

NEEDLEWORK BY BALTIMORE WOMEN

By Emma Haywood

THE Baltimore Design and Art Club, still in its infancy—it is not yet two years old—has already justified the enterprise of its founders. This happy outcome of what was reasonably regarded as a somewhat hazardous undertaking, is presumably due, in large measure, to the wide experience in their several departments of the persons who are responsible for the conduct of affairs. The club was started in May, 1894, by Mrs. L. H. Bennett and Miss S. O. Rose, aided by a small but enthusiastic band of workers. Mrs. Bennett has charge of the

Nearly all the designs that emanate from the club are originated there. The illustrations on this page, drawn from the finished needlework, are an earnest of the good work of the club, giving some idea of the scope and beauty both of design and detail. These examples are not so much picked specimens as they are a fair type of the general excellence attained in every branch undertaken. For the benefit of those of my readers who may be interested in the actual working out of the designs I will describe the very beautiful sofa-pillow given in accompanying illustration, which relies more for clever designing and taste in coloring for effect than on the amount of labor expended. As a matter of fact it is by no means laborious in execution. The pillow is carried out in soft shades of golden brown and yellow, the triple satin ribbon ruffle being in three of the same shades employed in the embroidery; the underneath ribbon, therefore the widest, is the darkest. The foundation is of satin sheeting, a material very useful for such purposes; it is light, but so low in tone as to be almost a fawn color; this throws up the golden-brown and yellow tints beautifully. The large central and smaller flowers

work. The outline is in close stem stitch, except on the border, which is worked in open buttonhole stitch within a plain hem. V stitch is employed at intervals to cover the main design, brier stitch being substituted for the fillings on the border. The eight circles formed by the design are filled in with darning and lace stitches in white Roman floss. This beautiful heavy embroidery silk is, likewise, employed for the



DESIGN FOR TABLE CENTRE

artistic element, and Miss Rose devotes herself to the business department. Mrs. Bennett's studies cover a period of employment in two or three of the best institutions for the furtherance of art needlework in this country, these positions following a liberal education in Europe.

The chief aim of the club is to raise the standard of artistic needlework, both in regard to designing and intelligent execution, offering, at the same time, an impetus to the pursuit of such work by affording opportunity for the sale of it on commission, also by taking orders for every description of fancy-work, and filling them by giving out the work to those who are able to execute it efficiently, and are thus provided with a means of adding to a slender income. Many of these women have learned how properly to execute the designs confided to them by attending the embroidery classes instituted by the club. These classes are under the auspices of a thoroughly experienced embroideress, the sight of whose finished work is quite sufficient to inspire in her pupils not only confidence, but a spirit of emulation.

The rooms of the club on North Charles Street are very artistically fitted up, the work on view for sale being arranged with great taste and judgment. Extra sales are held by the club at popular places of resort, both in summer and winter.



A VERY BEAUTIFUL SOFA-PILLOW

partake of the nature of a poppy; the elongated foliage is arranged in graceful scroll-like fashion, the whole design flowing so easily that it gives one a restful feeling. Much time is saved by tinting all the forms in transparent water-colors in delicate shades to match the embroidery silks. Every part is outlined in long and short stitch with Roman floss. But that which gives the real finishing touch is the judicious, though sparing, use of the Japanese untarnishable gold thread, couched down in double parallel lines, forming the central veins of the leaves, also the stamens and calyx of the central flower.

The illustration for the table-cover is of quaint design on Agra linen; it measures about one yard and a quarter square. The coloring is a matter of choice but it comes well in écru and old china blue, or in fawn color and bright brown. The design in this case is, likewise, tinted with water-color or tapestry dyes to match the embroidery silk; the tint is quite flat, so that it presents when outlined the appearance of appliquéd



A SHAVING-GLASS FRAME

colored silk that works out the design; this should match the tinting exactly.

The shaving-glass frame is quite a novelty, forming a pretty and useful gift for the sterner sex. It is worked on stout silk linen; any preferred color will serve. The outlines are stem stitched in a dark shade of a contrasting color; the fillings are in white, or a very pale shade of the color of the linen. The fillings are put in with darning and brier stitch. The material used for working is embroidery cotton, now obtainable in all artistic shades. The cover for the glass, set in the circular frame, is backed with a package of shaving paper.

The designs for table centres are to be worked on white round thread linen in natural colors. For the rose design pink or yellow flowers are equally suitable. The double garlands tied with ribbons are most artistically arranged. The bow-knots may match the roses or be put in with very pale green. The golden-gate poppies shown in the other design are worked in rich sunset yellows, the foliage in cool greens. The shape of this centre-piece is both novel and pretty. It may be noted that each of the four sections is filled with a different arrangement of the poppies. The heading of the fringe is worked in white with buttonhole stitch. Both these designs are



ROSE DESIGN FOR TABLE CENTRE

worked in solid embroidery long and short stitch with filo-floss. If the linen is cut up to the points there will be no difficulty in fringing. If desired the square centre-piece may be hemstitched, or a narrow border of fine drawnwork above the hem would be an addition.