

Floral Fancies for the Easter Girl

THE Easter girl of 1904, unlike her sister of past years, will not be content to receive her floral gifts in the old style way, in loose bunches, tied with ribbons. She has progressed, and her floral favorites, to have the proper effect, must be sent in intricately woven baskets of pussy willows and what not, and placed inside in all sorts of fantastic ways.

This is especially true of the orchid, which will have the place of honor in the heart of the Easter girl of 1904. Florists predict that over a quarter million of dollars will be spent for orchids alone at Easter time. It is also estimated by dealers that over eight hundred thousand of these choice flowers will be needed in New York alone to satisfy the demands. And Chicago and Philadelphia will each consume almost the same number.

The manner of presenting these exquisite blossoms has received much careful study. They are like a magnificent picture which needs a handsome frame to complete it. Therefore, the setting of the orchid must be harmonious and artistic to preserve its beauty.

A favorite medium for sending out orchids to the Easter girl is to mass them in baskets made of young pussy willows. These tender young things have been forced in hothouses by some florists on purpose for Easter baskets. Other florists have made their men scour suburban town and country for the earliest pussy willows, and they have been brought to the city in carts. The manner in which they are converted into baskets is interesting. All sorts of odd shapes are introduced in the weaving, which is done quite as systematically as any other method of basketry.

The most popular shape this year is the nest basket. The pussy willows are woven round and round like a nest, with the pussy heads saucily protruding here and there, to liven the dark green and brown of the twigs. This nest has a glass receptacle to fit it, and will be filled with orchids, some of the petals straying over the nest.

Another favorite style of basket will be the one in the shape of a diamond, with four handles meeting in the center. This, too, will be filled with orchids and violets, massed separately. Some of the blossoms will be attached to the handles and will fall gracefully over the edges of the basket.

These receptacles will not only be used for presenting flowers, but the Easter hostess will use them for decorative purposes in giving her luncheon or dinner. Nothing could be daintier or more in contrast than delicate tints of the Cattleya labiata orchid, the rich shades of the violets and the dark framework of the basket.

Orchids will also be used to set off the beauty of spring toilettes. Sometimes they will be combined with violets, but more often they will be used alone. In any event, they will be arranged shower fashion, with long loops of ribbon to match them.

The sweet-smelling violet will also be sure of favor for the Easter girl's adornment, especially this year, when Easter comes early. This daylight flower will constitute a badge of fashion in the brave



ORCHIDS AND VIOLETS WILL HAVE FIRST PLACE IN THE EASTER GIRL'S HEART.

show of Easter adornment.

Corsage bouquets will be tied with an imported corduroy ribbon, which is to take the place of satin ribbon, and the gold or violet cord. The new ribbon comes in green and violet color, both of which will be used in tying boxes, baskets, hampers and corsage bouquets. The shower bouquet, which has been entirely a feature of weddings until recently, will be in great favor among young women for Easter. For violets, lilies-of-the-valley, and even pansies, it can easily be arranged by using very narrow green ribbon. Violets, instead of being bunched, will be arranged to hang gracefully, when worn in this manner.

One of the prettiest ideas for presenting violets to the Easter girl is to make an immense garden hat of violet crepe paper, having a double white crepe paper fill about the brim. Fasten a bow of broad violet ribbon at each side and tie in a loose bow on the under side. Turn the hat upside down and fill with violets and their leaves.

Another clever idea is to give a genuine garden hat a coat of gilding or silvering, then to turn back the corners to form a square. Fasten the latter with loops of ribbon or cord and tassel, and fill the hat with flowers.

An imitation paper book, which, when opened, will be found to contain violets, lilies-of-the-valley or pansies, will be a suitable gift for the devout girl. The book can afterward be used as a receptacle for the prayer book. Imitation books, with titles on the backs of the favorite book of the recipient, are seen among the novelties as receptacles for flowers.

Sentimental people will be pleased with



ROSES WILL ALSO DELIGHT THE EASTER GIRL.

the idea of sending flowers to the Easter girl in an imitation photograph album enclosing a picture of the giver. This will also be carried out in more expensive ideas, as sometimes a miniature of the recipient will be laid on top of the flowers.

Something new in the way of rustic work baskets will be used for violets, lilies-of-the-valley, pansies, azaleas and such small blossoms. These baskets come in all sorts of Oriental shapes and are made of a moss green wood plentifully sprinkled with flitters to resemble snow. They are tied with ribbons of contrasting shades.

Roses will be popular among those persons whose purses are not expensive enough to indulge in orchids and violets for the delight of the Easter Girl. The American Beauty will be sent out with the long stems tied with ribbon of Oriental design. These roses will also be presented in tall, variegated Bohemian glass vases marvelous in coloring and design.

Many designs in vases are shown. One of the prettiest seen was a large pond lily resting on a huge leaf of mignonette glass. Such a vase, filled with lilies, affords the opportunity for presenting an artistic piece of Eric-a-brac as well as the flowers.

The carnation, that formidable competitor of the rose, commercially speaking, will lend itself to the scheme of the decorator because of its size and fragrance. The choicest new varieties, which have attained a diameter of four inches, are sold at a price which brings them within the reach of people of moderate means.

These spice-scented blossoms will be sent out by the bushel in beautiful hampers of all sizes, made out of brush, the new material for baskets. The flowers are ar-

ranged carelessly in the basket and the lid is raised partially or entirely, showing the carnations, which are apparently tumbling out, but which are in reality caught in position with wire pins to the sides and on the cover. These floral hampers are set in big packing hampers, which all florists use for sending out such trophies, and they often travel many miles without the slightest disarrangement. A broad ribbon, the same shade as the carnations, is tied around the cover in a broad bow on the back. A bow of the same is at the corners.

Hampers of Easter lilies will be tied with pure white ribbons. Azaleas, which are imported from Holland in the mother earth, are mixed with American soil. These blossoms come in all colors, and will be sent out as Easter offerings in large Dutch wooden baskets, mixed with ferns or smilax, the full handles covered with vines.

A novel method of presenting flowers by express will be to send them in a dress suit case covered with labels and the donor's card attached. This suit case is of cardboard, but is such a good imitation that at first glance it is hard to distinguish it from the genuine.

Pretty rustic baskets made of wire twigs and leaves are used for sending out simple blossoms like the marguerite daisy, as are also miniature golden chariots, automobiles and fountains. The latter have deep basins, in which the flowers are placed, making a pleasing and artistic gift. Urn-shaped baskets, shoes and reticules, such as were used in our grandmothers' days, are seen in brush, and will be popular receptacles for flowers.

An artistic arrangement of choice flowers may be made by placing them in a shadow box, such as is used to protect fine paintings.

There is a growing tendency to present flowering plants at Easter time, without any attempt at decoration beyond their own beauty. Ribbons will be greatly used, however, by the majority of florists in trimming the branches of the plants and the jardinières.

Although other flowers come and go, the Easter lily will always be a favorite of the Easter girl. Enameled white jardinières, tied with white or violet ribbon, will be favorite receptacles for this stately plant. It will be quite a fad to paint an Easter greeting on the streamers of the ribbon, to give the little personal touch of sentiment. Plated paper, which resembles a fabric, and which comes with a double ruching in two colors at the top, is used as a covering for the pot.

Next to the lily, the crimson rambler rose is the most popular potted plant to present as an Easter gift. This rose is trained into all sorts of fanciful shapes, the oddest of which is the basket. To all appearances the blood-red roses are arranged with their leaves in a pretty basket, but instead it is a rose tree growing in a pot and skillfully trained into the shape of a handled basket.

Decorated ceramics form an acceptable, though expensive, way of presenting plants. Some florists carry these jardinières in stock for the benefit of their patrons. A potted fern in a fern dish is always a welcome gift. A pretty idea for the youthful and sentimental is a fern dish which shows a group of Cupids holding hearts, with an open space in them for flowers.

Flowers for the Easter Hat Are Simple This Year

EVEN if madam does not believe in Easter, she must rejoice that the gloomy winter is over," said the little French milliner, persuasively. "To celebrate the feast of spring she must wear this rose garland."

The hat she held up so enticingly was indeed little more than a rose garland lightly veiled in gauze and lace. But it was no more an airy confection than are most of the Easter hats of 1904. Flowers are everywhere, in sweeping garlands, gey nosegays, or coquettish pompadour wreaths. The small toques, which fit snugly to the head, are covered with flowers of every color of the rainbow. The larger hats are in most cases lace creations whose flower trimmings are far more important than the foundation material.

These hats recall the tales of the pagan festivals when in the spring the maidens wreathed in flowers, and with their heads crowned with garlands, went to the temple. The flowers that the Easter maids of 1904 will wear are real enough to deceive any except a practiced eye. To counterfeit the wondrous bloom and sheen of nature a surprising differentiation of materials is employed. Silk and velvet, chiffon and lace, mullin and straw—these are the materials from which the skilled hands of milliner and flower maker have wreathed garlands which will retain their beauty through the summer months.

Straw flowers are a distinct achievement of the season. Tiny moss roses, glossy leaves and scarlet berries are all of straw. Indeed, all varieties of straw work have reached an astonishing height of perfection. There are satin ruches, stylish rosettes and knots and ribbon ends. It takes considerable explanation and even actual examination to convince that they owe their beauty to nothing except straw.

"There is very little demand for the smooth straw braids," say the importers. "The fashion is all for fancy braids, and there is an endless variety from which to choose."

Some of the new braids are at least four inches in width and smooth and pliable enough to be bent to fit any frame. Often they are inset with medallions of straw of a contrasting shade, with cobwebs of gold or silver thread, or with medallions of lace. Some of these wide straw braids show two contrasting satin strands braided in a checker board pattern. Those with lace insertions may contrast with these adornments, but more often the whole shades in perfectly together.

Perfection in shading is a feature of the spring hats, whether they be simple or elaborate. The rough satin straw of the hat foundation generally shades from a lighter to a darker tone of the same color. The same scheme is followed throughout the trimming. This is not difficult, since tulle and flowers can be obtained in almost every conceivable shade. As many as thirteen or fourteen exquisitely blended shades appear in one model hat.

Roses seem to be for the present the favorite flower, but they are not the full-blown garden roses of other days, but the tiny, rather prim and proper blossoms which are suitable for the dainty pompadour wreaths and nose-gays now popular. These roses are dyed in shades that Dame Nature never even dreamed of. Pale roses and those of a delicate blue hue are exceedingly fashionable.

Green is a favorite color for both hat trimming and foundation. Some of the Paris models display charming poinsettia and orchids of delicate green shadings.

Many of the prettiest Easter hats embody some arrangement of green and white.

A chic little French creation is made of stain braids which shade through all the silver greens. The braid is put on the frame rather loosely, as if cool green rushes had been bent into a hat. There is no crown, the necessary lift from the face being given by a bandeau which is covered with green mullin and trimmed with a cluster of tiny white roses. Tiny bunches of the same flowers, two or three only in a bunch, are set at intervals over the slightly rolling brim. This is a clever idea, for the flowers break the monotony of the brim outline and greatly enhance the charm of the hat. A mass of the dainty roses is set on the center of the brim in lieu of a crown and a fringe of stems and buds trail from these to the brim edge.

The white straw roses are effective, though a trifle stiff. A striking hat of emerald green and white has the low crown covered with these straw roses. The flat brim, which is bent in the back so as to fit over the hair, is of the emerald green straw, faced with white straw braid. This plan is frequently followed, as white is less trying to the complexion. The only trimming, except the rose crown, is a knot of emerald green velvet, which is set under the brim at the left side. It serves to hold in place the white ostrich feather, which droops over the hair in the back.

Ostrich feathers will not have so wide a vogue during the winter. Small tips will be used on some of the shaded hats to encircle the crown. They will be dyed so as to shade in exactly with the hat foundation. The longer plumes will, of course, still be worn to some extent, for many a woman would consider her summer trousseau quite incomplete if it did not include a picture hat loaded down with plumes. But the plumes cannot rival the

attraction of lace and flowers with the summer girl of 1904.

Straw lace braids will have popularity for the more severe dress hats—the hats which will be correct for early summer wear, for coaching trips and for occasions where lace creations would be decidedly de trop.

A stylish hat of this description is of champagne colored straw braid in an open mesh lace pattern. The high crown has its sides diagonally banded by rows of glistening jet buttons. The wide, flat brim is bent in front so as to slightly shade the face. It has no trimming other than a cluster of short, black ostrich plumes which are set on the right side. The brim is bent in the back so as to fit over the hair, and is kept in place by an elaborate black jet cabouchon.

Some of the pearl cabouchons are dainty. They vary in size from tiny ones of a half-inch in diameter to gorgeous examples four or five inches in diameter. They are especially effective on the lace hats to hold in place the dainty flower garlands, or the bows or rosettes of shirred ribbon.

Lace hats vie with the flower hats in popularity. It is also true that it is sometimes hard to distinguish between them.

The lace hats are becoming to almost every style of face. This spring they are more often in simple baby shape, with the lace shirred over the frame and falling in a becoming frill from the brim edge. These lace frills are no doubt a result of the veil habit which has beset women all winter. They have found that beauty is never so alluring as when half concealed and half disclosed. Lace frills are even set on hats of straw, but this fashion is not yet a prevalent one.

Dyed lace is being used for the manufac-

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