

The American Home

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Editor

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. 24 Fifth Ave., Chicago, Ill., and only enclose two-cent stamp for reply.

America is a nation of home builders. It has come to the point that a man's standing in a community is measured by his home. It is distasteful to most people to pay rent. The normal man desires to have a home of his own for his children. And these children have a right to a home of their own. It goes without question that a man's work is made lighter as he thinks during the day that his wife and his children are under their own roof. It is true that all men are not able to have a home of their own. They are tied down by conditions that prevent their entering upon so worthy an enterprise. But the desire is there, just the same.

In nearly every town of any size the real estate men and property owners are anxious to offer inducements to home building, and in many instances it is as easy to pay for a home as it is to pay rent. The payments are arranged so that they amount to the same as rent and as they include the interest each month there is no difference, really, except that the buyer must pay the insurance, which is a small matter.

When you come to think of it there is really no excuse for any man paying rent when he can get a home on these terms. He cannot lose anything for the reason that if he should ever fall in his payments he has an equity

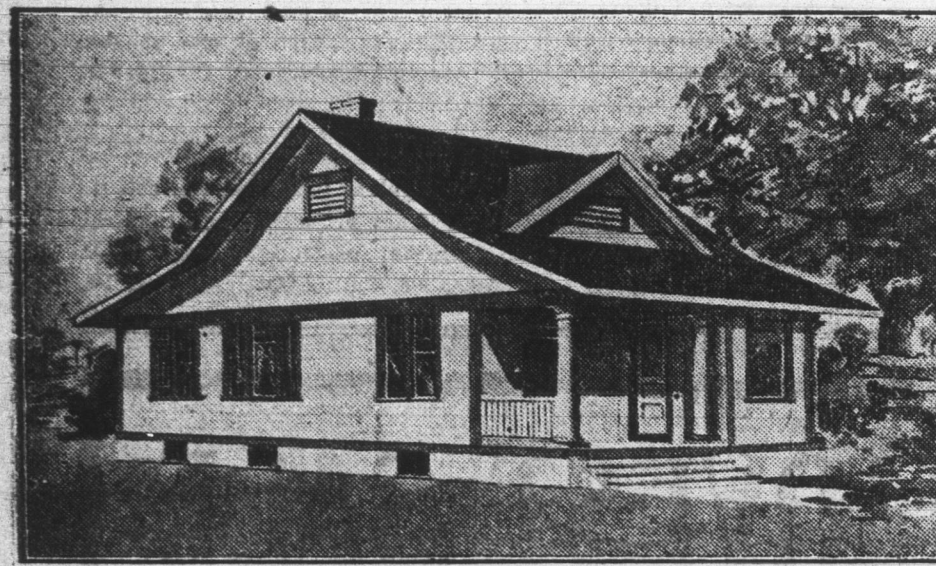
and trees to enhance its beauty. These things are requirements that should not be lost sight of in selecting the location. Entrance is had to a large living room off the front porch. This room is 12' by 20 feet in size. To the left is the library, which can be used as a parlor if desired. But the day of the parlor has passed. It is the vogue now to live all over the house. No longer do we see the parlor which is kept closed and not profaned except when the minister calls or sister gets married. In the center of the house is the bathroom and back of this is a bedroom. The dining room is of good size, and it will be noticed that ample light is provided for. In fact, throughout the house there are plenty of windows. The kitchen is 12 feet square.

It ought to be mentioned that if any person selects this design and wants to build, the best method is to consult a real estate man, if the intending builder does not already own a lot, and arrange to have the house built on the monthly payments plan. Of course, it is preferable to pay cash if possible, but as has been said before, it is not necessary. The main requirement at the outset is the desire to build, and when a man or woman once has such a resolve there is always a way to realize the wish.

HAD REPUTATION AS TALKER

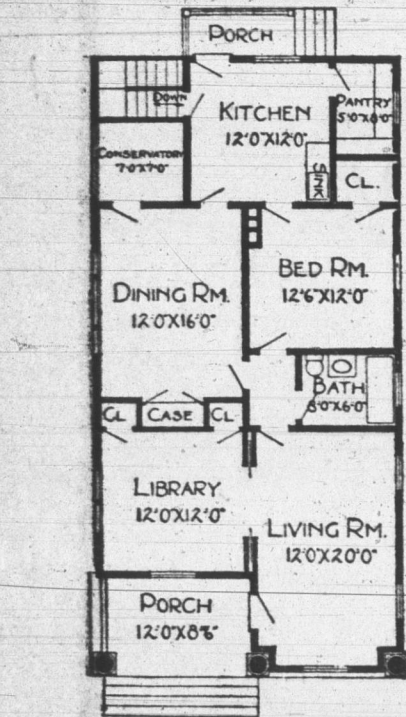
Newspaper Men of the Capital Have Pleasant Memories of John F. Fitzgerald of Boston.

"Well, this certainly looks like old times," remarked Representative James E. Mann of Illinois, as he ob-



that has a cash value, something he could not have if he paid rent. The sense of satisfaction in undertaking an enterprise like this is tremendous, for the occupant feels that he owns the place the minute he gets into it, and the pleasure of making little improvements and adding to the attractiveness of the place is delightful.

There are thousands and tens of thousands of families in the country living in their own homes today, independent of landlords, who never would have possessed anything but



Floor Plan

for this system of monthly payments. It is not necessary to have a large amount of money in many cases. All the real estate man wants is a small payment down as an evidence of good faith, or an earnest that the buyer means business and will not move in a month or two.

The house we show here is one of the type being sold in many localities. Do you not think it would be happier for you to live in a house like this than pay rent? You will have something to live for, and it will be the ambition of your wife and yourself to get it paid for as soon as possible. And you have no idea how easy it will be. This house is arranged with a view to convenience in housekeeping. There are no stairs to climb. And you will notice that the front porch is included under the roof. The house is 26 feet wide and 53 feet long. This house ought to be built on a wide lot that will allow plenty of shrubbery

served Mayor John F. Fitzgerald of Boston in a corridor of the capitol surrounded by newspaper correspondents. "Right," chimed in Representative Roberts of Massachusetts, as he joined the group and shook hands. "Still talking, Fitz?"

When Mayor Fitzgerald was a member of the house, in 1894, he was the youngest member of that body. Incidentally, he was the most energetic, and he had the reputation of being able to get more newspaper space than any other member of congress.

"Fitzgerald's visit," said a member of the house, "reminds me of the days when he was a member here. He was the most remarkably busy man I have ever seen in congress. He always had something on tap that made good newspaper copy, and when the correspondents were in a bad way for news they always could count upon Fitzgerald to give them something worth while."

"The present mayor of Boston was the greatest hustler I have ever seen. I remember a story he told me once about the way he kept his constituents guessing as to his whereabouts. He would deliver a corking good speech in the afternoon, hustle down to the station and catch the through train for Boston, and the next morning he would be back home getting first hand information as to how his remarks were received in his district."

"Jumping back and forth between Washington and Boston was quite as ordinary a journey for him as for the members who go back and forth between Baltimore and Washington every day."—Washington Times.

Famous Guide a Suicide.

Adolphe Balmat, one of the most famous of the Swiss guides, has committed suicide within sight of Mont Blanc, the mountain his ancestor had been the first to scale, in 1786, and which the old guide himself had climbed nearly seventy times. He was no one-mountain man and he knew Monte Rosa, the Matterhorn and the Jungfrau equally well. But, unwilling to risk any longer the lives of his clients or to content himself—no, the great Balmat—with beaten tracks, and unable to bear the mention of his name grow scarcer and scarcer, he has taken what is known as the coward's way out. "How dull it is to pause, to make an end, to rust unburnished, to be saved many lives for the one he took. The bitterness of being superseded is tasted to the full only by those who refuse to relax the battle against years."—London Evening Standard.

EXTRAORDINARY POWER OF A MEDIUM



LEVITATION OF OBJECTS BY MILE. STANISLAW TOMCZYK

THE scientific world of Europe has been much interested in the experiments made by Doctor Ochowicz of Paris, and Wisla of Silesia, with Mile. Stanislaw Tomczyk, a medium who has extraordinary magnetic qualities. When hypnotized, Mile. Tomczyk has the remarkable power of being able to levitate any objects she chooses. In one set of experiments a glove was put on the table in front of her, and at her bidding it rose, curved over from the middle, and went high up into the air, to drop gently into the lap of the person indicated. The same sort of thing she did with a magnet, as well as a pair of scissors, a match-box, and a note-book, the pages of which last turned over in accordance with her directions. Still more striking was one of the experiments with scales. She asked that the scales should be fastened to the bottom of the gas-bracket. This done, an egg-shaped marble paper-weight was placed in one of the pans, and a celluloid ball in the other. By merely placing her hands near the paper-weight she caused that pan to rise until it was on a level with the one containing the light celluloid ball. It need hardly be said that elaborate steps were taken to prove that Mile. Tomczyk had no wires concealed on her person.

TREASURE IS MYTH

Stories of Hidden Gold of Aztecs Inventions of Historians.

Greatest Store of Precious Metal Was Found in Imperial Palace and Promptly Shipped to Spain by Cortez—Amount Is Small.

San Antonio, Tex.—According to Jose Ramon Palafox, a Mexican journalist, who recently passed through this city on his way to Washington, there are no hidden Montezuma treasures.

"No doubt the stories circulated about the hidden treasures of the Aztec emperors have their origin in the sadly exaggerated accounts of old Spanish historians—men who swallowed the yarns of the conquerors of Mexico and whose judgment had been upset by the few shipments of gold and silver made to Spain shortly after the taking of the Aztec capital," said Senor Palafox.

"The amount of gold and silver in the possession of the Aztecs at any time was comparatively small and in the case of the people consisting of little more than a few personal ornaments. The greatest store of these precious metals was found by the Spaniards in the imperial palace and this was promptly shipped to Spain by Cortez. Compared with the wealth of today even this was a mere drop in the bucket. The statement made by historians that Hernando Cortez sent ship loads of gold and silver to his king should not be taken literally, for in all probability it means no more than that heavy shipments of these took place."

"The accounts of the Montezuma treasure is merely a counterpart of similar extravagances found on many pages of history. We read of the fabulous wealth of the people of the Euphrates valley, of the ancient Egyptians, of India and other parts and so far have never found a trace of it. In their day, no doubt, these people had a certain amount of gold and silver, but they never had enough to cause us moderns to call them rich. Dispersed among them in the form of currency, as is the case today, their wealth in precious metals would have made a very poor showing. Gold and silver, then, as in the case of the Aztecs, were not used at all as mediums of exchange or were used only in a very limited way. Rulers paid and received tributes in the form of gold and as a rule converted it into articles of practical value or objects of art. The old records show this down to a very late date. The tribute collected by the kings of Egypt, for example, were gold and silver vases, statuettes and the like. We see Rameses reward the services of his generals by hanging a golden chain around their necks and so on."

"Conditions in Mexico when the conquistadores got there were the same. Metals did not figure to any extent as money or its equivalent. In the palace of the emperor gold and silver were found in the shape of cooking utensils, toilet articles and wall coverings. Perhaps a small store of gold and silver ingots was also discovered and so, no doubt, was a small quantity of precious stones."

"The so-called Aztec codices telling of the whereabouts of hidden treasure are all spurious and are sold to unsuspecting foreigners for fancy prices. It is an industry somewhat analogous to the making of antique furniture and jewels. Of course only the most credulous are taken in and usually one experience suffices to tell

the purchaser of a codex that he has been humbugged. However, sometimes a great deal of harm is done by an unscrupulous man getting possession of a so-called codex. He is enterprising enough to turn his purchase to good account as far as he is concerned, but those who have been foolish enough to believe his plausible stories will find that the Montezuma treasure is no more than a fable—is, in fact, a swindle. Probably no one knows Mexico better than do its natives and nowhere are traditions and the like better preserved. In view of these facts it would be more than strange that the Mexican should sell information as to treasures when he could lift the hoard himself."

Asked what he thought of the codex now said to be in the possession of an American by the name of T. A. Kenyon, Mr. Palafox expressed himself to the effect that in all probability it was no better than other documents of that kind, and that quite often a so-called codex was well enough executed to even deceive those familiar with the subject.

"A great deal of harm has been done to Mexican investment opportunities by ancient mine and hidden treasure swindles," said Mr. Palafox. "No sane man should take any stock in either. Mexico is well stocked with Americans who do nothing else but exploit their countrymen on the other side of the Rio Grande. This also applies to some of the rubber land and colonization propositions. Americans ready to invest money in the republic should first put themselves in touch with the Mexican government." Doing this will save them money and disappointment."

ANIMALS AT SCHOOL

Not to Learn, But to Instruct Young Chicago Pupils.

Bugs, Frogs, Puppies, Kittens, Mice and Other Dumb Candidates Admitted to Inculcate Taste for Nature Study.

Chicago.—Kittens, puppies, pigeons, chickens, rabbits, squirrels, guinea pigs, Japanese mice, white rats, tadpoles, salamanders, turtles, toads, frogs, birds, bugs, ants and bees are some of the new pupils which a committee of principals and district superintendents appointed by Mrs. Ella Flag Young has decided to admit to the Chicago public schools.

At the head of "Alice in Wonderland"—or was it "Alice in the Looking Glass?"—Lewis Carroll describes a court scene in which the jury box is just such a strange little menagerie as this. The idea was one which appealed powerfully to the imaginations of children.

Acting on the same principle, the school authorities have decided to give the youngsters in the kindergarten grades this strange conglomeration of school companions. They wish to inculcate in the children a taste for nature study and they believe this the best way to do it.

With nature's living handcraft before them, they feel, the youngsters' interest will be quickened. In time they will come to know their grotesque schoolmates as well as they do the little boys and girls who study with them, and from this will come not only knowledge that will be useful, but a humanity toward all living creatures which will make the lives of future generations of frogs, tadpoles, mice, turtles and even salamanders better worth the living.

The list of the dumb candidates for kindergarten work has just been made out and will be submitted to a mass meeting of the principals to be held with Mrs. Young. It is expected that all of them will be allowed to matriculate.

In a higher grade of the kindergarten work the children will take up the feeding of caterpillars and the study of the habits of crickets and spiders. The report in which the strange roster of kindergarten pupils is suggested says:

"The kindergarten should aim to develop the sense of delight in nature and of interesting plays with nature material, also the sense of affectionate kinship with all living things."

"Short excursions should be taken often, especially in the spring and fall. The purposes of these excursions should be to see trees, flowers, grass and to have motor and sense experience in connection with them, such as feeding the roughness of the bark, the coolness of the grass, and so on; to gather pods if possible, to play with shadows and sunshine, to watch the clouds, to feel the wind and play with it. There should be many plays with lights and colors, blowing soap bubbles, using reflected and refracted light and transparencies."

Matador Gets Much Money.

San Antonio, Tex.—According to Jose del Rivero, manager of the City of Mexico bull ring, who is now on his way to Spain, where he will book bull fights, the highest salary ever paid a matador will be given to Antonio Fuentes during his performances at the Mexican capital next September.

Fuentes will appear four times, and for this will receive the sum of \$40,000, or \$10,000 for each performance. This is a higher remuneration than is given to the greatest operatic stars.

Dentistry Reforms Bad Boy

Delinquent Chicago Urchin Testifies to Good Done Him by Forwarding Gold Piece.

Chicago.—Ten dollars' worth of dentistry, supplied by the Children's Day association has reformed a delinquent Chicago urchin into an honest, industrious boy. A five-dollar gold piece received in Chicago the other day proves the transformation.

Joseph Bejlovec, sixteen years old, a Bohemian boy, is the hero of the story. Bejlovec was until a short time ago a delinquent youth, spent most of his time dodging the truant officer and the rest in mischief of more or less serious nature.

He was arrested and taken before the juvenile court. There he was examined by the physician attached to the court and his teeth found to be in bad condition. The physician spoke to the court nurse and the nurse told the agent of the Children's Day association. The association is devoted to relieving emergency cases that appear before the court, and the agent was interested immediately.

She gave \$10 to be used in fixing Bejlovec's teeth. As soon as this was done the judge told the boy he would not punish him, but would send him to a farm at Scherville, Ind., where he could work and if he were willing to do so could save enough money to pay back the \$10.

Bejlovec went to the farm. The other day a letter was received at the offices of the Children's Day association in the Woman's Temple. When it was opened a five-dollar gold piece rolled from the envelope. It was from Bejlovec. He said he was working steadily; had saved the five dollars;

wanted it to be accepted as half payment of his debt, and that he would have the other five dollars saved up within a short time and would send it on.

MERMAID IS FRIGHTFUL SIGHT

Dugong, With Great Mouth and Big Lips, Arrives From South Africa in Tank.

New York.—A "mermaid" in a tank of embarking fluid arrived from South Africa on the top deck of the American liner Philadelphia.

This "mermaid" is known scientifically as a dugong of the species serenia. It is supposed to be a survival of the legend of the sea that gave rise to the belief that beautiful creatures, half human and half fish, appeared occasionally at the surface of the water and tried to entice sailors to follow them into the deep.

The specimen that arrived here was hardly capable of enticing anyone anywhere, except in an opposite direction. It has a great mouth at the top of its head and big lips immediately below. The chest, however, has a suggestion of that of a human being, and it is said that even today the dugong is accustomed to ride upright in the waters and hold its offspring in one of its flippers, as a woman would her child.

The "mermaid" was caught in Delagoa bay, after a 14-hour struggle. George Victor, who has fishing concessions in Portuguese East Africa, made the capture. He made every effort to get it to land alive, but it lived only a short time after it had been taken. He exhibited it in South Africa and brought it here for exhibition.

OF INTEREST TO THE COOK

Some Culinary Hints of Importance—Excellent Method of Serving Toothsome Cucumber.

French dressing served with plain lettuce is most attractive looking if seasoned with apricot, which gives it a rich coral color.

An egg that has not been boiled long enough can be quickly hardened by putting the egg cup containing it in boiling water. That improves the flavor.

A pleasant change from cream cheese is cheese flavored with pinolias. It can readily be molded into balls.

Cottage cheese must be eaten the day it is mixed in hot weather, as it quickly sours. Double or whipping cream improves it.

Cut cucumbers in half lengthwise, peel and put in ice water unsalted for 20 minutes. Place flat side down on platter on which they are to be served, slice, keeping shape. Garnish with button radishes or larger ones cut into sections or thin, round slices. Cover with thick French dressing.

Cucumbers are better to eat and look at if the rinds are cut in two lengthwise, hollowed, and filled with the mixture, finely shredded and mixed with French dressing.

Have you ever tried making French dressing over a big lump of ice? The ingredients are put in a bowl around the ice and thoroughly mixed by lifting it up over the lump until it becomes a thick, chilled emulsion.

The Home



Nickel may be kept bright by being rubbed with wool saturated in ammonia.

Alcohol and whiting make a good silver polish, also excellent for polishing plate glass mirrors.

A piece of flannel dampened with spirits of camphor will sometimes remove stains from mirrors and window glass.

Don't use soap for varnished paper. Instead try half a pint of paraffin in a panful of warm water. Dip a woolen cloth into this, wring it fairly dry and with it wash the walls. Polish with a dry linen cloth.

A good use for the bits of soap that accumulate on the toilet stands is to dry them out thoroughly by placing them on tins in the warming oven and then pounding to a powder.

Gas Waste in Cooking.

The majority of women waste gas in cooking. The wasteful ones keep the burner on at full height all the time food is cooking, and oven burner turned on full until the food is taken out.

When the boiling has started the gas may be lowered so that it merely maintains the boiling, and often the simmer burner is sufficient. In many instances the oven burner may be turned off before the food is done, and the heat retained in the oven will be sufficient for the proper cooking of the food.

Johnny Cake.

Sift together one cupful yellow meal, three level teaspoonfuls of salt and a tablespoonful of sugar. Add one well-beaten egg and two cupfuls of milk and water. Beat and pour into a buttered pan. When you wish to bake in a coal or wood stove use the accompanying directions: Start the baking on the bottom of the oven, then if the top does not brown fast enough change it to the top. If started on top a crust is liable to form so that it cannot rise and will be raw on the bottom.

Deviled Eggs.

Boil four eggs hard. Lay them in fresh water until they are cold. Cut them in halves. Cut off the ends of the whites enough to make them stand upright. Remove the eggs and yolks and mix them with the anchovy paste, cayenne pepper and salt. Replace the mixture in the spaces left by removing the yolks. Place the eggs in a round, shallow dish, with either mustard or cress, or small leaves of lettuce.

Vegetables.

Turnips, squash or cauliflower, cut in small pieces, cook in salted water till tender, drain, place in casserole with one or two minced green peppers, a tablespoonful of butter and half cup of rich milk; bake in moderate oven 15 or 20 minutes, then pour over vegetables a cream sauce, add a layer of buttered crumbs and leave casserole uncovered in oven for a few minutes till crumbs have become a delicate brown.

Cheese Balls.

The white of two eggs, two ounces of grated cheese, salt and cayenne. Beat the eggs to a stiff froth, stir in the cheese, salt and cayenne pepper. Shape the mixture into balls the size of marbles and drop them into boiling lard. Fry them for about five minutes, till a golden brown, drain well and serve with grated cheese.