

It may be mentioned that formerly flatted work was often finished by stippling, but this has been given up since the introduction of the more artistic fashion of using more than one color, for stippling can only be done where the whole work is of the same color, as it would be impossible to observe the edges.

The amateur must be content to go on little

by little. Nothing but practice can teach the proper use of the brush, even though it be but a house-painter's brush; but in time she will doubtless learn not only to substitute neat coats of artistic color for the old-fashioned graining, but also know how to diaper them over with nicely executed stenciled patterns.

LITTLE GIFTS FOR CHRISTMAS-TIDE.

RUTH HUBBARD.

IT is well to be forehanded in making our gifts, for Christmas always seems to come much sooner than we expect. If one loves the work, they enjoy the few weeks before Christmas peculiarly more than any other time of the year. Everyone, however, does not have the time to make their gifts, no matter how much they would enjoy the pleasure. For those, there is no difficulty in selecting gifts at the art rooms and exchanges, but the happiest way, if one possibly can, is to manufacture the goods for "Old Santa" one's self. A few pieces of plush, several shades of ribbon, a little bolting cloth, and a great deal of ingenuity, combined with deft fingers, and a paint brush, will create surprising results.

RECEPTACLES for ties are pretty gifts for gentlemen. These consist of long pieces of pasteboard covered with satin, the outside having bolting cloth or linen, decorated with flowers, and a motto such as "Blest be the tie that binds;" or "Knot the tie that binds." One made of dark green satin, another of bright pink silk. The first to have wild roses, the second purple pansies. The companion for the tie receptacle is the glove sachet for the lady. These are a little larger in proportion, and are soft and fluffy. Some of them are most elegant, and very few women can resist them.

LITTLE BOOKS for the month, consisting of thirty-one pages, each with a spray of flowers or grasses, and a verse from the Bible, or if one likes, quotations from a favorite author, are nice gifts. The covers are of plush or satin, the leaves of egg-shell cards or cellu-

loid. The first book could be called "Morning Light," the other "Stray Leaves."

THE CHATELAINES are appropriate gifts for ladies who like to sew. They are made of gay ribbon an inch and a half wide, forming a belt and full bow, the long ends having scissors, needle cases, thimble bag and emery pending from them. They are very convenient as well as a dressy addition to one's toilet.

OF similar merit are the elegant sewing and tea aprons so prettily made of bolting cloth and other airy material. Even Swiss aprons with only feather stitching and ribbon to beautify them, are acceptable.

LAMP SHADES are always handsome presents. One particularly so is of deep yellow. It is made of wide lace lined with India silk, the deep border of yellow silk being knotted in the scalloped edge of the lace. A wide strip of crocheted network of silk is attached to the upper edge. Through the top a drawing string of ribbon is run. If made of wide lace, it makes one of the prettiest shades for a piano lamp. Another one is made of gored pieces of bolting cloth, joined with delicate lace insertion. Immense squares of India silk are used as shades for these most elegant of lamps.

SOFA PILLOWS are beautiful, and can be made in various styles.

DOUBLE SQUARE PILLOWS filled with cotton and rose leaves for the top of an easy chair, are laced together with ribbon and are allowed to fall one in front, the other back of the chair. These can be covered with figured pongee or plush, as you prefer. The

publisher, J. F. INGALLS, LYNN, Mass., furnishes these double rose pillows for 65 cents. Figured pongee, \$1.25 per yard. Samples of the figured pongee will be sent for 8 cents.

HEAD RESTS are made in numerous devices, and all have some sleepy motto which no doubt would induce sleep to the weary one who is so blest as to have one.

SACHETS for babies are made of surah silk, the outside being a square of celluloid, a baby face in the center, a border of pansies, wild roses or lilies forming the scalloped edge, which is finished with delicate lace. A pretty motto can be lettered under the face, as

“ Where did you come from, baby dear,
Out of the Nowhere into the Here? ”

OR:

“ To kiss a baby clean and sweet,
Is just the nicest kind of treat.”

another:

“ The sweetest thing to me,
Is baby full of glee.”

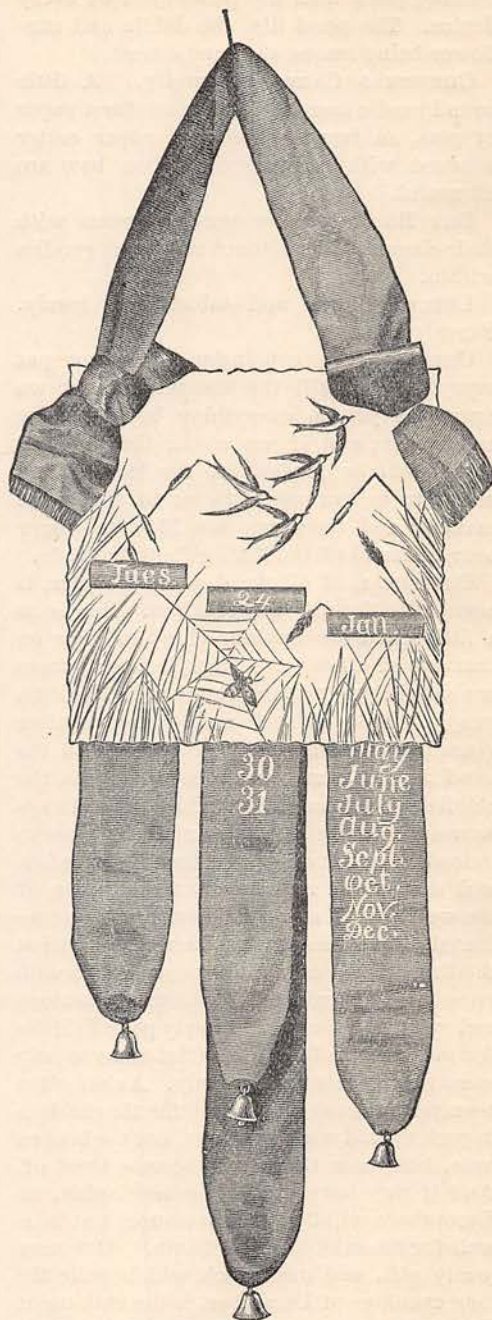
HORSE REINS for little boys are made of knitted worsted, or crocheted bands, with ribbon run through and feather-stitched; the sleigh bells being attached to the cross-piece.

NUMBERLESS are the gifts one can make for a housekeeper. There are the tray cloths, and doilies mentioned in the previous article, and a tea-cosey; then the table mats, if the old ones are worn, and no doubt she would not mind a shoe bag; and if the lady is a very busy housekeeper, she will appreciate any article for the adorning of her home, for such dear good housekeepers have not the time for the work or rather play of making scarfs and painting mirrors or photograph cases. These by the way are very pretty and simple, as well as the thermometer panels of plush.

LITTLE BANNERETTES of ribbon are nice to hang from the shade rest of a lamp, being made of ribbon fringed and doubled. The upper end having a spray of embroidered or painted flowers. The larger bannerettes are always beautiful.

RIBBON PERPETUAL CALENDARS are nice presents for either lady or gentleman. They are made of large cards, ornamented with flowers. There are three places cut, in which three pieces of ribbon are drawn through. The first one having the days of the week,

the second the names of the month, and the third thirty-one numbers for the days of the



RIBBON PERPETUAL CALENDAR.

month. These will do for any year; also the slate calendars, where the upper portion is

painted, and the ordinary calendar leaves are pasted on the lower portion. Next come the blotting pads, then the pen-wipers of every device. The pond lily, the dahlia and sun-flower being among the handsomest.

CHRISTMAS CARDS are pretty. A little round needle case, a long pocket for a paper of pins, an ivory or wooden paper cutter adorned with painting or ribbon bow are all useful.

BON BON boxes are very gorgeous with their elegant bows without and sweet goodies within.

LETTER BOXES and tablets are handy. Paper racks also.

ONE word in conclusion. Do not put everything off till the last minute, for we cannot as yet do everything by electricity and steam; and if we could, the old way would still be preferable, for love is, and ought to be the prime factor in Christmas making, and therefore one likes to linger over each and all the little gifts to be made.

CHRISTMAS, of all the days in the year, is essentially the day for children. It was as a little child our Saviour chose to come on that day of all days; so that it is only meet we should pay proper attention to the little people. Make it such a day that in after years it will always be a pleasure when the good time rolls around, to look back on the childish Christmas days. This is not always accomplished by a lavish outlay of money; indeed, a surfeit of good things is sickening, and that is one reason why the children of the wealthy are so often peevish and discontented. One thing should be remembered at this time of the year: "The poor ye have with you alway." Inculcate in each little breast love and sympathy for "God's lowly poor." Make it a part of each little one's Christmas to help some less fortunate little body. As has often been recommended, it is well for the children to pack up and send their toys, not the broken ones, but those they have become tired of. And if they have caught the true spirit, no doubt there will be a few treasures put in as well for the sake of "Old Santa." One very pretty gift, and one which will beguile the long evenings of December, is the making of scrap picture books. These are nicest made of bright pink, or straw colored silesia. The leaves are all cut one size, and the edges neatly cut in small scallops. For a small child, a

long narrow book is the best, because easily held on the lap. For an older child, a book the ordinary scrap book size, is better with a few blank pages left for the pleasure of pasting. The covers are made of paste-board, covered with dark silesia. This can be made like a pillow slip, with the boards pushed in, the leaves being tied through the center of cover with daisy ribbon. A book made of this style will last a long time, and afford much amusement. Flour starch, as a paste, is much cleaner, and more lasting than mucilage. Try to arrange every page differently, and in pasting always see that the air is pushed *from under* the card. The sets of the "Cinderella" and "Red Riding Hood" scrap pictures, are very pretty arranged diagonally across the page.

If some of the little girls are old enough to sew, it would be well for them to try their hands at warm woolen petticoats. When flannel and Canton flannel is so cheap, two or three dollars judiciously spent, will, with the children's toys, fill a good-sized box.

WHEN one thinks of the happiness such a little affair will create, the blessing comes in the doing. It is just as well for our little people to divide their sweets with the other children to whom such dainties are a real treat. It might be a benefit for the children who have so much of such eatables to do with less, avoiding, perhaps, spells of fever and deranged stomachs. When our friends and their children come, we always give them the best our home can afford, and of course it is no treat to them; but when the poor and lowly come, we give them the poorest we can find. Why not give them the nice, and if both cannot be afforded, stint the table when the extra company comes and keep for the "little ones."

AFTER the box is planned each child should have the pleasure of making, at least, one gift for some member of the family. A pretty way is, for the boys to make gifts for the mother, and the girls for the father. One boy, last year, had been saving for months for the season of gift-making, and by careful spending and some handiwork, he had something for every member of the household, even to the "help." He cunningly contrived a match-holder for his mother. It was his own idea to take a cow's horn, and after cleaning and scraping, fill the inside with putty, only leaving space at the top for the

matches, then after he had given it three coats of gilt, his auntie, who was always ready to lend a helping hand, fastened peacock blue ribbon bows at the top and shank, passing a long loop from either bow. In that way it could hang from the swinging lamp, making a very pretty horn of plenty. For his father, he painted a tiny plaque of grass pinks with a little aid from auntie, of course. It is needless to say, all his gifts were kept very private, so that mamma and papa were not only surprised but delighted with the boy's thoughtfulness.

Girls can make letter cases for the father; and scrap baskets, just now, are very elegant affairs. The plain basket can be bought, and with a gorgeous bow or bunch of fruit, one can easily be made. Papa, no doubt, will be delighted to have a lounge pillow, not a grand affair, but one that can be used. These are nice made of bolton sheeting, with a spray of woodbine leaves heavily worked in dark maroon or green outline. Sometimes the leaves are painted with a mere tinge of green or red, and then outlined in the same manner. If the older boys have any ingenuity for carpenter work, they can make a three-fold screen, which the girls can cover with the same material, or if they prefer, pretty cretonne can be used, and will be less trouble. This would be nice for the dining room, and especially so in the country, where many

families cook and eat in the living room, discarding the outside kitchen during the cold winter months. Such a room, with the sink and cook stove concealed from sight, make a cosy, homelike living room through the winter. There are many things described in previous numbers of the Magazine. It would be well to look them over carefully, and there certainly will be something for young people to make.

Now for the giving of the gifts. The dear old way of hanging up the stocking is not obsolete. That is one pleasant way, but a more laughable way is for "Santa Claus" to have a fish pond. This can be arranged by forming a screen of the clothes-horse covered with buffalo robes and rugs. One of the men will personate the old Saint, and make a speech to the effect of how tired he has become of driving reindeers, and now in his old age he has taken to fishing; and he thinks it such fun, he wants all the family to take a turn at the exciting sport. Accordingly he retires behind his furry screen, and all the family, from the youngest to the oldest, take turns casting the line, which is always sure to bring up some gift, each one getting their own. The gifts having been tied and marked before "Santa" took possession of them for his pond. It is the cause of much merriment, and it is quite laughable how excited all become over the sport.

ADVICE TO MOTHERS.

DO not let the table be the place to talk of troubles, worries and cares.

KEEP your children in school. Nothing but sickness should keep them at home. It is unfair to both teacher and child to let every little unusual occurrence serve as a pretext for non-attendance.

THERE are as many different ways of expressing thoughts as there are people to express them. Trite sayings seem new when expressed by some persons. The most commonplace things become beautiful when expressed by others. So it is, grand sentiments are frequently lost on account of not being expressed properly, and common things

become grand by being expressed with elegance.

BE sure that children have comfortable clothing, that neither pinches, scratches, nor feels as if it were slipping off. It is not in human nature, young or old, to tranquilly endure irritable clothing, or boots or shoes that torture. Make their clothes first comfortable, then neat and becoming. Flannels should always be loose, and waists well-fitting, but not tight, and provided with buttons for drawers and skirts. The only garters that ought to be worn by children or women, are those of part elastic that fasten from the waist to the tops of the stockings.