

This is how I made the most of the space

about. A narrow frill of the same serge is nailed along the top of the second box, which is to be used as a book-shelf.

The top of these cabinets forms a support for a wide, long shelf of plain deal, enamelled at the edges to match the lower part, and covered with a slip of art serge, simply edged with ball fringe. Three or four drawing pins, pushed into the serge and board at the edge nearest the window, will be sufficient to keep it in place, and it can then be raised and shaken occasionally in front to get rid of any dust there may be. This contrivance will make a roomy writing or work-table, if the boxes below are perfectly straight and even. A waste paper basket draped with some of the same serge, and trimmed with ball fringe, fills in the space between the two cabinets, and is invaluable in a room in which much work is done.

Now we come to the fireplace and its decoration, which is somewhat difficult to accomplish satisfactorily without drapery; and this can scarcely be recommended in a room of this sort, for it is too apt to serve as a dust trap. An inexpensive ædæmic cupboard, enamelled, and made more important-looking at the top by the addition of two large Japanese fans, forms the over-mantel. The cupboard may be further improved by covering the wall at the back of the book-case with a piece of Japanese leather paper. Divide the book-shelf into two divisions, or three, if there is space enough, by means of a thin piece of wood the right size, enamelled, and glued into place. This will give room for a vase or two among the books, which will break up their straight monotony. The mantel-piece must be covered to correspond with the writing-table, with a plain straight slip of art serge, trimmed with some of the same ball fringe. The fireplace may be hidden by any little contrivance that may be convenient. That in our sketch represents an easel cut out in Bristol board. Any mount cutter will do this for a very small cost. The whole of the easel must be covered with brown paper to imitate wood, and which may be had from any paper hanger.

A pretty chromo, such as is often given as a Christmas supplement to an illustrated paper, is then neatly mounted on a piece of stout cardboard the same size, has a frame of gilt paper added all round, and is firmly glued to the front of the easel. The leg of the easel at the back is also made of cardboard, covered with some of the same brown paper as the front. Three or four pieces of this card should be cut the proper size and shape, and gummed together, one above the other, to make the leg both thicker and firmer than a single sheet of cardboard would be. The leg is then fastened to the back of the easel with a small hinge of linen carefully glued into place. A strap of tape is glued, one end to the leg half way down, the other to the back of the easel, to prevent the whole thing from opening out too widely, and so falling down.

For about \$1.00 neat little one-fold screens may now be bought for fireplace ornaments. They require filling in with a panel of cretonne or embroidery, and also have to be enamelled, but for all that they are much more durable and so really cost very little more than arrangements of cardboard such as the one I have described.

If the remaining corner of the room is unoccupied, another large wooden bracket, furnished with pegs below, placed high up against the wall, and with two cretonne curtains hanging from it,



will make a convenient place for dresses and jackets, the shelf at the top being available for a large vase or artistic crock of some kind.

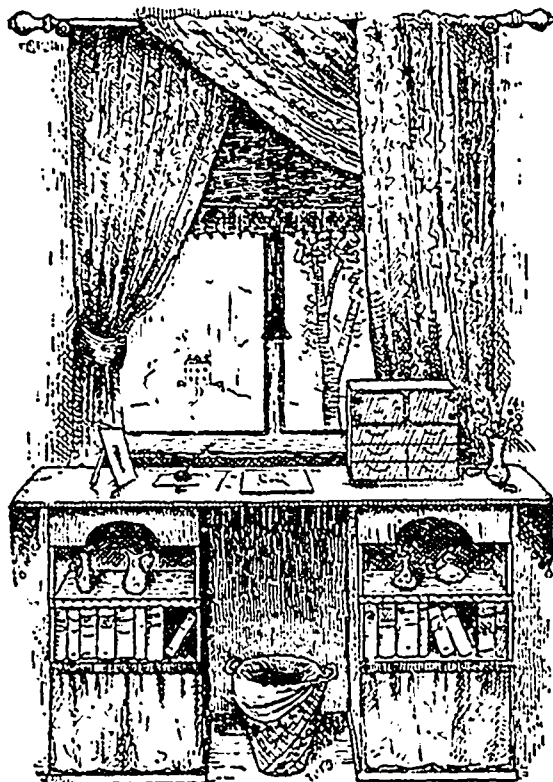
Along the remaining wall must be placed the chest of drawers, the top of which will look well covered with serge and arranged with pretty photograph frames, a smart work-basket and a few little elegances of this kind.

A cosy chair and a small table, to stand comfortably near the fire in the winter, should be procured if possible. The chair, however plain and simple in make, may be greatly improved by a cushion or two, which should be made of cretonne and trimmed round the edge with a narrow frill. This will have as good an effect as the printed Pongee silk that has been so popular of late, and has the advantage of wearing far better.

The chair might be covered entirely with a pretty cretonne, but for this it is necessary to make a lining of coarse sacking first, and to pad this with flock. Several layers of cotton wool will have to be tacked over this, and then the cretonne. This will, perhaps, make the operation more complicated than is desirable, as the chair will scarcely do without more finish. A scalloped valance, trimmed with ball fringe, will be needed round the seat, and a row of small puffs or a thick ruche upon the edge all round the back and arms. A superannuated leather easy chair that is considered too shabby for the sitting-room is easier to cover than a wicker one, as it requires no padding. The portions of the legs that show below the cretonne cover may be easily smartened up with a little enamel.

Small square wooden tables may be had very cheaply, and if the legs are painted the top will cover very prettily with art serge laid first over a layer of coarse flannel. A series of festoons of serge edged with fringe would look pretty falling round the top.

Very cosy-looking rugs may be inexpensively made of odds and ends of cloth or flannel. Get some canvass or sacking, the exact



Home-made writing cabinet.

size that the rug is to be, and a number of scraps of cloth and tweed of several colors. Cut all these pieces about three inches wide, and sew them strongly together into long strips. Use first the grey pieces. Pink one edge, and sew the strip very firmly down to the canvas in a straight row all round, so that the pinked edges set about an inch beyond it. The strips will have to be cut and joined again at the corners to make them lie perfectly flat.

For the next row take the black cloth, pink the edges in the same way and sew the strip along the straight edge so that it overlaps the first row about an inch and a half. Then use grey scraps again, then a row of scarlet cloth.

For sewing down the strips, fine twine or carpet thread must be used or the rug will not be durable. When all the sewing has been done, the back of the mat must be made tidy by a lining of black holland, the edges of which are turned in neatly before it is sewn to the canvas.

Much of the success of the rug will depend upon the care with which the strips are sewn to the sacking, as any stitches that are drawn too tightly will pucker it, and prevent it from resting flatly on the floor.