



A Satin and Lace Tidy

Tidies are regarded as nuisances by most gentlemen, nevertheless, a large chair without one presents a naked appearance, which none will notice sooner than those who profess to despise tidies of all kinds. Tidies should always be securely fastened to the chair, so as not to be carried off on the backs of callers. A pretty and easily made tidy is here illustrated. It is made of light blue satin and white lace. A piece of satin, and one of satin or silk, of the same color, eight inches square, are cut in two diagonally, the satin pieces are lined with silk by turning in the edges and over-casting them together. These two pieces are joined with insertion, or two pieces of lace caught together on the points, to form an insertion. If made of lace, it can be sewed underneath the satin to make it the required width—three across half inches. The tidy has lace all around the border, two and a half, or three inches wide. If the material to make the tidy is to be purchased, there will be needed: a quarter of a yard of satin, a half a yard of insertion, or three-quarters of a yard of lace, and a yard and a quarter to go around the edges. The turquoise lace is the prettiest—antique is more desirable. A spray of flowers painted on the satin will enhance its beauty, but these are not essential.

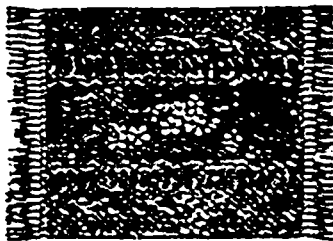


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An Afghan for the Baby.

The handsomest Afghan for a baby's carriage that has come to our notice, is made of light-pink color-down flannel. It was two thirds covered with cream white lace. The edges of the lace, that is, the embroidered edges, were placed toward the center, leaving a space there to be embroidered. The lace was caught down on the flannel, with silks of shades of pink and olive-green, the most prominent parts of the lace being worked over with the silks, giving it a most beautiful effect. A spray of



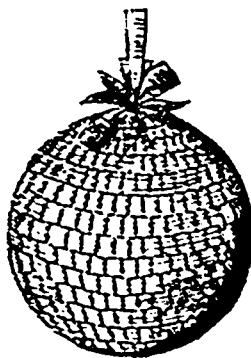
AFGHAN FOR A BABY'S CARRIAGE.

flowers was embroidered in the space in the middle. The fringe on the ends was made of pink worsted wool. Such flannel as that of which this was made, can be purchased for one dollar and twenty cents a yard, and it takes three-quarters of

a yard for one Afghan. The lace of the width used, can be bought for fifty cents a yard. It is not such an expensive affair as one might suppose it to be.

A Cover for a Ball of Twine.

How much can be accomplished at odd moments, if one feels so inclined. To have several kinds of fancy work commenced is a good plan, and keep them in a bag, where they can be had at a moment's notice. There is some work that demands all one's attention, but many others that can be done while chatting with a friend. A great many young ladies who have adopted this plan, find it adds much to the pleasure of entertaining their young gentlemen friends, and sets all round at ease. It has a cozy, home-like look, and we doubt if their friends think any the less of them for their industry. At this time of year, there is a demand for useful little articles in preparation for the fairs, which are so popular, and of which there are so many about strawberry time. The crocheted cover for a ball of twine is the work of only an hour or so, and is very pretty and salable on such occasions. At first, crochet a chain of five stitches, then widen to fit the ball; when the largest part of it is reached, crochet it of that width, until there is enough to cover the ball. Draw the twine from the center of the ball through the hole in the bottom, run a string through the top of the cover, and draw it together; tie it in a bow-knot, so that a new ball can be slipped in when needed. A bow of ribbon is tacked over this, with a long loop to hang it up by. A pair of small scissors attached to another piece of ribbon, will be found very useful. The cover can be made of silk or worsted. At the fair we have



CROCHETED COVER FOR A BALL OF TWINE.

seen them sell at one dollar each, with the small scissors, which are worth a quarter of a dollar.

Tray Cloths for the Table.

The devices called "tray cloths," take the place of a tray upon the table, and are useful, as they save a long table cloth many a washing, besides which, they greatly enhance the beauty of the table service. The tea tray cloth is made of pure white "Moccie cloth," half a yard wide. It takes a yard for one tray cloth; a very nice quality of the material can be bought for forty cents a yard. Plain white linen can be used if preferred. The material is fringed out on each end, for three and a half inches. A row of drawn work is above the fringe on each end. The designs in the corners and center, can be found among the transfer patterns at one cent each, they are applied with a warm iron, and worked in outline-stitch with red or blue working cotton. In sewing for the patterns, be sure to ask for blue ones if they are to be used on white, and red patterns, if for dark colors. The Carver's cloth is fringed all around, the designs are worked on in the way already described. This cloth can be made of plain linen, or Moccie cloth, the latter is now in favor for the Tray-cloth, as it is somewhat thicker than the plain linen, and therefore affords better protection to the table-cloth than those made of thinner material.

Sweet Homes.

LUCY RANDOLPH FLEMING, GREENSBORO, N. C.

Something more than well arranged rooms and a well filled pantry is necessary, in order to secure a literally "sweet" home. The housewife with an untiring vigilance, which needs to be, must keep watch from garret to cellar, lest disagreeable odors invade and take possession of the house—a domestic evil far too common among us. Says a bright, sensible writer: "There are homes to which I might be taken blindfold, and I should be able to tell where I was, by the perennial, seemingly inseparable odor." Many housekeepers would not be a

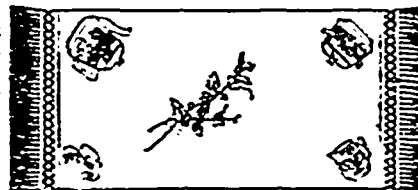


FIG. 1—A TEA TRAY CLOTH

little embarrassed if they knew how often the nostrils of visitors are taking silent, and unexpressed inventory of the fried meats, boiled vegetables, burnt fat, soapy ill-dried floors, and even the steaming contents of the wash-bowls, all the varied scents from which thoroughly pervade the house, and too often the garments of the household. The kitchen is in a large measure responsible for the odors that creep into halls, chambers, and closets, finding lodgment in carpets and curtains, in bed and other clothing, and even among books and bric-a-brac. But it is not the kitchen alone which creates the unsavory atmosphere too common in many homes. The stale odors of past meals may not only hang about the folds of one's dress, and even in the clustering curls of a child, but the smell of un-washed, not too well washed clothing, of close, ill-ventilated rooms, and bedding which rarely sees the sunlight, will certainly bring a "perennial" odor, rendering the home anything but "sweet." Tangible dirt that which may be seen, is in the main easy to get rid of, but that invisible, impalpable surrounding we call atmosphere, can both add and scatter so many germs of what may work as good or ill, that the housewife has need to look well to the ways of her household, and see whether these ways tend to a pure, or ill-smelling home. Bad odors will arise in the performance of much domestic work, true, but there must be scrupulous care taken that these odors do not permanently remain. The timely opening of windows and shutting of doors, the quick removal of certain refuse from the fire, a never ceasing warfare against the accumulation of greasy, dirty rags in the kitchen. These pots and jars of foul-smelling refuse, of which the cook is always going to make some mysterious use, but never does, should be disposed of. Thoroughly air all clothing, letting it breathe and frequent draughts of fresh air, will certainly help to keep down all sorts of disagreeable odors, and expel them from your house.

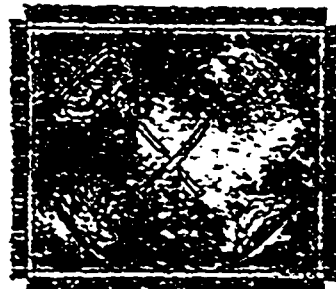


FIG. 2—A CARVER'S TRAY CLOTH

The writer has spoken before of the ill-odorous custom of making beds too soon after they have been vacated.