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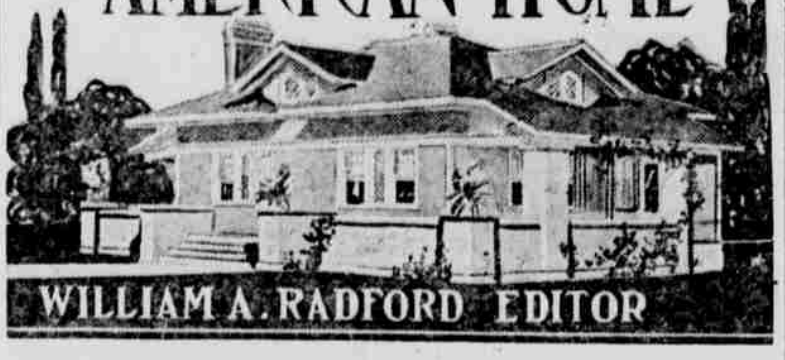


WILLIAM A. RADFORD EDITOR

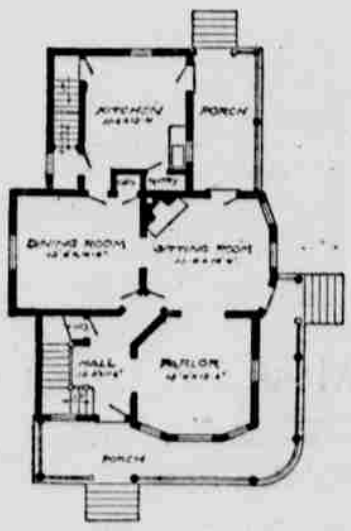
Mr. William A. Radford will answer questions and give advice FREE OF COST on all subjects pertaining to the subject of building, for the readers of this paper. On account of his wide experience as Editor, Author and Manufacturer, he is, without doubt, the highest authority on all these subjects. Address all inquiries to William A. Radford, No. 178 West Jackson boulevard, Chicago, Ill., and only enclose two-cent stamp for reply.

Four rooms, with the front and back stairs on the ground floor, and four rooms, with a good, comfortable bathroom, on the second floor, briefly describes the house-plan here shown. The house is 24 feet 6 inches wide and 44 feet long, without measuring the porch, and can be built, under favorable conditions of the market for material and labor, for about $2,750. A distinctive feature is the front hall with its pretty, open, winding stairway with a closet underneath for hats and coats, and three doorways which give access to three different rooms—an unusual feature in house construction.

The parlor is the smallest of the three, and rightly so. Parlors are fast going out of date. Their principal use has been for weddings and funerals, and the way some of them are furnished leaves a funeral flavor all the time. The conventional parlor is the most uncomfortable room in the house. The children must be excluded, and the men folks are afraid of disarranging the chair tidies or getting a chair an inch or two out of its proper place. The chairs usually are stiff-backed and uncomfortable, and too nice for a chair, as their principal occupation is looking prim and uninviting, and their only use is on state occasions and when ladies call to criticize and gather new matter for gossip. This, of course, means the

conventional parlor that we were all familiar with as boys and girls, handed down from our grandmothers' time and still retained in some communities. It does not in any way refer to the front room in this house-plan, with its wide opening into the sitting room, and its three pleasant windows looking out on a nicely-kept lawn through a well-proportioned porch. The shape and plan of this room offer themselves easily to artistic decoration.

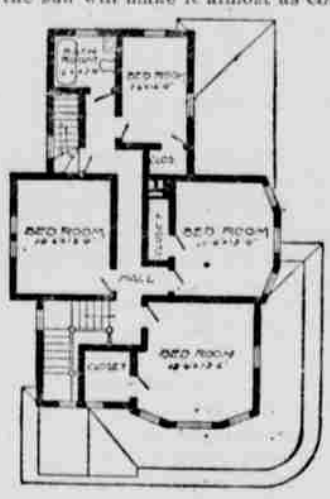
Another interesting feature of this plan is the side entrance to the sit-



First Floor Plan.

ting room. This is the most sociable room in the house. Taken in connection with the dining room, it offers a very comfortable proposition, the doors and windows being carefully placed for light and ventilation; and the proportions are such that the furniture is easily arranged to look right.

There is also a back entrance to the sitting room, opening onto the back porch. This back porch, communicating with the main part of the house, is almost part of the sitting room in summer time. A small table of books and a sewing machine are often found in just such places during the warm months. It is much better to read or sew in the open air, when conditions are favorable. If the side porch looks to the north or east, it is sure to be comfortable in the afternoon. If it faces the south, a vine trained up to ward off the direct rays of the sun will make it almost as com-



Second Floor Plan.

forable. Every side porch should have a vine climbing to the eaves, for appearance, if for nothing else; but the direction should determine whether it be a heavy, broad-leafed vine for shade, or one of the lighter, prettier vines for effect.

There are a great many climbers that may be used for this purpose, and it is easy to select one suitable to the climate and to the needs of the situation. Every house could be improved by the addition of a vine somewhere, but the indiscriminate planting of any one kind of climber should be discouraged. Such vines as the Dutchman's pipe are very suitable for verandas where deep shade is an object, because the leaves are large and heavy. It is impossible for the sun to penetrate through a healthy growth of Dutchman's pipe vine leaves. The beauty of this vine is not in the blossom. The blossom is odd, and shaped like a Dutch pipe, but it is inconspicuous. The heavy foliage is the chief attraction.

For front verandas, nothing can be prettier than the light Madeira vine, and English ivy where the winters are not too severe. There are a great many annuals that make a quick growth for screens, but they are not well calculated for the front of the house. Vines that climb to the roof, leaving stalks bare and a bunch of foliage at the top, should be avoided on the front porch. This is a peculiarity of the Virginia creeper, but it may be corrected by proper pruning.

In selecting a house-plan, the direction in which the house faces must be taken into consideration. Any frontage is good if the house is built to suit. It is just as easy to select a plan with the kitchen on one side as to have it directly in the back. The difference in comfort, extending over a number of years, will well repay a little careful consideration on this point. There are a great many things to consider, and this is one of the most important, but one that often is overlooked. By all means build a good, suitable kitchen and give the good wife a chance to enjoy her working hours.

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"What makes you think so?"

"He calls the place where he lives a flat now."—Buffalo Express.

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"How was that overcoat of yours that the tramp stole?"

"I guess it was on the bum."

His Sort.

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