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READERS of Home Arts—Needlecraft will undoubtedly agree that we are all hobbyists and most of us think that needlework is one of the best hobbies in the world.

It interests us to know that Lily Pons and Rose Bampton, both noted opera singers, indulge in needlework as their personal hobbies. We read recently that both of these charming ladies are to go on the lecture platform in support of needlecraft as a hobby.

At the same time we read about other hobbies which we presume are just as interesting to those who follow them. For instance, there is Cyril Clemens, a cousin of the famous American humorist, who leads a group which is interested only in Mark Twainiana—that is, in things relating to Mark Twain and the books he wrote. Surely those people have a hobby that will not let time hang heavily on their hands and one which should not call for very long faces at monthly meetings.

Perhaps next to needlework, music is one of the most popular hobbies, and it interests us very much to read that Paul Whiteman, the famous promoter of American jazz orchestra music, has been a collector of musical instruments and old musical books for years. Paul Whiteman is now considered the dean of modern American music and he is endowing a museum of American music at Williams College. Think what pleasure and inspiration lovers of music will be able to get out of such an institution.

The Paul Whiteman museum at Williams College will include old manuscript and scores that represent the nation's music growth since colonial days. An important feature is old instruments—instruments which were used as far back as the time when early slave ships deposited their cargoes on these shores. How interesting it is to read that since the establishment of the Whiteman museum was first announced, contributions from every part of the country have been received—contributions of old manuscript and instruments, precious relics or treasures which some music lover wants to be preserved forever as a matter of record for all students and all lovers of music.

How nice it would be if some interested lover of needlework would establish a needlework museum. Of course we have beautiful tapestries and lacework in our art museums today, but can you not visualize an entire building devoted to exquisite examples of this universal art from earliest oriental days to the current period of braided rugs in New England? What a precious array of women's skill and love of beauty would be under that roof! We wonder if there could be a finer monument to the skill, the patience, creative instinct, loving labor which are some of the chief glories of womankind.

We agree with the following sentiment which was written to us the other day:

"Hobbies are vital for complete recreation, mental and physical, in the leisure of our fast, complex, modern civilization. They provide release from the nervous jangle and problems of the workaday world. Anyone can indulge in a hobby without much expense or economic pressure. Reading, radio-listening, sports, movie-going—all are hobbies that are enjoyed by millions with little or no effort and expense.

"I feel certain that if more people all over the world were hobby-conscious, they would be too preoccupied with such pleasurable pursuits and would have formed too strong bonds of friendship to give expression to the war jitters now harassing the world."

Here indeed is a thought. No woman but would like to have the war jitters allayed—or rather, would like to remove altogether the causes making for war. One way of course is to follow universal peaceful pursuits and to do nothing to encourage the war mongers.

And meanwhile, with causes for alarm on all sides of us, the jitters will help nobody in any way. So if a hobby will save us from those jitters, let's all pick a hobby and go to it.

For us, we will go the way of our house and vote for that ancient and honorable, the most enduring and most universal of women's hobbies, worthwhile needlework.

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Mary Stewart Knit & Sew

SUMMER NEEDLEWORK . . . FASHION NOTES . . . PARTY TIPS