVING ROOM WITH FIREPLACE.

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 asserted 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." As time went on, and perfection in building up a 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 shellac or seedlac, equally hard, and as fit for use in the arts as that prepared from the above substance, but deprived of its colouring 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



BEDROOM.