

doing at all is worth doing well, and though everything in the beginning is hard, yet patience and perseverance will overcome great difficulties, and no one can fail in any good work who does it heartily. "As much as you can do, as well as you can do it," is the utmost that can be asked of any of us. Now let us try to sum up some good reasons why correspondence teaching may be recommended.

1. Because our education must continue as long as we live, and after a certain period of school life we must teach ourselves for the most part.

2. Because, however much we may desire to teach ourselves, we shall work much better, that is, with more profit to ourselves and with less waste of time, by putting ourselves under the guidance of a good teacher.

3. Because we are not likely to know all the best books on the subject we wish to study, or the special parts of certain books which require the most careful reading.

4. Because we may prepare ourselves for the examinations for women which are held in connection with most universities now, and so obtain certificates which are valuable in every case, but particularly useful if we are teaching or wish to become teachers.

5. Because of the real benefits to be derived from the discipline of a regular and systematic course of study—a far more valuable result even than the getting of a certificate.

6. Because we can work for our correspondence teacher without infringing in the least on our household duties.

7. Because the habit of expressing one's-self in the best and most concise way, though always admired, is not easily acquired without practice.

8. Because though we may be living in a most retired and secluded district, we can by this means avail ourselves of an advantage almost, if not quite, equal to that of being able to attend the university lectures.

Self-improvement then is the great object which correspondence teaching chiefly aims at; let us use it as a stepping-stone to obtain that which is *best*.
J. P. M.

WOOL CROCHET.

COTTON crochet answers very well for ornamental purposes, but wool crochet is preferred by the weak-sighted and the real matter-of-fact worker. With wool the steel hook is replaced by a long bone or wooden one, sometimes tipped with a knob, but of that more anon. As to the stitches, we may divide them into two great classes: those similar to the stitches employed in ordinary crochet, and special stitches which vary very much. With the first kind articles are made such as shawls, square and half square, comforters, cuffs, hoods, and dolly's smart dresses, &c. Not very long ago I was surprised, whilst in a large linendraper's, to watch the ready sale of little socks in open square crochet, sold at the trifling price of 5½d. per pair. I at once closed with such a bargain, and handed over my purchase to a poor woman, who has since told me how useful were the new socks to her baby—the very thing for the summer; so light and airy; and the best of all, too, they washed and dried in no time, without shrinking.

However, among all the plain stitches the triangular treble is decidedly the favourite, and with it almost any article can be shaped. To work it, you may either crochet in straight rows, in slanting ones, or in a square, starting from a centre hole and setting the corners by working two groups of trebles into one stitch. In the same way shape also the point of a half square shawl.

The slantwise method being, perhaps, the least familiar, I have chosen this for the first illustration.

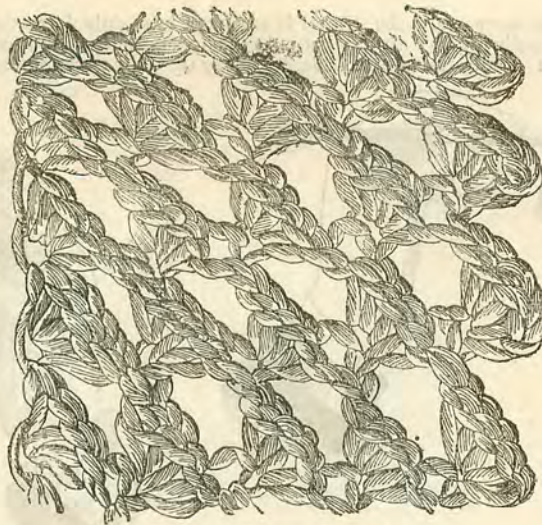


FIG. 1.—SHAWL STITCH.

A glance at it will show you that the triangular stitch is made up of doubles instead of trebles, and that the groups are worked between each other and separated by one chain. Commence by a single group, increase at every row until you have the required width across, then decrease in the same proportion till there is but one group again, thus forming the square. At the end of every row make one chain to serve as the foundation-stitch for the group worked into it above. Continue one chain, three doubles, into the next separating chain beneath; crochet back by a row of single to the point whence you first started, and make one chain to commence the next. This row of single crochet, by doubling the line at the top of the groups, adds great strength to the work, and renders it very suitable for a sofa blanket.

I will now explain to you quite a different mode of making this stitch, which perhaps you will find quicker. Crochet a chain of twenty-five; this will give you the depth of a nice border. 1st Row.—Raise all the loops, as in crochet *tricoté*. 2nd Row.*—Draw the needle through five of the loops at once, make five chain; repeat from * four times. The line finishes by five loops taken together; add five chain to replace the five stitches pulled into one at the commencement. Thus you form the bias. 3rd Row.—Raise twenty-five loops, like in 1st row; repeat 2nd row, and so on.

Another way of reproducing open and dense

crochet is shown in fig. 2, where balls alternate with holes, giving the effect of raised square crochet.

To make the balls, proceed thus: crochet a foundation chain with any even number of stitches, turn and, missing four, twist the wool round the needle and pierce it into the fifth; draw the wool through, twist it over, and draw through again; twist and draw through for the third time, leaving seven loops on the needle; bring the wool through all these at once, and set the ball by one chain, another chain to separate the balls, then begin the next one.

Balls are still more effective on opaque surfaces, such as the one given in fig. 3.

For this make one row of double crochet, break off the wool and commence again for the first line; * five double crochet into the sixth; work one treble, three long trebles (winding the wool twice round the needle), one treble; repeat from *. You have now a row of spaced scallops, each separated by five double crochet. Break off the wool again, and in the second

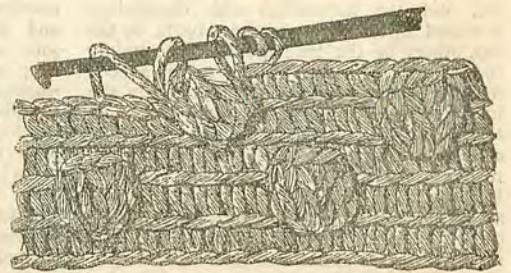


FIG. 3.—SPOTTED CROCHET.

row set the scallops into balls thus: make double crochet until the first one is reached, then take the first and last chain of the scallop on the hook, and draw the wool tightly through these as well as the loop on the needle; the scallop then doubles into a clump or ball. Five more double crochet; set the next scallop in the same way, and so on to the end. In the third and every alternate row work a scallop into the centre stitch of the intervening five chain. A closer and richer-raised work is obtained by making balls at every fourth instead of every sixth stitch; this is the kind adopted for reproducing the diamond and other designs on squares or stripes for quilts, sofa and carriage blankets, bassinette covers, borders for vests, hoods, babies' and ladies' boots, &c.

This kind of crochet is sometimes called ribbed crochet, but the real ribbed, or Russian, is more furrowed and alike on both sides. It is worked like double crochet, pricking the hook each time in the back of the chain—*i.e.*, the part which rests on the forefinger of the left hand whilst holding the work. Each row is turned with one chain to avoid losing a stitch, and this change of sides causes a ridge and a hollow at every pair of rows. Indeed, ribbed crochet is a capital stitch for every

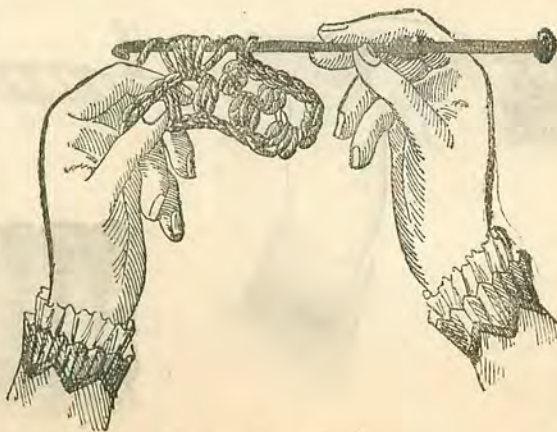


FIG. 2.—BALL CROCHET.

sort of woollen boot, and being warm and elastic is highly appreciated, specially by invalids. Before making one it is always

the stitches in sewing or by slightly decreasing the crochet. At the front opening sew buttons on one side, and along the other work fourteen

quite distinct from the former ones, and is worked with a regular *tricot* needle, finished off at the end by a knob, to prevent the

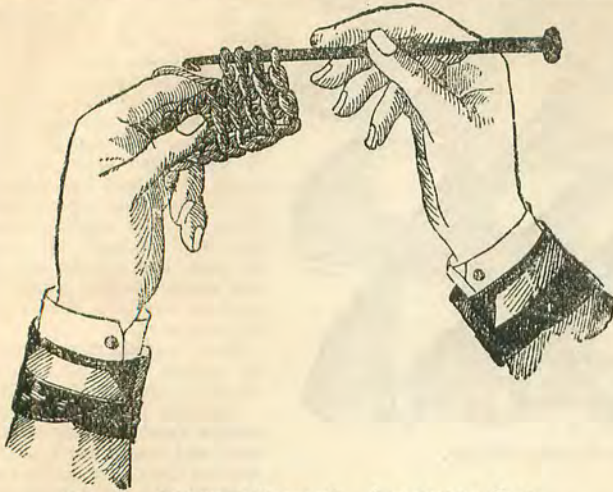


FIG. 4.—CROCHET TRICOTÉ. ADVANCING ROW.

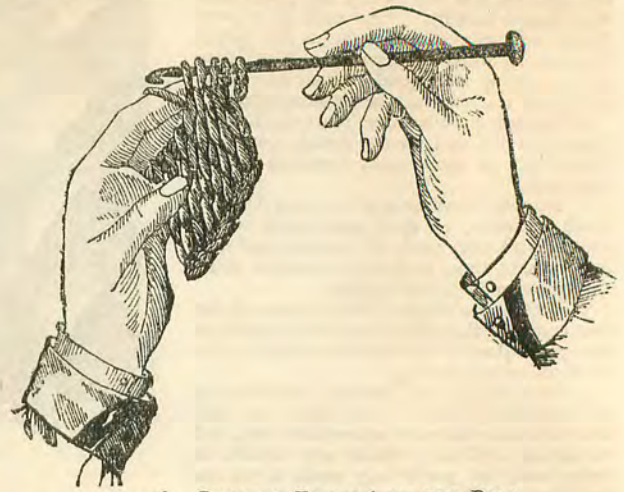


FIG. 6.—CROCHET TRICOTÉ ON THE BIAS.

wiser to take measures, either on the foot, or, as the case may be, on the boot over which the crochet one has to be slipped. For fidgety people a brown paper pattern is often cut, and the increasings and decreasings managed by it. Some workers begin by the top, others by the toe; the last is certainly the easier plan. I will explain to you a boot made in this manner, which buttons on the instep to allow of its being readily put on or taken off. Commence at the toe by nine, eleven, or thirteen stitches, according to the thickness of wool and required size. Crochet backwards and forwards for twenty-three rows, shaping the piece in the centre by working three stitches into one, like for shawls. Be careful to preserve an unbroken line. There will, of course, be fifty-five, fifty-seven, or fifty-nine stitches to correspond with the number you started with. So much for the front. To begin the left side piece crochet as usual until the twenty-third stitch — *i.e.*, the one before the centre, then extend it by a chain of fourteen. Work back upon these and continue along the ribbed part; repeat backwards and forwards for about thirty-six rows, which will give eighteen ribs; the number naturally depends upon the intended height of the boot. Break off the wool and proceed exactly in the same manner for the opposite side, still leaving untouched the middle stitch. Then sow or, still better, crochet the two edges of the boot together at the back. Evidently, if preferred, you can soon impart a curve to the heel by contracting

long trebles, four of which will serve as button-holes.

Now make the sole, also in ribbed crochet, beginning from the toe with the same number of chain as for the boot; widen and narrow it by degrees, taking a felt sole as a guide, which, like the ribbed one, may be sewn to the boot. Many workers, however, merely work a narrow straight strip, then the boot shapes itself to the foot somewhat like a stocking. To complete the boot, crochet and sew round the top a lace or a band of the above-mentioned balls.

Before leaving the subject of balls, I may mention another way of making them for very twisted cotton. In this kind balls are made at every row, so that the work cannot be done backwards and forwards, but only on one side — as in circular d'oyleys, or squares wrought from a centre hole. For the first row, work one treble into the first stitch of the foundation chain, and into the second a scallop of one treble, three long trebles, one treble, five in all; one treble into the third chain, one scallop into the fourth; repeat these alternately. In the next row crochet a scallop into the first intervening treble of the line below, then make one treble above its scallop, at the same time drawing it into a ball by taking the first and last chain on the hook, and pulling the cotton tightly through these two at once, then finish the stitch in the ordinary manner.

We have now come to the famous crochet

tunisien or *crochet tricoté*. This stitch is stitches from dropping off, for in *crochet tunisien* each stitch of the advancing rows is successively taken, and kept on the needle just as in knitting. Proceed in this wise: Make a chain, as a foundation to a stripe or square; miss the end chain stitch, prick the hook into the next, draw the wool through, and leave the loop thus formed on the needle; repeat to the end of the row, when you will have a row of loops corresponding to the number of chain. (See fig. 4.)

In the returning row, twist the wool round the needle, and draw it rather loosely through the first loop, wool over again, and draw it through the chain on the needle and the next loop at the same time; continue thus to work off every loop.

Look now at the row you have just made; it forms a series of loop bars, with a chain running between them along the top. This open line will be rendered more opaque by making the third row; use the chain on the needle for the first loop, or a stitch will be lost; then, holding the needle horizontally, slip it through the front strand of the nearest loop below (fig. 4), draw the wool through, keep the loop on the needle. When all are picked up, return as in the second row. Crochet *tricoté* forms a close handsome stitch for petticoats, jackets, pelerines, and also for any kind of wrappers. When employed as covers or *couvre-pieds*, it is usually wrought in strips or squares of well harmonising colours, enhanced by clumps in relief, or by charming

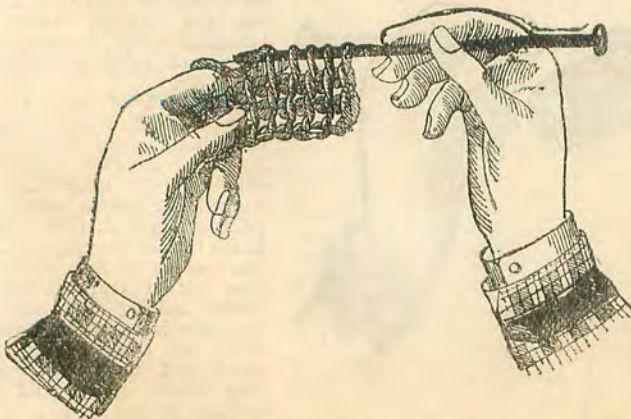


FIG. 5.—CROCHET TRICOTÉ. RETURNING ROW.

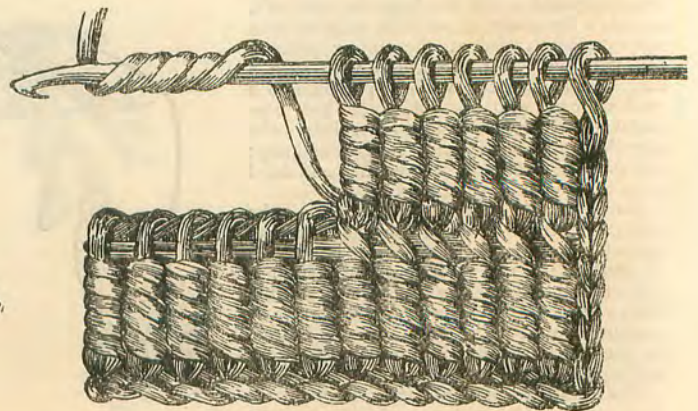


FIG. 7.—THE COILED TREBLE.

designs in *passé* embroidery, cross and long stitches.

Fig. 6 shows the crochet *tricoté* worked on the bias; instead of taking up merely the front strand of the loop, take up with it the back one also.

The stitch, though in itself rather pretty, cannot, from its slantwise direction, be adapted to many purposes, except diamonds, squares, and wide bands.

With the smooth *tricoté* bands are often effectively combined strips in a raised stitch, which I will call the coiled treble.

Make a foundation line of crochet *tricoté*, then three chain to turn, * wind the wool five times over the hook, pierce it through the perpendicular stitch of the line beneath, draw the wool through all at once except the first chain, which leave on the needle, repeat from *, and at the end of the row return by pulling the

wool through one loop at a time. For small things any ordinary woollen hook will do, but for wide strips, &c., where the stitches almost cover the needle, it is safer to use one tipped with a ball; some of the newest ones are made in gutta-percha, and are sold at 3d. each. The various sizes required may be ascertained with the bell gauge, also used for knitting needles; sixpenny ones answer the purpose very well.

THE QUEEN O' THE MAY.

BY ANNE BEALE.

CHAPTER XVII.

MEREDITH AND MAY.

ALMOST at break of day May went down to the pit. There were not many people about it, and most of the men seemed to be below. But she gathered at once that the passage had been sufficiently cleared to admit of individuals creeping through the mass on hands and knees, and she learnt that Uncle Laban had gone in with some others. She stood awhile, with clasped hands and dilated eyes, gazing down into the terrible abyss. Mr. Richards and Dr. George arrived while she was so standing, and the latter said that she would be better at home and in bed.

"I know—I know; but I cannot rest while they are in there," she replied.

The work of clearance was still going on, and the corves were continually ascending and descending. Mr. Richards himself went down. Shortly after, Miss Edith appeared, and May ran to her as to a friend and protectress. More people assembled by degrees, and once more the scene was alive with anxious faces and suppressed voices.

Suddenly, a shout was heard from below. The crowd fell back as if it had been an earthquake, then pressed forward to gaze down into the pit.

"They are found! They are saved!" cried May to Edith.

"We must not be too hopeful," replied the latter.

The silence that ensued was awful. The spectators scarcely breathed in their intensity of expectation. They discovered, however, that the shout arose when a huge mass of obstructive matter had given way and afforded free ingress to the mine. In course of time men came up with the news that they had heard voices, in some distant part, singing hymns, and a burst of thanksgiving welcomed the intelligence.

"They are ready for the worst, then," whispered May.

"They always support one another by singing," responded Edith.

These young girls were so excited and harrowed by

expectation that they could not leave the spot, and May, for once, forgot the anxious friends at home. At last the echo of another shout reached them, and May nearly fell to the ground with the emotion it caused, but Edith supported her. Living beings had been found. Shortly afterwards a corf appeared, mounting steadily the gloomy shaft, out of which stepped strong men supporting, or even carrying, their weaker and exhausted brothers. Every one pressed round them, and they were received with cries of joy by those to



"GAZING DOWN INTO THE TERRIBLE ABYSS."