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Christmas for Him

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Decorating the Christmas Tree

MARGARET ERICSON

It is generally a good plan to start decorating the tree at the base and work up to the tip. Cotton spread at the base and sprinkled with artificial snow gives the tree a realistic setting. The spicy green boughs are now ready to receive the next consideration.

Tiny, colored electric light bulbs, either round or candle shaped can be purchased in almost any electric shop or novelty store. These do away with the danger of candles. They are all on one cord, of course, and can be distributed evenly throughout the branches. Gold and silver tinSEL, entwined in the boughs, gives that real “Christmasy” look. Cranberries and popcorn, strung together or separately and draped on the branches, give a striking and white effect on the green of the tree.

Now the tree is ready for its distribution of shiny, bright colored balls, bells and other little novelties. These may be purchased at almost any store and kept over from year to year. Each year brings forth its decorations in new shapes and sizes. Sometimes new ideas are the only need for a few new decorations each Christmas and to be careful in the selection of these. A Christmas tree can be made almost ugily by cluttering it with odds and ends of all kinds of decorations. These bright little trimmings should be arranged evenly with the proper distribution of color. Candy, wrapped in tin foil, and suspended from their branches pleases the kiddies.

One can always make a few of the small decorations. Old small and smooth light rubber balls can be gilded very prettily and hung on the tree. However, the commercial decorations look better and are really more economical if the few well chosen objects are selected.

At the very top of the tree, the sentiment is sometimes expressed in the form of a star—in memory of the real star of Bethlehem. Stars can be bought, but some can be made at home. A very effective star is made on a buckram frame and tinsel sewed on it. Two separate stars are made, the edges fastened together, and an electric bulb inserted between the two for illumination.

The small gifts may be suspended from the branches and the more bulky ones put on the snow beneath the tree. Now we are ready for Santa Claus.

The decorations for school and church trees are similar to these. Let us in some respects. The trees would be larger so

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Christmas for Him

DOROTHY HARP AND LOUISE CORSAUT

GIFTS for men demand more thought, or rather increased thought, than do gifts for women. Before we give, let us stop and think if the gift is one which will find a use and will be enjoyed. Let us give the man who does not enjoy sports, golf, or horse, nor the other who doesn’t enjoy lounging a lounging robe.

How often we hear: “I wish I could exchange this gift for something out of which I could get some use.” Right now in our Christmas planning, let us remember that and make our gifts express the Season’s Greetings usefully. Making gifts is half the fun of Christmas—especially for such a problem as “the man.”

Handkerchiefs are always the first thought, but are often passed by as not of enough consequence. The little utility thought should cause us to pause here, however, and we will find that some very attractive handkerchiefs can be made.

Gowns, also tailored, can be made. Those of corduroy with satin reverses and lined cuffs and a silk cord are used for men as well as for women. For gowns that are to be very warm, those made of blanket and trimmed with silk braid are very nice. Others are all silk or made of material resembling Turkish towelling.

Men’s suits are not hard to make and if measurements are accurate they are nicer than the ready-made ones, because the material is usually of a better quality. Commercial patterns for suits can be bought, but an old, well fitting one taken apart makes a very good pattern.

Care should be taken to have very even seams, nice stitching and finishing to give a tailored appearance. The materials to use may be English broadcloth, soft silks, or regular shipping madras in very attractive patterns and colors.

Scarfes of flannel or silk are very easily made. They are usually made four inches wide and five inches long. The ends may be fringed and the long side hemmed or overcast by machine. Hand woven scarves are unusually good looking and are not difficult to make if one has done any weaving. They are often lovelier in color and design than the plaid or checked flannel, but, of course, they take longer to make.

One can knit sweaters, fair isle, hose, or golf hose. In knitting the hose, steel needles are used for the foot and larger amber or wooden needles for the leg. The plain back stitch, finished, is the best. A small design can be sewed on the leg. The pattern may be open work or solid and a fine silk thread and fine black and gold. The body of the tie is made of blanketing and trimmed with silk braid and the problem of gifts for the man isn’t really such a problem after all.

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