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On Our Street

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On Our Street

By JUANITA J. BEARD

WHAT has happened on our street can happen on any of your streets. No longer does the home-builder follow the "hit or miss, I stop at this" plan where "kerplunk" goes the house in the exact center of the lot, the garage at the rear property line, the laundry yard between the big elms in the front lawn, and the barrel for the cans standing guard at the back door.

Since Garden Week aroused our civic pride, we have undertaken our problem with real zest.

Problem: A garden for every home.

Given: Buildings, work areas and recreational areas.

To find: The most economical arrangement of these elements which will be a true expression of their use and our convenience.

All the houses on our street are modest, "homey" houses just like yours. And what a world of wonders can be wrought with just such places. Thoreau convinced us long ago that one needs only a few feet of earth and the smallest of dwellings to be as contented as a mortal can be. Only a few years ago, our parlor which a little boy defined as "a room which is never opened except for funeral and weddings" was opened up for a living room and today we are even extending our living room into the outdoors—for what is a garden but an outdoor living room? And to make room for the garden we had to shift the garage and service areas around, as it is they were bits of a Chinese puzzle, before we found the logical solution of our problem.

One little cottage, to secure a better setting for its front facade cheerfully cast off its rather dilapidated front porch which was replaced by a quaint little gabled entrance which now boasts a knocker and a "lamp of hospitality." Immediately this little house seemed to have stepped back at least ten feet further from the front walk.

On another property, the garage became so respectable that it took a seat on the front row with the house and thus made room for a laundry yard behind it.

One man wanted a back yard garden, but what was he to do when his whole back yard was four feet below the front lawn? Instead of filling this area up to the level of the front lawn we left it a sunken garden, as it was surely meant to be.

The basement entrance, over which a pergola was built, opens on to the garden level, and a flight of stone steps with an arch overhead for vines leads down to it from the kitchen wing. At the south corner a little gate swings open to admit visitors from the outside world into this lattice enclosed retreat.

Now to bring about such changes on your street, there are several things to be considered. First of all if you are just planning to build you have an advantage over your neighbor whose house is already located, for you can move your "dream castle" all over the lot until you find the exact site for it. But you will find that orienting the house with the narrow frontage on the main thoroughfare is less wasteful of space, permits better design and also gives to the rear lawn and garden more privacy because the building restrictions and customs will allow development closer to the sidewalk on the minor street. A small front yard will increase the importance of the house front, as seen from the street. If the width of the house front is one-half or two-thirds the distance between the house and sidewalk, the lot will appear wider than if the house were set farther back.

On the small property, the garage is an important feature so often thoughtlessly placed. Because of its prominence and relation to the drive and turn space needed, its position may make or break the whole design of the backyard. When garage is placed too far in the rear, the result is too great a distance for back-

ing out, and a "Y" turn projecting across the lawn thirty feet or more. To overcome this difficulty the garage must be placed nearer the street. Its front may be as far forward as the house front, or it may be at the side of the house, making backing to the street practical. Or a third position for the garage may be just far enough behind the house for a "Y" turn to clear it, and where there is already some pavement leading to kitchen and cellar entrances. Open space at this point is usually needed for general service.

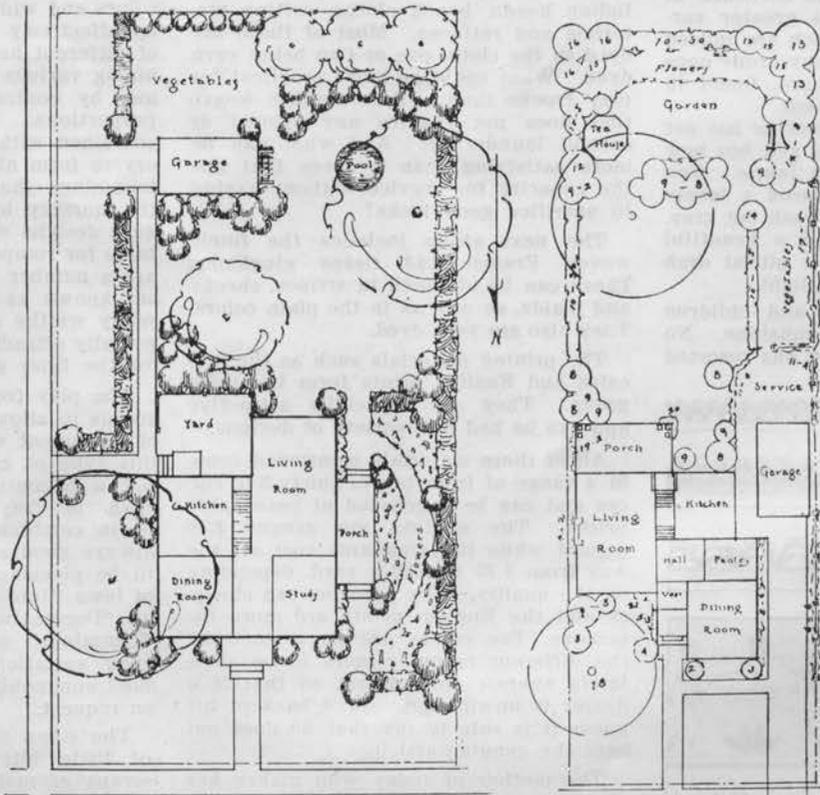
The laundry yard can be near this general service area. If the garage is at the side of the house, the drying yard can be immediately in the rear, very convenient and not projecting into the lawn. And when the rear lawn is not too small, the laundry yard should be given some enclosure.

If the lot is wide enough, the ideal place for a small flower garden is at the side of the house adjoining the living room. In the case of lots of fifty feet or less, this is not possible and flowers may then be planted in a border across the vegetable garden, or in an eight foot border along one side of the lawn.

In small yards there is a great advantage in an asymmetrical arrangement—that of balancing one feature with a different one, rather than repeating the same on either side. A wide flower border on one side of a garden may be balanced on the other side by an arbor, a decorative tree under which one may sit, or merely a tall hedge. In this way simplicity and spaciousness are achieved.

The vegetable garden is an element which most persons will want—tho' father may not want to hoe it! A strip along the side boundary just beyond the garage or service yard is logical when only a small area is wanted. The large vegetable garden will be best in the rear across the entire width of the lot.

As has been said, the rear lawn is the outdoor living room of the property—pleasant to look at from the house, a broad space for outdoor life, a playground for children, the dominating area in the whole composition. The seclusion of the entire rear yard from adjoining property is important because unless privacy is secured in some degree the use for which the lawn was intended is defeated. On small lots, then, a wall, a lattice fence, or a wire fence with



Suggested plan for the corner lot and the long narrow lot.

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The Economics of Consumption

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tention. All production has for its ultimate goal consumption as defined in this paper; and yet consumption is the least understood and therefore the least developed of any of the classical divisions of economic science. When the real facts are better understood, and, with competent women highly trained in economic science and the technical problems of home economics, these facts will be understood. The writer is of the opinion that the so-called waste of production great and important as it is, will be found to have nothing on the waste of consumption.

In the meantime the producer of food need not be alarmed over the effect of a more economic nutrition on the demand for agricultural products. Changes along this line will be very gradual, in fact almost imperceptible, requiring long periods of time for their realization. Pending these changes, population will increase and social and economic adjustments will take place. There is and can be no fundamental conflict between the laws of production and the laws of consumption.

In conclusion, such problems as clothing, proper housing and living conditions generally, consumers' marketing as contrasted with producer's marketing, and different systems of retailing can only be mentioned. If one goes to the local store to buy a yard of cloth, he is told that it is all wool and a yard wide. He knows that it is a yard wide because we have proper standards of weights and measures enforced by law. He does not always know that it is all wool, which would be the case if he purchased the same article in London for the reason that Congress has not yet enacted proper legislation as to the marking and branding of textiles.

For a number of years the writer has been convinced that, from a broad economic and social standpoint, economic science as related to the technical problems of home economics—the Economics of Consumption, is equally important, if not the most important part of our specialized technical field, and this, in spite of the fact that it is the least developed at present. Colleges and schools of home economics, however, have now reached a stage in their technical development where a broader economic and social outlook on the world and its many complex problems is not only desirable but imperative. We are at last in a position to take up in a thoro scientific manner the point of view so ably suggested in some of its aspects by the late Simon N. Patten in his monograph "The Consumption of Wealth," written more than twenty years ago.

Professor F. N. Carver, one of our leading economists, believes that a wise selection of foods for the table would reduce the cost of food about one half, a saving over and above what would also be possible if Professor Chittenden's statements are correct as outlined above. Referring to the economics of consumption and the vast problems involved, Professor Carver, in his "Principles of Political Economy" on page 499 thus writes:

"Here is a real Armageddon, the battle-

field of the nations—the place for the ultimate contest for supremacy among the various races and nations of the earth. This is the field where every nation in the world must sooner or later be brought to the test and made to battle for its very existence. It is a peaceful contest, but none the less deadly on that account. Preparedness for this final and ultimate conflict will consist in the study of standards of living and the adoption of such standards and habits as will increase productive efficiency to the maximum and reduce the cost of living to the lowest point which is consistent with maximum productivity. In the interest of this form of preparedness it will be well for us to ponder the advice of Pythagoras to his son: 'Choose those habits which are best; custom will make them the most agreeable.'"

On Our Street

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vines is the most economical of space; next in usefulness is the hedge, and on the larger place the shrub border may be used.

Straight lines may be used to emphasize long dimensions and to express greater scale. The background should consist of a limited variety of plants, and objects of interest, to be given prominence and so enjoyed, must be used sparingly and furnished with ample neutral background.

So we find to get the elements of use and convenience demanded in most small properties, but to place them so that they relate appropriately to the open lawn, is the problem we must face if we will have home properties expressive of our every-day American life.

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