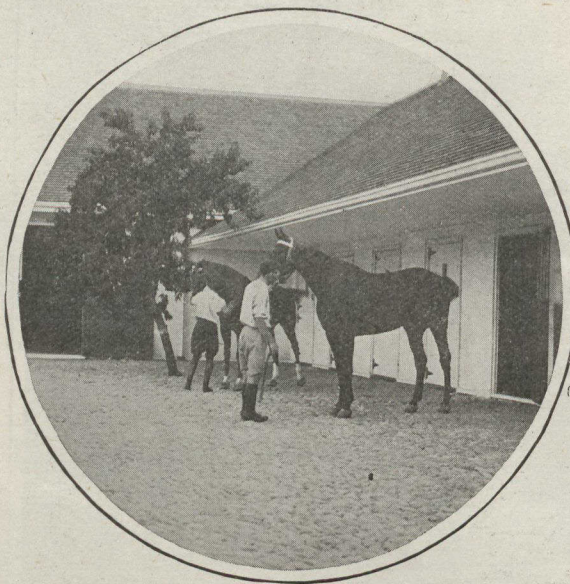


most. Three hundred yards from the house, is the first edition of these stables: courtyard, coach house, harness room, sanitary stalls, all the best equipment for a man of equestrian tastes. Mr. Cox's horses are pretty well known to all lovers of horse flesh in Canada. If you have been to the Horse Show in Toronto, Montreal, or Galt, you have probably noticed a Cox turnout. Mr. Cox's horses never figure on the turf. He is a breeder in the harness and hunter classes. At Oakville, Mr. Cox realized that he could gratify his hobby, breeding fine horses, without being cramped for space, as in Toronto. When house and grounds were well under way, he added another three hundred acres to his estate in the shape of a large farm. Here he increased his stable accommodation. On this farm have been raised not a few horses familiar to the sporting public.

If you are intellectually curious, you ask, "How does a country gentleman, like Mr. Cox, spend his time at Oakville?" First, a more pertinent question would be, "How much time does he spend there?" And the answer to this question is that he spends exactly the same time at Oakville that you do with your family after business hours, between six o'clock and eight the next morning and week-ends. He jumps into his motor at Toronto at 5.15; he alights at his Georgian house at six. Shortly after eight in the morning he is honking citywards.

In the evenings after he has dined, he may take a fling on to one of his saddle horses and gallop out to the farm to inspect things. He may have a sug-



A corner in Mr. Cox's stable-yard showing two of his famous horses.

gestion to put to the Oakville town council; for all the summer colony take an interest in Oakville politics. They have helped make a modern town with electric lights and pavements out of a fruit village all in seven years. Mr. Cox, when he is at Oakville, is a citizen of Oakville, and a popular one. This spring, a detachment of the Mississauga Horse in Oakville persuaded him to go to camp with them at Niagara. The country gentleman outfitted himself and went. He came back Honourary Colonel of the force. The regalia of this office he keeps locked up in a sacred compartment of the stables. Saturday is always a big day for the colonists at Oakville. In the afternoon, a troop of horsemen gallop out to Mr. Cox's farm. They are the Ennisclare Hunt, organized by Mr. Cox. A pack of panting hounds, Mr. Cox lets loose from his kennels. And there is a mad chase all afternoon.

The other day, Mr. Cox sat in his office showing me the diary of hunts of the Ennisclare Hunt, kept in a thick, black book. As he thumbed over the pages, he ruminated upon the fact of his dual citizenship. He agreed that he had as much fun in Oakville as he did in Toronto: "Perhaps, if I stayed out there all the time, I'd get sick of it. In the same way, if I hung round my town house all year round, it might become a cage to me. I don't allow myself to be surfeited with either town or country. This keeps down monotony. And to avoid monotony is one of the secrets of happiness, isn't it?"

## PLANNING THE COUNTRY HOUSE

By G. M. WEST

**S**ETTING the problem of planning the country home against that of planning the city residence one does not at once realize wherein lies any great difference. They both contain approximately the same rooms, devoted to more or less the same purposes. In each is the living room, the dining room, the kitchen, with its various appurtenances, and all the other necessary apartments, and it would appear at first glance that a similar solution would answer in either case. It is outside of the actual requirements of the house itself that the difference occurs.

In our country and suburban houses the more reasonable price of land in most cases allows us more area of property and choice of location, and these same circumstances usually give us a better chance of obtaining a site with natural advantage, such as trees and a good outlook for our windows.

**Simplicity In Planning.** Simplicity and proportion are the keynotes to successful designing of the elevations and they apply also in the planning. A plan which is full of numerous projections and protuberances is difficult to treat simply in elevation. Those same breaks in the walls when carried into the roof are very apt indeed to create a restless and characterless design. Of course I do not mean to say that a house should be built within four straight walls, but care must be taken when introducing breaks in the plan to insure their proper working out in the roof. Very often the main roof can be arranged to cover the balconies or verandahs or some times to cover projecting bays, thus preserving a simple outline to the whole structure.

The elimination in modern planning of the numerous small reception rooms and dens, once so popular but the cause of much despair to the designer, and the substitution of a large living room is so well understood by the average home-builder that it need hardly be mentioned. As a country house should naturally be low it should be planned to occupy only two stories.

The proportion of a country house is much more important than in many city houses, for it is seen

from all angles. It should be borne in mind that a square house is very difficult to treat successfully. Single storey wings very often add charm and tend to accent the lowness of the whole structure, making it more friendly to the site and surroundings.

### Some Essentials.

Diversity is a most universal quality, and the varying requirements of each home builder prevent, perhaps fortunately, the evolution of an "ideal plan." There are, however, some essentials which should be found in all of them. The exposure of the living and dining rooms, and principal bedrooms, should be to the south as far as possible, reserving the stairway, and the less important bedrooms for the north. It is always better wherever possible to make the dominating dimension run east and west, for by that method more southern exposure is obtained. The living room should be planned with two or, if possible, three exposures, and let it be of ample size with the length distinctly greater than the breadth. The dining room is better square or nearly so, and the kitchen and pantries, or service wing if our house is pretentious enough for that, should be placed so that the prevailing wind which around Toronto is north west, will not carry cooking odors back into the building. Convenient access from this department to the front door is necessary, and it should be arranged to not intrude upon the dining-room.

Plan the principal bedrooms, if possible, to give them two exposures and so secure cross draughts. Study the location of the window and door openings to meet the requirements of the room when furnished. Be careful to secure plenty of closet space to each room. Plan the chimneys, particularly the living room one, which is usually large, to be outside the walls of the house and thus avoid a severe encroachment on the floor space of your rooms. Be careful when building the fire place to have your flue large enough—one-twelfth the area of the fire-place opening is enough. See that a properly formed throat about three inches wide and extending all across and well towards the front of the fire-place is built opening into a large smoke chamber with a shelf to stop down drafts at the foot of the flue.

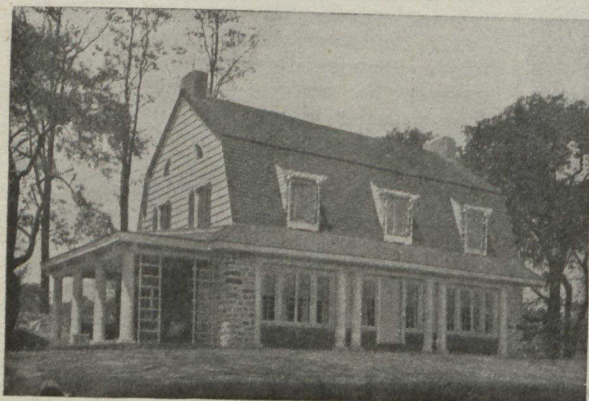
**The Porches.** Locate the terraces or verandahs conveniently accessible from the living room and, if possible, the dining room. Use wide double casement doors as a means of communication and carry the floor through level. Care should be taken not to darken the windows of rooms with only one exposure. When the entrance is on the south front, it is impracticable to carry the porch across the front. It is often better to run it across the end in a case of this kind; sometimes to get cross draughts or views projecting it forward or backward of the main house. The porch floor

should be almost level with the grade, so that one can move from verandah to lawn without inconvenience. Arrangements should be made for the enclosure of at least a portion of the porch space with winter sash and for heating it when enclosed. This innovation of recent years has in many cases been so developed as to give really another room during the winter, spring and autumn months.

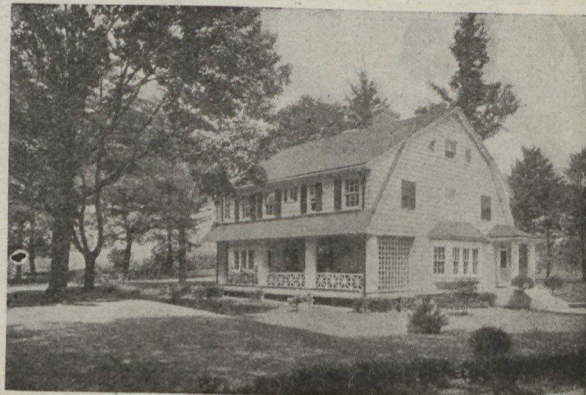
The sleeping balcony is another feature which is now demanded by nearly every home builder, and there is no disputing the advantages in connection with it. Such a balcony should be easily accessible from the bed or dressing rooms and should be fitted with sash which may be easily adjusted to keep out the weather on any particular side and still remain open on the others. There is considerable difficulty in successfully working into a design upstairs balconies, so do not be surprised at the lack of sympathy with this particular requirement which your architect may display. They can often be most successfully accommodated inside the lines of the house and under the main roof. Often in order to obtain more space upstairs it is found a good solution to carry the rooms over the lower verandahs. When this is done the floor over the porch must be packed in some manner to keep out the cold.

### Water and Sewage.

The lack of city conveniences is often a great factor in determining a man against building in the country. It need not be so. As long as there is plenty of good water obtainable the expenditure of a little money and some thought will give a workable water supply and sewage disposal. The various systems which can be installed vary so much in both lines with the amount to be spent and individual requirements, that it is impossible to name any one scheme. Some of the compressed air systems of water supply are very convenient and serviceable. Thought must be given to the location of the tanks for these items; for the soft water cistern if there is to be one, and also to the location of the various outhouses which almost invariably accompany the country home.



This house is a fine adoption of Dutch Colonial Motives. The narrow trellis around the face of the dormer windows supports vines growing in the window boxes.



In this house the second floor is made larger than the first by carrying the roof and long dormer out over the side porch.