

your liberty, with the favour and goodwill both of the king and his council, if you would but do as the bishops and best-learned of this realm have done; and, seeing you have at Chelsea a right fair house . . . where you might, in company with me, your wife, your children, and household, be merry, I muse what, in God's name, you mean here thus fondly to tarry."

It is pleasanter, however, to end this paper with the case of a husband who was shown the pathway to heaven, and made great in the sense of being good by his wife's practice of piety. "My mercy," says Bunyan,

"was to light upon a wife whose father and mother were accounted godly. This woman and I, though we came together as poor as poor might be (not having so much household stuff as a dish or a spoon betwixt us both), yet she had, for her part, 'The Plain Man's Pathway to Heaven,' and 'The Practice of Piety,' which her father had left her when he died." By reading these and other good books, helped by the kindly influence of his wife, Bunyan was gradually reclaimed from his evil ways, and led gently into the paths of righteousness.

HOW TO KNIT A STOCKING.

BY PHYLLIS BROWNE.



ECONOMY in wear is by no means the only advantage stocking knitters gain. Knitting is very calming work; it quiets the nerves, and helps people to take a philosophical view of life. It is easy to get rid of worry, ruffled temper, and discontent, when we can knit these dis-

agreeable companions into a pair of stockings.

Many people can knit a little, and can even manage to knit with three needles, who yet have never learnt to knit stockings. For the benefit of such people the following directions are given for knitting a pair of women's stockings of ordinary size.

Procure half a pound of fine soft fingering, and also four steel needles. A loose knitter should have fine needles; a tight knitter, thick needles. In order to find out how many stitches ought to be cast on, measure the full width of the doubled-up fist. Usually this will be the length of the foot. The length of the foot will be two-thirds of the measure of the leg above the knee. Measure the fist, therefore; make this length half as long again as it is, and there is the measure for the top of a stocking that is to come quite above the knee. Knit a small piece of knitting with the materials to be used, and count how many stitches go to the inch. See how many inches there are in the measure for the top of the stocking; multiply the number of inches by the number of stitches to the inch, and you will have the number of stitches to be cast on.

If a novice in knitting stockings finds the calculation of measurement rather puzzling, let her cast on 112 stitches: this will be about right for an ordinary-sized woman's stocking. As, however, some women are short, some tall, some stout, and some thin, also as loose knitting stretches more than tight knitting, it is safer to measure.

Cast all the stitches on one needle, and divide them afterwards—thirty-seven on two needles, thirty-eight on the third. The odd stitch on the third needle is intended for the seam stitch, which is to run down the middle of the back of the leg. Knit two plain

rounds, and then make the welt by knitting two purl, two plain, for one inch. Now begin to knit plain all round, and seam the middle stitch of the needle which has thirty-eight on it. This stitch must be seamed from now to the end of the heel, no matter what changes are made elsewhere.

Knit plain all round to the depth of five inches; then increase three times, with four rows between each, in order to provide for the rise in the calf of the leg. Both increases and decreases are made on each side the seam stitch, leaving a plain stitch between. Increases are made by making two stitches out of one. Decreases are made by knitting two together on both sides of the seam stitch, leaving one plain stitch between.

Having increased four times with four rows between each, knit half a dozen plain rounds, then begin to decrease. Make three decreases on each side of the seam, with eight rounds between each; three with seven rounds between each; three with six rounds between; and three with five rounds between. If, when the decreases are finished, the ankle is too wide for the size of the leg, decrease again twice or thrice. It must be remembered, however, that unless the ankle is fairly wide, the heel will not slip over the foot easily. After this, knit three inches plain for the ankle.

For an ordinary heel, divide the stitches into two halves, with the seam stitch in the centre of one half, and the other half on two needles. Leave the stitches on the two needles for awhile, and knit the stitches on the one needle which contains the seam stitch backwards and forwards to make the heel, and in every instance slip the first stitch—do not knit it.

If strong linen thread be put with the fingering when knitting the heel and the toe, the stocking will last twice as long.

There are a good many ways of turning a heel. The following is pretty, and rather uncommon. In dividing the stitches for the heel, take four more stitches than half for the back. Knit thirty-two rows, and preserve the seam stitch in each row. In the thirty-third row, knit to within three of the seam. Knit two together; knit one; purl one; knit one;

knit two together : knit five ; turn ; slip one ; purl six ; knit one ; purl six ; turn. Repeat until there are fifteen stitches on the needle. Then take up.

Taking up the heel is a puzzling business at first. Put the stitches which have been all this time on the two needles in front on one needle. Divide the stitches on the heel needle into halves, and put them on two needles. With the left-hand side heel needle take up the stitches which were slipped in knitting the heel. When taking each one up, pass the wool over it and so knit it. When all are lifted on the left side, knit and put with them six stitches from the front needle. Now knit off the stitches on this needle, and after they are knitted move the six at the end to the empty needle. With this same needle pick up and knit the stitches on the right side of the heel. Upon this same needle take the unknitted half of the heel stitches.

The foot is now begun. Knit three rounds plain, and after this decrease. The decreasings should be made at two points only—that is, before and after the

six stitches which were taken for the side needles from the front. Decrease in each of these places three times, with two rounds between each time, and then decrease every alternate round till the foot is of the same width as the ankle.

When the decreasings are finished, five and a half inches of foot may be knitted plain ; then the decreasings for the toe begin, when the black linen thread is to be again introduced. Divide the stitches into three equal parts, and at each of the divisions keep four stitches, which are to be knitted plain. Decrease before and after these four ; that is, six times in a round. Knit three rounds between each decrease till an inch is knitted ; then two rounds between each decrease for half an inch, and one round between each decrease for another half an inch ; then decrease every round. When twelve stitches only remain, put them on two needles, making the sole lie flat, and cast off from both needles at once rather loosely. Fasten off the ends, and the stocking is finished.

CLOUD-SHIPS.

A CROSS the calm of the celestial seas
Some fleecy cloud-ships slowly, slowly sail
(Their canvas spread to catch the gentle gale),
With swan-like motion, gliding on with ease.
From the warm south they come like reveries
That from the fertile realms of fancy hail,
And sail the seas of mind. So fairy-frail

Are these full-freighted little argosies,
That when contending currents stir the deep,
And the brisk breeze of reason decks with white
The wavelets newly born, like frightened sheep
The tossing ships are scattered left and right,
With tattered sails and battered hulls, till sleep
The wind and waves, as sleeps the world at night.

A GHOST INCIDENT.

A TRUE STORY.



F late years ghosts have had rather hard times of it. They have been knocked about in all directions, worried till they have been well-nigh at their wits' end, interfered with in their legitimate perambulations, challenged to give an account of themselves, and say are they ghosts or are they not. Flesh and blood could not bear all which they suffer, but being ghosts, and having neither flesh nor blood, they endure, and do not commit suicide, as flesh-and-blood humanity would, under such trials, assuredly do. They suffer, too, from false pretenders, or pseudo-ghosts, who bring them into great discredit till the make-believes are found out. And yet they deserve better treatment and more respect, for they are a very ancient class, and quite pre-historic. "Ghosts," observes a modern writer, "are almost the first guess of the savage, almost the last infirmity of the civilised imagination."

Leaving this question to be settled as best it may be, I shall now proceed to give a true case of a ghost-

hunt and its result. I say a *true* case, as I have it from the pen of a very eminent and experienced surgeon, who has spent a long life in extensive practice—a man of education, intelligence, and reflection; moreover, one of great physical and moral courage, and the last man in the world to let his imagination run away with his sobriety of judgment. For obvious reasons I do not give his name, but I am at liberty to say that he has been in communication with one of our highest authorities on an interesting psychological subject. I now give the narrative in his own written statement, which, indeed, he had previously communicated to me in conversation:—

"Some winters ago I was sitting alone, reading at the fire in my drawing-room; there was a sharp frost at the time, but not any snow; the hour at or about 'the noon of night.' My family were all absent at the time; the domestics were all in bed, probably an hour or two. Having been much interested in my book, I paid no attention to anything around me. Suddenly, however, I awoke to the fact that a footstep had been passing through my house, and that I had been hearing it listlessly for some time, without feeling