

Our Competition

"HOW I MAKE MY CHRISTMAS GIFTS"

I CAN see a busy month ahead for all my "Good Neighbours" after they have read our competition entries this month. So many good ideas from you all that it was difficult to decide which to use. But here are some of them for you, and first prize this month goes to "Ajax," Oxford, with "London Lass," Wellington, second.

Be sure you get a good supply of wrapping paper, stickers, and tinsel—wrappings can make all the difference to Christmas presents. And don't forget—it is not the size of the gift that matters, because after all the very best gift of all is love and best wishes, for it will not wear out, ever.

First Prize

I LIKE to begin in January, planning just what I shall make during the year, so that there are always a few things on hand when the rush begins. One girl friend is going to receive two dinner mats—actually they are two round asbestos mats, but I have covered them with a circular crocheted mat, made from that old-fashioned, thick white crochet cotton.

Another friend will receive a dainty bed jacket made from a yard of crepe de chine which I have had for a long while. It is such an easy pattern—only two four-inch seams to sew. I'll forward it to you if anyone would like it. And I always give handkerchiefs, so I've made some already. I found tatting in a little shop, and that helped—embroidered initials help, too. For a wee boy I have a bathing suit still on the needles—I unpicked an old scarf for this—and his sister will go to sleep with a cuddly dog in her arms, made from pieces not required for my last apron.

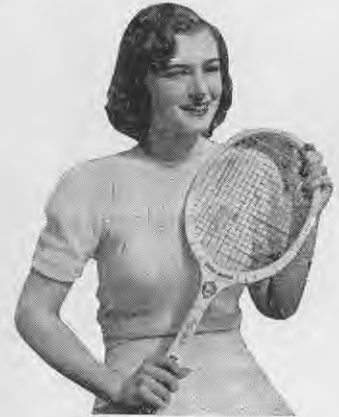
I have several coffee bottles waiting to be filled with my favourite orange drink, and nearby friends will receive my Christmas greetings, and add a tablespoonful to their glass of water. Try using parchment paper for book-markers. I like drawing trees, and printing small verses in Indian ink—so will you. It is easy, too, to cover small notebooks for address books, and larger ones for recipe books. I know a friend who never has pencil or paper near her telephone, so I have designed a large piece of parchment for her, on to which I shall sew a small pad for notes, and tie a pencil. A little turpentine mixed with linseed oil, and smeared on to a good quality drawing paper, makes ideal parchment paper, and I always use water colour paints. And outside there are several fluffy goslings, one of which has a reserve tag on it—Mother always has a goose for Christmas. So a merry Christmas to you all!—**Ajax, Oxford.**

Second Prize

THE Christmas presents that are occupying my mind and fingers this year are anthologies. And lest that word suggests only a volume of rather dull quotations on no particular subject, think of it for a moment under the rough translation of its Greek meaning, "A bunch of flowers." Flowers, that is, of verse and prose, collected so that the varied shades of one kind may be enjoyed together. You need an exercise book as foundation, and a seven-leagued pen, for the

subject once chosen, and the book begun, material crops up everywhere. I began by making a book of "Spring," for a friend who delights in spring's leafy moods. Then, for myself, I gathered poems, quotations, and pictures, all of trees, and straightway knew I must make three separate copies for three special friends. For another, I am making "With the Wind and the Birds," and for a special friend "Christmas." I have planned for my own refreshing a "Rain" book.

These anthologies are destined for folk whose chief interest lies in these subjects, but out of the gleanings of years, I have made a collection of



Tennis days are here again—you will look every bit as smart as this star from the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer studios if you choose a neat white jersey for the coming season.

party games and competitions, and for another friend I collected rare and beautiful prayers such as spoke to my own heart. The secret lies, I think, in choosing the one idea above all others that appeals to the person. One specially happy feature of gifts of this sort is that they need never cease to grow. Both giver and receiver can add continually to each other's treasures. Anthologies entail time and thought—yes—but they bear the hall-mark of a true gift, the personal offering of friendship.—**London Lass, Wellington.**

Highly Commended

MY latest effort has been the making of bead sprays. These sprays are so pretty to wear on dresses or costumes, and anyone with a little in-



LOOK AT THESE
ELASTIC STOCKINGS
SO LIGHT AND COMFORTABLE
YOU CAN'T TELL THEM FROM FINE HOSE

3 Big Improvements in Elastic Stockings

HERE at last are elastic stockings you won't mind wearing. They are so light that they are not conspicuous under fine silk hose. And the lighter Lastex yarns give you cool comfort, yet you get effective support, too. And they can be washed frequently without losing their shape. Ask your doctor about Bauer & Black Elastic Stockings.



Ask your Chemist, or write for particulars to:—

T. A. MACALISTER & COY.,
Dept. J., P.O. Box 1243, AUCKLAND