

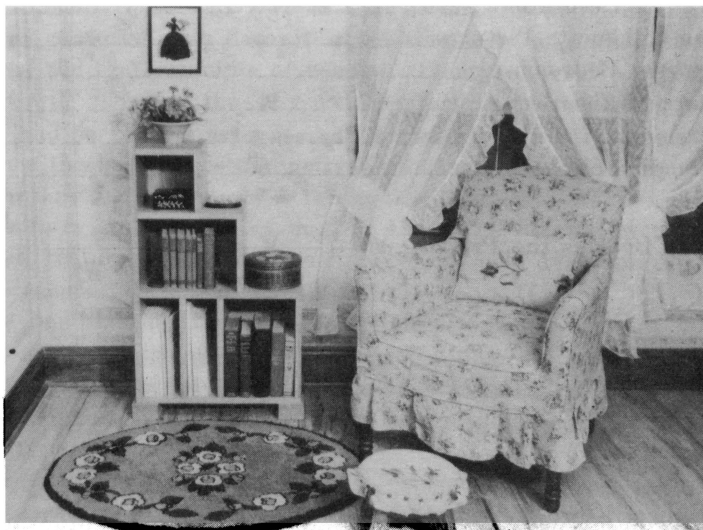
HOME FURNISHINGS I

ACCESSORIES FOR THE GIRL'S ROOM

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COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK IN AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS

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HOME FURNISHINGS I*

ACCESSORIES FOR THE GIRL'S ROOM

For the girl who is interested in improving her own room numerous opportunities for constructive work are provided through the selection and use of the many practical and attractive small articles used in the bedroom.

When making a plan of work for the year, it is well for the club group to keep in mind the objectives of the project, which are to give each girl an opportunity to analyze her room needs and make a plan for its improvement and care, based on the best use of the furnishings already in the room.

Comfort and rest are the chief functions of the bedroom. Since good health depends largely on relaxation and comfortable sleep, a restful atmosphere is one of the essentials of a good bedroom. It is difficult to rest in a room that seems crowded with furnishings or confused with decoration, so simplicity might well be considered the first principle of beauty. Plenty of fresh air and sunshine will increase the physical comfort and cleanliness of the room and serve as a safeguard to health.

Since the bedroom is distinctly personal, the individuality of the owner may be expressed in the choice of colors and the type of furnishings and accessories used in the room. However, there are certain requirements and principles which hold true for all types of bedrooms.

The combination bedroom and living room presents a special problem in furnishing. Because of its double use, the furnishings for this room should be a little more substantial and in keeping with the needs of the living room, rather than purely of the bedroom type.

For example, the usual bedroom dresser or dressing table may be replaced by a chest of drawers, while the bedspread made from conventional prints or materials of rough texture, with perhaps stronger colors than are usually employed in the bedroom, will better emphasize the living room idea. Likewise, drapes and curtains should be plainer and the furniture grouped so that there will be a distinction between the living room and bedroom units.

Very often, the only possibility for room improvement is in the use of fabrics. For this reason, it is interesting to see what effects a girl may obtain through the use of small accessories, many of which may be made from materials on hand. After the essential

*Prepared by Madonna Fitzgerald, Home Management Specialist, in collaboration with Helen Church, State Club Agent.

furnishings have been assembled, it is well for the girl to make a plan for the kind of finished room she desires. Suitable accessories may be added from time to time.

It is rather difficult to draw a line between the "necessities" and accessories in a room. Indeed, many of the most necessary bedroom linens are now in the accessories class and add much to the attractiveness and comfort of the room.

The appearance of any room depends largely upon the accessories. The selection of the small decorative objects and articles for a room affords an opportunity for creative expression and reveals the personality of the owner more than other furnishings.

Whether the accessories are to be purchased or constructed, the girl, in making her selection, should consider the following points: suitability to purpose, usefulness, type of material, color, design, workmanship and beauty.

CURTAINS

The choice of curtains for the bedroom is influenced not only by personal taste but also by the number and size of windows, other furnishings in the room, and kinds of materials available. Simple curtains of cream or white thin material—dotted swiss, voile, scrim, net, theatrical gauze, marquisette (plain or figured), unbleached muslin, and dimity are neat and appropriate for the bedroom. The purpose of glass curtains is to regulate light, soften the lines of the window and add beauty to the interior. Farmers' Bulletin No. 1633, "Principles of Window Curtaining," published by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, contains excellent detailed information on curtains for the home. However, it is always well to remember that if the walls of the room have a definite figure in them, or if there is much pattern elsewhere in the room, plain material is most suitable for curtains. If the room is plain and generally lacking in pattern, curtains of figured material will be attractive.

The texture of the material should harmonize with other textures in the room, but in general the curtain material for a girl's room should be soft, smooth, thin and dull.

Making Curtains:—Measure the length of the window from the top rod to the lower point that the curtain is to cover, add to this length $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches for a top hem or casing and $\frac{1}{2}$ inch for a heading and 2 to 4 inches for a bottom hem.

Draw a thread so the material may be cut evenly. Remove the selvage from both sides because it does not improve the appearance of the curtain and is inclined to draw. The usual width for

the hem at the inside edge is 1 to $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches, the outside hem is from $\frac{1}{2}$ inch to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch wide. The sides of the curtain should be hemmed first, then the top, putting in an extra row of stitching to make the heading if that has been allowed for, then the bottom hem. The length of the curtain may be to the sill or to the bottom of the apron.

Trimming for Curtains:—Ruffles, edges of colored bias tape or rick-rack braid are simple trims for curtains. Dainty appliqued or stitched motifs are very attractive. A pleasing effect is attained in Figure 1-A by stitching above the hem, five rows of baby rick-rack; coral for the center row, one row of soft green on each side, and darker green for each outside row.

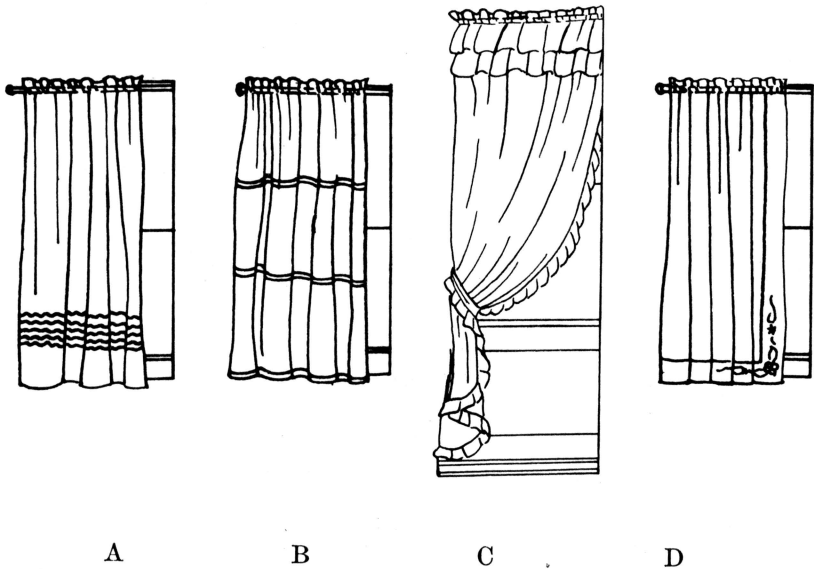


FIG. 1.—TRIMMINGS FOR CURTAINS

- A. Rick-rack used as trim for curtains.
- B. Tier curtain made of three tones of a color or pastel colors as white, ivory and peach, the darkest at the bottom. The tiers may be joined by fagoting, hemstitching, tucks or rows of stitching.
- C. Ruffled tie back curtains are dainty and appropriate for a girl's room. If straight curtains are more desirable, the lower ruffle may be wider than those on the sides.
- D. Appliqued or stitched design in corners or between the hems to give a shadow effect. This trim is especially suitable for voile and marquisette.

PILLOW CASES

Pillow cases should be made to fit the pillows on which they are to be used. If they are too small, the pillow seems hard and lumpy, if too large, the pillow case becomes wrinkled more readily and will not fit smoothly. Pillow case material should be torn to insure straight edges. If tubing is used only one seam is necessary. With other materials there will be two seams. Plain seams, neatly overcast, are best for pillow cases.

Two-inch hems are recommended for pillow cases. They may be plain or decorated with simple, white embroidery motifs, hemstitching, or lace. Unless the bedding is to fit into a definite color scheme for a room, all white will be most satisfactory, because of laundering and general use.

The standard sizes of pillow cases are:

Pillow	Pillow Case
20 x 26	42 x 36
22 x 28	45 x 36

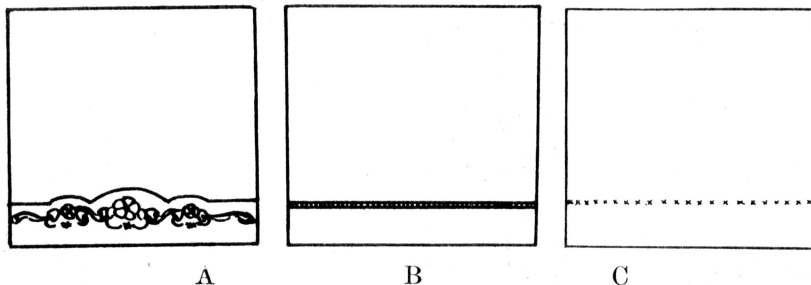


FIG. 2.—SUGGESTED FINISHES FOR PILLOW CASES

- Decorative hem turned to the right side and shaped, with simple sprays embroidered in white, the hem whipped down.
- Plain hemstitching.
- Hemmed with a simple decorative stitch.

THE COMFORT PROTECTOR

Comfort protectors are used to keep the top ends of comforts and blankets from becoming soiled. They should be made of smooth white cotton material such as light weight unbleached muslin, dimity or cotton broadcloth, as it is necessary to launder them frequently. Since they are very practical accessories, little or no decoration should be used.

The comfort protector should extend across the end of the comfort and be from 10 to 12 inches wide. A plain or shaped hem or binding may be used on the edges, the ends left open with tape

ties or finished with a plain seam overcast. The comfort protector may be fastened to the comfort with loose basting stitches which are easily clipped when removing it for laundering. If the sheets are long enough to turn back over the edge of the cover, the comfort protector will not be necessary but is an added protection.

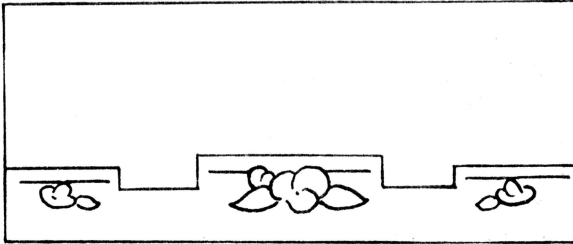


FIG. 3.—A SUITABLE FINISH FOR A COMFORT PROTECTOR

COVERS FOR THE DRESSER

Well chosen covers for the chest, dresser, or dressing table add much to the appearance of the room. They should be neutral enough in color and design to make a pleasing background for

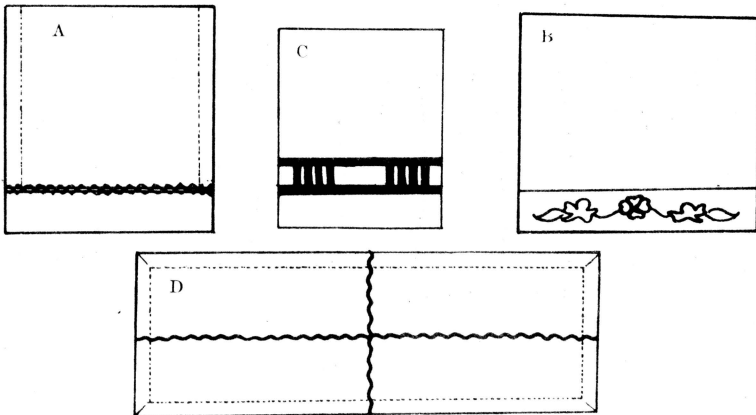


FIG. 4.—FINISHES FOR RUNNERS

- A. Crash runner with couching stitch on hem.
- B. Theatrical gauze runner with applied motifs between the runner and facing. The two layers may be a wide hem or facing.
- C. Cream colored cotton material with brown and rust bias tape, opened and stitched flat above the hem. The border is made of brown with the middle stripe of rust in each section.
- D. Runner made of cream and blue green mercerized broadcloth in alternating sections, green rick-rack braid finishes the seams.

articles that are to be placed on top of these pieces. Linen, print, theatrical gauze, percale, cotton poplin, and soft muslin are suitable materials.

Runners or doilies may be perfectly plain with well proportioned hems, borders or bindings, or they may have a decorative finish such as simple applique or stitchery. A runner which fits the top of the surface leaving about an inch of wood showing in front and back and an inch and a half at the ends is pleasing.

COUCH AND WINDOW SEAT COVERS

Covers of monk's cloth, osnaburg, burlap and other durable cotton materials are serviceable and attractive. These materials lend themselves to simple decoration. Threads of wool, heavy cotton or $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 inch strips of hose cut lengthwise make effective trimming by being drawn through the material to form borders or stripes.

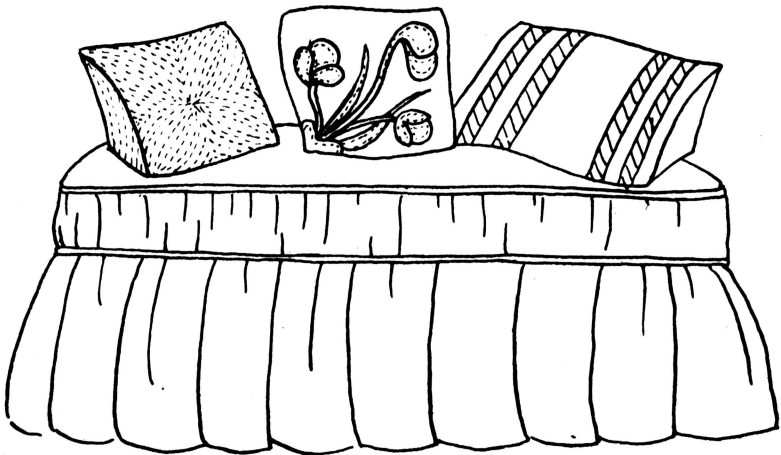


FIG. 5.—A COVERED WINDOW SEAT

The cover may be boxed to fit the couch or window box or it may be finished with a plain or pleated flounce.

CUSHION COVERS

Cushions have a place in the reading, sewing or rest units. The covers should harmonize with other furnishings in the room, but the scrap bag may supply just the right combination of materials for good looking usable cushions. Gay patch work, applique, quilting or plain tailored finishes are in good taste and give accent to a seat, chair or couch. Cushions for use should be filled with a

ticking or firm muslin covered feather or down pillow. The end of the cover where the cushion slips in should have an inconspicuous closing, snaps or basting stitches may be used. The outside cover should be heavy enough to conceal the inside cushion.

CHAIR SEATS AND BACKS

A plain straight chair with the regular high back or with the back cut down, has many uses in a girl's room. These chairs may be made to harmonize with other furnishings by the use of removable slip covers. Heavy cretonne, denim and other firm cotton materials make suitable chair covers. A paper pattern should be made to fit the chair with allowance for seams before the material for the cover is cut out.

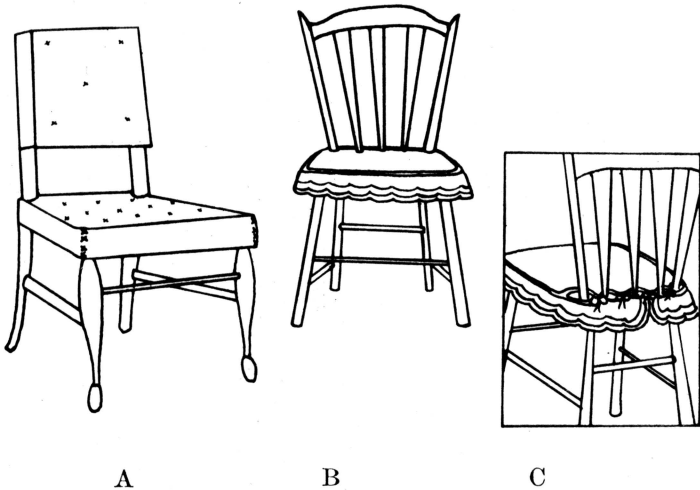


FIG. 6.—CHAIR COVERS

- A. Fitted cover of plain material decorated with tiny knots of yarn or small applied designs.
- B. Fitted covers of heavy print trimmed with a band of contrasting color.
- C. Rear view of chair covers shown in Fig. 5-B.

CLOSET CURTAINS

Curtains improve temporary storage spaces and closets without doors as well as afford protection for the clothing. They should be serviceable and being part of the background of the room should match the wall finish, if possible. Firm, heavy material such as osnaburg and monk's cloth are very satisfactory. If feed sacks are available they may be seamed together, and stitching or tape used to conceal the joinings and serve as decoration.

Closet curtains should be finished with plain hems on sides top and bottom. The top may be pleated or hung straight on rings or a rod so the curtains will slide easily.

DECORATIVE SCREENS

It is often desirable to separate various units in a room, to make a division in a large room or to screen out a direct view into a room. A folding, three section screen made of light weight wall board or ply-board or a narrow wood frame with material stretched tightly is very useful. Print or plain material or wall paper make attractive screens.

FOOT STOOLS

Several types of stools may be made at home. A cheese box makes a useful occasional seat as well as serving for storage of hats, shoes or sewing materials. Stools made from cheese boxes or similar containers should be covered with colorful material, plaited or gathered into a full-length flounce. A well padded top improves its appearance and usefulness.

A small wooden stool with a woven fiber top may be stained or shellacked. A stool with a solid top is most attractive with a hooked, crocheted or braided mat made to cover the top.



FIG. 7.—STOOL MADE FROM
A CHEESE BOX COVERED WITH
CHINTZ

PICTURES IN DECORATION

Pictures appeal to individuals through their story, beauty of line, quality of color or pattern. In selecting a picture it is well for the girl to consider the wall space it is to occupy and the general color scheme of the room, as well as her own preference. If there is

much design and color in the room, very few pictures may be used, but when the back ground is lacking in color, pictures should be selected to introduce color and interest.

The pictures in the room should have relationship in subject and scale. It is sometimes necessary to group pictures on a wall space. To get the best effect the pictures should have some relationship in subject and color. For example floral pictures make pleasing groups.

The frame of a picture should be simple in design, as its purpose is to bring out the beauty of the picture.

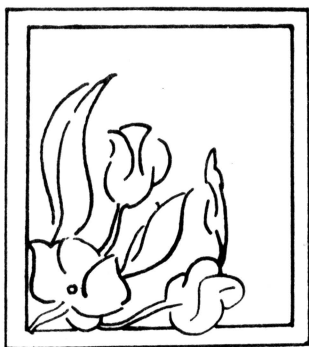


FIG. 8.—AN APPLIQUED WALL HANGING

The designs may be developed in various stitches, applique, stencils and block printing. Conventional designs are most suitable for hangings.

Pictures should be hung flat against the wall and low enough to form part of the unit with the furniture over which they are hung. Small pictures hung by themselves are best hung low and close to the mirror of a dressing table, over the desk or near a reading unit.

If the room is plain and the pictures are not suitable in size or type, a textile such as an India print or other decorative fabric may be selected or a special wall hanging made by the girl would add interest.

Sateen, crash and monk's cloth are satisfactory background materials.

MAKING SILHOUETTE PICTURES

Attractive pictures may be made by transferring simple outline patterns to glass and coloring them with enamel or lacquer, preferably black. The glass is then mounted on a plain background color, white, ivory or silver being most adaptable, and bound with passe partout tape or placed in a picture frame with a cardboard back. An inexpensive frame is ideal for this and if the color of the frame is not suitable it may be painted to match the silhouette.

Materials Needed:

Pattern

Glass large enough to cover the pattern

Background paper (white, ivory or silver)
Frame to fit glass or passe partout tape
Light weight cardboard for back
Quick drying enamel, lacquer or India Ink
Small water color brush for painting on glass
Cloth or sponge and container to apply water to tape, if
that is used
2 clip clothespins
Turpentine to clean brush if enamel is used
Denatured alcohol to clean lacquer brush
Scissors
Razor blade or pointed knife
Ruler or tape line

Method of Making.—Select a plain design without too much detail. Fine lines and designs with fancy edges are difficult to transfer accurately.

Clean the glass and place over the pattern flat on the table, being careful not to move it after the painting has been started. Fill in the design with the color where necessary, leaving a few openings so the background will show through. Leave in place until thoroughly dry to avoid a wavy effect.

It is then ready to be placed, painted side down, on the neatly cut background and cardboard back and framed. If passe partout tape is to be used instead of a frame, the picture, background, and back should be held securely with a clip clothespin at each side while the top and bottom tapes are measured, cut and applied. Then the clothespins should be transferred to the top and bottom while the sides are neatly bound with tape. The tape may be cut straight with the edge or mitered so the corners will be on an angle. A ring or loop should be attached with tape to the center back about one third the length of the picture from the top. The silhouette is ready to be hung.

Companion pictures of related subjects are suitable to hang on each side of the dressing table mirror or in other units in a girl's room.

CARE OF THE BEDROOM

After the room has been furnished and decorated, it is necessary that it be given good care in order that it may be comfortable and attractive at all times. It must be kept neat, orderly and well ventilated.

The first step in the daily care of the room is making the bed. The requirements for a good bed are:

1. A bedstead of simple lines and good material.
2. Good springs that will support the weight without sagging.
3. A firm mattress of good thickness.
4. Mattress cover and pad
5. Light weight warm covers.
6. Fluffy pillows.
7. Plain, washable spread that will harmonize with other furnishings in the room.

Making the Bed

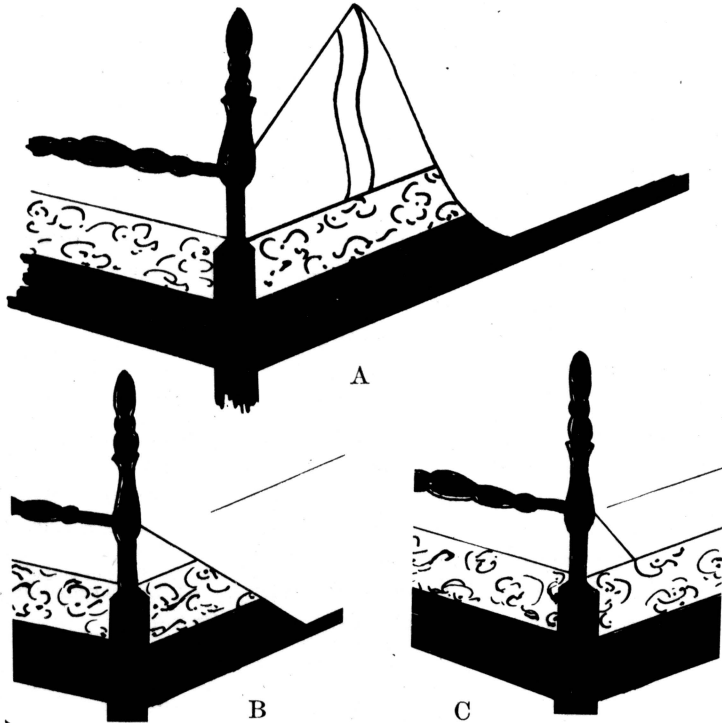


FIG. 9.—MITERING THE CORNERS OF THE SHEET

1. The springs should be firmly placed and thoroughly dusted.
2. The mattress should be brushed and placed in a cover, to protect it from wear and discoloration from the springs, then placed on the springs.
3. A thin quilted pad or an old comfort or soft blanket should cover the top of the mattress to insure a smooth surface.
4. The lower sheet should then be stretched in place, right side up, with the wide hem at the head of the bed. The top and bottom tucked in firmly.
5. The four corners of the lower sheet should be mitered and the sides tucked in, (See Fig. IX). The mitered corner makes a smooth surface and holds the sheet firmly. After the sheet is tucked under at the

foot and head of the bed, the side of the sheet should be lifted about a foot from each corner and the end turned under the edge of the mattress, (Fig. IX-A). The side should be allowed to fall in place and be tucked under smoothly (Fig. IX-B). This leaves a neat diagonal fold on the side of the mattress (Fig. IX-C).

6. The top sheet is put on wrong side up so the smooth hem will be next to the face of the person in bed. If the hems vary in width, the wider hem should be at the top. The lower corners of the sheet may be mitered or merely tucked in.
7. The blanket or light comfort should be spread smoothly in place, the upper end placed 8 to 15 inches from the top. The upper edge of the sheet should then be turned back over the cover as far as the length will permit.
8. The spread is next placed smoothly, the upper edge folded back far enough to place the pillows.
9. The pillows which have been put in the cases should be smoothed and placed on the fold of the spread and the spread brought up over the pillows. The spread should cover all the bedding and extend loosely over the sides of the bed.

The Care of the Bed.—A well cared for bed provides more comfortable rest than one carelessly made. The mattress and pillows will retain their shape and softness longer if they are thoroughly aired and turned once a week and sunned at least twice a year. Other warm bedding is also improved by weekly airing.

Clean sheets and pillow cases should be provided once a week but a spread may be used several weeks before laundering.

A clean, orderly room is necessary for the best health of the individuals who occupy it, but special care should be given in preparing a room for a guest. This preparation should include cleaning and airing and the provision of clean bed linen and towels. Space in the closet for clothes and additional hangers increase the comfort and pleasure of the guest.

A comfortable, restful room is attractive. This accomplishment is a worthy goal toward which every girl may work.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PROJECT

This project work is planned for the girl who is a beginner and who wishes to improve her room on a long time plan. The objectives are to give the girl:

- (a). An interest in her own room.
- (b). An opportunity to make simple, practical articles which will increase the comfort and beauty of her room.
- (c). An opportunity of planning the improvement and care of a room through the choice of color, design and furnishings.

These objectives may be met by making a plan for the work to be done in a certain room, including the choice of articles to be made and the daily care of the room, and in the selection and construction of at least **four** articles which will make her room more comfortable and attractive. Each girl should choose the articles that will be most practical for her individual needs.

The accessories suggested are. A pair of pillow cases, a comfort protector, a dresser scarf or set, a washable cushion, curtains, a foot stool, two pictures (silhouettes or other type), a bedspread, colorful chair seat and back and a simple wall hanging.

SCORE CARD FOR JUDGING "THE WINDOW TREATMENT FOR A GIRL'S ROOM"

		<i>Points</i>
I.	General appearance	50
	Color	20
	(Suitability to exposure and type of room, beauty, durability)	
	Appropriateness	20
	(To room and other furnishings)	
	Design	10
	(Type, scale in relation to size of room)	
II.	Selection of materials	20
	Suitability of fabric	10
	(Texture, weave)	
	Laundering or cleaning quality	5
	Cost in relation to value	5
III.	Construction	30
	Appropriateness to fabric and use	5
	Effect upon finished appearance	5
	Workmanship	20
	Details of construction	15
	(Cutting, stitching, hems and trimming)	
	Neatness	5
Total Score		100

REFERENCES**Books:**

Art in Home and Clothing—Trilling and Williams

The Home Economics Omnibus—Harris & Houston

Making Homes—Schultz

(These books may be found in High School libraries).

Magazines:

Good Housekeeping, American Home, Better Homes and Gardens, The Household Magazine, and other home magazines.

PROJECT REPORT

Your project is not complete until this blank is completed and a story is written of your club work for the year.

Member's Name ----- Date Started -----

Leader's Name ----- Date Completed -----

Name of Project -----

Articles Made:	Number	Cost
1. -----	-----	-----
2. -----	-----	-----
3. -----	-----	-----
4. -----	-----	-----
Others: -----	-----	-----
-----	-----	-----
-----	-----	-----
Total	-----	-----

Did you make an analysis of your room? Yes ----- No -----

Do you take care of your room? Yes ----- No -----

What color scheme have you selected? -----

Why were the colors selected? -----

What kind of materials have you used? -----

Do you plan to continue this project? Yes ----- No -----

Do your accessories improve your room? Yes ----- No -----

How many club meetings have you attended? Project -----

Community -----

How many demonstrations have you given? Individual -----

Team -----

Did you participate in county judging, Yes ----- No -----

Did you exhibit articles at County Achievement Day? -----

County Fair ----- State Fair -----

STORY

Signed -----
Club Member