

AN ORCHID CENTERPIECE.

A richly embroidered design for the dinner table. Richly embroidered centerpieces are naturally for special occasions, though the centerpiece itself of simple design has become an everyday table decoration—that is, dinner or lunch table decoration.

Orchids are luxuriant. They would be it they grew by the acre, and one would like, like Thoreau, to roly to take his hat off to every cyrtipidium, so intensely royal are they. Our design of an orchid centerpiece is rather prodigal, but the appointments of even a simple dinner can hardly be overdone.

A dinner in the atmosphere of entertaining, and beautiful things are appropriate to it. The leaves of this design form a framework for the blossoms, and both are so managed that, while conventionalized as to arrangement, they do not in the least violate the manner of the natural growth of the plant. They are embroidered in deep yet soft shades of green. The orchids should be worked in purple and gold, always a rich combination. The method of stitching is the featherstitch, and this work should be slanted toward the stem base of the flowers and kept almost parallel in the leaves. Since to embroider a flower as complicated in form as this requires some skill, an amateur should avail herself of all possible helps. There is none desirable than color studies. If these were obtained and followed more often by the embroiderer, as they are by the decorative painter, we would have better needlework.

There are many beautiful orchid studies, as these flowers are favorites in decorative art. With one before the embroiderer the worker can shade correctly as well as follow the lines which indicate texture, as a guide to the proper stitch direction. Before setting the work on the frame a buttonhole edge should be embroidered all round the outer outline of the design. This outer edge should afterward be carried down close over this. It is not supposed to show much, merely to fortify the edge so it can be cut out when the work is complete. The work should be done on a round woven linen of good quality. It is no economy to put needlework on inferior materials—Lillian Barton Wilson Collier's.

How to Hold Up a Skirt. How few women ever attain the faculty of holding up the skirts on rainy days with ease and daintiness! Although it is the rule to wear founoned underskirts that rest only to the top of high boots have hitherto been the rule, and on rainy days these are still resorted to. When out walking, the clever woman arranges her skirt, and then with one hand or keeps two the lighty lifts it so that it falls evenly all round. This is where the knick comes in, says a writer in the Louisville Post. To hold up a skirt on one side and let it sweep the ground on the other is very natural, but it is not good taste, and when it falls evenly all round and the frills of the petticoat are almost if not quite visible the effect is dainty in the extreme. One of the things that are taught at a school in New York is how to hold up the skirt gracefully.

Time Children Should Sleep. In Sweden a committee was recently appointed by the government, says the New York Times, for the purpose of ascertaining how many hours children of various ages ought to sleep in order that they may be able to study properly.

According to the report forwarded to the minister of education, children who are four years old should sleep twelve hours, children who are seven years old eleven hours, children who are nine years old ten hours, children who are from twelve to fourteen years from nine to ten hours and those who are from fourteen to twenty-one years old from nine to ten hours. It further points out that anemia and weakness in children are frequently due to lack of sleep.

The Cozy Corner. Cozy corners are dear to the feminine heart, but they have been condemned as the home of dust and microbes. Draperies and canopies are to blame for this. These should be discarded. The couch should be placed a little diagonally, with a space behind it. The couch covering may be as plain as one can afford with nothing sweeping on the floor, the pictures and bric-a-brac simple and bright, the former of inviting landscapes and flowers, with no scarf of drapery across the top or at the corners, to gather dust and distract the attention from the subject of the picture.

A Knife Cleaner. To make a handsome knife cleaner cover an old knife board with a strip of Brussels carpet. Thickly cover the board with powdered bath brick and keep an end of it wet. First rub the knives on the wet bath brick and then slash off on the dry. Knives are polished well and quickly in this manner.

A Large Horse Breeding Ranch. It is the purpose of Great Britain immediately to establish in the Transvaal colony in South Africa an immense horse breeding ranch, where mounts for the army may be bred. Two thousand mares have been selected from the stock on hand and have been divided up into bands of 200 each, located on ten different ranges. Just as soon as the officers in charge can get their plans into working order several more such establishments will be stocked in Cape Colony, the Transvaal and the Orange River colonies.

Breeding Fast Trotters. Now and then a fast trotter comes from a mare of unknown breeding or from a mare sired by a thoroughbred, but the majority of them come from sires and dams that have been bred to produce trotters, says National Stockman. But remember that the blood is only one of the essentials. Size, conformation, soundness, disposition and speed are all to be taken into account in the selection of the sire. Do not dishearten the future breeder by neglecting these essentials.

Notice for Publication.

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