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When the Family Is Large...

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The Gift Without the Giver...  
By Ila Misbach

CHRISTMAS! A word that cannot fail to give even the most hardened person a queer, catchy feeling somewhere in the vicinity of the heart. Mother and Dad will be relieved of the necessity of selecting a major gift for each one. In other instances, we find the family choosing to have gifts for the home rather than the individual. In this way the long desired radio, electric refrigerator, stove, living room suite or whatever it may be, becomes a possibility instead of a dream.

The homemaker is often able to make gifts that express her own personality, and mean much more to friends than would an expensive gift. Jams, jellies, canned fruits, cakes and cookies, holiday candies, bittersweet, straw flowers, handwork, such as handkerchiefs, rugs, leather work, metalwork, paintings, collar and cuff sets, and lingerie are merely suggestions which must be worked out according to the abilities and initiative of the individual. Even a personal Christmas card, perhaps a block print, or one with a snapshot of the youngest of the family, may easily include more true Christmas spirit than a gift purchased and mailed from the store.

The college girl will love gifts which may either be used in her room or placed in her hope chest. Colorful, woolen blankets, linens, towels, charming flower bowls, wall hangings or silverware, and china if she has selected her pattern, will be highly acceptable. If you know her well enough to be familiar with her likes and dislikes, dainty lingerie, a lovely necklace suited to a particular costume, and toilet articles that might be classed as luxuries would make desirable gifts.

In this day of electricity, what could be a more expressive of your feeling than to give her some electrical appliance? They are well

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When the Family Is Large...
By Anafrid Stephenson

LARGE families are fine; uncles, aunts and cousins are great assets at times, especially if they are well distributed over the country. I heard a girl remark the other day that she could tour clear to New York without spending any money for meals or lodging, and by having luncheon and dinner rather close one day and working in a couple of second classes, she could travel out to the west coast the same way. She comes of a prolific race, and she surely has her family very well distributed.

Yes, large families, well distributed, are very well and good when you are touring, but heavens! just wait until Christmas comes. You can't stay over night with Aunt Lucy and take lunch with Cousin Jane and then entirely ignore them at Christmas. It just isn't done!

Now I'll tell you what you can do if you have a little spare time during the fall and have the least bit of ingenuity. You can make some of the cleverest things, and some of the very prettiest cost scarcely anything. Let me tell you about some of them.

Deck sets provide a fertile field for the Christmas list, index files, portfolios, telephone book covers, waste baskets and telephone screens. Short lengths of materials, clever prints, various trimmings, cardboard and glue—not much to start with, but can't you visualize an attractive, different gift for one of the aunts or a cousin going to college?

Stunning pillows can be made by applying designs of prints on a plain background. The simple fairy flower designs worked out in our applied art courses are really lovely when made of materials instead of colored papers. Other nice pillows are made by applying the knowledge learned in stitchery classes by embroidering in yarn. Pears are designs are always delightful because of their charming color combinations, and can be used for tray doilies or pictures as well as for pillows.

For a really lovely present, why not give a patchwork quilt? Not manyraise your hands in holy horror at the thought of spending many, many hours piecing a quilt by hand. Some of the most interesting and seemingly intricate patterns that our great, great grandmothers designed can be made on the sewing machine in a
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colorful modern prints. A quilt is an ideal gift for the young housewife. I know she'll adore it in a color used in her room.

For the children it is a different problem—whether to give the youngster a gift for his own personal enjoyment, or to make a wee, little dress or romper for the child to enjoy and the mother to greatly appreciate. It just takes a jiffy to create the most adorable little frocks all trimmed in bias tape and ruffles (using the time-saving attachments on your sewing machine). However, it is such fun to make stuffed toys.

There are Raggedy Ann and Andy to be made out of stockings, yarn and bits of cloth, to say nothing of the many calico animals to be created. They might have stepped out of a nursery picture book. Perky bunnies, gingham dogs and calico cats are just the kind of amusing stuffed toys you can't resist sewing together for the young ten.

By constructing several of each type of gift, you will be surprised at the short length of time it takes to finish out your Christmas list, even if your relatives are in all parts of the United States.

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remarkably short time. They are charming when made in plain colors or in the designed, so really beautiful that they can no longer be classified with the truly utilitarian articles and should not be excluded from your list because they are "practical." Think of the joy the entire family would experience from a waffle iron, a grill, a toaster, an electric heater, or any of the hundreds of other electric servants.

Just a word about the wrapping of your gifts. Remember how as a child you loved to guess what was in each package, and how thrilled you were as you unknotted the red ribbon with eager, trembling fingers and removed layers of crinkling tissue paper? We still are all children at heart, especially at Christmas, so if you would add to the joy of your gift, wrap it with as much care as you selected it. The shops have lovely colored paper, tinsel cord and ribbon to offer, so it is actually fun to see how attractive you can make your gift. Bits of holly, mistletoe or pine may be used as well as sealing wax to make it more personal.

The stores urge you to do your Christmas shopping early. Make this our slogan, "Shop early, wisely and effectively." And above all, give for the joy of giving, not because you received a gift last year.