

"This feminine craze for being slender has knocked the bottom out of our business," said the man in charge of a downtown branch of a big candy concern. "Some men who were good for at least \$10 worth of candy each week never come inside the door now, and when I see them trudging past the store with a package of fruit I made up my mind their wives and daughters or sweethearts have taken a stand against candy. One man with a wife and four daughters, who used to be a splendid customer, told me the other day that he'd as soon come home with a viper as with a 5-pound box of candy, although a year ago he used to buy two 5-pound boxes each week, says the New York Sun. We notice the same difference in small sales to women employed in offices. There's not half the number of calls for half-pound boxes, though our supply of sweet chocolate are always big, as lots of business women nibble it instead of taking a regular luncheon. The continual running in of office boys to execute commissions for the stenographers and telephone operators is getting to be a thing of the past, and lemon drops are about the only sweets these business girls will eat. Every mother's daughter seems to be dead set against gaining an ounce of flesh, and until it's fashionable to be plump again I suppose we'll notice this difference in sales."

From Wisconsin has come a wall at the dense ignorance concerning geography with which high and preparatory school graduates come up to the university. Recent tests made by the department of geology in first year physiology classes have developed difference of opinion among the freshmen as to whether the Rhine is in Asia or South America, has developed an astounding lack of information as to the location of such cities as Vienna, Venice, Lisbon and Hongkong, and in trying to tell the whereabouts of the Pyrenees, Caucasus, Himalayas and Sierra Nevada mountains and Mount McKinley, almost half missed two or three out of the five, says the Chicago Evening Post. In fact, in the examination, which included only such questions as any fairly informed person should know, only one-sixth of the 102 freshmen tested were recorded as making a satisfactory showing.

A young woman of Brooklyn broke a promise to her father and tried to pass through the New York custom house seven dutiable gowns she had purchased abroad. Her very foolish action cost the father about four times what the gowns were worth and the young woman was lucky to escape severe punishment for her action. Collector Loeb, who has been making a most successful war on smuggling, has served notice on all men and women alike, that more severe penalties than fines will be imposed for flagrant violations of the law. In spite of this warning women more than men are still taking a chance, and probably will not stop until some of them are compelled to go to prison.

The departure of the United States battleships which are to visit French and English ports is a reminder of the famous cruise around the world. When the fleet is assembled at sea it will consist of sixteen vessels, the same number that made the earlier trip. There can be no doubt of the welcome that awaits the visitors. The one regret in connection with the proceedings is that this showing of superb American warships will accentuate the lack of an American mercantile marine.

A thief who stole a gold spike used to fasten the first rail of a new railroad in Pennsylvania found it was only gold plated. Such base deception as this, resulting in painful mortification and disappointment to a man acting in good faith, is plainly reprehensible and comes under the same category as selling a goldbrick.

The difference of 33,000 between the first count of Tacoma's population and the second is a measure of the mistake of too much enthusiasm in padding census returns. Had Tacoma been satisfied with a modest ten or fifteen thousand inflation it might have succeeded, but this overdoing of things is generally disastrous.

The Washington chief of police believes that wife-beaters should be lashed. Theoretically, this punishment, which exactly fits the crime, is endorsed and recommended on all sides. Practically, it is ignored even where the law has put it on the statute books. Naturally, the wife beating goes on.

When a man is his own janitor he wastes little time pounding on the pipes.

Now that a Los Angeles person has broken his collar bone fastening a collar button it is plain that man will never be happy until it buttons in the back and he can let out the job to his wife.

The American college begins to think there should be more work in the class rooms and less on the grid iron.

Aviation fever seems infectious.

The American Home

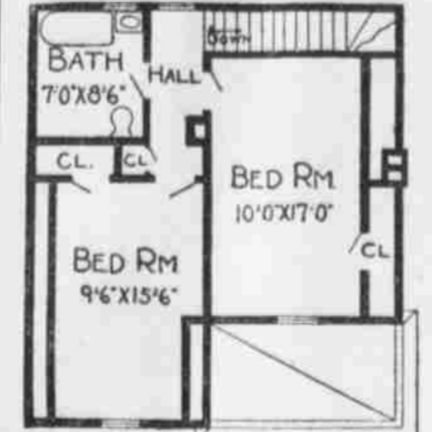
WILLIAM A. RADFORD
Editor

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

A good lesson in home building may be learned from the large operators who make a business of building up whole streets in the suburbs with houses of medium size for the purpose of selling the improved property at a profit, besides increasing the valuation of the remaining vacant property in the neighborhood. These real estate operators have found that it pays them best to give a great deal of attention to the design of their houses.

Of course, every house must be substantially built and arranged for practical convenience and utility; but this is not enough. Such houses must be attractive also. Each must have a distinctive, individual appearance. This matter of distinctive appearance is especially important where a large number of new houses are being put up at the same time in the same neighborhood; for nothing looks quite so cheap and uninviting as a whole line of new houses all packed in close together and all of the same monotonous appearance.

While the average home builder does not have this exact problem to contend with, still he should take warning from such examples and guard against conditions that may amount to practically the same thing. If he builds a house of commonplace appearance, one that looks just like a hundred others which have been built, or may be built in the future, in the neighborhood, he will find there is nothing to distinguish his house from the rest. It will depreciate in value on that account, for the



Second Floor Plan.



prospective customer these days invariably wants a house that he can take pride in.

And in addition to the increase in value of such a house at times of realty there is also a more important phase of the question. A house of attractive individual appearance makes a better home than one of plain and characterless design. The children take more pleasure in such a home, to take care of it and keep it up; and so the home means more to them and its influence will remain with them.

But what is the secret of good design? An experienced architect who has made a study of home building will produce work with seemingly very little effort which stands out unique from all other designs and is at the same time in perfect proportion and possessing the essential features of comfort and convenience. Under a master hand the everyday materials seem to be given a new meaning, and the common-place elements,

convenient house its exterior appearance is distinctive and artistic. It couldn't be called fancy, yet there is enough of ornamentation to escape monotony. The proportions are good and the material used—cement plaster on metal lath—is the most popular at the present time for high-grade residence work.

The interior is arranged very simply, the idea being for the maximum of roomy conveniences. There is a very large living room, of the kind so popular in modern houses. The dining room is of good size and is very conveniently placed with reference to the kitchen, having a butler's pantry between. An open stairway along the back of the living room leads to the second floor. There are found two very large bedrooms, a liberal supply of clothes closets and a bathroom.

This house, having a width of 25 feet and a length of 28 feet, is estimated to cost \$3,000, using a good grade of hardwood flooring and finish and with the modern conveniences of plumbing, electric wiring, etc.

First Floor Plan.

or parts of the building, are arranged in proportion in new and striking effects. It is not so much that the skilled architect uses different materials or more expensive materials than the ordinary carpenter architect would select, but he proportions them in a different way so that the building as a whole is a success.

A house should also be economically constructed. It is a mistake to think that just because a building has an artistic outward appearance it must necessarily have cost extra. At the same time the experienced architect is planning for a striking exterior and convenient interior arrangements he will also see to it that the design is made to be as economical as possible when it comes to be built. For instance, in a two-story house, the story height will be such that 18 foot studding can be used in the outside walls, and the bearing partitions which sustain the floor joists will be so placed that floor joists in even

length of feet can be used without waste.

With too many builders who may be called on to draw up plans, these items, which mean a substantial saving in the cost, are frequently overlooked. In order to get a ceiling a few inches higher than the standard height when using 18 foot studding, they find it necessary to use 20 foot studding and have to cut off the ends, which means a waste of material as well as a waste of labor which might have been saved by a little forethought.

It is always economical in the use of materials, and is also good construction, to have the partitions and girders in the basement exactly under the bearing partitions of the first story, and where possible the bearing partitions on the second floor should line up exactly with those of the first story. There is nothing like having a good backbone in a house in the way of bearing partitions by having them lined up straight from foundation to roof.

Man's Need

Sure of What He Really Knows

By JOHN A. HOWLAND

LACK OF ABSOLUTE knowledge in case of doubt or inquiry often proves a handicap to the young man—or old—of all proportion to the circumstance in which it arises. Accordingly as the query is serious in its ends, the inability to answer definitely may embarrass the one of whom the question is asked.

Let the young man consider the situation. His employer has asked for information of him. He would not have done so if he had not reason to feel that the young man knows, or may know. When the question has been asked, the young man at once should be in the position of saying that he knows, or he should be in the position to say instantly that he does not know.

To know and to know that he knows in such a circumstance must be the unquestioned better situation. The question cannot be too trivial not to call for appreciation of a prompt answer that is satisfactory in every respect. But that answer that is indefinite, or still to be questioned, or which may be accepted and still prove inaccurate, may prove one of the most embarrassing failures possible to an employe. It may lead to untold troubles and loss of time and effort. It may mean a black mark against an employe beyond anything the employe ever dreamed of!

Offer the man accepts as accurate a piece of information which may have been passing more or less current as fact. While it might have been the simplest, easiest thing in the world to have made this knowledge absolute, he never has thought of questioning it. Thinking that he knows, and passing on this information that has been unquestioned in his own mind, his attitude and expression carry weight with it. Thus to the extent that the information is inaccurate it is doubly likely to carry the full effect of its consequences.

To the observer it is appalling just how much of information passes current as fact when it is farthest removed from it. How some of this misinformation becomes current would be hard to guess at!

There is nothing in the province of work and accomplishment which has greater potentiality for failure than lack of accuracy in initial knowledge. It may start a man or scores of men hopelessly wrong from the beginning. Its possibilities in failure are limitless. And always the inexcusableness of the misinformation is doubly irritating. The mistake so easily might have been prevented!

What do I know about this and that? How well do I know it?

These are questions which the young man cannot ask himself too often or too seriously.

Many Acute Dangers of Hatpins

By CY CLEMMONS

Some legal restriction should be imposed upon the size of hatpins that women wear. Just the other evening in a crowded car a man's cheek was torn open by accidental contact with the deadly weapon innocently carried by a woman in her hat, while an onlooker remarked that he had nearly lost his eyesight in a similar manner but a short time before, showing in evidence of his narrow escape a scar beneath his eye.

Women blindly follow a fashion without taking thought as to its consequence. Possibly not one in a thousand realizes that the exposed end of her hatpin constitutes a menace against the community that is just as real as the carrying of deadly weapons.

Hatpins have kept abreast of the size of hats, and no matter how huge the headgear there is a pin big enough to protrude several inches beyond the brim of the hat.

With exasperating indifference the wearer makes her way through crowds, every movement of her hat threatening the face and eyes of all near her. It is a wise man who stays out of crowds.

It is useless to request women to wear guards over the points of their hatpins, for they wouldn't do it; but legal steps should be taken to require it, and to restrict the size of the pins.

I do not make this suggestion in any spirit of jest. As a matter of fact, the very method which woman has adopted for holding a hat on is ridiculous.

Why can't a woman's hat fit and stay on her head like a man's without the necessity of jabbing through it a pin three feet long, to the peril of other people when she gets under way?

Darkest Hour Ever Before Dawn

By LENA VOGT
Chicago

Cheerfulness is not an inherent attribute of humanity.

It is not an heirloom—though how much more precious!—that can be handed down from generation to generation.

Cheerfulness, not unlike a rare plant, needs cultivation and care.

Happy the mortal who, being touched by it at birth, recognizes its preciousness and guards it jealously, for it is very easily lost trace of.

You may imagine yourself singled out by misfortune as a target for all calamities, misadventure and mischance. Then remember that the darkest hour is ever before dawn.

NOTES FROM MEADOWBROOK FARM

By William Pitt



Notwithstanding the large number of students being graduated each year from the agricultural colleges all over this continent, there seems to be a continuous shortage of qualified men for the work of agricultural teaching. One high school in the search for a teacher of agriculture, has gone the length of sending all mimeographed letters to the various agricultural colleges in the hopes of securing such a man.

One of the most encouraging developments in the growing of garden vegetables is the increasing recognition of the practical importance of using pure and uniform stocks of seed whose varietal characteristics adapt them to distinct local conditions and market requirements.

The abnormally high prices demanded for oil meal during the past winter, owing to the extremely high price of flaxseed, has led many farmers to inquire into the feasibility of raising a small amount of flax to be fed, instead of depending upon the market for their oil meal.

Care must be exercised with plantings of asparagus to see that the summer's growth is mowed and burned before the seeds ripen and fall, otherwise the parent plants will soon be very much dwarfed with a mass of seedlings growing amongst them.

If coops are not well ventilated the growing chicks will be too warm during the night and will sweat out more strength during the hours in which they ought to rest than they will gain under the most favorable conditions during the day.

When we understand that it requires twenty tons of moisture to produce a bushel of corn we will study to make its evaporation as slow as possible, as crops suffer more from lack of moisture than from any other single thing.

If cows come fresh in the fall, they produce a good flow of milk during the winter months and in the spring when they are turned on grass this acts as a second freshening and thus lengthens the period of milk production.

It takes some extra care to have nest boxes all clean this time of the year, but it pays. If you can't afford to give your hens clean boxes, they can't afford to lay good eggs worth two or three cents apiece.

Those who have young beef steers on hand or can get them at a reasonable price can do no better than give the matter of cattle feeding during the winter very full and complete consideration.

A green bone cutter will pay for itself in one season. Besides being a very healthy food and a great egg-producer, cut bone is a cheap food compared to present high prices for grain.

You can start in the poultry business with a dozen fowls at a cost of about five dollars for house and yards. A piano box will cost a dollar and the wire fencing about four dollars more.

An important feature of profitable mutton feeding lies in the breeding of feeders, and all experienced feeders of sheep recognize the value of the sire in building up the mutton flock.

One breeder says that he can wean his pigs in six or seven weeks if they have good care and keep them growing as fine as any litter and still have the next litter six weeks sooner.

Don't keep your horse in an over-heated stable, and then stand him for hours in a freezing atmosphere, and wonder how he became paralyzed.

Some men start for the doctor when they have a sick horse. Others feed well, care well and drive well, so they never have to go to the doctor.

To groom the horse well after hard work does not only clean the skin, but it prevents various parasitic diseases of the skin.

It is of supreme importance that the dairy stock should be handled gently. Wild and intractable animals are usually the result of hard handling.

Fresh green bone is of itself almost a complete feed, and may be used as a special material for egg production.

Success in pork production is largely affected by the attention given to the health and comfort of the brood sow.

It is a shame to put fowls into winter quarters before the latter have been thoroughly cleaned and sprayed.

Usually it's the poor dairyman who does not want his cows tested. For that reason he remains poor.

A turkey hen usually lays from one to three eggs after she shows a desire to sit.

Damp quarters often cause leg weakness, which may run into rheumatic troubles.

At the Minnesota experiment station it is believed that greater care must be had in preparing silage for sheep than for cattle. Sheep require a sweet and dry silage. Thickly planted corn cut before it is well matured, does not make ideal silage for sheep. Corn planted about like field corn, harvested and put into the silo when it begins to dent, has proven very healthful to sheep, and they have done well upon it. If clover hay is fed in conjunction with this silage, cheap and satisfactory gains may be made in sheep fattening.

Investigations which have been carried on for several years in Rhode Island show that the disease known as "black head" in turkeys is spreading to all parts of the country and that chickens as well as turkeys may become victims. No certain cure has yet been discovered for this disease which has so ravaged the turkey-producing states of the East.

Much has been said and written about the importance of keeping dairy utensils perfectly clean, but not so much about the churn, and if proper care is not exercised in keeping the churn sweet and clean, the butter will be tainted, no matter how well the milk has been cared for before being ready for the churn.

It is well to remember that the pigs must be kept growing from the start if results are to be satisfactory, and if the sows and pigs are fed an insufficient or unsuitable ration until the work is out of the way so there will be time to devote more attention to them, a valuable opportunity will be lost to the owner.

A distinct flavor of the soil has been noticed in butter by French experts. Normandy cows taken to a new locality yielded butter perceptibly changed, but not wholly like that of the native cows. In winter, with concentrated food, the characteristic soil flavor disappears.

With the sheep on the farm the problem of fresh meat for family use is partly solved. Mutton butchered on the farm can nearly always be used to advantage and then you will know whether you are eating spring lamb or something else.

Sheep and other nervous animals which are being fattened for market should be kept as quiet as possible or their feed will not do them the most good. The more you handle all the live stock in a gentle and confiding way the better they will do.

We need no longer go to foreign countries for new and better blood, for the great number and high quality of American breeding establishments give ample scope for the avoidance of the pernicious influence of inbreeding.

In the past, and even at the present time, most of the domestic onions that supply the markets of the large cities of this country, are grown on what is known as manure soil, in most cases land reclaimed by draining swamps.

It is not always the best plan to dispose of beef cattle as yearlings, but in many instances in the corn belt area it has come to be a common practice, and is followed by a considerable number of cattle raisers.

The orchard is unquestionably the ideal place for hog pasturing. The needed shade is provided, the hogs will take care of the waste fruit and if properly managed there need be no damage to the trees.

If the cream is churned while sweet, considerable quantities of butter will be lost in the buttermilk, and the finished product will be void of the proper flavor, regardless of the ration fed to the cows.

After the pigs have been put into the fattening pen in the fall they should be fed all that they will eat with a rush for as a rule the shorter the fattening period the larger the profits.

The average annual cost of maintaining a farm work horse is approximately \$80, and for this cost of maintenance gives a return in work about three hours per day throughout the year.

There should not be a wide discrepancy between the value of the hog house and its occupant. It is as wrong to put a \$100 sow in a \$10 house as it is to put a \$10 sow in a \$100 house.

A pullet that has had all the bone it will eat will mature a month quicker than one that has had none. It may be fresh bone or burnt bone—any kind of bone—just so it is bone.

In purchasing new male birds, secure those that have something back of them in the line of good ancestors. The males are worth considering, for they are half the flock.

The droppings from the lambs are rich in fertilizing value, and it has been found that spring wheat does better after lambs have run in the corn.

Sorghum, kafir corn and Johnson grass are often poisonous, when grown without sufficient water and fed green.

Good, fresh, pure water is a profitable addition to milk, as milk is largely water, but the cow should do the mixing.

In Denmark, eggs are carefully sorted and sold by weight. The bigger the egg, the bigger the price.

Treat your teams considerably and feed them well and you will get back your care a hundredfold.

There is more feeding value in skim milk when it comes directly from the separator.

Like poultry, sheep pay large returns for the amount of capital invested.