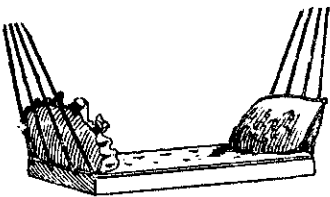


WORK COLUMN.

The hot weather of last summer has, I think, proved to all of us that it is wise to make some preparations before hand if we would enjoy the power of living mostly out of doors that it bestows on us. There is nothing that confers more comfort on the weary housewife than to be able, perhaps while preparing the day's vegetables or "topping and tailing" the gooseberries for a pudding than to rest under a tree, or even in the shadow of the house out in the garden, however small it may be. In my illustration I show a very comfortable modification of the ordinary hammock. It is flat-bottomed and made of strips of sail cloth for the foundation stretched between a simple wooden framework, a soft mattress-like cushion being placed on the top of the foundation. Holes are bored at the ends of each



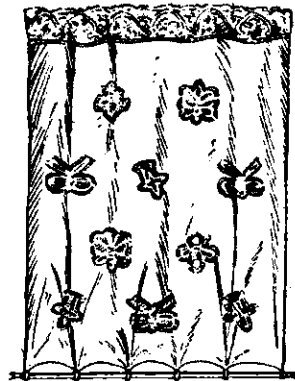
A FLAT-BOTTOMED HAMMOCK.

stave of the framework; stout ropes are then woven in and out of them, as shown in the sketch, by which to sling the hammock either to poles in the ground or else to the low branch of a tree. There is nothing that adds

more to the comfort of any hammock or even garden chair than several pillows of different sizes, to give support to the head and shoulders. Pine needles or vegetable down is the best and cheapest filling for such cushions, and there is nothing better than linen crash for the cover, as it is cool and pleasant to the touch, and, if not so artistic as silk, has the advantage of washing well. Some people, though, prefer holland, which is very cool and is supposed to help to keep away insects. Often the sun interferes unduly with the enjoyment of a hammock. When such is the case it is a good plan to stretch an awning of some cheap material, lined, if preferred, with green glazed calico, over the hammock, to save the eyes from the glare of the sunshine. For this purpose cut the awning three-cornered, having two long sides about three feet longer than the length of the hammock, the shorter side at the head to extend well over it, and the point at the foot cut off to make it about half a yard across. Sew this short end at the bottom firmly over a rod, and fasten by a rope to the tree from which the hammock is slung. The other corners at the head must have ropes sewed stoutly to them and tied up above the head of the hammock. Amongst other comforts for the garden are mats on which to place the feet. These can be easily made out of old pieces of carpets lined with some waterproof materials, such as good American cloth or a piece of mackintosh.

I expect there are a good many women besides myself who have been tempted to buy some of the very pretty bows in lace work which have been offered at such a ridiculously low price during the winter sales, and I daresay they will be glad of a suggestion as to how to use these purchases in another way than for the ornamentation of bodice or blouse. I found on purchasing a somewhat coarse open-meshed Indian muslin that these bows looked exceedingly well applique on it, and being at the time in want of some fresh short curtains I straightway made use of them in this direction. You have no idea how pretty they look. The curtains, of course, want

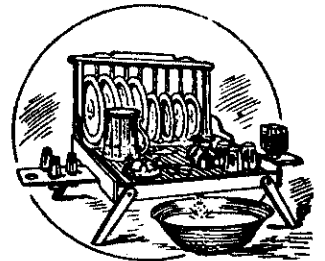
effect on bedspreads, chairbacks, and at the corners of tea-cloths if treated much in the way described above; in fact, the use that may be made of them is practically unlimited.



SHORT CURTAIN WITH LACE BOWS APPLIQUE.

festooning in the manner shown in the drawing on a little brass rail, and to be nicely finished off at the base with lace, which should match the bows in tint. Then, if they are neatly applique, they look as if they were worked on the stuff itself, and the result is remarkably pretty and effective. They also have a good effect placed against coloured art muslin, and for some rooms this is much more suitable, especially where the light requires to be softened in any way. Of course they would have an excellent

A most ingenious article has just come into use, which in a really small family might be made to answer all the needs of ordinary washing up. This is a folding draining-table and rack, and I have had it sketched. For any woman who likes to do her own dainty glass, silver or old china herself, it is a perfect God-send, nothing being more difficult to drain properly than really valuable china unless you have something of this kind, and certainly for anything with raised work upon it, it is practically the only way in which it can be dried. For a housewife who has but little help



FOLDING DRAINING-TABLE AND RACK COMBINED.

in the way of servant labour, it might very well stand in a corner of a dining-room with a little screen before it, and then cups and saucers and such-like breakable necessaries of life might easily be washed and dried without carrying them out of the room.

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