

## THE NOISELESS SERVANT IN THE HOUSE

By Emily Norcross



HE modern home-builder, profiting by the experience of the past, values the many labor and time-saving devices that have been invented within the last few years. Among them all few are of so great value as those operated by electricity, a noiseless servant in the house, working cheerfully day by day, off hours and on, with never a strike.

So comfortable has electricity made modern living, we wonder how we ever accomplished things without it. It runs errands, keeps the house clean, the air pure, floods the room with light, and does away with many problems that have heretofore been bugbears to the housekeeper. The problem of dust has ever been a serious one to the thrifty housewife, but this has been solved by the advent of electricity. With its use there are no longer ashes to fly through the house, dust to be raised by sweeping, in fact, few problems that the vacuum cleaner cannot satisfactorily meet.

In the twentieth century kitchen electricity is a most valuable adjunct, particularly in the kitchen of a small house, for here its influence renders this section of the house dustless and odorless save for the odor of cooking. Wall outlets of different types have been freely installed which, connected with cooking devices, insure neatness, celerity, and efficiency in the preparation of the meal. This is a great aid to solving the servant problem, and capable maids are eager to work under the improved conditions the installation of electrical devices have brought about. Uniform heat always under control is found beneath the electric range which is well equipped with broilers, the efficient illumination of ceiling paper so located as to light the interior of the oven, so the housewife does not have to peer into a dark oven or pull forth the cooking dishes in order to have light enough to see them.

The spacious pantry whose shelves are filled with cooking devices such as toaster, grill, egg-beater and so forth, the sink with its instantaneous water heater, even the refrigerator with its interior lamps operated by door or cover, ever lend an air of cheerfulness; but particularly on Monday is this cheerfulness apparent, for washing machine, iron or dryer may, nowadays, be all electrical, doing away with hours of hardest toil.

The terror of Spring and Fall housecleaning has vanished with the introduction of the electric renovator. This is primarily a movable device, which is equipped with a double fan, revolving brush, and receptacles to catch dust and dirt. If one has never used the utility motor it will be found a powerful agent for removing dirt, and employed not only on carpets and rugs, which by its use can be cleansed in half the

time of the former method, but also for mattresses, lounges, corners and walls, which by its influence attain an almost magic cleanliness.

The electric motor is well worth installing in every home, furnishing, as it does, the power to run sewing-machines, silver burnishers, etc. It may cost more than you might at first have counted on paying, but it will prove an eventual economy, for in the end the time saved by the use of electricity will be money saved. In addition to the electric kitchen range there is a small stove that is about the size of a chafing-dish that can be carried around anywhere, being connected with a cock that is most useful. If you are going to iron or press, take it into the sewing-room. A chafing-dish supper is made easy by its use in the dining-room, while to the invalid it is invaluable for easily and quickly heating water in the sickroom.

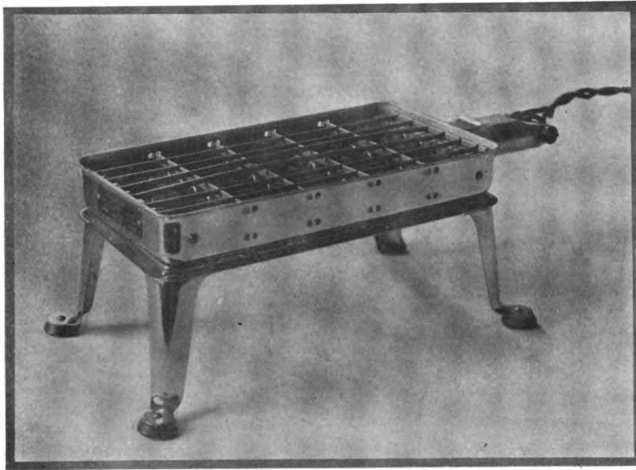
The commuter who oversleeps of a morning and has to rush for his train finds joy in the percolator which will produce a hot cup of coffee in a very short time while the eggs are boiling and bread toasting, and give him a hot breakfast in time in spite of his twenty minutes over snooze.

How indispensable has the hot-water bottle ever proved to the invalid! And how carefully one must watch to heat and refill it before it gets to the cold and clammy state! This has an excellent substitute in the form of a little soft pad put where the seat of the pain lies, and covered with a pad of electric dye. This can be kept hot by turning on the electric lights and proves a veritable boon for the sickroom.

Electricity costs more to be sure than gas or oil or candles, but there is, with electricity, no smell from a low-turned wick, no gutters for grease to run down, and ever the delight of quick and clean service. Time was when electrical appliances were looked upon with fear and suspicion by



An electric chafing-dish



An electric toaster

housekeepers spending all their time in keeping homes bright and clean but at the expense of worn out bodies and nerves.

Little wonder it is that the twentieth century woman is not a slave to her housework. With the help of modern electrical appliances, making it easier to plan, direct and accomplish her household duties, she is able to meet her husband when he returns at night with a smile not forced, and with readiness to join him for a social evening at home or away. And they realize their indebtedness to their indispensable servant.

It is not alone a matter of making the work easier or lighter, but it is quite as much a matter of neatness which makes electrical devices and kitchen accessories of such value to the housewife. While but few of the many things of the sort have been touched upon in this short article the interested housewife will find many electrical "time-savers" in the market, many of them of the sort that will suggest to her things she had not thought of before. Nearly all the important electrical companies issue special catalogues and literature covering the subjects it will well repay the housewife to send for and peruse.

THE SMALL HOUSE AND COMPETITION

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being a closet for every bedchamber and a centrally located linen closet in the upper hallway. A stairway to the left leads up to the attic. The roof of the porch forms the floor of an upper unroofed porch, to which there is access from the two bedchambers at the left of the house. A well proportioned balustrade runs around this porch. The plan of the second story indicates the positions in which the beds may be placed and it will be discovered at once that the bedchambers are so fenestrated as to allow light to come from the left side of the dressing-tables when placed in the various rooms.

The small house designed and planned by Miss Ruth C. Adams, New York city, is an example of a house actually built for a sum well within the cost limit imposed by the competition. This house, exteriors and plans of which are illustrated on page 166, presents a dignified Colonial design of a most pleasing type. The second-story plan provides for a sleeping porch to which access is had from two of the bedchambers.

The third house, that illustrated on page 167, was one of the best designs submitted. This house was planned and designed by J. T. Tubby, Jr., architect, New York city.

The fourth house had to be excluded from consideration by reason of the design not being carried out in accordance with Rule 2 of the competition. However, it presents so

many points of excellence that it is illustrated on page 168. This design and plans were submitted by F. A. Wright, architect, New York city.

The stucco house designed and planned by Clifford C. Wendehack, architect, New York City, shown on page 168. is different in type from the other houses illustrated in this article. The judges in the competition recommended it for an Honorable Mention. AMERICAN HOMES AND GARDENS will present another of the excellent designs submitted in the June issue.

TESTING THE ENERGY OF THE TULIP

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could be placed was four inches below the level of the soil, that, is, measuring from the crown of the bulb. In this case the foliage of the plant was well developed while the blossoms were of good size with large petals. An additional two inches in the covering of the soil, however, did not seem to make a vast amount of difference; the plant grew up to a good height and was able to make a fine show of leafage and also to bloom in a normal manner. When the soil depth was seven and a half inches there was a very fair development of the upper part of the plant, and the general appearance of the specimen was more suggestive of a dwarf variety of Tulip than anything else. At nine inches, although the plant was still more diminutive, yet it was able to bring up a well-developed flower which was sufficiently perfect to set seed and thus carry on the race of Tulips.

With eleven inches of soil over it the bulb was taxed to the uttermost, and indeed as far as flower production was concerned was altogether beaten. A glance at the accompanying photograph will show that the flower bud managed to get up to the height of nearly ten inches, but finding that it had not been able to reach daylight it gave the matter up in despair.

It was found in a dying condition when the bulb was removed from the soil just at the place where the enlargement of the shoot is noticeable. Some of the leaves did actually contrive to struggle up to the surface of the soil but after an unhappy existence of about ten days the foliage shrivelled right up. With a good thirteen inches of soil over it the Tulip bulb was altogether beaten. Not even the tips of the leaves were able to get to the light, although they traveled nearly twelve inches to do so. At this point the tip of the shoot died and there is little doubt that the whole of the plant, bulb and all, would have perished.

The chief interest in the experiments under notice was in the fact that, adaptable as plants may be there is a point beyond which they cannot go. We may take it that the bulb in its rich supplies of food products can supply a certain amount of energy, and if this is not sufficient to carry the stem up into the light the plant simply dies, even though it may be within a very short distance of the end of its journey.

Another point to which attention may be called is that once the shoot got well above the surface of the soil it would grow on until its limit was reached. This accounted for the fact that in nearly all cases where there was any above-ground development the measurement from the base of the shoot to the tip was very similar, no matter what depth of soil covered the bulb. Thus the dwarfing of the plant already alluded to was far more apparent than real.

There is little doubt that experiments in connection with the testing of the energy of the plant might be extended in other directions with most interesting and valuable results.