

will appear in time, richly repaying all your efforts.

Besides the general tree-setting for your house formed by the orchards, groves and forests, covering most of your farmstead, you will want a special tree-setting, and on this you ought to bestow extraordinary care. Use trees which will grow lustily in your soil, live long, stand wind, and cast a thick shade. They must be neither too near the house nor too far, and neither too numerous nor too few. Most home makers err by profusion of shade near the house, rendering it unhealthy and obscuring the prospect. If the climate is dry and windy, more trees may surround the house and they may stand closer to it than is proper in damp situations. It is often recommended that a row of tall trees be planted in rear of the house, partly as an artistic backing for it and partly to shield the barn from view. I do not like this. Trees in the position named are too far away to shade the house, while they cannot but veil the view. The barn should be visible from the house, not veiled, only it and all about it should be rendered perfectly neat and sightly.

Have large gardens and flower gardens. Make them long, the rows lengthwise, and plant so that all rows can be cultivated with horse power. Those flower strips which I recommend as borders to your lawn or lawns, may also be so planted as to be kept clean by means of the horse plow.

I come now to the house itself, the center of the farm life, where the farmer and his family live, where his children are born and where are originated and developed those early ideas, feelings and propensities which will make or mar their lives. No man having a house at all is so poor that he can afford to neglect the environment of the childhood life beginning and growing up in that house.

After such study as I have been able to give to the subject, I am impressed that no other house plan is on the whole so advantageous or commendable for farmers as the old-fashioned rectangular form, providing for a central hall, four rooms below and four rooms above, the roof having a one-third pitch. This plan is susceptible of indefinite variation. It can be made rigidly puritanic as to adornment, or it can be ornamented in any way and to any extent. The hall can be large or small. You can add an ell for a kitchen or not as you please, so of bay windows, dormer windows and porches. Other impressive advantages of the structure are the great strength and the great economy of space going with it. Much saving of expense is also se-

cured by the simplicity of this style of building when repairs become necessary, there being the fewest possible queer angles, breaks, turnings, pockets, gewaws and places hard to get at.

It is with much hesitation that I approach the subject of interior house decoration. Tastes differ and many different methods for house beautification might be suggested, each of which would be pleasing to highly cultivated people.

We need first of all to divest ourselves of the idea that beautifying the inside of a house need involve great expense. The truth is otherwise. Many a householder could make a truly elegant interior with half the expense to which he has gone to burden and disfigure his walls, ceilings and floors. Simplicity is a chief rule of art.

To this for our present purpose we may add cleanliness. Any bric-a-brac or adornment whatever which renders it hard to keep a room clean is out of order and contradicts the best taste. On this account I would not use a picture moulding or allow any covering or ornament on any article of furniture so constructed or put on as to hide dust. I would eschew all carpets. They are dirt breeders and germ breeders. Use rugs if you can get them; if not, bare floors made as presentable as is convenient and kept clean.

Let us have no room, call it parlor or what not, too nice for daily use. Any part of your house good enough for you will please your callers whoever they are. One can suffer no more chilling or inhospitable treatment than to be shown into the best room of many a house. You feel yourself in a strange place, cold, lonely, uninhabited. Even if the room is perfect in its decoration and appointments the effect of its non-use is frigidity. There is of course no impropriety in making certain rooms finer than others, but all your rooms should be for you and your family. The habit of crowding the whole family life into the kitchen is vulgarizing in the extreme. As far as possible avoid paint or interior wood work. Natural wood, if neatly finished, is more beautiful and in the end cheaper. On the other hand when plastered walls need something beyond neat hard finish, it is in most cases better to use paint than paper.

Ornaments can, with good results, be changed from room to room or from one position to another within a room. Articles of furniture may be shifted in the same way. A few rich and beautiful ornaments are better than a too great number even of the best, and certainly preferable to numerous cheap ones. Greatly to be recommended for people of moderate

means are photographs, however small and low priced, of great works of art, each photograph placed in an elegant frame contrasting in color with the wall on which it hangs. The boys can make the frames and the girls paint them. In these days when copies of art master-pieces are so inexpensive, no home need go unadorned.

The foregoing hints are meant to be useful to poor farmers as well as to rich ones; serviceable on the most heavily mortgaged farms as well as on unencumbered ones. No doubt, however, some of the suggestions would, if carried out in ever so simple a way, involve some little expense in money and perhaps considerable expense in labor. Will it pay?

It will pay. Nearly everything needed to make the farmstead beautiful will in the long run pay in dollars and cents. Granted, though, I am not urging beautification solely or mainly as remunerative in that sense. Life is more than meat and the body than raiment. It pays to lift life, mind, taste, thoughts. If you, husband and father, intent on planting and growing dollars, care little for those immaterial commodities, let me plead for your sons. Train them—or let them train themselves—to a life that is not mere drudgery. Help them learn to love home. Make the place so attractive that if they leave you for a time they will never fully rest till they come back to the old homestead. You can have this so if you will.

I plead, too, for the women of your family. It pays to remove a mortgage from your farm; it pays certainly as well to remove furrows from a wife's brow or, what is better, prevent them from appearing there. The lives of farmers' wives seem in many cases sadly monotonous, lacking in opportunities for the development of sweetness and cheer. Their whole expression, their every gesture, their very smile often suggests weariness. Even young girls reared on farms too often lack that buoyancy and freedom which belong to youth. The farmer himself, also, to a greater extent, his sons, have variety of occupation, bringing them in touch with men and questions; but apart from occasional shopping in town, farmers' wives and daughters have at best little enough to spice or enrich their toils. It is said that the majority of the women in the asylums are farmers' wives; if so, it is undoubtedly owing to the dreary sameness of their experience, rare breaks or pauses in work that can never end, the treadmill, the plodding, the ever-abiding shadow. Husband and father, can you do less for these loved ones than doing your best according to your means to make the Farmstead Beautiful?