

HOUSES.

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were very efficient dust-gatherers, and the suspicion arrived that they might also harbor "germs." So, nowadays, in the very most up-to-date houses one finds neither folding doors nor curtains, but, instead of them, grills made of turned wood, or slender pillars, each side of the opening, with provision between for palms, etc. I shall be on the lookout for pictures of some of these archways, which may be reproduced in these columns. Of course, these grills and pillars give no privacy whatever to a room. They simply serve as a sort of furniture, give a semblance of division into apartments, and often confer upon an interior an aspect of grace and airiness that is very attractive. They certainly possess the virtue of making a house look large. As regards the advisability of having many such openings in a country house, however, I am still somewhat in doubt. It would depend somewhat, perhaps, upon the number of inmates and the amount of work to be done. If you have a house divided into rooms by good staunch walls, provided with doors that may be tightly closed, you will find it quite possible to "clean a room a day," if necessary, shutting each off from the others while the cleaning is in process, and so preventing the dust from flying through, as it must of necessity if only archways with pillars and grilles intervene. As for folding doors—personally, I do not like them at all. They always look to me like a device that should be confined to institutions—but "every man to his taste." The only place where I should tolerate them would be in a large bedroom, which, in time of necessity, might thus be converted into two rooms. As for the archways with grills, I do like them, very much. Only I realize that there might be conditions under which they would not be advisable.

Coming more directly to the upstairs, the first observation might be that every house should be supplied with a bathroom, a matter which is easily accomplished by having a tank in the attic, with pipes leading therefrom. A small coal-oil heater beside the bath-tub will form a very convenient and speedy means of heating the water. It is quite possible also, provided the water supply is good, to have an inside privy, a cess-pool being arranged at some distance from the house for disposal of the sewage. Where the water can be pumped to the house by a windmill, this arrangement is simplified.

A second necessity for the upstairs is that each bedroom be provided with a closet, or, if it be necessary to economize space, with a built-in wardrobe in the wall, in which to hang clothes. In many of the houses in California, where architecture has made rapid strides, the closets are made quite large. At one end is the washstand. At the other are shelves with drop fronts, in which to lay white clothes, etc., while in the wall are wardrobes for clothes, boots, etc. This does away with the necessity of having a dresser in the bedroom, its place being taken by a full-length mirror fixed in the closet door, with a few shelves near for toilet articles. This arrangement has much to commend it. The lack of heavy furniture in the bedroom reduces cleaning it to a minimum; the absence of the dresser leaves room, even in a small apartment, for the little table so necessary when reading or writing, or sewing, or for the couch which does so much to save white counterpanes from being soiled. Last of all, but not least, there is nothing in a house which can give the uplift to good taste and personal tidiness that is given by the full-length mirror. You really can have no idea what you look like, in entirety at least, until you see yourself in a full-length mirror.

As regards the finish of the interior, I should have, if possible, hardwood floors, simply stained, or waxed without any staining at all. Of course, they "cost," but they are so sanitary, and they save the price of carpets. If I couldn't have hardwood floors, I should still have bare floors, stained or painted, with rugs for covering. There is nothing repulsive about a few glimpses of bare floor, but, when one thinks of it, there is certainly something very repulsive about the idea of a tacked-down carpet with its inevitable under layer of dust, a light layer, perhaps, if the carpet be good and finely woven, a very thick one if the covering be cheap and loose. Then the

big center-rugs, or art squares, are so pretty! Of course, the prettier they are the more they cost; yet I can only repeat what I have said so often before, that rag rugs, which are not expensive, may be very artistic; it all depends on the coloring chosen for them, and whether it blends harmoniously with the general color scheme of the room or not.

As for the other woodwork—the "real" wood, if handsome, is, of course, prettier than anything else. If you cannot have handsome wood, then do not torture ordinary pine, etc., into a semblance of it. Stain it, or paint it soft green, or brown, or gray, or paint it pure white, or ivory, always in accordance with the color scheme of the room.

"But," does someone say? "You have been describing an expensive house." In some respects, perhaps so. A bathroom with fittings, a garret tank, a basement laundry—all these things cost, and may, perhaps, be done without. Yet it is my place to describe the best arrangements. Those who read this must, of course, use such hints as appeal to them, or are practicable to them, rejecting all others. There may be some who can take advantage of every suggestion, others who can use but one or two. The editors of "The Farmer's Advocate" must cater to all classes.

In closing, however, may I emphasize my idea that pantries and washrooms, as usually seen, are an invention of evil for multiplying labor. A large basement laundry is, of course, to be recommended, but it is a very different thing from the little, huddled, besplashed cubby-hole usually dignified by name of washroom. Better do the washing in the middle of the kitchen, and store the tubs in the wood-shed, than be bothered with it. Every extra room, no matter how small, means another room to be cleaned, and who would not rather "do" a whole kitchen than one little crowded washroom or pantry? Much better then, I say, have no washroom, and spacious built-in cupboards instead of a pantry.

Heigh-ho! I'm really becoming enthusiastic! Be it upon your heads, Chatterers, if you turn me from an editor into an architect! . . . Next week the subject will be continued,—if you can stand any more of it.

DAME DURDEN.

Some Practical Hints from Jack's Wife.

Dear Dame Durden,—May I come again for a few minutes; one is so busy with sewing and incubators and housecleaning peering over the fence that there is little time for chats now. I am glad that you like "built-in" things. One of my ideas has been built-in wardrobes, instead of those "black holes" called closets. Have a wide shelf, the full size of the wardrobe, and screw hooks in a single row about six inches apart down the center of the under side; make hangers for each garment—wire ones are nicest, but pieces of barrel hoops will do—then hang each garment on a hook by itself, and you will be surprised how many garments can be put in a small space without being crushed.

Another hobby of mine is to dispense with carpets in bedrooms (and in other rooms, too, when I can get the floors in "shape"). Paint the floors, use whatever rugs you can afford, use a mop of old stockings or underwear instead of a broom.

Did any of you Chatterers ever try making short skirts of duck or galatea for morning wear? Have them quite short, four or five inches from the ground. They are much neater than long ones turned up, or pinned up, and so handy for going up and down cellar, and out into the yards when the grass is damp. To keep a skirt from sagging, and a waist from drawing up, take a piece of strong material three or four inches square, fold cornerwise, then fold again so that the long side is the side of the square, and the opposite point the center of the square. In this point work a button-hole; sew the long side of the triangle to the waist line of the waist—inside for dressing-sacks, outside for shirt-waists. A button on the skirt makes the connection.

Now, a wrinkle for the mothers, and I am done: Take a large packing-box, not more than two feet deep, but as large as convenient on the floor. Line this with old quilts or carpet; put in baby's choicest toys, and then put in baby. He is safe from drafts, and can kick about all he likes without being stepped on; and if you have to leave the room for a few minutes, you know he is safe.

I just had this finished when "The Farmer's Advocate" came along. Many thanks to all who sent names for our home. We called it "Hillcroft," as it is only a small place. I hope others got some ideas for names as well as we did.

Since recipes for "chaps" seem to be in order, try a few drops of vinegar on the hands, if you are obliged to use hard water or anything with lime in it.

Butter Tarts.—Mix, thoroughly, one-half cup flour, 1 cup sugar, and a little salt (depends on the saltiness of butter); put into each shell enough of this mixture to more than half fill it; flavor a little cold water with any extract, or use without flavoring if you like; put into each tart just enough water to moisten the mixture; drop in each a small piece of butter (size of a small hickory nut), and bake as usual. Of course, shells are baked after being filled. Tell us more of your travels, "New Chum." Aunt Nan, I hope you will come again soon, and tell more of your experiences. I quite agree with you that women should know some of the simple details of outdoor work to be ready for emergencies. In the same way, a man should know indoor work.

JACK'S WIFE.

A Correction.

Dear Friend, J. E. T.—I beg your pardon for my mistake in the recipe I sent for bread. I forgot to say to add half a yeast cake dissolved in warm water, when the mixture for yeast is cool enough. I hope neither you nor anyone else has tried it the way it came out in the issue of April 4th. ALICE. Elgin Co.

THE BLOSSOM.

(Henry Van Dyke.)

Only a little shrivelled seed—
It might be flower or grass or weed;
Only a box of earth on the edge
Of a narrow, dusty window ledge;
Only a few scant summer showers;
Only a few clear, shining hours—
That was all. Yet God could make
Out of these, for a sick child's sake,
A blossom-wonder as fair and sweet
As ever broke at an angel's feet.

Only a life of barren pain,
Wet with sorrowful tears of rain;
Warmed sometimes by a wandering gleam
Of joy that seemed but a happy dream;
A life as common and brown and bare
As the box of earth in the window there,
Yet it bore at last the precious bloom
Of a perfect soul in a narrow room—
Pure as the snowy leaves that fold
Over the flower's heart of gold.

UNBELIEF.

There is no unbelief.
Whoever plants a seed beneath a sod
And awaits to see it push away the clod,
Trusts be in God.

Whoever says, when clouds are in the sky,
"Be patient, heart; light breaketh by
and bye,"
Trusts the Most High.

Whoever sees 'neath winter's fields of snow
The silent harvest of the future grow,
God's power must know.

Whoever lies down on his couch to sleep,
Content to lock each sense in slumber
deep,
Knows "God will keep."

CRUEL.

Cholly.—The dentist told me I had a large cavity that needed filling.
Ethel.—Did he recommend any special course of study?



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is used. It is neither greasy nor sticky, clear as water, free from all injurious ingredients, prompt to act, easy to apply, safe to use, sure in its results. Price \$1.00, express paid.

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

1st.—Questions asked by bona-fide subscribers to the "Farmer's Advocate" are answered in this department free.

2nd.—Questions should be clearly stated and plainly written, on one side of the paper only, and must be accompanied by the full name and address of the writer.

3rd.—In veterinary questions, the symptoms especially must be fully and clearly stated, otherwise satisfactory replies cannot be given. 4th.—When a reply by mail is required in urgent veterinary or legal enquiries, \$1 must be enclosed.

Miscellaneous.

YEAST TREATMENT FOR BARRENNESS.

1. Kindly repeat the prescription of the yeast treatment for barren mares.
2. Where can I get a stallion registered?

S. P.

Ans.—Dissolve the half of a common yeast cake, as found in grocery stores, in a pint of warm water. Allow to stand for twelve hours; then strain and put in a can, place cover on, and screw it down tight. Prepare this about two days before you expect mare or cow in heat. When this occurs, place the strained yeast solution in a half-gallon of hot water, and an hour later inject into the vagina, using either an injection pump, or a piece of rubber hose about 18 inches long, inserting about 10 inches in the vagina, and using a funnel to pour the liquid in, raising the outer end of hose as high as possible, and removing the hose very slowly to insure all of the liquid passing into the vagina.

2. Write the Accountant, National Live-stock Records, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa; ask him to send you form for registering a horse of the breed to which your horse belongs.

Breeders and farmers looking for first-class heavy draft mares and fillies should make a note of auction sale on April 24th of 18 imported Clydesdale mares and fillies, consigned by Dalgety Bros., of Dundee, Scotland, to be sold at the Fraser House, London, Ont., on the above date. This consignment, we are assured, is quite equal to former shipments by this firm in size, type, quality and breeding, which is a pretty good guarantee that they are well worth looking after, for this firm have made an enviable reputation by the uniform high-class excellence of the horses and mares they have brought to this country.

SALE DATES CLAIMED.

April 24th.—Dalgety Bros., Dundee, Scotland, and Glencoe, Ont., imported Clydesdale mares, at Fraser House, London.

May 9th.—W. J. Thompson, Mitchell, Shorthorns.

May 23rd.—G. A. Gilroy and G. H. Manhard, Holsteins, at Brockville, Ont.

May 24th.—Jas. I. Davidson, Balsam, Ont., dispersion sale of Clydesdales and Shorthorns.