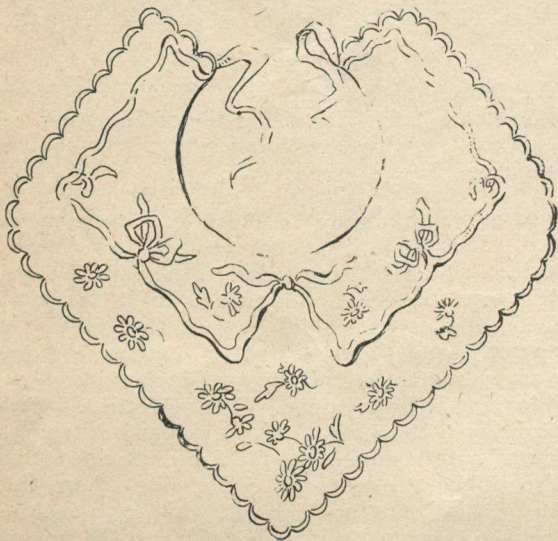


THE FAIR'S ART NEEDLEWORK.

THERE was a time when the Art Needlework Department at the Toronto Industrial was truly 'a pleasaunce of quaint stitches,' when the time-honored Berlin-wool work, close crochet and log-cabin quilt were chiefly in evidence, and infinity of stitches and diversity of color were the chief elements that made for first prizes.

But year by year the artistic has gained upon the startling, and the graceful upon the infinity of stitches, until now the fine needlework en-



tered at the Exhibition is really an education and initiation to all women who love the grace of dainty linens and lingerie.

We do not purpose here giving any list of the fancy work shown, but rather to illustrate a few of the prettiest articles.

In as far as we could judge, no new device in art needlework was shown. But we noticed a marked revival of that dainty form of fancy work 'tattooing.' The marvel is that it has been so long laid aside, since it is not only capable of a thousand artistic uses, but is certainly one of the most effective and graceful employments for a woman's fingers. A swift shuttle affords wonderful opportunities for pretty hands. Some exceedingly delicate tattooing was shown,

especially in fine lacey wheel effects for the side of a 'cosy,' also for handkerchief border.

Embroidery upon linen and silk still takes precedence of all other fine needlework, and the art has been brought to a fine perfection.

We illustrate the very choicest design in table centres shown at the Exhibition—a rarely beautiful bit of handwork, which excited the unbounded admiration of all the women. It is, as you perceive, a thistle design; the thistles tossed carelessly down, the silky tops all pale pink and purple, in soft flossiness. The shading of the blossoms was exquisite; one felt an impulse to lift the silky things, regardless of their prickles. * * *

We show also an infant's bib, with collar—a charming little affair of white linen embroidered in white washing silk with tiny daisies and love knots. The collar is cut separate and stitched on. Among the infants' clothing was a most effective baby's jacket of knitted cream silk bordered with gold edge, and booties to correspond.

In the same case with the 'thistle' centre-piece was one, which we illustrate, almost equally delicate in fine shading and embroidery. This had a poppy design, and the scarlet silky glow was beautifully reproduced. Yet another had a design of loose-stemmed yellow roses, with single petals drifting lightly and carelessly away from the blossoms.

This also was delightful; and suggested a 'yellow' tea in which a yellow-shaded lamp, golden rod or nasturtiums, relieved with early tinted maple leaves, might carry on the suggestion of color and season.

Maiden hair fern is always a graceful design for a centre-piece, and may be easily outlined from the fern itself. * * *

There was an unusually varied display of cosies. We illustrate two of the most artistic and seasonable. The first has a holly design, with its tiny crimson berries. The satin puffing is of pale green, set with knots of crimson bébé ribbon. It is really a charming idea for a Christmas gift.

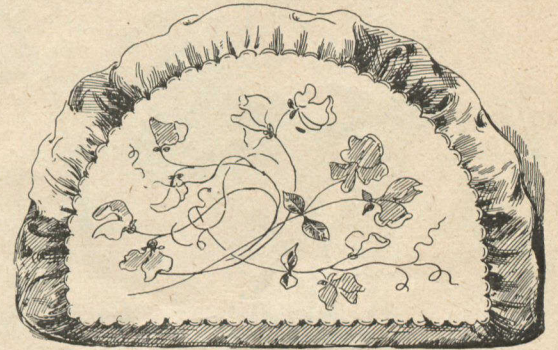
The second is a sweet pea design, the flowers being most artistically wrought, and the loose satin puffing a delicate blending of pale pink and pale green.

These were in a professional case. But among the amateur work a much-admired cosy had sides of tatted wheels, applied on silk belting cloth, which is cut away, showing the pink satin beneath. The effect was very delicate. * * *

The exhibit of sofa cushions was unusually small. Evidently the cushion cover is yet a thing of art silk or muslin with wide loose frills, and not to be adorned by much fine needlework.

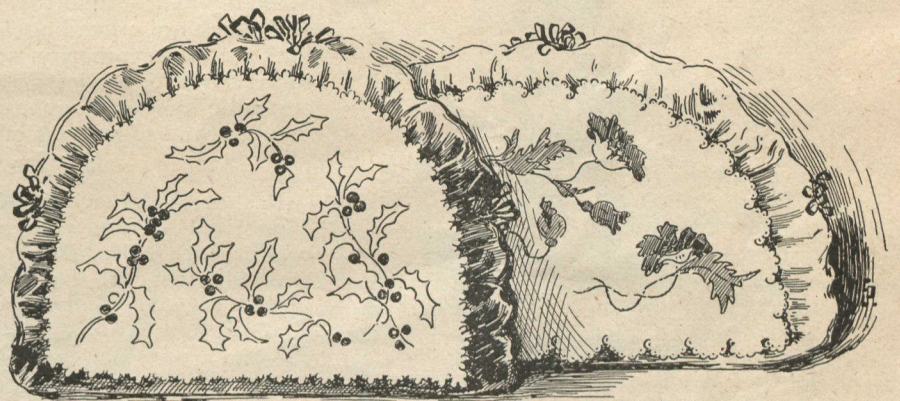
The monogram or initial, worked in one

corner, finds favor for the modish cushion, a small piece of satin being inserted for the purpose, with cut-away and reverse effect in the chief material forming the cushion. There was



only one cushion in which the use of Dresden silk was employed for the puffing. This is rather surprising in view of the very artistic effects to be obtained from the use of Dresden and Persian silks and ribbons.

An attractive exhibit of photo frames was shown, of linen, daintily embroidered in graceful designs; some conventionalized, others vine tracings with tiny buds. One such frame was arranged to hold three cabinet photos, and was embroidered with forget-me-not design. Another smaller one had a graceful miniature holly



spray, with minute red berries. These linen frames are really pretty, especially for boudoir and bedroom bric-à-brac. They should never be heavily embroidered, and the designs should be always light and graceful. When soiled, the linen can be washed and restretched upon the frame.

Much of the artistic effect of embroidery depends upon the quality of silk thread used. There are delightful embroidery silks now in the market, glossy, firm, of delicate tints, and washable. The finest case of art needlework shown exhibited linen articles that had been laundered several times, and the silken embroidery in palest blues, mauves, pinks, remained fast in their delicately shaded effects.

The woman with artistic instinct will find the charm of colored silk embroidery in reproducing as nearly as possible the exact tints of the flowers in any design. This, rather than the smoothness and evenness of stitch, constitutes the real beauty of the work.

It is worth while for lovers of art needlework, before beginning any design on linen, to make sure that their silks are of the best, and washable.

There is a marked difference in silk threads; some are much finer than others and less inclined to fluff.

Pillow shams will always remain more or less in favor. The first prize pair at the Industrial were all-over white silk embroidery on white linen, in conventionalized lily design.

Some very pretty five o'clock tea cloths were shown, chiefly of linen, daintily embroidered; one of white silk was embroidered with white silk in a graceful vine pattern, and bordered with drawn work.

MADAM.

