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"Thirty Days to Shop"

By Alice Waugh, A. A. Dept.

In the rush of Christmas shopping we often neglect to study our gifts as carefully as we study the things we buy at other times during the year. How many of the things that we see in the shops are really lovely in shape, line and color, to say nothing of decoration? Someone has said that we should never give anything as a gift that we would not be glad to keep for ourselves. This is a good rule to keep in mind when making or buying Christmas gifts.

What shall we give to that very special friend this Christmas? First of all there are personal gifts for the individual’s own use, things we give to our intimate friends. We must be certain not only that these things are lovely in themselves, but also that they suit the personality and the needs of the one who is to use them. If we cannot be sure that a gift of this sort is exactly right, it is better to give a less personal present, such as books, flowers or candy.

There is another type of gift—home accessories such as pictures, lamps, pottery, or pieces of furniture. When buying a gift of this sort, remember that it is to be just a part of the room’s ensemble, and should fit in harmoniously and quietly with the things your friend already has. If you give a picture, remember that the picture is more important than the frame, and that it should fit into some definite place in your friend’s home. Buy the finest print you can afford, and have it framed with a simple, inconspicuous frame that will harmonize both with the picture and with the wall behind it.

Lamps are popular as gifts. There have been hundreds of ugly overdecorated lamps on the market. Lamp shades that were popular a few years ago were either of brightly colored silk, shirred and trimmed with fringe and gold braid, or they were of parchment painted with large realistic flowers and birds. In the average unpretentious interior it is much better to have our silk shades in quiet colors, and simply made, and our parchment shades either plain or decorated with a good border design.

During the past few years there has been a craze for candlesticks. We all appreciate the beauty of candle light, and of candlesticks that are well designed and fine in shape and line, but how often have we seen clumsy and overdecorated candlesticks, holding painted candles that were never intended to be used? The inevitable bowl which matches the candlesticks only emphasize their poor design and coloring.

Pieces of pottery make delightful gifts. The purpose of a vase is two-fold—in winter it provides a bright spot of color in our rooms; in summer we may use it to hold flowers. Therefore, we must choose a color that will harmonize with the room, and will also harmonize with the flowers we put into it. A small room, furnished in light colors, calls for a bowl or vase to match, small and finely shaped, with a delicate glaze. A large room with oak furniture and darker colors may take a large bowl, with a rougher glaze and stronger color.

Then there is another type of gift—

I. S. Sisters Make Good . . .

Violet and Doris Pammel
Recognized in Food’s Field

Two sisters, who in college days at Iowa State College decided upon specialization of food, its preparation and service as their chosen professions, are today in Boston, both in important positions, recognized as leaders in their profession, and doing some constructive work. They have won recognition not only from their associates, but from well known hotel men and stewards in this section.

They are Miss Violet Pammel and Miss Doris Pammel. The former is manager of Boston’s exclusive Chilton Club, the latter, food supervisor of The Pioneer, new and beautiful home of the Y. W. C. A.

Both held important positions before coming to Boston. Miss Doris for several years was in the government service, where she won high recognition for her work.

Miss Violet has done a splendid piece of work at the Chilton Club, where she acts as executive manager. She has many friends in Boston, is extremely popular with the membership and thru her fine organizing ability she has surrounded herself with an efficient staff. Individual policies of service and management under her direction have placed the club on a high plane and today it is one of the outstanding units of its kind in the East. Right now there is being installed in the club, a practically new kitchen.

Miss Doris, at the Pioneer, took over her work several months ago at a time when perplexing problems had to be overcome in the right way. Clear thinking, a delightful personality and a knowledge of her work has solved these problems. She was selected from a number of applicants. Her success thus far has proved the wisdom of her appointment.

Both young ladies have for years made an intensive study of club management. They have combined with their college theoretical training, every day, practical application, so necessary in food service and hotel and club management. They have been willing to work until the task was completed. They have won friends, have entered into association work and have proved convincingly that “woman has her right place in this industry of ours.”

The sisters have been enjoying a well earned rest the past few weeks at Squaw Mountain Inn, Moosehead Lake.
Look at Your Face!
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Freckle remover cream is one type which is distinctly harmful. Freckles are deposits of pigment in the outer layer of skin. To really remove them, you must peel off that outer skin. Some freckle creams contain ammoniated mercury to remove the freckle layer. But freckles are less dangerous by far than repeated use of ammoniated mercury. A few freckle creams contain nothing harmful and nothing to take off freckles.

In general, one should be wary of fades in powder and cream supplies, and would do well to remember this fact; face powder cannot make over your skin. It can only accent your coloring and dull the shine.

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This is the kind we make ourselves. Every year there is some fad or other enthusiastically taken up for Christmas presents. One year it may be sealing wax decoration. Milk bottles and pickle jars acquire a gorgeous coat and are promoted to a place of honor on the mantlepiece. Another year vacant lots are stripped of their dead weeds, which reappear in our homes shining with bronze paint. Polychrome work is popular. Magazine covers are pasted on a board and surrounded by a lumpy mass of clay which is gilded and colored. Our parchment lamp shades blossom out with gaudy flowers and birds. How many of those things are really beautiful, worthy of a place in our homes? Any decorative art work, to be really good, requires some training in color and design, to say nothing of skill in execution. If you lack these qualities, knowledge and skill, it is better not to attempt to do craft work which calls for them, but to do something that you know you can do well.

To sumarize, I should like to paraphrase William Morris’ famous rule: Buy only those things for gifts that you know to be useful, or believe to be beautiful. Remember that simplicity in design or decoration is never a fault; that it is better to have things too plain than to have them over-decorated. Buy personal gifts only when you are well acquainted with your friend’s taste. Buy things for a house to harmonize with the furnishings that are already there. Spend thoughts as well as money on your gifts, and I am sure Christmas will be a happier time for everyone.

Censure is the tax a man pays to the public for being eminent.—Swift.