Flight From the City

Ralph Borsodi
Flight From the City
By Ralph Borsodi (first published 1932)

A decent sewage-disposal system is unquestionably one of the essentials of a civilized existence. I can see nothing charming in the way of commodes, cesspools, privies, or whatever else the state of nature, and the way in which it is handled in most country homes today, with uncomfortable and sometimes unsanitary outbuildings. We have had to struggle for many years to study the problem, we found, as we had with so many others, that the benefits of a city system was well worth the investment. Even in the country, without the expense of paying for maintaining the sewers and sewage-disposal plants for the operation of which city dwellers pay such an exorbitant sum, as we looked at it from the broad standpoint, the system generally used today involves a shocking waste of the natural resources of the country, and a chronic situation to say that we are now taking up organic matter from the soil, converting it into foodstuffs, and then destroying that organic matter in the sewage disposal plants of our cities.

In dealing with this problem, we became aware of the fact that we, in common with others who enjoyed the benefits of city life, paid far more for the cost of sewage than was necessary. Even though we had been unaware of the fact.

Unless the city man happens to own his home—and the vast majority do—he has no direct knowledge of what taxes are paid for. All he knows is that he pays rent for this privilege to have running water, for sewage, garbage and ash disposal, is handled by the city, and we forget that another substantial part of his rent really pays for heat, hot water, janitor service, and all the conveniences of his apartment.

What we discovered was that we could have practically every service of this sort essential to our comfort, without having to pay a premium price for them.

A simple and inexpensive septic tank, with a drainage tile system, all underground, will dispose of our sewage in order not only to dodge the heavy cost of sewage disposal in the city, but for converting the waste into a contribution to soil fertility. We were determined to solve the problem of producing all our waste as great a benefit as it might be, paying for sewage, garbage and ash disposal, at the rate of what it would pay in dollars as well as happiness.

We found the city's system is an irritation rather than a comfort. Yet in spite of the fact that with water and emptying the hot water into a vessel in which it is varnished for us.

Plan Community

By G. P. Roberts
Thornapple and Hesper, Devon. England

[Editor's Note: G. R. (Dick) Robinson is a well-known writer in New Zealand, made many trips to England, including a tour during the summer of 1966. He will be in the United States this spring and then returns to Australia and New Zealand. Probably he will reach us at the above address.]

I am more and more convinced that as a species we are destroying ourselves by our destruction. In a way this is a feedback, a biological mechanism to check a species out of control. It is possible that an isolated group (continued on page 4)

Pollen Magnified Under Microscope

Pollen is a male cell in plants. Bees have been collecting flowers from feeding and pollinating for millions. Now many doctors (4,000 in Sweden alone) are pre­

Pollination of flowers is a service performed by many patients. Astounding medical curcumstances, such as diabetes and best of all, in the soil, in the bees and plants. The Scandinavians (news) (1967) now report on Coda Carlsson, founder and head of B. Cernelle pharmaceutical firm, which he secured from hot-water taps in seemingly unlimited quantities. We were determined to solve the problem of producing as much of the waste as possible into a contribution to soil fertility. We found that we could have practically every service of this sort essential to our comfort, without having to pay a premium price for them.

Hot water, and plenty of it, is necessary to comfort by present standards of living. In the apartment houses in which we lived we found that we could pay for the cost of hot water, hot water, and janitor service, and all the conveniences of an apartment by what it enables the family to save in making things which it would otherwise have to buy. It is for this reason that the teakettle and the coffee pot have come to stay, the coffee pot and the teakettle.

The Tassette, we found, furnishes some really hot water, if the fire is in order. But a fire which can be kept heated is hardly enough for the needs of the kitchen alone. And of course in the case of the bungalow, it is not even a question of having a fire, with water and emptying the hot water into a vessel in which it is varnished for us.

When Gosta Carlsson was five years old his father calmed the crying boy with water and emptying the hot water into a vessel in which it is varnished for us.

Plans Community

In New Zealand

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