

of the characteristic forms of tree, rock and grass." The pupil will do well to study out this alphabet, to practice different modes of expression, until he has at command a shorthand method, if I may so express it, of taking down memoranda of nature, which will be of invaluable aid in the composing of original sketches, or in the after study of color. Different values of light and shadow may be so expressed as to enable the worker to jot down his impressions of a landscape in such a way as shall afterwards enable him to copy successfully in color.

#### Painting for Beginners.

ALTHOUGH it were well for you to become more familiar with drawing before attempting color, there is such a demand for easy lessons for beginners in painting that we feel constrained to accede to it.

It is our purpose, however, to carry on the two branches as far as possible in unison, trying to make one supplement the other; and it is to be hoped that none will overlook the first, in the eagerness to get at the second. It is also thought best to introduce at first a simple water color series, as practice may be had in the more inexpensive colors, without much outlay or trouble.

The lessons upon outline in foregoing columns will apply equally well here. Great care should be taken to insure correct outlines. Of course, it need not be a finished sketch, but it should embrace all the important features of the picture. We can but give a brief preface to the subject in this number. If you will procure your material, we will be ready for actual work next month.

The following one dozen colors will be sufficient for a beginning:—

1. White (in tube).
2. Yellow ochre.
3. Vermilion.
4. Light red.
5. Rose madder.
6. Gamboge.
- \*7. Indian yellow.
8. Burnt sienna.
9. Lamp black.
10. Hooker's green, No. 2.
11. Antwerp blue.
12. Sepia.

Winsor & Newton's moist colors in pans or half pans are good and reliable. The white is best in tube, as already stated.

The brushes needed are a large, flat washer; No. 2 black fitch, or sable, with a No. 6 red sable, and two finer sables, No. 2 and No. 3.

A pad of water color paper, about 9 x 12 inches in size, and costing not over \$1.25 will be found very useful, and will provide you with paper enough for all your lessons. A china slab with divisions, and a soft flexible sponge will complete your outfit for these first lessons in painting.

It would be excellent practice if you would copy each drawing lesson in sepia in different washes of color, giving the different values of light and shade. Sepia is a water color which affords a pleasing variety of tints, the use of which will be more fully explained in subsequent lessons.

\* Should this prove too expensive a color for your purse, you can substitute chrome yellow No. 2, or *jaune brillante*.

#### SOME PRETTY AND INEXPENSIVE CHRISTMAS GIFTS AND NOVELTIES.

NOW that 1888 is so close upon us, and Christmas is near, there is a growing inclination in the minds of those clever people who make their own gifts, to find out something new and pretty in the way of holiday presents. In attractive novelties, the value is generally greatly increased where the useful is combined with the ornamental, and

those articles we have chosen for the purpose have this feature to recommend them.

Our first design, *Slipper Match Holder*, is made thus:—Cut from heavy cardboard the soles and uppers—a child's worn slipper will afford a good pattern. The sole pieces are then covered neatly with satin, the uppers with plush, bound in front or faced over

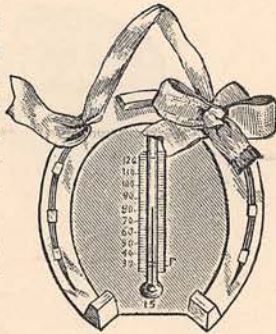
with the satin, or, if preferred, a cord of tinsel or chenille



SLIPPER MATCH SAFE.

the one first described.

Our second illustration shows a quaint and pretty thermometer plaque which we have nicknamed the *Bona Fortuna*, as the horse-shoe always seems to carry with it a certain value to the superstitious, just as it was supposed to possess a charm in the olden times against witches as well as misfortune. As this article is needed in every house (not the horse-shoe, but the thermometer), a tasteful one cannot fail to make an acceptable gift to one's friends.



BONA FORTUNA.

An ordinary horse-shoe gilded or bronzed is fastened to a piece of satin-covered cardboard, cut to fit it, as shown in illustration. The stitches are hidden by the ribbon, which is run in and out of the nail holes, and which also serves as a loop to suspend it, and finishes with a bow at one side. A small thermometer is mounted in the center of the plaque-shaped back. This is a dainty and pleasing ornament for library, chamber or sitting-room.

This bellows-shaped *Watch Pocket* shown in illustration is made in the following manner: The foundation is also of cardboard, covered with velvet or plush, and lined with satin. The front is either painted or embroidered. A fringe finishes this pretty article, being placed above the nozzle, and a hook, such as is used for bangle boards, is inserted at the top with a loop or ring for hanging.



WATCH POCKET.

Our fourth illustration, which is a pretty *Wall Pocket*, useful as a receptacle for cards, cuttings for the scrap book, etc., may be easily made by any one handy with the needle. The back is constructed of cardboard covered with velvet or plush, and decorated with painting or embroidery. A gathered pocket of silk or satin is then applied diagonally, as shown in cut, and finished with a bow at one side, and a quilling of the silk, or with any pretty heading as preferred.



WALL POCKET.

All four articles can be made to match in color if liked, *en suite*, for one individual, and will add not a little to the dainty appearance of "my lady's chamber."

