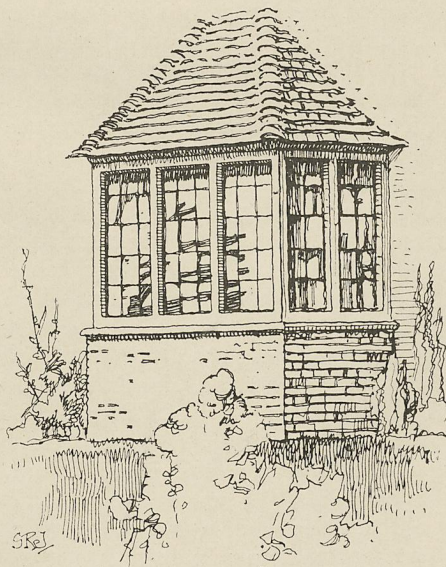


ON THE DESIGNING OF COTTAGES AND SMALL HOUSES. BY SYDNEY R. JONES.

DURING the past four years every sphere of human activity has been affected by war and the destructive influences that follow in its train. The tragedy that has spread devastation among the hills and valleys of France, and the lowlands of Belgium, has had its counterpart in the business of the world which, in normal days, occupies men's minds and gives opportunity for their labour. The chain of events has been broken. Now that a lasting peace is in sight, the time is ripe for fashioning the scheme of everyday things in a new way and a better manner than prevailed formerly. The task of setting in motion again the machinery that gives impetus to the arts and pursuits of peace has been called "reconstruction" alike by Statesmen and the Press. Although the process will not bring the millennium, nor will an El Dorado rise from the ashes of war, every human being and every branch of activity will be affected by new conditions. Reconstruction is the popular theme of the moment, and if the ideas implied by this word are carried into practice, great results will be possible in the fruitful time that is to follow the barren days of war. Many of the false trappings and superfluities of life have disappeared during four dark years. The sequence of events has cleared the way for action. The time for well-directed effort is here, but long days and nights of thought and toil can alone bring harmony to the channels of the world's work.

Foremost among questions needing immediate solution is the provision of dwellings for workers. The unusual conditions of the past few years have brought many subjects, once deemed of little or no importance, into great prominence. Dislocation in the labour world, shortage of raw materials, and the concentration of industrial effort on war measures, have all contributed to the problems that exist to-day. And though the housing question was always a



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