

\$500 More a Year Farming.

(Continued from Page 8.)

new mattress. It will be more sanitary—more healthful—and more comfortable. Open up the sleeping rooms so that light, sunshine and fresh air may freely enter at all times. These are our best disinfectants. Sunshine and night air are not harmful but their absence is.

Pure water is a necessity and water in abundance is of untold value in any home. Do not stop planning and improving until a bath tub and water works are obtained. They cost considerable, but sufficient desire will bring them and when once obtained they would not be given up for five times their cost. If they are now beyond your reach, they need not be so for very long. The effort and the cost to obtain them is not so great as anticipated, and the benefits are far beyond your present conception.

Don't Neglect the Yard and Home Grounds.

EVERY ALL MEANS have a grass covered yard about the house and keep it neat and clean. Flowers are useful in character building in the home, but do not make the front yard a neglected flower garden. Bank or set the flowers together near the house, or against the fence or grow them in a separate plot outside the front yard. The proper growth for the front yard are grass and trees, and not too many of the latter, which should be planted some distance from the house.

It is beyond the understanding of the writer why so many, especially in the rural sections of the South, possess such a mortal fear and bitter hatred of grass. If it by chance

attempts to grow near the house, it is at once attacked, dug up, exterminated, and a bare yard of sand or clay left, to be swept when convenient—a barren, desolate ugly sight, where nature would put a beautiful green sward, if permitted to do so. The grass can be cut with less labor than the bare earth can be kept cleanly swept. We hope no country doctor is responsible for the ridiculous and false idea that the grass is unhealthy. Grass is nature's protection for the bare, ugly soil and a yard covered with growing grass that is regularly cut is a better condition from the standpoint of beauty or health. Of course, the grass should be kept cut short, but as stated this can be done with less labor than the bare clay or sand can be kept clean. It is also a mistaken idea that mosquitoes and flies breed in tall grass. Mosquitoes breed only in stagnant water and house flies in horse stable manure. Remove these and do away with both, but by all means let the grass grow over the front yard and add at least one touch of Nature's beauty to the place.

When boys and girls go away from home and find other homes more beautiful and attractive than their own, there will be less desire to return. To prevent the boys and girls leaving the farms we must remove the causes. Moreover, there will be more inspiration to work and more zest, life, and energy put into work wherever proper home conveniences are provided, and thus these things will not only add color and beauty to our lives, but will also help us toward the "\$500 More a Year." But the greatest gain is in more comforts and richer lives.

The Sort of Farm Homes We are Trying to Bring About.

A GREAT DEAL has been said of late about the hard lot of the farmer's wife. For our part, we believe that it is very much better in all cases to point out and emphasize the good rather than to dwell upon the bad, and we should rather have stories of contented wives who have the conveniences they need, or who realize that they are getting them as fast as their husbands' means will permit, than stories emphasizing the darker side of the problem.

In every case certainly the farmer should get improved equipment for the household and kitchen just as fast as he gets improved tools or machinery for the farm. If the farmer is poor, just as he gets improved cultivators, mowers, manure spreaders, etc., for his own work, so he should get washing machines, water works, ranges, etc., for his wife's work.

All of which reminds us that a Missouri woman reader of Uncle Remus' Magazine recently described the sort of farm homes she lives among, and they are the sort that The Progressive Farmer is trying to bring about in every part of our territory, the sort of homes that go along with progressive farming, stock-raising, soil-building and the other policies that we are eternally advocating. All these things cannot come at once, of course, but the following letter from the Missouri farm woman to whom we have already alluded, illustrates the sort of farms and farm homes we shall eventually have in every part of the Carolinas, Virginia, Georgia and Tennessee (at least wherever white peo-

ple predominate) and we should work toward this end as rapidly as possible.

And for this reason every farmer's wife—as well as the farmer himself—should interest herself in better farm methods and try to bring them about. But here is the letter from the Missouri farm woman:

"I was surprised and indignant on reading Caroline Burke's picture of the average farmer's home, with its unwholesome, disease-producing surroundings, and still more surprised that Mrs. Bryan, in her editorial comments on Caroline Burke's letter, agreed with her concerning the unsanitary conditions on most farm-homes, the unwholesome cooking, the pig pens, etc. Now, I earnestly wish these ladies could see the homes of our Missouri farmers—the beautiful, well-kept grounds, the clean back yards. Such a thing as a pig sty is unknown with us. We have large bluegrass pastures in which our many hogs are kept and they stay at night and in cold weather in fine, roomy barns where they lie in clean straw upon cement floors that are kept constantly clean. The hog is naturally a clean animal, and will not have perfect health if kept in filthy, close quarters. We raise prize-winners here. One of our neighbors received ten prizes for fine stock at our last fair.

"In our neighborhood, there are only two homes where the old adage, 'Cleanliness is next to godliness,' is not acted upon. The ladies at the heads of these homes were city-bred girls. I really think that if Mrs. Bryan and Caroline Burke criticised

city back yards they would have been nearer the mark.

"As for unwholesome cookery, fried meat, etc., our farmers' wives are excellent cooks; their kitchens are like parlors; they have sinks and all modern conveniences. All of us have gas engines which pump the water into our homes, light up both houses and barns with electricity, saw the wood, run the washing machine, turn the cream separator, run the churn, and make all labor light and easy.

"We have plenty of time to read and visit. We read standard works—Shakespeare, Dickens, Byron and Scott—in preference to modern literature. We have good libraries, excellent schools, telephones, mail and grocery delivery, carriages and buggies—with the finest horses in the States. Missouri horses are widely famed, and the State is known as the horse and mule market of the world. When our boys plow, they ride a handsome red plow with a white umbrella attached to it to ward off the sun, and they hold lines over the backs of an eight hundred or thousand dollar span of mules. All of our farmers have fine carriages and buggies; some have automobiles. Thus you can see we have everything that city people have except dust, noise, smoke and impure air, and we can do without those.

"Best of all, we have health. Our girls and boys are splendid specimens of young womanhood and manhood. Of all the pretty, well-bred, well-dressed girls I ever saw, I give the premium to those whom the farmers bring in to fairs and other county gatherings, in elegant carriages, behind high-spirited, glossy-coated horses, that seem proud to bear their burden of beauty. Our people live to advanced age. One of our neighbor men is ninety-two and he mounts his fine horse and canters to town—ten miles—and back in a day. My mother, who is seventy-two and has a lovely pink and white complexion, drove to our county seat and back—twenty miles in all—one zero day in winter, without complaint. She is a college graduate. All our people are well educated. Many are competent to teach in college and university if they wished to enter professional life. There is no need of an entertainment hall in our community. Every home has a good piano and the

children are well instructed in music. Many of them are graduates in this art. All receive high school education, and many of them graduate from colleges. Thus, with every surrounding conducive to health, prosperity and pleasure, our people are contented and happy. Can the same be said of most dwellers in the large and crowded cities?"



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