

Work Basket.

EMBROIDERED BUTTON-BAG.—This is a very necessary addition to a work-basket. In ordinary cases a single bag is sufficient, but where there is a large family and much repairing to do, a set of three will be found very convenient. The platted linen used for silver and glass ware is the material used for these bags. When finished they measure one finger in length, and three-quarters of a finger in width. Allow for seams and an inch wide hem at the top, through which the draw-string is run. Work a simple design in crewels or silk, or, if desired, the squares may be darned, each with a different color.

If a set is wished, make three bags the same size, embroidering only two for the outside ones, and fasten securely with a few stitches at the top of the hem, and run the draw-string through all three.

DORCAS MAG.

KNITTED BLANKET.—This is made in stripes of two shades, blue and white, or grey and pink are pretty contrasts. Cast on forty stitches, and knit across plain.

1st row.—Slip 1 (a), knit 1, purl 1, repeat from (a) to end of needle.

2nd row.—Slip 1, and knit the rest plain. Repeat these two rows until the stripe is the desired length, remembering to slip first stitch so as to make an even edge. Care should be taken to have the purled stitch in third row come directly over the purled stitch in first row. Crochet the stripes together with another color.

DORCAS MAG.

INFANT'S BODICE.—Materials required:—Five oz. white Berlin wool; four pins, No. 14 (Walker's gauge). Commence with the band for the waist. Cast on twenty-eight stitches, work backwards and forwards in plain knitting until you have worked 18 or 20 in.; now commence the decrease for the pointed flap by—

1st row.—Knit two stitches together at the beginning of the row, knit 6, slip 1, knit 1, pass the slip stitch over, knit to within 10 stitches of end, slip 1, knit 1, pass the slip stitch over, knit 6, knit 2 together.

2nd row.—Knit 7, cotton twice over the pin, knit to within seven stitches of end, cotton twice over pin, knit 7.

3rd row.—Knit 2 together, knit 5, knit 1, and purl 1 in the made stitches, and knit the two last stitches of the row together.

4th row.—Knit 6, slip 1, knit 1, pass the slip stitch over, knit across to the other stitches worked in the made stitches, slip 1, knit 1, pass the slip over, knit 6. The holes thus formed are for the button holes, which should be worked over in button-hole stitch. Continue the decrease at the beginning and end of every other row until you have sixteen stitches on the pin, then make another hole as before described—when only 12 stitches remain cast off. The band must fasten in front. Pick up the back half of stitches, knit one and purl one alternately for three inches. The purl and knitted stitches must be reversed in every other row to keep the rib on the right side; cast off. The fronts are worked in two parts; pick up the stitches for one side, knit 1 and purl 1 alternately for three inches, cast off all but the

six stitches nearest the arm, on this work four more rows, and cast off. The other half of the front is worked in the same way. Sew the back and front together at the shoulders. With three pins pick up the stitches round the armhole for the sleeve, knit 2 and purl 2 alternately for two inches; cast off. A crochet edge is worked round the neck and sleeves.

1st row.—1 treble in a stitch at the edge of knitting, 1 treble into next stitch, 2 chain, pass over 2 stitches, and repeat.

2nd row.—1 double under the chain, repeat. A ribbon is run through the rows of trebles and tied in front.

EMBROIDERED TABLE COVERS.—The old-fashioned tables, with under shelf, can be made very ornamental in the following manner: First cover the standards with plush or velvet by cutting a strip just the width and catching it together on the inside of the legs. The feet will require more care. A pattern must be cut, then cut the plush, lay a thin coat of thick glue on the wood, and press the plush in place. The designs for the two covers can be em-



FIG. 1.—EMBROIDERED TABLE COVERS.

broidered in various styles and on various materials. Applique work on cloth looks well; figured plush on velvet, part embroidered, likewise. Althea and tulips form the motive of the top design, tulips alone the motive of the lower shelf. The flowers in both instances are conveniently arranged. See Fig. 1.

BED-ROOM TABLE.—A very pretty way to cover an old fashioned square stand (and almost every home has at least one) is to put over the top smoothly a fine piece of scarlet or blue silesia, or cambric; over this put a cover of any pretty openwork lace or muslin. Then put a piece of the silesia, about thirteen inches deep, around it, cover this also with the lace; the effect is excellent, and in this way a useful article of furniture is redeemed from positive ugliness and deformity. If the legs are scratched or marred, a coat or two of varnish will make them look all right.

REVIVING FADED FLOWERS.—Cut the stalk, and hold it a few moments in the flame of the candle, and then set the flower again in the cold water, when it will recover its strength almost visibly after this violent assistance.

CASE FOR KNITTING NEEDLES.—This case is made of strong linen, the compartments outlined with red silk cord or ribbon. A small

oblong of flannel for needles may be placed on the inside of top flat. The lower flat is embroidered in cross stitch, and the front can be ornamented with a monogram. The fastenings consist of buttons and loops of cord. See Fig. 2.

OTTOMAN.—This useful article is made of a half barrel sawed down to the desired height, or a water pail, with a cover made to fit, would answer. Slightly wad both inside and outside of stool and cover; then line the article with canton flannel. The outside is covered with dark maroon plush, embroidered or braided in a large open design with old gold, light blue pink and the olive shades and brown floss. Finish the edge of the cover with a very large cord, and on the bottom of the ottoman put the same. There are four castors at the bottom. See Fig. 3.

Answers to Inquire

H. B.—1. Keep the earth of your house plants moderately moist; water not too frequently, but thoroughly. 2. The record we have of vaccination as a preventive of small-pox was in 1799, when it was introduced into Great Britain by Dr. Edward Jenner.

HOUSEWIFE.—1. It is very unhealthy to paper the walls of a room over the old paper; it should be removed before the fresh paper is put on. 2. Upon receiving an invitation to dinner you should decline or accept unconditionally at once, for without an immediate answer the hosts are unable to determine for how many to provide.

EDEN DERRY.—We have so often to remind our readers that questions will not be answered unless the full name and address are attached to each communication. The *nom de plume* is not sufficient. We will be very

pleased to give you any information in our power when you comply with our rules.

JAMES A. 1. Certainly, though upon arriving at your friend's house to make a call you find invited guests when you had not been invited, politeness demands that you should go in, acting as if you were not surprised. After remaining a few moments, beg to be excused and retire. 2. It is quite proper, when introduced to a stranger, and you fail to hear the name, to ask that it be pronounced again.

E. P. D.—1. You can easily remove the spots from your varnished furniture by rubbing it with spirit of camphor, and the lustre can be restored to the morocco leather by varnishing with the white of an egg. 2. The best way of improving the skin is to improve the general health by temperate living and moderate exercise, which is worth more than all the face powders and "lotions" that were ever concocted. 3. It may be quite proper to accept a ring from a gentleman friend, to whom you are not engaged, as the ring may be a token of friendship between old and dear friends. We cannot judge without knowing more of the intimacy between you, but we see no more objection to accepting a ring than a present in any other form from an old friend.