

# ALL PERSONS ARE SEIZED ALIKE BY SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

Suggestions for Festive Note to Table and Performances in Preparing and After Yuletide Are Given by Barbara Boyd.

**E**VEN though we may not decorate the houses for Christmas, most of us like to add a festive note to the table for the Christmas dinner. We may do it simply by means of a few sprigs of holly, or we may plan elaborate decorations. But whichever we do, we certainly enjoy the meal more when the table is gay and bright with green and scarlet.

A very pretty table decoration is to make in the center of the table a red star of poinsettia if possible; if not in any other way that is practicable. Place at the center of the star a tall candle, and at each point shorter candles. The candles can be white with red shades, or all red. At each plate, place a poinsettia. The ice cream could be in the form of a candle and candlestick, with a tiny bit of taper stuck in the end and lighted as the cream is served.

Very Christmas is a mound of cotton in the center of the table a red star of poinsettia if possible; if not in any other way that is practicable. Place at the center of the star a tall candle, and at each point shorter candles. The candles can be white with red shades, or all red. At each plate, place a poinsettia. The ice cream could be in the form of a candle and candlestick, with a tiny bit of taper stuck in the end and lighted as the cream is served.

Also on this order is to make a snow man of cotton, for the centerpiece, and crown him with holly. The other at centers of the table could be carried out in white and scarlet.

It is very pretty to suspend from the chandelier a hoop wreathed with scarlet ribbon or holly, from which hang little stockings. This could be so arranged that at the end of the dinner, the hoop could be lowered and each one at the table find his name on one of the stockings, and within, various little souvenirs appropriate to the season.

Not particularly novel, but most attractive is a little Christmas tree in the center of the table, and here and there sprigs of holly, bows of scarlet ribbon or miniature trees. Such decorations make a cheery table at little expense. For these miniature trees can be made by sticking a spray of holly into a tiny pasteboard box or pot, which has been painted or gilded or covered with cotton or fixed appropriately in any way that may be preferred. Such decorations are very easy to make and even the children can fix these things.

Wire wound with scarlet or green ribbon or twined with slender vines can be carried from the chandeliers in canopy effect to each place and finished with a Christmas bell. But in arranging this, be careful to bear in mind the need to pass things, and do not arrange so that it will interfere with serving the dinner.

Another gay effect is produced by running ribbon from each place to the center of the table, and to the end in the center have attached some little gift. When the dinner is over, the ribbons can be pulled and each secures his souvenir or motto or whatever may have been planned for him.

An attractive centerpiece is made of a sleigh drawn by reindeer, the sleigh piled high with gifts or souvenirs.

## Woman's Part in Christmas

**S**HE climbed into the trolley, her arms filled with green wreaths and bunches of holly and gay Christmas stars made of red berries.

As she sat down and gave a sigh of relief, the passengers smiled sympathetically, and several other women in the car, likewise loaded down with Christmas greens, eyed her critically.

In fact, the majority of the women passengers in the car were carrying home something to make the house gay and Christmasy for the holidays, now but a few days away. But not one

of the men in the car had any such paraphernalia. Most of them were buried in their newspapers. The pockets of a few bulged, as if stowed away within were some Christmas packages. But not a sprig of holly or a spray of green showed on any of the masculine passengers on that homeward-bound car.

What sort of Christmas would we have, I wonder—at any rate, what would the home be like on Christmas—if all the women were spirited away some time before the season began, and had nothing to do whatever with the celebration? There might be some little gift-giving, especially to children, but would the home or the table be made bright and pretty as it is now? Wouldn't our homes on Christmas lack much of their festive air? And lacking all this brightness and cheeriness, wouldn't Christmas lack much that lightens and brightens the spirit?

Some there are who scoff at the decorations we place in our home Christmas. They think the practice a waste of money. They call it unnecessary work. And they loudly state that it is all foolishness.

But stop a minute and think what Christmas would be without the holly and the greens, the red candles, the scarlet ribbon. Take every touch of these things out of the home, and wouldn't Christmas be rather dreary? They add nothing perhaps to the substance of it, but they do to the relish. And as such, they have value.

So if we are inclined to criticize a bit this matter of decorating the home for the table, Christmas, or to debate with yourself whether it is worth while or not, let us close our eyes and picture the home and the Christmas dinner table without a touch of green or gleam of scarlet. The result will probably be a hasty trip to the nearest shop where Christmas decorations are for sale. And we will return with holly and mistletoe and other Christmas greens.

## The Last-Minute Buyer

**S**HE always says she isn't going to give any Christmas presents, that it is a foolish custom, that it leads people to spend more money than they can afford, that everybody gets a lot of things for which they have no earthly use, which only proves again the senselessness of the practice, that it is being carried beyond all bounds nowadays, and a lot more to that effect.

Whenever anybody mentions Christmas presents and tells how distracted she is or rushed or worn out getting them, out pours her flood of criticism and objection. If she drops in upon a friend and finds this friend making gifts, she sniffs and once more voices her opinion. And the nearer the great day approaches the more violent she becomes.

Then at the very last minute, usually on the morning of the twenty-fourth, the germ seizes her. She catches the fever. She decides she'll get a few things for the children—her nieces and nephews, or her neighbor's children, or anybody's, she is not particular. She only knows that all at once it seems perfectly right and reasonable that the children should be given something. Christmas is for children, anyway.

So she puts on her hat and sallies forth. And thus she sounds the knell of her doom.

For, once in the shops and among the crowds where the Christmas spirit runs high, she gets the fever badly. She decides to get a handkerchief for her sister, something for her brother-in-law. She suddenly remembers a friend who has been kind to her. And she plunges into the mart and is the maddest of all the crazed buyers, the most fren-

zied of the frenzied crowd. She emerges at night, breathless, worn, tired. And as she tramps home on feet that have been trodden on and with corns that are aching, and carries all her innumerable bundles, and thinks of the money she has spent, all her old convictions about the season return. And she calls herself a fool, and vows never again.

But next year she goes through the same programme. And every year she is one of the last-minute buyers, getting no joy out of the season, believing firmly it is all foolishness; yet unable to resist the current that is carrying everybody merrily, madly through what is to most of us one of the brightest and happiest seasons of the year.

## Christmas Wishes

**L**ET us wish that everybody's heart may be light on Christmas.

Let us wish that everybody receives all he wants, and that if this is too much to expect of Santa Claus, that every one gets at least some of the things that he longed for.

Let us wish that nobody will have indignation from the Christmas dinner.

Let us wish that if some hearts are patronized by society this year, was the time of times to check authoritative tailors and the furs worn with them. Though several large hats were noted at the evening sessions, the small, closely fitting hat, and occasionally the usual type of headgear during the day. Agitrets trimmed many of the hats. In spite of the stern decrees against agitrets in the Custom House, was the usual type of headgear during the day. Agitrets trimmed many of the hats. In spite of the stern decrees against agitrets in the Custom House, was the usual type of headgear during the day. Agitrets trimmed many of the hats. In spite of the stern decrees against agitrets in the Custom House, was the usual type of headgear during the day.

Footwear Has Coquetry. Not in years has footwear been so gay and coquettish. More boots worn with afternoon costumes have buttoned tops of contrasting material, usually kid in gray or tan tone, though occasionally tufted cloth or suede matches the color of a costume; and all boot heels are Frenchly high and curved, though the new spool heel, broad at the base and easy to walk on, imitates the curved Louis heel without its uncomfortable qualities. The only low-heeled boots noticed at the Horse Show in fact were worn by children and by women riders whose boots of course had the masculine character of their costumes.

Velvet Omnipresent. But while broadcloth appeared here and there, in a few strikingly noticeable costumes by famous dressmakers, velvet was the real fabric of the afternoon sessions. Tailleur after tailleur of velvet appeared in the boxes and upon the promenade and the colors of these velvet tailleurs were beautiful beyond description. Such rich browns, soft blues, deep greens and misty pinks and violets seem to have been inspired on the palette of painters before their expression of the loom and the harmonious effect of all these soft shades was as rich and pleasing as the fabric of an Oriental carpet. One of the most beautiful of the velvet tailleurs was worn by a young matron of Philadelphia who had a box at the horse show this season. The tailleur in question was of French blue velvet, all soft draperies and slender clinging lines and the furs happily worn with it were chinchilla.

Hundreds of black velvet tailleurs might have been counted every afternoon of the show and with these, sable and skunk furs seemed to be the favor. Its choice, though occasionally black coat of plum-colored moire with little amethyst and silver buttons, and the

nor that the thought of the appalling array of bills to come with first of the month will spoil the joy of next Thursday's celebration.

Let us wish that if some of us get things we don't want, or don't get the things we do want, that we may be able to conceal our disappointment and so hurt nobody's feelings, even though our own pain is somewhat.

Let us wish that nobody will be so tired from the rush of the Christmas work that he can't enjoy the pleasures of the day.

Let us wish that the joy of the girl who received a diamond solitaire will not diminish as the Christmas roll by.

Let us wish there will be no wall-flowers at the Christmas dances, and that every girl will get the partner she wants, and every man write his name as often as he desires on the programme of the girl of his heart.

Let us wish that all the gloves will fit, and all the neckties be right, and all the silk petticoats the wanted color, so that the exchange clerks will not be overworked.

Let us wish that if some hearts are

heavy, the spiritual significance of the season will bring comfort.

Let us wish that everybody may do something to add joy, if only a mite, to some poor child's Christmas.

Let us wish that the spirit of goodwill that animates us all will not die out with the sputtering of the Christmas candles, but that it will last until another Christmas rolls around to increase and strengthen it.

## The Day After Christmas

**T**HEN will we smell to heaven with sachets, toilet water and French extracts, and leave in our wake a trail of perfume that will speak as eloquently of Christmas as violets do of Spring.

Then will we seek little men trying to carry through with a jaunty and nonchalant air, the ordeal of walking down the principal thoroughfare of their town wearing the most vivid Scotch plaids.

Then we go forth on a day when the sky is cloudless bearing the gold-handled umbrella our best friend gave up.

Afternoon Sessions Animated. The time of times to check authoritative tailors and the furs worn with them. Though several large hats were noted at the evening sessions, the small, closely fitting hat, and occasionally the usual type of headgear during the day. Agitrets trimmed many of the hats. In spite of the stern decrees against agitrets in the Custom House, was the usual type of headgear during the day. Agitrets trimmed many of the hats. In spite of the stern decrees against agitrets in the Custom House, was the usual type of headgear during the day.

At night, however, society kept very much to itself. Well-dressed men and women sat quietly in their boxes, chatting a bit among themselves, but little visiting was done and none of the animation apparent in the afternoon was visible.

Many stunning black and white costumes were noticeable in the evening. Two of the most noticeable were in the Vanderbilt box, where Mrs. Reginald Vanderbilt wore milk white brocade with dark fur trimmings and a huge black velvet hat; a splendid foil for her costume being that of Mrs. Alfred Vanderbilt, who wore black charmeuse and tulle, with a black tulle hat. The rose-colored wrap worn with the white frock lent a delicious touch of color to these black and white costumes. In another box nearby was an enchanting white tulle frock, worn with pearls and a black velvet hat.

Then will we suddenly discover that our health requires a week-end at a nearby resort, in order that the smart new traveling bag that is ours is exhibited to an admiring public.

## Going Home for the Holidays

**I**F we go back home to see the home folks at no other time in the year, most of us try to do it at Christmas; for Christmas seems the season that makes the home ties draw most strongly. And so just now, throughout the length and breadth of the land, home circles are complete that are seldom so at other times.

Most of us go home with joy in our hearts; but greater than our joy is that of the folks waiting to receive us. We may be, sometimes, heart-sick and body-weary, and home and the home love mean heaven to us. But often, we go from a busy, gay world, and to some, after a few hours or a few days, the home life seems dull and monotonous. And so we scurry around seeing friends, or we fret and grow impatient to get back to our own world.

But when we are inclined to take this view of our home-coming, let us take pause and think of the home-

and every little while scanning the heavens as though we knew without doubt it would soon rain in torrents.

Then will we see slender maidens promeneing in low shoes, and when- ever the slightest excuse offers itself, lifting their skirts that every one may see and envy the beautiful silk hosiery that is theirs, by reason of the Christmas season.

Then will our hands shine in resplendent new gloves and even will we forego a muff on the bitterest day that we may show the handsome handwear that comes with the coming of Christmas.

Then will we exorcise the warm days that come, and go forth, even though the temperature is that of May as we peripat in a heat wave, wrapped in the fur coat "hubby" gave us.

Then will we empty our purse and borrow from our friends for theater and opera tickets, in order to show off the evening wrap Santa Claus put into our stockings.

Then will we invite pneumonia wearing the thin, filmy blouse hailing from Paris that Santa Claus is good enough to leave with us.

Then will we move about all possible in order that the frock from of our new frequent cat may be audible to all ears.

Then will it become necessary every few minutes to leave the time of day in order to make sure the new watch we received has not stopped or run away.

Then will the girl who received a diamond solitaire find it necessary to arrange her hair and neckwear quite frequently, especially when her dearest friend is present.

Then will we tell our friends with an auto what a beautiful new motor car hood we received and how vastly becoming it is to us.

Then will we find it necessary to call upon all our friends in order to give adequate use to the beautiful new handbag and cardcase we received.

Then will we do many unusual and peculiar things which at ordinary times, would cause our friends to wonder if our mind was not slightly affected, but which are looked upon indulgently because it is Christmas and everybody is doing them.

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folks and of their viewpoint of the home-coming. Let us try to enter into their expectations, to see the event with their eyes, to feel what is in their hearts; and then perhaps we will not only get a different comprehension of what it all stands for, but we will really get a finer, purer joy out of it.

For perhaps it is the only time in the year when the home-folks can enjoy our presence, be they to us, talk to us as in the old days before the home-circle was broken. And this is more to the father and mother than the children's sense for Christmas can ever hope to comprehend until they, too, become the ones waiting at home for children to return.

And to the sister or brother who has stayed home this coming from the great world of one of the family also means much. To listen to the tale of his work, of his friends, of his pleasures, like reading a chapter in a fascinating book in which a loved one is the hero. And to cut short from purely selfish motives, the giving of such pleasure is little else than cruel.

And in many other ways than by our mere presence, we can add to the pleasure of the Christmas home-coming for those who are at home. We can do many little things that will give joy, not so much by the mere doing, as by the fact that we thought to do them, that we remembered the tastes or the little idiosyncrasies of the members of the family, and catered to them. In a word, we can show that love burns as brightly in our hearts as it did when we left the home-nest. And whether we do this by having father's slippers by his chair when he comes in, or grating over mother's collar as we used to do, or combing Sis' hair in the latest city style, doesn't matter. It is the showing, in these little "homey" ways, of our love for them that counts.

And if this is the spirit that animates our home-coming, and stays with us all through our visit, and holds us longingly and lovingly until the very last train, the Christmas home-coming will be more than a success. It will be a memory to the heart light all through the year, both of the folks at home and of the one who has again gone forth from the home-nest to do battle with the world.

Barbara Boyd.

## ODD SOCIETY IS FORMED

Effort Is Made to Promote Use of "Wilhelm" as Name.

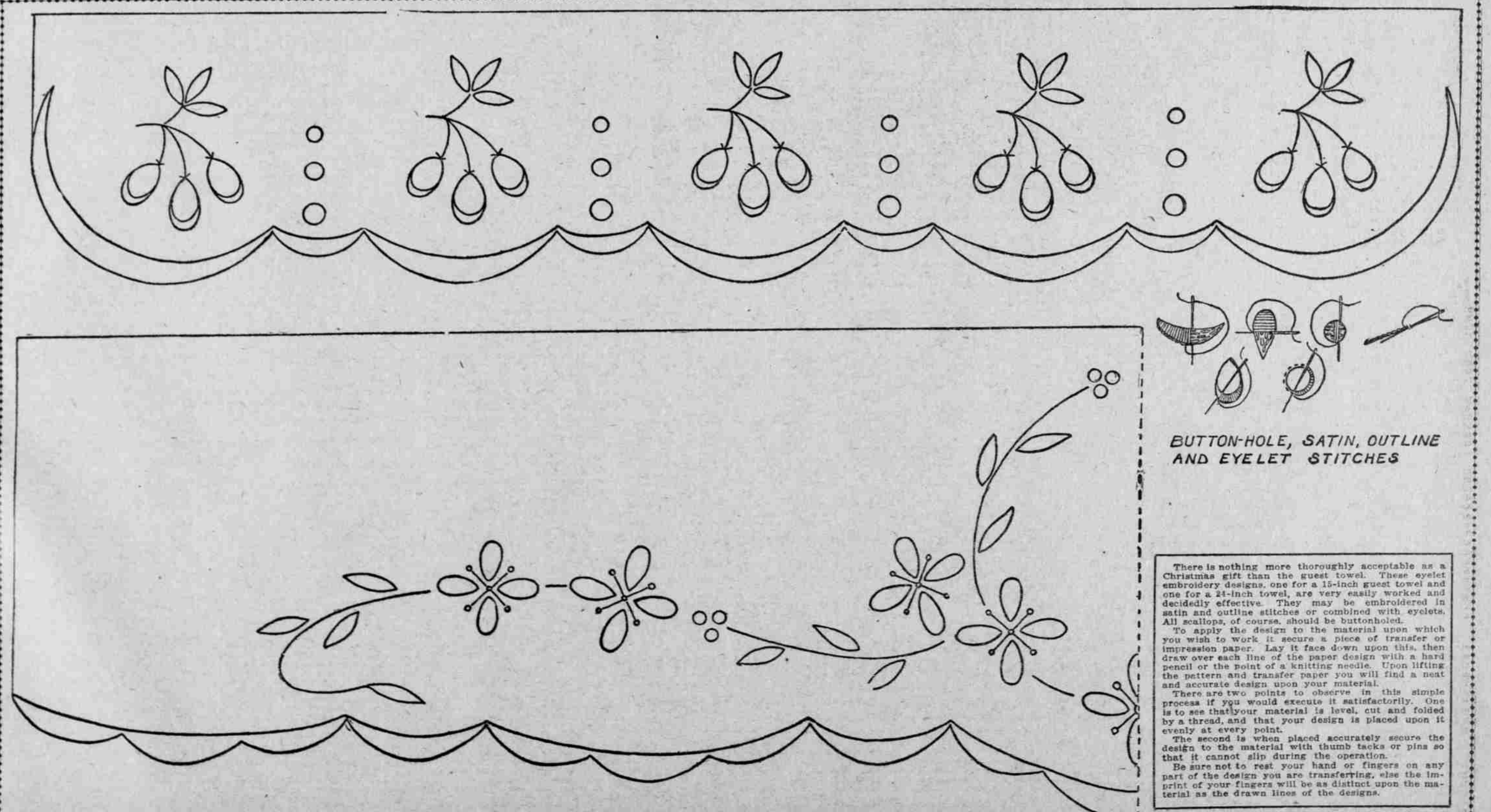
**B**ERLIN, Dec. 20.—(Special).—Germany is said to hold the record for societies with extraordinary objects. One of these is entitled "Society for Promoting Good Manners Among the Poor," while another unites in the bonds of fellowship all Germans wearing a pointed beard. A curious association is that of ex-lunatics, detention for six months in an asylum being the qualification for membership.

The latest society is that for promoting the more general adoption of the name Wilhelm, presumably in compliment to the Emperor. As illustrating the craze for associations in Germany, it may be mentioned that in the little town of Wilhelm, with only 2000 inhabitants, there are 22 "societies."

## Scientific Discovery.

(Washington Stat.) "You know, of course, that billions of germs can gather on the sharp edge of a razor." "I begin to understand," said young Mrs. Torkins. "The idea of stropping a razor is to subdue the germs by corporal punishment."

# HANDSOME EYELET EMBROIDERY DESIGN FOR GUEST TOWELS



BUTTON-HOLE, SATIN, OUTLINE AND EYELET STITCHES

There is nothing more thoroughly acceptable as a Christmas gift than the guest towel. Embroidery designs, one for a 15-inch guest towel and one for a 24-inch towel, are very easily worked and decidedly effective. They may be embroidered in satin and outline stitches or combined with eyelets, ball scallops, of course, should be buttonholed.

To apply the design to the material upon which you wish to work it secure a piece of transfer or impression paper. Lay it face down upon this, then draw over each line of the design with a hard pencil or the point of a knitting needle. Upon lifting the pattern and transfer paper you will find a neat and accurate design upon your material.

There are two points to observe in this simple process if you would execute it satisfactorily. One is to see that your material is level, cut and folded by a thread, and that your design is placed upon it evenly at every point.

The second is when placed accurately secure the design to the material with thumb tacks or pins so that it cannot slip during the operation.

Be sure not to rest your hand or fingers on any part of the design you are transferring, else the imprint of your fingers will be as distinct upon the material as the drawn lines of the design.