

WOMEN'S DEPARTMENT.

Conducted by HELENE.

CHRIST IS NIGH.

Hark, a thrilling voice is sounding;
"Christ is nigh!" it seems to say;
"Cast away the dreams of darkness,
O ye children of the day."

Startled at the solemn warning,
Let the earth-bound soul arise;
Christ, her Sun, all sloth dispelling
Shines upon the morning skies.

Lo! the Lamb so long expected,
Comes with pardon down from
heaven;
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
One and all to be forgiven.

So, when next He comes in glory,
Wrapping all the earth in fear,
May He then as our Defender
On the clouds of heaven appear.
—Latin Hymn of 5th Cen+—

The season of good wishes is with us. Everything round is bright with joy and anticipation. Bustling crowds are met everywhere. Store windows are resplendent with an abundance of all the good things of the season, and the small boy and girl are really the happiest, for they are possessors of that belief we have all hugged close to our heart of the existence of dear old man Santa Claus, and we see them, with their noses flattened against the window panes of the innumerable toy stores, their eyes sparkling with expectancy, choosing the things they are hopeful of finding in their Christmas stocking. Dear childish hearts! That they might retain this simple faith as they go down the years. But the careless day dreams will too soon be forced to give way to the stern responsibilities of life. That all old animosities may be forgotten; that the dawn of Christmas may bring peace and comfort to sad and lonely hearts; that the tone of true friendship ring through all the season's greetings, and that the brightest anticipations may be fully realized are the sincerest wishes we can offer to all our readers.

FASHIONS.

Gorgeous is the one word which will describe the fall veilings. Vivid blue, green, lavender and rose veils have been offered for the past few summer seasons, but they fade into insignificance when compared with the stamped chiffon effects of the hour. The girl who has only one ready to wear fall hat can give it a new twist by the possession of several veils which will combine well with the hat, for the new veils are draped to envelop completely even the broadest millinery.

The freakish fur novelty of the coming winter appears to be the yedda, which is nothing more or less than Russian calf-skin. The soft brown and white coloring of the skin is attractive, but in quality it is harsh and slippery, and it reminds one too painfully of the ordinary Canadian barn-yard calf to have pleasant suggestion. Used as a trimming, it sometimes has merits, but the short blouse boleros made from it are more bizarre than desirable, and conservative women will not take it up.

Chinchilla has come to be regarded as one of the standard furs, and too costly to be common, is worn, season after season, by women of good taste and liberal dress allowance. Belts do not seem so high as they were, but they are very pointed on the lower edge and extend a little down from the waist line. This gives the long, tapering, pointed waist for which the revival of the Louis XVI models are responsible. An evening cloak that would surely appeal to the heart of any woman who can wear the yellow, pink or peach color, is of peach pink chiffon velvet, and is draped at bust and shoulder so that it falls in folds calculated to display the quality of the velvet as well as the skill of the maker. A little heavy Venetian lace is used on the fronts and at the throat, and an edge of sable, or rather of marten, outlines all the edges of the coat. The construction of this wrap would be difficult for any one save an artist, but the coloring and materials would make a success of a coat built upon much simpler lines.

A new coat, eminently practical, has sprung into favor across the water, and will doubtless be on view here within the next few weeks. The coat bears an English name, the Doncaster, and is made much after the fashion of the hip seam ulster worn by men. It is fitted in the back, has hip seams and big flat pockets, and though suggesting a racing coat in outlines, is made up in varying materials for all purposes, including evening wear. Dainty pearl gray gloves for promenade wear and the pale tan and champagne white ones that are so modish have colored linings or smart colored gauntlets with pretty little button fasteners to match. The Biarritz glove, with its elastic run through at the wrist, is a pattern that always gains a steady amount of popularity.

Two button dogskin are worn with walking suits, and the lighter shades are most in vogue. Ribbon of two contrasting shades is very smart for trimming sailor hats. The crown is quite distinct from the brim in the new turbans. The fur felts of last year have given way to those of soft, silky appearance resembling velvet. Tulle is one of the latest trimming ideas and is used in great quantities.

Toques made of velvet leaves and fruit are very modish, particularly the vine and leaves of the muscatel grape. Ostrich tips arranged all around and against the crown is the favored mode of trimming.

TIMELY HINTS.

With proper planning, a gas range can be used very cheaply, and that without deprivation in any line of cooking. Some appliances which make this possible are the steam cooker, which cooks many dishes over one burner, and the section saucepans in groups of two or three, which can only be used over one burner. Many housekeepers have found a one-burner oven which set on the top of the range a decided economy and say that it soon pays for itself in the gas saved. This also solves the problem of a warming oven, the absence of which is the one objection to the gas range.

Oxalic acid, in weak solution, is the best thing to use when removing spots from leather. Two or three crystals of oxalic acid dissolved in warm water, then applied with a bit of cloth to the spots will do the work. But one must watch closely, and as soon as the spot disappears apply water to overcome the acid, which is a powerful bleacher. Afterward dry the leather with a clean cloth. This process applies as well to ink spots that sometimes disfigure the leather covers of books. For a tan colored sheepskin cover a saturated solution may be used. For any bright colored leather, the solution must be much weaker.

People who are boarding and do not have access to the kitchen, when desiring a pint or more of hot water, can easily heat the water over a lamp. Take the cover or top of a tin can, make several slashes in the centre and place on top of the chimney. Water or milk in a tin cup or earthen mug will soon heat when placed on this.

Buy a strip of asbestos cloth and use small squares to interline your iron holders. Keep a good-sized piece fastened to your ironing-board to save the sheet, and lay a square under the table-pad where the meat platter rests.

To clean worsted slippers or shoes such as are worn by invalids, in the bedroom, on the steamer and as a protection over dainty satin or kid evening slippers, remove the soles and bows and immerse the slippers in gasoline. Shake out thoroughly on taking from the jar and put in the air to dry.

Celery is invaluable as a food for those suffering from any form of rheumatism, for disease of nerves and nervous dyspepsia. When chopping suet, if it is sprinkled with a little ground rice it will not stick to the knife, and will chop quite easily. When cream is extremely rich it can be whipped more easily if a little milk is added to it. It will also whip more easily if it is well chilled. Discolored saucepans of enamel can often be made to look like new by boiling a little chloride of lime in the water with which they are filled. Never make pie crust in a warm room and never mix it with a spoon, but with an ice-cold knife. Use only ice water in moistening the pastry and shortening. The shortening should be cold and firm. Butter makes the best pastry. It is false economy to substitute anything else for it.

NEW USES FOR SUGAR.

Try adding a scant tablespoonful of sugar to each pint of gravy. It will impart a delicious flavor that cannot be obtained in any other way. Try adding sugar in meat soups in the same proportion, putting the sugar in just before serving the soup. Try adding a little sugar to oatmeal while it is cooking, instead of putting it on when served at the table, and it will be much improved. Try adding the sugar to apple sauce after the sauce is nearly done, or just before it is served, as the sugar added while the apples are cooking will make some varieties hard and tough.

MARY IN BETHLEHEM.

(By J. Gertrude Menard, in December Donahoe's.)
I did not think to stray so lone so far from home;
But since we come I know He wished me thus to roam.
I did not think to lay Him in a manger chill;
But since 'tis done I know it is His holy will.
I did not think to see the rough kine at His head,
But since they watch I know He loves them near His bed.
Not any dream, forsooth, that made my long delight,
Comes true with mystic pow'r upon this wondrous night,
Save one alone—the Word at last made flesh for me;
But since He lives, my Son, what other joy may be!

HOW TO MAKE CHRISTMAS NOVELTIES.

Men are often glad of a pincushion to hang up in their rooms, provided only that it is not too feminine in appearance. A very novel pincushion can be made of a pipe case, which should be new and fresh looking, and which it is often possible to obtain for nothing from a brother or a friend. Make a cushion exactly to fit the hollow which held the pipe or a little larger, as it must be well pushed into the case, the hollow being covered beforehand with glue. The cushion should be stuffed with sawdust or anything soft and covered with some pretty velveteen or silk, the color being carefully chosen to match or contrast with the case. A pale brown or fawn color looks well, as a rule. Of course the pipe case will be double, being open, and one side can, if desired, be left as it is or utilized as a cushion for needles. A ribbon bow of color to match must be added at the top to hang it up by.

The turnover collars we all wear lose their chic air and freshness if tumbled around in any kind of fashion. A neat and inexpensive and particularly useful to carry the neck pieces in when travelling is made of heavy crash. White is the wisest choice, as this color launders best. Cut a piece of crash a foot wide and eleven inches deep. At the top make a flap the shape of a turnover collar with a dip in front. At the ends hollow out little rounded pieces, which serve to hold the collars in place. Turn up the lower part of the case to the required depth and bind all around with wide linen tape. When finished starch stiff and iron, until perfectly dry.

A cushion for stick and hat pins, which have a most provoking habit of losing themselves, is fashioned from a stocking leg. To make this variation of the pincushion shape a small leg as far as the knee out of some stout material and stuff it well with bran. After cutting the worn foot from a black silk stocking, place it over the padded leg. Cross narrow yellow satin ribbon in trolleys pattern up the stocking leg and finish off with a pretty bow and loop. The joint at the top where the stocking stops is hidden by a frill of orange and black spangled chiffon. The pincushion hangs from a loop at the back.

A pretty spectacle case is quite easy to contrive if the maker of Christmas gifts is possessed of nimble fingers and a little patience. Here cardboard must be called into requisition, and two good sized oval pieces, cut, which should then be neatly covered with black velvet, lined with colored silk and afterward joined together, the outer edge being finished with a little narrow gold cord.

HOW CHRISTMAS PRESENTS MAY BE WRAPPED UP ATTRACTIVELY.

Even the most long wished for or the most charming gift is robbed of some of the joyous Christmas spirit if it is sent carelessly wrapped or is done up like an ordinary everyday parcel, and even the most simple gift receives an added grace if it is put up attractively and is accompanied by a bright, pleasant greeting.

The Christmas gifts may be given a festive appearance at a very small outlay of time and money by wrapping them in scarlet or white paper and tying them with scarlet ribbon, fastening a sprig of holly in the bows, says a writer in *What to Do*. The effect will be so cheery and Christmas-like that manila paper and twine will never be thought of again. Little boxes such as jewellers boxes, wrap up in white paper; candy or similar shaped boxes in two papers, the inner one white, the outer one scarlet. Gather the ends up on top, clip into points and frill out. Wrap books in scarlet paper, pin cushions or other fancy work, in white, bundles in scarlet or white and scarlet, tying at the ends with ribbon. Umbrellas and canes wind with strips of white and scarlet paper, transforming them into time-honored candy canes.

In doing up china sets for the bureau or desk, or oatmeal or teacotets, wrap the pieces in scarlet paper, grasp up on top and tie. Then clip into poinsettia blooms. Wrap the tray or plate in green paper and tie the blossoms on with ribbon. Cards the size of a visiting card may be bought as cheap as a penny apiece. More expensive cards may, of course, be purchased if one's purse holds out. A very pretty card has a border of holly in colors, with a blank space to write or letter the Christmas wish upon. This may be the usual greeting or a quotation. Any of the following lines are pleasant wishes to send with a gift:

Yule logs of love burn in the heart
With rosy warmth and cheer,
And Care—well, may she come at
most
Like Christmas, once a year.

A happy Christmas to you,
May it bring you all fair things
With the sweetest remembrance
That about its coming clings.

Sunbeams bless thy Christmas day—
Gladness with thee dwell for aye.

A better gift you may have, but not
with better heart.

Our true intent is all for your delight.

HOW TO ILLUMINATE THE TREE.

The illumination of the tree is an important problem, for by the discreet use of candles many a joyous Christmas has been turned into one of mourning. Tiny Japanese lanterns are much safer than unshielded candles, and they give a prettier effect. The small square lanterns with colored mica sides are also safe, for they have a sponge in the bottom that may be saturated with kerosene. When the wick is lighted it burns brightly and lasts longer than ordinary wax candles.

HOW TO THAW FROZEN GREENS.

It often happens that Christmas greens are frozen in transit. In such cases put them at once into a very cool, dark cellar where they can thaw out very gradually. The temperature should not be allowed to exceed 45 degrees F. Frozen holly is very little damaged if intelligently treated, but a single night in a warm express car may cause it to turn black. Mistletoe and wild smilax are much more susceptible to frost injury.

CHRISTMAS RECIPES.

It has been said that "one swallow doesn't make summer," but one turkey certainly would make a Christmas all by itself if correctly dressed for the serving.

Never buy a fowl weighing less than ten pounds, as below that weight you get bones instead of flesh. A fowl weighing anything over eight

pounds does not have any larger frame, than one at that figure. But it commences to lay on flesh, and this is what counts.

A twelve-pound turkey is none too large for a family of four or six. See that the legs are black and smooth, not grayish, with heavy scales. The skin should be white and easily broken.

After a turkey is trussed, wet all over, dust with pepper and salt, and cover with a thick coat of flour. This will give a crisp skin. After placing fowl in "dripping" pan, fill as full as possible with boiling water, place the giblets, liver, heart, gizzard in, and commence to cook. At the end of allowed time, this liquid should have been absorbed by the fowl, leaving a rich brown sediment in the pan to form the basis of the gravy. The giblets should be minced fine and added to the latter.

A delicious dressing is made of the inside crumbs of two 10-cent loaves of bread a day old. Crumble fine, add to this one cup of butter melted, one tablespoonful of salt, two tablespoonfuls of pepper (one of black and one of paprika), one medium onion, bunch of celery, twelve stalks parsley, if fresh, or one tablespoonful of dried, all minced very fine, and two eggs. Whip together, fill your bird and sew up the vents.

Place the fowl breast downward in the pan, as this allows the juices to run into the white flesh, making this usually dry meat juicy and delicious. Turn the turkey breast up about one hour before removing from oven so as to brown it.

In roasting allow fifteen minutes for each pound for young fowls; older ones require at least twenty minutes. Cook slowly until half an hour before it is done, then start up the fire briskly to brown and crisp the skin. Baste with juices in pan every ten minutes, as herein lies the secret of a juicy, well-flavored turkey.

King's Gift to Monks of St. Bernard.

At the celebrated Hospice of St. Bernard there arrived lately a splendid piano, the gift of King Edward. The fling, accompanied by General Codrington, visited the Hospice in 1858 and then presented a piano to the monks. It has stood since in the principal room, protected by a cover bearing the inscription "Fideliter, fortiter feliciter." Monks and numerous travellers had thus found musical amusement in the midst of the icy mountains. This year the King learned that the old piano was worn out, and so he sent a new one through the British legation at Berne. This was, with great difficulty, taken from Martigny by sledge over the snow-covered mountain roads. The monks received the gift joyously and thankfully.

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OUR BOYS

Dear Boys and Girls:
So at last the happy merry jingle of sleigh bells with their last ordering faces are seen looking in like in such superabundant looker. Everything bright and full all the stockings and that they may realize their merry Christmas to you.

Dear Aunt Becky:
I always read the letter True Witness, and I find it nice, and I thought I would. I am a little girl of I went to convent. I am now, because I went under a nun after Christmas. I will be Christmas comes to get and, Aunt Becky, put stories in for the children True Witness. I think I good bye, hoping to see me the True Witness.

Dear Aunt Becky:
I am always anxious for letters to come so as to be recognized my letters. Will busy from now to Xmas Maggie and I are going Shrefford on Friday. We were in St. Lawrence last summer a beautiful time. We all riding and ate dinner and the lake. We all hope to next summer. The sleigh very good here. I guess write again till after Xmas merry Christmas and happy Year to you are the wishes Granby, Que.

Dear Aunt Becky:
I was so pleased that you of my name in your letter, of fun to read all the letters of the True Witness. We have horses to drive and work. Papa says he is going to break one of them this winter can drive it. All the children have not made their first snow have to go to confession tomorrow. Rose and I are going to the city. Wishing you Xmas and happy New Year.

A VISIT TO SANTA CLAUS.
"Close your pretty brown eyes, darling, and dream of the said Mrs. Wynndham, as she said back the dark curls of baby's face and tucked her sister little white cat.
Baby Eva was a winsome mite of seven summers.
"I'll dream about the angel you like, mamma," she said quickly from under the blanket.
"But afterwards I'll dream of Claus. For, you know, I would to bring me a real live doll—one that can walk and talk and open and shut its eyes. Do he will, mamma?"
"If you are a very good little girl, perhaps he will, Eva. But must sleep now. Santa Claus does not be here for three days so comes on Christmas Eve."
"Per'aps Santa Claus won't that we've changed our house. ma. Does he know that we are poor dead and that we are poor she asked, drawing her mouth down close to hers.
"It makes mamma sad when baby talks like that," she said, as her head nestled beside child's on the pillow. "So I wants to be mother's darling must close her eyes and talk angels."
"But if Santa Claus does not where we live he can't come with good things, mamma, what I ink."
"But Santa Claus knows where all good children live, ed the mother with a sigh. She was thinking of paltry dollars that by dint of management she had saved the time of her husband's one. "Where does Santa Claus bring?" still persisted the one, not knowing that every brought a pain to the heart.
"He lives all alone in a big surrounded by trees. Ever for weeks before Christmas, down those trees and puts t