

## Handiwork.

Any question of general interest regarding home decoration will be answered in this column. Any suggestions, contributions or letters from those interested in this department will be welcomed.—Ed.

## Descriptions.

In fig. 1. is seen a bonbon-bag of silk and lace, lined with stiff muslin, and decorated with artificial flowers.

In fig. 2 is seen a biscuit box of cardboard, covered with gimp, in showe colors, and lined with silk, on which is a braided design. This pretty article can be made by any one who has a little skill in fancy work.

In fig. 3. is seen a very handsome bag, which may be used for embroidery materials, or as an ordinary workbag. The top is in silk, and the body of the bag is in silk canvas, worked in the plain cross-stitch, with the Russian colors in floss silk. The silk is tufted at the two corners on each side of a cluster of baby ribbon. The dull red and green show well in such work when the tint of the canvas is grey or pale yellow.

A wall pocket of the latest style is made of pale rose colored silk, with a trimming of small chenille tassels. The back is of cardboard, to which the silk is sewed, and prettily clustered at the top above a bag-like section so simply arranged as to be understood at a glance.

A wall-pocket so arranged as to be useful either as a pocket-emptier or as a newspaper-bag, is made of light green plush, with a border of lace and handiwork. The lining is of the same tint of any suitable material.

A glove satchel of pale amber colored kid, hand painted, with a small design of morning-glories in pink and blue, and lined with pale blue satin. A bow ornaments the front. This satchel is so simple as to require no description of the manner of making it.

A novel ornament for a gaselier has been recently introduced in the shape of a triple-fan, bordered on the edge with artificial flowers. You purchase three fans of the screen shape, as unlike one another as possible, as in their varied color and decoration a part of the picturesqueness of effect is found. Around the edge of each one, and upon the handles, you attach a row of the smallest but brightest artificial flowers that you can find, selecting those which have a slender, flexible stem, which enables you to give a pretty drooping effect. When your flowers are fastened, take the three fans and tie the handles in such a way as to give the shape of one large fan. Attach this by the handles to the gaselier, letting it hang as low as possible without being in the way. Do not omit to select fans of which both sides are ornamented, and put your flowers on both edges. If you do not succeed in finding such fans, which may be the case, as they are more rare than those with having designs on one side only, you must make up for the lack of such pictures by covering the plain side with flowers or small bows of ribbon. This kind of ornament is much liked at present, and is especially pretty when ornamented with flowers which harmonize with the colors in the design; but perfectly plain fans cut into a flower shape, and decorated with blossoms of the kind of which the shape has been chosen in the outline of the fan, are as much admired as the already ornamented kind which we have described.

Another pretty article, and one which is used in various ways and may be attached to the gaselier, wall or the under part of a suspended bracket, is a butterfly in plush, with gold lace around the sections of the wings, and cabochons of jet or gold, to simulate the markings seen on the insect, gold wire being used as the feelers.

When put to the purpose of a photograph frame, this article is



ELONGATED CUSHION.

made five times as large as a real butterfly, and is intended merely for small pictures, but it is very good as a frame for such pictures, and serves to protect their edges, and when hung up by the feelers themselves has an effect of novelty as well as the oddity still sought in such things.

A case for notepaper, made by covering a cigar box with kid, which must be decorated with hand-painted flowers, and lined with silk, is quaintly adorned by toy mice, resting upon the top, and at the base of two little muslin bags filled with bran, and tied with ribbon, and meant to represent bags of flour. These bags serve to keep down the top of the case, which does not require a fastening. A good selection of color for the outside is green, and pink for the lining. Let your mice be placed so as to seem to be nibbling the bags, and tie the top of each one of these sacks with ribbon.

The same design is used for little bags of almond meal, such as is now so much liked for, toilet purposes, and in such a case the part on which the toy mice rest should be of cardboard, and serves to contain a portion of the meal, or the shavings of castile soap, which are added to the meal to make the bath-bags now used.

Bath bags contain almond meal, orris root and the fine shavings of soap above mentioned.

The way to make a bath-bag is as follows: You take a piece of cheese-cloth, and cut two sections about four inches long. You sew these together on the edges, leaving the top open; this top you hem and run in a string. Fill in with the meal, soap, and orris root—this last being, of course, in powder—and you have it ready for your bath. After use, let it be added, it must be emptied and washed, and laid out to dry. Then keep in the little case above described, where you can lay it on the top of the meal in readiness for use.

As it is the fashion to display all kinds of knickknacks upon the drawing-room table, it may be as well to know that among them



HARVEST TIME.  
(Suggestion for a Decorative Panel.)

are the oddest melon-shaped baskets of cardboard or stiffened canvas, covered with brocaded satin or light plush, with an embroidery in gold thread or brilliant beads, the top being of soft surah, with a drawing cord. These bags serve to hold bonbons or fine fruit. Other baskets of gilt bamboo, adorned with work in floss silk on the sections of silk displayed on the sides, are intended for notepaper.

A square work-basket, having pockets on three sides, is made over a rattan shape with supporters, and is constructed to measure half a yard on the sides and three-quarters on the front and back. You require some pretty thin silk to line this basket—yellow being a good color, and for the outside dark plush of a blue, red or green tint, as your more showy effects can be produced by using brocaded satin or silk or figured woolen for your pockets, which should be lined with a bright color also, and have an edge of metal cord and loops of the same. Large bows of gay ribbon hold the pockets to the basket, and decorate the handle and top of the supporters. Well made, such a basket amply repays the trouble taken by the maker.

## Mending Bag.

The following directions are for an extremely simple but useful mending bag. The plain sateen front and back pieces are each made by covering a piece of cardboard eleven by nine inches (narrowed to seven and a-half at the bottom), and a narrow strip, three and a half by seven and a half, is similarly covered for the bottom; the three pieces are then joined by overhand seams on what is to be the inside of the bag.

A piece of figured sateen or cretonne, twenty-one by thirteen

inches, is given an inch-wide hem across the top, and is drawn up closely with long, running stitches at the bottom, and sewed to one end of the narrow bottom piece; each side of the gathered piece should now measure eleven inches, and be sewed to the correspond-



NO. 2.—FANCY BISCUIT BOX.

ing sides of the plain front and back. This finishes one side or end of the bag. The other end is finished in the same way.

Across the inside of the back piece is placed a full pocket, eight inches deep, to hold balls, spools, etc. The top is finished with a shirring for an elastic band beneath a narrow standing ruffle. Above the pocket are tacked flannel needle-leaves and scissors straps. Sometimes an interlining of wadding is placed beneath the inner cover of the back piece, and the whole used as needle-book or pin-cushion. Sometimes the pocket is omitted, and a third piece, just like the front and back, is fitted in between the two, to divide the bag into two equal or unequal compartments.

Small brass or silvered rings—or home-made ones of wound wire covered with knitting silk or floss in closely-worked double crochet—are sewed to each upper corner of the front and back, and three more are sewed crosswise to the hem of each side-piece—one in the middle and one four inches from each corner ring.

A narrow, stitched band of the plain sateen is run through the rings, and the ends are neatly joined. This forms the means of suspension, and also allows the bag to be opened easily and widely when in use. The lettering is worked with silk or floss in colors to match the figures in the side-pieces.

Such bags, though handy to use for any family mending, are especially convenient for stockings, which may be dropped into them every week as soon as dried, there to wait, in company with thread, yarn, needles, etc., till mending day arrives.

## A New Idea.

The beautiful yokes in crochet, which are showing patterns so attractive, are utilized by some ladies as follows: We will suppose that a lady prefers to retain, even in the cold weather, her low-necked and short-sleeved underwear, as some, who are not sensitive to cold, can do. She takes one of the yokes alluded to, and which is made broad enough to come almost up to the throat, besides having the wing-shaped piece which forms a sleeve-top. She divides this yoke in the centre and runs a lace on each of the parted edges. She sews this yoke all round to the top of her corset. As the corset fastens in front she has no difficulty in adjusting the yoke, simply passing her arms into the short sleeves when putting it on, as into those of a low-necked, front-fastening bodice. She is then as warm—having already her low-necked jersey underjacket—as some wish to be, even in winter. The lined

waists of cloth dresses are so heavy that many will be glad to make use of the idea given here.

## Unsuitable.

"This ticket won't do for me," complained Swayback, when the bridge-keeper gave him a ticket on which was printed: "Good for one foot passenger."

"Why not?"

"Because I have two feet."



NO. 3.—HANDSOME BAG.