

# Possibilities of the Veranda.

By MARIAN V. DORSEY.

The art of living sanely has developed our porch comforts and hospitalities to a degree of enjoyment known to no other people, for the veranda, as we use it now, is truly an American inspiration as well as institution.

Some of us can remember when a couple of rocking chairs, often decrepit ones that had outlived their usefulness within doors, were considered all that the veranda demanded, but when one contrasts this with the screened, vine covered, willow furnished porches of the last few years the difference shows us how long we were blind to our possibilities for comfort in hot weather.

Everywhere now, however, the dwellers in the suburbs and those occupying summer homes in the country are giving more thought to the porch and its possibilities for quiet enjoyment than to all the rest of the house put together.

At first it was the luxurious piazzas of Newport, Lenox, and Elberon that showed what could be done in the way of turning the porch into a haven of restfulness. Algerian willow furniture first appearing there; but it is now realized all over the country that the rich can have no monopoly in the delights of the porch, and that our own willow, rattan, rush, and prairie grasses furnish the outdoor parlor ideally and minus the cost of transportation. The lines of all these roomy chairs and divans suggest perfect ease, comfort, and repose, no formal furniture having a place, properly, in this environment.

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## Porch Table a Leading Feature.

The porch table is one of its chief features, and if the porch is a spacious one there are usually two or three tables in requisition—one for afternoon tea, another for books and often a sewing table.

Fitting up a porch for comfort may cost as much or as little as you can afford to spend and there are plenty of inexpensive fittings that give most effective results.

For instance, curtains of green denim, or the Japanese bamboo curtains sold in all the shops, shade the porch quite as well as Venetian blinds, and a kind of arts and crafts furniture, on the straight lines of the mission sort, is particularly appropriate in these unconventional open air living rooms. Small summer rugs of cotton fiber are used on the porch floor, care being taken to place one under the hammock and in front of each rocker, for if there is one thing that can

utterly destroy the delightful quiet of the porch it is the sound of feet tapping the bare floor as one rocks or swings.

Besides the fiber, jute and straw rugs, the durable plaited mats of oval form, like those used in revolutionary days and seen so often in pictures of colonial interiors, are now much used on the porch, the revival of their manufacture having created quite a fad for them, their colors being harmoniously blended.

To give another bright touch of contrast loose chair cushions are often made of old fashioned chints of the Dolly Varden design or floral cretonne, and a soft material in Roman stripes is popular, but for this purpose cushions of plain green material are found to preserve the harmony of the place best and are oftentimes used.

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## Value of Porch Hammock.

The porch hammock, swung across a shady and protected corner, is not only the pleasantest nook in which to read a summer novel, but proves an invaluable aid in securing a refreshing nap for the baby or feeble grandparent, whose night rest has been broken by the heat.

Porch hospitalities are extended in the morning, afternoon or evening. The town friend is asked over the phone to run out by trolley right after breakfast, in the cool of the day, and stay to lunch; or a neighbor or two are called in the afternoon to bring their darning or fancy work while one reads aloud, and some porch entertainers let it be known to their relatives and intimate circle that a simple al fresco supper or high tea is always served on the porch on Sunday evenings, to which all are bidden to drop in informally whenever they choose, and it is considered a delightful privilege by those masculine stay at homes, whose families are away, to avail themselves occasionally of this pleasure.

Most porch hostesses are careful to keep in the refrigerator bottles of grape juice, lemons and wafers, so that when a caller comes on the porch the hostess has merely to press the electric button of the front door bell and a servant appears to get her order for the beverage: the slice of lemon, the fragrant aroma of the grapes and the tinkling ice combining to give the most pleasant anticipations of refreshment to the one who steps from the sunbaked streets into the cool, inviting porch.

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