A PRACTICAL HOME, WITH PICTURESQUE BEAUTY: BY G. H. AND E. D. FORD

SUGGESTION of the English cottage is felt in the house here illustrated, in the heavy divisions of porch openings, the paneling and the visible timbers. This is brought about, however, by contour rather than accessories. Indeed, there are few features of the exterior whose existence does not add to the interior some charm or convenience. Compactness is a quality much sought where economy is an essential element. In this building, as shown by the floor plans, there is little sacrifice of space in gaining picturesqueness in roof lines. The break in the expanse of the roof accentuates the length of the lines on either side. The arrangement of the balcony in a shallow court, sheltering the clusters of small windows and the porch steps below, and protected by an extended roof, over which the double chimney is well centered, gives the house its most pleasing aspect.

Considering the dimensions, the site need not be large, but should be well planted with shrubbery, since a building of this character gains greatly in charm when its salient features appear amid abundant foliage; and, too, the plastered exterior is an excellent foil to the varied greens of vine and low shrub.

The hall is virtually a part of the living room. The short partition
serves to screen from the latter the front door and the door to the coat room, thus giving the privacy often necessary to a main entrance. Upon entering, the wide opening, with only an apparent division in the beam above, gives an air of spaciousness, and the rooms beyond contribute their pleasing vistas. Most prominent is the fireplace, broad-breasted and substantial; beside it an inviting seat, with three windows filling the whole space above; close at hand, beside the mantel, are the favorite authors and the books one likes to take up for the brief leisure moments. The stair landing, with its high window framing in tree-tops and bits of sky, entices a sidelong glance. There is an alluring glimpse of the dining room, with buffet and high windows at the end, or through the open door to the screened porch, with the garden beyond, and the visitors observe that there is much more
room within than the exterior of the house seemed to promise.

The dining room has the same arrangement of mantel and seat. The room is lighted by high windows over the buffet and the cluster of three above the seat. China cupboards are built-in on either side of the buffet, and the glazed door which opens upon the large screened porch, constitutes the side entrance. These general points are, of course, evident to the most casual observer; only the permanent occupant is conscious of the gratification of well-considered details, the cozy seats beneath windows, the desk in the library alcove, stationed where the light falls upon it at the proper angle, and the piano on the opposite wall, close to the window. It is the absence of these requirements that often emphasizes their importance.

The kitchen is designed for gas range only, but a chimney can be easily provided for coal or wood range if necessary. Steps from the kitchen to the main stair landing obviate the necessity for rear stairs, and also provide a more direct way from the kitchen to the front door.

The second floor, of nearly the same dimensions as the first, has four bedrooms and a bath. Each room has a large closet. In three rooms, the dressing case may stand between windows, in the fourth between a window and the glazed door, opening upon the sleeping porch. As indicated on the second floor plan, the balcony above the court may also be utilized as a sleeping porch.

There is considerable attic space, lighted at the front by glazed doors or French window, opening upon a balcony in the overhanging roof. At the rear of the attic is a cluster of windows. The attic stairs are placed above the main staircase and would enter the attic near the center. This would admit of dividing the space into two rooms if desired. Throughout there is an air of spacious comfort, and yet economy has been considered in each detail.

Altogether, the building is not only an interesting example of practical arrangement and picturesque design, but it suggests a new type of cottage suited to modern standards of comfort and efficiency, and in harmony with the growing democratic tendencies of American life.