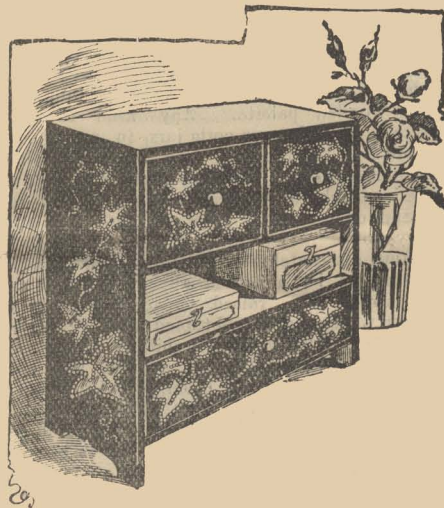




"THE DAWN"  
Xmas Fancy Work



NEW USE FOR CLOTHES PEGS.



NAIL DECORATION.

NAIL DECORATION seems to have revived of late, and I was very delighted with a small jewel chest that was presented to me the other day, made of polished wood, and decorated in this fashion; and it can, of course, be applied with great success to larger objects. Perhaps it is most effective when used on leather, pig-skin, by choice, in its dull, natural tint; this, however, is a very expensive background, and there is a rough-faced and grained American cloth, a good deal resembling morocco, that costs considerably less, and is fairly effective. Supposing then that we have a white wood cabinet similar to that shown in the illustration; the best plan would be to stain the wood as nearly as possible the colour of the leather you intend to use, then paste on the American cloth at the sides and in the front panels of the door, using the ordinary thick paste, which should then be traced on with French chalk.

A compass, an old flat ruler, some tracing paper, a fine bradawl, a small wooden mallet, and an iron hammer with a broad, flat head, and the nails themselves are all that are required. On the lines of the design, taking care to follow it very accurately, small holes must be pierced with the bradawl. Old packing cases may be manufactured; in fact, it is suitable for all informal pieces of furniture. Copper nails upon brown backgrounds are prettier than any other kind of combination.

A NEW USE FOR CLOTHES PEGS.—These very homely little articles can be transformed by the aid of gold paint into the daintiest little letter-clips. The heads should have a full bunch of many-colored and quaintly blended ribbons of the narrowest kind to be bought. Twopence will more than cover cost, and a writing table will be more than beautiful by its cheerful and tidying presence.

**A USEFUL TRIFLE.**—Those of us who have utilitarian minds will be glad to hear of a new use to put our discarded "Extract of Beef" jars to. Some of us have used them with much useful advantage to hold our jelly, but if we don't happen to have the good fortune to live in the country this useful end is denied us. So it is with pleasure that I tell my readers how to turn these well-made little jars into ornaments that cost only a penny to embellish and are a joy for ever after. First soak the jars and wipe them clean. Then cut out of a picture book or paper, figures of quaint little brownies, and outline these on the white jar and paint them solid with vandyke brown oil paint. Just dot the figures anyhow about, and tie a brown satin ribbon in a quaint bow round the rim of the jar and you will have a match-holder for wax vestas that will delight your heart. If you get tired of brownies you can paint on monkeys or stalos, and will equally pleased with the result. The larger-sized jars can be ornamented in the same way, and utilized to hold hair-pins, etc.

**BARBOTINE POTTERY.**—You will require some oil paints, a couple of tins of ordinary house paint, and a few artist's oil colours, in tubes, say a middle chrome yellow, yellow ochre, burnt senna, permanent blue, vermilion; and crimson lake. These can be obtained from J. Sandy and Co., 330 George Street, Sydney. You will also require a few hog-hair brushes—cheap ones will do quite well. Get two large ones and two small ones. To keep them nice, after using them each day, they should be washed first in turpentine and then with soap and water. The only other thing necessary is a wooden palette. Any kind of jar can be decorated. Rough terra-cotta jars, in pretty shapes, are very suitable, but the jars used for table salt and preserved ginger, in fact, anything glazed also look well. Paint the jar black for rather more than a third of the way up, and cream color for rather more than a third of the way down. Then fill the space between with dabs of paint, alternately with the black brush and the cream, giving the jar a mottled appearance, then leave the jar to dry. The raised flowers are made with india-rubber which can be obtained from Perdriau and Co., George St.,<sup>1</sup> Sydney, for one shilling. This rubber must be cut into pieces, placed in a basin, and boiling water poured on it. It can be compressed to about half its thickness and cut with a pair of scissors into the shape required. Then mould it in the hand; if it grows hard before you have finished this put it back into the water for a few minutes. To make a rose, prepare three small petals curling inward, to form the centre, and four or five larger ones for the outside. Then model a stalk, and fit it onto the jar. When it and the petals are cold, take a candle, and hold the end of a petal near the flame. When the petal is sufficiently sticky, press it against the stalk, and it will adhere. All the petals can be joined on to the stalk in this way. The leaves must be cut out, modelled, and affixed in the same manner. The complete spray must then be affixed to the jar by heating the parts that are to touch it in the flame and pressing them into place. When the whole is dry, the flowers must be painted. Put a little of the cream house paint, tinted with the colour required, on the palette; the centres of the roses should be the deepest shade, the outside petals almost cream. The leaves and stalks, of course must be green, made with chrome yellow, permanent blue and some of the cream paint; if it be too crude, a little burnt senna, or black, can be put with it; but it must be varied and not put on in an even tone all over. When the painting is finished and the whole quite dry, a coat of varnish completes a very handsome and ornamental jar.

The loose Japanese chrysanthemums make a very good decoration for these jars. Press the india-rubber out, and cut long, thin petals, short ones for the centre, and longer, broader for the outside. Get a real chrysanthemum leaf of medium size, press it back downwards on to

the soft piece of india-rubber, and cut round it; this makes a most natural-looking leaf, as the impression of the veins is left. All the cuttings out of the india-rubber can, by being made soft, be pressed together and used up.

**TIN FOR MAIDEN-HAIR FERN.**—Take a long narrow biscuit tin, peel off all the paper, obtain some white enamel and cover the tin with it both inside and out. When the paint is dry, add another coat, put on rather thickly, have ready some small washed quartz stones, about the size of the beads used for beading lace and while the enamel is still sticky, sprinkle the stones over it and leave it to dry; add another coat which covers stones and all, this will give it the effect of rough, white china. Now, while the pot is wet, scatter a little powdered bronze or gold paint here and there over the tin; the powder will run into little lines and patterns as soon as it touches the wet paint. Great care and much discretion must be used over this part of the work, as a very little powder goes a long way and too much gives a heavy appearance. The tin is now finished, and it looks like a bit of pretty white china—indeed few people would guess its origin. For sale at a bazaar, it is well to put two little pots of maiden hair fern in the tin, as it not only shows what it is intended for but makes a ready sale.

**A BABY JAP PINCUSHION.**—Buy a sixpenny Japanese doll remove the legs, and make a skirt for it of pin-cushions, each made as a bag, stuffed with wool wadding, draw the bags up, and fasten them about the waist. The bags are to be made of yellow China silk. Now fold a piece of blue satin to make a surplus waist, with flowing sleeves of same, and tie a sash of blue satin ribbon about the waist with large bow at the back. Of course any color may be used for the dress—moss green and pink is a favorite combination.

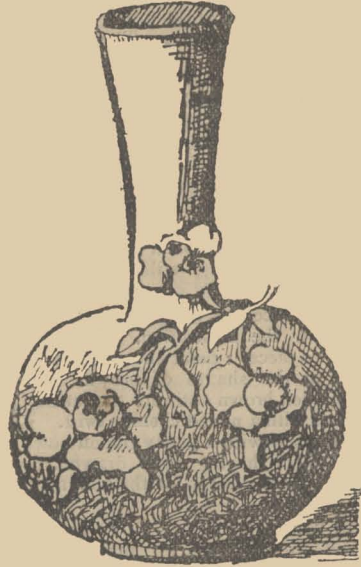
**A HANGING WORK BASKET.**—The accompanying sketch shows a most useful and inexpensive article, which would be a very acceptable present to an invalid, though it is a thing which any woman would be glad to possess. To make it, take a piece of thin board seven inches long and five wide, cover it with a piece of velvet, brocade, or other pretty material, to which has been carefully fastened a little needle-book on the right hand corner, a small pin-cushion on the opposite corner, and a few straps for scissors, thimbles, etc. Before covering the wood, holes should be bored in it, through which the ribbons are passed for tying on the reels of cotton—one white, the other black. The covers of the needle-book and pin cushions are made of the material used for covering the board, and it is also used for the straps, which are stiffened with buckram. The edges of the board are finished off with a pretty silk cord which also forms the loop to hang it up by.

**BABY'S PINCUSHION.**—A handsome hanging pin-cushion to be hung near the baby's bureau for the accommodation of nursery pins is made of a strip of soft white silk, six inches wide and twelve inches long. Seam the ends that are six inches long together, and gather both edges of the strip, filling it with lamb's wool wadding, and forming a rounded cushion with gathered ends. Upon each of these ends is placed a full rosette made of white satin baby ribbon. This is also called the chrysanthemum cushion, and is a handsome gift for older people as well as the baby. It takes one piece of ribbon for each one of the rosettes which resemble chrysanthemums. It is hung by a piece of the baby ribbon.

**MATS FOR THE TABLE, FLOWER POTS, ETC.**—Cut out three rounds in brown paper by pencilling round a plate, or for dishes, cut them in an oval shape. Then make two more graduated rounds, so as to have a set of three. Pin one of these on green baize, and then cut. Make a scallop round the mat with a bone crochet hook in black wool or the same color as the mat.



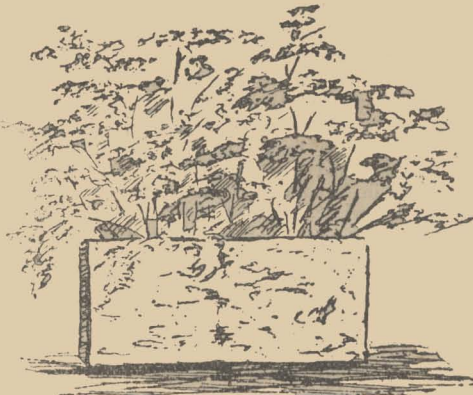
A USEFUL TRIFLE



BARBOTINE POTTERY



BARBOTINE POTTERY



TIN FOR MAIDENHAIR FERN



**"YE NOVEL" COVERS.**—You may turn a shabby yellow-backed novel into a thing of beauty by making a loose cover of blue linen, on which can be embroidered in satin stitch "Ye Novel" in white flax thread with conventional dragon or snake below the lettering. A quarter of a yard of linen will be ample.

**QUITE A DAINTY WORK-CASE.**—The illustration shows an extremely pretty and novel work-case, or as our grandmothers would have called it, "lady's companion." When it is opened out flat, as in the drawing, the shape is suggestive of a four-leafed clover; in order to close it up the ribbons are drawn together and tied into small bows at each corner. It is made of cardboard covered on the outside with pale pink and on the inside with white linen, on which tiny scattered roses are embroidered in delicate colors. The pockets are also of silk, and some of the ribbon is sewn down as indicated, to take the scissors, stiletto, bodkin and needle-book.

**GLOVE BOX.**—An excellent way to utilize an old cigar box is shown by the illustration. Cut the lid in the centre to form two pieces: paint the sides and cover with a floral design in the shades of brown. Make a quilted lining of a golden brown satin for the inside, and secure it to the panels with a mixed chenille twist. Each part of the lid is attached with a pretty ribbon bow, replacing hinges, the ribbon having been drawn through holes bored purposely on the sides of the box and the lids.

**UNIQUE DESIGN FOR COLLAR AND CUFF BOX.**—For any lady possessed with a taste for pretty personal belongings, a collar and cuff box would make a useful and ornamental gift. The round box has a padded lining of shell-pink satin, fitted in the usual manner, and in the centre a standing tube, satin-covered, over which the cuffs are dropped. But first the outside is covered with pale green chamois leather smoothly applied and secured by thin glue along the edges, aided by a few stitches here and there. The sketch shows how the box is closely bound around with two bands of satin ribbon of any harmonious shade, and has the cover bound in the same way with one band of ribbon, the ends of which are fastened and concealed beneath smart little bows of the same. The decorative design on the top of the box as shown separately in Fig. 2. The inscription "Neatly collared and smartly cuffed," and the little sketch illustrative of a rather different application of the same idea, are painted in shades of brown touched up with gold. This sketch, however, is only a suggestion to the artist.

**FOR BURNT MATCHES.**—Fit a small glass tumbler into one of the round Japanese baskets that are about four inches in diameter, and cost only a few pence, then cover the basket and tumbler with a strip of white China silk large enough to draw over both. The frill at the top to be about an inch and a half wide. This is to stand up around the tumbler. Embroider tiny sprays of pink flowers with green leaves on the silk, and use narrow pink satin ribbon for drawing strings which confine the bag at the top of the basket. Gather the other end of the silk to fit the bottom of the basket, and tack it around the edge with fine sewing silk.

**PIN CUSHION BELLOWS.**—A hanging pin-cushion to be suspended near a fire-place in the dining room is made in the shape of a pair of bellows. Cut from cardboard two pieces the shape of pattern and two extra pieces for the handles. Cover one side of each with the wrist of an old pair of tan-coloured kid gloves. Measure round the cardboard, and cut a piece of velvet one inch wide, narrowing at the nozzle ends. Turn in the edges and topsew to the side pieces, and cut in halves to form the two parts of the handles. To form the nozzle slip a pencil in and cut this the desired length. Sharpen it. Fill the cushion with emery powder and finish the edges with narrow silk cord.

**PIN CUSHION.**—Cut two pieces of cardboard the shape of a hair brush. One piece should be of very thin cardboard, that the pins may be easily stuck through it. Cover with velvet. Between the pieces place a layer of curled paper, so that when the pins are stuck in the paper one, there will be depth enough to keep them upright. Lay the two pieces together and top-sew the edges. Two papers of pins are required to stick them closely. The upright pins form the brush.

**A RAZOR-STROP CASE** is an appropriate gift for a gentleman. Cut cardboard into the size of the end and sides of an ordinary razor strop, and cover each piece with golden-brown velvet, lining with yellow China silk. Decorate one side of the velvet with yellow primroses, another with yellow lilies, the third with golden rod and the fourth with the initials or monogram of the intended recipient. Overseam the pieces together in the proper shape, covering the joinings with fancy stitches in heavy silks. Tie a full bow of ribbon the shade of the silk about the handle of the strop.

**A BABY'S BALL.**—Purchase a light, hollow, rubber ball, and crochet for it a cover of knitting silk. Make a chain of four stitches, join, and work in the circle single crochet to fill it, then in rounds, increasing regularly to fit the shape of the ball, until the largest part is reached. Then draw over the ball and begin to decrease in the same way until the whole ball is enclosed. By using two colours the ball may be prettily striped. They may be readily washed when soiled in warm soap-suds.

**JAPANESE CATCH-ALL.**—This is made by tying together two of the little round Japanese baskets that you can buy in most fancy shops for three-pence each. It will take three-quarters of a yard of ribbon, about an inch or more wide. Make a small slit about the middle of the sides in each basket; then push your ribbon through both slits, and tie it in a bow on top like the picture. It will be a pretty little present to give someone to keep on their bureau for hair-pins or rings or any little trinkets, but you must be sure to get a colour of ribbon that will go with the pin-cushion and other little fancy things near it. If you cannot afford to get two baskets, get one, and tie a bow in the same place through one side; it will only take five-eighths of a yard of ribbon for one basket.

**PHOTOGRAPH CASE.**—Take a piece of heavy water-colour paper twenty-two inches by eight and a half inches wide, and divide the length into four equal parts. Cut places for photographs either round, oval, or oblong in the centre divisions, and fold the two outer ones beside these, and lace them all together down the centre with narrow ribbon.

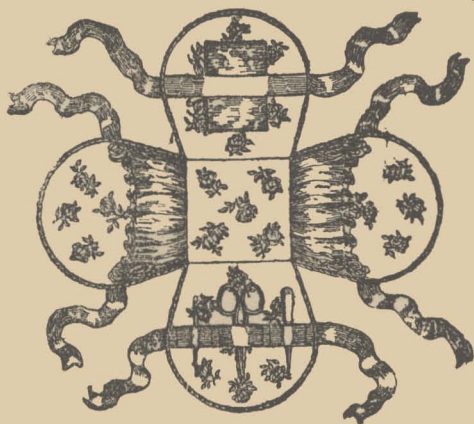
**TABLE SCRAP BASKET.**—A small slender basket is now used for tables and bureaux to hold thread, silks, etc. Any fancy basket trimmed with ribbon will suit the purpose and one can use their own taste and ingenuity in decorating them. They are usually gilt or painted white.

**A PRESENT** for a bride is a sofa cushion of white China silk. To protect this delicate offering, a cover of white linen lawn was embroidered in an all-over design with white floss, and this cover was slipped over the pillow, with a ruffle of the lawn, edged with the finest torchon lace. The embroidery could be done solid, half solid, short and long stitch, or simple outline.

**BOXES FOR SWEETS.**—Pretty lolly boxes for children are cut in triangular box form, from stiff water colour cardboard, decorated with splashes of gilt and coloured pictures. Join the sides together by means of eyelet holes and baby ribbon. Fill with tiniest bonbons.



BABY JAP PIN-CUSHION



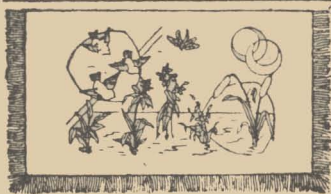
A DAINTY WORK-CASE



BABY'S PIN-CUSHION



EMBROIDERED HANDKERCHIEFS



WASHSTAND SPLASHER



HANGING PINCUSHION

### PASSAGE BRACKET.

When one is arranging for the extra lighting of either a room or a passage it is sometimes well to consider if there is no way of making the bracket ornamental and useful when it is not required for the purpose of lighting. A good suggestion is offered in the following sketch; it is quite an ordinary bracket of bent iron and copper. It can be used either for electric light or a hanging oil lamp. In the latter case the lamp is easily lifted out, when a jar of colored pottery or one of beaten copper, according to taste and expenditure



A PASSAGE BRACKET.

may be substituted; and in this can be placed either growing or cut flowers. If they are growing, something of a trailing, hanging nature is exceedingly pretty, or the effect may be softened by twisting dried asparagus ferns around the hanging chains. If electric light be used it is quite easy to slip the glass globe off, when it can be treated in the manner described.

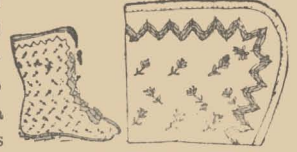
**FIRST SHOES FOR BABY.**—The boot consists of three pieces, the sole and two uppers, cut to fit the tiny foot. Each piece is embroidered, but it is not at all difficult to execute, the stitches being large, but very effective.

After these pieces have been embroidered, it is lined with soft flannel and faced with pale blue silk; the edges are bound with ribbon, and the different pieces joined; a double row of pearl buttons are sewn around the opening, and around there, by means of a narrow ribbon, the boot is laced together.

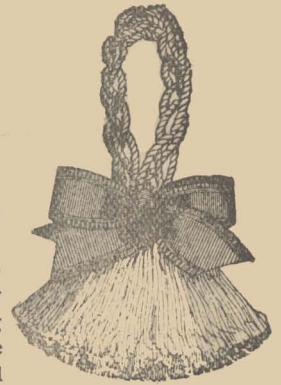
**PRETTY AND HYGIENIC TEA-COSY.**—I went to a bachelor's tea party the other day, and was struck with a tea-cosy that had been presented to him by a maiden aunt, that I straightway made a sketch of it on the spot and inquired concerning it for the benefit of my readers. I have al-



ways been opposed to the use of the tea-cosy. Even if it does keep the tea hot, it is at the expense of making it bitter, but this woollen cosy is ventilated, this is the case with the old wadded and padded type; and another advantage it possesses is not having to be removed when the tea being poured out. This



tea-cosy consists of two shades of double Berlin wool golden brown on the outside and delicate gold colour on the inside. Sage green, with pale blue or pink would look nearly as well, or orange lined with grey. It takes 2 ozs. of each colour, the darker shade for the outside, and some pretty, narrow ribbon to twist round the frill and tie in a bow. The knitting needles used were number four. Cast on 39 stitches, work one row plain. Then the rest is carried out in what is sometimes known as brioche stitch; this is worked by making one, slipping one and taking up two, in every row the same. The cosy is worked in four sections—two for the outside and two for the lining. For each section use up 10z of wool, reserving enough to join up the side when finished. For the lining, cast on 29 stitches instead of 39; this will give it additional length sufficient for the frill at the top. In joining up leave a slit on each side large enough for the handle and spout to pass through as shown in the illustration. Nothing simpler than this mode of making a tea-cosy can well be imagined. The finished effect, though plain, is pretty, while the thickness of the wool and the close stitch employed makes it practical and useful.



**DUST BRUSH FOR FANCY ARTICLES.**—This pretty brush is made from two yards of clothes-line. It must be new, and should be cut into four equal lengths, and braided together to within three inches of each end, then double the braid securely together, leaving the eight strands at the two ends together. Untwist the ends and pick out all the strands to form the brush, soak it a few minutes to remove the wavy, crimped effect, then dry it and shake out until it is full and light—the braid forms the handle. A bow of ribbon, is tied around the top of the brush to conceal the twine which fastens together. This brush will be useful for dusting fancy ornaments.

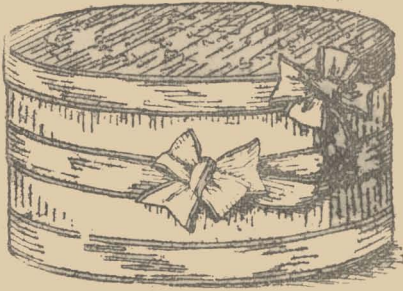




JAPANESE CATCHALL



GLOVE BOX



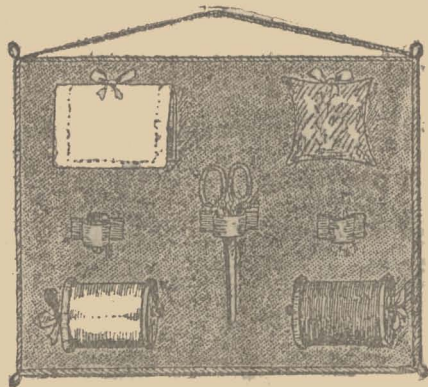
COLLAR AND CUFF BOX



FOR BURNT MATCHES



COLLAR AND CUFF BOX FIG. 2

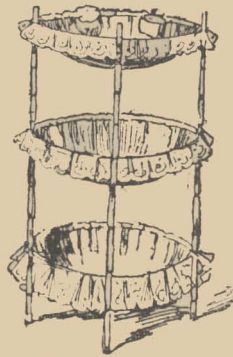


A HANGING WORK-BASKET





HALL STAND



BABY'S BASKET



RAZOR-STROP CASE



PINCUSHION BELLOWS



HAIR-BRUSH  
PIN-CUSHION



NAPKIN RING



"YE NOVEL" COVERS

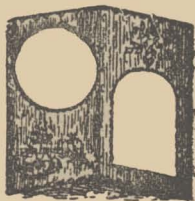


PHOTO FRAME



WASTE PAPER BASKET