

The Story of Some Famous Laces.

By VIRGINIA MITCHELL.

In its various forms lace has held sway for years, and it is not surprising that in these later days when a revival is given to all forms of needlework we should give special attention to the work which has been the inspiration of so many lives. Some one has said there is nothing new but what has once been old, and the caprice of fashion certainly justifies the saying.

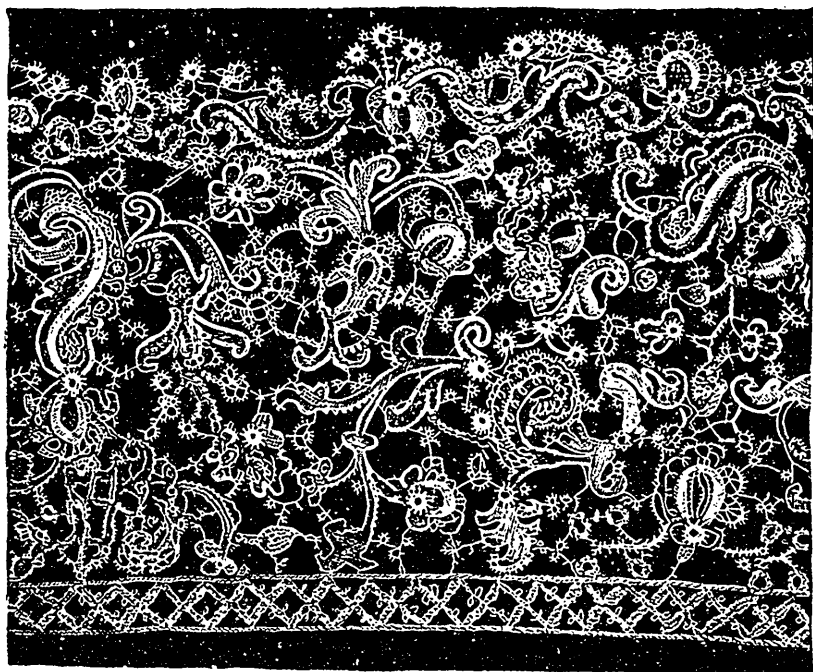


FIG. 57. VENETIAN POINT IN RELIEF.

Although comparatively modern, lace is derived from two most ancient kinds of work, netting and embroidery, the former of which was used by the Egyptians to ornament the borders of some festal garments; indeed the network of blue beads found on mummies may, as it was made with the needle, be regarded as a sort of lace. The Greeks and Romans bordered their togas with embroidery, called, when of superior quality, *opus Phrygianum*, from the skill with which it was executed by Phrygian workers.