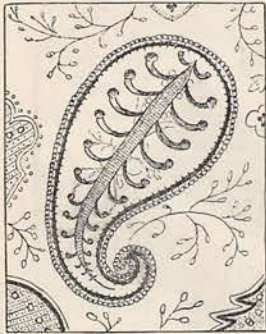


POCKET-HANDKERCHIEF WORK.

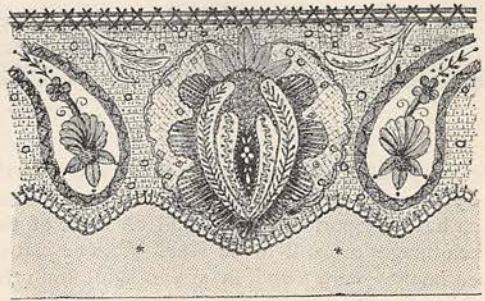


PORTION OF A HANDKERCHIEF, SHOWING A "PINE" PARTLY WORKED.

"FIRST catch your hare," says the famed Mrs. Glass in her cookery book, and as I head this paper "Pocket-handkerchief Work," I feel much disposed to echo her direction *re* pocket-handkerchiefs. The most beautiful little table-cloths can be made out of the common stamped cotton pocket-handkerchiefs used by country people, if you are so fortunate as to

get the right kind. The wrong kind, I may as well begin by saying, are very easily had at any linen-draper's, particularly one in a village or country town. These are simply red cotton, with a sprinkling of white spots, wafer-like, over them. These are of no use; very small ones also are useless.

The right kind are about twenty-eight inches square, larger if you can get them, and the patterns vary as well as the price. From about eightpence to a shilling good ones can be had, and it is worth the few pence difference to secure them, as they bear the work upon them better. I must admit that I have found some difficulty in getting the right kind; but, still, perseverance has been rewarded by success, and a country town or village shop has generally produced



HOW TO FINISH OFF THE EDGES.

what a larger store has not thought it necessary to keep in stock.

The best to work upon are of a large pine or Eastern pattern on a coloured ground, blue or red—being generally the latter. The patterns are often singularly beautiful: the curves so perfect and the general arrangement so very artistic.

Having the handkerchief before you, study the pattern and then work over it, according to your own fancy, in fil-selle silks.

Use two or four strands, as you think best; but



"PINE" PATTERN, FITTED IN WITH PLUSH.

two I generally find sufficient. Of course you are not supposed to cover over the entire handkerchief, but simply to allow the pattern to guide you in your work. For example: in a handkerchief before me now a pine figures in many parts. Suppose you work the centre thick (as shown in our first illustration), simply satin-stitch all the way up in one colour, and the small pattern that gives off it in another colour. Chain-stitch or rope-stitch round the entire pine. Vary the colouring and stitches as much as possible.

As for the stitches that can be used, they are so numerous that I can hardly attempt to do more than enumerate some of them. Feather-stitch, coral-stitch, herring-bone, satin-stitch, rope-stitch, chain-stitch, can all be used with advantage. Often, as you will notice in working, it is well to leave a good deal of groundwork apparent, at other times



TABLE CLOTH IN HANDKERCHIEF WORK.



CORNER OF A POCKET-HANDKERCHIEF BEFORE BEING EMBROIDERED.

to cover as much as you can of the outlines. Another method which can be used as well as the aforementioned—for you cannot have too much variety—is (I will again instance the pine) to cut it out entirely. Then take any end of plush, silk, velvet, or satin, and lay it under the opening caused by the piece you have cut out. Tack this down very carefully, so that the piece of whatever material you have is quite flat. This arrangement may be seen in the illustration on the opposite page. Then buttonhole-stitch the edge of the cotton on to the material—I have instanced plush in the above—and you have the entire pine upon which to work. Embroider on it anything that takes your fancy, the queerer it looks the better: a little spray of flowers, a beetle, a ring, a dove, anything you like, much after the mode of doing the crazy-work, upon which this pocket-handkerchief work is a great improvement.

Some people introduce beads; this, however, I do not admire, nor do I care for gold thread, unless it is very fine indeed. A small piece of the finished work is shown on this page.

Whether it be a pine or any special part of the pattern that you care to select, so long as it is not too large a piece, you can cut it out and treat it in the same way. To *appliqué* a round or pine on the stuff itself is not so successful. The handkerchief when done can be cut out at the edges, for usually the pattern lends itself well to this, as in the specimen shown at the head of the second column on the opposite page, the portion

marked * being self-coloured. Cut the latter away, and lay the handkerchief itself upon whatever you intend to make a lining of—the border, however, you can make of plush or any material that you may fancy—the work being buttonhole-stitched down upon it as was the pine, and on the same principle.

On the plush itself, if you like it, you can embroider a running or occasional pattern; and finish off the entire cloth with fringe of any kind. The work is very handsome when completed, and the size of the table-cloth can be regulated by the depth of border. It is, besides, an excellent way of utilising ends of silk and material, for the more variety you can get into your work the better. A suggestion for a small table-cloth is given in one of our illustrations.

Very handsome borders for tables or anything else desired can be made by cutting up two or more handkerchiefs, taking only the borders, joining them neatly, and working them on the same principle, finishing off with fringe or cord.

Very often from the corner or one side of a handkerchief you can take enough to nail on a bracket, and it is astonishing how well suited many of the patterns are to things of this kind.

Another use for these handkerchiefs is to cut out any set pattern, such as groups of leaves or palms, and, having worked them, to *appliqué* them on to any material preferred. These would make very pretty *couvre-pieds*, or table-covers.

When the work is completed, few, excepting the initiated, would imagine that the richly coloured, beautiful piece of work has for its foundation a common cotton pocket-handkerchief!

JOSEPHA CRANE.



CORNER OF A POCKET-HANDKERCHIEF AFTER BEING EMBROIDERED.