

TOWELS.

RUTH HUBBARD.

THE time was when a towel was a towel, and nothing else, but now that necessary article has become quite an important factor in fancy work. It is not to be wondered at when one remarks the great improvement in their manufacture. The designs of some are almost exquisite, while the fineness of texture, and the beauty of the drawn work borders, leave nothing to be desired, excepting it may be the means to purchase these works of the draper's art. Sometimes, however, the large dry goods houses have special sales of linen, when odd and beautiful towels can easily be procured at reasonable figures; though at any time the prices are not unreasonable. Busy house-wives who cannot find the time to make handsome bureau scarfs or buffet cloths, will find beautiful covers in these unique towels. Pure white double damask are lovely for bureaus, and can be had as low as fifty cents. If liked, the borders can be outlined in colored etching silk. Some would prefer the half-bleached to the white; they are lower priced and have the added merit of not showing soil as readily. Then there are the Turkish towels in all their glory of the rainbow hues, even cheaper still. There is no necessity in *these days* for one to go without a bureau cover, or a sufficiency of clean towels. Walk in any of our large stores and look at the display of linen, and then ask yourself if there is any reason why your table should not be laid with dainty linen, or your sleeping rooms always supplied with clean, sweet towels.

Numerous articles besides covers are made from these articles of use; chief among them is the yum-yum, why so called is not known, but it will prove to be a convenience for any woman who will take the trouble to make one. It is a cape, and is worn when dressing the hair, and is handier than the ordinary sacque, especially when traveling. Fold the towel end to end, allowing one part to be longer than the other, that will be for the back. The short piece is cut through the center and hemmed. From these hems, a circle is cut for the neck. This is faced or bound, and trimmed with torchon lace or

Hamburg, with ribbon to tie. The sides where the towel is folded is taken into darts for the shape on the shoulders.

Brush and comb cases can be made of towels very easily. Fold one end over so as to form a casing for the brass rod. Then double the lower end up as high as wished, turning the fringe down and stitching at either end and through the center for the pockets. These articles are very convenient for holding baby's belongings, comb and brush, wash cloths, etc., in one pocket, shoes and stockings in the other.

One always likes to keep the soiled table linen separate from the rest of the wash, so if there is not a drawer to spare for this purpose, a good linen bag will be found just the thing. This is easily made of two large towels; stitch the sides and lower ends together and double the upper edge over for the shirr. Another useful towel bag, especially where the neck wear is sent to a laundry, is one for holding collars and cuffs. Double the towel, stitching the sides, then fold the fringed ends over about three inches, running a shirr. In this place a dress reed of medium length, fastening the ends so as to form a hoop. Bows of ribbon are at either side, and a long loop passes across the top. If bright, pretty towels and ribbons are used, one is surprised to find they have a very pretty ornament for the sleeping room, and also a very quickly made gift for a friend, and one which is always welcome, for it can be used for other purposes than the one named.

The lounge pillow made for the dining-room, can be covered with one of these gay Turkish towels. It will not only be pretty and bright, but be so inexpensive that it can be used.

A very easy and simple affair is a bed-room lambrequin for the Summer months, made of three of these Turkish towels, in dark, rich designs, or whatever colors that match the carpet or paper. The middle towel is laid lengthwise; the other two hang over the board and down like scarfs at either end. A little tacking completes the work in a few

minutes, and will save the more expensive lambrequins from the soil and dust of the Summer season. They will save the wear of nice plush chairs, by being laid smoothly over the backs.

Two of these heavy towels sewed together, form a nice hanging for the front of a book-rack, and one which will keep the dust from the books.

Three sewed together, with seams opened, form a bright covering for baby's crib; the whole lined with cheap flannel will make it warm enough for the little miss when she has her afternoon nap.

Quite another field for the use of white, or even colored lined towels, are the work

aprons, so convenient when one is sewing or embroidering. They can be fitted on the belt by darts or gathers; the lower portion turned up and stitched for the pockets. Others have a strip of the towel cut from the top, and used for pockets in the ordinary place, while the lower edge of the apron is the fringed ends. Elaborate aprons can be made by outlining with colored silk and using gay ribbon. Others can have the edges hemmed and feather stitched, the whole bordered with heavy lace. No one need feel extravagant in buying nice linen. It wears a long time, and even when it is through for towels and table-cloths, will still furnish wash and dish cloths, and be useful in sickness.

Whence Colors Come.

A WELL-KNOWN artist gave us some curious information the other day regarding the sources from which the colors one finds in a paint box are derived. Every quarter of the globe is ransacked for the material—animal, vegetable and mineral—employed in their manufacture.

From the cochineal insects are obtained the gorgeous carmine, as well as the crimson, scarlet, carmine and purple lakes.

Sepia is the inky fluid discharged by the cuttle fish to render the water opaque for its concealment when attacked.

Indian yellow is from the camel.

Ivory black and bone black are made out of ivory chips.

The exquisite Prussian blue is got by fusing horses' hoofs and other refuse animal matter with impure potassium carbonate. It was discovered by an accident.

In the vegetable kingdom are included the lakes, derived from roots, bark and gums.

Blue-black is from charcoal of the vine stalk.

Lampblack is soot from certain resinous substances.

From the madder plant, which grows in Hindostan, is manufactured Turkey red.

Gamboge comes from the yellow sap of a tree, which the natives of Siam catch in coconut shells.

Raw sienna is the natural earth from the neighborhood of Sienna, Italy.

Raw umber is an earth from Umbria, and is also burned.

To these vegetable pigments may probably be added India ink, which is said to be made from burnt camphor. The Chinese, who alone produce it, will not reveal the secret of its composition.

Mastic—the base of the varnish so-called—from the gum of the mastic tree, indigenous to the Grecian Archipelago.

Bistree is the soot of wood ashes.

Of real ultramarine but little is found in the market. It is obtained from the precious lapislazuli, and commands a fabulous price.

Chinese white is zinc, scarlet is iodine of mercury, and zinnobor, or native vermilion, is from quicksilver ore.

— *Iowa State Register.*

RATTAN and cane bedroom furniture is growing in popularity. The beds and dressing cases come in extremely pretty and artistic designs. They are cool, and if properly attended to and cleaned once every six months, will last a life-time. They are sometimes ornamented with broad satin ribbon, but they look just as well without this addition.

A TABLE-SCARF that is both pretty and inexpensive is made of dark green felt, about half a yard wide, pinked on the edge, and a strip of silk patchwork, about a quarter of a yard wide, on ends. Make fringe of the felt.