

# *Renaissance, Battenberg and Irish Lace.*

By REBECCA EVANS.

Modern lace is the product of braids of various widths arranged in artistic designs, and held in place by connecting stitches of almost endless variety. Different stitches are usually employed for different kinds of lace, but oftentimes many different stitches are found in one kind of lace. Generally the braid or tape is formed into figures, and bound by needle-made corded or buttonhole bars and fillings of different kinds, or by bars alone. The lace stitch and bars are almost the same as those used in fine Venetian point, but they are executed in a coarse material, so that this section of our work may be considered as a preparation for other kinds of lace.

The braids used are specially manufactured for this work; they are usually sold in white or unbleached, in varying widths and weights, from narrow to wide, and from coarse to fine in texture; with and without holes; with open edge and with picots; with large medallions and with small.

Fig. 63 represents the kinds most commonly used, in their original size, together with a specimen picot, or purl, as it is called, for the outside edge, also to be had ready made for those who do not care for the trouble of making it themselves. For the stitches and bars by which the braids are joined together a smooth, even thread is used.

*Transferring Designs*—The best way is to trace them on oil tracing linen with a watery ink, free from greasy matter. This tracing linen, which is of English make, is white, glazed on one side only; the unglazed surface should be turned uppermost, as it takes the ink better. As this tracing linen is quite transparent, the pattern can be transferred to it at once, without recourse to any other process.

It will be found less trying for the eyes to lay a piece of transparent colored paper or stuff under the pattern while you are copying it. The designs are almost all drawn with double lines, between which the braid is tacked on with small back-stitches. We may mention at once that it is advisable to make the stitches longer on the right side than on the other, or at any rate to make them the same length.

*Tacking Down and Gathering in the Braids*—Where the lines of the pattern describe a curve or a circle, the outside edge of the braid, as shown in Fig. 64, must be sewed down firmly, so as to form little folds of gathers on the inside edge, which

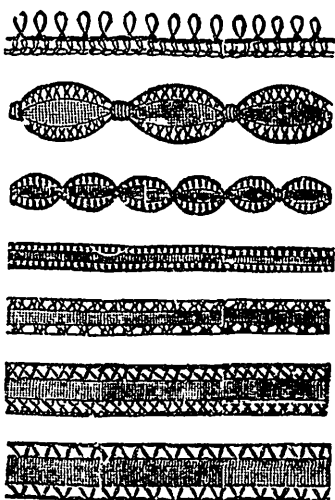


FIG. 63. TAPE AND BRAID USED FOR LACE WORK.

*HOLDERS PREVENT SNARLING AND SOILING THE SILK.*