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# THE HOME BUILDERS PAGE

## The Abuses of Cement

By Arthur C. Clausen.

**C**EMENT is a chemical product, the ingredients of which, when combined with the chemicals of which water is composed, harden into a very solid, substantial material, provided that certain precautions are observed.

Cement has been used in basement floor construction for many years, and the common experience of most home builders has been that after six months or a year's use the surface of the floor shows a pitted, pock-marked appearance and continually gives off a fine dust. The principal reason for this is that an insufficient amount of cement was used for the surface coat.

The average unwatched mason will make the surface of a cement floor in the proportion of one part cement to two parts sand, sometimes one part cement to three parts sand. It should never be made in the proportion of less than cement and sand equal parts. The sand should be perfectly clean and sharp. Cement and sand should be thoroughly mixed dry and then thoroughly mixed with water, until it becomes a very soft paste. Lack of proper mixing is often the cause of cement surface troubles. It stands to reason that if water, cement and sand are not evenly mixed there will be small places where a perfect chemical action between cement and water has not taken place to the fullest extent, and these little places, almost microscopic, being weak, will come off either in the form of dust or flakes, and eventually leave the floor in a pitted condition. The pits leave sharp edges, which footwear continually breaks off in fine particles and in this manner the wearing down of the floor gets its start, and continues indefinitely.

The thickness of the surface coat should never be less than one-half inch thick and should preferably be one inch thick. When a cement surface is being applied to other masonry that has set, and is hard, the masonry to which it is being applied should be thoroughly wet, preferably from a hose, so that the wall or grout soaks up all the water that it can. The reason for this is simple. Water is one of the chemicals needed in the process of hardening the cement, and when fresh cement is applied to other dry masonry, the chemical action of hardening has not taken place. After the dry masonry absorbs the water from the



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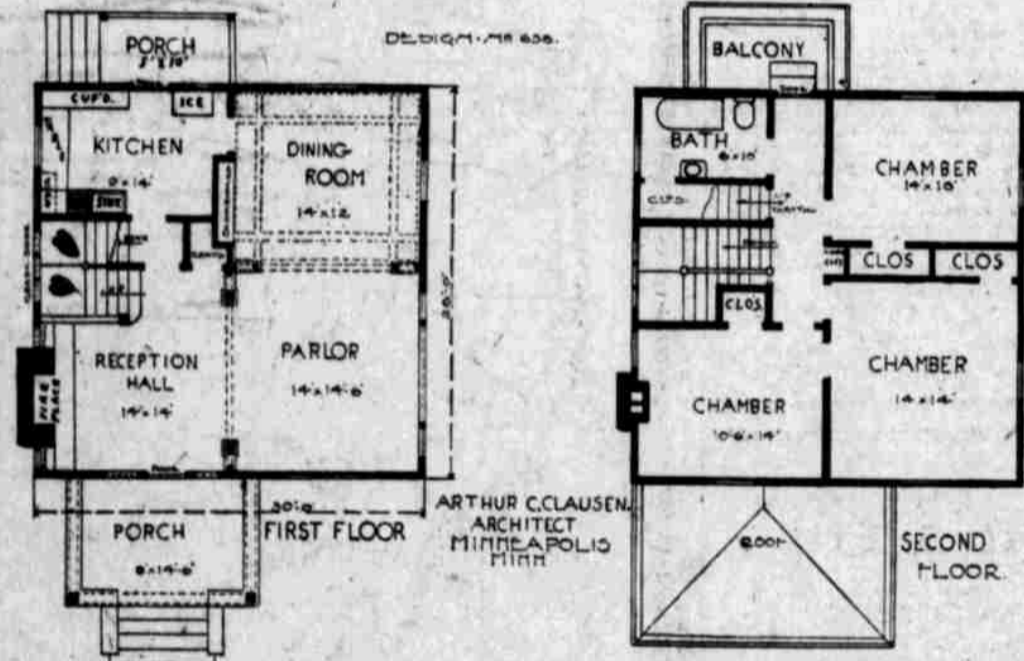
fresh cement, it removes one of the chemical properties from the fresh cement at the point of contact. Naturally, when the surface coat becomes dry, it does not adhere properly and in due time falls off. For this reason bricks laid up in cement mortar should always be wet before laying. The same rule applies in plastering on wood lath. The lath should be either

green or thoroughly wet before the plaster is applied both to keep them from absorbing the water from the plaster, and prevent it from properly setting and to keep the expansion of the lath from distorting the surface of the wall, after the material has been applied.

Cement porch floors should never be put on filled ground. In a few rare instances it is done without settlement when very extreme precautions of soaking and tamping have been observed. In fully nine cases out of ten the filling will settle some in the course of a year and crack the floor.

When a tile floor is used for the surface on a cement grout over filled ground, the settlement is taken up in the joints and is not so noticeable. The proper way in any case, however, is to put on a reinforced concrete floor and then give it a surface coat of either tile or cement.

What has been said with reference to cement floors applies the same to cement steps and walks. Cement is one of the most useful building materials that we have, but it takes a man who works with his head as well as his hands to get the best results.



ARTHUR C. CLAUSEN, ARCHITECT, MINN. A. POLIS. 1129-27th St. Exchange, Minneapolis, Minn.

### WOMEN AND MEN ON LINKS

Former Lack Control Rather Than Strength—A Critic's Observation.

Possibly the difference in the effectiveness of the woman's and the man's game of golf can, as some people claim, be traced directly to the length of shots, but the more one investigates the more he is led to qualify this conclusion.

For instance, in that famous match in England when Miss Cecelia Lettich played our present American champion, H. H. Hilton, in find out what odds a good man player should give a good lady player, off the tee Mr. Hilton's shots were surprisingly little longer than his opponent's whereas with the brass his shots were frequently equalled by the young English woman.

It becomes on the whole less reasonable to credit solely to muscular advantage the eight to nine strokes which roughly measure the handicap due from a man to a woman. With this assumption we can proceed to that side of golf where something beside "muscle" admittedly plays the important part.

In the first place, men have far greater game experience. They begin to play bat and ball games at an earlier age and thereby develop more thoroughly the

"feel" of clubs and the fine eye that is necessary for success in such games. And when they take a golf club in their hands for the first time the essential act of concentrating their vision on the object to be struck is not a novelty. It is a second nature.

With a girl it is different. She has not dilly played games that developed her eye, such as marbles, "acrob," hockey, snowballing and target practice, games that are the constant avocation of tipeds who practice the profession of being boys.

And yet one of the greatest woman golfers assures me that women have shown in tournaments more concentration of the eye than men and that only last fall this fact was proved. It appears that a computation was made both at the men's championship and the women's which proved that the women missed their drives less often than the men.

Women ought to approach and put better than men, for the reason that it is in those departments that they more surely can improve. But even as they have not had the other training to prepare them for golf, in the same way they are not as liable to have the habit of practicing as men.

It is much more fun to play golf than to practice putting and approaching, but when the long game is limited there is

an obligation to make himself pluperfect in the short game. Women do not always recognize this obligation. Flitting themselves at a disadvantage with the driver, the brassy and the clerk, they do not set out to make mere man look like a dub with the mashie and putter.

Perhaps about two-thirds of the handicap now due to a woman from a man ought to be allowed to muscular difference. The other third might be eliminated by women if they played their irons as well as they should. There are about four shots which the ladies present to the men, two, let us say, because they do not use their eyes as well as men and two because they allow the fact that they are not as strong as men to be a mental drawback.

Thus, taking the difference at eleven instead of eight leaves a liberal seven for distance. But it seems as if the best women ought to play within four or even three strokes of the best men, and at their present rate of progress they will. That is certain to be the case if they pay greater attention to their short game.—Outing Magazine.

Mother—What are you doing, Harry? Harry—I'm countin'. You told me when I got mad to count 100. Mother—Yes, so I did. Harry—Well, I've counted 22, and I'm madder'n when I started.

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