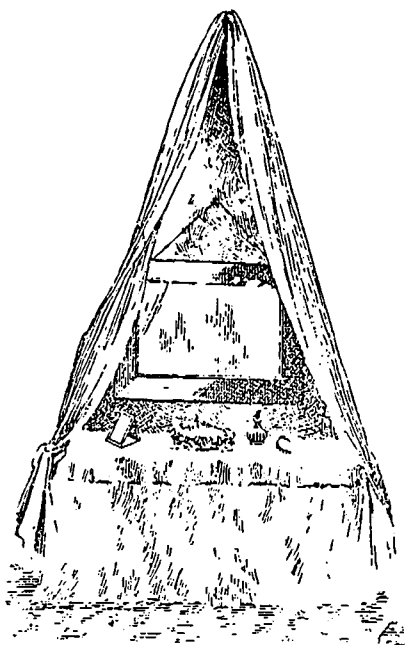




A Simple Dressing Case.

THE top of a bureau does not meet the requirements of the young lady of the present day, in the way of a dressing table. The charming pieces of furniture modelled after those of colonial times are quite out of the question with many of us, but any one may have a dressing table, like that seen in our sketch, for two or three dollars, or even less. Take an ordinary pine kitchen table and shorten the legs until of the height at which a lady can comfortably make her toilet when sitting. Around three sides tack a deep box-plaited frill of soft, clinging Japanese crepe or silkline; over the top spread a white linen cloth embroid-



HOME-MADE DRESSING CASE.

ered or hemstitched. If the former, use embroidery silk to match the color of the decorations of the room, with which the drapery of the table must also harmonize. Drape curtains from a bracket affixed to the wall, looping them back, and fastening to the sides of the table by full ribbon bows, or double loops of the curtain material. Hang a mirror against the wall, the plain, cheap frame of which may be covered with the same goods. A tray for brush and comb, two pretty little china dishes, one for hairpins, the other for jewelry, a hand mirror and a pincushion covered with linen, complete the tasteful outfit.—*American Agriculturist*.

Putting Away Winter Clothes.

It is easy for those who possess ample store room to put away unseasonable apparel. But for the class who occupy houses where all conveniences are conspicuous by their absence, it is more difficult to accomplish this in a satisfactory manner, and places must first be provided.

It is never wise to take the great chamber closet and the drawers of the dressing case to store articles not in use. If you do, you may find yourself in the unpleasant predicament of the little girl, who was found crying bitterly because she would be late at the party, and when questioned said: "My dress is in the spare room, and the minister is taking a bath."

If the house has a garret or unused room,

sufficient storage places can easily be provided. Fig 1 shows a home-made moth and dust-proof receptacle for dresses and cloaks. It is a long packing box, smoothly lined with paper, and supplied with hinged lid. Strips of webbing or

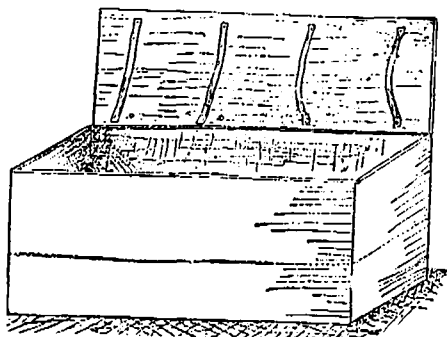


Fig. 1.

muslin are tacked along the back twelve inches apart. Opposite each strap a small hook is screwed into the front of the box on which the other end of the strap is to be slipped. This makes a tray on which a dress or cloak can be laid.

The lid has four straps of the webbing or muslin. One end of the strap is tacked on the lid; the other slips over a small brass-headed nail. The lid can be laid back, the dress laid smoothly in place and the straps fastened. In putting articles in the box, space must be left for the dress on the lid.

By packing in this way, dresses and cloaks will come out fresh and unwrinkled, and minus the peculiar stretched appearance they have when left hanging one over another on closet hooks.

A very ingenious woman, the wife of an army officer, who was spending the summer at one time in even smaller quarters than usual, and whose only place of storage was a small, unfinished attic, procured a number of barrels. After carefully driving in all projecting nails, she papered the inside with old newspapers, making the paste yellow with copperas to prevent mice and rats gnawing the paper off. The lids of the barrels were

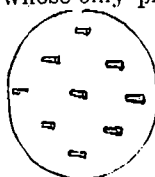


Fig. 2.

carefully fastened together by nailing strips of lath across. The under side was papered the same as the inside of the barrels. Strong tapes were then tacked on in the manner shown by Fig. 2. To these were pinned with strong safety pins her children's winter dresses. In some cases several articles were fastened to one strap. Sometimes one garment was pinned to two straps in order to keep it in shape.

For the cloaks she had a number of stretchers made of strong wire, bent into shape of Fig. 3.



Fig. 3.



Fig. 4.

These she slipped into the shoulders of the cloak, which was then fastened around them. The tape was put through the circle in the top of the stretcher and pinned up on itself. She also had stretchers cut in the shape of fig. 4, out of thin boards, and a hole bored near the top. These she used in the same manner.

After the lids, with their loads of small garments, were placed on the barrels, strips of paper were pasted over the edges of the lid and barrel, making all moth-proof, as moths will not eat through paper. The lids of the packing boxes were fastened down in the same way.

The winter underwear and hosiery should be put in a barrel prepared in this way, except the tapes on the lid. All articles should be mended, if mending is necessary.

When the family is large and the clothes to be put away belong to different persons, a list giving the name of every article in it, and to whom they belong, should be pasted on each box or barrel. Another plan is to number each box

and barrel, and write the list of their contents in a note book, referring to each box and barrel by number. This is the most convenient plan, for the book can be consulted more easily than the lists.

Before packing away, all garments should be exposed to the sun and air for a day, and well shaken to remove the dust. Furs should be treated in the same manner. If moths are plentiful small woollen articles that may be needed during the summer may be placed in paper bags, such as are used for putting groceries in, and the bags pasted up. They will be perfectly safe from both moth and dust on an ordinary closet shelf.—*Country Gentleman*.

Temperance in the Home.

In this day of slavery of the human race to intemperance in eating and drinking, it behooves us to study the means whereby we can preserve temperance in our homes. As wives and mothers we should look well to the food we place before our families; not that we should make slaves of ourselves in preparing a great variety of rich food—but have it good and wholesome, and at regular hours.

What, think you, is the secret of the great success of the W. C. T. U. Coffee Palace in Minneapolis? Some of you will say it is the prayers of Christian women. I will not say you nay, but will say that good food is a great attraction to the human family, and they understand this thoroughly in that Palace.

A girl came to work for me once, highly recommended "if she were only strong enough." She was with me nine months and never failed to do her work. Wholesome food and regular meals worked wonders for her. She went home at one time for a week's visit, and when she came back she had had the sick headache until her eyes were as bloodshot as any drunkard's. Her mother would have thought it the worst of crimes to have given her drink to put her in such a state, but she had sent her daughter's father to a dyspeptic's grave by her cookery, and I understand her present husband is often unable to attend to his work on account of sick headache. Oh, mothers, let me plead with you to give your children such food as will make them grow, and not so rich or so poor as to create a longing for stimulants or drugs to keep the wheels of life moving. It is that craving which sends many to the saloon.

The only perfect safeguard against intemperance in drinking is to touch not, taste not, handle not the wine. How can we expect those who perhaps inherit the love of strong drink to abstain from it when we who profess to despise it will keep it in the house and use it for every ache and pain? Many families think they must have it in case of sudden sickness. It looks so absurd to me, when by a little thought we can substitute other things in place of it. Ammonia for bathing the sick is far better than alcohol, and I have been told that it would kill the poison from a mad dog or snake if applied in time. Coffee is better than liquor for nausea caused by handling the sick or the dead. So on through all our ailments; we can find something better than alcoholic poison.

When my little boy was a babe a good neighbor came to care for him; she lamented every day that I did not get some gin to give him, "and a little of it would be good for the mother too." I said nothing for a time, but became weary of her clamor for gin for the baby and told her I could conceive of no greater sin than to put liquor into my boy's mouth, and that if my boy ever should be a drunkard I would not have to mourn that he received his first taste from his mother's hand. Just think of it, mothers, if our blessed boys should go astray, will they look back and say, "Father and mother thought liquor so necessary to use, I did not suppose it was such poison!"—*Mrs. Harriet Lamb, in Farm, Stock, and Home*.