

NEW IDEAS.

LITTLE BIT.

AS visions of Christmas "goodies" present themselves to us a mention of some pretty menu cards may be acceptable—a ragged-edged card, any shape fancy suggests, with a bunch of peas fastened thereon, with a gay little bow of ribbon. Green China silk is used in making the pea-pod, cutting the shape as natural as possible, leaving a space uncaught when joining, out of which two or three peas are peeping. Tiny balls of cotton, covered with the silk compose these.

A diminutive radish is fairly imitated by rolling between the hands cotton into the shape of that vegetable, covering with shaded red silk, tying at the head with green ribbon.

A carrot, almost of similar form, is covered in orange silk.

These fancies can be enlarged on to endless extent. A dwarf head of cabbage of two or more shades of green ribbon. Little brown silk potatoes, studded with large French knots of black silk to make "eyes," are novelties.

The courses are inscribed on the cards in some rough or old-fashioned style, in keeping with the representatives of the kitchen garden.

A pretty screen is made as follows: The frame is made of polished brass; the center of plush. On this, the head and portion of the body of a stuffed peacock is mounted. A nice arrangement of the tail feather around the bird proper completes the work. No less than forty dollars was asked for this article. To reduce the cost, a rustic frame (previously illustrated in one of the Magazines) could be substituted for the brass, taking a few of the summer's collection of grasses and weaving into a bird's nest, placing at one side of the plush center, and having two or three birds flying from their home. Twigs might be placed about the nest, to make tree branches, from which are hanging cherries in raised embroidery. Stuffed birds can often be purchased from milliners' old stock.

Old fans having fine sticks can be converted into handsome new ones in this way: First obtain from an upholsterer the so-called quills from the geese feathers. These can

be bought for a few cents, and if from good stock, will be beautiful and white. Remove the old material from the sticks of the fan, cement the feathers to the sticks, in graduating lengths, having the longer ones in the center. Have a few yards of feather-edge ribbon to lace through the sticks, thus concealing the joinings of the quills and sticks. Give the ribbon a touch of cement here and there to insure strength and position. Finish with a bow of ribbon and long ends, that the wearer may suspend the fan from the shoulder. A painted design on the feathers will enhance the beauty. If colors are preferred the quills may be dipped in Diamond Dyes.

The latest fad in house furnish, is to have each room represent a period of history. Thus a Marie Antionette room will have fine embroideries and delicate odds and ends. A Continental room will be after our great-grandmothers, and all the family relics of the Revolution will show to advantage. Louis XIV. is in great demand. The Dutch room is indispensable with its rare bits of old blue china, finely wrought brass "fixins," and handsomely carved wood. Perhaps the greatest oddity is the black room, with its Japanese decorations. The chair frames are black, as are the satin seats which are painted in Japanese figures, etc. Black satin floor cushions take the place of the couch—for it is not considered improper to recline on the floor in a room like this; indeed, it is a most comfortable way to rest, providing the cushions are well made. The floor is painted black, with a rug or two thrown down. Such rooms are always small, and used as a morning room for the ladies, or oftener as a card room for the gentlemen, in which case the smoking sets and card tables must not be forgotten.

Those who gathered locust shells—I mean the skin which the locust sheds in summer—will find them a very useful addition to embroidery pieces. They become bright and beautiful with a touch of gold paint, lustra or flitter, and are taking the place of the renowned spider.