

Life's Common Things.

The things of every day are all so sweet,
The morning meadows wet with dew;
The dance of daisies in the noon, the blue
Of far-off hills where twilight shadows lie,
The night with all its tender mystery of
sound
And silence, and God's starry sky!
Oh, life—the whole life—is far too fleet,
The things of every day are all so sweet.

The common things of life are all so dear,
The waking in the warm half-gloom
To find again the old familiar room;
The scents and sights and sounds that
never tire;

The homely work, the plans, the lil of
baby's laugh;
The crackle of the open fire;
The waiting, then; the footsteps coming
near,

The opening door, the hand-clasp and the
kiss,
Is Heaven not, after all, the now and
here?

The common things of life are all so dear.
—Anonymous.

The New House.

(Continued.)

AN architect has said, very tersely,
that when building the new house
spaciousness must be expressed in
the living area, compactness in the working
area, and privacy in the sleeping
area.

This is a very good rule to remember.
Privacy in the sleeping area is usually
a foregone conclusion, but too often it is
forgotten that spaciousness in the living
area means comfort and beauty, and
compactness in the working area, and
convenience. . . . Another point the archi-
tect might have emphasized is the plan-
ning of the house to save steps, not to
make them. Some houses make steps—
thousands of them in a year's time; in
going about in them one always seems to
have to go around something instead of
taking short-cuts, or there is a continuous
traffic, with consequent muss and con-
fusion, through rooms which should be
quite apart from such interference.—On
a farm, where so many steps must be
taken, there is special need to plan for
short-cuts, for convenience as well as
comfort and beauty.

The Hall.

UNLESS the house is a very large one,
condense the hall-space as much as
can be managed without giving the
house a stuffy, poky appearance as one
enters. The old-fashioned long hallway
with stairs, quite through the house, had
some good points, but it took a lot of
room, made a good deal of extra floor-
space to be cleaned, and was drafty in
winter. In modern houses the half-way
hall is in greater favor, or the hallway
may be little more than a roomy vestibule
with the stairs running up at the side or
across the back (see illustration), the
stairs turning once or twice on the way



No. 1—First Floor.

up. In some large and fine houses, and in
those in southern latitudes where drafti-
ness in winter is not an objection, the
hall often takes the form of a square or
oblong room, with a fireplace opposite the
door. This has a fine effect as one
enters, and the hall may be used as a
living-room; but such an arrange-
ment is not very practicable for a
Canadian farm unless there is unlim-
ited money to build a large house with
adequate heating facilities.

If the house is so small that the hall is
omitted altogether, then a small en-
trance or vestibule should be provided
just inside the front door, with a door
opening not directly opposite the
front door but at one end of the vesti-
bule. This will make a little spot in
which coats, rubbers and umbrellas may
be left, and will keep off direct blasts
when the outside door is opened in winter.

The turns in the stairs, by the way,
are now managed by means of landings,
the steps being of uniform width all
the way up, with a rise of 8 inches, and
a tread of not less than 9 inches. The
old-fashioned curving stairs, with steps
sloping off in dangerous angles, were
graceful, but the cause of innumerable
accidents. The stairway railing should
be simple in design, so that it can be
quickly and easily dusted. If made of good
wood with a pretty grain, nicely stained
and rubbed to a dull polish, no
decoration will be necessary, although a
touch of design may be permitted on the
newel-post.

Usually, in a small or moder-
ate-sized house the back and front stairs
meet at a landing, a single

flight of steps sufficing for the rest of
the distance to the upstairs floor.

The Living Area.

A point to remember is that no matter
how small a house may be spacious-
ness is "expressed" if the door-
ways are wide and there are plenty of
grouped windows. Broad archways also
add to this effect, but it is a mistake to use
them to connect any room that is in
constant use and requires much sweeping,
as the dust can thus spread through the
house; the use of a vacuum cleaner, of
course helps to minimize this difficulty.

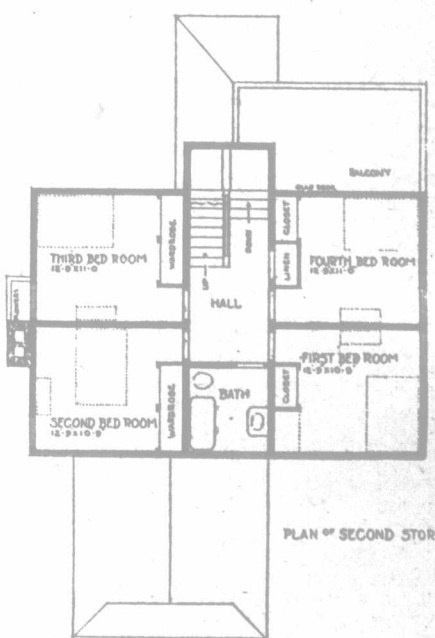
Usually an archway leads from the
hall to the living-room. In the latter
there should invariably be a group of
windows along one wall—two if possible.
If one group is thought enough, then
the adjoining or opposite wall should
have a crosswise window or two high
enough up to leave room for furniture
below. In this way the much-desired
cross-ventilation is assured. The same
device is good in the dining-room where
the sideboard may stand beneath this
auxiliary window. If there is a fine
landscape about, however, groups of
windows on two sides are very desirable.
If well-fitted and supplied with good
weather-strips not too much cold will
be admitted to a house furnished with

a good furnace. The advantages are
that they help to furnish a room,
giving cheerfulness, good ventilation,
the healthfulness of sunshine (which
can be shut out by blinds on the hot-
test days), and the beauty of a chang-
ing picture all the year round. With
a grouped window, a fire-place, and a
built-in bookcase, a living-room is
already more than half furnished so
far as appearance goes.

In some houses a group of windows
in the living room opens upon a sun-
room, which is heated and can be used
as a sleeping-room. This assures the
warmth of the living-room in cold weather,
while still admitting the light and view.
Never use stained glass windows any-
where. If a window must be "fancy"
use diamond panes of clear glass. If an
unsightly view is to be shut out draw
a curtain across or have the window frosted.
Stained glass, unless of the very best
quality, which is very expensive, is
invariably crude in color and unpleasing
in effect. Even at best it should be very
sparingly used.

In the living area see to it that as

few doors as possible lead from
any room. This gives an effect of
greater harmony and leaves wall-space for
furniture. Glass doors be-
tween rooms, by the way, afford a very con-
venient way of helping to light a
room that might otherwise be
rather dark; also they help
out the effect of spacious-
ness.



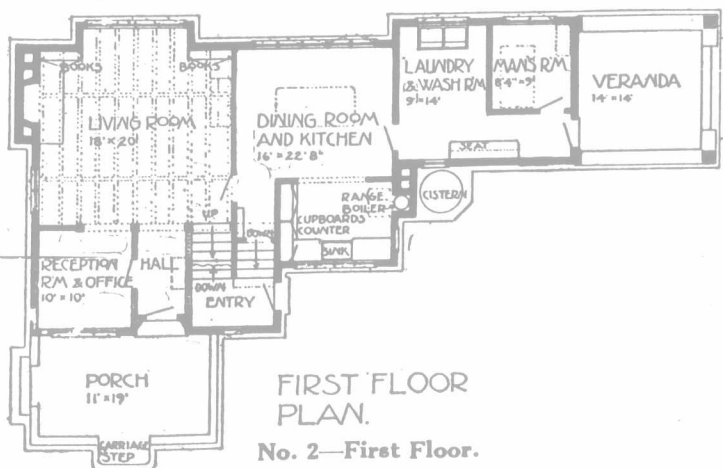
No. 1—Second Floor.

The Working Area.

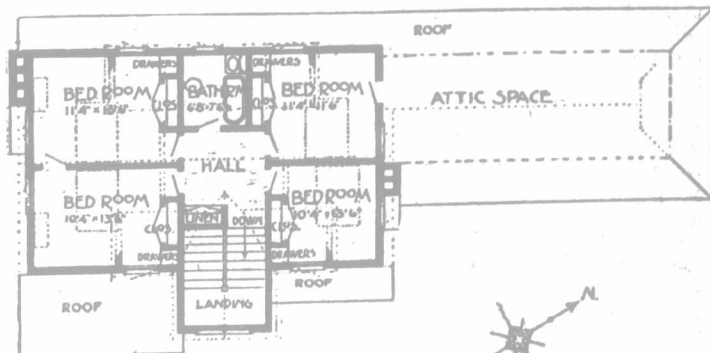
COMPACTNESS in the working area
is a positive necessity if steps are
to be saved. The kitchen, of
course, is the center here, and care
should be taken to have stove, sink,
pump, etc., as near together as possible,
neither should any more steps than are
absolutely necessary be required to reach
woodshed, dairy, cellar stairs and
laundry—if there is one.

In planning the house for the farm
a great deal of thought should be given
as to whether one wants kitchen, dining-
room and living-room entirely separate,
or arranged in combination. Some wo-
men (and the women should certainly
decide in this matter) like a small and
well-equipped kitchen, a small dining-
room adjoining, but connected by a door-
way only, and a large living-room entirely
by itself also.

The advantage of this plan is that the
dining-table can be kept "practically
set" all the time,—the cloth left on, the
dishes returned as soon as they are washed,
the whole covered over with a cheese-
cloth spread, and the dining-room shut
up until needed for the next meal. . . .
Others like the small kitchen or "kitchen-
ette" very well, but prefer to have a large
dining-room which can be used as a
living room, also. In this case it is
necessary to clear the table entirely after
each meal, and remove the white cloth;
but the advocates of the idea say that
with the aid of a china cupboard in the
wall, and a "rubber-tired" dinner-wagon,
for running things to and from the kitchen,
the work can be done with very little
trouble. . . . Yet other women—and these
are usually women with a great deal of
work to do—say, "Have the living-room
quite separate, but combine kitchen
and dining-room." This combination
may be effected by having a quite large



NO. 2—First Floor.



SECOND FLOOR
PLAN
No. 2—Second Floor.