

and I shall plunge into culinary mysteries after I am sufficiently steeped in the preliminary sciences."

We all laugh, but I see with pleasure that Jennie is really interested and in earnest, and I can imagine how useful she has become to her mother, who is confessedly very unpractical. Her father I know, from a few words I had with him lately, is very proud of his gay little daughter's industry and energy.

"You will have to invite Aunt Betsey to come down and see your housekeeping," said I jokingly.

"No, no, no, keep that blessed old lady in her immaculate home till I have conquered some kitchen difficulties."

"Do not be alarmed. Aunt Betsey was never known to visit anybody. But what are your difficulties?"

"Nearly everything connected with the kitchen. In the first place, the great copper boiler is disgraceful, and the cook says nothing can be done with it. It's as black as coal, and all streaks."

"Something can be done with it," I say; "there is a cleansing preparation sold for the purpose, but you can make a very good one by putting an ounce of oxalic acid in a pint of rain water, and corking it up tightly. It does not dissolve perfectly, so it will be necessary to shake the bottle every time the fluid is used. It is also very important that the bottle should be labeled 'poison' and kept where there is no danger of mistaking it for anything else. Rub the boiler with the fluid, polish with a dry flannel. Mix powdered rottenstone with oil of turpentine, and rub on with chamois leather; leave it on the boiler for quarter of an hour, and then wipe it off with a soft cloth. The process will have to be repeated once a week, but after the first time it will not be laborious."

"I should think the same application would be good for the faucets," says Lucy Little.

"So it is, for those which are not silver-plated; a little whitening is necessary in that case."

"I wonder," says Sophie Mapes, very soberly, "if Jennie would be so energetic about housekeeping, if instead of ordering servants to do the work she had it all to do herself. She would see a great difference."

"Of course I should see an awful difference," says Jennie. "I am well aware of that, and I should have to be all the more energetic. I don't pretend to think that it would be nice to be without servants, but there are some drawbacks to having them. Now about this boiler, I actually dare not insist upon the cook's attacking it after all she has said, and if I attempt it myself, in my utter ignorance of the way to go to work, she will sneer at me and make me so nervous that I shall daub the stuff all over myself and the floor, and she will take the opportunity to mutter over the work I am making and get awfully sulky. Very likely, too, she will take measures to make it explode while I am at work, if well regulated private family boilers can burst, and I shall perish miserably a martyr to malice and cleanliness."

We all laugh, as we generally do, at Jennie's amusing chatter, but Sophie looks as if she was not altogether convinced of the disadvantage a cook might be in. Miss Kittie who has been listening hitherto with rather languid interest, now arouses to some indignation and remarks:

"What an unladylike thing it would be for you to do, Jennie. I am surprised that you should talk, even in joke, of such dreadful things as cleaning boilers."

"I cannot see anything unladylike about it," says I, "and if I were in Jennie's place I should feel like doing the same thing, if for no other reason than to make the shiftless servant ashamed of herself. Probably if she sees her young lady laboring to remedy the result of her own want of neatness, she will take the right measure to keep such a thing."

"Never mind," says Jennie cheerfully, "when I learn how to cook I can send away cooks whenever they don't suit me. Mamma says I may, because I can teach new ones, and then farewell to our present state of bondage to experts."

"I think," says I, "that if you ever do have the opportunity of training a new girl, it will be greatly to her advantage and yours, if you will make out a list of the most prominent daily duties. Of course she is not to suppose that she is not to be called upon to do anything beyond the list, but it is simply to be a reminder. Then by having a duplicate list you will remember to see that certain things are done at the appropriate time and in the proper manner."

"How is Jennie to know what duties to put on the list?" asks one of the class.

"A little experience will teach her," I say.

"I can tell her one thing," says Lucy Little, "and that is, see that the range is kept blacked and the hearth swept. I found that out by my own experience."

"Yes," I say, "that may head the list. A dusty dirty hearth, besides looking very untidy, is to be condemned because the dust and ashes that lie upon it may get into the food that is cooked on the range. But the hearth must be swept before the cooking begins, for if a dust is raised it is sure to lodge upon the stove or whatever is upon it. It is also necessary, for the same reason, to avoid sweeping the kitchen floor when uncovered eatables are in the room. Before work begins in the morning, all these things should be attended to, and later in the day, when the principal cooking is over, the floor can be swept again, and on certain days of the week it will need scrubbing, if the boards are bare, or washing up if they are covered with an oilcloth. Perfect neatness about the vessels employed in cooking is a rule to be most rigidly enforced, for the separate and distinct flavors of the various dishes cannot be preserved unless everything used in preparing them is as perfectly clean as if it had never been used before."

## Christmas Presents.

THE shadow of Christmas, the delight of the young because of the festivities which follow in its train, and the blessing of the old because it is a reminder of the birth of the Holy Child, whom to know is a gift of eternal youth, is close upon us. It is a time too, when in remembrance of the best of Gifts to earth, friends exchange presents among themselves. The value of a gift to the recipient is not always dependent upon its actual value, for oftentimes some trifle made by hands we love, is more precious than any gift, however priceless in money value, would be. To our readers, who care to manufacture themselves the presents they require, we offer a few suggestions.

A very pretty chatelaine pocket may be made by cutting the shape first in cardboard, one for the front, and another for the back similar in shape to the first, only with a pointed piece to turn over and button envelope fashion. A third piece an inch and a half wide must surround the first piece of cardboard, and be joined to it on one side and to the second piece on the other side. Line each of these pieces with silk or cambric, and cover the outside with velvet or corded silk before joining together. Edge the seams with a small gold or silk cord, leaving a loop at the point of the envelope, which must fasten to a corresponding button on the first piece. If the bag is velvet, the belt must be the same,—if silk—silk. The bag must be hung to the belt by two cords, from either side, of the same kind as trims the seams, and joined at the waist by button or hook.

A very neat workcase may be made of Java can-

vas, twelve inches long, and seven broad, a bit of silk the same size for lining and six skeins of worsted or floss, any color liked best. Work a border down both sides of the canvas and across one end, leaving space to turn in the edge of the material. The border may be made as simple as you like; four rows of cross-stitch will do. When the border is done, baste on the lining, turn in the edges, and sew over and over very neatly. Then turn up the lower third of this strip to form a bag, and sew the edges together firmly. The embroidered end folds over to form a flap like a pocket-book, and must have two small buttons and loops to fasten down.

Knitting bags made of Turkish toweling are very convenient to hang on the back of a chair and hold knitting work when not needed. They are made of four pieces, each one a foot long, pointed at the top and bottom and slightly curved toward the middle on both sides. The pieces are braided or embroidered in silk or worsted in some simple pattern, bound with narrow ribbon of bright color, and sewed together with a tassel to finish the bottom and a drawing ribbon at the top.

Knitting aprons may be made like any apron, secured by a band around the waist, except that they are cut ten inches longer. This extra ten inches of length is to be turned up from the bottom and divided off by stitching, so as to form four or more oblong pockets open at the top. These pockets are handy for balls of worsted, patterns or unfinished work.

Scent cases for the top of a trunk or drawer, may be made of large silk or muslin cases, quilted with orris root or sachet powder, and are acceptable to almost all ladies. Pocket sachets of silk, quilted and trimmed with gold twist, or braided and scented, are pretty presents for gentlemen. A glove sachet should be the length and width of an ordinary pair of gloves. It must be quilted and edged with narrow silk cord, with a small loop at each corner. A necktie sachet is made narrow and just long enough to hold an evening tie folded in half. Both should be slightly scented. For clergymen, sermon covers of silk or velvet, a trifle larger than ordinary sermon paper, lined with silk and having cross or monogram embroidered or braided on them, are useful and acceptable gifts. A bit of fine elastic should be inside, from top to bottom, to hold the leaves in place.

For gentlemen who wear comforters, those knit in brioche stitch in single Berlin are the softest, most pliable and elastic. It is an easy stitch to knit, as every row is the same. It is \* over, slip 1 as if about to purl, knit 2 together, repeat from \* The next row is the same \* over, slip 1, knit 2 together, repeat from \*; but the slipped stitch is the one made by "knit 2 together" in the last row, and the over and the slipped stitch of the last row are knitted together. It takes two rows to make a complete stitch one each side of the work. Seventy-two stitches would be a good width for a gentleman's comforter, and any color preferred, as violet, blue, or scarlet, would look well with stripes of black of different widths at the ends. A fringe of the colors should finish it.

Knitted wool slippers may be made as follows: Cast on 19 stitches in black: first four rows plain knitting, join on red and white.

1st row. \* Knit 1st stitch plain with red wool; 2d stitch, pass white wool over the first finger of left at back of work; then take red and white wool in right hand and knit them together; this is to make a long loop of white at the back of the work, repeat to the end of the needle, cut off white wool. 2d row. Plain knitting with red wool. 3d row. The same as first. 4th row. Like the second. Now take the black wool and knit plain as before, but increasing one at the end and commencement of 2d and 4th rows. Repeat from \* until you have 36 loops on your needle, then for



next black row increase 1 in the middle of 2d and 4th rows as well as at commencement and end. Now cast off all but 15 loops, then continue knitting pattern as before, but without increasing, until you have 15 black stripes, counting from where you cast off, then join to opposite side of the slipper. For edging around the top, which is in crochet, take red wool, make a loop on the needle, then draw wool loosely through the top of the slipper; make a single stitch about a quarter of an inch high, one chain stitch equally loose to look like a ruffle. Black must be worked in a similar manner in front of the red. Bind the bottom with ribbon; bind cork sole and sew them together; run an elastic through the ruffle. Use No. 12 needles, and double zephyr.

Hairbrush cases are useful, and may be made ornamental also. A pretty one is made of a length of blue cambric or sateen, covered with spotted muslin, sufficiently long and wide to lie on a table under brushes, and fold across above them. An edging of lace and *ruche* of blue satin ribbon is added all around as a finish, but must be on alternate sides, making a division in the center where the folding is, as the side that passes over the brushes must be trimmed on the outside. Sometimes the *ruche* is put on both sides. Another pattern is to make the case to fit the brushes easily, with a flap to fold over, and to work designs on the case and flap. Add a band of elastic on the flap below the pattern for the comb. For traveling the flap turns over and buttons up. Such cases look well in linen, neatly braided.

Tasteful flower-pot covers may be made of four pieces of cardboard the height of ordinary flower-pots, and from five to eight inches in width, according to the size of the pot. Lace them together at the sides with fine gold or silver cord, and tie the cords at the top in a bow, with a little gold or silver tassel attached to each end. The four sides of the cover should be ornamented in center of each with drawings, colored pictures, groups of dried flowers, ferns, sea-weed, or autumn leaves, as fancy may dictate.

Letter cases, to hang on the walls, are made by cutting a piece of white cardboard twelve inches long; make a point at the top like the flap of an envelope, and bind it all around with narrow, bright-colored ribbon. Turn up four inches at the bottom, to make a sort of flap pocket. Lace it up each side with ribbon or cord, and bore a round hole in the point, by which to hang it.

Cases similar to these, on a larger and stronger scale, are useful for hanging in libraries or sitting-rooms, as a depository for newspapers, periodicals, etc. They offer great opportunities for a display of taste in decoration. Pockets, the same shape, of Holland or crash are handy to hang in closets for boots and shoes, and larger ones, divided into compartments for patterns or scrap-bundles, are invaluable.

An acceptable gift for a school-girl or musical friend would be a music case, or roll, made of glazed oil-cloth, better than which I have never seen for wear or neatness. Cut a piece of the leather some inches larger than an open piece of music, bind it all around, double it, and sew together at the edges. The music lies flat inside. Another shape is to cut it the size of the music with a good margin, line it, sew elastic in the center, under which the music is fastened, and then roll music and case together.

In lamp-shades one has quite a play for ingenuity. Cut a shape in cardboard, and ornament with pictures, or prick a design with a pen-knife, which has an admirable effect. Dried flowers or ferns, arranged on silk or cardboard, and covered with prepared muslin to keep them from breaking off, are lovely, and somewhat of a novelty. For a silk or thin ground, a brass wire of given circumference for the top, and another much wider for the

bottom, is required. Very elegant shades may be made of pink crape. Cut a circle of the crape; let the diameter of this circle be exactly double the depth you wish the shade to be; cut a round hole in the center for the chimney of the lamp to pass through. Ornament the crape with small bunches of flowers cut out of cretonne, tacked on and button-holed round. Edge the bottom of the shade with pink silk fringe about three inches wide, and finish by putting a close ruching of pink silk round the top, and you will have an uncommon looking shade, and one which will shed a pleasing light into the room.

Elegant bouquets may be made of skeleton leaves and ferns. A quick recipe for the preparing of skeleton leaves was given in a late number of the MAGAZINE, and also for the preparation of albums of pressed flowers and sea-mosses.

Children's reins for play, made from the following directions, are strong and pretty: Cast, on a pair of bone knitting-needles, twenty stitches in double zephyr, and knit, in plain knitting, a stripe ten inches in length, always slipping the first stitch of every row; cast off. To each end of this stripe is attached a circle for the arms, which is made thus: Take a piece of cord, the kind used in hanging pictures, and make a circle the size of a child's arm at the shoulder; sew the ends firmly together, splicing one a little past the other; then cover the cord with cotton, wool, or flannel, to make it soft; then cover lastly with a stripe of knitting, casting on eight stitches and knitting the length required, plain every row; sew it on overcast on the inner side. Before attaching the stripe first knitted to the armholes, there ought to be sewed upon it some name, such as Beauty, or Fairy, and to the under edge should be fastened three or four little bells. When fastening the stripe for the chest to the arm-holes, do not let the sewing be seen, but overcast on the inner side to the overcasting on the armholes. Cast on eight stitches, and knit in plain knitting a rein the length required—two and one-half yards being enough, as it stretches in use. Attach the ends to the armholes at the back, sewing to the overcasting. Then finish by knitting a stripe twenty stitches in breadth and ten inches in length, the ends of which sew to the armholes at the back at the same place as the rein.

Dolls, of all sizes, and dressed in every costume, from the bald-headed baby in long clothes, to the young lady in Parisian attire, are not to be forgotten. One dressed in white cotton wool, or canton flannel, as an Esquimaux, is an excellent toy for a baby. So, also, are the knitted dolls. These are knitted in fine worsted, on No. 16 or 18 needles, and should be knitted to a shape. It would take too long to give exact directions, but you cannot go far wrong if you lay a doll down and draw the outline. Knit by this outline, two pieces, and join them. A face is knitted with an oval piece of knitting and draw over an old face. With judicious dressing you may have a fair result, even the first time of trying. Rabbits, cats, and dogs are all made in the same manner: they should be knitted in loop stitch or looped crochet, then cut, combed and stuffed. Rabbits, too, are very pretty made of gray velveteen and white plush, stuffed with wool, and pink or black beads used for eyes.

Dancing men may be made of cork dressed up, and with black silk strings to make them dance. Men and animals cut out of cardboard, painted, and joined together with strong twine, afford great amusement, and are just as good as any you purchase.

Balls are made in various ways, and use up the various odds and ends to great advantage. The soft fluffy balls made over cardboard are the best for this purpose. For one of these balls you trace a circle, the diameter of which must be the size

you wish the ball. Say the diameter is three inches; inside this, and from the same point in the center, trace a smaller circle of one and a quarter inches in diameter. Cut this inner circle out, draw another exactly like the large one, keep the two together, and wind the wool you use over and over these two pieces of card until you can draw no more wool through, even with a crochet hook. You next cut the wool just over the outer rim of the two circles, and between the pieces of cardboard tie all the wool together securely with strong twine, or with thick silk, if you wish to make the balls hang together. This silk must be left with long ends and crocheted up into a very fine core in chain stitch. You next remove the cardboard, and proceed to cut the wool and shape it round with scissors; this is the only difficult part of the manufacture of these soft balls. Another method is to knit them in brioche stitch in one, two, or three colors, in single Berlin wool. Take a pair of No. 14 needles, and cast on 28 stitches; knit back. The 1st row: \* wool forward, slip the next stitch, knit the second; repeat from \* to the end of the row. 2d row: \* wool forward, slip as if you intended to purl the next stitch, knit the two stitches together, lying over each other; repeat from \* twelve times more, leaving three stitches unworked. 3d row: Turn, wool forward, slip 1, knit 2 together 12 times, leaving three unworked at the other end of the needle. 4th row: Turn, work as before 11 times. 5th row: Turn, work as before 10 times, and so on, leaving 3 more stitches, or another rib, until you have only two ribs in the center; knit these two ribs, turn, and knit all the stitches off, then knit two whole rows of the 28 stitches. Join now your second color, knit two whole rows, and then repeat from the second row. Eight of these little pieces will be required; knit the two pieces together to join them, stuff it with lamb's wool combed, or the shavings of other soft balls, and draw up the centers.

A third kind of ball is made by cutting pieces of kid or leather in the same shapes as those described above. Draw a circle the size you require the ball, and divide it into four or eight sections; cut these out, then cut your pieces the same size, sew them together, stuff with hair or wool, and ornament with braid. Such balls may be made from old kid gloves.

Some of these suggestions we hope our readers will find useful, as the gifts will be acceptable, if into them they weave all tender thoughts and loving wishes

"In memory of that Flower Divine  
Whose fragrance fills the world."

## The Law in New York as it Relates to the Family.

BY LILLIE DEVEREUX BLAKE.

### IV. THE LEGAL CONTROL OF THE CHILDREN.

In closing our review of the laws of New York as they relate to the family, we reach the most cruel of all the enactments which stand on our statute books. One which, considering how just are the other provisions for women, should certainly have no place in our code, and this is the infamous law which makes the father the sole owner of the children; which gives him the absolute right to dispose of them even after his death, without the knowledge or consent of the mother.

In chap. 8, Sec. 1—Title III. of the Revised Statutes, will be found these words:

§ 1. Every father, whether of full age or a minor, of a child likely to be born, or of any living child under the age of twenty-one years and unmarried, may,