

arately and attached to each other with a few stitches at the points of the petals.

The tea-cloth is made of fine twilled linen, one yard square; but, of course, it can be adapted to any desired size. The very effective Gothic design has the appearance of being underlaid by another cover, and it is very handsome for a table-center, which should measure about twelve by sixteen inches. A corner of the full-sized working design showing plainly the stitches used for working is given. The design can be repeated indefinitely. The white cord is couched on with yellow floss; the underlying points are buttonholed with pale green silk, which is used also for the filling stitches. Quite an Oriental effect can be achieved by working the design in dull blue and red, using a fine gold cord couched with red, and doing the filling with blue. Those who prefer white or very delicate colors for all table napery will admire the effect produced by working the underlying points in the palest sky blue,—just enough color to preserve the appearance of relief in the work,—and doing the couching in pure white.

Household.

Holiday Comforts.

SO much of the real comfort and rest of a holiday depends upon our surroundings that often the wisest and apparently most far-seeing plans in the arrangements for the outing are defeated by petty discomforts that could by no possibility have been foreseen. While grave thought must be given to the selection of the place for the outing, the wisdom of a serpent is needed in deciding what shall be packed for the journey. So largely does our comfort depend upon a wise choice in this respect,—the taking with us what we need and the leaving at home all that will simply inconvenience us by increasing our luggage and filling no earthly purpose,—that some plans which have succeeded will afford helpful suggestions to the housemothers, all over the length and breadth of the land, who, at this moment, with perplexed brows, are trying to solve the vexed problem more satisfactorily this year than last.

In the small rooms into which many people are crowded at summer resorts, trunks are usually found to be an unmitigated nuisance; not only in the way, but also liable, unless treated with the utmost respect and caution, to inflict jagged rents in gowns,—for who can guarantee the integrity of a trunk's bands and corners after it has been in the hands of a baggage smasher?

All this can be avoided by utilizing the trunks as pieces of furniture. In the following suggestions many hints that will prove useful at home the year round may be found. Make covers of different kinds and styles for all your trunks, according to their size and shape. Low steamer-trunks serve as comfortable divans when covered with a cushion, which should be just the size of the top of the trunk, and filled with hair, moss, excelsior, or cotton-batting; denim, cretonne, cotton *crêpe*, or Canton flannel may be used for the cover, and a valance of the stuff, just clearing the floor, should be sewed all around it. Your little divan will take the place of two chairs, and be vastly more comfortable than the regulation, straight-backed, high, cane-seated affair found in country hotels and boarding-houses.

Large, high, flat-topped trunks are easily converted into tables by laying over the top a piece of stout pasteboard or

a thin board, and covering either with a silk rug, table-cover, or with cretonne. If the latter be used it is best to shape it to fit the trunk, cutting a piece the size of the top, and putting on the side-piece without fulness, but with just a little spring at the corners. A rug is something one should always take when traveling, for it can be turned to a multitude of uses, and it is needed to throw on the ground when sketching or reading outdoors. The inexpensive Italian silk rugs, which come in stripes of color upon color in a great variety of combinations, are admirable for this summer use.

Round-topped trunks are somewhat harder to dispose of, but a little trouble will well repay one. Get a packing-box the size of the trunk, or of convenient height to serve as a table or toilet. Discarding the cover, let the bottom serve as the top, and knock out one side to leave it open in front. This furnishes a convenient closet for the trunk, which can be pulled out when necessary to open it, without disturbing the things on the table. Cover the table top smoothly with denim or cretonne, and put a full valance around the front and sides.

One of the large writing-pads, fitted with every convenience for writing, laid on its top, will convert the trunk-cover into a writing-table,—a convenience usually sadly lacking in summer hotels,—which will encourage prompt attention to correspondence, and turn a task into a pleasure. If greater need is felt for a toilet-table, the box can be covered with light-colored Japanese *crêpe* or dotted Swiss, and converted into an attractive *Duchesse toilette*. In the illustration given, the curtains are hung from a brass rod which is fastened at the ends with tiny brackets. Another simple fashion, which gives a slight canopy effect over the mirror, is to suspend the drapery from a bird-cage bracket fastened above the mirror. *Crêpe* tissue-paper is also a pretty fabric for draping toilet tables, and much more durable than its name implies. The white paper will last a season, and the colored ones can be used for a year.

A most satisfactory toilet-table of this sort in a dressing-room where space was of much importance, but where it was necessary to place two trunks,—a large "Saratoga" and a steamer-trunk,—was a thing of beauty as well as a convenience. A table was made to cover the "Saratoga," upon which casters were put so it could be rolled forwards and backwards with ease. The table-top was generously broad, and a very convenient height; and the whole was covered with a rich cretonne of conventionalized pattern in shades of olive and dark crimson, the side piece, or valance, being put on with considerable fulness. An upright piece, about six inches high, covered smoothly with the cretonne, was fastened securely across the top at the back, and to it were screwed two metal brackets which supported a narrow shelf, also covered with cretonne. Two stout pieces of wood about an inch and a half wide and an inch thick, also covered with cretonne, were screwed to the back and served as uprights to support a fair-sized mirror in a neat black-walnut frame. Ornamental-headed screws, run through the uprights and into the mirror-frame on the sides, held it securely, and allowed it to tilt when wanted. This arrangement of the mirror gave a much more finished effect to the toilet-table than would have been possible if it had been hung on the wall back of it, and made any draping of the wall and mirror superfluous. The steamer-trunk was covered with a curtain and valance, and served as a divan.

Still another convenient cover for a round-topped trunk is a board, as long and as broad as the trunk, fitted with supports at the ends shaped to the curve of the trunk. These end-pieces are attached with hinges, so they can be shut flat (see illustration) for convenience in packing. Such a board

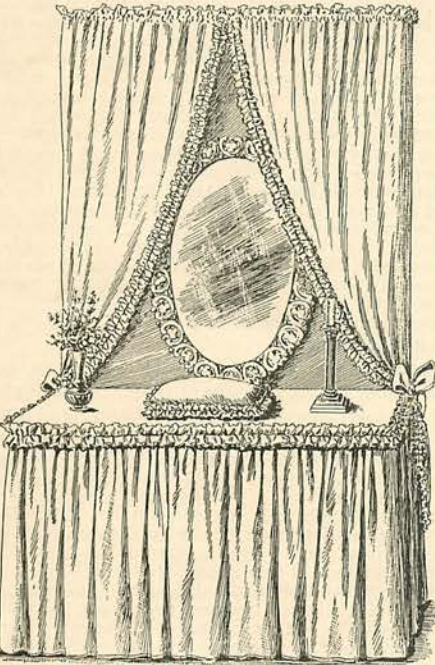
could be lashed to a steamer-chair and both checked together. A cretonne cover can be made for it, or a table-cover used.

If planning for a long stay in one place, it more than pays to take many comforts with one that when journeying from place to place would not be enjoyed enough to recompense one for the trouble of the additional impedimenta.

The Japanese rush mats are very light, take up little room, cost but ten cents apiece, and are convenient when sitting on veranda steps; or they can be easily hung on the arm when taking long tramps, to afford that necessary protection from damp ground when resting which delicate people require.

Hammocks are so generally recognized as indispensable in all plans for summer out-of-door life that it were a waste of time and words to set forth the advantage of taking them; but the luxury of the steamer-chair is not so generally appreciated, and yet the restful comfort it affords is unequalled by anything but the most expensive

reclining-chair. Many people who have never taken to hammocks will find that a steamer-chair just suits them. Adjustable cushions fitted to the seat and back and tied together with ribbons, and also into the chair in the same way, and a head-rest add much to the comfort of these chairs. In our large shops they can be purchased ready-made in



DUCHESS TOILET-TABLE.

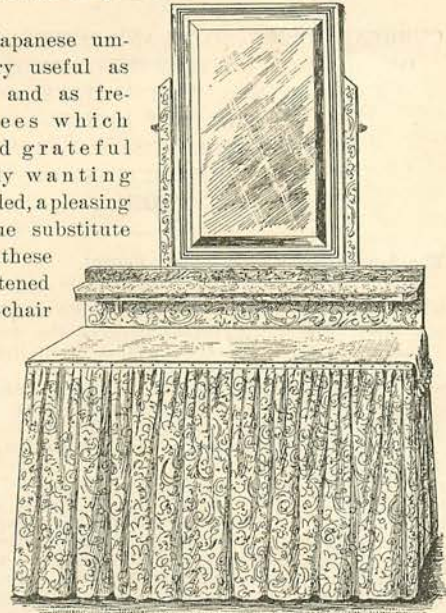
a variety of durable covers suitable for the hard usage of a sea-voyage or for out-of-door life. Denim and pongee are most used on shipboard, but for country use all the host of pretty, inexpensive upholstery fabrics are suitable.

Two or three head-cushions in serviceable covers that can be laundered are a great convenience; but if space for packing forbids their being taken, make several cases of cretonne or denim to slip over your bed pillows. The open end can be fastened with buttons and buttonholes or tied with ribbons; and no one can object to the pillows thus protected being used outdoors.

Although immunity from mosquitoes is usually guaranteed, there is yet to be found a country paradise where flies do not abound; and as even one fly is perfectly capable of murdering sleep, and many a coveted morning nap has been sacrificed to these pests, it is a wise precaution to defend yourself with a mosquito net. A very simple arrangement for hanging a net was suggested in "Household" in the

July number. Another way, equally as simple, is to use a Japanese umbrella for a canopy top, cutting off the handle, of course, and suspending it from the ceiling by a cord or chain.

The large Japanese umbrellas are very useful as lawn shelters, and as frequently the trees which ought to afford grateful shade are sadly wanting where most needed, a pleasing and picturesque substitute will be found in these umbrellas; fastened over a steamer-chair they render the occupant delightfully independent of shifting and fickle shade. An illustrated article upon "Garden Shelters" published in Demorest's for July, 1893,



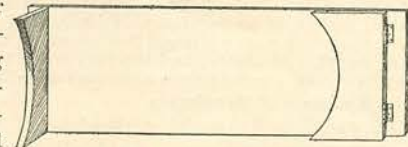
A TRANSFORMED "SARATOGA."

gives many suggestions for increasing the comfort of both invalids and children, and making them comparatively free from weather conditions in out-of-door life.

The general adoption of the veranda as a summer parlor has led to many experiments in the way of shades or awnings for protection from wind, light showers, and sun, but nothing is better for the purpose than bamboo shades; they are mounted on rollers, so they are as easily raised and lowered as window-shades. They can be bought now for \$1 upward, and are for sale in most of the furnishing shops.

Frequently in country hotels and farmhouses little or no provision is made for hanging clothes; and yet we need it in summer more than any other season of the year. The small hook-racks which take up but little room and can be easily fastened up on a door will be a convenience in such a place; and if a long stay is made it pays to have several, and also to take a cretonne curtain to hang before the door is also a great comfort; for you can thus preserve your privacy and at the same time leave your hall door open to create a circulation of air. Here and there a summer hotel may be found where they have wakened up to a realization of the comforts which our present civilization calls necessities, and supplied these needs; but unless you know where you are going it is best to be provided with them.

Some fastidious women always seem to carry a bit of home with them wherever they go, and if they tarry only a few days in a place their rooms wear a home-like aspect during their brief occupancy. This pleasantness is achieved by taking a few bits



COVER FOR ROUND-TOPPED TRUNK.

of home with one,—little ornaments of life, which take almost no room, and are not troublesome to pack. A bureau-scarf of some sort,—dotted Swiss, with a ruffle or lace edged, is always fresh-looking,—a pincushion, one or two vases for the wild flowers we are always gathering, and a few photographs will in a trice transform a dreary room into a cheerful abiding-place.

E. A. FLETCHER.