

## Last-Minute Christmas Gifts You Can Make at Home

BY NINA H. DUFFIELD.

We farm women, with the rush of fall work hardly out of hand, are often dismayed to find the Christmas season fairly upon us and no plans made for it. But even a few days before Christmas is not too late to "get into the game," if one is willing to be a little bit original. So, instead of rushing to town and undergoing that awful experience of last-minute shopping, why not look around the farm and find gifts right at hand which will carry with them a homey atmosphere and a real Christmas spirit? Your friends will hail these things with delight. I know, because I am a farmer's wife and have tried these plans myself.

I once sent a dressed turkey clear to my mother in Montreal. Since it was to travel all the way from West, I planned that it should reach her a day or two before Christmas. Although I was deprived of the joy of cooking that dinner for my mother and the folks at home, I felt that I had a big part in their family celebration after all. It was all farm-grown products—a dressed turkey, a sack of dried sweet corn, a jar of packed and three one-pound coffee cans, packed each with fresh butter, lard, and home-made mince-meat. I made everything festive with bright wrappings, and tied gay little verses to the packages. This really is a delightful way to remember "home folks."

I always think that the object of a gift is to bring real pleasure to the receiver. That's why I send a dozen fresh eggs at Christmas to one friend who has a special fondness for egg breakfasts. You may be sure that a dozen of them, separately wrapped in twigs of tissue and packed in a gay holly box, will be received with enthusiasm. Copy this little rhyme and tie it to the box.

The rarest fruit that I could find I send to this good friend of mine, To give a little "eggs-tra" cheer This happy season of the year.

If you are sending a dressed turkey or duck or chicken, be sure that it gets there at least a day before Christmas. This verse on a little card tucked under its wings is sure to give an added flavor to the gift:

Oh, let your fare be fowl to-day  
And fress, like fashions, fly away;  
May joys abide and cares take wing,  
And lasting luck the wishbone bring!  
A glass of jelly makes one of the

festive.

Here with, my friend, the reason why You need not lack for pumpkin pie. "Have all you want and more," sez I. Everybody is fond of mince-meat, especially the kind made in country kitchens. A quart will make two fat pies. Wrap the jar well, and attach this card with a gay ribbon:


Breathes there a man with soul so dead Who never to himself hath said, "Where can I find some pie?" Whose heart within him ne'er hath yearned As to the pantry he hath turned His wants to satisfy? You can imagine what a desperate effort some friend in town will be making to find some "really good" butter for her Christmas dinner table. She will indeed be a queer housewife if she is not delighted with the unusual gift of a roll of fresh butter. And if you think such a gift can't be properly festive, just experiment a bit with oiled paper and dainty wrappings. Then tie with bright yellow ribbon to signify the "gift o' gold," and add a little verse just for fun:

This gay little gift, they tell to me, Is hard to buy in its infancy. Such a Merry Christmas I'm wishing you.

These are only suggestions, ideas which I have used when planning my Christmas in other years. I'm sure the fun of making up jingles for your farm presents will add a great deal of fun to your Christmas preparation. It does to mine. I've found that it pays to add a little verse or note to the present I give to my own family. It makes the most practical gift seem festive.

Small Boy—"I promised I'd be generous with my Christmas sled, so I'll let Sis have it going up hill, and I'll have it going down!"

# Smoke OGDEN'S CUT PLUG



15¢ per Packet  
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## A Real Old Country Treat

## The Right Kind of Toy

BY LYDIA ALLEN M.D.

Christmas is the kiddies' time and at once brings visions of a laughing, happy, old Santa Claus bearing upon his back a bag of toys which he has provided for his young friends. But Santa Claus has heard of the better babies' movement and of the modern boys' and girls' health crusade. So this year Santa will not allow flimsy-made gew-gaws in his pack, but is going to bring the kind of toys that father and mother had when they were children. To-day these old-fashioned toys are right up to-the-minute. And what if we do think them a little old-fashioned? What is more old-fashioned than children themselves who are the same forever, the world over?

Beginning with the smallest child of all, let us think of just the right kind of toy. We soon find that the baby's idea of loving anything is to put it in his mouth; so for the little ones, dolls and bunnies must be made of something that will wash. For a baby or rattle is perhaps the most satisfactory playing; besides cutting his teeth on it, he can use it to hammer the floor or furniture as suits his fancy. After he has reached his first birthday and up to school age and after, every child enjoys home-made toys. One caution needs to be observed; that is, not to make the toys of woolly or furry material from which a very small child can pick and eat ravellings. Home-made dolls and animals are all that a child needs to make him supremely happy.

To come safely through the many washings which are required of toys belonging to little children, the toys must be durable. They must also be strong enough to withstand the hard bumps and knocks and the rough treatment to which they are subjected. Therefore, toys which are merely glued or pasted together, or those having anything but the most durable construction, are unsuitable for children of any age. Especially to be avoided are those toys which have small attached parts like bells or little ornaments. At any moment these parts may come loose and lodge in the baby's throat. Equally objectionable are those painted in bright colors, with paint which can be sucked off. Either of these toys may be responsible for a sick baby and frightened parents.

Besides being lovable and durable, toys should appeal to the child's imagination. With a white and a row can of kitchen chairs, the child can make all the trains of cars which will give him all the thrills that a real engineer has when he opens the throttle of the "Limited." It is only the adult who needs the imitation car or the intricate toys which are wound up and made to go and which last but a few days. Such toys are of less use in developing a child than is a tin can to which he ties a string in order to drag the can behind as a caboose, or which he sets to sail in the horse trough.

The final test of a toy is whether or not it is one with which the child can do something. A toy which a child can only admire is one of which he will tire in a short time. With a doll, a child can play family, school or church. With a ball he can invent games. With a few pieces of china and tin, the child can play house. With a basket full of blocks, such as can be cut from the ordinary scraps



## The Sunday School Lesson

DECEMBER 17

Jesus Among Friends and Foes, Luke 10: 38-42; 11: 42-44, 53, 54. Golden Text—Ye are my friends if ye do the things which I command you, John 15: 14 (Rev. Ver.).

Lesson Setting—The lesson of today is not chosen because of the historical importance of the events dealt with, but because they give us an insight into the mind and method of Jesus, first in relation to his friends and secondly in relation to his enemies.

I. In the House of Friends, 10: 38-42. V. 38. As they went; on the way to Jerusalem. The Feast of Tabernacles, the most joyous of all the Jewish feasts was in progress. It celebrated the Exodus from Egypt and the ingathering of the fruits of field and vineyard. Entered into a certain village; the village of Bethany, just over the brow of the Mount of Olives which commanded at two miles distance, an impressive view of Jerusalem. It was here that Jesus uttered his memorable lamentation over Jerusalem. At the foot of the Mount was the Garden of Gethsemane. A certain woman named Martha, Bethany was the home of the family of Martha, Mary and Lazarus, all of whom loved Jesus and were loved by Jesus. Received him into her house. This home was the house of friendship for Jesus. Its door was always open to him. It was like the Palace Beautiful on the summit of the Hill of Difficulty, of which we read in Pilgrim's Progress. In the Gospels we see that Martha is active and busy, John 11: 20; 12: 2. She is the practical person.

V. 39. She had a sister called Mary. At Jesus' feet, Mary's nature is deeper than that of Martha. At the very sight of Jesus, more truth from his lips becomes the supreme desire of her heart. But both women are actuated by love. Martha labors and Mary listens.

V. 40. Martha was cumbered. The time of the Feast of Tabernacles would be one of more than usual stir for Martha, and the arrival of Jesus necessarily added to her burden. She becomes cumbered or distracted with household care. This distraction is increased by the seemingly idle pre-occupation of Mary, and at last she swears. Lord, dost thou not care. The substantiality of Martha's question carries with it a mild censure of Jesus in permitting Mary to sit and listen. Martha in her distraction is guilty of the offense of drawing a guest into a family difference. But her help me, Martha did not realize that if Mary's listening did not help her, it might be helping Jesus far beyond the speed of Martha's table. Mary's quick listening was more to him than a train of distracted busting. Time is never wasted in listening to Jesus. Their conduct proved the utter truth of V. 41. Martha, Martha; said in kindly playful fashion, for he knew the

love in this busy woman's heart. Her words had shown only lack of discernment, not lack of love. That art careful and troubled about many things; and therefore she had lost the true proportion of things.

V. 42. One thing is needful. Mary had succeeded in showing her love in listening. Martha had observed her love in her fretting. Mary had received her portion of love from the Master in quiet thought. Martha had lost it in bustling service.

H. In the House of Foes, 11: 42-44, 53, 54. V. 42. Woe unto you Pharisees. The charge of Christ against the Pharisee was first that it was purely external, dealing as it were with the outside of the cup and platter, and neglecting the inward part. Secondly it was hypocritical because behind the mask of religion they cherished a spirit far removed from religion. Then Jesus asks the question, "Is God the God of the outside of things only? Is he pleased with clean hands and indifferent to unclean hearts?" Then he pronounces his doom on the Pharisees. Ye tithe mint and rue. In their giving of the tenth, the Pharisees were very scrupulous, taking into account the most insignificant of herbs. Pass over judgment. While thus scrupulous in things, they were blind to the great demands of religion, justice to man and love to God.

V. 43. Ye love the uppermost seats. At the upper end of the synagogue which looked toward Jerusalem, were found the places of honor. Phariseism not only dealt with externals and trivialities. It also had a craving for conspicuousness in the church and on the street. It sought the regard of man.

V. 44. Ye are as graves. If a man touched a grave he was ceremonially unclean. Great meats were taken to make graves visible by whitewashing; but sometimes this would be washed away and men would teach them unclean. So the Pharisees were sources of unsuspected corruption and evil.

V. 53. The Pharisees began to urge Jesus vehemently. The bold words of Jesus produced their inevitable effect. The Pharisees began to follow him up closely. Their hate becomes purposeful. Provoke him to speak; cross-examine him on many points, hoping that his boldness of speech would in fact distract him. Jesus, however, was not to be caught. His conduct proved the utter truth of V. 41. Martha, Martha; said in kindly playful fashion, for he knew the

be sure to spread the feeding tables in spots beyond the reach of cats. Heap them with apples and cabbage leaves, dry cakes and bread and boiled potatoes. Such food, the birds think, makes a feast fit for the gods.

A Small Boys' Dilemma. I want so much on Christmas, And want it without fail; I want a rocker pony, With a really name and tail, I want a sword and pistol, And cap and coat of red, I want a little wagon, And a double-runner sled.

I want a pair of mittens, For this one's lost a thumb; I want a book of pictures, A trumpet and a drum; And with the nuts and popcorn, And sugar plums and all, I'm just afraid our chimney Is 'bout a size too small!

Most British thoroughbred horses of mainly Eastern descent can trace their ancestry to one of three famous horses of the eighteenth century.

## USEFUL GIFTS

### The New Old Tea Cozy.

The loving thought that has been put into the fashioning of a pretty, practical and inexpensive tea cozy, will make the simple gift a delight to Mother or Aunt Sally.

Tea is properly "drawn," then poured off the leaves into our very best pot and the cozy is used to keep the tea hot.

The outside cover of a very pretty cozy was made from the front of a discarded embroidered shirtwaist. The front pattern was placed so that the embroidery formed the centre decoration. The back of the cozy was cut from the backs of the house.

The cozy cover was French-seamed and finished at the lower edge with a tiny hem. A perky knot made of white crocheted cord finished the top.

The pad for the cozy, cut a little smaller than the cover, is of unbleached muslin and padded with sheet-wadding. This padding must be heavy enough so heat will not pass through. The pad is placed inside the cover and the edge of the cover is turned up on the inside of the cozy and basted in position. It is very easily removed for frequent laundering.

### Mules.

Who in the world named bedroom slippers mules? Well, anyway, mules will be charming gifts. They can be made from a pair of soles and odds and ends of pretty ribbons and silks in a few hours' time. Purchase a pair of satin-faced soles in the desired size. Make the slipper tops of flesh-colored wash-satin and the linings from a firm piece of muslin. Baste together, seam and turn. Bind the edge across the instep with pale blue satin ribbon one inch in width.

Trim the slipper tops with tiny flowers made of pink, blue, yellow and lavender ribbon. Use the very narrow ribbon and gather it into tiny circles for flowers. Lazy daisy stitches of green embroidery cotton form the leaves. Overhand the tops to the soles with strong white thread.

### Asbestos Holders.

Purchase a small piece of asbestos material and cut it into five-inch squares. Line the squares with some odd pieces of heavy material from your scrap bag and bind the edges with bright colored binding. Sew a tiny loop of the binding on one corner to hang up by. These are indispensable for handling hot dishes.

An attractive holder for hot dish pads can be made from pieces of white or unbleached linen. Cut two eight-inch squares and French seam together on two adjoining sides. Hem the other two edges with a narrow hem on the wrong side. Cut a strip off the material two and one-half inches wide and ten inches long. Sew together lengthwise and turn. Fold in the edges and sew on the two opposite corners to form a handle. An attractive holder I saw in the shop was made from white linen; a tea pot with "Hot Dish Holders" was embroidered in blue outline stitches.

### Lost—Christmas!

Christmas Day seems wedded to December 25th. A summer, or a spring-time Christmas, with no holly, no mistletoe, no frost, no snow, would not be the real thing at all.

The majority of our beautiful Christmas carols, too, redolent as they are of the winter—"See amid the winter's snow"—would be hopelessly incongruous. Emigrants to Australia from the Mother Country have confessed that it has taken them many years before they could get in any way used to what is practically a mid-summer Christmas.

Yet December 25th is merely an accommodation date for the birthday of Christ—Christmas Day. The year, take it who will, is arbitrary. Christ was born in A.D. 1—literally, of course, the Year of our Lord, No. 1.

But our chronology is four years out. This should be 1924 and not 1922, because Christmas Day could not, on indisputable historical testimony have been later than February, B.C. 4!

That settles the year of the first Christmas, but all attempts to fix the actual day and month of Christmas have failed.

And, as regards the present date, Christmas, like Easter, took some centuries before a settlement was arrived at. In the first centuries of Christianity several important Eastern churches observed January 6th as Christmas Day. The Armenian Christians do so still.

Gradually, however, uniformity was attained, but not before the fifth century. In that connection it must be remembered that for quite a long period England was divided on the question of Christmas. Some people persisted in observing "old" Christmas Day.

But all will agree that December 25th, even if it is not the actual date of Christ's birthday, is a happy choice. Our present-day Christmas, festive and holiday, breaks the long winter, and what better time could there be for family reunions? The cold and unpleasantness outside make it all the more agreeable to keep warm and snug inside? It keeps us together in every sense.

Excellent are the lessons of experience, but they often come too late.