

## DAINTY WORK FOR PLEASURE AND PROFIT

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**I** HAVE been asked to conduct a department in this magazine that shall be devoted to decorative work for women, and for this department four pages have been set aside by the management. This space is to be filled with practical instruction along the lines of embroidery, lace, burnt wood, leather work, drawn work, and in a word, to all the arts that can be employed in beautifying the home.

In this, my introduction to my readers, I wish to say that I consider it a privilege to be allowed to conduct this department, and expect to derive much pleasure in the new acquaintances I shall make, and in return I hope to be of real practical help to you all. A letter box will be opened in the next issue of the magazine in this department, and no question will be considered too simple to be answered. Write on one side of the paper only, and, if an immediate answer is desired, send a return stamped envelope; you will find my address at the head of this department.

Much of the space this month must, of necessity, be devoted to getting acquainted and to the laying out of the work for future issues. As embroidery of all kinds is so much used now for all purposes from center pieces to the handsomest

gowns, much space must be given to original designs, and of the method of their working out. The styles of embroidery now most used are the French embroidery, Mount Mellick embroidery, Opus Plumarian, or solid embroidery in blended colors, and the skeleton embroidery. Of these, perhaps, Mount Mellick is the most popular. It is used on gowns, shirt waists, and for all household purposes, where white embroidery is desired. It is not suited for color schemes, but in black or white is most effective. Initials and monograms, now so commonly used, call for designs and lessons for the correct way of working them, and my lady's lingerie to be correct, must now be worked in French embroidery by her own dainty fingers, hence some space must be given to this kind of embroidery. In giving the lessons for the colored embroidery I shall use the number method, invented by myself some eighteen years ago, and first published in "Dainty Work for Pleasure and Profit," a manual of embroidery, considered an authority on art needlework, as it was then taught, but now out of print. This system I gave the public freely, and it has been adopted by all the best teachers in the country, teachers who not only adopted the system, but who claim it as their own. However, it is



*Bishop Collar.*

enough to say that by this method a child can be taught to embroider correctly, without ever seeing a teacher, provided she can read.

And now one last word: I wish to be a helpful friend to you—individual woman—whoever you may be, and wherever you may live. I wish to develop the love for the beautiful in decorative art that is inherent in every woman, in you, and help you to give it expression in the form best suited to your individual needs. To do this I must get in close touch with each reader, and if enough

help is not given in the department on the line of work she is interested in, then a letter addressed to me will bring the special help by mail or through the letter box, as may be preferred. When the question is to be answered in the columns devoted to this purpose, it must be remembered that I live far from where this magazine is published, and all matter for publication should reach me early.

#### FANCY WORK AS A MEANS OF MAKING MONEY AT HOME.

This is always a fascinating subject to the woman who needs to eke out a slender income, and whose duties prevent her from leaving home. An embroidery needle or a crochet hook is the usual recourse of such women. The great hindrance to their money earning, however, is the lack of a market

for their wares at home. To the experienced worker for small sums this is a solved problem, but for the beginner it frequently proves such a big black bear in the path, that discouragement follows, and the attempt is abandoned. The solution of this difficulty lies in the women's exchanges—those located in the larger cities. These exchanges offer a fairly sure outlet for really good work in almost any line of woman's work. I do not wish to be understood as advising a dependence upon exchange sales for

the woman who is entirely dependent upon herself for her maintenance. The sales are not regular enough in the best of exchanges for her entire support. But for those women who depend upon their own efforts for the difference between actual necessities and comforts, and for those

to whom a little more would mean luxury, or the doing of some duty requiring money not to be had otherwise, the woman's exchange offers the "open door" for her wares. To be more exact: A woman known to me for many years, one who finds it necessary to earn money for the eking out process, has been making crocheted mats for hot dishes for the last three years. She makes them of cotton yarn, and they are perfectly made. Last year she sold, in one exchange, over a hundred and fifty dollars' worth of these mats. She sells them in sets of four. As the yarn is cheap, the amount she receives



*Martha Washington Collar  
for Maderia Embroidery.*