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PRETTY PINCUSHIONS.

Some Gifts of This Kind and How to Make Them.

A dainty and unique pin cushion, says a writer in Demorest's Magazine, is made of four small ribbon bags. Two and a quarter yards of ribbon, 2 1/4 inches wide, are needed for it. The soft, artistic colors now used in furnishing should be chosen, instead of the crude blues, greens, reds and pinks, that fight any other color with which they are placed in juxtaposition. Salmon, old rose and dove blue are a safe choice, as they harmonize with many other shades



A PIN BALL.

and colors. Cut the ribbon in two and fringe out all the ends; then fold over to make the bags so that from end to end of a pair will measure just 10 1/2 inches. Overhand the sides together for 3 1/2 inches from the corners and fill the bags thus made with perfumed cotton or wool, but don't stuff them hard. Lay one pair of bags over the other so they will form a cross and tie the ends together in a full double knot in the center, pulling the ends out so they will radiate between the bags. The design is also novel and pretty for a perfume sachet.

For the gayly striped pin ball orange and white worsted braid is used. It is cut in strips 8 inches long—11 strips of each being needed—and overhanded together. Gather the ends for the bottom together, turning the seam inside, and sew a flat button covered with orange braid in the center. Fill the inside cushion—which should measure 15 inches in circumference—with bran or dried coffee grounds. Fringe out the upper ends of the braid, draw them in tightly at the top and tie with orange ribbon. Stud the seams with dressing pins stuck at frequent intervals.

The threefold screen pin holder is a pretty trifle for the dressing case or morning room. The panels are 8 inches wide, and the highest is 6 inches on the outer edge, the others sloping to 2 1/2 inches on the outer edge of the shortest one. Cardboard is used for the foundation, and the panels are made in the manner of the little pocket pin cushions. The right sides of the panels are covered with white or pale tinted india silk, and the reverse with Dresden flowered silk or ribbon. Upon the plain sides pressed flowers, ferns and clover leaves are gracefully arranged, and delicately placed in place, after which pieces of

coarse white silk muslin are stretched over the panels. This protects the pressed flowers perfectly, but is almost invisible. The edges are stuck full of dressing pins, and large headed silver gilt pins are stuck in the lower corners for feet.

A DAISY SPREAD.

Beautiful Bedspreads and Pillowcases of Swiss Muslin.

Delicate bedspreads and shams appeal to the little woman who cares for her own home. They can be made most beautifully and acceptably from dotted Swiss muslin. Cut the muslin in breadths as long as the bed needs, three of which will probably make it wide enough. To make a daisy Swiss spread and shams the muslin should be bought with dots about the size of a daisy center. These little flowers can be made in numerous varieties—the pretty blue Michaelmas daisy, the ox eyed daisy, yellow with brown center, white with yellow center, or, if a smaller dot is used, the little purple and pink daisies can be represented. If the room in which the spread is to be used is furnished with any particular color, then of course the shams must correspond, but if there is no particular tone in the adornments then a very pretty idea is to have a variety of daisies. To form the flower begin at the edge of one of the dots and bring the needle back on the outside of the Swiss the length of the petal of the natural flower and take the needle back to the dot and as close as possible to the starting point. In this way each petal is formed by one big loop, which must be backed in the center of the outer edge. One can use one's own discretion about the size of the flower, but from 12 to 16 loops will make a good size, and some may be larger than others, while still others can have petals on but one side, and they should be scattered over the spread so as not to come too thick when the breadths are sewed together. The centers should be covered with French knots. This can be edged with lace, fringe or a ruffle of plain Swiss.

An Opera Glass Bag.

A pretty bag for opera glasses is made of red satin. The bottom of the bag is formed of a piece of cardboard covered with the satin. The card is 7 inches long and 4 inches wide in the center, being rounded at the two ends. The part forming the bag is cut 11 inches deep, which allows for the turned down hem. The lower edge is sewed plainly around the edge of the card, then trimmed with a vandyke pattern of guipure lace. Gilt rings are sewed at a distance of an inch from the top, and ribbon is run through them to draw the bag up.

Elephants are fond of gin, but will not touch champagne. Next year will see the thirteenth century of Canterbury cathedral.

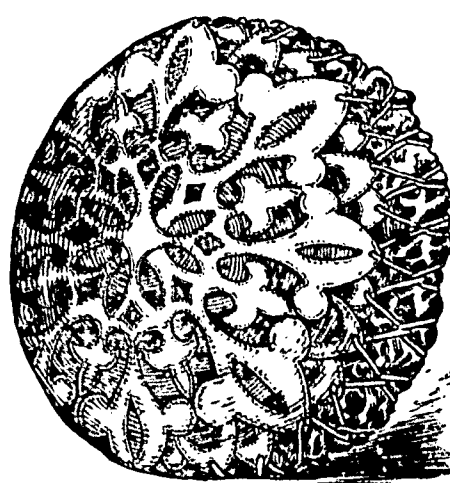
In the new Hotel Cecil in London there is a telephone in each room.

Newspapers on bicycles are the latest form of newspaper enterprise in London.

SOFA PILLOWS.

They Are Welcome Gifts in the Eyes of Any Woman.

A novel and strikingly beautiful sofa pillow, says Good Housekeeping, is the circular or Turkish pillow. These pillows may be bought at any art store, and are generally filled with down, though curled hair does just as well. Cover the top and bottom smoothly



TURKISH SOFA PILLOW.

with bright red satin, the piece around the edge being put on in puffed effect. Obtain two very nice chamois skins, from which cut two circles, the size of the pillow. Point the edges and have a pretty all over design stamped upon each cover, selecting one which may be cut out, when finished, as in Roman embroidery. Work the entire pattern in buttonhole stitch, using heavy embroidery silk of different colors that will blend with the satin, and lace the top and bottom with large, old gold silk cord. The satin shows brightly through the openings. Those who prefer to paint the chamois can do so with equally good effect. Here are three beautiful ways of decoration:

First.—Paint the entire surface a light chocolate for the ground. Upon this paint large, velvety pink roses with their leaves in metallic luster effect. (Peacock blue satin.)

Second.—Silver the chamois and ornament with conventional designs of flower-de-luce in delicate corn color. (Pale blue satin.)

Third.—Choose for the ground dull copper color and paint upon it lotus flowers and leaves of old ivory in relief. (Pink satin.)

A square pillow, either large or small, filled with down, is a handsome and appropriate gift for a friend. These pillows are very prettily covered with china silk scattered over with flowers. Those who paint make lovely ones of white india silk with wild roses painted over the top.

Some idea of the vast extent of the surface of the earth may be obtained when it is noted that if a lofty church steeple is ascended and the landscape visible from it looked at, 900,000 such landscapes must be viewed in order that the whole earth may be seen.

Ripans Tabules: for sour stomach.

AN ATTRACTIVE GIFT.

An Easily Made Arrangement For Holding Photographs.

A pretty arrangement for photographs can be made by taking a number of pieces of glass and binding with different colored ribbons; that is, securely sewing the ribbons at each corner. Then take two pieces of glass and sew the ribbons together, and finally sew all the double pieces together in screen fashion. These can be made even more attractive by painting on them designs of forget-me-nots, arbutus or any favorite flower. Frames for the small size photos and the cabinets can be made neatly, most attractively and cheaply as well from envelopes. Take heavy paper ones for this purpose, cut from the face of the envelope a piece the size and shape of the photograph you want to use in the frame, then decorate with pen and ink, penbrush or even gill in unique design the remaining face of the envelope, together with baby ribbon at top and bottom, leaving the lap side open for the putting in of the picture, and you have a most acceptable little gift. These can also be made of linen and decorated most artistically with embroidered designs and then mounted. This last operation, however, can seldom be accomplished by an amateur, and unless there is some exchange for fancy work near that will do these finishing touches for you it is not wise to attempt the linen frames.

Christmas Ladders.

A pretty suggestion for a Christmas festival is to substitute for the usual evergreen tree a large arch made of ladders and gay with berries and ribbons shining from the wealth of greens that cover it. In the center of the arch a large ball of holly or other greens, with a tongue of scarlet berries, is to be hung. Fastened to the rounds of the ladder and hidden as much as possible under the greens are to be concealed the Christmas gifts. These are to be distributed by half a dozen little boys dressed as brownies, who are to climb for them and to be directed by a beautiful maiden, who shall represent the German Christmas angel.

Of Dainty Linnen.

Linen will play an important part in the manufacture of Christmas presents this year, for anything that is linen goes. One of the prettiest effects is a small bag of finest, sheerest material, in dimensions about three or four inches and shaped, flaps and all, precisely like a tiny envelope. It is exquisitely stitched all around, embroidered on the face with the owner to be's initials, and a long loop of baby ribbon attached to the point of the flap finishes this bit of scented daintiness, which is for no less purpose than to hold my lady's money when traveling, which she usually pins in a scented chamois bag or paper envelope to her corset.

Granulated fresh bone and steamed out hay are recommended by a poultry man for eggs.

CHRISTMAS GIVING.

The Poor Were Not Forgotten in the Days of Long Ago.

There is an ancient custom for the rector of Piddle Hinton, in Dorsetshire, to give away on old Christmas day, the 6th of January, annually, a pound of bread, a pint of ale and a mince pie to every poor person in the parish, and this distribution is regularly made by the rector to upward of 300 poor persons. At Stafford there is an old charity for providing poor people with plum for their Christmas puddings, and a kind hearted man at Burnham left a sum sufficient to provide the inmates of the poorhouse of the parish with a Christmas dinner, followed by a proper supply of ale, tobacco and snuff.

At Prince Risborough, in Buckinghamshire, there was a very singular Christmas usage. Up to about 1813 a bull, a bear, a sack of wheat and a sack of malt were given away to the poor by the lord of the manor at about 6 o'clock every Christmas morning. This practice was then discontinued, and for about five or six years beef and mutton were distributed in place of the above articles. Mr. Grubb—fit name for the dispenser of what Rittmaser, Dugald Dalgetty would call "the prebend"—of the parsonage house, the then lord of the manor, whose father first stopped the above customary distribution, produced to the commissioners of charities a case which his father had laid before a justice, relative to this custom, with a view of obtaining the opinion of counsel as to whether it could be sustained as a custom at common law, and whether he should be subject to legal process if he omitted to make the distribution.

It appears from the document that the custom had then prevailed for a considerable number of years; that it was mentioned in the local histories, but that its origin was lost in obscurity. The practice, while it lasted, seems to have been productive of much intoxication and riot. The poor are said to have paraded the town during the whole night preceding the distribution with an incessant clamor, effectually banishing all repose. On the following morning they marched in crowds to Mr. Grubb's house, and these assemblies of ten comprised many strangers as well as parishioners. On the doors being opened they all rushed to the feast prepared for them with so little decorum and forbearance that often in their zeal for priority they inflicted wounds on one another with their knives. The whole remaining portion of Christmas day, it is stated, was spent by many of them in the public houses. The justice before whom the matter was heard was of the opinion that this custom was not sustainable as a common law right, and the charity commissioners reported that they had received no sufficient evidence that the custom could be considered as a charitable donation the continuance of which could be enforced.—Selected.

Ripans Tabules: one gives relief.

SWISS CHRISTMAS DINNER.

Roast Goose Occupies the Place of Honor. Geneva Fritters the National Dish.

In this beautiful country, where the laws and the customs vary in every canton, the mistress of the kitchen has a wide variety of German, Italian and French cooking to select from. But on Christmas day, although all these styles may be united on one table, there is an invariable although unwritten law that roast goose shall be the chief dish. The dessert is a marvelous mixture of Swiss confectioneries, comprehending everything from little coconut cakes to elaborate structures of flour and sugar interspersed with all sorts of nuts and small fruits.

But between the opening goose and the closing patisserie is introduced the really national Christmas dish called the Geneva fritters. These fritters are made after the following recipe:

Put into a saucepan a dozen pears out into quarters and the cores taken out, with enough water to cover them. Let them stew till they are quite tender, when the water will have evaporated. Put them into a colander and crush them with a wooden spoon. Add half their weight of sugar, a little lemon and a pinch of powdered cinnamon. Put the saucepan on the fire for eight or ten minutes and then let it cool. Take two handfuls of raisins, seed them and put them on the fire with enough water to soften them, then add them to the above, with a little glass of rum or kirsch.

Take a thin flour paste for a dozen pears of moderate size and make them into a roll about the circumference of a dollar, cover half the surface of the paste with marmalade and cut the fritters into convenient sizes. Serve with the yolks of eggs, after cooking them before a hot fire and powdering them with sugar.—New York World.

Hungary's Christmas Feast.

Goulasch is the national dish of Hungary and consists of meat cut into small pieces and cooked with onions, tomatoes and the powerful paprika, a species of pepper peculiar to the country. This dish is naturally the most attractive in the Christmas dinner, and with it are fried cabbage, fish soup, farina cakes and cakes made from the poppy seeds. Dividing the honors with the goulasch there will be found upon the table a roast pig invariably decorated with roses between its teeth. This meal is eaten as an evening dinner before midnight mass, and when the worshippers return from their church after midnight the table is set with cold pork, bonbons and corn brandy as a drink.—Exchange.

Pneumatic tubes have many uses, but one of the latest is attracting a great deal of attention from its novelty. This is the tube for stacking straw. It is built in sections and is controlled by metal straps, pivots and arms. The straw is drawn into the tube, carried through it with great velocity, and, by a turntable and swinging arrangement like a crane, is evenly distributed on the stack.