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Experiment Station  
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SUGGESTIONS FOR REMODELING AND MODERNIZING THE FARM HOME

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Below are listed some common household problems and suggestions for solving them by inexpensive alterations and additions to the house and its equipment. The list will form the basis of the radio discussion during the Homemakers' Half Hour on January 4, 1935.

About the House in General

1. Family gets on one another's nerves  
Provide for heating bedrooms so they may be used for play or study.  
Equip dining room or downstairs bedroom so it may be used as a second living room.  
Provide enough chairs and lights for each person to have a comfortable place to read.  
Provide for radio or typewriter in some place other than the family living room.
2. Have a shut-in feeling.  
Lower window sills so you can see out when seated.  
Add windows on side of house next to road, or toward view of mountains.
3. House too small.  
Replan basement to utilize space to better advantage for work and recreation. Install partitions and waterproof basement, if necessary.  
Open up attic, using outside stair if space is lacking for inside stair.
4. Room is dark.  
Change draperies so as to admit more light. Or, enlarge window, or add a window, or remove outside porch, or replace part of porch roof with glass.
5. Cannot sew or read at night.  
Improve illumination by purchasing (if no electricity) a lamp with mantle. For electric lights; follow directions for scientific lighting, as to lamps, shades and placing of lights.
6. Room does not get sun.  
Add window on sunny side of house, or redivide space in house so each room gets sun; or build extension of room with windows on sunny side.

7. Basement dark. Build arcaways about windows; put in larger windows; put in more windows.
8. House is too chilly in morning. Install electric heater in wall of bathroom. Put weather stripping around bedroom doors.
9. House is drafty. Apply weather stripping to windows and doors.
10. Garage is located too far from house. Provide covered automobile porch; and bring drive close to house.
11. Wish to grow flowers and plants for house use. Build glass enclosure in corner of house; or convert sun porch into conservatory.
12. Living room (including dining room) too crowded. Extend one end, or take out partition between rooms, or remove all chairs and tables except those used frequently. If storage of chairs is a problem, they may be replaced by folding chairs which have the appearance of ordinary straight chairs. Or, take out large articles of furniture that are not needed.
13. Living rooms do not get much sun. Make windows larger, or put in more windows on south. Or make necessary changes in doors or partitions so that room on south can be used as living room.
14. Lack wall space for piano. Group windows, or eliminate, so as to gain wall space. Or set piano at right angles to wall and cover back with India print.
15. Need more room for books. Build shelves in an unused doorway.
16. Need a second living room. Replace dining room furniture with folding or extension table, and with chairs which are suitable to living room use.
17. Children climb on overstuffed furniture. Make slip-covers of durable material, to use until children are older.
18. Need to use living room as bedroom, but can not afford to buy a Roll-away bed. Set springs into frame hinged to wall. Place shelf above. Cover with curtain.
19. Dislike to serve company meals in living room. Procure screen large enough to conceal table and passage to kitchen door.
20. Children's "treasures" clutter up living room. Put up bulletin board for their cut-outs and original drawings and paintings. Set aside a drawer in the kitchen for the playthings of small children. Provide a place in or near living room for playthings used there. Arrange a desk for each older child.

21. No place to keep card tables. Enclose lower part of built-in book cases.
22. No place on first floor for person who is ill. Build closet in study or living room, for a folding bed. Procure screen to be used about bed.
23. Chairs are not comfortable. Test heights. Lower if necessary. Recondition upholstery, or add cushions.
24. Chairs noisy on bare floor. Fasten "domes of silence" to chair legs.
25. Rugs slip, or wrinkle. Equip all rugs with cushions.

#### About our bedrooms

26. Children who have to share a bedroom do not get on well together. Provide children with separate beds. If possible, divide room with temporary partition six feet high. This may be the back of a wardrobe closet and dressing table for use of one of the children. Or, divide present closet with temporary partition, and supply each child with his own dresser or chiffonier.
27. Do not have enough bedrooms to provide separate places for boys and girls. Convert living room into parents' room by building closet in or near the room and procuring an In-a-door or Roll-away bed. This closet may be so built as to be easily removed when the need for it is past. Or, convert attic into dormitory by installing floor, windows for cross ventilation, stairs, and fire escape.
28. Bedrooms are poorly ventilated and fire hazard. If located in attic, lift roof to form dormer windows. At the same time, put in a deck or balcony with door or low window leading to it.
29. Bedrooms too cold to dress in. Increase size of bedroom closet if necessary to make large enough for dressing room. Weatherstrip closet door. Install electric heater.
30. Children waken when light is turned on at night. Install lights in bedrooms to illuminate floors. These may be fastened under the bed, or may be set into baseboard.
31. No wall space for bed. Move or eliminate window.
32. Poor dressing facilities. Install mirrors in bathroom, bedrooms, and coat closets. Arrange lighting to suit each mirror. Light should fall on person, not on mirror.
33. Not enough mirrors. Take mirrors off furniture where they are not needed. Hang each mirror so as to make the most of it.

34. Bedrooms too small for play room. Replace part of partition between adjoining bedrooms with folding screen or wide sliding doors.

35. Have invalid to care for, and wish to make work easier, as well as patient more comfortable. Arrange to have invalid's room on first floor. Put in toilet and lavatory nearby. Construct enclosed porch with wide door so bed can be wheeled outside. Install call bell, telephone extension and wall outlets for reading lamp, radio, and electric fan. Provide bed which can be moved easily. Provide ramp for getting wheel chair down to yard. Place feeding table for birds just outside window.

36. Nuisance to have ironing board used for pressing. Install pressing board near bedrooms. A small room upstairs may be converted into a "valet" room for period when children are of high school or college age.

37. No place upstairs to air bedding. Build balcony or porch on second floor.

#### About the bathroom

38. Afraid child will shut himself in bath room. Replace bathroom lock with one which can be opened by master key when locked on inside.

39. Shower bath unsatisfactory. Replace shower-head with type adjustable for different flows, and of self-cleaning construction.

40. Toilet unsanitary. Have reset. Replace flooring if necessary. Go over all wooden parts with waterproof varnish or paint.

41. Toilet too noisy. Replace with new silent type.

42. Bathroom unhandy from out of doors. Install toilet, shower, and lavatory in basement, or on first floor near back or side door.

43. Bathroom is poorly ventilated. Install a ventilating fan in the ceiling or outer wall.

44. No good place to bathe and change baby. Fit up a small, easily moved table as a baby table, with a pad for the top, and baskets on the shelf below. Provide oil cloth to cover it when not in use. This table can be moved to bathroom, kitchen or wherever it is warm.

45. Congestion in bathroom. Divide bathroom so as to place toilet in compartment by itself, or convert large closet into extra toilet or bathroom, or install lavatory in bedroom.

46. Bathroom too small. Add part of adjoining room, or extend wall of house. Rearrange space to provide room about toilet and lavatory.

47. Bathroom lacks storage space, and no place available for cabinet. Place open shelves for towels and wash cloths in corner above front of tub. Put up hooks for hot water bag, etc. Place narrow (4") shelf within reach of person sitting in tub, for soap, bath brush, etc.

48. Danger of elderly person falling in getting out of bathtub. Provide a hand grip for bathtub.
49. Afraid someone will get hold of a poisonous substance by mistake. Keep medicines and toilet supplies in separate cabinets.
50. Bathroom poorly ventilated. Install ventilating fan.

#### About our laundry facilities

51. Laundry is inconvenient. Rearrange so as to bring equipment together and provide room to move about. Install wall outlets enough for all electrical devices, so they will not have to be moved.
52. No good place to dry laundry in bad weather. Extend roof of house or shed, to provide room under cover for clothes lines..
53. Have to wash on porch, and laundry equipment is unsightly. Build closet to store tubs and machine when not in use. A space 4 x 6 feet will be sufficient usually.
54. Need a place to dry underwear quickly. Make a set of panels of wall board, plywood, or large sheets of corrugated pasteboard, large enough to encircle stove or register and a clothes rack. Arrange so these may be hooked together at corner.
55. Wet clothes are heavy to carry to line. Make a utility cart out of child's express wagon or discarded baby carriage.
56. Portable mangle is too heavy to lift. Have cabinet made which will serve as table and storage space for mangle.
57. No laundry chute. Install a laundry chute, or if laundry is under kitchen convert lowest drawer of kitchen cabinet into a soiled-clothes receiver.
58. No place to put clean clothes when ironing. Install a portable rod near ironing board.

#### About my sewing arrangements

59. Light on sewing machine is poor. Equip machine with special lamp.
60. No place to spread out material for outting. Procure large folding table.
61. No place to leave sewing spread out. Arrange closet or alcove which can be fitted up with cabinet.

62. No place to keep sewing materials. Install cabinet in closet or alcove near place where sewing is done, or convert chiffonier into sewing cabinet by placing shallow trays in some of drawers.
63. No safe place to keep wool scraps. Select a drawer large enough for purpose. Have a lid made which will go down into drawer, resting on cleats, and fitting tightly enough to hold in the gas from moth-preventing chemicals.
64. Poor place to keep darning and sewing materials. Make sectioned trays of plywood.
65. Lack of room to put quilt into frame. Make saw-horses table height. Cut notches for ends of quilt frame.

About a number of other problems

66. Hot water supply is insufficient for household needs. Install larger tank. Increase efficiency of arrangement for heating water.
67. Too expensive to heat water by electricity. Install water heater which utilizes sawdust or wood.
68. Wall outlets insufficient or poorly located. Have outlets installed in each wall of the living room where a piece of furniture (chair, table, desk, piano) is likely to be placed; and in the kitchen, near mixing table, stove, and breakfast nook.
69. Sewage disposal method inconvenient and unsanitary. Install septic tank.
70. No place to store wood for stove or fireplace. Install box which can be filled from outside or from back hall. Ask for wood box design, HE 349. If wood is kept in basement, install lift under work counter, window seat or book shelves.
71. No good place to dry wet coats and boots. Install rack near furnace. Or place register in wall back of kitchen stove, if wet coats do not dry quickly enough when hung in the back hall.
72. Storage of flower containers is a problem. Make a set of shelves to hold them. Place in basement, work room, or back hall. Conceal with roller curtains.
73. Child wants help in removing rubbers. Provide low bench or chair in back hall or porch.
74. No place to shake dust mop upstairs. Make a dust container for use upstairs.

75. Poor place for broom, dust pan, etc. Install broom closet; Or, place hooks where articles will not be seen from living part of house.
76. Letter box is not large enough for a magazine. Install a large-size built-in box, accessible from within.
77. Do not have a picture molding. Use steel phonograph needles in putting up small pictures.
78. No place downstairs for daytime rest of elderly persons or convalescents. Procure couch for use in downstairs room.
79. Unhandy to eat outside in warm weather. Arrange pass-window for foods and dishes, or procure a wheeled table.
80. Store wool rugs. Line with metal a space next to the outer wall of attic and provide a moth-tight door.