

In almost every home there is likely to be a poinsettia or two, the loveliest of Christmas flowers. The transfer of these plants from the greenhouse to the home is always a shock, for they do not take kindly to the dry air, and variable temperatures. They like warm air and keep them at all they must be protected from chills and drafts. They must be given plenty of water. When not sufficiently supplied with water the leaves turn yellow and fall. Carrying these plants for any length of time is an achievement of experience.

The next most popular gift plant is the cyclamen with its wealth of beautiful flowers. These plants want sunshine and plenty of water in weather unhappy home conditions. Having tuberous roots, they can be repotted in the spring for about the following winter, but most people find it easier to buy new plants each year than to try to carry the tubers over. Raising them from seed is a long, cumbersome task for it takes 15 months to grow cyclamen from seed and through all that time there must never be a check in growth.

**BERRIES FOR DECORATION.**  
Another popular yuletide plant is the Jerusalem cherry tree, which has bright red berries that are most attractive amid red and green decorations. These require a sunny location, plenty of fresh air and water. These plants are sensitive to the slightest trace of gas in the atmosphere and will show distress immediately and lose their leaves. Cut back after blooming, along in early spring, and plunge in a shady spot.

fect these v... The major be-  
gonia is a hardy and popular type  
and is not as easily disturbed by  
changes in atmosphere as some of  
the others.  
The housewife who received a  
couple of plants of the sansevieria  
in fancy bits of pottery can be  
happy, for they stand almost any

leaves, the green being mar-  
bled with various markings in yellow.  
Some varieties have a broad  
yellow margin in the leaves. These  
are commonly known as the snake  
or zebra plants. They are popular  
in dish gardens with Chinese ever-  
greens, pagoda plants and the tiny  
Christmas cactus.



FIRST GRADERS IN OAKMAN SCHOOL ENJOY READING.

## Trays Are Useful and Decorative Furnishings But Should Conform to Place in Which Used

By EDITH B. CRUMB.

**T**RAYS will never lose their usefulness or attractiveness for whether they are old or new they seem to have that quality which lends charm to a room, table or mantel.

A tray is something that every house should have, and when it is not used as a convenience it serves as an ornament.

As for prices of trays, these may range from 10c on up to many dollars, but the inexpensive ones may be made as delightful as those which cost much more.

### SUITS PERIOD ROOM.

The breakfast room always needs a tray and if the room is furnished in early American style, the black painted trays with gold borders and floral center decoration would be attractive. There are some espe-

cially quaint trays which may now be bought for approximately \$1.00 and these are made of maple and decorated with reproductions of old-time fashion prints, the effect being rather antique. On this might be used a hob-nail pitcher and glasses if the scheme is to be carried out in detail.

### PEWTER IS USEFUL.

Pewter trays, old and new, find many uses, the small ones being just right for the cream pitcher and sugar bowl and the larger ones for toaster, coffee pot and hot water pitcher.

Brass or copper trays lend a rich lustre to a side board or serving table and if large enough may be used for the afternoon tea service.

The breakfast tray is quite an important addition to any household. It takes care of guests, or if there is an invalid in the home, it pro-

vides convenience for the serving and eating of meals.

### SERVICEABLE BREAK-FAST TRAY.

The breakfast tray should be of good size and equipped with short legs or supports in order that it may have a solid foundation. Dishes and glassware may be bought especially for this tray and this is also true of the linens, for if the tray is arranged especially attractive the most disagreeable diet takes on a more "partified" air.

For the breakfast tray there should be plate, cup and saucer, egg cup, oatmeal dish, covered muffin dish, bread and butter plate, goblet and small fruit dish. Of course, a small bud vase must not be forgotten and also small sized coffee pot, cream pitcher, hot water pitcher and sugar bowl should be provided. This allows for the serving of any kind of a meal and the glassware and china should be very carefully selected.

### CLOTH SHOULD MATCH.

A cloth the size of the tray should be especially made for this and also a napkin to match. The cloth may be of very fine material, such as handkerchief linen, and may be finished with hemstitched border or trimmed with linen lace edging. This may be hemstitched in position.

If the dishes for the tray are to be of the coarser type, such as peasant ware, the linens might be of coarser weave and brighter colors. Plaids are delightful with dishes of this type, and there are checks and

stripes which make very attractive backgrounds for this gay pottery.

### MORE ELABORATE STYLES.

Trays for the living-room are a bit more elaborate than those for the breakfast room or bedroom, some being made of wood with inlaid decorations, and others having glass surfaces beneath which might be used material, new or old, or wall paper of appropriate design. Hand embroideries are very lovely beneath the glass of trays, and those who have pieces of old brocades or shawls will find that the underside of a glass tray is a very ideal place to preserve them and show them off to advantage.

Black painted trays with decorations of English hunting scenes are finding great favor now and are especially effective in sun rooms, where a gay touch is always welcome.

### Metal Monograms.

The formality of daytime costumes calls for accessories in keeping—and among the new ones are bags of supple leathers with conventional monograms of gleaming metal.

## Gay Prints Ha

**P**RINTED crepes have an unquestioned place in a woman's wardrobe. It is common knowledge that there is a woman's psychology which makes her prefer when she is wearied with winter and the present interest of textile designers in

## Cherry Wood Reappears in Furniture

**C**HERRY wood, rich in color and cordial in feeling, figures importantly in excellent interiors of today. Charmingly simple bedroom suites following characteristics of the early American period can be had in this medium. Also, for the dining room or breakfast room, there are informal suites comprising Welsh cupboard and ladderback chairs. Cherry is charmingly used in the cottage type of living room, too—constructing the butterfly tables, wing chairs and other allied pieces generally associated with a sister wood, maple. Two colors of perennial spring importance—yellow and green—complement cherry attractively. Chintz and homespuns are harmonious. More delicate glazes as well as heavier potteries make complementary table accessories.