

IDEAS for HOME BUILDERS

By WM. A. RADFORD

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. 178 West Jackson boulevard, Chicago, Ill., and only enclose two-cent stamp for reply.

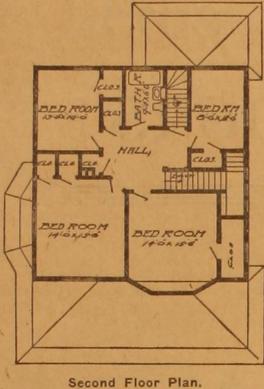
One of the objections sometimes made to the use of concrete in building construction is the fact that the finished surface is rough and no attempt is made to give a finish to the surface, either in the molds or after their removal. This is probably due to an idea that interfering with the surface would destroy the skin of the concrete and lessen its usefulness.

Two methods are now being successfully employed, giving a finish to concrete either in molded blocks, or monolithic construction in place. The first of these methods is to apply fresh granite to the face of the mold, which gives it all the finish and durability of granite ashlar. This finishing material is ground and sifted into various sizes, several of which are employed in making the facing mixture, on the same principle as mixing aggregates so as to fill the voids. The best proportion is one of cement to three of aggregate of different sizes. A small quantity of hydrated lime is added, which on account of its fineness, acts as a waterproofing, likewise preventing the block from sticking to the mold. The ingredients are thoroughly mixed while still dry. The face of the mold is wiped clean and dry. A thin layer of almost dry spar mixed with a little cement mixed with a little hydrated lime is spread on the plate. On top of this a half inch of ordinary mixture is spread, then a layer of rich backing and finally, the ordinary block mixture which should be tamped hard.

The above method is the one used when a face down concrete block machine is used, while the reverse process is used with a face up machine. In this case the grit or feldspar is sifted dry on the wet cement. The spar may be pressed into the surface by running a roller over it. After it has set the surface is washed with a

four hours. The molds are removed and the concrete is rubbed down with carborundum bricks. This gives a beautiful polish.

Here is displayed the design of a house that could be finished in this manner at no very great expense. The concrete walls could be carried to the second floor and the balance of the structure could be of frame construction. The house is 34 feet 6 inches wide and 34 feet long, exclusive of the porch. The porch of this house extends clear across the front, assuring good shade at almost any time of the day. One enters the house into a large reception hall and to the left is the fine living room which is well lighted. A large dining room is



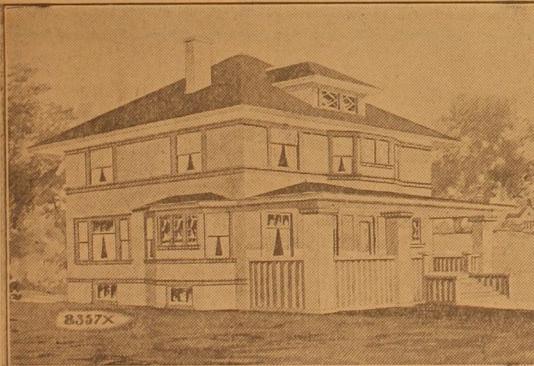
Second Floor Plan.

directly back of this and to the right is the kitchen. The kitchen is entered through an enclosed porch and directly available is a good sized pantry.

On the second floor are four bedrooms. A bathroom is also provided for.

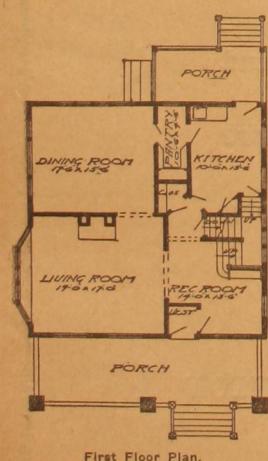
This house, if finished in the manner prescribed, will look well if built on a corner lot, as it will present an exceptionally fine appearance.

It may also be added that if concrete is used in construction, the



solution of one part of muriatic acid to eight of water to remove any stains. Then it is washed with clean water to remove traces of the acid. In monolithic construction the sides of the forms are plastered with about a half inch of the facing material before the filling is placed.

The second method of finishing concrete surfaces is to give them an ashler like appearance by polishing the surface with carborundum bricks and water. This method is applicable to



First Floor Plan.

monolithic concrete, as the molds in which it is formed are built up of boards, which have a tendency to warp and are more or less rough. In this case the inside of the mold which forms the face of the walls is plastered with a rich material. The concrete which is to form the bank of the wall is filled in and allowed to set twenty-

house will be warmer in winter and much cooler in summer than it would be if built entirely of frame.

The cost of this house is estimated at \$4,500.

Toot Code.

Mayor Harrison of Chicago was being congratulated at a luncheon on his ordinance forbidding chauffeurs to blow their horns in the crowded business sections of the city.

"Chauffeurs think," he said, "that they need only blow their horns and the pedestrian will leap out of the way. Let the chauffeurs drive with care, remembering that the pedestrian's right is supreme.

"Why, if something isn't soon done, the chauffeurs in their arrogance will be getting up a horn code for the pedestrian to learn and obey—a code something like this:

"One toot—Throw a quick back handspring for the sidewalk.

"Two toots—Dive over the car.

"Three toots—Lie down calmly; it is too late to escape; but we will go over you as easily as possible if you keep very still.

"One long and two short toots—Throw yourself forward and we will save both your arms.

"One short and two long toots—Throw yourself backward and one leg will be saved.

"Four toots—It's all up with you, but we promise to notify your family."

Fast Meters.

Gotham—Don't you find everything very slow in Philadelphia?

Penn.—No, not in my business.

"Why, what is your business?"

"I'm a gas meter examiner."

A Difference.

Photographer—I was very well satisfied with the negative I got of Miss Flirty.

Rejected Lover—Yes, but you didn't ask her to marry you.

SIMPLICITY IS CHARM

WELL TO KEEP IN MIND WHEN ORDERING GRADUATION DRESS.

The More Girlish the Frock, the Better Will the Wearer Appear, and There Are Many Materials to Select From.

Girlish simplicity is the correct thing in graduation frocks—even the most ambitious of graduates recognizes that fact. But there are many versions of this simplicity, and it is attainable at varying prices and different degrees of elaboration.

It is easy enough to make a distinctly girlish frock of sheer lingerie or net or lace and chiffon cost \$150 or \$200, if one goes to a fashionable



Shadow Lace Over Foundation of Messaline.

dressmaker for it and gives carte blanche in matters of handwork and real lace, and there are many girls in ultra smart boarding schools who have ordered frocks of this type. But the great host of girl graduates is by necessity limited to a less costly variety of frock simplicity, and after all, the indefinable charm attached to youth has more to do with the success of a graduation frock than hand tucks and real lace.

There are quantities of models and materials available for the youthful graduate. The materials most in favor are fine cotton marquisette, cotton voile, fine linen lawns, lace, net and chiffon.

The most practical of graduating frocks is, of course, the frock that will stand tubbing and look well after the ordeal. Fine lingerie frocks are nowadays more often sent to the cleaner than to the laundress, but the young girl is not as a rule over careful of her clothes and if a frock must go to the cleaner often during the summer one will have little comfort from it. Perhaps the summer is to be spent where no cleaning establishment is close at hand and inconvenience is added to the time and expense entailed.

It stands to reason therefore that the frock actually fitted for tubbing is the practical dress for the girl whose wardrobe is limited, and it is quite possible to take this into consideration without sacrificing too much upon the altar of utility.

LATE IDEAS IN MILLINERY

Prevailing Styles Really Show Little New, Though There Have Been a Few Changes Made.

Naturally, at this date very little that can be rightfully termed new is in evidence, says the Dry Goods Economist. The most pronounced change is the return of maline hats to strong favor.

Drapes of maline over hemp are especially favored; but brim extension, ruffles and huge wired bows of maline are also being offered.

Hats of Chantilly lace are being prominently featured. Some of the most striking of these have the lace fitted so smoothly and firmly over a wire foundation as to present almost a tailored appearance.

The popularity of quills continues unabated. They are used either alone or in combination with wheat, flowers, ribbon or feathers. Among the smartest models now shown are white hems trimmed with white quills and white wheat, with a white moire ribbon band.

Another striking combination is a broad black quill with tiny white paradise sprays curling out from its center.

Floenced Skirts.

Floenced skirts are shown on many of the new tub models appearing in the shops, but invariably are the flounces slim and ungathered, not increasing by a hair's breadth the slender silhouette of the skirt. A charming little frock of blue and white striped dimity has three

A fine linen is the most satisfactory material for the lingerie frock that is to endure tubbing, and it will pay to obtain an excellent quality. Batiste, voiles and marquisettes are softer and launder well if carefully handled, but linen will outwear them every time.

The cotton marquisettes, cotton voiles and crapes are more recent arrivals and have achieved decided popularity, and a very large percentage of the cotton graduating frocks this year are being made up in these materials. They launder well, are easily handled, are very soft and graceful, and durable despite their sheerness and lend themselves admirably to simple forms of trimming, although they may be made very elaborate with hand embroidery.

The cotton crapes in really good quality are attractive materials and are enjoying a great vogue, both for blouses and tub frocks. It is said that they require no ironing and are very practical on that account, but laundresses insist that they are by no means easily laundered, as they require stretching and more or less careful pressing to get them into the right shape after laundering.

Embroidered cotton voiles and marquisettes make attractive graduating frocks and in all the shops where youthful dresses are shown one finds quantities of such frocks made of such material.

MARY DEAN.

TO HOLD DAINTY NIGHTDRESS

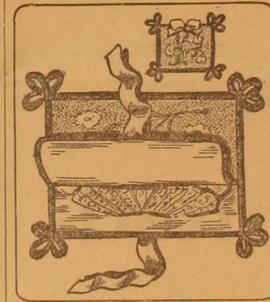
Pretty Case of Pale Pink Satin Lined With White Silk—Strings to Match Material.

Something very pretty in the shape of a nightdress case may be seen in the accompanying sketch. It is carried out in pale pink satin and lined with soft white silk and edged with silk cord and tied together with ribbon strings of a color to match the satin.

Between the covers and the lining a double thickness of swansdown flannelette should be sewn in to give the case substance. On the front of the case a design of three white dog-roses and foliage is embroidered, but there are, of course, many other pretty designs that might take its place, and for this purpose a transfer pattern of some suitable floral design may be easily obtained at a trifling cost.

The blossoms should, however, be worked in white, as white blossoms and green foliage always look charming upon a pink background.

The case opens in front for a third of the way down, and after the night-



dress has been placed inside, the flap is folded upwards and secured with the ribbon strings.

The small sketch on the right hand side shows the case so closed, and by the way, the silk cord, which is of a fancy pattern, is carried into three little loops at each corner.

This sachet might, of course, be made in other colors, and it is always a pretty idea with articles of this description to select colors to match or harmonize with that of the bed quilt, or perhaps in the event of a white bed quilt, the wall paper.

LIKE THE SEPARATE COLLAR

No Accessory of the Season Has Been Received With More Genuine Appreciation.

An accessory which can be adopted with greater confidence is the separate white collar to be worn with the coat. A few years ago girls and younger women wore embroidered white collars over their coat lapels, but the present renaissance of the fashion is in a different form. The collars now worn are much more attractive and elaborate. They come in all the modifications of the square or rounded cut and very often end in the long ruffle or plaiting which is so great a fad just now. Others are in the shape of a modified fichu. They are both becoming and practical, as they protect the waist underneath. Especially with a collarless blouse—that is to say, an open-necked one—they are almost necessary. Otherwise the hard line of the coat is very trying, both in appearance and in feeling.

Sleeve Drapery.

One of the most graceful fashions of today for evening gowns is the use of sleeve drapery that carries a flowing line of color from the bodice over the arms and sometimes far below the waist line.

Sleeve drapery can be of rich metallic laces, either gold or silver; tulle, maline or chiffon. It is frequently caught under buckles or fancy cabochons at the shoulders. From this point the material falls back over the arms, and sometimes is continued in long lines as a train. The effect is medieval and beautiful.

MANILA A MODEL FOR CHINA

New Republic Will Be Kept Busy Widening and Cleaning Her Streets.

Pekin, China.—The new republic of China indeed will have to make some dizzy strides in civic improvements to bring her streets up to the standard set by more modern cities elsewhere throughout the world. The cities of China are notorious to travelers for their narrowness and uncleanness. Often they are more crooked than the meander of a mountain stream, and are fit for pedestrian traffic only. This condition prevails to more or less extent in all Asiatic cities, and when we occupied Manila a similar condition confronted us. For a long time our officials tried to be content with the crooked streets, but it was known that sooner or later they must be widened, straightened, and otherwise improved. Manila has many streets as dark, narrow and irregular as any to be found in Can-



Typical Manila Street.

ton or Peking. But these are being gradually straightened, usually at great expense. It is probable that China will take some lessons from our undertakings in civic betterment in their locality. All they have to do is to send some of their municipal engineers over to Manila to look around a bit. There they will find the most discouraging of thoroughfares turned into beautiful boulevards almost over night. In Manila the engineers have run transit lines right through business houses and private residences to dodge curves and angles.

PRISON SUNLESS 80 YEARS

So Says Commissioner Blake, New York, of Lower Cells at Sing Sing—Stories of Torture.

Albany, N. Y.—"Stories of torture of prisoners in the middle ages sound like descriptions of luxuries in comparison to the tales that have been told me of the lives that some of the prisoners in Sing Sing live."

This striking indictment of conditions alleged to exist within New York state's oldest penal institution is contained in a report of an investigation of the prison made by George W. Blake, a special commissioner appointed by Governor Sulzger to probe prison affairs. The investigator describes conditions as "frightful." The prison cells, he says, are dark, small, damp, filthy and infested with vermin. In them men contract rheumatism and go out crippled for life. Into one of the cells on the lower tiers has a ray of sunshine entered for 80 years. Certain prisoners, Mr. Blake asserts, through political influence or by the payment of money, receive favors. He has evidence, he says, showing that because of influence, exerted by men well known in various walks of life, money has been wrung from persons seeking clemency for prisoners.

"The worst feature of the prison management cannot be discussed in any public document," says the report, "but the subject is of such vital importance to the welfare of the state that no time should be lost in submitting it to the attention of men competent to present a method of bettering a condition that breeds disease of the mind and body and that should touch the hearts of every man with any human instincts."

FEET OF POLICE TICKLED

Three St. Louis Officers Ask for Transfers, Saying Jars Make Them Seaisick.

St. Louis, Mo.—Here is a real police shakeup:

Three members of the traffic squad have asked to be put back on beats because the vibration caused by the trains running through the tunnel and street cars on the surface is shaking them up so that they feel seasick nearly all the time, and their nerves are so affected that they can't keep their feet still.

The men who have asked to be transferred are Frank Dempsey, at Eighth street and Washington avenue; John Smith, at Seventh street and Washington avenue, and George Stowell, at Olive and Ninth streets. These stations are almost directly over the Eads bridge tunnel, through which many trains pass every day.

Gems Hidden In His Garter.

Seattle, Wash.—J. Hunter, a boot-black of Vancouver, B. C., was detained and searched when a steamship reached Seattle the other day, and customs officers found in a garter which he wore diamonds and other jewelry valued at \$1,500.

STATE NEWS

Mount Carmel.—With the signing of the "epileptic colony" bill by Governor Dunne, the dreams of one of Mount Carmel's physicians became a reality. Dr. J. B. Maxwell of this city was the first one to advocate an epileptic colony in the State of Illinois. In his early days in the practice of medicine, more than twenty years ago, he was a prominent worker in the State Medical Society of Illinois. He became interested in epileptic cases, and brought the attention of the state society to the matter. In time he brought the matter before the state legislature, and advocated the passage of a bill appropriating enough money for the establishment of a colony for the treatment of the epileptics, on the order of asylums for the insane. After working for years without securing the passage of the measure he dropped it, and only recently was it revised, and at the present session the bill was introduced.

Lena.—August 14-24 are the dates selected for the camping of the Rockford district of the Methodist Episcopal church, to be held in this city.

Galena.—After his left arm had been caught and crushed between a shive wheel and a heavy steel cable running over the wheel, James Pascoe, a miner, hitched a horse to a buggy and drove six miles to town, where a surgeon amputated the injured member.

Peoria.—The thirty-third annual convention of the Illinois State Undertakers' association was held in Peoria. The opening session of the big gathering was called to order by Enos H. Renner of Urbana, president of the organization, in the Coliseum.

Princeton.—The Springfield board of education is making a bid to secure the services of Senator H. S. Magill of Princeton as superintendent of the Springfield city schools. The position carries with it a salary of \$3,600 a year.

Rock Island.—It is expected that a large number of members of the Illinois State Fire Prevention society from Chicago and other large cities will be in Rock Island on June 10 in response to an invitation extended by the Rock Island Business Men's association and the Rock Island club.

Rock Island.—The new manual arts high school was dedicated with impressive ceremonies. The new building devoted entirely to manual training of high school pupils, erected at a cost of \$100,000, is one of the finest in the state.

Peoria.—Several hundred undertakers of the state are in Peoria to attend the sessions of the thirty-third annual convention of the Illinois State Undertakers' association, which began a three days' meeting.

Decatur.—Illinois Central passenger train No. 123, south bound, was wrecked sixteen miles north of Decatur. The engine tender left the rails, tearing up the track for a distance of 450 feet, when the mail car broke from the express car and three passenger coaches turned on their sides into the ditch west of the track. More than a dozen passengers were injured.

Marissa.—Edward D. and Mrs. Margaret A. McLean, who within two months of the same age have just passed their seventieth milestone, celebrated their golden wedding anniversary here. They were married in Crittendon County, Ky., June 2, 1863, and have lived here thirty-seven years.

Sterling.—Triplets were born to Mr. and Mrs. James Morris of Sheffield, Ill. Mrs. Morris during the last five years gave birth to two sets of twins, all living.

Olney.—Judge Patton, in the circuit refused a new trial to Charles Henry, convicted of murdering Sam Hedrick and sentenced to fourteen years in the penitentiary. Henry will appeal.

Springfield.—Anton Stanslow and his cousin, Pete Stanslow, both aged fifteen, engaged in a fist fight. The former struck the latter a blow near the heart and killed him. The youth, son of a coal miner, is held for murder.

Galesburg.—In his baccalaureate address before the seniors of Lombard college, Dr. Lewis B. Fisher of Chicago advanced the idea that in this age of clubs and society the students must not lose their personalities but must cultivate individuality. He said the greatest thing is individuality.

Litchfield.—If present plans are carried out the visit of the Chicago business men to Litchfield June 7 will be an important event in the city's history. The party will be here for more than two hours, and will not only visit all places of interest in the city, but may be taken for a short country trip.

Rockford.—The Illinois Stationary Engineers' association elected W. E. Hill, Moline, president; Fred Weller, Peoria, vice-president; Gustave Anderson, Chicago, secretary.