

wrought according to a repeating pattern, the two repeating details of which are a four petal blossom alternating with a square group of much smaller open squares and squares filled in with crossed diagonal lines. These latter little devices are in the nature of needlepoint lace. On either side of this broad band of elaborate work are angular offshoots arranged at regular distances apart, and alternately of brown and white thread. These are worked almost entirely in cross stitches. The effect of this simple patterning, involving, nevertheless, the combination of much dainty needlework in considerable variety, is pleasant and modest, and typically demonstrates a class of Italian linen embroidery which was prevalent in the early 17th or late 16th century. It is none the less suggestive for work that might be attempted at the present day, though probably with less intricacy.

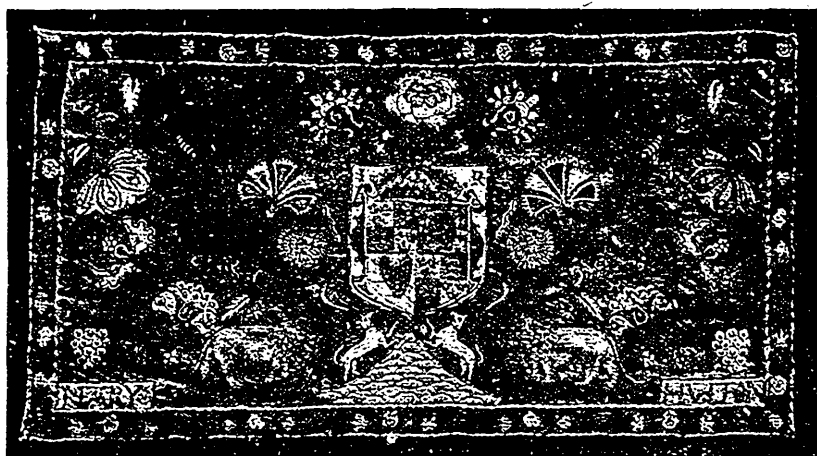


FIG. 3. CUSHION COVER OF CROSS STITCH WORK IN COLORED SILKS. ENGLISH WORK OF THE BEGINNING OF THE 17TH CENTURY.

Another effective and more easily wrought white linen embroidery, that had a great vogue in European countries during the latter part of the 16th century and the first half of the 17th century, was white thread darning upon white square mesh net. Work of this class was less often done with colored threads. The method of the needlework was nevertheless the same whether the darning had to be of plain white or in many colored threads. In either case, the designs and patterns executed in this way—and they were very varied—all partook of the same *cachet* or characteristic, namely an angularity and squareness in all the shapes, even those proposing to simulate curves. Indeed the small square meshes of the net foundation altogether militated against the representation of a continuous curve. This specimen (Fig. 2) is worked in colored and golden threads on a red silk square mesh net, and its color effect is rich and more satisfactory than that of attempts to realize in white threads curving shapes upon a squared foundation.

*B & A. SILK IN HOLDERS—NEAT, COMPACT, CONVENIENT.*