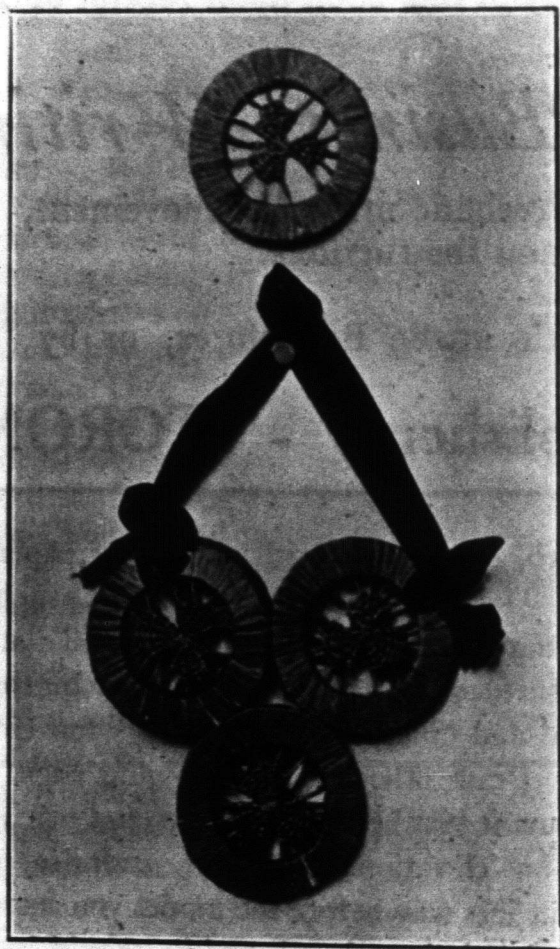


Raffia Work.—No. 2.

By T. B. KIDNER.

The method of covering a circular piece of card to form the tops and bottoms of boxes in cardboard-raffia work, namely, by cutting a hole in the centre as shown in last month's article, may be used in several other little exercises or models.

The half-tone illustration (below) shows one of these: a whisk-holder, formed of six raffia-covered cardboard rings joined together at the outer edges of the figure, and furnished with a piece of ribbon

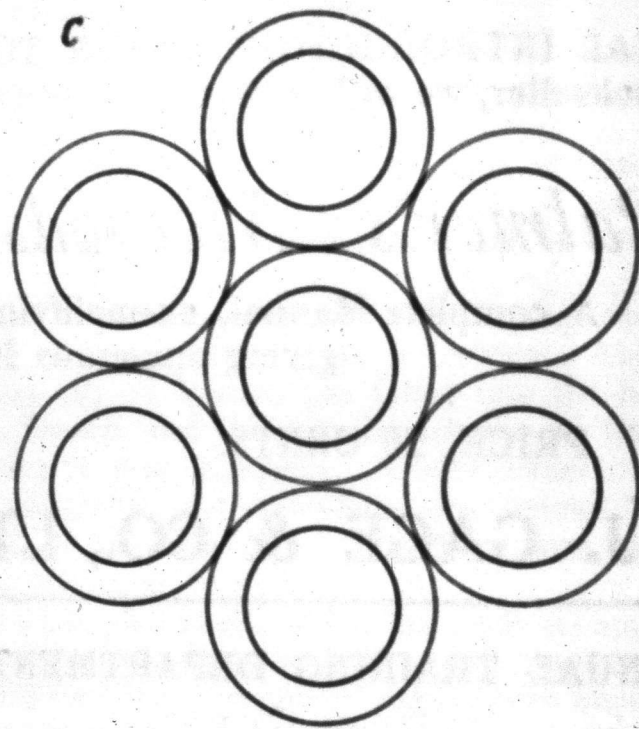


by which to suspend it. Above the whisk-holder is shown one ring, or unit, from which it may be seen that the ring is wound with raffia, as described in article No. 1. The centre is cut out rather larger than in the case of the box cover, and filled in with "Battenberg" stitch-work, as shown.

The articles from which these two illustrations were made are the work of children at the Kingston consolidated school last year. Raffia work was taken up there as a "domestic art" under the household science teacher, Miss Marvin, and many interesting articles were constructed. Miss Marvin suggested a method of finishing the rings which gives them a particularly neat appearance; that is, after the winding and centre work are completed,

the ring is well dampened and then pressed with a hot iron.

Grade teachers not used to the supervision of handwork are apt to complain of the difficulty of looking after forty or fifty pairs of busy little hands. This soon rights itself, but during the early lessons the ring and its possibilities—in the way of combination into various articles—will prove a convenience from the teacher's point of view. While nearly every pupil may require help and attention



in winding the first ring, facility is soon acquired by the majority, and the teacher is free to concentrate on the clumsier pupils.

Fig. C is an outline drawing of a hexagonal centre piece for a table, made by sewing seven articles together. Triangular, square and oblong table mats will also suggest themselves, and are quite simple to construct.

There is the objection to swearing which is fundamental, that it associates the noblest ideas with the meanest feelings. It is irreverent, whether we believe personally in reverence or not. There is a second objection to it, that it impoverishes the speech of the individual. It contracts his use of English, a language which is nobly capable of expressing any emotion from grave to gay without resort to expletives. The man who has only learned to swear out his indignation or admiration is poverty stricken, and will grow poorer and poorer in this respect as the habit grows on him.—*Ottawa Citizen*.