Tatting of Two Colors Applied to Centerpieces and Doilies

By MRS. C. F. VANCE

INK and blue crochet-cotton were used for the models, but other colors preferred may be chosen.

For a bracelet or luncheon set one may select colors matching the decoration of the china. No. 30 or No. 40 will be found a good, serviceable size. Although finest or coarser thread may be used at pleasure, the coarser the thread the larger the ornament, and wider the border.

For the round set, consisting of tumbler or cup-coaster, four to five inches in diameter, doilies for the bread-and-butter plates, seven to eight inches, and for the service-plates, ten to twelve inches, with the centerpiece, twenty to twenty-four inches, and tray-cover or end-piece, if wanted—may have the simple edge given, with or without medallions knotted. The "three-one-one" knot, popular during the past year or so, and consisting of doilies twelve to eighteen inches, to hold the entire individual service; instead of these smaller doilies, with the eighteen-inch centerpiece, may well have, in addition to the borders, as in each corner of centerpiece and doilies, or service-plates, in place of these, a flower for household use or the gift-box.

For the edge: Wind your shuttle with the pick thread, and use the blue from the same. Make a ring of 5 double knots, (pleat, 5 double knots) 8 times, close; then, make a chain of 5 double knots, (split, 5 double knots), using the second or sound thread; a small ring of 5 double knots, join to side pleat of last or large ring, 5 double knots close; a chain as before; another small ring, joining to same pleat as before; a chain, joining to middle pleat of large ring; a chain of 4 double knots, (pleat, 5 double knots) 2 times, close; a chain of 6 double knots, pleat, (5 double knots, pleat) 2 times, 6 double knots; repeat rings and chains, alternately, until you have 6 of each, joining each ring to preceding and last ring also to first, with last chain at base of first ring.

2. A ring of 5 double knots, pleat, 5 double knots, to first pleat of chain of last row, 5 double knots, pleat, 5 double knots, close; a chain as in last row; a ring, joining to 3 pleats of same chain; a chain; repeat, alternating rings and chains, joining a ring to first and third pleats of each chain of last row; join last chain at base of first ring, and fasten off securely.

Join 3 medallions side by side by middle pleats of 2 consecutive chains; join 5 medallions side by side, and join to the row of 3 medallions by 2 chains of each; between the 2 joined a simple medallion, forming a point, which joins to one side of center; join medallions at side of each joint by pleat of one chain. If preferred, the junctions may be made with needle and thread.

The Card-Index in Housekeeping

By LESLIE GORDON

HOUSEKEEPING is really one of the most complicated businesses in the world, and yet it is one that is often run in a haphazard way. The reason why certain women make fortunes managing big hotels, while the average woman fails to earn more than a very meager living running a boarding-house is because the man puts his housekeeping on a business basis, while the woman lets hers run along in any old way and never knows just why she is losing money. Now, many of the card-systems that are used to save time in the office can be used with advantage in the home. I have a friend who says that a card index has taken half her worries as well as saved her a good deal of money during the last year.

Until she married she had been a successful business woman who had been accustomed to a well ordered routine every day and also to knowing exactly where the firm stood financially so that when she became the home partner in a matrimonial firm she determined that she would follow the same plan.

"When I was first married I determined to keep my head save my heft. My mother had taught me a good deal about housekeeping, so that I was not absolutely inexperienced; but I had found the adage of 'a place for everything and everything in its place' of the first importance. The first thing I did was to make my card-book and showed the "Daily Recorder" and the order of the days of the week. On the first card I entered all my daily tasks consecutively. Nothing was too small to record its place on the card, and I did not intend to make my mind do any of the work of a set of cards could do for it. On the cards for the days of the week I wrote all the little special tasks, not forgetting even such details as washing the clock, filling the salt-cellar, etc.

I then, with the cards at hand, worked like a machine and finished in about half the time it would have taken if I had stopped to wonder what needed to be done each day. Those cards I filed in a box divided into sections into which I wrote cards on which were copied different names that I have found both economical and appetizing. All my special receipes I have also copied on cards and placed in the box so that I can find them without delay when needed.

Then I also keep a sort of kitchen "day book." In which I write lists of supplies needed as soon as they are out, and in this I write menus for the meals for two or three days ahead and I find that this greatly facilitates marketing and makes the preparation of meals easier. The card-index greatly simplifies kitchen work. I also have a loose-leaf memorandum-book in which I keep my shopping-lists (dry-goods, notions, etc., needed), and also lists of anything needing mending or any odd job for a spare minute. All these cards are little book keepers for me. These, with the addition of a book in which I keep a strict account of all expenditures and a check-book with which all bills are paid, are all the business tools I have, but I find them of great assistance.