

A PRACTICAL SUGGESTION FOR A PRETTY PRESENT.

THE approach of birthdays vexes the minds of many girls upon the question of giving a present to their mothers, which shall combine beauty, utility, and cheapness. To such I would recommend

A PRETTY BOOT POCKET.

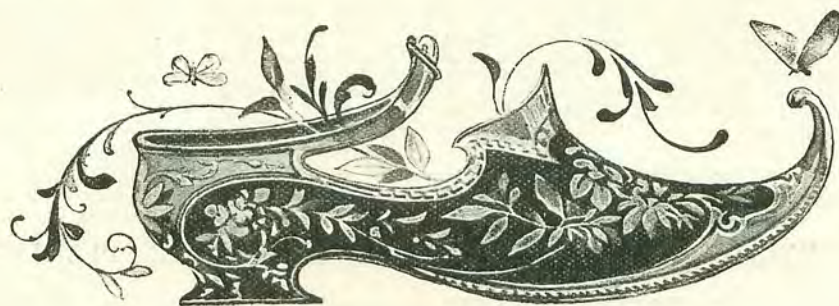
Most of us have met during our travels with the dark brown variety which, edged with scarlet or blue braid, is certainly useful, but, equally certainly, ugly. Quite a charming pocket can be made with one yard of Liberty canvas at 9½d. and a little silk. The canvas is folded lengthways in three, two thicknesses forming the pocket, and the upper fold the flap. The two under thicknesses are then divided into six equal parts and roughly but strongly stitched together with thick silk of a shade which contrasts well with the canvas. The edge of the flap may then be hemmed or else bound with a strip of Pongee silk

such as may be procured for 1s. 0½d. the yard. Then, if you have more time than money, you may embroider any device you choose along the whole length, or a spray in one corner. Or, and this is perhaps easier and quicker, some wholesome motto or short proverb may be worked on fantastically and lightly, giving to the pocket literary as well as artistic value. If, on the contrary, your money be in excess of your time, the canvas may be used as a foundation only, to be delicately draped with soft silk, showing only a little of the canvas.

The model was made in the former way. The body is of green canvas bound with orange-coloured silk along the flap. The divisions are stitched with a whole thread (twelve strands) of filoselle one shade darker than the canvas. Along the pockets are scrawled the words, "You can if you think you can," done in the same filoselle, a little

coarse black silk, and a thread of fine Japanese gold all twisted together and sewn on. At the right-hand side is a clump of bulrushes made of wadding covered with some scraps of the orange silk, and on the left side are some oranges made in the same way. The whole thing is done roughly, but the effect is good, chiefly because the colours are pleasing.

A boot pocket so made, whether embroidered or draped, is a pretty ornament for a hall, especially if its hues carry out the scheme of colour already prevailing therein. It is especially useful to mothers with many boys and girls at home for the holidays. A family of skaters would find such a pocket convenient for the bestowal of their skates when not in use, as, comfortably housed, they would be less liable to rust. In such a case, the names of the different members of the family might be embroidered on it instead of the motto. PAMELA BULLOCK.



ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

EDUCATIONAL.

GREEN CARNATION.—You might obtain information by writing to the Matron or Superintendent of the Martha Hans Institute in the Schiffer Strasse, Frankfort, where board and lodging at 3s. daily is provided for English governesses, and at the Victoria Home for British Governesses, 1, Weilburgasse III., Vienna. Write and make sure of obtaining a situation before you go to the expense of the journey; and it would likewise be desirable to write to the resident British chaplain and ask him to do you the great favour of giving his opinion of your incurring the risk of going to find situations. We presume you have good certificates as to efficiency, and first-class testimonials as to character from your clergymen and others, whose addresses are given if references are required.

E. S.—If you wish to be a dispenser of medicine you must apply for information to one of the three institutions we now indicate, *i.e.*, the Pharmaceutical Society, 17, Bloomsbury Square, W.C., which admits women to its daily lectures and to its exams.; fees £4 4s. The South London School of Pharmacy, 325, Kennington Road, which likewise admits women to lectures and laboratory; fees for a year's training, £15. Also classes are held for ladies in dispensing and practical pharmacy at the Middlesex College of Chemistry, 40, Charlotte Street, Portland Place, W. The Principal is F. Hubert Painter, Esq. Write for the prospectus of either or all of these societies, and enclose large stamped envelopes for them. It would be well to start with some knowledge of botany. Before opening a shop, a three years' apprenticeship to a registered chemist and druggist would be required.

B. ST. V. VERNON.—There is a children's hospital at Birmingham, Broad Street; at Gloucester, Kingsholm (free for children of the poor); at Liverpool, in Myrtle Street, an Infirmary for Children under 12 years; at Manchester, a general hospital for children at Pendlebury. We do not think any take nurses for training under 21 years; but you can write to the matrons of these and inquire for yourself.

STUDENT.—The university at which most women have matriculated is very naturally the first which admitted them. St. Andrews led the way in 1877, and since then some 6600 and upwards have proved themselves worthy of the advantages conferred on them in that university.

MRS. C. CHAMBERLAIN, F.R.H.S.—We thank you for your kind letter acknowledging our mention of the Women's London Gardening Association, and note that all communications should be addressed to you. Also that only gentlewomen are received as apprentices. That advice on the management of country gardens is given at reasonable fees; that jams, jellies, bottled fruits, etc., are made on the premises (62 and 64, Lower Sloane Street, S.W.), and by ladies; that you contract for the stocking and care of conservatories, window boxes, and gardens by the month, season, or year; and that, with the exception of hard digging, conveying soil, laying gravel, and training tall creepers, all the orders are executed by ladies. We gladly give information concerning all institutions connected with women's work, and benevolent, amateur, educational, and other societies, on their application for a notice. But unless they themselves send us due advice as to change of administration and change of address, improvement and extension of work, or extinction, it is impossible for us to give "up-to-date information." Such societies abound all over the country as well as in town.

"22 YEARS OF AGE."—*The Handbook of the English Tongue*, by Dr. Angus, is what you require, published by the Religious Tract Society, price 5s. No limit of age advertised for the competition you name.

ARTIST'S MODEL.—We could not take the responsibility of recommending your taking a situation in a foreign school. If you wish to go to Paris, there are two homes the principals of which might give you advice. If you wish to go to any large city in Germany, such as Berlin, Dresden, Leipzig, etc., write to the resident British chaplains for information. Your writing is so exceedingly bad it makes the eyes ache to read it, and this may have caused your last letter to have been passed over. You should warn any pupil not to copy it.

MISCELLANEOUS.

JACK AT SEA.—White straw hats which are much discoloured should be washed first in a warm lather of soap, with a soft brush. Bleach then in a wash of a quarter of an ounce of oxalic-acid powder, with three gallons of boiling water. Hold the hat down with a stick for five minutes. Dry before the fire, and stiffen with a little parchment-size. Be very careful with the oxalic-acid, as it is a strong poison.

BLUE BELL.—Get some walnut-stain, and having removed any splinters and roughness in the boards, brush them over with the stain. Then procure some beeswax and oil at an oil-shop, melt it till of the consistency of thick cream, and rub it over the boards with a stiff hard-brush. But there is danger in melting anything so inflammable; so beware of any of it running over. Melt it in an oven; and watch the (earthenware) vessel. Writing promises well.

ATHOL.—Should write to our publisher as to prices and supply of our own publications. We do not advertise, nor supply those of other societies and firms. Your own librarian could procure any book for you, and previously inform himself of their respective prices. We are sorry to disappoint you, and that we cannot give private answers.

A. W.—The duties of such situations would, of course, vary in each school, so would the amount paid for their services, and the time for the holidays. A "wardrobe-keeper" has the charge of the boys' clothes, mends and sends them to the wash, and generally sees that they are kept tidy and clean. The housekeeper, or matron, in small schools sometimes is "wardrobe-keeper" as well. The duties of a housekeeper are also varied, but in general she is the head of the servants, and looks after and engages them; orders and arranges the meals, and purchases the food as well, unless there be a steward. Her salary would range from £25 to £45, or more, per annum, according to the size of the school.

MEADOW SWEET.—The English language contains a far greater number of words than any other modern language. According to the most-recently published and revised dictionaries—notably that by Dr. Murray (Oxford)—there are no less than 250,000 words. Next in order of fulness comes the German, having 80,000 words; then the French, with 30,000; and Spanish, with 20,000.

HOUSEWIFE.—Much depends on the character of your wall-paper. Dust it lightly with a soft flat brush, or cloth, then try some obscure corner with crumb of bread two days old, and if the paper will bear it, rub the wall gently downwards with the bread (cut from a quarter loaf). If there be any grease-spots you must endeavour to remove them, by making a paste of fullers earth and cold water, laying it on the greasy places, and leaving it till quite dry, when it must be gently brushed off.