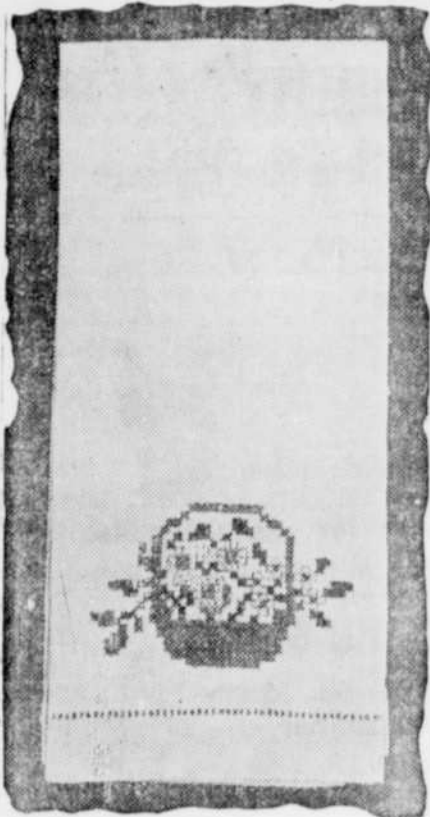


PRACTICAL PRESENTS FOR THE HOUSEWIFE

Old Fashioned Cross Stitch Used For Making Charming Gifts.

The recent revival of cross stitch for needlework goes merrily on, and not the least attractive and useful means of employing this old fashioned stitch is in the manufacture of guest



GUEST TOWEL IN CROSS STITCH.

towels for Christmas presents. The illustration shows a very dainty model with quaint basket design carried out in dull blues, tans and pink. A fancy work bag in creamy linen with little flowers of cross stitch across the lower end of it for a border and the owner's initials in cross stitch above would be an appreciative gift for the housewife.

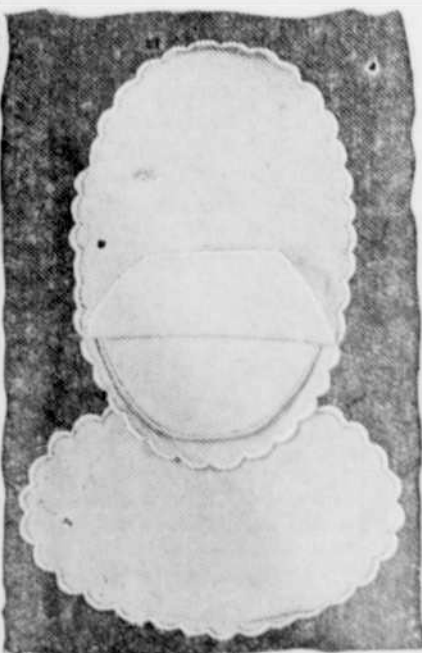
Not a White Elephant Gift.

One of the most useful presents for a busy woman is a simple mending bag. A more elaborate present may become a "white elephant," where an everyday necessity of this kind will prove its worth repeatedly. A useful gift for a busy mistress of a household is that of a cretonne pocket, suspended from a folding wooden frame, after the manner of a camp stool. The frame can always be procured easily and only requires sufficient cretonne of a dainty pattern to form the nucleus of an eminently serviceable sewing kit. When not in use it can be folded up and placed in a corner, while it has a distinct advantage over the ordinary sewing bag, in that when the frame is extended the whole of the contents are visible at once.

The cretonne should be gaitered on to the frame, with a heading of about an inch extending above the rods, while inner pockets for the sewing addenda can be added to suit individual taste. The round or square wooden boxes in which crystallized fruits are bought can be transformed into things of beauty, with the help of a yard or so of cretonne. Very fine cretonne should be used, and this should be pasted on the box.

An Extremely Useful Offering.

The housewife who is careful of her handsome mahogany dining table will be charmed to receive on Christmas morning a set of linen table mats. The number is only limited by the



LINEN TABLE MATS.

donor's generosity, but as a rule the set consists of a large mat for the meat platter and four of the protectors for use under vegetable dishes.

To make these mats two pieces of heavy white linen are required for each pad, which is buttonholed together except at one end, where an opening is left in which to slip asbestos mats cut a trifle smaller than the outer linen covering. The difference in size of the linen and the asbestos mats is employed to form a border, which in turn is outlined with a row of machine stitching.

These mats may be of colored linen, but white is a safer choice unless one knows the color scheme most affected by the person to whom the present is to be given.

CASSEROLE DISHES.

Christmas Foods May Be Attractively Served In These.

Chicken cooked in the casserole may be one course at the Christmas dinner. The casserole dishes may be handsome nickel mounted affairs, like the ones shown in the picture, or merely simple earthenware vessels. The food will taste just as nice out of the plain as out of the expensive dishes.

The casserole dish may be brought to the table festooned with tiny garlands of holly berries.

When chicken is served a nice way of preparing it is in the casserole. Cut the fowl into neat joints and pieces. Remove the skin and as many of the small bones as possible. Put about two and a half tablespoonfuls of olive oil into a saucepan. Watch it carefully and as soon as it begins to smoke put in a few pieces of the fowl and fry, turning them frequently until they are quite white. Drain the fowl thoroughly on blotting paper and put aside until it is required.

Make some broth with the trimmings and bones of the bird by boiling them in a pint and a half of water, with a small onion, two cloves, a little piece of mace, a stick of celery cut up, a few sprays of parsley and a thin slice of bacon.

Cook an ounce and a half of flour with one ounce of butter without let-



NICKEL MOUNTED CASSEROLE DISHES.

ting it brown, then add by degrees the chicken broth and, when the sauce is smooth and thick, the liquor from a small jar or can of mushrooms. Season the sauce with salt and pepper; stir in a tablespoonful of tomato ketchup, two teaspoonfuls of tarragon vinegar and sufficient browning to color the sauce and a few drops of carmine, but not enough to make it red.

Put the pieces of chicken into a casserole and strain the sauce over.

Cover with buttered paper, put on the lid of the casserole and place it in a moderately hot oven for two and a half hours. Half an hour before the chicken is to be served add the mushrooms and the last thing before sending it to table a squeeze of lemon juice if the sauce seems to need it.

- FESTAL FARE.**
- Grapefruit Cocktail With Maraschino Cherries.
 - Roast Turkey, Giblet Sauce.
 - Mashed Potatoes.
 - Green Peas.
 - Cranberry Sauce.
 - Pineapple Ice.
 - Lady Fingers, Marrons Glace.
 - Coffee.

WINTER FRUITS.

Artistic Arrangement of These Makes Attractive Table Decorations.

Fruit makes a charming decoration for the center of the Christmas table. Grapes, apples, winter pears, oranges, bananas and pineapples may be used for this purpose. The fancy baskets or bowls may be filled with the fruits and make not only attractive but useful centerpieces.

The once despised epergne of fruit has come back to take its place as a center dish, and even the crust stand is receiving some approval. Combination fruit and flower dishes of cut crys-



A BASKET OF FRUIT.

tal mounted in silver or silver gilt are being restored, in the proper phrase, to grace the festive board.

A center dish with a series of smaller dishes radiating from it is a handsome device, and sometimes there is a center epergne with flower dishes and candles suited to it by crystal chains.

Lamp and candle shades with prismatic pendants are fashionable again, and candelabra of the same genre, once relegated to the storeroom, are now brought out as the things of beauty that they are and reflect the light of electricity as of yore they sent back the golden flicker of many candles.

Chained decorations are very fashionable, and lamp shades, candlesticks and flower holders are made to match and wholly in crystal of slim and graceful design. Tulp shaped bowls for flowers and antique goblets for fruit are pretty decorative details.



MADONNA of the LAMB FROM PAINTING BY RAPHAEL

The Greatest Gift of All

Rev. C. H. Hilton

This is the season that we call Christmas, and makes us think of the Christ through whom we receive the idea. Bethlehem, a village of ancient Judea in Palestine is for the time, the capital of Christendom. Nineteen centuries ago there was born in a stable attached to the village inn, in that obscure town, a child whose name was Jesus, a name which to-day throws its halo over the town where he was born, over the land in which he lived and wrought, and over all



the intervening centuries. The child whose mother was a Galilean peasant woman and whose reputed father was a village carpenter, has become the greatest ruler of all the time. Neither Augustus Caesar, Charlamagne, or Napoleon Bonaparte ever reigned over so mighty an empire as that over which Jesus Christ rules in the year of our Lord 1912. Theirs were empires created and held together by force. His was created and is held together by love. Theirs crumbled to pieces and fell to rise no more. His kingdom endureth forever, and the scepter of his dominion is an everlasting scepter. Millions of men and women would gladly lay down their lives for him rather than renounce their faith in him or their allegiance to him.

For two thousand years now civilization has been nourished on the sap of the vine sprung from

Jesse's root, and what a change has come into the world. Where before was woman, the bonded victim of man's lust the transient plaything of his capricious passions, is woman now the constant queen of his household and the faithful partner of his blood. Where before the perplexed life of man sank down to a hopeless death now shines the brightness of an immortal future to make glad the rejuvenated course of human life, and to transform the void grave into the vestibule of an unalloyed beatitude. For the star of Bethlehem has waxed to a steady brilliance forever over the nations, the life and light of the world.

Do we stop to give real thought to what Christ's coming has meant to the world. Suppose he had not come? Strip from your home its comforts born of our Christian civilization. Lay bare the floor, and destroy most of the furniture. Pull the lovely pictures from the wall, and throw your books into the ash-barrel. Huddle in semi-darkness around an insufficient fire. Clothe mother, sister, wife, daughter in the garb of degradation. Lay on their backs unnatural burdens and sink into their souls unnatural fears. With one sweep of your hand abolish the righteous courts and all safety for citizens. Abolish the free press, the liberty of patriotic speech; erase from the soil our public schools, public libraries, museums, art galleries, and parks for the people. Blow to atoms every hospital, insane asylum, and home for the orphan, the old and the poor.

But thank God, He did come. It was impossible that He should not come. For all ages it had been fixed that He should come. For love divine is older than creation, and the cross has foundations deeper than time itself. Thus in giving gifts to our friends and loved ones, we should remember first of all God's great gift to man.

Mrs. N. B. LaCourse, Misses Carrie and Ruth Austin and Mrs. F. A. Moore were Portland visitors Tuesday.

J. N. Hoffman, former manager of the Press, has re-opened his law office in the Hoffman building and will engage in active practice from now on.

Mr. and Mrs. E. J. McLearn and son Lowell visited with Mr. and Mrs. D. N. Morris last Wednesday.

Mrs. S. Martin, of Scoggins valley, who has been visiting in Portland the past two weeks, stopped with friends in the Grove this week, enroute home.

Mr. Hill to Forest Grove Public

AN OPEN LETTER.

CITIZENS OF FOREST GROVE—

The News-Times devoted nearly all its editorial space last week and the week before to my humble self. It dismisses with many personalities my well intentioned effort to place important facts in your possession, where you could make comparison. You are told that my page in the Forest Grove Press of Nov. 28, is only a "long winded article," which should be dismissed because only \$25 was allowed for porch lights. NOTHING was allowed for porch lights in the report by council.

I know that the city book-keeping is a complicated thing to read. Consequently it is far from my intent to imply that the report of the City Finance Committee was purposely jockeyed to make a fine showing. Nothing has been said to provoke the venom slowly creeping into this matter. My company sells electricity. I am in the Grove solely for the purpose of securing business in a business manner. There is no desire to make this a political affair. If necessary that can be done, but it is quite needless. Neither myself or my company have the power to deprive Forest Grove of a PROFITABLE electric plant, but we have the power to solicit business in the Grove and to offer a profitable contract to its citizens.

We are now more than ordinarily certain that your city electric plant is not making the profit normal to the business, and would suggest a thorough auditing of the city accounts before they become too involved to straighten out. I should personally contribute most generously to the expense of a thorough audit covering several years.

Kindly permit me a few comments upon the editorials which are referred to in my letter above.

Forty-seven arc lights in Hillsboro equal in lighting effect, four-hundred and twenty-three incandescent lamps. Forest Grove has eighty-six lamps and no arc lights.

Hillsboro does not charge \$1.50 for a porch light. All lights are on a meter and the average cost per residence for ALL lights including porch light is UNDER \$1.05 per month. Many are under the Minimum of 75.

A porch light burning from dusk until daylight costs \$1.44 for sixteen hours at 12 cents K. W. Ten hours of this is wasted by the house holder and is only PARTIALLY useful to the people who use the street.

One-hundred porch lights represent about one sixth of the residences in the Grove. Would it not be good to stop the WASTE on 100 porches and light the streets better.

Porch lights burning from dark until bedtime average under thirty cents per month on meter. When the light is out callers know you have retired for the night and you have the satisfaction of knowing you are not a party to the waste of electricity.

Hillsboro can justly charge a high flat rate because anyone can have a meter free on request. Forest Grove charges a high flat rate and the citizen must save himself from overcharge by BUYING a meter.

The Washington-Oregon Corporation spends more money in Hillsboro than the City Electric Plant in the Grove can earn in actual profits.

The payment by Hillsboro represents their entire responsibility. In return it receives light and taxes upon our plant. It profits from the money we spend there. It gains by contact with a larger business field.

The ELEMENT OF RISK in the electric business was illustrated by the TWO accidents which destroyed our plant in Forest Grove and in Cornelius. The same thing can happen to your city plant. If it does what becomes of lighting and profit?

The loss of TWO plants in three days is most unusual. YET THE INTERRUPTION TO SERVICE was not serious. Current was restored with only a few hours interruption.

If we are handling a larger proportion of the business in the Grove these accidents would have cost us less in damage and interruption for the reason that our plant would be larger and men closer to the trouble.

C. W. HILL, for the Washington-Oregon Corporation. adv.



Say fellows, the Parker Pen for me!