

Christmas Decorations.

Christmas would hardly seem like Christmas without an abundance of evergreens, the waxlike mistletoe, the glossy holly with its bright red berries and ribbons to match these berries everywhere. Parties and reunions come with the holiday vacations. Invitations have been sent and acceptances received ere this, particularly among the little folks. 'This is the children's season, and everything is done to make it memorable for them.

Attractive and unique decorations add much to the spirit of a holiday party, and the mothers who are anxious to do all they can to delight their children may welcome a few new and inexpensive hints in this direction. A miniature Christmas tree or a Santa Claus laden with bonbons has been a welcome decoration for a long time. In place of the single tree it is a novel plan to have four tiny trees placed at the corners of a mat made of a square of sheet wadding. Pull the wadding apart and place the smooth side next to the table; outline this mat with sprays of holly; scatter thickly over the mat and trees frost powder or powdered isinglass, which will glisten in the candlelight like frost, and provide as many little robins or birds of any other kind as you have guests, arranging them prettily upon the trees, keeping several to place upon the snow mat.

Another plan is to use two small cultivated pines, placing one at each end of a long mat. In place of a mat an oval looking glass may be used, and with the frost powder scattered lightly over it the glass has the appearance of frozen water. A fine wire should be strung between the tops of the trees and three or four of the smallest birds fastened to it.

An unusual and very pretty decoration is made with a split log of wood about the size of one used in a modern fireplace. Lay the wood upon a bed made of mosses and evergreens. With the aid of long tacks or brads fasten red candles to the log, placing them irregularly. Lay pieces of ground pine in and out over the log and candles, letting it trail about on the damask with holly sprays here and there. Place little patches of white wadding over the green and then sprinkle thickly with frost powder.

A bell composed of holly or mistletoe or a bell formed of red immortelles, and suspended by red ribbons from the chandelier just high enough to escape the candle light, is a great addition to a room.

A novel decoration that does not strictly belong to Christmastide, but may be useful at some later festivities and delights the little folks, is a table with Japanese parasols and tiny dolls. For the center of the table have a red parasol about fourteen inches wide when open. Place the end of the handle in a glass filled with white sand to keep the parasol secure, covering the glass with a mound of holly and evergreen. Arrange a red mat of ruffled edged crepe paper so as to show a margin outside of the greenery. Hang with red bany ribbon from the points of the umbrella any light Japanese paper novelties that will answer for favors. At the four corners of the table place smaller parasols. Obtain as many tiny Japanese dolls as there are little people arranging them in groups under the umbrellas and in different positions. A rail fence of mottoes is a good support for many of them. The clever hostess that originated this decoration had mistletoe suspended from the chandelier, and two of the little Japs were fastened to the top of the centre parasol, in the act of kissing.

An ingenious hostess delighted not only the little folks, but their elders as well, with a unique and beautiful ice mountain for the table at a children's party. To make this mountain place in the centre of

the table a quart preserve jar. Around this jar arranged at equal distances four pint jars, and still outside of these have six inverted tumblers. Upon the top of each jar and tumbler place a tiny glass dish to hold a small night light or candle, such as is used in illuminated flowers for dinner decorations. Have at hand a supply of large lumps of plain washing soda. Begin outside the tumblers and fill each part up with uneven pieces of soda were scattered around below the mountain, where two tiny Eskimos with shovels were making a path for a miniature sleigh drawn by four curly dogs. The bonbon boxes were in the form of sleighs.

FRILLS OF FASHION.

Of all unsightly sights the sight of a woman in a dowdyish evening gown is the worst. The chief characteristic of the evening gown should be freshness, for therein lies its primary charm. At the most fashionable concert given in town during the week scarcely ten women wore evening gowns that were dainty and unrumpled. Most of them had on dresses that looked as if they might have been brought out of the ragbag for the occasion or have been packed away in a clothesbag all summer. They were crushed and crumpled and for the most part soiled, and many of them needed a stitch here and there and some a good many. The men in the audience commented on the frumpy appearance of the women, as they expressed it. They were evidently much impressed, but not in the direction which makes a woman feel that even if clothes do not proclaim the man they go a long way toward making the woman.

If a woman doesn't happen to immaculate evening gown in her wardrobe, and for one reason or another can't get one to wear on an occasion when most women appear in full dress, let her go evening gownless. She will look far better in a light street gown or a dark one, and she is sure always to find lots of company. Soiled satin, crushed chiffon, messy mousseline de soie, battered bows, faded flowers, artificial though they be, and rumpled ribbons are not attractive separately or combined. Woman is queer in this matter of dress; she'll wear an evening gown that is a wreck when she wouldn't dream of appearing on the street in a costume that is not fresh in every detail. This most mysterious, inasmuch as there is so much to be said in favor of the evening gown, sumptuous or simple. In it many a woman has found a panacea for advancing years, for if becoming and fresh (that cannot be emphasized too much) she looks her best in it.

Golfers, both men and women, are wearing ascot ties and stocks made of tan or gray suede. They have pipings of red, and are said to serve as chest protectors. Added to utility, they possess a degree of smartness to the well dressed.

Men have had cigar cases, cigarette cases and flasks with a secret spring, which upon being pressed displays a miniature of the one best loved of all. But now comes a matchsafe, of a size built for holding respectable matches, and not those oath-provocative wax tapers, with a place for miniature. One ordered by a young woman, for her best beau as a Christmas present, is made of gun metal, which makes a fine setting for her blood hair and rosy cheeks. When her picture is out of sight the safe looks like an ordinary one and has a fleur de lis in diamonds on one side and the man's monogram on the other.

Some people believe that a sharp gitt, such as a knife or a pin, is fatal to friendship. If so, there'll be a good many fatalities of this sort Christmas day, for hundreds of people will receive a case of pins of one kind or another. They will make pretty and useful gifts, too, and no doubt will do more toward making than marring pleasant relations between the giver and receiver. Some of the cases contain six tiny catchpins of one size embellished with a single jewel in the centre; others hold two stickpins and a belt pin, each with a single stone; still others are supplied with three catchpins of graduated size, suitable for holding the packet of the new style skirt together. Cases better suited for a man's needs hold six scarfpins, each with a different stone.

Fashion rarely changes in evening gloves and evening slippers, except as to material and ornamentation. At the moment, white, cream or pale grey suede gloves which meet the short sleeves of the gown, if there are any, and which, if it is sleeveless, come well up on the arms above the elbows, are worn with light gowns as a rule. Gloves to match the gown, say pale blue with a pale blue dress, are entirely out of vogue. If one can afford slippers and stockings to match the gown in point of color, it is always well to wear them, but not necessary. Handsome black slippers and stockings are always good form, and at the moment a severe black slipper



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of soft kid, set off by a single very handsome plain gold or jewelled buckle, is considered quite smart with light gowns.

New silk petticoats are trimmed with ruchings of ribbon.

A harvest moon lace pin is made of small leaves and pearls and has a small butterfly set with gems in the centre.

The tiny fur collars for dressy wear are to be finished with a frill or tufted rosettes of real lace, mousseline and artificial flowers.

A novelty in costume lining is black hairlined striped cherry and currant red taffeta silk.

White satin vests, embroidered in petunia or soft pink or green shadings, are worn with costumes of royal or silver blue Venetian cloth.

Fancy crowns are in rich effects, spangled in colors and embroidered in silk and tinsel thread and heavily threaded with gold and silver bullion, in which mock pearls and white and colored crystals are set.

Silk stitched hems, bands and straps with frequently, the addition of small silk crocheted tailor buttons, are still greatly in vogue for decoration, notwithstanding the leaning towards overtrimmed gowns and wraps.

One variety of the new combination of chenille cord and wood fibre ribbon shows the ribbon almost an inch in width, relieved with chenille dots, in sizes from that of buckshot to that on an old-fashioned three cent coin.

A stylish dark walking suit has the effect of a long outdoor garment. The coat has a straight front, buttoned the full length with large rubber buttons, four or five of them, and they are met by buttons of the same kind and size, which run the full length of the skirt, which has the effect of an opening.

Entire gowns of fur are again exhibited this season. They are made of Russian sable, sealskin or Persian lamb. This fashion is one that can never become common, as the expense is always large, and the costumes are not suitable for anything but street wear and in the coldest weather.

A little close-tied bow of mirror velvet, with flaring ends, is one of the pretty touches on the new gowns. It is fastened with a jewelled buckle on the lower edge of the collar band, directly in front, without any regard to the material of which the band is made, and is always in some contrasting color. Black is often used, even when it is the only bit of black in the gown, and as most of the neck bands are white nowadays the bow is very effective. Mirror velvet ribbon and satin ribbon, tied in a short bow, with long ends, form another fancy in bows for the neck. The ends are sometimes finished with jet or silk fringe. Bias velvet is also used for bows, and bias liberty satin in black makes another pretty finish for the neck on a bright blue or pink silk waist. The satin is narrowly trimmed in the edges and draped narrowly around the neck on the lower edge of the white lace-covered collar. It ties directly in front in a very short bow, carried down the front, and tied in a knot midway between the neck and belt, underneath which the ends fasten.

Tulle and mousseline de soie rosettes are the prettiest trimming imaginable for a velvet toque, as they give the desire con-

trast in light effect which a velvet hat needs.

The chrysoprane is the coming fad in jewels.

The long lace bars which have been stored away in the treasure box for years may be brought out once more and used for a necktie. They are long enough to tie in the fashionable manner, and it hardly matters what kind of lace they are, since everything in the way of lace is worn.

Fashionable dress fabrics are varied indeed this season, but it is the soft clinging textures that have first place. A new cloth called drap de chine, soft faced cloths and drap d'ete are all worn, and the silks must be soft and pliable, or they have no style. Fleur de velours make beautiful gowns, and the old fashioned armure and ottoman silks are coming into favor again. The prettiest of all the fabrics for a dressy gown is the new crepe de chine, as glossy as satin. To be sure it costs three, four or five dollars a yard, but then this is an extravagant age.

'Oh, no, we don't wear hats or bonnets at the opera or theatre any more,' say the women. And they don't, except in exceptional and very inconsiderate cases. But they wear ornaments in their hair which keep those behind them on the dodge. The higher the better seems to be the rule for dressing the hair just now. Some of the ornaments, made of upstanding, outspreading crinkled velvet or ribbon, are likely to make a man feel that he has 'had one too many' when a woman wearing one begins to crane her neck to see what the other women in the audience has on. Other designs have the appearance of a barbed wire fence, and one erected by the Spaniards at that. It is hard to say whether this style of ornament or one topped by a fluffy marabout feather can cause the people, sixteen deep behind it to do the most gyrating in their efforts to catch a glimpse of more than three square feet of the stage at one time.

Many a woman hopes to make the heart of some man glad on Christmas morning when she presents him one of these handsome new style razor strops with a magnificent silver or gold handle and end. Her intention is good but the strop, so man says himself, is hopelessly bad.

'Why you couldn't sharpen a meat axe on that thing,' an ungrateful younger brother remarked to his sister when by mere physical force he discovered what she had for him. Boys of larger growth have much the same feeling about the average elaborate razor strop.

A very handsome card case is made of tiny beads in some delicate shade, say light green with a flower design wrought in a contrasting color. The work is done by hand entirely, and the cases are leather or silk lined.

Why Women Look Old.

'That woman age so much more rapidly than men, said a member of a well-known ladies' club, is to my mind a shame and reproach to the male sex.' The writer, who is a mere male, quailed visibly, and the lady continued: A woman is expected to look attractive and amiable in all circumstances. To adopt any of the usual methods which a man employs for working off his irritability would be so terribly unladylike! She must be gracious and affable to women whom she thoroughly dislikes on pain of being twitted by her husband for other male relatives with indulging in 'feminine spite and little-mindedness.' As the 'angel of the household,' she is expected at meal-times to cater for the most varied tastes, and her best efforts in the commissariat lines are very often the subject of the most unsparring criticism. All the labor and contrivance necessary to keep herself and

her family suitably clothed falls to her share, and very frequently her task is made harder by inadequate means. She must know where everything in the house is kept, and be able to find it at a moment's notice. Whether it is the family hammer, Johnny's ball, or her husband's sleeve links, the missing articles must be forthcoming at once, or clamour and complaint ensue. When I think of the amount of worry and vexation that fall to the lot of the average woman, I cease to wonder that a wife shows traces of age much sooner than her husband.

Speaking Clocks.

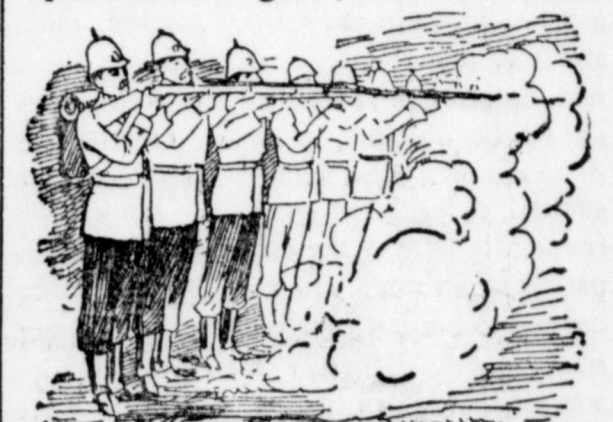
We speak of watches and clocks as telling the time, but we do not as a rule expect to be understood as saying that they do it in so many words. Now, however, we make mention of clocks that literally tell the hour. These phonograph clocks are being made in Switzerland, and are the very latest thing in the line of timepieces. When a button is pressed they pronounce the hour distinctly, thus saving the owner the trouble of looking for himself to see where the hands point. The new invention has been utilized to awaken a sleeper in altogether a more natural manner than the old system. A clock set to awaken its owner at six, calls out to the sleeper, 'It is six o'clock get up!' Some clocks, evidently intended for the use of obstinate sleepers, add, 'Now don't go to sleep again!' The form of warning can be chosen by the buyer, and may be more or less emphatic. The application of the phonographic principle to watches and clocks is the work of a French watchmaker settled at Geneva. He introduced into the timepieces little slabs of vulcanized rubber, on which the desired words are traced in grooves corresponding to the hours and fractions of hours.

His Status.

'Isn't that new neighbour of yours rather eccentric?' inquired the commercial traveller. 'No,' answered one of the village's prominent inhabitants. 'He ain't rich enough to be called "eccentric"—he's just a plain crank.'

A BRITISH SOLDIER Tells how Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills Conquer Disease.

Like the conquering armies of Britain, which are marching to victory in every quarter of the globe, Milburn's Heart



and Nerve Pills are everywhere triumphing over sickness, weakness and suffering. Mr. David Walsh, of Carleton Place, Ont., a man who has served with distinction and credit in the British army, and is now an employee of the C. P. Railway, says, 'While in the army I got broken down, and my nervous system was completely shattered.

'I was much troubled with liver complaint, loss of appetite, etc. My rest became broken and was disturbed by vivid dreams. This had been going on for 14 years, although I took a great many remedies to escape from the troubles which afflicted me.

'However, I got no relief until I started to take Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills, which I used together with Laxa-Liver Pills, and now after having used a few boxes, I am better than I have been for years. My nerves are restored to full force and vigor, I eat and sleep well, and my entire system has been toned and strengthened.

'Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills, 50c. a box, or 3 for \$1.25, at all druggists. "Laxa-Liver Pills," says John Doherty, 25 North Street, St. John, N.B., "cured me of Constipation and distress after eating. Their action is natural and effective."

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