

part of trustees will secure an ample lot at very little expense. When public attention has been sufficiently turned to the importance of this subject, it will be a comparatively easy matter to secure the donation of a School lot, or, at least the purchase of one at a small price. About one acre of ground is necessary for our ordinary country Schools. If such a lot can be obtained, a School-house should never be erected upon a smaller one. It cannot be less than half an acre; but under our law an owner can be compelled to sell as large a lot as the trustees require.

If no natural obstacle oppose, the centre of the section would seem to be the best place for the School-house; this centre having reference, of course, to population as well as distance. If an acre of land is taken, perhaps it might most conveniently be laid out in a plot sixteen rods front and ten deep. Any other form might be adopted, and under some circumstances, another might be preferable.

2. POSITION OF THE BUILDING.—In a lot, sixteen rods by ten, the house should stand very nearly in the centre. This would be at a sufficient distance from the street to avoid all noise and dust, with room enough in the rear for the necessary out-buildings. It would also divide the yard into two parts, for boys and girls. In any lot the house should be placed in the middle as to width, and at a distance from the street. The front of the house should always face the street, so that the out-buildings may be thrown into the back-ground, not only in reference to the house, but to the street also.

3. OUTSIDE STRUCTURE.—In most cases, a double porch, with separate entrances for boys and girls, or two separate porches should be provided, and this arrangement is regarded as highly important. It prevents the possibility of improper communication between boys and girls, while passing in and out of the School-room. The room in or off the lobby should be used for a hat-room, at a manifest saving of expense.

4. WOOD-HOUSE.—The wood-house might be placed directly in the rear, so that a portion of it may serve for a back hall. This arrangement contributes to harmony of external appearance, and prevents the out-door air from blowing directly into the School-room. Thus serving a double purpose, the wood-house is almost indispensable. A basement, however, might be prepared for the storage of fuel.

5. PRIVIES.—With the yard divided by a high, substantial board fence running from the back side of the wood-house to the rear fence. On every School ground two privies are indispensable. A double privy is decidedly objectionable, for although so arranged as to shut out the intrusive gaze, it can not be made entirely impervious to sound; and the vicious may take advantage of its construction to outrage the feelings of the pure-minded, without the fear of detection. A better way would be to separate the privies entirely, and place them near the middle of their respective yards. The entrances should be upon the rear side, or else a screen should be erected to shield them from observation.

6. WALKS.—That is very false economy which refuses or neglects to furnish the necessary walks in and about the School premises. The country School-house is proverbial for filth. Generally but a step removed from the carriage-path in the street, and without walks of any description anywhere in the vicinity, except a single path of the native soil, the wonder is that it is not more, rather than less, offensive. During some seasons of the year the children must wade through mud and water to reach the School, and not one foot of dry space is provided where they can cleanse themselves until they enter the house itself. The consequence is, that dirt is everywhere, and tidiness impossible. To remedy this as much as possible, arrangements should be made to preclude the necessity of getting into the mud, within the School-yard, and to enable the scholars to remove it from their feet, when coming in from the road. A plank or gravel-walk should be laid from the front gate to the front door. The steps at the door should be large and commodious. These steps, and perhaps also a portion of the walk, should be provided with scrapers. A strip of band-iron, nailed upon the edge of a plank twelve feet long, so that the edge of the iron may rise half an inch above the surface of the plank, will make an excellent and economical scraper, and accommodate a dozen or more pupils at the same time. Plank walks should be extended from the back entrances to the privies, and perhaps around the sides of the School-house.

7. FENCE.—The School-lot can never be kept in order unless it is inclosed by a good and substantial fence; this fence should be built

of good materials, and put up in a solid manner. A picket, or a post-and-rail fence, would answer every purpose. The gates should be built strong and heavy, and so arranged as to shut of themselves. It might be well to set posts within the gates in such a manner that cattle could not get in, even if the gates should be left open. The fence that divides the yard should be of a matched stuff, and from eight to ten feet high, faced on the boys' side. The wood-house door should open into the boys' yard.

SCHOOL HOUSES FOR THE COUNTRY.



Fig. 1. a

A small school may be well accommodated by a plan like that represented in Fig. 1. It consists of a school-room with a single porch in front, and a wood-house in the rear. The room represented contains seats for twenty-four pupils, but by increasing the length three feet there will be room for one more row of seats, and for thirty pupils, and by increasing its width four feet, it will contain still another row of desks, and seats for forty pupils.

The porch is a single room, but of sufficient size for a lobby for cloaks and hats. The stove is to be placed in one of the niches in front, while the other niche may be used for a library. The ventilators in this, as in all the designs, are placed in the rear of the room, but each one is connected with the chimney by a tube under the floor.

The wood-house in the rear serves the double purpose of back hall or entry-way, and a place of storage for fuel. The doors upon the sides should open respectively into the boys'

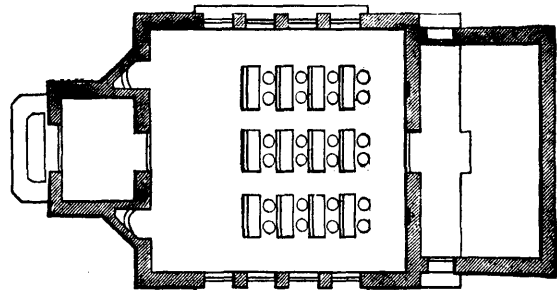


Fig 1 b. Ground plan.

and girls' play-grounds. The front part of the wood-house should be provided with a platform upon a level with the school-house floor, at least four feet wide.

This general plan is superior, in having back as well as front entrances, so that access may be had to the play-grounds and out-buildings without disturbance to classes, or to the general order of the school-room. The movements of pupils are not so conspicuous as they would be if, in their entrance and exit, they were always obliged to pass through the front door.



Elevation 1.

ELEVATION No. 1.—This elevation is a simple and inexpensive building, with wide projecting eaves that give to it an appearance of comfort and solidity. The porch is finished with a tent-roof, to obviate the necessity of a gable under a gable. It is lighted by small windows in the sides, as the height of the roof would hardly admit of a head window over the door. The windows are grouped together, and the whole design produces a very pleasing effect.

If a larger house is built upon this plan, the outside appearance