

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,

by his deed or last will duly executed, dispose of the custody and tuition of such child, during its minority or for any less time, to any person or persons in possession or remainder.

By this provision the lawfully wedded wives of this State are placed in a position inferior to that of the poor women whose babies are born out of wedlock, since the legitimate mother has no right to her own child while the unfortunate outcast has at least an undisputed legal title to the infant who is at once her treasure and her disgrace.

This cruel discrimination against the wife, springs like all the other statutes which bear hardly on women from the English common law, and once the universal law of this State. In 1860, however, when married women's rights were established, father and mother were made joint guardians of their offspring, and so remained until 1870, when we were burdened with a legislature notoriously corrupt. During that session this statute was hurried through, perhaps to meet a special case, and has remained ever since in force.

Of course, if women had any representation in that body such a thing would not have been possible, and it should make those ladies who avow their indifference to the right of suffrage reflect, when they see how insecurely, in the present state of affairs, women hold even those rights most vital to their happiness.

But it may be said such a law as this is of no practical effect, since men will not avail themselves of it to the hurt of wife or children.

Good men will not, it is true, and happily for women good men are largely in the majority, but there are bad men also, and this law places a fearful power in their hands. A careful reading of it will show that a man may during his life by "a deed" dispose of his child, as well as by his will appoint its guardian after his death. Nay more, it is not even necessary that the child should be born, and the legal mothers of this State stand in this humiliating position to-day, they do not own the baby who is yet a part of themselves, since while its tiny heart yet beats close to its mother's, the father may, without that mother's consent, place it beyond her control.

And such things have been done. A few years ago a young German came to this country and married a hardworking American girl, who, as he soon developed the seeds of consumption, supported him by her earnings during their brief married life. When he lay dying he asked her to send for a lawyer to make his will, and she, knowing he had no property whatever, but willing to humor the fancy of a dying man, paid from her slender purse an attorney who prepared the will and took it away with him at the request of the husband. A few weeks after his death a little baby lay in the young widow's arms, but before she had held the treasure long, there came to her strange men armed with her husband's will and claimed her child from her. In vain she protested and expostulated; the will gave the "custody and tuition" of the child to the German's parents who lived in Oregon, and the poor mother having appealed vainly to the law which only sustained the document, saw her baby torn from her to be reared among strangers.

In 1874 a very aggravated case of the use of this law was brought before the public in this city of New York. A man by deed gave the guardianship of his fourteen-year old daughter to a person who kept a corner lager-beer saloon. The poor mother on hearing that the young girl was to go to this place was nearly frantic; she knew that the house was, while nominally respectable, in reality of doubtful repute; she knew that the girl, who was very pretty, would be expected to wait in the saloon, and subject to the insolent admiration of

all sorts of men, and finding her husband inexorable she appealed to the law. In vain, the case was brought up before Judge Westbrook to be decided that this statute gave the father the absolute right to place the child "in custody" of this lager-beer seller until she was twenty-one.

Many other such instances have come to my knowledge, and more frequently than those women who live in happy homes suspect, is this evil statute made use of by bad men. Nay, although it is perhaps only in extreme cases that children are torn from the mother by its provisions, the fact that the father has the right to appoint the guardian of the children after his death is constantly made use of by men even of most kindly disposition, to bring sorrow and annoyance to their widows. Not intentionally, but the mere fact that the children have a guardian whose especial duty it is to look after their property and welfare at once antagonizes the interests of the mother and her offspring. And a celebrated probate lawyer told me that he had seen an immense amount of misery in families which grew out of the working of this statute, in cases where the guardian appointed by the dead man, was some person whom the widow did not like, or who persistently treated her as if he thought she might wish to encroach upon her children's rights. He added unhesitatingly that the law ought not to permit any man to appoint a guardian for the children without the consent of his wife expressed in writing.

In case of a legal separation between parents, the court generally leans to the mother's side in giving her the custody of the younger children, while in divorce, which is granted in this State only for one cause—unfaithfulness—the children are of course awarded to the innocent party. So that as a matter of fact, the separated or divorced wife has a better chance for controlling her children's destinies than the happy married woman.

In this case, as in so many others, the blundering laws would seem to give a premium to vice, since the unlawful mother and the divorcee have what ought to be a woman's first and most sacred right, the right to her children.

At some future day, however, we may hope that all these wrongs will be set straight, when women shall have that equal voice in the laws which alone can deserve justice.

Correspondents' Class.

THIS department is intended exclusively as a means of communication between those who have questions to ask in regard to art decorative, industrial, or art proper, and those who have information to give to those seeking it. Questions in regard to literary and social matters, household, fashions and the like, belong to the department of the Ladies' Club. The "Class" must adhere strictly in future to its original purpose.—(Ed.)

"ARIOLE."—The method of painting photographs that you refer to is still retained as a secret by its teachers.

"LAURA."—Do not use decalcomanie on white silk. There is no art in pasting pictures. The silk jewelry painting is still confined to the manufacturers of the article.

"STUDENT."—Before beginning to sketch out of doors, the first consideration should be to get the best point of view, as a few steps to the right or left sometimes makes a great difference, always keeping a good lookout for objects that will compose harmoniously and prettily. As this does not always occur in natural scenes, the sketcher is allowed certain liberties; thus he may add or take away. He may add where there seems a deficiency,

so that he keeps the general character of the scenery, or he may take away when it appears too crowded. Some artists insist upon having the foreground entirely at their own disposal, provided they keep up the general appearance of the view. Study "little bits;" beginners take too much in one sketch as a rule. We will suppose that a spot is selected containing about three or four objects. An artist seldom, if ever, takes anything in its broadest and most regular form; and never takes a house, for instance, as if he had taken his position directly in front, nor a row of trees or palisades at a right angle to his own position. For an early lesson in sketching from nature, a house is very good, but it must be viewed from a point a little aside from the front, so as to bring in as many angular features as possible. We will suppose a station to be selected. One way of proceeding is—hold up the sketch-book in front, closing one eye in order to determine how much of the scene is to be drawn; the farther off the book is held, the less of the subject will be covered; when the extent is arranged, lower the book to a level, and make a few dots on the margin, merely to point out some of the relative positions. Find the horizontal line by holding up your pencil horizontal with the eye, and slightly mark it in; then get the point of sight opposite the eye on the horizontal line; judge well of the relative distances of the most prominent objects, and faintly mark them on the paper. By arranging these particulars well at first, a great deal of trouble is saved in erasing false marks. Be careful to give every line its proper position. A line that is upright in nature must be upright in your picture. Lines that go direct from you (that is, perpendicular to you as you stand), go toward the point of sight; if they are above the horizontal line, they tend downward toward the point of sight; and if below, they tend upward. In sketching, it is well to have the lines a little broken, yet having the general appearance of straightness. An easy, rapid, and decided manner of sketching is a power only acquired by practice.

"LETITIA."—To enlarge and diminish a drawing.—Divide the original piece into a certain number of squares by perpendicular and horizontal lines, making as many in the original as in the space intended for the copy. Number the corresponding squares alike (your copy may be either larger or smaller), then observe in what parts of each square the different marks run in the original, and draw similar ones to correspond in your copy. This is the best method for enlarging and diminishing. For oil paintings, pieces of twine or thread might be tacked across at equal intervals so as not to injure or mark the painting; or for small engravings you can procure a piece of stout card paper; cut a square in it the size of the engraving you wish to copy; divide the sides and ends into half inches; then with a needle and thread pass through the various marks from side to side and from top to bottom, taking care that the thread always comes from the same side of the card, so as to lie close to the engraving when used. Number the threads each way. If you wish to enlarge the copy, it is necessary to determine the proportions one, two, or more inches to the half inch of the thread card.

QUESTIONS.

COR. CLUB.—"Can you give me directions for shading in pencil drawing?" AMATEUR."

COR. CLUB.—"1. How are photographs prepared for tinting with water colors? 2. Choice of photographs? 3. Necessary colors? 4. Choice of pencils?" COLORIST."