A PORCH OF CHARM AND FRAGRANCE: BY ALBERT MARPLE

As we were passing this odd little home there was something about it, possibly its low, squatty lines or its beautiful floral adornment, which made us pause in our travels, to "take a second look." As we neared the home we noticed the porch, but from a distance it did not seem to hold any particular charm. The home and the porch naturally go hand in hand, so we did not give this porch any especial consideration until we drew nearer. But at the entrance of the little home the real beauty of the porch made itself realized to us. It was delightfully cozy and inviting and it made one feel at home.

This pretty entranceway is not large, about eight by twelve feet in size. The floor is of dark red brick, this being raised about six inches above the sidewalk, or, rather, the approach which leads to the street. The roof of the home only partially covers the porch, the opening in the roof being directly above the center of the porch. The pergola, which stands directly before the porch, is continued back and under the roofed sections, so that it is one continuous pergola from the home out to the front end of the pergola. Directly at the rear center of the porch is a four-foot door, having five large lights, these being about one by three feet in size and running crosswise of the door. On either side of this door is a three-foot window containing three lights similar to those in the door.
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Two deep, inviting seats are located at the sides of the porch, the sides and back of these being of one by six material, while the “seat” portions are each made of two one by twelve boards, supported by two two by fours. The slanting back of these seats makes them very comfortable. The posts at the outer corners of the seats are of six by six material. The walls of the porch, with the exception of the door, windows and seats, are covered with split shakes and are painted a light gray, to match the remainder of the exterior of the home—a fine color effect.

In the description of this porch only the half of its beauty may be told. The restful feeling that it brings is beyond words. The rose vines growing in and out among the beams of the pergola overhead add their individually charming effect, while the potted ferns nearby and the perfume of the flowers from the roof to this little retreat, all add to the indefinable delight, comfort, beauty and satisfaction of the owners.

AN ALL-CEMENT CHICKEN HOUSE: BY ALBERT MARPLE

The chicken house made entirely of cement is one of the latest features devised and constructed by a home owner in Long Beach, California. These houses, one of which is shown in the accompanying picture, are made for service. The walls are three inches thick and are solid. Each house is three feet square, three feet high at the front and four feet in height at the rear. One side, that is always turned to the south, is left open. This might be closed in colder climates. This house is as near a vermin-proof structure as it is possible to get. They are readily cleaned and may be effectively and easily sprayed and whitewashed.

It would seem that the final word as to the uses of this amazing material, concrete, had not been said. Almost every day reveals some new adaptation of it for practical use and some fresh, pleasant way of creating beauty with it. Beauty certainly cannot be claimed for this chicken house, but practicality and permanence can. It also has the quality of being warm and dry in winter.