How to Make the Best Use of Your Closets

EFFICIENT AND ATTRACTIVE WAYS OF INCREASING STORAGE SPACE

By ESTELLE H. RIES
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HALDEMAN-JULIUS PUBLICATIONS
GIRARD, KANSAS
How to Make the Best Use of Your Classes

Efficient and Attractive Ways of Increasing Study Space

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Printed in the United States of America
A WORLD OF CLOSETS

When we start looking at the brave new world of the future, there is at least one thing that will still be with us. This is the need for closets and storage space in every home.

Whether your personal post-war world will be lived compactly in a one-room combination city home, or will expand unrestricted over rural acres, closets will be as indispensable as they are now and in some cases more so.

Human nature may improve to keep pace with the wonderful world a-coming, but it will probably not change in fundamental particulars. And what is more fundamental than the love of possessions which everyone saves—for use, for beauty, or for sentiment?

The easiest thing for a woman is to find things to tuck away in closets. Clothes, linens, china, papers, childhood relics, or what not—there never seems space for everything. As for everything in its place, that seldom happens, and we usually just continue to look for a "better 'ole."

Recently, we have learned much about thrift—of saving things to transform into unexpected uses. It would be foolish to unlearn this valuable principle of economics and to discard things still usable, however plentiful they may become. One can hardly visualize any post-war situation so extravagant that we shall want to cast aside the physical materials of living. Indeed, as more possessions become readily available to us, we shall have even greater problems of storage than is now the case.

But why postpone the comfort and convenience of proper storage? The subject is of immediate importance, too. With women everywhere using their time far more effectively and intensively than before, many of the small and valuable objects, with which they enhanced the decorative interest of their rooms, are now put away where dusting and attention can be eliminated. This practice is accentuated by the fact that the "cleaning lady" of yesterday is almost an obsolete myth today. Most of the former maids who went into war work, have chosen to continue in non-domestic activities. This in addition to its other effects, also makes a difference in closets, for housewives are keenly interested in work simplification. Ways of accomplishing this are in demand, and one obvious way is to provide closet space for heirlooms, silver, ornaments and similar non-essentials.

Not only the housewife and the house require storage space. Men are notorious collectors, but because their lives are spent so much away from home, they often have rather little say in the disposition of their own treasures, and the man with a closet all to himself is still as rare as a black swan.

There must also, of course, be suitable storage for all the paraphernalia, equipment and fixings required to run the house, as well as room for the belongings of the children. Finally, there must be place for such general, shared property as is used by the family as a whole, rather than by its individual members.

The fact is that efficiency in the home demands adequate closet room. And this should be so arranged that everyone in the family can properly organize and take care of the assorted individual possessions that each one acquires and values. This comes up against the resistance of human nature to systematic planning. To be sure, it would be pleas-
ant to drop one’s belongings anywhere and find them on demand without effort and unmarred. But no one has invented methods for that, and in the meantime we can save much time, trial and temper by having the proper places available in which to practice such tidiness as we can.

Most of the things that make the house a home are not used simultaneously. They cannot all stand around in the middle of anywhere all the time. Closets are needed to keep them out of the way and protect them. Such storage does not imply undue hoarding. It does indicate some attempt at systematic arrangement of the business and pleasures of living. The degree to which system and order are obtained will reveal a corresponding comfort, efficiency and convenience throughout the household. A logical place for everything in closets, cupboards, cabinets and similar storage spaces makes the home easier to clean and manage, keeps the rooms less cluttered, and puts the running of the home on a better business basis.

A closet can be either a confused jumbled retreat for all sorts of unrelated miscellanies, or it may be a well ordered sanctuary where everything is in its place. But to be in its place, it must have a place to be in, and it is at this point that most closets fall down. The fact that closets are enclosed and their interiors concealed from view, makes it easy to postpone giving them proper attention. We keep sticking things into them “temporarily” to get them out of our hand, and wait for a good stormy day to fix them up. But as far as this chore is concerned, it’s always fair weather. The result is that even if we start out with a semblance of order, the poor closet keeps on gathering possessions until its sides would burst, and it must hide its face in the dim recesses of its depth, miserable with humiliation.

In recent years much has been done to make closets “decorative.” While decorative treatment adds interest and finish to the closet, it is not the prime motive and should not conflict with the real functions of the closet. Far more care has been given to painted doors, pretty shelving and fancy hangers than to more basic matters of advantageous disposition of the objects or articles entrusted to the protective arms of the closet.

It is odd to think we live in a world where we know how many units of invisible vitamins there are in a glass of milk, but cannot find a collar button in our own bureau. We can build a perfectly calculated radar to locate danger at great distances, yet we cannot locate the recipe that we jotted down in this very room. We can see the distant scene through a television set, but cannot see what is in that odd-shaped bundle on the top shelf, and is it the green blanket or the silk lampshade?

Most of us have been putting up with such puzzles far too long. In the old days our grandmothers had large, sprawling houses and all the storage space they required even if it consisted mostly of the old-fashioned wardrobe with its heavy carved top that threatened to fall off and crush you every time you pulled at its creaking door. But life was more leisurely and spacious then, and less complex. Nowadays, with our way of living often in but one room, the old wardrobe won’t do. There are always more things than we know what to do with. Closets to accommodate them must be planned, analyzed, arranged and decorated with all the forethought and skill that one used to give to quite complicated problems. And who shall say that our possessions do not make for complicated problems? Either they are too few, too many, or the wrong ones, or the right ones in the wrong hands, and these alternatives are not lightly to be disposed of!

There are two things you can do to improve your storage facilities. Sometimes you can build in additional closets that do not cost too much; and almost always you can increase the capacity and usefulness of the closets you have. In the former instance, closets now can be made
to grow in places where formerly they were not even dreamed of. Much of the fun in buying or renting a house is the discovery of odd hideaway enclosures where no one would expect to find them. In the second instance, a home may have closets—few or many—which can be made far more efficient by some inner remodeling.

Today closets are more specialized than they ever were. They are not only for clothing, but for linens, dishes, food, drugs and medicine, brooms and cleaning materials, laundry equipment, luggage, books, hobby collections, toys big and little, golf, tennis, fishing and similar equipment, garden tools, odd pieces of furniture, winter clothes and seasonal accessories, decorations, small personal property and much else. The conglomerate herding of things in one large closet has died down. Not only do these different classifications require separate storage, but even within one classification, subdivisions should be encouraged. We are finding it better to have numerous small closets easily kept in order than a large one which can be only partially enjoyed. especially since a large one so often has to be shared.

Sometimes certain small closets can be grouped, so in the long run perhaps the matter resolves itself to one of organizing. The modern closet is so carefully planned and capably utilized that the family skeleton simply hasn’t a place to hide in.

**LOCATIONS, SIZES AND GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS**

The location of closets can contribute a good measure of convenience and efficiency. “Surprise” closets and other plus values in built-in storage arrangements will be discussed in another place, but here I want to take up certain preliminaries about closets in general.

While expediency often dictates where to put a closet, or tells us to make best of one already in, there are certain considerations to notice when possible.

It should be stated as a principle that closets should always be located near the place where their contents will be used. A vast amount of unnecessary walking and carrying can be spared by this, as we shall see in specific instances throughout this book.

Good planning puts the closets in spaces that cannot be used advantageously otherwise, whenever such spaces are large enough to give storage service.

A closet should be accessible if it is in daily use. It should, however, be inconspicuous, keeping its place in the structural background. Whenever possible, place closets where they will not break up large wall surfaces. Useful closets can often be placed near the angle of the room, if indeed not actually in the corner between the angles.

Closets divide themselves into two major groups. They are “reach-in” or shallow closets, and “walk-in” or deep closets.

A shallow closet, while at first sight discouraging, has its own advantages, and its space can be more economically used than that of a very deep one. Its very shallowness makes each article readily accessible, one of the first essentials of a successful closet.

It is ordinarily desirable if the closet door is almost as wide as the closet itself, otherwise one has to feel around in the dark without seeing what one is doing. Shallow reach-in closets need doors of this kind particularly, since it is impossible to walk in and explore their narrow area. For doorways more than about 2 feet 8 inches wide, double or sliding doors are convenient.

Often there might be floor space for another closet if it were not
for the additional room needed to swing the door open. Some closets are
located in narrow halls where to open the closet door almost blocks the
hallway. These can be given sliding doors that take no room at all when
open. Sliding doors are especially practical if the closet serves double
duty as for example, wraps on one side and sport equipment on the
other side. Slide the door to one side and you reveal the wraps; slide it
the other way and you have access to the athletic goods.

In years gone by, the woman of the house had little to say about its
planning and building, for since her whole life was occupied with keep-
ing house, she was not so concerned about shortening her tasks in order
to do other things. But nowadays she has everything to say about the
planning, for she realizes that she will be a better homemaker if she has
some time free from the household tasks to devote to wider horizons.

So important is closet room that it should be one of the first things
to be considered with the architect or builder when the house is
planned. Few people do this systematically. They wave their hands in
the general direction of a wall and say, “Let’s put a closet there.”

Naturally, no matter how capable the architect, nor how anxious he
is to please, he cannot know precisely what is to go into the closet unless
someone tells him. And if he doesn’t know, how can he plan so that
everything will be accommodated to best advantage? This, however, is
something that the housewife should be able to do quite specifically.
The more precisely she will do it, the more successful will be the closets.

The ideal is to get the maximum use out of the minimum space.
The implications of this logical little statement are far reaching. What
determines the size of a closet? Obviously, if it won’t hold what it is sup-
posed to hold, it is a failure as a closet. On the other hand, if it holds
everything and with much room to spare, it represents a waste of space
that might be more profitably employed. This means that you should
not only have in mind a well determined size for the intended contents,
but you should also analyze where the desired space is to come from.
Should additional space be provided from one side or another, or cut
from one portion or another?

There may be homes where space is no object. If you are the lucky
person who has such a place, you can go “all out” in closet building.
But where space is a consideration, real planning is needed, and should
indeed always be a preliminary to effective action.

Most of us make costly mistakes in estimating just what we have
to put into closets. We may guess casually that we have ten pairs of
shoes, and plan a shoe closet or shoe rack accordingly, only to find that
we may have twenty pairs, counting those for sports, winter, summer,
evening, galoshes, white, brown, as well as those that are too uncom-
fortable, though new, which, we hope, may feel better some time in the
future.

The best thing to do is to count accurately just what you have to
place. Otherwise you will either be inconvenienced by inadequate space,
or you will waste valuable room by having too much of an allotment.
It is wise to sit down with plenty of paper and pencils and consider
each room and each person in the family, listing under each one as
precisely as possible what the closet and storage requirements are, both
as to the objects themselves and their sizes. Always remember to try
saving some extra space for future purchases and probable acquisitions.
Considerable space is lost in closet building by using only part of
the height of a wall. I’m not here referring to odd tuck-away closets,
but to those where the balance of the space is merely wasted. Closets
may well extend the full height of the wall. Particularly does this hold
ture for clothes, linen and pantry closets the upper part of which may
be used for storing things that are not in constant use. A closet built
out into the room rather than flush with the wall should certainly be
built up to the ceiling, otherwise it is not only a home for dust, which
is matter out of place and strictly negative, but also deprives you of actual room to keep something in orderly form. But the closet is bad if the interior extends high above the door level. Put in a small door above the main door to make it more accessible. Much potential closet space can be retrieved in this way. A step-stool is useful for reaching those upper shelves in a high closet and can often help you make more effective use of otherwise inaccessible space.

It is better to have numerous small closets easily kept in order than a large one that can be only partially enjoyed. And there are generally odd places about a house that adapt themselves to the addition of a little closet for some special use that will add comfort out of all proportion of its size.

Often the space at each side of a mantelpiece may be used for a shallow closet or an attractive cupboard. Corner cabinets do much to supplement the closet space of living, dining, bed and bathrooms, and may be used for the requirements suggested by their locations.

Frequently under a window may be added a window seat into which many unwieldy things may find a comfortable berth. A window seat may serve a utilitarian as well as a decorative purpose. The lower portion may be used as a chest or closet to conceal various things according to the room in which it is placed: magazines or papers in the living room; toys in the nursery; shoes in the bedroom, and so on throughout the house.

Most built-in features serve the purpose of closets in one form or another. Whether they are window seats, built-in bookcases, china closets, kitchen cabinets, linen closets, inter-room openings, usually, if not always, there is space for storing things. This is not invariably the chief purpose, but it is generally a subordinate one.

Valuable space, seven feet by three feet by at least a foot high, is thrown away under every bed, even in the house so small that closet space is lacking for actual essentials. Beds that are built-in, with built-in drawers beneath them, provide an immense amount of precious space. They are sometimes called yacht beds and this space beneath gives the equivalent of two or three chiffoniers.

There are also any number of portable closets, chests, boxes, and similar furnishings, made of wood grained Kraft board, wood reinforced, some built with sliding doors, others in different shapes and sizes, to supplement any storage need. They may be slipped into closets to help organize them, or may be stood right out in a room, or slipped under a bed if need be. Their cost is almost negligible for the comfort they can give. helping to accommodate clothing, blankets and other household goods.

There is usually room under a stairway for a closet of good size, and it is both usual and desirable to utilize that space for the many things that suggest themselves—hats and coats, the larger toys, the baby carriage, temporary storage, and the like. As for rubber shoes, did you ever think of using the lowest step of the hall stairway, having the tread of it hinged so that it lifts up and makes a little closet for these bulky things?

It is useless to expect to keep one's belongings in order by merely putting them in order, however often this may be done. The only way to succeed in the matter is never to let them get out of order by hastily laying anything down out of its place. Convenient closets with the proverbial place for everything, are the best answer.

There are four essentials to be considered with regard to every closet no matter what its use or purpose. These are the correct allotment of space so that the intended contents will fit advantageously; convenient access to every article; adequate light; and adequate protection against dust. Test all closets against these points.
CLOTHES CLOSETS

Bedrooms that accommodate two persons should have two clothes closets, but if only one is available, there should be separate compartments and clothes-hanging facilities for each. Nothing is more annoying and unsystematic than confused sharing of a clothes closet. Aside from the inconvenience, the absence of privacy for one's possessions is a further irritation.

Clothes closets usually conform to one of the following types, the dimensions, of course, being varied to suit available space and other conditions:

1. A narrow closet, of 2 feet minimum width, whose depth from front to back may vary as convenient. 2. A shallow closet, whose depth from front to back is 2 feet minimum, while the side to side width varies. 3. A very shallow closet, of any depth less than 24 inches, with a width of about 4 feet. 4. A corner closet 2 feet minimum from front to back and any width along each wall. 5. A one-rod walk-in closet, 3 feet 6 inches minimum depth from front to back and a minimum width of 2 feet 4 inches. 6. A two-rod walk-in closet, any depth from front to back and width minimum of 3 feet 1 inches.

In the narrow closet, the extension rod will go down the center from back to front. In the shallow closet it will go across the center from side to side. In the very shallow but wide closet, two rods can be used at either side from front to back. In the corner closet the rod depends upon the dimensions, but will parallel one of the walls, not the door. The walk-in closets permit flexibility of rod placing, but these are more convenient from front to back where there are two rods, and more convenient from side to side in the one-rod closet.

A shallow, reach-in closet should never be less than two feet deep if used for clothing. That much space is advisable so that clothes on hangers will not brush against the walls. If the closet measures less than this, the pole or rod should go from back to front rather than sideways.

The principal closet should have a 1¼-inch pole or rod not less than 5½ feet above the closet floor and 12 inches from the wall. A clothes hanger closet must be 22 inches deep for men's coats with average width of shoulder. A depth of 20 inches is enough for a woman's dress closet, assuming that bulky coats are kept in a larger coat closet.

In the old time closet, only the wall space was used. The center was a loss. It was often jumbled and untidy. Clothes closets are no longer designed as mere spaces with a door in front, whose only equipment was a lot of hooks poked into every available inch. The least one can do is to extend a pole near the top, as indicated above. This will accommodate compactly more coat hangers and, therefore, more garments than the hooks. The pole or rod should of course be smooth and grooveless so that dust cannot lodge in it.

There is, however, a highly desirable fixture made for the clothes section of the closet that when used saves space, creates order and reduces construction costs. This is the now familiar clothes carrier which slides in and out of the closet on ball bearing rollers. It consists of a rod running from the back to the front of the closet, attached to the underside of a closet shelf. Operating smoothly on a telescopic slide, a touch of the fingers brings the clothes-laden rod clear out into the room so that one can see at a glance what is wanted without reaching into
the dark recesses of the closet. The device is of a strong metal that will support considerable weight. By the compactness of the arrangement, small closets so equipped will be found to provide equal capacity and more convenience than larger ones not so equipped. The device also does well for you in a closet wider than its door. Then the carrier can be fastened under a side shelf and the clothing pulled out from left to right in front of the door.

Another type of rod needs no fasteners. You merely place it between two wall surfaces and give the telescoping steel tubes a few turns. Chromium plated and strong, it safely supports all the clothes that it can hold. Again there is also a shelf bar which fits over any shelf without fastening and affords convenient hanging space under the shelf. It looks approximately like a very flat, broad letter S. The upper part you clamp onto the shelf and the lower you hang the hangers on.

Hooks when used, have certain places and purposes. They are required for such garments as one does not ordinarily keep on hangers, such as nightgowns, pajamas, slips, aprons, overalls and son on. Hooks should be easily reached from the door of the closet, but should not be closer than five inches to the door. There should be a minimum space of four inches between the top of a hook and the bottom of a shelf above it. It is more convenient not to place hooks behind a rod. The distance between hooks will vary with the type of garments for which they are intended. Ordinarily a minimum of seven inches between hooks is sufficient. No hook should be closer to a corner than 3½ inches. For men's bulky work clothes the hooks should be at least 12 inches apart and six inches from the hook to the corner. Hooks should have rounded, not sharp ends, for the protection of those who go at them and for the clothing as well.

There is much pleasure to be had by the use of a full-length mirror on a closet door. The top of a full-length mirror for the use of adults should be no less than 5 feet 11 inches from the floor, and the bottom no more than 14 inches from the floor. Every bedroom needs a full length mirror, by which a woman may check the artistry of her appearance. It may be placed either on the inside or outside of the door as decoration or utility decrees. Consider, however, that to see full length in it, it is necessary to stand a certain distance away. Therefore, do not have it so near a wall that this becomes impossible. As between having the mirror inside or outside the closet door, outside is preferable, for it is then possible to furnish the inside of the closet door with racks and contrivances of various kinds that add much to the capacity and convenience of the closet. Most people do not appreciate the possibilities of the inside of the closet door. To it can be attached shelves that collapse when not in use, and also permanent shelves of various small dimensions for such purposes as suggest themselves—little boxes, make-up kits, or temporary resting place for a small bundle.

One useful contraption is a rack that fits on any closet door. The flat hanging strips hook over the top of the door inconspicuously without screws and do not interfere with closing the door. This rack has a clothes rod for garment hangers and shelf for pocketbooks, small hats and boxes. Racks for umbrellas, golf sticks, bridge tables and similar indispensables can be accommodated on a closet door. Additional hooks, hangers, swinging rods and other gadgets can be found of excellent supplementary use on the inside of the door.

More elaborately may be mentioned a hanging closet which can be acquired or improvised to serve many useful purposes. It is made of basswood or some other light commercial wood. On account of its light weight it can be hung or attached where desired either on the inside of a door or in a shallow alcove, for its width is 19 inches, its height 68 inches and its depth 5½ inches. These are very convenient dimensions for a door, and its narrow shelves will accommodate tools, drugs, pre-
serves, or whatever the requirements of the particular room in which it is placed. It may be had with or without doors so that it may fit into a small waste space, and the shelves are adjustable. It is a really wonderful addition to the house with limited closet room. In a shallow closet, be sure there is room for the 5¼-inch depth when the door is closed.

If the shallow closet is a broad one with double doors, each division may be treated differently. One side instead of having a single pole may have two; one in the usual place and one about half way between it and the floor. On the upper may be hung short or lightweight things, such as coats and blouses, and one the lower one, longer or heavier garments. The spacing of the poles should be according to use. If there is enough hanging space on one side, the other may be devoted to shelves and other compartments.

At the other extreme from the shallow reach-in closet are the deep walk-in types. Some are so ample that they can be used as dressing rooms. Some of these are air-conditioned so that the combination of smoking while dressing leaves no lingering odors. Even for non-smokers it's a nice idea to keep really clean, cool air circulating breezelessly in a closet. It may be suggested in this connection that riding clothes because of their stable smell, as well as fishing clothes that are not put into the tub, should be hung by themselves even after being aired. Their characteristic odors seem to cling permanently, no matter what.

Many people consider the ideal closet to be one that is deep enough to walk into, for here one can stow away the more bulky and ungainly of our possessions. Closets of this type may or may not have a window. Ventilation is important in clothes closets to help keep the clothing sweet and free from odors and in humid areas to keep mold from developing. Air may be kept in circulation by a window or by openings in the top and bottom of the door.

While air and light are pleasant assets, there are adverse considerations in regard to windows in closets. The window gained in the closet is generally lost to the room itself, unless small windows are dotted arbitrarily all over the outside of the building. The advantage of light and air in the closets does not seem sufficient to override the resulting unpleasant architectural appearance of the house. To overcome this, one could make the window-closet a very large one, equivalent to a small room, and part of the master bedroom. This would be a logical dressing room, lined with inner closets and drawers, and the window would conform to those used on the rest of the bedroom story. A further adverse consideration is that dust and dirt will enter from the outside. In addition, direct sunlight may require extra protection against the fading of clothes.

With air-conditioning a practical affair today, the outside window is really not necessary except for light, and that can be readily satisfied by the simple expedient of an electric light. This, indeed, is valuable for every clothes closet and for every other type of walk-in closet. An electric bulb can be had that turns on when the door is opened and off when it is shut. Where it would be inconvenient or impractical to install electric wiring here, another recommendation is to use a small flashlight lamp in circuit with one or more batteries such as are had in doorbell circuits. A simple switch operates automatically on opening and closing the door. You save hours of groping for elusive things, and light is always an aid to neatness, cleanliness and order.

In connection with walk-in closets, it should be emphasized that any lock on the closet door should be opened from both the inside and the outside so that no one can possibly be locked in by accident. Mischaps of this kind are by no means as impossible as one would think, and the time to take precautions is before they happen.

It is always a source of surprise to find that no matter how clean and particular the housekeeper, a fair amount of dust seeps under the
closet door. Closets are much more easily kept clean if the closet floor is raised two or three inches above the floor level of the room. If desired, it may be raised still higher, about six inches or so, and this space used for drawers. More simply, though not quite so effective, is the use of a threshold. In window closets such as those described above, dust protection can take the form of extra doors on the upper shelves at window level, and sliding curtains to shield shoes and dresses. Cellophane and other decorative bags, of course, are obvious protection. In all clothes closets, but especially in those where winter clothing is stored in summer, doorways may well be equipped with rubber or felt gaskets and a tread. This makes it possible to shut the door really tight in case it is necessary to fumigate against moths. Where this is a likelihood, any ventilation openings should be completely closable.

As to the moth problem, no preventives are effective unless the garment is free from eggs or larvae when it is put away. Brushing, air and sunlight are the best remedies as moths injure chiefly articles which are put away and left undisturbed for some little time. Camphor and similar remedies may act as repellents when fresh, as parent moths are not apt to deposit eggs as long as the odor is strong. But as the odor weakens, protection decreases. Garments to be moth-protected should be scrupulously clean when packed, wrapped tightly in generous quantities of camphor, moth balls, cedar preparations, tar paper or the like, placed in cotton bags or clean boxes, and the boxes sealed tight with wrapping paper.

Any woman should appreciate the fact that it is good economy to take care of one's clothes by way of a well planned and well equipped closet. Garments placed on hangers and shoes put on trees last longer and look better longer than those jumbled together any old way. A hat that rests its whole weight on its brim will not preserve the perfection of outline as well as one mounted on a stand.

It will add greatly to closet efficiency to have a convenient place for shoes. To litter a closet floor with them is not only untidy but inefficient, for one rarely succeeds in keeping mates properly together, and one's disposition suffers along with the shoes that are kicked about. While there are many devices on the market, and many others that suggest themselves, the least space is perhaps occupied by shoe racks attached to the closet door. These are simply metal strips with a notched upper edge to catch the heels. Another arrangement is to place a molding horizontally across a shelf, catching a row of heels behind them. The shelves for shoes may be made level and just wide enough to take one row of footwear, or they may be sloping. The sloping ones are more expensive and seem hardly worth the extra cost.

There are also a large number of shoe cabinets available. With a pair of shoes for almost every dress, and some of them of light, soiable fabrics, these are useful in preserving the shoes as well as the time and temper of the one trying to find them easily. Shoe cabinets come in every form, from the simple single tier arrangement with an open front, to more elaborate types composed of separate drawers or having a door to cover the open front. Since they are made in papier mache as well as in wood, they do not need to cost much. Many are finished in chintz or other material to conform with the rest of the closet fittings. The compartments are grouped so differently in each model that it seems as though there should be a size to fit any nook in any closet.

Hats are also cared for in the modern closet, either by large decorative boxes, square or round, or by individual hat trees. These come in velvet or enamel, the latter having doll heads or other figures. One delightful closet employs carved wooden flowers to support its hats. There is no reason why any room should be lumbered up with hats here, there and everywhere. Hats are a problem in every house where women live. From the growing girl clear up to the modern grandmother, each has winter hats, summer hats, sport hats, dressy hats—all sorts. The wrest-
ling with the ordinary hat boxes on high shelves is inconvenient to say the least. As every woman knows, a hat box not only absorbs a lot of useful space, but it cannot be opened from its place on the shelf because it opens at the top, and the ceiling of the shelf is in the way. Accordingly, it has to be lifted down and up again at considerable inconvenience unless one with a front opening can be arranged.

This fortunately is no longer a mere dream of a closet in Utopia, for boxes do come with drop fronts so that you can stack them and not have to lift the whole pile down for access to the lower ones. Furthermore, today you can see hats in their boxes, dresses inside their transparent garment bags, for the boxes and bags have transparent fronts or sides that do away with rummaging. Hat box, suit box, blanket box, shoe box can be had with this efficient feature.

A hat closet set aside for nothing but hats will meet the approval of every woman. It may reach almost from the floor to the ceiling and be divided into compartments of different sizes. By this arrangement the hat box is made unnecessary. A most practical device is a stand that clamps on the edge of a closet shelf, has a main stem that bends when its cord is pulled, so that your hat just falls into your hands.

Provision should be made either in the closet itself or elsewhere in the room for non-hangable articles such as sweaters, foundation garments, underwear and accessories. A sizeable closet can add vastly to convenience by the presence within it of a chest of drawers in which to organize smaller wearables. These ingenious space saving units slip right into a closet and bring order out of chaos. They come in many styles and sizes. They in turn can have matched boxes or partitioned arrangements to systematize them.

It is well in buying or building chests of drawers or closet shelving, to keep them fairly shallow. Most deep drawers are useful only at the bottom, while the upper part is filled with nothing but air. Deep shelves, too, require so much stacking of objects that nothing is convenient. Rather plan shallow stacks with one kind of thing, and organize small belongings in the attractive little boxes available for the purpose. Unless these boxes are transparent they should be neatly labeled. Boxes without lids are more convenient if the articles kept in them are in constant or frequent use. Transparent envelope cases for lingerie, gloves, and handkerchiefs keep these articles spotless. Ornamental boxes for gloves, handkerchiefs, stockings, and so on, come in great variety and should be part of everyone's possessions. Order and system are in no way more easily provided than by just such inexpensive and yet charming trifles. One group of boxes covered with lacquered paper is called a closet ensemble and includes a hat box, stocking box, handkerchief box and tidy box for what-nots, all fitting neatly together and occupying a minimum of space. The decorations on all the closet accessories are available in designs planned to be particularly appropriate for their users, whether man, woman or child.

There are many uses for all the types of boxes available. There are little sewing boxes and jewelry boxes of various proportions. There are make-up boxes, manicure boxes, writing paper boxes and many others in various decorative finishes from old-fashioned or quaint coverings like costume prints, to modernistic designs in all their freshness of bright color.

Perhaps nothing will so win the heart of a man as shelves and closets he can call his own, and that are without any trace of feminine invasion. If the room has wall space, it is often possible to utilize it for the construction of built-in furniture such as shelves and drawers which may be concealed by doors. Men often have a tendency to accumulate things that in no sense contribute to the looks of a room; indeed, on the contrary, they quite detract from any aspect of order. Such things as papers, tools, or the things to the man's hobbies are too often kept in full view because there is no logical place to keep them, and they are a
constant trial to the housewife. These built-in features can often be im-
proved and add a good deal to the orderliness and comfort of the
man's room.

The man's clothing closet, of course, has a rod for hangers, and the
hangers are large substantial ones with curved backs to keep his coats
in shape. Furthermore, there will be enough of them, with a few to
spare. No man's closet is complete without a trouser rack and tie rack
hung on the door or just inside the closet, to keep the ties in neat order
and readily selected. Shelves may be partitioned or not, for hats, boots
and other accessories. Sizable closets may have built-in shallow tray
cases for shirts, underwear, and smaller wearables. The decorative
treatment will avoid feminine frivolities. It will be a dark, simple tail-
ored effect that looks business-like and practical.

DECORATIVE ASPECTS

Many things may be done with closets, both inside and outside, to
give them an indication of the owner's personality and taste. The closet
has come at last to possess real individuality. No longer is one closet like
any other. The cold white plaster walls and their cold cavernous dis-
order are now in disrepute, and pleasant, distinctive wall treatment for
closets has become the established custom. Today's gowns do not brush
against anything so plebian as plaster. Closet walls can be beautifully
papered or otherwise treated, and, indeed, are sometimes lined with
satin quilting or something equally lovely.

Of course, beauty in the closet must be strictly subservient to use-
fulness. No one wants a closet littered with sachets, bags and contain-
ers of dubious value. Impractical appliances, no matter how decorative,
are only in the way. The closet is primarily a utility, and a vital one.
But this does not mean that improvements are not possible and desir-
able, in the decorative aspect.

The plaster walls and unfinished shelves are a good starting point
for increasing the attractiveness of the closet. Let the walls be tinted
the color of those in the room or if the room has accessories of a con-
trasting color, choose that one. They should be done in flat or enamel
paint rather than water color, since the latter is apt to dust off on gar-
ments hung close against it.

Make the closet a part of your room. When the closet door is open
the inside should either match or complement the rest of the room.
Study it, pick the colors that suit it best, then work out a scheme for the
closet with two contrasting colors.

There are a number of things you can do with the walls, the sim-
plest and cheapest being a fresh coat of paint. You need not stick to one
color. Have the main part your major color, and let the baseboard,
moulding and shelves be a contrasting tone. There is much to be said
for woodwork of white, which tends to brighten the inner recesses.

Oilcloth is another good choice for closet walls. It is easy to apply,
comes in an endless variety of color and design, and, of course, washes
beautifully. There are even oilcloths which are especially treated for
walls. Their finish is duller and they are easily pasted up like wallpaper.
Incidentally, you don't have to worry about that oilcloth odor, for it
wears off in a few days. Linoleum is also serviceable on walls but should
be applied by someone trained to handle the cement to apply it properly.

Wallpaper is one of the most popular possibilities. Lovely patterns
are available, and many are washable. If you decide on wallpaper, don't
match it with that in your room, but choose a contrast. If the room
paper is figured, put a plain one in the closet.
Your next job is with the shelves. Before you get to work on these, however, shop around for the material to be used for garment bags as these will keynote the treatment and there must be an inter-relation. If you select chintz, the shelving should match or at least contain the same basic color. If you have a figured wallpaper, use an unfigured shelf material. The one thing to avoid is too much variety in this small space.

Shelf edging is accepted for every closet and is one of the nicest ways for a few cents to add a great deal to looks. Edgings of pleated flowered chintz, with a plain chintz binding may be had at a few dimes per yard. Oilcloth is cheaper. One kind is an embossed oilcloth that looks like brocade. The shelves, doors and edgings should show a pre-arranged system of gay color that will harmonize with the closet and the room for which it is intended.

In planning this color, think of the chief user of the closet. Follow your own daintiest taste in your own clothes closet, but don't give your husband a baby blue one. What he probably wants is a good, sensible, masculine shade—navy blue, rich brown trimmed with beige, or hunter green trimmed with chartreuse, or dubonnet with peach, or maroon. For your closet, you might reverse the proportions, as peach with dubonnet, thus being duly feminine yet in harmony.

Few closet necessities have become more transformed from ugly ducklinghood than hangers. They are no longer the natural color, uninteresting things which time has made familiar. Today they come in colors like flowers—yellow, blue, pink, green, amber, red, opalescent—in a new plastic which may be transparent, translucent or opaque, as you wish. Hangers also come in shiny black, walnut, maple, mahogany and other wood finishes. Some of them are in a choice of colored enamels. If these are too slippery, they are available covered in jersey. Rayon coverings are a little higher, and velvet still more so. Sachet, ribbons and the like can be added if time and taste do so incline.

Furthermore, you'll be surprised at the numerous shapes, styles and sizes in which hangers are made. They are specialized for every purpose. One is even a chrome-plated circle in which you park a fur scarf or a good sweater, and there are smaller ones for belts. For that fur coat (if any) there is a hanger with a long hook to protect the high color, in quilted satin. Hangers come in about 20 different styles, some for padded shoulders, some for ruffled blouses that mustn't have their collars rumpled, special ones for tailored suits. A recent comer to the family of hangers is a coat hanger with a long pole descending from its center. It is intended for garments that are not used each day. A rod is placed near the ceiling, and these hangers are hung from it by means of the long pole which makes them readily accessible. Long evening dresses can also be disposed of this way, on pole-hangers with curved-up ends, perhaps velvet tipped, to prevent the shoulders from slipping.

Dust covers to keep the clothing fresh are made of glazed chambray, ginghams, sateen, calico, and lightweight glazed or unglazed chintz. Dress bags of argentine cloth which is both dustproof and transparent, comes in many colors. Those of cheaper material are also available. There are likewise wardrobe bags that hold six or eight costumes. These are generally of cretonne or similar material and are well adapted for storing the clothing that is out of season. Garment bags, shoe bags designed to hang on closet doors, and matching laundry bags are sold in sets.

Even the outside of the closet may be cheered by painted decoration and by the use of unusual hinges and decorative hardware in interesting brass or wrought iron.
CHILDREN’S CLOSET

In clothes closets for children, the height at which a rod is placed is important from the standpoint of use. Thirty inches is high enough for the 3 to 5-year-old, while 45 inches from the floor is all right from 6 to 12-year-old. All rods, shelves, cleats and so on should be adjustable so as to correspond with the growing youngster.

You cannot expect a child to be neat unless you give him easy means to achieve that virtue. If all Junior's toys are stuffed into a large play box, the outward result may be good, but the inner disorder will give him habits that will still be embarrassing him years later at his office desk. Children are found to do a better job of keeping toys picked up and orderly if shelves rather than boxes or chests are utilized. Furthermore, there should be enough to subdivide conveniently. Use narrow shelves as a rule so that articles do not have to be put behind one another and be lost beyond the reach of chubby arms. Also have the shelves close together so that it is not necessary to pile things on top of one another and require lifting down a pile to get at the lower ones. Taking out the bottom box without spilling the top is an art rarely mastered by youngsters. Shelves may well have a strip along the front to prevent toys from rolling off.

Clay, beads, marbles, picture puzzles and other small items, or toys consisting of many parts, should be kept each in its own receptacle. One mother is addicted to a certain brand of tea balls for the sole reason that they come in uniform tin containers for such purposes.

There may be special boxes for cowboy suits and other costumes, big balls and large objects.

To forestall the tendency to scribble on the walls, one successful mother has made the door of a child's closet into a blackboard, this being applied just as linoleum is laid on a floor.

Small children learn quickly which shelves and hooks are theirs by assigning them a designated marking. For instance, all of a little girl's toy shelves can have a specific decoration such as kitty decalcomania, while brother's shelves can have a dog decalcomania. Another device is to assign a color—everything blue for the boy and everything red for the girl. Keep the markings consistent wherever used throughout the house.

If toy chests are used, they should be arranged in compartments with different sections for blocks and building games, for paints, clays, for skates, wagons, for animals, dolls, for dishes, and other classifications of games and toys.

Habits of neatness are best instilled when young, and will avoid in a child the confusion of disorder and the losses incident to needless breakage due to careless storage.

LIVING ROOM

Storage space is often overlooked in living rooms, yet it can do a great deal to add to the convenience and smooth efficiency of a home. There are so many objects of use and interest to the family as a whole, articles whose use is shared and therefore do not belong in the rooms
of individuals. Or even if more or less individual, they are used at the same time and place, and belong rightfully in the living room.

Here may be the phonograph records and musical instruments; the bulky stationery supplies too large for a desk drawer; camera equipment; old magazines; some toys; family games; card tables; knitting and mending; sweaters; flower vases ready for the gracious gift; a row of canuisticks with candles all ready for that moment when the fuse blows out; wrapping paper and cord. Or the pile of dad's favorite songs that always used to get mixed up with the other music. The uses are unlimited.

Sheets of music should be stored in shallow shelves; they are then more easily classified according to kind or composer and require less handling and searching.

In planning such a closet, one side may well allow space for the ubiquitous bridge table, by not having a shelf on that side low enough to interfere. The bridge table is about 30 inches square, so any shelf over it should be about 36 inches from the floor. A good average living room closet may be 3 feet deep, 4 feet wide. Another way of disposing of the card table is by means of a strong canvas holder into which it fits as in a pocket, with part of the pocket extending up in straps to hang on a hook in the closet door. There are also stands or racks which are not put in closets but stay out on the floor. They can be had for bridge tables and also for golf bags.

As in all closets, this one will be more convenient if its contents are grouped according to use and user. Toys should be kept in the lower part. Photographs and keepsakes should be in drawers or trays at least six inches deep. Mending materials should be kept in trays. Shelves are best for magazines, sheet music, phonograph records, musical instruments and so on. Objects used infrequently may be kept in the more in-accessible sections up at the top.

Since everyone derives pleasure from this closet, it should be everyone's responsibility to keep it in order. It should not be allowed to become a catch-all for all sorts of odds and ends.

The fibreboard chests of drawers referred to elsewhere, can also be used in the living room closet to organize things. It is often possible to allocate a certain drawer to each member of the family for smaller objects of personal quality, as well as having some of them for general shared use.

**DINING ROOM CLOSET**

Dining room closets have been strangely ignored in planning storage space for the home. A full sized closet here, however, should be considered as much standard equipment as a closet in every bedroom. There is no reason why table linens should be kept in the linen closet with the sheets and towels, while the silver is kept in the dining room buffet, and the china and glassware out in the kitchen. This scatter-ation is the result of not having a proper closet near the place of use. The dreary monotony of most family table settings is generally due to the fact that homemakers do not have enough room for a pleasing variety of accessories unless they store them away in hard to reach places.

No bought cabinets or buffets seem to be designed to hold all these things, and the ordinary cupboard isn't enough.

There should be a full-sized walk-in closet made up of units especially designed to keep the linens unmussed, and cut down on the breakages that inevitably occur when china and glass are stacked on kitchen shelves.
Dimensions of such a closet depend on the size of the house and the luxury of the appointments, but something of the kind is just as desirable in a two-room apartment without a dining room as in a larger home.

What is needed is the inclusion of proper drawers and shelves for each type of accessory. The lowest part of the closet might have a space about 15 inches high for electrical equipment used in serving meals—toasters, waffle irons, percolators and so on. Next might be drawers or sliding tays for linens and silver. Above these, on one side of the closet, would be vertical pigeonhole racks for trays and alongside them a pull-out shelf equipped with racks in which service plates could be separately laid. Above these would be ordinary shelves for dishes and plates which could be stacked. Cups should always be hung on hooks from the under part of a shelf, since their handles prevent them from safe or convenient stacking. Narrower shelves are suitable for small objects such as salt and pepper shakers, ashtrays and so on. The highest part of the closet, of course, will be reserved for seldom used vases and dishes, and, incidentally, it should be sensible to allot certain tall divisions for high vases, and not waste a whole section in unused height.

Shelves for china need to be at least 11 inches wide. In estimating the distance between shelves, allow one inch above stacks of plates which are handled from the side, and two inches above articles such as cups, which may be handled from the top.

Silverware should be kept in a separate drawer. Three inches is enough depth for the usual cutlery. If there are separate section for forks, knives and spoons, each section should be at least 2½ inches wide.

HALL CLOSETS

In addition to clothes closets in bedrooms, a coat closet is desirable in the hall, especially in a house where bedrooms are on an upper floor. There is nothing gained by having to go up and down stairs every time one wishes to leave the building. Outdoor wraps should, therefore, be conveniently near the entrance. In fact in farm houses there should be two coat closets—one for work clothes and one for better wraps. The former may be near a rear entrance and convenient to a washroom.

When possible, it is well to allocate a hall closet exclusively for the wraps of guests.

Since sport and athletic goods are generally for out of doors use, these, too, should be kept in a closet on the first floor. The closet for these should have hooks for tennis rackets and special clothing, shelves to lay gloves and nets, small drawers or boxes to hold balls and other small articles. Baseball bats, footballs and all the outdoor equipment, golf clubs, fishing rods, skis, and the like, really need space in most families. It should be remembered in planning home storage. Skates and jump ropes can be hung on hooks on the inside of the closet door. Such equipment varies so much from family to family, that specific details cannot well be given. The general principles given throughout this little book, however, can be applied here. At this point it is only desired to call attention to the probable need for accommodating these things. Another object too often forgotten is the baby carriage which is generally left in the hall to bump into. It is another thing which should be allowed for in a hall closet.
THE KITCHEN

Moveable kitchen furniture has practically disappeared. The walls of today's kitchens are almost completely covered with closets. Built-in types, ready to fit almost any kitchen space or need, are obtainable from numerous manufacturers. They include closets for china, for groceries, for utensils, for linen and silver, for cleaning materials and everything else one may desire in the performance of kitchen tasks. The woman planning a kitchen need only send space dimensions and floor plan to these manufacturers, and they will plan the kitchen for her and advise as to the best closet units for her needs.

For greatest efficiency, the closet for pots and pans should be near the stove. The bins for vegetables and shelves for canned goods should be close to the work-table. China cabinets should be near the sink.

In looking over your closet room in the kitchen it will very likely be found that your storage facilities can be almost doubled by the simple expedient of dividing the space between shelves by putting in another shelf. The kitchen cupboard is often planned with the shelves 16 inches apart. This means that the upper portion of each division is practically wasted, for there is a limit to the stacking one can do. Everyone knows what a nuisance it is to lift down a pile of assorted nested dishes when one wants something at the bottom of the stack. So, then, efficiency will be increased if you put in a shelf say eight inches above the lowest one and divide the stacks. The large platters may be laid flat instead of on their edges, and there is much less danger of breaking or chipping the dishes. The stacks of dishes need merely enough space between them to allow the hand to grasp a dish comfortably. Shelves should be only wide enough to accommodate one row of dishes, equipment or supplies, making it unnecessary to reach over them to get at others behind. Shelves may be made adjustable by the use of vertical wood strips on the wall fitted with movable pegs. Or ready-made metal strips with adjustable brackets may be fastened to the walls with the same effect.

A good purpose is served by having a hook for each cup suspended from the lower surface of a shelf. Otherwise they are awkward to place, take a lot of room and are apt to chip, since they cannot well be nested.

In the kitchen, the cupboard where dishes are stored between meals should be built-in reasonably low and above the drainboard where one may put them away after drying without the intermediate steps of piling them together on a specially cleared space and then carrying them around, probably climbing on chairs to reach the place where they belong. These dishes are needed three times a day and should be easy to get at.

In a small kitchen, sliding doors on the china cupboard save space and will not swing out to knock you on the head as the ordinary door seems to have a special fondness for doing.

The strain and annoyance of stooping and reaching into deep closets can be avoided by having sliding shelves. With these, you can bring out the desired equipment as the shelf is pulled forward, making it unnecessary to remove front objects to reach rear ones.

Increased closet capacity can be provided by the use of hanging racks on cupboard doors or on walls. With these you can store supplies and equipment where they are used, and make them easy to get at. They may be designed to hold packaged supplies, spice cans, extract bottles, shallow pans, lids for pots, cutlery, paper bags, waxed paper, recipe books, or other articles. All racks are built without backs, as the
door or wall serves this purpose. They are generally made of softwood. Three-fourths-inch board may be used for the ends of shallow racks; lattice or plywood for the bottoms; and lattice, plywood or half-round molding for the fronts. A rack on a 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. Allowance of space is also required for the rack inside the cupboard when the doors are closed. If labels are used on cans or packages stored on the rack, the front support needs to be so placed that labels can be seen above or below it. It is well to try the arrangement before finally attaching.

Both for the sake of safety and for the good of cutlery itself, it should not be tossed carelessly into a drawer. The least one can do is to use separate drawer sections for knives, pointing them all the same way, and the same for forks. Racks are obtainable to hang upon the wall, somewhat on the order of medicine cabinets but, of course, without shelves. They have slots in the top into which individual knives fit, from carving size to fruit peeler. The front is of glass, to enable you to see what you are getting at. Standard size accommodates eight knives up to 10 inches long.

CLEANING AND LAUNDRY

A special shallow closet should be assigned to brooms, carpet-sweeper, mops, vacuum cleaner, pails and so on. A convenient size is 2 feet 6 inches deep by 3 feet long.

Such a closet does not properly belong in the kitchen where it is frequently found, but preferably on a back porch or in a hall, or elsewhere away from cooking processes.

It may also include space for extra table leaves and for a step-ladder, and will usually have shelves for bottles, cans and stacks of clean dust cloths, as well as the many small brushes and other cleaning accessories.

Correct storage of equipment is important. Brushes, brooms and mops should be hung by the handles so they clear the floor. Brushes without handles should be set down with the bristle side up. The dust pan, which is always getting lost behind something or other, should be hung on its own hook. Shelves for the smaller objects should be high enough to allow clearance for the long handles of brooms. It is also possible to buy the hanging closets, previously referred to, to place on the inside of your closet door.

A laundry closet may well be divided into two large sections, one being shelved and the other accommodating all the large equipment and protecting it from dust and exposure. Some women prefer a separate closet each for washing and ironing equipment, keeping them near the scene of its own operations. The size of the closet depends much on what part of the laundry is done in the house. If you use a curtain frame, allow for it. Save room for the boiler, the clothes basket, the wringer, as well as the washing machine and any other equipment you have or plan to get.

The shelved portion will take care of the stain-removing outfit, such as bottles, droppers, small bowl, and the jars of salt, paraffin, starch, borax, etc. Other shelves will group together the soaps, soda, kerosene; the starch kettle, strainer and stirring spoons. Another shelf will have the iron and iron racks. A drawer may hold ironing board covers, felts and cheesecloth. Bleaches, dyes, bluing and the like belong in this closet.
Practically no self-respecting ironing-board nowadays allows itself to be seen lying around when not in use. It has its own support fastened by a hinge to its under side, and when its work is over it folds, leg and all, into a flat closet specially built into the wall to receive it. Such folding boards and closets can, of course, be bought ready made. The advantages of such a built-in ironing-board are several. This is always an awkward piece to lift and carry, and to store when not in use. The built-in type does not need to be lifted or carried. Stored in its shallow closet when not in use, it is entirely out of the way and secure. It cannot drop or fall and is not exposed to dust. When it is wanted, simply open the closet and lower the ironing board upon its firm hinge, letting down the strong, sturdy stand that supports it stably and without risk of slipping off or away.

LINEN CLOSET

The best location for a linen closet is in the hall near the bedrooms. Should there be no linen storage in the bathroom, a location near that important center of use is desirable. But in addition to a sizable linen closet upstairs, it is customary to have a smaller one downstairs. This will be located in the hall near the dining room and will be devoted to dining room linens. Both should have the shelves planned according to the quantity and folded shape of the linens to be accommodated.

When planning the linen storage, the basic consideration is the size of the home and the amount of entertaining done. One tiny guest room in the hospitable small home will need far more linen than a house of many bedrooms where there are only few overnight guests. Where the entertaining is for meals rather than overnight, the table linens may be more numerous.

Upstairs linen closets should be organized to place the different sizes of sheets and pillow slips, towels and spreads, and other linens each in its own classified stack. It is advisable to list the various types and then divide your space accordingly.

A good size for average families is a closet 36 inches wide and 24 inches deep. The first shelf may be about 22 inches from the floor. This shelf and the portion under it may be used for miscellaneous decorative boxes containing winter spreads, draperies, slip covers, and so on. The next shelf may be about 15 inches high and be used for sheets, being careful to stack them in separate piles for double and single. Next a 10-inch high shelf for pillow cases and guest towels; then another 10-inch high shelf for bath towels, face towels and washcloths. If there is no downstairs linen closet, a couple shelves will next be given to tablecloths, napkins, doilies, luncheon covers, and so on. Then a 24-inch high shelf for quilts and blankets, and crowning this, a variable space for comforters, pillows, and similar miscellaneous.

The most important thing is to arrange the closet so that each type of linen will be kept in a low stack of its own, easily accessible, the old way of piling pillow cases upon sheets, and sheets upon counterpanes, and towels wherever they would go, meant dislodging the whole business every time one needed access to the lower items in the pile. It is well to have separate places for double and single sheets, and for large and small pillow cases, as every housewife knows that it is a strain on the temper to pull down a narrow sheet and shake it out preparatory to dressing the bed, only to find that it is the wrong size.

Housekeepers disagree as to whether linens should be used in rotation by always drawing from the bottom of the stack and putting the
clean on top, or whether a set of three or four of each type should be kept in constant use until worn out. Since fabrics are apt to deteriorate with age, the rotation plans seems better. This is facilitated by having sliding trays which may be pulled forward or lifted out entirely. They have high sides and back to keep the linen securely in place, but no obstruction in front to hide it. Generally, a good tight-fitting door keeps the linen dust-free. Some housekeepers prefer shelves with drop fronts, that is, fronts hinged so that they drop down when opened. This gives the cleanliness of drawers with the convenience of shelves. The increased visibility of these various frontless effects makes it easier to see what is available and to draw from the bottom.

An added convenience is a sliding leaf under the middle shelf of the linen closet. On this you can place a pile of freshly laundered linen while you are sorting it and putting it away.

The downstairs closet is devoted to table linens, napkins, doilies and similar things. Kitchen linens could also be kept here, but it is better to keep them in the kitchen where they are used. Some linens are best hung to avoid folding, such as covers for a refectory table. When space permits, a good practice is to put up two or three long horizontal bars and hang the cloths over them. The lowest one should be about 20 inches from the closet floor, permitting a 40-inch cover to hang over it double. Width of the pole is governed by the width of the table covers. If more than one pole is used, the next one should be set a couple inches behind the lower one, so that the hanging cloths may pass behind and not overlap the one below. More simply, such covers may be rolled around a cardboard cylinder and kept on a shelf or in a drawer.

The modern linen closet is not merely a space with orderly rows of open shelves, chastely plain. Open shelves are gay with edging of scalloped or muffled fabrics. Often the whole contents are concealed by a decorated window shade which protects the contents and is raised and lowered in the regular way. Colored pads may be used on linen shelves, and ribbons dividing different types of ware. As much may be done in these directions as the time and taste of the homemaker permit, and it is undoubtedly true that the charming results add almost as much to the pleasure of using the closets as their efficiency adds morale and convenience to these important parts of the home.

BATHROOM

Closets are desirable in the bathroom for the storage of soaps, drugs, cleaners, toilet tissue, hot water bottles and similar supplies. Baby baths, scales, and infant supplies, if any are anticipated, naturally require extra space. The ideal bathroom also contains a linen closet for clean bath towels and wash cloth. Though these things are often kept in a separate linen closet in the hall or elsewhere, it is obvious that some provision should be made for them at the point of use. Such a closet may be combined with the surplus stock closet. If necessary, it may contain only a week to week supply, to be replenished from the main linen closet from time to time.

The bathroom requires a small cabinet with mirror door above the washtub. Small toilet articles—soaps, razors, toothpaste, cold cream, hair tonic are kept there. Such a cabinet should have a separate compartment for medicine and first-aid supplies. These should always be fresh, and carefully labeled. Poisons should be kept out of general reach. Cabinets of this type have been standardized by the manufacturers so
that the needs of any bathroom can be filled at reasonable price. Most of them are of metal.

Sometimes a closet of 30 inches deep, which is about the width of the average bathtub, can be built in space that is often wasted between the end of the tub and the bathroom wall. For those who need an extra bathroom shelf, there is a chrome rail consisting of two tubular bars which can be slipped behind the wide toilet top, making it a shelf on which bottles may be placed. Another simple idea is to fasten a ready-built 4-inch thick cabinet onto the inside of your closet door, and thus provide extra shelves, hooks, clips and racks. You can create new wall space without taking up any floor space. These come in four widths from 18½ inches to 22½ inches.

The quest for beauty nowadays has resulted, as we all know, in a great variety of preparations—soap, lotions, creams, powders, salts and what-not. The last word in luxury, I think, would be to have a small closet right at the bathtub where one would only have to reach out to get just the soap or salts or power that the mood of the moment called for.

THE GARAGE

A garage is expected to house other things than a motor car and a couple of chickens. Garden equipment, garden furniture, sports equipment, household maintenance supplies such as paints, light bulbs, tools, screens, storm windows, trunks, luggage, auto supplies, bicycles, sleds and similar things, are easier to get at than in the basement. Large toys such as express wagons and tricycles usually present a storage problem. If at all possible, keep these in the garage.

In the garage, gardening equipment may be placed in a closet partitioned for wheelbarrows, lawnmowers, baskets. There should be hooks for rakes, spades, hoes, garden hoses and so on. There should be shelves for special plant food, empty flower pots, liquids for sprays and other small objects. Gardening tools such as scissors, clippers, trowels and the like may be hung near by. Storing garden tools in the garage is a universal practice, but one that keeps the garage from being presentable unless the things are in a closet.

Many home owners are discovering the advantages of putting up a balcony cupboard in the garage for garden furniture and other things. The space above the hood of the car is generally wasted. It can be utilized without any sacrifice of floor space. By hanging a row of these cupboards from the garage ceiling, you can create 285 or more cubic feet of space. The balcony bottom is about five feet above the garage floor, so there is plenty of room for any car to drive under safely. Bins at either end, in space wasted anyhow, can be used to help support the balcony cupboards. All sorts of combinations are possible, with this idea as a basis.

A luggage closet merely needs a clean, dry place made of hard boards, about 2½ feet wide, 5 feet high, for 2 trunks, 7 to 15 suitcases and hat boxes.

The garden hose should be so arranged as to be off the floor so it will not intercept the lawnmower. If tools such as hoes or rakes are hung, be sure they are fastened so they cannot fall and strike anyone on the head or face. Serious accidents have been caused by the careless hooking of the tines of a rake or the cutting edge of a hoe over the edge of a shelf so that a slight vibration knocks them over, on to an innocent passerby.
CELLAR AND ATTIC

The cellar has long been primarily a place for useful storage. However, it should not be kept as a home for aged and infirm furniture. If such there be that still has utility, make it fit for use. If it is beyond restoration take your courage in your hands and get rid of it. Stray things like this do ultimately reach a stage when even charity can call them naught but rubbish. They accumulate quickly and make a cellar unsightly and difficult to care for properly. Furthermore, they deprive the cellar of its more active, living present-day utility, and should be firmly, if regretfully, disposed of.

Ordinarily, a cellar that is partitioned off into small rooms for different purposes is much more easily cared for and kept in order than one which consists of just the one large space. Even if the major part of it is undivided, certain things may still be concealed. Rough pine-board partitions, or wallboard, costs very little. It is desirable to shut off the furnace thus, since the heat which it generates should not be allowed to spread and so spoil the cellar for cold storage purposes. Warm, damp air hastens the degeneration of meats, vegetables and fruits.

Boxes for fruits and vegetables kept in the cellar should be shallow so that you may readily supervise them and at once remove those that show signs of decay. It is well, if possible, not to place these directly on the floor, but rather on bricks or boards. They are then more easily handled and moved in cleaning, and the circulation of air beneath prevents dampness and consequent decay. Further, they should be as far away from the heating department as possible.

Sometimes a rack built six or eight inches high makes a good place for storing boxes and trunks. A great deal of time will be saved if every trunk will have fastened to its lid a complete list of its contents. Boxes should be similarly labeled. You cannot be expected to remember from season to season where you have put certain things. All bundles, trunks, boxes and packages of every kind should be accurately labeled as to contents and placed so that the labels may be seen at a glance in order that stacks of things and heavy pieces do not have to be shifted about and even unpacked to find what is wanted. Don't be stingy about the information you put on the label. Give as much description as necessary to identify the contents. This saves ages of time and fruitless unpacking, searching, repacking, and general botheration. As a matter of fact, the importance of labeling should be emphasized in all departments of the household. Preserves, canned goods, groceries, drugs, medicines, dresses hidden behind covers, and all things that do not in the first place have identification should be given it. This saves time, trouble, accidents and much inconvenience.

A closet removed from the furnace and built perhaps in a small extension, thus giving it three cool stone walls, will be found a good place for the storage of preserves and canned goods.

If you have an attic, an odd closet should be designated for out-of-season storage. Small heating stoves, electric fans and other out-of-season equipment can be stored here instead of being in the way elsewhere. Christmas decorations may be packed in boxes, labeled and shelved. Some housewives instead of storing out-of-season wearing apparel and costumes in numerous odd-sized small boxes, prefer to put
them in large uniform cartons, duly labeled with the contents. Too many people use their handiest bedroom closet for dead storage of infrequently used out-of-season things—an inefficient use of valuable space.

There is much flexibility in closet planning. No two closets are alike. Special needs and housewifely individuality leave their mark in every one. Not all of the suggestions given herein can be used by everybody. It is hoped, however, that they may stimulate an efficient and helpful approach, and provide for easier and more attractive storage of individual and household possessions, to the end that the home may run more smoothly and be a better place to live in.