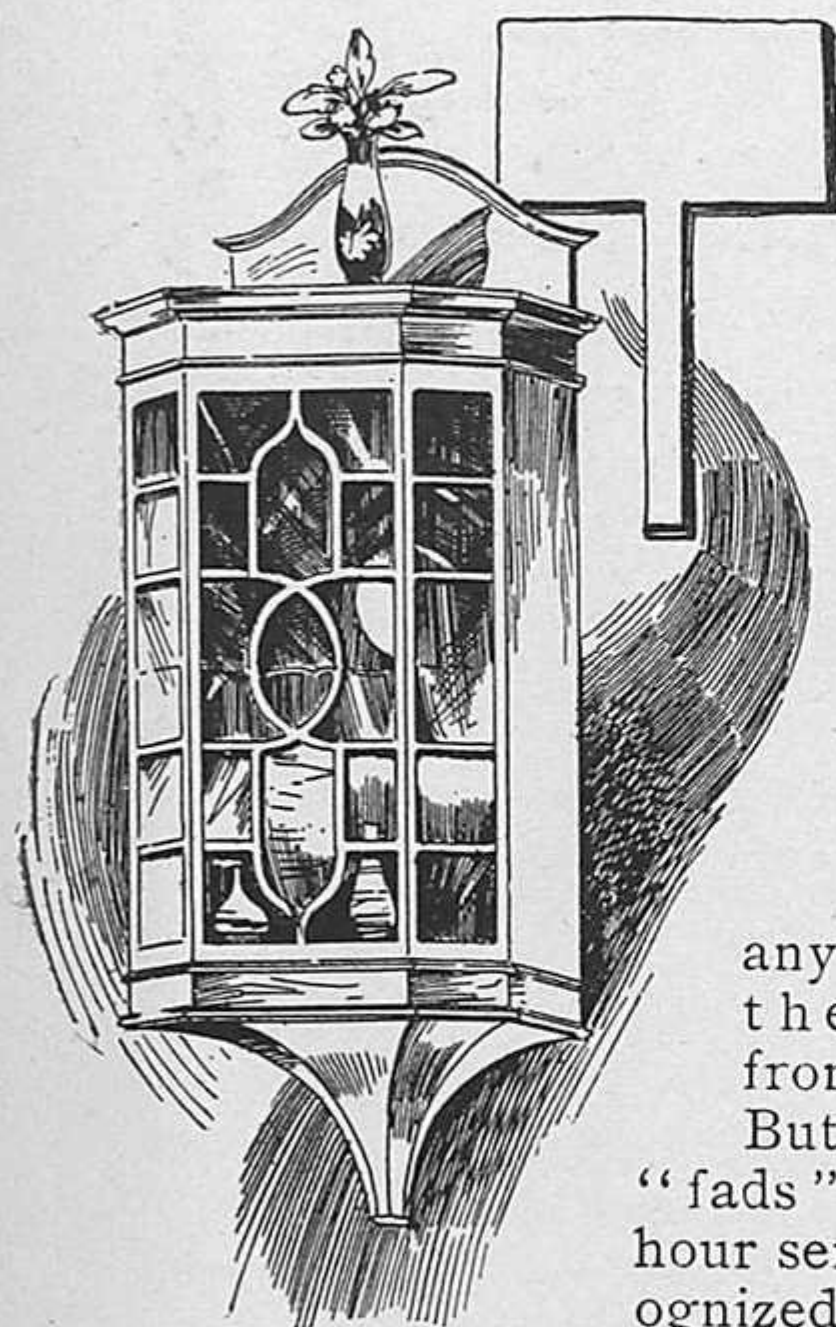


## STYLE IN FURNITURE.



THE furniture manufacturers of to-day are constantly faced with the problem, "What style is most in favor?" This question just now is difficult to answer.

There never was a time, perhaps, when, with regard to furnishing, the bizarre was more in the ascendant. The lover of variety need be no longer restrained by set notions.

Indeed, the less "set" and further removed from any known style, the greater the appreciation at command from a large section of society. But those who recognize that "fads" are but the fancies of the hour sensibly fall back on the recognized epochs, and among these we may note the two examples shown herewith.

The custom that now prevails of having several arm-chairs of different patterns in the drawing-rooms and parlors of our homes has made great demand on the manufacturers' tact and originality. Never before have there been so many different designs in this line of furniture in vogue as at the present time.

It is almost impossible to cite a style or period of art that is not in some way represented by modern production. It would seem as if the whole gamut of fashion, both past and present, had been experimented upon by the persevering manufacturer.

It is refreshing to note that among first-class house-furnishers there is a demand for better quality of work than has been requested for some years past; the great difficulty, however, among manufacturers of this class of work at the present time, is to get capable men to execute the very best work. The well-learned and well-paid workman of fifteen or twenty years ago is beginning to be a *rara avis*. Cheap work has lowered the

tone of some and banished others, and the few that remain are happily in good request.

For some considerable time furniture designed on the lines of historic styles has given place to creation in which quaintness has been the leading characteristic, and in which many of the traditions have received but little consideration. A little novelty is a good



A BEAUTIFUL AND ARTISTIC ARMCHAIR. DESIGNED AND MANUFACTURED BY S. KARPEN & BROTHERS, CHICAGO.

thing, but it should be introduced judiciously; an overdoing of any good thing kills it. It is refreshing to find occasionally a manufacturer that realizes this fact, and holds to good epochs in spite of the caprices of Dame Fashion.

The work of Messrs. Karpen & Bros., of Chicago, in this line, shows many of the excellent qualities now called for. The French styles are always more or less in demand, and the two designs shown here are superior specimens of this style. The armchair is particularly quaint and dainty, combining a little of the Dutch element in its make-up, with the "fetchy" little decorative painting on the back.

The French style has always been popular with the public, and no doubt always will be; but there is a notable improvement in the character of the designs of the present day and those of twenty years ago. There is more grace to begin with. More care is used in the character of the outlines, and good construction is the first consideration. No more "glued on" ornaments of impossible form and construction, and, as a matter of course, results are much more satisfactory, both to the manufacturer and buyer.

This firm is noted both for the excellence of their work, and the care and skill displayed in the selection of designs. We take great pleasure in presenting these examples to our readers.



A DAINY SOFA. DESIGNED AND MANUFACTURED BY S. KARPEN & BROTHERS, CHICAGO.