

1922

# Let There Be Light

Mildred Boyt  
*Iowa State College*

Follow this and additional works at: <http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/homemaker>



Part of the [Home Economics Commons](#)

---

## Recommended Citation

Boyt, Mildred (1922) "Let There Be Light," *The Iowa Homemaker*: Vol. 2 : No. 12 , Article 4.  
Available at: <http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/homemaker/vol2/iss12/4>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Student Publications at Iowa State University Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Iowa Homemaker by an authorized editor of Iowa State University Digital Repository. For more information, please contact [digirep@iastate.edu](mailto:digirep@iastate.edu).

# Let There Be Light

By MILDRED BOYTT

PEOPLE are coming more and more to realize the value of light in the home. In the past we were too prone to consider light a rather necessary evil that must be supplied unless one wished to go to bed with the chickens. Since the general use of electricity, however, we have not only been putting more value on better light, but also on using this light and light fixtures as a decoration to our homes. The bright glare of an electric bulb screamed for a shade, so our designers began experimenting and their results show on every hand.

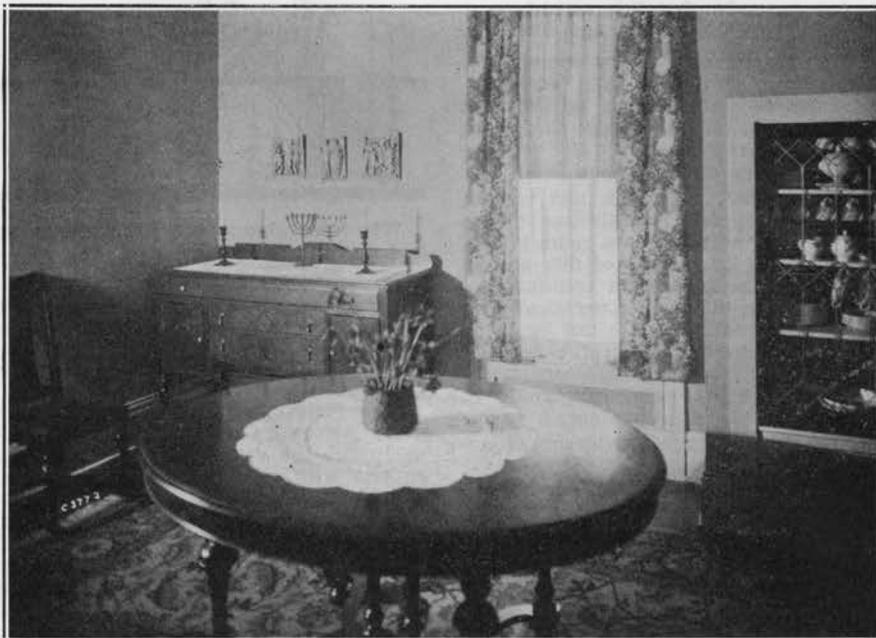
The first light was the open fire. This is still an attractive way of lighting, and the person who has never dreamed an hour away while gazing into the changing multicolored light of an open fire has one of earth's joys still before him. The next step in light development was bunches of grass tied to sticks and used as torches. Then came the tiny vessels filled with animal oil, supplied with a wick at one end, and a handle at the other. The ancients considered use first, but also made an honest attempt to decorate their lamps. They thought of several ingenious devices that were not only practical but helped in the general appearance. These were various projections to catch the drip, and chains or brackets to hold the lamp up out of the way.

This type of lamp became obsolete on the invention of candles. The elements necessary for candle light were sockets, sprickets, pans for the drip, stable bases, and some method of attaching the candle stick to the wall. That the decoration of the candlestick reached a high degree is plainly shown by the beautiful ones that have been left to us by our ancestors.

Oil lamps gave little to the world in



It is often the case that beautiful lamps can be made at home for a very small cost. Here is a student in ceramics making clay candlesticks to be used in a home.



A light that reflects a fine old painting or brings into the foreground the artistic touches of decoration is most to be desired.

the way of beauty, and the gas era came at a time when commercial design was at a very low ebb. Beautiful gas fixtures might have been developed if gas had remained supreme after the era of artistic nightmare was safely past. But by that time electricity was invented. The great possibilities of electricity were apparent at once. For the first time designers did not have to take into consideration the inflammable quality of the material they were using, nor to provide a place for smoke or fumes to be given off. For a while electricity was installed into the gas systems using the same fixtures. Fortunately there are few houses so equipped today, and we have the choice of the best designs for our homes.

Many of us use our homes most in the evening, therefore the lighting is of vast importance. Soft rose or tan light, brings a sense of peace, quiet, and well being. Bright lights stir us on to greater activity and act as the stimulus for excitement. Glaring light, poor flickering light, bright light where we need dim, and dim where we need bright tend to make us uneasy, nervous and unhappy. Many family disagreements could be avoided if the house were correctly lighted. Soft warm light is for the bedroom and living room, while a brighter light may be used to a better advantage in the dining room, study, kitchen and ballroom. Often it is best to supply a direct light where it is needed and have the rest of the room in shadow.

There are many types of light that may be used in every home, such as desk lamps, telephone table lamps, picture lights, decorative lamps, mantle, dressing table, bedside, cardtable, work and even shaving lamps. These in turn take every available shape and size.

A light that reflected a fine old painting or one that is so concealed that it lights a quaint figure, or a bit of tapestry is beautiful for a hall or living room. How often one has seen fine paintings so poorly lighted they appeared as a gray mass, no line or color being distinguishable.

The lamp craze may go to the extreme and be worse than no lamps at all. Too many lamps in a room give the effect of a small balloon hanger. This may be avoided by having different types of lights and avoiding the impulse to put a reading lamp on every bit of flat surface. Often a beautiful lamp placed before a mirror will serve as two lamps, both in light value and in decorative effect.

Great care should be used in choosing the lights for our homes. First we should consider just what we wish the light for, secondly what type of light best fits into the decoration scheme, thirdly is the lamp beautiful in itself? That is, the proportion correct? Are the colors right? Is it too plain or too decorative? And will I tire of it? If we can honestly answer these questions then we need never fear the result.

It is often the case that beautiful lamps may be made at home for a very small cost, a jug or vase of pleasing line and proportion may be wired, and a harmonizing shade of silk or parchment made for it. Most of the stores carry complete lines of lampshade frames and fittings, and as a rule have competent women who have charge of classes in lamp making. It is best to avoid blue or green shades as these colors give off a cold whitish light that is most unbecoming. If blue or green must be used to complete the harmony, then line the shade with some tone of tan or rose so

(Continued on page 14)

## Let There Be Light

(Continued from page 3)

that the lamp will give off warm rays when lit.

The choice of lamps one may buy is practically unlimited. A variety of metal, silk, parchment, china, glass, and yes, even leather light shade are to be had. Every housewife may make her family happier by her choice of light for their home. So "Let there be light, for light is good."

WE need YOUR Business.

YOU need OUR Service.

**COMMERCIAL SAVINGS  
BANK**

**MONTAG'S**

Fashionable Writing Papers  
Stationery

Pound Papers  
Envelopes

Sold only at

**JUDISCH BROS.  
DRUG STORE**

**The  
G. T. HART  
Studio**

**PHOTOGRAPHS**  
and a Fine Line of  
**HAND-CARVED FRAMES**

**G. T. HART**

# NEW MILLINERY

## Styles That Rejuvenate the Whole Costume

In this in-between season, the Spring Hat takes the responsibility of supplying a new and refreshing note to Winter coats and costumes.

While you are debating the contents of your new wardrobe, a new hat will brighten your Winter costume.



*Some of the new hats are ideally suited to the season when one must still wear a Winter coat. The shapes are small, the colors gay and new.*

You will be delighted with the exceptional assortment of styles, and the moderate prices you find in Spring millinery at Younkers'. Prices range all the way from 7.50 upwards to 24.50.

## YOUNKER BROS.

Millinery; Second Floor.

## Learn to Manufacture Your Own Opportunities!

The material lies all around you—

The principal tool is a Savings Account—

Your product will depend upon how you use it.

Why not get started today?

\$1.00 Opens a Savings Account \$1.00

**Story County Trust & Savings Bank**  
AMES, IOWA

## HART BEAUTY SHOPPE

**FAIR STORE**

Showing a complete line of First-Quality Hair Goods at reasonable prices.

Phone 250