

Care of Hands

And Selection of Needles.

If the embroidery silk does not work smoothly and looks rough on the linen, the embroiderer's hands or her needle may be at fault. In every case the difficulty is pretty sure to be attributed to a fault in the silk or needle, because everyone is more ready to find a defect in some external object than in themselves, and this makes it most pertinent to draw special attention to the fact that an embroiderer should take care of her hands, to keep them as smooth and soft as possible.

The best needle for embroidery is one which has a long and smooth eye that allows the silk plenty of play, without pulling it to pieces or roughing it in the least. Some teachers recommend the use of an ordinary sewing needle with the usual round eye, but the WELL-KNOWN LIGHTNING NEEDLES, with their larger eyes are preferred by experienced embroiderers. The eye of the Lightning Needle is several times larger than that of the ordinary needle, and is easily threaded and will not rough the silk like a longer eye. It is also claimed for the Lightning Needle that the body, being a little larger than the eye, makes the hole in the fabric large enough to draw the eye through without wear on the silk."

Be sure your needle is adapted to the size of the silk. If the eye be too small, the silk cuts and frays, because it gathers in a thick lump at the eye of the needle, which has to be forced through the fabric to the detriment of the silk. If the eye is too large, the work takes on the appearance of having too few stitches, and holes mark the edges of every stitch. It has been found from experience that a No. 9 or a No. 10 Lightning needle is especially well adapted for general use with "Asiatic" Filo, while a No. 12 needle is used for the finest embroidery with a single thread : a No. 7 needle is used for "Asiatic Roman" Floss, "Asiatic" Twisted Embroidery and "Asiatic" Outline Silk ; a No. 8 for "Asiatic Caspian" Floss ; and a No. 3 for "Asiatic" Rope Silk. In working upon certain materials, it may be advisable to select some sizes different from those mentioned above, but the above selections will be found suitable for general use.

Any embroiderer who cannot obtain embroidery needles from her regular dealers, can send her order with remittance, at the rate of 10 cents per paper, to CORTICELLI SILK COMPANY, Limited, St. Johns, P.Q., Canada, who will see that the order is promptly filled by some retail store. The needles are put up 25 of a size in a paper and papers cannot be broken. In ordering, state how many papers are desired of each size.