cate directly with the sleeping porch. This porch is built onto the rear roof in the form of a dormer, the ends being left closed as a screen. The rear wall is entirely open, the roof being supported on posts.

Maple floors are used throughout the house, with plain oak as the trim for the first floor, and red gumwood for the second floor. Walls and ceilings are plastered, being finished without plaster of Paris, and troweled down to a smooth surface with a steel trowel. By finishing the plaster in this way it dries out to soft gray color and shows almost the texture of a sand finish. A thin coat of stain brushed over forms a beautiful background for stenciling or other methods of hand decoration.

The selection of woods for interior trim in these two houses is merely suggestive. The owner should make use of native woods to the fullest possible extent. A great many varieties of woods are used for trim and almost every section has one or more native woods suitable for interiors.

Oak, ash, chestnut, cypress, birch, maple, gum pine and redwood are most generally used. The woods of strong fiber, such as ash, oak, chestnut and cypress are best suited for living room, dining room, hall, or those rooms subjected to more or less hard usage. Those of finer texture and less decided markings are better suited for bedrooms, or those rooms which would require a daintier style of furnishing. Any of these woods may be used and if properly stained and finished to bring out their sturdy individuality and beauty, will blend with and add a charm to the decorations of the rooms, quite impossible to secure with painted surfaces. They will produce an effect of completeness which does away with the need of elaborate decoration and furnishing, and make for simplicity in the house.

THE OPEN HEARTH FIRE: BY STANLEY S. COVERT

The genuine hearth fire,—not a bunch of imitation logs made of iron and asbestos with a sickly blue gas flame, but honest oak or birch sticks blazing on the andirons,—how cheery it is and how reminiscent of the camp-fire you enjoyed last summer on the lake shore or beside the trout stream, when the evening air grew chilly. It appeals to something elemental in human nature and, although architectural styles may change and many improvements may and will be made in house construction, the fireplace will retain its place in the hearts of all true home builders for many generations to come.

The comfort and joy of an open hearth fire need not be regarded as a luxury, beyond the reach of the modest house builder; it is within the reach of anyone who can afford to build a house at all. For you must have at least one chimney and that can be planned so as to give at least one fireplace, say in the living room or dining room, and in either or both of these rooms it is of great value, not only in giving the room a home-like and substantial effect and a charm that is perhaps indefinable but very real, but it also is important as a ventilator and equalizer of temperature. Always at work, whether there is a fire in the fireplace or not, it is drawing out from the lower part of the room the colder and more impure air and replacing it with the warmer air from the upper part of the room. It is true that to do this it must draw in as much air as it exhausts, and it will do this; it will assist the warm air to enter from the register if the room is heated from a warm-air furnace.

Have a fireplace in one or two of the bedrooms if possible. In case of sickness it will be invaluable as a ventilator and during convalescence the cheery glow and warmth of the fire will afford interest and diversion for the invalid during long and weary hours.

Have a fireplace that will not smoke. This may seem a difficult thing, as the art of building fireplaces is largely unknown to the builders of today. But the architect knows, or should know, that to make a successful fireplace is merely a matter of the proper fashioning of throat and smoke chamber and the right proportioning of the flue to the fireplace opening. It is a good plan when building a fireplace, to provide it with a damper for the control of the draft and ventilation; there may be times also when it is desirable to shut off the draft altogether and the damper will enable you to do this any time it may be necessary.

In the treatment or design of the fireplace let simplicity rule. The charm of the fireplace is the fire and its associations; therefore, it should look its purpose, which is to burn logs, and the andirons should be of a substantial design of wrought-iron or brass. It is a mistake to make the fireplace or mantel overelaborate, and the simple examples of our own Colonial period are good models to follow.