

shelf these screws are easily changed and the holes may be puttied up and touched with color, although if left they will no more disfigure the case than the ordinary ratchets used for holding shelves at various heights. The case may be stained or painted with a dull finish, certainly not a very glossy varnish, perhaps preferably with a thin wash, to give it a somewhat neutral color in harmony with that of the walls of the building in which it is to stand.

The back of the case, it seems, should certainly be put on in the same way as the front, so that if it is ever desirable to turn the case at right angles and have glass upon both front and back, the back may be removed and a glass frame similar to the one in front may be put on as easily as one would open and shut the case to put in or take out a specimen. If the back is to be solid woodwork, which is perhaps desirable where heavy things are to be hung from it, care should be taken that it is built so that the expansion and contraction due to changes in the weather or the heating of the building may not strain the rest of the case, and the boards should run up and down or crosswise rather than either diagonally or possibly even in panels, so that they may not be optically disagreeable in connection with the exhibit. Perhaps as good a way as any would be to let the back of the case be a frame with compo board instead of glass, as the compo board could be replaced at any time glass was desired, and meanwhile would serve very well as a background to exhibits or upon which to hang exhibits that were not too heavy. A diaphragm set back against the rear frame would serve for heavy objects and be desirably smooth or could be covered with burlap, paint, paper, or what not, as desired.

When the case has glass front and back, that is, when the exhibit is to be viewed from two sides, or when it is not desirable to use the full depth of the case for the exhibit on hand, a diaphragm about  $\frac{1}{4}$  of an inch shorter and narrower than the inside of the case may be inserted at any distance from the front of the case, and held in place either with round headed screws through the sides of the case or with small angle irons or  $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch cove, in front and behind the diaphragm at the corners, or oftener according to taste and the amount of strength desired. This method of fastening the diaphragm allows it to be adjusted or removed in a very few minutes with practically no waste and no unsightly scars which could not be retouched with putty and colored, or which if not retouched would be no more unsightly than the complicated and expensive diaphragm holders usually used.

The cases should be made in uniform sizes or multiple sizes like sectional book cases, so that they may be moved about and