

HOUSEHOLD.

A Little Help.

There's help in seeming cheerful

When a body's feeling blue.

In looking calm and pleasant,

If there's nothing else to do.

—And thinks are all awry,

Don't vex yourself with caring:

'Twill be better by and by.

There's help in keeping tally

Of our host of happy days;

There's never one that dawneth,

But it bringeth cause to praise

The love that ever watcheth,

The Friend that's ever near.

So, though one tryst with sorrow.

One needs must dwell with cheer.

When troubles march to meet you,

Salute them at the door.

Extend both hands to greet them,

Their worst will soon be o'er.

Beat down their stormy bugles

With your rejoicing drums.

And, mailed in lofty courage,

Accept whatever comes.

—Margaret E. Sangster.

Personal Work and Thought in Gifts.

(Mrs. Henry Wright.)

Last summer, while staying at a hotel, I saw several ladies who employed all spare time making collars and drawn work table covers which they told me they put away as they finished until when the gift season came, they did not need to hurry and scurry about thinking up this thing and that for various relatives. The idea seemed most sensible, but for those who have not been so provident there still remains plenty of time to accomplish a great deal.

The housemother will do well in her planning to see that she can utilize the quiet hours after the children are in bed, and for these it is best to have work not too trying on the eyes. I do not know of anything better than crochet work. Many pretty and useful articles may be made of the soft bright wools. Slippers are getting to be a back number, but there is scarcely a holiday when one will not think of some relative who would appreciate a pair. A crocheted sweater is handsome and easily made. One of the nicest gifts for a baby is a cap crocheted of white knitting silk, and with ribbons run through and tied in fluffy bows on top. Afghans are always acceptable, and for larger children Tam o' Shanters and hoods are easily and quickly made.

It is getting to be more and more customary to make gifts of magazines and newspapers, and I think the idea excellent. These are always appreciated, and serve as a sweet reminder of pleasant thoughts twelve times in the year, when a present one might buy for the same money might bring but momentary enjoyment. Books are never inappropriate, and a sense of individual thought may be conveyed if in selecting them, one bears in mind some fad or especial fancy of the recipient, nature books for nature lovers and technical ones for life's real workers. I know an aged minister who was delighted last Christmas, because his daughter, who lived away from home, thought to send him a newer and better concordance than the worn volume of Cruden's he had used for years. His wife, an enthusiastic mission worker, was equally happy over the prescribed books for the reading course for the coming year.

It is this bearing in mind of personal characteristics which makes the really graceful gift, even if it is shown in something of slight material value. Without it the custom of holiday giving degenerates into a mere matter of exchange or perfunctory observance, and loses all of its significance.—Exchange.

Selected Recipes.

Real Scotch Shortbread.—Of all the cakes for which Scotland is so well known, shortbread is the most famous, and the following recipe for making real Edinburgh shortbread was given me by an expert. Put six ounces of fine flour and two ounces of rice flour into

a bowl with a small teaspoonful of salt. Beat eight ounces of butter into twelve ounces of castor sugar and rub it into the flour. Make a hole in the centre and beat in three eggs, dissolve a small piece of soda in a spoonful of boiling water and add to the egg. Make the whole into a smooth paste, and roll it out to about half an inch thick, cut, and place on a buttered baking pan. Bake in rather a slow oven for half an hour.

Graham Cookies.—Three cups of flour, three cups of oatmeal, one and one-half cup of sugar, one cup of butter, a pinch of salt, three teaspoons of baking powder. Mix with cold water, having the dough stiff enough to roll thin. Bake in quick oven.

Mashed Beets.—Boil and skin young and tender beets, mash together with new boiled potatoes, season with a generous amount of butter, salt and pepper to taste.

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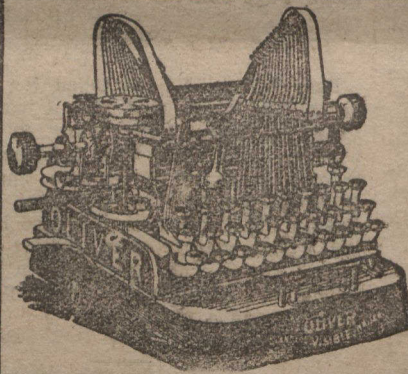
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