

## PRAISE SOX PITCHERS

Comiskey Says Twirlers Are Showing Better Form.

Big Ed Walsh is Sure of Good Season, While Scott and White Have Old Cunnings—Joe Benz is Like a New Man.

Prediction that the Chicago American league baseball team will have a strong pitching staff this year is made by President Comiskey. He believes the twirlers now being seen are showing better form than in previous years, all of which is attributed to the spring work at Paso Robles.

"There is no need to tell the fans how good Ed Walsh is going to be because they realize that he has no equal in baseball," was the way Mr. Comiskey started out in speaking of the White Sox staff. "Ed is in perfect physical condition and his manner of caring for himself during the idle winter months always assures a good season for the big fellow. He is good for ten years to come. Nobody knows how much I think of him and how proud I am of such men as his type. I would not be surprised to see him make his best record the coming season."

"Another thing which is encouraging to me is the way Jim Scott has been going on the coast. I want to go on record as saying that Jimmie is back to his best form and he will be a great support to the team. I expect him to have his best year barring a return of his ailment, of which he now seems to be entirely free."

"Doc White is making a better showing than he did last year at this time. He has all his old-time cunning and speed. He will be a great help



"Big Ed" Walsh.

to the club and will be ready to take his turn as soon as the season opens. Benz is going great guns. He looks like a new man. I was surprised to see the way he worked. Cal tells me he expects wonderful things of him. Lange and Cicotte never were early season pitchers, but they are just beginning to show their real value.

"Manager Callahan believes he has a great find in Clarence Smith, the youngster from Birmingham. The young fellow will be given a thorough trial and it looks now as if he might be one of the regulars. Phil Douglas, one of the tallest twirlers in the game, standing 6 feet 4 inches, also looks good to me. McElridge has improved greatly and Cal will in all probability carry him the full season. His work on the coast insures him a place in major league baseball."

**Double Squeeze Play.**  
The double squeeze play is Connie Mack's latest. Playing against San Antonio, Collins was on third and struck on second. Barry laid down a bunt. Collins scored easily, while Barry was being thrown out, and Strunk, having taken a tremendous flying lead, came home all the way from second after Collins, so great was his burst of speed.

**Ernie Johnson Wins Game.**  
Ernie Johnson, the Sox discard, played his first game with Los Angeles and won a place in the hearts of the coast fans by driving in the winning run for the Angels in the eleventh inning, beating the Sox out. The final score was 3 to 2. Ernie sent the winning count over the plate by means of a sacrifice fly when the Angels had runners on third and first, with none out.

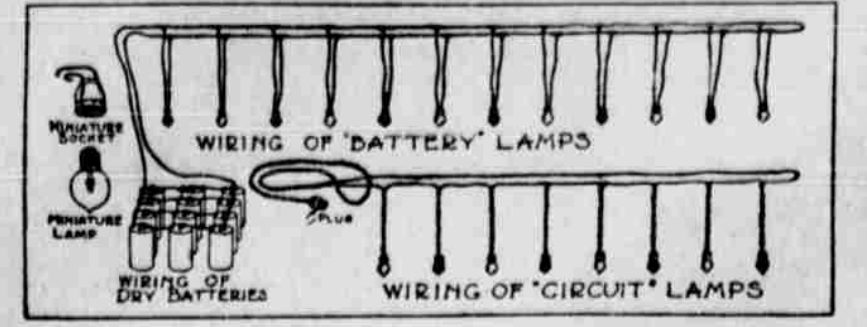
**Penn Hopes to Win Championships.**  
The University of Pennsylvania is hopeful of winning this year's annual intercollegiate track and field championships, which would put them on even terms with Cornell for permanent possession of the \$1,000 trophy. The record now stands four wins for Cornell, three for Pennsylvania and one for Harvard. It must be won five times.

**Eyes on Pipp.**  
The major league scouts have, thus far, their eyes upon one college player in Pipp, the first baseman of the University of Virginia. They say he is the best first baseman playing baseball since Fred Tenney's days at Brown.

**Jennings Places Tigers.**  
The Tigers ran sixth last year, but Manager Jennings is confident that they will do at least two points better this season. He considers that fourth place will be about the limit for his club, but is sure that he will get that far.

## BOYS' HANDICRAFT

By A. NEELY HALL  
Author of "Handicraft for Handy Boys" and "The Boy Craftsman"



### A CHRISTMAS TREE ELECTRIC-LIGHT OUTFIT.

The safest way to light a Christmas tree is with electricity; it is also the most interesting way and as the little electric lamps can be obtained in different colors the electrically lighted tree is much more pleasing to look upon than one lighted by candles.

Every boy reader of these articles will want to wire the home tree or that used at the church or school entertainment, and the following instructions will make the work easy to do. Festoons of lights can be purchased wired ready to hang upon the tree, but you will save considerable in the cost by buying the lamps, sockets, cord, etc., and connecting them yourself, besides having the fun of doing the work.

If your house, or the church or school in which the Christmas entertainment is to be held, is supplied with electric lighting, the simplest thing to do is to purchase lamps and sockets that can be used on the "circuit" current and attach a "plug" to the end of the wire that can be screwed into one of the light-fixture sockets, just as the drop-cord of any electric lamp is connected; but if there is no lighting current at hand you will have to depend upon dry batteries.

The illustration of the battery outfit shows twelve lamps of a candle-power each, and twelve batteries. This outfit may be operated with one-half as many batteries, but the drain on them would be so great that they would soon be exhausted. Another point in favor of using twelve is that by buying them in a dozen lot you will save about 7 cents on the cost of each battery. No. 18 or 29 insulated bell-wire may be used for the wiring of the battery outfit, but the smallest size of drop-cord will make a neater job in the wiring of the lamps.

The battery cells are shown wired in "series-parallel"—that is, four rows of three cells each are connected up in "series," and the four rows



TREE STANDARD AND BATTERY BOX.

are connected in "parallel." In connecting cells in "series" the zinc of one is connected to the carbon of that next to it; in connecting in "parallel" all of the carbons are connected by one wire and all of the zincs by another; and in a "series-parallel" connection one of the lamp wires is connected to the unattached end carbon of each row wired in series, and the other wire is joined to the unattached end zinc of each row.

You will see by the illustration that the battery lamps are wired in parallel—each lamp being connected to both of the wires coming from the battery. Space the lamps about 12 inches apart and make the connecting wires long enough so the lamps can be placed well out upon the limbs of the tree. Be sure to scrape bare and clean the ends of all wires so they will make good contact, and wrap all splices with bicycle tape or electrician's tape.

The wiring of lamps for an outfit used on a lighting circuit must be done in series, as shown in the illustration, instead of in parallel, and there must be eight, sixteen or twenty-four lamps—a multiple of eight. The wire used should be regular lamp drop-cord. In purchasing lamps be sure and tell the dealer whether you want them for a battery outfit or for a lighting circuit; the latter must have a higher voltage capacity than the former.

The illustration of a lighted tree shows a good scheme for a tree standard that will also conceal the cells of a battery outfit. A soap-box will be large enough for a small tree. First, make a tree standard in the ordinary way shown in the corner sketch of the illustration, using two pieces of two-by-four of the length of the inside width of the soap-box. Cut a piece out of the center of each equal to the width and one-half the thickness of the other piece, so one will lock in the other; then nail them together and cut a hole through the center large enough for the end of the tree. Fasten this standard in the bottom of the box; remove enough of one side of the box to make a door large enough to admit the battery cells, and hinge it in place; then fit the cover boards to the top of the box and cut a hole through them, di-

rectly over that in the standard, for the end of the tree to run through. If you have a small electric switch, fasten it to the top of the box and connect one of the battery wires to it, so that you can turn on and shut off the lights from that point.

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### REALLY NO PROBLEM AT ALL

Squire's Explanation Satisfied Inquirer, Though It Seemed to Carry an Indictment.

We were sitting around the red-hot stove in the lobby of the village tavern, and just when a silence had fallen upon the group one man turned to another and asked:

"Squire Parkins, if you don't mind, I'd like to ask you a question."

The squire didn't say whether he minded or not, but the other went ahead with:

"It's about this 'ere high cost of living. Have you figured out what's the reason for it?"

"I have," was the answer.

"Then I'd like to hear it."

"Did you raise any wheat, corn or oats last year?"

"Noap."

"Any potatoes, beets or carrots?"

"Noap."

"Any tomatoes, cucumbers or onions?"

"Noap."

"Didn't raise nothing whatever to eat?"

"Guess I didn't."

"Just at all you could of what other folks raised?"

"Looks that way."

"And sot around and let your wife take in washing and support you?"

"Why, she likes to wash."

"Well, I've answered your question. You and a hundred thousand lazy loafers like you boosted the cost of living!"

I expected to see a row follow, but none came. There was a minute of suspense, and then the questioner yawned and stretched and exclaimed:

"Well, by thunder! I've been puzzling over that matter for more'n a year, and here you have solved it in three mints!"—Detroit News-Tribune.

### Protection of Birds and Plants.

The spirit of protection of nature in Switzerland is rapidly growing. A storm of protest has swept over the central section at the killing of two eagles. These were observed at Murren and steps were undertaken to protect them when a Lauterbrunnen hunter came over and shot them both. In this connection attention is called to the fact that eagles are now scarce in Switzerland and there is serious risk of their extinction. As a means to prevent just such evils as that of the destruction of the eagles, the Bernese cantonal educational department has put into the schools a little text book, the story of the plants. This notes the rare species, instructs the children not to pluck and destroy them, and gives information about the penalties for picking such plants. Further instructions are given to teachers who are likely to have the care of vacation or outing parties. The principle of the whole procedure is the excellent one, thus expressed by the Bernese school committee, that "Such instruction is essential, for with the coming generation will rest the safety or the destruction of the flowers."

### Kind Treatment of Cows.

An interesting experiment was recently performed at the Kansas Agricultural college to determine the relative results of kind and of unkind treatment upon cows. Three cows were treated kindly, and were found to give an average of 36 pounds of milk, with 4.3 per cent. of butter fat. Later these same cows were frightened by jumping at them, howling at them and striking them while they were eating. It was found at milking that they produced only 23 pounds of milk, containing 3.4 per cent. butter and clean the ends of all wires so they will make good contact, and wrap all splices with bicycle tape or electrician's tape.

### Bees and Alfalfa.

If you raise alfalfa you can afford to keep bees. The alfalfa blossoms furnish food for the bees all year around, so that there can be no failure of food supply. An apiculturist says that the average production of a hive is 76 pounds. With honey at 10 cents a pound this makes a profit of \$7.60 on each hive. The increase in the number of hives averages 100 per cent. a year. Bees cost about \$8 per hive in the west, so that the net profit, exclusive of the cost of labor, is probably 150 per cent. a year.

### Turkey Raising.

We know a Virginia woman who raises from 100 to 200 turkeys every year, and the whole hunch roost in a great oak tree. To enable the youngsters to reach the branches she built an incline stairway consisting of a 10-foot plank with cross pieces. This woman declares that until the poult began to roost in the tree she confined them in houses and lost many birds every season.

## IDEAS FOR HOME BUILDERS

BY W. M. A. RADFORD

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.

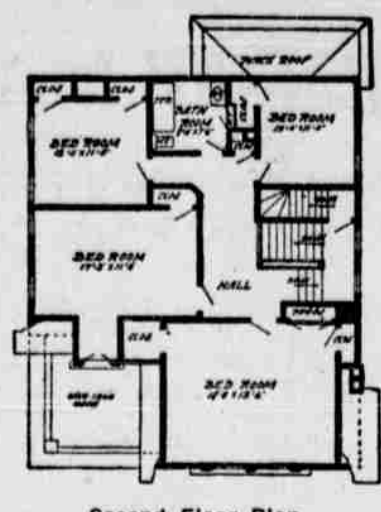
A rather pretentious house of very pleasing design is shown in the cuts. There are many new features about this house that are likely to become popular.

The idea of placing the stairway in the center or near the center of the house is a good one and I am pleased to note that the people generally approve of it because I feel that it is a sensible improvement in house building. In this plan the stairway is quite an innovation. While you start up from almost the exact center of the house the most of the space occupied by the stair is against the back wall, the least valuable space in the house.

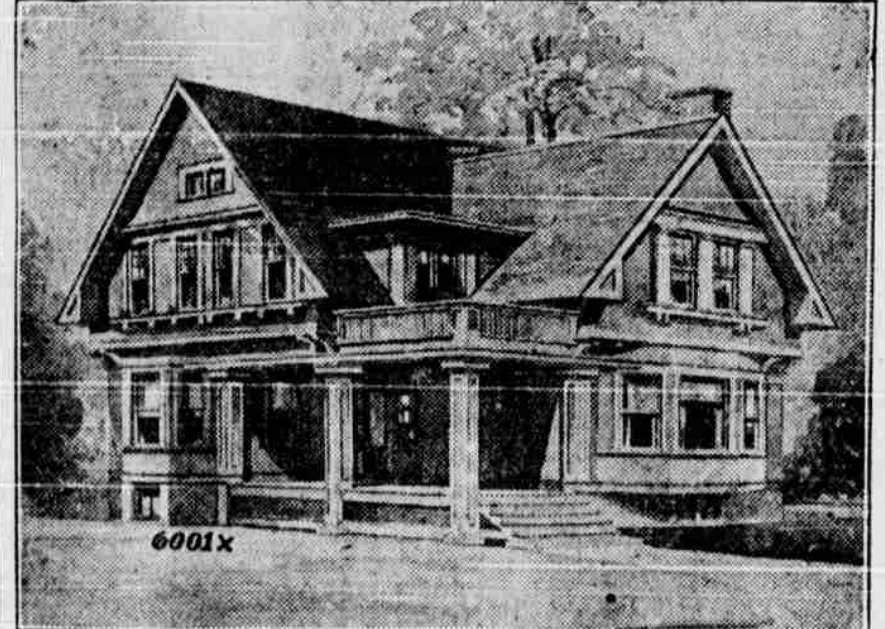
The stair itself is what you might call a three way combination stair. Besides the main stairway there is a separate back stair from the kitchen leading up ten steps to meet on a landing. This landing is high enough to give head room for a passageway across under it leading from the kitchen to the reception hall. This gets back in a sensible way to the old idea of connecting the kitchen with the front door without being obliged to pass through the dining room. This passage way also gives access to the cellar stair, which is placed under the back stair. In this passage way also is the opening to the coat closet under the front stairs.

Then from the landing up we have but one pair of steps and this is all that is necessary. By this arrangement every foot of space is made use of for some good purpose. The room ordinarily required to carry the back stair to the upper floor is saved and there is no corresponding objection. It would be hard to find fault with the arrangement in any particular.

In the living room and dining room are beam ceilings. There is something about a beam ceiling that seems



Second Floor Plan.



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to give an artistic tone to a room as nothing else will. Sometimes the idea is overlooked. When, like all other fashionable things, if overdone, the effect is spoiled. Beams in a ceiling should have a natural effect. A beam is primarily intended to support something. To appear right it must be large enough and heavy enough to fulfill its mission. Heavy beams are not placed close together ordinarily and they are not bedecked with fancy brackets nor overloaded with moldings. There is one thing about a beam ceiling; it requires side walls to match, not necessarily expensive, paneled woodwork as we see in some cases, but the decorations should be in keeping whether it is fresco work, painting or papering. The general effect should be carried through.

It would be difficult to design two rooms more pleasant than the dining room and living room in this plan. When it comes to the living room 16 by 22 feet in size with a large extension window at the end, within easy reach of the doors to the different rooms.

While the roof cuts off a portion of the upper walls of some of the bedrooms it does not interfere with the comfort of the occupants. There is quite a saving in building the roof in this way.

### Squaring Accounts.

A French medical weekly records a way of discouraging over-enterprising tradesmen. One of these sent a Strasburg doctor a box of cigars, which had not been ordered, together with a bill for fifteen marks. The accompanying letter stated that "I have ventured to send these on my own initiative, being convinced that you will appreciate their exquisite flavor." In due course, the doctor replied, "You have not asked me for a consultation, but I venture to send you three prescriptions, being convinced that you will be quite as satisfied with them as I am with your cigars. As my charge for a prescription is five marks, this makes us quits."—London Chronicle.

### Nothing Like Precision.

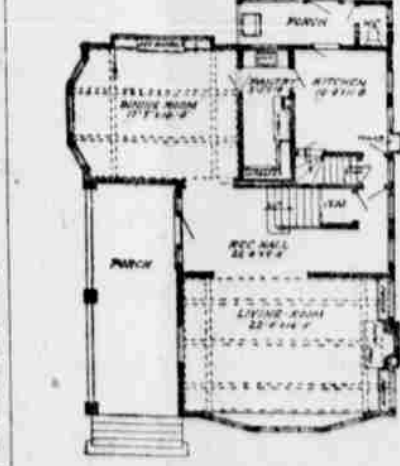
President Wilson, at a dinner in Washington, said of a statistician: "His figures are so precise that one inclines to doubt them. He is like the American sugar planter in Hawaii who, taking a friend to the edge of a volcano, said: "That crater, George, is just 70,000 years old." "But why the four?" George asked. "Oh, I've been here four," was the reply. "It was 70,000 when I came."

### Flax as a Garden Plant.

"He who has seen a German flax-field waving its fine feathery green leaves, rippling like water in the lightest breeze and opening myriads of pale-blue blossom-eyes to the sun, may be glad to know that a flax bed is within the reach of every flower lover. Flax will grow almost anywhere. It should be closely sown in well-worked ground and kept well watered."—Suburban Life.

### Different.

"And I thought you were a friend of mine?"  
"So I am. I would give you my last cent."  
"Your talk sounds big, but you don't live up to it. When I just—"  
"You didn't ask me for my last cent, you asked me to lend you five dollars!"



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