

Chat to . . Boys and Girls.

It is almost time we were beginning to have a few confidential chats about Christmas in our corner—for at this time of year it is well that brain and fingers get to work planning and creating gifts and pretty surprises for the happy time to which you look forward with so much pleasure.

If all your ideas have given out, some suggestions from one who loves to help young folks, and upon whom you may all count as a sincere friend, may perhaps be welcome.

Ethel says "we cannot possibly have Christmas tree this year our rooms are so small, we have no servant and no prospect of getting one, and worse than that mother is not strong enough for bustle and fatigue, so what shall we do for the little ones who expect something more than ordinary done for their amusement and pleasure at Christmas time, I sure I am don't know."

Well, my dear little elder sister, don't pucker young forehead into a frown, but let older shoulders help to bear this burden of yours so lovingly undertaken for the little ones.

May I suggest for them a Christmas pie? It shall be very like that pie which one old nursery friend Jack Horner sat in a corner to eat, only the plums which every little lad and lassie "will put in his thumb" and pull out a pretty gift—and the novelty of the thing will make them just as happy as young hearts can be; and the "pie" is much easier for you to prepare than a Christmas tree. To be sure it is rather heavier than good pastry should be, but the children will like it none the less on account, and will be most anxious to know what this mysterious looking delicacy contains.

Here is the receipt for making: Take a large deep tin or porcelain dish, and in it lay as many gifts, toys, sweetmeats and other good things as you can get or make. Wrap each article in white paper and mark it with the name of the person for whom it is intended—and to each parcel attach a piece of ribbon of different colors—yellow, blue, pink, scarlet, and green. Over the dish is smoothly placed a cover of cream-white paper and in it are cut little openings for the two ends of each ribbon to pass through. When the right time comes, all the little ones will take hold of a double end of ribbon, and at given signal, will "pull out a plum" at the same time, breaking the cover, and disclosing the contents of the wonderful pie. You will find it great fun I am sure. I almost forgot to say that a wreath of holly leaves, or finely tied fir should finish the edge of your pie, or if these are not obtainable a full ruching of green tissue paper is very pretty.

Crocheted reins of bright colored wools, bedecked with tiny bells are among the most favored gifts for tiny boys, who love to drive the chairs in the nursery—while for little girls there are innumerable things belonging to dolly's wardrobe which always prove acceptable.

For grandmas, a spectacle wiper is both pretty and useful. It is made of three pieces of nice soft chamois skin cut round, about the size of a china tea-cup—notch the edges neatly and fasten the three leaves together with a bow and loop of crimson, blue or gold-colored baby ribbon. Now, write or print as nicely as possible, on the outside piece of chamois, these words—"You'll never see the world aright, unless you keep your glasses bright." And I will venture to say grand-ma will want to keep your little present near her.

Father will be delighted with the dainty watch-case you may make for him by covering with pretty silk or velvet, two pasteboard rounds, about the size each of a fifty cent piece. Join these together by a puffing of silk or ribbon, gathered pretty full and sewed half way round cardinal velvet, lined with cream silk and having a puff of cream ribbon makes a very pretty case—cover a small truss ring with crocheted work in cardinal silk and sew firmly to the top of the round which forms the back of the case, to hang it by.

A jewel-case for Mamma or a favourite

BUY
Coleman's Salt
THE BEST

Every package guaranteed.
The 5 lb Carton of Table Salt
is the neatest package on the
market. For sale by all first
class grocers.

Auntie is something you, girls, may all accomplish if you sew neatly, and I assure you that such a box made of pale blue, Nile-green or lavender silk, and lined with smooth chamois will make a very dainty Christmas offering. You make a circular bottom of pasteboard about the size of a tea-saucer covered on one side with silk and on the other side with chamois skin. A strip of silk lined with chamois should be four inches deep and long enough to sew to the edge of the bottom. The upper edge of the silk is turned in a hem deep enough to form a ruffle after a casing is made. A ribbon matching the silk is run through the casing and drawn up enough to hold the sides of the bag or case upright and its ends are tied in a bow. A round pasteboard cover about the size of an individual butter plate is covered like the bottom with silk a chamois-skin, and a pretty bottom is sewed at the center of the silk side for a handle.

Pin trays of white or gray linen, with forget-me-nots worked in blue silk and tied at the corners with pale blue ribbon make a most dainty addition to the dressing table of any lady old or young.

Then, a bag for fancy-work is a pretty and inexpensive gift, and may be made with a little Japanese basket for its foundation. Make a silk bag, leaving the bottom open, gather this and sew to the edge of the basket. Hem the top, stitch in a casing for draw strings and tie them in a pretty bow.

Make up as many nice little fancy things as you can now, before the days get so short and dark that the afternoon seems to be all twilight, and remember always that the value of a gift purchased in a shop is not to be compared with that which is made or decorated by the loving hands of the giver, and that is one reason why I should like my girl friends in this corner to learn how to make many of their Christmas gifts this year; not, of course, this plan involves the giving up of a good deal of time—quite a stock of patience and a very early start with the pleasant work. But for the present we must separate. Another week we will exchange more ideas on Christmas gifts, I hope.

AUNT BELL

FRILLS OF FASHION.

Bright colored velvet is a conspicuous feature of millinery this season, and to this is added all sorts of unique design in ornaments of gold, steel and rhinestones combined with pearls and various colored jewels.

The delicate beauty of the bunch of real violets which my young woman wears this season is enhanced by a tiny lace handkerchief arranged tastefully at a back to protect the gown and tied with narrow white ribbon.

A Mauser bullet of gold tipped with a diamond is one of the novelties in hatpins.

Among the new dress materials are several varieties in rep, which is a mixture of silk and wool.

Reddish purple violets are the favorites, in millinery and in velvet blossoms. The coloring is exquisite.

Navy hat bands, sewed together with the gilt lettering prettily arranged, make pretty sofa pillows.

Hoods for evening wear have made their appearance in the shops. They are made of quaintly flowered silk and lined with satin, turning back from the face after the manner of an old time sunbonnet.

Some of the new evening wraps are supplemented by a hood lined with white, or some delicate shade, and worn as a head covering. It may be frilled with lace to make a pretty frame for the lace, or cut with a point which fastens over the high coiffure, but in either case it is vastly becoming.

In justice to modern art and extravagance in dress, it must be confessed that the inventions for aiding women who have not long purses or the benefit of accomplished artisans in the building of hats and gowns are multiplying without limit. It is easy to drop in at any good shop these days and purchase not only hat, but the wired shape and sewed velvet facing, or brim fold or binding, also to procure all the bows needed, made up by the most skillful hands and sold at a reasonable rate.

Ostrich and other feathers are set fourth on centers made up in charming panaches and clusters and caught by jeweled ornaments or velvet knots at their bases. At one counter it is quite possible to buy a black brim make of a felt braid and at another a pudding, Holbein or Rubens crown of colored velvet or embroidered silk. To put the two together, to affix the requisite bows and place the plumage is the simplest manoeuvre, and no expenditure of labour or taste is required; the hat fairly grows of itself and the price is just about one-half that of a chapeau trimmed by a milliner.

Handkerchiefs embroidered with a color seem to be coming into favour or rather fashion again. Some have their tiny scol-

lops embroidered with color, but the prettiest fancy is a small knot of violets in their natural colour, embroidered in one corner.

Veils of Russian net, with a gauze band at the edge and tiny velvet balls falling below, are one of the season's novelties.

The colonial tea set which takes every china-loving woman's heart by storm has a creamy ground and rich gold decorations picked out very delicately with color. Cups to match are lightly fluted, slightly flaring, and of true egg-shell thinness.

Three-cornered felt hats are very much

the fashion, especially with tailor gowns.

The brims are covered with velvet in a

contrasting color or pipings of satin, and a

rosette with a quill is the only trimming

necessary.

After appropriating man's neckties, col-

lars, shoes and socks, woman has now

calmly taken unto herself his full dress

protector. That's the latest novelty in

feminine accessories. This chest protector

is cut for all the world like a man's, ex-

cept that it comes well down over the

back as well as the chest. It is generally

made of plain satin of a very delicate shade,

or brocaded silk in the daintiest hues con-

ceivable. Of course, the protector is only

intended for use when a low-cut bodice is

worn, when its warmth proves most accept-

able, so those who have adopted it say.

Evening hoods are also new and very

popular. And no wonder, for they are

not only most comfortable, but vastly be-

coming alike to old and young. These

hoods fit loosely over the head and are

turned back from the front. In the back

they are finished with a sort of frill, or

curtain, as our grandmothers called it in

their day, quite devoid of fullness. Long

strings of tulle, or chiffon, give an added

touch of daintiness as well as expense to

this woman's latest whim. These hoods

are also made of plain satin in light

colors, or fancy silk, and are usually lined

with a contrasting color. Man is in ecstasies

over this fashion. He says that woman

could not keep one of these hoods on at

the opera or theatre, since it hides half her

charms, and so its adoption secures him a

good sight of the goings on the stage. But

what right-minded woman pays any at-

tention to what man thinks of what she

wears and what she doesn't?

All voyagers have found that colored

beads and trinkets are much more prized

by the women of wild tribes than silks,

satins or velvets. The up-to-date woman

of this time and generation scoffs at her

savage sisters, and says, pityingly, 'Poor

ignorant thing!' And yet this same up-to-

date woman feels hopelessly behind the

times unless her hat is skewered to her

head with a hatpin ornamented with a

spider, an owl, a griffin, a dragon, a

turtle, a snake or a lizard. The hatpin

with the plain head of gold or silver, or

that with the simple real or mock gem, is a

thing of the past, so well jewellers say,

and a glance at the hats of fashionable

women proves that they are justified in

saying it.

Philosophers tell us that latter-day men

regard appearance in dress less than they

do comfort. That's very hard for woman

to believe when she looks at the fashion-

able socks affected by these superior

beings. National blue half hose are the

newest, and they are going like hot cakes

too. Some designs, sought by those with

very great conservative tastes, are woven

of plain lisle thread or silk, but most of

them are embellished with embroidery in

white, red or pink. It's hard to find a

man nowadays who sticks to plain black

footwear.

At this season women pay a great deal

of attention to their complexions, as well

as at every other. The skin needs greater

care when cold weather sets in than at any

other time, however, for it is likely to crack

or chap, or get too dry, which is bound to

give a woman an old, shrivelled look. A

man's skin, however, is not so delicate.

Stock breeders say that cold can be

borne by animals only at an expense of fat

or muscle or vitality, and so it is with wo-

men," said a fashionable bootmaker recent-

ly. "And yet they persist in wearing thin

stockings and thin, low quartered shoes

long after the summer has passed. But

they are now improving in this-respect as

well as in every other as time goes by.

Ten years ago we sold as many low shoes

in winter, those with an excuse for a sole,

as we did in summer. Not so now.

When a woman comes in and buys a pair

of low shoes at this season for outdoor

wear we know that she is one of two things,

vain or silly."

Very large muffs are to be used this

winter, and only very large ones, so Mme.

la Mode decrees. A muff, like one's re-

ligion should be chosen to suit the indi-

vidual rather than common taste, for nothing

looks more ludicrous and out of keeping

than to see a woman no bigger than a

minute apparently weighted down by a

huge muff, unless it is the sight of a large,

tall creature with her hands thrust into one

about big enough for a baby. By the

way muffs of sable are by long odds the

most fashionable this year, and they will

continue quite novel, since a really fine

one costs hundreds of dollars.

A Hero at El Caney.

Captain A. H. Lee, R. A., British Mi-

litary Attache, with Shafter's army in Cuba,

writes as follows in Scribner's Magazine:

Close in front of me a slight and boyish

lieutenant compelled my attention by his

persistent and reckless gallantry. When-

ever a man was hit he would dash to his as-

sistance regardless of the fire that this ex-

posure invariably drew. Suddenly he

sprang to his feet, gazing intently into the

village, but what he saw we never knew,

for he was instantly shot through the heart

and fell over backward, clutching at the

air. I followed the men who carried him

to the road and asked them his name.

"Second Lieutenant Wansboro, sir of the

Seventh Infantry, and you will never see

him better. He fought like a little tiger." A

few convulsive gasps and the poor boy was

dead, and as we laid him in a shady spot

by the side of the road, the sergeant drew

a handkerchief over his face and said:

"Good-by, Lieutenant, you were a brave

little officer, and you died like a true sol-

dier." Who would wish a better end?

BAD HEART-DIZZY HEAD.

Life was a Living Death, but Dr. Agnew's

Cure for the Heart Relieved in Thirty Mi-

utes.

"I was so troubled with heart disease

that I could not stand on a chair without

growing dizzy. Going up stairs, or being

suddenly startled, brought on violent

palpitation and suffocation. Had pains

about the heart. Tried many remedies

and physicians without relief. I took two

bottles of Dr. Agnew's Cure for the Heart

and, although two years ago I have not

felt the slightest return of the trouble. I

think it the greatest of remedies." Mrs.

W. R. Collyer, 32 Pacific Avenue Toronto.

HOW TO COOK QUAIL.

The Delicious Bird now in Season, Should

be Kept Several Days After Killing.

The quail season in this State opened

Nov. 1, and before daybreak scores of

ardent gunners, accompanied by their dogs

were on the grounds where this remarkable

game bird is to be found. At the time the

sportsmen were potting their birds quail

from all sections was pouring into the mar-

ket quail which must have been killed before

the season opened. It is a mistake to eat

the quail on Nov. 1. Quail should always

be kept a few days, ranging from two to

ten according to the taste of the individual

for kept game; eaten direct from the travel-

ling box they are tough and more or less

strong. The proper thing is to tie them

by the heads and hang them outside the

window where there is a draft, and no sun,

if possible, covering them with a

of oilcloth or something to turn the rain,

should any fall. This will eradicate the

fusty smell fresh killed game has after

travelling, especially strangled game, which

has not the same opportunity for bleeding

as when shot. The best nearby grounds

for quail are around Moriches, L. I. the

Breslin woods near Good Ground, and

around Plainfield, N. J.

There are many ways of cooking quail,

but to the epicure there are only two:

Split, season with pepper, salt, and butter,

and broil; or season in the same way, mix-

ing a trace of flour with the butter, with

the little bodies filled so that the backbone

is well covered, and then roast, laying a

piece of thinly cut pork over each breast

to prevent burning and to lard. A little

gravy made in the pan with browned flour

and the natural juices of the birds, adding