

lady to appreciate another lady; and if by daily wear the gold should rub off, showing a clay foundation, there are sure to result frictions, jars, and a variety of small crosses that are as hard to carry as bigger ones.

Where the party is restricted in numbers, as ours was, these frictions become all the more noticeable. A larger household is in some senses easier to manage, in that a balance can be preserved and jealousies are not so manifest.

A club of twenty or thirty members, with rules applying to all, and agreed to by all, would be less troublesome to deal with than the comparatively small household of two parties, often opposing factions.

If we are honest with ourselves we are forced to admit that all these difficulties (and particularly the factions) are most pronounced when the members are all of one sex—our own sex.

As a sex we lack breadth of view, and lacking this we magnify details. Taking our cue from one another, we do not always wait to see whether the example was itself a just one.

A mixed household is far better in many respects than one confined to members of one sex only. We soon learn why it was that "the solitary" were "set in families" when we come to deal with them on a wider scale.

(To be continued.)

INFANT'S HEM-STITCHED SHIRT.

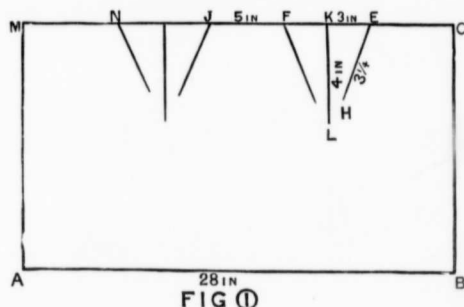


FIG 1

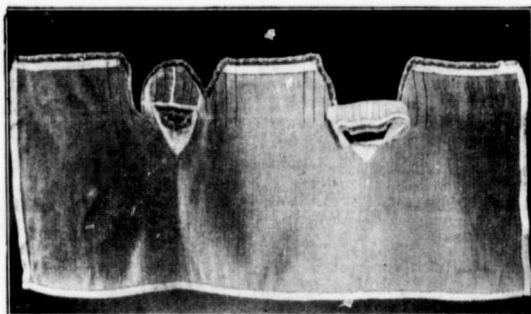
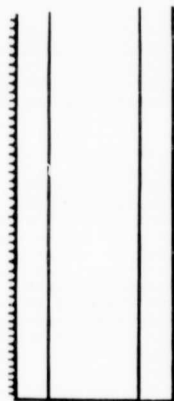


FIG. 3.



A
FIG 2

Now, "girls," bring out your finest needles and No. 100 cotton, combine them with plenty of patience and nimble fingers, and produce the result to be seen in Fig. 3 for some favoured morsel of humanity.

Take for granted that you know how to hem-stitch, if not, ask a friend to show you, it is very simple. For materials you will require three-eighths of a yard of fine Irish lawn at about three shillings and sixpence a yard, and two yards of narrow Valenciennes lace at about eight-

pence. The first thing to be done is to make the cut edges of the lawn absolutely even by drawing a thread. You will probably find the lawn is about thirty-three inches wide; the

piece for the shirt requires to be twenty-nine inches, so a strip must be cut off, by the thread of course; take care of it, it will be wanted for gussets.

The preparing and drawing of threads is always somewhat tedious; in all work of hem-stitching it seems to take nearly as long as the work itself, but do not grudge the trouble, it is absolutely essential, and the whole beauty of your result depends upon it.

The measurements given in Fig. 1 are after the hems are folded, so the threads from A to B, B to C, and A to M must be drawn one inch from the edge; it will be found sufficient to draw from four to six threads. Turn in the extreme edges about the eighth of an inch, and fold the hems (they will be about three-eighths of an inch wide) carefully over to the drawn line, tacking them with fine cotton.

Hem-stitch these three sides, but do not work quite up to C and M.

When attacking the top of the wee garment, be careful to notice on which side the hems should be of those parts that fold over.

Now draw the threads for the lines of perpendicular stitching, half an inch apart, in the flaps, as seen in Fig. 3. Experience taught me the wisdom of doing every bit possible before cutting the flaps and sleeves, as the edges are liable to stretch and fray. Having finished these twelve perpendicular lines, cut down the flaps, Fig. 1, E to H, draw

the threads, turn down, tack, and hem-stitch from M to N, J to F, and E to C. Cut down by the thread from K to L, place F and E together, one over the other, and make a hem-stitched seam, as shown in Fig. 3; these directions, of course, apply to both sleeves. Then do the perpendicular rows of stitching on top of sleeves.

Fig. 2 shows the base of the arm-hole, where it requires to be cut horizontally to allow of the hems lying flat; these hems are only a quarter of an inch wide. A gusset made of a piece of lawn an inch and a half square is folded and inserted under the arm, the point coming at A, Fig. 2; the edges must be hemmed until they reach the hem-stitching, where they are worked into it, as seen in Fig. 3.

This somewhat large gusset was suggested by a mother of experience. It is a very great improvement on the usual tiny arrangement. In putting on the lace, the edges cut on the cross must be "rolled" between finger and thumb.

Have the shirt washed, ironed, and prettily folded before presenting it, and then do not be surprised if you are told "it is so beautiful, it must be worn outside."

"COUSIN LIL."

NOTE.—Correct position of A in Fig. 2—half an inch below drawing.

HOUSEHOLD HINTS.

WHAT is taken for "housemaid's knee" is often a simple dislocation of the knee-cap which can easily be replaced by a surgeon or bone-setter; but if wrongly treated may develop into serious mischief. It is often caused by the servant kneeling on the edge of a step when cleaning.

TEA-LEAVES that are to be used for sweeping carpets should first be placed in a colander and clean water run through them several times; they should then be used when damp but not wet. Tea-leaves should not be used

on a carpet with a deep pile. On wet and cold days, when scrubbing of boards cannot be done, a room is wonderfully freshened up by sweeping the boards with damp tea-leaves.

BLACKBEETLES rarely come where a floor is kept well swept and where no food is left about.

ONE of the best ways of cooking dried haddock is to boil it in water in a large frying pan. When done, drain off the water and serve hot with a little butter on the top.

To preserve cut blossoms of hard wood trees or shrubs, such as lilac, laburnum, apple blossom, roses or hydrangeas, the stalks should be stripped of the bark a good way up at the ends so that they can suck up the water, and the water in which they are placed should be warm.

A PIECE of perforated wire nailed on outside a larder or pantry window is very useful, for it can then be left open all night with no fear of cats getting in to steal the food. Larger thieves can be kept out by a strong iron bar inside.