

HOUSEHOLD.

HOMEMADE CONTRIVANCES BOTH USEFUL AND DECORATIVE.

A Neat and Ornamental Shoe Box of Unusually Sensible Construction—A Travelling Case Which Insures Always Finding Both Shoes of a Pair.

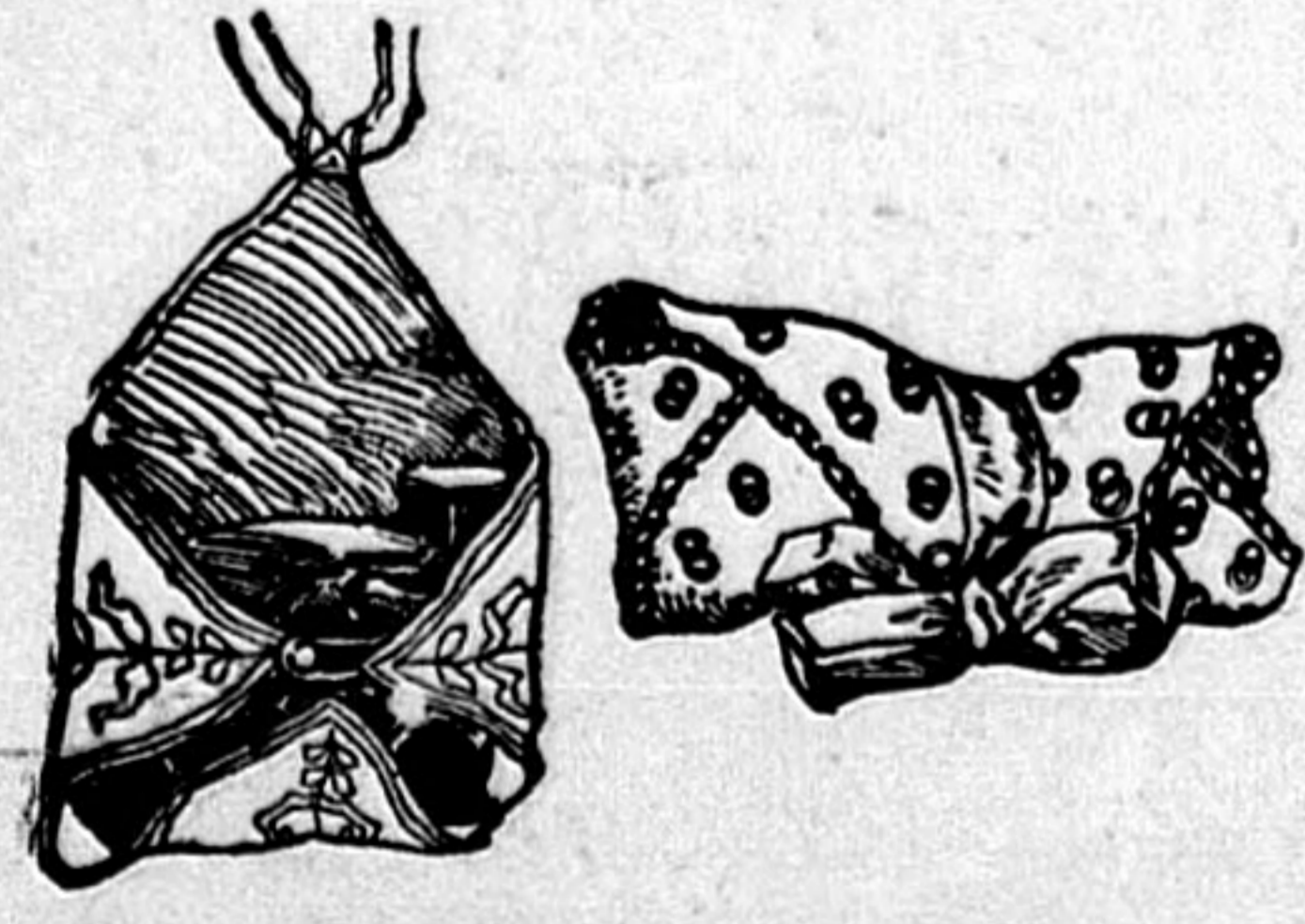
In the masculine mind at least there seems to be a tendency to regard what women folks call "fancy work" as something utterly useless, except in some instances where even a bit of needlework may prevent the mischief which, according to Dr. Watts, is ever provided for the idler. A writer in *The Modern Priscilla* affords practical evi-



SHOE BOX AND HEEL SLIP.
The sense of the error of this view by bringing to notice some novelties which not only serve as ornaments, but have besides real value for the practical purpose for which each is designed. Some of them are illustrated and described as follows, beginning with a shoe box:

Whenever one succeeds in making something from nothing, she feels that she has accomplished a great feat. So this article is all the more satisfactory because an otherwise useless article is thus put to service, for the foundation is simply a dry goods box. The top of the box must have a cushion, and this may be covered with any material you choose. There are the figured velvets if economy is no object. But the cretonnes and chintzes are quite as artistic and far more serviceable for us people who need to count our pennies. The denims with a saten finish are pretty, too, and now, having chosen your material, cover the cushion and three sides of the box with it. Remove the front of the box and fit a shelf in between the sides. In the top of this side put a small brass rod for a curtain of the material. When this curtain is drawn, a row of shoes may be seen inside. One side of the box may be ornamented with the words, "Rest For the Weary," which may be applied either to the shoes or their wearer. A box of this kind would be a great convenience, especially for a seat when buttoning one's shoes.

Also pertaining to shoes are Figs. A and B. Perhaps you may smile and say, "Oh, I never slip!" But, my dear sister, through many ages has come the admonition, "Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall," so even for you there may be danger. Before beginning operations it might be best to cut a pattern by fitting a piece of paper to the back of your walking shoes, as shown at a. Then form heavy black cloth out the desired shape, making the heel of two thicknesses of felt. Line the upper portion with black cloth of a lighter weight and bind the edges or simply finish them with stitching. Sew the heel firmly in place, and you are all ready for the ice, except that a short piece of elastic must be sewed to the upper corners to hold it in place over the ankle, as shown at b. The second cut shows a case for carrying shoes when traveling. Every one



SHOE CASE OPEN AND CLOSED.
knows how troublesome it is to dispose of footgear when packing a trunk. To obviate this difficulty first procure some of the pretty figured cottons for the outside and plain saten of an appropriate shade for the lining. The quantity will, of course, depend somewhat upon the size of the shoes, but a piece 27 inches square will probably be large enough for you. Baste the two materials smoothly together and about the edges stitch a binding of silk braid to match them in color. On one corner put a shoe button, on the corner diagonally opposite a loop of braid, and on corner No. 3 two yards of the binding braid. After the shoes are in the case this braid is wrapped around it and tied to keep the shoes safely inside.

Clean Notions in Photo Frames.
For an up-to-date photograph frame it is quite the thing to have a piece of white linen stenciled with golf, tennis, football or boating signs, or with any of the college emblems, and then work it in college colors, the result being dubbed a Harvard, Yale, Princeton or Vassar frame or accredited to whatever institution of learning is worker most affects. This linen is then mounted on a cardboard mat.

Another very taking idea of the same kind is to get a cardboard or water color paper mat with an opening (oval or diamond shaped is prettiest) for a photograph and decorate this by applying monograms, crests, coats of arms, etc., collected from one's correspondence. The arrangement and study of these will be found very fascinating, and as many of them are in gold and rich coloring they make a very handsome and striking decoration.

CHILDREN'S CLOTHES.

Fashion Now Dominates, and Mere Prettiness Is Passe.

While the search after children's clothes may not involve so many perplexing difficulties as it did some years ago, when pretty gowns were not so abundantly supplied by the shops, it is not a path of roses yet, unless there are unlimited means behind the purchaser, for the prices are well up in proportion to the grown up gowns. Fashions for elder dress in miniature and with modification seem to apply, making the leading features of the modes so conspicuous that the really picturesque child is no longer fashionable, says the *New York Sun* in giving the following among other details and illustrations:

The new gowns show many an elaborate touch in braiding, embroidery, ruffles and frills of ribbon, and then there are tailor gowns all braided or stitched, made with close fitting skirts, supplemented by a circular flounce. Lightweight cloths are used for these gowns, while drap d'ete, Scotch wool plaids, poplins, velvets, velveteens and corduroys are all popular materials. The new velveteens are so soft and fine and come in such beautiful colors that they are very desirable. In brown, with a colored sash of soft silk and a guimpe of tuckled silk or lace, velveteen is very pretty.

The skirts are usually gored and plain or made with a circular flounce not very flaring on the edge. The little bodice is plain in the back and full in front, with some sort of bertha collar turning down around the neck. Accordian plaited frills of silk matching the sash are an extremely pretty finish for the shoulders and are used also in the little wool gowns which have no sash.

The use of small, half round white pearl buttons is a pretty feature of trimming. The collar finish around the neck may be cut out in battlement



FASHION IN MINIATURE.
squares, lined with silk in a contrasting color and each little square turned back at one corner with three little pearl buttons. The effect is simple, but exceedingly pretty.

A cashmere gown for an older girl shows the circular flounce, a velvet collar with silk frills and a tuckled vest of silk, forming a double frill down the front. A dark red cashmere, trimmed with white braid, has a vest of white liberty silk. Frills of ribbon trim another gown with a silk yoke, tucked in groups and arranged to form a point in the center. Checked silks are used very prettily for vests and finish generally in the plain wool gowns, and plain silks of tiny ruffles trim some of the plaid gowns. Braid and narrow velvet ribbon are very much used, and so are the tiny frills of satin ribbon.

Silk gowns are the thing for party dresses, and white silks with tiny stripes of satin and dainty rosebuds are very desirable. Small checks are worn, as are plain silk, especially bengalines. Pale blue silk gowns with a white silk sash and belt and a tuckled yoke of white silk are extremely dainty.

Rather large velvet hats with soft brims and crowns, trimmed simply with a bunch of feathers and a knot of ribbon, seem to be the prevailing style for anything but school wear. In felt the beehive crown with broad brim is very pretty trimmed with satin ribbon.

Acknowledging Invitations.

The English fashion of acknowledging an invitation to a church wedding by writing a note of regret or acceptance is rapidly obtaining here, says *The Ladies' Home Journal*, the card alone left for the bride's mother being counted as bad form. There may be a hundred reasons why you are not asked to the house—because of its size, because a large collation is not spread or for any or all reasons—but you must never conclude that you are omitted because you lack position. Your formal note of acknowledgment should be sent in proper time by mail.

Color is coming in somewhat in handkerchiefs. A small knot of violets embroidered in natural color in one corner is a pretty fancy.

SIMPLE GYMNASTICS.

Some Motions to Keep Joints Limber and Flesh Firm.

To remain young a woman must keep her joints limber; if neglected they become painful and stiff. Women groan with rheumatic pains, when, if they exercised properly, rheumatism would be unheard of. Women sit by a fire and shiver with cold, when, if they encouraged gymnastics, the blood would circulate vigorously through the body.

The following four simple exercises will greatly help to develop and preserve physical symmetry:

1. Stand erect, with hands outstretched, on a level with the shoulders, and slowly raise yourself on your toes as far as possible. Retain this position for an instant, and then sink back on the entire foot. Do this twenty times a day at first, and increase each day to a reasonable limit.
2. Place the hands on the hips, and, resting all the weight of the body on the right foot, slowly raise the left leg, and extend it in front of the body. Then bend at the knee, pointing the toe downward and bringing foot up. Repeat this ten times at first. Then stand on the left foot and repeat the exercise in reverse.
3. Stand erect and lean over at the hips without bending the knees and try to touch the floor with the fingers. Day by day you will come nearer and nearer the floor. This exercise will make the body supple and strengthen the back, and will encourage grace.
4. Extend the right arm, and placing the left on the hip, bend to right side as far as possible, and then reverse the exercise, which should be repeated ten times at first, and like all the others, increased from day to day as much as circumstances will permit. This is an excellent gymnastic. No woman should indulge in any exercise to such an extent that even the slightest strain is possible. Fifteen minutes a day spent in exercise at home should result in muscular development and greatly help to retain health.

To Whom Do You Belong?

This incident I give to you. A Christian gentleman was riding through a certain State of this Union in the cars for home. At one of the stations two men boarded the train and sat down in the ladies' car. It wasn't more than five minutes before one of them pulled out a bottle. They both tipped it up and drank, and soon commenced swearing and cursing and talking loud in their profanity in the car, to the disgust of everybody in it. The Christian gentleman looked on and said to himself: "Well, those fellows didn't sit in the car more than five minutes before they let us know who they were and who they belonged to, but nobody in the whole train knows who I belong to. Just see how the devil's crowd proclaims who they belong to. They say: 'We belong to the devil, and were not ashamed of it, either,' and the good man got truly ashamed of himself and exclaimed: 'Lord! Lord! Forgive us! Thou art the best Master a man ever had, and yet I am ashamed to let anybody know that I belong to thee.' As soon as the train rolled into a station and stopped, the Christian man began to sing from the bottom of his soul and at the top of his voice, 'I'm the child of a king.' The whole car turned their eyes and ears toward him, and nobody, when he had finished, had any doubt that he was the Lord's servant. One of the drunken fellows walked back to him and said:

"Hush that singing."
"You hush that cursing," was the reply.
"Car's no place to be singin'."
"The ladies car is no place to be cursing and drinking in."
"Want yer to dry up."
"I want that cursing to be dried up."
"Well, we don't want any more o' that singin' 'd' yer hear?' And they sat down, took another drink, and began cursing again. When the train stopped again the Christian gentleman struck up:
"O happy day, when Jesus washed my sins away!"
The drunken couple stopped their cursing and said:
"We told yer to quit yer singin'."
"I told yer to quit your cursing. You let these people know that you belong to the devil, and why shouldn't I let them know that I belong to God?"
The train rolled on and at the next station the two drunken men were put off the car. Look at what men are perfectly willing to do for the devil. They will submit to being thrown ignominiously off the train and be doomed and damned for the privilege of serving him. Who ever heard of a Christian being put off a train for serving God? Here are old sinners in this town by the thousand who love to publish who they belong to, and you folk have been here for ten years, and not one in 20 knows who you belong to. I would be heartily ashamed of it. You are a fine type of Christian so-called—an honorary member of the church, may be.—Sam Jones.

Moving Staircases Are Coming.

Every visitor to the Grande Magasin du Louvre at Paris has been up the wonderful moving staircase, says *London Sketch*. You put your hand on a rail, you stand still and you find, by a delightful movement, which is both exhilarating and fascinating, that you are carried from floor to floor without the least effort, and without any of those unpleasant thrills which lifts—or, as our American cousins call them, "elevators"—always succeed in giving to nervous persons. It is worth while shopping at the Magasin du Louvre for the sake of going up that moving staircase, and now—a long way behind our French friends—we have got one in London. The enterprising firm that has started a moving staircase on this side of the water is Harrod's stores, in the Brompton road, and I think they will find it so popular that there will scarcely be a store or a great trading business in London that will not be glad to institute the same invention. Its carrying capacity is upward of 3,000 persons.

CUBAN CEMETERIES.

SOME ARE BEAUTIFUL, SOME MEAN. BUT ALL MENACE THE LIVING.

Custom of Temporary Burial and What It Means—The Holy Field a Breeding Ground For Yellow Fever and Other Deadly Diseases.

If Spain had insisted on carrying away not only the ashes of Columbus but the bones of all dead Spaniards in Cuba, we would make no complaint. As it is Spain has taken only the historic and harmless dust of the illustrious Genoese navigator and left behind a lot of pestilence breeding cemeteries in which yellow fever will hide for many years after hygienic measures have scourged it from the rest of the island.

Each Cuban city has at least one very fine cemetery and several very poor ones. Havana has the most beautiful cemetery in the new world. This is the Columbus cemetery or the "Cementerio de Colon." It is crowded with exquisitely carved statues of marble. The portal or gate of the cemetery is of majestic proportions. It has three entrances. The cemetery itself, in the first impression made on the visitor, pleases by its lack of somber files of granite and marble.

Among the monuments are Gothic temples in miniature of exquisite taste. Italy has been drawn upon for the designs. The response has been fitting. In the midst of so much that is rendered enduring in marble the suggestion of the eternal verdure of nature in the tropics and of its symbolism is not lost. Many of the family memorials have their setting in arbors of green foliage.

The marble city of the dead is dominated by a monument which is the wonder and the admiration of every beholder. This is the monument to the bomberos, or firemen, a score of whom lost their lives in a fire which scourged Havana in May, 1890. The bomberos belong to a volunteer organization which includes in its membership the young men of the best families in the city. Their martyrdom appealed to all classes, and in commemorating the sacrifice of their lives the animosity of Spaniard and Cuban was forgotten.

The monument is nominally the tribute of the city of Havana; actually it is the free will offering of the people. It was completed in 1897. The monument is high, yet its graceful lines are not destroyed. The background which the clear blue sky forms for it destroys the rugged outlines. It stands forth a lofty carved shaft in a deep vault of azure.

The victims of the Maine are buried in the Cemetery of Columbus. At intervals



FIREMEN'S MONUMENT, COLUMBUS CEMETERY, HAVANA.

a cry goes up against the neglect of their graves and for the immediate erection of a monument. The graves are not neglected. No week passes that fresh flowers are not strewn over these sepulchers by patriotic Americans.

But the cemeteries in which the poor are laid to rest are quite different affairs. For them burial is not a permanent disposal. In Cuba, as well as in many Spanish American republics, burial and disinterment go on just as they have for centuries past.

The system dates back to the earliest times in things Cuban and Spanish American. The boredas, or niches, are built in stone masonry. Generally the boredas have three tiers of niches, one above another, the top being finished in stone and plaster. As one stands facing a section they look like the entrances to a baker's oven. In some cemeteries they occupy two sides of the Campo Santo, or Holy Field. In other cases, near large and populous cities, they form a quadrangle, the outer walls of which are of solid masonry. They have a main entrance, through which the funeral enters. They also have a rear gateway, generally facing a field.

The first effect on entering one of them is weird. The newcomer is in a city of the dead—on the flat system. Each niche is large enough to hold the coffin of an adult. The day of the funeral arrives, and the coffin is taken from the hearse and borne by the attendants of the cemetery to the niche selected. It is pushed in feet foremost, and the entrance is closed either by plain masonry or by a marble slab fitting the end of the niche. The latter is generally inscribed to Fulano de Tal, with "Descanse en paz," or "Requiescat in pace," some preferring Spanish, others Latin.

This system is peculiar to the church of Rome in Cuba and in Spanish America. The majority of burials is temporary. The rental paid for each has to be for one year and in advance. "Descanse en paz" (Rest in peace) is the utterance of friends and relatives.

Resting in peace depends upon the affection and willingness of the dead person's friends to pay another year's rent, also in advance.

evicted. The early day evictions are Spanish and not Irish. The coffin is unceremoniously taken out through the ever useful back door and dumped without the Campo Santo.

This practice of wholesales and constant disinterment is a menace to the living, of course. In the tropics many die of consumption, while many of the lower classes—strangers—die of yellow fever. Others die of smallpox. The removal of the remains of such may mean the liberation of millions of germs to start in a new and death dealing role. This is one of the customs which will speedily be abolished under the American rule, and it cannot be done away with too quickly.

MARK NORRIS.

TIDES IN ENGLISH CHANNEL.

Great Britain Anxious to Reduce Its Dangers to a Minimum.

The Prince of Wales is greatly exercised over the recent accident in the English Channel. As a peer expressed it, "His Royal Highness does not like to feel that he is living upon an island defended and barricaded, like the feudal barons of old, by high seas that dash to pieces friend and foe alike."

The Crown, it is asserted upon the best authority, will shortly offer a prize to be tried for by a competition which will be opened to all civil engineers of the world. The prize offered will be no less than a fortune sterling for a plan by which the English Channel can be reduced from a rolling torrent to a calm, peaceful sea.

Crossing the channel for years has been the dread of the trans-Atlantic journey. Tourists who travel as far as London in safety are unable to cross the channel to France without suffering untold tortures of seasickness.

Traffic across the channel at certain periods of the year is absolutely dangerous, and at times commerce is greatly delayed by the uncertainty of the voyage. The journey, which, under ordinary circumstances, ought to be taken in a little over a night, is sometimes prolonged 30 hours, and when upon the very best steamers. Upon slow-going freight steamers it is almost indefinite. The highest type of machinery is required to make the journey on time.

At times various schemes have been proposed for stemming the current or undertow from the North Sea and the North Atlantic Ocean around the British Isles. The idea is to build a dam to the water, which, sweeping southward by mighty undertow, is caught by them only to break and sweep through the channel with incredible rapidity.

Many of the schemes have been almost unique, notably one advanced by a Danish civil engineer for building a breakwater north of Wales. This, which was to extend for many hundred feet into the water, was to be constructed south of Denmark and north from Wales, leaving a small open space through which boats could sail. This, the engineer claimed, would have a tendency to allow less water to sweep through the channel, and would thus calm the tide. Other schemes of breakwater have been proposed, the most extravagant of which was the filling in of the channel by means of mud scows, so that, instead of being a deep passage, it would be in places very shallow.

Modern engineering has become such a high developed science that nothing seems impossible to it, and it is thought that some engineering genius will have a remedy by which the English Channel can be made calm.

At present one of the features of the channel is the life-saving service, which is the strongest in Europe.

Chinese Proverbs.

A great talker never wants enemies. The man of sense speaks little and hears much.
Do not entertain a man who has just received a disappointment with an account of your own success.
The most ignorant have knowledge enough to discover the faults of others; the most clear-sighted are blind to their own.
When a man says "Let me wait a little; when I have something to spare, I will relieve the poor," this man will never relieve the poor.

Hail and Farewell.

When money talks, what words, please, does it say?
Only these briefly: "How d'ye do? Good day!"

—Chicago Record.

Grapes From Canaan.

Don't parley with wrong. Childlikeness is not childishness. Sin is never disposed of at less than cost. God's providence will never place you where His grace cannot keep you. Lip-service is vain without heart consecration. The reign of righteousness will right all wrongs. If God knows when you are in trouble, He knows when to help. When God is carving our rough block into an angel we weep over the chips.

Queer Names for Women.

The wives of some of the Indian braves have names as odd and often as droll as their husbands. They seem to have cognomens of their own, too, and not to take those of their spouses only. Some of the actual names given in a census of the families of the scouts at one place include Mrs. Short Nose, who was before her marriage Miss Piping Woman; Mrs. Big Head, formerly Miss Short Face; Mrs. Nibbs, formerly Miss Young Bear; Mrs. White Crow, formerly Miss Crook Pipe; Mrs. Howling Water, formerly Miss Crow Woman; also Mrs. Sweet Water, Miss Walk High, daughter of Mr. White Call, and Miss Osaga, daughter of Mr. Hard Case.

The Cause.

Askins—What has caused the change in Major Stiff's appearance of late? He used to look like one born to command. Grimshaw—He is married now, and has made the discovery that he wasn't born for any such purpose.—Puck.