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Building a Little House in Print

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Building a *Little House* in Print

JANE STALLINGS KNOWS THE INSIDE STORY
OF MISS ALICE WAUGH'S NEW BOOK

"I PESTERED carpenters and plumbers all over Ames getting advice for *Planning the Little House* and I really learned much from them." Such was the reply of Miss Alice Waugh, instructor in applied art, when asked with whom she had talked for advice in writing her book.

This large body of information is available to everyone. The only original work an author can claim is in the interpretation and arrangement of it.

In those words Miss Waugh, poised at her desk in her classroom, modestly disclaimed credit for her recently-published text-book which has made the house-

planning course in the Home Economics Division much simpler for both instructors and students. Formerly, Miss Waugh explained, the teachers had to lecture and repeat many times by the old mouth-to-note-book manner.

Miss Mabel Russell, applied art instructor, and Miss Waugh report that they have already discovered, after only a few weeks' of use, that the students work faster and more independently with a text book on their desks. The students who work faster need not wait for slower members of the class to catch up before beginning new problems.



The book is divided into two parts: Problems in drawing plans and elevations and methods of executing those designs. Photographs—some of them taken from Ames homes—are sprinkled liberally throughout the text. There is a snapshot of the living room from the home of Henry Gilman, professor of chemistry, several plates from the home of Dr. W. B. Armstrong, Ames physician, and a view of the exterior of the home of Charles S. Gwynne, professor of geology. The pages are also peppered with straight-line illustrations done by Miss Waugh. She remarked that they were the

same simple diagrams she used to draw on the black-board for her classes.

Miss Waugh's theme in teaching is structural honesty and logical design that really fit the house. To illustrate her point she sketched a plan of the English cottage that took the nation's fancy a few years ago. Practically box-like in shape, she drew in its familiar broken roof-line, added several gables and a tower and asked, "Do you see what I mean? That roof-line makes the small house even smaller-looking, insincere and much costlier. The only reason people build that type of house is that they are afraid a simple structure will look stiff."

Miss Russell who has also worked in developing the course had experience in writing "Art Training Through Home Problems," which was of help to Miss Waugh as she planned her work. When asked if she had used any ideas from her own home in writing her book, she said, "Well, I didn't build my house. It's an old one that I have been fixing up but I learned a great deal remodeling it."

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