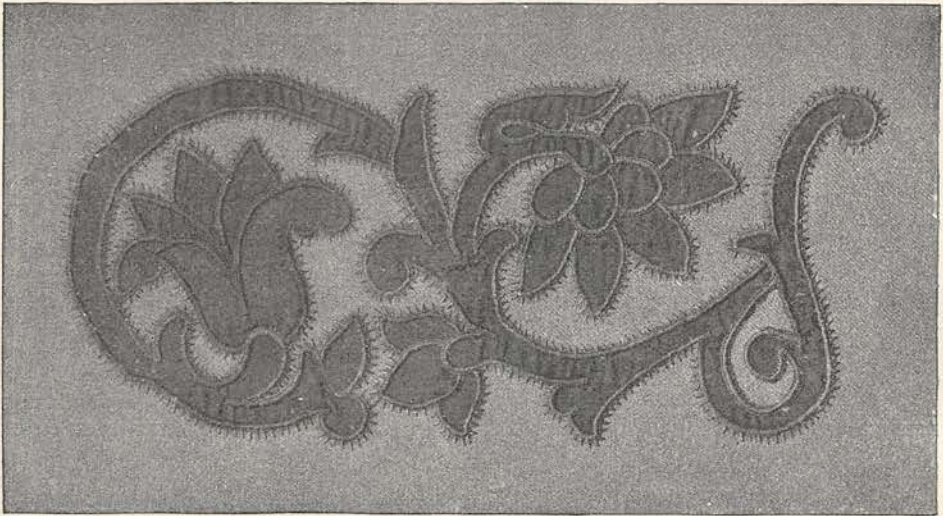


THE POSSIBILITIES OF TURKEY TWILL.



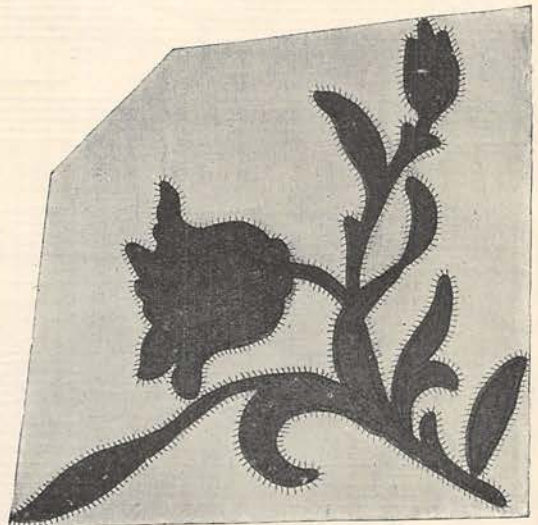
APPLIQUÉ BORDER.

MANY a worker who is not good at ordinary fancy work and feels she can never grasp the many stitches new and old of which she is always hearing, may take heart of grace and learn to her comfort that there is a kind of work called *appliqué*, which she can do and do well, even if she is competent only to work buttonhole stitches and back stitches. *Appliqué* is, of course, a very ancient form of embroidery. A well-known authority says :

"In the sixteenth and seventeenth century cut-work was much employed in Italy for large-flowered arabesque designs, commonly in velvet or silk, making columnar wall hangings, which are often very effective—giving the rooms an architectural decoration, without interfering with the arrangement of works of art, pictures, statues, and cabinets placed in front of them. Besides, it was supposed that the utmost effect of richness was thus accomplished with the least labour, and very large spaces and very high walls covered without losing anything of beauty by distance, as must be the case when the work's highest merit is the delicacy of the stitches and the details of form." From this to *appliqué* on Turkey twill seems a far cry, and yet most charming and certainly very inexpensive articles can be made for the decoration of homes, big and little, with it. When well done, it is effective, handsome, and as worthy of a place in the well-appointed houses of the rich as in the smaller homes of those whose means are limited.

The corner of a bedspread, which you see given in our illustration, is a capital example of this work. The bold design is done in red Turkey twill upon what is called poorhouse sheeting, a material which is easy to work upon, and is of a soft creamy white. Curtains, bedspreads, and many articles can be made with it, and it is satisfactory to know that both the sheeting and the twill wash remarkably well. This latter advantage is to be considered by those who live in towns.

Each corner of the bedspread is decorated



CORNER OF BEDSPREAD.

in the same way, and a large design to correspond is placed in the middle.

Turkey twill *appliqué* is very effective for sideboard cloths, and many articles of the kind.

Bolton sheeting and art serge, which can be had in a great variety of colours, are capital as foundations for this *appliqué*.

The border before you is a very handsome design suited for a bedspread, the pattern running all the way round, or else as an edge for curtains.

The serge upon which it is done is of a dull art green, and the design is well thrown up by it.

Now come directions for working this.

Choose conventional, bold designs. Many of the transfer patterns so easily procured answer admirably for this work.

Having your Turkey twill—which, by the way, should be of the best quality—laid very flat on a table before you, you should iron off your design, being careful to place it perfectly straight. When you have done this you next place it upon your sheeting, serge, or whatever material it is to go upon; and here again I cannot too strongly urge you to be careful in putting it on very straight, for, once applied to the foundation, if discovered to be crooked, there is no remedy but to cut it all out and join on a new piece as best you can.

Tack your twill then down very carefully, and see that there are no wrinkles, and that the one material lies flatly and closely upon the other.

Ingrain embroidery cotton (not a very fine number) is the best for using, and a coarse needle, with eye large enough to carry the cotton easily, is also requisite.

Buttonhole your design down in a buttonhole stitch not quite a quarter of an inch deep. This must be perfectly regular, the upper part of it having no even stitches marring the line, and the edge being firm and even. Each stitch must be close to the preceding one, and, of course, as you see in Fig. 1, you work from left to right. The amount of buttonhole that you put in must be regulated by the character of the design.

Examine the border and spray, and that will guide you, for a good deal more than the mere outline is treated in that way.

When you have completed this, take a pair of sharply-pointed scissors and cut the Turkey twill away from the foundation close to the buttonhole border.

This being done, put stitches, which are nothing but back stitches, all along the edge, as you see in the examples before you.

Work as you see in Fig. 2, from the buttonhole to the foundation, not *vice-versa*, keeping your thread over your needle.

In Fig. 3 you see another way of proceeding in which the buttonhole stitches are nearly a quarter of an inch apart. This is the first stage in the stitch you see completed in Fig. 4.

Push your needle up through the material about a quarter of an inch from the border.

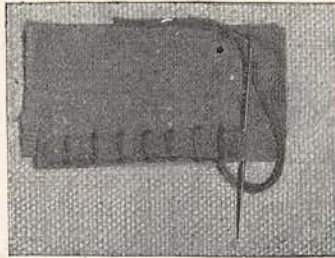


FIG. 1.

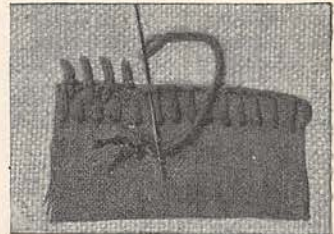


FIG. 2.

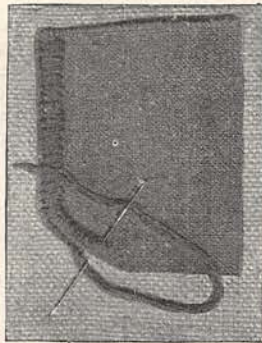


FIG. 3.

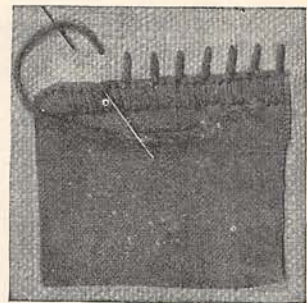


FIG. 4.

HOW THE STITCHES ARE MADE.

Then put it in just behind the thread at the edge between the two buttonhole stitches, keeping your working thread to the left.

Draw through, and then secure by a short stitch the bar just formed.

Turkey twill used thus in *appliqué* is capable of being very decorative, and many very handsome articles can be adorned with it.