

## The Back Yard Beautiful

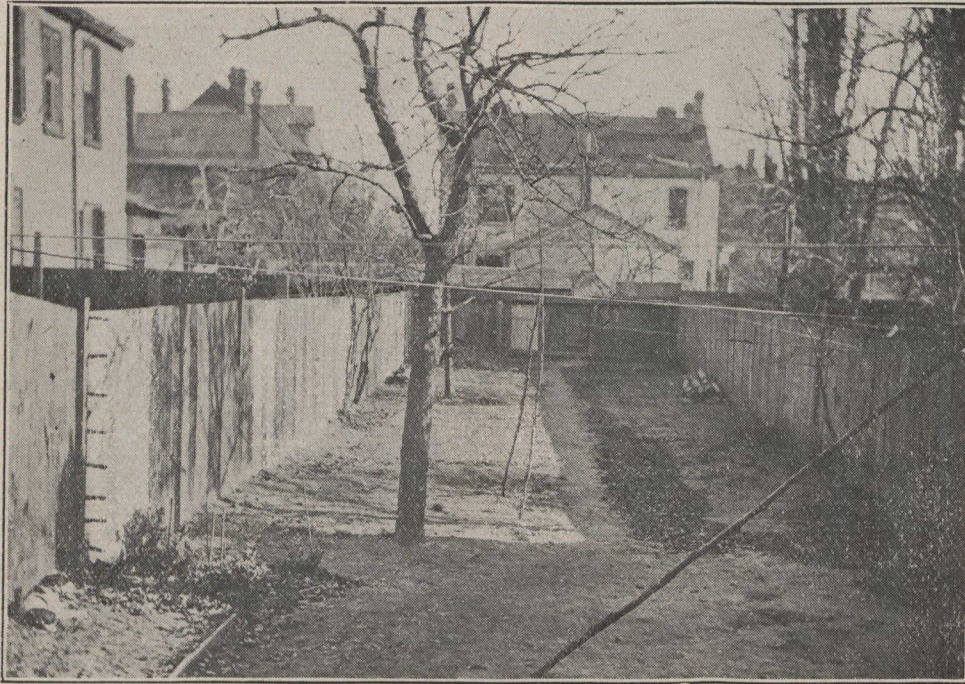
HOW many citizens of villages, towns and cities keep their front lawns in a presentable condition, but utterly neglect the back yard. Hu-

other slops are thrown. For sanitary reasons, if for nothing else, flowers should be grown. Think of the difference between the air coming from a

be overlooked. Every member of every family should know more or less about plant life. The association and acquaintanceship with such forms of nature have an influence for good that cannot be measured. The children are easily made to take an interest. For experiment, buy a few nasturtium seeds, or sweet peas or sunflowers if you will; plant them, and the average child of very tender years will do the rest with very little coaching. Not much instruction is required to have the children do all the work, and the result will be a delight to every member of the family as well as to the neighbors.

"I want no bare ground on my lot," said Mr. Edwin Utley, of Linden street, Toronto, to a representative of THE HORTICULTURIST, who visited his place recently. "My favorite plant for back yard display is sweet peas. I always put a 5 x 4 scantling next the wall or fence and stretch fine poultry netting about five feet wide along for the peas to climb over. I frequently have them grow six or seven feet high. This year I have about 61 varieties. I have also used nasturtiums to good effect.

"Perennials, too," continued Mr. Utley, "can be used to advantage by planting taller specimens, such as rudbeckias, larkspurs, columbines, tritomas, cannas, lilies, gladioli, and others, at the back and lower growing ones near the front. Sweet alyssum makes an excellent plant for the front row. It is essential that the amateur gardener keep everything carefully labelled



No. 1—Before the Flowers were Planted

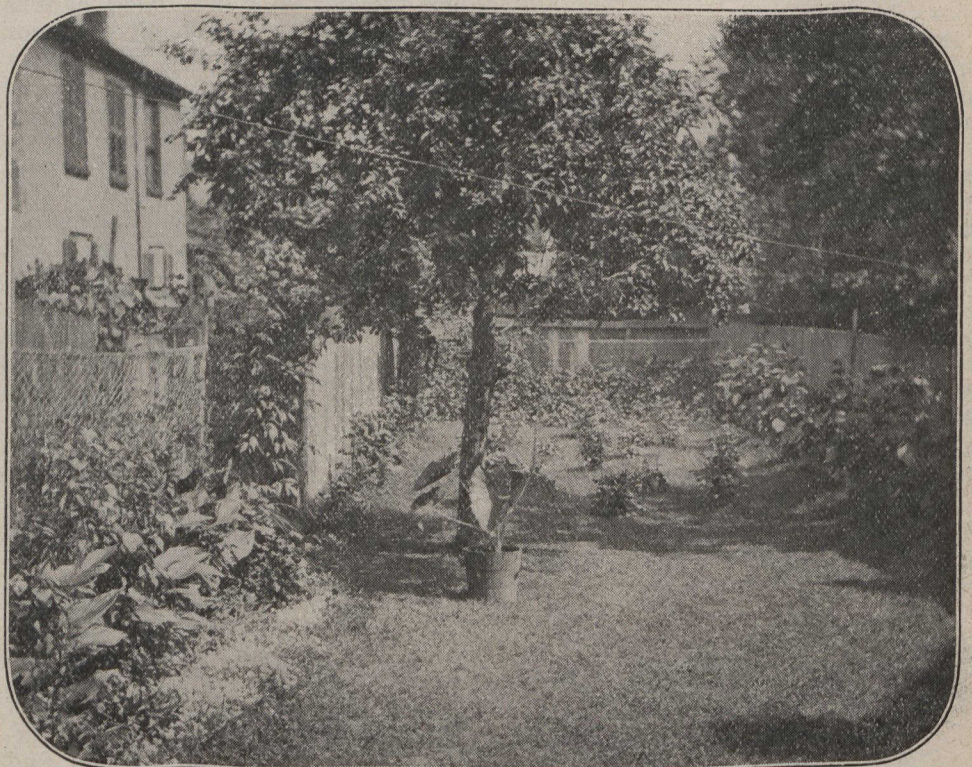
man nature seems to like to make a display for the public eye. Places, however, that are hidden from the view of the citizens at large are neglected, and, in many cases, are a disgrace to the owners. The reason for such neglect can be attributed to nothing else than laziness. The expense is so trifling that it needs no consideration, while the necessary labor can be done in the evenings.

The flower enthusiast may select some costly specimens for curiosity merely to have something different from his neighbor, but for the average back yard such plants as nasturtiums, sweet peas, virginia creepers, wild cucumbers, etc., for covering bare walls and fences and columbines, larkspurs, peonies, the different varieties of lilies, phlox, alyssum and many other plants for planting in front of the climbers can be made to fill the bill admirably. The number of plants suitable for this purpose is legion. Even the common sunflower or hollyhocks and poppies would brighten things up and make it appear as if the place was inhabited by twentieth century citizens.

All who have the welfare of their families at heart should see that the back yard is as clean as the front lawn. In fact, more attention is demanded. As before stated, it is not necessary to go to any great expense. Anything, however, is better than the slimy, bare ground on which dish water and

garden bordered with vines and creepers, and dotted with annuals and perennials, or covered with fresh green grass, and that coming from many of the yards.

The educational value, too, must not



No. 2—The Change a Few Plants Have Made