

## Two Bracket Clothes Racks.

The back and shelf of the convenient clothes rack, shown in figure 1, should be of one-inch stuff; select pine or hard wood. The screws are put in from the back. The arm holders are made of wire, and attached to the shelf by means of staples, which pass through and clinch. The spring arm-catches are made of wire about the thickness of knitting-needles, and are held in place by two staples. Holes for the staples are bored

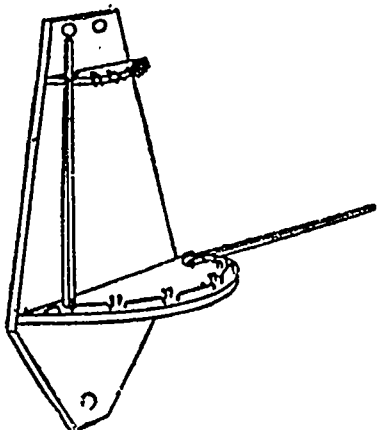


Fig. 1.—DRESSING RACK FOR CLOTHES.

with a small gimlet or drill, and they are all clinched underneath the shelf. The arms may be two to three feet long, according to size of room, and quantity of clothes to be hung. The diagram shows one arm in position for hanging clothes, and one fastened up out of the way, and four holders in place for four more. The bracket is fastened to the wall with three strong screws. Any ingenious boy should be able to make this rack. The longer it is used, the higher it will be valued. Figure 2 is a simpler form of bracket clothes rack. Each arm is attached to the wall by means of a single quarter-inch bolt. When not in use, these arms may all be swung around to one side or the other

## How to Treat our Ceilings.

We have discussed all too briefly the floors and the walls of our dwellings. Naturally our thoughts follow the eye as it looks upward, and we feel in imagination repelled by the dead, blank, white ceilings of too many otherwise pleasant and comfortable rooms. We would all be more oppressed by this feeling except for the fact that the light of day coming through the casement falls downward

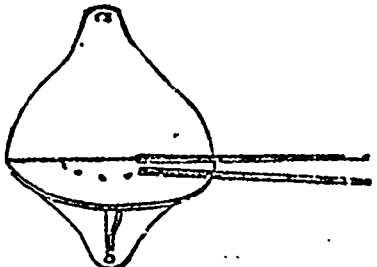


Fig. 2.—BRACKET CLOTHES RACK.

and not upward. An idea of the strange unpleasant sensation of too much light may be easily experienced if you place a large mirror in a south window about noon, and let the sunlight falling upon it be reflected up to the ceiling, especially if it be a white-washed one. The amount and intensity of the illumination is something most disagreeable. The effect of white ceilings upon persons accustomed to tinted or ornamented ones, or those of natural woods is similar, but of course less in degree.

Ceilings may be made of various materials, the handsomest and most agreeable to the eye and

purest in taste, are of wood. Of this material the tints are endless. The forms which it may be made to take are from the most elaborate to those of the simplest possible character. They may be panelled, carved or inlaid; may combine various colored woods and be enlivened by gilding, giving a great and pleasing variety of effects. The flavor, with which wood in its natural colors for various purposes is now held, is no newly developed taste. The solid and rich wood-work in the carvings and panelings of former centuries, abundantly attest this fact. But so far as this country is concerned, there was so little fine wood-work to be seen, that it is chiefly since travel to Europe has become so general, that this natural taste has become especially developed, and a great source of pleasure.

"In good old colony times," wood was most abundant and mechanics had not learned to make light floors, and strong ones too, with the least possible amount of lumber. They built the houses so that the floor of the second story, resting as this did on big beams (six by eight to ten by sixteen inches in measurement, according to the size of the room), became the ceiling of the room below. Not a few of these old houses are still standing. The march of so-called improvement has swept through many sections and changed the graceful gambrel roofs into horribly angular "French" affairs, which it is indeed a libel upon that tasteful people to call by their name. The beam-ceilings have been covered with lath and plaster, and of course whitewashed, making the rooms very low, white and glaring. The beautiful tints of the wood, made all the more beautiful by age are lost, and the beams have been so disfigured by nails, lime and paint, that they cannot be restored if one wished.

For hallways, vestibules, or any very small room, a ceiling of narrow-matched boards of a nearly uniform tint, varied of course by the natural grain of the wood, and edged with a moulding of the same material, produce a very agreeable effect, though any wooden ceiling is improved by visible beams. Large ceilings certainly should have them, or be panelled. Beams of moderate size, say, four by six for small rooms to eight by ten for large ones, may be placed below a ceiling of fine matched boards as if supporting it. They may indeed, actually in part, support the floor above. When cross beams are used, they divide the spaces between the beams uniformly, making the enclosed spaces all alike, or with systematic variations. Some of these spaces may then be filled to suit the proprietor, either with expensive carved paneling, or simply edged with mouldings, or with panels of material like papier-maché, or "Lincrusta," which should be of some wood color in harmony with the beams, but not "grained." Simple paneling is exceedingly effective and beautiful. It requires a neat and skilful cabinet-maker to do this work, for most ceilings are exposed to such heat, the hot air always rising to the top of the room, that if not well made, and of very well-seasoned wood, they will shrink and warp badly. These different styles may be employed in a single dwelling with good effect.

When circumstances do not favor the use of wood, as in houses already built, having plastered ceilings, beautiful effects may be produced by papering. Light colored tints of either perfectly plain, or inconspicuously figured paper, to harmonize with the walls and furniture, should be selected. The lower the ceiling, the smaller should be the design on the paper, and if there is no cornice, the border which should also be simple, narrow and quiet in color, may be carried up on the ceiling, and even a second line be put on at a little distance, from the other. This makes the ceiling of the room look much higher than otherwise.

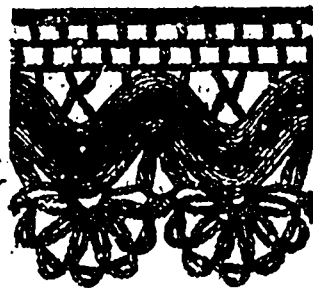
The contrast with the walls should be decided, but never glaring, lighter in tone and quiet in feeling. In large, richly furnished rooms, nothing is richer or more agreeable than ceilings in which gold predominates, as a gold ground with small, light colored figures nearly covering, but not obscuring it, or gold figures on a pale ground.

Frescoing of ceilings, which is decoration by the brush upon fresh plaster, is often very effective. It is adapted especially to costly houses with large halls and rooms. A superior artist should always

be employed to design and carry out this decoration; the size, exposure to light and use of the room, should all be considered. Simple stenciling of ceiling may be done by good workmen in distemper and kalsomine, but even then it is most satisfactory to seek advice if one is not confident of his own taste and knowledge of probable effects.

## Home-Made Trimmings.

Very pretty edgings for children's clothing can be made at home, in almost endless variety. Such edgings wear enough longer to repay one for the



HOME MADE TRIMMINGS.

time spent in making them. The old-fashioned serpentine braid is at present much used for trimming. The pattern given in the engraving, is one which any one who understands crocheting, can readily copy. It is made of number forty-five braid, and twenty-four crocheting cotton. The feather stitch is done in red marking cotton. If the trimming is to be used for underclothes, coarse white cotton is used in place of the red. A very neat insertion is made by crocheting a couple of rows on each side of the braid, with the feather stitch on. There is a fancy braid called Modillion braid, from which most beautiful edgings may be made with but little trouble. These materials can be found at any fancy or haberdashery store.

## To Make a Pedestal from a Tile.

A very neat pedestal for a statuette, can be made of a drain tile, such as are readily procured in most farming neighborhoods. For the foundation, have two pieces of two-inch plank, sawed square. The sides of the smaller piece should measure five inches more than the diameter of the tile, and the other one should be five inches larger than that. Make the pieces for the top, two inches smaller



A PEDISTAL FROM A TILE.

than those for the base. There should be an opening in the two smaller pieces of plank, into which the tile will fit. Cover all with dark red velvet; screw the boards together, and glue the tile into the openings, after it has been painted. Some showy flowers on a dark red background, will be very effective, especially if the flowers selected are white, or of a very light pink or yellow color.