

A Variety in House Plans: Prize Competition.

It is often impossible, and usually inadvisable to copy exactly any given plan in house-building. To be absolutely satisfied with the finished product, one must, to a great extent, consult one's own tastes and needs—the size of the family, the probability of dividing the house at some future time to accommodate two families, and many other considerations.

suitable for a farm home; while the office upstairs emphasizes a very important but sometimes very much overlooked item in farm life, viz., the necessity of systematic business methods. The mere existence in the house of an office, with desk and pigeon-holes, must be an incentive to keeping papers, etc., in order.

No. 3.—Here is a house which covers considerable area, but which, as the description shows, has been especially designed to accommodate two families and an invalid. Especially good points here are: (1) The porches, giving plenty of places to sit or work out of doors in summer, without interfering with the amount of sunshine that goes into the house, as a veranda occasionally does; (2) front and back stairs; (3) closet for coats, off hall. . . . The bathroom in this house seems to be in a very inconvenient place, and the second floor would be vastly improved if arranged so that each bedroom should have a closet.

No. 4.—Here is a plan for a compact little house that may commend itself for certain situations and circumstances. It has evidently been built to suit a small family, and no space has been wasted. Since meals are served in the kitchen, pantry (D) is in a very good place. If (B) were used for dining-room, however, the pantry would not be conveniently situated, and some change in the plan would be necessary. A possible objection to this plan (in the minds of some, at least) might be that the stairway can only be gained through the kitchen. This, however, has probably been so arranged to save space.

Of the remaining plans, two very excellent in themselves, were ruled out of the competition because unaccompanied by a description, as requested. These will, however, be reproduced in an early issue.

Description of the Plans.

PRIZE HOUSE PLAN (NO. 1).

Although I am not the proprietor of this farm dwelling-house, built in 1908, nevertheless I will try to send the plan, as I was greatly pleased with its domestic conveniences. The house is brick. At the front is a little veranda, with railing at sides, and two bay windows. The front door has a large, fancy glass, below which is the door-bell. E represents the vestibule, which is 4 x 8 feet. The second door has a large fancy glass, also. F represents the hall, with a door entering A, the parlor; B, the reception-room, second parlor, or, in case of sickness, a handy bedroom; and C, the dining-room. G is the stairway, underneath which is the cellar-way. From the dining-room we pass into D, the kitchen, which on the north side has the cellar door; H, a dark closet for working coats, etc., a door leading into the front room B, and I, a small storeroom for the flour, sugar-bag, etc., with shelves at the top for empty sealers and some of the tinware. On the east there are two windows, between which is the bake-table, with three drawers in it, side by side, about 12 inches wide and 18 inches deep, running back the width of the table, for flour, sugar and salt. About two feet above the table is a cupboard, the length of the table, and built to the ceiling. In this we keep everything possible handy for baking, cooking, etc., and the necessary bake-dishes. In the corner, over the cistern, is a sink, with pump and waste-water pipe. On the south is a door leading out on the back veranda. Now, in the corner between the dining-room and kitchen, we have a double cupboard, built between the two rooms, from the floor to the ceiling. This is divided horizontally into two parts, the upper part a double cupboard, the lower shelf of which we keep vacant, so that dishes of prepared food may pass through to dining-room; into the lower part a dumb-waiter comes up from the cellar, and this may be relieved either from dining-room or kitchen. Between the dining-room C and parlor A are sliding doors. On the second floor G is the stairway, leading into a hall eight feet wide, which has a nice window for a sewing machine. D is a bedroom, with closet K; C is a bedroom, with closet I; A, a bedroom, with closet, H; B, a bedroom, with closet J; and F, which is a small room, 8 x 8 feet, may be used, if convenient, for a bathroom, if not for a sewing-room or storeroom.

In the basement, A represents cellar-way; B, brick-cement cistern; C is butter-cellar, with D, the dumb-waiter from the dining-room; E is the fruit-room, and F is the place for potatoes, roots, etc. The floor of cellar is cement. The windows are one glass for each sash, and all upper sashes are made to lower from top, in order that house may be easily ventilated.

When everything is handy, the work is easy, and the goodwife does not require the help she would have to have to get the same amount of work done in some inconvenient house.

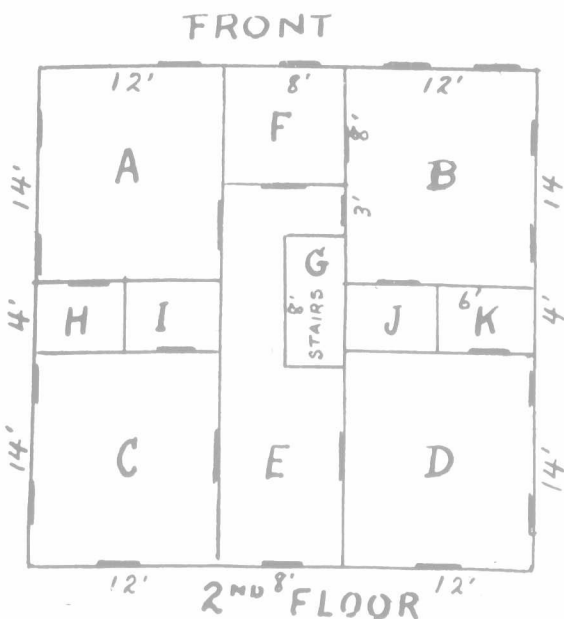
LINCOLN GOOSE-QUILL.

Wentworth Co., Ont.

PRIZE HOUSE PLAN (NO. 2).

(Equal Standing with No. 1.)

Built of red brick of very even, deep color, pencilled in white. All drops of mortar were cleared off brick after building, by going over entire portion with fine brush and muriatic acid. This required two days' labor. Foundation is concrete.



No. 1.

The most satisfactory method, obviously, is to consult a number of plans, culling a point here and a point there, until the ideal for one's own requirements has been met.

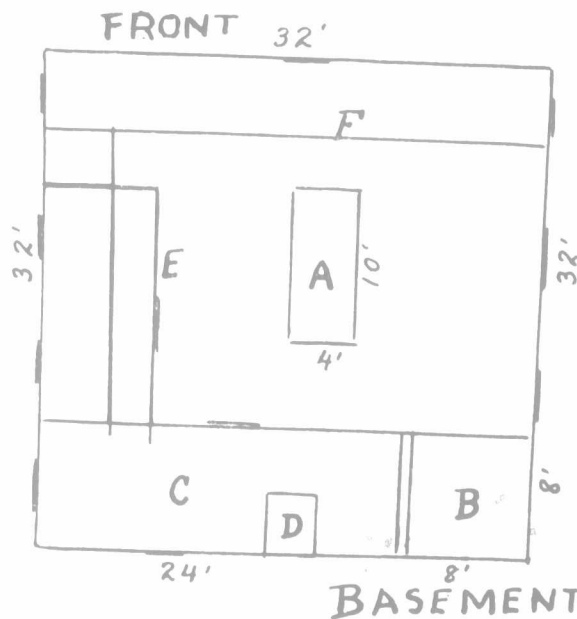
In the two plans awarded the prizes (equal) in our house-building competition, for instance, many excellent features may be observed, and the best points of both might be combined to form a house which, presumably, might suit a prospective builder better than either.

No. 1, it will be observed, represents a house compact, economical to build, easy to work in, easily heated, no doubt very cheerful and very comfortable. Put into it a water system somewhat similar to that of No. 2, place sewing-room (2nd floor) at back of hall, and transform it into a bathroom, and the house may suit to a T. Mr. X, who has a family of moderate size, desires all up-to-date conveniences, and has sworn never to divide his house, but to order a new one built when the eldest son marries. The coat-room, dumb-waiter, etc., must recommend this plan to the feminine element of the family, but, of course, these are details that can be incorporated anywhere.



No. 1.

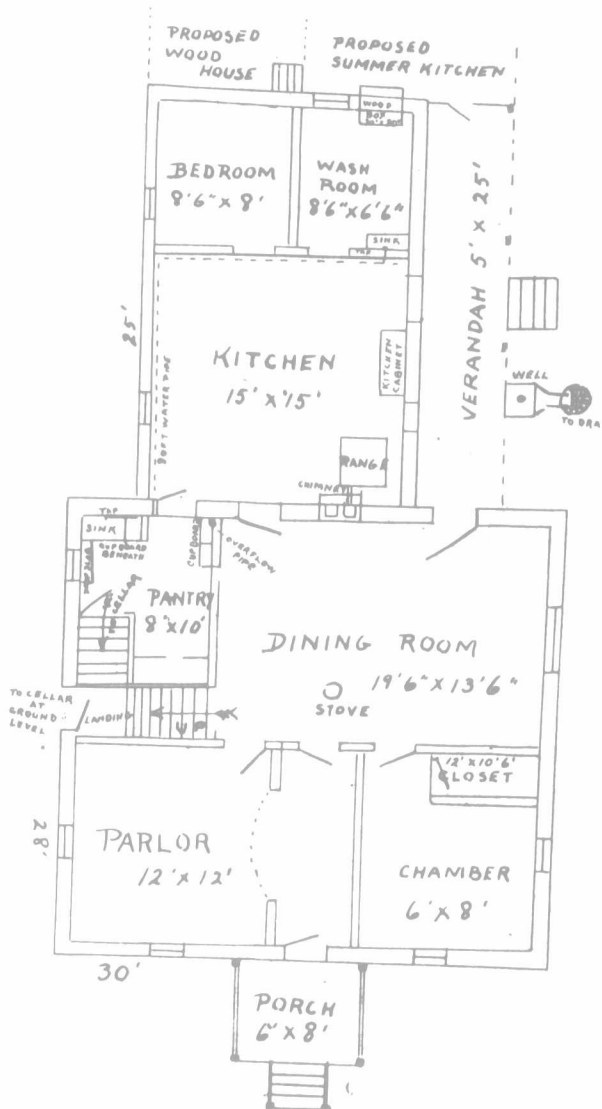
Coming to No. 2: Here is a plan that may suit excellently Mr. Y, whose family is larger than that of Mr. X. Possibly he would install a furnace and a fireplace or two, and would arrange to have the stairs pass directly from a hall on the first floor, but these are mere matters of detail. The handy kitchen bedroom, also the large attic, are points which make this house especially



No. 1.

made of fine, gritty sand, 1 to 7; walls are 13 inches thick, on 20-inch footing; cellar, 6 ft. 3 in. height in clear. Milk-room and entry have cement floors, remainder clay floor.

House walls are 12 inches thick, being two walls of brick, with 2-inch dead-air space between. Walls are tied together with No. 7 steel wire and brick headers. Inside wall has bond timber, to which 1 1/2-inch strapping is nailed; on this it is lathed and plastered. This gives two distinct hol-



No. 2.—First Floor.

lows, which insures absolute dryness and warmth.

Window and door arches are rock-faced brick, painted a darker red. Window and door sills are concrete, 3 of sand to 1 of cement; these we made at a cost of 30 cents each.

All downstairs, except wash-room, is finished in natural wood, cherry and Georgia pine wainscoting, alternately, and Georgia pine doors, casings