

- Woman and Her Interests -

CHRISTMAS GIFT MAKING



HERE are any number of articles which can be made at home with little expense, and which give real pleasure to the recipient. Half the success in such gift making lies in beginning in good season, so that the work can be done properly, and without making too insistent demands on the time and nerve force of the worker.

A dainty cushion cover noticed in a fancy-work shop the other day would be an easy undertaking for the one who can embroider only a little. It was worked on white muslin, of a weave like coarse organdie, and the design was big loose-petalled chrysanthemums scattered over the muslin. These were worked in yellow silk floss, the semi-transparent background giving the flowers an appearance of delicacy of texture. The cover was finished with a full five-inch ruffle, caught at one corner with a big, fluffy rosette, imitating a chrysanthemum, of yellow satin ribbon. A cushion, at once serviceable and attractive, is of brown linen, worked in a conventional design in dull blues, reds, and pale tan. The design can be worked in cross stitch, the weave of the material serving as a guide in a way similar to the old-fashioned cross stitch on checked gingham. Gray linen worked in shades of old blue picked out with burnt orange is effective. Whatever the colors chosen, they should be in soft, harmonious tones, rather than bright and contrasting.

A gift that will be appreciated by the mother, or whoever looks after the darning, is a stocking basket. The one taken as a model was a boat-shaped basket of wicker, covered with a coating of white enamel. The inside was lined with soft yellow silk, gathered around the top edge, with a pocket at one end for the case of darning-needles of assorted sizes, and at the other was fastened a case with small scissors. Cards of darning cashmere were attached along the inner sides of the basket with loops of yellow ribbon. The handle of the basket was twined with Dresden ribbon in shades of yellow and violet, ending in a big bow of the ribbon. Such a basket would perhaps be rather more convenient without the upstanding handle. A glass or wooden darning ball should be added to the furnishings.

A pretty work-bag can be made with a round box, such as confectionery comes in, for a foundation. Cover the box smoothly with a fine cretonne in pretty floral pattern, say, violets and green leaves on a cream-colored ground, and finish the edges with gilt braid. Cut a circular piece of sateen a little larger than the bottom of the box, to allow for the seam. This forms the bottom of the bag. Make the bag of leaf-green mercerized sateen faced around the top with the flowered cretonne, and tied with a violet cord. Before drawing up the cord, place the bag in the box, and tack it around the top, working from the inside of the bag. A finer, but, of course, more expensive, bag, can be made of Dresden silk and a plain silk in a harmonizing color. A bag for holding soiled fine handkerchiefs and collars, to be kept separate from the general laundry, is a useful little article, very easily made from a couple of handkerchiefs with pale pink or blue borders. The handkerchiefs are placed diagonally over each other, so that the corner of one comes over the centre of the border of the other, thus making eight points. They are fastened in this position with fancy stitchery or finishing braid. A circular piece is cut from the centre of the upper kerchief, and round the opening is sewn a piece of insertion, with beading on the other edge, and lace edging as a finish. Baby ribbon run through the beading serves as a drawing string. Made of white handkerchiefs with embroidered edges, such a little bag would be very dainty.

A new design for a handkerchief sachet is in the shape of an envelope. Take a piece of handkerchief linen, nine inches wide and twenty-one inches long and hemstitch one end, turning a hem an inch deep. Turn up eight

inches in depth of the hemmed end, and sew in place with narrow French seam. The remaining part turns over as a flap. Shape this like the flap of an envelope, and scallop the edge, with button-hole stitch. Make a sachet pad of silk in some delicate color, and slip inside the envelope. A case of this style, with pink pad, had a true lovers' knot embroidered in pink on the flap. The envelope pattern can be developed in cases for various articles, large or small, from the night-dress to baby ribbon.

A 'quotation' calendar can be made with charming personal touches. Procure twelve oblong pieces of thin white cardboard, and on the upper part of each paste a photograph, preferably one with which the friend for whom the calendar is intended has some associations. Beneath the picture write some apt quotation, and paste at the bottom the date slip of the month. These slips can be bought for a few cents. Fasten the sheets together at the centre of the top with loop and bow of baby ribbon, or cord. Instead of twelve sheets for the months, four may be used with tinted pictures of the seasons.

A set of coat hangers, costing some five cents apiece, can in short order be made into more presentable form. If they are intended for a man, cover them smoothly with soft leather or kid. Here is one of the places where the unused portions of the long kid gloves just going out of fashion may be utilized. If the hangers are for a woman, cover them first with cotton wadding sprinkled with sachet powder, and over this shir a covering of silk or ribbon, or twine them with baby ribbon, caught here and there to keep it in place.

A scarf to wear inside one's coat, on cold or windy days, can be made from a remnant of silk brocade or Dresden silk. A piece about a yard long, and the ordinary width of silk will be sufficient. Line it with soft plain silk and in the centre of the back make three folds, tacking them in place. Dresden silk in becoming shades makes a lovely scarf.



A Queen's Lace

This exquisite piece of lace was made in Brussels, and occupied fifty women for three months. It is valued at 45,000 francs. The portrait worked in the centre is that of Queen Victoria of Spain.

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