

THE COURIER

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NEW YORK, Dec. 20.—The blessed giving time is at hand again—the time when each woman and child, to say nothing of the poor man caught in the whirl, goes on daily shopping tours, with a neat list of those to be remembered tucked in a glove or portemonnaie. Naturally, with every individual bent on the same object, that of filling a Christmas list, the shops are horribly crowded, and it is absolutely necessary to know what one wants to get for each person in order to do any sort of judicious purchasing or to get much accomplished in a limited time.

The question, what to get for one's various relatives and friends, should be answered before starting out if you would save both time and worry. There are so many lovely things to be had this year that gift buying should be a positive joy. Let me mention just a few of the beautiful objects suitable for gifts that I have run across recently.

Of course one has to be careful. It will not do to send a stunning smoking jacket to the relative who does not smoke. In nine cases out of ten such a man is a crank about health and a devotee of his tub. Get for him, instead, one of those wide-striped or Persian effect bath robes of finest imported downy material and trimmed with thick satin in the same color, with a heavy silken rope for girdle. These in choice importations can be had for from forty to eighty dollars, and are worth it. Some men regard it as extra smart to have a big monogram embroidered above the cuff of the left sleeve, but this is a matter of taste.

Everything seems to be monogrammed this year—stationery, boudoir furnishings and lingerie of all sorts. Few things are more acceptable to the young sister from a big brother than a graduated set of monogram designs and dies for her various needs, since they run into pocket-money at a terrible rate, ten dollars being the price for a good three-letter die, and one needs so many sizes. The big one worn on the Vassar girl's shirt waist bosom is entirely too elaborate for the corset cover or chemise, while the kerchiefs (made to order, of course) require still another style, as do the stockings. Stationery is delicately monogrammed, and the newest envelopes are very long and slim, with a flap extending their entire length. White or gray-white are the only two smart shades.

The comic papers have made so much fun of the things women buy for men at Christmas that these gifts naturally cause the most anxiety. Besides, so few men have the tact to say always: "This is exactly what I wanted," which is one of the charming traits of most women.

Handsome—really handsome—umbrellas, are invariably acceptable, for these articles have an absurd way of disappearing, and men rarely have so many as not to welcome another. A new style shows a natural wood handle of ample size, in which is a smoothly embedded silver monogram. Such a handle is simple and elegant. The umbrellas cost about twenty dollars.

Small jewels inset in all-over patterns on cigarette and card cases are new and effective. A small gold match box, with diamonds and sapphires set in an irregular device, was bought for a newly married man by his bride.

A carefully selected seal for a fob is another good choice. Have the gold old yellow and the letters deeply engraved. I believe those of heavy gold have superseded entirely the suspended amethyst or topaz of former days. The fob itself is often of gold also, but many prefer the black ribbon, which is such good form, to the more recent innovation.

Pearl studs—and the latest shirts call for three—make a handsome and costly gift. These should be set in chains of gold, and not entirely free. The chained are much prettier, and, besides, the jewels are protected.

Girls give great big beer steins to their boy friends for their rooms at college. One girl bought four beauties in Germany this summer for this pur-

TO WED THE CHINESE MINISTER



This dainty little Chinese lady will rule over the Chinese embassy at Washington when she marries Liang Chen Tung, the new Chinese minister. She is Miss Yu, daughter of the Chinese minister to Paris. She has lived for several years in Paris and is thoroughly Parisian in her ways.

HEIR TO RUSSIA'S THRONE



On account of the failure of the czarina heir, the Russian throne will go to Grand Duke Nicholas, the demise of its present incumbent. Recent events in the private life of the czar have been subsequent interest centers in the personality of the czar of all the Russias.

pose. Flasks in silver or leather silver mounted are also admired and welcomed by those who use them. A big-bodied lamp with a geisha shade for the den of a bachelor relative is an excellent choice.

For girls there are millions of things. One should never be at a loss as to what to get for a young woman. The query generally is: "Which one of these lovely things shall I decide upon?"

Of course, if it is the case of a young man who does not know the girl well, he will have to follow the advice given in one of last summer's operas, and "just send her a beautiful bouquet." But when it comes to one girl giving to another, or a relative to a debutante, there is an unlimited chance for selection.

All girls love bon bons and fruit, flowers and books, but it makes them furious to get these from intimate friends. Enough of these invariably arrive from acquaintances, and a girl will simply dote on a brother who gives her opera glasses, an exquisite neck chain or a superb fan. A schoolgirl of from sixteen to eighteen likes nothing better than a jeweled lorgnette to go with her long frocks. A gold powder box is most acceptable, and can be made as handsome as one's purse will permit.

Cases for the dainty and delicate stocks so much in vogue are good presents from younger girls to older ones, as are kerchiefs, gloves, slippers and perfumes. Never, however, send the last unless you know the exact kind used by the person to be favored. Nothing is worse form.

A Fifth avenue husband has ordered for his wife a superb set of sabots, a stole reaching nearly to her feet and a big, beautiful muff of the choicest skins. Another woman of social distinction has good grounds for expecting a three-diamond ring.

Gifts for the hair are very pretty, but not particularly original. Foliage, somewhat ornamental, take the lead. A wreath of morning-glories with tiny sparkling ornaments for the hair, given at a private dance last winter, was a recent West Point gift to a girl, of blonde hair, who was commended by the color of

turquoise, entwined in her fluffy hair. Another girl had a large crimson poppy over each ear, the two united by a "Tu Barry plaited ribbon of the same color.

Pond lilies were also in evidence. With their trembling yellow stamens they were most effective on dark hair and with a white costume. They showed a little foliage green in the embroidered trimming. Annunciation lilies have a slight vogue also, but they are too large to be popular. Wreaths are worn, but not so commonly as when "Captain Jinks" was on the boards and they were a fad with young girls. Ivy is the favorite foliage for these, and the smaller the leaf the better. Laurel and oak can be had, but the demand for these is not great.

One rose, sprinkled with rhinestones, is suitable for evening home wear, or for the opera with a simple gown. The flower must be tucked over the left ear, if the hair is worn low, and if not, to the left of the front knot—never exactly in the middle.

Jet ornaments come for the elderly, and are exquisite in one open flower, say a lily, one bud and a leaf. The Christmas girl, the same one who becomes so enthusiastic at the New Haven races and at football games, will wear holly berries in the midst of frosted green leaves and loops of narrow crimson velvet ribbon during the evening festivities of Yule-tide.

A very acceptable Christmas present for a debutante sister or friend is a pearl Juliette cap for the hair. These will be in style all winter. They are composed of netted pearls, and are very expensive if well made. Other jewels are sometimes used in this way, turquoises being rather effective.

One thing must be borne in mind in regard to these little toilet accessories. The ornaments in hair and corsage must both match the trimming or some color of the gown.—Lady Modish, in Town Topics.

A waiter who had been an old sailor, watched as long as he could bear it while his master tried to draw the stuffing through the side of a bird. "Further aft, sir," he ventured, in an embarrassing whisper; "further aft!"—Youth's Companion.