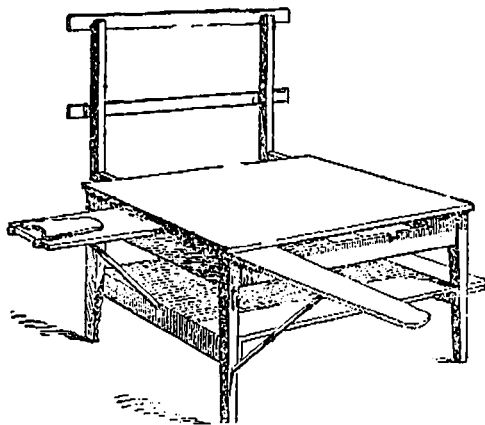




A Patented Ironing Table.

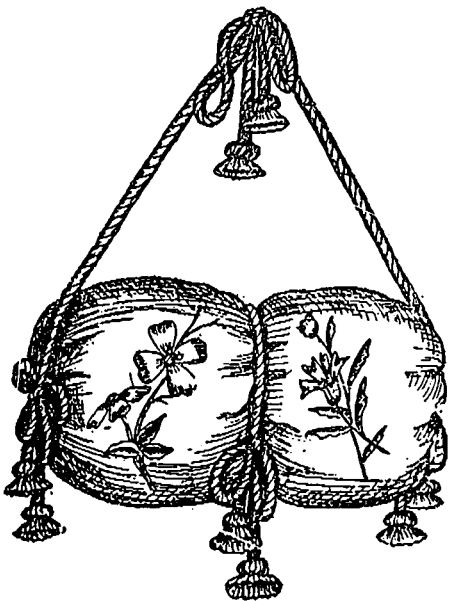
THE illustration below shows another device that has been found worthy of a patent. This is for the "Assistant Boss" or wife to use in the house. It is an ironing table with a rack



at the back on which to hang clothes and differently shaped boards to pull out, on which sheets, collars, cuffs and other garments can be easily ironed.—*Rural New Yorker*.

Ornamental Pin-Roll.

THE accompanying sketch illustrates a very dainty little pin-roll, handsome and ornamental, when suspended by the side of a mirror, or from any convenient hook that may happen to offer appropriate support, among the ornaments or furnishings of one's room. It is as neat and attractive as it is useful. To copy the design, make a solid roll of curled hair, two inches thick and four and a half long, and cover it smoothly with soft flannel or muslin, gathering and drawing in the cover of each end, as a bolster is covered. Slip this inside a cover made of pretty silk or satin, six inches wide and seven inches long, on which two floral sprays have been embroidered. Turn in a seam's width at the edge of one end, gather with strong, double silk, draw up closely and fasten in the centre of the end, finish the other end in the same way, but do not break off the silk. Change the needle for a long, slender



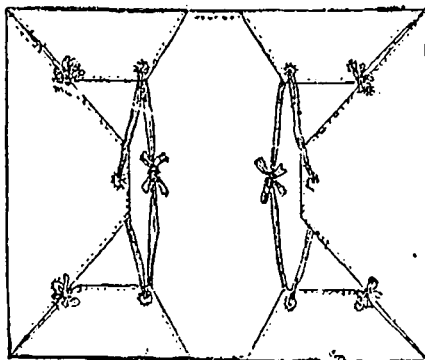
HANGING PIN CUSHION.

darning, run this straight through the middle of the roll from end to end, pull the thread short enough to give the ends a slightly puffed appearance with a depression in the center, and fasten it. Around the roll, midway between the ends, tie a silk cord, tipped with fluffy silk tassels, drawing it in closely, and knot the ends in front,

as seen in the sketch. The arrangement of the cords by which it is suspended is also shown. The full cluster of loops ornamenting each end is tacked securely over the centre gathers, entirely concealing them. Stock the roll with nice assorted pins, black and white, large and small, and suspend it as suggested and it will be found so pretty and handy that it will soon become indispensable. Figured or brocaded silk would make a pretty cover for such a roll, and ribbon might be used in place of the cord if one chose.—*American Agriculturist*.

A Book Cover.

A BOOK cover can be used for two very different purposes, either to protect an elegant binding when a book is being used, or to hide a worn and shabby cover when the book is on the table. Sometimes when the book has a paper cover it serves as a binding.



The sketch shows a convenient style of cover, one that is easily put on and that can be used on different sizes of books. When making such a cover it is best to cut a paper pattern first and then from this shape the material selected. For a handsome cover, a bit of quaint brocade of rich velvet would be appropriate, the edges bound with a narrow ribbon of a harmonizing color, using the same for the lacing and bows. A narrow gold or silver braid is pretty used instead of the ribbon.

Heavy linen is the most desirable material out of which to make a cover to be used for protection; for binding, lacing and bows, a fancy tape is appropriate. If desired, these covers could be ornamented by embroidering a monogram or some pertinent sentence on one side.—*Country Gentleman*.

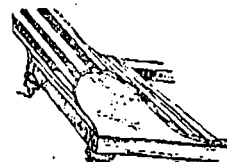
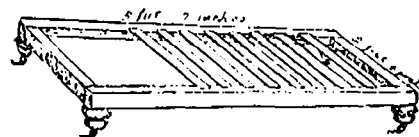
A Neat Sweeping Cap.

To make a sweeping cap, take a circle of cambric or silesia 18 inches in diameter. Make a casing an inch from the edge and run in a piece of thin elastic. Draw up to fit the head and fasten. The edge may be pinked all around or bound with a contrasting color. Aside from wearing this when sweeping, use it when cooking or baking; also when taking care of butter. Its advantages are manifest and its daintiness detracts nothing from the handsome appearance of the wearer.

A Home-Made Couch.

THE "settle," which was a feature of the habitations of our grandfathers, was of home manufacture, and it was strong—so much at least can be said for it, but when it comes to eulogizing those old settles on the score of comfort, a very vivid imagination is required. Its angularity and hardness, however, were probably not noticed in those days as they would be at present, because the people were not then familiar with many of the comforts and luxuries that pertain to living in the latter part of the 19th century. What a sigh of contentment "gran-sir" would have given could he have stretched himself out for an evening's nap, after a hard day's toil, upon such a couch as is

figured herewith! There were no springs, covered with soft material, in the rough affair on which he stretched his weary limbs, but



there are in this one. The slats across the frame are thickly set with the spiral springs that can be bought of the upholsterers, and these are then covered with a firm piece of "ticking" or burlap, and over this is evenly spread the material of which hair mattresses are made, or the finest and softest excelsior, or even a fine quality of a "springy" variety of meadow hay.

Then comes the cover; but first it may be found best to secure the hair, excelsior or hay with a cover of calico or cotton cloth to keep it properly in place, and to make it feel softer beneath the outer covering which may be put on as suggested in the illustration, the simplicity of the shape making the covering an easy matter, or, what is still easier, a portière curtain can be bought and spread over the couch with its ends and sides hanging gracefully down about it. They are used in this way at present, and can be bought in rich, soft and handsome patterns, the portières of the material known as "raw silk" being excellent for this purpose.

The frame work is so plainly shown that explanation is hardly needed, and the young person or the older person who has some ingenuity and a bit of skill in handling tools ought to be able to make a couch of this sort, that if not "a joy forever" will certainly prove a joy for no small number of years.—*Country Gentleman*.

Hints to Housekeepers.

The holes around lamp burners should be kept clean of grease and dust to admit air.

Plants should be watered at night, and never when the sun is shining directly on them.

Turn down the wicks in lamps after they are cleaned and trimmed, or they will draw oil over on the lamp.

Cut flowers can be preserved for several days by keeping them in an ice-box, or directly on ice, at night.

That as cheap as clothes pins are, it is extravagant to stand and fasten two garments on the line with one pin.

If there is no iron foot scraper at the back door, utilize a large-sized horse-shoe by fastening it to the edge of the steps by screws.

When loose old kid gloves are too dilapidated to wear in ironing, blacking a stove or working in the garden, cut them in strips and use them for tacking up growing vines.

When the furniture has been removed from a room preparatory to thoroughly sweeping the carpet run a sweeper over it first and see how much less dust follows the broom.

If overworked and a touch of the "blues" are imminent, go out in the sunshine and work among your flowers, and in a half-hour's time carking cares will have "folded their tents" and stolen away.