Womankind

A YOUNG WOMAN CABINET MAKER

Miss Helen Heisser Handles Hammer, Saw and Plane, and Makes Her Own Designs.

The spirit of the young twentieth century is distinctively favorable to letting women do anything that they can do well. With this spirit in mind one can't be quite so surprised as one might have been a decade ago at the sight of an attractive and highly educated young woman bending over a carpenter's bench and handling hammer, saw and plane with the skill of a well-trained artisan and with confidence and strength.

This young carpenter, cabinet-maker and wood-carver is Miss Helen Heisser, and her big bench is set up in her own apartments at the family residence on Humboldt avenue. Miss Heisser began her general shop work this fall and has made many fine things.

Miss Heisser is her own designer and her work not only shows excellent workmanship but originality along lines that are soundly artistic. Her work has ranged from an ordinary kitchen shelf to the finest kind of delicately wrought little mahogany boxes and chests of drawers. The young cabinet-maker has had no assistance, and the transformation from rough boards to the polished and carved work is accomplished wholly by hand tools. Woods are bought in rough boards and Miss Heisser even does her own veneering.

The finest piece of work turned out this fall is a tiny mahogany chest of drawers four inches in height and five and a half inches in width. This miniature piece of furniture is for a man's dressing table and intended for small articles of dress,—pins, studs, cuff links and collar buttons.

Quite in contrast to this is a heavy, solid dark walnut reading table with a sloping top on which to rest heavy books. A substantial bench belongs with this table. A large and handsome piece of work is a screen 6 feet in height in three panels. This was carved and stained green.

Some of the finest carving has been done on boxes and jewel cases, but bookracks also afford an opportunity for carving and work in color. Until this fall she has been occupied chiefly in teaching. She took the manual training course at the Central high school and followed this by a course in kindergartening. While in school she executed several good pieces of construction work and wood carving, following designs made by her sister, Miss Margarethe E. Heisser, art teacher at the Moorhead normal school and formerly a leader of the Minneapolis art colony. For nearly two years Miss Helen Heisser taught manual training at the school for the feeble minded at Faribault, giving up that work last summer.

Helen K. Heisser

A PROMINENT W. C. T. U. WORKER

Mrs. Isabel Goodacre, the superintendent of physical education of the W. C. T. U. of Minnesota was born beneath the Southern Cross in the picturesque city of Castlemaine, Victoria, Australia, of English parents and was educated in the parish school of the established church. At the age of sixteen she removed to Brighton and completed her education.

In 1885 she left her native colony to join her future husband, Rev. H. Goodacre in Brisbane, the capital of Queensland. Here they lived and labored for the good of others and in this beautiful tropical city she first came in touch with the W. C. T. U. which sprang into being with the stirring lectures of Mrs. Mary A. Livermore.

After years of work the exhausting climate compelled their return to Victoria, and a union was organized in Cheltenham, where her husband was pastor and she became the first president of it.

In 1888 after traveling in South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales, she again left her native colony, this time to accompany her husband to New Zealand where after a month spent in traveling over that wonderland of the world, they came to America.

A little time was spent on the Pacific coast and then the chief cities of the west were visited and the rushing, strenuous life of America seen at such vantage points as San Francisco, Ogden, Salt Lake City, Kansas City, St. Louis, Louisville, Cincinnati. After this, four years were spent in the heart of the beautiful blue grass region of Kentucky, followed by six years in Wisconsin.

Throughout her married life Mrs. Goodacre has been at home on the platform, and in the pulpit.

While in Wisconsin she took the Ralston course of physical culture and was appointed in February, 1900, to the position she now occupies in the state W. C. T. U.

Mrs. Isabel Goodacre

SANTA CLAUS OF 1901 HAS A PILE LIKE CROESUS

Magnificent Gifts Have Been Purchased With a Prodigal Hand by Those Whom Prosperity Has Visited—A Diamond Season.

Santa Claus really ought to carry an iron safe with a triple combination lock in the back of his sleigh when he makes his rounds next Tuesday night, for he has any number of valuable gifts to bestow.

It semes as if Minneapolis would be showered with diamonds and the jewelers exclaim jubilantly that never before have their sales of the precious stones been so large. At a big jewelry store one day last week over $4,000 worth of diamonds was sold in small purchases. By small purchases this year the merchants lump those under $100 and the number of rings, pins and trinkets that exceed that sum is so large that anything less rouses but a passing interest.

Tucked away in the corner of Santa Claus' pocket, where it cannot be lost or overlooked, is a necklace, three strings of pearls, and the pearls are not large, hardly medium sized, with a diamond clasp, which cost the man who is employing the jolly old saint as a messenger boy, $5,100. Another string of pearls, larger than these, was sold this month, not for a Christmas but a wedding gift, a present from the bridegroom to his fair bride, and they mark the largest individual sales that Minneapolis jewelers have made for many a long day. A Montana cattle king bought a $4,000 sunburst of diamonds from a small dealer to take home for his fiancee.

A ring of three blue diamonds, perfectly matched and weighing a carat and a quarter apiece, has been sold to a man from out of town for $4,500, while a ring set with a diamond and an emerald, two royal stones, was sold for $1,250. A third man has paid $900 for the diamond ring for his wife.

A necklace, a very thread of gold, from which hang eleven diamonds, will encircle a woman's neck on Christmas day and the man who will fasten the clasp paid an even $1,000 for the trinket.

In pins the prices paid vary from $10 to $1,000. The latter are veritable stars of fire. The majority of them are of diamonds exclusively, although pearls and diamonds are a favorite combination. One of the pins, a mas sof brilliant stones, is in reality three stars which unite to form a single ornament or each may be worn separately as my lady wishes.

All of these royal gifts have been bought by men and only an occasional woman has spent more than $100 on a gift. This has been bought for her husband and is a diamond stud or cuff links set with diamonds. Women seldom have the handling of large sums and it is infinitely more difficult for them to persuade their husbands to give them an extra $500 for the Christmas shopping than for the same husbands to make triple that amount by a turn of the market.

"All of our stones are sold unset," said the proprietor of the big jewelry store, "and there is always some one waiting to enter the little room where we display them. Some of the customers know a good diamond when they se it and some of them are buying their first stone. It is a pleasure to wait on the former but the latter! It is much easier to deal with men than with women. Many of my men customers will telephone that they want a ring for about $500 or $700 and ask me to do the best I can for that sum. I am on honor to give them the finest stone I have for the money and they get it. If a man or woman doesn't know anything about precious stones I advise them to throw themselves on the mercy of a reliable jeweler instead of trying to find something themselves. They will get a better stone and a better price."

It is not in diamonds alone that large sales have been made and solid silver has found ready purchasers who paid from $250 to $500 for a coffee service or a set of platters. A punch bowl of cut-glass sold for $65 and with the glasses and silver ladle the price of the gift crept perilously near $100. Bronzes ranging from $25 to $125, and marbles from $50 to $300 have disappeared from the shops almost as soon as they were shown.

The cold weather of December may be responsible for the unusual popularity of furs, for never before were the furriers so busy with holiday gifts. A sealskin coat trimmed with sable is being fitted to one woman and will cost her husband $450. Sable collars and muffs are going to many homes and not one of them cost less than $85. Several broad-tail coats are being made and the price of every one of them is over $250.

A sad little story clings to the sable collar and muff, the Christmas gift of one woman. She found out, as a woman will, that Santa Claus would have the furs for her and as she was going east the first of December she persuaded her husband to allow the generous saint to bring them three weeks ahead of time. She argued that she might just as well have them while she was away, as they were just what she needed to finish her smart street suit. Her husband consented, as a man will, and she left Minneapolis jubilantly happy and wearing a collar and muff of Russian crown sable that had cost $200. They went directly to Washington and the day after they arrived dropped in at one of the large hotels for lunch. The room was warm and Mrs. Blank unfastened her collar and slipped it from around her shoulders. After luncheon Mr. and Mrs. Blank strolled down the avenue and not until they were half a dozen blocks from the hotel did she remember her collar. A hurried return was followed by a careful search, but the collar had disappeared leaving no trace, while an over-zealous waiter apologized and sympathized. Mrs. Blank is now trying to persuade her husband to supplement his gift with a second collar and only the furrier knows that he has already ordered it—as any man would.

Over a dozen men are going to have fur-lined coats for Christmas gifts, but with one exception they are all buying them themselves. One woman has scraped the necessary $100 together and has persuaded her husband to act as a model for a coat which she said her sister is going to give brother John. "You are just the same size" she declared with an innocent fervency that told far more than she meant.

An odd gift that one woman will receive is a bunch of receipted bills which she declares is the only thing she wants. "The first of the month has been a nightmare all fall," she explained. "I spent a lot more money getting ready to go east than I had any business to, gowns cost so much, and, if Eleazir will only get me out of the hole and let me start the new year free from debt, it is all I ask and more than I deserve." It will cost Eleazir over $500 to give his wife peace of mind and in addition to the receipted bills he will tuck in her stockings a box containing a ring that cost $500 more.

Large sums have been spent for rugs, china, mahogany and any number of pianos have been sold which all goes to prove that Minneapolis is enjoying a season of financial prosperity. Santa Claus has not economized this year. He has bought what he wanted with a reckless regard of cost and the Christmas should be a merry one.

—Frances R. Sterrett.

THE WEARING OF FLOWERS

The Pretty Fashion Is Spreading Among London Women.

London florists are hailing with considerable delight the growing fashion among ladies of wearing, not in the evening alone but during the daytime, floral decorations on their dresses. This fashion is spreading in a very remarkable manner, though few wear such enormous flowers as Mrs. Rupert Beckett, who thinks nothing of placing fifteen or twenty gardenias and four large drum lilies in her bodice alone.

Lady Downshire, another pretty woman, who is very fond of gardenias, wears them almost every day. Lady Angela Forbes is invariably seen with flowers. She is not devoted to any particular kind, but likes to vary them every day. The Duchess of Portland is hardly ever seen without clusters of large Malmaison carnations which are very popular just now.

Boutonnieres are being worn by the men this season much more than before. The king, as is well known, is particularly fond of boutonnieres and at one time he was rarely seen without one.

OUIDA'S AFFECTATIONS.

"Ouida," as Mlle. de la Ramee prefers to call herself, is now an elderly lady, but she still affects the white muslin frocks and pale blue ribbons of a bygone era. She is the autocratic queen of a large circle of admirers at Florence, where she has an ideal home and an extraordinary collection of dogs, for whom she has a passion. "Ouida" does not like England or English life and food, and not infrequently at London dinner tables has asked for cold roast beef and beer, that being the level on which she places English cookery.

FASHIONABLE FURS

Sable Is Popular for Collars and Trimmings.

The cold weather has brought out the latest fashions in furs. Not so much chinchilla is seen this season as in the past. There seems to be a tremendous run on sable and broadtail. While, of course, astrakhan is always more or less in favor, ermine and mink are both used to a certain extent, but more for collars and revers.

It is strange how that beautiful fur, sealskin, has gone out of favor. The fact that the Princess of Wales brought back from her tour around the colonies some beautiful ermine will itself keep this fur fashionable. But then the queen is so devoted to sables and has so often been painted and photographed with sable trimmings to her dresses that sable may be expected to remain the fur of fashion.

Sable also is being used to a considerable extent on evening dresses. A woman at a rather smart dinner party the other night caused quite a sensation by appearing in a beautiful dress of white silk, spotted very faintly with gold, over a pattern of palest rosebuds, with overdress of French flowered net, the skirt being edged with a border of sable, with soft draperies on the bodice, the sleeves being trimmed in the same way. A narrow band of sable was also worn as a belt, which had a soft, pretty effect.

But the most noticeable feature this season is the long boas. Some women are wearing them wound two or three times around the neck.

My friend, look here! you know how weak and nervous your wife is, and you know that Carter's Iron Pills will relieve her; now why not be fair about it and buy her a box?

THE ROOSEVELTS IN ENGLAND

Mrs. Roosevelt Distinguished Herself in Hunting Fields.

It may be of interest to know that President and Mrs. Roosevelt were married in London at the ultra-fashionable Church of St. George, Hanover square; that their wedding was attended by numerous members of the British aristocracy, and that the president is almost as much at home in London as he is in New York, having also a personal acquaintance with King Edward. Mrs. Roosevelt, a descendant of that ancient house of which Lord North is the chief, spent a number of years prior to her marriage in England, and distinguished herself in the hunting fields of Warwickshire.

The present governor general of Canada and his wife are among their closest English friends, and on the occasion of their last visit to this country made their headquarters at Oyster Bay; so it will be seen that the new president and his good lady are objects of great interest and good will to the people of Great Britain.

The queen of Holland is thoroughly Dutch in every way, and therefore it is not surprising that she is keen in the discharge of housewifely duties. Once in three weeks the young queen makes a tour of inspection of the royal kitchens to see if the cupboards, the plates and the saucepans are in good order—those beautifully burnished copper pans which are the delight of every Dutch housewife, and a tarnish on which she would regard as a stain on her own reputation. Economy and thrift are marked characteristics of Queen Wilhelmina's domestic management, and it is said that often the queen mother has been made quite angry by her daughter's determination to have a dress renovated and turned when she ought to have a new one.

MAKERS OF HOLIDAY NOVELTIES

Clever Ideas, Well Executed, Yield Neat Sums of Pocket Money to Many Minneapolis Women—A Young Girl's Paper Dolls.

This is the season when people rush frantically about trying to find some trifle, as useful as it is pretty, to serve as an expression of the Christmas wish. It is also the season when certain clever women are kept busy supplying the aforesaid trifle for a consideration which will grow into quite a tidy little bank account before the rush is over.

The demand for a novelty is made as regularly as the Christmas season approaches and the woman who can devise some original article that will sell for under $2, and give it a professional air, will have all she can do. The lack of a professional finish is what prevents the work of many women from finding customers. The stores are full of sachets of various sorts, calendars, handkerchiefs, pen-wipers, picture frames and similar things, but the majority of them have been made hurriedly and in a careless manner that repels rather than invites. The merchants know this, and, if they did what their commercial sense prompts, they would explain to Miss Money Maker that her goods lack finish, when she asks permission to put them in their stores. Their innate courtesy and kindness of heart makes them violate the rule of their buyers, not to take second-rate goods, and they accept the lopsided frames or the soiled sachets in a manner that makes Miss Money Maker feel that they are as good as sold. She drops in every day to see if any of them have gone and cannot understand why her work does not find a customer when Mabel Neat's magazine covers and clipping books around on First avenue were picked up at once. If she is not clever enough to see that Miss Neat's work has the smooth finished effect of a professional, while her own is untidily put together, she is not clever enough to make a success as a makes of Christmas novelties.

Last year one woman made the little protection collars by the hundred. She sold from a dozen to fifteen every day at from a quarter to 40 cents apiece. This year very few are buying protection collars but they are looking for corsage bows and one girl is kept busy with lengths of pretty ribbon and sweet smelling cotton. She buys her ribbon by the bolt and by selling the bow for from 50 to 75 cents is able to make a good profit, for it takes but a short time to whip the ribbon together.

A clever girl, not more than 14, is making paper dolls. She was bright enough to know that the sale of an article largely depends on the way it is presented to the public and she offers her dolls in dainty little envelopes, prettily decorated and bearing a name for dollie, "Marie," or "Eleanor." The doll is supplied with a smart wardrobe that includes everything from hats to ruffled aprons and the whole is so attractive that it is no wonder that already it has netted enough to buy the artist her winter coat and leave a profit beside.

The revival of fashions of twenty-five years ago set one woman thinking and she has made quaint needlebooks of black and brown which fasten around a fat roll of silk and have pockets and places for sewing materials, just the kind of needlebooks that her mother made and carried with the roll of linen which she was embroidering with a fine scallop. A few of the old bead bags have ben copied and have found purchasers at once, but it took a long time to make and they could not be sold for enough to recompense the worker.

A young woman in a doctor's office has netted a good many dollars making tiny bags of white linen, daintily scalloped and bearing embroidered monograms. They are designed to hold the chamois bag which every woman who travels wears round her neck to hold her money and jewels. The young woman who makes them had no intention of embroidering them by the dozen but first one of the doctor's patients admired them and wanted one and then another, until all of her leisure moments are now given to her needle.

The little sachet made of envelopes and decorated with a spray of flowers sells at a surprisng rate if it has the necessary finish. One young woman has already disposed of 100 at 35 cents a piece and she is expecting to double the number next week when people catch up anything in their mad endeavor to finish their shopping.

The fad for sending just a card bearing Christmas wish has given employment to an amateur who had painted dozens of cards with "A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year." The name is written on the reverse side and the card slipped in an envelope carries a greeting where one does not wish to send a gift.

Making plum puddings is an old story and several women have hunted up ancient recipes by which to concoct the toothsome, indigestible dainties. This branch of Christmas catering has been so well looked after by the women's societies of the different churches that there is less opportunity for individual effort.

Bedroom slippers and bed socks are perennials and certain women have been making them for half a dozen years. They keep abreast of the styles and just at present are making them of eiderdown flannel. They always sell well, for they do not last more than twelve months and no one ever deliberately sat down and made oneself a pair of bed room slippers.

The Christmas shoppers are the easiest of the year to please. When a woman is hunting gifts for sixty or seventy people, and many a list is longer than that, she is only too glad to find some novel trifle. She is not particular as to what it is, but she does ask that it be well made and offered at a reasonable price. Surely these qualifications are not too severe for the novelty-maker to meet. If she does meet them, she makes money for herself and is regarded with gratitude by the hurrying, scurrying crowd of gift seekers.

—Frances R. Sterrett.

GERMAN CHRISTINGLES.

A novel and quaintly pretty decoration for the supper table at a children's Christmas party may be made by using what in Germany are called "Christingles." These are fashioned as follows: Cut a small hole in the top of an orange and insert a piece of quill about three or four inches long, and into this again another quill a trifle shorter. Now split the upper half of each quill into tiny strips, which must be carefully curled over with a sharp penknife, and then stick a large raisin upon the point of each. The weight of the raisins keeps down the little boughs of quill forming two circles of pendants one above the other, which with careful manipulation can be made to hang alternately. A slender colored taper must now be fixed in the upper quill, and when this is lighted the effect is charming, especially if a number of these Christingles are arranged around a miniature Christmas tree in the center of the table, or placed at intervals along it, so as to form some special design. In Germany it is the custom to light them always on Christmas eve.

BRINGING THE CHRISTMAS TREE.

All morning long the heavy sky
Has seemed to threaten snow,
And over bleak and wintry fields
The crows are flapping low.
The children's voices carry far
On such a winter's day,
And you can hear the hatchet sound
Almost two fields away.
To-morrow night the sturdy fir
Shall decked and lighted be.
And it shall shine with toys and gifts,
A lovely Christmas tree.

—Katherine Pyle in Harper's Bazar.

A WOMAN'S PARADISE.

In a tiny island called Minikoi, off the southern coast of India, a most peculiar state of society exists, for woman is lord of all she surveys. The wife is the recognized head of the house. She owns it and everything in it, while anythinug that her husband, who works very hard, can earn goes to increase her wealth. Her husband belongs to her, too, and when she marries him she gives him her name instead of taking his.

A COQUETTISH FLOWER

DAINTY DANCE FROCK

THE CHRISTMAS PRINCESS

INFORMAL dancing being a social feature of the Christmas season, the shops are just now overflowing with airy evening gowns. They are in the main, it is thankfully observed, of a reasonable simplicity; and here and there one comes across a frock whose loveliness is enhanced by the fact that it is in a durable material. And by this is meant something that will stand cleaning as well as wear, such as point d'esprit, net, Louisine and crepe de chine.

The photographs this week show the points of two pretty evening gowns in serviceable materials, either of which will serve as an excellent model to the home dressmaker.

DAINTY DANCE FROCKS.

A charming creation, whose cleaning value cannot be over-estimated, is made of white point d'esprit and lace, colored a faint russet. The skirt is in narrow gores, between which the yellow white of the insertions shows in horizontal lines. Under a wider entredeux, used as a heading, two deep flounces finish the jupe, which, cut to train slightly, is worn over point d'esprit petticoats.

The round bodice is made of straight strips of the insertion and net, gathered at the waist, and girdled by a folded belt of velvet in the same yellow as the lace.

This velvet also appears in a band and knot on the elbow sleeves, and in a loose bow holding down at the left bust the ends of the graceful fichu draped about the shoulders.

A delightful feature in the costuming of this photograph is the long chain of coral beads, which the bewitching wearer has disposed to imitate a three-strand necklace.

The hair is dressed low with two curls becomingly framing the face, and a big hat of black velvet, with a panache of ostrich feathers completes the picturesque vision.

A COQUETTISH FLOWER.

Just as few decolleted throats appear nowadays without the fashionable necklace, the low-cut bodice is rare indeed that does not boast a scarlet flower of some kind. Tucked in at the left bust, or sewed there to the corsage, these artificial garnishings provide a blot of color becoming to all wearers.

But, of course, the mission of the scarlet flower—generally a rose—is not that of glorification alone. It is the modern beauty patch, the challenge of the twentieth century coquette.

The second evening toilette is made radiant by this flirtatious symbol, which topping a foliaged stem is worn as usual at the left of the corsage.

The gown is of ivory satin with applications in raised velvet flowers—white roses, with long thorny stems and green leaves. At the front of the skirt a line of graduated beadings in black and white chenille is crossed by a bow-knot of the same trimming; the jupe is demi-trained, and is finished with an unhemmed ruche of white mousseline. This likewise forms the sleeves and the puffed guimpe of the corsage, which is lightly sewn with cut beads in clear glass.

A thin chain of Etruscan gold, worn about the neck, is used as a guard for a fan in scarlet ostrich feathers.

THE CHRISTMAS PRINCESS.

Unlike the foregoing gowns the lace frock is not suggestive of possibilities in less expensive materials. An all lace dress is an all-lace dress, and to own the precious possession, however modest it may appear to inexperienced eyes, you must be one of fortune's darlings. For this reason the splendid lace gown is only shown that you may see the sort of thing the Princess of Prosperity will wear to the Christmas tree, she to whom dollars are as cents, who comes in long cloaks lined with priceless fur, and goes away gloriously in carriages.

White Honiton, over black chiffon, is the medium employed for this expensive creation. The skirt, beautifully outlining the effect of narrow umbrella gores, is of the lace alone, but when it is lifted there is a bewildering display of black and white chiffon ruffles underneath.

On the bodice, black velvet and white ribbon are effective trimmings, and a great boa in snow white ostrich feathers is a fitting accessory to such elegance. The hat is of white cloth with a white ostrich plume, and a stiff crown heavily embroidered at the top with black.

All white lace gowns are much in favor for smart reception wear, but the laceless world needn't feel aggrieved. After all, it is rather pretentious magnificence.