



COUSINS' BADGES.

Cousins requiring badges are requested to send an addressed envelope, when the badge will be forwarded by return mail.

COUSINS' CORRESPONDENCE.

Dear Cousin Kate.—You must be thinking I have already forgotten the Cousins' Page, but, as you see, since I last wrote I have come to Auckland. Travelling from one place to another one does get very mixed up, and I am only just beginning to write letters again. I did enjoy the trip coming from home. We had very rough weather the first few days, but after leaving the Tongan Islands it was delightfully calm. There were a good many of us from Apia, so we had a jolly time. I have friends in two of the Tongan ports we called at, so of course I went ashore to see them. It was a nice break in a rough voyage, for one does get so tired of being on a ship with nothing to do all day but eat and sleep. I am quite glad to get back to Auckland, and I have started taking my singing lessons again, and have five lessons a week. It takes up a good deal of my time. I suppose you heard the Besses o' th' Barn. I think their playing is just lovely, don't you? I do wish a good opera company would come to Auckland soon. I am just longing to go to an opera again. Well, for the present, dear Cousin Kate, I will say good-bye. I will not wait so long till I write again.—Cousin PHYLLIS.

[Dear Cousin Phyllis.—I certainly was thinking that you were a long time answering my last letter, but I quite understand how it has been now that I find you are in Auckland. One has so many letters to write home, and so much to do before settling down to ordinary everyday life after a trip such as you have had. I rather envy you your enjoyment of your trip. It is my great ambition to travel, but I am such a wretched sailor that even if I were given the opportunity I am afraid I should be too cowardly to take it. I should think your singing lessons did take up a good deal of your time; five lessons a week and the practice required to be ready for each lesson must take up the greater part of the day. Would it be indiscreet to ask who you are taking lessons from. Yes, I heard the Besses o' th' Barn, and thought them wonderful. I only heard them at His Majesty's though, and was very anxious to hear them play in the open, but could not manage it. I'm sorry to say, I'm afraid it will be some time before you have your wish gratified. There does not seem much chance of a good opera company coming here for some time. I hope you won't be so long before writing to me again.—Cousin Kate.]

Dear Cousin Kate.—I am sorry not to have written sooner, but you really must excuse me, as I never seem to have time to write a letter now. I owe such a lot, but I hate writing letters, and so my correspondents do not get much from me.

Henny has been ill, and my father thought that she would die, but she is better now. I often bring her inside, and on cold mornings I give her hot porridge for breakfast. I wonder if our cousin who has a rooster for a pet ever takes him into the house. Our rooster won't let me lay a finger on him. I have two dear little guinea-pigs as pets. One I named Brownie and the other Bunny, but I generally just call them bunnies for short. When you were young did you keep any pets? I left school for a while after Christmas, but I am going again now, every day except Monday. We have a good teacher here. Do you play the piano? Some of the exercises are awful, and I don't think I will ever get through them. Our minister is going to leave here soon, and we are going to give him a "farewell" to-morrow night. I must now close with love to all the cousins and yourself.—I remain, yours sincerely, ROSA.

Tuesday.—Last night we got a dear little kitten. The body is black, but its paws are white. I wish there were more than one, but I suppose they would be drowned.—ROSA.

[Dear Cousin Rosa.—Of course I am sorry you have not written before, but I am such a bad correspondent myself that I can make plenty of excuses for other people, so I will not scold you this time. I always wish I liked letter-writing, for I love receiving letters, don't you? I don't think there are many children who have fowls for pets, and there must be very few fowls which are treated as well as your Henny. I play the piano a little, but not nearly as well as I should like to, because when I was young I did not like practising scales and exercises. So, of course, I did not get on very fast.—Cousin Kate.]

Mistress (to coloured house boy): Don't your new shoes hurt you, Sam? Sam: Yaas'm, dey do hurt me considerable; sometimes I has ter get up in de middle of de night 'n' tek'm off.

Bead and Wire Blossoms.

With about a yard of the thinnest, most pliant wire you can get and a box of beads you can grow all the early spring flowers in your lap. For the snow-drip (Fig. 1) thread on ten white beads, pass the wire through the ninth bead, missing the tenth, and thread on eight more beads. Twist at the bottom to form a loop. This makes the first petal. Make the other two petals in the same way. Now thread on five white, three green, and bottom white bead. Now thread and four white beads, pass the wire through the first white bead (Fig. 2) and twist into shape, the last loop being in the middle and the three petals around it. Thread on twenty beads to form a stalk. Make now a long, simple leaf (Figs. 3 and 4). First loop the wire and twist it firmly, as this has to be the stem. On the short end thread eighteen green beads, on the long end also thread eighteen green beads, and twist the wire with short end. Thread on eighteen more beads, pass this wire to bottom of leaf, and twist more wire firmly (Fig. 3). If you wish a larger leaf thread another outside row of beads, then add two beads to the vertical wire before twisting the long wire to form the apex of the leaf. Many more rows may be added in the same way, according to the size of leaf required. Fix your leaf to your stalk and bind with strips of green paper about one-quarter inch thick. If it is not strong enough, take an extra piece of wire, lay it beside the other, and cover with paper.

The snowdrop is the bravest flower Of all the flowers that blow. For while the rest are sleeping sound, All covered up beneath the ground, It peeps up through the snow.

The pretty primrose (Fig. 5) is made by threading on twenty-one yellow beads. Make a loop with these and leave one end of wire for stalk. Bend the other wire up the middle of the loop, thread on eight beads, and pass the wire through the top bead of the petal. Pass the wire down the back of the petal and twist at

the bottom. Make four more petals like this and twist altogether (Fig. 6). Make the centre by bending up one of the ends of wire, on it thread four yellow beads (Fig. 7); pass across the flower, bend the wire down the other side, and twist again. A large, simple leaf should be mounted with the pretty primrose.

Pretty little primrose posy, Growing in the garden cog; As soon as Spring comes out to view I think I'll see you coming too.

The fair field daisy is next. (Fig. 8). Use four pieces of wire, two petals in each. Thread on eight white and one red bead, pass the wire down all beads again, with the exception of the red bead, and bottom white bead. Now thread on seven more white and one red bead, pass the wire down as before, including the last bead of first petal (Fig. 9).

This must be repeated three times. You then will have made eight petals, if all the sets of wires be twisted together. Make a centre of yellow beads as in figure 7. Finish off with a simple leaf and strips of green paper.

The Marguerite daisy (Fig. 10) is made differently from the field. Loops are used for petals instead of spikes. Make every two loops with one length of wire, and pass both ends of the wire through two beads (Fig. 11). There must be eight petals. The centre of the Marguerite is larger than that of the daisy. Bind up one of the wires, within all the petals are twisted together, thread on twelve yellow beads, pass the wire through the last bead to make a circle, and bend the end across it (Fig. 13). Thread in three or four beads to fill the circle, pass the wire through the opposite bead, and bend down and twist.

The daisy wears a large round hat. All white and yellow, broad and flat; So when the sun is shining bright It shades her from the burning heat.

Tulip (Fig. 13). This flower has four petals, each made exactly as in figure 4, only each petal must have at least twelve vertical rows of beads. The beads look well in yellow, with one red bow down the centre for veinings. Twist these four petals together, and lay a stronger wire beside the long end left over from the petals. Instead of finishing off with paper use ordinary green yarn, here and there stick a leaf (Fig. 4), and give it an outward curl to look natural like the real live tulip in the garden bed.

The tulip has a golden cup. She always holds it proudly up To fill with sunbeams or with dew— A dainty cup, I think, don't you?

The Elf's Lullaby.

Sleep, little Elf, in the heart of a rose, (How the wind blows! How the wind blows!) Soft are the petals that over thee close, (How the wind blows! How the wind blows!) Rock-a-bye, lullaby, dear little Fay, Snicker and dream till the dawning of day.

Your brother's a page in a jacket of green, Your mother's a fairy and waits on the Queen. And she's promised again and again, That you shall wear velvet and carry her train. Then rest, little Elf, in your cradle the rose. Rock-a-bye, lullaby, while the wind blows!

