

NUMBER TWENTY NINE

A Younger Person's Visit

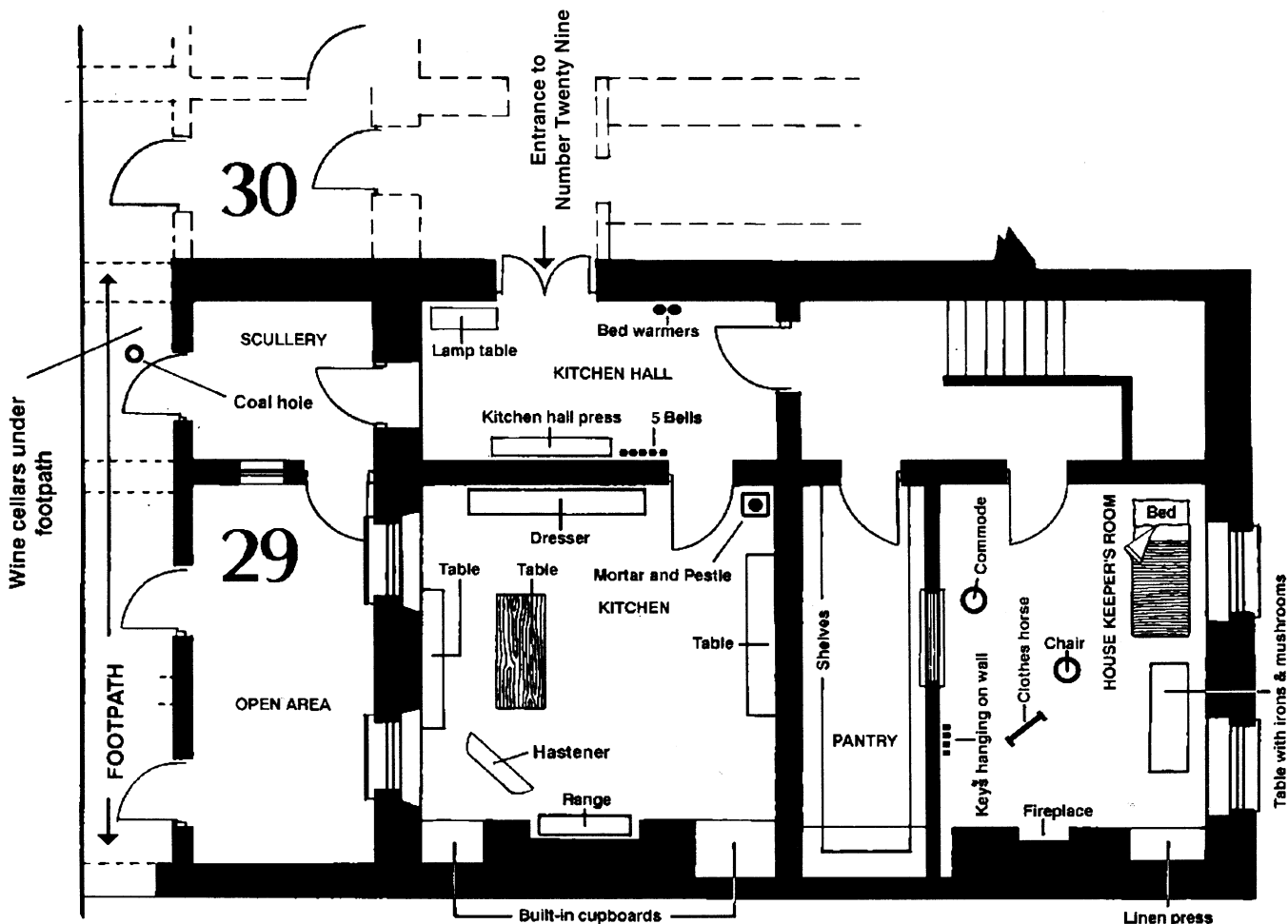


Listen carefully to the introduction...

The Basement

The basement of Number Twenty Nine contains the kitchen hall, wine cellar, scullery, kitchen, pantry and Housekeeper's room.

This was the **busiest** area of the house. All the storage, preparation and cooking of the food and the washing and cleaning took place here. It was also the trade delivery area.



The Scullery

The scullery is where the vegetables were prepared and the washing was done.

How was the water carried to the rest of the house ?



The Kitchen Hall

Mrs. Beatty rarely, if ever, visited this area of the house so how did she communicate with the servants?



Why do you think the bells are different shapes and sizes?

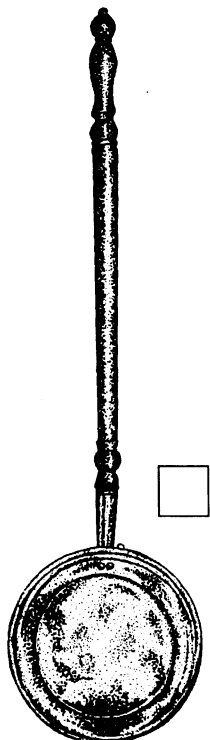
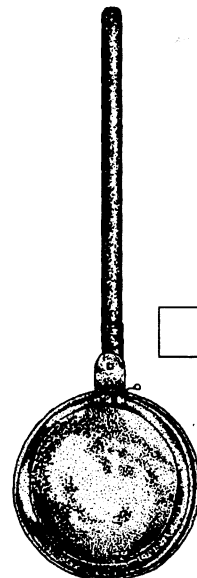
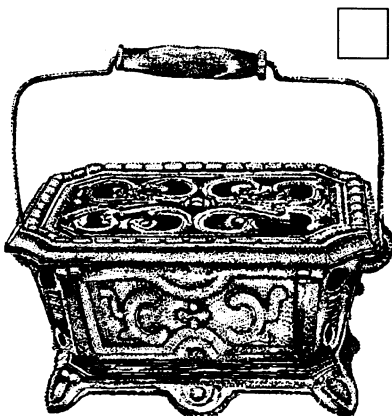
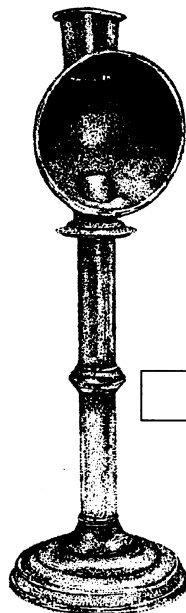
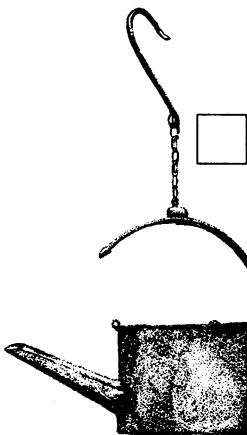
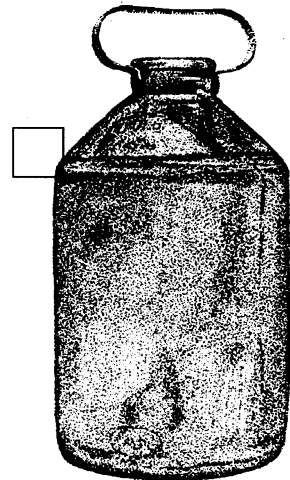
Much effort was put into lighting and heating this house. There is plenty of evidence of this.



Can you identify each object below?

Number boxes correctly

1. Carriage heater
2. Bed Warmers
3. Oil Lamp
4. Draught proof candlestick
5. Whale oil container



The Kitchen

Have a good look around the kitchen. This is where the **food** was prepared and cooked, the **water** was boiled and the **servants** ate their meals.

The range is made of **cast iron** in a mould, while some of the utensils are made of **wrought iron** and hammered into shape.

Look at the range.

How many ovens are there? ☐

What do you think each oven was used for?



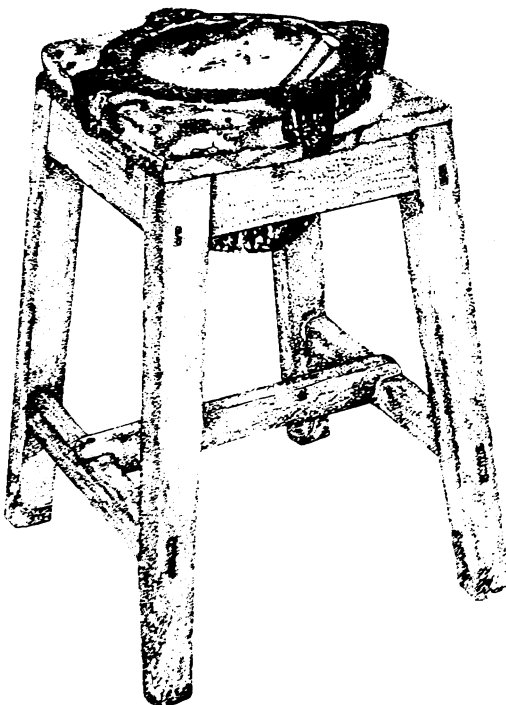
The three-shelved piece of furniture on wheels is called a **hastener**. Your guide will tell you what it was used for.

Look closely at the hastener.

Why do you think the inside was lined with tin?



Just inside the door there is a mortar and pestle.



It could have been used for breaking up sugar or for herbs and other foodstuffs.

The servants ate their food off **pewter** plates. Pewter is an alloy of tin and lead, and is often described as 'poor man's silver'. There are pewter plates on the shelves of the dresser.

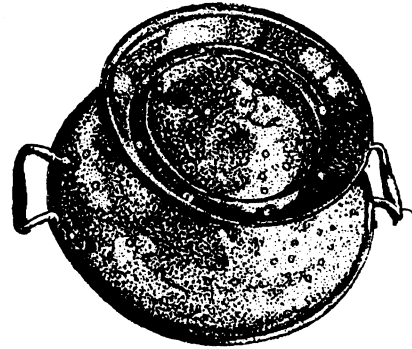
The kitchen utensils are made from different materials.

Match the following utensils with the correct materials.

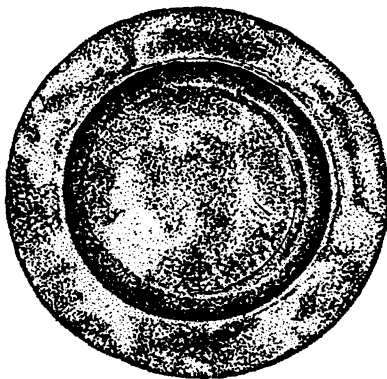


Write the correct number in the box beside the utensil

1. Tin
2. Wrought Iron
3. Earthenware
4. Pewter
5. Wood
6. Copper



☐ Vegetable colander

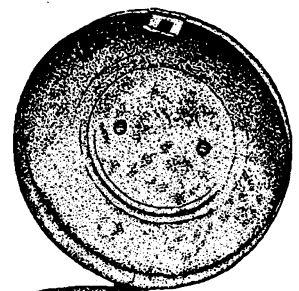


☐ Servants' plates

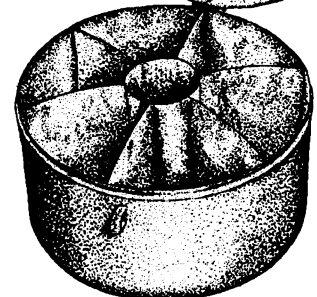


☐ Three prong toasting fork

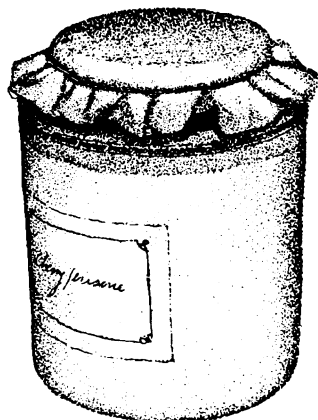
☐ Straining spoon



☐ Herb box in window



☐ Salt box hanging on wall



☐ Storage jars on shelf



☐ Servants' plates



Have a look at the water filter on the dresser.

Why was the water filtered?



An unusual item here is the **cricket box**. According to legend, every happy home had a cricket. W. B. Yeats mentions a cricket in his poem *'The Lake Isle of Innisfree.'* Read this poem when you have an opportunity.

The Pantry

The high shelf suspending from the ceiling is called a **rat shelf** and expensive foods were stored here.

List the foods that you think might have been stored on the rat shelf? (Your guide will help you.)



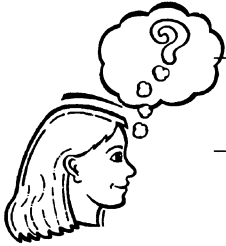
Did you notice the hip bath on the floor?

The Housekeeper's Room

The Housekeeper was the principal servant of the house.

Note where she kept her keys and accounts.

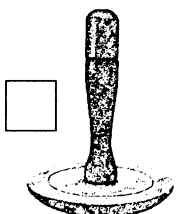
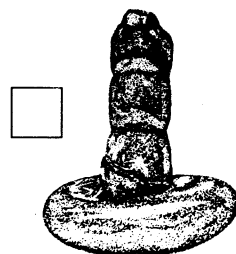
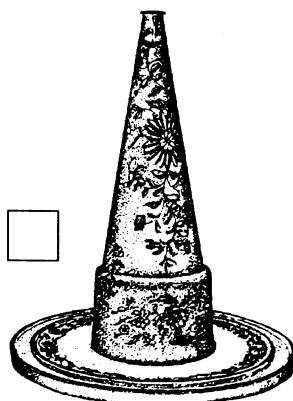
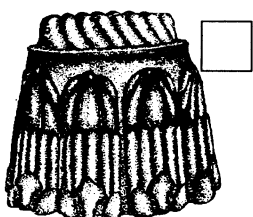
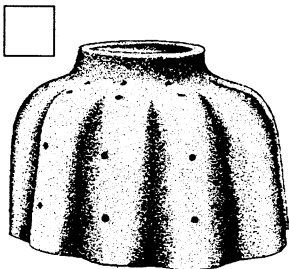
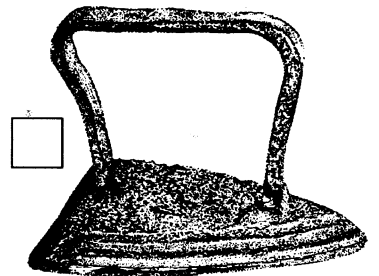
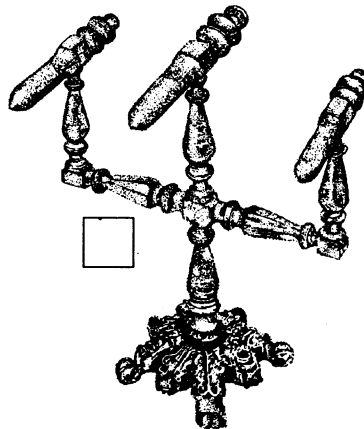
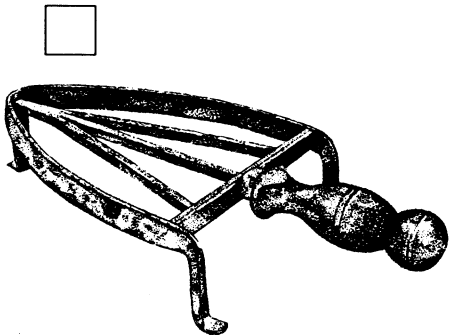
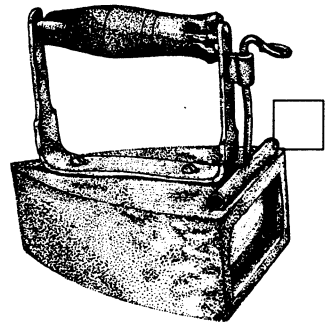
What records or accounts would she have kept?



Can you identify these objects?

Number boxes correctly

1. Jelly Moulds
2. Irons
3. Linen Smoother
4. Goffering Iron for Frills
5. Darning Mushroom



Apart from letting in light, why do you think there is a window between the housekeeper's room and the pantry?



Why do you think the rat shelf is in full view of the Housekeeper's room?

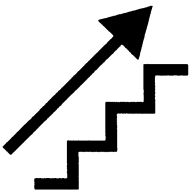
What housework did the housekeeper do in this room?

Her press contained the ironed linens and jelly moulds. Take note of the jelly moulds!



To do later

Sketch the foods you think might have been stored on the rat shelf



The Main Entrance Hall

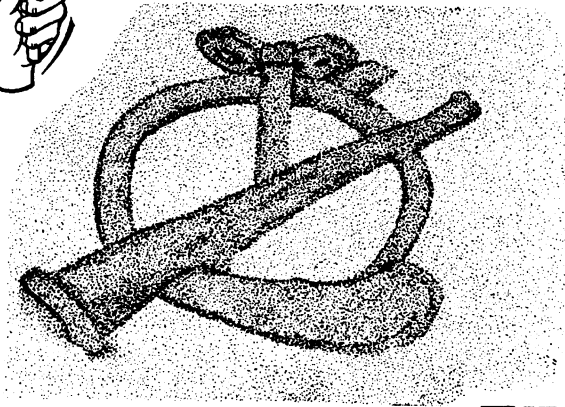
This entrance hall was used by the family and their relatives and friends.

Note the ornate plasterwork or stucco on the cornices of the ceiling. The main themes of this stucco are hospitality, entertainment, music and the arts.



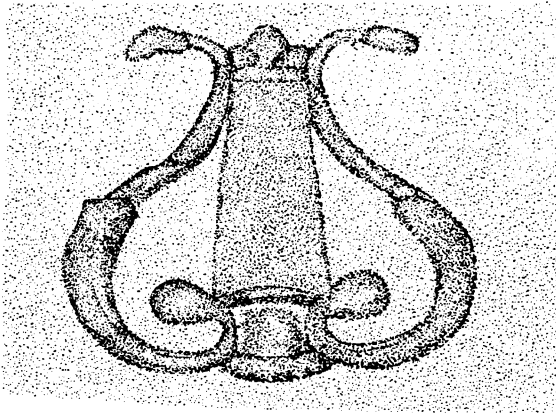
Can you identify

The 'horn of plenty' ☐



The musical instrument

'the lyre'? ☐



Look at the front door.

The fanlight and the sidelights are made of wood and glass.

What suggests to you that the Beatty family were security-conscious?



Now look at the painting of Howth.

Can you spot

- (a) a Martello Tower
- (b) Ireland's Eye
- (c) a steam packet?

List some of the things that you would not see if you visited Howth today?



The Dining Room

The Dining Room was a formal room and, apart from eating, its only other function was at parties, when the carpet was rolled up for dancing.

The glass in the mirror is described as **convex**. It has a round effect.

How many candle branches does it have? ☐



Why was this type of mirror used in a dining room?
(Your guide will help you to figure this out.)



Can you identify the bell pull? Yes ☐ No ☐



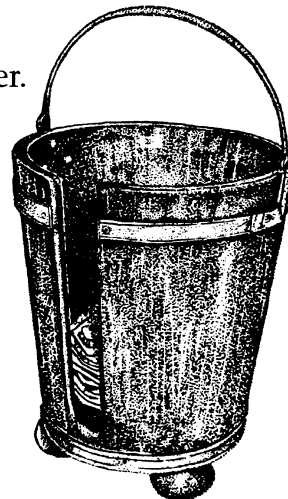
There are two cutlery boxes on the table between the back windows. The silver cutlery was stored here.

Give reasons why the silver cutlery was stored and washed here and not downstairs?

The dinner plates were carried upstairs in a plate bucket after they had been warmed in the hastener.

This plate bucket has a slit.

What is the reason for this?



How would you describe the dress of the guests?





To do later

Complete the sketch



 Now look at the table which is situated between the two front windows of the room.

Can you identify the scallop shell carving in the centre of the apron of the table ?



What do the legs remind you of?



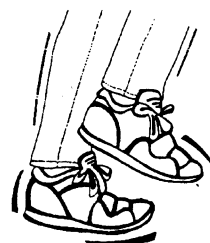
What other carvings can you identify on the table ?



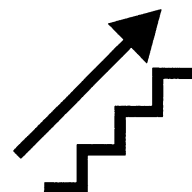
Can you find the Kirk children and their dog?
Where are they?



On the way up the stairs notice the carpet. It was made in Navan and is a copy of a pattern from Fota House in Co. Cork.



Where is Navan?



The Front Drawing Room



Look at the paintings hanging in this room. They are original paintings.

Name the main painters.



What is unusual about the way they are hanging on the walls?



There is an interesting painting of Ballsbridge by James Arthur O'Connor. It shows an early industrial scene of Duffy's Cotton Mills on the banks of the River Dodder.

The Back Drawing Room

This was the family Drawing Room. The name comes from the custom of people withdrawing from the dining room after dinner to this room.

There was a great interest in music in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, so it was here that the musical instruments were kept. Have a good look at the furniture and items in this room.

Now list some of the activities that might have taken place in this family room?

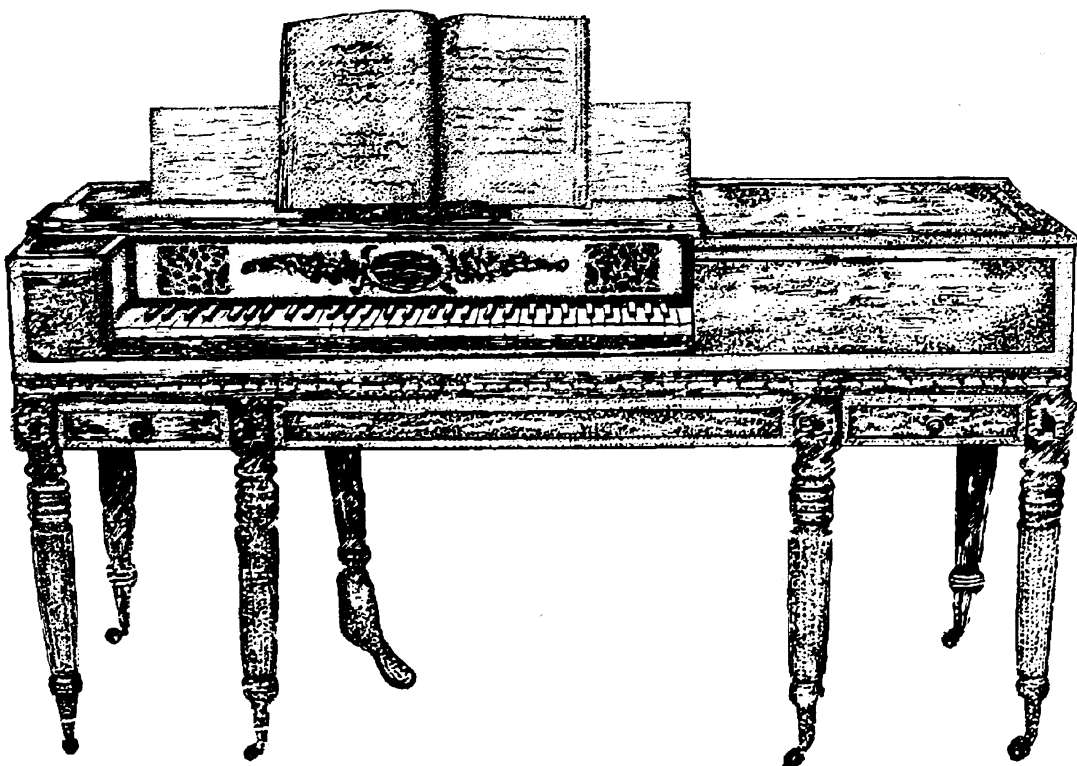
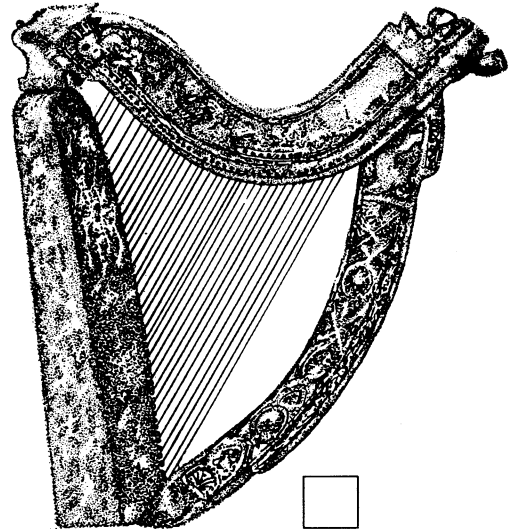
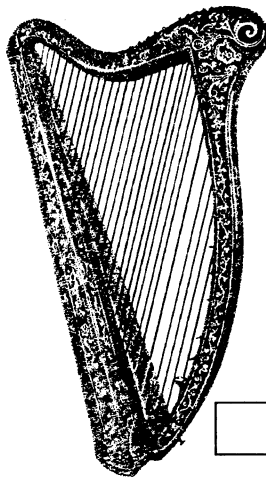
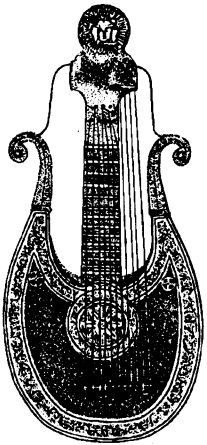
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Can you identify these musical instruments? Place the correct number in the correct box.

1. Small harp
2. Square piano
3. Cloyne harp also known as the Dalway harp (note the steel strings)
4. Lyre



Why do you think the tea was kept here rather than downstairs?

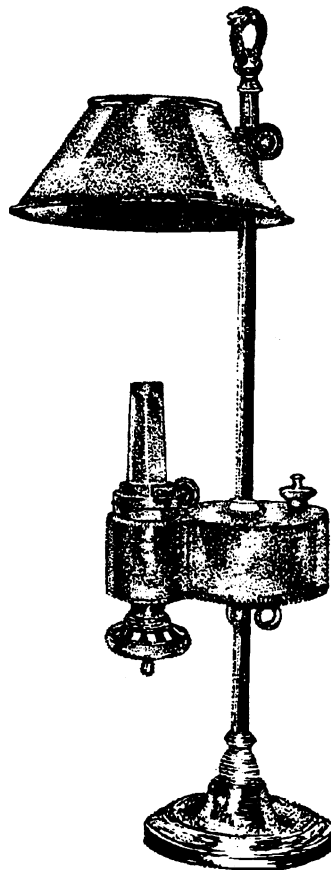


What was the pole screen used for?

Your guide will explain this to you.



The Argand lamp was an early oil lamp with a circular wick. It could produce the same amount of light as about ten candles.



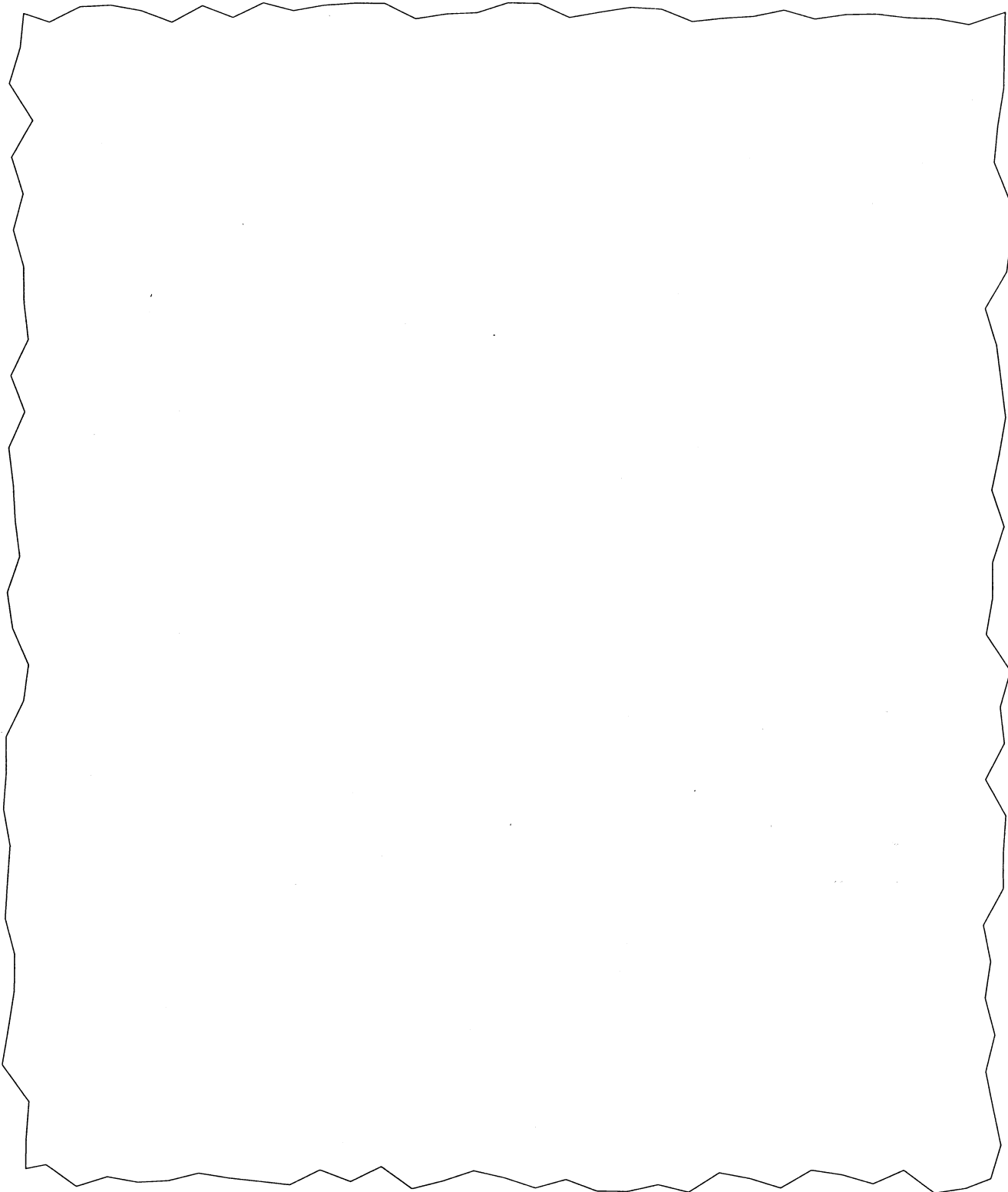
What difference would a lamp like this have made to the family's life?



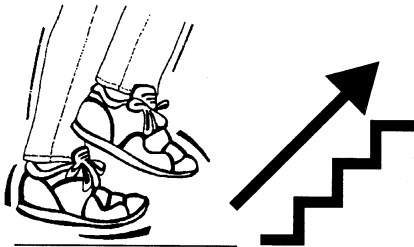


To do later

Sketch your favourite item in this room.



Notice that the carpets and plasterwork no longer decorate the landings.



The Boudoir

The boudoir was a private or personal sitting room of the lady of the house.

There are various tables in this room

Can you identify:



1. Dressing Table

☐

2. Sewing Table

☐

3. Breakfast Table

☐

There is also a writing bureau.

Your guide will show you the lady's **hot water bottle** or 'belly warmer'.



To do later

Sketch whatever you consider the most unusual item in this room.

A large rectangular area with a wavy, hand-drawn border, intended for a sketch.

The Main Bedroom

This bedroom shows the medieval idea of protecting the sleeper from draughts by drawing heavy curtains around the bed at night. As window curtains became popular, the weight of bed curtains was reduced.



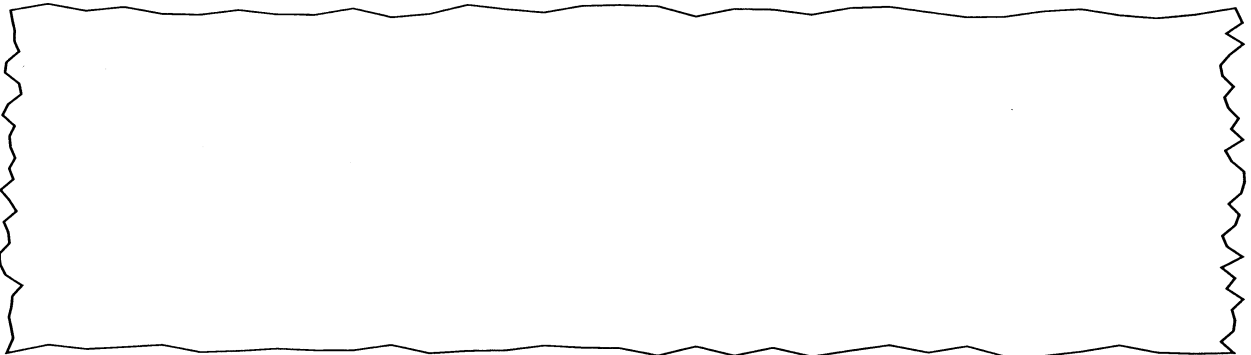
Look closely at the bedspread.

This type of needlework is called **embroidery**.



To do later

Draw a spray of fern or an oak leaf



The chest of drawers is called a **tallboy**.

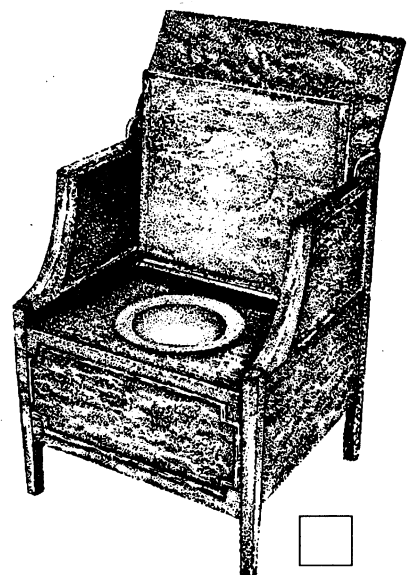
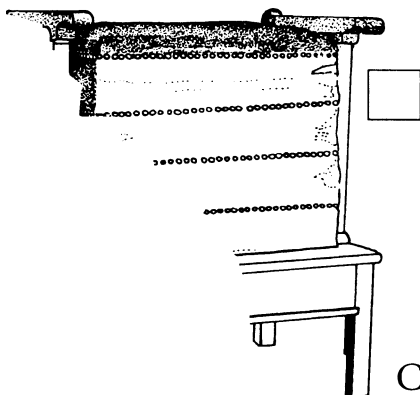
A piece of furniture which you would find in most modern bedrooms is missing from this bedroom.

Can you name it ?

The other items of furniture are

1. Exercise Horse
2. Commode.

Number boxes correctly



Complete this drawing of the exercise horse.

The Dressing Room

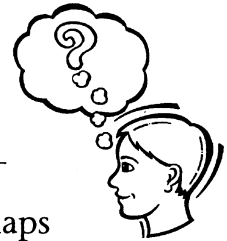
The phrase 'Cleanliness is next to Godliness' was coined in about 1800 when people began to wash themselves and their clothes regularly.

Why was water used sparingly?



People also took care of their teeth and false teeth were available.

What do you notice about the shoes in this room?



Note the **prints** hanging on the wall. They are prints of maps drawn by John Speed in 1610.

What do you notice about the spelling and the shape of Ireland in them?

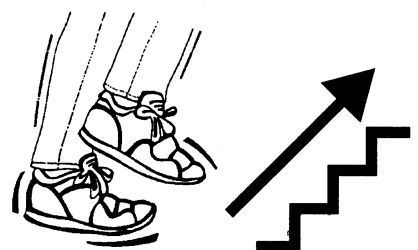


List some of the other items in this room.



The blanket chest on the landing was used to store bedclothes. It was also used for the family's clothes, which were neatly folded away by the servants.

When you reach the landing notice there is no more decorative plaster on the ceilings and no carpet on the stairs or landings



The Top Floor

The third or top floor of Number Twenty Nine would have been a lively area of the house. It was reserved exclusively for the **children and their governess**.

The Governess' Room

**Would you like to be a governess?
Give reasons for your answer.**



Servants usually owned a travelling chest or lodging box in which they kept their Sunday clothes and some personal belongings. Can you see her travelling chest?

What kind of things do you think she would have had

From what you see here, how do you think she spent her spare time (if she had any)?



There is a brass **brazier** under her chair. Your guide will explain to you what this was for.

There are framed **stitch samplers** hanging on the wall between the windows. These are samples of sewing stitches which children were expected to learn.

Both boys and girls worked samplers when at home as it was thought that the occupation taught them discipline.

The Nursery

This room would have been a busy place. It was recommended that the sleeping room should be spacious, dry and airy so feather beds and bed curtains were not recommended.

Why ?



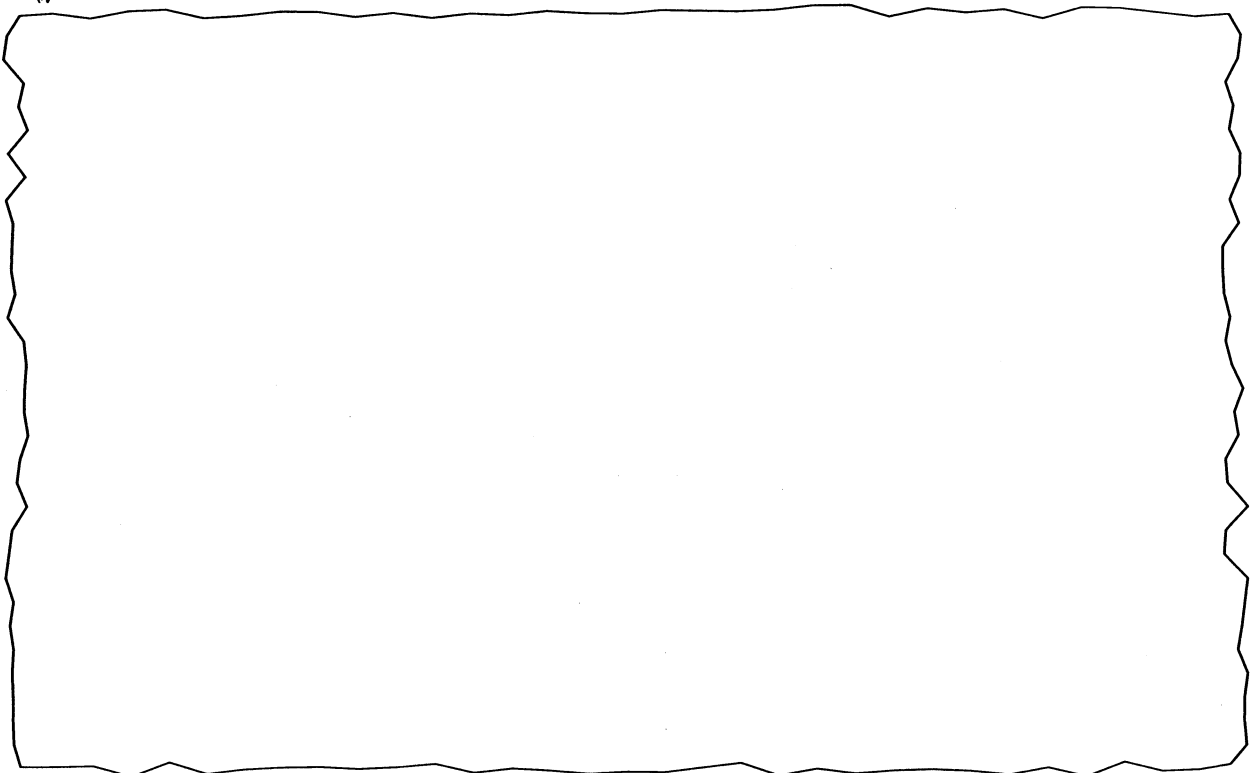
Can you identify the walking frame? ☐

 Now have a good look at the toys.

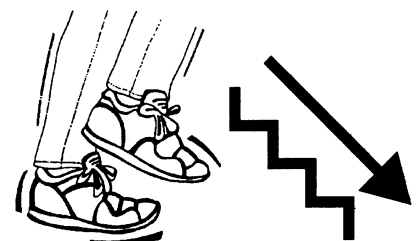


To do later

Sketch some of your favourite ones.



As you go downstairs notice the ceiling lights on the landings and notice the patterns which the lights reflect on the walls.





Notes

NUMBER
TWENTY NINE

Things to do later





To do later

Would you like to have lived in Number Twenty Nine,
Lower Fitzwilliam Street?

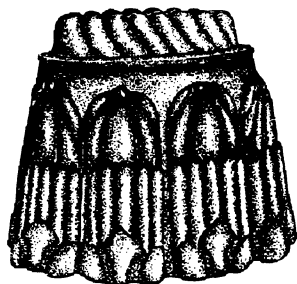
Why?

If you worked here, what job would you like to have done?
Give your reasons.



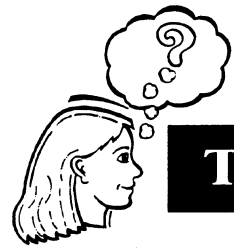
Test your memory

1. In what year was Number Twenty Nine built?
2. How many storeys high is the house?
3. What is the name of the small room where the washing was done and the vegetables were prepared?
4. How were the bed warmers heated?
5. Where were the dinner plates warmed before they were carried upstairs in the plate bucket?
6. Fill in the missing word. The mortar and _____ was used for breaking up sugar.
7. Who wrote the poem 'The Lake Isle of Innisfree'?
8. What is the high shelf in the pantry called?
9. What housework did the housekeeper do in her own room?
10. You saw this object in the housekeeper's room.



Name it.

11. There is a painting of a Dublin village in the hall. Can you name the village?
12. Besides dining what was the diningroom sometimes used for?
13. Where was the silver cutlery washed?
14. Where was the stair carpet manufactured?
15. The argand lamp in the drawingroom could produce the same amount of light as
8 ☐ 10 ☐ 12 ☐ candles.



Test your memory (continued)

16. Name three activities that took place in the drawingroom.
17. Name three musical instruments that you saw in the drawingroom.
18. What is the screen that protected the lady's face from the fire called?
19. Why was the bed in the main bedroom surrounded by curtains?
20. How is Ireland spelled in John Speed's print in the dressingroom?
21. What is the lady's personal sittingroom called?
22. Who taught the children when they were young?
23. Can you remember the name of the object in the governess' room for holding hot charcoal?
24. What is the name of the family that first lived in Number Twenty Nine?

If you scored:

- ☐ 19 -24 = Ace!
- ☐ 13 -18 = Well Done!
- ☐ 7 - 12 = Come Again!
- ☐ 1 - 6 = You were sleepwalking!