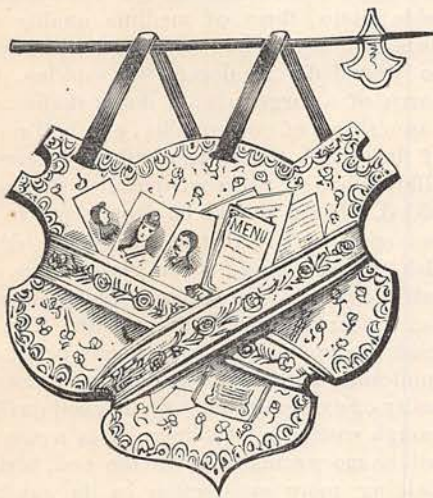


SOME OF THE LATEST FANCIES.

APROPOS of decorative work and novelties, there are many new fancies in wood and cardboard this spring, which are well suited to light fancy work. These can often be purchased ready for decoration, but many ladies will prefer to shape and fashion them for themselves, and there are so many now handy with fret-saw, carving tools, and scissors, that these things are very easily accomplished.

It requires really more patience and neat-



SHIELD WALL POCKET.

ness than ingenuity. I will try to describe some of these novelties which strike me as especially attractive. A good-sized crescent of wood, with three little shelves or brackets, the middle one attached to its widest part, is not only very pretty, but useful for holding dainty vases or other small articles.

Another shape is a large butterfly, with a small shelf attached to each outstretched wing, also used to hold some small knick-knacks.

Sometimes the wood is painted, and the

butterfly is very handsome when given its natural colors.

Wooden photograph frames with one side wider than the other, have a little shelf, or shelves across this side, and one may thus enshrine the picture of a dear friend, and keep a little vase of fresh flowers beside it, a very suggestive fancy which will appeal to the sentiment of a large number of readers I am sure. These frames are often placed on small easels, and draped with a scarf of silk, or bolting gauze.

Tambourines never seem to lose their popularity. The latest idea is to use them as calendars, neatly writing or printing the months and dates in perpendicular rows with illuminated initial letters; a good hint for those who begin Christmas presents months ahead. Some tambourines are embroidered, but this seems unsuited to the material, although it can be done. I am speaking of the regular sheeps-head tambourine. They are also made to do duty as photograph and thermometer holders, scrap pockets and other receptacles.

I must tell you here of something which will prove a novelty to many readers, although not so to some. Large and small pine cones are converted into pretty thermometer holders, by simply cutting out a little oblong space at one side for the thermometer, so that it will set in even with the side of the cone. Ribbons are run in through the holes at the top and bottom of thermometer, and passing around under the little points of the cone, are tied in small bows at one side. The whole article is brightly gilded and hung by ribbons.

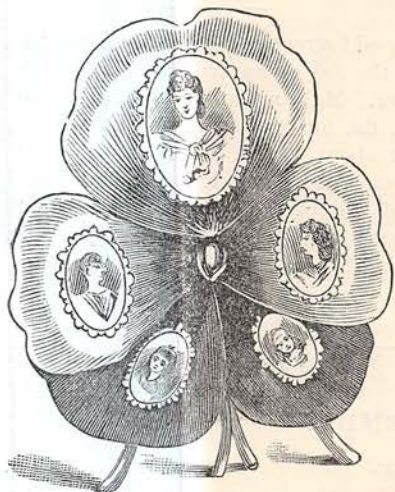
In pincushions one sees the acorn shape with a cardboard cup covered with plush, the acorn being made of satin, with a stalk and a few artificial oak leaves. They should be of good size, say seven or eight inches around, and as true to Nature as possible.

These are hung up by the stalk or stem. Another novel pincushion is about the size of a small tea-plate, with pins put all around the edge and a half moon cut at one side in comical, facial profile, painted or not, as one fancies. A velvet or plush hat is fastened at one side, opposite the face. To make this cushion, take cardboard for the foundation, and sew neatly together, as for the usual pin-ball. They may be simply cut out of heavy water-color paper or parchment.

A third novelty in cushions is the swan, made of white plush or velvet, with yellow plush beak, with a touch of black paint above it. This is represented as sailing proudly along, with the cushion proper upon its back. A pretty fancy is to mount these cushions upon a small mirror, for the dressing-case.

Another way of using the cardboard or thin wood, is the novelty here introduced as the "Shield Wall Pocket." The illustration will show plainly how it is made. A small gilded stick has a spear head of the cardboard or wood, ribbons are passed through slits for hanging the shield, whilst cross-bands of fancy ribbon, galloon, or decorated bands of plush or velvet constitute the letter pocket.

Our other illustration shows another pretty

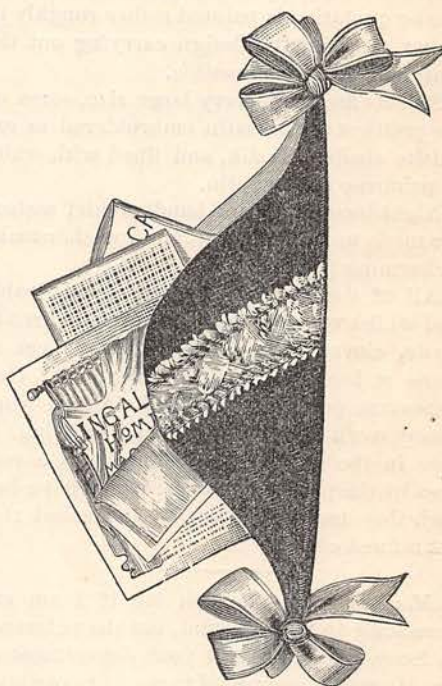


NOVEL PHOTOGRAPH HOLDER.

fancy in the shape of a novel photograph holder. This is a huge pansy, the leaves of which are cut from pliable cardboard, the two lower petals being covered with purple

velvet, the three upper with gold satin. After these are joined to form the flower, the rays or whiskers are put in with the paint brush, the center is also painted to represent a natural pansy. Oval shapes are cut in the petals to hold the photographs, as shown in cut, and supports are made of wire wound with green silk thread. This is a suitable ornament, whilst it also serves very nicely as a frame or holder for five family portraits.

Still another pretty novelty is what is known as the "Boulangier newspaper rack," which with the annexed illustration will re-



THE BOULANGIER NEWSPAPER RACK.

quire little explanation. This, too, is made of cardboard covered with plush or velvet and lined with satin. An ornamental band of embroidery crosses the front, and the ends are tied together with ribbons. Deep crimson and old gold is a pretty combination for the hat, or olive and gold, blue and gold, etc., the lining and ribbons being gold in each instance.

Continuous novelties are being introduced from time to time, in the shape of sachets. Quite the latest is of chamois, made bag fashion, or as follows: Take an oblong piece

of chamois, and paint across the bottom a quaint design, not a sentimental vine of forget-me-nots or other nonsense, but something bold and telling. Now turn back the top about three inches and repeat the same design on that, cutting out the edge to correspond with the outline. Next cut out the back of the bag to fit the front piece and stitch it up, first inserting along the bottom a cut fringe. Run cords for draw-strings, allowing the ornamental heading to fall over outwards. The fringe is made from a length of the chamois, two and one-half inches in width, slit up with scissors, at short regular intervals. A line or quotation is painted rather roughly in across the bag, the design carrying out the sentiment as far as possible.

Sachets are made very large size, some of the prettiest are of satin embroidered in exquisite shades of silk, and lined with white or primrose silk or satin.

Nightdress, glove and handkerchief sachets are made to match in sets, and together make a charming present.

All of these articles in fact are desirable and whilst very expensive if purchased ready made, clever fingers can fashion them at home at less than one-third the cost. One important point, if you wish to have your fancy work really artistic and pleasing, is care in the selection of colors. As a rule pass by the pinks and blues, which have had their day and soil so easily, and select rich yet refined colors.

Miss Sturges.—Pardon me if I am encroaching on your ground, but the reference to Snow Balls, etc., in your department of the Magazine, suggested to me that possibly I might have an idea or two that would be of

use to your subscribers. For snow balls, I have found forming a loop-stitch for each petal of No. 2 chenille—shading from the stem, using one thread of pale yellowish green, as rays from the center of the flower, and one light green knot stitch in the center—makes very pretty flowers, building the snow ball of sheet wadding in circles of varying size, the first layer being size of stamped design. It was an idea of my own and I hope it may please you.

A pretty way to make the plush and surah roses is to cut the five petals varying size and shape, but if convenient of shaded pink plush, line with surah silk. Wire the edge of the leaves before turning them, plait the base of the petal outside and lining separate, catch together and sew to center of design on the cloth. Put in your stamens, etc., same as in embroidered roses, and by using a little taste the rose leaves can be grouped so they will look very natural. Foliage to be made of arrasene, rope silk or chenille.

If this is of use to you, you are welcome, and, if agreeable, I may call again.

CAROL.

P. S. The cork that grapes are packed in can be bought at fruit and grocery stands, and is preferable to anything else for stuffing cushions.

AN odd screen can be easily manufactured with the aid of an ordinary intelligent carpenter. Make a frame four and a half feet high, the top having an ornamental lattice-work about twelve inches deep; below this place a brass or wooden rod; from this hang a soft decorative material; a rod at the bottom also will keep it from flying out. A screen of this size should have two panels.

ODDS AND ENDS.

RUTH HUBBARD.

AFTER Mrs. Beach had taken her few days of complete rest, she felt fully equal to her self-imposed task of renovation. Surely she argued she was much happier for her time being so entirely occupied; and though she was certain of becoming quite tired every

day, the night would bring sweeter repose for the glad consciousness of some good wrought, or some happy thought put in execution. Thus Mrs. Beach did not dread looking over the contents of the trunks and chests, which were so crowded with odds and ends,