

In Art Needlework

By F.E.P.

EARLY in November clever needlewomen begin to look about for new suggestions in art needlework, which they may adopt for the the making of pretty or serviceable gifts. When Christmas is only six or eight weeks off, it is quite time for the woman who is clever enough to make her own gifts, to be up and doing.

Only a needlewoman knows the worth of a new suggestion, something not too costly, nor useless, nor intricate, in the way of a gift. And blessed is she who has originality and inventive genius in art needlework at the present season.

This month we are able to show two new designs in sofa cushions, both serviceable and effective.

The first is the cigar cushion. The top is made entirely of the yellow ribbon cigar ties. When a box of cigars is opened, the fragrant narcotics are usually found done up in little bundles, each tied with a narrow yellow ribbon bearing the stamp of brand and trade mark in black, in the centre of the tie. These ribbons, about twenty inches in length and one in width, are feather stitched together with gold thread, and arranged in parallel lines, the black stamp on each being arranged one beneath the other. In the one we illustrate the British coat-of-arms—one of the trade marks—forms the centre inch square of the cushion, and the four quarters run parallel with its sides: the ribbons increasing in length as the sides widen.

The effect is that of a black cross upon yellow silk ground; the cross being formed entirely of the lettering, which is very distinct. The pillow is finished with a deep soft frill of yellow silk of two shades.

The effect is unique and handsome, and this cushion would be excellent as a gift for a gentleman's smoking room. The ribbons could be purchased at a cigar factory.

The second cushion is even simpler, and the work very light, yet the result is both serviceable and dainty. It is of barred white linen—that is a linen with white ground and barred with blue, crimson or yellow stripes.

This may be purchased or ordered at any good establishment. The cushion is feather stitched at the angles of the bars—as shown in our design. Ingrain cotton is used for the stitching.

The cushion is finished with a frill about three inches deep of the linen cut so that a single bar forms the border, which is also feather stitched.

This idea is quite new, and while the work is simple enough to be done by a tyro in needle-

work, the result is very dainty and fresh.

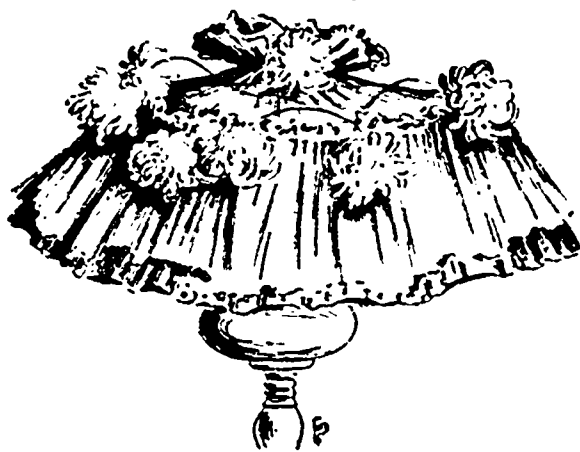
Lamp shades are not "out." In New York they are even larger than before. Very pretty ones are made with foundation of silk of any shade, and gopher plaitings of chiffon or muslin in tint to harmonize.

We show a handsome crepe paper shade. The frame is first covered with pink paper—pink always gives a pleasing glow. The outer covering consists of a double frill of the crepe of pale lemon, tinted in soft greens. The head of the shade is finished with a fluted gathering of the crepe, while long stemmed pink and green chrysanthemums lying loosely on the shade gives a charming and artistic finish.

We show also a dainty shade for incandescent drop lights. It looks like nothing so much as a miniature petticoat of pale pink silk alternating with bars of fish net crochet in the same shade. Fish net lace finish top and bottom. This little shade is made perfectly straight but is gathered in at the top with cord made of the silk thread. Like a petite hooped skirt, it is wired at the bottom for requisite holding down and stiffness.

This shade is a very simple bit of work, yet it is dainty, and would be most acceptable in homes where the arc light is used.

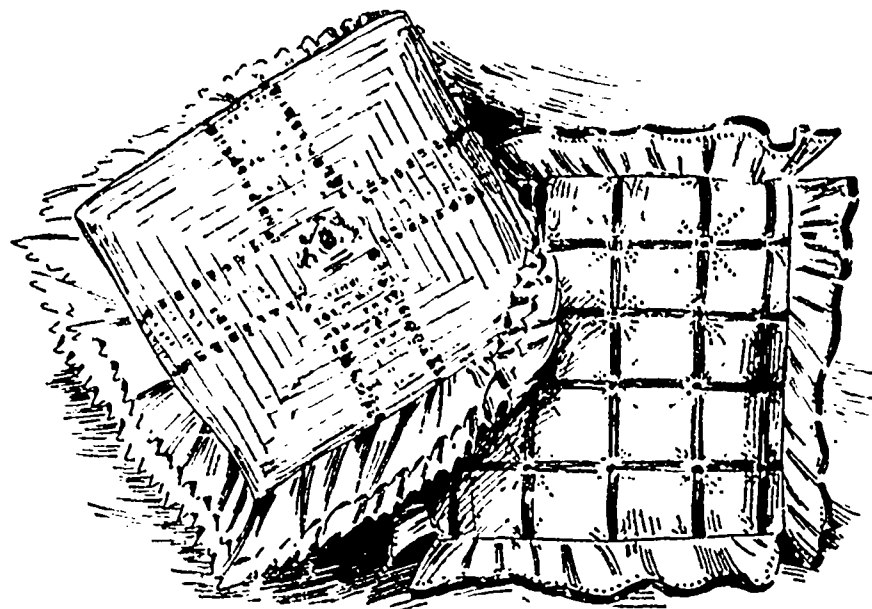
Quite new also is baby's carriage or chair tie,



in appearance it resembles a miniature old-time holster cover. It is made of a double fold of white washing silk or linen, lined with one or two folds of cotton wool. The silk has a simple design embroidered upon the front. The tie is gathered at either end and finished with lace, then fastened with narrow white ribbon. A little sachet powder used upon the lining adds to the daintiness. This is a choice little gift for the new baby.

We show also a work bag, which would make a nice gift for an elder lady, and it is easily made.

Cut two cardboard circles about eight inches each in diameter, and cover them on both sides with the material chosen. The one we show is of violet figured silk. Take about one yard of the silk and gather it in full around one of the covered circles; have a deep hem and lace finish for the



top, which is gathered in with drawing cord, and tied with violet ribbon. The second card circle is stitched on one side with narrow ribbon loops for needles, small scissors, stiletto, silk winder, etc., then placed below the first card and fastened like a hinge to the upper one, and tied with narrow ribbon.

This bag might be serviceably reproduced in pretty cretonne. In silk it is especially fitting for a visiting work bag, for an elderly lady.

A very effective five o'clock tea cloth, and one easily made is of cream corded cotton—a new material resembling duck—laid on a centre of terra cotta denham and buttonholed with alternate long and short stitch in shaded silk. A graceful scroll design is wrought in the same stitch around the border in three shades of terra cotta silk. The fringe is of terra cotta linen thread.

Serviceable leaves for the needle book in the family work basket may be made of firm white flannel (the Shaker variety is good). Cut in four sizes and work the top, front edge and bottom of each leaf in scarlet silk, using button hole stitch. I prefer scarlet because the color does not fade by washing like many other shades. Then lay the leaves together according to size, the smallest on top, with the back edges even, and fasten them with the same stitch,—the whole forming a little book to be sewed into the case. The leaves from being often fingered, and sometimes from rust caused by the needles, soon become soiled, and the group being fastened together can easily be removed, washed and replaced. It seems to me of more importance to keep in good condition things in ordinary use about the house than to have every new trifle of fancy work, or so-called ornamentation, which comes into fashion.

We illustrate a pair of evening dress mitts, of white merino wool or silk, reaching almost to the shoulder, and intended to cover the arms under the opera cloak. These are very useful and make a dainty gift. They are made to order by a subscriber to the CANADIAN HOME JOURNAL, and orders for them may be left at this office.

A pretty magazine cover may be made of unbleached canvas cut like a paper book cover with deep hems. The front cover can be worked in silk in some suitable design.

(Thanks due to Ladies' Work Depository.)

