

baby-ribbon, matching in color the crocheted-silk or silk-finished cotton used for crocheting.

Said Miss Stewart, the quiet little school-teacher: "A memorandum-block proved among the most acceptable and attractive of my little gifts last season, combining utility with daintiness. Procure several small blocks of paper, according to the number you wish to make, and of desirable size. I used those about two and one-fourth inches wide and three and three-fourths inches long. Cut a piece of pasteboard of the same size, and a piece of linen large enough to cover the pasteboard neatly. On the linen embroider any little design—forget-me-nots or other small flowers, or a spray of holly; or, if preferred, choose a suitable inscription such as "That Reminds Me," and work the letters, arranging them prettily. A dry means of a bit of tracing-paper you can readily secure any design you like. Cover the cardboard smoothly, attach two small loops of ribbon to the upper end of the block, say five-eighths inch from each corner and an inch apart, and a length of the same ribbon at the left corner. To the other end of the latter attach a small, white pencil. When this is thrust through the loops from the other side the length of ribbon forms a loop for hanging the block. Glue the linen-covered cardboard to the front, and your work is done. When the block is used, another may be glued on. This is very quickly made, and a pretty and convenient gift."

appreciate such a gift. Sew all seams over and over on the wrong side; the joining will be perfectly flat, and will not hurt the little foot. Featherstitch the seams, using a good embroidery- or knitting-silk of any desired color—pale pink or blue are, of course, baby's colors—and finish the turned-over top of the shoe in the same way. Punch tiny holes, about three-fourths inch apart, around the ankle, just below the turnover, make a chain of the silk, one hundred stitches long, with a large needle run this cord in and out the little holes, and fasten a crocheted ball—made as so often described—or tassel at each end."

Everybody smiled when Mrs. Deady held



Shoes for Baby

up to view a dainty butterfly-sachet. It was just like her—she was always fashioning pretty things, not strictly useful, which she termed "the poetry of life."

"Cut a piece of linen in the form of a butterfly, and for the spots on, the wings make eyelets, round and oval. Fill the oval eyelets with Russian or cross-stitch, taken from side to side, buttonhole the edge of wings, all around, with long-and-short-stitch, pad the body of the butterfly heavily and work in satin-stitch, and outline radiating lines out into the wings, each side, also the division of large and small wings. Make a pad of yellow silk, the shape of the butterfly, and just a trifle smaller, interlining this with cotton wadding thickly sprinkled with sachet-powder; edge the linen butterfly with a frill of narrow lace, and catch it in place with a few stitches at top and bottom of center, and tips of wings. If you want something really useful—of

the doctor's wife promptly laid a silver quarter on the table, to be taken in charge by the treasurer.

"Fine number one," she laughed; "and it couldn't be paid in a better cause. I shall have a new proposition to be voted on next time."

And the M. M. C. adjourned.

For the Home Dressmaker

SELDOM have styles been so easy for the home dressmaker to make satisfactorily as those in vogue at the present time. Long straight lines are notoriously difficult, and have been the rock upon which many a garment has been ruined, particularly coats; for, although one may be fitted perfectly and the sewing all that could be desired, the coat may be a failure. Paradoxical as it may seem to say that a coat may fit correctly and yet the lines be entirely wrong, it is a fact, nevertheless; and that is where the experienced touch is required for tailor-made garments. But the draped garments and particularly the Russian effects are a joy to the home dressmaker.

The deep peplum seen on the Russian blouse is one of the easiest styles for the amateur dressmaker to attempt, especially since the advent of the plaited, flounce-like peplum. Almost any woman who can sew well can make one of these coats with little difficulty. The coat part is not much harder to handle than a shirtwaist and the skirt or flounce is especially simple, and one may feel that she is in the height of the style with one of these coats. Peplums have been high in favor all through the summer, but since the arrival of founced skirts the peplum has been given more fullness, in many instances taking the form of a full side plaiting, sometimes long in the back and cut away in front, and many of them are straight around and extending several inches below the hips, well toward the knees.

A popular style is the wearing of a coat of plain material with a skirt of print or different fabric. This is another boon to the woman who counts the cost of a suit, for it admits of the purchasing of remnants, as it requires so little for either coats or skirts, and at this season of the year when the stores are cleaning up their stocks, preparatory to opening fall goods, short lengths may be bought at remarkably low prices. This style is seen in both wash-goods and wool materials, but the plain coat with a plaid or striped skirt is a proven so popular as it was predicted that it would be. The most favored style in the purchasing of remnants is that of pile fabrics with plain materials, as a coat of velvet, plain or fancy plush or imitation

wool material with a skirt of broadcloth, peau de souris, peach-cloth, or other woolen material, of the same color. If the home dressmaker has never had the courage to attempt to make a coat, now is the time for her to do so. She may get material that is nice and so inexpensive that it really seems too bad to take it to a tailor and pay several times more than it cost to have it made, at a time when styles are so easily made as at present.

course I think the sachet is useful—make a hot-handle-holder in the same way, but larger. Trace the pattern of butterfly first on paper, and when it is just right transfer it to your linen. I used a corner from a round centerpiece, left after cutting out."

"It is just as pretty as can be!" said Mrs. Altman. Then everybody looked at the doctor's wife, whose turn had come. All in a moment she flung up her hands in mock dismay.

"Why, I haven't a thing to show you or tell about—you see, I thought I—I—" "Being president of the Mendow Merry Christmas Club doesn't absolve you!" laughed the little schoolteacher. "However, we'll excuse you this time on condition that you present the very best idea of the whole at our next meeting. I move, Mrs. President, that we have a system of fines for those who fail to do their duty, these fines to be used for the good of the club, as may be voted."

The motion was seconded and carried; and

When embroidering cotton crepes, marisettes, and similar materials, first paste muslin underneath the design to be worked, and work through the two. When finished cut carefully around on the wrong side, and the result will be beautiful work, firm and without a pucker.

To give machine-embroidered neckwear and waists a handmade finish, embroider over them in white or color, saving the time of stamping and padding. The result is very effective.

Instead of using embroidery-hoops, baste your material on to stiff brown wrapping-paper. It is easier to work this way, and does not stretch the material as the hoops do.

Use round corset-lacing for padding scallop embroidery. No extra stitching or basting is needed. Fasten the lacing to the material where you begin button-holing.

A VERY quaint coverlet for the bed of the smaller children can be made of linen. Hem-stitch the hem, which should be three or three and one-half inches in depth. About two inches above the hem arrange a nursery-stencil of ducks, animals or a butterfly-and-bee motif.

Mrs. Altman is nothing if not practical, and her contribution was thoroughly utilitarian—a netted shopping-bag. "Using first a smooth, flat stick or piece of pasteboard about three-fourths inch wide, net 52 stitches on a string, using a strong macramé cord. Now net over a pencil or pen-handle, working back and forth in ordinary diamond netting, until the strip is 24 inches long; again use the flat mesh for a row, which completes the foundation. Take the wooden handle-bars, net 1st stitch, then between every stitch wind the cord around the bar three times. Make a cord to draw up the sides of bag by twisting two strands of the cord, and doubling it to make four strands. The handles are made of Solomon's knots (plaited knots) over four doubled cords, divided at the ends to form a loop.

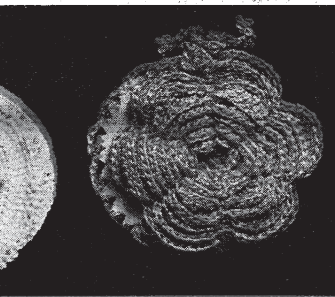
Several of the ladies looked interrogation-points, and Mrs. Ross ventured: "That is exactly what I wanted—thank you so much! But just how do you do the netting and Solomon's knots?"

Practical Mrs. Altman whipped a copy of Needlecraft from her capacious handbag. "If you were a subscriber for this little paper you wouldn't need ask that question," said she. "It is a perfect encyclopedia of needlework knowledge, and if you don't see what you want you have only to ask for it. See here is a description of the knots, with full-size working-detail. I'll loan you the paper if you wish—you see, I take two copies, one to put aside for binding at the end of the year, the other to use and"—there was a twinkle in Mrs. Altman's keen eyes—"lend to those who want to know things, unless they have the good sense to subscribe for the paper themselves."

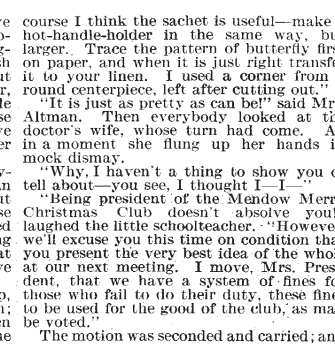
You may be sure Mrs. Altman took several subscriptions on the spot—every woman who did not already have Needlecraft put her name down, the more readily because Mrs. Altman said the editor had promised to repeat a very explicit chapter on netting in the near future. They all wanted that shopping-bag, for themselves and to give away.

"The wide row is at each end of the strip, you know," further explained Mrs. Altman; "and the bar is netted over that row. Then draw up the sides with the cord, put on the handles, and you have the best carrier for bundles that can possibly be imagined."

"I don't think we should forget the babies in our gift-making," said Mrs. Binder, producing the daintiest pair of little felt shoes ever seen. "These are intended for a wee one first putting on short clothes, and will be found most satisfactory, as they launder beautifully. Procure the best white felt, and wash it in hot and then in cold water before making up. They are cut exactly like the 'store shoes,' with sole, vamp and upper, the latter high enough to admit of a pretty turnover. By looking at a pair of little kid shoes, or larger laced shoes, one can easily cut a pattern; then cut a shoe from an old cloth and sew it up to make sure of a 'good fit' before cutting the felt. Having obtained an accurate pattern, preserve it; a half yard of felt will make any number of the bits of footgear, and every mother will



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