



500 SUGGESTIONS FOR CHRISTMAS PRESENTS

By Frances E. Lanigan



HE "Christmas-present" problem is the one which transcends all others at this season of the year, and it is to assist would-be givers to solve this problem that this article has been prepared. It aims to suggest gifts that are suitable, useful and appropriate, as well as within the means of

the average Christmas-present giver.

For the reason that there is little time during the month in which Christmas falls to do more than finish the needlework and fancy-work which are intended for Christmas gifts, the suggestions given here are only for articles which may be purchased in the shops which deal in Christmas goods. At almost all these shops the presents which are bought will, if the purchaser desires, be sent direct to the person or persons for whom they are intended, a small envelope containing the name and good wishes of the donor being inclosed in the package. When sending presents to any great distance this plan is most convenient, as it saves a second packing and insures safe and prompt delivery.

First in importance in all households, at this season of the year, are the children, and of first importance to them are toys.

Presents of All Sorts for Little Girls

FOR little girls there come ordinary and extraordinary dolls, dolls' furniture, consisting of brass and wooden bedsteads with complete fittings of mattress, pillows, bolster and canopies; dolls' cradles and baskets completely fitted, as well as trunks completely filled; tiny sheets, pillow-cases, counterpanes, blankets and comforters; linen closets, dolls' bureaus, washstands with complete china toilet-sets, dolls' towels, bath-ropes and tiny porcelain-lined baths.

For little girls with housekeeping proclivities there are complete sets of kitchen furniture, consisting of stoves, washing machines, ironing outfits, toy sweepers, and kitchen utensils which may really be used.

The dolls this year are provided with real houses, real furniture, real satchels, shawl-straps, umbrellas and waterproof coats. Other gifts for girls are little workbaskets and boxes fitted with thimbles, scissors, etc. Low tables in white enamel and in willow-ware, which are tinted in the delicate shades, and little chairs to match, are apparently waiting for these same little girls.

The children's books this year are bound more prettily than ever, and many come in sets. The new paint-boxes, with tubes and brushes, are for the little maiden who thinks she can paint, and the boxes of pencils and the prepared cards for the one who is quite sure that she can draw.

In jewelry, pins, rings, necklaces and the dress studs are always useful gifts, and little girls are always pleased with an addition, however slight, to their stock of bureau silver.

Useful gifts are muffs and collars of fur in white or gray, boxes of handkerchiefs, umbrellas and waterproof coats.

What the Grown-Up Sister Will Like

FOR the older sister, the one who is almost a young lady, there are pictures and books, and desk and bureau fittings, dainty handkerchiefs, gloves and ribbons. She can use a camera; she needs a new lamp or a silver name-plate for her wheel; she would like a new belt and buckle, a new pocketbook, a new umbrella, a new traveling bag. For her the new workboxes and bags seem especially prepared, as do the dainty veil, ribbon and lace cases, as well as the new hatboxes. Much of the new bureau silver is Dutch in design, and particularly quaint and beautiful. All girls love fans and chatelaines, and pretty china ornaments, and those who love books are always particularly delighted with a bust or picture of their favorite author. The card-cases this year are a little larger; many of them are made of satin damask and finished with dull steel corners. Little memorandum slips and tiny pencils are fastened inside, and always prove useful. The new curling-tongs and lamps are this year quite elaborate, and with them are shown cans in silver and plated ware for holding the necessary alcohol, also trays upon which to stand the entire outfit while the curling is in progress; these also make satisfactory gifts for girls. A pair of china candlesticks is always a welcome present.

Useful presents are furs, waterproof cloaks, evening wraps, opera-glasses, party bags, fur-lined overshoes, dressing jackets, sets of hand-made underwear, silk eiderdown quilts, clocks, odd pieces of silverware, feather boas and slippers. If any rich relative wishes to make a girl completely happy let him give her a cheval glass. Books, stationery and subscriptions to magazines are gifts which are always warmly welcomed by young girls. Odd pieces of furniture, in the shape of chair, table or bookshelf, may be added to this list.

Gifts for the Dearest One of All

MOTHERS may be given many of the articles enumerated for the grown-up sister. To the list may be added wrappers, shopping bags, table linen, pretty counterpanes, china, silver or glass ware, chatelaine spectacle cases, stationery, pretty laces, gloves, desks, embroidered centrepieces, breakfast, tea or coffee cups, sofa-pillows, easy-chairs, afghans, lamps and lamp shades. Mothers always appreciate gifts of money from their grown-up children—the grown-up children will understand why themselves when they grow older.

Gifts Which Will Please the Big Brother

FOR the young man at college or in the business world there is a great variety. He will like a new suit of clothes, a dress-suit case, one of the new satchels in Russia or seal which come in all colors, and to match which are cases of leather capable of holding collars, cuffs, string neckties, etc. In the same leathers come cases for tooth-powder bottles, postage stamp and court plaster cases and shaving cases. Handkerchiefs legibly marked are always welcomed by young men, as are neckties, gloves and mufflers.

For their rooms pictures, framed or unframed, sofa-cushions, books, desks, chairs, pieces of odd china, photograph frames, pipe racks, odd curtains, table-covers, afghans, lamps, shades and plaster casts are always in order. Other presents are dress-suit protectors, bath-ropes, slippers, pipes, tobacco pouches, smoking jackets, matchsafes, ash trays and cigar-box cases. If, fortunately, the young man does not smoke, find out his favorite occupation and try to cater to it. In jewelry for men there is an unusual variety of rings, studs, sleeve-buttons, watch-charms, watch-chains, scarf-pins and scarf-rings. A watch is always a most welcome present to a young man or boy. In selecting one the works should receive first consideration. Pocket-knives, key-ring chains, inkstands, paper-knives, photographs, blotters, penwipers, seals and matchcases are also in order. This year some particularly useful-looking collar and cuff boxes are shown. They are made of leather and come in bright red, dark green, brown and black, and may be marked with either monogram or initials. If the young man has literary tastes nothing will please him better than a new bookshelf, some of the newest books, a subscription to his favorite periodical, or to a circulating library.

Presents for the Very Small Boys

FOR small boys there are fire engines, railroad trains, tracks, locomotives and stations, trolley cars, hansom cabs, rocking horses, bicycles, skates, sets of toy soldiers, soldier suits, drums, building blocks, toy typewriters, sleds, ships, magic lanterns, wizard outfits, Punch and Judy shows, games, completely filled tool-chests, paint-boxes, and express and patrol wagons.

The mechanical toys this year are beyond description, and when they can be afforded are likely to prove very valuable gifts to inventive boys, as will microscopes and compasses. Useful gifts are sweaters, mittens, neckties, handkerchiefs, desks, rubber boots, pocketbooks, penknives, slippers, bath wrappers, dumb-bells and Indian clubs.

In jewelry for boys there is little that is new; pretty sets of sleeve-buttons and studs in old gold and dull silver are in the usual shapes, and there is a bewildering array of scarf-pins, most of them of a patriotic design.

The boys' books are, as always at this season, in abundance, and most of them are unusually full of adventures both on land and sea, as well as of superb illustrations.

For very small boys there are sliced animals, toy carts, transparent slates, building blocks and unusually fine Noah's arks, as well as miniature grocery shops fitted completely with weights, measures, etc.

Toys, Silver, and Dolls for the Babies

FOR the babies there are the greatest number of rubber toys, rag dolls, woolly dogs and sheep, and toy horses, fur Baby Buntings, Brownies, picture books with reversible pictures, and blocks. The new go-carts have horses, completely harnessed, attached to them; the baby is securely strapped in, handed the reins and the whip, while his nurse pushes him from behind.

The studs for babies' dresses this year are in sets of four, and a pretty fashion is to choose the baby's birth stone when selecting a set for a gift. The little gold bib and collar pins are set in the same way. The mugs, knives, forks, spoons and pushers come in solid silver as well as in plated ware. The silver and china porringers are always welcome and appropriate gifts for babies, as are carriage afghans, parasols and pillows, as well as dainty little embroidered jackets, bibs, collars, flannel wrappers and carriage boots.

What the Fathers Will Like

FOR the fathers provide a comfortable lounge, some sofa-cushions, one of the new pocket-knives, a traveling satchel, a photograph case which will hold as many photographs as he has children and one more for his wife. Put all the photographs in, and be sure he will carry it away with him whenever he has to leave home. If his sleeve-buttons are old in design give him a new-style pair, and a new-style key-ring, and anything new which is in his particular line.

Subscribe for his favorite periodicals, give him a new house coat, and if he smokes give him the very latest device for smokers. A new umbrella, a new cane or a new penknife will also be in order. The new cases of safety razors, holding one for each day of the week, are also useful presents for men.

Gifts for the Grandmother and Grandfather

ALMOST every family has a grandmother, and many families have great-grandparents, and when Christmas comes they should be thought of even before the babies. For them provide nothing which suggests old age: the newest books; subscriptions to the best of the periodicals; generous-sized china cups and saucers; pretty traveling accessories; bright sofa-cushions and footstools; the newest things in carriage robes, traveling clocks or book-rests—something which will make them feel quite sure that you are counting upon having them with you for very many more Christmas Days.

Some dear old great-grandmothers seem made for the pretty lace fichus and caps which are seen in great profusion this year. Other pretty gifts are silver-topped shopping bags, cut-glass vinaigrettes and the new lorgnettes. For both grandparents bureau silver is appropriate, and the new traveling rugs, satchel and shawl straps, as well as the new-style easy-chair with book-rest, and soft silken cushions, are particularly suitable.

For Those Who Have Served You Faithfully

FOR the servants of the family provide gifts which will not in any way suggest work. Where money can be afforded it is almost always the best way of remembering those who have served faithfully; with it may go boxes of candy and pretty boxes of stationery. For the nurse who has helped to keep your child well and happy through the year provide some special gift—a watch if you feel that you can afford to be so generous, or some gift which shall appeal particularly to her. For the household where many servants are kept, and where there is a sitting-room reserved for their use, a Christmas present that will please all alike will be the addition to their room of a new picture, or a chair, or a table, a new carpet, if that is possible—no matter what, so that it is new, and not something which has done duty elsewhere. Catholic servants are always pleased with prayer-books, religious pictures, or a year's subscription to one of their religious papers.

For Those Outside of Your Own Family

IT HAS always been customary in England, and it is becoming customary here, to remember at Christmas time all the people with whom one has come in contact during the year—as, for instance, the postman, the street-car conductor, the janitor, the office boy, the ice man, the charwoman, the laundress, the waiter at the restaurant where the noonday meal is taken, the night watchman and the newsboy. To these persons money is the most appreciated of all Christmas gifts.

Do not forget, when administering your Christmas bounties, the sick in the hospitals. Send toys, books, fruit and scrapbooks to the children's wards, and flowers and fruit, jellies and delicacies to those other invalids who are not too ill to appreciate them. To any sick people whom you may know let your gifts take the form of a surprise, something which shall for the moment make them forget that they have not been able to share in the Christmas shopping. Let your present go with the cheeriest of holiday greetings and tied up with the brightest of ribbons.

For Those You Have With You Always

IN YOUR Christmas purchasing do not be tempted to forget those who, because of their poverty, are unable to do any shopping either for themselves or for others. Let your presents to them be of a substantial character—a ton of coal, some warm clothing, some money, a box of groceries, or a basket of Christmas marketing topped with a bunch of holly. And to the little children in whose homes Christmas is little more than a name send some of the many bright, new tin toys which are so inexpensive: some candy, some fruit, bright red woolen mittens and Tam o' Shaners, and, if you can afford it, some good stout shoes and warm stockings. A piece of bright-colored plaid will make a pretty gift for the little girl who has never, perhaps, had a new dress in her life. Accompany your Christmas presents with some cheery Christmas greetings and some Christmas greens. Be very sure that this thoughtfulness will bring its own reward, and that in the years to come the memory of the Christmas when you gave most and received least will be the happiest of all memories to you, for "there is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty."