



VOL. 49.

No. 1270.

OUR FRETWORK DESIGN.
A Palm Stand in Oak.

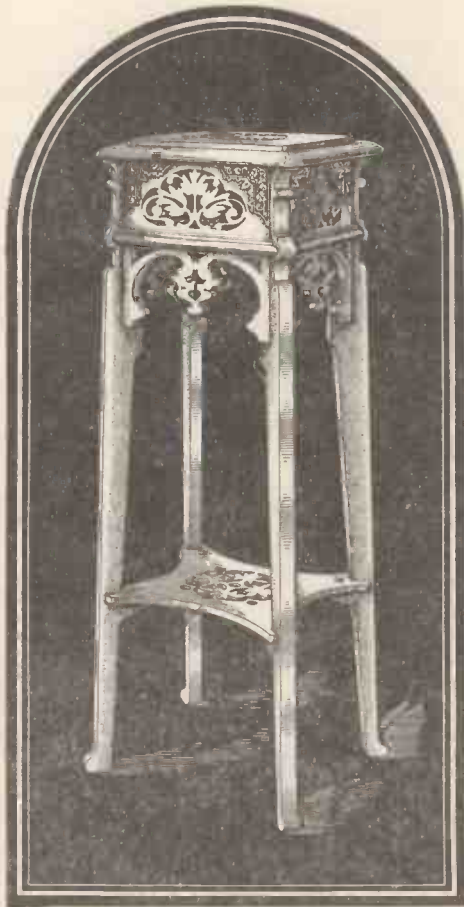
FEBRUARY 14,

1920.

WE have a design sheet to present to our readers this week which we believe will please them more than usual: it is a Palm Stand of a very substantial character, with dignified decoration of a very attractive and regular nature, as illustrated in the centre of the page. Its effect may be still further heightened by the addition of the metal corner ornaments provided by Hobbies Limited.

Dimensions and Materials.

The overall dimensions are as follows:—Height, 18ins. by 7ins. square. In the construction of this stand there are four different thicknesses of wood required, viz., $\frac{1}{2}$ in., $\frac{3}{4}$ in., $\frac{1}{2}$ in. and $\frac{1}{4}$ in. The most satisfactory wood in which to execute it without doubt is oak, and it is therefore of that variety that Hobbies special parcel consists. Owing to the fact that there are these four different thicknesses required, our fretwork readers



No. 1270.—PALM STAND.

Height, 18ins.

will find that the best way to secure all that is necessary in the shape of material is to secure one of the special parcels referred to—it would be cheaper than having to purchase four independent pieces of wood, which would mean that there would be bound to be a certain amount that would not be required, and would probably result in waste. Some No. 18 prepared oak moulding will also be needed to place around the sides of the stand, and this also is included in the parcel referred to.

The only fittings required in addition to a few brass screws, are the eight metal corner overlays, No. 5119; these are also obtainable from Hobbies Ltd., or their branches or agents. Particulars of these are given in the small type paragraph at the end of this article.

The Patterns.

This is rather a large subject to find room for completely on the ordinary weekly design supplement, and therefore in one or two in-

stances additional patterns will have to be made by tracing or otherwise. The parts that will need attention in this way are the legs and the $\frac{3}{4}$ in. thick top—all comparatively plain sections, which will cause the fretworker little trouble.

In regard to the two additional legs which are needed, the best and easiest way to produce them will be to first cut out very exactly one of the legs from the printed pattern, and then to use the actual finished leg as a template with which to mark the others upon the wood. This may be done by sharpening an HB pencil and carefully running it round the cut leg. Thus no tracing nor extra paper pattern will be necessary, but the *sine-qua-non* is that the leg to be used as the pattern is to be cut well and smoothly.

In regard to the top—which is quite a plain part except for the slots—we advise that a tracing be made upon a thin piece of unglazed paper—the paper known as “bank” would be, perhaps, the most suitable. The tracing will be, of course, done by means of a piece of fine carbon paper; this will be placed on the paper, business side down, the printed pattern laid above it, and all three sheets secured firmly with drawing pins. The tracing will be done by a moderately sharp HH pencil.

Some Cutting Notes.

Much of the wood to be used in making this Palm Stand is thick, and also considering that the selected wood is oak, we recommend a coarse fretsaw blade for the work. The eight overlays may, however, be cut with a finer blade, say a Hobbies No. 1 or 2. The blade should be used at a good tension and a lubricating device should be adopted, the best being a short stump of a wax candle, which may be passed up and down the blade at intervals, and will leave the cut edges with a slight wax polish.

Fretworkers should bear in mind all that we have said in the past in regard to the execution of angle frets and square corners; in no such case should a cutter attempt to turn the saw at the point or corner, but in the waste wood, making the second line a separate operation.

The top and its overlay may be executed partly by means of the tenon-saw and plane, i.e., on their rectangular exterior lines; this should be done before the decorative centre is cut in the overlay or the slots in the top, for to

fret these first would render the parts too fragile for handling with the tenon-saw and the plane.

Construction.

When the whole of the parts have been cut out, certain preparatory work must be done before they are put together. The four side panels will all need chamfering at their ends to meet the angle of the diagonally-placed legs, the angle being 45° . This will be done with care by a very sharp small plane, or with a rasp and file.

The edge of the $\frac{3}{4}$ in. thick top will have to be worked to a thumb moulding first with a rasp, then a finer file, and lastly, coarse and fine sandpaper.

When these items have been attended to, the parts will go together in the following order:—First fit and glue the stretcher-piece between the legs, making it stronger by the addition of fine round-headed brass nails, at least $\frac{3}{4}$ in. long. Holes may be drilled for these in the stretcher-piece before it is assembled, but when in position the holes should be also continued in the projections on the legs.

The sides should then be fitted temporarily into the slots in the top, and the whole placed to try it between the top of the legs. When it has been ascertained that the fit is satisfactory, the sides may be glued to the legs and the top added, a piece of card being fixed tightly round the legs and sides until the glue has set.

The overlay may then be glued on and cramped up till set, and the moulding prepared, mitred and glued on, as indicated on the illustration on the previous page.

The best finish will be to fume the parts before assembling, or to give a coat of fumed oak stain somewhat diluted, afterwards putting on a coat of wax and polishing it with a stiff brush. The metal overlays may then be fixed in the upper corners of the side panels by means of fine fretpins.

E. S.

FRETWOOD.—For this design we supply a selected parcel of Oak, together with sufficient No. 13 Moulding, 3s. post free 3s. 9d.

FITTINGS.—3 Corners, No. 5119, 2s. per set, post free 2s. 1½d. Postage on complete parcel 9d.

The above prices are subject to revision without notice.

Orders by post to **HOBBIES LTD.**, Dereham. Goods may also be had at:—**LONDON**: 65, New Oxford Street, W.C.; 147, Bishopsgate, E.C.; 79, Walworth Road, S.E. **GLASGOW**: 326, Argyle Street. **MANCHESTER**: 10a, Piccadilly. **BIRMINGHAM**: 9a, High Street. **LEEDS**: 15, County Arcade. And Agents.

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THE EDITOR'S NOTE BOOK

Should We Specialise in our Hobbies?

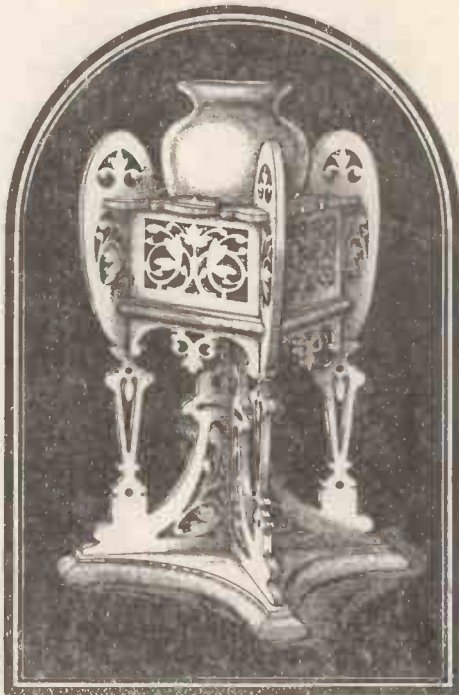
SPECIALISATION always implies two things; firstly, it means a much greater degree of efficiency, while, secondly, it means a greater monotony in one's work. Our readers will undoubtedly agree with us that the former is by far the more important consideration, though means should be adopted to overcome any undue degree of monotony. Specialisation may not necessarily imply that one, and only one, line should be taken up and there probably lies the solution to the monotony question. The great idea that we would impress upon our readers is that they should not make the attempt to run half-a-dozen hobbies, for while monotony would not exist in so doing, it would be like the clergyman who tried every religion under the sun, and at the finish had got his mind into such a state of confusion that people looked upon him merely as a curiosity; while he accomplished nothing beyond the earning of an unenviable reputation. Is it not far better to do one or two things well than half-a-dozen indifferently? It stands to reason that if an amateur worker has ten hours a week to devote to craft-work, and which he divides between two crafts, he becomes much more expert in handling the various tools than if he were to divide his ten hours of recreation between four or five different hobbies. His reputation in the craft world can only be made by rigorously adhering to one or two forms of execution at the most. It is our desire that HOBBIES readers should become the real experts in the respective crafts which they adopt as recreation; therefore their motto should be "Specialise."

Jig-Saw Puzzle Maps.

The jig-saw puzzle provides an excellent method of teaching geography to the young

folk, and even the elders might with advantage use this method in order to become acquainted with the recent great changes in the national boundaries which have been effected by the world war.

The puzzle would not be sufficiently a puzzle if all the great countries were merely cut out as complete entities; the object should be to cut out each county, or department, or State, separately; by so doing a real puzzle would be formed and the geographical sense would be well stimulated in piecing the puzzle together. This is an idea which we recommend to all our readers, and one which they may work out upon their own lines.



THE SUBJECT OF NEXT WEEK'S DESIGN SHEET.

Wonderful Land Ducks.

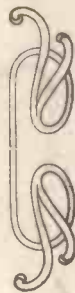
We are glad to know that the wonderful utility qualities of the Runner ducks are beginning to be recognised by the general public. Below the writer's window there is a small colony of these birds, which are more economical to maintain in egg-laying condition than the more widely-used fowl. The secret of this economy is that they are to be classed among the best foragers; for during the day it is, perhaps, no exaggeration to say that they them-

selves obtain at least 60 per cent, of their sustenance without cost to their owners. Amateur poultry-keepers should most certainly consider the advisability of starting a pen of these runner ducks; they cost less to feed, their egg is of the most useful medium size, and their egg production is greater than is the case with ordinary fowls.

Next Week's Fret Design.

The subject of our Supplemental Fretwork Design Sheet next week will be a Centre Vase Stand. The article is illustrated in the centre of the page.

THE EDITOR.



Street Door Number Plates.

ANYONE who has a fretsaw need not be content with the ordinary painted number on his door, but can make a quite distinctive number plate, similar to either of those shown at Figs. 1, 2 or 3 in our illustrations. The making of such plates is a simple matter, and even those who have had but little experience with the fretsaw will meet with no difficulties. The cost is quite insignificant, and the fretsaw is the only tool required.

The plate and number are first cut separately and are then glued together, wood $\frac{1}{4}$ in. thick being used. Either of two methods could be employed in carrying out the work, the plate and number could both be cut from the same kind of wood, or a different kind could be used for the number. If the same kind of wood is used for both plate and number it will be advisable to use oak, and the surface of the plate should be used, or to use a technical term "matted," using a matt punch, or an ordinary wire nail. If the plate and number are cut from different kinds of wood it will be advisable to use a dark kind, say, oak, or mahogany, for the plate, and a light kind, such as holly or sycamore, for the number. The latter method of construction will, perhaps, give a more distinct number, but the former method will, no doubt, have a more refined appearance,

and very few will guess but that the number-plate has been carved from the solid.

In cutting single numbers such as the 9 and 7, shown at Figs. 4 and 5, either shape plates may be used, the edges being cut square, as shown at Fig. 7, or bevelled as shown at Fig. 8. The bevel cut can be easily accomplished by those who are fortunate in possessing a machine, but good results may be obtained by using a tilting cutting table in conjunction with the hand frame. Notice the holes in the plates for fixing. The number should be cut with square edges.

With a double number, such as the 14, shown at Fig. 6, it is advisable to have an oblong plate, and a very nice effect can be obtained by surrounding it with a raised border or frame (see Fig. 9), cut and fixed in the same way as the numbers.

Our readers will quite understand that it is impossible for us to show all the numbers which may be required, but with the examples shown it will not be difficult to sketch out any desired number, especially as the plates need not be varied.

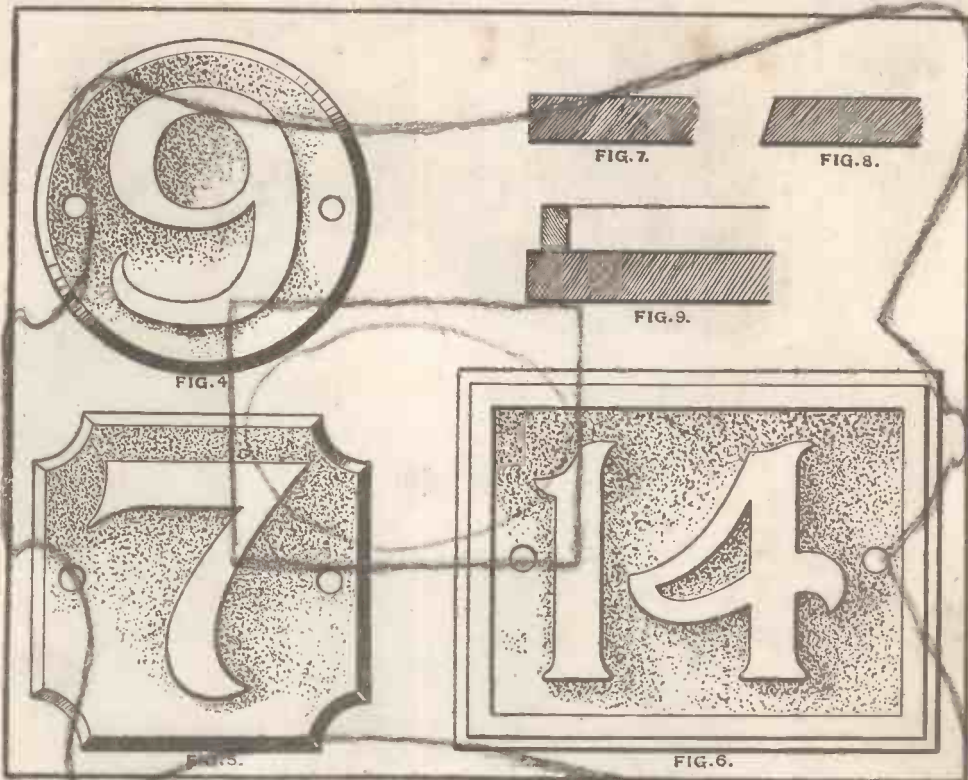
The number plates may be finished either by varnishing or oiling, and round head brass screws should be used in fixing to the door.



FIG. 1.

FIG. 3.

FIG. 2.



Become Eligible for the B.S.F. Competitions.

FRETWORKERS who are fond of competitions should be attracted by this year's annual contents arranged in connection with the British Society of Fretworkers announced elsewhere in this issue. The competitions are restricted to Fellows, Members and Associates, but it is quite an easy matter for anyone to become eligible to participate in them. Fill in the form printed below, and forward it to the Registrar, B.S.F., Temple Avenue, London, together with the fee named.

British Society of Fretworkers.

APPLICATION.

To the Registrar, British Society of Fretworkers,

Temple House, Temple Avenue, London

Sir, Please send me the necessary Forms and the Design Sheet in order that I may apply for enrolment in this Society. I herewith forward P.O. for 6d. as entrance fee.

Date

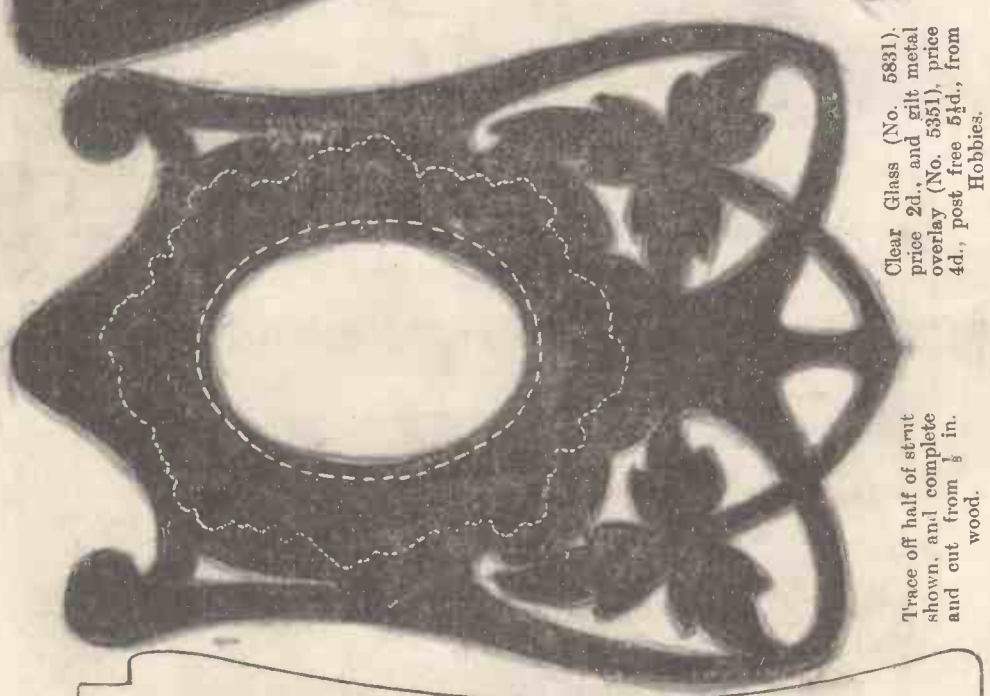
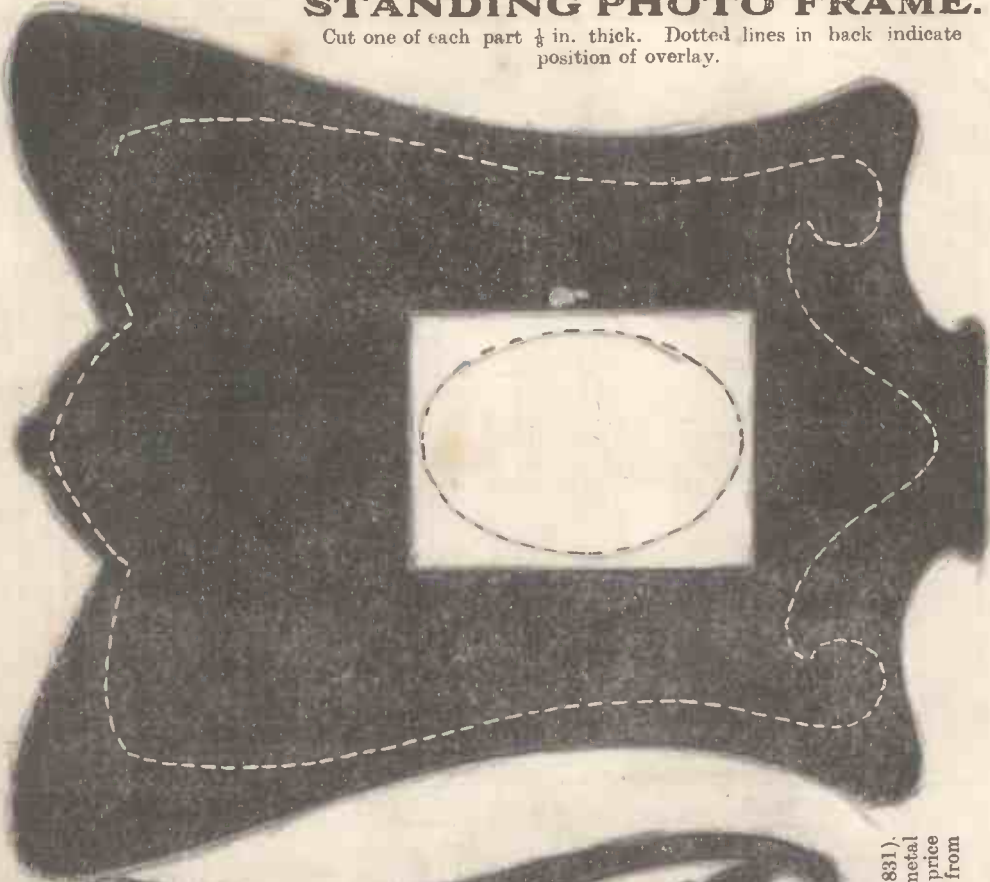
No.

Name

Address

HOBBIES EXTRA DESIGN SHEET No. 414X. STANDING PHOTO FRAME.

Cut one of each part $\frac{1}{8}$ in. thick. Dotted lines in back indicate position of overlay.



Clear Glass (No. 5831), price 2d., and gilt metal overlay (No. 5851), price 4d., post free 5½d., from Hobbies.

Trace off half of strip shown, and complete and cut from $\frac{1}{8}$ in. wood.





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turn from your food if you
use Mustard ! ”

Why go to an expensive Spa to look for an appetite? You can have one on your table for next to nothing. Mustard will keep your appetite keen—your digestion good. Use it regularly—freshly mixed every day—and you will find yourself looking forward to meal times.

Colman's
D.S.F. **Mustard**

B.S.F. COMPETITIONS.

CLOSING DATE MARCH 31st.

EVERY fretworker connected with the British Society of Fretworkers looks forward with interest each year to these competitions, and we feel sure the subjects chosen this time will create the same healthy rivalry which has characterised previous contests of the kind. The announcement being later than usual, the closing date of the competitions will be as stated above (March 31st). The following are the subjects and prizes:—

CLASS I.—CONVENTIONAL FRETWORK.

Open to Fellows and Members only
Subject:
Glove Box
(Design No. 1263) to be cut in lacewood. An article dealing with this pleasing design appeared in HOBBIES dated December 27th, 1919.

First Prize: Silver-gilt Medal of the Society.
Second Prize: Silver Medal.
Third Prize: Bronze Medal.

Hobbies Ltd. supply a parcel of selected lacewood for making the glove box, together with No. 16 knob, for 3s. 3d. by post 3s. 9d. The fittings, consisting of eight British-made brass corners, Old English finish (No. 5119), cost 2s. 1½d. by post. Postage on complete parcel 6d.

CLASS II.—HAND FRAME WORK.

Open to Members and Associates only.

Subject:

Convex Mirror Frame (Design No. 1249.) The design for this pretty Mirror Frame formed the Fretwork Supplement presented with HOBBIES dated September 20th, 1919, in which journal was published an article explaining its construction, the most

difficult parts being specially illustrated.

First Prize: A1 Fretwork Machine.
Second Prize: Briton Fretwork Machine
Third Prize: A1 Fretwork Outfit.

Sycamore being considered a most suitable wood from which to make it, Hobbies Ltd. supply a parcel of selected wood of that kind, together with sufficient Nos. 17, 18 and 21 moulding for 2s. 5d., by post 2s. 11d. Also the required size of Convex Mirror (No. 5726), for 1s. 10d., by post 2s. 2d. The postage on the complete parcel is 6d.



SUBJECT FOR CLASS I.

CLASS III.—DECORATIVE FRETWORK.

Open to Associates only.

Subject:
Overlaid Hand Mirror (Design No. 1256.) The construction

of this article, which makes an excellent present for a lady, was explained in HOBBIES, Nov. 8th, 1919.

First Prize: B.S.F. Silver Medal.
Second Prize: Bronze Medal.
Third Prize: Bronze Medal.

A parcel of specially selected wood for making the Hand Mirror is supplied by Hobbies Ltd. for 1s. 10d., by post 2s. 4d.; also the required shape and size Mirror (No. 5725), 2s. 6d., by post 2s. 10d. The postage on the complete parcel is 6d.



SUBJECT FOR CLASS II.



SUBJECT FOR CLASS III.

CLASS IV.—ANTOFRET AND INLAY.

Open to Fellows, Members and Associates.
 Subject: Antofret Inlaid Box (Design No. 932A). When finished, this attractive-looking



SUBJECT FOR CLASS IV.

box measures 8½ ins. in length and 5 ins. in width.

First Prize: A6 Fretwork Outfit and Certificate.

Second Prize: A1 Fretwork Outfit and Certificate.

Third Prize: Goods to the value of 5s.

Hobbies Ltd. supply the required parcel of dark walnut, together with five 1-16 in. panels for inlaying, and four No. 20 feet for 3s. 6d., by post 4s. The two brass handles (No. 5407), which are extra strong, cost 2s., or by post 2s. 3d.

Subject: The Overlays of Trinket Box (Hobbies Extra Design Sheet No. 412) which appeared in HOBBIES dated Jan. 24th, 1920) to be cut in ivory or xylonite.

First Prize: Gold Medal of the Society.

Second Prize: B.S.F. Silver Medal.

Third Prize: B.S.F. Bronze Medal.

Both ivory and xylonite can be procured from Hobbies Ltd.

Regulations.

(These Competitions are for Fellows, Members and Associates of the Society only.)

Every article sent in for Competition should be carefully packed in a strongly-made box, and addressed—The Registrar, B.S.F., 79, Walworth Road, London, S.E.

The closing date for receiving such articles is March 31st, 1920.

Entry Forms are obtainable from Members and Associates of the Society, and from the Registrar, B.S.F., Temple House, E.C., each application to be accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope.

A Separate Entry Form must be filled in for each Class, and forwarded by post to the Registrar, Temple House, E.C., at least a week before the closing date.

Associates of the Society securing first prizes in these contests will afterwards be gazetted as Members.

Amount to cover postage or carriage for return of articles must be enclosed. If to be sent by rail the route should be mentioned.

CLASS V.—ORNAMENTAL FRETWORK.

Open to Members and Associates.

Subject: Fern Boat (Design No. 1245.) The making of this handsome article was dealt with in HOBBIES, dated August 23rd, 1919.

First Prize: Goods to the value of One Guinea and Certificate.

Second Prize: Goods to the value of 10s. 6d. and Certificate.

Third Prize: Goods to the value of 5s.

For this design Hobbies will supply a selected parcel of satin walnut together with sufficient No. 21 moulding for 3s. 6d., by post 4s., and the pair of bronze chariot panels (No. 5406) for 4s. by post 4s. 2d. The postage on the complete panel is 6d.

CLASS VI.—MINIATURE FRETWORK.

Open to Fellows, Members and Associates.



SUBJECT FOR CLASS V.



SUBJECT FOR CLASS VI.

POULTRY KEEPING NOTES



WE are now face to face with a new breeding season that is chock full of opportunities for enterprising poultry keepers, and I hope everyone will take full advantage of it by bringing his methods up-to-date, and aiming for a higher standard of productiveness and rate of profit, both of which are obtainable only by anyone who goes in for first-class stock kept on systematic lines. I am writing this during a period of atrocious weather in December, and from all sides I hear complaints that people are not getting any eggs. Yet whenever I enquire into such cases I find a good reason for failure. Sometimes it is lack of proper scratching accommodation, and at other time it is simply through keeping an inferior class of stock; but more often the two defects are both present, and it is safe to conclude that the owner is either ignorant of the elementary principles of successful poultry keeping, or else he does not trouble himself to apply them. There are quite a lot of people who have had the opportunity of learning the right way to do things, but either through lack of confidence, or lack of real interest they carry on in the old inefficient manner and never attain anything like real success, for it cannot be considered successful to get a nice lot of eggs in Spring, when even the most degenerate old hens will lay, and none at all during the Autumn and Winter.

In my own locality I have endeavoured to convince some of the faint-hearted that it really pays to keep poultry on up-to-date lines—that is, to go in for stock of bred-to-lay strains, and to accommodate them on commonsense lines with plenty of covered space for scratching purposes. Last week, in the midst of the bad weather, I was getting nine or ten eggs a day from a flock of twelve white Leghorn pullets, and two or three neighbours, hearing of this, came along to see if it was true, and if so how it was done. I convinced them that it was a genuine case, for they had only to look at the birds to see how fit and productive they were; and I think I made it clear that this good egg yield in the darkest month of the whole year was due to (1) keeping good stock, (2) hatching early and getting pullets forward and in good condition in the autumn, (3) providing airy, well-lighted scratching shed accommodation so that in bad weather the birds could live natural and healthy lives without exposure to severe climatic conditions, and (4) giving the birds as much good food as they would eat

readily without encouraging them to become lazy and fat. Then I pointed out that if they, too, wanted to get a nice lot of eggs in November and December they must make a clean sweep of low-grade stock and inferior methods and go in for real good birds and real good accommodation, which, of course, means planking down a substan-

tial sum of money.

That, unfortunately, is the stumbling block in most cases. Many people cannot afford the expense, and others who might afford it prefer to carry on on the cheap, hoping that luck will be with them, and that they will be able to attain better results without actually doing anything to deserve them. That is why thousands of poultry-keepers go on losing money and missing opportunities. Some of them, in the hope of doing better without much cost, invest in a sitting of eggs, or a few chickens from pedigree laying stock, but as these well-bred birds are simply housed and kept under the same depressing conditions as the mongrels were formerly, they fail to acquit themselves creditably, except in spring and summer when the weather conditions favour them. After all, environment is the deciding factor in winter egg-production, and not even the best-bred, best-conditioned birds will give a good account of themselves if they have to spend their days in a little open run, exposed to rain and wind, with nothing but a bank of cold mud to stand upon, except when they go into the roosting house, which, of course, provides no facilities for exercising. I always tell people they must have a good scratching shed if they are going in for winter egg-production, and when they see how effective such accommodation is in conditioning their laying stock they will be all the more keen to get good birds descended from heavy layers, and inheriting the capacity to give good egg yields. It is the greatest mistake to get the good stock first, and to subject them to unsatisfactory conditions of environment, for they will not have a fair chance, and the result of the experiment will most likely be a flat disappointment.

The coming breeding season will give everyone a chance to get hold of better stock through the purchase of eggs for hatching, or day-old chicks for rearing, and it is to be hoped that as many as possible will take advantage of this opportunity, and not be content any longer with so-called cross-breds, which are nearly mongrels, and very often degenerate ones at that. The possession of better stock, provided you are successful in rearing a few nice pullets, will encourage you to provide better accommodation, and by degrees you will improve both stock and plant, especially when you realise how much better results are to be obtained in this way. It may be too late to ensure a good egg-yield this winter, but next winter you should lay yourself out to get it.

Have you ordered a copy of Hobbies 1920 Catalogue ?

UMBRELLA REPAIRING AT HOME

II.—Ribs, Notch and Runner.

IN the previous article mention was made of the repairing of a broken rib by means of a rib splicer, which is the simplest and easiest way to do the repair, but was somewhat unsightly for a good umbrella; therefore it is necessary to make a decent repair where time will allow. The first thing is to obtain a rib, either out of an old umbrella at home, or purchase one the same size as those already in the frame. Gent's umbrellas usually have ribs of 25 inches in length, while ladies' umbrella ribs vary from 23 ins. down to 21½ ins.; smaller sizes than this are used in maids' or children's umbrellas. Care must be taken that the rib is measured from the extreme end, and not from the two eyes; in other words, the overall measurement. Another point is that there are various makes of ribs, but if the one being repaired is examined before it is commenced, it may save taking it apart before finding this out. The usual make is of fluted pattern, and other makes are seldom met with, so that for ordinary purposes most ribs are the same. Another thing to mention before the work is commenced, is to see that the stretcher, which is the short length of the rib attached to the middle of the long length, is also the same size as the one being repaired. Now having obtained an exact pattern rib, commence to replace it by cutting the stitches, securing the cloth rosette to the slide, or runner, as it is termed, which slides up the stick from near the handle, and slip this rosette up the stick, out of the way, so that it can be replaced after the work has been done. Next, with fine nosed pliers untwist the wire which secures the stretchers to the slide in the small groove at the lower end, and remove each rib from the wire and let it fall loose. Now with a short piece of soft wire commence to thread each rib into the runner again until you come to the broken one, when, instead take the end of the new one and wire it to the runner. When all are completed, twist the end of the wire and cut it short, and force the end down out of the way. Next open the umbrella as wide as possible, but not on the top spring, so that you can get down to the bottom of the umbrella easily, and here cut the wire binding all the ribs to the small circular piece of metal termed the notch. Then unloose each rib and remove the wire, and thread each rib on to a new wire similar to that done at the runner, taking care that the new

rib is included in its correct place. The next thing is to cut the stitches securing the old rib to the seam, and remove it altogether. Then the umbrella can be opened to see if the work is correct. If so, stitch the rib to the seam of the case, and also to the extreme end called the tip. If by any chance when the umbrella is closed the runner does not fall directly on to the spring, the fault lies in the re-threading of the runner, and it will have to be undone and the correct stretcher found to make it fall in its correct place. Before we leave this method of repairing the umbrella rib, it would be as well to mention that where the rib is broken off at either end there is a small hollow metal piece which can be used to replace it. The one used at the handle end of the rib is termed the globe tip, as it is similar to a globe on top, while the tip used at the other end is called the top tip. Both tips are the same shape as the rib is at the ends where they fit, so that it is difficult to detect them when on. They are fitted quite easily by cutting about ¼ in. off the end, and placing the tip on, then forcing as much of the tip as possible into the groove of the rib. This can be done with the screw-driver, or some such tool. The tip at the lower end of the rib is threaded to the notch just in the same way as was done when replacing the rib. The tip at the handle end seldom breaks, so that there are very few globe tips used, but sometimes when a rib is a little too long it is cut at this part and one of these tips used.

In the case of a professional umbrella repairer these tips are seldom used, and the method of replacing the broken rib as described, although the easiest, is not always employed. The way it is done is to take off the cover and ribs away from the stick, and in so doing turn over both, which previously requires the small metal cap near the ferrule end, which is close up to the cover to be removed, thus entailing more work, but they consider it is the best way, although the method mentioned is certainly the quickest and best for the amateur.

The Notch.

If the notch at the lower end of the umbrella has to be replaced, it is necessary to take the umbrella apart, or even if a runner is required this must be done. The first thing is to obtain the size article required, either from old ones

(Continued on page 373.)

OUR BOY'S DEPARTMENT

Cutting Silhouette Portraits.

BEFORE the advent of photography the only means of having a portrait, other than by painting, was by a silhouette. Everyone is familiar with the quaint silhouettes of by-gone days, of which Fig. 1 shows a fair example of the work done about a hundred years ago.

The cutting of silhouette portraits is a very fascinating pastime which offers a wide scope for the display of skill. It is an occupation which any boy may try his hand at. The paper used should, preferably, be black on one side and gummed on the other. Failing this, ordinary paper with a black surface could be used, and when cut the silhouette may be gummed to the mount. A gummed surface paper could be easily made by applying a coat of good gum to the white side of the paper and allowing it to dry before using, it will then readily stick on the mount when moistened. White, or a very faint tint of grey, or brown cardboard is suitable for the mounts. All the material required can be obtained from a first-class stationer.

Some skill will have to be acquired before the portraits can be cut without any guide lines, so that when starting it will be advisable to lightly sketch before cutting. Do not choose very difficult subjects at first, as they can be undertaken when some proficiency has been acquired.

A good style for a beginner to adopt is shown at Fig. 2. Arrange the sitter so as to get an exact side view, if possible, against a white background, and for those who can sketch the copying of a clear outline of the profile will not be difficult. Another method is to arrange the sitter so that a sharp shadow falls on a white sheet of paper, the outline being marked around in pencil. This may be correctly reduced to the size required with the aid of a pantograph.

The size may be left to individual tastes, but we may say that it will be best to confine the mount to about postcard size, 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ ins. by 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ ins., cutting the silhouette proportionately smaller.

Any sketching should be done on the back



Fig. 1.



Fig. 2.



FIG. 3.

of the paper, remembering that the portrait will be reversed when the paper is turned over. A small but sharp pair of scissors must be used for cutting, and care must be taken to make a clean cut without "jags." The cut at the back is not so important as the front, which must receive the greatest attention if a good portrait is to be obtained. This especially applies to the nose and chin, which are the chief



FIG. 4.

features. Definite instructions cannot be given on the best starting point, as some may prefer to start at the back and others at the front, yet the writer has found that it is a good plan to start at the back, cutting up around the back at the head and working down over the face. In the examples shown at Figs. 3 and 4, the collars are formed by leaving a blank space, the silhouette being in two portions.

UMBRELLA REPAIRING AT HOME—Continued.

or other umbrellas, or obtain new ones from the source described in the first article on this subject. Then proceed by removing the small metal cap at the bottom of the outside of the umbrella. If this is removed carefully there will be no need to obtain a new one, and this can be done easily by raising the rivet if it has a head on it and extracting same, but if no head, then punch it in. Now tap gently around it,

so that it will loosen, and place the bradawl in between the cover and the cap, and lightly prise it off. Now cut the ends of three of the ribs attached to the cover at the handle end, then untwist the wire, securing the stretchers to the runner, and do the same at the other end of the notch. The umbrella can then be opened as wide as it will go, and with the left arm open, take in the right hand the handle and try and force over the cover and frame, so that it will turn inside out. Then remove it from the stick until the other work is done.

The Runner.

Now if a new runner is required, the notch must be removed by punching out the rivets, then slipped down the stick. Next take out the two pins or rivet near the top spring (and which is called the wind stopper) to prevent the umbrella from being blown inside out when

in use. The runner can then be removed and the new one slipped up into position. Care must be taken that it is placed the right way up, or it will have to be done all over again. Then replace the stopper pin and also the notch, but if a new notch is being fitted it can now be placed on and rivetted, and then the work of re-threading the frame proceeded with. Perhaps it would be as well to mention here that both the runner and notch are made of several kinds of material. Brass is best for the purpose, as it withstands rust and usage. Some are only soft zinc and tin. To replace the frame, get a length of soft wire, which is termed threading wire, say about 4ins. long, and obtainable in bundles of about 1/2 lb., from the source mentioned for a few pence, then rethread each rib separately at the top, tip on to the wire, then place each rib in the groove of the notch, doing this with the ribs down and the handle up, the reverse way to which one would expect, so that it can then be turned over by means of the left arm, as was done previously, then rewire the stretchers to the runner carefully, so as not to cross them, and open the umbrella fully to see if correct. If so, replace the outside cap at the ferrule end, stretch the tip of the cover previously cut, and then this work is complete.



J. L. H.



THE GARDEN



SUMMARY.

Sow Broad Beans. Plant Fruit Trees and Bushes. Plant Montbretia. Start Begonias.

THE VEGETABLE GARDEN.

WHERE sparrows are troublesome, soak early peas in water and shake them up in a bag with red lead; the birds will then leave them untouched. This treatment does not hinder germination at all.

If the hot bed is ready, plant on it a few sets of any good short-haulmed potato. Sharp Early Peter is very good for this use, but any of the low-haulmed will answer. Earth up when a few inches above the ground, so as to prevent frost damage.

Sow broad beans, first those called Long pods, and latter the various kinds of Windsor. Give plenty of room from plant to plant, to allow branching out.

Sow any of the second early peas. For a small garden, a very profitable sort is Green's Fillbasket. It yields very abundantly.

Keep a sharp watch on the rows of peas and beans, and as they come through the soil, lightly cover them with soil. This should be done with a hoe, and the moulding-up will protect the plants both from wind and cold.

An early and small sowing of Brussels Sprouts should be made in a shallow box for the purpose of gaining an early crop in advance of the main crop. The seed should only just be covered with fine soil, and the box stood in a cool greenhouse or frame. Keep close to the glass, and be very sparing with water till the young plants are established.

Keep all young crops well dusted with soot and lime, for if attacked by sparrows much damage will be done in a few minutes. Where peas have been sown, it is advisable to freely dress the surface soil with soot, as this will prevent the birds from scratching the seed up.

THE FLOWER GARDEN.

A few pansies and violas should be potted on into sixty pots. By this means the plants may be had in flower a month in advance of the general outside stock. Place them in a cold frame and occasionally spray overhead till the plants are rooted.

As soon as the land and weather permits, Montbretias should be planted. These are very useful subjects, which closely resemble a miniature Gladioli. They are very free-flowering and last a considerable time when in flower. Cultivate them in just the same way as gladiolus. Montbretia Crocomie flora and M. Possii are the two best varieties to grow.

This month start Begonia tubers, both for pot culture and bedding out. The best method of starting the tubers is to plunge them in warm

temperature. Only just cover the tubers with soil, and soon as they start into growth pot them.

Force Indian and other Azaleas for house decoration and cutting. The Ghebt and Mollis section force very easily and are brilliant.

Canna seed should be sown now, as it takes a long time to germinate. Rub the seeds on a grindstone or scythe rubber, where the eye or germs shows, thus enabling the single cotyledon to push through the seed coat with ease. Some growers parboil the seeds, but this is risky.

The amateur gardener should during the winter season pay some attention to the improvement of the walks in the garden. Drains associated with them should be put in good order, and their course altered if necessary. Re-gravelling should also be done at this season.

Lilacs in many varieties are likely to become increasingly popular in the near future, in consequence of the vast amount of labour that has of recent years been expended upon improving and in producing new varieties by cross-fertilisation.

By growing flowers "naturally," by "forcing" them, and by a process known to experts as "retarding," many of the most popular flowers can be had after a very protracted period, and in some instances all the year round. Some notable instances of the production of flowers out of season by the above processes may be seen at the great exhibitions. Lilies of the Valley and Lilacs are now being subjected to treatment of this kind.

Those who are desirous to increase the stock of Dahlias as much as possible should start their tubers at once in gentle heat. Others, who may only require their stock increased by a few, will wisely defer starting operations for a month, whilst others again who only require to hold the varieties they possess, without increasing, may prefer to plant the old tubers outdoors during the end of March, and afford them cover in cold weather until frosts are not likely to damage them.

THE FRUIT GARDEN.

Fruit trees, bushes, raspberry canes and rose trees should be planted as soon after the first week in the year as possible, but those who have delayed need not be disheartened, and may continue planting operations till the end of March. The digging between the rows of fruit trees should now be accomplished, for if the weather remains mild the trees will soon begin to swell their buds.

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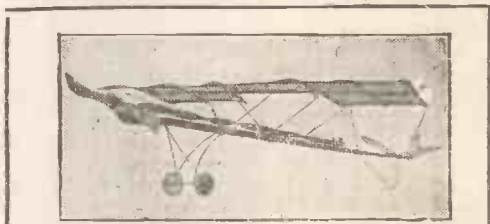
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