

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS FOR HOUSEKEEPERS

Napery of Handsome Quality an Appreciated Present.

Every housekeeper, whether in affluent or moderate circumstances, will appreciate a gift of napery at Christmas time, for the linen closet is never too full to suit the taste of the thrifty minded, and if that receptacle should overflow she makes space for the surplus. One of the articles which she'll be glad to have is a round tablecloth of the new kind. And it's easily made if you are a neat sewer, for the center is of heavy linen lace surrounded by a very broad band of English eyelet embroidery on batiste, and that, in turn, is finished off with a border of broad lace put on plainly, as the cloth must lie flat upon the table's surface. Or you might make for her a dinner set composed of a cloth of hemstitched fine linen and a dozen matching large napkins. Lacking time to accomplish so much handwork, a tea cloth of the same order will be heartily welcomed.

Give Her a Sewing Box.

Easily constructed is a new model in workbags of the size that is nice to have about the table in the living room. To make it cover with plain silk, a pair of disks of about three inches diameter and shirr about the lower half of each of these the opposite edges of a yard long strip of sash ribbon. This makes a collapsible receptacle with a wide mouth, which may be drawn together by ribbon hangers attached to the top edges of the disks. On the inner side of the pasteboard circles may be affixed flat round cushions for the accommodation of needles and pins, and to the outer side may be suspended scissors and

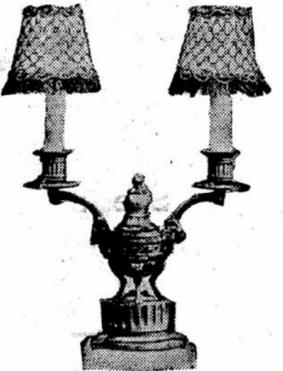


OF BRIGHT COLORED CRETONNE.

emery. The same sort of bag, but of a different shape, may be made by shaping the pasteboard foundations into oblongs and running the sides of the silken strip to their upper corners. When the squares or oblongs are covered with plain silk or satin and the shirred strip is of a flowered material the effect is especially pleasing. The sewing box seen in the cut may be purchased at any shop where fancy work articles are sold. It is covered inside and out with light colored cretonne. The fittings are of course supplied by the purchaser and may be as elaborate as the pocketbook can afford.

A Present to the House.

The present to mother often means a gift to the whole household—that is, something that is enjoyed as much by the family as it is by the mater. Such a gift is to be found in the new candleabra of mahogany that are just the



MAHOGANY CANDELABRA.

thing for the living or dining room. The base, as you see, is an urn shaped affair, and the branches curve out gracefully from the main stem. The coloring of the shades will naturally be selected to harmonize with the fittings of the room in which they are to be placed.

A Novel Receptacle.

Much neater looking than the waste paper basket is the new substitute for it—the scrap box with its big bow decorated lid swinging on ribbon hinges. The scrap box is made by covering with fancy paper, cretonne or tapestry the medium sized pasteboard receptacle in which your medium sized autumn hat was sent home and lining it with asbestos sheeting. This lining is necessary because a match thrown by a careless person into a wastebasket is likely to prove dangerous. These waste paper boxes make very individual presents if the recipient's preference in colors is remembered.

GIFTS FOR WEE SMALL MAIDS.

Novelties in Good Looking Washable Dolls and Household Furniture.

First and foremost there is the doll, and new in this line are the dolls of washable material. Then for Miss Dolly there is a cradle of enameled wicker, mounted on wooden rockers, unless her ladyship is in the grownup class, in which event a colonial bedstead of mahogany, accompanied with bureau to match, with glass knobs, would be more correct, or if something in plainer taste is desired a mission set is available.

Naturally with a dolly and a vast wardrobe of lingerie gowns there is absolute need of a laundry table and ironing board, and incidentally if the



CANVAS EMBROIDERY BAG.

gowns are to be kept spick and span there should be a wardrobe in which to keep them.

For the child who loves the sand pile there is a most interesting set of wooden sand toys, neatly packed into a wicker basket, with a watering can, bowl and shovel.

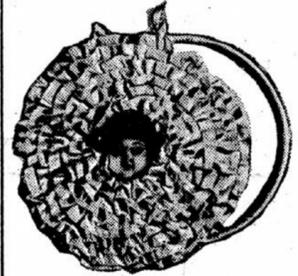
And surely if there are to be a doll house and furnishings there should be at least one if not more domestic pets. To select from, Santa Claus has funny, little dachshunds of brown plush, just plain dogs of soft, curly, white plush, very real looking Irish terriers of plush, or it may be the little maid would prefer a cute little pink plush pig, a winsome little white woolly lamb, a rooster of many colored felt or a goose of plush cloth. Among the tempting gifts that will please the small maid of eight or ten is a work bag that will be her very own. Such a receptacle is illustrated in a canvas bag decorated with cross stitch.

Wooden embroidery hoops covered with ribbon are passed through a casing and form the handles by which the bag may be carried. This makes a charming little bag for the little lady's sewing.

A Gift Mother Will Like.

Dainty embroidered and lace trimmed bibs always form part of an infant's layette. They are beautiful, but perishable things to handle. Consequently every young mother will be charmed if some one presents her child at Christmas time with a pretty bib holder.

Just the thing is illustrated—a bit case made from a shallow, rather large, round paper box. Cover the box inside and out with some kind of



CASE FOR BABY'S BEST BIBS.

dainty silk, and about the lid sew gathered ruffles of two inch satin ribbon, in pale blue or pink. In the center is placed the bisque head of a baby doll. The lid is tied to the bottom of the box by means of ribbon ties. A sachet is fitted in the bottom of the case.

Miss Baby's First Christmas.

Don't think about the baby's present last of all and then rush out and buy a silly toy. Rather give her something that her mother can keep for her until she gets old enough to take care of it because it came on her first Christmas day. One of the trifles which can be indefinitely kept, because it takes up scarcely any space, is a hanger for petticoats. This is simply a 4 by 18 inch strip of thin board, padded with cotton and then covered with heavy crash or satin hand painted with Greenaway figures. And if you can't do this painting with your own hands there are plenty of young art students who will gladly do it for a dollar. This board should hold at least eight books, and if you have plenty of money—or affection for your small niece—have these hooks of solid silver, that they may not rust any damp skirt hung upon them. Having covered the board and adjusted the hooks, all that is needed is a hanger of broad pink or blue ribbon, terminating at the fastening ends with big bowknots.

If the clothes hanger is going to be too expensive for your purse—or your affection—send Miss Baby an individual workbasket. These look positively infantile, because they are almost miniature affairs of white enameled rush, with flat bottoms and inch high sides and linings of pale blue or pale pink quilted satin.

Across the rim from end to end run narrow ribbon lines holding reels of fine thread. From one corner swings a silver covered needle and pin book and from the diagonally opposite corner a big bow of satin ribbon, with long ends gathered on to the handle of a pair of tiny scissors and an ivory stiletto.

The Christmas Table

SO many table favors of little bits and houses are to be had nowadays that it is not difficult to carry out the idea of a table to represent Christmas in an old fashioned village. This is, of course, only possible where a long table is concerned and sufficient space is available to group the set pieces effectively.

Where the dinner table is for a dozen or more covers, however, this can be arranged to make a very novel scheme.

The first investment is that of a sufficient number of little snowbound cottages. Some of these can be altered easily enough so as to look a little different one from the other. In front of one, a white pencil stuck in whitened cork—diamond powdered—can, with a little ingenuity, be made to represent a signboard to face the coaching inn. An advertisement in a paper frame will make a capital sign, sprinkled with "rime" to give the same effect of winter as the rest.

A sheet of looking glass for village pond and two or three tiny toy ducks should occupy the center of the table. Among the many set piece cracker decorations it is easy, too, to pick up lanterns to hold Christmas candles, dovescots, farm wagons and carts laden with crackers, which will add to the realism of the pantomime scene.

Japanese Toweling For Christmas Gifts

NUMEROUS attractive Christmas things may be made from Japanese toweling, a novel material, which costs about 75 cents to \$1.25 for a piece of ten yards. This narrow, coarse, white cotton crapy goods is printed at intervals, with the two toned designs, showing single sprays of wistaria—Fujiyama by moonlight, a few scattered maple leaves, flying birds, shaggy chrysantheums and similar designs.

A bolt or two may be easily converted into presents. A farseeing matron bought the toweling and made it up into tea sets, the crosspieces forming the cloth proper and the dozen small napkins. She fastened the two strips together with a coarse blue floss, then marked the napkins with long, angular Japanese letters, one above the other, with a dash beneath. The marking in blue was done in a corner where the white background predominated. One of her sets, she is sure, will be enjoyed next summer by a hostess who has a veranda furnished in blue and white. Another is to be sent to a young bride in whose simple little dining room blue and white china is used.

This toweling has also been used for a nursery set. A spread of the white cotton crape is bordered with the toweling, and dresser cover and curtains are made to match. This Japanese material is to appear in a set for an invalid's breakfast tray. The oval cloth, shaped to fit the tray, is buttonholed, and it has the napkins to match. A set of fruit napkins made of the blue and white crape will be another Christmas remembrance. The toweling launders perfectly, and fruit stains do not show. A child would enjoy having a half dozen of the marked napkins for her "very own" to use in her school lunch box.

Laundry bags and bags for the table napery to hang in the butler's pantry made with the convenient hoop top are both pretty and practical.

Another gift that will not come amiss is a pair of hemstitched sash curtains for the small bathroom window.

Give Him a Walking Stick.

A walking stick is always acceptable for a man whether he is young or elderly. He likes a collection, so that he may have different kinds for various occasions. Quite the newest and most unique styles have cigar lighters or tiny electric bulbs concealed in their handles. Such small lights often illuminate the vicinity of the keyhole on a dark night.

If he rides a crop will delight him, for the horseman enjoys the possession of a variety.

Holly Used as Christmas Tree.

In the southern states holly is used almost exclusively for Christmas trees. This tree abounds in the forests, and frequently boys earn their Christmas money by cutting and selling them in the larger towns. Occasionally a cedar tree is used at Christmas time. Mistletoe also is plentiful in the south, but is difficult to gather, as it usually grows at the very top of the highest oak trees. Fir trees are seldom found in the southern states.

Afterward.

'Twas the day after Christmas, and all through the flat
The air was as blue as the birds on ma' hat,
For now that the bills for the presents had come
Pa "cusped" till he made all the bric-a-brac hum.

—Judge.

A Christmas Tragedy.

Just a sprig of mistletoe
Hanging in the hall;
Just a maiden standing there,
Pouting lips, coquettish air,
Wifey, coming down the stair,
Catches hubby—! ? ? ? !
That's all.

—New York Times.

A Song of Christmas

TWINE the bitter-sweet and holly
Arched above the hearthstone's glow,
Joy, not melancholy,
Come, drifting with the snow.
In each face the frost's a-tingle,
And afar on flying wing
Comes the sleighbell's rhythmic tinkle
Through December journeying.

Set the board and ask the blessing
For the bounty amply spread,
In the simplest words expressing
What a loving Father said—
"Peace on earth"—for this is nearest
When the snows with us abide
And the winter air is clearest
In the hush of Christmastide.



THE REINDEER STEEDS ARE PRANCING.

Bring the old musician's fiddle,
Relic of the bygone days,
Send the fairest down the middle
While the lulling music sways,
Light of foot and quick of laughter,
Swing the dancers, toe and heel,
As they pass or follow after
In the quaint Virginia reel.

Make a welcome for the stranger
Should his footstep cross the door,
By the memory of the manger
And the Christ that was of yore
Gather children's faces round you,
As he gathered them long ago,
If it be the years have crowned you
With their radiance divine.

Deck the tree and light the candles,
Let the stockings all be hung,
For a saint with furry sandals
O'er the housetops high has swung,
And his reindeer steeds are prancing
Through the star bespangled rime,
And the moonbeams pale are glancing
In the merry Christmas time.

—Ernest McJaffrey

Big Demand For New Coins.
Great demands are always made on Uncle Sam for new coins at the Christmas season. Last year \$25,000 in halves, quarters and dimes was washed and brightened by the treasury department, and this year the demands have been even greater. The banks throughout the country call on the treasury department for bright and shining coins in order to satisfy their customers.

THE STORY THAT NEVER GROWS OLD.

Like the songs that are sung in the twilight,
Like all tales that are tenderly told,
Like the memories of loved ones that hallow our hearts,
There's a story that never grows old.
Lo! The angels first sing it in chorus,
And the watchers with wonder behold,
They feel the first thrill of the beautiful truth
In the story that never grows old.
Round the Christ Child of Bethlehem's cradle
Are clusters of apples of gold,
And pictures of silver adorn every page
Of the story that never grows old.
It gladdens the hearts of all children,
And millions of manlier mold
Are happier, holier, better by far,
For the story that never grows old.

—Franklin Trusdell.



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