

TO MITIGATE DANGER.

That the automobile has introduced another serious element of danger into metropolitan streets is not to be denied. This applies to all large cities. They face a common problem. Local interest, therefore, attaches to a recently published dispatch from London announcing that better control of power-driven vehicles in the English metropolis is likely to be recommended by a select committee for action by the house of commons.

A California man of thirty has been left \$5,000 by his uncle on condition that he first earn and save \$1,000 of his own. Until the thousand is secured in the manner designated the bequest will lie dormant. One is inclined to commend the judgment of the uncle. If a young man has not sufficient will power to accumulate \$1,000 he is not likely to possess the wisdom necessary to handle five times that amount handed to him as a gift.

A pink boll worm is devastating the Egyptian cotton fields. It is a small caterpillar which eats the kernel of the seeds and also injures the flowers. Last year it destroyed 30 per cent. of the crop in the vicinity of Aboukri. Once upon a time there were fears on the part of American cotton planters that Egyptian competition in the production of cotton might be a menace to American interests.

Lovers of birds will uphold the protection which it is proposed to give them. As has been said, it is to the bird police we must look to conserve our tree properties, and humanity, too, joins with policy in demanding their wanton and cruel slaughter be stopped.

The degree of saltiness of the Irish sea is the indicator Prof. H. Bassett proposes to use for long distance weather predictions. The salinity is found to vary in a period of about one year, with corresponding changes in temperature, the water being more salty and relatively warmer in winter and spring and fresher and relatively cooler in summer. It is argued that the alterations of temperature must affect the number and character of the cyclones coming from the ocean.

In these days of rapid evolution, novelists should not overlook the opportunity to make obsolete the word "tantaling" as applied to a woman's eyes. "Tangolizing" is far more up to date.

Even silk is adulterated, the recent strike of millworkers bringing out the fact that the tissue is weighted with tin. It is bad enough to adulterate the necessities of life, but the matter is going entirely too far when even its luxuries are thus tampered with.

No matter what loan sharks or others might tell you, you can always figure on borrowing one thing without paying interest, and that's trouble.

A director of rowing at Princeton remarks: "Intercollegiate athletics as at present organized means that a few men go periodically into training, and into hysterics." What rank ingratiate to the noble body of rowers, without whom athletics would languish like the autumn flower!

Eggs in sealed packages are being extensively advertised. This seems to be an infringement on the invention of the hen.

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. 115 West Jackson Street, Chicago, Ill., and only enclose two-cent stamp for reply.

When the essential thing—good building—is secured, a man may find it possible to indulge his fancies in many matters of detail, but he should be warned against too earnestly striving after the ideal of the picturesque. Having determined on the accommodation he desires and can afford, he will be well advised to be guided in regard to the design by his architect.

The little cottage illustrated here-with is an example of a building thoroughly constructed and arranged according to the very best ideas for convenience; yet at the same time some little thought has been given to make the building attractive in appearance without adding materially to its cost.

For \$1,500 this five-room cottage has been built, using the very best methods of construction and finishing the building on the inside with oak, birch and yellow pine.

A glance at the floor plan will show the desirable features of its arrangement. The living room and dining room are of large size and open together by means of an arch opening. The kitchen is well away from the rest of the house, being separated from the dining room by the pantry, an arrangement which has been found to be very satisfactory.

There are two good sized bedrooms very well placed. The bathroom is conveniently located. The attic space in this cottage is valuable for storage purposes and since it is well ventilated serves to keep the first story cool during the hot summer weather. The exterior is sided with clap-boards, having hand

courses and corner boards used for ornamental effect. The cornice is rather wide and is of open timbered construction. Altogether this is an exceptionally attractive and economical little residence for the small family.

Followed the Stars. In certain parts of the south, "all over hell and half of Georgia" signifies the limits of the known earth. Also, there are many who believe the myth that the Pleiades point the way home for the traveler—they "lie always in the heavens directly over the haven where he would be. Both of these were reasons why Uncle Tobie Braddish stayed in North Carolina, which, according to his own story, he hated.

"Yes, sir," remarked Tobie, "there come a time years ago, when I wanted to leave this place and go back to Tennessee. And soon's the seven sisters come up, I went straight after them same as a bee martin to his hole. But along to'ards midnight they doubled back on me, and by the time I'd finished followin' them at sun-up I was right back in this settlement agin. Every night for a year I traveled all over hell and half of Georgia after them stars, and never got nowhere but here. And I reckon I'll stay. Have you got a plug of chaw, terbaccer?"

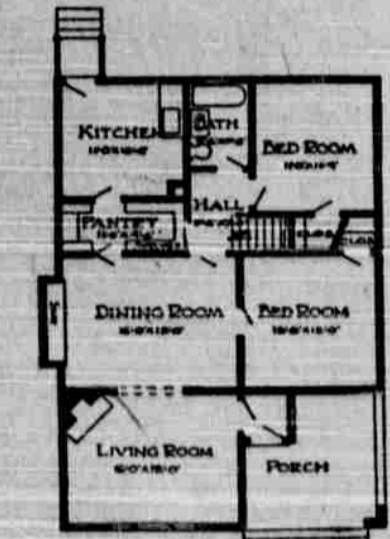
Barnato a Skillful Actor. In the Journal South Africa, Mr. Sutton Vane, the dramatist, who died recently, says reminiscences of Barney Barnato: "He was the best amateur melodramatic actor I ever met. A lit-tle rough, so is a diamond, but the fire is there. He played Claude Frolo in Victor Hugo's 'Esmeralda' splendidly. I playing Quiesmodo, the hunch-back, with him. In the great scene on the parapets the hunchback tries to throw the monk (Frolo) into the street. Mr. Barnato resisted vigorously. He seized me by my hump, which came off in his hand. It was a sponge bag stuffed with various articles. He shook his fist at me, and then, with a quiet smile, threw the hump from the cathedral roof. Looking over, he exclaimed, 'Good heavens, I have killed a policeman.' Tremendous round of applause from the audience."

Sunshine Kills Germs. Light, as well as heat, has disinfectant properties. It is well known that vegetables start their growth with difficulty when exposed to sunlight. The covering of the seed is not only to secure moisture but also to favor the first steps of growth. It is well known that the upper thin layer of the soil is almost sterile. When possible, expose all parts of the house to sunlight. When this cannot be done, admit as strong a diffused light as can be secured. The common practice of keeping the unused rooms of the house closed and darkened is an invitation to insanitary conditions. Better have the wallpapers and gaudy carpets and rugs fade than to foster the germs of tuberculosis. Let the sunlight in and the germs out—Good Housekeeping Magazine.

residence" to which the house agents have directed his attention, and tried to sell to him, and determines to build himself a house according to his own and his wife's ideas, he takes a very right and proper course, but he is apt to go about it in a wrong way. He invites an architect to design him a "picturesque" house with nooks and bay windows and overhanging eaves. It is to contain accommodations which might reasonably be supplied for \$4,000, but it is to cost not a penny more than \$2,000. That is to begin at the wrong end.

If a man's chief ambition is that all the landscape painters in the neighborhood should come and erect their easels before his house, he does well to concern himself primarily with gables and nooks; but if he hold with Bacon that "houses are built to live in and not to look on" he will do well to give more attention to the soundness of the walls and roof and the relative positions of dining room and kitchen. Let the man with \$2,000 to spend determine that he will have as much good sound building as \$2,000 will buy and therewith be content. If this means being content with two sitting rooms instead of the desired three, or abandoning a projected ingle-nook, there is a solid consolation in the knowledge that all the material used in the house is thoroughly sound and has been put together in a workman-like manner.

But the want of money is secondary. The matter of primary importance is that people should have right ideas as to what constitutes good architecture and sound building, and should insist whenever they cause buildings to be put up upon having only those which are both well designed and well built. Good building, the first essential, and here, no doubt, is a point of danger. The popularizing of architecture is a good thing so long as the demand is for good architecture. A great unconstructed public demand "quaint" houses and "picturesque" bungalows would get what it wants, but the result is not likely to make for real progress in architecture, or for healthy conditions in the building trade.

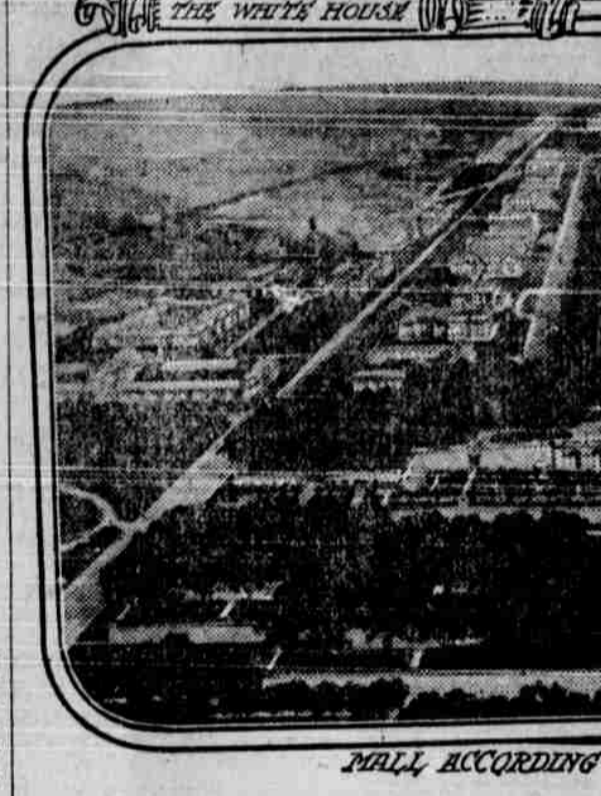


Floor Plan.

TO MAKE WASHINGTON IDEAL CITY

It cannot happen in a day, nor a month, nor a year; but one national administration should allow time enough to make of Washington a standard of efficiency among cities; a giant laboratory for municipal research; a finished product of the distilled municipal wisdom gathered here, there, and the other place, by lesser cities, working independently to find solutions to civic problems.

So says John Purroy Mitchel, president of the board of aldermen of New York, who, with Henry Bruere, director of the bureau of municipal research, has just submitted to President Wilson a plan whereby the national capital can be used as guide, philosopher, and friend to all other American cities.



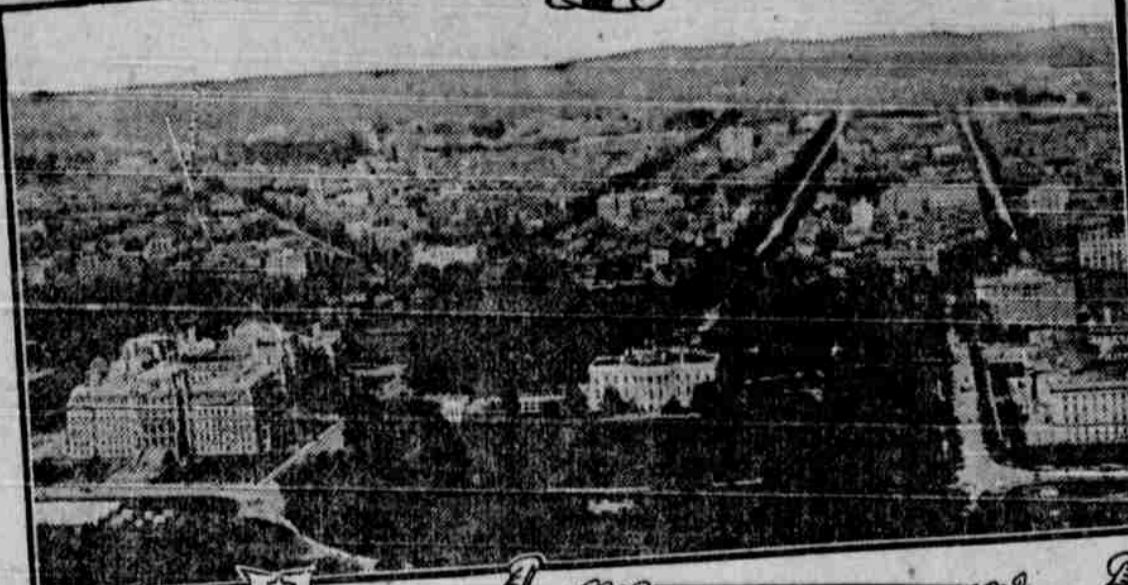
THE WHITE HOUSE

There are certain fundamental processes which all cities must adopt, irrespective of their several forms of government," he continues, "and it is the best of these, each after its kind, that we would

like to see discovered, standardized, and codified in Washington. "There is one, and only one 'best way' for cleaning streets; one 'best way' for arranging school curricula; one 'best way' for conserving the public health. These 'best ways,' once they are discovered and firmly established, are just as efficacious in one form of city government as they are in another.

"There is not, at the present time, one city in this country which is systematically finding and using the 'best ways' for conducting its various municipal departments. "We believe that the only reason for this scattered and disorganized state of things lies in the inability of our many cities to find a common meeting ground on which to thrash out the good they have discovered from the bad they have not known how to avoid.

"As things are at present, we offer the distressing and unnecessary spectacle of a whole people struggling with a universal problem in sporadic patches, incoherent and unrelated; and of a nation which has failed to make common cause, among its separate parts, of a question which is, more than almost any other, a national one. "We need co-operation. We need concentration. We have failed to establish a central reservoir for the knowledge, independently come by, of the many cities solving their difficulties in their own way; we have failed to provide a central source to which these cities, beset by problems they are not able to solve, can come for help.



A VIEW OF WASHINGTON

needed co-operation among cities all striving toward the same end has not been undertaken long ago. Perhaps it is because heretofore the rank and file have not realized how much power for good does lie in city government, and how possible it is, by a sane and rational use of this power, to rid the world of countless burdens.

"We have evolved, it seems to me, a very practicable and sensible plan. You will find in the report which we have sent to President Wilson, that we ask first for a survey of the city looking to a precise knowledge of just what it needs, and, second, for the president's influence to be put upon the three commissioners of the District of Columbia to have put into practice there all the valuable things discovered in all the American cities.

"By this means, we hope to produce a scheme of government for Washington which will not only meet its own needs, but will, by its adoption elsewhere, work a similar benefit.

"The importance of the preliminary survey must not be overlooked. We do not want to go down to Washington and construct an 'ideal city' out of some man's head. We want to find, by the most scrupulous and exhaustive search, what it is that Washington stands most in need of; and we propose to supply her lacks by means of the information we have collected in other cities. "That is to say, we do not want to do it ourselves. Mr. Bruere and myself have no ambition to get the job, nor even the supervision of it. We want merely that President Wilson find us reasonable enough—and promising enough—to set out along the lines we have suggested; and that when the need arises for expert service in the execution of the plan, he will be able to get the best brains of the country to assist him.

"Will the project we have outlined affect the physical aspect of cities? That is rather a difficult question, at the present stage of our work; but I should say that it will. "We are deeply interested in the laying out of cities. Much more depends on it than beauty, valuable as that is. Yes, I think that if our plan matures there will be no need for ugliness in our cities—at least, not that ugliness which comes from ignorance.

"We need ideals of public service in municipal governments, and we need ideals of plain business efficiency. When we get them we shall begin to have some idea of how much a city's government controls its whole social and political destiny," said Mr. Bruere. "As a matter of fact, I suppose I do not need to dwell at any length on the value of good municipal administration. I am not apt to find anybody who would dispute the fact with me. But I think I can allow myself to insist upon one factor in its value which I do not find to be very widely known. "If you say to the average man that the affairs of the city should be conducted with as much business sagacity and economy as the affairs of private industries, he will naturally say 'yes, of course'; but if you go further and suggest to him that a sound municipal regime can save him more than money and time; that it can lift the whole level of his social community and that it can help to conserve everything about him, from his business interests to his health and his peace of mind, he is apt to think either that you are trifling with him, or that you lean toward 'paternalism' and should be subdued. "City government should and can be made to mean much more than clean streets or a capable fire department. It means the establishment and preservation of healthy relationships in every phase of the city's existence. "It has in its hands the health, the intelligence, and economic capacity of every citizen. It can be so organized that it will take leadership in filling every ascer-

MUM.

A mollusk came to our first parent to be named. "Er—oyster!" announced Adam, after considering a moment. Now, divers other creatures, having got theirs, were loitering about to pick up what of consolation they might, and a number of these burst out laughing hereupon. "Just think how mum you'll have to be!" they jeered.—Puck.

QUITE REMARKABLE.

"Big production, that musical comedy." "Yes; and a remarkable thing is that the cast of characters is even larger than the list of authors."

So They Are Friends.

"Those two girls tell each other everything." "Everything but what they really think of each other."

One on Him.

Mr. Bacon—The average weight of a man's brain is three pounds and eight ounces, while that of a woman is two pounds and eleven ounces. Mrs. Bacon—Yes, and a lemon weighs more than a cherry.

Disappointed Tourist

A "wealthy manufacturer" of Chicago is reported to have returned from Europe disgusted because the Alps could be lost in the Rocky mountains, because Venice smells to heaven, because Monte Carlo gamblers are "pickers" as compared to the average American traveling man, because his memory of Berlin is of stale beer and rotten cigars, because Paris is a city of cheap side shows, London of gloom, fog and influenza, and Egypt a land of awful smells and moth-eaten camels. "This 'wealthy manufacturer' is not unique among travelers. His brethren of every nation make travel melancholy or, if you are patient, humorous. They are not to be pitied, because they are all really happy in their scorn.

But it is rather a pity they cannot be induced to "see America first" and all the time.

Men and women who travel abroad and then complain because things are not as they are at home are illogical, but not innumerable. It is complained that we spend too much in Europe. "The drain on our resources would be considerably lessened if travelers who are disgusted with the Louvre because they cannot get ham and eggs for breakfast would stay where they can get what they like.