



FIG. 8.—PICT Braid FRILL.



This pretty braid can be had at most haberdashers' in several sizes. It is cheap and effective. It can be sewn down as it is to the edge of the frill, and then, if further ornamentation is needed, a line of knot-stitch can be made under it. Bring your needle out to the right side of the material, and put your needle behind the thread in the way clearly seen in the illustration. Bring it out over the thread a little way down, having taken your stitch a little slantwise. Go on making these knots at regular intervals.

Women in America.

Somewhat with a statistical habit has been tabulating a lot of information about women and their work. The results are more interesting than the general run of statistics, and may contain some surprises for all but the most accurately informed.

Here, for instance, are some of the things that have been discovered.

Sixty years ago ten men worked for wages to every one woman; to-day the ratio is four to one, and rapidly diminishing.

Thirty years ago two-thirds of the self-supporting women in New York State were maid servants. At present the proportion has been reduced to one-third.

By far the greater number of self-supporting women are of American birth and nationality. Next in numbers and enterprise come the Hebrew women.

Women have developed scores of new industries and made them successful. Among these are doctoring canaries, breeding high-class cats, making boots for dolls, designing backs of playing cards, repairing old laces, and growing violets, mushrooms, sweet peas, trout, frogs, quail, etc.

The half-million self-supporting women in New York State have been pretty accurately classified. Of these there are more than thirty thousand teachers—which does not include the musicians and music teachers, 4,000 in number, or the trained nurses and kindergartners, who are about 2,000 strong. Dressmakers hold their own with 35,000, seamstresses with 18,000, milliners with 7,000, boarding-house keepers with 4,000, and shopkeepers with 3,500.

Women employed in farm and dairy number 30,000. In tailoring the sexes are practically on a par, and are estimated to number 10,000 each. In the personnel of stores there are 8,000 clerks, 7,000 saleswomen, 4,000 bookkeepers, and some 3,000 labourers, scrubwomen and janitors.

The mills and factories give employment to a small army. There are 10,000 factory hands, 5,000 mill hands, 4,000 operators in wool, felt, silk and cotton mills; 2,000 in hosiery, glove and under-wear works; 3,000 in boot and shoe factories, and 5,000 in the cigarette, cigar and tobacco works. If to these figures be added the clerical force, the scrubwomen, and others employed, the total will reach some 40,000.

To Clean Plush and Velvet.

Among the best agents for cleaning these fabrics are turpentine and alcohol. Nothing should be used that will mat the pile of the velvet or plush. Spread the surface to be cleaned on a board, and sponge with one of the materials named; then rub briskly with a clean, dry cloth. When all the material is cleaned steam it to raise the pile. To do this have two irons made very hot; put one on its side, and cover it with several thicknesses of old cotton or woollen cloths made very wet. Pass the back of the velvet over this, holding it close to the cloth until the velvet looks thick and fluffy. If you wish to stiffen the back of the velvet, put it face down on a clean board, and tack it so that it shall lie perfectly straight. Have one-fourth of an ounce of gum-arabic dissolved in a gill of water, and apply

AS SEEN THROUGH WOMAN'S EYES.

Household Linen.

EMBROIDERED FRILLS FOR PILLOW-CASES.

These frills can be embroidered on linen, and they form a pretty addition to the pillow-slip. You can trace your own patterns quite well if you care to do so, and can copy those given here.

The way in which the scallops and points are marked out is this. Cut out a half circle and pencil round it, the points are done by pencilling round a card point.

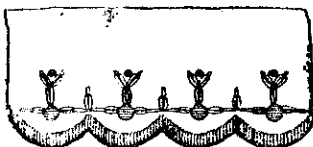


FIG. 1.—A LOOP AND BALL BORDER.

In Fig. 1 a small pattern is seen, which is very easily worked. The small satin-stitch balls have loops coming from them, and a French knot between the two upper ones. The loops are made in the same way as those seen in the daisy of Fig. 2.



FIG. 2.—DAISY PATTERN.

This is very easy to draw, as all you have to do is to draw circles over the points, and then make your loops, all radiating from the middle.

Bring your needle up in the middle of the circle, and holding your thread down with your left-hand thumb, and putting your needle in the centre, again bring it out just a little way within the edge of the outer circle.

Draw through, and secure the loop with a short stitch beyond it. A French knot is placed in the middle of each daisy.

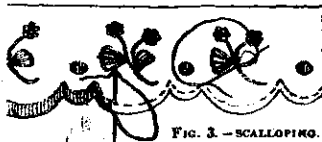


FIG. 3.—SCALLOPING.

Run your scallops, or points, with coarser flax than that with which you do the embroidery. If you want to make them stand out very much in relief, as if padded, run some lines of cotton loosely along underneath the buttonholing which forms the scallops. In doing this, let the cotton or flax lie as much on the surface as possible, for you want it there to serve as padding, and not at the back. Soft French cotton flosselle is very good for doing this with, and forms excellent padding.

The little pattern is done very easily. The fan is done by a few buttonhole stitches all radiating from one point. Look at the needle, and you will see exactly how.

The stems are done in stem-stitch, and the little flowers are only a few French knots done closely together. These are made by winding the cotton

three or four times round the needle, which is then pushed through to the back of the work in the ordinary way.

The stitches in the little balls in between must all run in the same direction—that is, from left to right, or from top to bottom.

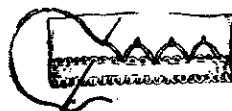


FIG. 4.—FANCY TRIMMING.

A little fancy braid with open-work border makes an excellent edging. Sew it on the outer edge, and then make the loops secure the other to the linen. Open loops are formed very easily, and if you look at the illustration you cannot fail to understand how they are done.

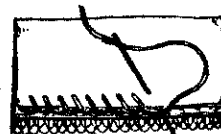


FIG. 5.—CORDING BORDER.

This is another very easily-done border. The frill is edged with a narrow lace edging, which is secured on the inner side by cording-stitch. This really is only feather-stitch done at one side only. Keep your thread under the needle, and make your slanting stitches at regular intervals. This is a pretty and very useful stitch.