

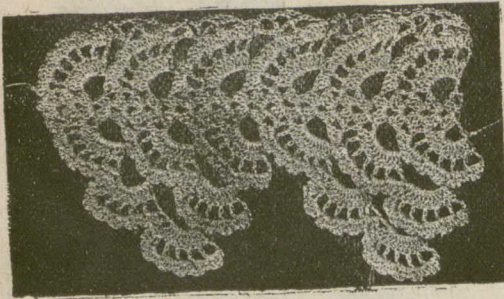
## Handiwork.

Any question of general interest regarding home decoration will be answered in this column. Any suggestions, contributions or letters from those interested in this department will be welcomed.—Ed.

### Hand-Made Laces.

#### PYRAMID EDGE.

Make ten chain. Make a treble shell in the sixth loop of chain. A treble shell is made of three trebles, two chain, and three trebles,



HAND MADE LACE—FIG. 1.

all of these stitches being put under the same loop of the foundation.

On both sides of the row of shell work which extends through the length of the pattern, make scallops consisting of six chain, which is the foundation; on this make twelve trebles. Turning after making the shell of center and similar scallop on the opposite side, finish the first one with a series of holes made by one treble and two chain. There will be six of these holes. Under each two chain put one single stitch and three trebles.

The pattern can be made wider or more narrow, as wished by the maker. The chain work at the straight edge may be put on afterwards though in the pattern it is done on every scallop, finishing as one advances.

#### INSERTING TO MATCH THE PYRAMID EDGE.

This inserting is made in two pieces, the first side being the shell and scallop of the edge. When the second side is made, fasten each fan to the lower part with short or single crochet stitches and fill the open space between the rows with chains of six stitches.

If a very wide edge is wished, put the edge and inserting together. In this form it makes a fine pattern for aprons or for the ends of bureau scarfs.

CIRCULAR mirrors are the latest thing and they are encircled by white enamel frames decorated with violets or forget-me-nots.

A PRETTY novelty is a scarf of netted silk which is easily made and which is caught across the corner of a photo or picture frame with cords of the same color.

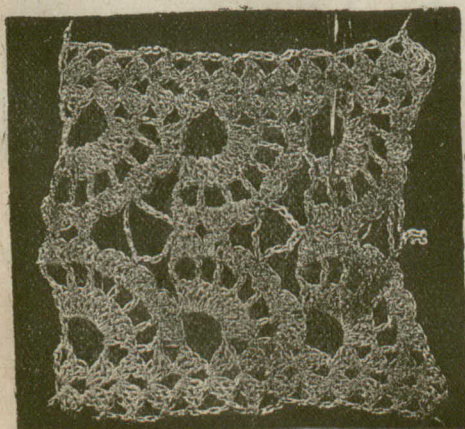
MUCH of the table linen used at ladies' lunches, is adorned with colored designs, or has a groundwork of color with flower patterns or scroll work in white. Pale-blue, light-red, salmon, fawn-color and grey, are seen in this table linen, with matching napkins and cake-basket cloths.

THE bow-knot is, of course, one of the best designs in curtain material; those in applique upon a groundwork of lace are even prettier than the white ones, and the ribbon ends meander all over the surface, catching up here a dainty blossom or basket of posies, or flaunting about, as if flying in a brisk gale of wind.

AMONG pretty trifles for the adornment of the drawing room is a palm-leaf brush case or rather whisk, the soft dusting brush slipped into the top of the palm-tree. At the base covered with green plush, was one of the small, black Zulu dolls, a large sack pin-cushion beside him; it was well made and really artistic.

A TAILOR'S PATCH.—Wives and sisters give ear! When John comes home with a tear in his clothing, do not send it to the tailor to mend, neither leave it unmended, nor even as a last resort darn it yourself. Instead, place a strip of court-plaster the length of the rent, under it, clapping a hot iron upon the wrong side. This if neatly done, will make as dainty a patch as one's heart could wish.

THE last style of table-screens shows a double heart-shape; the sentimental character, so to speak, of this article of decoration being still further emphasized, as it were, by the profusion of love-knots of ribbon placed here, there and everywhere over the surface.



HAND-MADE LACE—FIG. 2.

It is made of card-board, with a painting of figures seated under a tree, and has around the picture a rim of narrow lace laid flat and pasted down.

THE Cosey Corner is a place where a woman may take a surreptitious snooze, flirt desperately with her last adorer, or sulk, if the company is not to her mind; curtains are drawn above the cosey corner; a sofa invites one to slumber, and a cushioned tete-a-tete is suggestive of quiet flirtation. There is a shelf with a big blue jar full of Jacque roses, and joss-sticks smoulder in a silver perfume burner. The corner is just the nicest spot in which to hear sweet things, and a man who will not say them in such a place must be very unappreciative. There are a few choice books, whose leaves may be turned to break an awful silence, and there are various refreshments for the initiated.

THE hanging-baskets, in which small pots with drooping vines or training artificial flowers are placed, or, when set in a jar with water, the bouquet used the evening before is kept fresh, are made of stout cardboard, with a lining of plush, silk or satin, and show square or oval shapes, or, of late, a long boat shape, imitating a punt or gondola, according to individual fancy; and are adorned with a hand-painting of birds, butterflies or flowers, or an incrustation of small shells may be used on the square shapes. Some have merely a row of bows above a row of metal lace, which is not so perishable as other laces, and, therefore, the best for such decoration. You add long ribbons to each corner, and loops with a knot at the top. Line with a color that will not be easily defaced by what you put within; and, if the special intention be to use your basket for keeping bouquets, or for a jar of flowers, make the bottom of wood, with a pierced edge, which you sew to the cardboard sides. Some of these hanging baskets, as, for example, those which are in the shape of a gondola, are merely intended for an



WALL POCKET.—It is made of cardboard covered with blue silk, with an applique of roses and bordered with fancy ribbon; a ball fringe finishes one end.

ornament, having no special use, and in some of these a doll, dressed as a gondolier, is seen, the basket hanging from a lower part of a gaselier. This doll is dressed in short breeches of white cloth, and has on its head a long Venetian cap, of which the pendent ends fall on the shoulder. There must be two long oars of wood, and the doll must be placed in the attitude of rowing.

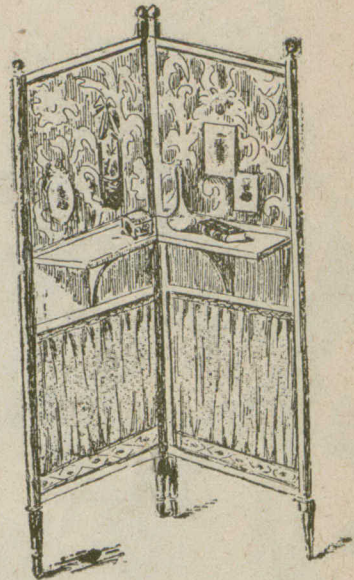
### Concerning Beads.

Most of the world's beads are Venetian. In the island of Murano a thousand workmen are devoted to this branch. The first process is to draw the glass into tubes of the diameter of the proposed bead. For this purpose the glass-house at Murano has a kind of rope-walk gallery 150 feet long. By gathering various colors from different pots and twisting them into one mass many combinations of color are made. The tubes are carefully sorted by diameters, and cut into fragments of uniform size. These pieces are then stirred in a mixture of sand and ashes, which fills the holes and prevents the sides from closing together when they are heated. They are next placed in a pan, and constantly stirred over a fire until the edges are rounded into a globular form. When cool, they are shaken into one set of sieves until the ashes are separated, and in another series of sieves until they are perfectly sorted by sizes. Then they are threaded by children, tied in bundles and exported to the ends of the earth. France has long produced the "pearl beads" which in the finer forms are close imitations of pearls. They are said to have been invented by M. Jaquin, in 1656. The common variety, threaded for ornament, is blown from glass tubes. An expert workman can blow 5,000 or 6,000 globules a day. They are then coated on the inside with a pearly lining by injecting into them a liquid charged with the scales of a minute species of fish, and then filled with wax. It takes 16,000 fish to make a pound of the scaly essence of pearl. Until recently the heirs of Jaquin still carried on a large factory of these mock pearls. The best of them are blown irregular to counterfeit nature,—some in pear shape others like olives—and they easily pass for genuine.

Written for the LADIES' PICTORIAL WEEKLY.

### One Phase of Dress Reform.

A woman dresses a turkey better than she can dress her person. She may blend harmoniously into a sauce divers flavors, and out of simple elements evolve triumphs of culinary, good taste in every sense of the phrase, and yet be herself a dismal, unwholesome-looking object while engaged in the daily routine of duties. It



BRIC-A-BRAC SCREEN.—The frame is gilded, the lower part is filled in with heliotrope India silk; above this is a panel of brocade; two little shelves are attached to hold bric-a-brac, while above hang photographs.

seems to be an article of belief with some cooks that personal neglect and a general air of untidiness, are outward and visible signs of great culinary skill, the possessor of which talent is by them deemed exempt from the laws of neatness and order.

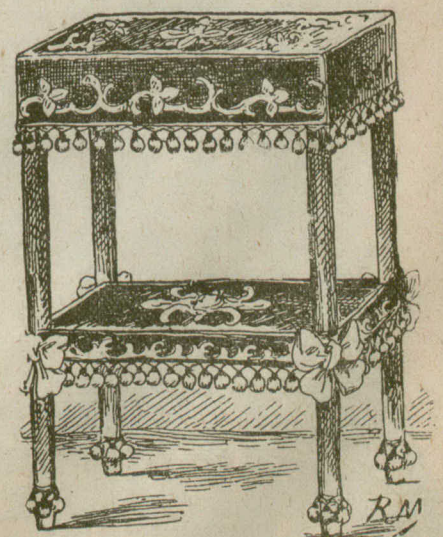
Their ideas on the subject of dress, however, are by no means lacking in definitiveness, but unfortunately they are confined to the elaboration of toilettes for high days and holidays, and the natural womanly wish to look well is perverted into a desire for finery, as unsuitable as it is flimsy and flashy. Wages are freely spent on imitation splendors and arrayed in sleazy silk or satin glittering with jet, the head crowned with the very latest style of hat, the young woman sallies forth with the proud conviction that she is "quite the thing."

In some such garb as this she often applies for a situation, never dreaming that she thereby imperils her chances of obtaining a good home, so much does her attire repel the sensible housekeeper, who by repeated experience has learned that finery covers a multitude of sins of omission and that almost certainly there is scarcely a decent change of underclothing or a whole calico gown among the belongings of the gayly dressed occupant. There are exceptions of course, and memory dwells fondly on the merits of an excellent cook who joined to her skill the rare virtue of the appropriate, even tasteful dressing while she was officially engaged. The neat print gown, the glossy hair, and bright face, and the cheerful readiness to do her very best made visits to the kitchen most attractive and it was easy to overlook the want of taste and judgment which governed her choice of Sunday toilettes.

In the good old times of which one constantly hears domestic servants had neither the temptation nor the opportunity to indulge in fine dress, but so long as cheap copies of all the fashionable goods are obtainable, so long probably will wages be squandered in the vain hope of looking as well as the best. It is their own money they have earned it and have the right to spend it as they choose, and this is a free country, etc.

But if these women could be brought to see how greatly they would rise in the esteem of their employers, how much more likely they are to be "healthy, wealthy and wise," if they would buy and wear constantly only neat boots and substantial, suitable garments, they might possibly, without detriment to their independence adopt the more excellent way.

M. M. LOUGHRAN.



FANCY TABLE.—It is made of wood, the legs enameled in pale green; the two shelves are covered with sea-green plush embroidered in gold; a valance of plush, with ball fringe, hangs below; bows of green satin ribbon ornament the lower shelf.