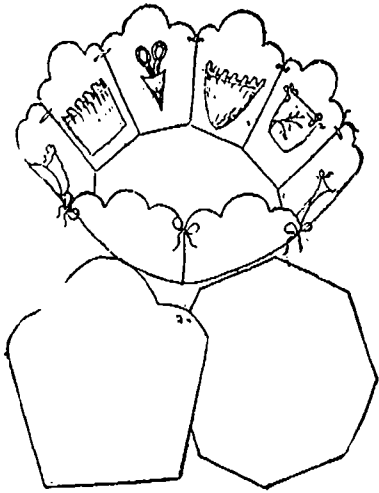




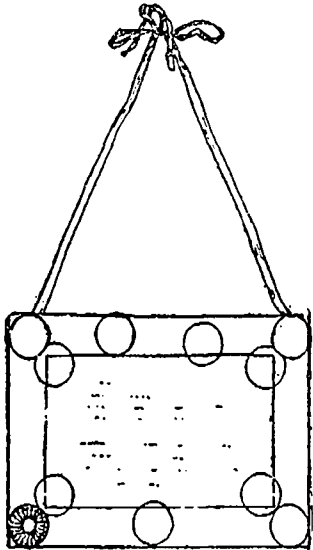
### Christmas Hints and Helps.

It is sometimes desirable to pack a work basket for a journey. Our illustration shows the most convenient form for this purpose. The bottom is an octagon of cardboard measuring three inches on each side. Eight pieces cut



with scalloped tops are required for the sides. Cover all of these on both surfaces with any material; silk, velvet, satin, cretonne, or cashmere, basting the goods neatly over the pasteboard and overhanding together. Put a layer of wadding over the bottom, sprinkling it with sachet powder before putting on the outside. Sew little pockets to the side pieces for holding the various implements of the needlewoman, and attach the sides to the bottom, overhanding along the straight line. Work eyelets in the sides at the top and tie together with cord or narrow ribbon, so that when necessary the basket can be laid flat. This little article sells well at church fairs and bazars.

A PRETTY little wall decoration for a bedroom can be made as follows: Take of thin board, or thick card-board, a rectangle, five by four and one-half inches. Cover it with velvet, or plush, or silk. To the center, glue a smaller rectangle of Bristol board, leaving a space of velvet one inch wide, all around. Two pieces of ribbon fastened to the back and tied together at the other ends, serve to hang it up by. Paste a piece of cambric or silk over the back, to cover the edges. On the Bristol-board, print one or two little verses:



Make a little fence of trust all about to-day;  
Fill the space with loving work, and therein stay.  
Look not thro' the sheltering bars upon the morrow:  
God will help thee bear what comes of joy or sorrow.

Outside of this little card, and on the velvet, set little brass rings which have been covered with double crochet of gold-colored silk, arranged in any order desired.

A CASE for unanswered letters may be made thus:

A circle of rough drawing-paper—Whatman's is best—10 inches in diameter, must have the upper edges "jagged" with dull scissors; a crescent moon of the paper, also with its upper edge notched, is laced to the bottom of the circle with pale-green baby ribbon with a picot edge. To do this, cut slits with a sharp pen-knife at regular intervals in both circle and crescent; draw the ribbon through and fasten at the sides with bows and ends. Touch the



ragged edges with bronze green paint and in irregular characters paint with a fine brush, "Pansies—that's for thoughts." Paint pansies on the pocket and hang it up by baby-ribbon. Cost, five cents. If you cannot paint, do the lettering and panies in India ink.

For a court-plaster case, take a piece of ragged edged vellum 10 by 2 inches, folded like a book and tied with baby-ribbon. Inside, place leaves of vellum, and into slits cut in these leaves insert strips of pink, white and black court-plaster. On the outside draw scissors, knives and sickles—all murderous-looking instruments—and the motto, "This was the unkindest cut of all."

THE cover of this pretty needle-book, illustrated in Fig. 1, has the usual two pieces of cardboard for foundation, each piece being covered smoothly on one side with nice silk.

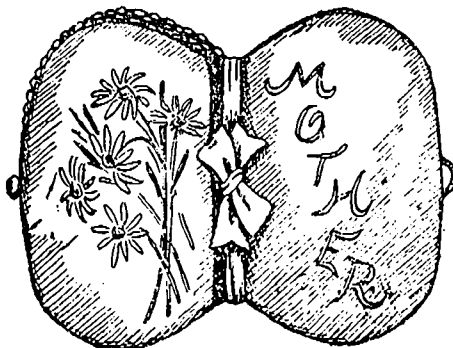


FIG. 1. OUTSIDE OF NEEDLE-BOOK.

For the front cover, the two pieces are simply overhanded together, while—that the broad edge may serve as a pin cushion—a half-inch layer of curled hair is placed between the two pieces for the back cover, and the edge is

covered, all around, with a half-inch strip of silk or flannel, which is overhanded to both edges.

The front cover has the word "Mother" embroidered upon the outside, and three pinked flannel needle-leaves are fitted to the inside.

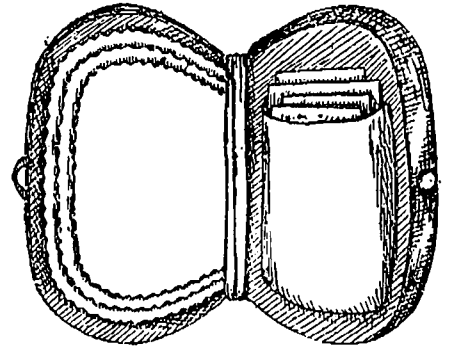


FIG. 2. INSIDE OF NEEDLE-BOOK.

The other cover is of figured silk, and on the inside is arranged a little flat pocket, as shown in Fig. 2, for papers of needles.

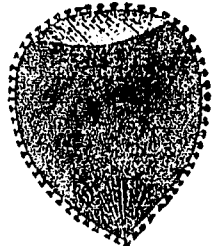
Narrow ribbon is tied closely over the joining of the covers, while the fastening is accomplished by means of a heavy silk loop and a round-headed gilt pin.

Figured yellow silk was chosen for the covers, but the figure appears only at the back, the rest being cut out of the plain ground between the figures. The lettering was in shades of darker yellow and brown, to match the colors in the figure. A figure on each cover and one on the little pocket would be pretty and easily arranged.

ANOTHER serviceable present is this cunning little pocket pincushion,

modeled after a chestnut.

To carry out the idea, select the colors as true to nature as possible. Cut two pieces of wiggan the size desired; cover on one side with brown satin ribbon, and overhand a little piece of mouse-gray velvet neatly on top, to represent the light color on the nut; work a number of long stitches on the sides in silk of the same shade; overhand the sides together, and fill with good pins.



CHRISTMAS is coming on flying feet, and unless pocket-books are plethoric, busy fingers must be active or the stockings hung by the chimney with care will be filled with emptiness.

IN the Artists' Exhibition of 1893 at the New York Academy of Design, there was exhibited an oil-painting by J. L. G. Ferris, entitled "Sweet Charity." Its richness of coloring commanded instant attention, while the lesson it taught was so impressive that one naturally returned to it for a second view. Its subject is a young lady of colonial times who is on an errand to one of the poorer families of the town. She has a sensible, charming face, which expresses with remarkable fidelity the sentiment of her errand. There is not a home that this charming picture will not ornament. It must be seen to be appreciated. "Sweet Charity" was purchased by the Publishers of *The Youth's Companion* and has been reproduced in colors in large size, 11 x 21. It will be sent to all new subscribers to *The Companion* who send \$1.75 for a year's subscription, and the paper will also be sent free from the time the subscription is received, to January, 1891, and for a full year from that date, to January, 1895. This offer includes the Double Souvenir Numbers published at Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's. Address the Massey Press, Toronto, Can.