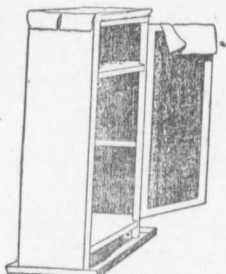


## Labor Savers at a Nominal Cost

MUCH has been said and written on the subject of how to lighten the labors of the farm housewife, and on increasing efficiency in the home. And should it not be the privilege and aim of every woman to do her work in the easiest way possible? Labor-saving devices do much in lending assistance to the busy housewife, and aid materially in making housework pleasant. The prices asked for some of the patent labor savers, however, look rather prohibitive to many of us, and we put off purchasing from year to year, because we feel we cannot afford to do



Iceless Refrigerator.

so. We should not become discouraged, even if our bank account is small, as it is possible to make many labor savers at home which will fill our requirements nicely.

Rhea C. Scott, District Agent for Home Demonstration Work in Virginia, has recently compiled a book on "Home Labor Saving Devices," and has dedicated it to "the women and girls of the farm, lovers of the fields, and friends of the flowers, whose hearts hear the call and whose hands seek the skill to make the rural home a place of light, of health, and of beauty." In this volume appear many illustrations and descriptions of home-made devices, two or three of which we reproduce herewith.

One of the trials of the housewife during the hot summer days is to keep milk, butter and other perishable foods in good condition. Of course,



Roller Tray Wagon.

some people lay in a supply of ice every winter and do not have this trouble to contend with. Those who do not, however, may make good use of an iceless refrigerator, such as the one shown in the diagram. This convenience is comprised of a simple wooden frame with a covering of canvas, flannel, burlap, Indian head, or linen crash, made to fit so that little air is admitted into it. Wicks made of the same material as the cover are tacked on top of each side of the cover and extend over into the pan of water sitting on top of the frame. This

water is taken up by the wicks and carried down on the sides of the cover by capillary attraction when evaporation takes place, drawing the heat from the inside and lowering the temperature. Tests have shown that if the refrigerator is kept in a place where the air circulates around it freely, a temperature of 50 degrees F. may be obtained.

Make a screened case three and one-half feet high with the other dimensions 12x15 inches. If a solid top is used, the water pan, which may be a pan 12 inches square, is placed on top of this. If the refrigerator is used indoors, it should stand in a large pan to catch the drip. The covering should be made to fit the frame and be fastened on with buggy or automobile curtain hooks and eyes, arranged so that the door may be opened without unfastening these hooks. The bottom of the covering should extend to the lower edge of the case.

Another device which interested us in this book on "Home Labor Saving Devices" was a roller tray dinner wagon. If we were to purchase such a contrivance made in wicker or expensive wood, we would find the price very high, but one like the illustration can be made at a nominal cost. It is a great step saver, as the dinner can be placed on it off the stove and wheeled into the dining room, taking everything on one trip. After dinner, the dishes for washing may be piled on to the dinner wagon and taken to

the kitchen in short order. The diagram practically explains itself. It consists of a china closet, a drawer for silver and another for linen, and a roller tray, all in one. The material required is given as follows:



Homemade Shower Bath.

25 feet white pine; one piece of jack chain, No. 14, 18 inches long, to support top; one pair one and one-half inch (butt) hinges, to hold top; 12 No. 5 screws, three-quarter inch, to fasten hinges; one-half pound 5-penny nails; two brass hand bolts, to fasten on drawer; eight No. 10 screws, two and one-half inch, to fasten legs to

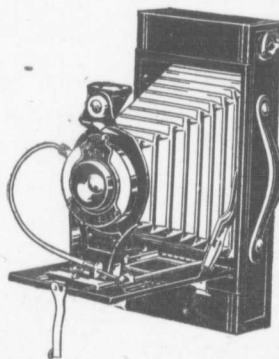
bottom shelf; two furniture casters, to put on legs, and two swivel or baby carriage wheels. This wagon might also be made without the china closet, using the top as a tray only.

A very simple, convenient and cheap arrangement for a home-made shower bath is another device worth mentioning. The materials required are: A two or four-gallon tin bucket; a medium-sized zinc tub; 12 feet of rope; nozzle and rubber tubing; one or two pulleys and staples; two inches of piping and a clothespin. Punch a hole in the bottom of the bucket, and solder in piece of piping. The rubber tubing is attached to this and a sprayer from a watering can or a nozzle placed on the end. The rope is tied to the handle, passes over a pulley and runs through a staple in the joist beside the window sash, which allows the bucket to be raised or lowered to suit the convenience of the person taking the shower. The flow of water is adjusted by the use of a clothes pin operated on the rubber tubing. From the diagram it would appear that there might be a tendency for the water to splash on the walls and floor. As a precaution against this, would it not be a good plan to erect a circular steel rod, supported by three or four uprights of the same material, and hang heavy canvas on it, either with rings or hooks. A shower bath should be found of great value in the home where other water fixtures have not been installed. It should be especially appreciated by the menfolk in summer when they come in from their day's work, hot and dusty.

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