

But this in nine cases out of ten becomes a demonstration of mistaken notions of the peculiar character of appropriate embroidery. Mistakes of this kind have been made in abundance, particularly during the time of Louis XV. They were then committed in probably the most beautiful manner possible; their fancifulness no doubt justifies them to a large extent, and they are valuable as examples of something which in its own particular province cannot be done better. They may therefore perhaps be left alone as sources of inspiration for the creation of future appropriate decorative work. Personally I admire a good deal of their nature-imitation embroidery, but when my admiration is submitted to the sobering influence of impartial analysis, I find that it is shaken, and that I have been attracted by fantastic license coupled with technical dexterity, and that I have not therefore sufficiently taken into account those qualities which



FIG. 124 FRAGMENT OF GREEK INWROUGHT COLORED WORSTED WORK WITH PATTERN OF DUCK FORM.

seem to make for constant satisfaction. I am in this way led to the conclusion that for purposes of reproducing the nuances of shape and tint observed in flowers or landscapes, or human figures, brushes and flowing colors cannot probably be beaten. The freedom of such implements and materials is far greater than that of needles, threads, and woven materials. On this account then I would say that embroidery predicates an acknowledgment of the limitations imposed by the materials which it involves. Select your materials and respect their character; do not strain either by attempting something which can be more satisfactorily carried out by other means.

Now before selecting the materials you must of course possess a clear conception of why you wish to use them, what you are going to do with them. I have hinted at the sort of inappropriateness and aimlessness of trying to embroider mere naturalistic imitations of objects on, to say, a corner or in the center of a bit of stuff. What is the bit of stuff intended for? Is it to be a handkerchief, a coverlet, or a wall hanging? Whatever it is to be, the embroidery should agree with it, embellishing its purpose. A handkerchief is a light dainty sort of thing as a rule, its embroidery should consequently be light and dainty. It should as a rule tend to fortify the edge or border of the handkerchief. A coverlet is a much bigger and heavier thing and for a different purpose. Its decoration may therefore be much fuller, well marking its sides and ends which may hang down, or it may cover the whole surface of the coverlet and so contribute to the sense

*THE B. & A. SILKS ARE PRE-EMINENTLY FAST COLOR.*