

## SOCIAL

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E**BRIGHTENING OF HOMES IN THE TROPICS : INTERIOR COLOUR WASH**

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THE ordinary whitewashing for the entire interior of the house is monotonous and makes the house look like an office. One remains surrounded by the same colour night and day. Hence the monotony.

Colours break the monotony and in addition are restful to the eyes.

Colour schemes, however, should be based on the direction of the light entering the rooms. For ceilings and for about 2 feet on the walls below whitewash is excellent: Cobwebs, spiders, insects and dust are plainly seen and can be brushed off or destroyed as soon as they appear. In central rooms with a high ceiling the whitewash may come down to as much as 4—5 feet with advantage. A line in the appropriate colour dividing the white area on the walls from the coloured area below is preferable but can be discarded if the artisan\* in drawing the line claims equality with an artist and demands rupees for annas. Meeting of such demands is antisocial.

The appropriate colour for the line depends on the colour which is used on the walls below

\*The difference is far from insignificant. The artist creates a significant form. Take away a part of it and it will cease to be significant. The artisan, on the other hand, follows (or even creates) a pattern. The greater the regularity of the pattern the less the artistic value of it, if any at all be in it.

the ceiling. For central rooms, usually shades of brown will be suitable.

The area of the wall next to the floor can also be dealt with by a general rule like the one applying to the area next to the ceiling. It should be painted to a height of 9-10 inches with an oil paint matching the colour of the floor, white for marble, grey for green and cement and brown for red. The splashes from washing of the floor will then not make the walls look unsightly. The area covered by the oil paint should be wiped dry after the washing of the floor. The washing must be done daily. Wooden floors are not suitable for the tropics. In fact they are not suitable for any country. The regular polishing is laborious and expensive and on the slippery wood people slip and break arms and legs, especially the elderly or children after measles (or from any other disease causing weakness). Before the introduction of sulphur drugs and antibiotics quite a significant fraction of elderly folk used to die of pneumonia of a special variety (hypostatic) after breaking a leg on the polished wooden floor.

The area of the wall against which a settee or a divan is to be placed should be enamel-painted to save the cushions from coming into contact with lime in the colour-wash.

*The Verandah.* All houses in the tropics must have at least one verandah. It forms the lungs of the house in stuffy weather, a shelter in the monsoon and a sunshade in the scorching hot weather. A south verandah should be in some

verandah may be in some shade of yellow (artistically called biscuit) : the morning sun shade of blue or green, otherwise it will dazzle the eyes for the major part of the day. An east gilds it on every day of the week regardless of the temperature during the day. A west verandah may be white or in a lighter blue or green than the south verandah for the same reason. A north verandah must be white : otherwise it will be dark most of the time.

The colour scheme of the rooms will be guided by the same considerations which apply to the verandah.

The hall should always be white : it will then be full of light. For persons and things coming into the house the mistress of the house will not have to strain her eyes. For the opinion of those who matter the rest of the house will demonstrate the artistic (cum scientific) taste of the mistress of the house : when all is said and done art begins where utility ends.

The above considerations of light apply to the Northern Hemisphere. In the Southern Hemisphere north should be replaced by south in the description.

A few words will suffice for the outside of the house. Good bricks do not need plaster, white-wash or colour wash ; of bad bricks houses should not be built. On houses already white-washed a light yellow is preferable to red, grey or white.

(Reproduced from a Press Release issued by British Information Services No. BF. 2064 dated 20th October 1954)

#### AIDING ASIAN STUDENTS' WELFARE

##### SPECIAL U.K. CAMPAIGN IN NOVEMBER

A special campaign throughout Britain to raise funds for welfare projects in Asia is announced by the British branch of the World University Service (W.U.S.), in which some 40 countries are represented. The campaign will be conducted during International Students week (November 15 to 21) when, traditionally, all British student organisations combine to focus public attention on the needs and aspirations of students overseas, and raise money for projects designed to help less fortunate students.

The decision to campaign for more funds was taken at the international general assembly of WUS at Oxford at the end of July. A target of £450,000 was set to finance new university health services and sanatoria in

India, Pakistan, Japan, and Indonesia, and international student centres to be built in India, Pakistan, and Korea, as well as in the Middle East.

The National Union of Students, the Scottish Union of Students, and WUS will combine in the International Students Week appeal, and the funds raised are to be allocated to six specific projects in India, Pakistan, Israel, Egypt, South Africa, and Yugoslavia. The Indian project is "Help to students who suffered losses in the Assam floods, and to the students' health centre at Aligarh," and the Pakistani, "Help to students who suffered losses in the East Pakistan floods, and to the student health service in Dacca."

Last year's International Students Week appeal was supported by 81 British universities and colleges, who raised £1,167. With the new academic year only a few weeks old, many universities and colleges in the U.K. are already busy organizing educational and fund-raising activities in support of WUS. The British WUS Committee recently published accounts for the 1953-54 session showing that last year, the efforts of 151 British universities and colleges brought in £4,673 to help the work of the World University Service.

#### PROJECTS IN INDIA

The full list of projects to which the money contributed to the British W.U.S. Committee in the 1954-55 session will be allocated, includes, for India, "substantial aid" towards the provision of new university health centres in Agra and Patna; supply of drugs and equipment to W.U.S. health services at Aligarh, Bombay, Calcutta, Jamia Millia (Delhi), Madras, Santiniketan, and Shillong provision of X-ray equipment for the Aligarh University health service; construction of an international student centre at Aligarh; aid to the W.U.S. student hostel in Calcutta, and to W.U.S. hostels and individual students in other university centres; supply of text-books for university libraries in several centres; and provision of equipment for vocational training centres in Delhi.

The committee plans to aid projects in 15 oversea countries altogether during the current sessions, in addition to student projects in the U.K. itself.

(Reproduced from a Press Release issued by British Information Services No. BF. 1586 dated 17th August 1954)

#### U.K. OFFERS MILK TO OVERSEA DEPENDENCIES

The United Kingdom Government has offered to make up to 6,000 tons of canned milk available free of charges for welfare purposes in British dependent territories overseas. The milk will be used in hospitals and schools and for infant and child welfare generally.

The Governments of the territories have welcomed the offer and have agreed to arrange for the distribution of the milk.