## Chat to ... Boys and Girls.

5000000000000000000000000000000 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 gitts 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 elcome.

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 litttle 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 Christain 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 creamwhite 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.

Crochetted 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 grandma, 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-coloured 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 grandma 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 crochet 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

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, nilegreen or lavender silk, and lined with smooth chamois will make a very daintty Christmas offering. You make a circular bottom of pasteboard about the size of a tea-saucer covered on one side with silk and on of 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

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 foun dation. 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 gitts, 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

The delicate beauty of the bunch of real violets which my young woman wears this season is enchanced by a tiny lace handkerchief arranged tastefully at the 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 appearanse in the shops. They are made of quairtly 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 sup plemented 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 skilful hands and sold at a reasonable rate.

Ostrich and other feathers are set fourth on counters made up in charming panaches and clusters and caught by jewled 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 manœuvre, and no expenditure of labour or taste is required; the hat fairly grows of itself and the price is just about one-halt 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 scollops 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 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, except 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 conceivable. Of course, the protector is only intended for use when a low-cut bodice is worn, when its warmth proves most acceptable, 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 becoming 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 attention 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-todate 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 swell 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 kard for woman to believe when she looks at the fashionable 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

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 lany 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

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woman noted for the smoothness, richness and delicacy of her skin had this to say about its preservation when questioned.

ASK TO SEE IT.

'Every woman should pet her complexon in November more than in any other month of the year, for it is absolutely necessary to get it in condition, as athletes say, for the winter, to get it in shape to struggle against extreme cold, sudden changes, and wrinkle-bearing winds, I use only three things on my complexion-soap, water and pure white vaseline. Half the women in the world have bad complexions because they are atraid of soap and water. They actually believe that beauty is only skin deep, and they are afraid to scrub their faces lest they strike the bottom. The face should be washed every night before going to bed in tepid water and with plenty of pure olive oil or white castile soap. It should then be rinsed with clear tepid water, dried tenderly and thorough ly, and a little white vaseline gently rubbed in. It is a great mistake to use either cold or hot water on the face, for both shock the skin and cause it to draw up, giving an aged appearance. Let any woman who does not believe in this simple treatment try it for a month, and if she doesn't rise up and call me blessed, well it will be because she is thick skinned, in-

Very beautiful and becoming stocks are made of miroir velvet in all the new shades of red, ranging from a reddish pink to a deep, rich hue. Folds of cream chiffon are inserted in front and two rhinestone buckles used to ornament further the collar. Tabs of the velvet stand up behind, and are edged with a tiny ruching of chiffon. These stocks look well on dark gowns, since something light about the neck is more becoming than anything dark.

Doctors say that eold ankles kill more women than the nerves and disease put together. This may be an exaggeration, but it is not to say that when the ankles are well protected and kept perfectly warm their owner is not likely to suffer from

'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 women,' said a fashionable bootmaker recently. '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, shose 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 religion should pe chozen to suit the individual 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 Military 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. Whenever a man was hit he would dash to his assistance regardless of the fire that this exposure 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 tell 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

his 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 soldier.' 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 Min-

'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 ralpitation and suffocation. Had pains about the heart, Tried many fremedies and physicians without relief. I took two bottles of Dr. Agnew's Cure for ithe 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 ardents gunners, accompained 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 market 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 tast of the individual for kept game; eaten direct from the travelling box they are tough and more or less strong. The proper thing is to tie them by the headss 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, mixing 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 what little water may be necessary, is admissible. Chef Fillipini used to take six quail, single, draw and truss them, cover the breasts with thin layers of lard, place in a sautoire with a piece of pork rind, half a carrot, half an orion, both cut up. and let them remain on the fire until a good golden brown: then moisten with half a cup of water and place in the oven for twenty minutes. Make a celery sauce by tashing sufficient celery, adding two pinches of salt and half an ounce of butter; cook for twenty-five minutes, drain and place in a saucepan. A second sauce is made of a half pint of chicken broth, poured slowly cn two beaten egg yolks, two ounces of good butter, the juice of half a lemon and three spoonfuls of flour to thicken: place the celery in this and toss for a few minutes, serving hot poured over the quail-but this, to the epicure, is vandalism; as well stew canvasbacks with

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