

Farmers' Homes.

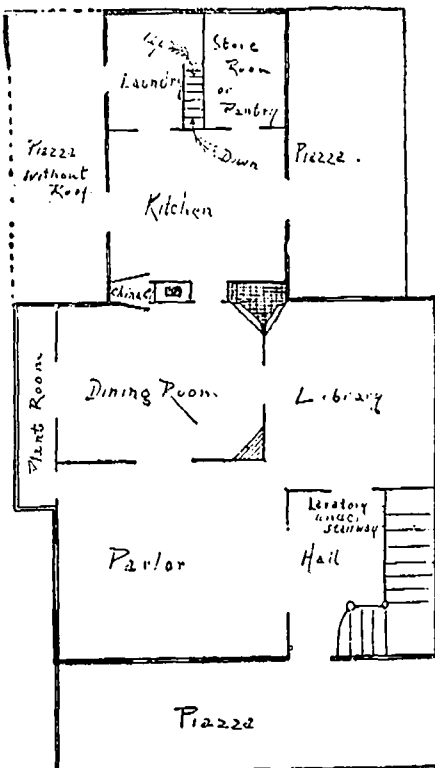
THE building of a snug and convenient home seldom receives the amount of thought as to plan and arrangement as the case deserves. Every change that economizes labor, and expense, and that adds to the pleasure of our short struggling lives, ought to be welcomed as an improvement of importance. And nowhere can conditions be changed to more advantage

than in the farmer's home, did he but study the problem as it deserves. The sketches presented herewith are from the plans of Webb Donnell, and they will be found to be particularly good.

They show an exterior, the first floor plan and a doorway, which may be useful to those who think of building. The house is one story in height, but possesses plenty of room on the second floor for four medium-sized bed-rooms,

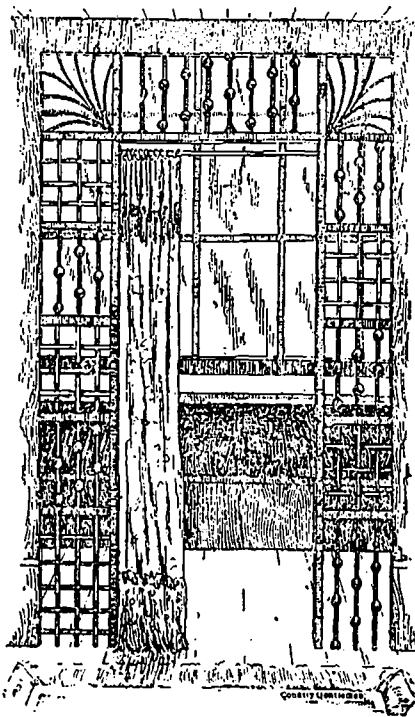
or three bed-rooms and a bath-room. The plan contemplates an outlook toward the east from

herewith. Large doorways with portières are between the hall and parlor, and the parlor and dining-room. The china-closet opens from both



First Floor Plan.

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Doorway between Dining-Room and Plant-Room.

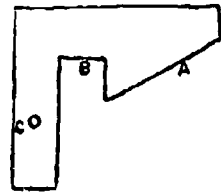
the dining-room and the kitchen. The kitchen sink is against this same wall. The plant-room may have a glass door communicating with the southwest piazza for summer use, if desired.

Such a house should, for best effects, be shingled on walls and roof, and the whole stained; and in shingling, one should think twice before using the plan so often seen of having every other shingle drop an inch or so below the one preceding, or having the base of

every other shingle rounded or pointed. Such methods cheapen the whole effect. The best quality of shingles, laid *perfectly true*, make a beautiful wall surface, especially when given a soft tone with a stain of artistic color. One word in regard to cost. These sketches are given rather as suggestions than as hard-and-fast plans to be rigidly followed. Some features may appeal to one and some to another. One's house will be most satisfactory if it contains some of his own individuality. He may be pleased with some given plan, but desire to change some of its features. The plans in this way may prove helpful. Moreover, to give an estimate of cost for a particular plan would be manifestly unwise, for materials and labor vary so widely in different places as to make cost a matter of locality. One should decide on his plan, and then consult a builder in his own vicinity to learn the cost of the proposed house.

Ingenious Gate Latch.

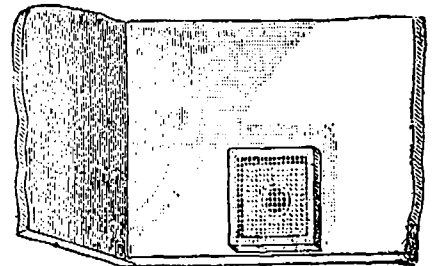
TRY an experiment with this gate latch. If you have to open the gate often you will find



it to be about the most convenient you have ever tried. It is nailed loosely to a post by a large 4-inch wire nail. A small strip is fastened to the gate, strikes A, and falls into the slot B. At C a strip on the post holds the latch upright and prevents it from falling back too far. The latch is cut from inch wood, is cheaply made, and can be profitably used on many of the gates and doors on the farm.

A Good Strainer.

E. N. MILLEN supplies a cut of a water-tank strainer to the *Country Gentleman*. He thus describes it: Water is piped to my barnyard from a spring a hundred rods away. The half inch supply pipe enters near the bottom of the tank, and is kept from freezing by being continually immersed. But the one-inch overflow pipe, which goes out about three inches from the top of the tank, used to get clogged with ice in winter and dirt in summer, causing much annoyance. To obviate this, I hit upon the



following device, which has stood the test of years: A hole three inches square (a round one of this diameter would do as well) was sawed in a six-by-six piece of inch pine. This was nailed on the inside of the tank, with its centre over the opening of the overflow pipe. Over the hole in the block was nailed a five-by-five piece of galvanized wire netting, of quarter-inch mesh. Now, any ice that may form is kept an inch away from the mouth of the overflow, for the water never freezes inside the wire netting. It always has a free passage through the meshes of the wire below the ice, and up between the wire and the side of the tank to the outlet.

BEANS are discovered to be great honey producers. A bee keeper in Santa Clara Valley Cal., when other sources of nectar failed moved his hives into his bean fields and a large crop of delicate honey was the result.

Stock raising and grain growing naturally go together on a well regulated farm.