

Home-Made Toys

ANYONE who has priced toys will realize that a very great saving is possible in making toys at home. For instance, from scraps that have accumulated one can make animal toys, as rabbits, dogs, cats, bears, elephants, as well as many of the character dolls that will prove to be a perfect delight to small children.

Patterns can easily be procured for making animal and doll toys from any place where patterns are sold. One clever mother went even farther by making "bunny," "cat" and "bow-wow" slippers for the youngsters that are a never ending source of pleasure. She outlined the face of a bunny, cat, or dog in black; made ears and fastened them on with buttonhole stitch, and used tiny shoe buttons for the eyes. The scraps she used in making the slippers and many of the animal toys were largely from odds and ends that are usually thrown away in making over garments.

A grandmother is making use of old black and white silk stockings by making them up into character dolls. The eyes, nose and mouth are embroidered. A gay calico dress is made, a white apron, and a red cape. This makes a typical mammy that will prove a great favorite with the children. Another idea which she carries out is to make the body half white and half black. That is, put a white dolly on one end and a black one on the other. Arrange the clothes in the middle of the body and make them suited to each character. As a suggestion, make a Dinah for the black part, so that when the black head is up the doll will be a pickaninny, and so that when the white head is exposed it will be a white dolly. A black stocking may be unraveled to furnish kinky hair.

One can also make small dolls out of odd scraps of ribbons, voiles and silk combined with clothes pins. Paint the faces on the head of the clothes pin with ink or water color.

Rag dolls are perhaps the most beloved by small children. Any little girl would love to have a "Raggedy Ann," for her very own. "Raggedy" is manufactured from unbleached muslin, stuffed with cotton; her features, hair and shoes painted on with water colors. She is especially proud of her feet, because they so closely resemble Charlie Chaplin's. Her eyes may look large and glaring, but even if they are two large shoe buttons, they are always full of love for her small owner. In making "Raggedy" be sure to stuff her neck, hands and feet full of cotton, so that she will not become limp and discouraged looking.

It is also possible to make a doll house and doll furniture that will be a delight to little girls. Get a box of suitable size and put partitions in it. Two rooms above and two below is the ideal arrangement. Scraps of wall paper can be used for covering the walls and small rugs can be made for the floors. These may be knit or crocheted out of rags, torn fine. The outside of the house can be painted some soft color. It should have three coats of paint to look well. The first coat should be a priming coat. For this use the same paint and color as for the final coats, only thin it down with turpentine; three pints to one gallon of paint is the proper proportions. After this has dried shellac all knots and sap spots. Then give it a coat of paint. If this looks well, another coat will not be necessary. If enamel is used for the work, apply a coat of flat paint first.

One can also use plain wall paper on the outside instead of paint, using narrow strips of a harmonizing color for the trimming. Often samples of wall paper can be used to advantage in the decoration of the interior and exterior of a doll house.

Doll furniture may be made from the thin boards that come in boxes. After it is made, enamel it to make it more attractive. Remember that one must always apply flat paint before the enamel. One mother who made her little girl a lot of doll furniture used odds and ends of gay cretonne instead of paint for covering it. Small cushions may be made of cretonne to fit in the little chairs or settees. One mother made a little sun parlor in the house and placed a tiny, swinging seat in it.

Compo board can also be used in making doll houses. It is light and one can easily use wall paper on both the inside and outside. Doll furniture may also be produced from it. Fathers will find it possible to make toy wagons, sleds and airplanes that will give a great deal of delight to the little boys. A grocery store can be made from a box that will prove to be a never failing source of pleasure, for all children love to play at "keeping store" and selling things.

Many things can thus be fashioned which will be durable, washable, unbreakable and will all make Christmas presents for the children that will delight them fully as much as the store toys.—M. Palmer in Successful Farming.

Hangers for Towels.

Nails driven through corks make good hangers for dish towels—hangers that will not tear or rust the cloth.

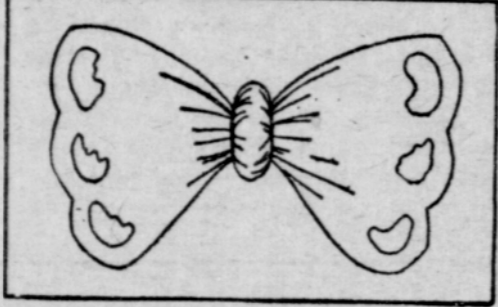
Decorating the Christmas Tree



COME on out and help build a fort, Johnny." "Can't—I'm busy," replied the boy standing in the door. "Come in and see what we're doin'."

Billie came and found Johnny and his two sisters gathered around the library table, on which reposed many piles of tissue paper, bits of ribbon, walnut shells, paste, paints and shears. Ethel was sitting on the floor beside a large pan of popcorn, Helen was cutting gold stars over the waste basket, while Johnny yielded a brush full of gold paint. Taken all together, it was a scene full of delightful possibilities, Billie decided.

"You see," Helen explained hospitably, "we always decorate our own



Christmas tree and we're making lots of new things this year. It's more fun to string popcorn and cranberries and gold walnuts and make butterflies than it is to buy 'em downtown. Ethel, you give Billie another needle and he can string cranberries. They're easiest to begin on."

Have you children discovered yet that it is more fun to "make things" with your own hands than it is to buy them with money? If not, you have missed a lesson which every child should learn.

The tree decorations which Johnny and his sisters were making may be made by any child. First on the list comes popcorn and cranberries. These may be strung separately or alternately. If yellow field corn is soaked until softened, it may also be strung. A small tree was once trimmed with a lattice work of strung popcorn, covering all the top of the tree, with tiny red tissue bells at the end of each string.

Nearly every child has learned to make different kinds of paper chains. Packages of colored paper may be obtained at almost any printing office. These may be cut into short lengths.

When the ends are pasted together with one strip looped into the next, the "loop" chain is the result. This may be varied in many ways by combining different colors and joining other chains onto the original at various angles.

The gold paint which Johnny was using was changing walnut shells into tiny glittering ornaments. A tiny hole bored in each and they were ready to be hung from the branches on bits of gilded wire. Small balls may be made from tinfoil or the tinfoil used to cover other ornaments.

A sheet of gold and one of silver paper present many possibilities. Stars may be cut from cardboard and covered with the paper. Match boxes may be covered with it and used to hold candy and nuts. Cornucopias, produced by rolling one corner of an oblong piece of paper toward the opposite corner and pasting the edges together, may be cut from gilt paper or decorated with strips of it. These are very useful for holding popcorn, but are not strong enough for candy.

Tiny butterflies may rest on the top-most branches of the Christmas tree.

Cut oblongs of colored tissue paper in various sizes, rounding the corners enough so they will give the appearance of wings. If the paper is thin, several pieces may be put together, crushed at the center, and black silk floss tied in two places so as to form the body of the butterfly.

As a finish for the top of the tree, a small doll may be garbed to represent Santa Claus. A few pieces from an old red flannel petticoat will produce the coat, trousers and cap; cotton batting the fur trimming; and an old kid glove will make the boots.

The lighting problem connected with a Christmas tree is always a serious one. Electric lights are always best, wherever possible. If candles are used, they should be placed securely on the tree and as far away from any decorations as possible. The tree should stand securely fastened in a box on a piece of canvas or old matting. The candles should not be lighted, except when the older members of the family are present to watch them.—Successful Farming.

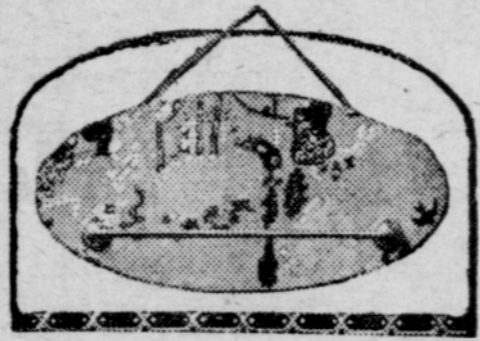


Gay Skipping Ropes



A skipping rope is a joy to the sturdy little out-door girl, especially when it has Nannette and Rintintin for handles. They are painted a deep pink with faces, hair, neckties and buttons of black paint. By substituting clothespins for these handles and tacking the rope to them it is easy to make this treasure of childhood at home.

Handy Gifts for Men



Every man, young or old, will appreciate a good-looking rack to place within easy reach of his dressing case. The tie rack requires an oblong or oval board, smoothly covered with cretonne and a small nickel towel rack, which is screwed to the front of it. It is suspended by a silk cord fastened at the back with screw eyes.

SHORT LIFE IS LONG.

As the cartoonists have it, a year comes in as a baby and 365 days later dies as an old man. How fortunate it is that the human comes in as a human and not as a year.



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