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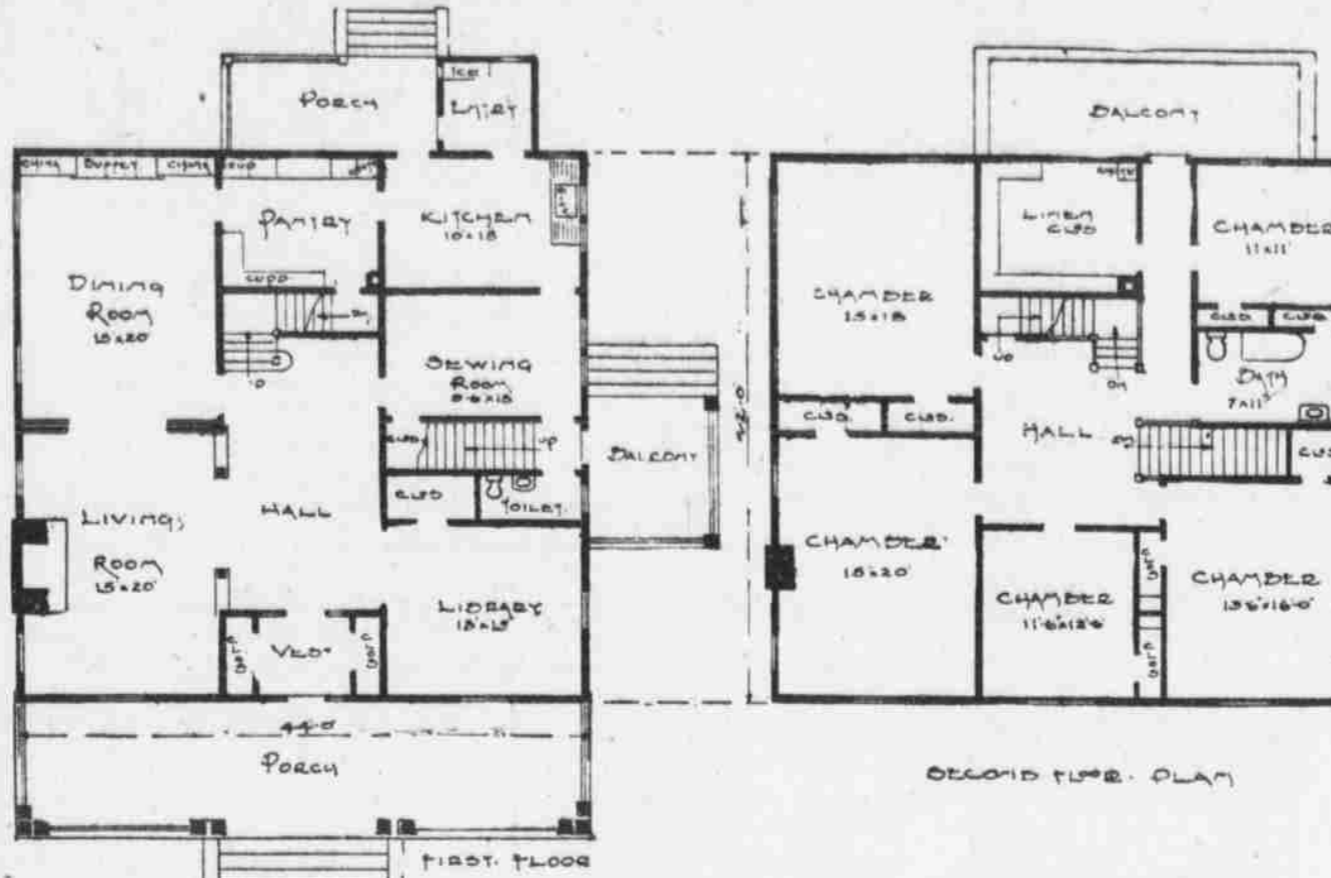
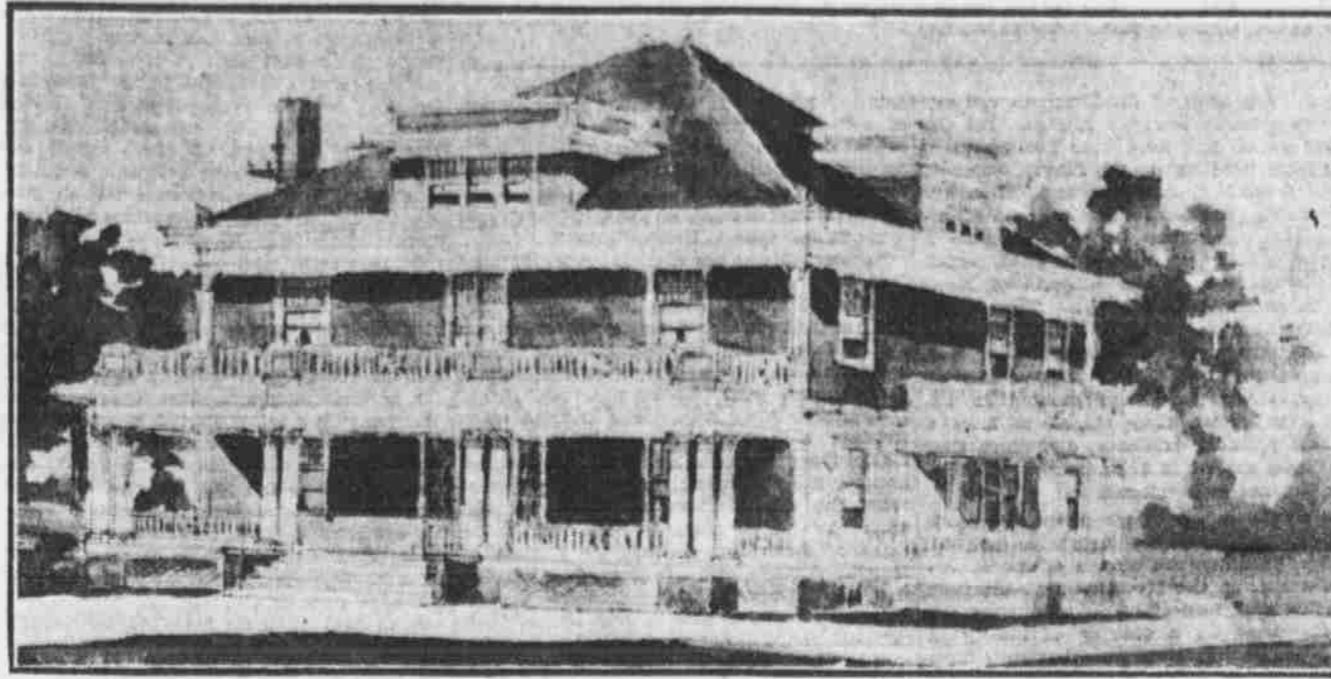
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WHILE it would seem as though we should have reached perfection in the building of homes ere this, so many improvements have been made on their construction during the last century, still it is a fact that more improvements are coming up right along. Some of the features which I will mention have been in use long enough to hardly be considered new features, but will be mentioned here on account of their being so little used so far, that they are unknown to most home builders. It would be useless to try and prophesy what improvements are apt to be made during the next century, but if as much progress is made during that time as has been made during the past century a modern home should be a model of convenience beyond our conception.

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fresh air duct is carried from the galvanized iron box through the foundation wall to the outside air. The rising of the heat from the radiator causes suction, which brings in the fresh air and forces it through the radiator. After it has passed through the radiator it goes into the room warm, but fresh. One good sized indirect radiator in a central location is considered sufficient. If there are proper outlets for exhausts in the way of baseboard ventilators or fireplaces.

A great deal of cold air, carrying with it scot and dirt, gets in around the closed windows in the winter time unless the sashes are provided with what is known as metal weather strips. These consist of thin, protruding galvanized rails, fastened to the frame and projecting into the sash, thereby making a check that prevents a passage of air between the frame and the sash. It has been shown that they take the place of the old-fashioned storm windows and are left on the year around.

Metal frame screens are now being put on a great many modern homes, the economy in using them having been demonstrated. They do not sag out of shape, are easily put in place, and when half screens are provided, they can be slid up or down at will and can always be removed from the inside in order to wash the windows at any time.

Composition floors have been used in Germany and some cities in other parts of Europe for many years, but owing to the expense of importation they have been little known in this country until the last year or two, when several American concerns have taken up the manufacture of the materials of which composition floors are made, and they are now coming into general use. A composition floor is put on in the same manner as plastering, over any firm base, and when finished is a smooth, hard floor, in one piece and of any color desired. Cove baseboards are run along the wall at the same time, there being no crack between the base board and the floor for the dirt to get into. Above this, wainscoting is sometimes made of the same composition. The material comes in pottery form, similar to cement in appearance. It is then mixed with certain acids and then applied by a mason, being smoothed down in a manner quite similar to putting plaster on the wall. When applied over a wood floor it should be reinforced with something in the nature of metal chicken fencing to hold it together well and overcome any settling of the floor, which would, without reinforcing, crack the surface of the composition floor. The cost is about half the price of oak or marble tile flooring and but little more than a first-class finished wood floor. It can be used for stairs, treads and risers and, in fact, moulded into any shape for any purpose desired.

The uses of electricity in the home are being demonstrated by practical application in some homes, but so far have met with little favor on account of the expense of the current. When the cost of producing the current is reduced, electricity will be used in the home in a great many different ways besides lighting it. In some homes where the cost of keeping it up is not an item of consideration, electric currents are provided for running the sewing machine, washing machine and ice cream freezer. The cooking is done by electricity and some of the rooms are provided with electric radiators. These, however, are only for intermediate use to warm up a room for a few minutes early in the morning or the evening at times of the year when the beginning and end of the day is cool, but not cool enough to warrant keeping up the fire in the heating plant.

Vacuum cleaning systems are being installed in a great many homes, the best of them being planis located in the basement and run by an electric motor, and from this pipes leading to various parts of the house with outlets in the baseboard where extension hose can be connected. One outlet in every floor is considered sufficient since a fifty-foot hose can be attached and carried to every part of the house. While some people still have more faith in the cleaning propensities of a scrub woman, there is little doubt but what, as the vacuum cleaning system becomes perfected and also reduced in price, that it will be considered as an essential part of a home as modern heating and plumbing, for there is no doubt of its entire success from a practical standpoint when a right kind of system is installed. A cheap vacuum system is a poor investment. Dust is nothing but fine grit, and this soon wears out the parts of the machinery which it comes in contact with, if they are not made of the best material and kept lubricated. Where electricity is not obtainable, the vacuum cleaner can be run by a gasoline engine.

In many small cities and in suburban locations, the water supply is a problem. The old-fashioned way to supply a home under such circumstances was to have a tank in the attic and pump the water up to it with a hand pump, allowing the water to supply the various fixtures in the house by gravity. The modern way is to have a large air-tight tank in the basement into which water is pumped against the pressure of the air, which creates a force which sends it to a great height. Hand pumps are sometimes used to pump in the water.

but this is very tedious work. Where electric current is not available, a gasoline engine connected by a belt to the pump is the next best substitute. The most modern way of pumping the water into the tank is by an electric motor with an automatic control. When the water gets down to low pressure the motor starts up automatically, fills the tank up and then stops, requiring no attention except to keep it thoroughly lubricated.

All modern homes are provided with summer heaters which are kept going whenever the heating plant is not being used, in heating the water for domestic purposes. One of the latest wrinkles is to have the radiator in the bathroom arranged so that it can be disconnected from the heating plant by a shut-off valve in the heater, and connected with a summer heater, by opening another valve on a cross-connection pipe. In this way, by opening up another valve on the radiator in the bathroom the room can be warmed at any time that a little heat is required in this room when it would not be required in the rest of the house. While speaking of radiators it is no longer considered the best taste to gild them, but to paint them exactly to match the woodwork in the room in which they are located. The risers or pipes extending from floor to floor are painted to match the wall decorations. This is done with the object of making them as inconspicuous as possible. Radiators never look well no matter where they are put and to bronze them bright gold only makes them more conspicuous. In the bathroom where the woodwork is white the radiator should be painted white. Sometimes in bathrooms and other rooms enameled white radiators are given a silver or aluminum bronze which matches well with the white woodwork. If the radiator stands against an oak or maple wainscoting, it should be not only painted, but grained, to match the wainscoting as close as an artistic painter can do so.

Mice sometime get into clothing after it has been put down the clothes chute in the basement. To overcome this in a modern way is to provide a large galvanized, iron lined box with a lid, at the base of the clothes chute.

The modern way of supplying fresh air to a home in the winter time is to provide what is known as an indirect radiator. This is a large radiator placed in a galvanized iron box under the floor with a register in the floor above it. An open

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