

in the "List of successes in the Examinations held by the Science and Art Department" in 1896.

At St. Helens Municipal Technical School women attend not only classes in Domestic Economy but classes in Art and Commercial subjects. Ten scholarships have been founded to assist girls, at present in the Elementary Schools, to spend two years at the Local Grammar School. The secretary is J. J. Brownhead, Esq.

The report of the Blackburn Municipal Technical School, which next claims our atten-

tion, attracts us by the generous list of scholarships for Art Students; some of £52 to £90 at the National Art Training School, South Kensington; two Princess of Wales' scholarships of £25 and £11 for women; a Gilchrist Scholarship, tenable for two years at the Royal Female School of Art, London, of £50, and others.

Lastly we glance with pleasure at the syllabus of the Stockport Technical School, which comprises a day school for boys and girls, a school of art, classes for teachers, and evening classes. Among the latter we note,

under "domestic subjects," a class for Art Needlework. There are many scholarships to be competed for by boys and girls alike. The art training, in connection with South Kensington, seems admirable, and the view of "Corner of one of the Art Rooms" is tempting. We began with domestic economy, we may end, for the present, by saying that the opportunities for girls to study art appear to be increasing by leaps and bounds.

LILY WATSON.

(To be continued.)



## SOCIAL EVENTS IN A GIRL'S LIFE.

By LA PETITE.

### PART III.

#### MY FIRST ROYAL GARDEN-PARTY.

IT must be admitted that one garden-party is very much like another, but still there is something about a royal function of the kind which marks it out from the common run. At least, I know I thought so when the invitation came one morning, and for once in my life I felt really quite anxious about the weather.

It was one of those capricious summers in which no two days—one might almost say no two hours—are alike, and though, of course, in case of wet we should retire under cover, still a garden-party indoors seems rather Irish and neither one thing nor the other. Besides, diaphanous dresses and flowery hats look forlorn on a cold damp day, and I naturally wanted to appear at my best, so altogether I suddenly woke up to an extreme interest in the weather-chart and interpreted it according to my wishes.

The day before was dull and varied by a thunderstorm, while the eventful morning itself dawned cool and cloudy, turning after the first few hours into unmistakable rain.

Alas, for my first royal garden-party!

However, to my joy, the sun graciously consented to shine after twelve, and by the time we were dressed and ready it was a very fair specimen of an English June afternoon.

Most girls like to hear about other girls' clothes, and those who do not can skip this paragraph; but for the benefit of the former species, I may say that my dress was white with suspicions of pink about it, and a big white hat in which appeared my favourite lilies-of-the-valley with their own tender green leaves. Mamma was in black-and-white silk with white lace, as she rarely appears in colours except sometimes in the evening or at the drawing-room.

As we drove along there was plenty to look at, for it was the height of the London season, when even a mere drive through the West End is in itself a pleasure, and one that never palls on people who take an interest in their fellow-creatures.

Soon, however, there was something else to look at, for, as we approached the scene of the function, the stream of carriages all going in one direction increased until we found ourselves in a *queue* of them and could only go on at a snail's pace.

Even this phase of the afternoon was enjoyable, for an interested crowd had gathered along the line of route, and it is always amusing to watch faces and hear the remarks made.

When we finally drew up at the gates, the sun was shining in all its splendour, and the scene (as novelists say) "could be more easily imagined than described."

The lovely gardens were in all the prime of their summer beauty, refreshment tents were dotted about here and there, a military band was filling the air with lively music in one quarter, while a second nobly fulfilled its duty in a more distant part of the grounds, and a company of well-dressed ladies and gentlemen were strolling up and down the paths, giving that touch of human interest without which the scene would not have been complete.

Considering that every person present, with but few exceptions, was noted for something or other, you may imagine that I used my eyes with all my might as we advanced up the centre path, for celebrities were numerous and I did not want to miss anything; but, as we approached the dais, I had to bring my mind to bear on the important task of greeting my royal host and hostess and such of their relatives as were supporting them on this occasion.

After all, these things are not actually so formidable as they sound, and I accomplished the proper number of court curtsies without any mishap, after which we were free to greet personal friends, wander about the lovely grounds, visit the lake, or take refreshments, as one would at any ordinary garden-party.

There was a quartette of male voices in one of the conservatories besides the two bands on the lawn; but, somehow, one did not want any more amusement than was to be derived from watching the aristocratic crowd around, and again noting, as often on previous occasions, how nervousness and self-consciousness frequently ruined what might otherwise have been a very graceful manner. Some people seemed quite to lose their heads at the crucial moment, and stood stock still until gently recalled to themselves by royalty making a move to greet the next comer.

Of course, I am speaking now of the younger guests to whom this was the first plunge into Society (with a capital S!) and not of the leaders of the world of fashion who have perfectly acquired that most difficult art of knowing exactly what to do and how to do it in every position of life.

Naturally the knowledge that a formidable array of eyes and glasses is narrowly watching your every movement does not help you to overcome your panic, and the further knowledge that the criticism you evoke will certainly not be unduly prejudiced in your favour completes your discomfiture.

Society is not by any means all unmixed pleasure, for the home-atmosphere of loving appreciation and considerate correction is wholly wanting, and the correction, when it comes, does not spare your feelings.

I have wandered a long way from the garden-party, and yet not so far as you might think, for all this time I have been remembering a remark I overheard soon after I had "run the gauntlet" myself, which was, "Why, there's a girl in a macintosh! Whatever could she be thinking of to come such an object? Just see how awkward she is!" and so on.

Looking up, I noticed a girl just making her curtsy, clad in a silvery-grey silky material made quite plainly, with an accordion-pleated cape, which certainly offered a great contrast to the elaborate and fashionable costumes by which she was surrounded, added to which, she was evidently suffering agonies of nervousness.

One felt sorry, however, as one thought of the probable care and pains with which loving hands had dressed her for this great occasion, and besides, I do not believe it was really a macintosh at all.

I only hoped she would not hear any of the unkind comments freely made on her appearance, but one learns that people are often utterly indifferent to the pain caused by a careless remark; for

"Evil is wrought  
By want of thought  
As much as want of heart."

There were amusing incidents too as, for instance, close by us were standing a tall, elegant girl and an aristocratic old lady, evidently only just come, for the girl was dragging at her relative's arm in a great state of excitement, whispering eagerly, "Are we going up to the dais now, granny? Do let us go!" apparently with no nervous qualms to spoil her anticipations.

We did not see her make her curtsy, but we feel sure she did it well, for the less you think about yourself and wonder whether people are admiring you, the better you get on.

All this time the royalties had been smiling

indefatigably, greeting their more intimate friends with marked favour, the princess and duchesses kissing the ladies and motioning them to the places of honour near them, while the less distinguished company hovered about like so many human butterflies.

It would certainly give the crowning touch to this paper were I able to say that I personally was one of those singled out for special notice, and nothing would be easier if this

were imaginary, but truth compels me to admit that I have no exciting or flattering experiences to relate as this is all sober fact and not fiction.

After a time the royal host and hostess, with their relatives, descended from the daïs and mixed freely with their guests, dispensing gracious words and smiles, as our royalty well know how to do, so that no one could feel neglected or out in the cold.

The rest of the afternoon passed in a happy mixture of merry talk, light-hearted laughter, music, sunshine and flowers, and forms one of the many bright pictures hung in the mental picture-gallery, which is one of my favourite apartments in my castle in the air.

When at length we took our departure I felt that the third important social event in my life had been as *unqualified a success* as the others I have already described to you.

PRACTICAL PAPERS ON PLAIN WORK.

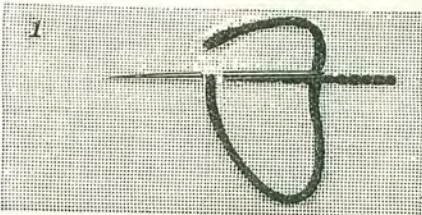
By JOSEPHA CRANE, Author of "Beautiful Sewing," "Winifred's Home," etc.

PART V.

STITCHING AND BACK-STITCHING, ETC.

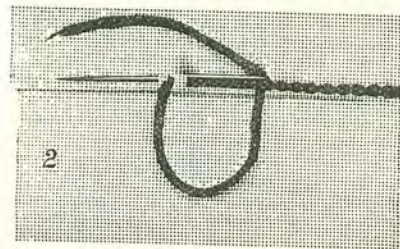
*Plain Work.*—It is interesting to note what Lady Marion Alford says *re* plain work:—

"Plain work is that which is necessary. As soon as textiles are needed for covering and



clothing, the means are invented for drawing the cut edges together, and for preventing the fraying where the material is lacerated by the shaping process. Hence the 'seam' and the 'hem' and all the forms of stitches that bind and plait. These necessary stitches constitute plain needlework, and are closely followed by decorative stitches, which in gradation cover the space between plain work and white embroidery.

"Semper has given us his archaeological theories for the origin of needlework and its

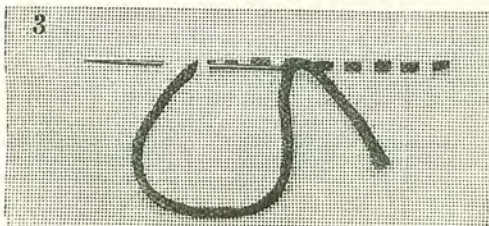


stitches. These are his arguments if not always his words. He says:—

"The seam is one of the first human successful efforts to conquer difficulties."

"A string, a ribbon, a braid may serve to keep together several loose things; but by means of the seam, small things actually become large ones. For example, a full-grown man can by its help cover himself with a garment made of the skins of many small animals."

*Stitching.*—In Fig. 1 you will see how



stitching is done. Do your stitching, if possible, on linen or cotton that has been well scalded, rubbed and soaped so that the dressing has been removed. In the case of very fine linen, where drawing the thread is not easy to do even when the above process has been gone through, it is well to soap the place where you wish to draw the thread, as that very much facilitates your doing so.

When you have to do stitching on material which does not permit of your drawing the thread, or if you have to stitch in a diagonal line, run a coloured tacking thread all along the line, which must be measured accurately and be very straight.

Stitching must be done most accurately, each stitch being the same size, and the line on which it is done being kept quite straight.

Stitching is always done upon double material.

Count your threads and make each stitch over the same number.

You can only make one stitch at a time, and you must put your needle in at precisely the same place as where it was drawn out. This forms the preceding back-stitch, and then your needle must come out as many threads in advance as you took in the last stitch.

Thus it is obvious that every stitch meets each other.

*Stitched Hem.*—In Fig. 2 you will see a stitched hem.

Turn over two folds, a lesser and a greater, just as if for a hem.

Draw your thread two or more threads above the edge of the first turning, and then take your stitches through all the three layers of material.

When your stitched hem is done, you will remember that the side on which you have made your stitches is the right side.

*Back-Stitching.*—So many people confound stitching and back-stitching that I have given here an illustration of both, and in Fig. 3 you will see how back-stitching is done.

Put your needle in and draw it out six threads further on. Take your thread back, turn your left to your right, and put the needle in three threads back from the point at which you drew it out, and bring it out six threads beyond.

*Strengthening-Tapes.*—These tapes are often put on different parts of underclothing instead of gussets. They are to be found at the end of slits and seams, more often in flannel under-wear than in any other.

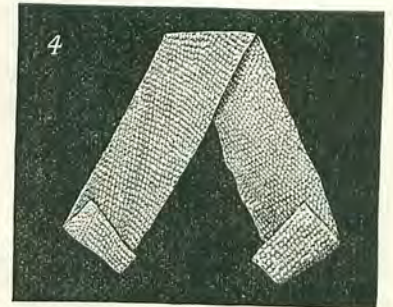
Shaped tapes are also used at the corners of shirts worn by infants, and at the bottom of armholes on pinafores, etc.

Look at Fig. 4 and you will see how the tape is folded for putting on to any of the aforementioned articles.

In Fig. 5 you will see how it should be sewn on, the article being flannel as is obvious by the herring-bone stitch on the edges.

You will have noticed in Fig. 4 that one turned-down end is on the wrong side and the other on the right side, and that the tape is crossed at about half its length.

Pin your tape in position, and then fell



it down as you see in Fig. 5. Always fell the part you see is already done first of all before you go on to the sides and the crossing of the tape where the needle is now left in.

*Straight Tapes.*—Tapes placed at the bottom of a placket hole, the front folds of shirts, etc., are not shaped at all. Place them thus—

On the wrong side of the tape turn down a narrow fold of the tape.

Double your tape and press down a crease half across the width.

Put the selvedge edge on the wrong side of the article over the end of your slit, and see that the line of creasing goes quite over the middle of it.

Fell the tape very neatly to the article and let the corners be carefully done.

