

The average kitchen fittings comprise, beside the range, a dresser and a few cupboards. In the twentieth century these things should show some modification and improvement. If the dresser were made as a cupboard with close-fitting glass panelled doors, more like a china closet intended for valuable specimens, much unnecessary washing of china-ware would be obviated. It is better if a proper pantry can be provided for the china and glass, with a sink, etc., for the washing of these articles, but in a small house it is not always possible to afford the room. In such a room drawers for holding the plate, tablecloths, dusters, etc., should also be fitted, and if it forms a servery ample counter or flap accommodation should be provided for setting down trays or dishes.

Cupboards are generally set in the kitchen where it is thought they will not be in the way. This is quite the wrong method of regarding them. If necessary, the whole of one side or end of kitchen or scullery should be cupboards. These need not be extraordinarily deep, but should contain the stores in current use in separate shelves or pigeon-holes, so that the mistress of the house can see practically at a glance what things require replenishing. In the scullery there should be a cleaning cupboard, so arranged that the various brooms, brushes, dustpans, etc., can be hung up, a locker provided for the boot brushes, blacking, polishing paste, and drawers for clean and dirty rags.

The sink is the most important article in the scullery; it should have good big draining boards on either side and plate racks over the draining boards. It is desirable that the sink be placed in front of a window, but the walls round should be faced with glazed bricks, tiles or non-corrosive metal for at least three feet on either side, and two feet above the sink.

In the matter of bathrooms we are reverting to the luxury of the Romans. In fact, educated people look upon their baths as an enjoyment, and not, like our forefathers, as a necessary but troublesome item of cleanliness. The porcelain bath is a beautiful thing in itself, but takes more heating than the iron one, with a resultant loss of temperature in the water. Unless a big fire is kept going in the kitchen range for a considerable time (in summer a matter of great discomfort) the water never seems hot in the average hot water service. Moreover, one bath exhausts the stock of hot water for some time, and a continuous supply of hot water is an impossibility. Therefore a geyser is to be recommended, for with it a constant stream of hot water is immediately on tap after lighting the gas. Where gas is not available there is a special geyser made for burning chips of wood and is quite as effective. Several of these appeared in Ballinger's exhibit at the recent exhibition.

In small houses the water closet is often placed in the bathroom. Though there is little to cavil at in this, considering the excellence of modern fittings, there is much to be said against it on the grounds of convenience, as both fittings may be required for use at the same time by different persons.

Most of the interior walls will be scrimmed and papered, but if money is not an especial object some rooms, such

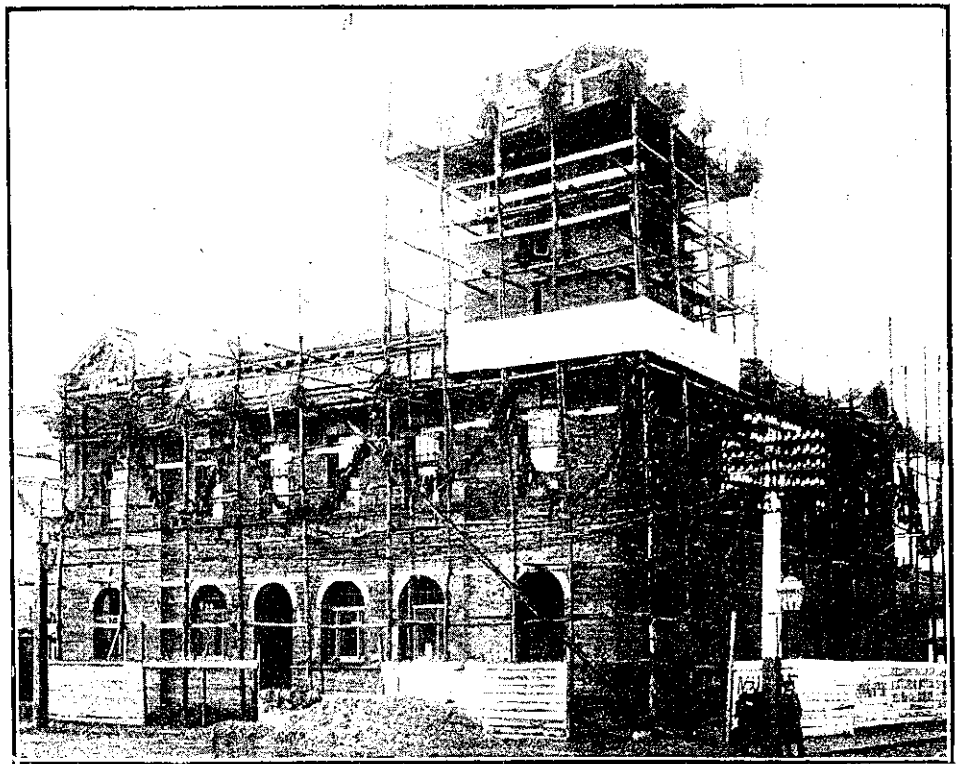
as the dining-room, may be panelled in polished wood. Wide vertical Oregon panels stained dark, with narrow varnished kauri styles about breast high, and a brownish or buff paper above, would give a dining-room a very nice appearance. Picture rails are a great boon and not expensive. The division of a wall into dado, filling and frieze is largely a matter, however, for the artistic skill of the architect.

Chimney pieces and doors may also be included in the objects for careful design, and the metal work (lighting, fixtures, door plates, handles, knockers, and other metal included under the title of door furniture) offers immense possibilities for the expression of art.

It is by the discretion and restraint exhibited in the choice of these appurtenances that the householder may proclaim his intelligence and refinement to his visitors.

liner to bring them to England for the purpose of witnessing the first performance on November 11th." The "Standard" goes further:

"If thoroughness and attention to every requirement means success, Mr. Hammerstein is going to be eminently successful. There is a note of completeness about the whole undertaking. The work is a wonderful combination of speed and thoroughness. On November 1 last the excavations were commenced, and on November 11 next the curtain will rise for the first time in one of the most beautiful theatres in the world. Three hundred men have been employed, and the number of hours worked up till Saturday was 570,000. In creating the foundations 24,000 tons of earth were excavated, and the quantities of materials used have been 120 tons of granite, 2800 tons of sand, 2000 tons of ballast, 1090 tons of breeze for the floors, 3000 tons of Portland stone, 3,500,000



NEW POST OFFICE IN COURSE OF ERECTION AT WESTPORT.

New Opera House in London

Mr. Oscar Hammerstein, the great American Impresario, who has gone to London to wake the English public up, as he puts it, is sparing no expense in the construction of his enormous theatre in the Kingsway. In his prospectus Mr. Hammerstein says: "Grand opera can succeed only when it is presented 'grand' in every detail; it must be grand in auditorium and on the stage; grand in singers, musicians, scenery, and costumes; its director and his staff must be imbued with the loftiest of purposes. Unhindered by any influences, I have succeeded in what will be found an incomparable *ensemble*. . . . To be successful, I must not teach; I must interest."

Interest is beginning to be aroused already in the manner of the execution of the work, no fewer than one thousand plasterers being at work on the interior, and the London "Standard" adds to this impression of Yankee hustle the startling information that "a number of American millionaires are chartering an Atlantic

bricks, 800 tons of steel, and up to the present 1500 tons of cement have been used.

"The Opera House is constructed to accommodate 2700 persons, and forty-three boxes are being constructed, including a handsome suite for the use of the King. The stage measures 90ft. by 60ft., and is specially constructed with a view to magnificent spectacular effects. A fireproof curtain will be provided, which in case of fire will be lowered and automatically flooded with water, while on the stage itself a lantern light will be arranged which will open automatically in case of fire, thus causing a draft to carry away the heat and smoke from the public portion of the house. The ground floor below the street level will be entirely devoted to stalls and boxes, and above the stalls, suspended from the circle, will be a complete tier of boxes, each with its own retiring-room. Two other tiers are arranged on each side of the auditorium. Above the boxes will be the grand circle, and above that the lower and upper galleries. Every seat throughout the house will be a *fautuil*. The proscenium arch