

Art Needlework.

THE newest notions in art needlework may usually be found at the Woman's Work Depository, since many fine fancy workers in need of money send their novelties and the best designs there on chance of sale.

A glance through such a depository is a revelation of what woman's quick brains can devise and their skilful fingers execute. Not merely the staples in art needlework, but numerous processions of pretty novelties pass through such an establishment, and from these the home woman gains ideas for her home garnishing.

Which of us is there who does not like pretty tea tablecloths and welcome hints as to how to procure them? Does not the following sound tempting? Imagine a white linen tea cloth, square, and embroidered across each corner only, the patterns nearly meeting in the center of the sides. The design is a most handsome one; in the middle is an elaborate star or wheel, and from this branch out lines, sprays and leaves which may be fancifully likened to small ivy boughs and foliage. The peculiarity and the novelty of this work consists in the fact that the outlines of the pattern are buttonholed over, and all the spaces between them are cut away. This style of perforated embroidery is coming greatly into favor, and when well done is worthy of its popularity.

In silk embroidery on linen - which remains the favorite needlework - the "delft" effect is most fashionable. In this the embroidering must be in "old blue" silks, and the design anything that imitates or bears likeness to the willow pattern of our grandmother's china. It is one form of the new Crown Derby embroidery, and is essentially delicate. It is worked on white linen, and as the name implies, the patterns and colors are those so familiar to us on good antique china. The designs are mostly floral, but conventional rather than naturalistic, as the wee roses, apples, and other things are grouped and branched in the artist's own way. The tints used are really charming, including shades of pink, blue, (the dark blue is characteristically like that seen on real Crown Derby) green and gold, all soft and delicate and blending together and with the white background in a most effective way.

Wood browns are showing as favorite shades for silk embroidery. The brown tints harmonize with other table surroundings of whatever color.

A very handsome imported table cloth of the five o'clock size is of white silk with deep hem-stitched border, and surrounding design embroidered in wood-brown silks. The design is individual wine cups and small raisin or fancy cake dishes. The cloth is evidently intended for the light refreshment offered to the New Year's caller, or the light pick-me-up partaken in drawing room or study.

Centre pieces in wood browns and "delft" embroidery with doilies to match, are in evidence.

A charming "gas-light" tea-cloth is embroidered all over in white and gold silks, in conventional pattern. The gold shows up richly under the artificial light.

Hem-stitching with deep border is the correct finish for these cloths. Those shown with insertion and lace finish are in the background.

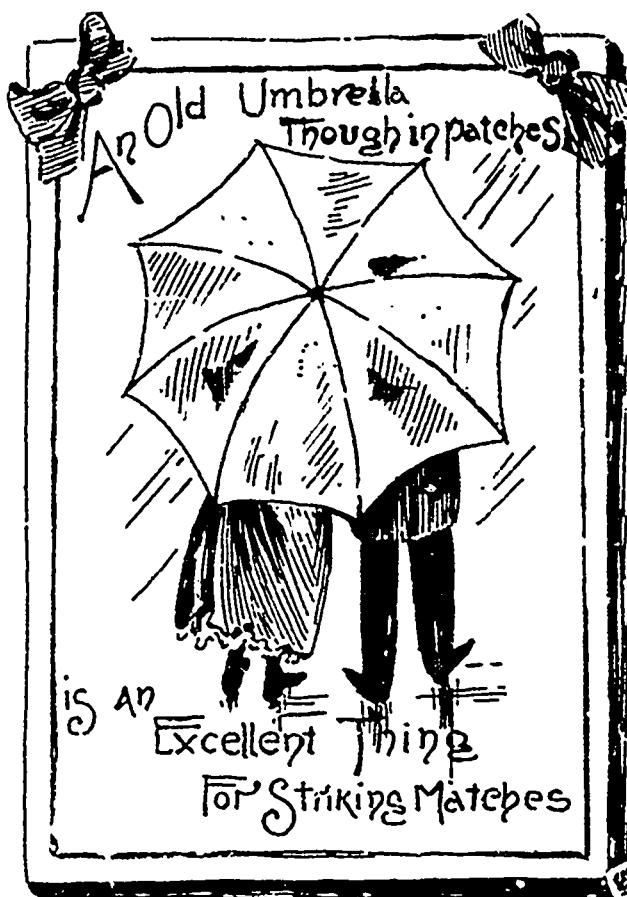
In making a centre-piece for a gift, it is well to discover whether an oval or round will best suit the dining table for which it is intended. In many cases the oval shape will be most suitable.

The linen photo frames, delicately embroidered, are growing in favor as gifts. They are especially suitable for mantel or dressing case in the bedroom or private sitting room.

Souvenir spoon cases are made with leather or embroidered linen outside, and silk lining. In shape and pattern they resemble the old-time English "housewife," that rolls and ties with ribbon.

This same old housewife is becoming a fashion again, with its soft lining, its cushioned ends for pins, its stitched strap for scissors, bodkin and piercer, and scooped flannel needle leaves. (What a pleasure it is to use so many old-fashioned words!) Presently we shall return to the girdle and household keys, with which the little fat, rolled "hussuf" has always held companionship.

Leather work, or the poker work on leather of which we wrote last month, is being utilized to make pretty things. Covers for note-books, and detachable book covers, stamp and card holders,



travelling cases of various kinds. Leather is durable, and this ornamentation makes it rich.

Colored poker work on wood, that is, an artistic use of the paint brush, adds to the decorative effect.

A novelty, the secret of which is in the possession of the maker, is an array of articles made of birch bark, the surface of the bark being prettily curled and flecked or bordered with gold. A calendar decorated with Muskoka scenes and a blotter with gnarled fungus for a handle, are unique in this novel style of finishing birch bark.

Pongee silk sketchily embroidered and lined with rubber makes a presentable and serviceable sponge bag for travel.

If the brocade of your arm chair in study or comfort room becomes worn, buy butcher linen and embroider it in washing silks in large, sketchy outlines, one piece for the back, two smaller pieces for the arms. The seat may be plain. A few small tacks and pins lightly put in to hold the linen in place, is all that is necessary. It is enduring, easy to wash, and looks bright and clean. In fact it is an improvement on the brocade.

A few balsam sprigs gathered during a winter ramble and brought home should be put in a vase. By their fresh green and pungent aroma they bring a breath of the woods into the the artificial heat of our rooms.

A pretty trifle is a double shoe or skate bag, shaped somewhat like a long and narrow envelope with the top flap open, and made to hang against a wall or inside a cupboard door. The material of which the background is made is white linen bound with blue and the bags, which cover about two-thirds of the foundation, are composed of blue linen; one strip folded to form two large box pleats side by side. These form expansive receptacles and are divided into two divisions by a line of stitching carried down between them.

A BAG SALE.

When casting about in search of a means for raising funds in aid of one's church or pet charity, the bag sale or social should not be overlooked. It has the advantage over the apron sale, inasmuch as it admits of a much larger field from which to work, the variety and possibilities of the bag sale being infinite. Five o'clock tea or high tea and an informal programme of music should invariably accompany such a charitable function, in order to make the gathering as pleasant as possible, the mercantile part being, apparently, quite a secondary consideration.

Laundry bags are always in demand, and may be made of almost any material desired. A very pretty one could be made of the new Delft blue linen, one side of which could be embroidered with white Persian silk. The design for the embroidery should be rather bold in style, as it would be folly to spend as much time upon it as the smaller and finer patterns would require. A serviceable size for such a bag would be twenty-seven inches long by seventeen wide, and it should be finished by means of a three inch frill at the top, and white cord and tassels for the drawing string.

A smaller laundry bag for soiled collars and cuffs would be suitable for a gentleman. This could be made of the new pure white grass bleach linen, which is made in Belgium, but may be procured at any of the art store or shops where fancy goods are kept. A convenient size for such a bag would be eighteen inches by twelve inches. It should be finished at the top by means of a rod and rings to hang it by, and the words "Collars and Cuffs" should be embroidered in outline stitch with Japan floss.

A shoe bag is something that would be very much appreciated, being a convenient receptacle for a fine pair of shoes or slippers when not in use. It should be about thirteen inches long and ten inches wide, having upon it two pockets, one for each slipper or shoe, as the case may be.

Old blue denim bound with white braid would be very pretty and serviceable for this purpose. Upon each pocket a simple and effective pattern should be embroidered in outline work with Japan outline silk. This same idea could be carried out in a much larger scale, by having four pockets instead of two. The foundation would require to be about twenty inches by fourteen inches, and should be furnished with rings or strong loops for hanging it to the inside of the closet door. The embroidery could be done with white linen floss if preferred. A duster bag may be quite dainty in style. A very pretty one could be made of pink linen, embroidered in several shades of pink Spanish floss, nine and one-half inches by ten would be found to be a convenient size, and it should be provided with a couple of rings or strong loops for hanging it to the wall. Any one with deft fingers and a fertile imagination might continue to make bags *ad infinitum*. There are the comb and brush bag, the bag to hold one's curling irons, the fancy work bag, the trio button bags, the mending and darning bags, the cane and umbrella case, the case for embroidery silks, and very many others that would readily suggest themselves if required.

KENMOK.