

frame, on which the piece to be embroidered was spread forth. Their faces wore a sickly hue, which was owing, perhaps, to close confinement, and the unnatural position in which they were obliged to sit. The finest specimens of embroidery are, as far as my observation goes, done by men,—who stand, while at work, a practice which these damsels could not imitate, as their feet were small. They were poor,—but too genteel, in their parents' idea, to do the drudgery of the humble housewife,—and so their feet were bandaged, and kept from growing beyond the limits of gentility. Their looks were not likely soon to attract a lover,—and, hence, they were compelled to tease the sampler, from the glistening dawn till dewy eve. Much skill and labour are bestowed on the embroidery of a plaited skirt, worn by ladies, which, with my partiality for what is Chinese, I think without a rival for beauty, as an article of female attire. In the little work before me, several patterns are given, expressly for the purpose. A curious purse, worn in the girdle of Chinese gentlemen, is also the subject of much of this kind of elaboration. Embroidery and figured textures were generally in favour with the ancients,—so that the discovery was thought worthy of a superior agency. In the Old Testament, we have two kinds, the *vaase rokem* (opus phrygineum), in which the figures were inserted by the needle,—and the *vaase choseb* (opus plumarium), in which they were wrought in with the work. The Chinese are fond of retaining what is old,—and have preserved both these arts in the highest state of perfection.—*Hand Book of Needlework.*

## Hyacinth-Glass Mat.

*From the Work-Table Friend.*

Half an ounce of shaded Green, two skeins of six shades of Scarlet—all 4-thread Berlin Wool; the lightest shade of Scarlet to be a bright Geranium colour, the darkest a rather light claret, the third shade from the lightest to be a military scarlet. Four yards of White Skirt Cord, the size of ordinary Blind Cord. No. 2 Penelope Hook.

### *To form the Cup.*

With\*Green wool work Dc over the Cord for eight rounds, increasing in the 2nd round two stitches into every loop, the next round the same, the next round one in every 2nd stitch; and so on in proportion as the increasing may be necessary, till of sufficient size for a Hyacinth Glass. The bottom of the Mat should be one round larger than the size of the Glass. Then work an additional round without increasing, but drawing the cord rather tightly about every twelve stitches. Now work eight rows up the side, without increasing, being careful to draw the cord at intervals: fasten off neatly, and turn the Mat inside out.

### *For the First Row of Leaves.*

Take the four lightest shades, and commence with the darkest: make 12 chain, turn back, work 4 Dc up, 6 L; and into the end loop work 7 L; now work down the chain 6 L, 4 more Dc.

Fasten on the next shade; work 5 Dc up, 5 L, 2 L into every loop of the 7 L, excepting in the centre loop, where work 3 L instead of 2, 6 L down the leaf, 5 Dc.

Fasten on the next shade; 6 Dc up, 4 L, 2 L into every loop of the 14 L, with 3 L into the centre loop.

Next shade; take some wire drawn from white ribbon wire, and work 4 row of Dc all round, enclosing the wire in the stitches; fasten off neatly. Eight of these light leaves will be required.

### *For the Broad and Dark Leaves.*

Commence with the darkest shade; make 9 chain, turn back, work 1 L into every loop except the last, when work 7 L.

Next shade; 7 L, with 2 L into every loop of the 14 L, with 3 L into the centre loop; now 7 L down.

Next shade the same.

Military scarlet; Dc over the wire as in the first leaves, taking care to bend the end of the wire after the first and last stitches are made, to prevent it slipping. Seven of these leaves will be sufficient.

With lightest wool sew on the first circle of leaves at the points, leaving about an inch and a half above the cup; then with some wool sew each leaf together just where the top of the cup reaches, cutting off the wool every time—not carrying it on. Then, with