

## WINDOW DRESSING.

SOME SIMPLE APPLIANCES FOR THE TRIMMER.

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displayed.

A stand which I find suited to a great many purposes is easily made from thick carpet felt made up in the shape of a drum. Take, say, five yards of heavy felt paper and roll it up, making it about one foot in diameter. Then take a needle and some strong twine and put a stitch here and there on bottom and top, so as to keep it from unrolling and to make it solid. These can be used for draping dress goods on, or, if covered over with colored cambric, laces can be nicely arranged on them. They are a splendid stand for showing handkerchiefs and dozens of other lines of goods on.

Another stand, which can be used for several different lines of goods, is a stand made of a strip, say, one inch by two, with a block, say, six inches square by two inches thick, which can be nailed to the floor, and can be made in several sizes. It is merely an upright, and can be used for dress goods, blankets and comforters, curtains, etc., and can be covered with bright materials and used for handkerchiefs and lots of different things.

If the trimmer takes his time and thinks the thing out he can adapt one style of a fixture to dozens of different articles. Hoops can be used to great advantage in lots of displays. Ordinary dress goods boards can be used for small articles, if covered over with something bright, and supported at the back with a strip attached to a hinge, so as to put it on any desired slant. These are also used for clothing shows.

Half circles nailed to the backs of windows can be used for draping dress goods, curtains, etc., on, and can be made by bending a light strip of cedar and supporting it from underneath.

Another, which is greatly used, is made in the shape of a stairs, but this has become common, although it is a splendid stand for chinaware, glassware, etc.

A splendid stand can be made by taking a block about one foot square, and then make a box tubing about three inches square, and stand it upright on the block, nail it at the bottom and support it by small braces so that it will stand solid. Then make a large T shaped piece, and make the long part to just the size of the box tubing, so that it will slide up and down easily in the box. A hole can be bored at the side or back, and a peg run in, so as to hold it at any desired height. Holes can be bored down the sliding strip three inches apart. This is a stand used a great deal, and can be employed in almost all kinds of displays.

The half circles and hoops are being used a great deal, and it only lies in the trimmer's ability to use them in all sorts of ways. For small articles, fancy shapes can be made, such as Maltese crosses, anchors, stars, pyramids, etc., and covered over and goods displayed on them.

Care should be taken in making these stands that nails do not protrude. That would destroy the goods by tearing. I find I can

construct lots of things into fixtures. In going through the housefurnishings department I often run across something, such as a towel rack, etc., which can be covered and used to good advantage in many ways.

Some lines require a better fixture, and I would advise that every up-to-date merchant keep a few nickel fixtures, as they always give a tone to a window, and, while they are expensive, will always return more than the amount paid for them.

Mirrors can always be utilized, and make the attraction appear larger in size. In conclusion, I may say that any clerk or window trimmer with a little thought can construct dozens of different kinds of fixtures from a few strips of wood, hammer and nails and a saw, and can turn each of these to various uses by joining one to the other and turning them about. —H. Hollinsworth, Ottawa.

### WOMEN AS TRIMMERS.

It is evident that the profession of window dressing has not yet approached a full stage of development from the fact that it has not been invaded by the gentler sex to any extent. Women are found in nearly every walk of life, and it is safe to say that the time will come, and that before very long, when there will be lady window dressers as well as lady clerks, bookkeepers, lawyers and doctors. The male window trimmers will doubtless look upon them as intruders, but they need have no fears that the services of first-class trimmers of either sex will not be as much in demand for years to come as they are now. Probably, in large cities the lady trimmers will never cut much figure except in special departments of the work.

It must be admitted that there are some things in the trimming of windows in which the women will show more natural adaptability than the average man who takes up window dressing as a calling. In color harmony and tasteful draping women are generally supposed to have a natural talent. They, at least, have more to do with such things than men, and their experience stands them in good stead whenever matters of decorating are placed in their hands. This same experience is what, under certain circumstances, will draw women into window dressing.

There is much about window trimming that a lady cannot, or would not do, and, for that reason, she is not likely to cause many men to lose their jobs. In a metropolitan store, for instance, the life of a trimmer, between hot windows and cold windows, night work and long hours, is rather rigorous, and is about as peculiarly adapted to men as is blacksmithing or any other masculine trade. The carpentering, and any amount of such dirty work that falls to the lot of the trimmer, also precludes the possibility of a woman becoming an all-round window dresser.

It is in smaller cities and towns that a woman can be best used in the windows, and, if she will, she can become of great service in this department of store advertising. What the average merchant wants is some one with good taste who can oversee the window decorating in connection with other work in the store. A woman is just as well fitted for this kind of work as a man, and, as stated above, on account of her previous experience in matters of color harmony, draping, etc., will do better at it at first than the male clerk. She certainly should not be kept out of this work just because it customarily belongs to men.

In a certain specialty store in Chicago, there are a pair of show windows of which a young lady has charge. The nature of the goods makes heavy work unnecessary, and she, therefore, has practically no assistance. The store is not prominently located, so the window trims don't get the notoriety they deserve, but, from the fact that there has been no change of trimmers in that store for several years, it is evident that the proprietors are well satisfied, as they ought to be, with the way the work is done. The young lady