

## A PRETTY DESIGN IN SMOCKING.

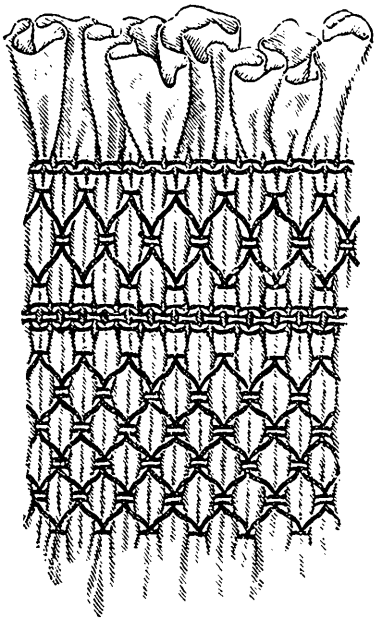


FIGURE NO. 1.

ladies' blouses and children's dresses and coats. It is also rapidly gaining favor elsewhere and is most fascinating once one becomes interested in it. The work is not difficult, but requires accuracy of execution, and it is very effective, even in a small number of rows. Wash silk or embroidery cotton is used for smocking, the silk being applied on silk and woollen fabrics and the embroidery cotton on cotton goods. A color in contrast with the material is most effective, such as green, brown or red on écaru or tan, pale-blue or pink on white, yellow on brown or black, etc.

The lattice pattern, one of the simplest designs, is the theme of this paper. It is used in smocking Child's dress No. 8562, shown on page 326. It is wonderfully easy of execution, the needle and thread being used in the same way throughout. Figure No. 1 illustrates the design used at the neck, and figure No. 2 the design in the sleeves; and the detail is shown at figure No. 3. In the pattern, the spaces to be smocked are marked off by lines of perforations, but the spaces for the stitches must be carefully marked upon the material by the worker. This is done by making dots at half-inch intervals, as shown by the dotted lines in figure No. 3.

When the spaces are all marked draw the material up closely on a thread that may be easily drawn out afterwards, by taking up small stitches at the dots, as shown in the detail figure, and crease the folds evenly. The work is now ready for the smocking stitches. In making these the thread is thrown above and below the needle alternately, the thread being shown below the needle in the illustrations. This is most important to remember—repeating "over," "under" all through the work is con-

sidered helpful by many. Begin at the left and work to the right, taking up a stitch through the first fold at the upper row of dots and throwing the thread *above* the needle; take up the second stitch in line with this through the next fold, throwing the thread *below* the needle, and repeat these two stitches all along the line, as shown in the detail figure.

A row of this stitching gives the effect of two rows, as shown near the top at figure No. 1, while two rows of the stitching will produce the effect of four rows, as shown near the center at figure No. 1 and near the frill at figure No. 2.

To make the fancy stitch below, take up a stitch in the first fold at the left, about half an inch below the line of stitches made, throwing the thread *above* the needle, and take up a stitch at the same point in the next fold to the right, throwing the thread *below* the needle; then half an inch below these stitches take up two similar stitches in the next two folds, and in line with the first two stitches take up two similar stitches in the next two folds; then down again in line with the second pair of stitches take up two stitches in the same way in the next two folds, and so on until the entire row is completed, being careful to take the pair of stitches up at even distances so as to keep the line straight. Two rows of this stitch make the pattern between the two straight rows at figure No. 1 and five rows make the pattern below.

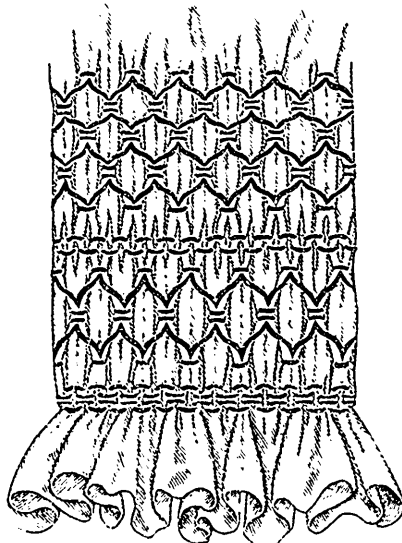


FIGURE NO. 2.

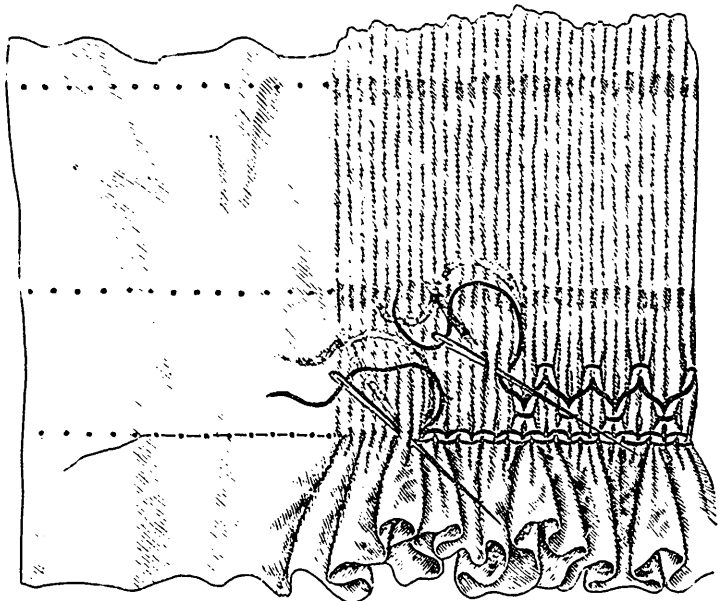


FIGURE NO. 3.

With care in spacing and throwing the thread in the proper directions, the work will be found satisfactory. This pattern may be used wherever smocking is desired.