

WINDOW DRESSING.**SOMETHING CATCHY.**

IN some localities, especially those in which newspaper publicity is not practised, says *The Apparel Gazette*, it does very well to have something so odd in the window that it will at once make the public look. A design quite out of the ordinary could go with the title of "Rock Bottom" sale. The floor of the window should be entirely covered with rocks, and in the centre a half sphere placed to indicate the world. Lettering on the side would spell the legend "Best Clothing on Earth at Rock Bottom Prices." At the top of the globe a single figure could be posed and the whole background be used for the display of suits.

TO SHOW OFF STRAW HATS.

Shoe stores have evolved a way of hanging shoes which could be adapted to a display of straw hats. Very narrow ribbons are fastened at the top in such a way as to hang down like a miniature swing; the distance to which they hang should be irregular and the spacing may be left at random. A hat could be nipped at the edge by a bull-dog clip, the hook of which is then hung upon the ribbon; the hat will slide to the lowest point and its weight will pull the ribbon taut into a "V" shape. This combination of bright ribbons and straw hats is neat, and is further made more attractive by adding the fancy adjustable colored bands which many hatters carry in stock.

USE OF WIRE NETTING.

A good fitting for a window that is much used by English window dressers is a wire netting. It is the custom there, says *The Chicago Dry Goods Reporter*, evidently, to fill in the back of a window almost solely with whatever goods are to be displayed. The netting offers a surface that is easy to fasten goods to, and it might be found very convenient for American trimmers.

Some stores have a double window, and it is not hard to arrange. It consists of a circular platform as large as there is room for, divided in the middle by a partition of good height, which will be the back of the window. For convenience, the two halves of the platform may be made detachable. The whole arrangement should revolve on a pivot, then the back may be trimmed at leisure, and, when ready, turned into place and the old display removed. Frequent changes can thus be made without difficulty, and by removing the back portion it will not be in the way.

It is best to have a light colored store front, and it should always be kept fresh looking, if the paint has to be applied twice a year. It suggests neatness on the inside, and will attract attention quicker than a dull colored front. A pale cream with gold lining is one of the latest and most tasteful things in colored fronts.

Every window trimmer should carry a note book and take notes or make a rough sketch of anything and everything that he can think of in the way of aiding him in his work. A design in the rough may be preserved in this way and worked out in detail later.

Much of the frame work that is made for special displays can be used over again with little alteration. It should be put away in a room or cellar and kept for future displays.

DRESS GOODS DISPLAY.

An English window dresser has invented an appliance which is very effective for facilitating window dressing operations in dress goods. It consists of an annular piece of block tin, into which a number of brass spikes are riveted, these being bent inwards at the tip end. The whole is surmounted with two half-circles of large size wire, and holes are pierced in the tin at intervals, so that it may be easily nailed or fixed to the top of an ordinary window block. Fabrics can be arranged in pleats and in many artistic folds by means of this apparatus. It is adjustable and detachable, and can be made to fit any size block. It is quite invisible when in

use, and no pins are required. It can be dressed with single or double width material, and is useful for various purposes besides putting in the window, such as making displays in doorways and windows. This could be easily constructed by any window trimmer.

SOMETHING ABOUT CARPET WOOLS.

IT IS true, says *The Carpet Trade Review*, that wool is a variety of hair which, in ordinary language, is accepted to mean a smooth, straight filament growing from the skin of animals, similar to horse or human hair, without serrations of any kind on the surface. In contradistinction to this, wool has certain peculiarities strongly marked. It is wavy and soft, while hair is straight and crisp and dead to the touch. Under a microscope wool will show a roughness and quantities of scales projecting where there is a bend in the fibre. If each fibre were straight and smooth, as in hair, it would not retain the twist in spinning. The wavy convolutions above described cause the fibres to become entangled with each other and hold themselves in close contact. Each fibre of wool has the appearance of a continuous stem, showing along its margin minute serrations like the teeth of an extremely fine saw, and a close inspection reveals the fact that these are severally continuous around the entire fibre. So they may be compared to as many circular leaves set into each other and all opening or pointing in the direction from the root toward the free extremity. This gives to wool the peculiarity and character of being matted or felted, which in hair cannot be done, as it has no felting qualities, and when the combined wool and hair is used, unless the quantity of wool greatly predominates in the mixture, the hair, not being tenacious, will work to the surface of the carpets or other materials manufactured.

The war between Turkey and Greece would, doubtless, if prolonged, advance the prices of wools from those countries, especially Turkey, which exports carpet wool in large quantities. Wools from west of the Balkan Mountains run about 30 per cent. carpet wool, Aleppo, Angora, Bagdad, white and colored, Smyrna, Karadi, Calmuc (low Russian) are largely imported from those sections, and the stock is strong and fairly good staple. The Calmuc, or low Russian, is very crude in quality and condition, and assimilates very much to the Marwaha wool from East India, both are used for very cheap carpets. This Calmuc, or Russian, wool is produced from sheep of the wild tribes of Russia, which are constantly on the move from one grazing country to another, and no attention is paid to the quality and condition of the sheep or the wool produced. Russian camels' hair is used with cattle hair to advantage in a mixture with wool for cheap carpets, art squares and rugs, and some of the productions are very pretty and salable.

Marwaha, or the cheapest of East Indian wools, as mentioned above, is a grade nearly akin to common goat hair, but has enough of the wool qualities in it to produce a good dye and fast colors. It is mostly used for admixture with better stock for cheap carpets.

DISADVANTAGE OF A SMALL MOUTH.

She—"What a little mouth your young lady friend has! It doesn't look large enough to hold her tongue." He—"It doesn't."

EMPEROR BILL'S ERROR.

"Isn't the Emperor of Germany the grandson of Emperor William the First?" "Yes, but he thinks he is the great grandson."

HER IDEA OF FOLLY.

Chollie—What is your idea of a fool?

Dollie—A man who neglects to kiss a girl who has asked him to tuck her sleeves in her coat.