

## FURNITURE NOTES

### For the convenience of the Parson

In the vestry of Reddenhall Church, Norfolk, stands a bench that reminds one of some of the problems faced by a cleric who had more than one church to serve and possibly a long ride along rutted lanes to reach his waiting flock.

It is of the simplest construction, a single plank for the seat with four squared legs morticed through it, and a second board of equal length fixed along its back to give its occupants some measure of support while sitting on it. Such benches without the back were used for killing the pig, and later for supporting the brine tank for salting it; by the housewife for her washing tub and the smallest ones for the children to sit on before the fire. No East Anglian farmhouse or cottage was complete without such homely pieces, and one still finds them in the "back hus" or the dairy before the renovators and improvers sweep them away.

This one, however, is probably unique; the legs have been placed at different distances from the ends of the seat and a carefully constructed "pot cupboard" occupies the space between one pair and its respective end. This cupboard has a simple door cut from a single board and opening from the end, both door and cupboard having splayed sides exactly matching the splay of the legs against which the cupboard is fixed. A simple hole drilled through the door suffices for opening it.

I was delighted to see that its original use had not been forgotted by the present generation; a chamber pot (now in a polythene bag) is there for present day emergencies.

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