

can employ any you please—satin, crewel stitches, plait stitch, any Mountmellick or stitches that you prefer. Heavy embroidery is the best for this work. I do not much care for open-work designs done in it.

In Fig. 2 you will see a double herring-bone stitch worked in two shades of green. This would be very suitable for a border in the darned work, or for rows of the stitches forming a design of themselves.

An examination of the example will serve better than many words to show how this is done. The needle, you will notice, does not go through the huckaback, but is passed simply through those regular threads which form part of the woven pattern.

I generally use a rug needle for this work, as the blunt point passes well under the little threads and does not catch in the huckaback by the way.

When the first row, which is nearly an inch deep, is finished in the lighter shade, the second is worked in the darker in the manner clearly shown by the needle left in as a stitch is being made.

Fig. 3 is another pattern.

Here the four lines graduate, and could, if completed, finish off in the point of a V. These could be done in different colours with good effect. The rows, on the other hand, if desired to be parallel, could be made to begin and end nearly in the same place.

Here the needle is passed from right to left, the same threads serving for the two rows.

Single herring-bone on a smaller scale and in isolated rows is seen in Fig. 4.

In Fig. 5 darning is seen.

Take long needlefuls and avoid having to end and begin again in the middle of a line. If you have to do so, let it be under the threads through which you darn.

It is best to use a darning-needle for darning, as the work can then be done very much

more quickly than when a short needle is used.

By these examples it will be seen that huckaback admits of many possibilities, and that various very beautiful articles can be made with it.

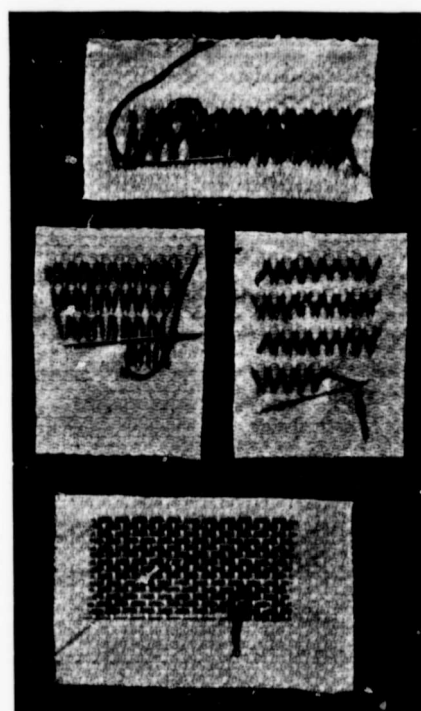
Darned boarders could be mounted on to plush or Roman satin curtains, and look extremely well.

Strips of darned huckaback alternating with strips of plush or velvet or some other material would form nice cushion covers.

When done in strips, of course the work is much more convenient to carry about; and at the seaside a good deal might be done if a strip was at hand in those many idle moments which often fall really rather heavily. A large piece of work would be too cumbersome to carry about and managed in strips or sections.

Overtowels are used in many bedrooms to throw over the towel-horse during the daytime. Huckaback work would be very pretty indeed for an overtowel, and a deep border might be worked at each end and darned, while a medallion might be made at one end of a circle, in which was a big monogram or initials on darned ground.

Toilet-mats are very nice in this work, and, indeed, it would be useless to attempt to exhaust the list of all that could be done with this cheap material which can be had so easily in almost any place.



"IF LOVING HEARTS WERE NEVER LONELY—";

OR,

MADGE HARCOURT'S DESOLATION.

By GERTRUDE PAGE.

CHAPTER XVI.

HOME.

IT was late in the evening when Madge and Guy arrived in London after their honeymoon.

They had been abroad nearly three months, wandering from place to place, and both were glad at the prospect of a rest from their journeyings.

Madge leaned forward with yearning in her eyes as they drove through the busy streets to their flat in Kensington. For the change of scene and the new life had failed utterly as yet to lessen her bitter sense of loss, and all she thought of now she was in London was, that it was the place Jack had loved so much.

Guy sat back in the hansom and remained silent. He was beginning to understand her now, and knew when she did not wish to be spoken to. At the same time the expression of her face hurt him, and he would have liked it otherwise. He would have liked her to show some interest and pleasure in the little home they were now going to for

the first time, and her apparent indifference chilled him. However, he decided that it was only natural she should feel low just at first, and hoped for a brighter state of things presently. He could afford to be hopeful, for, in spite of a few drawbacks, the honeymoon on the whole had been very enjoyable. It had been a real pleasure to him to win a look of genuine interest to her face, and then, if very undemonstrative, she had always been grateful to him for every effort he made to entertain her.

It seemed as if they were admirably suited to each other, for both disliked fussing, and for the rest she had no objection to his carrying on many of his beloved bachelor habits, indeed, she encouraged him to do so.

And yet, in spite of the general smoothness, that slight chill of disappointment he had experienced when he first kissed her, remained in his heart.

He tried to shake it off, but, however well he succeeded for a time, it invariably came back. He could not understand it, because he thought he had everything

he wanted, and yet, in his heart, he was vaguely conscious of something missing. He was wondering a little about it as he sat back in the hansom, and a grave look rested on his usually careless face. Had Madge seen it, she might have chased it away with a word, but she was far away, dreaming of Jack.

When they reached their destination he alighted quickly with a sense of relief, and gave Madge his hand. Then, while she made her way indoors, he remained to settle with the driver and see to the luggage, both wearing such a matter-of-fact air as would have baffled the keenest observers to detect they were returning from a honeymoon.

When Guy finally ran upstairs Madge had already gone to take her things off without looking round, while he, on his part, hung up his coat and hat, told the servant to bring in the dinner, and sat down at the head of the table with his elbows resting upon it.

In a few minutes Madge returned, and, casually remarking that she was hungry, sat down opposite to him.