

The Size of Needle to Use.

BY A TEACHER.

Many ladies who embroider frequently complain that wash silks do not work smoothly, that the silk snarls or ravel, making a bad-looking piece of work, without saying anything about trying one's patience.

"Now, what makes my silk snarl?" is heard only too often. They frequently assign the cause of the trouble to the silk, when, in reality, it is the fault of the needle they are using.

Some teachers recommend the use of an ordinary sewing needle with a round eye, but I prefer the long eye or "Crewel" needle. If you want to do fine work, shading closely and are using Brainerd & Armstrong Filo Silk, use a No. 9 "Crewel" needle or a No. 10 needle, depending on the material upon which you are working. Generally speaking, use a No. 10 needle, especially for bolting cloth, Chinese linen, or grass linen. B. & A. Caspian Floss requires a No. 8 needle. In working B. & A. Etching Silk choose a No. 7 needle. For B. & A. Roman Floss use a No. 6 needle. Use a No. 3 or a No. 6 needle for B. & A. Rope Silk. Crewel needles are the best, and I advise all needleworkers to insist upon having them.

In shading, where a number of colors have to be used alternately, an experienced embroiderer will not confine herself to one needle, which has to be threaded and re-threaded with the different colors at a considerable loss of time, but she will have a needle for each color and use them in succession, as each color is required in her work.

By following the above instructions there will be no excuse for unsatisfactory working of B. & A. Silk.

NOTE.—If you cannot buy the needles you want in your city, send ten cents to Corticelli Silk Company, Box 341, St. Johns, Que., and they will send you three Crewel needles each, of sizes 7, 9, and 10.

One Thread or Two of Filo Silk?

BY AMALIA SMITH.

It is often perplexing to beginners to know when to use one thread of Filo Silk and when two threads should be used. While it is generally impossible in embroidery to lay down rules since so much depends on the design and the ground material, the table below will at least be found a guide.

Use one thread in embroidering the following: Arbutus, Buttercup, Chrysanthemum, Clover, Clematis, Cornflower, Cowslip, Daisy, Dandelion, Fern, Forget-me-not, Geranium, Golden-rod, Honeysuckle, Jessamine, Lilac, Lily of the Valley, Narcissus, Pansy, Pink, Roses, Thistle, Violet.

Use two threads or double Filo Silk for Dogwood, Morning Glory, Nasturtium, Oxeye Daisy, Poppy, Sunflower, Tulip, Tiger Lily, Yellow Aster.

Almost always two threads are used only on the edge of the flower or leaf, shading inward with one thread, unless the flower or leaf is very large, when two threads can be used in the shading.

WASH SILKS IN HOLDERS SAVE ANNOYANCE.