

# Flowers for Mother and Child

By H. H. Battles

Pretty custom of sending flowers to a child is born is growing rapidly. A few years ago flowers were simply sent to the mother, but now the little one is generally included in many ways. Flowers are arranged in a large basket or a small one, with a very small basket for the baby. Flowers tied to the handle, or in a small one is for the baby. A little girl there is for the conventional hand-bouquet.

At the Christening of a Child white flowers are usually ordered and sent. Little gifts are often attached to the flowers.

For Graduation Exercises often classes at school and college have some special class flower, and this is used. Often class colors are used. These it is generally wise to emphasize in ribbon rather than in the color of the flowers, as it is unsatisfactory to use purple violets for blue, and yellow flowers when an orange color is desired.



Green basket with handle (twenty inches high), filled with Roses and simple garden flowers. Small basket six inches in diameter, of Sweet Peas and Lilies-of-the-Valley.



Twelve inches of soft baby ribbon and a wide ribbon.

Seven inches in diameter with ten yards of baby ribbon tied to the flowers attached to this ribbon. There is sometimes extravagantly on the same size bouquet. If a little boy a regular boutonniere sent. When the name of the mother or she is addressed rather than the grown up. Sometimes sent to an uncle of the baby who assumes that the name is his. Once a proud grandfather writes an account, naming the baby, and sends the pass-book in a letter addressed to the child. A set of little pins was sent; one a miniature rosebud on a five-inch baby-blue ribbon. As a large handsome cluster or an bouquet with lace-paper is sent. Frequently very large chrysanthemums, the miniature bouquets are

When the Girl Becomes a D butante the aim is to have as great a variety of combinations as possible. In many cases long-stemmed flowers are arranged quite loosely, using a cornucopia of white parchment paper, much as is used in Paris. This acts as a frame and gives an individuality to the arrangement. When thus treated the colors of bouquets grouped near it do not conflict.



Round bouquet of twenty Camellias in holder of French lace paper. Three yards of white satin ribbon two inches wide. Ends cut in old-fashioned method.

When the Girl Becomes a Bride the bouquet is generally arranged in a shower because it is most easily carried. It should always be of white flowers. Occasionally at extremely fashionable weddings the old-fashioned idea of a very stiff, formal bouquet of gardenias or camellias is carried out. The maid of honor has a "Bernhardt" bouquet, which is simply an armful of flowers. The more carelessly this armful is arranged the better, as though the young lady had gathered



Old-fashioned bouquet, twelve inches in diameter, of Calla Lilies, Hymenocallis, Ranunculus, Sweet Alyssum, in holder of French lace paper. Three yards of white satin ribbon two inches wide, with "ush tail" ends.

Where the Mother or Her Child is ill the one idea is to send flowers of bright colors and not too heavy an odor. Lilies-of-the-valley and violets are a particularly bad combination, being too somber in color. Especial care should be given to the arrangement of these flowers so that the first impression of the patient may be one of pleasure. I always value the criticism of trained nurses as to the lasting quality of flowers, as they generally give them intelligent care, and try to keep them looking fresh as long as they can for their patients. Flowers should be as deeply arranged in water as possible, and it is well to take them from the sleeping room at night and use fresh water in the morning, cutting the stems a little at the end.

In Sending Cards with Flowers, unless one has something special to say, it is customary simply to send one's name or visiting card, letting the flowers express the sentiment. It is not necessary to have expensive flowers. Often wild flowers and grasses, those gathered from one's own garden, give the most pleasure. It is the love and thought that go with them that determines the value.

The Desire to Give Flowers shows itself very early in one's life. Who has not seen the little chubby hand of a baby gathering daisies, buttercups, clover heads: heads because the child first clutches the beautiful color, the flowers with no stems? The child invariably takes the flower to its mother; the mother thanks the child, smells the flower, and the little one sees the pleasure it has given, gathers more, and has had its first lesson in the love for the beautiful and the pleasure of giving. A little later the child can be taught to pick the flowers with longer stems. The little mind is gradually led to see the beauty in grasses and will soon awake to the fact that there is a marvelous variety, and very soon, unless the mother has observed such things, she will be learning from the child.



Bouquet, seven inches in diameter, of old-fashioned flowers.

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