

SOME NEEDLEWORK FOR THE CHILDREN'S ROOM.



ALL fond mothers have busy fingers, and are inspired to work wonders by the strong love for their little ones. I think I could tell a young mother how to make a cradle or cot quilt that would give her supreme delight, as well as engrossing but a comparatively small portion of her time in making—for mother's time is always said to be "so fully occupied!" This coverlet is made by taking a piece of very coarse white serge, the size required for either cradle or cot; of course, for the latter it would be larger, and the following design, which allows scope, would be more effective for a cot than a cradle.

A picture representing a flight of swallows, the birds to be sketched life-size, covers the surface of the serge, and these have to be outlined in embroidery stitch with two shades of blue silk. The border may be merely a deep hem stitched all round twice with blue silk, or formed in a variety of ways according to the worker's taste. A coverlet of oatmeal cloth—the design worked with two shades of blue linen thread in the same manner—would look well. Either quilt would need to be lined, and the serge one will be worthy of most elaborate work. I should recommend its being "quilted;" a lining of white alpaca on a thin sheet of wadding will be very suitable. A calico lining would be suitable for the coverlet made of oatmeal cloth.

The Scripture texts and pictures, on washing calico and other materials, designed and brought out by the late Mr. Mimpriss, ought to be very popular with makers of quilts. The patches were to be procured a few years ago from a fellow-worker and successor of the deceased gentleman. A cot quilt, made on scarlet twill, with the pictures (which are "warranted fast colours"), is very effective, and a thing the remembrance of which a child will retain throughout life.

Nursery requisites give great scope for ideas, and, where there is a large table in the centre of the children's play-room, nothing can be more satisfactory than having a big picture-cover for it. A beautiful one may be manufactured by procuring a piece of peacock blue or green cloth, or a plain table-cover itself, and upon the centre make a regularly stocked farmyard. This is done by taking a piece of white flannel, serge, or swansdown calico, and cutting out shapes of the various creatures required. It will be well to have, say, goats, donkeys, rabbits, pigs, horse, turkey, dog, cow, stag, cat and kittens, &c. Pictures of animals may be studied by the worker to get assistance in cutting out. The collection should then be arranged about the centre of the cover, and I think in a circle is the best plan, with perhaps the cat and kittens in the middle of it. The animals, being pinned

on in place, have then to be appliquéd or felled down, and in some cases "touched up" with additional stitches of embroidery to improve them. This article will be a great attraction to little ones.

A child's quilt or "crawler" is a useful nursery appendage. A large piece of crash or oatmeal cloth will make one, and it may be gaily decorated with a number of the common and often comical square picture handkerchiefs, costing about 1d. each. These are stitched on flat in a "crazy" manner. This "crawler" may be large, useful, and very easily made. An ornamental coloured border may be added all round.

I have seen a "crawler" composed of a white charity blanket for foundation, and then having the heroes and heroines of numerous nursery tales (Old Mother Hubbard, Little Boy Blue, Little Jack Horner, Simple Simon, &c.) worked on pieces of canvas in separate squares, or even outlined upon pieces of material, and appliquéd on. Gay cuttings of birds, butterflies, flowers, &c., from cretonne are also useful in decorating a "crawler" with appliqué work.

Indiarubber balls for children may be made new again by a gay cover of cloth scraps put on in a "crazy" pattern and worked down with fancy stitches. It is a cheap and satisfactory way of making that changeable creature, called a child, a present. Harlequin balls, too, are pretty, and easily made. A soft ball must first be made as foundation, and a case stuffed with wool or cuttings of rag will make a nice soft one; various colours of Berlin or fleecy wool are then wound round the ball, four threads at a time, in a geometrical pattern; and wherever wools cross each other, they must be fastened down with a needle and wool, making a large cross or star stitch. The lovely soft balls for babies—made of Berlin wools wound round two circles of cards, and then tied and cut apart—are too simple and well known to need explanation, but nothing surpasses them.

A very pretty knitted boa for a little girl may be made with three ounces of double Berlin wool, one white, one black, one scarlet; or, if preferred, three shades of any one colour may be used. It is best first to take from each ball sufficient wool to make two nice large tassels, one being needed of the mixed colours for each end of the boa. Now, with coarse knitting-pins, take one ball of wool and cast on eight stitches, knit quite plain, as you would for an old-fashioned garter, until you have used up all the wool, and, before casting off your stitches, let the two middle ones slip, and run down the whole length of the work, making an open ladder stitch. Repeat this respectively with the other two balls of wool, and then plait the three colours together, draw up neatly at each end, and finish off with the tassels. If preferred, this boa may be made of one colour, and white always looks well.

A very neat turban cap for a little girl may be made with white double Berlin wool, and I think four, or four and a half ounces would be enough, six ounces being needed for a larger cap for a grown-up young lady. Cast on about twenty-six stitches on two very large pins, No. 1 (Bell gauge). The wool has to be divided into three balls, as you must knit with three strands at once. Knit loosely. First row: Slip 1, * purl 1, plain 1, repeat from * to the end. Second row: Slip 1, * plain 1, purl 1. Repeat from * to end of the row. Repeat these two rows, always knitting purl under plain and plain under purl, till the cap is done, which will be when all the wool is knitted up. Cast off, and sew the cast on and off ends together, and draw up one side all round to make the crown of the cap. Roll the other edge in a deep hem to make the turban, and run an elastic all round

inside to fit the cap to the head. It has much the appearance of Astrachan fur, and is very pretty.

A pair of reins for a little boy is a good thing to bestow some trouble upon. They may be made with stout crimson wool, either in plain knitting or in tricot crochet, the latter being very strong and nice. Begin by making an oval piece to cross the chest, the two sides going to the arms being left straight, and to each of the four corners, two going over and two under the arms, continue working a narrow band of the tricot work, about two inches wide and four yards in length, to form the leading-strings. If the horse's name (*e.g.* "Nero") be worked in cross stitch on the chest-piece, with black wool, and a number of little brass bells also attached, it will be an immense improvement and fascination to the small owner whose property it is destined to be.

ELEANOR E. ARCHER.

ON THE LAKE OF LUCERNE.

BY BEATRICE WHITBY, AUTHOR OF "THE AWAKENING OF MARY FENWICK," ETC. ETC.



"THIS INFATUATED LOVER WOULD SOON TIRE" (p. 342).

CHAPTER THE FIRST.

"For that which makes our lives delightful prove
Is a genteel sufficiency and love."—POMFRET.

HE was romantic. Though perhaps this was not on the whole a very grave fault, yet it was a downright misfortune in Miss Dangerfield's case, to whom a good settlement in life was a positive necessity. She had been launched by a rich uncle and aunt into those special spheres

of society in which a matrimonial sequence to maidenhood was to be looked for with, if not a certain, at least a hopeful expectation.

She was an orphan, sparsely dowered, it was true, but her pedigree, like her beauty, was unimpeachable.

From her German mother she had inherited, along with calm, blue eyes, a fair, sweet face and a gentle stateliness of demeanour, a Teutonic *Schwärmerie*. This romantic disposition handicapped her matri-