

ERS



Left to right : Balister wine measure. Caudle cup. Scotch chalice, 17th cty. Loving cup. Tankard "H.I." (1690)

**R**EMOVALS at any time cause much inconvenience. When a family has lived for over thirty years without making a change, the result is then an upheaval. In our case, as I had been collecting for a considerable period and had filled every available storing place with my "spoil," it was pronounced to be "a nightmare."

Having decided that the future display of pewter should be limited to the confines of the dining-room, which is large and lofty, a shelf had to be fixed to the walls, three feet below the ceiling.

The shelf, five inches wide, grooved to hold the dishes in position, is supported by twin wooden brackets. It now exhibits eight large pewter dishes, a pair of pewter hot-water plates, seven examples of blue and white pottery printed with illustrations, also a Toby jug at each angle. The space between each piece is about two feet, affording a pleasing effect.

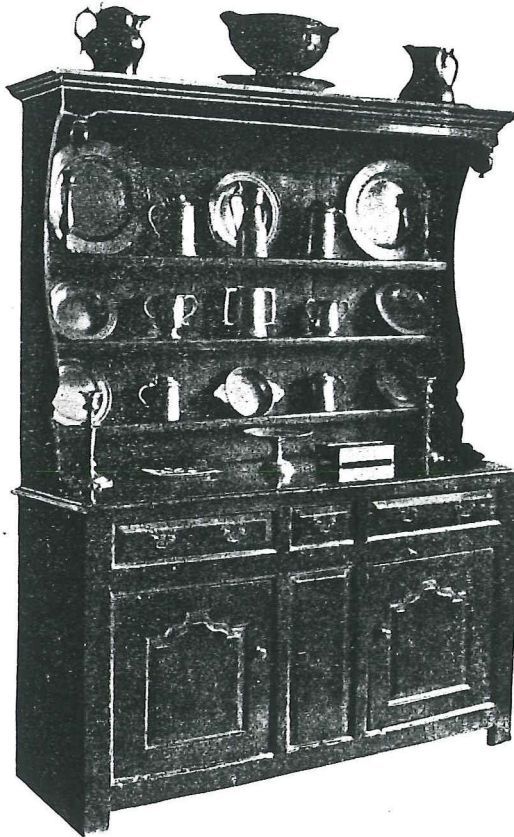
The mantel in dark oak was chosen for the purpose of showing good specimens of pewter. A Communion chalice, which formerly belonged to a church near Stratford-on-Avon, stands alone.

It is surmounted by a pair of eleven-inch Scotch tappit hens (now rare and valuable), a flat-lidded Flemish

## Old Pewter in a New Home

by CHARLES ROWED.

*The Result of a Change of Residence.*



Selected specimens of old pewter on 17th century Welsh elm dresser.

wine measure, together with a set of Scotch lidded measures and four small Irish measures.

The thirteen-inch deep dish bears the maker's name and the seventeenth century Tudor rose. The "alms-dish" on the right is a "fake." In 1907 I received a consignment of pewter from Ireland, which included a bed-pan made by Joseph Austen, of Cork.

A pewter-manufacturer undertook its conversion, without interfering with the maker's mark, and this example of clever faking has proved most interesting.

Tankards bearing old-time inscriptions are hidden in the cupboards on either side of the chalice.

A more attractive setting for old pewter could not be found than the early seventeenth century Welsh elm dresser —by artificial light the effect is alluring. My pewter is always kept bright, to resemble its original finish; how any collector can prefer his specimens to remain dull I fail to understand.

It may be useful to mention that the sheen on polished pewter can be maintained by the occasional use of methylated spirit and plate powder. A good rubbing with a flannel moistened in ammonia and coated with "Monkey Brand" soap will prove effectual if the metal is dull, polishing finally with whitening. To remove the patina on pewter which has long been neglected, a chemical bath is usually necessary, but this is a job for an experienced man.

The pewter exhibited on the dresser is an interesting "show," as the following list will indicate:—

*Bottom.*—Pair 10½-in. candlesticks with loose tops; tray and steel snuffers; Communion paten; box inkstand.

*First Shelf.*—Two 8½-in. plates of uncommon make; lidded pint tankards, "T.C." (1775), "T.P." (1710).

*Second Shelf.*—Pair of collecting plates and loving cup, from a chapel; Early Georgian ankard, glass bottom; pint tankard.

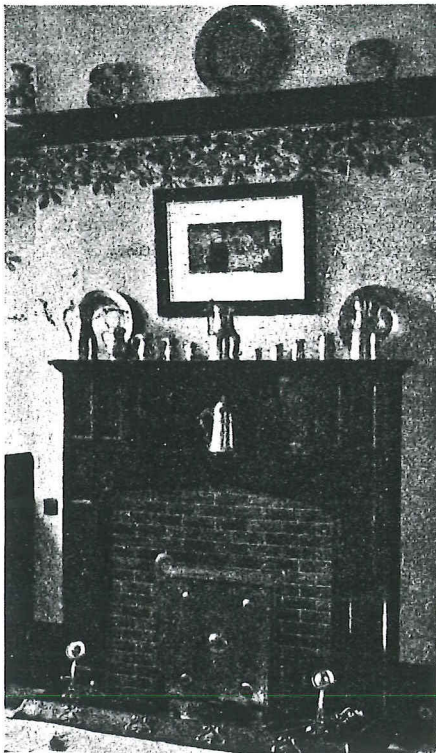
*Third Shelf.*—Pair of 13½-in. dishes, by Compton, London; lidded tankards, "T.L.," "J.M." (1825); tappit hen (Chopin); 11-in. dish, by Allen Bright; pair of 9-in. fluted candlesticks.

*Top.*—Mulled ale jug; flat bottom ale jug.

Over seventy pieces of pewter in a corner cupboard complete the collection. They may not be of much intrinsic value, but each piece bears a special personal value. Incidents connected with their acquisition are fresh in my mind, although they occurred perhaps twenty years ago.

Scotch meat and soup or porridge plates by William Hunter, of Edinburgh, about 1750, a seventeenth-century Scotch chalice, three caudle cups and a pap-boat are among the rarest treasures. A private Communion set, paten and lidded chalice, can be identified between the old wine cups, but I will not particularise further.

There is not a doubt that the old pewter is playing its part in beautifying the new home.



Oak mantel (modern) with good antique pewter.