

Minnie May's Department.

MY DEAR NIECES,—We feel the dawning of the new year the most appropriate time at which to thank you all for the deep interest shown and expressed in our past efforts. Nothing so stimulates our energies as to have our work approved by the many friends and subscribers; and we will endeavor in the future to deserve and retain your good opinion. Correspondence and contributions from any and all of the friends who have anything to ask or communicate which can interest our readers, are truly welcome.

At this season it is deemed a privilege as well as a duty to form one or more good resolutions, so let us, as a family, see what we can do in that way. Not only resolve but act as well. In my young days, and I find it the same at the present time, many opportunities presented themselves for doing works of mercy and charity, but were warded off by the common excuse, "no time," providing the demand was distasteful, but not so where amusements were concerned we could generally make time for fun. But you must not forget, dear girls, that "Ye are not your own, ye are bought with a price," and you will find upon looking around the world that those very people who are ever ready to lend a helping hand to their fellow creatures are really the busiest and happiest of mortals.

Do my girls ever think how much help they might give, if only by showering a little of their girlish brightness into the hearts and homes that are destitute of love and light. Youth has a particular work designed for it which cannot be performed at any other time. So, my friends, do not allow the opportunities to pass unheeded, especially without a better excuse than "no time."

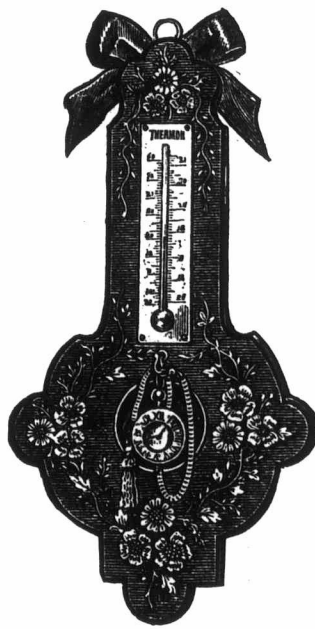
Now don't you think you could write an occasional letter to your numerous cousins that might please and cheer the members of our large family. There are some, perhaps, less fortunate than the rest, who would like to read a nice, concise letter, and participate even in that small way in your happiness. Try it, one and all; you don't know how it helps a poor, weary, over-burdened one, to feel that off in some other part of the country there is a cousin who has human sympathy and love for the other members of our family. We shall be glad to hear from any nieces, old or new, the more the better.

MINNIE MAY.

Work Basket.

BABY'S TOILET BASKET.—The basket is of fancy straw and black polished cane. The inside of the basket is lined with cream color embroidered in chain and feather stitch, with pink and olive silks, and in knotted stitch with gold thread. The cushions and pockets are worked to correspond, and fastened to the basket with satin bows of light pink and olive colors. The handle is twisted with a cord of the same colors, and finished off at the ends with tassels. Round the outside of the basket is a scant ruffle of pink silk, over which is a fringe of the mixed colors used in the embroidery in the basket.

THERMOMETER AND WATCH RACK.—The thermometer is attached to a piece of stiff card cut in the shape of illustration, and covered with peacock blue velvet embroidered with split filoselle. The flowers are worked with white and heliotrope silk, the leaves with olive; the stitches used are satin, knotted overcast stitch and point russe. A hook is added to suspend the watch, and a bow of ribbon is sewn to the top of the thermometer.



THERMOMETER AND WATCH RACK.

At the back is a sheet of stamped paper, gummed on.

The thermometer face can be detached from any of the ordinary ones and fastened to the velvet at each end by having tiny holes drilled or bands of velvet or ribbons drawn across to keep it in place. The flowers would also look lovely if painted on the velvet instead of the embroidery.



BABY'S TOILET BASKET.

PLUSH STITCH.—Which is so much used now in art embroidery for making golden rod, sumach, cockscomb and Prince's feather. The flower to be made is first filled in with knot stitch of the prevailing color: a needle is then threaded with button-hole twist, brought up through the design between the knots and a number of strands of filling silk placed over the design, close to the needle. The needle is then passed back through the design

at about the same place it came up, catching the filling about a quarter of an inch from one end, so tightly as to cause the ends to spring straight up. The ends of the filling are then clipped with a sharp pair of scissors and the operation repeated until all the knots are covered. With judgment and taste in the clipping, in the arrangement of the stitches, and in the choice of colors, striking imitations of the flowers mentioned can be produced. The object of the knot stitch is to imitate the seeds in the flowers.

A PRETTY BOOK CASE.—Can be made of an old cupboard by taking off the doors, paint the inside a deep red, or cover the sides and shelves with deep crimson cloth fastened with brass upholstering nails. Ebonize the outside or stain in imitation of walnut. Curtains can be arranged on a rod to draw across the opening. This will be quite inexpensive and add an air of comfort and luxury to your room.

PRETTY LACE EDGING.—Cast on 11 stitches, knit across plain. 1st row.—Knit 3, throw thread over, slip and bind (meaning to slip one stitch, knit the next and pass the slipped stitch over), knit 1, throw thread over, slip and bind, knit one, throw thread over twice, knit 1, throw thread over twice, knit 1. 2nd row.—Knit 2, seam 1, knit 2, seam 1, knit 2, seam 1, knit 2, seam 1, knit 3. 3rd row.—Knit 3, throw thread over, slip and bind, knit 7. 4th row.—Cast off 4, knit 3, seam 1, knit 2, seam 1, knit 3, repeat.

CHILD'S SACQUE IN STAR STITCH.—Make a chain of sixty-nine stitches, take up every one, make two rows of short stitch.

1. Eight plain stars, widen for sleeve (one-half star), one plain (one-half star), seven plain, widen back (one-half star), one plain (one-half star), then eight plain.

2. Widen on sleeve and centre of back, three plain between.

3. Widen after first star, fronts and each sleeve, five between.

4. Widen on sleeve only. 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, and 9th rows same.

10. Widen after first star front and sleeve, making nineteen stitches.

11. Join under arms, letting widening go into the skirt.

12. Widen under arms, one stitch between.

13th, 14th and 15th plain.

16. Widen front and under arms, three between.

17th, 18th, 19th and 20th plain.

21. Widen under arms, five between, and centre of back, one between.

22. Plain.

Border.—Take up somehow one hundred and forty-five short stitches.

2. Into the fifth stitch put three, then three in every eighth, making

eighteen shells across, with four plain stitches at end.

3. Into fifth stitch three times, four plain, skip one, four plain, three into fifth stitch, etc.

4. The same, only skip two.

5th, 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th rows the same as the 4th row.

10. Take up every one.

11. Into the sixth three times, five plain, etc., skip two.