turkey, jelly, ice cream, and cakes. Such feasting was unusual, however. Common luxuries were chewing tobacco, pipe tobacco, and snuff.

Slave houses were usually log cabins, less often frame houses. If log cabins sound like very crude housing to us, we should remember that four people out of ten in the United States before 1850 lived in log cabins. The slaves' cabins had brick or field stone chimneys and were built high off the ground to give better ventilation. Cabins were chinked with mud in winter to keep out the cold, but the mud was often knocked out in the summer to give more air. A typical slave cabin had one room about 16 feet by 18 feet. They were often whitewashed.

Slave cabins on the plantation were grouped together in long rows with streets between the rows. These were called slave quarters. Like the white people in the slavery country, the Negroes liked to live together to keep from getting lonesome. Furniture was simple and rarely consisted of more than chairs, stools, tables, and beds. Some slaves often had better furniture that had been discarded by the master. Brooms for the house were made of wild broomstraw (also called broom sedge). Beds were usually built onto the walls, with the bottom of the bed made of knotted cords. Mattresses were almost always of corn shucks or straw, rarely of feathers. Blankets and comforters for cover were issued to slaves by the master. There was no shortage of wood for fuel; it was ready to be cut in nearby forests.

On many plantations clothes were issued twice a year, in December and May. Slave clothes were usually coarse, intended for long hard wear and for protection against the weather. Common items included shoes, boots, suits, hats, dresses, and petticoats. Women's dresses were made of cotton. Both men and women wore a good deal of homespun cloth, called Osnaburg. A few slaves were lucky enough to get castoff clothes from the big house. In clothing, as in food and housing, the slave enjoyed little or no luxury but suffered little or no want.

**Health and Medicine**

In one respect the slave was almost always better off than free laborers, white or black, of the same period. The slave received the best medical care which the times could offer. There are plantation records which show large sums spent on doctors' bills for the care of slaves. The ill health of the slave meant a loss of working time to the master, and the death of a slave was a great economic loss. For these reasons, and sometimes because the slave was considered practically a member of the family, the sick slave was treated by the same plantation doctor who tended the master. Lesser ills were treated by patent medicines and home remedies. The plantation mistress was likely to be the assistant doctor and chief nurse for sick Negroes.