

## MORE OCCUPATIONS FOR INVALIDS.



AMONGST the non-artistic work, while closely bordering on it, is modelling in perforated cardboard, a delightful work for invalids, as it provides just that degree of absorption which is needful to make them oblivious of their discomforts. An invalid lady we have lately heard from, who was completely incapacitated for all active work by spinal complaint, managed to do much of this work, and most artistically was it performed. Amongst the really beautiful works done by her were models of churches, monuments, and houses,

which would be beyond the power of some helpless invalids to put forth; however, to many perhaps, with the use of both hands, this would not be an objection. Spatter, or spatterie, work is another occupation which may be pursued on an invalid table; also feather and fern work.

Patchwork would prove a great delight to many an invalid, were they not tired of the old, used-up designs. I am enabled to illustrate here two modern ideas on the subject. They are all so well drawn as to explain themselves. The first is named appliqué patchwork, after the manner in which it is put together—first tacked loosely, then gone over in herring-bone or coral-stitch with yellow or white crochet silk; the effect of this patchwork is dependent on the taste with which it is put together. The second is what is known as Canadian, or loghouse, quilt patchwork, and consists of a foundation of soft old cotton, about a quarter of a yard square, on which the long pieces are run, as shown in the engraving.

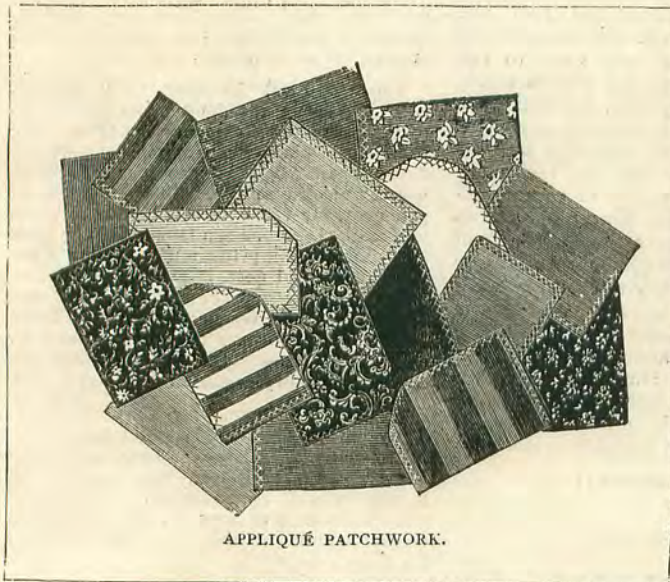
The illustration of the stamp-snake will, I think, be welcomed as a pleasant new idea by the invalid readers of THE GIRL'S OWN PAPER. They take some time to make, and form a kind of stand-by work, which can be taken up at intervals as the stamps are collected by the invalid or her friends. Each stamp must be carefully cut out from the white paper which

surrounds it, and the four corners slightly rounded. On an average four thousand stamps are needed for the snake's body, and two thousand for its tail. The head is made of coloured velvet, green being preferable; and the eyes and marks on the head are put in with coloured silks, the opening of the mouth edged round with a black- and - white braid. The same is wound round and round the velvet-covered

me as novel. On examination I found they were covered with old postage-stamps, arranged with great effect in patterns. These were evidently gummed on the crockery first, and then varnished, so that they could be washed without detriment. The patterns were mostly produced by the higher-priced English and foreign stamps, while the background was composed of the common penny English ones. I have also heard of common deal tables being ornamented in the same way, the legs of which were stained and varnished."

Macramé lace—or, as it appears to be now called, Irish string lace (probably from the manufacture having been lately introduced into that country, in the hopes of giving employment to the women and children)—is another good employment for our invalids. It is the most delightful work, when once thoroughly mastered, and the pleasure of being well enough versed in the art to compose your own patterns is very great. It is now much used for the trimming of dresses, especially linen ones, which are thus called string dresses, the over-skirts being nearly all composed of the open macramé.

And now we come to the more difficult question of those unfortunate invalids who can only work with one hand. If it is the right hand the difficulty is less, of course, than with only the useless left hand to depend upon. It has often occurred to me how much wiser it would be to make both hands equally useful, so that being deprived of the use of one we might not be so helpless. Some children are by nature ambidextrous, that is, they have the use of the left as well as the right hand; and in such fortunate cases it seems to me it would be well to foster the good gift moderately, and endeavour to make it useful in some cases. As the left hand often merely acts as a holder, the work being done by the right hand alone, of course most things can be managed, even when the use of the left is lost, as a leaden pincushion can be made to answer, and work can be fastened to it. Plain needlework, however, is impossible under the loss of either hand, and so is tatting and crochet. If the scissors can be used with either hand that is a great step in advance, and opens the door to many things useful. For instance, the patterns of patchwork we give can be then managed with either hand, and with the aid of a leaden



APPLIQUÉ PATCHWORK.

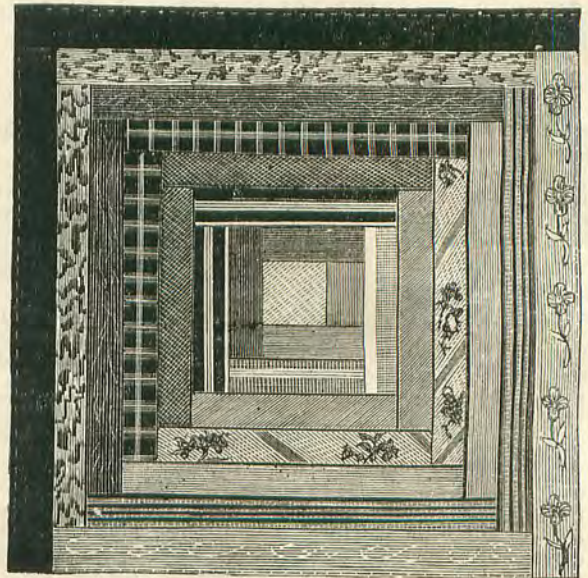
which were exquisite in their neatness and finished beauty. She also did flat pincushions, needlebooks, &c., with raised patterns on them, made by laying the perforated cardboard on in layers, each one being smaller than the other, till they ended in one single line at the top of the pattern.

Paper-flower making is another non-artistic employment, which is very profitable in some cases. Lessons in this art can be procured in London, and the beauty of the flowers made is quite a subject of wonder; and, judging from a story told in the *Gardener's Magazine* some time ago, the really-good examples have taken in even experienced gardeners, who demanded to know "where that exquisite new species came from!"

Wax-flower making is akin to this, but is not in demand, so far as I hear; though as an amusement it would be delightful, it would not be a profitable form of work. Modelling in leather is another non-artistic work, which only requires a good eye and some artistic taste to carry on. There is, perhaps, one drawback in the amount of strength required,

tail. As a finish, the tongue should be of a deep-pink flannel.

These stamp-snakes sell well at sales and bazaars, and appear universally popular. They are excellent occupation for the invalid, as they are interesting, and need a certain amount of individual taste exercised in their making to render them effective. The only other method of using stamps that I am acquainted with I may as well mention here, and that is one which was recently seen by a lady traveller at the Hague:—"In a glass case, in which photographs and other articles were exhibited for sale in the coffee-room, I saw several saucers, cups, and plates, which struck



CANADIAN PATCHWORK.

cushion to fasten the work to, this pretty patchwork can be accomplished. The smallest bits of cloth or velvet come in, and an ordinary penny is used for the model of each piece. The foundation should be something strong and dark in colour, and strong black thread should be used to sew the pieces with.

An invalid lady I have recently heard of, having the use of the right hand only, manages to do the most beautiful knitting (of course, not stockings, socks, or anything requiring four needles) with two rather long needles, one pin being fastened at the edge of a table by means of one of those small, old-fashioned pincushions, with a screwed clamp, which fastens to the table. A hole for the needle made through this keeps it quite firm. The knitting off this needle can be accomplished with the right hand. Wooden or bone needles are best, as steel are too slippery. Petticoats, Afghan rugs, couvettes, can all be accomplished in this way with one hand. This little pincushion might be fastened to one of the invalid tables we have before illustrated, and so made useful to the partially-reclining invalid. They have been found invaluable by a paralysed lady for many years.

What is called rack-frame knitting, for which full instructions and diagrams were given in vol. ii. of the THE GIRL'S OWN PAPER, page 488, is also a suitable work for invalids with only one hand; so is the old hairpin crochet, provided the small frame can be fastened on some small stand. Berlin wool work, crewel and silk embroidery in upright standing frames, or arrasene work, are all within the reach of our invalids with one useful hand; so is the bright mosaic work with pieces of glass, which was brought out some time ago, we believe by Salviati, the great Italian glass manufacturer.

But of all the sources of happiness to the invalid, I think the possession of a "hobby" is certainly the most valuable. Be it what it may, the most harmless and foolish, or the deepest and wisest, the invalid's hobby will constitute her life's pleasure, and will in some cases conduce to her better health. A collection of some kind is one form of hobby, which should be encouraged. Autographs, postage stamps, a penny museum, coins, and seals, even down to the wonderful collection, which a friend has amassed, of the pipes of all nations and people.

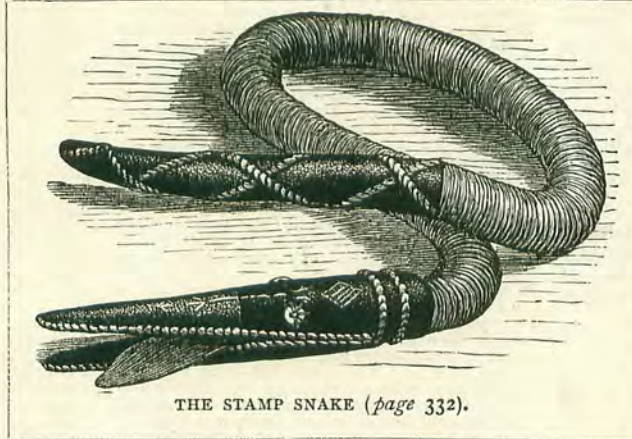
And now, having gathered my few last suggestions together, I will take my leave of those to whom my articles have been addressed, and for whom they have been written, in the anxious hope that, whatever the occupation suggested, whether small or great, it may be a safeguard against despairing and repining thought, and lead to a brightening of the mental vision. May morbid fancies and grievous repining flee away in the light of the cheerfulness brought about by activity and work, and so, in patient waiting, in quiet submission to His dealings, we shall watch for the day dawning from the everlasting hills.

DORA DE BLAQUIÈRE.



## THE DISADVANTAGES OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

WE hear a great deal nowadays about the advantages of the higher education of women. During the last few years high schools have multiplied in every direction: colleges and halls have been opened at both Universities, and girl graduates are no longer *rare aves*.



THE STAMP SNAKE (page 332).

Now comes a question—Is this altogether advisable? Are there not great disadvantages as well as advantages connected with this system?

It is well known that a woman's *physique* is not equal to a man's, and the brain power depends very much on the *physique* which nourishes the brain—*ergo*, the average woman will never equal the average man on his own ground. We do not deny that a clever woman can equal or surpass an average man; nor that the present system of education is infinitely superior to the old dreary round of lessons. But even to that there are two sides. While girls are learning Greek and mathematics, they have little time for the needlework, which used to be a part of every girl's education, and which they will want to understand at some period of their lives. It is the fashion now rather to sneer at darning, mending, and other trifling household duties; but if a woman is to be a wife and mother, she will need a good deal of such knowledge. It is a great thing to know the relation of one angle to another; but it is not every mathematician who brings her knowledge to a practical issue with regard to tables and chairs, or can tell whether a room has been properly dusted or not.

Woman was created as an helpmeet for man, not as his equal or rival; and woman nowadays is very apt to forget that fact.

In our life and country the little things are the woman's work; and many of our best and noblest women are those who spend their whole lives in trifles (not trifling). Little things—soothing a fractious baby, mending a husband's shirt, doing a little for the poor, caring for servants, keeping the household machinery oiled—

"Little things  
On little wings  
Bear little souls to heaven."

It has yet to be proved that Cambridge examinations assist women in their household duties, and one of the Oxford nonsense rhymes has a terrible significance in its inner meaning:

"Who will marry you, my pretty maid?"  
'Advanced women don't marry, sir,' she said."

Does not that mean that while the talented women of this generation are studying to equal men on their own ground they are leaving the women's posts for the incapables? If this comes to be the rule may God help the men!

Another side of woman's influence follows naturally on this. Do we not all know dozens, if not hundreds, of cases, even among our own friends, where "the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife"? Where the man who has been careless and irreligious is gradually brought into the right way by his wife? Where a mother's quiet wisdom keeps her sons straight, among the innumerable temptations which beset them, at school, at college, and on their going into life? Do we not all know at least a few of the women of whom it might be said—

"She never found fault with you; never implied Your wrong by her right; and yet men by her side Grew nobler; girls purer, as through the whole town The children were gladder that pulled at her gown."

We cannot help thinking that the great fault of the education of the present day is that the learning is made an end, and not a means. There is an old-fashioned notion that education is a preparation for the work of life, and that no amount of knowledge can take the place of practical usefulness. No doubt a certain amount of knowledge is necessary to fit us for this life; but, married or unmarried, a woman (if only she knows what she knows, and is taught when a child to do her work thoroughly) can find plenty of work lying ready to her hand, and she will be far more useful doing than studying.

A woman's natural quickness of perception may often be of the greatest possible use in matters which seem above her ken; but if she tries to advance too far she will certainly fall. Dwarfs on giants' shoulders see farther than giants; but we all know the fate of the dwarf who fought by the giant's side.

M. P. S.

## VARIETIES.

SHORT-SIGHTED MORTALS.—When waves and trouble come over us, we say that troubles will never end; when God sendeth a fair wind, we think that the fair wind will never cease blowing.

NEW AND SECOND-HAND.  
If thou wouldst tidings understand  
Take them not at second-hand.

IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD OF THE CAT.—People who have a strong antipathy to cats detect their presence by the odour, in circumstances which would be thought impossible. A lady in my study one day suddenly remarked, "There is a cat in the room." On my assuring her there was none, she replied, "Then there is one in the passage." I went out to satisfy her; there was no cat in the passage, but on the first landing-stairs, looking through the railings, sure enough, was the cat.—*G. H. Lewes.*

A GREAT INFLUENCE.  
CHEMISTS tell us that a single grain of iodine will impart colour to seven thousand times its weight of water. It is so in higher things; one companion, one book, one habit may affect the whole of life and character.