WHAT EVERY WOMAN WANTS TO KNOW

Some Hints for the Christmas Season

Christmas Flower Baskets Make Most Acceptable Gifts; the Breakfast Tray Urged as Trouble Saver.

By Mary Lee.

NOT Christmas charity baskets these, but flower baskets, the pretty little gifts that have become so popular lately. If you buy them at the florist's these pretty trifles cost from $2.50 up, but with a little ingenuity they may be prepared at home for a trifling cost. That is, if your home is in or near the country, for the florist's prices for mosses and berries are exorbitant.

These little baskets are filled with flowers, berries, mosses and leaves that will keep their color when they dry and will therefore last throughout the winter without water or care.

The florists' baskets are usually filled with immortelles (straw flowers and the Japanese moss that lives without water). If you have been foresighted enough to plant these charming little straw flowers in your own garden and have dried them for winter, of course, your baskets can rival any florist's, but even if you have to depend on berries and mosses very charming effects may be obtained.

Any leaves, vines or berries or mosses that dry and keep their color may be used. The varieties, of course, will differ with the locality.

Bittersweet lasts a long time. Oak leaves in a brown basket make a good bit of color. Holly and snow berries, wintergreen, ivy; marshgreens, some of the mosses, marsh rosemary, Christmas ferns and laurels all can be used with effect.

There are very pretty little baskets with long graceful handles to be had at the 10 cent store. Get several of these and fill them with various combinations. After a few trials and experiments you will find that you can make a very attractive basket.

A few sprays of green should go in first as a filling and background, and on this you can build your color effect. Snow berries and holly make a pretty combination and the white and red are especially good for the Christmas season. If you cannot get the holly use any other red berries that grow in your locality. A basket entirely of greens with an ivy twined handle is another pretty effect or one all of red berries and Christmas ferns. There are many combinations to be made, and you will have to experiment a good deal to get the best effect, but the result is worth the trouble. The expense is next to nothing, and you will find these little "ever blooming" Christmas baskets make very acceptable little gifts, as they are no trouble to take care of and yet furnish a pretty decoration for several months.

The Breakfast Tray.

HOUSEKEEPERS could save themselves a great deal of unnecessary trouble and worry about their guests if they would once realize the great convenience of the breakfast tray.

On the continent of Europe the custom of serving breakfast in bed prevails among the better classes. But in this country it is generally followed only in the larger establishments. It would be the greatest boon to the hostess of a small menage.

Take, for instance, the case of the guest in a one servant household where there are children. The breakfast hour is usually set early on account of the children—8 or 8:30 o'clock, and breakfast must be served promptly, too, if the men have to catch trains or make office hours and the children are to reach school on time. If the guest is expected to come down to breakfast, she must be called and her bath must be drawn in ample time, which in itself is no small inconvenience in a small house, where there is only one bathroom that has to be used by the entire family. However, a time must be arranged for the guest to bathe so that she may neither have long to wait nor yet be late for breakfast. This of necessity throws some member of the family out, as he has to make his time earlier or later. Breakfast in a household where children and men have to leave early is a businesslike affair. At the best there are instructions to be given, arrangements to be made and every one must be waited on and despatched on time. It is not by any means a pleasant meal for a guest and is one in which she is apt to both feel and be somewhat in the way. After breakfast is over her plight is no better. The hostess has meals to order and a thousand and one things to see to. The guest's room is still unmade, so she cannot go back to that, and however tactful she may be she is bound to get somewhat upon her busy hostess's mind.

If, on the contrary, the guest is not expected to come down to breakfast, the hostess knows that she is comfortably in bed enjoying an extra nap, and she can dismiss her from her mind. The breakfast tray should be sent up immediately the family have finished breakfast. Nothing except toast need be cooked separately for the guest, and it should be remembered that a person who breakfasts in bed neither needs nor expects the substantial breakfast of one who is up and about. Coffee, fruit, toast and marmalade are ample for any one who gets up late and has no work to do before luncheon; or, if preferred, an egg or some breakfast dish may be added, but that is not necessary. The tray is no trouble to prepare, and it may be taken up by either the maid or the hostess, and, once supplied with her coffee and a morning paper, any guest will be far more comfortable in her room than downstairs when the morning work is being done, and the hostess, it is certain, will be far more comfortable to have her there.

A gasoline engine driven machine has been invented that first stretches the horizontal wires of a fence and then weaves angular meshes upon them.

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MADE-OVER FROCKS

This design offers suggestions for remaking an old frock.

By Lillian E. Young.

IN thinking back over the many different styles of seasons past it is difficult to recall any that so readily lent themselves to processes of making over as do those of this year. There are any number of dress designs that can be successfully made up with the materials of two old dresses or with that of one combined with a couple of yards of new goods. The skirt of an old dress will usually make the tunic of a new one, while it takes but very little added material for a narrow underskirt and bodice.

The sketch is a splendid example, although primarily the design had not been intended for a makeover.

Shoulder straps that resolve themselves into a basque-like hip yoke are cut from black satin. The back is just the same as the front with the exception of the tiny folds of fullness held in place under the row of buttons in front. There are full length sleeves of blue serge, cut in one with side sections of the blouse, and a notched fold of the same appears above the V of the cutout yoke. A little vest of white batiste is made with a flaring collar and there are turned back cuffs to match.

The tunic is cut by a circular pattern and notched in square tabs all round its lower edge. It is applied at the top about the line of the hips, except just in front, where the line curves upward to form a soutache braided pocket at either side. This is a very good touch.

The lower part of the underskirt is of black satin laid in plaits. It can be mounted to any thin lining.

Any materials and any colors can safely be combined in making up this design, or, it can be carried out in one solid color. In either case it is in good taste and very up to date.

APPLE DESSERTS

Apple Desserts.

APPLES are cheap this year, and housewives who are trying to keep down expenses would do well to use them freely on the table. There are many delicious desserts to be made of them, and desserts are among the difficult problems for the housekeeper during the winter.

An apple charlotte is an inexpensive dish, and easily prepared. Cut bread into slices a quarter of an inch thick; then into strips one and a half inches wide and as long as the height of the mold to be used. Cut one piece to fit the top of the mould and then divide it into five or six pieces. Butter the mould, dip the slices of bread into melted butter, and arrange them around the mould, overlapping the edges. Fill the center of the mould entirely with apple sauce made of tart apples stewed until tender, then broken into coarse pieces, drained and seasoned with butter and sugar. Cover the top with bread and bake in a hot oven for about 30 minutes. The bread should be of an amber color. Serve with a hard sauce.

Flaming Apples.—Pare and core several apples. Stew them in sugar and water until tender, but still firm enough to hold their shape. Remove them to a serving dish and fill the centers with any sort of jam. Boil down the liquor to a thick syrup and pour over the apples. Just before serving pour several spoonfuls of brandy over the appes, and when they are on the table light the brandy with a candle. These flaming apples make a very pretty dish.

Snow Apple Pudding.—Fill a baking dish half full of apple sauce, well seasoned with butter, sugar, and cinnamon. Pour over it a batter made of one and a half cupfuls of flour mixed with two heaping tablespoonfuls of baking powder, one-half teaspoonful of salt, and a tablespoonful of lard. Moisten it with three-quarters of a cupful of milk. The batter should be thick, but not stiff. Cook in a steamer for about three-quarters of an hour and serve with a hard sauce.

Apple Fritters.—Peel and core some apples, cut them into thick slices, and rub in white sugar and powdered cinnamon. Make a pancake batter, dip in the slices of apple and fry in deep fat. Drop in the batter covered slices one or two at a time. When the fritters are a golden brown, lift them out with a frying spoon and drain on soft paper. Serve very hot with extra powdered sugar if desired.

Uses for Black and White.

A good deal of black and white—the old magpie effect that is never entirely neglected—are used in combination. Black and white are always interesting. Someone has said that nothing is more striking and nothing can be made more gaudy, than these two colors when they are skillfully combined.

A DOMESTIC VIEW OF THE KAISER FURNISHED BY DAUGHTER'S GOVERNESS A NEW PICTURE

German Emperor Is Shown Not as a War Lord but as a Human Being Full of Fun and Ready to Play Pranks.

IT is dificult just now to think of Kaiser Wilhelm, If as a human being. It almost staggers the imagination to conceive of him sitting down to sausages and "Brotpudding" in the bosom of his family, convulsed over the spectacle of some one learning to skate, talking to workingmen, playing all manner of absurd pranks on his devoted daughter, eating from doll's china in the princess' "Bauern Haus."

This is the side of the emperor which Miss Anne Topham has come to know during the years in which she was governess to the captivating and unruly Victoria Louise, and the revelations of his many sided personality which she has to make are at this precise moment of consuming interest.

Instead of a frowning imperial personage of fierce mustaches,- corrugated brow and perpetually clenched fist, Miss Topham draws a picture of a man, energetic, robust, and endlessly entertaining, with a generous sense of humor. To the emperor, Miss Topham was always "the English Dreadnought." "When I appeared in a new hat or dress," she relates plaintively, "his majesty would whimsically remark, 'Here comes the Dreadnought in a new coat of paint,' or some equally embarrassing observation."

It is evident from the reminiscences which Miss Topham has just published, under the title "Memories of the Kaiser's Court," that the alert quick witted, humorsome little Englishwoman was a source of constant delight to the emperor, and she had ample opportunity for an intimate acquaintance with this interesting personality.

When asked how he appears in his private life, Miss Topham replies that he is much the same everywhere, that "he has no special reserves of character for domestic consumption only." In the first place, he is terrifically vigorous, always and everywhere. There is no more alert place in the world than the Prussian court, she declares ruefully. The emperor disapproves of people who want to settle down and be comfortable. His presence makes an immediate difference in the atmosphere of the court, writes Miss Topham, who adds:

"A certain amount of vitality and still more a certain amount of strain become visible. Everybody is to be ready to go anywhere and do anything at a moment's notice—to be always in the appropriate costume necessary for walking, riding, or driving. His majesty walks a great deal. Often we drive out some distance beyond Homburg and descending from our carriages tramp along at a brisk pace for several miles.

"It is altogether a strenuous existence for the entourage who must always, so to speak, be mobilized for active service, which is probably just what the emperor wishes. From early morning till night there is hardly a moment's respite from duty."

He Argues at Table.

He asks questions like a tornado; he wants his answers prompt, he wants them acquiescent. He argues with the litle governess at the dinner table over English intemperance. In vain, "the Dreadnought" tries to overwhelm him with statistics showing that year by year John Bull is becoming more and more sober. William has more faith in his own observations than in any amount of statistics, and continues to shake his finger reprovingly at Miss Topham as though she were personally responsible.

The emperor has a horror of every possible kind of ordinary infection, says Miss Topham, especially the ordinary cold. She writes:

"Unhappy officials summoned to court while suffering from this minor ailment may be seen using surreptitious pocket handkerchiefs behind the kindly shelter of a palm, or slipping through the window on to the terrace to indulge in the inevitable sneeze out of range of his majesty's observation.

"Whenever the emperor himself catches the complaint he at once retires to bed till the worst is over, and all engagements are cancelled until he is well again.

"'Go to bed and perspire' (only he uses a more forcible Anglo-Saxon word) is the advice he gives and follows.

"Upon the shoulders of his medical attendants, two in number, rests the responsibility of safeguarding the emperor as much as possible from every source of infection.

"How many panic stricken exits from one palace to another do I remember! Flights at an hour's notice from measles, chickenpox or scarlet fever, sometimes only to meet an equally dire disease already installed before us."

On one occasion the court had just returned from Berlin after the season there and had settled down at the New Palace when a child developed the measles. Instantly the entire court had to be moved to the Marmor Palais, which was then totally unfurnished, everything having been put in storage. Miss Topham gives an amusing account of their entrance into the empty palace and their efforts at ceremony.

"We wandered about the garden there, watching the arrival of the vans, which had been hastily summoned together, and now slowly and at long intervals disgorged their contents at every door.

"The rooms allotted to the ladies were in a little Dutch cottage in the garden, and contained only a few clothes pegs, on which to hang hats and coats. By slow degrees washstands, chairs, wardrobes, kept slowly filtering in—though many of us had to wash our hands at the tap in the passage before going to dine with the empress.

"Somewhere about 10 o'clock at night the beds began to arrive, and for the next few days existence partook largely of the disjointed, uncertain, intermittent nature of a picnic. Except for the moral support afforded by the white kid gloves and fan, to which we clung convulsively through that long chaos, we should with difficulty have been able to preserve the decent atmosphere proper to a court."

Their Majesties Left.

At another time their majesties made a hasty exit from Belle-Vue because Prince Oskar suddenly developed chickenpox. There was a long week of apprehensive watching for symptoms that never appeared.

Some time afterward the empress, in discussing this outbreak of chickenpox, remarked that she had not been at all anxious about any one but the emperor. It was entirely for his sake that the doctors had thought it well to move from Belle-Vue.

"No, not at all," vehemently spoke his majesty, who happened to overhear what his wife said. "I had chickenpox long ago when I was a boy. I wasn't at all afraid of it."

"But Wilhelm!" said the astonished empress, "I never knew. Why didn't you say so then?"

"Nobody asked me," said the emperor grimly; "the doctors ordered us off, and there was the end of it. They never told me that it was on my account. I thought that you were afraid of it."

This is the kind of thing that is apt to occur when people try to be a little too tactful.

"I don't know," said the princess, "why we fly about so much trying to run away from various diseases; we must be always meeting and swallowing microbes."

It is obvious enough that the emperor manages to keep a good many people busy. In the wet weather he has great difficulty in getting the exercise that he needs. He has had a covered tennis court built in the grounds on Mon Bijou Schloss, and here he tries out one apprehensive young officer after another. He insists on having the building tremendously overheated, as he does the riding school of the royal stables. "I like to feel," he says, "that I am getting rid of a little bit of myself."

His manner of conversation, says Miss Topham, is characteristic.

The emperor always talks with great energy, and has a habit of thrusting his face forward and wagging his finger when he wishes to be emphatic. He has a very hearty, infectious laugh, and often stamps violently with one foot to show his appreciation of a joke. His characteristic attitude and manner of rocking incessantly from one leg to another and nodding his head as he talks make it easy to identify him in a crowd.

Sometimes he falls into Napoleonic attitudes and occasionally attempts to pinch the ear of a particular friend.

He can explain everything to anybody, declares Miss Topham with conviction, with one exception, the suffragettes. The "feminist movement" has completely baffled him. At first he thought they were disappointed spinsters only, and that seemed explanation enough. But conversation with Miss Topham evidently brought a few more facts to his attention.

Some of the guests invited on board the Imperial yacht, the Hohenzollern, have turned out, to the Emperor's amazement, to be decided suffragists. This, says Miss Topham, is always a surprise to him. "At such moments he becomes inarticulate.

He wants to know "what in heaven women want with a vote." One intrepid English lady announced to him that her fair colleagues were coming to Germany soon to help with the movement there.

"Here!" cried the emperor. "There is no movement here, and if you begin burning houses and horsewhipping people in Germany, what do you think the police will do? They don't send you flowers and newspapers and let you go free two days afterward. We deal with people differently here, I can tell you."

Devoted to His Daughter.

It is no use to try to explain to his majesty the difference between a militant and a non-militant. They are all of one black, menacing stripe, a class to be abolished as soon as possible. Woman's place, according to the kaiser, is distinctly in the home. And nothing, according to Miss Topham, gave him more pleasure than his little daughter's culinary adventures, which he had always encouraged. He has always been passionately devoted to the little Victoria Louise, who has, since married Prince Ernest of Cumberland. Although sternness itself toward his sons, Wilhelm has always been most lenient to his unruly and tempersome daughter, writes Miss Topham.

Equally devoted to her father was the little princess. Miss Topham draws a quaint picture of them when on some anniversary, which occurred in a pouring rain, the band of the Potsdam Guards was ordered to perform in the large Marmor Saal.

His majesty stood alone in front of the band for some time, moving his body and limbs in time to the music, while the princess and Prince Joachim, at a distance of a few yards, were doing the same thing, all three wriggling the left leg in time together and looking rather like marionettes jerked by a string.

The bandmaster continued gravely to beat time, when suddenly his majesty made a sign to one of his adjutants, who immediately handed him a conductor's baton, and the emperor began to assist to conduct, while the two children, each raising a forefinger, did their little best also to help.

"Some members of the band looked a little surprised at having no less than four different conductors and four different timebeats to follow."

Miss Topham confesses that "papa's" taste in music is no better than his daughter's. He likes something military, with well marked rhythm but anything like Wagner makes no appeal whatever to his tastes, and all the operatic pieces to which he has stood godfather are always played to very thin houses.

His Christmas Gift.

It was to this little daughter, so near to his heart, that the emperor presented one Christmas the "Bauern Haus," a little peasant cottage, in which she could cook and wash clothes to her heart's content; "like most people of royal birth," remarks Miss Topham, "she was attracted chiefly toward those occupations in which she was least likely ever to be engaged."

Before the advent of the Bauern Haus, the princess had made toffee for "papa" on a doll's stove in a doll's saucepan, but the brocaded sofas and chairs of the Prinzen-Wohnung were not the most suitable of backgrounds for culinary efforts.

The princess was highly elated over the Bauern Haus and promptly invited her royal mother and father to a repast there. "As I was the only lady in the palace with the faintest idea of the art of cooking," says Miss Topham, "I was chosen to guide the children in these first attempts.

"The stoutest heart might have quailed, the best cook in the world might have trembled, at the enterprise I had undertaken. To cook, or rather to teach a lot of riotous, screaming children to cook—on a stove whose capacities were not yet known, in a kitchen supplied chiefly with inadequate and doll like utensils—a sort of combined tea and supper to which an emperor and empress and goodness knew how many more people had been hospitably, but I could not but feel recklessly, invited!

"It was very hot. Mosquitoes swarmed everywhere. The chimney smoked relentlessly till one of the footmen discovered a damper. The wood was wet. There was no water, no knives and forks, and we had forgotten the salt; but the affair had to be a success, and we set out perseveringly to carry it through."

And carry it through she did, to the emperor's great satisfaction, with his daughter, who convinced him that the success of the entire affair was her own doing.

Everywhere throughout Miss Topham's account is the general conception of the German emperor for the most part justified. He is a man stiff and unyielding in his dominance, at his best only among his own children, and even here he is a little unbending.

The Kaiser and his two eldest grandsons, Princes Wilhelm and Louis Ferdinand of Prussia.

The Kaiser's Hunting-lodge at Rominten, East Prussia.

The Emperor and Empress with members of their family, taken at the new palace, Wildpark.

Good Memory Business Asset

If Your Retentive Faculties Are Poor, Cultivate Them By All Means.

By Jessie Roberts.

DON'T say that you've got a bad memory and that's all there is to it. If you want to make a success as a business woman, you must have a good one, no two ways about it, and if you haven't got it ready to hand you must train for it.

A poor memory is an unending handicap, not only in business but in life generally. If you are struggling with it, begin to get a good one by learning a certain quotation, either prose or poetry, every morning. Learn it while you are dressing, and make the piece short at first, but learn it thoroughly, including the author's name. At night, when you get home, see whether you remember it—not partially, but perfectly. Keep this up for one month. Then take something more difficult, a half page of history, a statement in science, important facts of the day's news. Study these in the same way, and see that you are perfect in them at night.

Then take names. Begin with famous ones, and hang a certain number of facts to each name. Work down to the names you run across every day, whether in politics, literature, philanthropy or what not. Always learn a few facts with each name, the things that are essential. You will find your memory getting more and more accurate and dependable.

Teach your mind to register sharply. If your boss tells you something, say it over to yourself immediately afterward in the shortest, clearest manner possible. Do this more than once at first. Later once will be enough, and after a while you will only need to listen to remember perfectly.

What you remember is yours; you have mastered it and can use it at will. Your mind is built to remember, and you can make it behave if you choose.

A New Opportunity.

ONE of the manufacturers of the smaller kind of automobile is going to have his car demonstrated by women, which is an entirely new opportunity for girls who are looking for a job that will not necessitate their sitting on an office stool or at a teacher's desk all day.

This manufacturer recognizes the fact that women are running their own cars to a greater extent than ever before. His light, easily managed car is just the type that will attract woman purchasers, and to have it demonstrated by a woman is a good business move. He will need capable young women to do this work all over the country. Moreover, he announces that he will pay a man's salary to all his feminine employes.

If this move succeeds, and there is all the reason in the world that it should, it seems likely that more makers of automobiles will follow this man's example, and that it will not be long before hundreds of women will find this new field a good one. Women drive well. They have a light touch, delicate control, and they drive with more regard for other persons' rights than is the case with the usual male demonstrator. The woman who likes machinery is not any more a rarity than the man who likes it. And there is nothing in the machinery of an automobile that prevents a woman mastering it in all its workings.

The work, with its relatively short hours, its fine life in the open air, its contact with pleasant people, and its good pay, has everything to recommend it. It is neither a difficult nor an expensive business to learn all that is required for the job. But it is necessary to have a knack for it; some people cannot learn how, and these had better stick to other work.

Typhoon Velvet Hats.

Sand color is familiar to everyone, through the velvet hats that have proved so popular, if in no other way. Someone who wanted to give a more striking, because unusual, name to the color called it typhoon color with the result that typhoon velvet hats, in that particular shop, sold admirably.

American Ideas to Predominate in Styles

Recommendations Made by National Cloak and Suit Manufacturers' Association Show Trend of Styles Is Away From Paris.

(United Press Leased Wire.)

TOLEDO, OHIO, Dec. 12.—Style recommendations by the National Cloak and Suit Manufacturers' association made here recently indicate that American ideas are to predominate with one departure, and that is the wearing of embroidered top boots, decreed in Paris as the fashionable thing for spring. Beauty in simplicity of line rather than in elaborate frills and trimmings will be the keynote of the season. Following is the official recommendation of the style committee:

Suits.

The important change in the suit for spring 1915 is embodied in the wide, full skirt which must be cut short to give it a chic appearance. Yokes on skirts will be a strong feature and plaits and bands will occasionally be introduced to lend variety. The flare of the new full skirt makes necessary a comparatively short suit jacket in various outlines.

Among the tendencies to be noted are dip fronts, fullness of jacket below the waist, belted effects at normal or raised waist line and buttons set closely together.

Coats.

Separate coats will be in medium and short effects not to exceed knee length and will be distinguished by flare and ripple effects at the sides. Small collars will take preference over large ones. High waisted, belted and close buttoned treatments, as well as a variety of patch pockets will be favored. Dip fronts will also be in evidence.

A notable feature for the styles for the coming spring lies in their simplicity. The garments depend for their smartness principally on the perfection of tailoring to give the desired correct and pleasing lines.

Materials.

Materials to be employed are gabardines, serges, poplins, coverts, novelty weaves and silks. Gabardine voile and chuddah are other fabrics which will make a high bid for favor. Putty, sand, beige and battleship gray will be the new colors, although navy, dark Copenhagen or labrador and black will be the most extensively favored.

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