

STITCHES



BORDER
IN
CROSS-
STITCH.

Designed for
Farm
and
Home.
by
E. M. Parsons.

SEWING LESSON-IV.

Some time you may wish to sew the edges of a narrow piece of cloth together to make a fold or necktie. If you should make a seam and then attempt to turn it right side out you would have trouble, but the stitch in

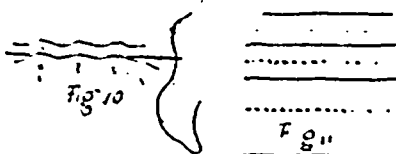


Fig 10 will help you out, because the work can be done on the right side and the stitches will not show, for they are the kind called blind. Turn down the edges of the cloth on the wrong side, then when you baste the two sides together the turned-down parts will be out of sight. Put the needle in near the edge of the piece nearest you, then in the other and weave the needle back and forth for two or three (four if you can) stitches, draw the thread through and repeat. The cloth looks puckery in the picture, but it will straighten right out when the needle is drawn through. The edges must be even, but in blind stitching a lining to an outside part, the lining may be turned in a little more as in the cut. When the lower edge of a petticoat becomes worn, it may be fixed by cutting off the frayed part and turning in the edges and blind stitching.

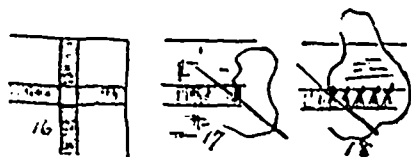
Don't you think a few tucks look pretty above a hem on drawers and other garments? The only hard thing about making them is to keep them even. Now you will need to use that little measure very carefully. If you will the tucks an eighth of an inch wide, measure for the first one half an inch from the top of the hem. Fold the cloth for the edge of the tuck and crease it, then baste for the sewing line. The width between the tucks



should be the same as the tucks, so the distance from the basting of one tuck to the edge of the next should be $\frac{3}{4}$ in. If the cloth is thin and fine, run the tucks or backstitch if you would like it firmer.

Now we will learn to make some fancy stitches and you will find them a relief from some of those hard ones. The first one, Fig 12, is nice to use on the wrong side of a flannel skirt to

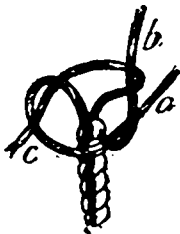
spread open a seam and keep it flat. The stitches must be only just caught into the outside cloth or they will show too much on the right side. The center vertical line in the cut shows the seam and the others the edges of the cloth. Bring the needle through the cloth at *a*, cross slanting and put the needle in at *b* and out at *c*. The upper part will show you how. Work up or away from *a* and use thread or silk. Some work from left to right. The name of this stitch is herringbone and the one in Fig 14 is cat, bird or feather stitch. The last two are good names for it, don't you think so? Fig 15 is called the double brier. These stitches are used



on the outside of seams of flannel petticoats and for the line of the hem, too, which makes it look very pretty. Embroidery silk should be used. Fig 13 shows just how to begin. You see the needle is put in slanting instead of straight as in Fig 12 and you work from the point farthest away from you or at the top toward you or down. In the double brier take two slanting stitches before crossing over for the next.

Haven't you wished many times that you knew how to hemstitch so you could make dainty little handkerchiefs all by yourself? If you are willing to be very patient and careful you can learn now surely, for the stitch we will try is the easiest of three ways to hemstitch that I know. A piece of linen 12 in square will be large enough, because you may want to put a narrow lace edge around it. Draw out four or five threads $\frac{1}{2}$ or $\frac{3}{4}$ in from the edge each way on all sides, then it will look like Fig 16. Turn the edge down twice for the hem and baste close to the upper edge of the drawn part, put the needle in the edge of the fold, then under three or four threads, as in Fig 17, but be sure to put the needle under the same threads again to hold them firmly at the top, pull them together, then into the lower edge of the fold. Fig 18 shows this, also some finished stitches. Some use linen thread, I think cotton is the best, but it should be finer than you would use in making a common hem.—[B. A. W.]

An Easy Knot—This very pretty knot is tied as follows. First ravel the rope down about five



inches, then take one strand, *a*, and bend it around and press it against the rope, making a loop as shown in cut. Then take strand *b* and bring it around under *a*, and then take *c* and bring around under *b* and put it through the loop made by *a*. Then take *a* and follow *b* up through the loop made by *c*; then take *b* and follow *c* up through the loop made by *a*, and then draw all gradually until tight, and you will be surprised at the result.—[W. J. Evans.]

To Lighten Washing—I read an article in Jan 15 F & H on how "to lighten washing," and I will tell my way. First I put the water over early and let it get boiling hot, then I have in my tub some soap powder and soap (hard) shaved up fine; on this I pour the boiling water, so as to have a good suds. In this I put my white clothes, no matter how dirty they are. Get your clothes in the tub as soon as you can after putting in the water (of course do not put anything in boiling water that has blood stains on). You will be surprised to see how dirty the water is before you get all your white clothes in the suds. I have a stick and keep stirring them down in the water. I let them remain in the suds about 15 minutes, then I put in enough cold water so I can rub them out. You will be surprised to see how easily the dirt comes out of the clothes. I know by experience that boiling water does not set the dirt in clothes, but rather it loosens the dirt. After I rub out my white clothes I put them in a tub of

running water. If my dark clothes are very dirty I heat over some of the suds from my first tub and put them in the hot suds the same as I did my white clothes. Be sure and rinse your clothes well. I think half the secret in washing is in having plenty of good rinsing water. From the rinsing water put them in water slightly blue. But let me tell you if you have sheets and pillow cases of unbleached muslin, do not blue them at all and you will see how

much quicker they bleach out.—[Reader.]

Coloring Hats—To color a white straw hat black, as requested in a recent issue, brush thoroughly, then rub with a damp, not wet, cloth. Now with good liquid shoe polish go over every particle of the hat with a brush. This will prove satisfactory.—[Emma Clearwaters.]

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