

Work Basket.

A DECORATED GOBLET.—An interesting home-made method of natural decoration consists simply in taking a glass or goblet and placing in the interior a little common salt water. In a day or so a slight mist will be seen upon the glass—hourly this will grow until in a short time the glass will present a beautiful appearance, the glass being enlarged to twice its thickness, and covered with beautiful salt crystals, packed one upon another exactly like some peculiar fungus or animal growth. It is necessary to place a dish beneath the glass, as the crystals will run over. The glass can be made additionally beautifully by placing in the salt and water some common red ink; this will be absorbed, and the white surface covered. No more simple method of producing inexpensive or beautiful ornaments can be imagined, and by using different shapes of vases and shades, an endless variety of beautiful forms can be produced.—[Scientific American.]

PHOTOGRAPH CASE.—This is made the same shape as a handkerchief case, and should be of velvet or plush, about two fringes wide and five long; line with plain or quilted satin, and fold one finger's length over at each end for the pockets. Finish the edges with large silk cord, and sew a handsome bow in the centre if desired. The outsides of the pockets should be embroidered with a handsome initial monogram or scroll design.

OTTOMAN COVER.—Take a piece of light gray felt cloth of the required size, and over this set a piece of black velvet, having a design of centre-piece, border and corners marked out on it and worked in button-hole stitch. The intermediate cloth is then cut away, and the outline of the design is finished with gold braid. Another pretty cover for ottoman or cushion is made of maroon velvet, with a cluster of Morning Glories embroidered in the centre, and a broken spray of the Trailing Arbutus worked in each corner.

LADIES' LEGGINGS.—Materials: Eight ounce of worsted and four knitting needles, No. 12; cast on ninety stitches, thirty on each needle; join in a circle and knit one round plain. Now work in ribbed stitch, two plain, two purl, until the leggings are about fifteen inches in length. Now begin to narrow by knitting together the first two stitches and the last two stitches of the round. Repeat this narrowing in every eight row nine times. You should now have seventy stitches in the round. Divide these into two equal parts, front and back, and knit the one half back and forth twenty-five times, always continuing the ribbed stitch. Bind off these twenty-five stitches, pick up the twelve side stitches and knit them plain; the remaining thirty-five stitches knit in ribbed stitch, and then pick up the twelve stitches on the other side. The next twenty-four rows continue in the same manner; this makes the gores plain and the front ribbed, narrowing every alternate row one stitch on each side of the middle part until all the stitches in the gore are gone. Knit the remaining stitches thirty rows more. Bind off and finish by crocheting an edge around. Sew elastic bands on to the under side of the gore.

A pair of chamois leaves for cleaning spectacles are very useful and easily made. Cut them the shape of the glass, but about

half an inch larger all round. Finish the edges with wide apart button-hole stitches in colored silk; fasten the two together at one end with tiny cord and tassels. An initial or any fanciful design may be etched on the outside.

Answers to Enquirers.

MRS. T. B.—1. The refreshments for a wedding in the afternoon are arranged exactly as they would be for an afternoon "at home"—the wedding cake in the centre of the table, coffee, tea and lemonade, bread and butter, cakes, fruit, and ices if desired. 2. It is no longer customary to send wedding cake to friends, unless to your own and your intended husband's immediate relatives.

WINTER.—1. A good cure for chilblains is to rub them gently with dry mustard-flour when they first appear. 2. You should not make expensive presents to gentlemen, and a trifle of your own work will be far more appreciated than any article you could buy. 3. Zinc may be cleaned with salt, which takes off the grease and dirt.

MADGE.—1. Make your worsted balls as follows: Take a silver or plated fork, and wind the wool over it forty or fifty times according to the size of the ball you desire; and tie it between the two middle prongs with strong dark linen thread, leaving a few inches of it to hold it by; then slip it off the fork, and clip it little by little, rolling it in the fingers until you have a perfect ball. 2. No. Napkin rings are not used for transient guests, as of course a napkin must be laundered before being used by another. It is only at a family table, when one is staying for some time, that the ring is used.

B. M. C.—It is usually in better taste when speaking to a lady of her parents to say "Mr." and "Mrs." When speaking to a child, however, one may always say, "Your mamma or papa," or "mother and father."

DAISY DEAN.—Black stockings are worn with any toilette. Please accept our thanks for your kindly expressed appreciation.

How to Ornament the Christmas Tree.

Last year in many cities and towns there appeared in certain churches and halls Christmas trees of marvellous beauty. The tips of the green boughs were glittering with crystals, and reflected the light in many beautiful colors. Some of these trees, in addition to the crystals, seemed laden with golden fruit, like an orange tree in an untimely frost or snow storm. Other trees were ornamented with hand-painted flags, of all nations.

The method of covering green twigs with crystals is a very simple and inexpensive one. Put into a bucket a pound or more of alum, and pour a gallon or more of boiling water upon it. Place the tree in such a position that the tips of the bough may remain in this solution for some hours, perhaps over night. Repeat the process until as many boughs are tipped with crystals as will make the tree very beautiful. Or cut off the twigs, crystallize them, and fix them again on the boughs.

The golden fruit is simply made by gilding English walnuts. Hammer a long tack into the end of the walnut by which to suspend it after gilding. Wash the nut with the white of

an egg with a feather. Then roll it in gold leaf, or powder, until it is well gilded, or cover it with tin foil or imitation of gold leaf, as the real gold leaf is somewhat expensive.

Acted charades are popular as diversions, after the distribution of the Christmas presents. The popular word in England of late for an elaborate acted charade is "Counter charm"—(count) (err) (charm), the whole ending with an Oriental scene of a charm and counter-charm.

Pompous.

Modesty is an attribute of true greatness, and men of real learning are never pompous. Any freckled and saturnine school-boy can ask questions that it would puzzle a ten-volume encyclopedia to answer; and confusion is apt to overtake the pretentious individual who tries to impress his hearers with the false idea that he "knows everything in all the books."

A story is told of a certain bishop who addressed a large assembly of Sunday-school children and wound up by asking, in a very paternal and condescending way, "And now, is there a-a-n-y little boy or a-a-n-y little girl who would like to ask me a question?"

After a pause he repeated the question, "Is there a-a-n-y little boy or a-a-n-y little girl who would like to ask me a question?"

A little shrill voice called out, "Please, sir, why did the angels walk up and down Jacob's ladder when they had wings?"

"Oh, ah, yes, I see," said the bishop. "And now, is there a-a-n-y little boy or a-a-n-y little girl who would like to answer little Mary's question?"

"Mighty Improvin'."

Molly Malone, a worthy washerwoman in the West of Ireland, used to say—and say almost invariably—after hearing a sermon on Sunday, that it was "mighty improvin'." One day, however, her clergyman, who was not quite content with this generality, spoke to her respecting his discourse, and Molly suddenly became what they call in Ireland "a little bothered." Nevertheless she got out of her difficulty with one of those parabolic answers which are such favorites with her class, and which, while it completely evaded the question, satisfactorily replied to it. "Well, Molly," said the clergyman, "you liked the sermon, you say?" "Oh, yes, your rivrence," was the reply; "it was mighty improvin'." And what part of it did you like best?" he continued. "Well, sure, sir, I liked every part," answered Molly. "But I suppose there was some portions of it that you were more struck with than you were with others?" persisted the parson. "In troth, please your rivrence," said the old woman, "I don't remember any part exactly, but altogether 'twas mighty improvin'." "Now, Molly, how could it be improving if you don't remember any part of it?" asked the reverend gentleman. "Well, your rivrence sees that linen I've been washing and dhrying on the hedge there?" said Molly. "Oh, certainly," was the answer. "Wasn't it the soap and wather made the linen clane, sir?" asked Molly. "Of course they did," said the rector. "And isn't the linen all the better for it?" asked the old woman. "Oh, no doubt of that, Molly," was the reply. "But not a dhrop of the soap and wather stays in it. Well, sir, it's the same thing wid me," continued Molly—"not a word o' the sarmin't stays in me. I suppose it all dhries out o' me—but I'm the better and claner for it, when it's over, for all that."