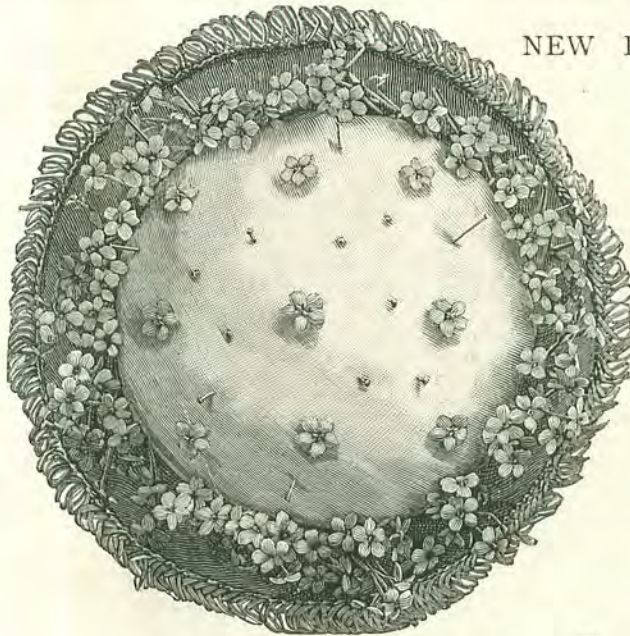




NEW PARISIAN KNICK-KNACKS.



A LOVELY NEW PINCUSHION.

In recalling some of the pretty and tasteful knick-knacks which are everywhere to be seen in this gay city I cannot but contrast them with English articles of a similar kind. How dainty and tasteful are the Parisians in their work; how successfully daring the colours they use, how crisp the bows; in short, how different is their fancy-work from that of the average Londoner.

Some of the work, though charming enough, is correspondingly costly either to purchase or to imitate, but there is much on a less ambitious scale which English girls, if they do not exactly copy it, can at any rate study and glean hints from.

The pincushion first shown is not so elaborate as it appears to be. The materials required are two dozen sprays of artificial forget-me-nots, two circles of stiff cardboard six inches across, and some grey silk with which to cover them; one circle of card four and a half inches across and one of white satin six inches across. Also some tiny gilt spangles and three-quarters of a yard of narrow tinsel fringe. First cover the two larger cards each with grey silk, interlined, if the silk be poor in

quality, with muslin or undyed calico. Interline the white satin also, and to the very centre of it sew a forget-me-not flower snipped from one of the sprays. This should have a spangle for a centre and be caught down very neatly with fine blue silk. Sprinkle eight other flowers over the white satin, putting them on in the same way and leaving plenty of room for pins between them. Run a gathering thread round the edge of the satin, lay the latter right side downwards and fill generously with bran or cotton wool, lastly laying the small circle of card on the top, and round the edge of this gathering in the draw-thread very tightly.

Glue or stitch this white cushion in the centre of one of the grey-covered centres, fixing it quite firmly and concealing the outer rim of the cushion with sprays of forget-me-not. These are sewn down so that each slightly overlaps the former one until a perfect wreath is made. Sew on the second grey-covered circle which forms the bottom of the cushion and edge with the fringe. Raise the forget-me-nots so that these stand up slightly instead of lying quite flat round the cushion.

In Paris the shops at which dogs' outfits are sold must prove very tempting to those who love to deck or clothe their pets. The elegant visiting costumes, the plainer walking gowns, the capes for cold weather, the night-gowns, collars, necklets, the scarlet-laced boots, all suggest that on this side of the water the importance of a lap-dog is scarcely fully realised. Perhaps the owner of a delicate



FIG. 2.—A COAT FOR PET DOG WITH POCKETS FOR HANDKERCHIEF AND TRAIN-TICKET.



dog desires to see him wearing some coat warmer than that provided by nature. If so the making of such a garment will prove a true labour of love. Fig. 2 shows a dog's promenade coat of the most fashionable make. The general shape and cut are seen in the illustration, but of course, as for any other customers, measurements must be taken and

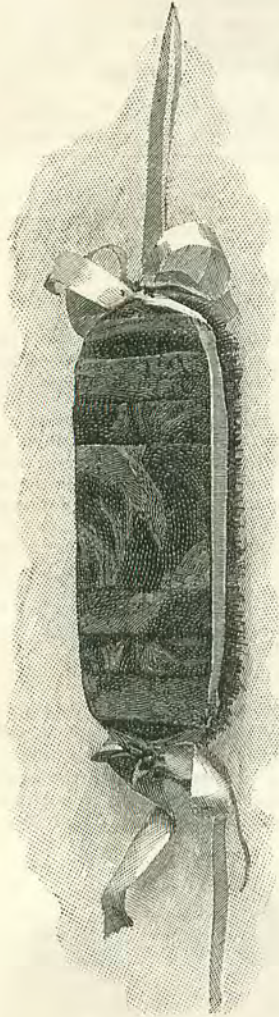


FIG. 3.

adaptations made to suit individual requirements. The materials here used and which are at once warm, appropriate and fashionable, are brown heather-mixture tweed for the coat itself, with a black satin cape and beaver trimmings. The fur can be real or imitation according to the wish of the maker. The lining of the coat and of the pockets is pink flannel. It may possibly be asked if there is any reason for the pockets? Decidedly there is. They are considered to add considerably to the appearance and completeness of the garment, and, especially for travelling, to be absolutely necessary, one to hold the dog's handkerchief, the other his railway ticket.

The coat is fastened at the back and underneath with brown ribbon strings, which are adaptable and can be loosened and tightened as required, but the cape must fit nicely down the front, where it is fastened at the neck and again below it with a tiny buckle and a corresponding thong of binding.

The colours of the materials used in the small garment before us have been mentioned, but it must be quite understood that these are only to be used under special circumstances. On no account must the dog's costume be much at variance as regards colours and materials with that of his mistress; indeed, if it be made from some of the same stuff as composes her gown, and can be trimmed so as still further to accord with it, so much the better. The velvet, satin, or fur cape can, if wished, be made as a separate garment, to be worn only on especially cold occasions or added as an extra wrap for evening wear.

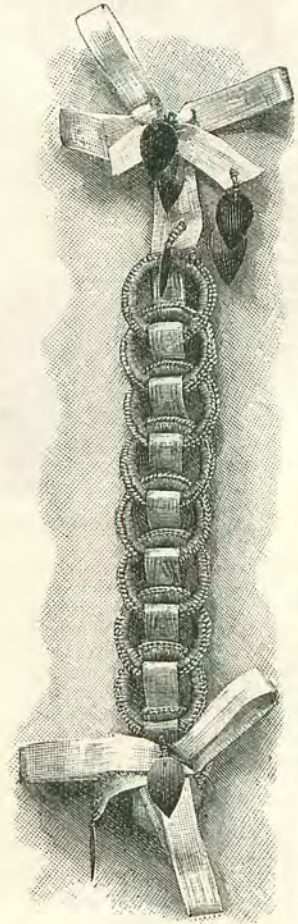
The decoration of even the most familiar articles in every-day use is still considered to be an improvement to them, and now, to such an extent has the custom grown, even hearth-brushes are "draped," and present quite a decorative and festive appearance. It should be remembered that they are used chiefly to dust away the light wood ashes, not the blacker heavier cinders left by English coal-fires.

From the adornment of the hearth-brush to that of the clothes-brush is not a long step, and has lately been taken. The backs of the brushes only are trimmed up, and this addition does not really interfere much with their usefulness.

By adding a velvet back a hat-brush is, as it were, contrived, for there is no better material than velvet with which to smooth down silk or beaver. The velvet used on the brush shown in Fig. 3 is terra-cotta in colour, shading into golden-yellow. A strip of the material is cut that measures twice the length of the brush, and about an inch more than the width of it. This is pleated up to the required length and fastened down by tiny nails, put in at intervals all round the edge of the brush. The velvet beyond the nails is cut closely away, and the heads of these and all raw edges are hidden by a half-inch wide band of amber ribbon, stretched tightly round and sewed down at intervals. Over this comes a second strip of the same ribbon put on more loosely, and gathered in every here and there over the stitches of the underneath band. The gathering thread is hidden by driving in a nail with an ornamental head, or by sewing on a rather large spangle, which serves the same purpose. At each end of the brush should be a large loose bow of the amber ribbon; from one of these bows should come a long loop of the ribbon, by means of which the brush may be hung up.

Some novel *chatelaines* were made entirely of rings, through which narrow ribbon is plaited. The watch-holder shown in the last illustration is an example of this kind of work. Nine or ten curtain-rings, measuring an inch across, were used, and these were all worked over in double crochet with salmon-coloured thread. The ribbon used was cream-coloured, and nearly half an inch wide, the method of interlacing it so as to string the rings firmly together can be seen from the picture. A short description may also serve to aid a would-be maker of such a chain as this. Begin at the top of the work; hold two curtain-rings (the upper one slightly overlapping the lower one) in the left hand. With the right hand pass the ribbon between the two rings, working from the under to the upper side, exposing the upper portion of the lower ring and hiding the bottom part of the upper and uppermost ring by passing the ribbon back to the underside of the work just under this portion of that ring. Place another ring below the second one, which should slightly overlap it, and bring up the ribbon between these two

rings in exactly the same manner as before. Continue thus until the chain is deemed long enough. Though apparently a complicated it is really a very simple process, and an interesting one. On the wrong side of the chain sew a large strong hook to the lowest ring. This is to hold the watch, so the stitches that secure it must be very strong. They can be hidden by adding, on the right side of the work, a bow made of some of the cream-coloured ribbon. At the top let the ribbon extend for an inch or two beyond the ring (to the top of which it must be sewn), and add there also a good bow of the ribbon. At the back of this bow, on the wrong side, place a large safety-pin, by which to secure the chain to the dress, or a long loop of ribbon through which a waistband may be threaded. The linked rings are very firm, but as a chain is no stronger than its weakest link, any carelessness with regard to the watch-hook, or to the fastening at the top, may cause the loss of a watch. As a novel finish to the bows, hang from the several ends of them glittering heart-shaped spangles, wee bells, or sequins, attaching them by a thread passed through from five



A CHATELAINE.

to eleven beads. They are thus made to dangle at different lengths, and do not hide one another. Thus is completed a new but perhaps not over safe watch- or fan-holder, the description of which must be the last thing here attempted, as, though ideas are not lacking, space, unfortunately, is so.

LEIRION CLIFFORD.

