

The Farm Dining Room

Lula Casselman, '12.

Why is it the farm homes are not more attractive? Is it because of lack of funds, or is it because the housewife generally fails to use good judgment in selecting house furnishings, thinking, as many do, "that anything will do on the farm"?

This is not the case for in this day and age when the call is "back to the farms," steps must be taken to make that farm home just as attractive and just as comfortable as the homes in the cities.

In furnishing a farm home, the dining room is worthy of a great deal of consideration because it is the one place where the family gather daily. In order to make the room cheerful, it should be so placed that it will get all light and sunshine available. With windows on the east, south, and west, this is very easily accomplished, but where it is impossible to have all of them, a southeastern outlook would do very well.

The room should be large enough to allow easy passage way around the table when serving the meal. On the farm it is necessary to have a room of sufficient size to accommodate the large number of men needed during the season of harvesting and threshing. It is quite desirable to have an outside door to the room so that it will not be necessary for the workmen to pass through the kitchen or living room in order to reach the dining room. Communication with the kitchen should be easy, not direct, but through a small pantry. By this means odors from the kitchen are avoided, and the two walls shut out the noise from the dining room. Doors in the pantry should not be opposite because they would afford a view directly into the kitchen and, in some cases, this would be objectionable. Swinging doors between the dining room and kitchen prove to be quite satisfactory.

Hard wood is the most desirable for the floor. It should have a dull finish because the polished floors are easily marred. Bare floors are the most sanitary, but if the rug is to be used it should be large enough to allow the chairs to be pushed back from the table without scraping on the bare floor. A plain covered rug is not as serviceable for this room as a mixed color one. Combinations of brown and green are always good because they will go with almost any kind of furnishings. Inlaid linoleum would make a satisfactory covering for the farm dining room.

The room should be plastered and it may then be either tinted or painted with a flat paint. Neutral colors are better than pure white. Smooth walls are more sanitary and more easily cleaned than those with a rough surface. If papered walls are preferred, there are many designs to select from. Plain paper or that with a very small figure is much more suitable than that which has large striking figures. A cream colored ceiling will fit in with practically any color you may choose for the side walls. The one point to be remembered is that the paper is there to serve a purpose and not to attract attention.