

THE ELASTIC FARMHOUSE

It is Planned for the Comfort, Convenience and Expansion of the Family.

By WILLIAM DRAPER.

"They're perfectly absurd!" sniffed young Mrs. Farmer.

"What, these pretty little farm-houses?" queried the architect, in a surprised voice.

"Yes, exactly; you thought I'd take a seashore-cottage plan, just because you called it a 'farmhouse'."

"Well, maybe so, but I think I'd a little rather have the stairs at the back of the house."

"So, suppose you tell me what a farm house should be like and then I'll see if I can't plan one to suit you."

about a dining room now. But I want it so fixed that the men-folk can come into this living room without tramping through the kitchen; I may want to feed threshers now and then and the kitchen will be too small."

"I see," said the architect, "and I suppose you'll want the stairway in this living room? It would be very convenient."

"Suppose you come in to-morrow and I'll have something sketched out for you."

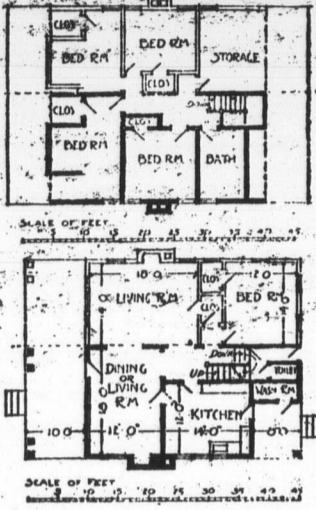
"The farmer's wife arrived promptly. 'Good-morning!' said the architect, cheerily. 'Here's the sketch. 'The Elastic Farmhouse,' I call it, because

big enough for you, later on," objected the architect. "You know, if—"

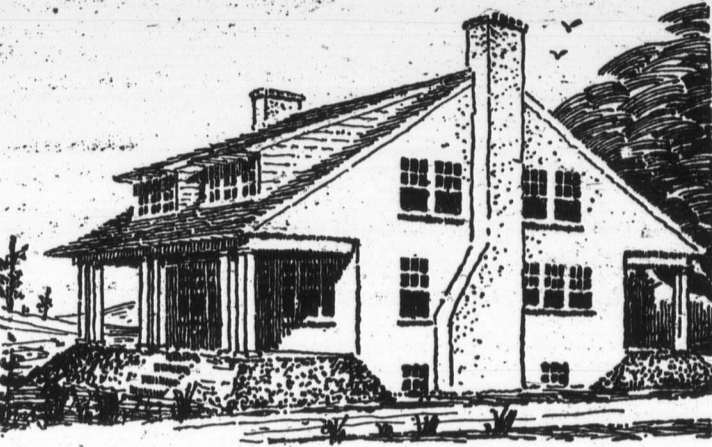
"Because in case of sickness, I can keep the patient down there; it will make the work of nursing a whole lot easier for me. And when we're all well, Jim can use that room as his office."

"H'm—h'm—," mused the architect. "Suppose you come in to-morrow and I'll have something sketched out for you."

The farmer's wife arrived promptly.



Note the heavy lines on the floor plans which indicate the part to be built first.



Young Mrs. Farmer wrinkled her brows a moment. "Well, let's see; we'll only need a teeny little cottage now, just big enough for Jim and me. I want a medium-sized kitchen, say about 12 by 14—you know farm folk eat in the kitchen more than half the time because it saves a whole lot of labor and trotting around. Then, there must be a nice back porch with a wash room on it so that Jim and the hired men can clean up, when they come in from work, without tracking dirt into the house. And I want a nice big living room. We will not bother

you just ought to see the mud and manure that the men track through the living room, when the stairs are at the front of the house." She stopped a moment to consider; then went on again. "I want two bedrooms, upstairs, and a bathroom, too. But I'm not sure where I want this bath; the second storey would be more convenient to the bedrooms, but the first storey would be a lot more handy to the kitchen. And I spend most of my day in the kitchen, as every farmer's wife does!"

you can stretch it out and make it bigger whenever you want to. The solid black part is built first; the part in outline can be added later on. I've tried to give you what you asked for, and most of it was easy enough to plan. I've put the bathroom upstairs but here's a toilet, just at the entrance to the cellar stairway and very convenient to the kitchen. I do not believe it is necessary to go into any long explanations; you can easily understand the plans. How do you like the house?"

The Sunday School Lesson

ARRIL 10

Bible Teachings About Health.—1 Cor. 6: 19, 20; 9: 24-27; Gal. 6: 7, 8. Golden Text—1 Cor. 9: 25.

Connecting Links—The first epistle of Paul to the Corinthians, from which part of our lesson is taken, was written from Ephesus in 55 or 56 A.D. It is addressed to the practical needs and problems of the Christian people of Corinth, living as they were in the midst of a heathen city, and is full of wise counsel regarding unity and purity in the church, their party strife and quarrels, marriage, divorce, idol feasts, the place of women in the church, and other matters. Some of Paul's precepts are for his own time, not for ours, but there are principles involved which have a universal application.

The epistle of the Galatians was written, it is supposed, somewhat earlier, from Antioch, before Paul began his third missionary journey. It is chiefly an exposition and defence of Paul's great teaching of salvation by faith, but it contains in the last chapters instructions and counsels for the life of faith, which have a practical bearing.

The Temple of the Body. 1 Cor. 6: 19-20. Paul is speaking in this chapter of Christian divorce, (see especially vv. 12-20). The man who is saved by faith in Jesus Christ, is not under the bondage of form, or custom, or ceremony, or ritual obligation. He is not saved by doing certain things and refraining from doing others. His all-sufficient salvation is in Christ and in Christ alone. Paul had gone so far as to say, "All things are lawful for me," that is, of course, all things which are not in themselves

wrong, all things not immoral. But here he qualifies that statement by saying, "Not all things are expedient." There are things which he might do, in which there is no wrong, but which would be unprofitable to himself or hurtful to others. For his own sake, for the sake of his own highest and best life, and because of the influence which his life has over others, he will not do them. He will be governed by the supreme law of love, and that shall rule all his conduct.

In the verses just preceding he makes special reference to unchastity, a besetting sin of the entire community of Corinth. The name of the city had become a byword for vice, and in Roman circles the phrase, "to live like a Corinthian" meant to live a very bad life indeed. But Paul will allow no freedom of that sort. The Christian's body belongs to the Lord. It is consecrated; it is holy. "Your bodies," he says, "are members of Christ." You cannot separate and make vile what belongs to the Lord Christ. To the follower of Jesus there is no stronger argument for purity and clean living than this.

Here then Paul asks, Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost, which is in you? The Christian who has risen in the freedom of faith from the bondage of form, and custom, and tradition, finds himself a slave to the Highest, the property and the bond-slave of God. That is his enfranchisement, his true freedom. He must not forget the price paid for him on Calvary. He is not his own, the apostle declares. He is bought with a price. See also 1 Peter 1: 18-19.

Temperate in All Things. In chap. 9 Paul returns to this theme of Christian freedom, but with particular reference to his own experience and his own example. He does not appeal to the Corinthians to do anything which he is not willing to do, and does make a practice of doing, himself. He has rights as a man and as an apostle of Jesus Christ, which he does not choose to exercise. "We bear all things," he says, "that we may cause no hindrance to the gospel of Christ." And again, "I am become all things to all men, that I may by all means save some." And all this "for the gospel's sake."

Here, in vv. 24-27, he argues from the self-discipline of the athlete to that which is becoming to the Christian. They who run in the races are not compelled by law to be temperate, but they impose this discipline of temperance upon themselves. Their purpose is to gain an earthly crown, but the Christian seeks one that is incorruptible. Is he not, therefore, much more bound to temperance in all things—in food as well as in drink, and in all matters of pleasure and of desire?

He That Soweth. Gal. 6: 7-8. Paul warns against the folly of those who presume upon the mercy of God, who continue in evil-

doing with the hope that they will be forgiven. The seed of evil-doing will bear a harvest, just as surely as that of well-doing. What crimes a man commits have consequences which even God's forgiveness will not nullify. God is not mocked.

This truth applies to physical as well as to spiritual health. Bad habits of life poison and corrupt the body. Intemperance breeds disease. The habits of excessive drinking and smoking are hurtful to many who are in them. The small boy who imitates the cigarette habit of his big brother is laying up trouble for himself in later years. There are other habits of uncleanness, and overeating, and indulgence in certain fascinating kinds of amusement, which are equally bad. Let us take to heart Paul's lessons, and remember that we who are sowers to-day will be reapers to-morrow.

Application. The truth of this familiar passage from Galatians is illustrated on every hand. The slightest acquaintance with what the doctors are regularly discovering emphasizes the relentless way in which physical decay and death follow "sowing to the flesh." Nature is iron-like in her laws and repentance though with tears cannot buy off the punishment she inflicts if her laws are broken. Everyone of us has the making of his future in his own hands. It will be a harvest of a kind depending on the quality of our present sowing. The future, and finally eternity, will be the multiplied and consummated outcome of the good or evil of our present life. "He is just sin ripe-rotten ripe. Heaven is the fruitage of righteousness." If wild oats are sown there will be wild oats to reap. If the mind is filled with trash and refuse, nothing better will come out of it. On the other hand the sustained effort after good will in no wise fail of its reward both here and hereafter.

Fly Finishers. The common house-fly hates mignonette, and thus if you want a room fly-free, or practically so, either have a window-box of mignonette, or a pot or so in the room. Flies will not pass the box, and any who get into the room by other routes will be anxious to make a quick exit.

A window which has been cleaned with paraffin, too, is one that flies will fight shy of. Incidentally, paraffin is the best window-cleaner there is. It gives a fine, lasting polish. It is a mistake in tactics, by the way, to put the ordinary sticky fly-trap in a room. That method attracts flies, if it also slaughters them. Put the fly-catchers outside the room, or in some place where the fly nuisance does not so greatly matter.

Laziness in April is apt to lead on to disease. The bright, active hen not only looks healthy but is healthy. While she is storing up energy she is also accumulating material for making eggs. Such hens bring in a profit, and are the ones to have in the breeding pens.

The Dairy

Some farmers have found that milking machines will pay with small herds of from four, eight and ten cows. Of course, it is understood that they must be good cows. Whether such machines will pay with small herds or not depends on the farmer and his system of management. In general the farmer with only four to six cows cannot spend too much for equipment if he has to pay interest on the investment and lacks the best opportunities of selling milk at a profit.

To lift a calf into a truck, stand on one side of the calf and have a helper on the other side. Take hold of hands under the calf and lift it up and over. In this way a veal calf can be lifted up with little effort and no injury or rough handling of the animal.

It does not seem as if the price of veal on the hoof is going to compare favorably with the market price for veal when the consumer buys it. Why not butcher the calves at home and try selling them to restaurants or divide them and sell to private consumers. One local dealer tells me that he could afford to pay more for meat if his customers would buy it all. But he finds they all want the finest cuts and this leaves him with the other parts on his hands.

Dairymen generally hate to butcher calves. But one knock and they are ready for the knife, and it is really not as cruel as shipping them alive to a distant market. It is rather hard to do it at first but not much harder than killing a chicken after becoming used to it. Not much equipment is needed. The heart and tongue can be kept for home use. There will be considerable blood for a poultry wash. The liver is usually demanded by local dealers or buyers for restaurants and should be delivered with the carcass.

Start An Apiary Now.

The latter part of April is a good time to start an apiary. This may be done either by buying full-strength colonies or small nuclei of two or three frames each; or bees, brood and queen. By all means secure the dark leather-colored Italian bees, as they are not only gentle, but are harder than the bright golden bees and get through the winter in better shape.

When the full colonies arrive, the best plan is to place them at once on what is to be their permanent stands. Remove the wire screen from top and bottom of the body, and place the bottom board and lid in position. With the nuclei the same method is followed; but in this case the remaining space in the hive should be filled out with either frames with full sheets of foundation wired in, or better still with frames of honey that may be on hand.

Whether the apiary is composed of many or few colonies, it is a mistake to place the hives where they are heavily shaded by tree branches and leaves. While the placing of the colonies out in the open where the sun's rays shine upon them may slightly increase the tendency to swarm, nevertheless there are certain seasons of the year when the warmth of the sun is needed to conserve the heat of the colony. Proper ventilation of shade boards will more than counter-balance the desire to swarm. All in all, it is best to place the colonies out in the open rather than in a shady place.

Now is a good time to make preparations for the harvest. An increasing number of beekeepers are giving up entirely the production of comb-honey with its endless manipulation and its encouragement to the bees to swarm. Instead, extracted honey is having its day, as swarming is kept to a minimum when it is produced. Moreover the colonies do not have to build new combs for storage and can produce more than twice as much extracted honey as comb-honey, and at the same time require less attention—a factor to be considered, especially where there are a number of out apiaries.

Early Plants Out-of-Doors.

The gardener who wishes to get his cucumber, squash, and any other tender vines, started in the early spring before the cold weather would permit ordinary sowing of the seed, should dig a hole one foot and a half deep where he wants the vines. The diameter of the hole should be about one foot.

The first layer to be put into the hole is coarse rock. This insures drainage and keeps the bottom of the pit from sinking down in the wet ground of early spring. Above the rock place a layer of gravel. The thickness of the rock layer is about three inches. Upon this place a three-inch layer of well-rotted manure each layer packed into place so that there will not be undue sinking as the newly placed layers get settled into place. The top layer in the pit is three inches of rich garden soil. The seeds are placed in this exactly the same as if they were sowed in the ordinary way. The top of the soil in the hole should be about four or five inches from the surface of the ground.

Good drainage should be secured about the pit so that it will not fill and hold water at every rain. If the soil is sandy or inclined to cave in about the sides of a hole, use a bottomless old pail of the sixteen-quart size, leaving this pail in the pit as a form even after the vines are well

Farm Crop Queries

CONDUCTED BY PROF. HENRY G. BELL

The object of this department is to place at the service of our farm readers the advice of an acknowledged authority on all subjects pertaining to soils and crops. Address all questions to Professor Henry G. Bell, in care of The Wilson Publishing Company, Limited, Toronto, and answers will appear in this column in the order in which they are received. When writing kindly mention this paper. As space is limited it is advisable where immediate reply is necessary that a stamped and addressed envelope be enclosed with the question, when the answer will be mailed direct.



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W. R.: What is the best way to fertilize strawberries and blackcaps?

Answer: In preparing a strawberry bed it is good practice to choose a piece of land that has been worked thoroughly for at least one or two seasons. If heavy dressings of manure have been made, so much the better. About two weeks before the strawberries are to be set, apply about 500 lbs. per acre of fertilizer analyzing 4 to 6 per cent. ammonia, 8 to 12 per cent. phosphoric acid, and 3 to 5 per cent. potash. One of the best methods of applying this fertilizer is to drill it in with the regular fertilizer drill. If you do not happen to have this implement, scatter the fertilizer evenly over the ground and work it in by careful harrowing and raking. If the strawberries are one or more years old and the plants cover all the surface, choose a dry day as soon as the top covering of straw has been raked off and growth begins, and scatter fertilizer of the analysis recommended above, over the strawberries at the rate of about 300 to 400 lbs. per acre.

For blackcaps or other raspberries scatter fertilizer of the analysis recommended, down between the rows of canes just as soon as the ground will work thoroughly, applying about 800 lbs. per acre. Work this into the soil by careful cultivation.

S. W.: I have a field which I want to plant to potatoes. It is a clay loam but it is badly run. Can you tell me how much fertilizer to use to the acre, and the best way to put it on, and what kind to buy?

Answer: I would advise you to apply 750 lbs. per acre of fertilizer analyzing 3 to 4 per cent. ammonia, 6 to 8 per cent. phosphoric acid, and 3 to 5 per cent. potash. If you are planting the potatoes with a planter, if you have the complete machine it will apply the fertilizer at the same time that the potato pieces are dropped. If you are planting the potatoes by hand, when you have opened the furrows or holes for the potato pieces, scatter a good heavy dusting of fertilizer along the furrows or into the holes, pull in a little soil over this fertilizer, then drop the potato pieces and proceed as usual. Do not drop the potato pieces immediately on top of the fertilizer.

C. E. J.: What kind of fertilizer is best for city loam, also for sandy land?

started. The fact that the seeds are several inches below the ground line is one reason why they will not freeze out.

The cover is made from six-inch-wide boards, and is two feet square. The top is covered with cheesecloth or some other material that will let in the sunlight and air but will keep out all insects that might prey upon the tender vines. As spring comes on and the weather is warmer it may be well to leave the cover off when the weather permits. At night the protection of the covering will be needed.

When the seeds are first placed in the hole they may be covered with a pane of glass until well sprouted, as this draws and holds heat better than the larger cover. As soon as the vines begin to reach the glass it must be taken off and the cloth-covered box placed over them.

Eight Essentials for Eggs.

1. Grain (scratch food) and ground feed (mash).
 2. Animal food, such as beef scrap or sour skim-milk.
 3. Green food.
 4. Grit and oyster-shell.
 5. Clean, fresh water.
 6. Liberal feeding.
 7. Plenty of exercise.
 8. Regular attention.
- A hen eats from three to four ounces of food daily, from five to eight pounds a month and from sixty to eighty pounds a year. The daily ration for 100 hens is from nineteen to twenty-five pounds.
- A hen will drink about six pounds of milk a month. One hundred hens need two and one-half gallons of milk daily.
- A laying hen on limited range eats two pounds of grit and three pounds of oyster-shell in a year.

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Answer: For average garden loam soil in the city or town a fertilizer analyzing 4 per cent. ammonia, 8 per cent. phosphoric acid, and 4 per cent. potash is exceedingly good. If the soil is sandy, work in all you can obtain of leaves and some strawy manure. This will help the physical condition of the earthy soil. The fertilizer recommended in addition should make it highly productive. Where you are working leaves and strawy manure in sandy soil, be sure that the sandy soil is thoroughly packed before the seed is dropped or plants set, otherwise it may be too open for the moisture to rise, in which case the crops would actually be starved.

T. R.: Will vetch (fall vetch) sown with oats mature so as to make out and vetch hay? Will the vetch live through the coming winter so as to make seed that year?

Answer: Your inquiry seems somewhat complicated. You speak of sowing fall vetch and oats together to make out and vetch hay. If you were to sow a mixture of spring vetch or common vetch with Daubeny or Early Alaska oats you would get a mixture that would cut for hay the same year that it was sown since both crops are annuals. If you were to sow fall or winter vetch with oats it would not make sufficient progress to cut for oat and vetch hay. As a matter of fact if you are sowing fall vetch it is better to sow it alone so that the fall or winter vetch would have an opportunity to make a good head before going into winter. The usual amount to sow are about 20 to 30 lbs. of vetch seed to a bushel of oats per acre, or if sowing vetch alone use about one-half bushel of seed per acre.

J. H.: I intend sowing yellow blossom sweet clover this spring in the grain and in the fall plow it down for fertilizer. Will those roots grow the following spring?

Answer: Sweet clover is a biennial, hence if you sow seed this year it will undoubtedly come up next year. However, if next year's crop is plowed there is no danger of the roots sending up shoots again. Next year the crop will have to be plowed under before seed is formed or the crop will perpetuate itself in the usual cycle. The big thing for you to watch is to turn the crop under before it forms seed.

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