

## QUESTION DRAWER.

## Arrangement of Home Grounds.

SIR,—I have been much interested in the articles on landscape gardening which appeared in the "Horticulturist." I intend laying out my own grounds and thought of sending you a plan of ground for any suggestions you might offer.

A gravel ridge runs across the field and down into the bush. It is about four or five rods wide and higher than the land on either side. The barn is built against it and I have marked a site for a house on it.

The gate or driveway cannot be put any further west than is marked without having a hill to climb. The house being so far from the road I don't know what to put in front of it; a lawn so long would be too big. I would like you to suggest ist. A driveway in from the road and position and

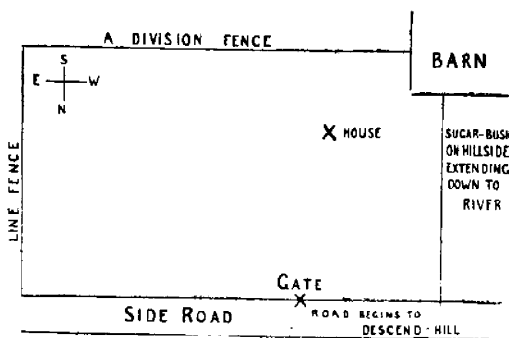


FIG. 1742.

course, whether straight or curving? 2nd. The house surroundings, the position and extent of lawn, the planting of trees and shrubs and what kinds?

The field is well protected from the west by a fine maple bush. The view from position marked for house is grand, especially to north. It is my intention to plant an orchard, having cherries and peaches on ridge, with apples towards the road. The soil is a good sandy loam, becoming more clay towards road. At present the only fixture is the barn. The field contains about seven acres. The distance from house to road is twenty rods, from house to barn about twelve.

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The following reply is given by W. H. Manning, Landscape Architect, Boston, Mass.:

SIR,—You ought to encourage such inquiries as you have referred to me, but in doing this you should insist upon their giving full information, otherwise no one can give them advice that will be of any real service to them.

About all I could say to your client would be

to make the general statement that it is usually unwise to locate a house on the summit of a ridge for it makes the building unduly obtrusive and roads to such a site will be more difficult to construct and maintain. It is generally better to locate at the side or at the base of a slope, reserving views from a higher level for occasional enjoyment or for enjoyment from upper windows.

A large lawn on such a place, as I take it your correspondent has in mind, would be burdensome to maintain. It would probably be better for him to enclose a smaller piece of ground with a retaining wall or irregular belt of shrubs which he would keep under the lawn mower, the adjacent land to be grazed or kept under mowing.

The roads should be made as short as practicable, and curves should not be used unless there is a very good reason for them.

Your correspondent would do well to provide a flower garden and keep all his annual flowers in it, also a service yard for laundry, etc., should be separated from the other parts of the grounds by a plantation. Plantations about the lawn should be arranged to keep as much open grass as practicable. Very few large trees should be planted near the house.

This is about all I can say to your correspondent because the information which he gives is not sufficient for one to gain a clear idea of the conditions.

Note by Editor: We very much appreciate the above pointers coming as they do from Mr. W. H. Manning, one of the best authorities in the United States on Landscape Gardening.

We understand that very soon Mr. Manning will publish a little book in which directions will be given for the preparation of Surveys of small Home and School grounds. The cost will be only 25 cents.

Another book which would be of much use to our correspondent is a hand-book for Plan-