

THE HOUSEHOLD.

GIRLS, LEARN TO BE HOUSE-KEEPERS.

Begin with your own possessions. Reform your upper bureau drawer; relieve your closet pegs of their accumulations of garments out of use a month or two ago. Institute a clear and careful order in the midst of which you can daily move, and learn to keep it so that it will be a part of your toilet to dress your own room and its arrangements while you dress yourself, leaving the draperies you take off as lightly and artistically hung, or as delicately folded and placed, as the skirts you loop carefully to wear or the ribbon and lace you put with a soft neatness about your throat. Cherish your instincts of taste and fitness in every little thing you have about you. This will not make you "fussy," it is the other thing that does that—that not knowing, except by fidgety experiment, what is harmony and the intangible grace of relation.

Take upon yourself gradually—for the sake of getting them in hand in like manner, if for no other need—all the cares that belong to your own small territory of home. Have your little wash-cloths, and your sponges for bits of cleaning; your furniture brush and your feather-duster, and your light little broom, and your whisk and pan; your bottle of sweet oil and spirits of turpentine and piece of flannel, to preserve the polish or restore the gloss where dark wood grows dim or gets spotted. Find out, by following your surely-growing strength of thoroughness and niceness, the best and readiest way of keeping all fresh about you. Invent your own processes; they will come to you. When you have made yourself wholly mistress of what you can learn and do in your own apartment, so that it is easier and more natural for you to do it than to let it alone, then you have learned to keep a whole house, so far as its cleanly ordering is concerned.—*St. Nicholas*.

CONVENIENT CLOSETS.

Closets, those valuable additions to every household, may be readily classed under two general heads—wardrobe or hanging closets or storage closets. Whether intended for the one or the other purpose, a closet requires a sound flooring, wainscoted or firmly plastered walls, and a base board free from open cracks and knot-holes. These precautions are necessary in order to secure the contents of the closet from the depredations of mice and other vermin.

A wardrobe closet is desirable in every sleeping-room, and besides a liberal supply of hooks, it will need at least two shelves. Both of these cross the closet at the rear; the lower one, intended to accommodate shoes and rubbers, may rest upon the base boards, while the other, used for the storage of hat-boxes, muff-boxes, etc., is placed above the hooks, and within easy reach. The hooks, preferably double ones, are fastened into strips of board nailed to the walls about five feet above the floor; others are screwed into the under side of the upper shelf. The appearance of the closet can be greatly enhanced and its capacity increased by building a chest of drawers against one of its sides. These drawers can be utilized for many purposes, and are specially convenient when used to store away the starched skirts, the woollen underwear, and other articles which usurp so much space in one's bureau or chiffonier; they serve, too, to protect the waists of dresses and the light-weight wraps from the creasing they are apt to receive when hung up amongst the heavier garments. Where the cost of these drawers renders them for the time being unattainable, the amateur carpenter can easily construct a set of shelves which will answer the same purpose. Given the necessary shelving, a saw, a hammer, and nails, and a few feet of two-inch board, and a clever woman can easily build them for herself. A crotone curtain suspended from above, conceals the contents from view, and at the same time serves to exclude the dust. A linen bag, the size of an ordinary cushion, nailed to the inner face of the door, becomes a convenient receptacle for the soiled collar, cuffs, handkerchiefs, or towel that may be discarded after the room has received its daily "doing up." A practical holder for canes or umbrellas may be constructed in an

empty corner at a trifling cost. A screw eye is fastened into each of two adjoining walls, ten inches from the line where they meet, and two feet above the floor; five or six more are fastened at regular intervals down each side in a straight line with the first ones until the base board is reached. Fish-line or macrame cord is now laced "criss-cross" through the little openings in the screw eyes, and the ends firmly fastened. The cords must be tautly drawn, or the umbrellas will sag forward.

The storage closet is usually shelved from top to bottom. As its name indicates, it is used chiefly to store away the household linens, packages of all kinds, spare pillows, quilts, blankets, etc. A separate closet is in most households devoted to the linens exclusively. Usually it is kept locked, the careful owner preferring to personally superintend their distribution. For the reason that meddling fingers never enter here, it is advisable to attach the family medicine chest to one of its walls. In the absence of this convenience a set of little shelves can be fastened into a handy corner near the front of the closet; these will answer equally well to hold the household drugs and other medical necessities.

A roomy closet upon an upper floor can easily be used as a combination storage and wardrobe closet. In the summer season it can contain and at the same time protect the winter garments, and during the winter season be utilized to hold the summer things. Open boxes filled with camphor and chips and shavings of cedar wood placed in the corners will secure the contents of such a closet from moths and vermin.

A closet can be kept sweet and clean by allowing the air free access for at least an hour every day. In addition it is well to give it a thorough cleaning once a month, removing the entire contents for this purpose.—*Harper's Bazar*.

CROSS-STITCH BORDER. AND METHOD OF WORKING.

No trimming so neat and effective, and at the same time so economical and durable, has yet been found for the decoration of ladies' morning dresses and blouses, and children's garments made of checked gingham, cross-barred lawn, nainsooks, etc., as that furnished by borders and bands of white or colored cross-stitch, worked with embroidery cotton, knitting-cotton, linen or silk, according to the quality of the material on which the work is done.

Though it is not a novelty, it was never more popular than at the present time, for it has been found to be more decorative and satisfactory on many wash garments

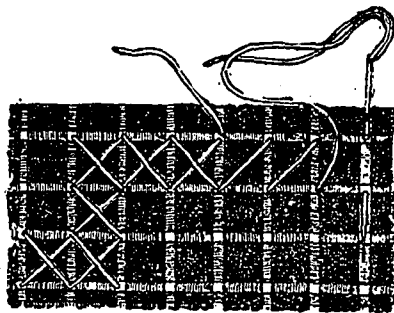


Fig. 1.

for general wear than laces or embroidery, and it adds nothing to the labor of ironing. This work may be very rapidly accomplished if a light, open pattern be chosen, the effect of which is often prettier than that of one containing large spaces of solid work—though both are pretty.

Of course many are already familiar with the method of working cross-stitch, and some who are not can easily find out by experimenting, but to those not so fortunate as to belong to either of the classes named (and that there are many such the frequent inquiries we hear and read prove) a few simple directions will doubtless be welcome. Then, too, in this, as in all work, however intricate or simple, there is a "best way."

Fig. No. 1 shows the best method of setting the stitches, as it gives the work a nice even appearance, similar to woven work. Two threads are used throughout the pattern; the under stitches are worked first with one thread (as shown by the one threaded in the needle), and all slant regularly in one direction; the upper stitches,

worked with the second thread, all slant as evenly in the opposite direction, crossing over the under ones. With this thread the needle takes up exactly the same stitches as with the first, but is inserted on the opposite side.

The wrong side of a border so worked, instead of presenting a tangled display of stitches of all lengths, as is usually the case when only one thread is employed, is neat and orderly—which is very desirable when it is liable to be seen any time, as it is on aprons or draperies.

The border design shown in No. 2 is extremely easy to work, as it runs along in a continuous line, having no confusing breaks or complications, and is unusually neat and simple in effect.

The design shows how the border may be turned at the corners of draperies or jackets, or from the foot of a morning dress, to extend up

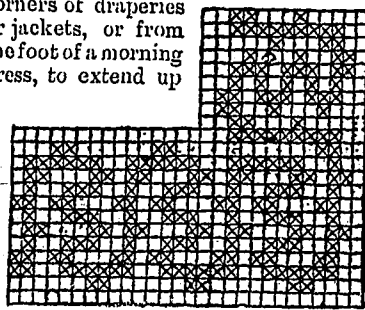


Fig. 2.

the side-fronts on each side of the gathered or plaited front, also on the slashed epaulet-tops of the sleeves, and for numerous similar purposes. It is best to begin at the corner if a border is to be turned, else the squares may not come just as one would like.

A dress of pretty pink, blue or lavender gingham, checked with fine lines of white, ornamented with bands of bordering in white cross-stitch, is very handsome for woman or child, and is quite serviceable. Colored thread should be used on white or light colors checked with dark lines, while on pure white or cream cross-barred material any color may be used—even white thread or silk if the material be very thin.

Dark ginghams checked with red are pretty worked with red—which bears washing as well as white; light ones checked and worked with dark blue are also pretty and durable.

Kitchen aprons, of heavy blue and white or brown and white gingham or shirting, are sometimes ornamented just above the hems, with a band of cross-stitch worked with fine knitting-cotton; children's play dresses for home or country wear are also made of the same materials and trimmed in the same way.—*Youth's Companion*.

TABLE COVER.

A handsome cover for a small table is made from a brocade silk handkerchief.

Follow the outline of the design with a line of fine gold cord, which must be couched around the figures.

Fill some of the figures with fancy stitches done with gold thread, and vary them as much as possible.

If the design is in leaf form, a good result will be obtained by filling sometimes a whole leaf, sometimes only a portion of it.

If the handkerchief is white, fill inside the outline of gold thread with embroidery done in different colored silks. This will give it an oriental look.

Baste the handkerchief to a stiff square of brown paper which will serve to keep it in shape; or it may be placed in an embroidery frame if desired.

Finish with a broad band of white plush which should be couched on both sides with gold thread, and line with some pale shade of surah silk.

This table cover is very handsome, and the effect is decidedly rich and oriental.

RECIPES.

A RULE well to be remembered in baking is that all things to be browned on the bottom must be set directly on the bottom of the oven, but those things which are to be browned only on top, or merely heated, may be set on the grate.

COLORS tennis flannels should be washed in water about the temperature of the room they are washed in, with good white soap of any kind, and rinsed thoroughly in water of the same temperature, and wrung out as dry as possible. They may be hung up for a short time in the house, but should be taken down while still damp and ironed dry. Some laundresses never hang them up, but wring them so dry that the iron completes the drying.

PUZZLES.—No. 11.

NUMERICAL.

If you 3, 4, 5, 2 a grace
Of carriage, and a fine address,
With good complete in every place,
I'm sure your presence can but bless.

Your 8, 7, 1, 2 may be plain—
I count not dress the chiefest thing—
But wise ones will not show disdain,
If better passports you can bring.

For gentle manners, where the heart
Governs and guides the impulses,
Admit to scenes where only art
Can never pass the entrances.

CROSS-WORD ENIGMA.

My first is in cat, but not in dog,
My second is in field, but not in bog,
My third is in owl, but not in bat,
My fourth is in oval, but not in flat,
My fifth is in heard but not in saw,
My sixth is in frost, but not in thaw,
My whole is unknown to fame or dower,
For it is only a meadow flower.

CHARADE.

A last for the table is all;
And the reason its name we so call
Is because that of old
A first did unfold
Its proportions, which were far from small.

But in these days almost any last
For the table as total is classed
And hunters now choose
A one for their two's,
While for table together they're cast.

QUEER PUZZLE.

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* * *
* * *

Upper word, the whole.
Second word, taking the last letter of the first word to commence with, detected.
The third word, taking the last letter of the second to commence with, married.
These, in the original shape, make one word meaning permitted.

NUMERICAL ENIGMA.

I am composed of 13 letters.
My 13, 8, 14, 5 is part of a house.
My 6, 12, 17, 18 is to take care of.
My 5, 16, 3, 2, 10, 9 is to make known.
My 9, 12, 11, 13, 2, 5 is a communication.
My 18, 5, 4, 10, 15 is a vision.
My 1, 7, 13 is a negative.
My whole is a proverb.

REVERSAL.

He was a weak inebriate,
And wandered on the street,
He seemed fast nearing that sad state,
From which there's no retreat;
Some sought to rouse his addled pate
And turn his wayward feet;
He only muttered, "you're too late,
My ruin is complete."

And many shunned him, and some first
As wretched to behold;
He only answered, "I am cursed
With idleness and gold."
And so I have attained a thirst
That cannot be controlled,
And yet men say they take the worst
Into the temperance fold.

"I wonder if 'twould second me
From this impending fate;
This downward course of infamy
Before it is too late,
I'll rouse my weak humanity
To 'Labor and to wait,'
And then, perhaps, I yet may be
One of the good and great."

CONUNDRUMS.

When are little children heaviest? When they are Christmas waifs (weights).
When is a cook unkind? When she beats eggs and whips cream.
What letter will turn a white rose-bush into a pink one? L, for it will make it blush.
When does a chicken talk by proxy? When you speak for one.
What is the difference between a doll and our dog Rover? One is a puppet and the other a pet pup.
Why is a violent man under arrest like the Monday's wash? He must be ironed.

ANSWERS TO PUZZLES.—NUMBER 10.

GEOGRAPHICAL PUZZLE.—Ava, Birmingham, Cotney, Dayton, Emmetsburgh, Filmore, Grafton, Hamilton, Irkutsk, Jacksonville, Kickapoo, Labarge, Mendina, Natchitoches, Oxford, Prescott, Quincy, Rouen, Samarcond, Tomsk, Udine, Valladolid, Washington, Xenia, Yaphank, Zanoville.

SYNCOPIATIONS AND REMAINDERS.—

L E M O N
H O I S T
R E S I N
M I D R T
N I E C E
R O M A N
S P E A R
T O A S T
L A N C E
N O O S E
F A R C E
H A S T E

CROSS-WORD ENIGMA.—Intemperance.

BEHEADMENTS.—Wheel—heel—eel—el—l.
SAM'S CHOICE.—1. Carpenter; 2. Printer; 3. Mason; 4. Architect; 5. Merchant; 6. Blacksmith.

PUZZLERS' CHAT.

Well Messenger puzzlers! how is it we have not heard from you for so long? Let us have a great many original puzzles, as well as answers, soon, and do not forget to sign your full name and post-office address.

EDITOR PUZZLES.