

HOW TO MAKE AND FILL A SCRAP-ALBUM.



SCRAP-albums are not difficult to make; indeed, there are but four things we shall want from first to last: Patience and Taste, Scissors and Paste. Let us set to work with these, and see what can be done. The first thing is to make the book.

At any large stationer's one quire (24 sheets) of the cheapest white paper, "foolscap" size, can be bought for three or four pence. Open the sheets separately, and get some one to press the middle of each with a hot iron and smooth out the crease—some one, of course, who knows better than to burn fingers and thumbs. Turn the paper so that the former creases will go across the pages. Fold down about an inch of each all along the side that is to be in towards the binding of the book. Lay every four sheets together so that the inch edges will be inside each other, two edges showing outside the lot and two in the middle. Take a strip of calico, three inches wide and as long as your paper, and sew your six lots of paper to it, stitching, with coloured silk or soft cotton, all the way down the back of the middle opening of each set of sheets, and placing your six sets side by side in the middle of the calico strip, and with a space of a few threads left between each lot of paper and the next. Cut strong brown paper large enough for covers; paste down the middle of it (the back of the book) a narrow piece of cardboard, an inch and a half or two inches wide, cut from some old cardboard box. When this is dry, stitch the calico behind the leaves against the card, stitching down each side of the leaves through the edge of calico and the brown paper, and carrying the thread across from one side to the other every time the needle comes out at the back. Now cover the back of the book with a broad piece of ribbon, hiding the little stitches against its edge. Thicken each cover with another piece of brown paper inside, fastened by touches of paste round the edge only, and covering the calico that showed at each side of the leaves. Bind the covers all round the edge with narrow ribbon stitched on, and to conceal the stitches inside, and to give the covers a nice white lining, turn down against them the first page and the last, and fasten with

a little paste round the edge. Narrow ribbons run in and out through the covers for two or three inches, or fastened into the making of them, might, if you choose, clasp the front of the book, tying across it in two little bows, one near the top and one near the bottom. All the ribbon, of some colour like dark blue, might be found in the drawer where the old bits of ribbon spend their last days together.

On the front cover you may trace large letters going slanting across between an upper and a lower corner, S C R A P S, and cover them with narrow garlands made of flower-scrap, carefully cut in little bits, and joined along the tracing. Or you might put a large coloured picture instead, encircled by silver, such as you could cut from old valentines.

In all album-making, the two things to be remembered are—to stitch in the paper in separate lots, side by side; and to have extra edges of paper here and there at the back between the pages, or else the book will not close flat when it is full. So, if you get five newspapers, fold each to eight leaves, and cut them to fit the covers of an old music portfolio, you will have to stitch in a few edges of strong white wrapping-paper, or thin brown, between each of your five newspapers. Or if you want to make a little book of a very pretty oblong shape, take half your quire of foolscap paper, cut each sheet in exact halves, not down the back crease, but across it, sew the paper, four pieces at a time, to calico, put on covers, which you will be likely to find for that size, bind the back with ribbon, and take care to cut out a few pages here and there—perhaps one out of every four—to leave edges to thicken the back of the book.

An album like the first described might be filled with dried flowers, and leaves, and uncoloured pictures. Place them only on one side of each leaf—one large picture on each, or a few small ones let in among the green and flowers. Give a page to each season:—a country scene that would do for spring, framed in a wreath of violets, primroses, young little leaves; a summer picture with a wreath of pansies, mixed with maidenhair fern or ends of ribbon-grass, or common grass in flower; an autumn scene where the trees are becoming leafless, in a border of real autumn leaves, golden, brown, and red; lastly, a snow scene, bordered with winter flowers such as clusters of the white or lilac primula and its leaves; or young sprigs of box or cypress (holly is too prickly, and laurel too thick and large), or real mistletoe-leaves and the bright

holly and mistletoe berries carefully cut out of Christmas cards. Then give a page to wild flowers with pictured glimpses of the woodlands, and if you have a meadow picture, wreath it with common grass, green and tangled, or feathery in flower, brightened by dried buttercups. Or the prettiest page of all might be made with ferns, which can be pressed beautifully, gathered in their tender green of spring or in their autumn brown and yellow. The names of trees might be written here and there on a page filled with small specimens of their leaves, and a picture of children swinging would not be out of place; or of the ships and boats, for which the timber has grown from the ground just as your flowers grow; or pictures of the dwellings which the trees supply both to men and to the birds—the wooden houses and the little birds' nests. Flowers that have been gathered during a country holiday, or flowers that were a gift, should be put in with a written word to remind you pleasantly whence they came.

Double flowers like roses cannot be dried, but single flowers, and, best of all, those as flat as pansies, can easily be pressed between the leaves of a book, or between blotting-paper under something heavy.

Before pressing some flowers the thick green ball or cup must be taken away from under the coloured part of the blossom: in the primula the little coloured star comes out of its green cup at a touch. There may be woody leaf-stalks too thick to be pasted firmly down. Little bits of paper laid across them and gummed at each end must secure them; thus, off an envelope-band you can cut several gold streaks that would make such fastenings quite ornamental.

Or the woody stems might be run in and out through little slits in the page; if this be done, tissue paper should be laid in between the leaves, to protect the next page from the stems coming through the last. Coloured pictures in such a book would make the dried flowers look dull; but as an exception charming pages might be made with coloured pictures of our dark-shaded birds of the English country, or of butterflies, all not much smaller than the natural size.

A scrap-album of puzzles and stories might be made of the little oblong book. The puzzles should consist of little pictures, or parts cut out of pictures, to represent the syllables of a word, while the whole words might be written on a card or paper, laid in at the place so that it could be taken away while any one is guessing. Plenty of words may be found, like mill-stream, cat-ass-trophy, (the spelling as in catastrophe need not be followed where a little difference suggests pictures), eye-tin-

ear-ant (itinerant), sea-son—and countless others. For your story-pages, an example will help you as a pattern; the page should be filled with cut-out parts of pictures, with a few words written underneath, and these words might be:—This is the new house that Jack built:—This is the garden of the new house, &c. (all the rest need not be written each time, but ought to be said).—These are the flowers that grew in the garden, &c.—This is the wall behind the flowers that grew in the garden, &c.—This is the bad boy who climbed up on the wall to steal the flowers that grew, &c.—This is the dog that watched the wall when the bad boy climbed, &c.—These are the other dogs that came at the bark of the dog that watched the wall, &c. (any number of dogs of all sizes).—This is the policeman who ran round the corner to see where all those dogs were going at the bark, &c.—And this is the pair of feet hanging down, that all the dogs were looking up at when the policeman ran to see where they were going to at the bark of the dog that watched the wall, &c. And what a pretty fix the boy was in!

A Christmas party or a picnic would form other subjects, and useful scraps for these pages can be found in the little pictures that occur in advertisements—musical instruments, horses, carriages, furniture.

Other pages should be given to the grouping of pretty scraps, and of little pictures that have been, perhaps, discovered by chance, and found worth keeping.

Christmas and birthday cards may be put in, two or four on each page; or with tasteful variety in the middle, and bordered, or making the broad border for some small and bright design in the centre.

Double cards should be pasted in by the edges only, with a large square or circle cut out of the leaf behind, to show the other side. On the back of the page so cut, coloured scraps or valentine silver might hide the cutting and frame the cards showing through.

In the large newspaper book, all the print on both sides of the leaves should be covered with pictures. "Our Travels" might be the heading for pages of foreign cities, scenes, houses, and groups in foreign costume; "The Zoological Gardens" might be the title for pages full of pictures of birds and beasts; "Our Picture Gallery," for fanciful pictures of all sorts.

These titles might be made of large cut-out letters laid on white paper.

After these hints, perhaps you yourselves can think of other new plans of your own, to be carried out with Patience and Taste, Scissors and Paste.