

draw-casing, through which is run silk cords finished with balls, or ribbon draw-strings. This model may be varied in many ways. Other material may be substituted for that named, or, for the box, one of the pretty little Japanese baskets so common nowadays. Or a basket may be made of macramé, crocheted to fit a chosen shape, stiffened with thick starch, allowed to dry on the mold, over which it should be tightly stretched, then shellacked and gilded. By taking molds of different forms and sizes, baskets for making hair-pin holders, cushions, work-bags, etc., may be easily and cheaply made at home by those of us who have more time than money, and other applications of this work will readily suggest themselves. Torchon, or home-made lace, stiffened and gilded, makes an exceedingly pretty finish for the edge of small tables or foot-rests.

The little emery cushion (fig. 2) allows the use of bits of velvet or plush. Cut two heart-shaped pieces of cardboard and two pieces of crimson velvet enough larger to allow for turning over the edge. Work a simple pattern in gold thread near the edge, cover the cardboard pieces, turning the edges of the velvet over smoothly and fastening them with glue, or long stitches which must be removed after a cambric lining is added to hold the outside in place. Sew a strip of gold-colored ribbon, one inch wide, to each edge, leaving three or four inches at the top before cutting off. Fill with emery powder or steel dust, gather the bit of ribbon at the top to form a frill, and sew a piece of gold cord at each side for a loop.

Another pretty adjunct of the sewing-table is a hanging thimble-and-scissors-case. It should be four or five inches high and two and one-half to three inches wide in the broadest part. Cut the back of cardboard, in the shape shown by illustration (fig. 3), cover with China silk, plain color, cutting the covering enough wider to allow of box-pleating, and an inch longer at top and bottom, this extra length being turned to form a frill. A double loop of satin or ribbon is sewed at the top to hold the thimble. Two semi-circles of thin cardboard, covered with canvas, embroidered and bound with narrow ribbon, are fastened, one on each side, and the back piece of cardboard, smoothly covered with cambric, satin, or any suitable material, is over-seamed to the front at the edge, which is concealed by a row of cord. A brass hook for holding the scissors is fastened in the center between the circles, and the case is suspended by loops of the cord fastened at the corner.

We have chosen this model for illustration because it, too, is adapted to other uses. No more dainty whisk-holder could be devised than this design enlarged, the semi-circles being joined in the center under a bow of ribbon. If preferred, the covering may be of plush or velvet, put on smoothly, and decorated with either the needle or brush.

A "real sunflower" pincushion (fig. 4) is something of a novelty, yet one which may be had in season for another Christmas. Procure a full blown sunflower, pull off the yellow petals, scoop out the seed center and hang it up for a few days to dry. When dry bronze or gild the sepals and the stalk, and fill the hollowed-out center with a cushion of brown plush, stuffed with cotton. This is best glued in place, and the edge is concealed by bronze or gold-colored cord or chenille, if desired. Instead of a cushion a round piece of looking-glass may be glued in the center, making a very unique hand-mirror. The stalk may be ornamented with a bow of ribbon if liked, a bit of decoration so common that it "goes without saying."

In these days of many lamps new ideas in shades are constantly appearing. A movable screen (fig. 5) may be easily made by any one at all adept with the brush, and will prove an acceptable gift to a student friend. These shades may be purchased ready for painting, made of gauze with narrow metal frame and hook for attaching to the lamp chimney or globe, or manufactured at home of thin cardboard covered with silk, bound with narrow ribbon, and furnished with a loop of rather coarse wire, fastened between the outside and lining of the shade. In this way the transparent effect of the gauze is lost, but the shade is quite as useful. A very pretty "day-shade" recently seen was cut from celluloid.

Key-racks or bangle-boards are not new but very useful little articles; for who does not lose boot-buttoners, keys, and other similar small items if

there is not a place especially provided for them? A new idea—the using of fancy brass nails in decoration—is given in the illustration (fig. 6). Procure a small rolling-pin, which will be turned for you at any wood-working shop, have one side planed off so that it will lie against the wall, and cover with plush of any preferred color, neatly glued on. Gild the handle, fasten a brass screw-eye at each end just above the flat portion, decorate the front with fancy nails placed about one-half inch apart and extending across the top, ends and bottom, put a row of brass hooks through the center, and suspend by means of ribbon loops and bows matching the plush in color. The brass nails or tacks, which may be obtained at any upholstery supply store, form a most effective decoration for velvet or plush-covered wooden boxes to be used as foot-rests, glove or handkerchief boxes, etc.

Pin cushions are never unacceptable gifts; one is always glad of something new to take the place of the old, grown shabby by use. One lately seen, which may be enlarged to form a cushion for a lounge-roll, served to utilize some scraps of ribbon in a very pretty fashion. A piece of plush seven by ten inches, or as large as the cushion is wanted, forms the top, which is decorated by two bands of ribbon, one of fancy brocade, the other made of bits of narrow ribbon joined crosswise, and harmoniously arranged as to color. Starting at one end of the plush these strips extend nearly across, or to within two inches, the other end of each being folded in to form a point; these are edged with fancy or gold braid or lace. The upper being completed, a piece of material suitable for the under part of the cushion is seamed together with it on the wrong side, leaving a small space unsewed; the cushion is turned, filled with cotton, cork-dust, or dried coffee-grounds, the aperture sewed up, the cushion surrounded by a silk cord, and the corners finished by a tiny rosette of ribbon with a button-mold covered with the plush in the center of each. (Fig. 7).

A cushion which may be used for pins of different kinds is made in this way: (Fig. 8). Procure a round Japanese or other basket, about three inches high and six or seven inches in diameter. Fill with curled hair to within an inch of the top, fastening over this a cover of net. Finish the top of the basket with a strip of satin, two and one-half inches wide, cut bias and put on like a shirred binding, forming a little frill when fastened on the outside. Knit or crochet a cover of looped work, with which every one is familiar, fasten it over the net, and upon this fasten, by the corners, a square of canvas worked with cross-stitch and edged with cord. This serves to hold other than hair-pins, which are to be thrust into the wool-work. A pasteboard box may be used instead of a basket, by covering it with plush or other material, and it need not be round, necessarily; where they can be obtained, however, a small basket will be preferred. Fancy baskets and boxes are much used for holding cushions. A box with a cover may be made to serve a double purpose by placing a cushion on the top and finishing the edge with a frill of lace as wide as the box is deep. A handy receptacle for jewellery, soiled laces, or similar articles is thus had.

The pretty hanging-cushion (fig. 9) consists of a square of congress canvas, worked in cross-stitch, for the front, a similar square of plush for the back, a puff of wide ribbon or satin matching the plush in color, for the edges, and ribbon two inches wide and of a color to harmonize with the remainder of the work for bows and loop. The design illustrated is worked partly in cross-stitch and partly in long and Italian stitch; our cross-stitch square may be substituted, however, and the pattern worked on open-mesh canvas over plush or cloth, the threads of canvas being afterwards pulled out.

Cross-stitch embroidery, in combination with Gobelin, Italian, and other stitches already in use, or which may be invented by the ingenious worker, was never more in favor than now. It is used on bed and table linen, wearing apparel, articles of home decoration—in short, it would be more difficult to say for what it is not used. Formerly only wools were used for this, which was called "Berlin work"; now we have the wash-silks, and, better, the linen art threads and flosses in sizes adapted to materials either fine or coarse, and of almost every conceivable color. Aprons of coarse serm, congress canvas, nainsook, lawn, or white or colored organdie in fine, even check, are very effectively trimmed with a border in cross-stitch of linen floss.

One of black organdie worked with pink floss, and with ties of pink ribbon, was particularly showy. (Fig. 10.) A pretty cross-stitch design is shown in fig. 10-A.

Do we not all number among our friends an invalid whom we wish especially to remember? What will be more acceptable to such an one, who delights to employ her hands and mind in "making pretty things," than a case (fig. 11) filled with embroidery materials. This case is made of Java canvas, eleven inches wide and twenty-three inches long. It is embroidered in long stitches with wool, and lined with either plain or figured silk, the edges of both outside and lining being turned in and sewed neatly together. A strap of ribbon three inches wide is fastened across the pocket about one-fourth the distance from the top, being stitched down perpendicularly at intervals to form loops for holding the skeins, and the lower end is turned up five inches to make a pocket for needles, thimble, pin-case, etc. A bow of ribbon finishes each upper corner of this pocket, and a piece of the same ribbon is fastened at the back to tie the case when shut.

A knitted ball (fig. 12) is always appreciated by the small people for indoor games. It may have a cord attached or, for the very little people, contain a rattle. A small rubber ball or bit of cork is wound with coarse yarn, which may be raveled from old stockings, until the size desired. For a ball of ordinary size, cast on 24 stitches of black or dark wool, knit 6 rows back and forth, join on the red, or whatever other color may be chosen, knit 6 rows, and so continue until there are 14 stripes. Join the ends, draw the cover over the ball, and gather the ends in tightly twice, so that the stripes will run to points, fastening them securely. In the way of shaving-books there would seem to be "nothing new under the sun"; they have appeared as wall banners, attached to rods, in book form, both cloth and paper-covered, and in various other shapes. The model illustrated (fig. 13), will be new to many. Cut a nine-inch square of light olive cloth or felt, pink the edge, and work with cross-stitch in terra cotta silk, line with olive satin or silk, and finish the edge inside with a band of terra-cotta cloth pinked on each edge and fastened in place by a row of feather-stitching in olive silk. Inside, a strap of ribbon extends diagonally from corner to corner and under this are placed the shaving leaves, seven or eight inches square, which may be either of soft paper, pinked, or linen fringed at the edges. Fold the square together to form a triangle, and fasten with ties of terra-cotta ribbon sewed half way between points on each side.

Blotters and pen-wipers never come amiss at the desk of a literary friend. The simplest blotters are best, since if used they are liable to become ink-stained, and the recipient of an elaborately-embroidered, plush-covered one will lay it away "to look at." One of the best models has covers of celluloid, the front one decorated with a little sketch in monochrome—an owl with a pen in his claw, seated on a straggling branch, for example—and an appropriate inscription in gold ink; four or five sheets of blotting-paper, cut a little smaller than the covers, are placed between them, and the whole is tied at the back with ribbon drawn through a hole punched half way from top to bottom. A dozen of these may be easily made in one day, except painting, and the small nieces and nephews attending school will appreciate one as a gift quite as highly as any of the older people. A penwiper (fig. 4) which seemed particularly appropriate when given a little country school-teacher, had for its foundation a small bell with fancy handle. Three circular pieces of black cloth were pinked at the edges, a small hole made in the center of each, the handle of the bell unscrewed, and the cloth circles, with a fourth round of dark-green felt, pinked and decorated with a row of stars or daisies worked in orange silk put over the bell and the handle replaced. A roll of black cloth may take the place of the bell, if preferred, a fancy handle of any kind being inserted in one end. The cloth circles are then put in place and a bow of ribbon tied around the handle. In preparing gifts at home let us all remember that nicety in detail and neatness of finish give more satisfactory results than the most expensive materials without; a scrap-bag of cretonne carefully made gives more pleasure to both the maker and recipient than one of plush having edges bungling turned and fastened with stitches the reverse of invisible.