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WARDROBE OR THE LIKE STRUCTURE

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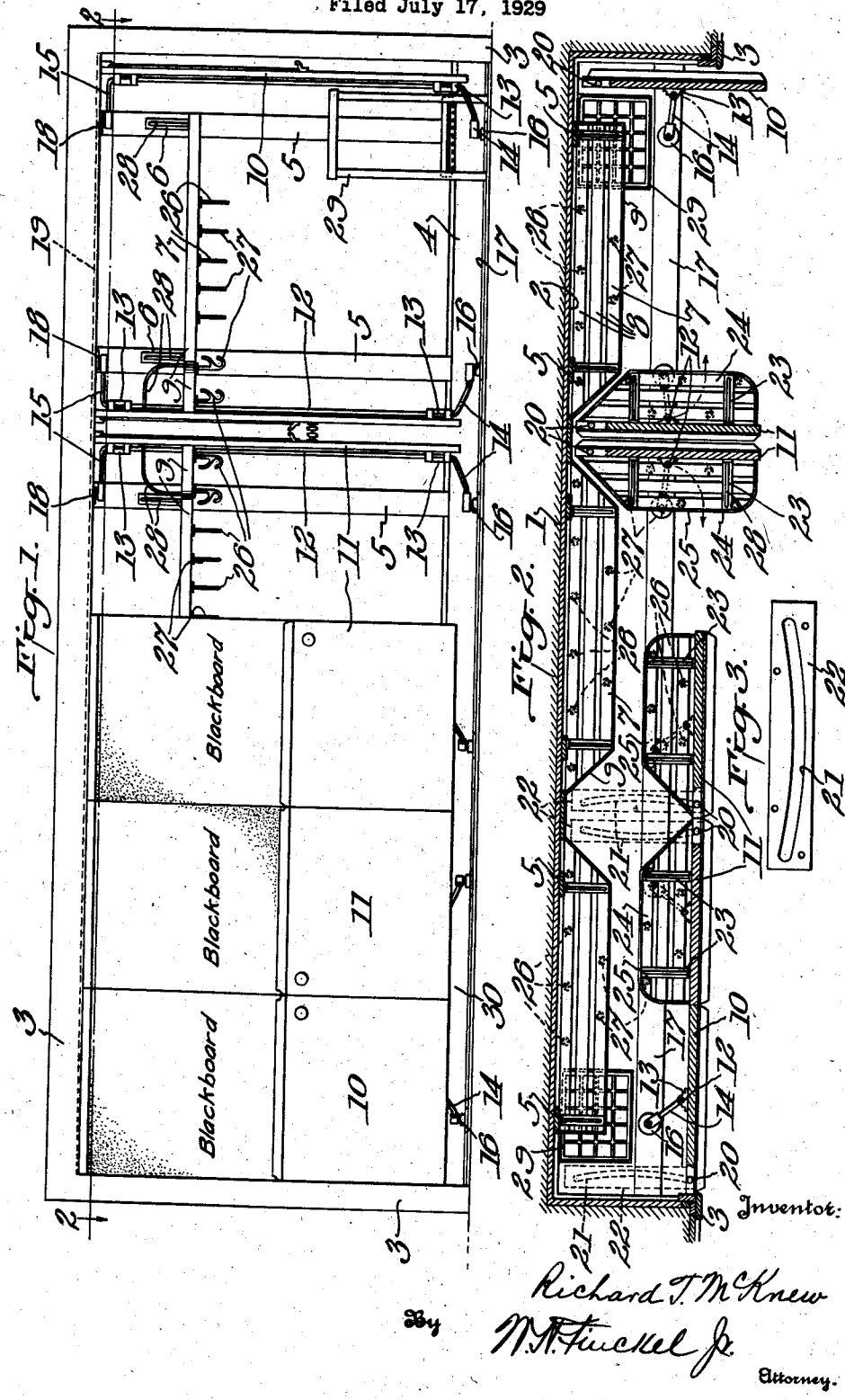


Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.

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WARDROBE OR THE LIKE STRUCTURE

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This invention relates to a wardrobe or the like structure, such as has become a part of the standard equipment of schools.

Lockers of this type generally comprise a recess or alcove formed in the wall of a school classroom, such recess being provided at its back wall with a plurality of hooks upon which garments may be hung. Across the front of the recess is provided a plurality of doors which, when in closed position, completely close the opening of the recess or alcove, and are usually provided upon their outside faces with blackboards which form a continuous blackboard surface across the face of the alcove, such doors when open affording ready access to the entire interior wardrobe space within the alcove.

In the wardrobes of those types with which I am familiar, the hooks upon which the garments of the students may be hung, are arranged upon the back wall of the alcove without any particular predetermined spacing, and the clothing of the students when hung upon such hooks will, when the classes are large, as they usually are, overlap. This overlapping or bunching of the clothing against the back wall of the wardrobe recess has a number of disadvantages. Generally, each student is assigned a particular hook, and when a number of garments are in place upon the hooks, it is sometimes difficult for a student to hang his garments upon his allotted hook or to remove them therefrom without disturbing, disarranging or mussing the adjacent garments. In wet weather, garments which are hung in the wardrobe wet, will wet others adjacent to them which may be dry, and, moreover, adequate ventilation of the garments while hanging is not provided for.

Moreover, in those wardrobes with which I am familiar the doors, when in the open position decrease the cubical capacity of the wardrobe, thereby decreasing the ease with which students may have access to the available wardrobe space and causing crowding and confusion.

One of the objects of my invention is to so furnish the interior of the wardrobe, and to so arrange the hooks provided therein, that the disadvantages mentioned as to bunching and faulty ventilation of clothing will be done away with. Obviously, this necessitates such spacing of the hooks as to provide for the hanging of garments upon the several hooks out of contact with each other.

Due to the relatively large size of classes and the necessity of providing a separate hook for each student in the class in the wardrobe of a given classroom, some support for the hooks must be provided other than the back wall of the wardrobe alcove alone if proper separation and ventilation of the garments is to be secured, and another object of the invention is to provide means whereby the requisite number of hooks may be furnished and a proper, adequate, spacing of same obtained.

Still another object of the invention is to so arrange the hooks that, when the wardrobe is open, all of the hooks and the garments hung thereon, are in full view.

A further object of the invention is to so arrange the doors which form the closure for the wardrobe, and to provide such a number of doors for this purpose, that doors of ordinary construction and standard sizes may be used.

Another object is to make the doors of such width and to so arrange them that when they are in the open position the cubical capacity of the wardrobe will be greater than when the doors are closed thus facilitating access of students to the wardrobe and preventing crowding and confusion.

Still another object of the invention is to provide doors of such width that the blackboards carried thereby will each furnish adequate space upon which a student may work.

A further object is to provide means whereby, for a wardrobe alcove of given width, the hardware for the doors for closing same may be appropriately located at the factory and be thus positioned accurately, without fitting and trying on the job.

With these objects in view, the invention contemplates a wardrobe or the like structure, comprising in combination with a walled recess, a plurality of doors for closing the recess, these doors being so supported and guided as to move into open position substantially

at right angles to the back wall of the recess. The back wall of the recess and the back surfaces of the doors are provided with shelves, each of which carries a plurality of depending hooks arranged in such relation as to furnish adequate spacing of the garments hung thereon, the shelves being so formed that, when the doors are in the open position, the shelves carried by the doors and the shelves carried by the back wall of the recess, will form in effect continuous shelves. And the invention contemplates, further, a number, size and arrangement of doors whereby the capacity of the wardrobe may be varied, and it contemplates also various details of construction and arrangements of parts, as I will proceed now to explain and finally claim.

In the accompanying drawings illustrating the invention, in the several figures of which like parts are similarly designated, Figure 1 is a front elevation of a wardrobe embodying my invention, one half of same being shown with the doors in the closed position, and the other half being shown with the doors in the open position. Fig. 2 is a sectional plan view, taken substantially on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is an enlarged detail plan view of a guide plate used for guiding the opening and closing movement of the doors.

In a wall of the classroom, usually a partition wall, is provided a recess or alcove 1. A standard width for such an alcove is seventeen feet, and a standard depth for same is two feet two inches. These dimensions are given merely as being illustrative of the size of recess which has been found to furnish adequate wardrobe space for the reception of the garments of a class of students of normal size, for example, forty-one students. The interior of this recess is usually finished with plaster, as indicated at 2, to form a neat, sanitary, interior and is provided with ornamental or other trim, as indicated at 3, and has the usual base-molding 4.

Secured to the back wall of the wardrobe recess is a plurality of vertical battens 5 to which are applied inverted shelf brackets 6, from which are hung shelves 7, which latter are preferably of slat type, as indicated at 8, Fig. 2, and have an upstanding outer rim 9, for a purpose later described.

Across the front opening of the alcove and adapted when in closed position to completely close same, is a plurality, six in the form shown, of doors 10 and 11. Each of these doors is provided, as shown, with a hinge member 12, upon which it is mounted for swinging movement by brackets 13 arranged at top and bottom, the extremities of the hinged members 12 being bent substantially at right angles to form offset arms 14 and 15 at the bottoms and tops of the doors, respectively. The arms 14 are pivotally mounted at their extremities upon pivot members 16, preferably previously located by and affixed to a plate 17 which may extend the full width of the wardrobe. The members 15 are similarly pivotally connected with pivot members 18 which also are positioned and carried by a plate 19 at the top of the wardrobe and similar to the plate 17.

The top of each of the doors is provided adjacent to one edge with a roller 20, and these rollers are embraced by and adapted to travel within the guide slots 21 of guide plates 22, such as shown in Fig. 3, and indicated in dotted lines at the left of Fig. 2 secured to the ceiling of the wardrobe. With the doors thus hung, it will be seen that when they are swung upon their pivot members 12 they will be guided by the engagement of the rollers 20 with the slots 21 into the open position shown at the right hand side of Figs. 1 and 2, substantially at right angles to the back wall of the wardrobe recess, thus providing across the width of the wardrobe three large openings which afford ready access to the interior of the wardrobe, and permit its interior and all articles therein to be easily seen.

Obviously, any suitable mounting means for the doors whereby they may be moved from closed to open position, and vice versa, may be substituted for the means shown and described.

It will be noted that by using doors having a width which is one-sixth of the width of the alcove, or two feet ten inches in the instance shown, these doors when in the open position project beyond the plane of the wall in which the alcove is located. Thus when the doors are open the cubical capacity of the wardrobe is greater than when it is closed and more adequate wardrobe space is afforded. In this connection it is to be noted that, no matter what the number of doors used may be, so long as these doors have a width greater than the depth of the alcove the increase in cubical capacity of the wardrobe when the doors are open will result. It therefore will be understood that my invention is not limited to the use of six doors.

On each of the doors 11 is mounted a pair of inverted shelf brackets 23, and these brackets carry slat shelves 24 extending the full width of the doors at substantially the same height as the shelves 7 carried by the back wall. These shelves 24 are also provided with upstanding outer rims 25 similar to the rims 9.

As will be seen, the adjacent ends of the shelves 7 are cut off at an angle of substantially forty-five degrees. Also the adjacent ends of the shelves 24 carried by the doors are cut off at an angle of substantially forty-five degrees. Thus, when the doors are in the open position (see right of Fig. 2), there will be a plurality of four substantially continuous right angled or L-shaped shelves running

along the back wall of the wardrobe recess and on the backs of the doors.

On the bottom of each of the shelves 7 and 24 I provide two rows of hooks 26 and 27, respectively. The hooks of each row are relatively spaced apart a distance sufficient to provide adequate clearance and ventilation between garments hung thereon, and the rows of hooks themselves are similarly spaced apart. Moreover, the hooks 27 of the front row are spaced in staggered relation to the hooks 26 of the back row, and thus it will be seen that no garments are hung in superposed relation, and that all garments, in addition to being adequately spaced apart, may be distinctly seen by looking into the wardrobe.

The particular type of shelf bracket shown has been found to be the most practical for installations of this kind, for the reason that it does not obstruct the space below the shelf, which latter is devoted to the hanging of garments, and it does not obstruct the shelves themselves in that its supporting strut 28 is so formed as to permit free access beneath it, so that hats, packages, and the like may be withdrawn from the ends of the shelves.

By providing the upstanding rims 9 on the shelves, articles are prevented from rolling off of the shelves and getting onto the floor of the wardrobe.

If desired, umbrella racks 29 may be arranged at each end of the wardrobe. Where such umbrella racks are provided, it is found desirable to omit hooks which might lie above them, and, furthermore, no shelves are provided upon the doors 10 which are located at the extreme sides of the wardrobe. Obviously, however, both shelves upon these doors and hooks upon the shelves may be provided if necessary or desirable.

It will be apparent that when the wardrobe is closed (see left of Figs. 1 and 2) the four rows of hooks 26 and 27 carried by the shelves of the back wall and the shelves of the doors will all be so relatively spaced as to afford ample separation and ventilation of the clothing hung thereon.

If desired, locker space may be provided at the sides of the wardrobe, as is customary in some installations of this character, for the private use of the teacher, and for the storage of supplies.

I have hereinbefore referred to the use of standard stock sizes of doors for forming the front closure for my wardrobe. In this connection it will be noted that, in the embodiment shown, I use, in all, six doors for closing the wardrobe. Each of these doors, where the width of the recess is seventeen feet, will be two feet ten inches in width, which is a stock width. If the width of the alcove is increased or decreased by one foot, six doors may still be used, but each door will be either two inches greater or two inches less in width, thus making up or deducting the extra foot. This is possible without recourse to special fitting, because doors come in stock sizes ranging from two feet to three feet four inches, and sometimes more, the width being increased in multiples of two inches.

As will be seen by reference to Fig. 1, the doors are of such a height, and so supported, that an air space 30 is provided beneath them and running the full width of the alcove.

It will thus be seen that by refinements of construction contemplated by my invention, I provide a wardrobe structure in which the usual number of garments may be hung without crowding and overlapping, and with the assurance that the garments will receive proper ventilation while in the wardrobe, also that the cubical capacity of the wardrobe when open is greater than when closed, and, moreover, I provide shelves of such form and arrangement that, when the wardrobe is open they will be substantially continuous. Furthermore, these shelves furnish a support whereby the garment hooks may be suitably arranged and spaced as desired.

Various changes are contemplated as within the spirit of the invention and the scope of the following claims.

What I claim is:—

1. In a wardrobe or the like structure, having an open front and a back wall, means for closing said front, a shelf carried by said means, and a shelf arranged upon said back wall, said closing means being arranged to open into position substantially normal to said back wall, whereby the shelf on said means and the shelf on said back wall aline in substantial continuity.

2. In a wardrobe or the like structure, having an open front and a back wall, a plurality of doors for closing said open front, a shelf carried by said back wall, a shelf carried by each of said doors, and means for supporting said doors whereby they may be moved into said recess in open position substantially normal to said back wall, the shelves of said doors when in open position alining in substantial continuity with the shelf of said back wall.

3. In a wardrobe or the like structure, having an open front and a back wall, a plurality of independently operable doors for closing said front, a plurality of shelves carried by said back wall, a shelf carried upon the back of each of said doors, and means for supporting each of said doors whereby the doors may be moved to open position substantially within said recess and substantially normal to said back wall, said shelves being so formed that when the doors are open the shelves carried by them will cooperate with the shelves carried by the back wall to form a plurality of substantially continuous shelves.

4. In a wardrobe or the like structure, having an open front and a back wall, a plurality of independently operable doors providing a closure for said front, a plurality of shelves

carried by said back wall, a shelf carried by each door, and a support for each door and upon which it may be moved to open position substantially within said recess and substantially normal to said back wall, the shelves of the doors and the shelves of the back wall lying in intimate relation when the doors are open and having their adjacent ends mitered so as to form substantially continuous self sections between the back wall and doors.

5. In a wardrobe or the like structure, having an open front and a back wall, a plurality of independently operable doors providing a closure for said front, a plurality of shelves carried by said back wall, a shelf carried by each of said doors, a plurality of garment hooks carried by each of said shelves, and a support for each door and upon which it may be moved to open position with its shelf substantially at right angles to a shelf carried by the back wall to thus form a substantially continuous L-shaped shelf, the arrangement of said hooks being such that they are substantially evenly spaced throughout said L-shaped shelf.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand this 17th day of July A. D. 1929.

RICHARD T. McKNEW.