



Planting the Christmas Tree.

CHRISTMAS means so much to the little ones, they think and talk of it so long beforehand, that we older ones must not grudge a little time and pains to give them this taste of fairy-land once a year. Those who live in the country need not lay out a primary expenditure of a dollar in a Christmas tree, but with the woods before them, select one to suit themselves. It is better in a regular cone shape from base to apex, and if not quite symmetrical should be trimmed in a shapely manner. If you have a big purse and can go to a store to purchase decorations, you need not read this article, but if you are obliged to make a penny go as far as possible, you may find here some useful suggestions. In the first place evergreen is brought from the woods, planted in a box and the earth covered about the roots with mosses and lichen. In this soft bed put toy sheep, a bird's nest with red and blue and yellow sugar eggs to brighten it might be placed in the crotch of the tree.

Among the pretty articles for decoration that can be made by children, and that are costless, are little sail-boats from English walnut shells. Halve them carefully with a penknife, scrape out the inside and varnish with shellac dissolved in alcohol. Glue in a slender mast on which paste a paper sail of gilt or silver paper. These sail very nicely, and have a very good effect suspended from the outermost boughs of the tree.

An old-fashioned but delightful trifle for a Christmas tree is the clove-apple. They are very nice to perfume bureau drawers, and a half dozen or more will be quite welcome. Choose small, firm apples, and stick them loosely with cloves. They will keep for years. You can save the expense of stands for candles by heating a bit of wire and inserting one end in the candle, the other in the tree. Rings of cardboard slipped over the candles will catch the drippings. Oranges and bright-red apples can also be suspended with wire, so fine as to give a graceful pendulatory movement to the fruit. Cornucopias to be filled with candies can be made from bright paper, and trimmed with silver or gilt, or with pictures to suit the fancy. Little lace bags made of wash bobinet, run up with gayly colored worsteds and tied with the same are also nice filled with candies. Sometimes a doll dressed in lace with silver wings, is tied to the top-most bough to represent an angel.—*Country Gentleman*.

Home-Made Christmas Gifts.

HERE are a few hints on home-made Christmas gifts, all being inexpensive and easily constructed.

1.—PAPER-WEIGHT.

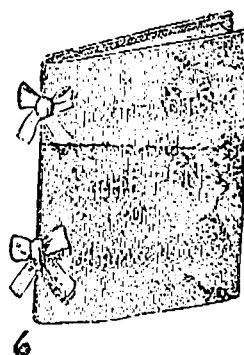
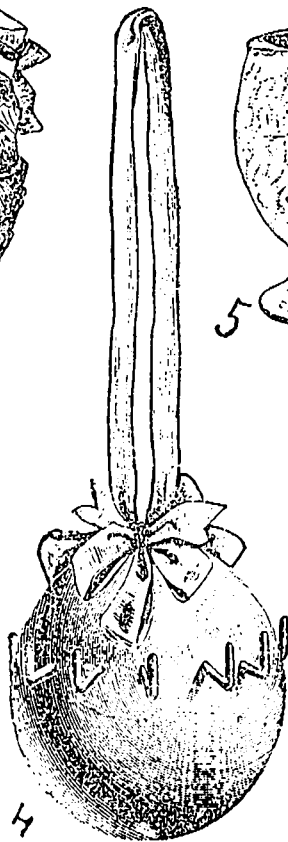
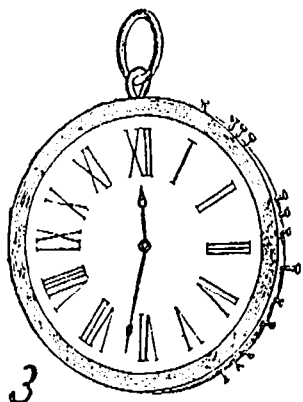
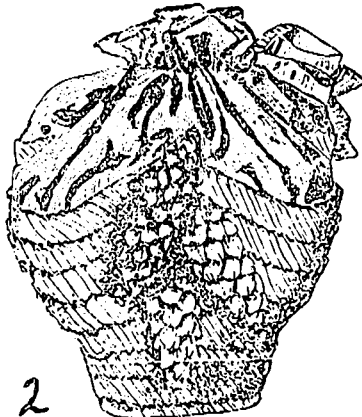
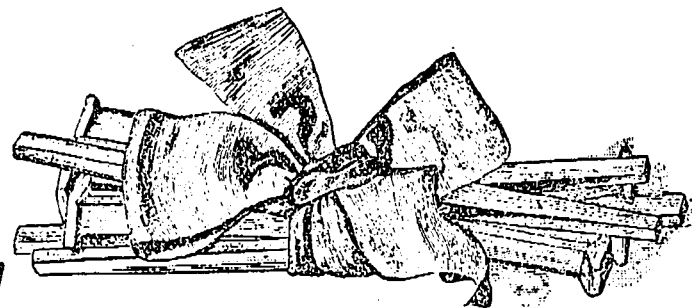
Gild six large-sized nails, and tie them securely together with a bright ribbon.

2.—BASKET FOR FANCY-WORK.

Pour boiling water on an old straw hat, this will render it perfectly pliable, bend it in any desired form, tie it in shape and let it dry, then sew around the top silk or satin, and draw it up with narrow ribbons, line the basket with silesia, matching in color the satin, decorate with pine-cones, and bronze both basket and cones. If preferred, a large bow of ribbon may take the place of the cones.

3.—POCKET PINCUSHION.

Cut two round pieces of card-board. Cover one with yellow satin and the other with white silk on which has first been outlined in black silk the face of a watch with surrounding rim filled in with yellow. On the back or yellow side of the watch an initial may be worked or outlined. Over-hand the pieces together, with a layer of cotton and sachet-powder between. At the top of the watch insert a loop of narrow



yellow ribbon formed by passing the ribbon through a small brass ring, and sewing the ends together. Around the edge place pins of assorted sizes.

4.—KEY AND BUTTON-HOOK RACK.

Is a key-rack. Gild a wooden ball (croquet ball will do), insert brass hooks at regular intervals, and suspend by a bright ribbon and bow, tacked with small tacks on the top of the ball.

5.—DECORATED VASE.

Any old vase, odd shaped bottle or bowl will do nicely. The illustration is made of a glass powder box left from an old broken toilet set. First cover the vase with thick paint, making a rough, uneven surface, fasten a small spray of artificial flowers securely to the vase while the paint is soft by imbedding here and there in the paint different parts of the spray. When the paint is perfectly dry, gild the vase all over

inside and outside, not forgetting the flowers and leaves

6.—A PEN-WIPER.

A bright little fancy for a pen-wiper is this: Make a few thin flannel leaves, book-shaped, and put them in covers of birch bark or morocco, just like a little book. Then have such an inscription as this stamped on the outside, or print it yourself.—*Youth's Companion*.

Hints to Housekeepers.

It is well to remember that rice is a vegetable.

Brass bedsteads may be polished simply with a soft rag.

Lamp-burners may be boiled in some strong borax water, rinsed thoroughly and dried quickly.

Pantry shelves sprinkled with oil of pennyroyal will cause ants to disappear.

A judicious use of the daily bath is a most excellent means of fortifying the baby's body against colds.

A little cold tea added to a sliced apple pie, will, it is said, add to its general relish and delectability. The tea should be poured lightly over the apples just before the upper crust is put on.

CURE EARACHE. — Ground black pepper placed in a tiny piece of cotton wool and put in the ear (so that no pepper can touch the ear) will often cure severe earache.

Palms, India rubber and other foliage plants used in the house need a weekly washing as much as household linen does. Plants breathe through their leaves and abhor dust. Each leaf should receive a light washing in luke-warm water with a fine sponge.

REVIEWS.

The Chautauquan for November is fully up to its high standard of excellence, and furnishes a wide variety of instructive and entertaining reading.

A timely and unusually novel and attractive feature of the November number of *Scribner's* is a series of Thanksgiving Fancies, ten full-page illustrations by well-known artists.

In the November instalment of "Personal Recollections of Joan of Arc," in *Harper's Magazine*, the story relates the episode of the first assault on the English at Orleans, and the capture of the Tourelles.

The Cosmopolitan is now published at the low price of \$1.00, but still retains its high literary and artistic standard. Two excellent departments are "In the World of Art and Letters," and "The Progress of Science."

McClure's Magazine for November opens a new and profusely illustrated history of President Lincoln, which will run through several numbers. It also contains some other excellent articles and stories by well-known writers.

The Illustrated London News prints a special American edition just as good in every respect as the home edition, and this superbly illustrated paper, always abreast of the times, is a welcome visitor in many a household on this continent.

Harper's Weekly during November contained interesting articles on the opening of the Carnegie Library at Pittsburgh; the Horse Show; the coming musical season in New York; the Marlborough-Vanderbilt wedding; and many others—all handsomely illustrated.

The Century Magazine celebrates its quarter-centennial in its November issue with an "Anniversary Number." In honor of the occasion it dons a new dress of type, &c., and appears in a new and artistic cover. Mrs. Humphrey Ward's new novel, "Sir George Tressady," commences in this number.

All the above first-class magazines are on our Clubbing List. See List on another page.