

SILVER PLATED FANCY GOODS.

EACH year seems to bring forth ideas in fancy goods so entirely new that even those whose time is constantly occupied in searching for novelties are daily confronted with surprises of one kind or another. It is a common saying after the Christmas rush is over that "the past has been a truly wonderful year, and that it would be useless to expect another so fruitful in novelty of idea and design." And still the succeeding season has never been known to fall behind the record of its predecessor. Certainly, from what we can see, 1894, with all its talk of poor trade, is making itself a name that leaves 1893 far in the rear. So that our readers may know in advance what is going to be shown to them by the traveling representatives of the different houses, some space is this month devoted to silver plated novelties. This line has evidently come to stay. What astonishes one most is the combination of beautiful de-



signs and low prices at which these goods are being offered as compared with those made by the old style silver plate companies. The fact is the manufacturers of these silver bric-a-brac go about their business in a different way. They start out with the idea of making an article to sell for a certain price and calculate upon turning out enormous quantities. Their tools and dies are made with this one idea, and no expense is spared in making the design.

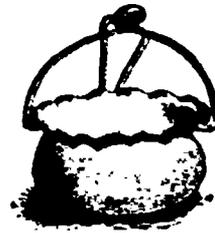
Photo frames, which have been made of almost every imaginable material, seem to make a handsomer appearance in silver than in anything else.

Ladies' jewel boxes, with engraved or bevelled glass tops, are both handsome and useful, but of even greater popularity are the smaller boxes for collar buttons, hair pins, etc., inscribed with such mottoes as "Where's My Collar Button?" "A Friend in Need," "Treasures," and so forth. Gentlemen's smokers' sets fill a decided want in giving ladies an opportunity to buy pretty gifts at reasonable prices. The Indian club is the feature of the season in this line, and is shown in the accompanying cut. The handle is made of black ododre, and the remainder of polished silver. The whole

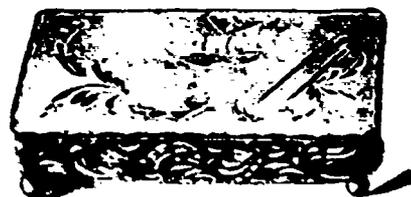
club comes to pieces in four parts, each forming a receptacle respectively for tobacco, cigars, matches and ashes. We do not remember ever having been so pleased with a gift. Its ingenuity is certainly very taking. There are inkstands in the greatest profusion for one, two, or three



bottles, both in gold and silver plate. The chasteness of some of the styles is truly a credit to the age, as also are the low prices. Paper knives and book marks make very pretty philopœna forfaits, or prizes for euchre parties, while nothing would please a little girl more than a pincushion made in the shape of a slipper, baby's boot, boat, or sleigh. There are a number of styles of whisk holders which



should be an adornment to any hall. Clock stands are equally serviceable. Boxes and holders for playing cards like ash trays and card receivers are acceptable in any house. We also met with a number of holding trays, manicure sets, and toilet sets, which have the great virtue of being easily kept clean and of always being ready for use. Hand



mirrors and wall mirrors, pocket, hanging, and table match safes, collar and cuff boxes, writing blotters, tea strainers, pocket tablets, hair pins, bonbon flower and cake baskets, cup, and saucers, all go to make up a line that is altogether too varied for a complete description here.

We have to thank the Hemming Bros. Co. for their courtesy in lending us the accompanying designs.

MR. BAILEY-MARTIN.

"Mr. Bailey-Martin" is a new book by Percy White, editor of Public Opinion, the well-known English periodical. It is published by the Toronto News Co., in paper, at 50 cents.

This gentleman with the hyphenated name tells the story of his own life in an off-hand manner which would be called "conceited" were it not that the author of the book is a man with a reputation. But if the said author is as callous-hearted as the leading character in his book, he is deserving of the sympathy of that class of people who are not ashamed to deny that they have a heart and are capable of friendship and love. It is to be hoped that the author merely wished to show that a man guided by ambition alone cannot succeed.

Mr. B.-M. is a young member of the family of a dealer in groceries. He aims to mingle with the titled and aristocratic classes. He succeeds to a great extent



and eventually becomes the husband of an earl's daughter and an M.P. A slight indiscretion with a young American bride of the age of 20, with a husband aged 50, leads to a scandal and his downfall.

A cold vein of criticism runs through the book, making it pungent reading. When Mr. B.-M. speaks of a great aristocratic club, he says: "Perhaps it was because I never acted without an object, and they never acted with one, that this singular distinction between the other 'celibates' and myself made itself felt." But when he speaks of marriage, he is coldly disdainful; he says: "No woman is ever a heroine of romance to her husband, at least such is my experience. I am aware some men pretend to entertain a poetic attachment to their wives after ten years of wedlock, but I regret I cannot believe in the sincerity of the attachment." Again he says: "Let us uproot the foolish sentiment that leads the inexperienced to expect from matrimony any other advantages than the immediate material ones every well regulated match must bring."

Somebody wisely computes that there are 1,000 good talkers to one slow, solid thinker.