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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1919

THE NEW HOUSE

An era of building is commencing all over the country. Houses are needed so badly everywhere that there is grave danger that they will be built in a hurry too great for success. The headless building of a house is much like the headless entrance into matrimony—built in haste, repent in leisure.

A house is built but once. It is lived in every day for many years. It is not only lived in but worked in. It is the field of service of one or more women. It is the training school of children. It needs above all to be built right.

Not only the flimsy building which causes constant repairing is to be deprecated, but the thoughtless building by people who have never con-



sidered the time and energy of women to be of any value.

Experts point out that the kitchen should be so arranged that there is a definite progression without duplication of steps from raw material to mixing table, to range, to dining-room; that there should be a definite progression of soiled dishes from dining-room to drainboard, to sink or dishwasher, to pantry; that the cupboards where dishes are kept should be between sink and dining-table, not on the far side of the kitchen or the far side of the dining-room; that a sink without a double drainboard is an absurdity.

Small things these? But ten wasted minutes and several dozen wasted steps three times a day mount up to many days in the course of a year, and to a goodly number of miles. Why waste half an hour and half a mile a day in futile drudgery which might be spent in some pleasurable or profitable occupation?

The breakfast alcove, where it can be conveniently installed, is a valuable addition to any house, not to substitute for the dining-room, but to supplement it for the separate breakfasts or separate children's lunches which are so often necessary.

Bad building is the most expensive kind. What the country needs is houses of good material, good workmanship, and careful thought as to their design.

PLANT WALNUTS

The war demand for black walnut, to use for gunstocks, called attention to the lamentable scarcity of this precious, once plentiful wood. What man born in the country does not remember the walnut trees of his boyhood, and the nut-piles and stained hands they gave him; He may go far today, through almost any wooded country, without finding a single specimen. The boys of the present generation are deprived of one of the finest of sports, and one of the most valuable varieties of American timber is nearly extinct.

Much was said, during the war, about the desirability of planting another walnut tree wherever an old one was cut down. This has been done to some extent, but the movement ought to be carried much farther. Foresters are now urging particularly that waste land, where the climate is suited to it, be planted in walnut. The seedlings can be obtained by planting the nuts in the garden this fall. They will flourish when set out in proximity to maples, but will not grow if directly in the shade of any other tree.

The walnut is not exactly a pretty tree, according to ordinary notions. It lacks the grace of the elm, the dignity of the oak and the cleanliness and greenness of the maple. It is

not a good shade tree. But its wood is so valuable and it nuts are such treasures to boys of all ages that the foresters' advice ought to be widely followed.

"BUSYBODIES"

Beware the peering periscope. It may become as much of a nuisance in private life as it was in army life when used by the enemy.

The ordnance department of the United States army wants to sell 160,000 surplus rifle periscopes. These implements were used in trench warfare. They consist of ingenious sets of mirrors which can be attached to a rifle barrel or other object and enable the user to see up over a trench or around a corner without exposing himself to bullets or prying eyes.

It is easy enough to figure out uses for these periscopes, whether as toys for children or as instruments enabling habitual busybodies to indulge their prying propensities.

The latter idea is not entirely new in this country. It might be said, indeed, that not only this mode of using the device, but the device itself, is a Philadelphia product. For generations the people of that city have familiar with a mirror arrangement which, fastened to a window, particularly a second-floor window, enables the occupants to see everything that happens on the street without themselves being seen. The popular name for the contraption is "busy-body." On some streets the windows



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If this lot of periscopes is dumped on the market, the thing may become a plague. It can be adapted to manifold forms of "eavesdropping." Think of the neighbors being supplied with the means of seeing nearly everything you do in your own yard, or even inside your own house, without your knowing anything about it.

One's only defense in such a case would be to get a periscope too, and see what the neighbors are doing. So pretty soon we may all be minding other people's business.

THRIFT DAY

There is to be a Thrift Day observed in the schools very shortly at which a letter from Secretary Carter Glass to the school children of this country will be read, urging the children to save their pennies and acquire the habit of thrift.

The habit of saving, Secretary Glass tells the children, "Will lay a foundation for your personal happiness and usefulness, and ultimately for a bigger and better America."

As a counteracting power to the forces of anarchy and radicalism there can be nothing better than that the

great majority of the people shall have acquired habits of economy and thrift. The man with a tidy sum in the saving bank as the result of his personal efforts will not be the man who takes kindly to revolution. Also if the coming generation of Americans has the habit of apportioning its expenses and judging its expenditures by proper standards, it will demand the same sort of care in the expenditure of public moneys, and there will be a much needed reform in the handling of public finance.

More power to the thrift campaign among the children, and its unconscious influence upon their parents! Many of the latter have tasted the bitterness of opportunity lost because, when they were young, no one was standing by to say, "Why don't you buy a thrift stamp with it?"

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