THE WORK-BASKET.

EXQUISITE AFFAIRS TO HOLD THE SEWING OF THE RICH.

Dainty Confections in Straw and Satin That Are Used By Fashionable New York Women—Take Them Along When They Meet to Work for Charity.

To sit on a cushion and sew a fine seam for charity's sake is one of the ways for killing two birds with one stone in the season of propriety and penitence. The fine seams, of course, are laid by the bejeweled fingers of fashionable femininity in the simplest garments, meant for humble wearers, but for fear those lowly tasks might weary the lively seamstresses every hostess who calls a sewing-class meeting at her house provides music, recitations, jugglers' exploits, along with a dainty luncheon for the gathered members. These last are no new features, and the particular topic of gossip among the smart needlewomen is the sort of sewing basket suitable for stowing away one's needle and the splendid little utensils of the task.

More emphasis, indeed, is placed on one's work receptacle than on the apron one wears to stitch in, or the given amount of labor accomplished in one hour. The day a class meets every woman drives up to the door of the hostess, who is willing to temporarily turn her drawing room into a model sweatshop, and out she gets with her basket under her arm. Sometimes it is so big an affair that it must be carried for her into the workroom, and when the whole class is busy the room presents the appearance of a luxurious basket fair. With few exceptions they are stately tall things of the prettiest and most expensive materials imaginable. Satin straws of exquisite pale greens and blues, pinks and yellows are the foundation material of which they are made, while satin lace and brocade form the lavish decoration.

Mrs. Theodore Havemeyer, who leads one of the largest classes of smart Catholic seamstresses in New York city, keeps her rough gingham and cotton subjects for stitching in a huge hat of pale lavender straw, mounted on three gilded legs, set like the crossed sticks from which a gypsy kettle hangs. Within the hat is lined with pale blue satin, and the open crown is covered by a full bag of the same material, drawn up with lavender silk cords. Inside this capacious nest is the most charming set of antique silver sewing tools. An old Dutch thimble, a pair of exquisite slender scissors, said to have once hung from Marie Antoinette's chatelaine, a quaint grindstone for sharpening needles and a set of old silver reels for thread from Germany. Among all these curiosities is a pocket that holds a small silver-mounted figure, carved from black bog oak, and representing a little saint, who in Ireland is believed to bless the work baskets of the industrious with strong, graceful and swift seams.

Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, at the head of one of the generous Baptist ladies' sewing guilds, uses a big flat green, yellow and red basket of Indian weave, scorns all the fripperies of lace and tufting, puts her needle in an honest red-flannel book, and is capable of making anything from a gingham apron to the most elaborate christening robe.

Mrs. Elbridge Gerry entertains the Episcopal Dorcases at her house and gives out the work herself from an ample double-decked basket, woven of white satin straw, tufted in pink and white brocaded satin, while without the basket is draped with white and rose-colored scarfs of liberty gauze. The upper deck is the basket proper, holding a sewing outfit complete in gold, while in the under part a large sachet bag contains the various garments in process of making. Mrs. Gerry's basket is not unique in shape or decoration, as the flowered gauze scarfs are used lavishly for draping the rather awkward long strawbound or gilded legs and frivolous bows of flowered ribbon flutter from handles and lids. One and all, in the tufted linings of the sewing stands delicately perfumed sachet cotton is used, and a very great deal of emphasis is laid on the coquettish gold thimble bearing the owner's name in jewels about the bottom, the small gold scissors, with red or blue enameled handles, the tinted leather needle-books, bound and initialed in gold and the emerys to match the prevailing color of the basket, and showing a gold rope.

She Plants Coffee in Hawaii.

There are several lady coffee planters in the Hawaiian islands, but the richest is Miss Wildwood, a girl of only 23. Two years ago she was a stenographer in a law office, with only a capital of $1,250, which had come to her as a legacy and which she was reserving for the proverbial "rainy weather," against which lonely spinsters often try to fortify themselves. Hearing of the coffee plantation possibilities of Hawaii, Miss Wildwood decided to risk her little capital and try her luck as a planter, and so well has she succeeded that in two years' time she believes that she will be making an income of $10,000 a year.

Photographed in Night Attire.

Among the ladies of British Upperdom it has become fashionable to exchange photographs of themselves as attired for bed, which goes to show how bewitchingly becoming are modern night clothes. If the fair ones of society had continued to wear the hideous night-caps their grandmothers wore they would surely not have been tempted to expose themselves thus appareled to the eye of the camera.

SECOND LADY IN THE LAND.

She Defeated the British Ambassador in a Fight for Precedence.

Mrs. Hobart, the wife of the Vice-President has won a great social triumph. Sir Julian Pauncefote has given up his contention that as the personal representative of the Queen of England he should have precedence over the Vice-President. Obeying instructions from London, he called on Vice-President Hobart and hereafter will occupy the second place at dinners where Mr. Hobart is a guest.

Heretofore the representative of her Britanic majesty in this country, has claimed precedence over every official in this country except the President. As the representative of Queen Victoria he claimed the right of the place of honor next to the president of the United States. While this claim has always been disputed yet at the same time it has been acquiesced in especially by those giving dinner parties and who desired the presence of the British ambassador. Sir Julian carried the point so far that he declined to pay the first visit to the vice president Vice President Stevenson followed the custom as he had found it and left his card at the English embassy before the representative of the queen called upon him.

MRS. HOBART.

Vice-President Hobart and his plucky wife, backed by an immense fortune, as well as by the president, refused to do this, and even went farther to claim the place of honor at the right of a hostess who might be giving a dinner at which both he and Sir Julian were invited. Several times last spring the British ambassador asked for a diagram of the table at which he was expected to sit, and when he found the name of the vice-president preceding his, declined the invitation. The matter became so embarrassing that President McKinley was called into the dispute. He and Mr. Hobart agreed to leave the matter to the English foreign office and to abide by its decision. Through a private correspondence between President McKinley and Ambassador Hay, the matter was laid in an unofficial way before the British foreign office, with the result that Vice-President Hobart's contention was sustained.

An Awful Possibility.

A Philadelphia physician is getting himself disliked by a recent statement which he made to the effect that one out of every three women in the City of Brotherly Love is adorned with a mustache. He says the proportion would undoubtedly be larger if many women did not take the trouble to eradicate the unwelcome growth A German scientist has also been making investigations along the same line, and comes out with the startling statement that mustaches are much more common among women of the present day than those of the past. He says in Constantinople, among the unveiled women, one out of every ten possesses an unmistakable covering of down on the upper-lip, and in Spain the same fact is noticeable.

Eminent French Widows.

Among eminent French widows, one of the most active is Mme. Michelet, who is bringing out a new edition of her husband's histories and editing his memoirs. Mme. Alexander Dumas refuses to permit the publication of any of her husband's manuscripts, and Mme. Gounod steadily opposes the performance of any of the composer's early works. Mme. MacMahon and Mme. Carnot have both declined the pensions offered by the state. Mme. Pasteur's pension is five thousand dollars a year and Mme. de Lesseps receives a pension of twenty-four thousand dollars a year from the Suez Canal Company.

A German New Woman.

There is nothing like general conservatism in a country to bring out radical ideas. Germany is notably a country of home-keeping women, and yet one of these supposed homekeepers has undertaken a work which outranks anything done by the women of America. Frau Nascha Butze, it is said, has rented the Neues Theater, in Berlin, for ten years, and is to conduct it herself. She intends to pay a motherly attention to the amusements of the young woman in the family comedies to be produced under her management.

A Ranty Indeed.

An English paper has unearthed a successful woman poultry farmer. After spending upward of $5,000 she has not only got the receipts to cover the expenditure, but has realized a profit. She trusses with her own hands the 350 fowls which are sold every week, and attends markets for the purpose of buying birds.

She is a Successful Druggist, Miss Cora Dow, of Cincinnati, is the proprietor of four successful drug stores in that city.

HOUSE NOVELTIES.

INVENTIONS THAT LIGHTEN LABORS OF MISTRESS AND SERVANT.

Busy Brains at Work All the Time Studying Out some New Household Contrivance—Remarkable Appliances That Make Cooking a Pleasure.

It really seems as if the domestic help, the handmaid and the handman of the present day household, had the favored end of the situation. Not only are devices for lessening their labors being constantly introduced, but new inventions for prompting the memory, and so saving the strained relations incident to oversights and omissions, are also found among the furnishings for pantry and kitchen. A self-closing bread bin, all scarlet paint without any porcelain lining within, is the newest recruit in the list.

"Servants invariably neglect to shut a bread box, and if they do shut it they leave an opening sufficient for dust to get in," exclaimed the salesman. "Cake or any cooked viand they are more careful about; but bread, with a thick crust to it, they appear to leave to its own protection Various customers have spoken of this from time to time so an inventor has taken the hint and made this cylindrical bin, that closes the moment the loaves are put into it."

A self-acting knife washer is another invention, designed to prevent the overburdened hired girl from having to remember that the handles of knives ought not to be put into hot water It is a double-decked affair with places for the big, overgrown knives and places for the small knives The knife washer does everything but get its own hot water and wipe the knives after their scrubbing. That much is still left to the domestic. A new egg breaker has just taken precedence over all previous egg breakers. It not only cracks the shell, but holds the hot egg as well, thus saving Katie's fingers from the least possible burn. This invention looks something like a pair of curved-edged scissors, with sharp little teeth to hold by. There is a new contrivance for shaving ice and new appliances for rounding it into balls for use about the butter and other delicate dishes The conveniences for peeling and paring vegetables, slicing them, and chopping them up, and for measuring out seasonings and condiments are a revelation to people who have not kept up with the van of improvements. Every year a new raisin seeder comes out, and the latest device for this purpose would be interesting to the old-time housewives who spent hours seeding raisins for a birthday or a wedding cake, armed only with fruit knives and patience that resisted stickiness.

There have been divers bottle lockers put on the market from time to time, but 1898 sees a new one possessed of an actual key which can be borne away in the pocket of the bottle owner, and so afford tangible evidence of the security of the much prized vintage.

"We have sold no end of these," says the salesman. "They take much better than the self-fasteners, that depended on the cork's swelling as a precaution. There seems to be a feeling among owners of wine cellars that it is perfectly natural for their butler to give way to temptation in this regard, or for the cook or the child's nurse, on off afternoons and evenings, to take a clandestine swig at any tipple she may prefer When the choicest wines that the house affords are locked, each in its own bottle, and the separate keys are in their turn locked away in cabinet or desk drawer, the master and mistress may enjoy a freedom from responsibility."

A contrivance not made especially for servant's use, but that might be adopted by them with convenience, is an implement for reaching out and getting things without rising from one's chair. It is probable that the designer had the comfort of invalids and helpless folk in mind when he planned it, but able-bodied folk, both above and below stairs, have been quick to see its merits. When shut up it looks like a pair of tweezers or scissors, but it is light and pliant, and at the slightest touch jumps out and lengthens into a half-yard long utensil, with two little claws at the end for hooking up the desired object. A newspaper or handkerchief, the skirt of a creeping infant, a skein of yarn, or any light thing that one's comfort requires, can be grabbed and brought within range by this contrivance. It is called a "Lazy Tom." The sybarite, either in the kitchen or in the sitting room, when armed with it can go a fishing among surroundings without moving an inch from the special place he has found comfortable.

Wore the National Costume.

The Princess of Montenegro, while on a visit to her daughter, the Princess of Naples, at Rome, drove out every day in the national Montenegrin dress—a red cloth cloak—and wearing a long black veil over her head. The Romans seemed to like the costume, and cheered it lustily whenever it appeared. In the evening the Princess rivalled Solomon, her costume being simply covered with gems.

Popular For Curtains.

The coin spot muslins still continue popular for curtains. The new fabrics come in double widths, while the spots are in all sizes. Nearly all of these curtains are tied back close to the window with wide, loose bands of the curtain stuff, edged on the bottom with ruffles of the same. Very few windows now show the old loopings of ribbons or cords.

WOMEN'S REALM

WHAT TO WEAR AND HOW TO MAKE IT

May Manton's Hints Regarding Seasonable Toilettes.

The model shown in the illustration is of pale blue pique in a heavy rib. The yoke, which is single pointed, is seamed at the centre-back and extends over the shoulders onto the fronts. The latter are full and pouch slightly, the gathers at both neck and waist being collected in a narrow space at each side of centre-front. The edge of the right side is finished with a box-plait, and the closing is effected by means of button-holes worked through the centre and buttons sewed to the left side. The body portion of the back is slightly full and is arranged in gathers at the yoke edge and

again at the waist-line Between it and the fronts are small under-arm gores. The sleeves are one-seamed in regulation shirt style and are finished at the wrists with straight cuffs At the neck is a high collar. With it is worn a string tie of black satin, and at the waist is a belt of black silk.

To make this waist for a lady in the medium size will require three and one-fourth yards of thirty-six-inch material or three and one-fourth yards of thirty-inch goods.

Dress For School Girls.

A sensible dress for school girls whose course includes daily gymnastics, but whose time between hours is too short to allow of extensive change of dress, is this, advocated by a prominent physical culture teacher of New York. The waist should be a blouse or shirt waist, made in the prevailing style, but loose enough to allow freedom for exercise. Underneath the dress skirt, which can be readily slipped off, the divided skirt for gymnastics, and still underneath the warm but loose flannel underwear. Thus dressed, all the girl has to do to be ready for her exercise is to slip off the dress skirt and change her boots for the gymnasium shoes. Exercise finished, the dress skirt may be resumed and a bolero jacket slipped on over the waist to avoid the danger of taking cold. The ordinary stocking supporter is considered objectionable, as it impedes the circulation and produces round shoulders.

Girl's Reefer Jacket.

This stylish reefer of fancy mixed coating in ecru, tan and brown, shows a new feature in the broad yoke collar of ecru-faced cloth that is handsomely decorated with rows of open meshed brown mohair braid. The reefer has always been a popular top garment for young girls, but this season it easily leads all others, and as here presented is quite up-to-date. No more convenient, comfortable or simply constructed style can be attempted by the home dressmaker, and an exact reproduction of this picture can be made from this pattern with hardly any trouble at all. The loose-fitting fronts lap widely in double-breasted style, the closing being effected to

the left shoulder by buttons and button-holes. The standing collar closes with the jacket at the left shoulder, and the broad yoke collar can either be included in the seam or finished separately. Wide back and under arm portions join the fronts in shoulder and under arm seams, the three centre seams ending a few inches from the lower edge, which is stylishly finished in two wide tabs. The two-seamed sleeves are shaped according to the latest mode and gathered at the top. Reefer jackets like this in bright colors trimmed with black braid are exceedingly becoming to young girls, and may be worn as occasion demands all through the summer. To cut this jacket for a girl of eight years one and one-half yards of material fifty-four inches wide will be required.

A Famous Cook.

Mrs. Sarah T. Rorer, the apostle of hygienic cookery, is a comfortable, buxom-looking woman, whose fair complexion is a practical denial of the oft-asserted statement that cooking and bending over the fire are ruinous to feminine good looks and delicacy of skin.

In south Australia all adults enjoy the rights of franchise, and Mr. Kingston, the prime minister, says that the women appreciate the power and always use it intelligently.

CASH GIRL TO MERCHANT.

The Story of a Successful Business Woman.

On a prominent corner in the central part of the business district of New York there stands a substantial up-to-date looking building. It is a factory for the making of children's and misses' cloaks and suits of a good quality, and there are more than 300 cutters, sewers and finishers employed there constantly. The best retail firms in New York, Chicago, Cincinnati, St. Louis and other cities send buyers to this factory to secure the season's complement of goods for their respective departments. The proprietor of this flourishing factory, which does a business each year valued at a half million dollars, is a woman—a bright, brisk, alert woman, who employs a clerk to look after the office end of the business, and devotes her energies to the more important part of personally superintending the cutting and sewing of the garments. She is in reality, at the helm of every part and detail of her business, but never neglects to spend the major portion of each day in the great work room, where the folded layers of expensive cloth are being cut into sleeves, side forms, collars and the like, and where the stitchers, fitters and trimmers may refer to her for guidance at any moment.

"I made every cent of the money I started this business with myself" she says when complimented on her enterprise "I started life in a 6th avenue store as a cash girl at fifteen After a year or two I was made a salesgirl and later on I had a place in another store in the dress goods department. When I was twenty-three I was promoted to the post of buyer in the department I was then selling in which handled infants' caps, sacks, dresses etc. I suppose I gave satisfaction for I got a better place with the same house, to buy the misses' garments at a salary of $22 a week It was not a rich firm that I worked for, and there were very few women buyers at that time in New York

"I did not have control of the money used in buying, nor did I have any voice as to how much should be invested I simply selected the goods most likely to sell, under the supervision of a man buyer, who was the head of our department I worked along on my $22, and saved all the money I could, until I had $1,500 laid by I had married in the meanwhile, but that never interfered with my work, and does not now, as my husband has business of his own.

"My buying goods, or rather selecting them, for so many years gave me an insight into what was needed for the market, the faults in the goods or their making, and the cost of materials, workmanship, and all that, so I decided that I had judgment enough to run a business venture of my own. When I suggested it to my husband, he laughed, and said I would lose my position and my $1,500 in the bargain, and that I had better be satisfied to let well enough alone. I started, however, and met with success from the first season. I began in a very small way It is but six years since I started, and you have only to see the firm names on my books to understand that I must make the best quality garments, reasonable in price, to hold my position. Having made the money myself to begin on makes me all the more pleased to have built up the brisk trade going on about us."

To Make Rosy Nails.

Many women with pretty hands are constantly annoyed by the rough appearance of their finger nails, caused by the fact that they break and split. The possessor of such nails should cut them with well sharpened manicure scissors, and the nail should never be cut or filed unless the fingers have first been soaked in warm water. The brittleness may sometimes be lessened by rubbing almond oil thoroughly into the nails and finger ends on retiring at night. A pair of old kid gloves must then be pulled on.

A teaspoonful of lemon juice in a cupful of tepid water whitens and supples the nails and removes all grease and dirt, making them more easy to polish. This should be used every morning, and by soaking the fingers a few moments it is possible to make the nails perfectly clean and transparent without the use of any metal cleaner, by simply rubbing under them with a towel. It is also beneficial in removing the skin around the nail edges, which should never be cut with scissors. Rub the towl firmly all about the nail, pushing back the skin. Do this regularly every day, and after a few weeks the skin growth will disappear.

A Bold Idea.

The latest fancy for young married women in Paris is to have a ball-dress of satin, tulle and flowers. Now, this sounds most ordinary, for our grandmothers wore the same combination. But listen to the boldness of the idea. A satin merveilleux skirt, clinging closely about the figure, with an overdress of pliant tulle; the bodice is then very decollette and composed entirely of violets, which do not even shelter the perfectly bare shoulders, the two sides of the bodice being held in place by strings of amethyst. The tiniest moss-roses entirely compose another bodice, with pink sapphire for the shoulders, and the modest, pink-tipped daisy, with strings of pink pearls for sleeves forms still another combination.

New embroidery frames are in rings of gilt or silver, made to fit one inside the other snugly, and fastened with a screw. They are much more firm than the old-fashioned wooden rings.

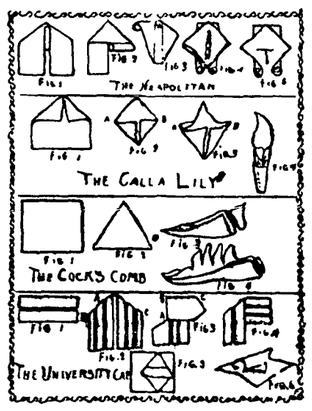
HOUSE HOLD TALKS

NAPKINS IN FANCY FOLDS.

An Arrangement of Them Adds Much to the Appearance of a Table.

The arrangement of the napkins adds much to the appearance of a dinner table. Of course, plaited fans or any violent butterfly or bat designs placed in goblets or tumblers are to be despised as commonplace, but an artistic manner of folding napkins to hold the blocks of bread is to be admired. It will not take more than a few moments to fold the pretty patterns of the bishop's miter, the water lily, the four pocket, the university cap, the Neapolitan, the cock's comb, the calla lily and the arrowhead.

To be successful the napkins must be quite well starched in order to hold the creases to make the designs look firm, and to carry out the form. Accuracy is desirable, and a good deal of patience is required at first. After once getting the idea, however, the work will take only a few minutes.



The water lily is, perhaps, the prettiest, and it is very simple. Take a perfectly square napkin and fold the four corners toward the center, making all meet. Next fold the new corners to the center in the same way, and do this a third time. Then carefully turn the napkin and fold the other four corners to the middle, turn the napkin once more and arrange the petals, making them all stand up neatly. Place the block of bread in the center.

Something of the same treatment is required for the four-pocket. The corners of a square napkin are folded to the center, and the new corners again similarly folded, after which the napkin is turned over and its four corners are folded again to the center. Turn it over, and you will find four pretty pockets.

The water lily and the four pocket are especially adapted for small tea napkins.

The university cap is rather complicated. It cannot be done with a square napkin. Lay the napkin before you lengthwise, and double the bottom edge over four times, making a two-inch fold or band. Crease this fold tightly, and bring it into the middle of the napkin as in figure 1. Turn the napkin and bring each end over as in figure 2, meeting in the center. Bring C over to A, as in figure 3, and turn the flap marked D E back over the dotted line, leaving it as shown in figure 4. Do the same with the other side. Reverse the napkin, and you will then have figure 5. Tuck the bread in the band.

For the arrowhead fold the napkin lengthwise in three equal parts and turn over the ends as in figure 1. Fold back each flap to meet along the upper edge (figure 2). Draw these flaps together across the dotted line, and you will have the arrowhead (figure 3).

The Neapolitan looks difficult, but really it is very simple. Fold the napkin in three lengthwise, turn over the ends (figure 1), and roll the ends (figure 2): Turn the napkin over, and bring the rolls to meet in the center. Place the bread between them (figure 4), or you can turn one of the flaps toward you and have a pocket for the bread (figure 5). One advantage of this design is that it does not crush up the napkin.

The cock's comb is made by folding the napkin in half and again in half to form a square and then into a triangle. You will have a central point and four loose corners, two on either side. Raise the central point and tuck the corners around its base, making them go through the opening. Now turn the napkin upside down and pull out the four points. You will then have the cock's comb.

The calla lily is rather difficult. This demands a square napkin. Turn the top corners toward you, as in figure 1. Turn the napkin over and fold the two bottom corners (figure 2), pull the upper triangle over toward the lower one, making a deep fold in the middle of the napkin (figure 3). Now draw from beneath the napkin the two folded corners, and, holding the napkin firmly in the left hand, carry the end of the middle fold marked B to A, moving it toward you and roll or fold one corner up to the band around the base of the lily, which has begun to assume shape, and tuck it in firmly; bring the other corner around in similar fashion and form the flower. The eye and the hand have much to do in order to make this design successful.