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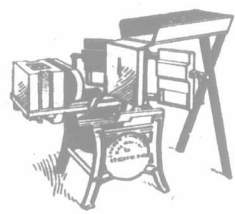
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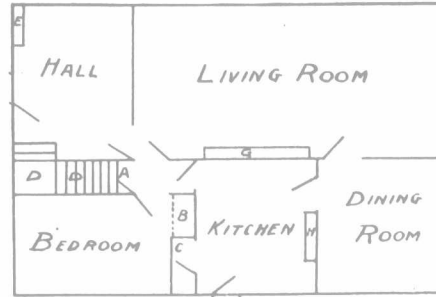


Fig. 1.—Plan for compact house: Entrance at side of hall; (A) cellar stair goes down under upper stair; (B) wardrobe; (C) closet for coats; (D) stairs going up, with turn; (G) grate; (H) built-in cupboard.

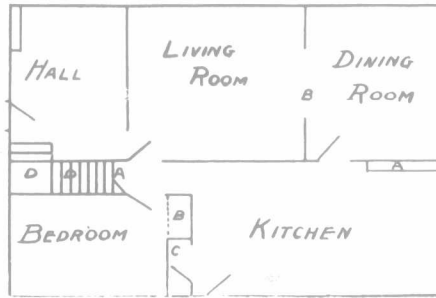


Fig. 2.—Either this plan or the one above may be used with upstairs shown in fig. 3. If a large kitchen is preferred, use this plan, and place built-in cupboard near dining-room door.

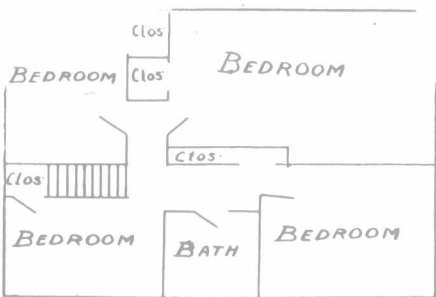
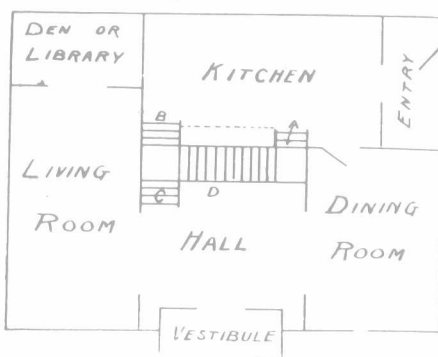
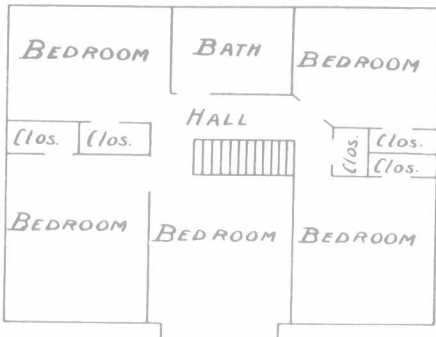


Fig. 3.—In above plan, long closet door should be more to the right to come within the bedroom. A slight mistake was made in the cut.



Figs. 4 and 5.—In above plan, note the back entry, in which coats, etc., may be hung; also front and back stairs (B and C), uniting in single stairway (D). The vestibule at the front is useful for leaving rubbers, umbrellas, etc., in; while the hall, which is here large enough for a reception hall, may be made smaller and the kitchen larger, as preferred. It is to be understood that none of the plans are given to be followed absolutely. They are merely presented as suggestions, and may be changed to suit individual needs.

SOMETHING ABOUT HOUSES.

I am afraid I got myself into trouble when I plunged into those articles on houses, for now, presto! I have been asked for some "house plans" and "hints on house-building"!!! Frankly, I do not know how much I can help you in this. I know nothing whatever of the prices of lumber and labor—except that beautiful woods always cost more than less beautiful ones, and that it pays always to have a "job" well done—and I can give no estimates as to what a house, built of such-and-such materials, would cost. However, I have a few general ideas on other phases of the subject, which are satisfactory to myself and may be suggestive to you, and since this extraordinary request came in, I have set my net and caught a few more whose virtues seem rather patent; such as they all are, you are very welcome to them.

Passing by the first essential, then, a dry site, and the second, as pleasing an outlook as possible, we shall go on to speak of house-building under the following heads: (1) Arrangement of interior; (2) lighting and heating; (3) exterior.

THE INTERIOR.

Speaking of the interior first may seem somewhat like putting the cart before the horse; yet, since it is in the interior that we chiefly live and move and have our being, this division of the subject is, perhaps, rather natural. In the first place (and, of course, this must affect the outer contour too), the house, in this climate of extremes, should be compact. Further south, where conservation of heat is no object, all sorts of rambling arrangements are permissible, and, it must be confessed, present endless artistic possibilities, but it is safe to say that in almost every part of Canada that plan which confines all rooms practically under one roof is likely to be the most satisfactory. Such a provision ensures that no room shall have more than two outside walls, and quite does away with the old-time kitchen, which, in this respect, with its three sides exposed to the weather, was a decided mistake. An outside kitchen, with a safe chimney, will, of course, obviate all difficulty of cooking in hot weather.

Again, the interior should be arranged, if possible, to do away with the necessity for taking one unnecessary step. The kitchen door should be in the position most convenient to barn, pump, etc., and should have just within it a small closet or hall in which the "men" may hang their hats and overcoats, thus saving so much "muss" in the kitchen, while preventing the clothing from becoming chilled, as it must of necessity if hung in an outside shed. The serving pantry, or built-in serving cupboard, as the case may be, should be placed at the nearest available point to the dining-room—between the kitchen and dining-room, if possible; a back stairs would be a convenience, also a downstairs bedroom, so useful in time of illness or when there are old folk in the house; and a back porch, vine-covered, to which one might take much of one's work during the warm weather. If to all this be added a basement laundry, with stationary tubs and taps over them, and a door leading directly out on to the yard, where the clothes-reel stands, or, still better, to a porch from which a pulley clothes-line, such as that described not long ago in "The Farmer's Advocate," runs, one's joy, so far as the downstairs part of the house is concerned, must needs be well-nigh full. . . . We have not spoken of library and living-room. Some will choose to make one apartment answer both purposes, others will care to have neither, but, in place of them, the old-time parlor. Little by little, however, we are becoming educated away from this "parlor" idea; by the time the next decade has passed, we shall all probably have come to learn that houses were made to be lived in.

A few years ago, the fashion of "arches" struck the country like a cyclone. In some of the best houses, there were arches everywhere, between hall and parlor, parlor and dining-room or library, etc., ad infinitum. At first, these openings were supplied with folding doors; later curtains took the place of the folding doors, and the palmy days of chenille, damask and velours came on apace. Of late, however, curtains have begun to withdraw, gradually, into the background. It was found that they