"Nagawicka" (Nestle Down), The Country Home of Mr. Gillett, Gates Mills, Ohio.
“THE CHIMNEYS ARE OF RAGGED BOULDERS SPLIT TO SHOW THE NATURAL CLEAVAGE.”

SHOWING HANGING BALCONY AND CORNER OF SCREENED PORCH.
A SUMMER COTTAGE IN THE OHIO WOODS:
BY EDWARD A. ROBERTS

One of the chief compensations for city life in the East is the possibility of possessing a summer home in the woods. A house that is lived in all the year round, while it soon takes on the character of an old familiar friend, fails to give that delightful sense of novelty which comes to us afresh each year when we return to the little bungalow in the woods, where we can throw off all the conventions of life and play "keep house" all summer.

One of the most delightful of these cottages or bungalows is "Nagawicka," a country cottage planted among the rocks and woods on a hillside near Gates Mills, Ohio. Gates Mills is the home of quite a large suburban community, but although there are many charming country places there, none has quite the individuality of Nagawicka. The name means "Nestle Down" and was borrowed from an Indian lake of the same name in Wisconsin, Mr. Gillett's native State. The house, which was designed by W. Stillman Dutton, a Cleveland architect, and built by George B. McMillan, was the result of a study of numerous illustrations of bungalows published in The Craftsman.

When Mr. Gillett, a Cleveland businessman, looked about for a favorable location for his summer home, he passed by the level open country intervening between the city and Gates Mills, and purchased twelve acres of virgin forest on the high westerly slope of the Chagrin River, fifteen miles from the Public Square. Here he built the rustic cottage, which was designed to conform with the natural environment of woods, for maples, elms and beeches were growing over every foot of his land. The site itself was thick with trees, underbrush and grape vines and its surface was rough with projecting roots and stones. In less than one year the owner has cleared and thoroughly drained the site, erected his house, improved the immediate surroundings by the artistic arrangement of native shrubs and flowers, smoothed out grass plots here and there among the trees, discovered and walled up a fine spring, and constructed a driveway and a winding Indian trail through the forest. In addition to all this, he has felled trees and grubbed out hundreds of stumps and stones for a garden plot from which he harvested a good crop of vegetables for the summer's use. These feats of pioneering were accomplished with the aid of a considerable crew of workmen and teams employed during the springtime and by the further employment of help during the summer. Mr. Gillett is an enthusiast in outdoor work, finding greater pleasure and
comfort in wielding an ax and handling a spade than in chasing golf balls or playing tennis. All his holidays, including the summer vacation, have been spent in the alluring pastime of “meddling with Nature.” To him, a trip to the Adirondacks had no special attraction, for in the spot he has chosen for his summer cottage he finds much of the seclusion and wildness of the rugged woodlands among the mountains. The owls hoot for him at night, the squirrels romp about his doorway, the song birds awaken him in the morning, and occasionally a friendly snake crosses his pathway, or a rabbit, coon or woodchuck scampers by.

A screen of thickly growing trees and bushes hides the house from the road several hundred feet distant. The driveway enters between two large maples and is also marked by boulders of immense size. This drive is overhung with branches and vines and has a number of rustic seats along its course. The dimensions of the house are approximately forty-six feet each way over all. For the exterior walls, pine boards are used in the lower story, laid as siding, surfaced on the inside and left rough on the outside to receive a stain of sepia tone. The gable ends and upper story are paneled and plastered rough cast. The roof is laid in random lines of moss green shingles, with a tilting strip at intervals of three or four feet, forming strong horizontal lines. The ridges and roof ends also are shingled, the shingles being thrown up by tilting strips. The chimneys are of granite boulders split to show the natural cleavage. A hanging balcony is a charming feature at the northern end of the house, while a screened porch on the western side makes a large and airy dining room. Across the entire front of the house is a wide porch, the roof supported upon four large columns of rough cast plaster. Casement windows opening inward are used, and a Dutch door is placed at the entrance.

The interior of the house is open to the roof over the large living room, which is warmed and cheered by a fire of logs in a huge fireplace built of split hardheads and extending full height to the roof. On the ground floor are the living room, three bedrooms, the kitchen and the open-air dining room. A wide stairway back of the fireplace leads to a gallery which extends around the western end of the living room and gives access to two large bedrooms on the second floor, so that a number of guests may be accommodated. A sleeping porch leads from one of these bedrooms, giving the appearance of a nest among the trees. All of the interior framework is exposed and the whole is stained in a light tint of brown that harmonizes with the exterior. No part of the interior is plastered.

With its old fashioned furnishings, its trophies and mementos distributed here and there, the bungalow is not only in complete harmony with its woodland surroundings, but expresses the comfort and enjoyment which it affords.