

The Betterment of Farm Life.

President Roosevelt has appointed a commission of five men to report on methods of improving the social conditions of farm life. Next to the conservation of national resources, he regards the well-being of the farmer as the chief problem before the nation. On the man who gives us the materials for clothes and food the entire nation depends. Through him society is rooted in the land. Many of the great economic improvements in late years have been directed to the betterment of farming. The department of agriculture has been working to increase the productivity of the land, to instruct farmers in the best methods of cultivation. All the development of irrigation, the establishment of rural postal delivery, the improvement of waterways and railroads over which the product of the land is sent to the cities, the good roads movement, the creation of state agricultural colleges, the regeneration of the district school system, have tended to make farming more prosperous and the farmer healthier and better instructed. But most of this work has dealt in land and crops and tools and roads; it has in large measure missed the human being. The president's most inspiring idea, his most statesman-like motive, is the belief that it is the man that counts. We must help and improve human beings. We must make farm life so attractive that the best strength of the nation will live it. At present the brilliant prizes of life seem to lie in the city, and too many capable boys are tempted away from the soil. To bring to the farm the essential comforts and intellectual interests of the cities, to give farm boy and farm girl every chance for self-improvement, to secure to the farmer his proper share of the profit of his labor, to make life in the country most worth living—this is the problem the solution of which will strengthen the foundations of national prosperity. Measures to be considered by the commission, says the Youth's Companion, are the establishment of postal savings banks, the creation of rural parcel post, by which the farmer may more easily get the products of manufacture, the increase of co-operation between farmers for buying, selling and borrowing, and the "better adaptation of rural schools to the training of children for life on the farm."

The last trace of connection between the famous East India Company and the government of India disappeared when Sir Philip Hutchins retired from membership in the council of India on July 31, this year—50 years, within two days, from the date of the passage of the act transferring control of East India affairs to the British crown. Sir Philip entered the old company in 1857, and was employed in its civil service in Madras, where he continued after the transfer of control. He rose to responsible positions in India until he was called home as secretary of the judicial department of the India office. He was made one of the members of the council of India in 1898, the body which advises the secretary for India in the cabinet, in his administration of the Indian empire. All other men who had been employed by the old company had disappeared from the India office, and for the last nine months of his tenure Sir Philip was the sole surviving servant of the old regime. Although its political power ceased in 1858, the East India Company itself did not go out of existence until 1874.

There is no mistaking the fact that the dirt is flying at Panama. The engineers are hitting their pace now in a manner to cause the pessimists to sing very small. In August the total excavation was 3,252,506 cubic yards, against 3,168,840 in July and against 1,288,692 in August, 1907. Thus the work is going ahead not merely more rapidly this year than last, but with a distinct gain from month to month. The end of the digging will soon be in sight at this rate. Of course when the excavation is finished the dams and locks will remain to be constructed, but these present no insuperable difficulties and preparations are now under way to reduce the workings to a scientific basis. With assured sanitation, a competent administration, an unfailing labor supply and abundant appropriations the completion of the canal is only a matter of a very few years.

It seems that the aeroplane is to be limited mainly by the gasoline tank. Delagrange, with 24 liters of fluid, used the last drop in a flight that lasted 29 minutes 55 seconds. The machine that stays up 24 hours must have a tank bigger than a beer cask.

"For goodness sake," asks a Chicago paper, "why do not Chicago novelists get acquainted with some good people?" Because, for some unaccountable reason, they hate to leave Chicago.

Parisian Tea Gown



I SAW lately a lovely trio of tea gowns which had been devised in Paris for a round of country-house parties, and they showed the tendency to over-elaboration which is the pitfall of this particular kind of dress, says a writer in Country Life (Eng.). The first had a skirt of white tulle with a deep flounce of Venetian point mounted over soft satin of the palest rose color, just enough to give a faint suggestion of color under the lace and tulle. Over this was a directoire redingote, with the basques reaching to the hem of the skirt and forming a short train behind, the material of the redingote being a thick, soft silk in a lovely shade of rose. The short directoire fronts of the coat were caught with a single diamond button at the breast, and the soft square revers, as well as the edges of the basques and round the train, were embroidered with a raised design of roses in silver thread. The same embroidery formed turned-back cuffs to the elbow-sleeves, and a soft folded fichu of tulle appeared between the revers, while a most effective and original touch was given to the whole costume by a sash of deep Burgundy satin chamoise which swathed the waist and was carelessly knotted at one side in front on a level with the hip. The particularly praiseworthy feature of this dress was that it was essentially a tea-gown; it could not be mistaken for a dinner-gown or an afternoon frock, and that positive note in a costume, no matter what occasion it is meant for, is always praiseworthy.

COLD WEATHER SHIRT WAISTS.

Heavy Linen in White and Plain Light and Dark Colors.

Among the shirt waists designed for autumn and early winter use are some of heavy linen in white and plain light and dark colors. They are apparently almost tight-fitting, for the reason that the two deep side plaits crossing the outer ends of the shoulders are stitched flatly to the waist, and there is scarcely any fullness under the arms. The fronts close blindly a little toward the left side by means of an irregularly shaped band that is decorated with four large pearl buttons, the sleeves are of the "small" shirt type, plaited into the armholes and finished with turn-back cuffs, and there is a turnover boyish collar, which fastens with a fan-plaited muslin rabat.

Fancy wool braid of the scalloped or pointed order is being employed for the garnishing of some of the challis shirt waists, which are to be worn this winter under runabout street suits, as they are decidedly warmer than those of linen and launder equally as well. They have the twin deep shoulder plaits, but in addition there are shaped bias bands which encircle the neck from back to front whence they extend gradually tapering to the waistline. The braid is used to border these bands and also as a finish for the cuffs of the conventionally shaped sleeves, and for the high turnover collar, which, like the cuffs, is decorated with small buttons similar to those fastened to the fronts.

Maggie reliefs for white net blouses are in the form of attachable neck and waist ruffles, or rather, collar and cuffs, as they literally take the place of those accessories. They are formed of the two-inch side-plaited net ruffles shirred through the center on a tape attached to the under side. Their edges are bordered with very full little frillings of inch-wide black thread lace, which also finish the ends by being gathered into little fans which merge into a sort of rosette when they are joined at the back of the neck or at the outer side of the wrist.

Plain and Plaid Skirts.

One of the novelties in skirts for young girls is the insertion of a plait of plain colored cloth between groups of plaits in plaid cloth.

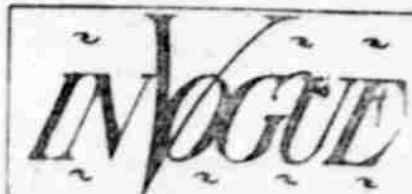
Young girls will wear plaited skirts more than grownups will and several new devices have come out to vary the sameness. This colored plait is one of them and has met with high favor.

Sometimes the skirt carries a four-inch front panel to correspond, and it always carries the five-inch fold of the solid color as a hem.

IN LAST SEASON'S STYLE.

Fur-Trimmed Hats Are Sure to Be the Mode Again.

The vogue which fur-banded and all-fur hats enjoyed last winter has left its traces on some of the shapes designed for the coming season, and while they are not so weighty and destructive to the hair as the heavily trimmed felt hats are reputed to be, they are quite as fetching, inasmuch as the same softening effects about the face are gained. For instance, a hat may be wholly of some fabric such as satin or corded silk, but its brim may be edged with a narrow strip of fur, which is repeated in the edging or center banding of its ruffling. Furs of many sorts will be used for this purpose, but most of all black marten, which is destined to enjoy a tremendous vogue and seal skin, which is said to be literally worth its weight in gold dollars. For the nonce, the light-colored furs—chinchilla, white fox and ermine—seem destined to be rather out of the running, but as it is to be a winter of both garments and trimmings of longhaired animals, the chances are that pelts of nearly every species will be in evidence.



Large hats will be the favorite during the fall. One of the striking characteristics of the new style is the immense crown, which is seldom high except in the directoire modes, but in circumference is enormous.

It is rumored that the chevron design will be the smart thing in all neutral tones of cloth for autumn wear. Smoke and elephant gray, several shades of brown and dark blue have all been dyed ready for the counters, and each one of them will be christened with a fine new name.

Tassels are enjoying a glorious reign of popularity. They fall from the back and adorn the panels of skirts, not to mention the increasing vogue for long-tasselled tringles which edge the draped skirts of today. And the new pointed tunics are nearly always finished with heavy tassels.

A round rosette of lace, fastened to the pigeon-tail jabot of lace, is recognized as one of the smartest collar decorations. The rosette is merely a long ruffle tightly drawn to form a round disk. It takes three-quarters of a yard of lace 2 1/4 inches wide to form the rosette alone.

THE AMERICAN HOME

W. 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. 24 Fifth Ave., Chicago, Ill., and only enclose two-cent stamp for reply.

A very artistic cement cottage may be built after the following plan. The size is 36 feet six inches in width by 36 feet in length from the front to the back. But these figures, as they read, are somewhat deceiving, as they include the projections, some of which are quite small.

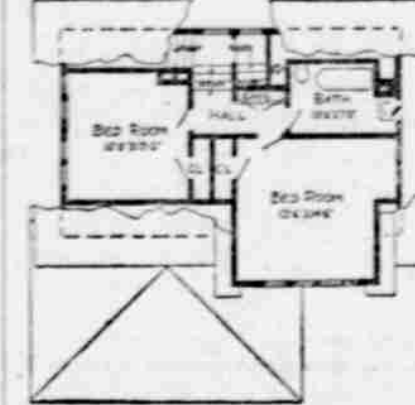
The real size of the house may be estimated better by taking each room by itself, then add the vestibule, buffet, pantry, niche for the stove and the back entry way to the kitchen. This is an unusual way to build a cottage house, but it is interesting and attractive.

There is such a thing as having a good deal of convenience in a small space, and that is exactly what this plan is intended to give. It is an embodiment of the modern idea that a small house may be made very comfortable, attractive and convenient, perhaps more so than a much larger house, and the first cost as well as after maintenance is a great deal less. In the dining room the arrangement for the buffet or sideboard is such that it does not project into the room, which is a special feature well worth considerable careful study. The buffet itself is wide and low enough to have a window above to light that side of the room, and it contains many convenient compartments for china, drawers for linen and receptacles for silverware. It is a combination built-in piece of furniture that saves the purchase of a regular sideboard, while its capacity is greater and the convenience about double that of the old-fashioned article.

Coming next to the pantry we have another improvement on the old-fashioned

space ten feet by ten feet six inches, which leaves room for considerable tramping during the day, but this much seems all right and necessary, because we have four doors, a door in each corner. You go down to the cellar, outside, to the pantry and or the combination stairway, all from the kitchen. There is another reason for placing the stairway here—it deadens the noise so you can't hear kitchen work from the large living room.

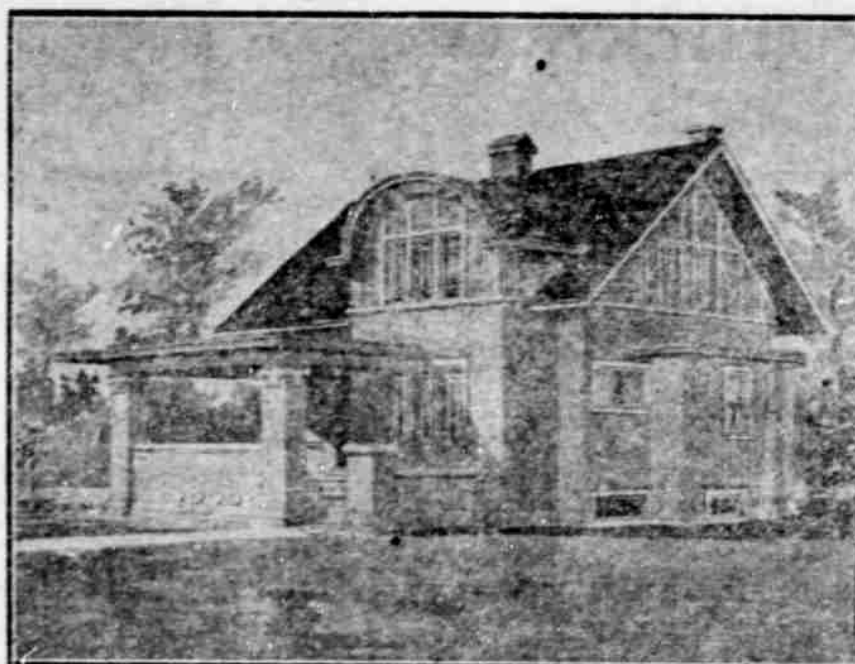
Every attachment to a machine requires a little extra space. The kitchen is the machinery end of this cottage house and it is a combination of



Second Floor Plan.

modern improvements in house building. A peculiar arrangement of stairs is the bringing together of the front stair which goes up from the living room and the back stair from the kitchen, bringing them together on a common landing high enough up to give headroom for a little nook or den with a seat or book case at the side and back of the large chimney.

Such nooks are somewhat common in new houses, but most of them cut into the living room without returning an equivalent in extra comfort. This nook, however, is different, for it occupies space that you would otherwise have no use for. There is a large window, which makes it light enough



loned way of building pantries. It is done in such a way as to take no room from the house proper. In this respect it follows the plan of the buffet recess, but it is made large enough to furnish a passage from the dining room to the kitchen with plenty of shelf room for the storage of pantry necessities.

In the kitchen we find another niche in the outside wall, to accommodate a range. Sometimes the range is built into the niche in such a way as to prevent the accumulation of dust behind or underneath. Every woman has wondered at the amount of trash that persistently collects under and around the kitchen stove. You may clean it thoroughly one day and the next day find a dust pan full of wool,

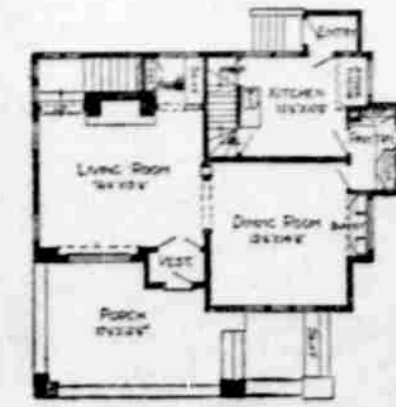
for reading or writing, and the book case if big enough to accommodate a fair sized library. A davenport or a built-in seat in this little nook may be long enough to stretch out on with your head to the window, where you get the best light for reading, and the seat or sofa should be wide enough to accommodate about a dozen sofa pillows. The nook really should be lined, both ceiling and sides, with cloth, tufted if you like, to bear out the comfortable, cozy corner idea in every respect, but this is a subject for individual taste. Nooks in cottage house construction offer an exceptional opportunity for decorative effect.

Before the Time of Matches.

Sixty years ago the use of flint and steel to produce a fire was not wholly unknown. The late William E. Stone of Peoria lived at Beaver, Pa. His father one warm August night was stricken with apoplexy. The fire was out in the kitchen hearth and his mother in her distress, unable to find the tinder box, was obliged to send his brother Marsh two miles and a half to a neighbor. She gave him a handful of tow, which he put in his pocket. Arousing a neighbor with some difficulty, she gave him a live coal, which he wrapped in the tow, and putting it back in his pocket, ran home. When he arrived there he swung the tow around his head, thus fanned the coal and produced a flame which lighted a candle. In the meantime relief had been so long coming that the father was past all surgery. —Peoria Star.

Has Won Honors at Munich.

Miss Sarah C. Murray of Newton, Mass., carried off high honors this year at Munich. She obtained the Ph. D. degree and her name was placed on the honor roll of the university. Miss Murray is a Radcliffe college graduate. For the last four years she has been studying at Munich, making a specialty of classical philology and archaeology. She has just passed her twenty-third birthday. She intends to become a teacher.

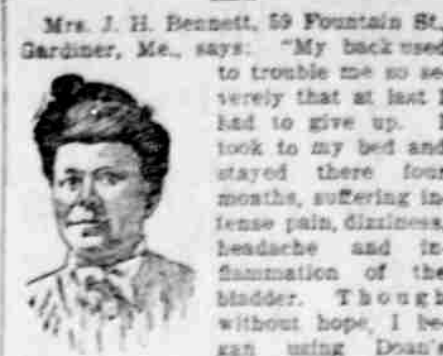


First Floor Plan.

dust, hairpins, burnt matches, etc., that some imp has deposited there in some mysterious way. Then the next convenience is the built-in entry to the kitchen, with a double door protection against cold, with another recess intended especially for the ice box. The refrigerator has no business in the kitchen. It is in the way and there is too much heat in the kitchen, besides, the ice-man brings in a great deal of dirt every time he delivers ice. With an entry like this a saving is effected in many ways.

RAISED FROM SICK BED.

After All Hope Had Vanished.



Mrs. J. H. Bennett, 59 Fountain St., Gardner, Me., says: "My back used to trouble me so severely that at last I had to give up. I took to my bed and stayed there four months, suffering intense pain, dizziness, headache and inflammation of the bladder. Though without hope, I began using Doan's

Kidney Pills, and in three months was completely cured. The trouble has never returned."

Sold by all dealers. 50 cents a box. Foster-Milburn Co., Buffalo, N. Y.

MINISTER A TRIFLE MIXED UP.

Consequently There Was an Awkward Perhaps in Funeral Oration.

It was at the funeral of a man who had left his young and attractive helpmeet a widow for the third time. At the time of his death their clergyman was away on a European trip, and in this emergency the Rev. Dr. Blank was called upon.

A neighbor instructed him hastily as to the admirable qualities of the deceased, his benevolence, piety and kind disposition, and gave him various points as to his family relations. During the funeral discourse no outsider would have suspected that the clergyman had not been a lifelong friend of the dead man. When, however, he came to mention the widow in his prayer, it was evident that his data in regard to her had become a trifle confused. He said:

"And now we commend to thy care this widowed handmaid, who has been bereaved again and again and again. Then hesitating an instant, he added: "And perhaps again."

HE REMEMBERED.



"And did your uncle remember you in his will?"
"Well, he remembered me, all right, but that was why he didn't mention me in it."

Arrange for Pure Milk.

Chicago has a medical cow. She was bought by a woman health department inspector. Dr. Caroline Hedger, to produce pure milk for desperately sick babies in a crowded tenement district, and, according to reports, this latest Chicago experiment in municipal ownership has been a great success. "I purchased the cow for the department," said Dr. Hedger. "I told Commissioner Evans I needed a cow to save the lives of the sick babies out my way, and he told me to buy one; so I did. Some friends of mine are taking care of her, milking her and taking the milk direct to the sick infants. It doesn't go through a dozen hands before it reaches the babies. We get enough milk to supply the babies of 14 families."

Australia's Wild Oysters.

Oysters are sometimes regarded as dangerous but they are not usually considered savage. A Queensland judge, however, has decided that they are wild beasts. Before a royal commission on the pearling industry, which has been sitting at Brisbane, a witness stated that eight years ago he had laid 100,000 shells in the neighborhood of Friday Island. The Japanese stole the shells, and the district court judge held that as pearl shell oysters were wild animals there was no penalty for stealing them.

NO GUSHER.

But Tells Facts About Postum.

"We have used Postum for the past eight years," writes a Wis. lady, "and drink it three times a day. We never tire of it."

"For several years I could scarcely eat anything on account of dyspepsia, bloating after meals, palpitation, sick headache—in fact was in such misery and distress I tried living on hot water and toast for nearly a year."

"I had quit coffee, the cause of my trouble, and was using hot water, but this was not nourishing."

"Hearing of Postum I began drinking it and my ailments disappeared, and now I can eat anything, I want without trouble."

"My parents and husband had about the same experience. Mother would often suffer after eating, while yet drinking coffee. My husband was a great coffee drinker and suffered from indigestion and headache."

"After he stopped coffee and began Postum both ailments left him. He will not drink anything else now and we have it three times a day. I could write more but am no gusher—only state plain facts."

Name given by Postum Co., Battle Creek, Mich. Read "The Road to Wellville," in plgs. "There's a Reason." Ever read the above letter? A new one appears from time to time. They are genuine, true, and full of human interest.