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LOCKER WARDROBE

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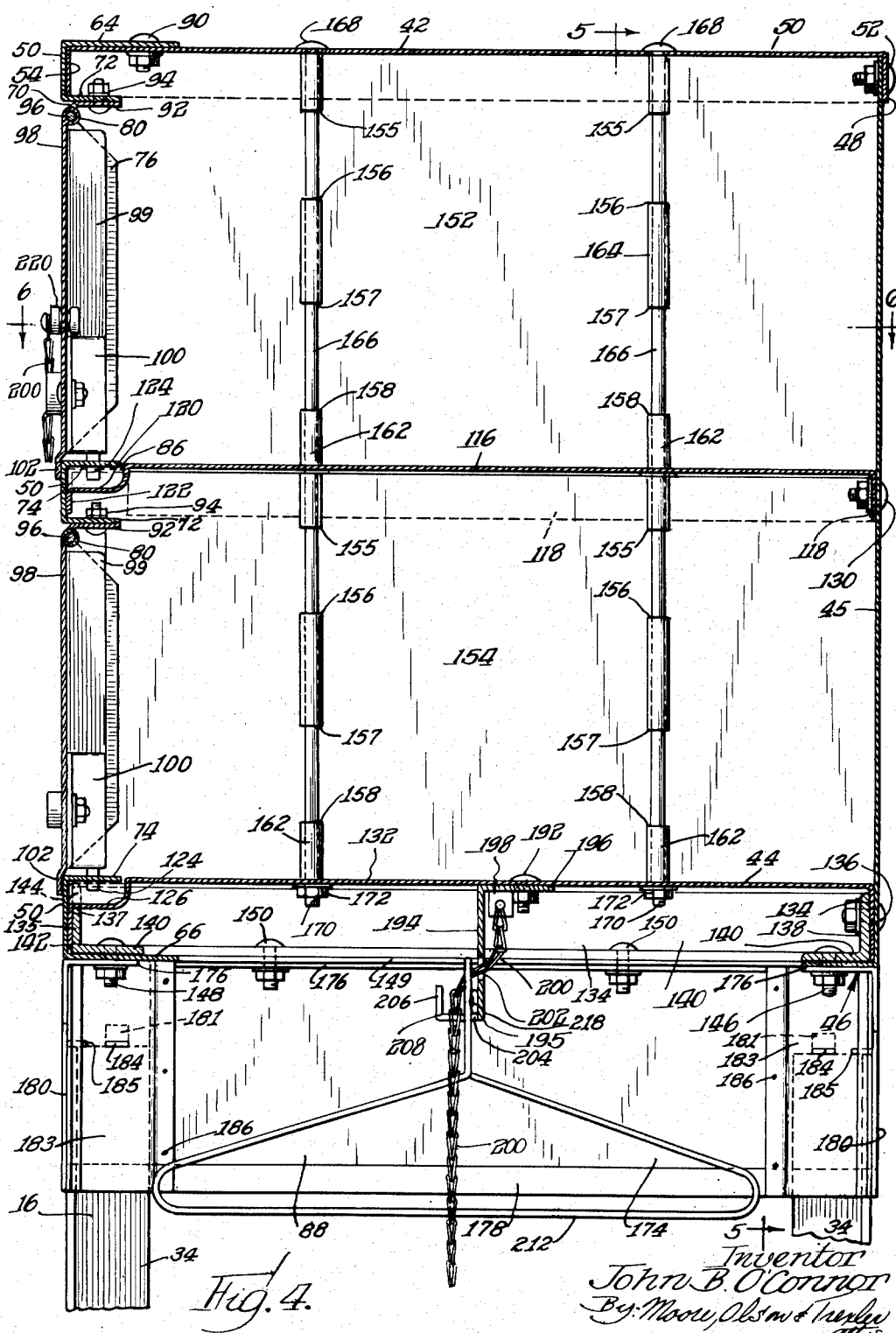
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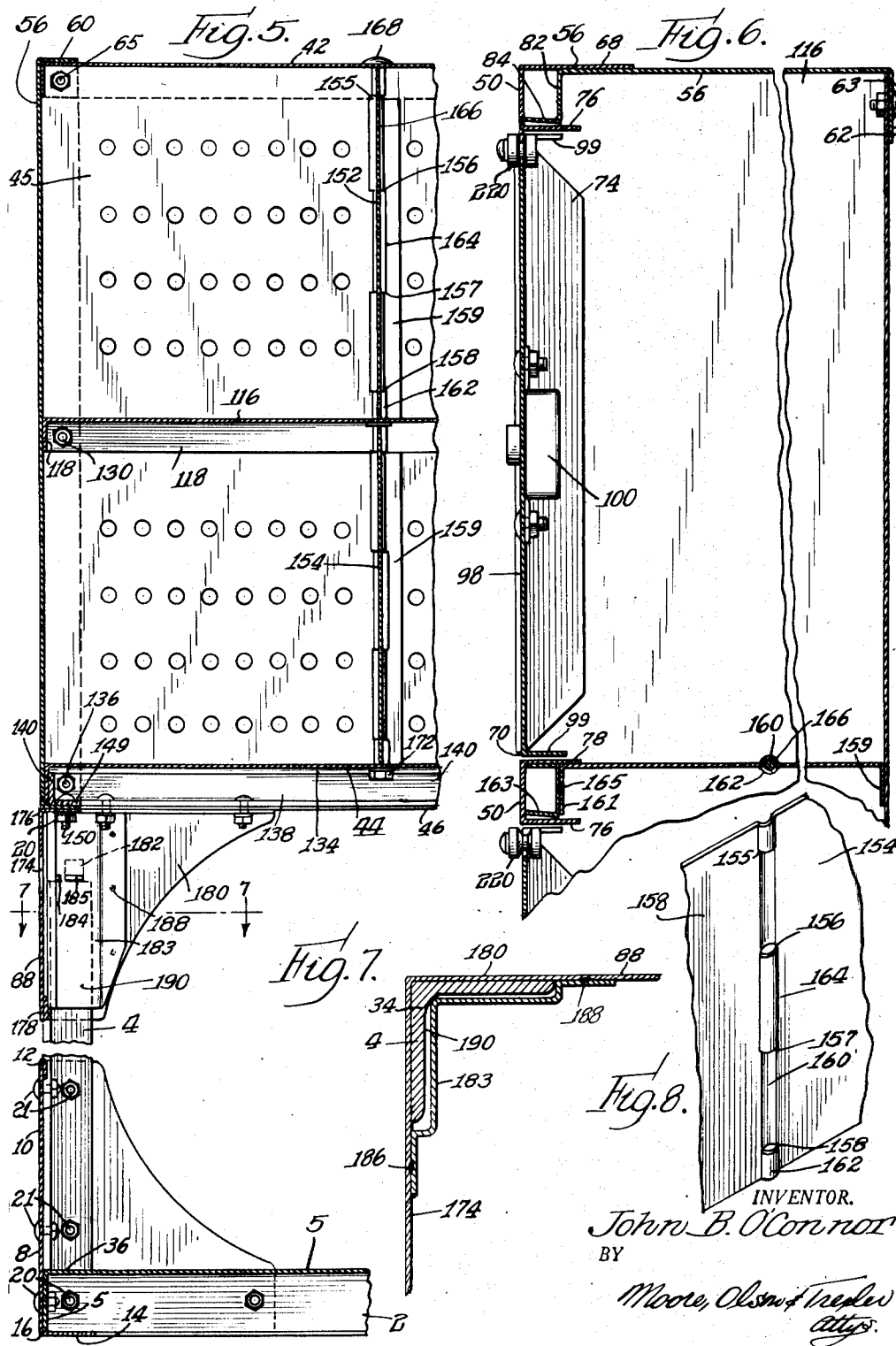
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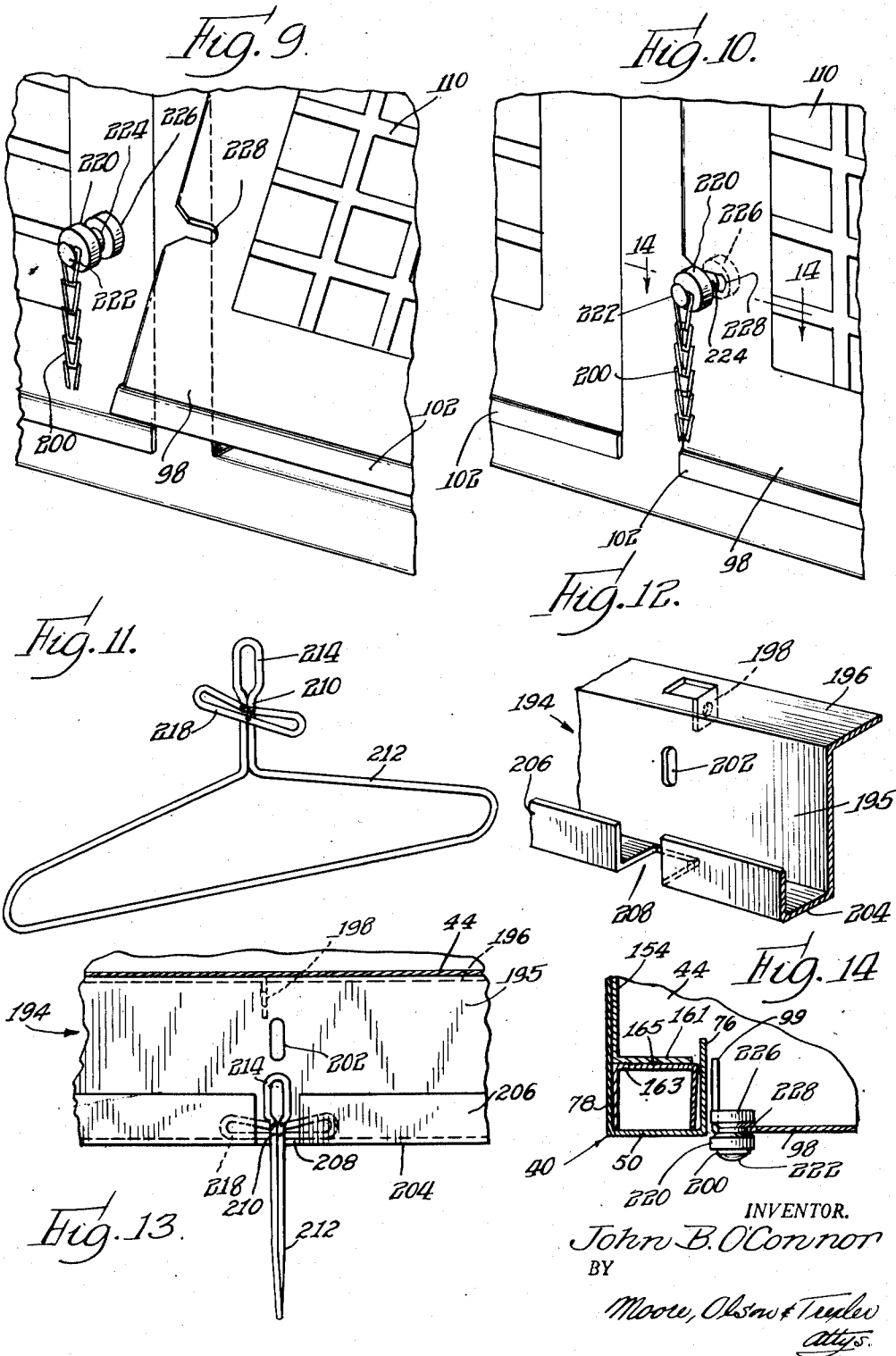
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## UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,655,424

## LOCKER WARDROBE

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4 Claims. (Cl. 312—351)

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This invention relates to lockers or wardrobes, or a combined locker and wardrobe, particularly for use in shops and factories.

It is an object of the invention to provide a storage structure which includes a series of closable compartments and an associated, specifically underlying cabinet having provision for the spaced positioning and detachable mounting of a series of coat hangers, each of which hangers has an elongated flexible member, such as a chain, which is non-detachably connected to the stationary part of the locker, which passes through a loop portion of the coat hanger and is provided on its free end with a button-like part of a locking device adapted detachably to be positioned in the slot of the closable door of one of the compartments, which preferably immediately overlies the particular coat hanger, and arranged so that when the door is closed the end of the chain is locked to the door of that particular compartment.

In addition, the invention comprises means whereby the various coat hangers are mounted in spaced relation along and under the series of closable compartments, and in a manner such that while they are maintained in spaced relation so that they cannot be slid or bunched together, each coat hanger can be removed from its location but cannot be removed from the chain or flexible member. The arrangement then is such that one of the factory employees can unlock one of the closable compartments, run the free end of the chain through the sleeve of the coat, hang the coat upon the coat hanger and then position the locking means in the slot of the door, put his hat and other property in the compartment and lock the door, and thus he will also lock his coat upon the clothes hanger in such a manner that it cannot be removed therefrom, and in such a manner that the various coat hangers will be maintained in spaced relation with respect to each other and cannot be slid along or bunched to one side of the coat hanger space.

Yet another object of the invention resides in providing details of construction of the foregoing structure.

Another object of the invention resides in providing a particular type of partition mounting for the partitions of the cabinet.

Another object of the invention resides in providing a specific construction of the coat hanger itself which is adapted to be mounted on the wardrobe.

These and other objects of the invention will

be apparent from a perusal of the following specification when taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Figure 1 is a front perspective view of the improved locker wardrobe, one of the hinged doors being shown in dotted lines as raised to open position;

Figure 2 is a right side view of the locker wardrobe shown in Figure 1 with certain parts of the frame broken away, to show a coat in position and a chain passing through the sleeve of the coat;

Figure 3 is a sectional view of the base, and being taken on line 3—3 of Figure 1;

Figure 4 is a section taken on line 4—4 of Figure 1;

Figure 5 is a section taken on line 5—5 of Figure 4;

Figure 6 is a section taken on line 6—6 of Figure 4;

Figure 7 is a detail plan section taken on line 7—7 of Figure 5;

Figure 8 is a fragmentary perspective view of one of the partition members;

Figures 9 and 10 are fragmentary perspective views of the doors of the locker and their association with the chain locking device;

Figure 11 is a perspective view of one of the coat hangers;

Figure 12 is an enlarged fragmentary detail view of the rail for supporting the coat hangers;

Figure 13 is a fragmentary front view of the coat hanger and its association with the hanger supporting rail; and

Figure 14 is a detail sectional view taken on the line 14—14 of Figure 10.

Referring now to the drawings in detail, the invention comprises a preferably sheet metal bottom 2 having depending flanges on all sides, the depending flange 4 being shown in Figure 1. To the ends of this bottom 2 are secured two lower corner brackets 6 and 8 of the construction shown in Figure 1, each of which comprises an outside vertical wall 10 having an upper edge as at 12 doubled upon itself for strength and ornamentation, and having a lower inwardly extending horizontal flange 14 which underlies the lower edge 16 of the basal flanges, such as 4. These two lower brackets are cut away in curvilinear fashion for ornamental purposes. The base 2 is bolted to these lower corner brackets by means of the bolts 20, as shown in Figure 3. In addition, the base 2 is provided with a centrally disposed reinforcing element of sheet metal, generally in the form of a pan 22 hav-

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ing upper longitudinally extending opposed flanges 24 and 26 which are welded to the underside of the base 2, as shown. The two ends of the lower portion 28 of the pan are provided with two downwardly extending flanges 30 which are spot welded as at 32 to the end basal flanges 5 of the base. In addition there are four upright angle posts 34, the bottoms of which, as shown at 36, rest upon the base 2. The lower corner brackets are bolted to these corner posts as shown at 21 for rigidly holding the corner posts in upright position. The corner posts extend upwardly and terminate at 37, as shown in Figure 4.

The locker unit is supported upon the four posts 34 and held in position thereon by means of two upper corner brackets 86 and 88. The locker unit itself comprises a rectangular box-like structure 40 having opposed vertical end walls 56 and 58, a top wall 42, and a base 44. Like the bottom portion of this locker wardrobe, the upper locker part thereof is formed preferably of sheet metal. As shown best in Figure 4, it includes a sheet metal back panel 45 which has a lower flange 46. This back panel has its top edge underlying a rear depending flange 48 of the sheet metal top 42, the same being bolted together as at 52. The front edge of this sheet metal top is provided with a front depending flange 54. Each of the two sheet metal ends 56 and 58 has an intumed flange 60 at the top and an intumed flange 62 along its rear side. The top flanges 60 overlie the top wall 42 and the rear flanges 62 overlie the ends of the back wall 45 and are secured thereto by bolts 63 and by bolts 65 at the corners which also secure the flange 48 of the top 42.

The front 50 is a rectangular frame structure preferably formed as a single piece having a series of spaced apart rectangular openings therein, as shown in Fig. 1. This front 50 has a rearwardly extending flange 64 along its top edge, another rearwardly extending flange 66 along its bottom edge and similar flanges 68 at each end. Each of the spaced apart rectangular openings 70 is also provided with a series of rearwardly extending flanges consisting of a flange 72 at the top, a flange 74 at the bottom, a flange 76 at one side and a flange 78 at the other.

A series of bolts 90 located at spaced intervals along the entire length of the top flange 64 secure together this flange 64 and the top 42 and, as shown in Fig. 4, the depending flange 54 on top 42 extends adjacent the front wall 50 between the flange 64 and the flanges 72 on the top row of openings 70. The end flanges 68 overlie the side walls 56 and 58 (see Fig. 6) and the front ends of each of the side walls 56 and 58 have inwardly extending portions 82 and terminate in forwardly extending portions 84. The portions 82 and 84 on the wall 56 thus extend in the space between the flange 68 and the adjacent flanges 76 and those on wall 58 extend between the other flange 68 and the adjacent flanges 78 thus maintaining the forward ends of walls 56 and 58 in their proper position. The leaf 92 of a hinge 80 is bolted as at 94 to the flange 72 at the top of each opening 70 and each opening 70 is provided with a door 98 which is hingedly connected to the leaf 92 by a hinge pin 96. Each door 98 has inwardly extending strengthening flanges 99 on both vertical edges and carries a key-operated lock 100 and has a lower lip 102 which overlies the front wall 50 below the door.

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An intermediate shelf or partition 116 provides a floor for all the row of lockers closed by the top row of doors 98 and a top wall for the lower row of lockers. This partition 116 has a depending flange or skirt 118 all around. At the front of the partition 116 a series of pockets 120 are formed, one for each door, to accommodate the projecting tongue 124 of the bolt on the lock 100 of the door 98 thereabove, the bolt extending through a slot or keeper in the flange 74 at the bottom of each opening 70. Along the front of each pocket 120 the flange 118 has a narrow portion 122 so that the lower edge of flange 118 is on the same level all around. Reference to Fig. 6 shows that the main part of the shelf 116 extends on a level with the flanges 74 below the top row of openings 70 and that a depression 36 is provided at the front of shelf 116 to accommodate the flanges 74 where the shelf 116 extends thereunder. The rear depending flange 118 of shelf 116 is bolted as at 130 to the rear panel 45. The shelf 116 may also be bolted at other places to rigid fixed portions of the construction, if desired. In the construction shown, however, the shelf 116 is supported at the front by the depending flange 118 which extends adjacent the front wall 50 in position so that its lower edge may engage the flanges 72 at the top of the lower series of openings 70.

The bottom 44 of the locker is substantially identical in structure with shelf 116 except as hereinafter noted. It has a flange 134 similar to flange 118 and is secured by bolts 136 to the rear panel 45 and to other parts, if desired. Bottom 44 also has a series of pockets 126 similar to the pockets 120 for accommodating the projecting tongues 124 of the bolts on the locks 100 of the bottom row of doors. The flange 134 has a narrow portion 135 similar to the portion 122 and a shallow depression 137 which, like depression 36, is provided to receive the bottom flanges 74 of the lower row of openings 70 and permit the main part of floor 44 to extend on a level with these flanges 74. Floor 44 is supported at the front by the depending flange 134 which extends adjacent the front wall 50 between the lower row of flanges 74 and the bottom flange 66.

To better support the box-like structure 40 an angle iron frame 140 is provided which extends on all four sides of the locker structure 40 under the floor 44 and inside its depending flange 134. The rear vertical arm 138 of the angle iron frame 140 is also secured by bolts 136 so that the flange 134 is clamped between the arm 138 and the rear wall 45. The front vertical arm 142 of the frame 140 extends adjacent the inner face of the front portion of flange 134 and is relieved as at 144 at suitable intervals to receive the dished portions of floor 44 where the pockets 126 are formed.

Within the box-like structure 40 the individual lockers in each row are separated by a series of vertical partitions 152 in the top row and 154 in the bottom row. The partitions 152 and 154 are of identical structure. Each partition has two vertical rows of slits 155, 156, 157 and 158 formed therein at the places indicated in Fig. 4. The material of the partitions along each row of slits is then bent laterally of the partition surfaces into a semi-circular shape with alternate portions extending on opposite sides of the partition. Thus, as shown in Figs. 4, 5, and 6, the material between slits 157 and 158 is bent out on one side of partition 152 to provide a circular formation 160 and the material between slit 158 and the bottom of partition 152 and

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between slits 156 and 157 is bent out on the opposite side of partition 152 to provide the circular formations 162 and 164, respectively, and this is continued throughout the full length of each row of slits in each of the partitions 152 and 154. The circular formations 160, 162, 164 etc. are designed to receive a rod 166. The rods 166 are provided with broad heads 168 and extend down through perforations in the top 42 then through circular formations in a partition 152, then through an opening in shelf 116 through circular formations in a lower partition 154 and, finally, through openings in the bottom 44 where they are threaded as at 170 to receive the nuts 172 for holding the partitions in position. In addition the partitions 152 and 154 themselves and their bolt receiving portions 160, 162 and 164, help to rigidify the top 42, the shelf 116 and the bottom 44.

Each of the partitions 152 and 154 has a flange 159 on its rear end and a flange 161 on its forward end. Each of these flanges 159 and 161 extends from the partition toward the end wall 58. The partitions 152 and 154 terminate short of the front wall 50 so that the flange 161 is spaced therefrom but extends between adjacent flanges 78 and 76. A vertically extending channel shaped member 163 is welded to the flange 161, as at 165, with the arms of the channel extending toward the front wall 50 and aids in maintaining the forward ends of partitions 152 and 154 in their proper position.

As before stated, the entire pigeonhole-like top locker 40 is mounted upon the corner posts 34 by means of the upper corner brackets 86 and 88. To this end each one of these upper side brackets is a reversely disposed duplicate of the bottom brackets 6 and 8 and comprises a vertical side wall portion 174, an upper horizontal flange 176 extending in around the three sides of the top and arcuate side faces 180. The side wall 174 is doubled upon itself as at 178 along its lower edge for strength and ornamentation. The horizontal flanges 176 on the two corner brackets 86 and 88 provide horizontal surfaces upon which the box-like structure 40 sits. At the rear above the arcuate faces 180 of the brackets 86 and 88, the flanges 176 are secured by bolts 146 to the angle iron frame 140 and to the flange 46 extending in from the rear wall 45. Bolts 148 secure flanges 176 to the flange 66 and to the angle iron frame 140 above the arcuate faces 180 of brackets 86 and 88 at the front. Lastly, a series of bolts 150 fasten angle iron frame 140 and intumed flanges 149 on the lower edges of ends 56 and 58 to flanges 176. The housing 40 is thus well secured to the corner brackets 86 and 88 but is at the same time removable.

Brackets 86 and 88 are in turn rigidly mounted on the posts 34 as best seen in Figs. 4, 5, and 7. This mounting includes four sheet metal plates 183, one of which is welded, as at 186 and 188, to the inner faces of the vertical walls 174 and 180 of the upper corner brackets 86 and 88 at each of the four corners of the structure. Each of these plates 183 extends slightly less than the full height of corner brackets 86 and 88 and is shaped as shown in Fig. 7 to form an L-shaped vertical pocket 190 slightly larger than the corner posts 34 in which the corner posts are received to firmly mount the upper corner brackets 86 and 88 on the corner posts 34. The posts 34 do not extend up through the full height of pockets 190, however, to engage flanges 176. Instead, at each corner of the structure a short distance

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above the vertical mid-point of brackets 86 and 88, two portions of the material of brackets 86 and 88 are cut at 181 and 182, respectively, from walls 174 and 180 and bent down to horizontal position to form tangs 184 and 185 which extend through suitably located openings in plates 183, which openings are just large enough to receive these tangs. The load of structure 40 is thus transmitted to the top 37 of posts 34 through the tangs 183 and 185 which are engaged by the posts 34 when the latter are inserted in pockets 190. The wardrobe proper, beneath the locker portion 40, provides a relatively large space in which a series of garments, such as coats, may be hung. To this end the bottom wall 44 of the box-like structure 40 has bolted thereto, as at 192, a bracket 194, the upper flange 196 of which has ten portions struck out, bent downwardly and perforated to form a series of ten spaced clips or chain holders 198. These chain holders 198 are uniformly spaced so that there are two under each pair of vertically aligned lockers. Each chain-holder 198 has one end of one of a corresponding series of ten chains or other flexible elongated members 200 permanently attached thereto. In addition the vertical wall 195 of the bracket 194 is provided with a corresponding series of ten spaced holes 202 through which the chains 200 pass. This vertical wall 195 of the bracket 194 also carries a forwardly extending horizontal flange 204 which in turn is provided with an upstanding flange 206. Opposite each chain holder 198 and associated opening 202 the flanges 204 and 206 are cut out to form ten slots 208. These slots 208 are adapted to receive the vertical shank 210 of a garment hanger 212, of which there are also ten. The upper portion of the shank of the garment hanger is provided with an integral loop 214 sufficiently large to permit the chain to pass therethrough. The shank 210 also has welded thereto a folded wire cross bar 218, the ends of which extend outwardly in opposed relation to lie on flange 204 on the opposite sides of the slot 208. The bars 218 lie behind the vertical flanges 206 and the upright loop 214 projects upwardly preferably above the edge of the flange 206, as shown in Figures 4 and 13. In this manner the cross bars 218 serve to support the garment hangers and with the vertical shanks 210 to prevent lateral shifting of the garment hangers. In short, due to the slotted rack and the manner in which the garment hangers are suspended therein, the garment hangers are maintained in spaced horizontal position longitudinally of the rack and cannot be pushed all to one side in a bunch. In addition, the garment hangers 212 may be easily removed by lifting them out of their slots, such as 208. However, since the chain 200 extends down from the holder 198 through the opening 202 and then through the loop 214 of hanger 212 this hanger is secured on the chain and so cannot be carried away. Usually chain 200 also passes through slot 208. The end of each chain 200 opposite to that secured to the holder 198 is provided with a locking mechanism comprising a spool 220 riveted as at 222 to the end of the chain 200. The spool is provided with a centrally disposed, relatively annular neck 224, the diameter of which is less than that of the adjoining spool portions 226. In addition each door 98 is provided with an open ended slot 228 which is of sufficient width to receive the smaller diameter portion 224 of the spool-like lock, but which will prevent the passage of the larger

heads 226 therethrough. When the door is in raised position as shown in dotted lines in Figure 1 and this small diameter portion 224 of the spool is slid into a slot 228 and the door closed and locked the end of the chain will be held locked to this particular door. The diameter of this spool 220 is larger than the loop 214 in the coat hanger, so that the coat hanger cannot be threaded off the free end of the chain.

By reference to Figure 2 it will be seen that when a coat 230 is placed upon a coat hanger 212 and the associated chain 200 is threaded through the sleeve 232 of the coat, and the chain pin 220 is then locked in the slot 228 of the door in the manner hereinbefore described the coat cannot be removed until this door is opened. Thus, each person who controls the key of any particular locker will lock his coat upon the coat hanger and at the same time deposit what articles he desires in the particular locker to be locked by the door which also locks the free end of the chain thereto.

Obviously the invention is not limited to the specific details of construction disclosed herein but is capable of other modifications and changes without departing from the spirit and scope of the appended claims.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new and desired to be secured by Letters Patent is:

1. A locker wardrobe comprising a base, spaced apart uprights extending upwardly from said base to provide a wardrobe space between said uprights, a locker structure mounted on the upper ends of said uprights and overlying said wardrobe space, said locker structure including a plurality of lockers, doors for said lockers, and means extending longitudinally of the top of said wardrobe space including a coat hanger holder and plurality of coat hangers each having a garment supporting portion, an apertured part, and an attaching means, said attaching means adapted detachably to engage in said holder, an elongated flexible member having one end connected to an anchorage adjacent the underside of the locker structure and adapted non-detachably and slidably to pass through said apertured part of one of said coat hangers, the other end of said elongated member having a locking member formed with a portion of reduced cross section and each one of the doors of the locker structure having a slot to receive the portion of the locking member of reduced cross section and positioned so that when the door is closed the locking member is non-detachably secured to the closed door of the locker.

2. A locker wardrobe comprising a wardrobe portion and a box-like portion thereabove, said box-like portion including a plurality of walls dividing the same into a row of locker compartments each having a door opening, and a door for closing the opening, a support member secured in the upper part of the wardrobe space below the box-like portion, said support member providing a horizontal and an upstanding flange, said support member having a plurality of slots located in predetermined spaced relation along the length of said support member and each of said slots extending through both said flanges, and a plurality of coat hangers each having an upstanding shank provided with an eye therethrough and a cross support, said upstanding

shank being adapted to pass through the slots in said support member and said cross member being adapted to straddle the portion of the slot formed in said horizontal flange, and an elongated flexible member having one end permanently attached to said locker wardrobe adjacent one of said slots, said elongated flexible member being adapted to be extended through the sleeve or opening of a garment supported on a hanger, the shank of which extends in said last-named slot and said elongated flexible member passing through the eye in said last-named hanger and having an enlargement on its other end of greater dimensions than said eye, means associated with said doors in which said enlargement is removably received when a door is open and in which said enlargement is secured against removal when the door is closed.

3. A wire coat hanger having a garment supporting portion its upper portion doubled to provide a closed loop portion and having another wire loop portion affixed to the upright shank of the coat hanger and extending outwardly on opposite sides of said shank at right angles thereto below said closed loop portion to form an attaching portion.

4. A locker wardrobe comprising a wardrobe portion and a box-like portion thereabove, said box-like portion including a plurality of walls dividing the same into a row of locker compartments each having a door opening, and a door for closing the opening, a support member secured in the upper part of the wardrobe space below the box-like portion, a plurality of coat hangers detachably mounted on said support member, each coat hanger having an eye formed therein, a plurality of elongated flexible members, one of said elongated flexible members being permanently secured to said locker wardrobe adjacent each coat hanger and passing through the eye of said coat hanger, said coat hanger being detachable from its supporting means but not from the elongated member, the other end of said elongated member having an enlargement larger than the diameter of said eye and being insertable through the sleeve of a coat hanging upon said coat hanger, means associated with said doors in which said elongated member is removably received when a door is opened and in which said elongated member is secured against removal with the enlargement substantially abutting the rear surface of said door when the door is closed.

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