

AT. MURPHY,  
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back-grounds (*à réseaux*), it may be well to say a few words about the term which applies to the large section of the older laces, that is, Guipure. Originally the term was used in connection with trimming made of a cord composed of an inner core, or stout thread whipped around with fine threads. Later lace makers employed the term gimp to bars and ties used in imitation of the dainty brides *à picots* (ground work of bars ornamented with knots) of the Venetians. This by degrees gave rise to an extension in the use of the term guipure, and its subsequent application to all laces in which a back-ground of bars or ties were used; whilst those in which the back-grounds were composed of small regular meshes (*réseaux*) were designated by the name dentelles.

#### The Third Division of Lace. Pillow Lace.

It is surmised by such an authority as M. Ernest Lefébure that the year 1500 saw in Northern Italy the birth of this art. In the absence of anything more authentic, we may here repeat the pretty legend of Venice concerning its origin.

"A young fisherman of the Adriatic was betrothed to a beautiful girl of one of the isles in the lagoon. Industrious as she was beautiful, the girl made a new net for her lover, who took it with him on board his boat. The first time he cast it into the sea he dragged therefrom an exquisite petrified wrack-grass, which he hastened to present to his fiancée.

"But war breaking out the sailors and fishermen were pressed into the service of the Venetian navy, and departed for the East.

"The poor young girl wept at the departure of her lover, and for many days inconsolably contemplated his farewell gift to her. But while absorbed in following the wondrous and lovely ribs of the petrified wrack-grass, knitted together by the lightest fibres, she began to twist and plait the threads weighted with small leads which