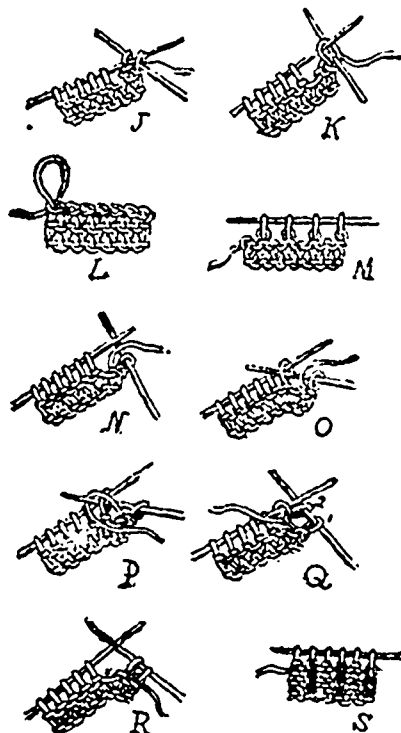


Stitch, Stitch, Stitch.

THE A B C OF KNITTING—II.

Have you been wondering all this time how to get rid of all those stitches left on the needle after finishing the square of knitting? It does look puzzling. If you have other needles, try with a few stitches first, as the large piece will be awkward to handle. Slip off the first stitch onto the right-hand needle and knit the next stitch, put the left-hand needle through the first stitch just as in J. To get the next position look at K. There you will see that the first stitch is pulled out quite a little



and the thread end drawn tight so the second stitch will be close to the right-hand needle, then slip the right needle with the loop on it out from under the left needle through the first stitch and you will have only one stitch left on the right needle. So you have got rid of one stitch. Knit the next and use it in the same way and so on across the row. At the end you will have one stitch on the needle and the edge will look like L.

In knitting directions you will see slip and bind, or the word bind alone. That is just what you have been doing. Sometimes it is called casting off. Instead of breaking off the yarn and fastening it when you have cast off all

the stitches, a pretty finish for the wash cloth would be to take up the last stitch with a crochet hook and make a simple scallop all around the square. M shows a way to slip and bind and leave every other stitch on the hook. To do that, slip one, knit one, pass the slipped stitch over the knit one, slip one, knit one; now there are three stitches on the right needle. Leave the first one, but pass the second over the third, so out of the four stitches there will be only two left. Another way to decrease the number of stitches or narrow is to knit two together by putting the hook through two stitches at once and drawing the thread through both.

So far you have been working forward, we might say, but now there is another stitch to learn that is almost like doing the other backward and that is the purl or seam. N tells you how to get ready for it, that is, to first put the thread over the right needle, then into the next stitch, like O, but do you notice that it is put in just the opposite from the way you did it in plain knitting? Here the needle is put in at the top of the loop and the right needle is always in front of the left needle. Now put the thread over the right needle again, as in P, draw the thread tight, then you can slip the right needle, with the tight thread on it, through the stitch on the left needle, but it must come out at the back and will make a stitch like 2 in Q. Slip off so you will have two stitches on the right needle. The thread is still at the left of the needle so if you go on purling you will need to put the thread over the needle only after putting it into the loop, but if the next stitch is to be plain knitting put the thread back so it will be on the other side of the right needle before you make the stitch. This is a good rule to put down in big black letters: Before knitting plain thread on the right, before purling thread the left of the right needle.

Once in a while you will want more stitches than you started with, or increase, as the knitters would say. You can do that by putting the needle through the thread marked x in R and knitting just as you would a stitch on the needle. This is also called picking up a stitch. There is another way to increase, but that will come in another lesson. If you should cast on an even number of stitches, say six or eight, and knit one purl one every row you would have a piece that would look like S and would be good practice. Then try an odd number, seven or nine, knit one, purl one, every row, and that will be quite interesting, too. Some call it moss stitch. Next time we will make a pretty edge together.—R. A. W.

CHAIR SEATS.

Many put the common cheap leather-board over the seats of chairs when the woven cane has broken through.

For nicer chairs something better is needed. Nail thin board over the under side of the seat (Fig. 1) and fill in

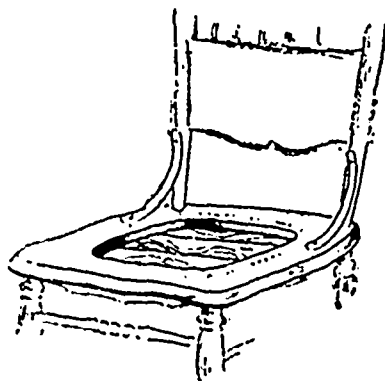


FIG. 1.

flush with the top with wheat bran. Round the sharp edges of the wood and with round-headed brass tacks nail on

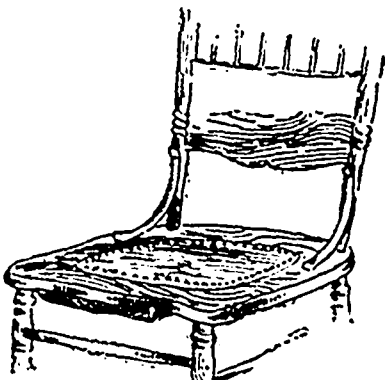


FIG. 2.

tanned leather seats, cutting away the wood the thickness of the leather all about the edges. As the bran will settle, it may be well to round it up a little.

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