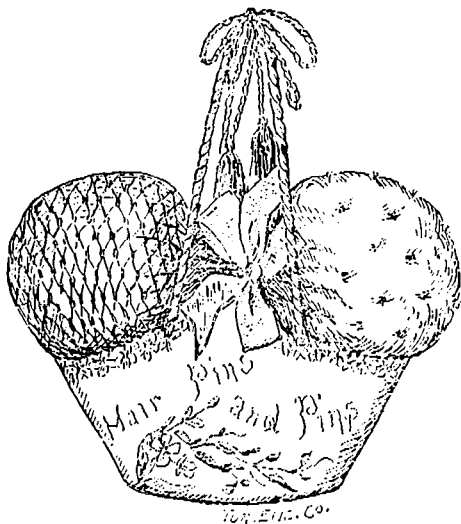




(Communications intended for this Department should be addressed to AUNT TITU, care MASSEY PRESS, Massey Street, Toronto.)

#### A Pin and Hairpin Basket.

Although the basket seen here is made of celluloid, the same design can be carried out in rough water color paper or plush. The bottom is made of heavy pasteboard covered with yellow silk, which is overhanded to the basket, the stitches being concealed with a yellow silk cord. This is

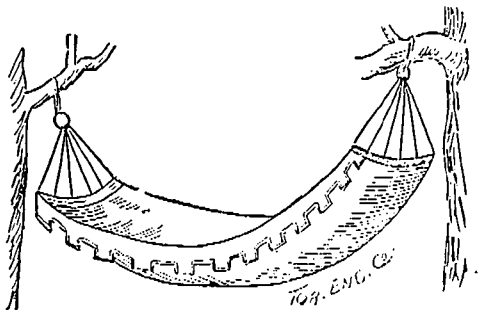


A DAINTY TRIFLE.

also wound around the wire handles. A finer cord is used for the loops and tassels which tie the handles together. The cushions are made of balls of white curled hair. Yellow silk netting (like fancy veiling) is used for the hairpin cover, and yellow surah for the pine cushion, which is tufted with yellow floss. These are fitted snugly in, and the ends of the basket tied together over them with yellow satin ribbon.

#### Hammock and Pillow.

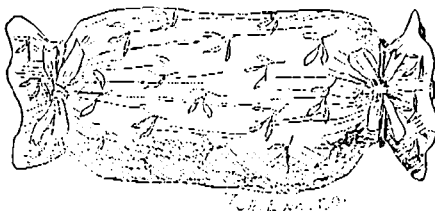
A hammock that will outwear any of the cheaper ones sold in the stores and that is also much more roomy and comfortable, can easily be made at home. Such a hammock is shown in the illustration. It



is made of stout linen canvas. It is 6 feet long and 2½ wide. The sides are hemmed, and the ends are securely bound with fine, strong canvas. It is trimmed along each side with a strip of canvas, cut into squares, every other one being cut out, and bound with blue worsted braid. A few long irregular stitches are worked in each square with Germantown yarn. Three pieces of rope, each four feet long, are passed through a strong iron ring; each end of the rope is then securely fastened at equal distances along one end of the canvas. The other end is finished in the same manner. The hammock is now ready to be put up between two trees by passing ropes through the rings. Where one is not so fortunate as to have two trees in just the right position, a post securely planted may take the place of one tree.

A very necessary addition to the comfort of a rest in a hammock is a pillow. One of the best shapes is a long, round pillow. The cover should be of chintz, which will admit of frequent launders-

ing. It is made in a straight piece the width of the goods. The ends are lined for a depth of six inches with some plain color. They are gathered in and tied with a ribbon. This is kept in place by a safety-pin under the bow.



The pillow tick is made of unbleached muslin, and filled with paper torn into small bits, which is one of the coolest materials to stuff a pillow with. Paper that has been printed on should not be used, but old letters, envelopes, margins of newspapers all answer nicely. The smaller the bits of paper the softer and pleasanter the pillow.

#### A Case for a Nightdress.

This article is generally seen on the foot of the bed in the guest chamber. It makes a handsome gift when accompanied with a dainty nightdress. The one seen here is made of white linen, folded



A DECORATIVE NIGHTDRESS CASE.

envelope fashion; the outlining is done in shades of blue and brown wash silks. It is bound with a strip of blue sateen. To make one a strip of linen eighteen by thirty-two inches is required.

#### A Beautiful Embroidered Apron.

A yard and two-thirds of yard-wide embroidered muslin flouncing is required for the apron represented by the accompanying sketch. Nearly a



third of a yard is cut from one end of the flouncing; the embroidered end of this strip is used for the bib, and from the remainder the plain, pointed

girdle is cut. The larger piece is hemmed at the sides, and gathered and sewed to the girdle, first being cut down a little in front to fit the point. The gathered bib is sewed in with the girdle seam, and tacked invisibly to the girdle above, as far as it goes. Ribbons trim the bib and girdle, as shown, and there is a long-looped ribbon bow at the back. For a stout person, the bow at the girdle point should be omitted. It would also be handsome without the bib, but is more dressy with it, especially over a plainly-made gown.

#### Hints to Housekeepers.

An oyster is the best bait for a rat trap.

Salt added to cooked fruit, especially in pies increases the flavor.

Nothing takes the soreness from bruises and sprains as quickly as alcohol.

Old loose kid gloves worn when ironing will save many callous places on one's hands.

Never iron black cotton stockings, as the heat fades them rapidly. Dry them in the shade.

See that the lamp wicks are turned down after trimming, else the lamps will be covered with oil.

To remove mildew, stir a quarter of a pound of chloride of lime in a gallon of cold water; after setting an hour, pour off the clear liquid and soak the mildewed cotton or linen in it for two hours, wash well, and expose to the sun. It works like a charm.

Those who like parsnips, will no doubt appreciate them if cooked in the following manner: Grate the amount required on a rather coarse grater, and mix with beaten eggs—using eggs enough to make a stiff batter. Season with pepper and salt. Shape about the size of large oysters and fry brown in hot grease.

Save your steps. Have you a market basket in which to carry things back and forth from table to pantry and cellar? The basket may be decorated as fancy dictates. A large basket, stained on the outside and lined with oil-cloth, is easy to keep clean, and the basket is handier than a server, since it can be carried in one hand.

Black stockings are apt to assume a greenish look after repeated washings. We are told that a simple way of preserving the color is to wash them in soap free of soda, and in the last rinsing water to add a teaspoonful of good vinegar. Wring them out and clap them into shape. A hot iron tends to destroy the color, particularly if they are wet.

Cut glass will not look clear unless washed in very hot water, but does not require soap. If it is in any way blurred or tarnished, it must be cleaned with a soft brush dipped in whiting, and then polished with a soft piece of newspaper; this gives it a brilliant, clear appearance, and no lint remains, as when rubbed with a linen towel.

The housewife should know that all glass fruit jars are properly cleansed and dried after being emptied. Much fruit is "mysteriously" spoiled in this way when the directions for preserving have been carefully complied with. After washing and rinsing they should be inverted on the back of the rings, or over shelf, and thoroughly dried before replacing the cover.

The question is often asked, "How long will pastry keep?" It can be kept in cold weather for a number of days, providing a damp cloth is laid over it, or in case of puff paste it be rubbed on the outside with butter and covered closely. This prevents a hard crust forming over the paste, as it is certain to do if it is put away on a plate or in a bowl without a cover.

Odd little three-cornered doilies are fringed across one straight end and embroidered around the opposite angle in a pattern that can be cut out. Doilies of pink-tinted linen are also used, worked to suggest rose petals. The handsomest as well as most durable effects in Russian work are obtained by buttonholing the edges over a heavy cord instead of flat against the cloth. The work is drawn closely about the cord and bears close inspection, it is so fine and finished.