KNITTING NETTING AND CROCHET.

THE

LADIES' HAND-BOOK

OF

KNITTING, NETTING,

AND

CROCHET;

CONTAINING

PLAIN DIRECTIONS BY WHICH TO BECOME PROFICIENT IN THOSE BRANCHES OF USEFUL AND ORNAMENTAL EMPLOYMENT.

EDITED BY AN AMERICAN LADY.

NEW YORK:
J. S. REDFIELD, CLINTON HALL.
MDCCCXLIV.

STEREOTYPED BY REDFIELD AND SAVAGE,
13 CHAMBERS STREET, N. Y.

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INTRODUCTION.

THE art of knitting is supposed to have been invented by the Spanish; and would, doubtless, form in connexion with needlework, an agreeable relaxation, amid the stiff formality, and unvarying mechanical movements which made up, for the most part, the lives of the ancient female nobility of that peninsula. The Scotch also lay claim to the invention, but we think upon no sufficient authority. Knitted silk hose were first worn in England by Henry VIII., and we are told that a present of a pair of long knitted silk stockings, of Spanish manufacture, was presented to the young prince (Edward VI.) by Sir Thomas Gresham, and were graciously received as a gift of some importance. Clumsy and unsightly cloth hose had been previously worn, and though we are told by Howel that Queen Elizabeth was presented with a pair of black *knitted* silk stockings, by Mistress Montague, her silkwoman, yet her maids of honor were not allowed to wear an article of dress which her royal pride deemed only suited to regal magnificence. We believe the first pair of knitted stockings ever made in England, were the production of one William Rider, an apprentice residing on London Bridge, who having accidentally seen a pair of knitted worsted stockings, while detained on some business at the house of one of the Italian

merchants, made a pair of a similar kind, which he presented to the Earl of Pembroke, 1654. The stocking frame was the invention of Mr. W. Lee, M. A., who had been expelled from Cambridge for marrying in contravention to the statutes of the university. Himself and his wife, it seems, were reduced to the necessity of depending upon the skill of the latter in the art of knitting, for their subsistence. And as necessity is the parent of invention, Mr. Lee, by carefully watching the motion of the needles, was enabled, in 1589, to invent the stocking frame, which has been a source of much advantage to others, though there is reason to believe the contrivance was of little service to the original proprietor. Since its first introduction, knitting has been applied to a vast variety of purposes, and has been improved to an extent almost beyond belief. It has furnished to the blind, the indigent and almost destitute Irish cottage girl, the means of pleasure and profit at the same time. Many ladies, including some in the ranks of royalty, have employed their hours of leisure in the fabrication of articles, the produce of which, have gone to the funds of charity, and have tended to the alleviation of at least some of

"The numerous ills that flesh is heir to,"

and among these, the labors of the Hon. Mrs. Wingfield, upon the estate of Lord de Vesci, in Ireland, ought not to be forgotten.

Netting is another employment to which the attention of the fair has been directed from the remotest times.

Specimens of Egyptian network performed three thousand years since, are still in existence; and from this time, the art, in connexion with that of spinning flax, was there carried to a high state of perfection. With these specimens are preserved some of the needles anciently used in netting. They are preserved in one of the museums at Berlin. The Egyptian nets were made of flax, and were so fine and delicate, that, according to Pliny, "they would pass through a small ring; and a single person could carry a sufficient number of these to surround a whole wood. Julius Lupus, while governor of Egypt, had some of these nets, each string of which consisted of one hundred and fifty threads." But even this fineness was far exceeded by the thread of a linen corslet, presented by Amasis, king of Egypt, to the Rhodians, the threads of which, as we learn from the same author, were each composed of three hundred and sixty-five fibres. Herodotus also mentions a corslet of a similar texture.

The nets, of which the ancient specimens remain, were then employed in fishing, and the taking of the feathered tribe, but it is beyond a doubt that the art was also employed for other purposes, as the instances above testify.

In connexion with other elegant female accomplishments, netting has continued to claim the attention of the ladies of Europe in every advancing stage of civilization, and in the present day it is cultivated with considerable success. Knitting was a favorite employ-

ment of the late Queen Charlotte, during the latter years of her life.

Crochet-work has been long known, but it has only become a favorite with the fair votaries of the needle during the last few years. It is very difficult to describe, though easy of execution, and can be applied to a variety of useful and ornamental purposes. It is more frequently adopted in working shawls, table-covers, pillows, mats, slippers, carriage-mats, and a great variety of other things of elegance and utility. Silk, cotton, and wool, are employed, and the work so easy that a moderate share of attention to details will make an expert workwoman.

On the subject of knitting, netting, and crotchet-work, we feel that, notwithstanding the variety of books published on the subject, a hand-book containing plain instructions and directions to those who are desirous of becoming their own instructers, is still a desideratum; and this, we trust, the following pages will be found amply to supply. Our aim is, not to make young ladies servile copyists, but to lead them to the formation of habits of thought and reflection, which may issue in higher attainments than the knitting of a shawl, or the netting of a purse.

KNITTING, NETTING, & CROTCHET.

CHAPTER I.

MATERIALS FOR WORKING.

SILK.—This material is extensively used in the various productions in which we are about to treat. The kinds usually employed in knitting, netting, and crotchet, are purse silk or twist—coarse and fine netting silk—second sized purse twist—plain silk—China silk—extra fine, and finest netting silk—second sized netting silk—coarse and fine chenille, and crotchet silk. These are so well known, that it would be a waste of time to describe them in detail. They are of a great variety of colors, and of different qualities, some sorts being much more durable both in fabric and color than others. No young lady should trust at first, to her

own judgment in making the selection; but a little attention will soon render her a proficient in the art of choosing the most profitable materials. The China silks of the French, surpass all others of that kind with which we are acquainted, both as to the nature of teints, and the brilliancy of the various dyes and shades.

WOOL.—Of various colors and shades—German wool (single and double)—Hamburgh wool, fleecy, of three, four, five, six, seven, and eight threads—embroidery fleecy—Shetland wool—English wool—coarse yarn, for mitts.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF WOOLS.

German wool is the produce of the merino breed, in its highest state of cultivation, and is the best sheep's wool we possess. The merino fleece is brought to the greatest perfection in Saxony, and the adjacent states. It is chiefly manufactured for the purposes of needlework, &c., at Gotha; the dying of it is performed at Berlin, and in other parts of Germany. The wools of Germany are in fineness and softness much superior to those of Spain. The wool is prepared in various sizes, and for some kinds of work may be split with great advantage. A

large quantity is imported into this country in a raw state, and is died and manufactured here. Some of this is equal to the wools prepared in Germany, as to quality, but the brilliancy of the color will not bear comparison. This remark does not extend to the black German wool, prepared in this country, and which is far superior to that prepared on the continent. Much wool, of a very inferior quality, is annually prepared for the market; and so great is its resemblance to a superior article, that it requires much attention, and an experienced eye to detect the fraud. English wool, or what is often called embroidery wool, is much harsher than that of Germany, yet it is of a very superior kind, and much to be preferred for some kinds of work. The die of several colors of English lamb's wool is equal to that of the best dies of Germany, especially scarlet and some of the shades of blue, green, and gold color, which, for brilliancy and permanency, may justly claim equality with the most finished productions of the continental states.

Worsted is another description of our native produce, and is extensively used for a great

variety of useful purposes, which are familiar to every one. A great proportion of the needle-work of the last century was done in a kind of worsted, called CREWELS; and some specimens still remain, which do great credit to the venerable grand-dames of the present generation. Yarn is a coarse kind of worsted, much employed in making garden nets, and for a variety of other purposes. Fleecy (English) is manufactured from the Leicestershire breed, and is much used in knitting and netting; it is of two qualities, both varying in size from an eighth to a quarter of an inch in diameter. They are made up of threads, varying from two to twelve, and are both equally good. They are applied to crotchet, as well as to the other descriptions of work named. German fleecy, though but little used, is much superior to that of this country. Hamburgh wool is an excellent article, but has not hitherto been much in request. Great care is necessary in selecting wool of good quality; but let the young novice give to the subject her best attention, and should she find herself sometimes deceived, still persevere, remembering that "practice makes perfect."

COTTON, of various sizes, as numbered from one to six, or higher if required. In the choice of this material, much care is needed, not only in the selection of colors and shades, but also to ascertain if the color has been stained with a permanent die.

DOWN.—This is sometimes used for stuffing knitted cushions, muffs, &c., and is too well known to need any description here.

GOLD AND SILVER THREAD AND CORD.—The precious metals are now very generally employed in the ornamental parts of all kinds of fancy work. Gold and silver thread consists of a thread of silk, round which is spun an exceedingly fine wire of the metal required. For gold, silver or copper gilt wire is employed, as pure gold could not be so easily wrought. These threads can be employed in almost any way which the taste of the fair artist may induce her to desire. Besides the thread, gold and silver cord is also in much demand, and looks extremely beautiful, when employed with taste and judgment. This material is a twist, and is composed of different quantities of threads, according to the thickness required.

Much care is required in working with it, or the beauty of the material will be spoiled. It is much used in crotchet, and without due attention, the point of the needle is liable to catch the cord, and to break the wire, which would entirely destroy the beauty of the performance.

BEADS.—These beautiful fabrications of art, are composed of gold, silver, polished steel, and glass. There is also a beautiful sort called garnet beads, with gold points. All these can be procured at any of the establishments for the sale of fancy articles, and are to be employed as the judgment or fancy may direct. The gold beads are used in making all kinds of knitting, netting, and crotchet, and look well either by themselves, or when in connexion with those of the other materials named. Glass beads may be procured of any variety of color, and when in combination with gold, silver, or steel, form a beautiful relief.

NECESSARY IMPLEMENTS FOR KNITTING.

Needles of various sizes. The No. referred to are those of the knitting needle gauge. Needles pointed at either end, for Turkish knit-

ting. Ivory or wooden pins, for knitting a biroche. A knitting sheath, &c., to be fastened on the waist of the knitter, toward the right hand, for the purpose of keeping the needle in a steady and proper position.

NECESSARY IMPLEMENTS FOR NETTING.

A pin, or mesh, on which to form the loops. A needle called a netting needle, formed into a kind of fork, with two prongs at each end. The ends of the prongs meet and form a blunt point, not fastened like the eye of the common needle, but left open, that the thread or twine may pass between them, and be wound upon the needle. The prongs are brought to a point, in order that the needle may pass through a small loop without interruption. Twine, to form foundations. A fine long darning needle for bead work. Meshes of various sizes, from No. 1 to 18. Flat meshes, and ivory meshes, also of various sizes. The gauge is the same as that for knitting needles.

NECESSARY IMPLEMENTS FOR CROTCHET.

Ivory crotchet needles of various sizes.

Steel crotchet needles. Rug needles, and a pair of long and sharp-pointed scissors.

These various implements should be disposed in a regular and orderly manner, as should also the materials for working. Order and regularity are matters too frequently neglected in the gay and buoyant season of youth; and this fault, which is the parent of so much annoyance in after life, is but too generally overlooked by those whose duty it is to correct those incipient seeds of future mischief. No pursuit should be entered into by the young without having some moral end in view; and this is especially needful to be observed in cases, where at first sight, it might appear a matter of indifference, whether the pursuit was one of utility, or of mere relaxation. We earnestly entreat our young friends never to forget that even our amusements may be rendered an acceptable sacrifice to their heavenly Father, if they assiduously endeavor to make the habits they form in their seasons of relaxation from graver studies, conducive to the development of the higher faculties of their nature, and subordinate preparations for a more exalted state

of being than any which this transitory scene, can, of itself, present to their contemplation and pursuits. Dyer, speaking of tapestry, has beautifully said,—

> "This bright art
> Did zealous Europe learn of Pagan lands,
> While she assayed with rage of holy war
> To desolate their fields: but old the skill:
> Long were the Phrygian's pict'ring looms renowned;
> Tyre also, wealthy seat of art, excelled,
> And older Sidon, in th' historic web."

But we would have our fair friends to place before them a high and a definite object. Let them seek, like the excellent Miss Linwood—

> "To raise at once our reverence and delight,
> To elevate the mind and charm the sight,
> To pour religion through the attentive eye,
> And waft the soul on wings of ecstacy.
> Bid mimic art with nature's self to vie,
> And raise the spirit to its native sky."

CHAPTER II.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR WORKING.

KNITTING.

To cast on the Loops or Stitches.—Take the material in the right hand, and twisting it round the little finger, bring it under the next two, and pass it over the fore finger. Then taking the end in the left hand (holding the needle in the right), wrap it round the little finger, and thence bring it over the thumb, and round the two fore fingers. By this process the young learner will find that she has formed a loop: she must then bring the needle under the lower thread of the material, and above that which is over the fore finger, passing the thread that is over the fore finger of the right hand under the needle, which must be brought down through the loop; and the thread which is in the left hand being drawn tight, completes the operation. This process must be repeated as many times as there are stitches cast on.

KNITTING STITCH.—The needle must be put through the cast on the stitch, and the material turned over it, which is to be taken up, and the under loop, or stitch, is to be let off. This is called plain stitch, and is to be continued until one round is completed.

PEARL STITCH.—Called also seam, ribbed, and turn stitch, is formed by knitting with the material before the needle; and instead of bringing the needle over the upper thread, it is brought under it.

TO RIB, is to knit plain and pearled stitches alternately. Three plain, and three pearled, is generally the rule.

TO CAST OVER.—This means bringing the material round the needle, forward.

NARROWING.—This is to decrease the number of stitches by knitting two together, so as to form only one loop.

RAISING.—This is to increase the number of stitches, and is effected by knitting one stitch as usual, and then omitting to slip out the left hand needle; to pass the material forward and form a second stitch, putting the needle under the stitch.

Care must be taken to put the thread back when the additional stitch is finished.

To Seam.—Knit a pearl stitch every alternate row.

A row, means the stitches from one end of the needle to the other; and a round, the whole of the stitches on two, three, or more needles. Note, in casting on a stocking, there must always be an odd stitch cast on for the seam.

To bring the thread forward, means to pass it between the needle toward the person of the operator.

A Loop Stitch is made by passing the thread before the needle. In knitting the succeeding loop, it will again take its proper place.

A Slip Stitch is made by passing it from one needle to another without knitting it.

To fasten on.—This term refers to fastening the end of the material, when it is necessary to do so during the progress of the work. The best way is to place the two ends contrarywise to each other, and knit a few stitches with both.

To cast off.—This is done by knitting two

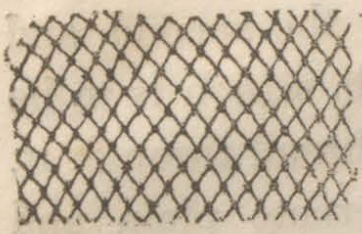
stitches, passing the first over the second, and so proceeding to the last stitch, which is to be made secure by passing the thread through it.

WELTS are rounds of alternate plain and ribbed stitches, done at the top of stockings, and are designed to prevent their twisting or curling up.

Sometimes knitting is done in rows of plain and pearl stitches, or in a variety of neat and fanciful patterns. Scarcely any kind of work is susceptible of so much variety, or can be applied to so many ornamental fabrics or uses in domestic economy. The fair votary of this art, must be careful neither to knit too tight nor too loose. A medium, which will soon be acquired by care and practice, is the best, and shows the various kinds of work to the best advantage. The young lady should take care to preserve her needles entirely free from rust; and to handle the materials of her work with as delicate a touch as possible.

NETTING.

PLAIN NETTING.—Take the mesh in the left hand (having previously made a long loop



with twine, and fixed it to any convenient support), between the first two fingers and the thumb. The netting needle must be threaded with the material, and fastened by a knot to the long loop before spoken of, and the mesh must be held up as close as possible to this knot, *under* the twine. The needle is to be held in the right hand between the fore finger and the thumb, and must be passed under and around the left hand, so that the material may be formed into a slack loop, passing over all the fingers except the little one. In this position the material must be held between the upper side of the mesh and the left hand thumb, and the needle must be passed back round the pin or mesh, allowing the material to form a larger loop, so as to include the little finger. The needle will thus be brought round in front of the mesh, and must pass under the first loop between the mesh and the fingers, and thus through the loop called the foundation loop, and thence over that portion of the material which goes backward, for the purpose of forming the second

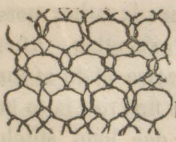
loop. The needle must be kept in its position, till the right hand is so brought round as to be able to pull it through; and then the needle being drawn out and held in the right hand, the worker must disengage all the fingers of the left, except the last, which is to retain its hold of the second loop, which was formed by passing the material round it. By means of this hold retained by the little finger, the material is to be drawn to the mesh, and the knot thus formed, be drawn tight to the foundation. This process is to be repeated until a sufficient number or stitches are found to be necessary according to the width of the net desired. As the mesh becomes filled, some of the loops must be suffered to drop off; and when the row is completed, it must be drawn out, and a row of loops will be found suspended from the foundation by their respective knots, and moving freely onward. The work is then to be turned over, which will cause the ends of the rows to be reversed; and in netting a second row, it will be done as before, from left to right. In commencing the second and all the succeeding rows, the mesh must be so placed as

to come up close to the bottom of the preceding row or loops, and the former process with the needle must be repeated. It will be needful to have a sufficient quantity of the material always wound on the needle, or otherwise it will not move freely round, as it is indispensable it should do.

NET WITH POINTS.—This is done by making a foundation of, say, ninety stitches. Net on this foundation with any color you please. Net fifty stitches and return back again, proceed as before, only decreasing ten stitches, and so go on until the required point is gained. Two colors are required.

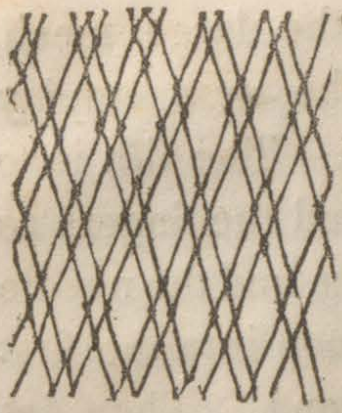
NET WITH BEADS.—Thread a long darning needle with netting silk, thread the beads as you want them, and pass one on the top of the mesh. Then net a stitch, passing the material under the mesh and through the bead; the silk must then be passed back again under the mesh, and it will draw the bead with it, and leave it on the knot.

GRECIAN NETTING.—This is beautiful, and should be worked with fine silk, and with two meshes, Nos. 9 and 18, one plain row is to be



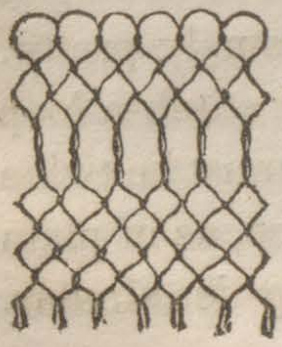
netted with the large mesh, and then in the next employ the small one. The silk is to be twisted round the fingers as in plain netting, and the needle must pass through the finger loop into the first stitch, and thence into the second. Then let the second be drawn through the first, and the first through the second, finishing the stitch by releasing your fingers, and pulling the material tight. The succeeding stitch, is a small loop, that appears to cross the stitches twisted together. These three kind of stitches form the pattern, and are to be repeated until the work is completed. Grecian netting may be employed for a variety of purposes and you can, of course, vary both the material and the meshes, as best accords with the design you are intending to accomplish.

Diamond Netting.—This kind of netting is easy of execution, and looks extremely pretty. It is done by making every other stitch a loop stitch, in order to which, the silk must be twice put round the mesh, instead of once, as in plain netting. Treble diamond netting is similar,



only the process is rather more complex in its execution. After netting three rows plain at the beginning, the first row is to be composed of one loop stitch, and three plain stitches, repeated until the row is finished; then in working the second row commence with a plain stitch, then follow with a loop, then two plain stitches, and repeat as before. For the third row begin with one or two plain stitches, make a loop, then net a stitch plain, and repeat the two loops in the plain stitch to the end of the row. For the fourth row you net three stitches in plain netting, then make a loop stitch, and repeat as in previous rows. An attention to this arrangement will soon enable the young student in net work to net in as many stitches as she may deem desirable.

PLAIN OPEN NETTING.—This is pretty, and



easy of execution. The operation is performed by netting three rows plain, then a row of loop stitches, then three rows plain, and a row of loops as before. You

may net to any length you please. These directions are all that are necessary, and if duly attended to, will enable the young lady to attain proficiency.

CROTCHET.

STITCHES.—These are called plain single crotchet, plain double crotchet, plain stitch open crotchet, and open crotchet, with a variety of stitches. It is not easy to describe the manner of working crotchet stitch, though it is easy of execution; perhaps the following will be found tolerably correct. Take a skein of wool, and having wound it, make a loop at one end, like the first link of a chain; through this draw another, and so on until the chain is of the length required. Each must be made rather tight, as it is drawn through its preceding loop. This forms the foundation, and the young worker may then proceed with the article she intends to make. She must pass the needle through the last loop of the foundation, and catching the silk or other material from behind, draw it through, and so proceed with every suceeding loop of the foundation, until

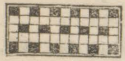
the row is completed. Then having thus formed the first row, she must proceed as before to form a second, and so on from right to left, and from left to right, until she has all the rows required. This is the most effectual way we know of for the learner to pursue, and she will find that her work is the same on both sides, producing raised and depressed rows in alternate succession. In working, she must not generally work backward and forward, but must finish each row separately.

Plain Crotchet.—Make only one loop in each stitch. In making common purses in crotchet, this is the stitch generally employed.

Plain Double Crotchet.—Keep two loops on the needle before finishing the stitch. This stitch is more generally in use than any of the others described.

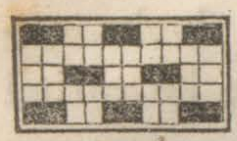
Plain Stitch open Crotchet.—This stitch is done in the following manner. To the last link of the foundation chain, crotchet five stitches, which must be again crotcheted to the fifth stitch of the chain. This is to be repeated to the end of the foundation. The rest of the rows are to be done in the same way, attach-

ing every fifth stitch to the centre one of each loop in the row preceding. This looks extremely well for purses, and it can be varied by employing two or more colors, as taste or fancy may direct.

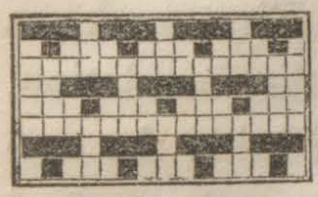


OPEN CROTCHET.—This stitch is difficult to describe: an attention to the following rules, will, we hope, enable the reader to understand it. First make a chain of the length required for the foundation. Then work one stitch plain, and bring the material round the needle, which must be passed through the first loop of the chain, through which bring the material, and you will thus have three stitches on the needle. Through the first two of these the material must be drawn, which will leave two; through these the material must be again drawn, and that will leave one, through which you are to make one stitch plain, as at the commencement. You then put the material over the needle and through the fourth link of the chain, and proceed as before. You will thus have one plain stitch between each two double ones, which will leave an open space.

DOUBLE OPEN CROTCHET.—This is a similar stitch, only the single stitch is omitted, and the two long stitches are made together by passing the needle through the next loop without missing a stitch. Thus you have two long stitches and one open stitch, in regular succession.



TREBLE OPEN CROTCHET.—This is exactly like the last, only making three long stitches, instead of two, before every plain stitch. It looks extremely elegant, and may have beads introduced, which produce a charming effect. The following directions will enable the novice to work with beads with freedom and accuracy. Thread the beads on a strong silk, and pass one on to the middle stitch of each of the long ones. This will, of course, place a bead in the centre of each square. Beads of various colors may be introduced, so as to form diamonds. A gold or polished steel one should form the centre of each diamond.



DOUBLE STITCH CROTCHET.—To work this, you have only to take both meshes of the chain, instead of one, as in common crotchet.

PLAIN STITCH ELASTIC CROTCHET.—Work backward and forward, first taking one mesh off the chain, and then the other. The upper mesh must be taken first.

A RAISED STITCH.—Make this by passing the needle through both meshes of the chain, and working two stitches, instead of one, in the same space or hole.

TO INCREASE OR DECREASE A STITCH.—In the former case, make two stitches in the same mesh; and in the latter, take two stitches together as one, or miss one.

TRUE STITCH.—This means to keep the stitches exactly over each other, when working in different colors, so as to conceal the half stitch. This must be done with care; and the more attention is paid to it the more beautiful will the work appear.

TO FASTEN ON OR OFF.—The former is done by laying the two ends of the material contrarywise, and working a few stitches with both. The latter process is performed by drawing the material through the last stitch, which must be fastened at the back.

A DIVIDING LINE.—The most general form

is that of working two stitches up and down, alternately, between the stripes in the groundings; but it can be varied according to taste.

What is called making a stitch at the beginning and end of a row, means making one stitch of a chain before the first and after the last, which new stitches are to be crotcheted in the suceeding row.

We have given the fullest explanation of the various stitches in knitting, netting, and crotchet, that our limited space will allow; and, we hope that the directions are so plain, that no one will be at a loss to comprehend their meaning But we can not promise any votary of these delightful engagements, even tolerable success,—unless she will assiduously apply her own mind to the various directions given. "No one can become an expert needle-woman, who does not think, and think deeply too."

CHAPTER III.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS.

KNITTING.

STOCKINGS.—Cast on first size 73, second 85, third 91, fourth 99, fifth 109, sixth 133. Then knit rounds to the commencement of the narrowings, 40, 42, 54, 56, 60, and 74, respectively, according to the sizes given above. The narrowings in the leg are according to the size, 8, 10, 12, 13, 14, and 21. After which you knit 18, 20, 25, 27, 30, or 45 rounds to the heel, which is to be formed in the following manner: The stitches are to be divided in half, taking care to have the seam stitch for the middle, and the heel is to be knitted in alternate turns of plain and pearled stitches. The length, of course, varies in proportion to the size, being 12 turns for the first and second, 13 for the third, 14 for the fourth, 15 for the fifth, and 20 for the sixth. The heel is finished by knitting the nine middle stitches in rows, the same as the heel, and taking up one of the

others with the last loop of each row, till all is taken off. There will thus be nine stitches when the heel is finished. Having got thus far, you proceed to form the foot as follows. You take up sixteen stitches on each side of the heel, in the second row, and in taking them up, you make a seam on each side of the instep, knitting another stitch in the loop under the first and last, which prevents holes in the corners, that would otherwise occur. Then narrow every second round on the heel sides of the seam, until the number of stitches is the same as those in the instep, or what is commonly called the fore foot needle. You will have for the instep, 28, 32, 34, 36, 40, or 46, as the size may be; and the rounds between the heel and the toe narrowings will be 14, 18, 23, 26, and 34, respectively, and the narrowings for the feet will be 6, 8, 8, 8, 9, and 10, on each side, according to the measurement given. You begin the toe by narrowing double at the seams, leaving only the seam stitch between, and narrowing twice with three, and twice with two rounds left between each narrowing; then narrow twice, leaving but one

round between, and then every round, until sixteen stitches only are left. Finish by putting the two needles having stitches on them together, and taking one from each, knit them together. And when two stitches are done in this manner, cast them off, the first over the last, until the whole is taken off the needles. It should be noted that the stitches in the heel vary with the size of the stocking, and are as follows: first size 29, second 33, third 33, fourth 37, fifth 41, and sixth 45.

Some workers take off the heel in the same manner as the toe is here directed to be finished.

Open Work Stockings.—On each needle cast on 52 stitches with fine cotton, knit the welts and raise one stitch for the seam. When you arrive at the narrowings narrow every eighth row, and when you have 38 stitches on each needle, cease, and knit until the ankle is completed; then take half the stitches to form the heel, knit 23 loops, and narrow on each side of the seam for three rows. In forming the heel, narrow every row once the fourth loop from the seam, and then the loops must

be taken up, the end one as close as possible. Take three stitches from each side of the fore-foot needle to the other and knit a round plain, after which, widen every fifth stitch on both sides of the heel. Alternate rows of the heel needles are then to be narrowed until only 36 loops remain on each. The stitches to be narrowed are the fifth and sixth from the ends. Knit the feet of a proper length, and then narrow at the ends of the needles every other row, until only 10 remain on each; narrow every row until you have only three, which you cast off in the usual manner. The open pattern is produced by knitting every fifth round thus: take two stitches in one, and bring the cotton in front of the needle, that it may form a stitch before taking the succeeding two into one. The more open you desire the work to be, the fewer stitches and the finer needles you will require.

A Night Stocking.—This is easily done; cast on 54 stitches, on large needles, and pearl every other stitch, narrowing gradually toward the end.

Socks.—These are very useful articles, and

are easy of execution. In the first size there are 49 stitches, in the second 55, in the third 85; they have 16, 20, or 24 turns to the heel, in which there are 25, 29, or 43 stitches, as the size may require. The instep has 24, 25, or 42 stitches, and the length of the heel is 10, 12, or 14 turns. The length of the foot between the narrowings is 10, 12, and 28 rounds.

Pine Apple Pattern Bag.—You must cast on thirty-six loops, on three needles, and proceed thus: First row, knit one plain, raise one by throwing the silk over the pin, knit one plain, then raise, knit two plain; you knit the next two together, drawing the last loop over the first; you will then have six loops. In the second row, knit the first raised loop, then raise, knit the next one plain, then raise, knit plain till you come to the next raising, and omit knitting the two together as in the first row. Third row, you knit plain to the raising, and then proceed as in the first row. You knit the fourth as the second; and so proceed, alternately, until you have twelve rows. Then, in the stitches you have previously narrowed,

you must raise, and introduce a bead upon each plain loop, with a thread, and again raise. Where you had previously raised, you must narrow with the bead you have upon the silk. In this manner proceed raising and narrowing, alternately, until you have twelve rows, as before. You then reverse, and again work as in the first part of the pattern.

PATTERN FOR A LIGHT SCARF.—Cast on the number of stitches required upon No. 18 needles, and any kind of material you choose: three-thread fleecy is generally preferred. Knit one plain stitch, then two together, and so on alternately to the end of the row: each succeeding one is but a repetition of the first; it may be done in stripes with various colors.

CHECKED PATTERNS.—Any number of stitches may be cast on, that can be divided by six. Then knit the first three rows three pearl stitches, and three plain; second three rows, knit three stitches plain, and three pearl. This pattern may be worked for children's socks, bags, mats (if done in coarse materials), &c.

KNITTED FRINGE.—This may be made of any material deemed most suitable for the pur-

poses to which it is to be applied. Cast on eight stitches. First knit two, then make one, by bringing the cotton round the needle, and knitting it when it occurs in the next row, then knit two stitches together, knit one, make one as before, knit two together, knit eight, and so proceed to the end of the row. When you have knitted as many rows as you require, cast off five stitches and leave three, &c., unraveled for the fringe. These may be knitted in two or more colors, taking care to knit them in equal spaces, that is, with an equal number of stitches in each color.

Double Nightcap.—You will find five needles are required. You must cast on two stitches, on each of four needles, and in the first row increase two, and in the second one plain stitch in each. In the third row the centre stitch on each needle must be seamed, and you must increase on each side of it every other row, until you have attained the width required. You then knit the fourth and every succeeding row plain, until the cap is of a sufficient length, say, twenty-four to twenty-eight inches, then decrease the first row, and make the other end to correspond with that first knitted.

BAREGE KNITTING FOR SHAWLS.—In this kind of work you commence with any number of stitches you require, and after knitting one row plain, you begin the second by knitting three stitches, then bring the wool forward, and knit three together, taking them off at the back, again you bring the wool forward, and knit three as before. The third row is pearled, and the fourth is the second repeated, only beginning by knitting three stitches together. Fifth row the same as the third, and thus proceed with any number of rows you choose. You may introduce any patterns in flowers, &c., you may desire, by breaking off the ground color and fastening on that which is designed for the pattern, by means of a slip knot made at the end of the wool. All flowers, &c., must be done in plain knitting.

A BIROCHE.—This stitch is very simple. You bring the wool forward, slip one, and knit two together. This elegant cushion is made up of 16 narrow rows, and 16 broad stripes, which decrease gradually toward the centre. It may be made in double German wool, or other material, with No. 19 ivory or wooden

pins. Cast on ninety stitches, and knit two turns, then in gold color three turns, and again two in black. This forms the narrow stripe. Then form the broad stripe thus: Knit two stitches and turn, then knit two of the black, and turn; this must be continued, taking every time two additional stitches of the black, until you are within two stitches of the top, and then turn. You will now find the wool has descended to the wide part of the stripe. You then again commence a narrow stripe, and so go on until the whole is completed. When the last wide stripe is finished, knit it to the first narrow stripe and make up the biroche in any manner you please.

A Strong Knitted Purse.—Any number of stitches that can be divided by three will do. First and last row. The wool is to be brought forward, then slip one, knit two, and pass over them the slip-stitch, repeat second and fourth row plain. Third and fifth row. Knit two before commencing the pattern. The holes will then fall in a diagonal direction. It will require to be stretched.

Herring-bone Purse.—The number of

stitches must be so as to be divided by four. The silk is to be brought forward, then slip one, knit one, and bring the slip-stitch over it. Knit one, again bring the silk forward, pearl one, and so repeat. Both these purses should be knitted wtth second-sized netting silk, the former with needles No. 6, and the latter with No. 13.

Plain Knitted Muffatees.—For these you will require four needles. On three of these needles cast on an equal number of stitches, according to the size required, and knit each round three pearl and three plain: finish with one plain and two pearl rows.

A Knitted Muff in imitation of Sable.—You must cast on seventy or eighty stitches. Knit the first three rows plain, then for the fourth row, bring the wool forward, and taking two stitches at the back, knit them; repeat to the end. These four rows must be repeated, until the piece is about half a yard long; taking care that the shading is as correct as possible. You must here use No. 19 needles, and double German wool. The shades required are four, and you begin with the lightest, proceeding to

the darkest, and then reversing them. The muff must be stuffed, and lined with silk.

BABY'S SHOE.—Work with two colors in stripes. You cast on 28 stitches, *in blue*, and knit one row plain; then knit a plain row in white, adding one stitch at the end to form the heel, and turn; then a similar row in blue; increase and turn; repeat this without increasing, and changing the colors each time until you have 10 stripes. Then knit one row in blue, and turn, casting off seventeen stitches. You begin from the heel. The remaining thirteen stitches are knitted with white; turn; knit a row with blue; turn; and so continue until you have five rows of one color, and four of the other. The thirteen stitches are then to be done in blue, and seventeen to correspond are to be added; turn. This side is finished like the other, decreasing for the heel. You then sew up the heel and toe, so as to form a shoe. You are then with four needles to pick up the stitches round the ankle and fore-foot, putting an equal number upon each of three needles, and knit five rows plain: make a stitch by bringing the wool forward, then slip one;

knit the next two, and pass the slip stitch over them; again bring the wool forward, and repeat the process for one round; knit eighteen rows, five plain, four pearled; repeat and finish by bringing the wool forward, knitting two together; then knit two rows plain, and cast off. You must use No. 14 needles, and double German wool.

Baby's Hood.—Use No. 18 needles, and double German wool; cast on fifty stitches, and knit eighty rows plain; roll up sixty to form the front. Three inches of the cast off part are to be sewed together, and the rest is to be drawn up for the crown. Then cast on fifty stitches to form the foundation for the hood, and knit forty rows plain. Line with white silk, and trim with satin riband.

Close Stitch, for a Waistcoat.—This is to be done in two colors, and cast on any odd number of stitches. First and fifth rows with one color; knit one and slip one in succession. Second and sixth rows with the other color: knit one, bring the wool forward, and slip one; pass the wool back, knit one. Repeat. The third is the first reversed, and the

fourth is worked exactly as the second, omitting the first stitch.

DOTTED KNITTING, FOR BABY'S SHOES, &c.—Cast on, and knit as many rows as you desire, knitting one stitch plain, and the next pearled. Begin every other row with a pearled stitch. An odd number of stitches are required, and No. 8 needles.

HARLEQUIN QUILT WITH TUFTS.—This is done in double knitting stitch, with six thread fleecy. The pieces are six inches square. Each square consists of about 24 stitches, and they are to be sewn together with a tuft of wool, black or white, at each corner. The squares should be knitted in at least three colors, including white, in a quilt two and a half yards square. There will be 225 pieces, 113 of which should be white. Make the tufts as follows: wind four-thread fleecy about 12 times round a grooved wooden mesh, one inch in width; then slip a coarse thread in the groove, and tie the wool quite tight, but taking care that an end is left to it, which can be drawn through and fastened to the quilt. The loops of wool are to be cut through on the

other side of the mesh; after which, it is to be combed and dressed as neatly as possible.

NETTING.

Plain Netted Mittens.—Begin on forty-eight stitches as a foundation, and net four rows plain, then form the loops for the riband with a mesh double the size of that you work with. Then five rows more are to be netted plain; and in the next you must join both ends, and net one plain round, taking care in the twelfth stitch to increase. Again net round and increase as before. Net the remaining stitches. You must then net sixteen rounds, increasing two stitches, to form the thumb in the same place as the other increased stitches, every other round. Join the thumb stitches and net seven rounds, which is the length of the thumb, decreasing a stitch or two in every round. With the larger mesh you are to net two stitches in every loop, and then net one round, taking the two together. Net two or three rounds with a finer mesh for a finish. This finishes the thumb. Net as many rounds as are wanted for the hand, and finish as before.

Run in the riband, and edge with lace. You must have a No. 12 mesh, and five skeins of silk.

NETTED CUFF, WITH SILK AND WOOL.—On a foundation of ninety-six stitches, and with a No. 11 mesh, net one row plain in floss silk. Second row the same. Then with an ivory mesh of half an inch in width, net one row in German wool. The fourth row is to be done two stitches in one with wool, using a small mesh. Then for the inside of half of the cuff, net fourteen rows with the large and small meshes successively. These to be done in silk and wool alternately. The next three rows to be netted in dark wool. Then with the small mesh net two rows in silk, the same color as at the commencement, alternately, with seven rows of wool, in proper shades, and finish with an edge to correspond with the beginning.

NETTED FRINGE.—Use a mesh No. 18, and net the required length, dropping off the stitches on the left. Net the next row the same. Then with a flat mesh, the width of the fringe, placing the grooved edge downward, net one

row. These latter loops are to be cut, and either left as they are, or knitted two and two together, as the taste of the worker may dictate.

PLAIN NETTED GENTLEMAN'S PURSE.—Of coarse netting silk, you will require five skeins, and a mesh No. 13. You must have a foundation of eighty stitches on which to commence, and you net to the length of ten inches. Net up the sides and damp it slightly, after which it is to be put upon a purse stretcher, where it is to be left for a few hours, then take it off and trim it as you please.

A LADY'S PURSE.—Net in the same manner, seventy stitches on the foundation, and nine inches in length is sufficient. Employ a mesh No. 10, and fine netting silk. Two colors may be used, netting five rows with one, and four with the other.

A PURSE WITH CHINA SILK.—Make as many stitches on the foundation as you please. Net three rows with plain colors, then five with China silk. Repeat.

A SEAM PURSE, WITH BEADS.—You will need four skeins of the silk, and a mesh No. 8.

On a foundation of one hundred stitches, net one plain row. Then in the next row, net a plain and a bead stitch successively. Net the third row plain, and begin the next with a bead stitch. Proceed thus till the purse is completed.

A Netted Bag, with Ring.—On a foundation of sixty stitches, net the bag to half the length required; then net in a gilt ring, and finish the bag. Draw it up with riband, and place a gilded or silk tassel at the bottom. You will require coarse netting silk, and a No. 16 mesh. You may use union cord, or gold twist, if you prefer it.

Dice Pattern Purse.—This is done in two colors, highly contrasted. You must have two skeins of second-sized netting silk, and a No. 10 mesh. On a foundation of ninety-eight stitches, net seven with the darkest color, You net seven rows. Then introduce the lighter silk, by joining it to the seventh stitch of the first row of the dark color, and net seven rows upon the succeeding seven stitches of the foundation. You must be careful to loop in the last dark stitch on each row: repeat this pro-

cess, until the purse is of the length you require; of course reversing the squares. In cutting off the silk, you must leave sufficient to make a weaver's knot, with which it is to be fastened to the succeeding color.

CROTCHET.

Sofa Pillow.—Work in six thread fleecy, and with a good-sized crotchet needle, work as follows: For the first stripe commence with two rows of the same color, the next three rows in different shades of a color that will contrast well with that of the first two; the sixth row must be of a different color, or it may be white. The next five rows are to correspond, reversing the colors and shades. The second stripe is composed of seven rows, the first three distinct shades of the same color, the middle one a contrast, and the other three the same shades as the first, but reversed as before. The third stripe is the same, but, of course, the colors are different. A white row in the middle of each stripe, is, in our opinion, the best. The fourth stripe is a repetition of the first, omitting the color in the first two

rows, the fifth of the second, and the sixth of the third. The last stripe is to correspond *exactly* with the first.

TURKISH PATTERN FOR A TABLE COVER.—Use a steel needle, and six thread fleecy. Form the dividing line of two shades of the same color, say claret, and have four stripes, namely, white, gold color, blue, and scarlet. Then on the white stripe work the pattern in two greens, two scarlets, two blues, a brown, and a yellow. On the gold color, in two blues and one claret, white, lilac, and green. On the blue, in two scarlets, two greens, one drab, white, brown, and orange. And on the scarlet, one green, one white, two blues, a claret, and a bright yellow. We have merely given the colors in the above as a specimen, and to assist the youthful artist in the formation of habits of arrangement. She can, of course, adopt any colors and shades she pleases, and the more she employs her own thought and judgment, the more original will her work appear.

A PLAIN CROTCHET BAG, IN SILK.—Begin at the top with a chain of a hundred and fifty stitches. The material to work with may be

any kind of silk that is proper for the purpose, and of any color that may be deemed desirable. On this foundation a plain row is to be worked, and then a row in two colors in two stitches of each, alternately. The second color then is employed to form the ground of the pattern. Work one plain row, and then work large stars, in a color to contrast with the plain ground. Between the large stars work small ones in a different color. One row of plain ground is to be crotcheted on each side of the pattern, and before commencing the second stripe, repeat the row of two colors in two stitches of each. The ground of the next stripe is to contrast highly with that of the former one. The larger stars should also be well contrasted, but all in the same stripe must be of the same color; all the small stars should be alike. The stripes are to be repeated successively, until the bag is completed. It can then be trimmed according to fancy.

A Greek Cap, in coarse Chenille.—With a chain of six or eight stitches begin at the top, and having united the ends, work round and round in rows, until it is eight inches

across. You must increase your stitches in each row, so as to preserve the work flat. Work the sides in open crotchet, and between every two rows, it will be best to introduce a few plain lines in black and gold. This cap is extremely elegant.

A Crotchet Neck Chain.—Commence with five plain stitches, then put the needle through the back of the second, and make one stitch plain. By twisting the chain after every stitch, you will find that one stitch appears to cross; that stitch is the one to be next taken and crotcheted.

A Plain Crotchet Purse.—This purse is made with a middle-sized netting silk, and is strong and durable. A chain is to be made of one hundred and forty stitches of any color you prefer, on which you are to crotchet three rows plain in the same color. Then five rows in a color making a good contrast. Repeat these stripes as many times as is requisite, and crotchet up the sides. Draw up the ends and trim the purse.

We deem it unnecessary to add more examples in crotchet, as without engravings they

would not be understood. This kind of work is capable of being applied to an almost indefinite number of purposes; but in almost all cases, though easy of execution, the patterns are not easy to be described in writing. We have, however, done all that is required to afford an insight into this kind of needlework, and have shown that for purses, bags, caps, neck-chains, &c., it can readily be brought into requisition. Mnch care and judgment are required in the arrangement of colors, as on this almost the whole beauty of the work depends.

CHAPTER IV.

CONCLUSION.

In the foregoing pages, we have endeavored to lay before the young votaress of the needle such instructions as we hope will be found sufficiently clear to enable her to produce many a delightful specimen of her assiduity, taste, and judgment. We have sought to be concise without being obscure, and to give plain directions without making our readers mere imitators or copyists. One fault which is to be found in all the books on these subjects, which we have seen, we have carefully avoided; that is, the giving a list of the various colors to be employed in the fabrication of each example given. Nothing can be more absurd and mischievous than this. The young workwoman can only exercise her judgment to any extent in this department of her labors. The various stitches she must form according to the prescribed rule, because in most instances they can be performed in no other manner. But in

the choice of materials and colors she should have free scope; here judgment, taste, and fancy, should range, untrammelled by rules and forms; and yet this is rarely done, because the lady is taught to rely upon her patterns, and scarcely ever to consult her own sense of beauty or propriety. We know the effect of this, in the sameness and monotonous appearance of almost all kinds of fancy work; and we have done our best to introduce a more correct taste and principle into this department of the elegant arts in which females are engaged. We know that much native genius exists among our fair countrywomen, and we wish to see it expand as freely as the refreshing breeze that sweeps over our native hills.

But we have a higher end in view than promoting the acquisition of accomplishments, however elegant and pleasing. We wish to direct the minds of those we are thus endeavoring to interest and instruct, to the immortal beauties of moral excellence. These works may be made conducive, in a high degree, to the development of family affection, and the promotion, to a vast extent, of the purposes of

genuine charity, benevolence, and friendship. But there is yet a higher kind of use to which we would apply them. We would have the young lady, who is becoming expert and clever at her needle, to reflect, as the beautiful fabric grows beneath her forming hand, that her work, and the power and skill to plan and execute it, are emanations of the immortal mind—that mind whose creative powers are a faint but legible transcript of the omnipotent wisdom of the Deity. This thought gives a permanency to what would in any other light be only transitory as the summer cloud. It is Omnipotent wisdom and power which contrived and executed all the beautiful wonders of creation; and that wisdom and power were called into activity by omnipotent love. We desire to impress this sublime truth upon the minds of our young readers, because we wish them to place their heavenly Father before them, as their pattern and example, in all that they take in hand; and to remember, that as he formed the universe by wisdom and love, so all their actions and elegant contrivances should be the result of judgment, guided by affection, that

they may thus become like their Father who is in heaven.

Indeed, it is only when accomplishments are rendered subservient to the development of moral goodness, that they become pursuits at all worthy of an accountable being. We were not sent into this world to flutter through life like the gaudy butterfly, only to be seen and admired; we were designed to be useful to our fellow-beings, and to make all our powers and capabilities, in some way or other, conducive to the happiness and welfare of our co-journeyers on the path of time. To this end we wish our fair countrywomen to devote their best attention, and in its attainment to exert every energy which they possess. We wish them to make all the knowledge which they may acquire subserve some noble purpose, which will outlive the present hour; and to do this, the well-spring of the purest affections must be opened in the soul, and the elegant productions of taste and genius become civilized and animated by the spirit of love. Thus, and thus only, can the occupations of a leisure hour be converted into efficient ministers of

good; and such they will assuredly be found, if practised from right motives, and placed in due subordination to the right exercise of more important duties. Let, then, the young votaress of the needle, of drawing, or of music, ever bear in mind, that the time employed in those pursuits will be accounted, by the impartial Judge of all, lost or improved, just in proportion as they have been made to serve the purposes of selfish gratification, or to minister to the development of an elevated moral character, generous and warm affections, and the cultivation of those virtues which, as essentials to the Christian character, shall outlive the ravages of time, and qualify the soul for all the beatitudes of a coming eternity.

THE END.

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