

### Plan Home Grounds in Winter.

Those who have been watching the development of the country closely during the past few years must have been struck by the efforts at home adornment which are becoming a feature of our rural communities. Flowers and vines are appearing about homes where, a decade ago, none were to be seen, except, perhaps, a few clumps of "Sweet Mary" and a pyramid of "Old Man"; closely clipped front lawns are taking the place of oat fields encroaching upon the front doorstep; rows of noble maples along front and driveway are beginning to make the maple leaf the emblem of the home as well as the country; and back-yards, once the receptacle of chips, ash barrels and broken-down vehicles of all descriptions, are speedily giving way to neat enclosures, with lilacs at the fence, and nasturtiums, ever-blooming little friends that they are, at the windows.

Whatever be the cause of this advancement—whether it be that the taste of the people is improving, or that latter-day machinery and methods have made more time for such work possible, or that, with the receding of the "bush lands," with their wild, incomparable beauty, the need of some other form of outdoor beauty is more keenly felt—the movement is a welcome one. Nothing more quickly induces refinement about a home than the presence of neatly-kept grounds and beautiful flowers. It has been said that there is always hope for one who really loves children and flowers. Moreover, nothing tends more strongly toward making young people proud of the farm, and proud of the profession of agriculture, than a cozy, beautiful home. We hear a great deal about "How to keep the young people on the farm" nowadays, but it sometimes seems that if people would do less talking, and set to work in earnest to make the home and its surroundings more attractive—books, magazines, trees, flowers, music, and kind words entering into the scheme—more might be accomplished. However, as before said, the country is heading in the right direction in this respect. During the past five or six years, much has been done; during the years to come, much more will be done.

Yet, there are home adornments and home adornments. Some strike one immediately as eminently artistic and pleasing in every respect; others grate on one's sensibilities somehow, as attempts that have been made, but made mistakenly. It sometimes seems as though people do not put enough planning on the arrangement of the home grounds. When building a house, they are willing to devote much time and thought to the "plan," getting all sorts of suggestions from friends, studying carefully those published in the "Farmer's Advocate" from time to time, visiting houses miles away in search of hints, and, possibly, finally bringing matters to a head by calling in the services of an architect trained to the business. But when it comes to arranging the lawn, too often, all that seems necessary is to get a few trees from the woods, or, possibly, from some agent who comes in with a book of floridly-colored plates, then put them in here and there, with little further consideration. The result, not infrequently, is that a "spotty" effect is produced, fine views are shut off, and no end of mischief done which cannot be speedily undone. Yet it appears not unreasonable that the setting of the house should demand as much thought as the house itself.

Possibly, the best time for planning is during the winter, when the long evenings give time for deliberation, and the howling storms outside an added zest to thinking and arranging for things that bring one so close to the summer. Moreover, the early spring, while plant-life is still dormant, is almost universally acknowledged to be the best time for transplanting most trees and bushes, and when one's planning is finished one is, perhaps, most in the mood for "going right on with it." It is not necessary, and certainly seldom practicable, to employ the services of a landscape gardener for this work. Nevertheless, it is necessary to understand thoroughly a few of the principles which landscape gardeners have fixed upon as correct.

In the first place, see to it that no appearance of "spottiness" is tolerated. You do not want your front lawn to look like a ten-pin alley, and if your lawn is already dotted with trees, disposed over it at regular intervals, it will pay you to cut a few of them out. The aim should always be to obtain broad sweeps of open lawn leading up to the house. Trees and shrubbery should be disposed along the borders, and an odd group, or, perhaps, two or three handsome trees, should be scattered irregularly over the lawn itself for shade. At the back of the house, an orchard, or a natural grove, forms an admirable background. Trees, of course, may always be used to shut out a disagreeable or uninteresting view. In regard to the varieties used, do not select too many kinds, as doing so tends to produce the objectionable "spottiness"—some fine hardwood trees for summer, a few evergreens for winter effect (especially), a few mountain ash trees, for the sake of their berries, will usually be sufficient, and, as the majority of these may be

obtained from our own woods and swamp borders, a very handsome effect may be obtained at very small expense. Even in regard to shrubs, there is a growing fancy for utilizing our native bushes, which have the great advantage of being exactly suited to the climate. Most certainly, sumachs, dogberry bushes, red elder, and others, are very effective when artistically massed about a lawn. There are few, however, who would not like to add to the collection sweet lilacs, honeysuckles, bushes for winter beauty, and the Siberian currant of delectable perfume. The spiraea, also, cannot be forgotten, nor rose bushes, without which June cannot be June, and many would be very sorry to omit from the list syringa and smoke tree, flowering almond and hydrangea paniculata. However, this is a minor detail;



House with Homelike Surroundings.

the arrangement is the main thing. Once more be it said, use your shrubs for filling up corners, mass them against a background of trees, use the lower ones to screen the foundations of the house, and the large ones to break the hardness of its corners, place them as thickly as you will to hide the outbuildings, walls or fences, but, as you value the artistic arrangement of your home, do not dispose them in spots over your lawn.

There is less likely to be any mistake in the arrangement of vines. Vines invariably beautify, unless they are allowed to run wild over the tops of trees and bushes, whose individuality should be preserved. A veranda is not a veranda without its vine; neither can one object to seeing the walls of a house covered with the beautiful green mantle which so tones down the stiff newness which, in so many houses, forms a discordant element in the rich mellowness of nature. An old fence, however, or the ugliest wall or outbuilding, becomes a thing of beauty when covered with the graceful sprays of a vine, hence we should open our hearts to these ready friends, and, whether our choice be trumpet vine or aristochia, honeysuckle or wistaria, Boston ivy or Kudzu vine, or simply the Virginia creeper, bittersweet and beautiful wild clematis of the swamps, we should have our vine. Perhaps none will give more satisfaction than the wild grape, which is perfectly hardy, grows rapidly, and retains its leaves when those of many other kinds have fallen off.

In regard to walks, an invariable rule in home arrangement is to have as few as possible, and these reaching by the easiest possible curves the points to which they are destined to go. A much-curved walk, especially from a gate to the house, is a mistake; one is irritated at having to do so much walking to accomplish so short a distance. Hence, the best way to avoid a stiff,



House Unimproved.

straight walk, and yet to economize in distance, is to have the front gate somewhat to one side of the house, and the path running by the most natural curve from it. Where a curve is necessary, it is advisable to place a clump of shrubbery so as to give an apparent excuse for making the deviation. For hedges skirting lanes, or as wind-breaks, the spruce or cedar is best, having the advantage of being evergreen.

In regard to flower-beds, the foregoing rule applies—avoid spottiness. Do not cut up a fine grass sward with beds, but mass your flowers against shrubbery, or put them in borders. If you want a flower "garden," put it somewhere to the rear of the house, in the back-yard, or to-

wards the side. Be very chary of rockeries, and on no account whitewash stones, or use sea shells, or any other such extraneous "ornament." A hammock in a shady place, comfortable lawn chairs, and an artistic summer-house in some out-of-the-way yet easily-accessible nook, are all advisable lawn accessories.

Finally, if you are going to build a house, and have a natural grove available in a good situation, by all means make use of it. Nature's methods are best, and whether you build your house before, behind or at the side of your grove, do not slight such an opportunity. In one of the handsomest country homes we have ever seen, the house was built directly behind a fine maple grove. In this case, the view to the front was not fine, that to the rear especially so; hence this disposition of the house accentuated the fine view, while partially shutting off the uninteresting one. The grove was thinned out a little, a broad lawn cleared directly in front of the house, and a drive cut directly through from it to the road at the front. The effect was fine, whether from the road or from the house, and the whole place formed a most striking object lesson in the utilizing of natural advantages.

## DAIRY

### Keeping Dairy Barns in Sanitary Condition.

Within the last ten or fifteen years dairying has become one of the leading industries of our country, and it lies with the farmers of to-day to bring it to perfection. This cannot be done without a due amount of thought and cleanliness on the part of the dairyman. He should take a deep interest in his work, be a good milker, and look after the comfort and food of his herd, and the cleanliness of their product.

The cow barn should be kept as bright as possible, having plenty of windows, all cobwebs and dirt swept out of sight, and the walls whitewashed at least twice a year. During the month of November, or as soon as the cows are stabled for the winter, they should be carefully gone over and their udders, quarters and tails clipped, in order to prevent dirt accumulating around these parts. They should be brushed and curried frequently, and should be turned outside each day for a short time during fine weather, and kept housed when it is stormy or cold. Every dairyman should have his cow stables floored with cement, use absorbents to save the liquid manure, and have his feed-room in some convenient place where the food will be handy. Stables should be cleaned out twice a day, and the passages swept frequently. Cow mangers should be cleaned out after each feeding, and the cows kept well bedded with a clean litter of straw, and land-plaster or gypsum sprinkled around occasionally. Cow stables should also be well ventilated, and kept at a temperature not lower than 50° or above 75°. A good system of ventilation for a cow stable where there are two rows of stalls, is to have the feed passage between the rows, with the floor from 8 inches to 1 ft. higher than the other part of the stable, and underneath this elevation have a row of tile 6 inches or 8 inches in diameter, the full length of the passage, and then, into each stall at the heads of the cattle, have a three-inch tile connecting with the large row, and thus have a constant supply of good fresh air; then at or near the ceiling have a ventilator connecting with the ridge of the barn roof, in this way providing an exit for the foul air. This will give a uniform temperature throughout the stable.

The cow stables should be from seven to eight feet high, from floor to ceiling, and each cow should have from five to seven cubic feet of space. It should face the south, and have plenty of sunlight. Box stalls should also be provided for cows at time of freshening; also for calves.

Peterboro Co., Ont.

DAIRYMAN.

### Conditions of Judging Competition.

The following conditions will govern the stock-judging competition at the Ontario Provincial Winter Fair, Guelph:

- (1) Judging will include beef cattle, dairy cattle, sheep and swine.
- (2) There will be an entrance fee of 50 cents in each department.
- (3) Competition in each department will be limited to thirty minutes.
- (4) Fifty per cent. will be allowed for proper placing, and fifty per cent. for reasons.
- (5) Competition will be limited to persons 25 years or under on the 1st of December, 1904.
- (6) Entries will be received at the office of the Secretary up to and including Friday, November 25th.
- (7) No competitor will be allowed to enter in more than two classes.
- (8) Competition will commence at 8 a. m. on Thursday, December 8th.
- (9) Prizes will be awarded as follows: 1st, \$10; 2nd, \$9; 3rd, \$8; 4th, \$7; 5th, \$6; 6th, \$5; 7th, \$4; 8th, \$3; 9th, \$2; 10th, \$1.

A. B. WESTERVELT, Secretary.