HOW TO MAKE BEAD FLOWERS.

Beads are now being grown en masse in the great flower gardens of the day, and sparkle in every kind of trimming. The best outline or filling-up of a design is an easy matter, but too often the two or more dozen of detached ornaments and flowers requires a little more ingenuity and dexterous handling. For this reason I have prepared a few specimens of different kinds, and after a little practice upon them the worker will find no difficulty in reproducing other sorts of flowers, butterflies, gcs., provided, of course, that she has a good eye for form.

The materials required are few and inexpensive, comprising but a small assortment of beads and reel wire of different sizes, some sold as cheap as three yards for one penny. As to beads, everyone of you girls knows all about them; have they not been the delight of your childhood? and even since then, with a little sixpenny box of mixed beads have you not often made a baby girl as happy as a queen? The hours of peace and quietness for the while she was being dressing herself most wonderful rings, bracelets, and necklaces!

Nowadays beads offer a far richer choice both in shape and colour; there are the round, tubular, faceted, oval, pear-shaped, etc.; however, for our lesson this time the first two kinds are the only ones required. Regarding colour your field is unlimited—opaque tints of every description, transparent ones shot with a contrasting hue, phosphorescent, sunlight, and moonlight shades, besides a great variety of gold, silver, and steel. Necessarily the price varies very much, some beads being sold by the troy ounce, and others by weight. Many bead boxes sold at sixpence contain a quantity of black-jetted lace beads, which for wear I bought a twopenny ounce of what are called in the trade "re-pairing bugs," for which purpose they are mixed in different sizes, and among them are a few white ones. The methodical young lady will find an ounce of these, safely kept in a box, very handy for reviving at once the lost bugs on her fringe, lace, or bonnet ornaments. The seed beads, always in such requisition, are sixpence per ounce, and a larger kind, either opaque or glass, fourpence per ounce. Coloured bugs are of course, much more expensive, being about one shilling and sixpence per ounce, and naturally an extra charge is made for delicate tints, ordered, for instance, to match the hue of a dress. Gold and steel beads can be bought by the hand, ranging from sixpence to tenpence, according to size, and the common kinds of rainbow and moonlight beads from a penny three-farthings to threepence three-farthings.

With these general hints on the materials let us at once set to work. The illustrations show the work so clearly that I feel almost inclined to give you the work, or part of it, in perspective. There are, in fact, no stated rules for these trifles, and each of you may execute them in the way you find most convenient, provided you try them at home. I will therefore advise you to try at first to do the ornaments by yourselves, without looking at the direction. See your wire to go to the beads you intend to thread on it; bugs, of course, will require a much coarser size than the tiny seed beads. Have the beads themselves assorted in a box with small compartments, easily contrived by gluing in place various strips of cardboard. From this collection you can choose the sort just wanted at the moment, and shower them on a piece of white paper spread before you. From there you can easily pick them up, but perhaps the best and quickest way is to damp the side of the left hand, between the thumb and forefinger; then dab it down on the paper, when plenty of the beads will all adhere to it; the partly-closed hand thus forms a kind of palette, whence the beads can conveniently be taken up.

Here is an easy thing to experiment upon (fig. 1).

A branch of leaves, which most of you will at once compare to the laburnum, and those perhaps with a little knowledge of botany will probably call it the pinnate leaf, from its pairs of leaflets branching from one stem. For this you require three-quarters of a yard of wire and small jet tubes. Thread twelve beads, slip them into the centre of the wire, which you double, and give the two wires one twist close up to the beads to set them in a loop; this will stand for the upright leaf at the top of the branch. Then pass, through the two ends of wire, two beads for the stalk, and, on each wire only twelve beads for a side leaf, the same on the other wire for an opposite leaf. Now turn the work, and twist the wire of both petals at the back, close up to the stalk; then screw both wires firmly together in the centre, and continue the stem by threading four beads on the doubled wire. Repeat side petals of thirteen beads, next four for the stem, and, twice more, leaves of fourteen beads with three for the stalk. Finish off by twisting the wires, snipping the ends if need be, and passing the points upwards through the last bead.

For quick work a trade hand forms another kind of leaf, replacing the beaded stem by a covered stalk cut just the right length. On a bit of ordinary wire she threads a certain number of beads for the top leaf, makes them go at one end, doubles them into a loop, and, taking the prepared stalk in the left hand, twists the hanging wire round it. The worker then threads the beads for the side leaf, and winds the wire once over the stalk; she repeats the same operation alternately on the right and left until near the end of the talk. Thus the leaves have been shaped by a single wire, and necessarily do not lie in regular pairs; besides, in this case, the twists are slightly visible at the back.

The forget-me-nots (fig. 2) are made separately and afterwards mounted on a stalk, with a circle of double wire from which all the petals spring. These are shaped by bending two distinct loops, or by intermingling them at the point in this wise: thread on each wire half the number of beads necessary for the petal and join them together by slipping the left-hand wire through the last bead of the right-hand one, and wire over.

Another mode is to shape each petal singly and afterwards entwine their nine stalks into one large one. In either way the junction or circle is concealed by a jet of wax or gum, pierced underneath with holes to receive the thread or wire.

The marigold (fig. 3) starts with a ring of six beads, and an outer one of eight, festooned by eight scallops of six beads each. Then follow four rounds of petals overlapping each other and gradually increasing in length. For the first round, thread fifteen beads and loop them by slipping the wire through the second, the first being left free to stand for the new circle. Repeat this nine times, close the round, and at the same time connect it to one or two beads of the ring below. For the next three rounds proceed in the same way, adding more beads and more petals as judgment guides you till the last circle consists of seventeen loops of from thirty-eight to forty beads. So much for the quick way amongst the many for producing this flower; perhaps a more compact style consists in forming five rings enclased within each other, and, starting with the largest, thread a series of loops taken into every other bead; in returning...
make another layer of petals, supporting them on the alternate beads previously

and, closing the five stalks into a compact cup, twist them tightly and cover with cotton or wool.

The trefoil looks particularly effective in the fashionable amber and fiery red beads.

The darker part, though apparently raised and detached, is merely managed by the correct mingling of the colours while threading the beads. For the lower lobe thread two red beads and fourteen amber ones, past the wire through the two red beads again to close the first or inner circle. Second circle—Three red beads, nineteen amber, two red; unite. Third circle—Four red, twenty-five amber, three red. Fourth circle—Six red, thirty-two amber, five red. Fifth circle—Seven red, forty amber, six red.

FIG. 7.—TREFOIL IN TWO COLOURS.

For the two side lobes proceed in a similar manner, attaching them at the last round to the lower one by slipping the wire through a bead or two near the point. Make the outside semi-circles with red beads. Carry the wire back almost to the centre of the lobe, thread seven or eight beads, and secure them to the previous ring, then work thus backwards and forwards four times, gradually increasing the number of beads at each semi-circle. The opposite leaf slightly differs, according to the taste of the worker.

The stalks of all these flowers are neatly bound, as for other artificial flowers, with tiny strips of tissue paper, coloured wool, or silk. Is it not almost idle to give young girls any hint as to the use of such sparkling trifles? Their busy brains will be sure to hit upon thousands of little novelties for them, either in their bonnets, muff, coiffure, on the puffings of their turla- tane dresses, or even—in a larger size—to brighten up Christmas decorations. Butterflies and countless insects can be modelled on the same plan, and indeed, after a little practice with the several items shown in the Illustrations, there is no telling what deft fingers will be able to produce with a piece of wire and some bright beads.

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USEFUL HINTS.

FLIES.—It is said that flies will not enter a room where a wreath of walnut leaves has been hung up.

TO BURN CANDLES SLOWLY.—Candles are sometimes kept burning in sick rooms or nurseries the whole night. An easy method of preventing too rapid combustion is to place salt finely powdered from the tallow into the black part of the wick of a partly-burnt candle; of course, the light is only sufficient for a bedroom.

LIGHT BATTER PUDDING IN SMALL CUP SHAPES.—Take three eggs, three spoofuls of milk, and three of flour; butter some cups well, pour in the batter, and bake the puddings quickly in a very hot oven. When done, place them carefully on a dish sufficiently deep to hold the juice. Strain the syrup, and reduce it over the fire; then pour it over the puddings.

SWEETPEAS.—To six large pears add half-a-pound of white sugar, half the rind of a lemon cut thin, five cloves, and a little prepared cochineal to colour them. Cut the pears in halves, and core them. Put them in an enamelled saucepan; water enough to cover them. Let them stew gently till quite soft without breaking them. When done, place them carefully on a dish sufficiently deep to hold the juice. Strain the syrup, and reduce it over the fire; then pour it over the pears.

SCALDS.—In an emergency the readiest and most effectual application for this very common, and frequently fatal accident, until medical assistance is obtained, is flour. This should be dusted on thickly with a dropper, so as to absorb the discharge, and cover the injured part completely. The application should be continued as long as any discharge appears.

SLEEP.—The amount of sleep needed differs according to the constitution and habit. Persons can perform much more brain labour if they have much sleep. Children need more sleep than grown people, because construction is more active than decay in their brains.

HERB GATHERING.—The right time to gather herbs for drying or other purposes is when they are just beginning to come into flower (about July). They then possess their peculiar virtues in a higher degree than at any other period. When cut, they should not be laid in the sun, as excessive heat causes them to dry rapidly, and this destroys many of their virtues; they should be laid in the shade, carefully protected from rain or any dampness.

TO REMOVE DIRT FROM OLD OIL PAINTINGS.—Sponge the soiled surface with warm water, then cover it with spirits of wine, renewed every ten minutes. Wash this off with water, but without rubbing. Repeat the process until the whole of the spirits of wine be removed.

SOILED MANUSCRIPTS.—These may be renovated by washing with a hair pencil in a solution of prussiate of potash in water. The writing will again appear when dry, if the paper has not been destroyed.

MUSHROOM CUSTARD.—Bruise the mushrooms and sprinkle them with salt. Let them stand ten days. Strain, and add a little cloves, garlic, mace, pepper, ginger, and bay leaves; boil, and when cold, cover for a month. Boil again, strain, and bottle when cold.

CHEESE CAKES.—To a breakfast-cup of boiled hominy stir a large cupful of new milk, heat well, so as to remove all lumps, add a cupful of currants, an ounce of candied peel, cut into small pieces, and a pinch of salt; after mixing add two eggs, well beaten. Sugar and flavouring to taste. Line pattypans with short paste, and fill with the mixture and bake.

FIG. 4.—THE MARIGOLD.