

lar is to insure for the superstructure good dry air, and unless there is a cellar with impervious walls and floor, and a circulation of air, there will be dampness that will cause the sills to rot, and rotting wood is as unhealthy as any other rotting substance.

If it is desired to have no cellar, then the earth under the school should be covered with a floor of cement to prevent dampness, and this foundation should be ventilated. This we ask for in a house that is properly constructed, and why not in a school? It has become a recognized fact that in dwelling houses we have passed the primitive stage in architecture, and no wise man will build a dwelling now without plans from a good architect. School architecture is a branch in

OUR HOME CLUB

PARENTS AS SCHOOL VISITORS

There is nothing I can think of that would be more beneficial to both the teacher and scholar than frequent visits from both the fathers and mothers of the children.

Most men pass the school building once in a while at least, and if they would but go in and see how their children were progressing, it would do a great deal of good. Children love to "show off" and, except at rare intervals, they have very little chance of so doing. Even if the "showing off" consisted only of reading or spell-

the lives of their children and children's children.

Can "The Philosopher" suggest a means to reach the root of such an evil? It seems dreadful to think another might soon be added to the list. Can we not as men and women pre-vent such a reputation from year to year? I would like to hear a little more discussion on "The Philosopher's" timely letter.—"Mother."

THE CITY PROBLEM

Stock-taking is just as good, sometimes, and just as necessary for the human being as it is for the storekeeper. Suppose we start, for example, to take stock of our friendships. How many have been broken during the year? What have been the causes? How many old friends have we lost?

One friend did something we did not like. Are we sure it was such an act of baseness as we think it was? Another told a falsehood; it was repeated to us, remember. Are we sure it was malicious? Did we give them the benefit of the doubt? Are we sure that our friends, who proved untrue to their trust, did so deliberately?

Perhaps in nine cases out of ten they were only guilty of some slight neglect or discourtesy, carried away, for the time being, by a gust of anger; perhaps their faults were all an imagining of our own, arising out of our ignorance of the true facts of the case or our failure to understand. In fact, in the vast majority of cases of broken friendships the causes have been trivial, in some cases non-existent, yet for the sake of our own feelings, which we considered so deeply hurt, at the time, we allowed some trivial offence to wipe out the kindnesses of years. We are all of us imperfect lot, and the sooner we realize the truth of it and try and estimate our friendships on some more generous basis than some mere grievance, the better and happier we shall all be.—"City Cousin."

WILLS

"I have been at a number of death-beds and have had to do with wills made by people who lived in the country, and I have thought how rare it is for property to other than relatives. During life some of them gave money to their church and responded to appeals for their support to home and foreign missions, hospitals and other charities, but in their bequests all these are generally passed over and their estates go to children or other relatives, however worthless they may be known to be. Now, one would think that when the last opportunity is at hand for helping worthy causes and of doing good on the earth after these are gone, the occasion would be seized and their benevolences enlarged. Perhaps the procedure I refer to is owing to lack of thought more than to want of heart. But whatever the cause, there is need for a change, and the hint here given may be a means to effect it.—"The Parson."

WOMEN WHO WORK

Lately I have been too busy moving and settling to write or even read the Home Club. Last night I read "Uncle Dick's" letter on "The Farmer's Wife," and I am sure there is something in wireless telegraphy, else how did "Uncle Dick" know my thoughts? It may be a case of "Great minds thinking alike," as we used to say in our school days. However, he certainly wrote my sentiments.

I have visited many Canadian farms and I fail to recall many such tragedies. It is true there is and will be till time ends, selfish, thoughtless men, but the farmer has not the monopoly of selfishness. Take a ride on the street car some evening between the hours of 5 and 7, in any city you like, and you will likely see a few roots. Nowhere did I meet the "toothless, lifeless, broken-down, sallow creature



The Yard Around a Country Home



The Yard Around a Country School

The school expects something from the home. What should the home expect from the school? It can't return more than we give. Give interest, lend a helping hand, and plant a tree.

itself. In cities the plans are drawn by special architects, or are submitted to them for inspection.

To get some idea of how important the subject is considered, the International Congress of Hygiene in 1880 brought in a report that the death rate of American children was higher than that of European children, and gave as a reason unhygienic school buildings.

The construction should aim at reducing the possibility of dust by having well laid hardwood floors, a cement dado to at least four feet, all for doors and windows. The floors can then be oiled, and this makes the cleaning easier. The schoolhouse, if properly extended, could be the institutional building of the community, with reading room, library, etc. At less cost than is expended in getting to town for amusement, a good gymnasium could be built, and country life would have what it now lacks, a central place for social life, with the reasonable prospect of keeping its young people in the country.

As we value eyesight, so is the lighting important. Windows must not face a pupil when he is studying, and the eyes should at no time be under undue strain. If the windows are to serve as ventilators, then they must be on pulleys, and open both from the top and the bottom. If they are to be ventilators, they should run up pretty well to the ceiling, so that no stratum of the air will remain at the top of the room. It is good, also, to have the light come from as high as possible.

It is more important that a country school should be attractive than a city school, because in the city there are such many sources that attract and elevate, while in the country these are limited to the home and the school and the church.

(To be concluded next week)

For Crotched Laced

When using thread to crochet or knit wind the thread loosely on to another spool and put in boiling water. This shrinks the thread, which will not afterward shrink and give the lace that stiff, compact look that it would otherwise have.

ing, it would put the child on his mettle and stimulate him to do better work.

The surest way to judge a child's progress in his studies is to compare him with the others of his own age or of his own class. School reports are but figures, and give but little idea of the real work being done by the child.

If the mothers could drop in for part of the afternoon, or even a month, or oftener, they would be able to judge correctly whether their children were getting along or not, and if not, why not? There are often matters to be discussed, such as defective seats, and with the parents' help, many faults could be remedied.

The only school visitor who is sure to come is the inspector, and he rarely finds the school at its best. Why? Because the children are unused to strangers, and they become shy and do not appear to advantage. They become nervous and the order is usually below the average.

Of course there are some visitors who come, whom one feels like asking, like the bride's father in that famous poem, "Lochinvar," "Oh, come ye in peace here, or come ye in war?" Frequently it is the latter, but if there were more "peace conferences" there would be fewer misunderstandings.

To be of any use these visits would have to be impromptu and not announced beforehand.—"The School Marm."

FOR "THE PHILOSOPHER"

How can we reach the masculine mind, how start men thinking soberly, seeing things as they really are, and being them in such a manner, they will note the remedy rests with themselves?

Farm and Dairy recently published one or two articles which must start those who read them thinking, and the first impression conveyed is how much man is blamed for the wrongs existing today? Were we to tell the husbands of those two pitiful women (mentioned by "The Philosopher" a few weeks ago) they were to blame for their wives' condition, they would deny it—conscientiously deny it. Yet the fact remains. The thoughtlessness, cruel thoughtlessness of those husbands brought those two bright lives to a living death, and cast a slur on



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