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Economical and Attractive Christmas Gifts

By GERTRUDE BROWN

THERE'S a rumor floating around that Iowa farmers, hence Iowa farmers' wives, are hard up—ever hear it? And the worst trouble is that Christmas, ever hear it? And the worst trouble is that Christmas, good, old, generous Christmas, is fast approaching, while the skinny family pocketbook lies inertly in its place, its two sides running a race toward flatness and each other. If 'tis true, this year gives Mrs. Iowa Farmer the opportunity to use her ingenuity.

City folks buy city gifts to present to their friends; why shouldn't country folks present country gifts? Many unique boxes could be made with very little expenditure of actual cash, but which would be of much value because of the thought expended on them and because of their contents.

Along about in August, didn't you have one or two old hens come straggling in from the weeds with a few chicks tucked from a nest which she had stolen away? Those chickens were too small to sell with the rest of the flock, so they're still hanging around, fat and plump, all ready for Christmas dinner. If you should pick any one, leave it outdoors overnight until it is frozen, and then pack it neatly and start it on its way to any one of those city relatives, their "ohs" and "ahs" would be genuine when they received it. Cover a large size oatmeal box with a gay piece of Christmas paper, wrap the chicken in oil paper, and the large box will be a very attractive as an expensive city purchase.

There's another possibility along the same line. Most barns are inhabited by a flock of pigeons which the farmer doesn't appreciate at all. Your husband will probably be so glad to get rid of them that he will take an evening off and help the small boys catch enough to put on a friend's dinner. The small boys, who always enjoy a hunt, may be able to get the birds themselves by devious means in the daytime. The pigeons should be prepared for sending in the same manner as the chicken.

Then that college niece or nephew must be provided for. The man has received so many socks and ties in the past, but if you make the small, picturesque looking sized boxes away without opening them. What's the use—more socks and ties, undoubtedly—might as well leave them tied up until there's some use for them. But if he were to get a box the size of a bushel, his curiosity would be equalled by one thing only, his appetite when the opened box revealed a large mound of red, juicy apples. The girl might like the same gift, for with her group of friends she could use almost any amount. But she might be better quick and not so much quantity. Polish a basket of luscious red Jonathans and yellow Grimes Golden, wrap them in tissue paper to keep them from bruising, fill in the empty spaces with nuts, and the young lady will have her desired quality.

Nature was generous with her supply of nuts this season, yet they are still quite expensive on the market. The little folks will find it a pleasant pastime to spend a few evenings cracking the nuts and picking out the meats if they can be rewarded with an occasional pan of nut fudge or some popcorn balls. Enamel an empty baking powder can or some such tin container which you find in your cupboard with some gay color, letter on your Christmas greeting or paint some small design, fill the can with nuts and meat, and you have a gift that you might send to anyone.

Country gardens are so extensive that most country folks raise their own popcorn. Not so in the city. Popcorn is one of those luxuries which must be purchased, and which often proves a luxury indeed when one-half or three-fourths of the kernels refuse to pop. If you've tried your corn and know that it's good, why not shell some and send it to a family in which there are several small children? "Twould be attractive in one of those small covered oatmeal boxes, or in an enamelled or lacquered coffee can.

You might pack an artistically arranged box of homemade candies—thick pieces of creamy fudge so full of nuts that they will scarcely stay in, butter-scotch with all the butter one needs—the boys will lick their chops and wish for another Christmas. So will the girls even thought they do groan over the calories and faithfully repress themselves that they "will start dieting next week, honest they will."

Every housewife is famous for her own particular spiced crab apple or sweet apple pickles, her strawberry jam or peach conserve, her sausage or canned beef. These would need special packing to keep them from breaking. Tuck in a pat of real country butter and decorate the box with pine cones, bittersweet or sprig of red berries. Doesn't it worry you getting these Christmas gifts ready? No sitting up until the wee hours of the morning doing first the sideboard which leaves you with a headache and burning eyes. Instead, the whole family can help and make the long winter evenings just before Christmas into veritable parties for everyone concerned.

A LETTER FROM EGYPT (Continued from page 10)

colored enamel has been placed in an enclosure of glass. The body of King Tut is in this case. One of the pupils said that it is the King's (Pharaoh) desire that Tut's body should not be removed from the mummy case.

His bed was made of two tall wooden lions which were covered with "gold leaf." I have never seen so many graceful lines carried out in one piece of furniture as in his "kiddy" chair. It is made of dark wood and would be the right size for a child five years old. It was cunning. I refused to attempt sketching it. Such a line up of canes, mummified food and wonderful alabaster carvings. Doesn't it seem strange to us that he took with him lovely alabaster vases filled with medicines and food when he left this world of ours?

A tour guide told me that King Tut Ankh Amen's tomb is closed again and plans are now being made to open the next, which is believed to be the last.

I had the opportunity of taking a trip up country. It included Luxor and Kamak temples, Valleys of Kings and Queens, Temple of Rameses, Colosses of Memnon, Edfu Temple, Aswan, quarries and dam, Temple of Phile, Elephanta island, Becharen camp and Temple of Cournah. Visiting in Luxor (now and Temple of Luxor) gave me an undescribable thrill. Egypt is the land of the ages. I thoroughly enjoy it.

I shall be more than happy to welcome you to Egypt. Please let me know when I may expect you. Very sincerely yours,

Thelma H. Pearson.

Time to Start Thinking About the Junior Short Course

Here are some of the ways the club girls raised money to send their club representatives to the 1925 Junior Short Course: Plays.

Chicken suppers.

Apron sales.

Selling chickens (each girl taking one from home flock).

Serving supper for annual Farm Bureau meeting.

Concessions at Farm Bureau picnics.

Serving refreshments at township Farm Bureau meetings.

Prize money from county or state fair.

Bake sales.

Selling tickets to county fair (get a percentage).

Candy sales.

Mrs. Kenneth Reeves, nee Fannie Atwell, '25, is a leading member of Home Furnishing club in Clayton county. The Clayton county team won sixth place in the demonstration contest at the Iowa State Fair. With the subject of refinishing furniture, this club is arousing much interest in the revival of old furniture.