

Making Locker Layout O. K.

THERE is more to the locker room than a stack of steel containers over which many a club has pondered with the hope that something of an artistic as well as utilitarian character might be made of the layout, and then given up in despair with the result that too many locker rooms have the same cordial look to them as a tier of prison cells. This problem is being coped with by architects, house committees and locker experts with the result that locker rooms are beginning to show the benefit of this co-operation.

One of the men who has been identified with locker room design and equipping in many well appointed golf clubs of varying sizes comments on a current trend in locker design by stating:

"Heretofore, golf club committees and individuals entrusted with the responsibility of buying lockers have looked to size, believing that the larger the locker the better. The modern trend is away from extremely high club lockers, in fact, lockers 60 inches in height are rapidly replacing the 72-inch types. The use of a 72-inch locker has a tendency to cut down the 'chummy' effect of the nineteenth hole. Eill Smith, wishing to 'kid' Tom Jones at the other end of the locker room, couldn't see over the top of his locker, consequently many of the friendly chats were not carried on in the locker room. With a 60-inch locker Bill can look over the top of his locker, wave the 'glad hand' and shout the 'good word' to Tom at the extreme end of the locker room."

With the use of a 60-inch high locker comes the wider type with double swinging doors. This type is provided with a vertical partition, one standard shelf, one golf ball shelf, coat rod, and one small box compartment which can be locked, giving added protection to jewelry and other valuable property of the user.

An adaptable size of this style is a locker 60 inches high over all, 24 inches wide and 18 or 21 inches deep. With a depth of 18 or 21 inches, this locker can be finished in double row, back-to-back arrangement, which cuts down the cost materially for a golf club installation.

This type of locker can be furnished with legs, elevating the locker six inches from the floor. These are known as free standing lockers and when desired can be closed at the base by means of a closing

plate furnished by the locker contractor. This closing plate is enameled the same color as the lockers and can be provided at a slight additional cost. These plates add to the appearance and prevent the storing or placing of miscellaneous material on the floor under the lockers.

However, a most satisfactory arrangement is to be had by placing lockers without legs on the floor or by building a concrete elevation six inches higher than the floor and anchoring the lockers to this concrete base. With this arrangement the lockers can be connected to special ventilating ducts. Where lockers higher than 60 inches are desired they should be not less than 18 inches wide by 18 inches deep. This type can be furnished in various sizes and styles with or without special equipment, such as a drawer at the bottom, shelves, vertical dividers, coat rods, mirrors, comb trays, towel rods, umbrella rack, drip pans, golf ball trays, golf bag chains, and other accessories.

Ventilation

Constant or even ventilation of a forced or artificial nature on a large installation of lockers is difficult to secure. There are, nevertheless, several systems in use which seem to give a degree of satisfactory service. For club purposes the concrete base system will be found very satisfactory. Care must be taken in setting the lockers to secure an air-tight joint, so that the air must come in through the lockers. It will be generally found impracticable to secure complete ventilation by fans drawing air out of the room or by a ventilating stack.

When more complete ventilation is required a blower should be used in connection with exhaust fans. The area of ventilating ducts should exceed the area of all ventilating openings in connection with the lockers.

The big drawback of a system using forced ventilation is that all of the lockers seldom receive the same air force or suction, since the lockers nearest the main duct or tube would have a good draft of air while those farther away would receive considerably less, if any. This is what makes for an imperfect ventilating system, which is, however, a subject for the ventilating engineer and expert to work out and is not a problem for the locker manufacturer.

Damp articles placed in improperly ventilated lockers dry out slow. Unpleasant odors from perspiration are confined within the lockers. When the damp garments remain long enough in the improperly ventilated locker they will mold. It should be kept in mind that too many ventilating openings or louvres or perforations on the locker doors or other parts may admit dirt and dust as well as fresh air; so, superfluous ventilation should not be confused with proper ventilation.

Leading manufacturers place louvres at the top and at the bottom of the locker door. This allows the air to enter through the bottom louvres, circulate upward, airing the contents, and pass out through the top louvres.

As mentioned before, standard louvres, that is, where the lockers are not full louvered, full round hole perforated, or made of expanded metal or wire mesh, keep the contents cleaner, giving better protection against fire, because a blaze starting in this type of locker will burn itself out without spreading. It is not unusual for fire to result from lighted pipes hurriedly left in coat pockets.

Arrangement of Lockers

The ideal golf locker room has the lockers placed in double row or back to back arrangement. None are placed against the walls because this interferes with aisle space. There should be aisle ways on four sides of the room and they should not be obstructed with shower partitions or clothes dryers if the most efficient arrangement is desired. There should be an aisle down the center of the room and locker sections should not exceed ten to twelve lockers wide. At least five or six feet should be allowed between the rows of lockers and when benches are used they should be of the portable type and not less than 18 inches in width.

Wherever it is found necessary to have the showers in the locker rooms then careful planning should be made before hand, so that the water will not drain from the showers to the locker room floor. This is mighty important and if not given the proper consideration may cause no end of trouble when the building is occupied. Much consideration should be given to the subject of proper lighting in the locker room. Dark corners should be eliminated and lamps should be so placed that the locker interiors and the contents are visible to the user without eye strain.

All lockers should be equipped with a

good strong lock, preferably one having a brass plated case and German silver keys. This will prevent the lock from becoming rusted from exposure to moist clothing, and where the keys are German silver they can be carried in the users' pockets without any chance of rusting. Where lockers are finished with a small compartment for protecting jewelry and other valuables, the lock on this compartment should not be master-keyed.

Another thing to keep well in mind is that under no circumstances should the locker keys be stamped with a number to correspond with the locker number.

Erection of Lockers

The problem of locker erection oftentimes seems perplexing to golf committees and others who may not have been familiar with the various methods used by the locker manufacturers in the installation of lockers.

The most economical method is to have the lockers shipped knocked-down for erection at the point where the lockers are to be used. The actual "setting up" and placing of the lockers can be taken care of in various ways. Where the club committee or club manager desires to handle the erection the lockers can be set up in the majority of cases with non-skilled help and even by boys or caddies about the club. The work can be done on a piece rate basis and at an economical cost to the club. Or if preferable on a straight hourly basis.

Another plan is to have the lockers erected by local non-skilled labor on the "American Open Shop" plan, but under the direct supervision of an erection superintendent supplied by the locker manufacturer.

Another plan used is to have the installation supervised by a representative of the locker manufacturer while the lockers are erected by union labor. This is very expensive and is necessary only in the larger cities. Another plan would be to have the lockers shipped "set-up" ready for placing in the proper rooms.

This method has the disadvantages of a higher freight rate which often overbalances the resultant saving that could otherwise be obtained. Also erection charges on the lockers at the manufacturer's plant are often considerably higher than for the same work done locally and supervised by the club officials.

Due to simplified construction assembling is easily handled by non-skilled labor.