

HOMEMAKERS' CHAT

Wednesday, October 2, 1940.

(FOR BROADCAST USE ONLY)

Subject: "ADEQUATE LIGHT FOR THE FARM HOME." Information from the Bureaus of Agricultural Chemistry and Engineering and Home Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture. Bulletin available: F.B. 1838-F, Electric Light for the Farmstead.

--ooOoo--

News today from the U. S. Department of Agriculture, -- a new Farmers' Bulletin, right off the press. It's on "Electric Light for the Farmstead", and it contains the joint ideas of the Bureaus of Agricultural Chemistry and Engineering, and Home Economics. Also those of many lighting experts in the Rural Electrification Administration and the Illuminating Engineers' Society.

Good lighting is usually the first improvement the farm family wants in the home when electric current comes down the road. So if you are expecting to have electricity in the near future, write now to the U. S. Department of Agriculture for a copy of this bulletin, for it's free while the supply lasts.

Now's the time to make yourself familiar with principles of good lighting, before you go ahead wiring your house and buying lamps and other lighting equipment. It costs quite a lot to install electric lights and have the necessary wiring done, so it pays to do a good job in the first place. Sometimes when people put in the wrong kind of fixtures, or put them in the wrong places, they find it's too troublesome and expensive to change, and go on for years with poor lights or inadequate wiring.

The first thing for you to do, the lighting experts say, is to check over the ways the members of your family use light in each room. What work or study or play they do? In what part of the room is it done? Does it take a strong nearby light, or will the general lighting of the room be enough? How many people can use the same lamp at the same time,-- say for reading, sewing, and studying lessons? In



the lighting bulletin there's a table that lists all the usual activities in such rooms as the living-room, the dining-room, kitchen, and bed-rooms, and also in places like halls, closets or porches where you may need light.

Your family habits may differ from those suggested, so make your own list, and compare it with the one in the bulletin to see if you have left anything out. For example, your children may study in their own rooms; but your husband may use a corner in the living-room for his office, where he keeps his farm business accounts. He may need a special light in that corner.

The lighting specialists say that we need general lighting for each room, hall, and stairway, with switch control if possible, and local lighting as well, for activities carried on in different parts of the rooms. In most rooms you can provide the general lighting by ceiling fixtures, but in the living-room many people prefer to get their general lighting with several portable lamps.

Then you will need some local lighting in almost every room. In the kitchen, in addition to the ceiling fixture, you'll probably want a light over the sink, and possibly one over the stove. These lights keep you from working in your own shadow. If the man of the house shaves in the bath-room, he'll want either side-lights by the bath-room mirror or a good light just above it. The same way in the bed-room, you'll want lights on the dressing-table. And some members of the family may like to read in bed. Don't give them dim pink confections with tiny bulbs- "boudoir lamps." They oughtn't to read in bed at all if they can help it. But if they will read in bed, a first-rate pin-up lamp over the head of the bedstead or a standing lamp, or a good reading light on the night table will help save them from eyestrain.

These special lights are often provided by having several "convenience outlets" in different parts of the room. If the outlets are double you can plug in two lamps to use beside different chairs, or a light and a radio, or a light and an



appliance like an iron, and use both at the same time. And don't forget that your bed-room or living-room may not always be arranged just as it is now. If the furniture is moved, it should still be possible to have lights where you want them, if there are plenty of convenience outlets.

Hallways and stairs don't need so much light as the main rooms of the house. But they should be light enough so you can see to walk. In dark halls or on dark stairways, leave a small light on practically all the time, for safety's sake. It's a good idea to control stair lights by "three-way" switches that operate from upstairs or down, so you can turn the lights on from wherever you happen to be.

Basements used for work rooms need good light. Porches need about the same amount of light as hallways, unless the porch is used as an out-door living-room at times. Have a good light on steps leading down from a porch. It is convenient to have the porch and step lights turned on from inside the house. This is useful when guests arrive or strangers knock at the door.

You may be able to cut down somewhat on the number of lamps to be bought by grouping some of the living-room activities around a few portable lamps, or arrange to move lamps from room to room. But don't try to economize by buying smaller bulbs. One 100-watt bulb, which costs 15 cents, gives as much illumination as two 60-watt bulbs costing 30 cents, or six 25-watt bulbs costing 90 cents. And the cost of the electricity used by the large bulb alone will be less in the long run than for two 60's or six 25's burned together. The way to economize on your lighting bill is to turn out large lights when you are not using them for close seeing, but when you need them, have the right size bulbs.

And to be sure of doing so, check with the information in that new bulletin, "Electric Light for the Farmstead." The number is 1838-F, and a card to the U. S. Department of Agriculture will bring it to you.

