



CHRIST IS BORN
Hark! the Herald-Angels sing
Glory to the new born King
Peace on earth and mercy mild
God and sinners reconciled
Joyful all ye nations rise
Join the triumph of the skies
With Angelic host proclaim
Christ is born in Bethlehem
Hark! the Herald-Angels sing
Glory to the new born King.

Mrs. Jobson's Tact

A CHRISTMAS STORY

While making her Christmas-shopping rounds the other day, Mrs. Jobson espied, in a furrier's window, a squirrel coat which she instantly concluded was just about right.
'That,' said Mrs. Jobson to herself, amiably, but determinedly squaring her chin, 'will be my Christmas present from Mr. Jobson.'



I THINK THAT COATS JUST RIPPING

clustered together, of late years. 'Anything you've seen that you particularly covet.'
'Oh, I have positively everything that I need,' replied Mrs. Jobson, in quite an off-hand way. 'I really don't care for any more jewelry, and—er—the goose-bone weather prophesies all unite in saying that the winter is not going to be a severe one, so that—um—with a little fang over why I think I can get through with my fur coat quite handsily. It's a little mottled at the sides and back, but—and there, she was already watching Mr. Jobson, Mrs. Jobson made the most of the sentence, and she devoted herself to studying the sugar in her coffee.'

'Um,' mused Mr. Jobson, still looking thoughtful.
After Mr. Jobson had got away with his two after-dinner smokes that evening Mrs. Jobson got him to accompany her on a walk downtown to take a look at the shop windows in their Christmas finery. Needless to say she steered him, before he tired and began to think of his pipe and his armchair, to the furrier's window in which 'her' squirrel coat was fastened loosely and jauntily around the person of a handsome, dark-haired wax lady.

'What kind of an animal or bird furnished the pelts for that coat?' he asked Mrs. Jobson, evincing distinct interest in the garment, which looked distinctly swaggy in the mellow light of the furrier's window.
'Why, that's one of the new squirrel coats,' replied Mrs. Jobson, not with any particular show of interest. 'That is, they first came in last year.'
'Like the thing?' inquired Mr. Jobson, viewing Mrs. Jobson with what he thought was a fine craftiness out of the slant of his eyes.

'Um—yes,' answered Mrs. Jobson; 'it's handsome, of course. A little ultra, as the milliners say of the striking hats they make, but I suppose that is because the squirrel coats are so new, and because we are not used to them yet.'
'Well,' said Mr. Jobson, right at himself when Mrs. Jobson's view seemed to clash with his own. 'I think that coat's just ripping, myself—think it's immense, it is.'

'But,' mildly interposed Mrs. Jobson, 'somehow or another that squirrel fur always looks to me as if—and here she laughed merrily—'well, as if a crow had licked it the wrong way, don't you think?'
Mr. Jobson cocked his head on one side and then shook it negatively.
'No,' he replied, 'I don't think anything of the sort. Of course, the hide doesn't lie down pat and flat, like the Saturday night haircut of a plumber's apprentice. I suppose you'd want 'em to use bear's grease or vaseline to make that fur lie down as flat as a pancake, eh? Did you ever see a squirrel with his hair lying as close to his hide as if he'd been swimming in a Standard oil tank?'
Mrs. Jobson was constrained to reply that she had never witnessed such a phenomenon.

PRESENTS FOR THE BABY.

The Little Dear May Be Remembered with Many Home-Made Articles.



We call Christmas the children's festival, and they are our first concern when it comes to planning presents for this season. For the very little one, too small to enjoy toy or book, something useful is chosen, usually something in the way of wearing apparel. Of course, the baby is the modern out-door kite, daily taken abroad for the air, and consequently must need plenty of out-door trappings.

Anything in this line is, therefore, a suitable gift, and we suggest for his or her small mistress a pair of booties and a pair of mittens, offering a crocheted design for the former, and for the latter a model to be followed by one that uses the knitting needles. Materials needed for the booties are one bone crochet hook, No. 3, and one-half hank of three-fold Saxony.

Directions: Make a chain of 35 stitches and join, first row, second, third and fourth rows plain single crochet, fifth row, take up one stitch, wrap wool on the needle, take through the stitch, wrap wool again, and draw together as one; make 18 of these stitches in the round. The first, second, third and fourth rows are repeated in the sixth, seventh, eighth and ninth rows, and so on until the leg is of the desired length. Take up 13 stitches for the vamp, make ten rows of afghan stitch, take up stitches for the sole, make ten rows single crochet, turn the sock on left side, take up ten stitches on the needle, draw together into one to make the heel, and the same at the toe. Crochet together one stitch each side. Finish with baby ribbon or cord and tassel.



Baby Mittens

Start thumb by setting two stitches in one, the one double stitch, plain row over the previous row. Continue until you have 11 stitches in the thumb, then join the thumb together. Make nine rows plain, then quarter the mitts and at each quarter decrease one stitch. Continue until you have eight stitches left, then turn the mitt inside out, and knit together. Finish the thumb by decreasing two stitches, one each side, until you have two stitches left, draw together. For the cuff, make 17 bean stitches round top, knit last row.

CASE FOR STICK-PINS.

Makes an Attractive Christmas Present and is Very Easily Made at Home.

That these pins may not scratch other pieces of jewelry, it is well to have a case especially devoted to them. One puzzled as to what to make for Christmas here has opportunity to fashion a pretty and useful gift. The material doubtless can be found in the home scrap-bag, but should be, perfectly clean and of soft richness. Light flowered satin is very prettily employed, the lining of light-weight elderdown. The case folds in envelope



A STICK-PIN CASE.

shape, and when closed takes up very little room. The silk cord or baby ribbon used to fasten it should be of the color most dominant in the material employed for the outside part. Firm ribbon of suitable width could be selected if one did not possess the flowered satin suggested, and at the shops one can pick up short odds and ends of very reasonable prices. It is a good idea to make several presents of the same kind, as experience gives one skill and speed, and one perhaps can make several articles from the one remnant chosen.

A Watch Holder.

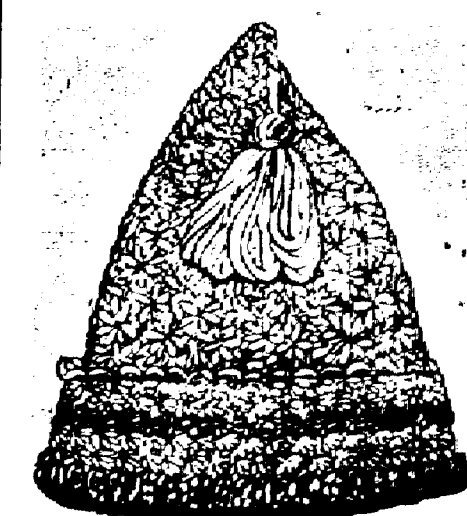
A watch-holder consists of two oblong pieces of cardboard covered with white linen or with silk or brocade, fastened together at one of the shorter sides under ribbon bows, spread apart at an angle of 45 degrees and kept together by two pieces of ribbon. A gilt hook in one piece holds the watch. If hook is of linen, embroider a circle on one half to surround the watch when it is hung.

PRESENTS FOR THE BOY.

Two Things, Easily Made, That Will Please Him on Christmas Morning.

There are always plenty of things to get for girls for Christmas, but what to get for the boy of the family is often a problem, especially if the donor wishes to present something she has made with her own hands.

We offer a couple of suggestions to the puzzled planner of the Christmas list; call to the attention a pretty toboggan cap, and a fine sweater. The former is crocheted, the latter knit. Materials needed for the cap, two hanks of Germantown wool; one of eight-fold and for the border one of four-fold, use long crochet needle No. 7. Make a chain of 46 and join; first row, 45 double crochets; second row, make 23 stars of five stitches each, and repeat for next four rows; for seventh row, decrease one stitch in each row, and do the same with eighth and ninth row; tenth row, take off in three different places one stitch each



BOYS TOBOGGAN CAP

and so on in the following rows, until your cap comes to a point, when you will have only one stitch left. Now turn the cap. To make a border, crochet 32 stars all around the rim, five rows of the same, next one row Picot edge. Cord had tassel, and the cap is finished.

In giving directions for the sweater, we make provision for a large one 32-inch bust, but the size may easily be decreased by subtracting five stitches for every inch of bust measure. Cast on 102 stitches on one of the steel needles for the bottom band. Knit two, puri two, making rib of two and two for 24 rows. For twenty-fifth row, use bone needles and knit one, puri one, making rib of one and one for 157 rows; for one hundred and fifty-eighth row, rib 34 stitches for the right shoulder, then bind off 34 stitches for the neck, and on a third needle rib the remaining 34 stitches for the left shoulder. Rib three rows on each shoulder, then on the right-hand needle cast 34 stitches to correspond to those bound off. Now put all the stitches on one needle and continue to rib for 157 rows



A GOOD SWEATER.

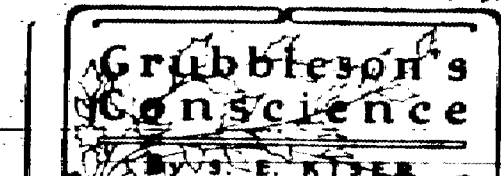
for the other side, then take steel needles in the one hundred and fifty-eighth row of this side and knit two puri two, making rib of two and two for 24 rows, and bind off. For the sleeves, double the sweater, and, with two bone needles, pick up 192 stitches 50 on each side of center of shoulder. Seam of sleeve must come under the arm. Rib back and forth 15 rows. For sixteenth row, put all the stitches on one needle and knit as before, narrowing one stitch at each end of needle in each following fifth row, until you have narrowed 13 times. The sleeve is 80 rows in length. Then narrow it every other row until the sleeve is 111 rows long, then take steel needles and knit two, puri two for 24 rows. Bind off and sew up sleeve and under-arm seams. For the collar, cast on 85 stitches on one steel needle, knit two puri two, making rib of two and two for 72 rows. Bind off, sew the ends together and sew to the neck of sweater, the collar seams a little back of the shoulder.

Home-Made Muff.

A muff can be made of purple velvet lined with white satin. An immense bow of purple satin ribbon, and a mink's head form the trimmings. The opera glass box which accompanies the muff is made of velvet, and has a drawing string of purple silk ribbon. A mink's head and two mink's tails form the trimmings.

For the Golf Player.

A golf scorer is made by covering two pieces of pasteboard with gray linen, lined inside with scarlet silk. On the cover is embroidered two miniature golf sticks and flowers in scarlet silk. It is intended to hold a small pencil and card.



Grubbleson's Conscience
I took his desk, in the big, light corner room on the second floor. Mr. Grubbleson could see the Salvation Army girl, who stood across the street, holding up a paper mache turkey. She was not, unfortunately, the most beautiful creature he had ever beheld. She was just a plain young woman, whose appearance was not improved by the uniform she wore. Mr. Grubbleson's gaze fell upon her every time he swung around in his big easy chair. Not that he looked for her, but there seemed to be some peculiar power at work which placed her directly in his line of vision a hundred times a day.

There she stood, with the snowflakes whirling around her. She was on duty when he reached his office in the morning, and she was there still when he went away in the evening. Mr. Grubbleson developed a curiosity concerning the amount of her collections. He wondered how many people stopped in the course of a day to drop a nickel or a dime or a quarter into the make-believe turkey which she held up for the purpose of reminding people that the poor would have appetites on Christmas. Frequently he would forget his work and sit counting the people who stopped to contribute, wondering as he saw them drop their money into the turkey how much they gave.

One day it occurred to him that he had never done anything for those who were less fortunate than he. He sat up straight in his chair and wondered if the Lord might not have given him greater prosperity than he enjoyed if he had been properly charitable. He was what most people would regard as a rich man, but he was not as wealthy by any means as he wished to be. As he sat there in his luxurious office, gazing across at the brave little soldier with her turkey, he said to himself: 'When I go out to lunch to-day I'll slip a five-dollar bill into that turkey. No one shall know how much I give, but five dollars will make many a poor person happy on Christmas, and though they will never guess that I am their benefactor the Lord will see.'

He put the money back into his pocket. 'It won't do,' he thought, 'I'm guilty. There's no use trying to hide the fact from myself. I'll wait till after this deal has gone through. Then I'll be able to contribute without a selfish desire to have the Lord give me profits in return.'
So he passed the Salvation Army girl on the corner without helping to lift her turkey. But day after day as he looked across the street he saw her there, and day after day he said to himself that he would do something splendid for the poor as soon as his deal was out of the way so that he might contribute with a clear conscience.

At last he received the word for which he had been so anxiously waiting. His venture had proved a success and he was richer by many thousands of dollars than he had been before. He whirled around in his big easy-chair to look at the little woman across the street. Fine flakes of snow were being flung around her by the angry wind, and he noticed that she had her shoulders drawn up as if to ward off the cold blast. There was the yellow turkey too, but few people stopped to give for the poor.

Mr. Grubbleson remembered a new ten-dollar bill that he had in one of his pockets, and he began feeling for it. When he had found it he doubled it up carefully and then turned once more to his desk. At noon he put on his overcoat and went to the window to see if the Salvation Army girl were still at her post. Yes, there she was with the snow whirling about her and the people hurrying past, apparently oblivious of her existence. He took out the bill that he had so carefully folded and looked at it. Suddenly his conscience began to whisper to him again.

'John Grubbleson,' it said, 'are you giving this money because of your love and your sympathy for your fellow man, or is it merely a trifle that you are offering in return for the success of your selfish scheme? You are still trying to deceive yourself. You think God let your deal go through because you had promised to give in case of your success. If the Lord has seen fit to let you succeed He has surely not done so merely for the money you think of giving now.'

Mr. Grubbleson slipped the bill back into his pocket, and when he returned from his luncheon at the club he looked across at the Salvation Army girl again and wondered why she didn't take her turkey and hunt some corner where she might have better shelter from the wind.

But his conscience had ceased to bother him.—Chicago Record-Herald.

An Inquiry.

'Pa!'
'Well!'
'Do these people go to the north pole to try to find Santa Claus?'—Puck.

DAINTY XMAS PRESENTS.

Aprons, Either Fancy or Plain, Are Very Appropriate for the Purpose.



The apron has become in vogue again. It is considered quite a pretty domestic touch to the home dress; and this fact makes it a welcome addition to the Christmas present list. Aprons are of strictly utilitarian value in a well-chosen one. In the olden days grand ladies wore the fancy apron as a matter of course, and we hark back to the Louis XVI models in the resurrected elaborate apron of the present, a piece of luxury constructed of silk and net and embroidered in gold.



A dainty apron more practical than the above is a sewing apron of lawn, cut double length and trimmed back upon itself by within about six inches of the waist band. The pocket thus made is stitched at either side, and a bow of ribbon at the center of the pocket tucks it to the foundation. This may be of white flowered silk, lace-trimmed, and serves admirably for a fancy-work apron; or a very fetching one may be made of fine and be of very decided service on mending day, big and strong enough to hold stockings, torn garments, cotton, thread, scissors, all the mending paraphernalia that is wont to scatter itself in such an annoying manner when one is interrupted at the mending task.

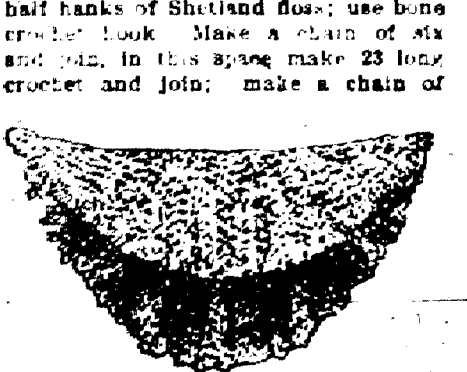


An apron that is a tried and true friend to the housewife, and which often comes in well for mistresses as well as for the most approved kind being the one that has a ruffle at the foot whose flaring prongs embrace the hem of the dress. The apron should be long, but escape the floor, allowing the wearer to hurry from task to task, and should have a spacious pocket or two in which to put kerchiefs, bits of string, nails—whatever small necessities a woman about the house finds herself in frequent need of. These pinafores are really very pretty when made of gingham not too dull, use bright blue and white, pink and white, or lilac and white.

FOR CHILLY MORNINGS.

A Circular Shawl That Will Make an Acceptable Christmas Present for Many.

Crocheting is easy, pleasant work, something the Christmas worker can put to in the evening or at odd moments. The circular shawl here described is a present suitable for old or young; and as individual choice is to decide the question of color, care should be taken to consider the tastes and years of the person who is to be recipient of the pretty present.



A CIRCULAR SHAWL.

three and over the third long crochet make a shell of eight; skip two crochets and between the second and third make one long crochet; skip two and make a shell of eight; around this 23 you will have four shells with eight long crochets in each shell and one long crochet between each eight. For third row, make a chain of three directly over the long crochet, and between the second and third long shell make a shell of six. Skip two and make a shell of six. This makes two shells with six in each, and one long crochet between directly over the shell of eight; fourth row, same as third row; fifth row, make eight shells in the middle of each shell shell, with a long crochet between each shell of eight directly over the long crochet in the preceding row; make two rows of the six shell; make one row of the eight shell; make one row of the eight shell; finish with rows of six shell to the length required. Make fringe of a chain of 20 caught between every long stitch around the cape.

A Photograph Frame.

A pretty photograph frame may be made of a piece of jolly wall paper, 14x12 inches. Cut a piece to fit a photograph into, mount the white on a card-board under glass, and bind round the edges with poppy red binding paper.