

these little toilers in a desolate life. The chief office of the society is at 18, Buckingham Street, Strand, W.C.

There are other fields almost too many to mention, for the work of those who long to help others.

"Let nothing be lost" is the motto that constantly occurs to the mind in thinking of this subject. You possess accomplishments. You have, for instance, a sweet voice that has been well trained; then use it, not only in drawing-rooms for your social equals, but for the pleasure of others—in the workhouse, in the parish entertainment, the girls' club, the concert given in some mission hall. You can sew; do not draw the line at manufacturing blouses for yourself, but remember the poor and needy child. You possess ingenuity and deft and nimble fingers; turn their cleverness to account in the manufacture of what shall brighten sad childish eyes.

You can do nothing particular but enjoy life and have a good time; then join one or another recreative association,

and help others to enjoy life too. You live at the country or seaside; then either receive into your own home, or find quarters for, some tired factory girl or child needing fresh air.

Addresses that may be of use in this connection are—Factory Girls' Country Holiday Fund, Hon. Secretary, St. Peter's Rectory, Saffron Hill, London, E. C.; Children's Country Holiday Fund, 10, Buckingham Street, Strand, W.C.; Children's Fresh Air Mission, Onslow Street Schools, Clerkenwell Road, E.C.

We do not profess to give an exhaustive list of agencies for good. They are not difficult to discover by anyone who has the wish and the heart to use them.

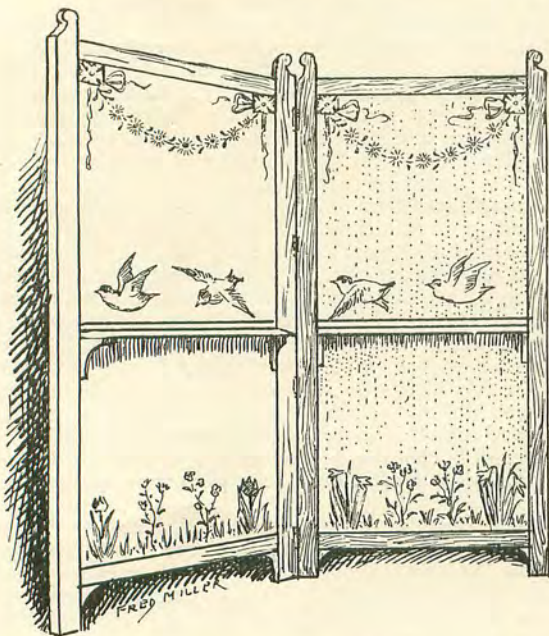
Place yourself in connection with one or another of the organisations we have described, unless you prefer individual initiative and effort. But however you may set about it—yet work! For she who has not learned the secret of altruism—life for others—has not learned truly how to live.

LILY WATSON.

## SCREENS WITH SHELVES:

### HOW TO MAKE AND DECORATE THEM.

By the addition of shelves to a screen they "contrive a double debt to pay," as Goldsmith said of another fitment in his *Deserted Village*, for at an afternoon tea the



shelves can be put up and provide a place to put the cups of three or four guests.

First, then, for the screen itself. The simplest and cheapest form of screen is one with a light yet strong framework of wood, and the filling of some pretty material which can either be worked with the needle or left as it is.

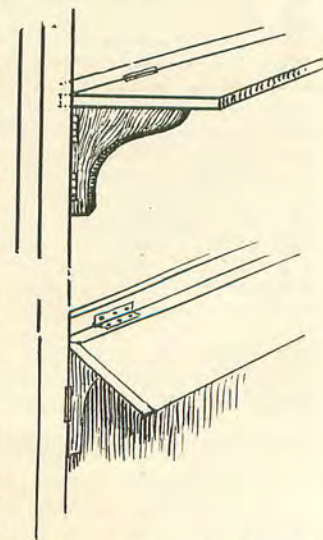
The white American bass wood is excellent for this purpose, as it is both strong and light. It takes stain admirably, so those who have no brother or friendly amateur joiner to undertake the making of the screen should get it made by a joiner or frame-maker. I have had such things made for me by an artist's frame-maker. If you show him the sketches accompanying these notes, he will understand what is wanted, but you had better give him the height and width of each leaf. Four feet six inches to five feet is a good height, and from twenty to twenty-four inches wide. Those who get the wood-work made at home

should have the cross-bars mortised into the uprights, as the uprights can then project above and be shaped as in sketch, while they can be carried below and form legs. As the shelves will have to be hinged to something, cross-bars should also be mortised into the uprights, somewhere about midway, which will not only take the shelves but will materially strengthen the screen. The framework should be got out of inch stuff, but the shelves would do out of three-eighths. As the shelves should be contrived to let down when not in use, brackets at each end to hold the shelves up should be screwed to the framework.

The cross-bars should be flush with the framework at the back of the screen, but they need not be more than half-an-inch thick, as this will allow for the thickness of the shelves. As for the width of the shelves, this can be a matter at the discretion of the individual; six to eight inches would be enough to take a plate or saucer.

Assuming that the framework is supplied you and you do the staining yourself, you should purchase some liquid stain the colour you desire the screen to be. Stains for wood can be had almost any colour—black, green, brown, red, etc. The stain must be brushed on evenly, using enough for it to flow on freely, and as the wood will absorb the stain readily, avoid getting it on patchy. A good brown stain can be made by dissolving permanganate of potash (the well-known disinfectant) in boiling water. The colour depends upon the strength it is used, but for a deep tone put on two coats.

To polish it, for there is no polish in the stain itself, dissolve beeswax in turpentine. The way to do this is to put the beeswax into a vessel with the turpentine, and then cover it with a saucer or piece of glass, and place it on the hob. The heat will soon dissolve the wax, and when cold it will be the consistency of butter. This should be well rubbed into the wood with a stiff brush or piece of flannel, and then polished with a dry flannel, using plenty of friction. If





after a time it goes dead, use a little more wax and constant friction will do the rest. This is the way the old furniture was polished.

Varnish, such as "dark oak," can be used, but it does not look as well as hand polishing. French polishing is beyond most amateurs, but if the screen is made for you, have it French polished.

Those who prefer it can paint the wood. It will require three coats to cover well, and the last coat might be enamel. White or ivory would be the most suitable colour.

Now for the filling of the panels. The material ought to be tacked on stretchers, which should be made to fit the spaces. These stretchers should be as light as possible, as there is no great strain upon them. They must be fixed into position by beads. These beads on the outside of the screen can be fixtures, as the panels can be fitted in from the front, and the other beads can then be pinned in, using fine French nails or bead pins for the purpose. If the stretchers are three-eighths of an inch in thickness, the beads

should each be the same, as if they project slightly beyond the frames, this adds to the appearance rather than otherwise. The beads are made of narrow strips of wood about three-eighths of an inch wide with one corner rounded.

I shall have something to say in another number about working the suggestions given in the illustrations, but those who do not contemplate doing this can use any nice fabric they have by them or can purchase cheaply. Remnants of artistic fabrics can often be picked up at sales. The upper panels can be different from the lower ones, and the back different from the front.

Stencilled patterns on self-coloured textiles would look well, stencilled fabrics being very fashionable just now. There are various makes of canvas that are admirably suited to this purpose; such canvas as is used for friezes of rooms, for instance. The stencilling should be done before the material is tacked to the stretchers. The tacking should be done at the extreme edge or the ends of the stretchers, so that the beads hide the tacks. Use very fine cut tacks for the purpose, and see that you get the textiles on taut. The leaves of the screen

must, of course, be hinged, so that they close leaving the shelves outside. The hinges must be sunk in the frames; continuous hinges sold by the foot are best.

The bars dividing the panels need not be in the centre, but this must be regulated to some extent by the height the shelves are to come, as if these are placed too high it will make using them less convenient; the height of a table or sideboard is about right.

FRED MILLER.

