

MAKING BUTTON-HOLES.

To work button-holes well requires care and practice, and beginners should not at first try to do fine ones. Cut the slit even to a thread, and just large enough to reach across the button; then take a needle and cotton and run it slightly round a short distance from the edge: this keeps the parts neatly together and also strengthens it. Some people prefer running the outline *before* the button-hole is cut, but it is not generally done. Hold the work straight along the forefinger of the left hand, and insert the needle, four or five threads from the raw edge at the left-hand corner; before drawing it quite through bring the cotton from the eye of the needle, over the needle, and from left to right under its point. Draw the needle out straight from the edge, keeping the hand upwards, so that the loops may lie on the edge of the button-hole which the left thumb presses close against the finger. One thread is left between the stitches, and if the cotton be a proper size this will allow room for the twist at the edge. Work as nearly to the end as possible; then take two stitches across to the other side and work these threads over in button-hole stitch. This is called "barring" button-holes, and prevents their tearing so easily. Often a button-