Hame Decaration? Christmas by JULIA BOTTOMILEY OME people have the knack

of arranging things. They take hold of a house or a room, be it ever so commonplace, and transformit with the materials we all at hand, into something beau-I recall a lady who used to buy an ugly house, move into it, and be-gin making changes outside and in. In about two years the whole place was simply transformed and she had spent the time happily and busily. But her occupation was gone, so she would look up another place that needed regenerating and put that which she had completed on the mar-She cashed in her ideas went happily to work again. The lit-tle city in which she lives is beautiful and she is one of the chief educators

of public taste. She shows others how to improve their surroundings. I knew another woman gifted in managing interiors. She had little money —less time, for she was a wage earner; but she had the faculty of making things sweet around her. I want to tell you of the Christmas decorations which transformed her small home into a sort of bewitching Christmas bower, not to be forgotten, and yet fashioned from just the same things we all have at hand. This is her rec-

Sometime before Christmas, say six weeks, buy a roll of dark red crape paper, and one of olive green, crape paper, also a sheet of pale yellow tis-Buy some cheap bonnet wire from the milliner. Use a real poinsettia blossom for a pattern or buy one already made of paper, and proceed to make up two dozen poinset-tia blossoms. First cut patterns, from a piece of wrapping paper, of the Open the netals of the poinsettia.



Bonbon Basket of Paper, Tinsel Star. Poinsettia Flowers, Paper Bells.

rolls of crape paper and stretch them. A roll of ten feet will stretch to fifteen and be improved thereby, for some To stretch the paper let some one hold one end for you while you pull the other gradually, or tack one end to the floor, stretch the paper and tack the other end, allowing it to remain for a few hours.

Cut from the red paper, according to your wrapping paper patterns, the petals, which will be in three sizes. Cut a yard of the green paper into length-wise strips, half inch wide, with which to wind the wire for stems 6 or 8 inches long is cut off. Four little wads of the yellow tissue paper the size of a large pea, are overed with a little n brought over the wad and twisted into a little stem. Then little wads are fastened to the end of the piece of wire by winding with a coarse thread or a fine spool wire. The latter is Place two or three small petals of the red paper around the end of the wire to which you have just fastened the little yellow wads and fasten them with thread or wire. Next place, larger petals and finally the largest size, following the natural blossom, or the paper one bought for a guide, as Wind the wire nearly as possible. stem with green tissue paper. Pull the edges of the petals slightly to give them a natural look. As the paper poinsettia blossoms are finished them in a hat box. In two or three evenings as many as will be needed, are easily made.

After the poinsettia is finished make little baskets of the red paper. For foundations use little card-board dishes such as confectioners use for Charlotte Russe, or those which may be for the purpose. Make han-wire. Cover the basket inside dies of wire. and out with the red paper, pasting it to place and pulling the edges ruffles. Make as many little baskets as there are guests-to-be. Cover the handles by wrapping the wire with ish with little bows made of baby rib-

baskets away with the poin Next a few candle or electric light throb of satisfaction. When the guests shades are to be made. As the crape paper costs no more when fireproofed, should specify the fire-proofed va-

rest on the metal shade supports From the paper napkin or dolly, cut a circle at the center 3½ inches in diameter. With a needle and thread gather this up to fit the metal support. Place the dolly over the card-board disc and tie the ends of the thread firmly about the metal.

As soon as the stores begin showing them, buy a few strands of red tinsel balls and two packages (about six yards) of silver tinsel. Two dozen of the small paper Christmas bells in red and, two bolts of red baby ribbon. These things are to be found at the ten cent stores, and cost very little. Get them early and put them away. Nothing further is needed but the evergreens which are bought just before they are used.

One small well-shaped Christmas tree will be needed and then a lot of



The Little Yule Log. A Festoon of Red Tinsel Beads Strung on Baby Ribbon.

greenery-boughs that have been cur away in trimming trees, or trees that do not sell readily because not well shaped may be bought for a trifle or these may be procured in this country. The sweet smelling kind add a distinct pleasure to Christmas. Bring try. your boughs and trees home two or three days before Christmas. Cut the branches from the trunks. With small branches wound to wire with dark cord or heavy thread, make wreaths for pinning to the window curtains.

Saw from the end of one of the tree trunks-(which will be from 4 to 6 inches in diameter) a piece 18 inches long for a miniature yule log. Tie red baby ribbon around each end and suspend from the chandelier or in a door-way. Hang a tiny bowl to represent an old-time kettle over it, using the baby ribbon. The short branches to baby ribbon. Tie short branches to too thickly with greens. Take the remaining greens and place them in the fruit baskets which you previously covered with green paper. Use holly with them. Set these wherever they look prettiest; in the windows, if the sills are deep enough. Pin a wreath to the curtains at each window. Now all your greens are placed and the red is to be added. The secret of using it effectively is to be sparing with it. Bring out your poinsettia and place two or three blossoms in a group somewhere in the green about each door and window. Fasten one flower at the top of each wreath. Festoon your little red tinsel balls among the greens at the top of the door by which

Decorate the Christmas tree with the silver tinsel and in the manner

your guests enter the living room. Use

the remaining ones in groups of two



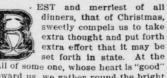
The Paper Candle Shade.

to which you have been accustomed for the sake of old times.

Place the remaining candles on the mantels, piano or on the dressing strips of the red paper. Fin- cases to be used by the guests.

Your decorating is done, and when bon or narrow strips of the paper the lights are lit and begin to glow either in red or green. Put the little through the red shades, you will re gard the little scene with a As the crape arrive all will be put in a lively good humor by the charm of their surroundings, from the living room and din Cut out card-board discs 5% inches to enjoy anything and everything the diameter with circles cut from the center, 2 inches in diameter. These gest.





oward us, we gather round the bright Sweet with fir, beautiful with holly, gleaming with white napery and twinkling glass and all lit with rosy candles, it sets the heart aglow, be speaking a loving kindness, which the salvation of our workaday world.

The dining room is the heart of the house and its great day is Christmas day. It is really very little trouble to decorate it for a Christmas dinner, and dressing the table cannot be spoken of as a trouble—it is a pleas-

The dining room must be entirely clean—the windows newly washed and the walls and furniture wiped off and polished up a bit, before the placing of decorations begins. These should be simple and in green so as not to distract the attention from the table.

If a hanging lamp or a chandelier is suspended over the table, nothing is much more effective than the festoons of green from lamp to the corners of the room. Ropes of ever-green are made by cutting off small branches and winding the stems with dark cord or heavy black thread. The lamp, or chandelier supports, may be ressed with sprays of evergreen and holly and the evergreen festoons arranged along the walls, underneath the plate rail, the festoons to be caught up with sprays of holly.

Branches of green over the windows and door casings and wreaths pinned at each window, on the curtains, are the time-honored Christmas decorations that cannot be improved upon and are dear because familiar.

But in setting forth her table the hostess has a chance to exercise her



Christmas Candle Shades and a Mica Shade for Protection

ingenuity and be as original as she

The table is to be made amply long so that it will not be crowded, and spread with a protecting pad, and an immaculate cloth, smooth and shining. Silver and glassware are to be scoured and polished and the china treated to the same freshening proc-ess, until everything shines. Lay a dinner napkin at each place and proceed to decorate the table.

A centerpiece is to be provided. very handsome one is made of a bolt of No. 80 red satin ribbon. Two lengths of this, each 1½ yards long, are crossed at the middle of the table, lying flat and the ends extending toward the corners of the table. the center an ornamental fern dish s fashloned of the ribbon about a plain fern dish.

The ribbon is made into standing loops, each about six inches in length. are placed in a row about the dish with the loops upstanding. The dish used may be an ordinary milk pan previously covered with red pa-per in crepe or tissue. Fill the pan with moss or sand. In the center stand a miniature Christmas tree, a tural baby tree if possible. Deconatural baby tree if possible. Describe the miniature tree with tiny candles and the smallest of red tinsel balls. The candles are not to be lighted. Place few decorations and have them all in miniature. The effect is charming.

Another pretty center piece is made with five ordinary tin candlesticks, supporting five red or white candles. Set one of these on an inverted paste board box in the center of the table and the four remaining candles one at each corner of the box, on the table. Use a small box, not larger than the bottom of the candlestick. Cover the candlesticks and the box with sprays of evergreen and holly and sprinkle over these the "diamond dust" which may be bought, or made by cutting a piece of tinsel rope into little particles. Make shades for the candles, sing red paper. Buy the fireproofed kind for safety.

The shades are very easily made by cutting four petals of paper and mounting them over an isinglass pro-tector on the brass shade holders. Pull out the edges of the paper to got the ruffled effect. The the shades about their support with a small cord. Over this place a piece of tinsel, fin-ishing it in a little bow or knot. Each ishing it in a little bor candle will appear to nest of green. The candles are to be lighted when the dessert is served. A candle shade such as is described is shown in the picture.

A third pretty centerpiece is made of a small round hand mirror and silver tinsel in the form of a five-pointed

star. Cut the star from a piece of white wrapping paper, making it 12 to 18 inches across. Lay the paper star in the center of the table and place the small mirror in the center of the star. Cover the paper star completely with silver tinsel. Place a tall slender vase in clear glass on the mirror and fill it with poinsettia blossoms or red carna-tions or bright red roses. If natural flowers are not available a tall candle in a glass stick, surrounded by shorter candles in shorter candlesticks, will do nicely.

At each place at table, a little basket is to be set containing salted pea-nuts or almonds, or red cinnamon drops and green mints. These bas



Bonbon Basket for the Dinner Table.

kets are made of red paper with a little spray of holly fastened to the Or they are pretty made of brown tissue paper twisted into cords and gilded with gold paint. A basket of this kind is shown in the illustra

If the table is long, candles may be placed at intervals around it, but otherwise, the centerpiece, with one er two candles at opposite ends of the table, will be the better arrangement. Place these candles diagonally opposite. White candles with red shades are as pretty as red ones for the din ner table.

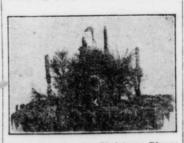
Cranberry jelly, which is nearly always a part of the menu, served in glass dishes, or set in a glass bowl, is decorative. Gellatin in two colors (red and green) in tall sherbet glasses is also fine as an aid in carrying out the Christmas color scheme. Triangular slices of bread or rolls of bread with red baby ribbon and placed on the bread and butter plates gives an additional little finishing touch.

When the silver is laid and the wa ter glasses placed, a small spray of holly for the buttonhole or corsage is to be placed for each person at the table. It rests on the napkins.

In order that the candles may last out the dinner it is as well to postpone lighting them until the dessert is served. Other lights may be turned lower at this time. The effect of glowing candles is very inspiring to the guests. Often the Christmas dinner must be

served in the early afternoon. If artificial lights are desired the hostess must darken the dining room. But there are pretty decorations from which candle light is omitted. The center piece for such a table may represent any familiar winter or Christmas scene. One may buy, at a trifling cost, a Santa Claus, on a chimney top, about to descend. These are made of painted pasteboard and a doll. At the confectioners' there are all sorts of Christmas pieces in the form of large candy boxes. Santa Claus and his reindeers are fine for the center piece mounted on a small box, concealed by evergreens and holly.

A table for daytime light may be arranged with a small mirror in the center about 18 inches square. Sur-round this by evergreens to represent skating pond. Dress two or more



Decorations for the Christmas Dinner

tiny dolls to represent skaters. loser you can come to making it look like a real pond in miniature the more you and your guests will be delight At the ten-cent stores one may buy small red houses and even glass icicles. Icicles may be represented by little pieces of tinsel also. After get to work the thing will grow under your hands and you will enthusiastic at the end. When all is finished the Christmas table justi-fies the thought and work put on it—

the play is indeed worth the candle If one must count expenses careful iy the decorations will be found to be more a matter of ingenuity than Evergreens and red paper wax candles and cheap candlesticks are within reach of nearly all of us. Of all days Christmas is, for that very reason, the one for which make our very best endeavor.

Christmas Precaution.

"Mother, if Santa Claus comes down the chimney, he'll have to walk through the kitchen, won't he?"

I suppose he will, dear."
Well, don't you think we'd maybe perhaps better lock up the pre-serves?"

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING HOME MADE **GIFTS**

BY JULIA BOTTOMLEY

HRISTMAS shopping is an easy enough matter for possessor of plenty of money, but for the most of us Christmas time shows a great disparity between the size of our pocketbook and that of our heart—the latter is

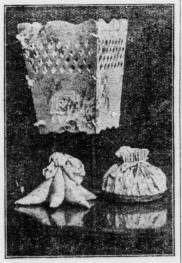
so much bigger. The world is full of pretty things, waiting to be bought by those with money enough. There is consolation in the fact that the gift which costs time and thought, and is a little tax on the resources of the giver, means more to the recipient than any other.

We are eager to remember our own dear people and some of our friends Now the question is, how much can we spend and how shall we spend it, to include them all?

We will start out with mother; she should come first. A search through the shops shows a lot of pretty gifts that may be bought for little money and a greater number that may be made at home at a saving. She will appreciate our circumstances. Some good things may be found at the ten cent stores even, and they are the stronghold of the little folks who want to make a dollar go a long way. Mother will like the pretty waste paper basket shown in the picture, of white moire paper with delicate roses on it. Here may be found good looking candlesticks of clear glass, which are as pretty as those that cost three times as much.

Lacquer boxes, from Japan, cheap and artistic, and very durable. Such boxes for gloves and handkerchiefs range in price from twenty-five cents to a dollar or so and are to be found in department stores.

Selecting a present that may be made at home is easy because the outlay of money is usually small and the finished article a success. There are pin cushions and bags of flowered



A Waste Basket of Flowered Paper, Pin Cushion and Collar Bag of Silk.

ribbon such as are shown in the plc ture. Pretty little muslin aprons and hand-made laces, made of Rennais-sance braid and simple stitches. Towels with large initial embroidered in the corner never fail to delight either mother or grandmother. Combing jackets, like that shown in the pic-Combing ture, are made of squares of figured cotton or silk or of large handkerchiefs. They cost almost nothing, since one may make them of a remnant a yard square or of four cheap cotton handkerchiefs (with pretty fig-ures) and two yards of narrow satin ribbon. These handkerchiefs are used for short kimonos, laundry bags, sofa and smaller embroidered handkerchiefs for pin cushions. Bed slippers, made of elder down flannel, make an acceptable present for an old person. They are prettily finished with fancy stitches and ribbon and cost next to nothing.

Getting a present for father or grandfather taxes the thought; men's vants seem to be so few compared

Handkerchiefs, ties and slippers are among those that cost little and are acceptable. Bill purses, for the safe carrying of money, cost from 25 cents to two or more dollars. A good plain fountain pen gives a man continual satisfaction, and other articles for convenient writing he likes. There are portfolios with paper and blotters, and other articles. Desk fittings, and especially those made of Japanese antimony, are tasteful and a great

Among the things that may be made at home, the list for men is not long. House jackets and slippers are dear to the heart of the man who wants to be comfortable. Bath robes are not difficult to make and a great comfort. Bed slippers, for the old, are a luxury they enjoy. Young men like ties, stick pins and handkerchiefs, books and kodaks.

out to buy a present for grown-up or nearly grown sister. She will like all the pretty things for her dressing case, the candles, pin cushions, and a lot of little foolish things beside. Sterling silver shoe buttoners and shoe spoons are to be had for a quarter. Buffers, nall files, tooth brushes with silver handles, appeal to the taste for luxury which girls possess. She can never have too shawls many dainty handkerchiefs and neck-infant.

pieces, or too many gay ribbons for her hair or lingerie. All these can be found at an expense ranging from twenty-five cents up to two or more dollars.

Young girls like ornamental pic ture frames, pretty jewel cases, puff boxes and hat pin holders. These are shown in tasteful designs for fifty cents each

All girls love perfumery and achets. They like calendars with sachets. pretty verses, to hang in their rooms, and chain or mesh purses them. These may be bought for fifty



Tea Apron of Muslin and Lace Collar and Chemisette of Lace.

cents to fifty dollars each. Fans are shown in a like variety.

If you prefer to make a present at home nothing is more likely to delight girl than a bedroom set for her bed, window and dressing case. These sets consist of spread with flounce, curtains, pillow shams and cover for dressing case. Muslin and casement cloths are used for making them and cost from five to fifteen cents a yard.

Fancy bands for the hair, made of ribbon or tulle, especially if bright-ened with spangles, are acceptable to the girlish heart. The floating veil of chiffon and the soft scarf for the head and shoulders will make her eyes sparkle with pleasure. One has only to buy 2½ or 3 yards of material and hem it, for these. Silk muslin makes lovely scarfs and may be had from thirty cents to a dollar a yard. A scarf of this fabric is shown in the picture.

Big brothers will like the same things father does and besides, he will like pictures of sports, baseball and football subjects. College flags and football subjects. for his room, sofa pillows, pipes and pipe racks appeal to him. He will flourish silk hoslery with great satisfaction and if one may spend a sufficient sum he likes a good suit case or the fittings for one for traveling.

The younger boys and girls rarely leave us uninformed as to what they want. The girls want dolls and miniature housekeeping things. Small sets of furs please them. Hoods, leggings and mittens, bright hair rib-bons, a length of goods for a new dress and school aprons are among their gifts. Beads for the neck and handkerchiefs they treasure. Girls are fond of finger rings and purses, and they enjoy kodaks as much as boys do. In selecting presents, it is well to get those which will keep the girls out of doors as much as possible Skates for ice or roller skating and mufflers for warmth are gifts that do much good.

As for the small boy, he voices his preferences with some insistence. He likes mechanical toys, skates and sleds. Albums for his picture postcards or his collection of stamps and books of adventure, give him much pleasure. A good boys' magazine or a mechanical magazine (if he is old

The baby and the tiny people Just out of babyland are delighted with



Combing Jacket Mads of a Large Handkerchief or a Square of Fabric

all the toys, of which there are so many, made for them. They like the toy animals best. Building blocks and picture books they never tire of and the dear old fairy tales please It is no trouble to them forever. It is no trouble to select a gift for them. There are hundreds on sale that cost little, or much, as you will. They are as happy with a doll from the ten cent store as with one for five dollars, and have It is easy sailing when we start been known to prefer a rag baby to

a talking prodigy. At home one may make for them little shoes and bonnets, or baskets, gaily decked with ribbon, containing their toilet requisites: soap, vaseline and fine tale powder. A plain basket, gilded and lined and decked with ro-settes of baby ribbon, pleases the young mother. Little boots of crochet, elderdown or chamols, cashmers shawls and sucks, are for the young