HOW TO BUILD A SERVICEABLE ICEHOUSE AT MODERATE COST.

AN icehouse need not be a costly structure, but if it is to be an attractive addition to the farm or in keeping with other attractive buildings it cannot be built at a small cost. I shall charge the cost against the efficiency as a preserver of ice. The requirements of an icehouse are that it will hold sawdust around the ice to keep the rain off and drain water. The materials used in its construction may be of the cheapest and rudest character and yet keep the ice as well as if it cost $150 or $200. A neighbor has an icehouse erected at a a very small cost, and yet his ice is preserved perfectly. The sides are of poles laid up into a pen twelve feet wide, eighteen feet long and ten feet high, the poles being notched slightly where they cross, to prevent rubbing and to lessen the cracks between them. The gables are left open to give ventilation. A floor is made and proper drainage acquired by laying rails together a foot thick. The roof projecting three feet at each end, is of clapboards nailed to cross pieces resting upon pole rafters. All the material except the nails and the material for the door were worked out of the farm timber.

In filling this house the blocks are laid within eighteen inches of the holes and the spaces between them filled with sawdust as the ice is built up. Where timber is not so plentiful a serviceable structure can be built at a cost but little greater than the cost of this one. Refuse boards or slabs can be used for the sides, nailing them up or down and putting on a board roof. The house should be built on high ground that surface water may not enter. It is well to cut a shallow ditch around the building. In filling cut the blocks as large as possible and pack closely. All crevices should be filled. In the spring watch for holes and close them as soon as found. Even in March the air will often be warm enough to make holes and if the air is allowed to circulate through holes it melts ice rapidly. When a stream is fed by a spring or brook, clear pure ice can be procured. A pond, unless it is quite large and stock have been kept from it for some time, will not yield ice fit to be used. No amount of freezing will make purely wholesome ice out of foul water. It is quite as essential that water for the ice supply should be as pure as for the ordinary family water supply.—R. H. McCREADY, in Farm and Home.

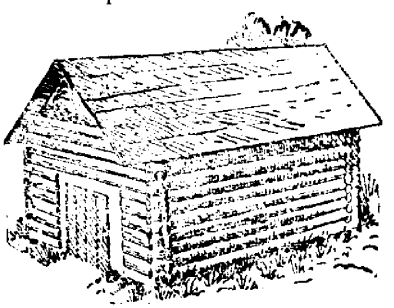

FIG. 904.—CHEAP ICEHOUSE.

A Kansas Populist is at work on a new scheme to increase the sum of human happiness. He is trying to cross the milkweed and the strawberry, so that people may raise strawberries and cream together.—New York Tribune.