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Efficiency in the Home
Mrs. F. McCann, Oxford Co., Ont.
Work is a good thing; we especially appreciate this fact at the present time when we read of so many hundreds in our cities who cannot get employment, and we women on the farm should be thankful that we have our share to do. But while work is good and necessary, overwork can only be reckoned as an abuse of our powers, and wasteful.

"Man works from sun to sun, but woman's work is never done." This old saying, is all too true in many cases, especially in our farm homes. The housewife toils all day, and oftentimes far into the night after the children have been hushed to rest. While her husband enjoys his daily newspaper she will probably be sewing garments that the boisterous children quickly wear out when at play.

In the majority of our homes a great deal of unnecessary work is due to the inconvenient arrangement of the house. We are all apt to expend more thought in the planning of our sitting rooms or parlours than that of our workroom—the kitchen. This is where we make a great mistake, however, for it is not the kitchen the room in which we spend the greatest part of each day?

In our grandmothers' day the kitchen was a large, almost barn-like, room, with the pantry at one end, the washroom at the other, and the stove usually placed about midway between the two. I prefer the small kitchen with stove, sink, and pantry or kitchen cabinet arranged as closely as possible, and thus reduce steps to a minimum. To illustrate: Have the sink between the stove and pantry, and in this way everything with which to work will be close at hand.

Another point often neglected is that of having the stove, tables, and sink a convenient height for the housewife. I'll venture to say that a goodly number of our housewives have experienced that back-breaking feeling when working over a stove or washing dishes at a sink that is placed too low. Another feature in arranging the sink is to have the drying board on the left hand side, so that when a dish is washed it is not necessary to awkwardly place one hand over the other in order to reach the drying board.

Another great convenience in the kitchen is the dinner wagon, which is now becoming quite popular in a number of homes. I was particularly struck with the good qualities of such a labor saver when over to a neighbor's for tea a week ago. When my friend changed the plates and brought in the fruit she first wheeled in her dainty dinner wagon, which, by the way, her husband constructed for her, and she was enabled to save many steps just at that one meal. This would soon amount to a considerable number in a short time.

I like the idea, too, of having little doors between the pantry and dining room, and in this way almost everything necessary for a meal can be arranged in the pantry and placed on a table or shelf, then open the little doors and these dishes can be carried to the dining table with very little effort. The table can be cleared in the same manner. Of course, this arrangement would be in a house where a dinner wagon was not available.

I have only made a few suggestions, and to a certain extent every housekeeper has to make her own improvements to suit her home and her own requirements. But this labor-saving idea is worthy of considerable planning by every housewife, and I would like to hear the experiences of some other readers of Farm and Dairy Home Department who have worked out ideas that have proved very beneficial to them and might be equally so to us.



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