

## P E W T E R MODELLING

An Interesting Hobby for  
Women

CONVENTIONAL art reaches a high level in modern pewter modelling, which finds a wide sphere of usefulness in its application to home decoration.

Exceedingly lovely effects are obtained by mounting pewter on wood, zinc, leather, and glass. When superimposed on the last mentioned article the decorative effect is especially beautiful, and few handicrafts offer such wide opportunities for producing objects of beauty.

For the benefit of the novice, there are handbooks which deal helpfully with this interesting craft, but the ambitious should, if possible, take a few lessons either by correspondence or by personal attendance at some studio which supplies all the necessary materials. The pewter for modelling is bought in sheets. The design is applied by means of tools—tracer, modeller, and finishing tool.

The worker places the pewter over a piece of linoleum, which rests on a thick slab of glass (this provides a firm surface to press on), and felt is substituted for the linoleum when the finishing touches are being added.

A special solution is rubbed over the pewter to remove the grease which exudes from the metal, and the metal is then treated with a preparation which colours, or shades, the work. The pewter is turned over and a filling material is poured into the hollowed-out portions of the design to keep them raised on the right side. To prevent it from becoming dull the metal is burnished with powder.

Very strong glue is used to fix the pewter to glass; nails, which add to the decorative effect, are employed in applying the pewter to wood and other materials.

Semi-precious stones can be let into the metal to contribute richness of effect to the finished article. A small hole is punched in the metal and the jewel is held in position by the filling mixture, which is poured round it at the back.

Pewter, modelled and coloured, is applied to the new substitute for ebony to make decorative toilet sets.

## MRS. KENDAL

TALES of her long years of service to the drama, in the course of which she earned such well-deserved fame, were told by Mrs. Kendal, the actress, when she was entertained at dinner at the Hotel Cecil in London by the O.P. Club.

She was born, she said, at Cleethorpes, when her mother was forty-eight and her father fifty-five or fifty-six. "Poor darlings," she said, "they didn't want me. I was their twenty-second baby!"

One of her brothers was Tom Robertson, the playwright, who was educated by a great-aunt and led to believe that he would inherit her money. But when she died he found that she had lived beyond her income and that his inheritance consisted of a silver watch and six teaspoons.

Mrs. Kendal made her first appearance on the stage as a very small girl at the Marylebone Theatre, then under her father's direction. "I was a blind boy in 'Seven Poor Travelers,'" she said. "Directly I got on the stage I opened my eyes and said, 'Look at my new shoes!' I need scarcely tell you I was not a success, and for some short quantity of years I retired from the profession."

She told how, still a child, she saw Ellen Terry at Bristol. "She was a dream of beauty, with her lovely blue eyes and real straw-coloured hair; so graceful, so full of high spirits and good nature."

## KATHARINE MANSFIELD

AN APPRECIATION

by Mrs. A. Duncan

*"The Gods hate not excellence, but lift  
The strong soul slowly on a great  
endeavour.  
And grace their own beloved, gift by  
gift."*



SCARCELY two years have passed since a new writer, a writer of undoubted talent, appeared in the literary firmament. This was apparent from the collection of sketches and short stories entitled "Bliss," with which Katharine Mansfield achieved instantaneous success. Not often does a first book contain such quality and promise. It was followed last year by a second volume, "The Garden Party," also a collection of short stories, which was at once acclaimed a work of genius.

And already she has passed away, a victim to phthisis, in her thirty-third year.

Her loss to literature is great—how great may be gauged in part by the high quality of her work—its realism, its power, and its understanding of life. For the ability to write a short story is rare. It implies the possession in a high degree of the artistic faculty, and is much more difficult than the writing of a novel. The short story writer is certainly born, not made. The power of right selection and grouping is found only in the master mind. It alone can grip the meaning underlying the apparently commonplace incident, and invest it with psychological interest.

And there is no doubt that Miss Mansfield possessed this gift. She took just the simple happenings of everyday life in the street, in the park, or even on the old wharf at Picton, and made them alive, and gave them meaning and poetry with the touch of her magic pen. She was deeply interested in human nature, and had caught something of the spirit animating the Greek Tragedies—the battle of man against the gods. In her stories it is the woman's fight against Fate—her limitations.

She was a comparative beginner, this eager soul peering into life's mysteries, but the place she took among the small band of short story writers is so high that she might have achieved great things had another decade or two been added to such a promising young life.

Miss Mansfield belonged to a talented family. She was the daughter of Sir Harold Beauchamp, the eminent banker, so well known in New Zealand, and one of her cousins is the Countess Russell, the authoress of that charming series of books beginning with "Elizabeth and Her

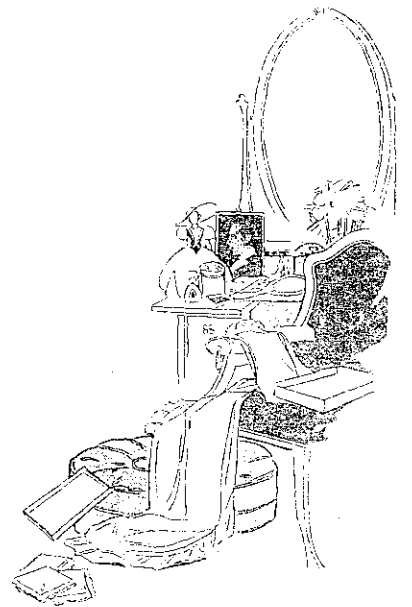
German Garden" and ending to date with that delightful romance "The Enchanted April." Miss Mansfield, who a few years ago married Mr. Middleton Murry, the English critic and novelist, spent the early portion of her life in the Dominion, and has made considerable use of New Zealand material in her stories, thereby greatly enhancing their value and interest for Colonial readers.

## WOMEN AS ARCHITECTS

AT the distribution of prizes at the Architectural Association School, Bedford Square, London, last year, a woman student, Miss E. G. Cooke, received her diploma, and it is expected that in 1923 several more women will achieve a like distinction. "We have 200 students in the school, about 30 of whom are women," said the secretary to a correspondent. "The course is a five years' one, and includes such subjects as design, colour, sanitary engineering, interior decoration, historical study of architectural styles, and town planning. The general bent of the woman student is towards interior decoration. She has a natural appreciation for colour. We do not find that labour-saving devices are more to her than to men, for at this stage the student has had no experience of cooking and such household arts, and has not therefore come in contact with domestic disabilities or amenities. A man architect is just as likely as a woman to possess special qualifications in this direction." Mrs. May Cane, first member of the Concrete Institute for Architects and Engineers, who specialises definitely upon labour-saving devices, expressed her views on the subject. "I agree with this opinion," she said, "and have always advised that women who are going in for domestic architecture should first of all learn housewifery. How else are they to discover the needs of women in this line? My own architectural training started at home under my mother's guidance, for she was determined that I should first of all learn housewifery in its various branches, and that knowledge has stood me in good stead ever since. I have specialised upon fitted furniture because it saves space and cleaning 'underneath.' It is particularly adaptable to flat and bungalow life, and can be adapted to any individual needs. Even a bed can do this, for the part that is usually waste space can be employed as low cupboards."



MISS Edith Howes, the well-known authoress of "The Sun's Babies" and many other delightful books for children. A teacher by profession, she finds time to write nature stories for little people, which are eagerly read by young and old alike. She is a gifted speaker, and her addresses on such subjects as "Music in Nature" and "Songs of the Seashore," delivered at various clubs for women and girls in Dunedin, are always listened to with keen interest.



## ENGAGEMENTS UP TO DATE

ENGAGEMENTS in these days last as many months as they once did years.

Half a century ago it was considered only propriety that Charlotte or Amelia should remain affianced for at least a year after their betrothal, before they were called upon, with many blushes, to "name the day."

The intervening period was spent in amassing the contents of the "bottom drawer," which included much household linen, delicately hemmed and embroidered by the bride-to-be's own fair hands.

Modern conditions, especially since the war, make such a delay unnecessary. The trousseau may be bought in a few days. "Undies" are such simple little garments now, that, if she does not want to purchase these ready-made, little time is wasted between herself and a few willing helpers among her girl friends in running together crêpe de chine and lace.

### Large Trousseaux out of Date

Very large trousseaux are not usual at the present time, unless, of course, like Princess Mary, the bride expects to take up an important social position for which a variety of expensive toilettes are required.

Many girls start off on their honeymoon with only sufficient for their immediate needs. Fashions change so quickly, and there is more leisure after the wedding to add to the wardrobe.

In these modern days young people spend so much time together in the ordinary course of events that there is no occasion for a long engagement to give an engaged couple more of each other's society or opportunities to know one another better.

### The Correct Announcement

Most fashionable weddings which are arranged to take place during the coming season will culminate engagements of a couple of months or so. The correct announcement in the daily papers in these days is: "A marriage has been arranged and will shortly take place between Mr. So-and-So and Miss Somebody-Else, etc." It is paramount to stating that the date of the important event is already practically decided upon, and preparations are going forward, so those who wish to send wedding presents need not delay in dispatching them.