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FORCING GROWTH OF PLANTS

Intelligence of Man Is Enabling Him
to Become Master of Nature and
the Seasons.

By degrees man is becoming master of the seasons. Light and electricity are being pressed into his service, and he can already force on plant growth so rapidly that he can beat the ordinary process of Nature by many weeks.

One method is to treat seed, before planting it, with small doses of high-tension electricity. In 1910 a trial was made of this method near Burnham-on-Crouch, in Essex, England. Spring wheat is usually sown in March or April. On this occasion the wheat of which the seed had been treated by this special process, was not sown until July 19. It was up in five days, and on September 16 was in ear. It was reaped 12 weeks from the time it was sown, whereas the ordinary time for wheat to mature in that country is 18 weeks.

Another method of forcing crops is to run a current of electricity through overhead wires. In this way the yield of oats and beans has been nearly doubled. Experiments tried last year at Lincluden Mains farm in Dumfriesshire, were practically successful. A third method is to use artificial light, either electric or, better still, acetylene. Plants are thus made to grow by night as well as by day. Cabbages and lettuce are easily forced in this way, but other plants such as carrots, seem to resent it. Flowers bloom earlier under artificial light, and are more brilliant.

LOATH TO GIVE UP ARMOR

Nobles Wore It as Gala Costume Long
After It Was of Any Value
as Protection.

Until the sixteenth century armor developed in a logical way; its forms were governed by the necessities of war, changes in it were the result of practical experience and actual experiment on the battlefield—not decided upon in the office of the minister of war.

After the sixteenth century it became fantastic and meaningless, a gala costume rather than a harness; the greatest captains opposed its use, but the nobles clung to it as a mark of distinction.

After it was made bulletproof it became so enormously heavy that at the end of the sixteenth century Lannoe complained that gentlemen of thirty were already deformed by the weight of their armor.

In spite of the huge armors of Henry VIII, of Anthony of Burgundy and of some others, the average size of the modern man is greater than that of the soldier of the middle ages and the renaissance. If we can judge from the armors preserved in the museums of England and the Continent, which are, with few exceptions, small and narrow, especially in the leg and thigh pieces.

Rock That Floats.

James E. Grieve of Prospect, Jackson county, Ore., has a formation of rock on his property which will float. Mr. Grieve claims that floating rock is not uncommon in his vicinity, the supposition being that it is the rock from the eruption when Crater lake was formed, that body of water being about 30 miles from his property. The rock resembles pumice stone and pieces of it can be seen floating around on the ponds. Regarding this strange rock Mr. Grieve says:

"To appreciate this enormous eruption one should visit Crater Lake park and the surrounding country, which is being made more accessible and attractive every year by extensive road and trail work under direction of the war department."

Pity the Manicurist.

Of course you have your little war riles and moments of vexation while going about your daily tasks, but suppose you had to listen to all the hubbub and mushy talk a manicurist has to listen to while she goes about her?—Macon Telegraph.

Remember One's Limitations.

In the moral world there is nothing impossible, if we put a thorough will to it. Man can do everything with himself; but he must not attempt to do too much with others.—Humboldt.

DAIRY

FOUNDATION FOR DAIRY HERD

Excellent Results Obtained in Starting
With Grade Calves From Good
Producers.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Young calves from good dairy cows are a satisfactory foundation for starting a dairy herd. Ordinarily the method advocated is to grade up common cows with a pure-bred bull, requiring a number of years of patient selection and breeding—a period sometimes discouraging to an energetic dairyman. Frequently this causes farmers, who want results too quickly, to change breeds.

It is expensive to buy mature dairy cows that are free from disease, that have good breeding and show desirable productive ability. Often, especially in new dairy sections, a farmer buys mature stock without being properly prepared to care for it, and many discouragements follow. To a great extent most of this difficulty can be avoided by buying good grade heifer calves from herds of well-established milk production. In some dairy regions it is a common practice to sell the heifer calves for veal. These calves, while only grades, are usually from good producing ancestors and carry a productive ability much greater than common cows.

The buying of such calves to start dairy herds has been tried in several states with excellent results. Of course the cost of small calves is much less than mature animals and the danger of disease is also greatly lessened. In general, shipping is simpler. Calves may be shipped by express at from two to four weeks old, depending upon the distance, with good results, if they are properly cared for upon arrival.

In buying it is important to deal only with dairymen. Do not buy from men who purchase calves at stock yards to ship back to the farmers, because it is not always possible to determine the breeding of the calves, and calves that are physically unfit may be shipped.

In some cases shipments are made C. O. D., which enables the buyer to see the calves before paying for them. A man who sells calves in this way makes a special effort to please his



Plan to Meet Increasing Demand for
Milk by Raising Better Dairy Heifers.

customers. It seems desirable, especially in sparsely settled sections, that more attention be given to perfecting a satisfactory system of distributing dairy calves to farmers.

Advantages in buying small calves as a foundation for a dairy herd are summarized as follows:

Small investment.
Better breeding.
Greater freedom from disease.

In case of accident loss is smaller.
Raising calves stimulates interest and in consequence causes better care of live stock.

A satisfactory herd can be established more rapidly than by grading up common cows.

SOLUTION OF FOOD PROBLEM

Dairymen Should Make What They
Have Go Further—Not Necessary
to Slaughter Cows.

Dairymen can solve the feed shortage by the same method that people are using to solve the food shortage; they can make what they have go further. If food economics can result in feeding more people, the same feed can feed more cows.

No one advocates the killing of part of the people in order to provide an abundance of food for the rest. It is not more necessary to kill large numbers of dairy cows because of a short feed supply. Such action, moreover, taken in the face of our national need for dairy products, would be calamitous.

BABCOCK TEST VERY USEFUL

By Its Use Together With Lactometer
Composition of Milk Can Be
Determined for Solids.

The Babcock test is a device for determining the fat content of milk or cream. With this test and a milk scale one can determine the best cows in the herd. By using the Babcock test and the lactometer together the composition of the milk can be determined for total solids.

DUTCH COLONIAL ARTISTIC HOME

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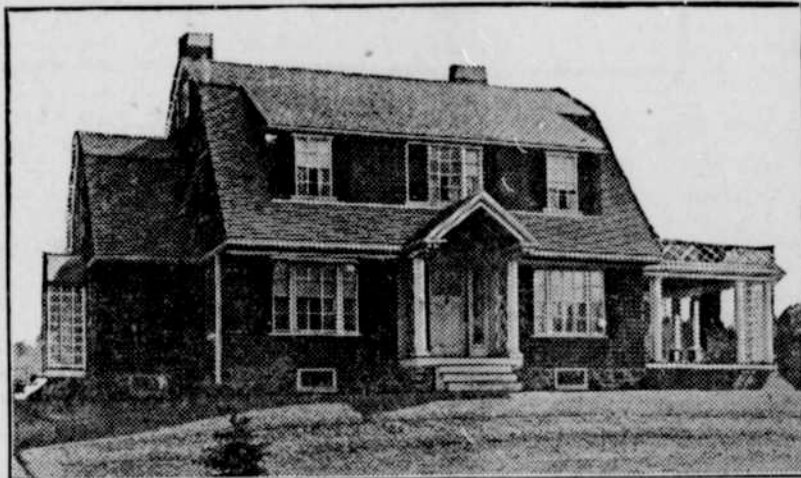
Interior Arrangement Is Strong Feature of the Plans—Rooms Are Large and Conform to Modern Ideas.

Mr. William A. Radford will answer questions and give advice FREE OF COST on all subjects pertaining to the subject of building, for the readers of this paper. On account of his wide experience as Editor, Author and Manufacturer, he is, without doubt, the highest authority on all these subjects. Address all inquiries to William A. Radford, No. 1827 Prairie avenue, Chicago, Ill., and only enclose three-cent stamp for reply.

By WILLIAM A. RADFORD.

Dutch colonial houses are in increasing favor with home builders. The balanced elegance of the exterior, combined with the economy in space in the interior, makes this style of architecture appeal to everyone who wants a fine residence at a moderate cost. An exceptionally fine design of a Dutch colonial house with shingled siding is shown in the accompanying illustration.

The perspective shown illustrates the balance of the exterior of the house. The entrance at the side is



placed exactly in the center, while on either side are duplicate sets of windows. The same effect is secured with the windows on the second floor. Porches, with the roofs supported by colonial columns, are placed at the front end and on the opposite side, and each has a canvas deck. A third deck is over the kitchen entry and pantry. Lattice work between the columns of the porches suggests the added attraction vines will make to the exterior.

It will be noticed by the floor plan that this house is rectangular in shape, 24 by 43 feet, the straight lines of the structure being broken only by the porches and the slope of the roof down to the second floor sill. While shingle construction is shown, brick or stucco may be substituted.

Half of the appeal of this house, however, is in the interior arrangement. While it is a seven-room house, the rooms are large and conform to the modern ideas of arrangement. The

ter. The den is eight and one-half feet square and opens off a side porch, as well as the living room. The front porch is 20 by 10 feet, slightly narrower than the house.

The dining room is on the corner to the rear and is 14 by 11 feet 3 inches. A nook contains the china closet, while there are four windows, giving an abundance of light. The kitchen is the same size as the dining room. It will be noticed that the sink, cupboard and work table are ranged along two walls, with a window between them. The large pantry at the back contains a work table and shelves, a window being over the former, while the ice-box is located so that it can be cooled from the entry. At the end of the central hall, into which each room on the first floor opens, is a lavatory and toilet.

The second floor rooms are practically duplicates of those on the first floor. The bedroom at the front is the same size as the living room, and also has a fireplace. The rear bedroom is the same size as that in front. The size of these rooms permits two beds, while glazed doors open onto the canvas decks.

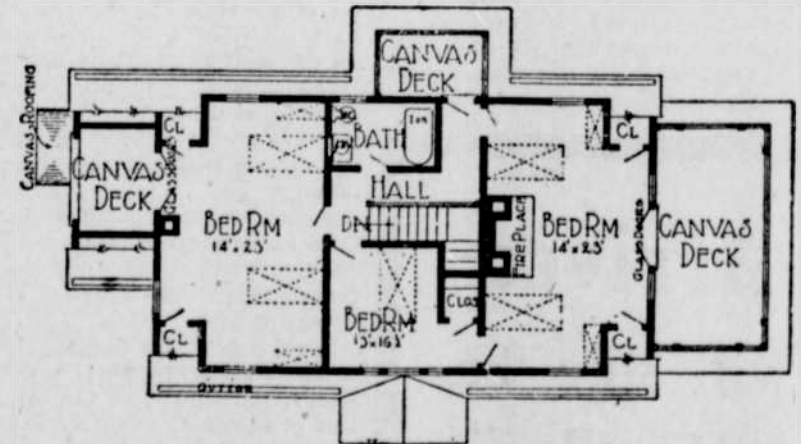
Over the reception hall is a smaller bedroom, that can be used as a sewing room, or nursery, if desired. This room is 13 by 16 feet 3 inches. At the end of the second floor hall is a third canvas deck. There are two closets in each of the large bedrooms and one in the smaller bedroom.

The basement extends under the whole of the building, the inside stairway to it leading from the central hall. The flues are located at either end of the basement, so that the heating plant and fuel storage room can be placed at whichever point it is most convenient. The other part of

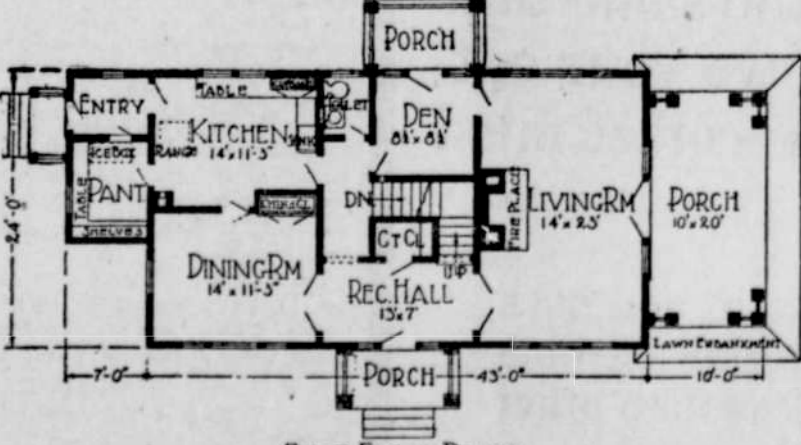
the basement can be devoted to storage rooms for vegetables and the other things that are not constantly in use.

This is an exceptional design for the home builder who wants an artistic, spacious and modern home that does not cost a large amount of money. It was designed by an architect of wide experience. And right here let it be said that whatever type of home the owner wants to build, he should consult an architect. The fee is not large and will be saved many times by eliminating the chances for mistakes in arrangement and materials. Costs of building differ in different localities, but by consulting the local contractor, lumber dealer or architect the prospective home owner can readily find out what a house of this type will cost.

Building a home is most popular this year. There is a shortage of houses almost everywhere, because of the restrictions that were placed on building during the war. Those restrictions



SECOND FLOOR PLAN



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

wide entrance hall, the extensive living room with the den off it, the bright dining room and the good-sized kitchen with the pantry and entry provide just the arrangement that is desired in an up-to-date house. The two large bedrooms, one at the front and one at the rear, with canvas decks opening off them, are exceptional features.

The reception hall is 13 by 7 feet, with a large closet under the stairway. To the right is the living room, extending across the whole front of the house, and to the left is the dining room. The living room is 23 by 14 feet, with a large fireplace in the cen-

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Keeping It Up.

A maid servant applied for a week-end off, as her home was distant, for the purpose of being at home on her parents' silver wedding day.

The leave was granted, and the maid returned.

"Well," said her mistress, "did everything go off satisfactory?"

"Oh, yes, thank you, ma'am," said the girl, "and mother told me to say she is very grateful to you for letting me off."

"And what did your father say?" asked the lady.

"Oh, lor! ma'am," replied the girl, "he wasn't there. He's been dead this 20 years."

That Friend!

"Mother doesn't think she'll go to the theater with us tonight, Albert."

"Is that so? I have got three tickets. What shall I do with the third one?"

"Give it to the man you always go out to see between the acts. He can sit with us and you won't have to go out and see him."

Complimentary to Him.

He—But I asked you, dearest, to keep our engagement a secret for the present.

She—I couldn't help it. That hateful Miss Oldum said the reason I wasn't married was because no fool had proposed to me, so I up and told her you had.—Brooklyn Citizen.

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HAROLD BOMERS, 120 Du Kalb Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.

Mystery Explained.

He stood amid the blaze and splendor of his magnificent mansion, and in his hand he held the portrait of a beautiful woman. His face was pale and haggard, and his lips moved convulsively.

What was this mystery? Was this the picture of his departed wife?

No.

Was it the portrait of his dead but dearly remembered daughter?

No.

What, then, was the cause of his haggard face?

Was it not the same portrait that two minutes ago had fallen from its nail, and raised a lump as big as a hen's egg on his head?

It was.

A Diagnosis.

"Oh, doctor," said a worried looking agrarian, "My wife is in an awful condition! From a medium fat woman she has been reduced to skin and bones. She talks incessantly in a loud squawking voice, begins a sentence and never finishes it, and jumps from subject to subject without uttering anything that has the least sense to it."

"H'm! I see!" returned the physician. "Go home, Mr. Gabbieby, and take out your party line telephone at once. Your wife has been listening in on it too much."—Kansas City Star.

Lots of people make fortunes out of other people's curiosities.

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when you have
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wheat & barley is ready-
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