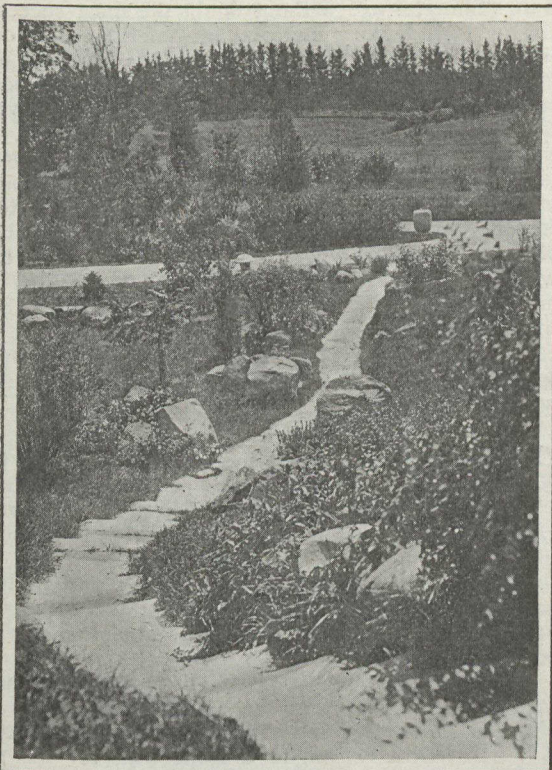




A RIBBON OF WHITE ROCK
Where trickles water from an artificial waterfall.

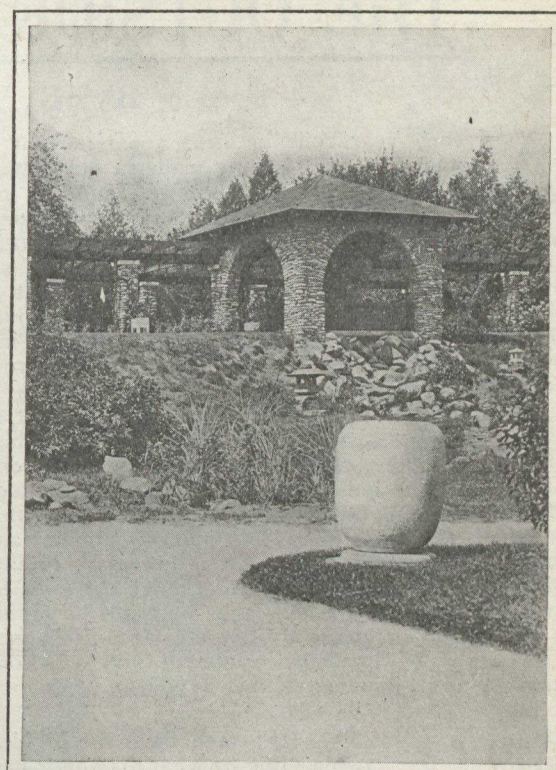
immense bronze kettles, used by the Japanese army in transport, he filled with flowers. Antique wells, also from Japan, he located at several points. Fond of the sound of running water, Mr. Ryrie constructed a waterfall where the water bubbles on

its stony way through a portion of the grounds.

Mr. Ryrie has not been lying in a hammock during all this transformation of his property. He has taken a pick and shovel and gone out and worked with his men. He has his two sons right on the job. One of these, Grant, a McMaster University senior, has the largest pair of arms and shoulders I ever saw on a nineteen-year-old boy. "Bred in Oakville," his father says.

With the help of his sons, Mr. Ryrie is the possessor of a property to-day valued at \$100,000. That's not saying anything about the 300-acre farm. It came after the house project, when Mr. Ryrie, and his son, Harry, had got so enthusiastic about country life that they wanted to actually farm. Harry went to O. A. C. and took a course in fruit farming. This spring, he and his father planted 6,000 apple trees. It looks as if Ryrie fruit would be as well known a product in Canada as Ryrie diamonds, from the interest Ryrie junior is displaying. He bought a store house at the Oakville station this summer for \$10,000, to facilitate the shipping of his farm products.

Mr. Ryrie has not been selfish in this activity of his at Oakville. There is no man in Canada who has done more to interest city men in the country life movement. By his example, he has induced fully a score of leading Toronto men to build country houses at Oakville. He has made out of a village in decline a wealthy community, unique in the Dominion. He has shown what a city bred man, who cannot distinguish oats from barley, may do in the way of adopting himself to a different environment. He has proved once more the folly of that undemocratic notion which would make a wealthy citizen a puppet of a gilded world, and laugh him out of the court of fashion if he should attempt to get his ear close to nature. Mr. Ryrie, had he so desired, might have a palatial yacht for recreative moments, and become a cruiser and



A NOOK ON THE GROUNDS
In the foreground, a Japanese temple ornament.

dinner-giver *a la* J. J. Astor. Tastes differ. It is a rather noteworthy thing in this age of artificial pleasures that plutocratic Canadian gentlemen like Mr. Ryrie and others of the Oakville colony prefer homely joys in the hey day of their prosperity.

PLAN OF AN IDEAL SUBURBAN HOME

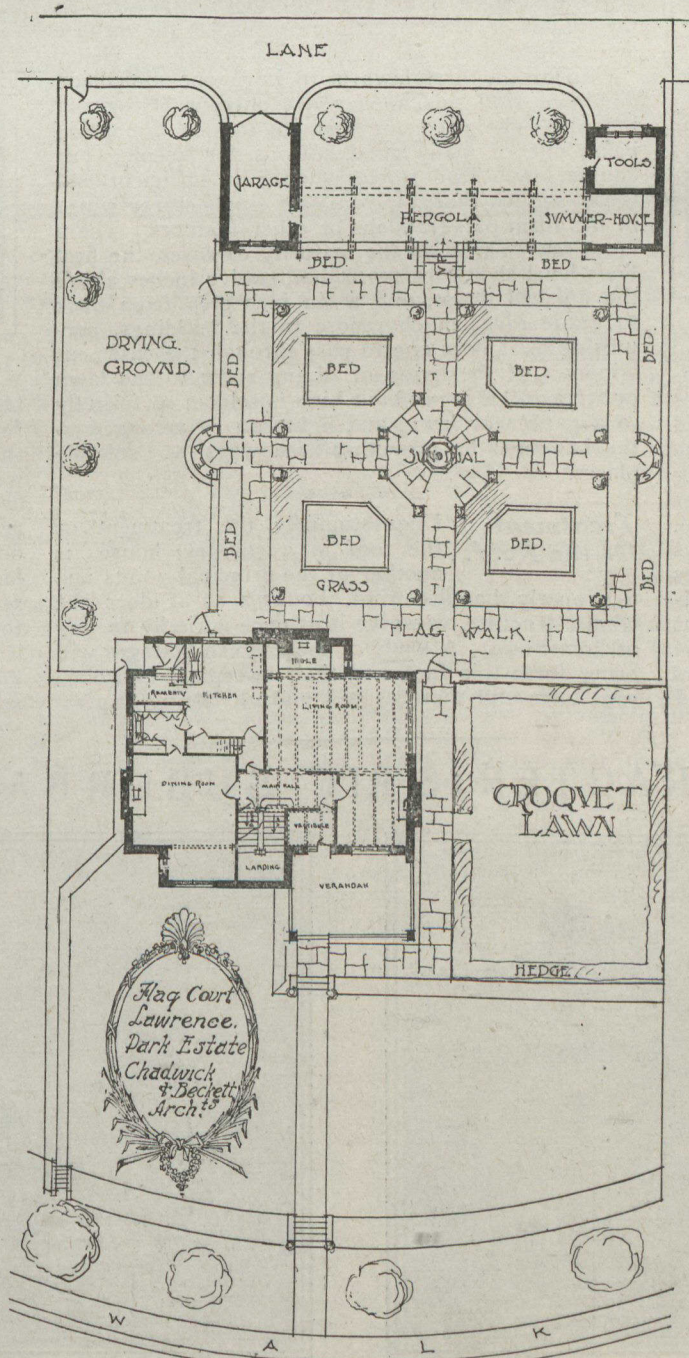
By SAMUEL G. BECKETT

CANADA has a growing number of suburban homes, but not all of them are ideal. In my opinion too little attention has been paid to the possibilities of the formal garden. In working out a plan for Mr. Firstbrook an effort was made to have a complete suburban home on a small lot. It was essential to have a pleasure garden, a kitchen garden, a croquet or tennis lawn, a front lawn and boulevard. It was found necessary in working out the plan to omit the kitchen garden.

The lot is one hundred feet wide and two hundred feet deep, and rises gradually from the front to the back. The house is placed about seventy-five feet from the sidewalk. The boulevard is on the sidewalk level. Then comes the terrace and front lawn. A smaller terrace carries one to the level of the croquet lawn and the house. The latter is practically sod level of the original ground. This level is carried straight through to the back of the formal garden, where another terrace raises it to the level of the lane. It was necessary to cut the original ground considerably to secure this level.

The picture which appears on the cover of this issue will give some idea of the garden, the pergola and the summer house. It will be noted that the pergola overlooks the garden, giving a very pleasant view. The flower beds are marked off by the use of a small roman stone border, with rounded edges, set flush with the surface, so as not to impede the use of the lawnmower. Each bed is then surrounded with a lawn border, cut off into sections by a flag walk. The boundaries of these beds are still further marked by the use of evergreens. The stone flags used in the walk are about two feet wide and three feet long, with a thickness of about four inches.

In this country we have only got to the beginning of the use of evergreens. In England the backbone of both landscape garden and formal garden is the yew tree. Here we have a number of evergreens, most of which are native and all of which are splendid for ornamental purposes. The cedar, the Norway spruce, the juniper, the cypress and the box do well, and are capable of being treated in a number of artistic ways. The plan shows juniper and cypress planted at the corners of the borders which surrounded the flower beds. These accent the corners and add to the beauty of the view. The croquet lawn is also surrounded by a cedar hedge. We secured cedar trees six to eight feet in height and planted them in a



Plan of a suburban home created for John Firstbrook, Esq.,
Lawrence Gardens, North Toronto

prepared trench. They were then cut down to four feet and kept well watered. They did very well and we thus gained three or four years over the ordinary method.

To my mind the greatest defect in civic beautification in Toronto is the six-foot board fence. This house and garden is entirely surrounded by a dry stone wall, which gives the required protection with an artistic appearance.

There are several smaller points which might be mentioned. The living-room opens on the garden and is only one step above the garden level. There is a curved stone seat at either end of the central garden walk. A roman stone sundial occupies a central position in the formal garden.

The component parts of the formal garden is well summed up in the following quotation:

"Fortunate is he who looks out from his terrace with its mossy parapet, where the peacock, perchance, shakes out its purple glories to such a world of his own. Roses are clustering on the wall, or flinging out their fragrance below in the sun, mingled with the rare perfume of the aromatic azalea. Along the edge of the lawn his flower border is glorious with the queenly lily, the dark blue monk's-hood, the tall hollyhock, the spiked veronica, the red lychnis, radiant phloxes, proud peonies, the tall spires of foxgloves and larkspurs, and a multitude of fair denizens of the parterre. Richness characterizes the whole, and the sentinel yews, the hedges, and box edgings are there to give order and distinction with the right degree of formality that belongs to the structure that is adorned. The moral sundial, the splashing fountain, the sheltered arbour, and the fragrant pergola, all have their places in such a garden.

The final fact is simple, after all, and the gardener must make it his own. It is that the house and the garden are the two parts of a single whole, and happy is he who can best interpret their sweet relationship."

The Farmer and the Classics

I FEAR that the "up-to-date" farmer, says David Buffum, in the *Atlantic Monthly*, has little respect for the classics, and would regard it as the sheerest waste of time to dig into the musty pages of the world-old authorities. And yet he might do so to advantage. Not one farmer in ten thousand knows as much about horses as Xenophon did; and Cato and Varro could give almost any of them points in land management that are well worth knowing.