

## County Paupers and County Houses of Industry.

not right that they should be compelled to travel up and down more than one flight of stairs, and moreover, in case of fire, egress is much more difficult in a high building; besides this, the cost of supervision is less when there are but two storeys.

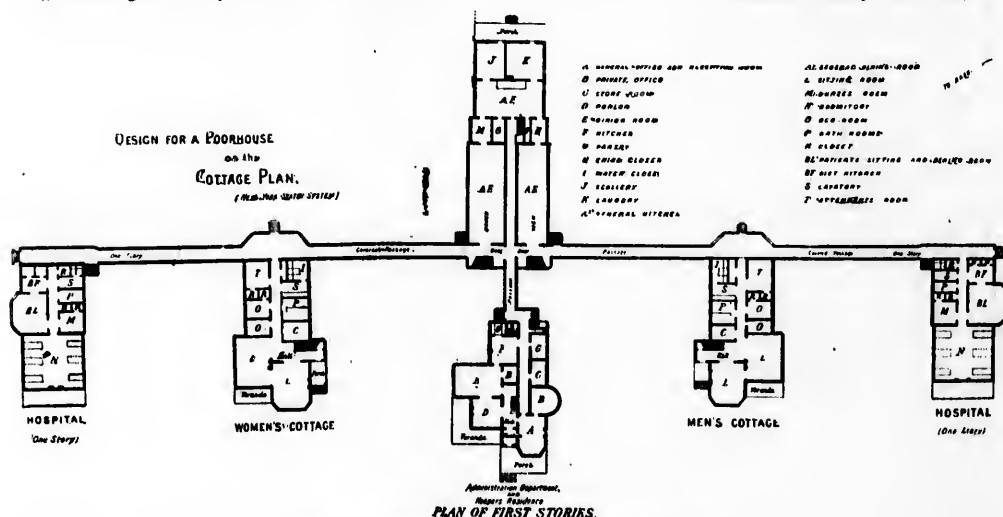
It might be objected that the difference in cost is in favor of a higher building. With regard to this, Hon. Mr. Letchworth speaks as follows: "The difference in the expense of constructing a two-storey building and one that is higher is not so great as one would suppose, notwithstanding the cost of the roof is the same in both, because the sub-structure for a building exceeding two storeys is more ex-

isting down the walls. In some of our older poorhouses may still be found in the basement, single rooms which were formerly occupied by the inmates. These damp, unwholesome places were at one time a source of abuse and a just cause of complaint." He also says that in country places where land is cheap there is no excuse for basements. Vegetables and fruits should never be stored in the basement, and a laundry underneath living rooms is particularly objectionable. Instead of basements there should be good cellars, but to be used solely for coal and other imperishable materials, as well as for the necessary pipes and air ducts.

farm having a warm, loamy soil will be pleasant to till. The fields will show heavy crops; there will be an abundance of fruit, and the garden will produce every delicacy.

The site for the building should be elevated, dry, and free from secret springs. It should be high enough to afford good drainage. The buildings should be so placed as to secure plenty of sunlight, and there should be plenty of lawn space in front.

The style of architecture should be unpretentious and domestic. The administration building should have more the appearance of a substantial dwelling house than that of an institution. In some cases, as already mentioned, in



The Cottage System.—N. Y. State Plan. Ground Floor.

pensive than it is for a two storey one. The higher a building is carried the more it is exposed to the wind, which takes hold of it as at the end of a lever, bringing greater strain upon the various parts, thus requiring greater strength throughout."

### BASEMENTS.

Respecting basements in county poorhouses, the same high authority speaks as follows: "My observations have led me to the conclusion, that the evils resulting from the use of them have been so great, that these places should be emphatically condemned. I have never yet found a poorhouse basement that, at certain seasons of the year, was not damp and mouldy, the beaded moisture sometimes trick-

The selection of the farm, and the location of the buildings is a matter of great importance. In some cases the farm selected is in an out-of-the-way place, difficult to reach, and having a poor quality of land. This is bad economy. The farm and buildings should be within a convenient distance of a railway station or a water-way, and there should be about two acres to each inmate; thus, for instance, a county that will average 75 inmates in the county home should have 150 acres of land connected therewith. It is poor economy to erect good county poorhouse buildings on a small farm, and it is also poor economy to place an industrial home on poor land. The better the land the less the cost of maintenance of the institution. A good

purchasing a farm for a county poorhouse it may be found that the farmhouse already built may be made to do duty as the administration building and keeper's residence. The buildings, taken as a whole, should suggest a home rather than an institution. Hard and formal architecture which suggest at first sight a charitable institution should be avoided. True economy will be reached by building substantially, and by requiring that everything be done in a workmanlike manner.

The cut of the Cottage System on page 9 was kindly loaned by the editor of *Every Week*, of Angelica, N. Y., and represents the poorhouse buildings of Allegany County, N. Y.