

SOME IDEAS FOR WARM WEATHER.

REWEELS snarled and faded, rusted crochet needles and embroidery frames sadly racked by last winter's packing, are now undergoing their usual warm-weather resurrection and promise a fine crop of autumn fancy-work. Knitting-bags, paint-boxes, and scrap-books are positive necessities of the season. During long forenoons on sunny hotel piazzas, or breezy mornings when rocking-chairs sway in cool country halls, hands clamor for work to match the busy tongues that fly along outstripping time and tide. One would think, to go in the multi-colored worsted bazaars where women find their materials, that long ago ingenuity would have exhausted itself. But lo! the counters are heaped with alleged novelties and the Kensington Art School has issued numberless original designs. Two of the very latest suggestions, in the way of useful decorative work, are magazine covers and draperies for the pots of ornamental plants. The first is made of two heavy sheets of pasteboard, cut like the leaves of a big book. They are held together with a flexible strip of stout cloth that forms the back. Satin is best used for the smooth, inner lining, but outside full scope is given one's artistic fancy. Stripes of gay braid laid diagonally between a section of maroon velvet and brocaded silk of a contrasting shade lend a pleasing effect to the lid that is further brightened when the back is covered by a narrow bit of pink and gold Japanese crape bound with gilt braid. Any number of old odds and ends of pretty finery are thus utilized, and charming covers provided for the paper-bound magazines, that otherwise get sadly dog-eared. These sashes for flower-pots are deliciously sympathetic in color and design. The widths of silk are cut unusually long to twist about the earthen jar and then fall in full draperies. All the soft natural shades of brown, green and yellow are used, combining most effectively. One dull-gold ground is embroidered up sixteen inches on either end with autumn leaves, in scarlet, russet and green, and so skillfully done one would think a chill wind had just sent them fluttering down on the richly tinted stuff.

House-wives going to the country for a few months should not fail to consider the inestimable value of pungam for decorative purposes. Unless one has a permanent summer residence or goes away to suffer the martyrdom of cheap hotel life, it is necessary to carry some of the beauty of one's home into rural quarters. A popular tradition exists to the effect that roughness and health are synonymous terms. This is false, however, and the tramps, baths, and outings are quite as beneficial with pretty indoor surroundings as when walls are bare and deal tables uncovered. The very plainest room or crudest farm-house ever rented to summer boarders can be rendered attractive by a judicious distribution of drapery, and of all materials pungam can be recommended with the surest guarantee of giving satisfaction. The goods come in an infinite variety of colors and patterns, but one of the sweetest designs for warm weather will be found in the white ground sprinkled over with pink hedge-roses. It costs fifteen cents a yard, is very wide, and launders perfectly. The very shabbiest old bed can be transformed into a couch fit for the Sleeping Beauty herself by a liberal and artistic use of this stuff. If it be a four-poster, hem and ruffle a wide valance to go all round the lower portion, with a narrower frill edged with white tasselled cotton braid about the tester. Instead of buying expensive Marseilles spreads, sew two widths

of the pungam together, hem, and finish the four sides with the same fringed braid. This same trimming should be used for the full curtains that hang from the tester to the floor, behind the head-board and half way of either side. The whole effect is very satisfying, and when windows are draped to match, with a pink-and-white-dressing-table done up in pungam and fringe, one finds one's self in a bower of virgin beauty, without ever missing the money it cost.

It is passing strange that in none of the leading hotels, it is possible to get the plantain, which, when it is fried, makes a delightful dinner-dish. For hot weather, when the palate rejects all heavy food, this semi-tropical fruit is an agreeable *entrée* that caterers would do well to introduce here. To properly prepare the plantain it should be sliced rather thin, rolled in clarified sugar, and fried a light brown in a pan of very hot grease. The sugar candies, and lends the long, narrow strips of this coarse banana a delicate relish for jaded appetites.

Very few people take proper care of a kid glove after removing it from the hand. Nothing is more slovenly than to roll it up in a hard little wad in the way it is sometimes disposed of when not in use. Remove it from the hand carefully; do not strip it off, turning it inside out, and straining all the seams, but take it off gently, pulling each of the fingers into shape. Lay it lengthwise, stretched out in a glovebox of sufficient length, so that it need not be folded over at the wrist. A glove that is cared for will last longer and fit far better all the time it lasts than one that is carelessly treated. A silk glove should fit the hand as snugly as one of kid, and should be taken care of as thoroughly. As silk is very elastic, it is necessary to purchase a silk glove a size or two smaller than the size of the kid glove worn, in order to have it fit the hand properly. The very best pure silk glove with seams will stretch so much after it has been worn that it will get out of shape if the seams are not taken up. This is a simple matter. Turn the glove inside out and sew up, each seam a mere trifle, but enough to make the glove fit smoothly. Try the glove on after this, and behold! it is as snug-fitting and perfectly molded to the hands as could be desired.

THE pretty egg baskets now used for keeping eggs warm on the breakfast table are easily arranged and very effective. It is a prettier notion to take eggs out of a mossy green nest than out of a china dish. Any of the fancy woven baskets may be selected and filled with wool moss, which is made by several shades of green zephyr into strips, garter stitch. When this is knitted dampen the strips, press them dry with a warm iron, then cut one edge and ravel out all but three or four stitches. Sew the strips round the basket until it is full. Twelve or fifteen stitches are enough to set up for the strips. Set the last row round the top so that the moss will fall over the edge.

AMONG the latest novelties in dining table decorations are swans filled with flowers. These vary in size and can be obtained in several colors. Large ones are used for the centre of the table. Oftentimes they are placed on circular mirrors which make them the more striking.

INSECTS may be destroyed with hot alum. Put in hot water, and let it boil until the alum is dissolved. Apply hot with a brush, and all creeping things are instantly destroyed without danger to human life or injury to property.