

well laid, not with wide cracks between the boards, and the skirting-boards, windows, and doors should fit well, while all windows should open both top and bottom.

A house should be well planned as well as being well built, and one of the most important things is that it should be a through house with a front and back door. Back-to-back houses cannot be healthy, for it is impossible to get proper light and air in them, and they can never be thoroughly ventilated. A through house, with a little garden in front and a separate yard at the back, is much nicer and more healthy, and it will also be cleaner, because the dust will not blow in so much from the street. There should always be a back way to the yard, so that the dustmen do not have to come through the house, as is sometimes the case. If possible, the front door should not open direct into a room, but into a lobby, and the back door should open into the scullery and not into the kitchen, as this arrangement is warmer and also cleaner.

Having found a house that is well planned and well built, we then want to see that it is conveniently arranged inside, and some of the important things to notice are the larder, the cupboards, the water supply, and the fireplaces. In many houses the builder seems to have thought that it did not matter in the least where the food was kept, and the so-called "larder" is only a cupboard under the stairs, where neither light nor air can enter. The larder ought to be separate from the kitchen or scullery, and should have a window and a door that shuts tightly, also there should be plenty of shelves, and the floor should be stone or tiled. If possible, it should face north or east, as that will be cooler, and so the food will keep better. Instead of glass the top panes of the window should be filled with perforated zinc or with muslin, and it is well to see that it does not open just above a drain or where the dust-bin is standing. Cupboards are another important matter in a house, and every housewife knows what a great convenience it is to have good store cupboards, but it is a point that often seems to escape the builder's notice. The arrangements for the water supply will depend a great deal on whether the house is in the town or country, as in the latter the water so often has to be fetched from a pump or well. It is a great saving of trouble to have water laid on; but in that case it is well to find out where the stop-cock is, so as to be able to turn it off in case of need. The copper and sink are much better in the scullery, and then the kitchen can be kept tidier. The

sink should have a grating and a "trapped" pipe—that is, a pipe which has a bend in it to hold a little water, so that bad air cannot get back into the house, and this pipe should open over a grating outside, not go straight into the drain. Another important matter is the kitchen grate, and it is much better to have one with a boiler at the side, as it saves a great deal of trouble in heating water. It is well to see that the grate, fire-back, and oven are in good repair, or, if not, to get the landlord to put them right, as it is easier to get repairs done before moving into a house, and also better because of the mess made by the workmen. In single or double houses it is warmer if the fireplaces are on the inside walls, but in a row this does not matter. The grate in the sitting-room ought to be low, and there should be more brickwork than iron about it, as the bricks keep the heat longer. It is a good thing to be on the look out for smoky chimneys, and, if possible, to have them attended to, and perhaps have chimney-pots put on. A good coal place, which will hold plenty, is very necessary, and it is much cleaner if the coal can be put in from outside, and does not have to be carried through the house as sometimes has to be done. In a town a gas-stove or gas-ring is very convenient; both for use in summer when the fire is not wanted, and also in case of illness when, perhaps, hot water is required suddenly in the night.

There should always be fireplaces in the bedrooms, and these should never be blocked up, as open chimneys help to ventilate the rooms. All bedroom windows should open both top and bottom, and the top of the window should reach almost to the ceiling, so that the top of the room will get well aired.

The comfort and healthiness of the sanitary arrangements in small houses depend almost more on how they are kept than on how they are built, and so this subject may be more conveniently dealt with in another paper.

#### SANITAS COMPANY INVITE NURSES.

The Sanitas Company, Ltd., Locksley Street, Limehouse, are arranging a series of "At Homes" at their factory, when simple demonstrations will be given in respect of their various disinfectants and sanitary appliances, and an opportunity will be afforded to trained nurses, to whom a general invitation is cordially extended, to inspect the works.

The demonstrations, which will be at three o'clock, followed by tea, will take place on Friday, October 9th, November 6th, and December 4th, and the Company will be glad if intending visitors will, if possible, notify the date upon which they hope to be present.

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