A MODERN CALIFORNIA HOUSE OF THE SPANISH TYPE:
BY DELLA M. ECHOLS

TYPICAL of the comfort, ease and enjoyment of life that is supposed to be inherent in southern California and its bungalows, is the Spanish residence designed for Mrs. J. S. Jones by a local architect. It is built on one of the beautiful avenues of the suburban town of Glendale, a few miles north of Los Angeles, and is surrounded by wide-spreading pepper trees and other native shrubbery.

This type of dwelling is especially adapted to the southern climate, for all its rooms are spread out on the ground and so are in close touch with out of doors. Moreover, with no stairs to climb, the work of housekeeping is considerably lessened.

The exterior is of sawed shakes down to the water-table, below which are red brick in white mortar. The massive chimney is also of red brick in white mortar. Like all Spanish residences, the roof is flat with a wide overhang about 3½ feet in width, extending the entire distance around the house. This gives the building a much wider
The arrangement of the rooms, the idea having been to get the maximum of comfort, convenience and beauty with a minimum of expense. This has been accomplished by a practical and very compact floor plan and by making interest of materials and structural proportions the basis of all decorative effect. There is no attempt at elaborate ornamentation; everything is simple, homely, designed primarily for household comfort, beautiful because it is appropriate and worked out with artistic feeling.
THE ROMANCE OF ASBESTOS

From the pergola at the entrance one steps into a hall which separates the living room from the guest chamber. The house is trimmed in natural woods, unmarred by paint and varnish and finished so that one feels the interest and color of the grain. The wainscoting of channel boarding in hall, living room and dining room is 6 feet high. This not only adds to the friendliness and charm of the rooms, but it is especially harmonious with the built-in furniture—bookcases, buffet, china closets, etc. These are all constructed on strong, simple lines, and in filling the various needs in a practical way add much to the structural decoration of the interior.

The central point in the living room is, of course, the fireplace, which is built of old gold brick. What a contrast is this "room to live in"—10 x 20 feet—to the cheerless, formal "parlor" of twenty-five years ago! The dining room beyond forms an extension of the living room, and with its combined buffet and china closets is especially convenient.

The kitchen is equipped with all modern conveniences, so that the work of the housewife is more of a pleasure than a drudgery. A very practical feature is the large built-in hood which comes down low over the stove in one corner of the room and carries off all smoke and cooking odors. The kitchen is as cheerily in appearance as the other rooms, being all white enameled. A screen porch immediately off the kitchen contains the sanitary laundry trays and also the stairs leading down to the basement, where the furnace is placed.

The bedrooms no less than the living or day rooms are planned for health and restfulness. The windows and doors are arranged so as to provide the best possible lighting and ventilation, while leaving ample space for the beds and other furniture. Access from the bedrooms to the bathroom is easy, and these rooms are conveniently separated from the rest of the plan. The bathroom has a modern equipment, being finished with a tile floor, white enamel woodwork and nickel hardware.

There is one feature in home-building which every woman appreciates, and that is an abundance of clothes closets, particularly the kind that admits sufficient light and air. This plan makes ample provision for such closets. Another factor which adds materially to the beauty of the rooms and helps to lighten the work of keeping them clean, is the provision of hardwood floors. These do not add greatly to the cost, and are certainly worth while, for they permit the abolition of carpets and the use of rugs—both an aesthetic and a sanitary gain. The electric fixtures throughout were designed by the architect, and it is just such attention to detail and careful workmanship evinced in every room which helps to make this little home a place of unusual comfort and loveliness.

The total cost of construction was $2,600.00.

ASBESTOS: AN ANCIENT MINERAL WITH MODERN USES

ALTHOUGH we are all familiar with asbestos in many forms, few of us know where it comes from or what strange and interesting uses its history reveals. The word itself is Greek and was applied by ancient authors to quicklime, though Pliny is said to have used it in its modern sense. It meant "unquenchable" and also "incorruptible," asbestos having the power of resisting the action of fire.

This fibrous mineral was used by the ancients in various ways, being woven sometimes into shrouds. These, wrapped about bodies which were to be cremated, prevented the ashes of the dead from mingling with the wood ashes of the funeral pyre. It was also spun and woven into fabrics, such as handkerchiefs, which were regarded chiefly as curiosities, and perhaps its most romantic use on record is the possession by the Emperor Charlemagne of an asbestos tablecloth which, when soiled, was cleansed by being thrown into the fire. The Eskimos of Labrador have used this versatile mineral as a lamp wick, a use to which it was also put in some of the sacred lamps of antiquity.

As to its modern application, one could make a long list of its increasing uses in the industrial arts. It is made into yarn, felt, cardboard, stage curtains and fireproof clothing for firemen; it is used in machinery as packing, and as jackets for boilers and steam pipes, as a filtering medium for corrosive liquids and as an electric insulator.

The most used variety is the serpentine-asbestos called chrysotile. It occurs in narrow veins, the fibers, only a few inches in length, being usually of a delicate, silky luster, very flexible, elastic and of great tensile strength.