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4-H Home Life project for South Dakota 4-H Girls

Agricultural Extension Service, South Dakota State College

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4-H Home Life Project

“C” PLAN
Dining Room, Kitchen or Child Care

Goal 1. To Add Comfort, Convenience and Beauty
1. Assemble a needed unit making at least three articles for it. Child care, kitchen storage, laundry, dining table, cleaning or dish care.
2. Make or select an additional article for the same room or for the child care unit.
3. Study color schemes and room arrangement.
4. Add beauty to the room through pictures, potted plants, flower arrangements.

Goal 2. To Learn Efficiency in Homemaking
(Choose one or more of the following)
1. Improve methods in one or more homemaking tasks.
2. Improve home health in one or more ways.
3. Practice thrift.
4. Conserve household equipment through good care and prompt repair.

Goal 3. To Become a Worthy Home Member
(Choose one or more of the following)
1. Plan your project with mother.
2. Improve home courtesy, grooming and cooperative spirit.
3. Develop a hobby.
4. Help plan and manage a social event in the home.
5. Assist with care of younger children in your home or other homes.

“A” PLAN
The Living Room or the Home

Goal 1. To Add Comfort, Convenience and Beauty
1. Assemble, refinish or repair a needed unit for a room of the home (kitchen, dining room, living room or bedroom) making at least three articles for it.
2. Make or select two additional articles for the same room.
3. Study room color schemes and arrangements make possible improvements.
4. Add beauty through pictures, potted plants or flower arrangements.

Goal 2. To Learn Efficiency in Homemaking
(Choose one or more of the following)
1. Improve bedmaking methods.
2. Give own room a complete cleaning and keep it orderly.
3. Improve home health in one or more ways.
4. Practice thrift.
5. Conserve household equipment through good care and prompt repair.

Goal 3. To Become a Worthy Home Member
(Choose one or more of the following)
1. Plan your project with mother.
2. Improve home courtesy, grooming and cooperative spirit.
3. Develop a hobby.
4. Help plan and manage a social event in the home.
5. Assist with care of younger children in your home or other homes.

“B” PLAN
The Bedroom

Goal 1. To Add Comfort, Convenience and Beauty
1. Assemble a needed unit making at least three articles for it. Window, sleeping, dressing, clothes closet, or bedroom ensemble.
2. Make or select two additional articles for the same room.
3. Study bedroom color schemes and arrangements and make possible improvements.
4. Add beauty through pictures, potted plants or flower arrangements.

Goal 2. To Learn Efficiency in Homemaking
(Choose one or more of the following)
1. Improve bedmaking methods.
2. Give own room a complete cleaning and keep it orderly.
3. Improve home health in one or more ways.
4. Practice thrift.
5. Conserve household equipment through good care and prompt repair.

Goal 3. To Become a Worthy Home Member
(Choose one or more of the following)
1. Plan your project with mother.
2. Improve home courtesy, grooming and cooperative spirit.
3. Develop a hobby.
4. Help plan and manage a social event in the home.
5. Assist with care of younger children in your home or other homes.
Learn to Make Our Linens

There are many things that 4-H Club girls can make for their present or future homes. In order to make them correctly you will want to follow suggestions given here. In doing this, you will be carrying out one of your goals, “To learn efficiency in homemaking.”

Household Linens

Table Linens—Many materials are used satisfactorily for table coverings. If one is selecting a new table covering, it should be in harmony in color, design and texture with the dishes, silver, and other parts of the dining center with which it will be used. The table covering should make a suitable background for the dishes, silver and food to be placed on it.

If you select oilcloth or plastic for your table covering, it should be kept clean at all times. If you select a lunch cloth or placemats be sure they are clean and well ironed with edges and corners true.

It is best to decide on the correct size of a table covering for your needs before you decide on the material that you will use. Very few materials come 54 inches wide or wider, so if you decide on a cloth one and one-half yards wide or wider, you will either have to get linen or use your imagination on how you will put 36 inch material together so that the seam will be a decoration rather than an eyesore.

Most dining tables require a cloth 54 inches or wider. So let’s consider the type of finish you would use if you were to make a linen cloth two and one-half yards long. First, all hems in both napkins and table covering made from linen should be put in by hand. Your leader or your mother will be able to show you how to make a hem in linen. It is satisfactory to make either a small rolled hem, or a hem an inch in width. Napkins may have a rolled hem or a hem one-half inch wide. You may leave the selavage on.

If you should decide to make the hem more of an accent, you could hem stitch the hem. In that case you would want at least a one inch hem all the way around the table cloth.

Many very lovely designs may be put on linen. However, since there are so many very lovely floral designs in damask, you would not want any design on a damask cloth. In other linens, embroidered, open work, applique designs, or monogramming could be used very well.

Indian Head, butcher linen, monks cloth and many mixtures of rayon make up into very beautiful table cloths. Since most of these materials come only in 36 inch widths, one has to decide how to put the material together to get the desired width. In most instances, it is well to get two widths of 36 inch material for a table cloth.

The best way to put the two widths together is to split one width down the center and put on one strip 18 inches wide down one side of the full width, and the other 18 inch pieces on the other side. Then the seams will not come in the center fold. When doing this type of thing, it is very important that one cut the material on the drawn thread line to get the exact center. It is a good idea to remove all selvage in this case, since putting a selvage and a cut side together will prove to be a laundry problem.

The type of material you select will determine the kind of a hem you will put into the cloth. For a cloth of Indian Head, butcher linen, and many of the rayon mixtures, the hem could be from one-fourth to one and one-fourth inches wide. Hems should be put in by hand unless the stitching is to be used as a decoration. If you use monk’s cloth, hand hemming is essential.

Other types of decoration that you may want to use on table linen include: 1, decorative stitches in the machine stitched hem; 2, using cross stitch or blanket stitch in the machine stitched hem; 3, using applied hems of contrasting material as a floral pattern, striped or checked material; and 4, fringing the edge rather than hemming the edge.

If you decide that fringing the hem is the type of finish that you want on your table cloth, then there are certain steps that you need to follow in order to do a good job. Decide on the width of the hem to be fringed, at least three-fourths inch in width. Draw a thread this distance from the edge of the cloth, mat or napkin. Stitch by machine where the thread is drawn. Then draw out the threads on all four sides that are between the edge and the machine stitching. In finely woven materials, you will find that it is easier to cut perpendicular to the edge up to the stitching. This will make your job much less tedious.

Napkins may be made to match most any table cloth that you decide to make. If you should decide to use monk’s cloth, you will have to decide on some harmonizing material for your napkins, since monk’s cloth is much too heavy for napkins. You should use the same construction methods on napkins that you would use on table cloths of the same material.

The size of napkins is important. No napkin is of any value for a meal unless it is at least 12 inches square; 16 inches square is a better size. Damask linen napkins are 22 to 24 inches square. Lapkin type napkins are usually wider than they are long.

Design or decoration on napkins should be in keeping with the design on the table cloth. Too much design is never good. A little design that is very good is acceptable in almost all cases.

Placemats are made of the same materials that are used in table cloths. However, very seldom do we see any placemats made out of a damask. In addition, many nice placemats are made from cork, plastics, hand woven material, fiber material that is woven, oilcloth, and many other things. The finish of placemats from material the same as table cloths will be the same as for table cloths. Cork placemats require some type of finish that will make them water resistant such as shellac. A painted on design could be used before the finish is put on.

Fifteen by twenty-four inches is a good size for placemats. The placemat should be large enough to serve as a background for all of the dishes, silver, and glassware that one person will need for the meal at which the placemats will be used. The important thing to remember is that the material selected be easily laundered and easy to have stains removed.

Hot Dish Mats—A convenient hot dish mat is made by crocheting over folded strips of white cloth or fine clothes line rope (long single crochet stitch over the fabric with one or two chain stitches between). Any soft white cloth may be used. It does not need to be new material; a piece of flour sack, old pillow case, or sheet will work very nicely. Heavy crochet thread or carpet warp may be used.

Dish towels are simple and easy to make. They are a good learning problem for beginning club girls, and for girls who have not used a sewing machine. Sacks of a size to suit the needs of the family are the most satisfactory material to use for dish towels. These sacks should be soft, lintless and absorbent. If there is printing on the sacks, it should be removed before the sack is hemmed. If there is no printing, the sacks should be washed.

Draw a thread on the sides on which there is no selvage. Cut on the drawn thread line. It is not necessary to hem the selvage. Crease the first turn of the hem about one-eighth inch. Crease baste or pin baste the second turn about one-fourth inch in width. Stitch the hem by machine, 13 to 15 stitches per inch. Cross the ends of the hem by re-tracing to prevent the hem from coming out. Stitch close to the edge. Dish towels require no decoration.

If dish cloths are made, the same construction methods should be used as is suggested for dish towels.

Hand towels may be made from linen crash or linen. If one uses linen crash, it is satisfactory to stitch in the hems on the sewing machine. If linen is used, hems should be put in by hand. Either is satisfactory for hand towels. Hems usually
range in width of one-fourth to one and one-fourth inches. Towels may be mono-
grammed, or left plain. Plain towels usually simplify laundering.

Hot pan holders can be made many ways and from a variety of materials. The thing one should remember when making hot pan holders is that they should be easy to launder, should be large enough to give adequate protection, and should be well padded. Percale, unbleached muslin, and gingham scraps make satisfactory outside material. Flannel, muslin or other materials can be used for padding. Many 4-H club girls like to crochet pan holders. Some are satisfactory, but many of this type do not furnish adequate protection, so are not a good type to make.

Bedding—Material that is used for sheets, and pillow cases should be closely woven, firm and without sizing (starch or other filling material). White is always good and as a general rule preferable. Unbleached muslin of a good quality is a good material to use for pillow protectors and blanket bibs.

Color on bedding becomes the style from time to time. It may appear as a solid color in pastels, or as colored hems, monograms, or other applied decoration to help carry out the color scheme of the bedroom, but the colors, if used, should be in harmony, preferably, of but one color, and fast to washing.

Size is important to a person making sheets. The standard sizes are: Single or twin bed—63 inches by 108 inches; three-quarter bed—72 inches by 108 inches; double bed—81 inches by 108 inches.

The 108 inches length is the torn length. This allows 76 inches for the standard bed, five inches for hems, five inches for shrinkage, and 11 inches at either end for tucking securely under the mattress.

A good sheet is torn, rather than cut to be perfectly straight. Hems should be the same width at both ends so they can be reversed. Hems should be two and a half inches with a one-fourth inch first turn, stitched with strong thread. Thirteen to fifteen stitches to the inch should be used. The hems should be stitched even and close to the edge. Ends of the hems should be stitched closed.

Pillowcases should be made from a good grade of sheeting woven in tubular form, or in narrow width. Pillow tubing is easier to make up and does away with the possibility of a puckered casing. Allow two inches in width and ten inches in length the size of the pillow. It is always wise to have the case a little larger around than the pillow. Too tight cases are under strain and soon break when the pillow is flattened down. Too loose pillowcases look clumsy and are uncomfortable in use. The length is a matter of personal preference.

The fabric for pillowcases should be torn and the hems turned evenly so that they will be iron flat. The stitching should be well done, even, close to the edge, short stitches and re-traced at the ends. Plain seams with an overcast edge or plain seams double stitched are suitable. Some people prefer to finish the seam end of a pillowcase by means of an overhand stitch. This keeps the corners square. Hems may be one and one-half to three inches deep with a quarter inch first turn. No decoration simplifies laundering.

Pillow protectors and mattress covers should be made of closely woven material; a good grade of unbleached muslin is suitable. They should be made with closed corners and a type of fastening which will keep out the dust. Either can be made with the under side extending over the top the width of the hem. It is usually a good idea to put in the hems before making the side seams in both pillow protectors and mattress covers. Snaps, grippers, or buttons and buttonholes, could be used to close the end.

Protecting bibs for blankets, quilts, or comforters should be made from the same type of material as are pillow protectors and mattress covers. The ends should be closed and should extend over the outer and under side of the top from 15 to 18 inches. Bibs may be snapped or stitched on by hand so that they can be removed easily for laundering.

Efficient Arrangement Means Time Saved

You will need to know how kitchens should be arranged to fit the needs of the family. Lots of times we can not change rooms structurally, but we can study arrangements and make the most efficient arrangement of the room involved.

Home Planning Arrangement

The Kitchen

Is your kitchen drab, uninteresting and with the equipment in disorder? Working with your mother you can do much to make the kitchen one of the most interesting rooms of the house.

The grouping of the equipment in the kitchen is one of the most important factors in making a kitchen convenient. These centers should be arranged to save time, steps and energy in carrying out the daily routine. In a well-arranged kitchen there should be good light at each center and the passing of persons through the kitchen should not interfere.

In any home there are three major tasks which you do in the kitchen:

- Storing food and preparing it.
- Cooking and serving food.
- Cleaning up.

To do this work without wasting ener-

gy, you need three major work centers. You should center in one place all the things for food storage and preparation; for cleaning up in another center; and for cooking and serving in still another center.

I. Food Storage and Preparation Center—Arrange this center as close to the entrance door as possible.

The refrigerator or ice box should be a part of this center. There should be storage cabinets for flour, sugar, canned foods, salt, spices, flavoring extracts, baking powder, soda, and other staples.

There should be room for flour sifters, knives, mixing bowls, preparation and baking dishes. This is the center where you would make cakes, desserts, and salads so you would need a work surface.

II. Cooking and Serving Center—You should have this center close to the dining nook or dining room. This center includes the stove, work surface, storage space and serving counter. Here you should store plat-
III. Sink and Clean Up Center—You use water for the preparation and cooking of food and for the cleaning up so you should put this center between preparation center and serving center. A work surface is needed to help in the cleaning up process. There should be storage space in the lower part for silver, paring knives, saucepans, and cleaning materials; in the upper left part, storage for glassware and dishes.

Types of Kitchens—The main types of kitchens are the L-shape, the U-shape and the two wall kitchen.

In the L-shaped kitchen the equipment is placed on the two walls of a right triangle, or L-shape.

In the U-shaped kitchen the equipment is placed on the three walls forming a U-shape. You do not have to travel far between any one of the three centers in this kitchen.

The two-wall kitchen is one in which equipment is placed on two parallel walls. You should be careful in this type of kitchen to have it so arranged that your line of work is not broken by people going through the kitchen.

Bedrooms

Furniture Arrangement—The furniture should be placed to give a feeling of balance. Place large pieces on opposite sides of the room, if possible. Place the large pieces of furniture "straight" with the lines of the room. Smaller pieces may be placed at an angle for variety. Keep all passageways clear, so that it is easy to get from one part of the room to any other part.

Furniture that is to be used together should be grouped, for example:

a. group study table, book shelf, chair and waste basket.

b. the larger pieces of furniture should be placed first and the smaller pieces belonging to the group should be placed conveniently and in good balance.

The bed should be placed so that:

a. it is easily made—preferably out from the wall.

b. it is not in a draft.

c. it is not facing the light.

The dressing table should be so placed:

a. that it is close to the closet.

b. that the light shines on you rather than on the mirrors.

c. brushes, combs, and other toilet articles should have a place in your dresser drawer. Impersonal articles such as a mirror might be placed on top of the dresser.

The study table should be placed so that the light comes over the left shoulder, if it is to be used by daylight. If this is not possible, place it where there is good artificial light. Rugs should be placed parallel with the lines of the room and with the large pieces of furniture to give an orderly appearance. Use a few well chosen pictures rather than crowding the walls with many.

Living Rooms

Plan with the Family—The living room should be so planned and arranged that all members of the family enjoy it. This room should be comfortable, convenient, and pleasant. It should provide space for the interests of each member and it should express a spirit of welcome to guests.

Call your family together for a planning session for the arrangement of the living room. Dad will probably vote for a comfortable chair, a low table for books and magazines, smoking supplies and a lamp. Grandmother may express her desire for floor coverings which will not slip and for a straight chair that she can get out of easily. Mary, in her teens, will welcome the convenient arrangement of couch and chairs for conversational unit. Jim, with home work to do, will want a desk or table equipped with writing supplies, a waste basket, and good light. Margaret, who is interested in music, will want a storage space near the piano for her sheet music and storage for records near the phonograph. Tommy, just five, will vote for a chair "That's all my own." It should fit his short legs. There should be low shelves for his toys.

After this planning session you'll probably find that your family wants the living room to include a reading unit, a conversation unit, a writing unit, a sewing unit and possibly a music unit.

Following this first family session start to plan with paper and pencil as to what you have and what you'll need to buy. We grow accustomed to things about us after living with them for a while. We "lose our eye"—become blind to what we have. We may feel that the room is unsatisfactory but we cannot see why. In that case we'll have to train ourselves to see again. Start by analyzing one part of the room at a time.

Analyze Your Room—You might like to use these headings:

1. "To be discarded"—discard articles that are not easily cleaned, that are not pleasing or restful.

2. "To be kept"—furnishings that fit the needs of the family and the room.

3. "To be improved"—worn pieces of good design which can be refinished, re-upholstered, or slip covered.

4. "To be purchased"—articles required to make the room meet the family needs. These may be added as the family pocket-book permits.

Structural Lines of Room—Large pieces of furniture and rugs should be placed to follow the structural lines of the room. This makes the room seem larger and it is more easily cleaned. This placing of furniture gives a more pleasing and harmonious appearance than a room in which large pieces of furniture and rugs are placed at angles and across corners of the room. In order to have a variety, chairs and small tables are drawn out into the room and placed at angles. Be careful not to block lines of traffic through the room.

Balance—Furniture should be arranged so that there is a restful feeling if one stands in the center of the room. Doors and windows have to be considered along with the furniture in striving for this balanced feeling. If there is more heavy furniture on one side of a wall than there is on the opposite wall, a feeling of lopsidedness results.

In balancing furniture consider its height, too; avoid having all tall pieces on the one side and all low ones on the other side. Balance of color is important. Don't group all articles of one color together but have a balance of colors in each group or unit.

Group Furniture—Living room furniture should be grouped according to use. Some free space should be left between each group. The room is well arranged for use if it is possible to enter the room and read, write, visit, or study without moving the furniture.

In grouping furniture consider both artificial light and daylight to get the best lighting possible. The number of pieces which may be grouped together in one unit depends upon their size, shape, use and the space which they must occupy. The rule of three is usually a safe one to follow. An odd number is usually more pleasing in effect. Five articles may be grouped together if needed to complete the unit for convenience or to give sufficient size or weight for balance.

Center of Interest—Each living room should have a center of interest or place which receives more emphasis. If there is a fireplace it is usually made the center of interest. A group of windows, a piece of furniture, a lovely picture or a wall hanging may be the important object in the room, with the color scheme and interest built around this particular object. There should be just one center of interest in the room with all other groups of less importance.

Arrange Your Own Living Room—

Draw a diagram of the floor of your living room to the scale of one-fourth inch to a foot. Show doors, windows, alcoves, fireplace, and any other part of the structure which would affect furniture arrangement. Draw the furniture to scale and place it according to the suggestions given for furniture arrangement.

Color for Your Living Room—One of the easiest ways to find a color scheme for a room is to take it from a picture, a wall hanging, or a lovely piece of material. When you find a picture in which the colors and subject satisfy you, buy it and hang it on the wall.

Study the colors until they become a part of you. The colors the artist has used most
are for the walls and floors and large pieces of furniture. The colors he has used more sparingly should be used for small accessories and accents of color in your living room.

**Backgrounds**

New finished or refinished floors, walls, woodwork or furniture for: kitchen, dining room, living room, bedroom.

The floors, walls and woodwork form the background of a room. Because the walls are usually of a large area and are on a level with the eye they are given greatest consideration.

If the backgrounds are inconspicuous the furnishings of the room will show up to much better advantage.

Color is an important factor. It may make a room seem larger or smaller, higher or lower, warmer or cooler. The color of the walls, woodwork, ceiling, floors and furnishings should be in harmony. The general rule to follow in selecting colors for the room is to have the floor the darkest, walls a little lighter and ceiling still lighter.

**Floors**—The floor finish or covering will probably vary with the room. The kind of floor desirable in the living room may be unsuitable in the kitchen where the wear is heavier and more cleaning is necessary. The floor finish or covering should wear well and be easy to clean. When deciding on a floor finish or covering, consider these points:

1. harmony with the other furnishings
2. durability
3. cleaning qualities.

**Floor Finishes**—Floor finishes consist of protecting coats of wax, oil, varnish, paint, shellac, lacquer or a penetrating seal.

The ideal floor should be non-porous, smooth, hard enough to resist abrasive action and should remain attractive under normal wear and care.

The ideal floor finish should close all surface openings to dirt or moisture and should resist wear and discoloration.

Whether the floor to be refinished is new or old, make sure the floor is in good condition. Removal of all old finishes and proper sanding is important.

The present trend in floor finishes is toward the use of penetrating seals. The modern floor seals are especially designed to penetrate only a short distance into the pores of the wood and harden at the surface. The floor is sealed against moisture, dirt, stains or other foreign material and may be used within 24 hours. As the finish becomes worn in used areas, it may be renewed quickly and easily without refinishing the rest of the floor. After the seal is dry it is advisable to use a coat or two of wax.

**Floor Coverings**—Linoleum has become a very popular floor covering. If properly laid and cared for it provides a durable and attractive surface that is easily maintained.

The two main kinds of linoleum are inlaid and printed. Inlaid has the pattern and colors extending from the surface to the base and the printed linoleum has the pattern printed on the surface.

Printed linoleum is cheaper, but is too thin to be durable. Worn linoleum can be painted with regular paint or deck paint.

Or perhaps you are going to select a rug. Choose one with soft, quick colors and a small simple design rather than a large pattern. If you have pattern in your draperies, bedsprad, or wall paper, plain rugs will be your best choice. The color and pattern of the rug in the floor covering will affect the apparent size of the room. A plain rug makes a room seem larger. A wide border or large patterned rug makes it appear smaller. Rugs should be easy to care for and durable and the price within the limit of your budget.

**Walls**—When considering the type of wall finish or covering desired, color, design and texture should also be considered.

**Patterned or Plain Walls**—Wall finishes should appear flat. The design and coloring should not make the walls protrude. Large designs adapt themselves to large wall spaces, while small designs are usually best in small rooms. If the rug and draperies in the room are patterned or figured, the walls should have little or no design. Plain walls usually make the best background for pictures and furniture.

Stripes apparently increase the size of a room. They also tend to give a formal appearance.

**Texture**—Texture effects are produced by design, blending of color and by general smoothness or roughness of the surface. Texture is a very important factor in interior decoration.

A dull finish is preferable in a wall finish or covering. The smoothness or roughness of the wall finish depends upon the size of the room and its furnishings. If the room is small and somewhat crowded the walls should be smooth and fine textured. If the room is large, furniture heavy, and the finishing fabrics coarse in weave, the walls may be rough textured.

**Wall Finishes**—Paint or wall paper are the two outstanding finishes for walls; however, there are numerous other finishes used. The durable, sanitary and labor saving qualities of painted walls appeal to many.

After the walls have been prepared carefully, follow the directions for the type of paint selected regarding thinning, number of coats and drying periods. Always use a good grade of paint. Flat paint is an inexpensive finish but does not have as hard a wearing surface as gloss paint or enamel.

Wall paper may be obtained in a variety of patterns. Papered walls are perhaps more difficult to keep clean and fresh, but with care and precaution paper makes a very pleasing and satisfactory finish. Select a washable, sunfast paper, if you can. You may paper all your walls alike. Sometimes however, one wall is patterned and the rest plain. In this case, the plain color should match the background color of the paper.

It is very difficult to visualize a finished room from small samples of paper. If possible, take a roll of paper home and hang it up to the wall to be decorated.

The salesman can tell you how much you will need if you tell him the measurement of your walls and the number of doors and windows in the room.

**Let's Sew For Our Home**

Lovely crisp curtains, or new drapes, a new spread or a new slip cover add beauty to a room and give the homemaker a new lease on life. 4-H Club girls can fit any of the furnishings in this section into one or more of the various units that are in the home life project.

**House Furnishings**

**Curtains**—Curtains may make a room gay, light, cheerful or drab and ugly. Curtains for many rooms of the house will fit into various units in the Home Life Project. Glass curtains may be beautifully tailored and must be crisp and clean. They are usually hung on rods and let fall in soft folds or tied back as in the case of ruffled curtains.

Curtains may be hung alone or with draperies. It is necessary to allow for sufficient fullness. If the material is semi-sheer, 50 percent fullness should be allowed; and if very sheer allow from one and a half to three times the width of the window for fullness.

Glass curtains are made of a wide choice of sheer or semi-sheer materials, such as dotted swiss, voile, gauze, marquisette, muslin, net, organdy, and celanese ninon.

Glass curtains have a purpose. They soften the harshness of the window. They reduce the glare, and change the color of the light entering the room. They give privacy. Sheer curtains let you see outdoors but prevent others looking in.

Construction points to keep in mind when making glass curtains are:

1. Pull the threads for cutting the material straight. Straighten by pulling from corner to corner if necessary.

2. If the material has a selvage, remove it. (If the material has been hemmed at the factory use it that way.) Side hems should be double, from one to two inches wide. Top and bottom hems should be the same.
light-weight materials require lining. Harmonizing bindings, braids, or bands are often used as decoration on the edges of unlined draperies.

Draperies are lined to protect the material from the sun, to allow the drapery to hang in richer folds, to give weight to the window effect and to add to the appearance from the outside.

The lining is cut one-inch wider and one and one-half inches longer than the finished drapery. A two and one-half inch hem is put in the bottom. The hemmed lining is then laid face up on the wrong side of the drapery so that one inch of the drapery shows across the bottom. Fold the lining back on itself precisely along the center and catch it to the drapery about every six inches. Be careful to keep the thread loose. Turn the edges of the lining under at the sides so that one-half inch of the drapery shows. Turn top edge under one-half inch. Slip-stitch the lining to the drapery except at the bottom.

Making the Bedspread—The spread should be long enough to tuck under the pillows and cover them to give “finish” to the bed and to tie it more closely to the decorative scheme of the room. The material of the bedspread can be repeated in some of the other furnishings of the room, if desired. Good workmanship is necessary in making a spread. Selvages stitched together should be clipped every two inches to prevent puckering after laundering. Since material may be only 36 inches in width, seams may need to be covered if material is plain. Bias tape, cording, inch wide tucks or bands of contrasting material may serve to cover seams as well as to give decorative effect. If material is only 36 inches wide use one width of material for the center section with strips on either side to make the desired width.

Usually a flounce is made for the sides. This should come within one inch of the floor. Each bedspread must be planned carefully. A gathered flounce requires one and a half to two times the length of the spread. A pleated flounce requires two to three times the length.

In making a couch cover a box is usually used. This consists of a straight band about five inches wide attached to the top section. The flounce is attached to the lower edge of the bands. A heavy cord may be inserted at the seam line or a lapped seam may be used.

Machine-stitched hems three eighths to one-half inch wide will finish the ends and sides. On hems it is well to remove any selvages.

Dressing Table Skirt—The completed dressing table top, skirt, mirror and table accessories should be a harmonious unit. So as you plan, keep in mind the type, size, color and pattern of each of these parts.

Consider the size of the room first. Much bright color or a large pattern will make a small room seem smaller. A colorful or large pattern, however, could be used successfully in a large room. The dressing table skirt may be made of the same material as the draperies, curtains or bedspread; it may differ from these in color and pattern or it may repeat one color of the other furnishings in the room. A plain wall allows pattern in the furnishings while a patterned background generally calls for a plain fabric. Curtains made from rayon, taffeta or sheer materials are not usually in keeping with the simplicity of a school girl’s room.

The skirt is made in two sections with an opening at the center front or a short flounce covering the center front; this gives easy access to the storage space. Three or four widths are desirable to make a full skirt; avoid a skimpy skirt. The skirt may be gathered or pleated. If gathered, the unfinished material should be two times the finished size; if pleated, two and a half to three times the finished size. The skirt may be tacked to the top of the table or snap fastener tape used so it may be easily removed for laundering.

If you use a heading it should harmonize with other room furnishings with the style of dressing table and be suitable for the weight of skirt material used. Be sure the heading does not extend above the top of the dressing table. The heading may be shimmered, pleated, corded, ruffled, quilted or fitted. If you would like a stiffened band at the top of the skirt cut buckram the desired width, then cut the fabric twice the width of the buckram and allow for seams. The stiffened band should then be stitched to the skirt with a lapped seam.

Upholstered Furniture—In many homes there is a piece of over-stuffed furniture that needs to be re-covered. A piece of furniture could go into the living room reading unit, bedroom ensemble or into a living room ensemble. If you decide to do a piece of upholstered furniture, ask at your county extension office for a bulletin with details of how to do this.

Slip Covers—Slip covers have become an accepted part of furnishing and decorating.
rooms of the home. They are used to protect the upholstery, to cover worn or discolored places and to add color to a room. 4-H club girls may slip cover a chair to go with many different units in the Home Life Project.

Your county extension office will have a bulletin on “Slip Covers.”

Everything Should Have a Place

Every room in the home needs storage space in the room or immediately adjacent to it. What about your home? Do you have a place for your cleaning equipment, your own personal things? This can fit into a very worthwhile 4-H Club project.

Storage

Kitchen

It is much easier to keep your kitchen in order if you have good storage space and have it well arranged. Well planned storage space, with the equipment near the place the work is done, helps to save the time of the person who works in the kitchen. It is possible to re-arrange small equipment and supplies to make it more convenient to use and to add inexpensive homemade shelves and racks to the cupboards to make better use of the space within them.

Using Space in the Cupboard—Have you seen cupboards in which there are shelves that are equal distance apart so that the space is wasted or the articles are stacked one upon the other? Have you ever had to remove or place plates in the cupboard by moving other dishes? Have you had to reach articles by stretching and getting on your tiptoes? Could the cupboard that is so poorly planned from the standpoint of storage space be made more convenient?

Perhaps you need additional storage space in your kitchen or perhaps it is a matter of making better use of the available space. Look in the cabinets and cupboards. Do you see waste space that is not being used? If so, what can you do about it?

Adding Space in the Cupboard

Extra Shelves—Half shelves and graduated shelves help to avoid stacking, and make it easy to choose at a glance and remove one article without disturbing the others. You could add small shelves of graduated width to hold cups, saucers, and smaller plates.

Racks—Try storing supplies such as spices and extracts and water glasses on racks on the inside of the cupboard doors. A rack on the door should be shorter than the width of the door and should be placed some distance from the front edge to allow the door to be closed. The deeper the rack the greater the allowance needed.

2. Arrange the articles used often so they are within easy reach.

3. Measure equipment and supplies and make improvements according to the size and shape of the articles. The following margins should be allowed about articles to insure movement of hand in placing or removing them:
   a. In front of article stored on shelf—two inches.
   b. Between article and shelf above—two inches.
   c. Between hook and lower edge of an article hung above it—three inches.

Cleaning Equipment

A specially planned space for cleaning supplies and equipment is important, a way to keep the house sightly from such materials as wax, polishes, and soaps. Cleaning closets may be constructed at small cost. The inside wall may be of wall board, treated so that it is smooth and impervious to oil by giving it a coat of enamel or lining the closet with oilcloth or linoleum. The floor should be raised about two inches to keep lint from coming in under the door, as well as to keep inside the closet the dirt which may adhere to the cleaning equipment.

The lower part of the closet should be fitted with hooks for equipment that will hang, while the upper is best equipped with shelves. Ventilation for the lower compartment may be provided by leaving space between the base of the closet and the bottom of the door, and by putting in holes or notches at the top.

The following practices for storing equipment and supplies help to determine the arrangement:

Any article should be removed without taking out another article. Each article hung should have space enough to be handled easily. Dirty and wet articles should be grouped together.

The brushes, brooms and mops should be provided with hooks or rings at the ends of the handles so they can be hung. The oiled mop may be stored with the mop part in the can. The wet mop is suspended over the bucket which stands on the floor.

The dustpan is hung so that the front edge will not be dented or jammed. Dust cloths are hung on hooks or if oily they are kept in a can or jar.

Table leaves are stored in a special case, which may be movable if desired. The wall of the closet may serve as one side of the case, but if the leaves are polished the other side should protect them against scratching. Seldom used articles and reserve supplies are stored on the top shelf. The lower shelf is kept for articles more frequently used.

Clean rags are kept in a box on the shelf. Tools are kept on the shelf, in a box equipped with a handle by which it may be carried.
If the water, vacuum cleaner, ironing board or step ladder are to be stored in the cleaning closet, additional space should be provided.

Cleaning Box or Basket—You can save many steps by collecting cleaning tools and supplies and arranging them in a cleaning kit which is easily carried from room to room. The kit may be made from a basket or a box, preferably with a handle. Partitioned in the box will help keep the kit more orderly.

Bedrooms

Helps for Orderly Dresser Drawers—Have you found it difficult to keep things in order in your dresser drawer? If so, you will be interested in divisions and sliding trays which provide a place for everything and helps keep them in place.

The divisions are made from two strips of cardboard each four inches longer than the width of the drawer (distance from front to back). Measure in two inches from each end. Mark and score inside the lines with a dull knife so that the cardboard can be bent without breaking.

Place the two pieces together, the backs even and fasten by pasting strips of cloth or paper around just inside the bend at each end. Also place strips across the top and bottom edges and over the seams at the ends of the divisions. Finish with enamel or cover with washable paper. Hold division in place in the drawer with thumb tacks.

The trays made from strong cardboard boxes cut down to right size and shape are reinforced at corners and edges with strip of cloth and paper and are enameled like the inside of the drawer. The trays slide on narrow strips of wood nailed to the inside of the drawer.

Do you have enough boxes and trays to take care of the many things needed in your dressing unit, such as comb and brush, different kinds of pins, beads, jewelry, and cleansing tissues? Handy ones can be made from boxes found at home.

The knobs or handles can be made from a spool or clothes pin. All the boxes are finished with enamel and decorated with transfer designs or wallpaper cutouts.

Fragile, dainty things can be kept safe and clean in cases made from pliofilm or some other suitable material.

The stocking case is made with two long narrow pockets, each of which is stitched to form three smaller pockets providing space for six pair of hose. The handkerchief case and the glove case are made similarly. Note that a space is left in the center between pockets to allow for folding over.

Closet—Every bedroom needs a clothes closet. A closet should have good light and the possibility of airing. It should have a rod for coat hangers, placed high enough so garments clear the floor by several inches. A shelf is convenient for hat-racks and boxes.

Shoe racks or shoe pockets on the door or wall is a necessity. A laundry bag or clothes hamper may be kept in the closet for soiled clothing. Garment bags and garment shoulder protectors will help keep clothes in good condition.

Linen—Most homes have a place for table cloths, napkins, place mats, doilies and the like. However, many homes do not have a satisfactory place to store bath towels, wash cloths, hand towels, bedding and the like. Such a storage space is needed in your family, why not plan a unit around linen storage. Maybe you have a hall closet near your bathroom that could be converted into a linen closet, or maybe you have space for a closet that could be built.

Double doors are better than a single door unless the closet is located in a corner. A depth of 18 to 24 inches and length of 36 inches are adequate.

The sorting shelf, which is a great convenience, may be from 30 to 40 inches from the floor. It may be a drawer front or compartment front hinged at the bottom on the board which fits under a shelf.

Trays have a decided advantage over shelves in making contents visible and accessible and should be used in closets over 18 inches deep; they also have the advantage that they may be placed on supports adjustable as to distance apart.

Several low piles of sheets, pillowcases, and towels are more convenient than fewer high ones. It should be possible to get at the desired article without moving any others.

Make The Old Look New

There are many pieces of furniture in our homes, in the attic, or in the home of a neighbor that is not being used. Why not refinish those pieces that are good wood as a part of your project. New pieces of unfinished furniture may be purchased and finished as a part of a project.

Refinishing Furniture

Any repairs required will need to be done before the refinishing process is begun. In many cases re-glueing will be the only repair necessary. Remove all old glue. This may be done by scraping, sanding, or hot water. To clean out socket holes, strips of sandpaper rolled around a pencil or dowel are usually effective. After all old glue is removed, apply a thin coat of casein glue on both surfaces and allow to dry almost completely, follow with a second thin coat on both pieces and allow to sit until "tacky." Place surfaces together and clamp. Do not clap too tightly as it squeezes too much glue from the joint. Wipe off excess glue. Let dry for several days, remove clamps and sand.

Regardless of the type of finish selected the following should be observed.

Protect your hands by using rubber gloves or a protective cream. Linseed oil may be used. Be careful not to get grease or oil on the surface to be finished. Even the natural oil of your hand will stain a freshly sanded surface. Keep in mind that you are working with inflammable materials. Work in well ventilated room away from an open fire.

Remove all hardware and knobs.

Use clean brushes. All pads for rubbing must be clean. Brims of felt hats or scraps of wool carpeting make good rubber pads.

Buy good quality brushes. The best brushes are made of hog bristles. Nylon brushes will soften in shellac or alcohol.

Use a brush according to the type of work being done. Brushes one and one-half to two inches wide are good for most refinishing.

Most new brushes have a few bristles which are never fastened in. Remove these by rolling the handle rapidly between the palms of your hands. Suspend a new brush in linseed oil for about twelve hours. When
Holding a brush properly is very important. You are ready to use the brush remove as much of the oil as you can. This makes the brush last longer and is easier to clean.

Clean the brushes thoroughly at the end of the job. Work out excess paint or varnish. Use turpentine for cleaning oil paint, enamel or varnish; and denatured alcohol for shellac. Soak the brush in the thinner and work it against the side of the container. Repeat several times using fresh thinner. The thinner may be saved in a sealed container and used again for the pigment and cleaning of the brushes.

If your paint job is to last several days and you use the same brush it may be stored in a keeping liquid. Work out excess paint or varnish, suspend the brush in a mixture of equal parts of varnish and turpentine. Brushes used in shellac should be cleaned in denatured alcohol. It is not serious if the shellac brush becomes slightly stiff for it will soften when dipped in fresh shellac.

Brushes should be suspended in the keeping liquid with the bristles well away from the bottom of the container. To suspend a brush, drill a hole through the handle at a point where a stiff wire passing through it and resting on the upper edge of the container will suspend it at the right height. Several brushes can be hung on the same wire. The keeping liquid should be deep enough so that it comes above the lower edge of the ferrule of the brush.

Discolored and worn paint and varnish should be removed. Use a good quality commercial paint and varnish remover. The best removers have an acetic acid base. Follow the directions on the can. Apply remover and allow to stand until finish "blisters," remove with putty knife, paper, or burlap. Work with the grain of the wood. Repeat until all finish is removed. Wipe surface with a cloth dampened with turpentine.

Always sand with the grain of the wood. It is at this stage that real refinishing begins. You can not cover up poor sanding. Sanding across grain will cause scratches which are very difficult to remove. If sanding is done by hand wrap the paper around a block of wood. It is easier to hold. Commercial electric sanders save energy and time. The ones which work with a back and forth motion are best. When working on furniture start with an 0-2 grit, then use 0-4 and 0-6. Finish with fine steel wool. After the first sanding wipe the surface with a sponge which you have dampened and squeezed as dry as possible. It will raise the grain of wood and help remove dust. Sand again with the 0-6 grit and steel wool. Wipe to remove dust.

Generally the wood of old furniture does not have to be filled. Original grain will need to be filled. Use a good quality commercial paste filler. Rub filler into wood with coarse cloth and work across the grain. Rub in good. Clean excess from surface and cracks. Dry for at least 24 hours.

If you wish to stain the piece use an oil stain. It is easier to apply and handle. Apply evenly with a cloth. Do sides and legs first, then top. Allow to stand for a short time. If light color is desired wipe excess off immediately. Use a soft cloth and rub with the grain. Dry for 12 hours. Sand lightly. Most "stain-varnish" is to be avoided.

You may use white shellac as a seal coat. Cut four pound commercial shellac 25 per cent with denatured alcohol. (Example: one tablespoon four pound commercial shellac plus four tablespoons alcohol.) Mix thoroughly and allow to stand 30 minutes. Work gently so as not to get air in the brush. Put shellac on surface. Do not brush over that place again. Dry 12 hours; then steel wool being careful not to cut through to the wood. Dust with cloth or sponge. There are commercial products which are excellent. They are applied with a cloth, dry almost dust free and are heat, water and alcohol resistant. After the seal coat different finishes may be applied.

Varnish—Use a rubbing varnish as it dries without being shiny. Apply a thin coat of varnish and allow to dry 24 hours. Sand lightly. Wipe with cloth dampened with a mixture of five parts turpentine and one part varnish. Apply a second coat. After thoroughly dry (24 hours) rub down with a light oil. Allow to stand several days then rub down with a fine rubbing car compound.

Wax—Apply one coat of paste wax and polish with a clean soft cloth. Use a circular motion and work vigorously. Apply a second coat. Rewax at least once a year but remove all old wax before re-waxing. To remove wax put a small amount of turpentine on a cloth. Wring it out and let stand in open air 15 minutes. Wipe over the surface quickly and then wipe dry with another cloth. Rub vigorously. Commercial wax removers are effective also.

Oil finish—Oil polishing gives a beautiful finish to hard woods. Brush on a mixture of two parts boiled linseed oil and one part turpentine. Let it soak in for 10-20 minutes, then polish about 20 minutes with a soft lintless cloth. Repeat at weekly intervals for at least 10 weeks.

Blonde Finish—(sometimes called "limed" or "pickled") Apply a "blonde" stain of any lighter color desired. This may be purchased or you can make your own. To make your own, dilute white flat paint with turpentine about five to one. If you want a color, add a few drops of oil color to the solution. Brush on and wipe off the surplus while still wet but just before it gets "tacky." First work across the grain then with the grain. Dry for at least 12 hours. Sand lightly, then varnish as previously explained.

"Glaze" Finish—The "glaze" is usually applied after the seal coat. Make a "glaze" by taking one and one-half teaspoons of Burnt Umber (in oil) and diluting it in three tablespoons of turpentine, adding one teaspoon of clear varnish. Mix thoroughly. These amounts are only for proportion. Apply with a brush, let stand for a few minutes—until tacky. Using a coarse cloth (cheese cloth), lightly rub with the grain until most of it is off.

Antique Finish—Enamel the article the desired color. Let stand several days. Apply "glaze" then proceed as for other finishes.

Enamel—Enamel finish may be any color desired. Enamel comes in semi-gloss or flat so you can get any effect you want. After sanding apply a coat of flat paint to the under portions, then to legs and sides, then to top. When first coat is hard and dry (24 hours) sand lightly, wipe off. Apply a second coat of one-half flat paint and one-
half enamel of the color desired. Dry 24 hours. Sand lightly and wipe off. Then apply a coat of enamel of the selected color.

If you are painting new wood, shellac all knots. This closes the pores so that pitch and turpentine will not ooze out and spoil the paint. Use a stick shellac.

Hidden parts (inside drawers) are not painted but given a coat of shellac thus controlling swelling and shrinking.

Bleaching Wood—Most bleaches are caustic so it is best to protect your hands with rubber gloves. A commercial bleach is more satisfactory than household bleach. The kind which comes in two solutions is best.

Be careful to keep the cups of the two bottles straight. If they are mixed and the solutions are used incorrectly you can cause injury to the wood.

Follow the directions on the labels.

Accessories Add Personality

Accessories are the small articles in a room that add interest and give a room personality. Such articles as pictures, wall hangings, lamps, wastepaper basket and rugs are included in the list of accessories. Some accessories may be made, others are purchased.

When selecting an accessory for your room ask yourself these questions?

1. Is there a definite place for it in my room?
2. Does it seem to belong in my room from the standpoint of color, pattern, size and material?
3. Does it have nice lines and proportion?

To the Living Room

Do you have space for a writing, study or reading unit in your room?

To do her best work a girl must have a place that is not too distracting because of too many things around her; it must be comfortable and have sufficient space to keep her from feeling crowded as she works. You'll need a desk with a broad top and a drawer or drawers for small equipment and papers and a comfortable straight-back chair. Any small plain table with a drawer will do.

Perhaps you would enjoy even more a desk made from an old-fashioned washstand. The necessary changes can be made easily. If the washstand is one with a drawer at the top and drawers and cupboard at the bottom, remove the cupboard and possibly the lower drawers—depending upon how much room you will need to sit comfortably at the desk. If the washstand is one with a board at the bottom, remove half of this board to give foot room. Refinish the stand to harmonize with the rest of the furnishings in the room. A kitchen chair or any wooden chair may be made attractive and comfortable with a coat of paint and a pad of colorful material for the seat.

The bookshelf may be made with shelves of one half inch wood, spools to space the shelves and clothesline rope to hold it all together. Select the finish for the shelves to harmonize with desk and chair.

The wastebasket is a utility article. It should be durable and washable as well as attractive. It should be in scale with the desk; it should be well proportioned and interesting in shape; it should also harmonize with the other articles included in the writing unit.

It is possible to buy inexpensive wastebaskets but it is not always possible to find them decorated in the right color and design. Attractive wastebaskets can be made from cardboard cartons or old tin containers. Paint or enamel is a serviceable finish.

Blotter Pads may be attractive and interesting in appearance, but they are frequently more ornamental than serviceable, especially if the table or desk is small. The pad should not interfere with the free movement of the arm when writing.

To Make a Blotter Pad—Determine size and shape of finished pad. Cut several patterns and lay each in place on table or desk top and see which is best.

Cut a working pattern, allowing three inches additional width (vertical) and 12 inches additional length (horizontal). Select a material as leather, leathersette, glazed chintz or oilcloth in harmonizing color and design. Oil cloth should not stick and peel. Lay working pattern on and cut out; turn with right side down and long edge toward you.

Draw lines ab and de one and a half inches in from each edge. Mark lightly so as not to mar the right side. Draw lines ij and cf three inches in from short ends. Draw lines kl and gh in six inches from each edge.

Fold oilcloth over at lines ab and de so that one and a half inches of right side shows along the long sides. Crease to place. Fold edges of short sides over to lines ij and cf, and then fold each over once again forming three inch pockets at each end as shown in the illustration.

Stitch all around, very close to the edge as shown in the illustration, if it is a material on which you could stitch. Cut blotter one-half inch less in width and one-half inch less in length than finished pad case and insert. Such accessories as a spindle, letter holder, blotter pad and drawer dividers can be planned to make the reading unit more useful.

Wastepaper basket—this is a necessity with many different groups in the home. Many lovely commercial ones are to be had. 4-H club girls can make wastepaper baskets. Very lovely, durable ones are made from plywood. Of course, if you needed one for the kitchen, it would be wise to select a metal one so that it would clean easier.

Book ends—Book ends may be selected or made. They are easily made and can be finished to suit the rest of the unit. The same is true of letter holders.

Chair pads and covers—Simple pads, covers and small cushions for the seats and backs of chairs can add attractiveness and are easily made.

For the cover, cut the pattern the shape of the chair seat, cutting out the arms and splats as necessary.

Use a straight piece of goods for the apron—extending side pieces to a length long enough to tie on or snap around and onto the back. Use a pleated flounce, ruffle or cording to finish bottom edge.

To make pads, place the material on the chair and cut to fit. Cut two layers of cloth and sew together with a plain seam on the wrong side, leaving an opening so the cover can be turned.

For the padding, cut layers of cotton padding or use an old quilt one-half inch smaller, all the way around the cover. Slip into cover and close opening.
Sew narrow straps on each corner so that pad may be securely tied in place.

Gingham, cretonne, chintz or printed or colorful feed sacks may be used for these pads or covers.

To the Bedroom

Rugs—Rag rugs, braided, hooked, crocheted or woven are desirable for a girl's room. These rugs may be made from various old materials such as wood, cotton, yarn or even burlap.

In selecting or making a rug for your room it is well to remember that it is a part of the background. The design and color should be inconspicuous so the rug appears flat against the floor and blends into the background. The rug should be of suitable size and shape for the space it is to occupy.

Pictures—One or two pictures, well chosen, may add to your room. Remember a picture needs to be in harmony with its surroundings.

Dresser Scarves—The tops of some pieces of furniture are so attractive that they do not need to be covered. A cover that is used on a dresser or dressing table is usually for protection. In planning a scarf allow a margin of wood, one-half inch to one inch all around. The scarf should not be so long that it hangs down on the sides of the dresser or so small that it looks lost. Vanity sets (large doily for the center and a smaller one on each side of it) limit the size and number of articles that look well when placed on top of a dresser and give a spotted appearance. Straight edges are best. Avoid large deep scallops, especially those with a peak.

The color of the scarf should blend well with the other colors and accessories in the room. The material you choose should be firm, easy to launder, easy to work on and heavy enough to be flat on the dresser. Linen, Indianhead, crash, grain bags, monk's cloth and a firm quality of unbleached or bleached muslin are suitable materials.

In planning your design remember that the decoration should be simple and follow the general shape of the scarf. It might be part of the hem, or a border or on only two ends of the scarf. Suitable structural decoration might be bands of contrasting or self color, rows of hemstitching, a decorative stitch following the hem such as cross stitch, feather stitch or a running stitch, rather than elaborate embroidery. The edges may be hemmed, bound or faced and can be made either by hand or machine. Hems should all be the same width with mitered corners. A narrow rolled hem may be used along the sides where the scarf ends are to have a different type of finish.

Garment Bag—The depth, width and length of the garment bag will depend on the size of hangers used and the number and length of the dresses to be stored. One which is five feet long requires four and five-eighths yards of 35 inch material. Use a closely woven, easily laundered material such as print, muslin, chintz or cretonne. This is another opportunity for using the feed sack unless you have already exhausted your supply.

Two pieces of board are needed—one to support the hangers; the other, used in the bottom to shape and weight the bag, should be lighter in weight. Cardboard may be used in the bottom instead of a board if preferred. The hook and shoulder portion of a wire dress hanger is used. The hook is slipped through a hole in the center, and the wires are formed in loops and fastened with staples to position on the underside.

The bag seams can be made plain, bound or a French seam with the last stitching on the right side. If a plain seam is used, it needs to be finished with a second stitching close to the edge to keep the edges from fraying. Binding or fold the opening at the top of the bag for the hook.

The bag part is made to open at the side. If a zipper is used, it should be long enough for convenience in use. This gives a more dust proof closing than one that is snapped. It may be put in vertically or curved. If a zipper is not used, there should be a good size lapping of the material at the opening with the snaps, hooks or buttons not too far apart, to keep the dust out.

Shoe Racks—A homemade shoe rack can be fitted to the available space and can be made to hold as many shoes as one may wish.

Shoe Pockets—Shoes can be stored in pockets that fasten to a closet door or on a wall. These pockets are useful for other small articles such as clothes brush, whisk broom, gloves and hose. The material should be closely woven and strong.

The set of pockets should be planned to meet your own needs and to fit the door or wall space. The one shown on page 9 is planned for four pairs of shoes. The foundation piece is 20 inches square. The pocket strips are eight inches wide and 32-36 inches long. This allows three inches for fullness in each pocket. Finish top edge of the pocket strips before they are attached to the foundation. Bias tape may be used or they may be hemmed.

Divide the foundation pieces into two parts each way so that it will be easier to pin the pocket strips in place. Then pin one across the bottom and one on the crosswise center line. Each section is eight inches wide which allows for fullness to be put into a box plait. Stitch between the pockets. For every extra pocket add five inches to the width of the foundation piece. For each row of pockets, add ten inches to the depth. On the pocket strip add eight inches for each pocket.

A casing made about two inches from the top and wide enough for a small strip of wood to be slipped in will keep the bag taut at the top.

Provide a suitable method for hanging the pockets on the door.

Hat Racks—Hats that are worn often can be put on a hat rack to help keep them in good condition. Those worn less often can be stored in hat boxes. If racks are made at home, care must be taken that they do not topple over. Oat meal boxes filled with sand and covered with wallpaper or cloth make satisfactory hat stands. Heavy cardboard or plywood can be used also. Cut two pieces and fit the slots into each other. Be careful to cut the slots wide as the thickness of the material used. Inexpensive hat stands which clamp on the edge of the shelf are practical.

Shoulder Covers—Shoulder covers help to protect the garments from dust accumulated in the closet. It should be shaped to fit the hanger but cut enough larger to allow for the dress and shoulder pads now commonly used. A straight piece of material set in between two side pieces of cover provides extra room for dress hanger.

Laundry Bags and Clothes Hamper—The laundry bag may be any one of many different styles depending upon the preference of the individual. Some people prefer a clothes hamper. A hamper, commercial or homemade, made from a heavy cardboard carton and decorated to harmonize with the room might solve the problem. A means of ventilation should be provided.

You will find convenient the melon shaped bag in several sizes for soiled stockings, soiled handkerchiefs and other soiled things which should be stored separately for protection.

The bag with the hanger top affords a good way to hang up the bag. It is made with a seam center front, upper part left open and stitched flat or bound.

The clothes basket and liner
To the Laundry

The Clothes Basket and Liner—Use clean baskets or small clothes baskets for carrying clothes to the line. Painting the basket makes it more durable and easier to clean. It is a good idea to have a removable clothes basket lining as a protection for your clean clothes. Use a washable, durable cotton material or sacks for the lining. Pre-shrink the material so the lining will fit after laundering. Cut the lining bottom to fit the bottom of the basket adding one inch for seams and the weight of the wet clothes. Cut a straight piece as long as the distance around the top of the basket allowing for seams.

This strip should be cut eight inches wider than the depth of the basket to allow for seams, double hem and the width of the top of the basket. Join the ends of the strip by means of a flat fell seam for strength. Make two finished openings for handles on the strip at a height so that the wet clothes won’t pull too much to make them wear. Sew the bottom piece to the side strip as it will be easier to pin dart the fullness. Use a flat fell seam. Since these linings are inexpensive and easily made, there should be several so that there is always a clean one. Some people use a fade proof oilcloth for the lining.

Clothespin Bag or Apron—Use a bag or apron for clothespins. Select a durable material such as a feed sack or pillow ticking. To make a bag, hem a 30 inch x 36 inch piece of material. Put the corners through holes in a hammock or harness hook and tie in knots so they can’t pull out. Strong twill tape may be sewed to each corner and tied through the holes in the hook or use a medium sized button over and under each hole.

One-half yard of 36 inch material will make a flat bag which may be supported and hung on the clothes line by a coat hanger. It should be cut about two inches wider than the coat hanger and shaped to fit the hanger at the top. Finish the cut out portion with a binding or facing of the same material.

Perhaps you would prefer a short apron with deep pockets to hold the pins. A pattern of your own choosing may be used.

The Ironing Board—The ironing board should be used in a place where there is good light, plenty of air, and room to work. A good ironing board should be adjustable to one’s height. A wide ironing board made to fit over your regular board is especially good for flat pieces such as shirts, table clothes and pillow cases.

The board should be padded and covered over both ends and sides with no laps or seams. The pads can be made from a table silencel cloth or several layers of old blanket laid out smoothly and basted or sewed together to make a thickness of not more than three-eighths of an inch. Make the pad eight inches longer and eight inches wider than the board so that the corners can be mitered and pinned with large safety pins. If the board is metal use tapes to tie the pad in place, or, if it is wood, put in a long tack in each corner.

A good cover can be made from unbleached muslin. Make a paper pattern to fit the top of the board. Allow five inches on all sides for a hem and padding. Shrink the muslin and lay it on the table and place the paper pattern. Make a half inch hem for a casing, leaving it open on both sides in the middle for a draw string. Finish edge of opening with buttonhole stitch or machine stitching. In the casing use a draw-string, elastic, or tape ties to fasten to the board. If the latter are used insert the ties in the hem before stitching. Use a piece of asbestos board on the ironing board on which to set the iron to prevent scorching the cover. Have more than one cover so that they are always clean.

A sleeve board is a convenience for ironing blouses, children’s garments, and sleeves.

Pictures

One or two pictures, well chosen, may add color and charm to a room. A picture should be in harmony with its surroundings. However, in rooms where there is a great deal of color and much pattern in the wallpaper, it may be better not to use any pictures.

Select the picture to fit in with the size and shape of the room, to the wall space it is to occupy and to the furniture and other pictures with which it is grouped.

You may wish to mat and frame your own pictures. Oil paintings may be framed close to the picture, while a mat should be used for prints and water colors. The mat enlarges a picture that might otherwise be too small; gives a rest space between the picture and the walls. A mat which is cut out and the picture pasted in, is better than one where the picture is pasted on top of the mat.

Selection of Mat—Color—Mat should be somewhat darker in color than the lightest tones in the picture. The modern tendency is to have the mat light. A color of the picture can be repeated in the mat. Some people like to use lines on the mat to outline the picture. If this is done, colors of the picture can be repeated.

Size—The greatest margin should be at the bottom to give a restful feeling in framing a vertical or horizontal oblong or a square picture such as the three following suggestions.

A vertical oblong—the eye should be carried up and down with the movement in the picture. The second greatest margin should be at the top, the least on the sides. Bottom margin should be about 11 parts, top seven parts and sides five parts.

A horizontal oblong—the eye should be carried across with the line movement in the picture. The second greatest margin should be at the sides, the least margin on the top. Bottom margin should be about 11 parts, sides seven parts and top five parts.

A square—the sides and top are equal to harmonize with the shape of the square. Bottom margin should be about seven parts, top and sides about five parts.

Selection of Frame—It should harmonize with the picture. Picture which is delicate in color and line, should have a fine frame. The frame should form a rest space between the picture and the wall and should be less noticeable than the picture itself.

Simple molding of natural wood can be keyed to the color of the picture by rubbing color into it or by painting it a solid color. A narrow black frame is good for etchings and prints which have black in their pattern.

Placing, Arranging and Hanging Pictures—As a rule, pictures in the home are more effective hung above or grouped with a major piece of furniture, forming a part of an interest center or unit. The distance that a picture should be from the piece of furniture depends upon its size, shape and apparent weight.

This arrangement places the center of most pictures at standing or sitting eye level which is an important factor in the enjoyment of pictures.

When selecting a picture which is to be used as a part of a furniture group, one should decide whether it should be a vertical or horizontal type.

Its size should be in scale with the piece of furniture with which it is hung. If the furniture is heavy or dark in color tone, the
picture should be relatively dark or bold in design and framing.

Pictures, mirrors, or wall hangings hung above a table, desk, mantel or shelf seem more closely related if one or more small accessories are placed so as to form transitional lines. If a color in the picture is also repeated in the accessory or upholstery, this also will help to tie the picture to the group.

Sometimes, pictures hung above a piece of furniture share interest with a lamp, vase or other large accessory. In such a case, it is always hung off-center and the two objects spaced so as to balance well.

In an informally balanced group where the picture is hung above and beyond the major piece of furniture, it is balanced by another piece of furniture placed so that the eye is directed to the center of the group.

If the picture is a portrait, it should face into the group. If the picture has movement or definite direction, it also should be toward the center and not away from it. Pictures which have decided movement or action require more wall space about them. They should never face into a corner. In a group of pictures, line direction should always be toward the center of that group.

Small pictures similar in subject, size and framing may be hung together in a group over a piece of furniture. The space between the pictures should be less than their width. They should be placed closely enough to really seem a unit.

If the pictures vary in size, it is usually advisable to hang the largest in the middle and the smaller ones on either side, spaced so as to give correct balance.

The group is usually hung with the bottoms or centers of all pictures in line. Each picture or group of pictures is considered as an individual problem and as part of the entire plan of the room.

To hang pictures, place screw-eyes at each side, well above the center, so that the picture will hang flat against the wall when the wire is in place. Both the picture hook and the wire should be invisible when the picture is hung.

If a picture hook cannot be driven into the wall or if the picture is so large and heavy that it needs visible support, it is hung by a continuous wire which is passed through the two screw-eyes and attached to the hooks at the ceiling molding. The hooks should be spaced so that the supporting wires will be parallel.

Lamps and Lighting—Good lighting, both natural and artificial, are necessary to prevent eyestrain.

Do you know that 40 of every 100 grade school children and 40 to every 100 college students suffer from poor eyesight? That is the high cost we pay for poor lighting in the home, which is one of the most common causes of poor eyesight. No matter what kind of lighting equipment you use—kerosene, gasoline, gas, or electric—good lamps are made to give your home the correct light right where you need it.

There are four common faults in lighting that we should avoid: not enough light, not enough light fixtures, glare, and light not well distributed.

The Dust Cloth—1. To a quart of hot water add one tablespoon of oil (boiled linseed, olive or paraffin), and stir until thoroughly blended.

2. Dip a soft absorbent lintless hemmed cloth of convenient size into the water while hot.

3. Wring the cloth tightly and hang up to dry.

It is important that the tiny globules of oil be thoroughly distributed and that the cloth be dry when used for dusting. It should pick up the dust without leaving an oily smear. Several dust cloths are needed. One to be used only on furniture and one for use on woodwork or floors.

Use a light uplighting stroke when dusting, do not rub. The dust may contain gritty particles which may scratch the furniture.

Give dust cloths a good shaking outdoors after using and before storing. Keep in a covered container in a convenient place. Wash and re-oil dust cloth as needed. A soiled dust cloth may cloud or mar the furniture.

To Polish Furniture—A good furniture polish may be made at home very economically as follows:

Put one cup of turpentine into a quart jar or bottle. Add to it one cup of vinegar and shake. Then add one cup of denatured alcohol and shake. Lastly add one cup of raw linseed oil and shake.

It is very important that each ingredient be added in the order given, also that the polish be shaken thoroughly each time be-
Simple Ideas Make Nice Toys

Play is the child's way of learning. Play is a serious thing to the child; it is really the child's work. Play contributes to the child's happiness. It is important that parents and older children realize these facts so that they will provide adequate play equipment. Many articles found in the home would make good toys. Parents often discard articles which would at no expense give valuable experience to the child.

Toys for a Child

Characteristics of a Good Toy Are as Follows:
1. It is simple (few details).
2. It is attractive in color and shape.
3. It is durable to stand hard wear.
4. It is safe with no sharp points, corners, or splinters.
5. It is sanitary and easily cleaned.
6. If painted the paint should be durable.
7. It is attractive in color and as to scenes.
8. It has a variety of uses and may be used without an adult's assistance.
9. Its use should foster good posture.

Around your home you will find many articles that could be assembled to provide play equipment for the child. Some of these are as follows:

- Spoons—to string and to use for building.
- Wrapping paper—for coloring and drawing.
- Colored pieces of material—to sort as to color and as to feel.
- Bottles, cream jars, and tin cans—to fill and empty.
- Boxes—to build with, to fill.
- Christmas cards—to look at, to sort as to color and as to scenes.
- Clothespins and rope—to hang up washing.
- Corks—to float, to build, and to sort as to size.
- Magazines and seed catalogs—to cut, to look at, to turn pages.
- Buttons and beads—to string.
- Oatmeal box—to fill, to use for cradle, etc.
- Nest of boxes and cans.
- Colored cloths 12 inches by 12 inches or 12 inches by 15 inches remnants.
- Look around your home and you will be able to add more ideas to this list.

Toys to Make at Home—There are a number of inexpensive toys that you could easily make at home. The smaller children will be sure to like them and what fun you can have making them.

After the furniture has been dusted, rub the surface thoroughly with the polish cloth. Rub with, not against or across, the grain of the wood. Be sure that the entire surface is polished—skipped places will show. Next give the surface a brisk rubbing with a clean, soft piece of wool or silk—rubbing with the grain of the wood.

Toy Bank—The toy bank is made from a coffee can by cutting a coin slot in the lid. It may be painted and decorated as desired.

Nest of Cans—For the nest of cans use various sizes of cans that fit together. Be sure the edges of the cans are smooth. Paint in bright colors adds to the attractiveness. Use several thin coats of paint, or one thick one for best results.

Clothespin Toy — The varicolored clothespins that fit over the edge of a painted can will help the small child develop muscle coordination.

Rattle—This sugar or salt shaker painted a bright color and partly filled with pebbles or rice makes a good rattle.

Articles to String—Large beads, buttons, and spoons are good for stringing. Use a shoe lace, cord, or twill tape for the string. Dip the ends in paint or shellac to make stringing easier.

Cymbals—Cymbals can be made from two pan lids. Replace the rings with knobs for ease in holding.

Clappers—Clappers made from four by four by three-fourths inch board with a one by one by three-fourths inch knob help children beat time to music.

Doll's Cradle—The doll's cradle is sure to be admired and used much by the smaller girls. The base and the sides of the cradle are cut from the side pieces of an apple box. The ends of the box were used for the ends of the cradle. Plywood or pine could be used for the cradle. The rocker part is made of inch wood.

You might prefer to make a doll's cradle, fashioned from two, ten pound fruit or sugar or salt shaker painted, with a one by one by three-fourths inch knob, reinforced with clothespins that fit over the edge of a paint can. Replace the rings with knobs for ease in holding.

More Things to Make:

- Jointed Toys—cats, dogs; Easel; Drum; Doll carriage; Wheel barrow; Tug boat with barges; Telephone; Trains; Pounding board; Settee; Hockey set; Peg board; Picture books; Doll clothes; Rag dolls; Spool dolls; Step; Chest of drawers; Closet; Table.
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