

day; it is horribly cold, but I will have the screen put up to keep off the draft from the door, and we'll heap plenty of coals on; then I'll have for dinner a roast chicken and a nice little pudding made in a cup, just enough for myself. By-the-bye, I must remind Keziah to put just a touch more lemon in the bread-sauce. After dinner I shall put on my fur cloak, and go out to look into the Christmas shops, which always amuse me, and on my way back I will call on Miss Snaptan and hear the last dainty bit of gossip; there's always sure to be enough of it about every man and woman in the town, in turn, most likely about those very gentlemen and ladies who are making such a fuss just now with their Christmas charities, soup-kitchens, coal clubs, and all that sort of fine-sounding nonsense. Let the poor help themselves, and if they won't do it, be made to, that's what I say. When I come home to tea, I'll tell Keziah to have the muffins ready, and to put the butter thicker than last night; and after tea—" But here Miss Champflower's further reflections and plans were broken off suddenly by the entrance of her servant Keziah with a letter in her hand.

Keziah, with a girl over whom she ruled with a most despotic sceptre, formed Miss Champflower's household. She was a trim, prim personage, who always looked as if she had just been taken out of a band-box. Her views of life in general were much the same as those of Miss Champflower, and her range of thought and feeling very similar to hers, with this exception—that whereas her mistress cared only for herself, Keziah cared for herself and her mistress too.

Now the arrival of a letter was somewhat of an event for Miss Champflower. She had quarrelled with all her relations, and she had no friends, for to call those ladies friends who were her neighbours in the town of Bellminster, where she lived, and who supplied her with catalogues of the real or supposed misdoings of their acquaintances in return for certain tea-parties at which she entertained them, would be to desecrate a very sacred word. Thus it came to pass that Miss Rosamond Champflower had no correspondents. She did, it is true, sometimes receive circulars from tradesmen, &c.; but Keziah's practised eye saw at once that this was no circular. It was, therefore, no wonder that the old servant felt a sharp prick of curiosity about this letter, and that, making use of the privileges allowed her by her familiarity with her mistress, she lingered near the door instead of leaving the room. It was well that she did so, for two or three minutes had not sped by when a shrilly accentuated "Oh!" drew Keziah hastily to her mistress's side. Miss Champflower's face was coloured with a deep flush of sudden indignation; Miss Champflower's eyes were wide open with a look of the most extreme bewilderment, while she murmured over and over the strange, mysterious words, "Thirty-seven babies! thirty-seven babies!"

Keziah's first impression was that her mistress had suddenly taken leave of

her senses; but as Miss Champflower had always been remarkable for soundness of intellect, her next and more rational notion was that the letter was the guilty cause of this unaccountable agitation and incomprehensible language. It lay at Miss Champflower's feet on the carpet, where she had thrown it. Keziah picked it up, and stood with it doubtfully in her hand until her mistress, being slightly recovered, turned to her and bade her read it.

The fatal document—for so it certainly appeared to be in Miss Champflower's eyes—ran as follows:—

"DEAREST LITTLE ROSIE,—All has been done splendidly. Not one even of your thirty-seven babies forgotten. Shall be with you almost with the first peal of bells on Christmas morning; what a jolly time we will have of it!

"Your own—"

"P.S.—Have not time to put date, but you know it, my beauty."

Keziah's first impression on reading this was one of the most overwhelming astonishment. It certainly did seem a most extraordinary and grotesquely impossible thing to find Miss Champflower spoken of as the possessor of thirty-seven babies, and to hear her august majesty addressed in such a free and easy style as the above was little less startling and incredible.

When she had, however, partly got over this sensation, the first idea which struck her was that the delivery of the letter must have been a mistake; she had heard of such at Christmas time, when so many letters are flying hither and thither through the land. A sad, foolish waste of time and pence she and her mistress always said. She therefore examined the envelope eagerly; but there was no mistake, there was Miss Champflower's address as plain as the bow on Miss Champflower's cap to view. "Miss Rosamond Champflower, 9, Anseigh-terrace, Bellminster." Then Keziah's keen eyes inspected narrowly the handwriting and the paper. But these brought no light: it was a bold, manly hand, with nothing peculiar about it, and the paper had no stamp of any sort upon it. The post-marks were simply London and Bellminster. No, Keziah could not in the least find any key to the mystery.

There was no one, she was quite certain, in the whole town or neighbourhood who, besides her mistress, bore the name of Champflower, which made the matter yet more impossible to solve.

At length a bright idea flashed across Keziah, and, turning to her mistress, who sat by with a flushed bewildered look, and with a half-finished egg before her, she exclaimed—

"I'll tell you what it is, ma'am, it can be nothing but a piece of clean, downright impudence."

"But who, I should like to know, Keziah, could possibly dream of presuming on such insolence!" cried Miss Champflower, her dignity starting up in stiffest armour at the notion.

"That's more than I can say, ma'am; but there be folks going in the world that be bad enough for anything, and they be generally those who do look as

smooth and sweet as sugar and cream. I shouldn't be surprised if it's that oily-tongued fellow, Rolls, the confectioner. I caught him winking and grinning to his shop-boy the very last time I left the shop, and happened to look back; and he has a brother in London too!"

"I am quite sure no one in the town would have such unheard-of audacity," replied Miss Champflower solemnly.

Nevertheless, Keziah persisted in her theory, "It's just a piece of impudence."

(To be continued.)

SOCK AND STOCKING KNITTING.

I DARESAY those of my young friends who have tried the heelless stocking in such favour abroad have fancied that this style of work was but play. This primitive mode, however, was only offered to gratify fashion's current whim, and as a first dip into the mysteries of stocking knitting; not that the difficulties are very great, but like everything else worth doing, this branch has a few rules to be learnt and followed. Hence I reserve the elementary principles for a special chat with beginners. To-day the lesson is prepared for the clever ones already initiated into the entire management of a stocking. In anticipation of Christmas gifts and festivities I have chosen the annexed specimens, rather lacey and pretty, so they will take some time to do, and we must set to the task immediately, if we wish to be generous with a small outlay. Therefore let us take the bull by the horns, and venture at once on the longest piece of work—the lady's stocking, with its honeycombed insertions.

Speaking, as I suppose, to experienced knitters, I need not explain the stocking row by row; the main points will be sufficient guide (see Fig. 1).

Materials—Chinese knitting silk, Angola wool, Victoria yarn, coloured cotton, &c.

FIG. 1.
LADY'S OPENWORK
STOCKING.

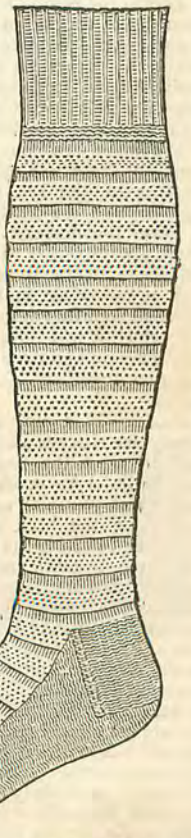


FIG. 2.—DETAIL OF
HONEYCOMB.

Needles—No. 17. Cast on 120 stitches, and rib by two plain and two purl for sixty-eight rounds.

69th Round.—Plain knitting; increase one,

to stand for the seam; three more rounds plain, five rounds purl. These close circles may be reversed at will, so as to produce a band of flat plain knitting, or of projecting purls.

Honeycomb.—* Wool forward to make one, slip one, knit one, pass slipped stitch over; repeat from * to the end of the round.

2nd Round.—Plain; purl the seam stitch.

The 3rd Round like first; but to obtain the diagonal look of one face, be sure to slip the stitch drawn over in the first round, and knit the made stitch; then pass the slipped stitch over.

4th Round.—Plain; work these four rows again, to have a circular stripe of eight rounds—four patterned and four plain, alternately; knit two more plain rounds, then another band of five purl rounds, and one plain, which brings you again to the honeycomb. Repeat twelve times. After the last ribbed stripe, prepare your needles for the heel. The honeycomb presents on one side slanting lines, divided by four holes, and on the other side diamond-shaped holes connected by purls. (As seen in the detail, Fig. 2.)

Heart-shaped Heel.—For the banded and the seamed or manufacturer's heel, I must refer you to the paper on "New Heels" in the September part of THE GIRL'S OWN PAPER. I will this time explain the convenient heart-shaped heel. Divide the stitches in two parts; forty-two for the front and forty-three for the heel. From this number you will infer that thirty-six stitches have been lost by the eighteen intakes, which, for this beautifully-shaped stocking, graduate from the third band of purl. Work the straight flap of the heel backwards and forwards for forty-two rows, or $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches, slipping the edge stitches, and not forgetting the seam stitch.

Turning of Heel.—Purl until one beyond the seam-stitch; then begin the decrease by purling two together—purl one. Leave the remaining seventeen stitches on the needle. Turn the work, slip one, knit three, purl the seam stitch, knit one, knit two together, but from the back, to allow the decrease to slope in the right manner—knit one. Turn, purl until you come to the stitch above the two knitted together of the last row. Purl this stitch together with the next stitch. Purl another to close the decrease. By this means the intake always verges to the left of the previous one, and one fresh stitch is reduced at each row. Knit in this manner until the stitches taken together come at the end of a row, which it will do after the twenty-second row. Turn and knit the next row, knitting the last two together, also to make both sides match.

Gusset.—Pick up, and meanwhile knit twenty-one stitches along the left side of the heel, to meet the front needles; these you knit in order to reach the right side of the heel, which you raise up as before, and then knit along the back needle to the seam. Take care to divide the stitches well between the three needles, and work twenty-four rounds, following the pattern in the front, and shaping the gusset by knitting together the two stitches at the top of the heel on either side. These intakes gradually slope downwards, and are knitted alternately from the front and from the back, according as to how the stitches should slant. After the decreases are completed see that you have eighty-four stitches in all on the needles; then knit fifty-seven rounds, honeycombed on the instep, afterwards six entirely plain.

Round Toe.—Have twenty-eight stitches on each needle, for the toe will be narrowed in three sections, thus:—Knit two together, two plain, two together from the back, twenty-two plain, repeat exactly for the two other needles. Five rounds plain, knit two

together, two plain, two together from the back, twenty plain; repeat twice. Five rounds plain. One decreased round, and six rounds plain, three times; one decreased round, five rounds plain, one decreased round, three rounds plain. One decreased round, and one round plain, three times. There now remain four stitches on each needle, which make in all twelve. Cast them off by knitting on each needle two together twice, leaving six; again knit two together three times, leaving three. Draw the wool through, and secure it by two or three tight stitches with a crochet-hook. Break off. This stocking measures from top to turn of heel $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and from the back of the heel to the toe 10 inches, allowing 11 stitches to the inch.

Now I am going to explain a sweetly pretty sock, not at all difficult to manage (Fig. 3). The design (Fig. 4) runs in a triple stripe down the front, while the back is plain.

Materials.—Knitting cotton, No. 14, merino or imperial silk; needles, No. 17 or 18. Cast on sixty-four stitches and rib, with two



FIG. 4.—DETAIL OF SHELL PATTERN.



FIG. 3.—LITTLE CHILD'S SOCK.

plain and two purl for twenty-four rounds. Commence the seam stitch at the twenty-fifth round, which is plain as well as the twenty-sixth and twenty-seventh.

28th Round.—Seam one, knit fifteen. Here begins the pattern, which occupies thirteen stitches for the first stripe and ten for the two next ones.

Shell stripe.—* Purl one, knit one from the back, purl one; knit one and make one six times. Knit one, repeat from * twice more, finish with purl one; knit one from the back, purl one. Knit the remaining fifteen stitches plain.

29th Round.—Seam one, knit fifteen, * purl one, knit one from the back, purl one, knit thirteen, repeat from * twice more; finish as before with purl one. Knit one from the back, purl one. Knit fifteen.

30th Round.—Seam one, knit fifteen, * purl one, knit one from the back, purl one, slip one, knit one, pass slipped stitch over, knit nine, knit two together, repeat from * twice; finish as before. Knit fifteen.

31st Round.—Seam one, knit fifteen, * purl one, knit one from the back, purl one, knit two together, knit seven, slip one, knit one, pass

slipped stitch over. Repeat from * twice, purl one, knit one from the back, purl one, fifteen plain.

32nd Round.—Seam one, knit fifteen, * purl one, knit one from the back, purl one, slip one, knit one, pass slipped stitch over, knit five, knit two together; repeat from * twice. Finish as before.

You thoroughly understand that the pattern requires five rounds and represents six diverging lines terminated by holes and pointing downwards. The enclosing zigzags are the result of the decreases done alternately by taking two together or drawing one slipped stitch over.

Repeat the pattern again twelve times, and you have reached the heel, after working for the leg sixty-eight rows in all, without any decrease.

Heart-shaped Heel.—Divide the sixty-four stitches as follows. Twenty-seven on the heel needle and thirty-five on the two front needles. Knit the twenty-seven backwards and forwards for twenty-nine rows, slipping the first stitch of every line.

Turning of Heel.—Purl back to the seam stitch, which you now discontinue. Purl two together, purl one to set the decreasing; turn; knit three, knit two together from the back, knit one; turn; purl four, purl two together, purl one; turn; knit five, knit two together, knit one; turn; purl six, purl two together, purl one; turn; knit seven, knit two together from the back, knit one. Continue thus until you have worked off all the stitches. You have noticed a slight difference between this closing and the one described for the lady's heel, viz., the suppression of the seam stitch under the ball of the foot, and the sharper turn imparted by leaving no plain stitch on either side of the seam. I give you both ways that you can choose the one most convenient for your purpose.

Gusset.—Pick up and knit the fourteen slipped stitches along the sides of the heel, beginning, of course, with the left-hand one, and proceed with the pattern as you work round the front. After one plain round shape the gusset on the left-hand needle by knitting to the last six; then two together and four plain; and on the right hand one begin by four plain, and two together from the back. Continue plain. Decrease thus until sixty stitches in all are left on the needles, i.e., thirty-three for the pattern, which is never broken, and twenty-seven plain. Work nine patterns of forty-five rows, and end the open-work. Knit ten rounds plain.

Toe.—Arrange twenty stitches on each needle, and knit two together, first from the front then from the back for every round; the rest of the stitches plain. When you have made eighteen rounds you will find but two stitches on each needle. Cast these off by knitting two together three times, and drawing the thread at once through the three last stitches. Break off and dam the end in and out on the right side. The length of the sock is $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches from top to bend of heel, and 6 inches from heel to toe. Twelve stitches are taken to the inch.

Infants' shoes are welcome in every family; aunts and godmothers specially delight in working these little trifles for their pets, as they have the double advantage of being inexpensive and quickly made. The one shown in our illustration (Fig. 5) consists of a tiny close slipper, in blue Andalusian wool, and a white fancy sock. To execute it begin with the middle of the sole. Cast on sixty-nine stitches, dividing them equally on three needles. Knit one, increase by knitting one from the back of the seam-stitch. Finish the needle plain. Knit plain to the twelfth stitch of the second needle, make another increase by knitting from the back. Eleven plain; third needle, twenty-three plain. The first

increase is for the toe and the second for the heel.

2nd Round.—Purl.

3rd Round.—Make two at the toe end by knitting from the front and from the back of the two first stitches; knit plain to the heel—*increase*, then make two in the same manner. Finish plain.

4th Round.—Purl.

5th Round.—Plain with *increase*.

6th Round.—Purl.

7th Round.—Plain, with *increase*, widening heel for the last time. Work to the fifteenth round, enlarging the toe end only. You now have eighty-eight stitches on the needles. Nine two rounds alternately purl and plain. In the last round *increase* one in the centre of the second needle. Leave aside on twine fifty of the back stitches for the opening of the shoe; the remaining forty will be for the cap of the shoe; set them on the needles thus—twelve at the toe end on one, and fourteen on each of the side needles. The right-hand needle remains idle, and all the work is done on the left-hand one; the stitch followed is the well-known *moss*. Knit one and purl one alternately, going towards the toe; leave the fourteenth on the needle, turn and work back on these thirteen, knitting the purred stitches and purling the knitted ones of preceding row. Turn and work down again, this time knitting the spare stitch together with the last.

4th Row.—Turn and knit back. In the 5th and every other row, knit up one of the toe stitches together with the last, till all the twelve have been worked off.

28th Row.—Work down again.

29th Row.—Return, and at the beginning knit the fourteenth stitch off the right-hand needle.

30th Row.—Work to the toe end; turn the shoe inside out, and cast off together the thirteen stitches from the two side needles. Next make the roll by knitting four rounds on the fifty stitches left aside and the stitches of the cap; cast off.

Leg.—This is worked from the shoe upwards in the shell or inverted wave pattern, one curve being sunken and the other raised by purls which almost conceal the holes. The former requires six stitches, and the latter twelve; pick up and knit along the cap eighteen stitches, taking them four rows inwards, not to spoil the roll; purl back on

contains a complete sunken curve, and two halves of the inverted ones. Purl two together three times; purl one and make one six times; purl two together three times.

4th Row.—Purl eighteen, catching the first and last stitch as before always below the roll.

5th Row.—Knit eighteen.

6th Row.—Purl eighteen.

7th Row.—Like third.

8th Row.—Similar to fourth.

9th Row.—Same as fifth.

10th Row.—Repetition of sixth. Continue thus until the fourteenth row, when you will have secured seven of the side stitches, leaving eighteen on each. Work the fifth row, and instead of turning back, pick up with a third needle the stitches along the right-hand side, following on the pattern, *i.e.*, purl three times; two together; purl one and make one six times; purl two together three times.

16th Row.—Turn, slip the first stitch, purl the remaining thirty-five. With a fresh pin pick up and purl the stitches along the left-hand side of the foot.

17th Row.—Turn, slip one, knit fifty-three.

18th Row.—Turn, slip one, purl fifty-three.

19th Row.—Turn, purl two together three times, * purl one and make one six times; purl two together six times, repeat from *, then purl one and make one six times, purl two together three times.

The 20th, 21st, and 22nd rows are like the 16th, 17th, and 18th. Five more patterns, then three plain rows. You are ready for the seven rows of ribs, in three plain and three purl. Cast off and trim with a crochet edge as follows: One double crochet into the centre of a rib; one chain, one picot (of five chain and one single), one chain. Repeat seventeen times.

Through a row of holes thread an anklet of half-inch coloured ribbon.

BABY'S SHOE.

Begin with the sole. Cast on two needles, fifty-three stitches. Knit in garter stitch for eleven rows (Fig. 6).

Instep.—12th Row. Knit twenty, * slip one, knit two together, pass slipstitch over, knit two, make one by throwing the wool over the needle. Knit one, purl one; knit one, make one, knit two, slip one, knit two together; pass slipstitch over *, knit two. These stitches from * to * are reserved for the instep, and will remain the same to the thirty-second row inclusive. The purl stitch always stands for the centre, and the two made ones give perpendicular lines of holes on either side. Every alternate row is, of course, purred. The plain stitches gradually added on each end form the sides. Two extra needles are now required.

Having worked the twenty plain and the fifteen pattern stitches, turn the knitting, leaving eighteen on the left-hand needle.

13th Row.—With a fresh pin purl fifteen;

leave eighteen on the right-hand needle; take a fourth pin and work over the fifteen purl stitches.

14th Row.—Slip one, repeat instep pattern

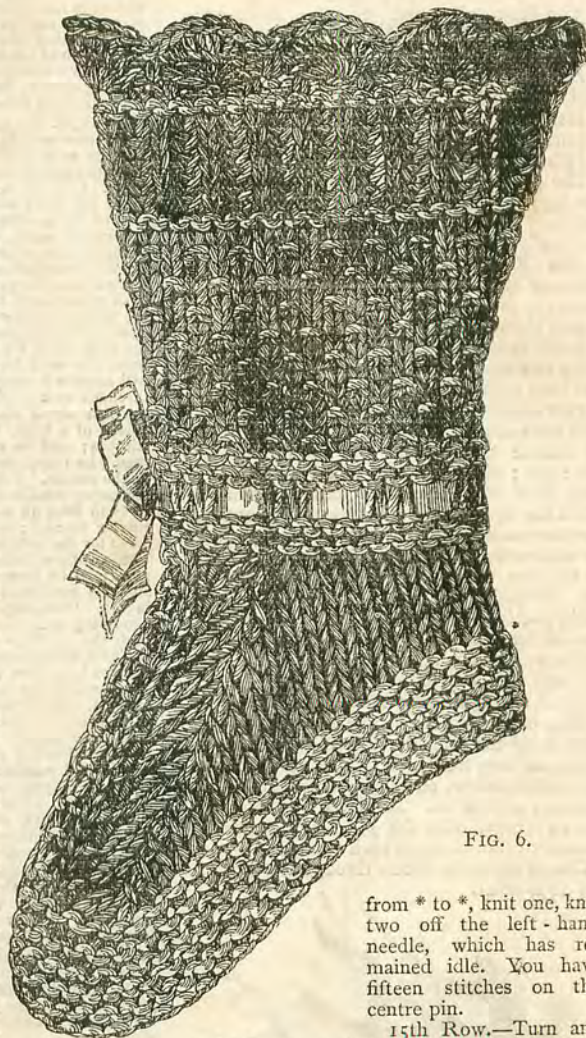


FIG. 6.

BABY'S SHOE.

from * to *, knit one, knit two off the left-hand needle, which has remained idle. You have fifteen stitches on the centre pin.

15th Row.—Turn and purl fifteen; purl two off the right-hand needle, also idle. Hence from the fourteenth to the thirty-second row inclusive you add two stitches at each line.

16th Row.—Slip one. Repeat from * to *, knit one and the two extra stitches.

17th Row.—Purl.
18th Row.—Slip one, knit two, repeat from * to *. Knit two and the two extra ones. Purl every alternate line.

20th Row.—Slip one, knit three, repeat from * to *, knit three and the two extra stitches.

22nd Row.—Slip one, knit four, repeat from * to *; knit three and the two extra. You have now twenty-five stitches on the front needle and eight on each of the side ones, in all forty-one.

24th Row.—Turn, slip one, knit five, repeat from * to *, knit six, and the eight left on the adjoining needle.

25th Row.—Purl all on the front needle, as well as the eight left on the opposite needle. Two of the pins are then suppressed, and the remainder of the shoe is executed with two only.

26th Row.—Slip one, knit twelve, repeat from * to *, knit thirteen.

28th Row.—Slip one, knit eleven; repeat from * to *, knit twelve.

30th Row.—Slip one, knit ten; repeat from * to *, knit eleven.



FIG. 5.—BABY'S SHOE.

these eighteen, at the same time purling one stitch from the side of the foot together with the first and last stitch. In the third row commence the pattern for the instep, which

32nd Row.—Slip one, knit nine; repeat from * to *, knit ten. See that you have thirty-one stitches on the needle. The shoe itself is finished.

Anklet.—Three rows of garter stitch.

36th Row.—Runner. Slip one, make one, knit two together to the end; three rows of garter stitch.

Leg. Moss Stitch.—40th Row.—Knit one, purl one, etc.

41st Row and every other row purled.

42nd Row.—Purl one, knit one to the end.

44th Row.—Knit one, purl one, etc.

The 46th Row begins the increasings to shape the leg; slip one, purl one. Raise a stitch, * knit one, purl one, repeat from * until within the two last stitches, when you again raise one.

48th Row.—Knit one, purl one, etc. Increase also one at each end of the row, doing the same in the 50th and 52nd Row.

50th Row.—Like the 46th.

52nd Row.—Knit one, purl one, etc. After this now stop the increasings by which you have obtained eight more stitches.

54th Row.—Purl one, knit one to the end. Two rows of garter stitch; finish by ten rows of broche stitch, made thus:—Slip one, * make one; slip as though you were going to purl, knit two together, continue from *. Work the second and all subsequent rows in the same manner, being careful to knit together the made stitch and its fellow one produced by the two drawn together in the previous line. The stitch, slipped purl fashion, stands out by itself as a raised web. Two rows of purl. Cast off very loosely, and sew the shoe together on the wrong side, stitch by stitch, tightening the heel and toe to round them off better. Impart a smart finish by a little crochet edging in silk; one chain, one double crochet through every other cast off stitch. 2nd Row.—One treble, six long treble, one treble through one chain stitch below, one double crochet through the next, and so on. A pretty vandyke can also be formed with the *point neige*, making five or six chain between each stitch.

Thread a narrow ribbon through the runner and tie in front.



WORK.

R. N. F.—Use a lemon to take off the stains on your fingers. Trim the hat with rows of lace, either black or white, laid one on top of the other. Your writing seems careless.

DARKIE.—Use a darker red to trim it with; pale blue is also used to mix with red at present. You might use both a dark red and the pale blue for the facings.

L. A.—In answer to your queries we must inform you that all the varieties of the *point de neige* can be worked both in a straight and a circular way. In the first instance you cast off, and break the wool at each row; in the second you work round and round, increasing at the corners by four chain, on which, in the following rows, you make two extra stars. Be careful to remember the four chain at the beginning of each round, which stands for the foundation of the first stitch. The same stitch will also form a charming edging, worked in some contrasting colour; and vandyked by merely crocheting four chain between each star.

B. and S., S. C., and HILARY N. ST. CLARE.—All these correspondents wish to know how to knit mittens with a thumb, and the following recipe gives the easiest method with which we can supply them. Cast on a sufficient number of stitches to cover the hand well lengthwise (whatever be the size of the needles, and coarseness of the wool, allowance must, of course, be made on their account); as an average size, cast on 43. Knit in simple garter-stitch, or in long ribs, until you have made a piece large enough, not merely to cover the back of the hand, but also to reach half way round the palm, in order to conceal the seam, that will connect the two parts of the mitten. On reaching the right place for the thumb, finish the row, and leave the wool hanging loosely for a time. You will require it again shortly. Then take a needle threaded with wool or cotton, and pass it through the last seven stitches. Secure this thread by means of a knot, to prevent the dropping of the stitches; and do not touch them again until the thumb be completed. 36 stitches will now remain on the needle. Take a fresh ball of wool, and with the empty needle draw it through the 36th stitch, so as to form an extra loop. Make five more in a similar manner; and these six new stitches will serve for the foundation, lengthwise, of the thumb. The needle will then hold 42 stitches. The gusset must now be formed thus: Knit the six stitches, and one extra taken off the needle—that is, seven in all. Turn, slip the first stitch, and knit the remaining six. Knit back again, taking another from the needle,—making eight. Turn, slip one, and knit seven; and continue in this way until 25 stitches have been worked off, when 17 will be left on the needle for the wrist. The thumb being now finished, cast off the same number of stitches that you added for the foundation—that is, six—and break the wool. You must here put back the seven stitches left aside, and the needle will hold its original number once more—43 stitches; and you have only to continue knitting backwards and forwards as before, until you have a sufficient number of rows, when, cast off, and sew up the mitten, and afterwards the two selvages of the thumb, completing the work.

MARY.—For directions in "Swiss Darning" see page 314. There are other articles on this work, so you had better refer to the back numbers of the magazine. Your writing is legible, but very irregular, and not properly formed.

ADDA.—Could you not knit some pretty mittens, or baby's socks? They would be more likely to sell than painted cards or pin cushions. Clothing for poor children is the best of all contributions, as the sale serves a double purpose. You do not write well.

EDUCATIONAL.

NELLIE.—Apply for all particulars to the secretary or head mistress, Miss Buss. The fees are from £10 to £24; but whether this includes all expenses connected with the school you must ascertain by writing direct, or by personal application.

LEILA LEONORA writes an admirable hand herself; her wishes will be considered. Address Mrs. Peile, Trumpington-road, near Cambridge, for all information respecting instruction by correspondence; she will supply a list of both teachers and subjects. The fees for a year's course (which synchronises with the terms of the University) four guineas; a four months' course, two guineas; teachers, half price. There is a loan fund for further reduction.

MINNIE R.—You write a nice hand, well suited to bookkeeping. There is a class held for training young women as clerks and bookkeepers, on the evenings of Mondays and Thursdays respectively, at the office of the Society for the Employment of Women, 22, Berners-street, Oxford-street, W. We are glad that you took courage to write to us, as you are so good as to say from "seeing our kind patience with others." We shall always be pleased to hear from, and counsel you.

VERBENA.—See our article on "Nursing as a Profession."

KATIE B.—Apply for papers and all information respecting the Cambridge Higher Local Examinations to the Rev. G. F. Brown, St. Catherine's College, Cambridge.

R. M. F.—Certainly it is desirable to be a certificated teacher. Your writing is tolerably good.

COLUMBINE.—We advise your consulting the resident British Consul, or the chaplain at whatever large town you select, for information respecting the schools. Dresden is famous for its resources, and we believe Hanover likewise, at which latter place the best German is spoken. We think that you have quite forgotten yourself; the style of your

letter is so unseemly, and contrasts most unfavourably with the grateful, modest, and ladylike tone of the majority of our young correspondents.

DELTA.—"To Awake" is an irregular verb. We recommend you to study the "Handbook of the English Tongue," by Angus.

IRENE.—Your gracious letter deserves our best thanks. You write a pretty, well-formed hand. We are glad you like our articles on Needlework. We think that if you play the harmonium you would soon learn the organ stops; but the playing with the pedals requires a good deal of practice and is trying to the back. To many women it would be very injurious.

PATIENCE.—We are unable to supply addresses of foreign schools; but it is quite possible that a situation such as you desire might be obtained in a German school. Look amongst the advertisements in the *Guardian*, for instance. We regret that we cannot assist you in disposing of your poems in any magazine.

MISCELLANEOUS.

EMLEYA.—We cannot give addresses. Do not go beyond your ordinary friendly behaviour.

GRANNY.—1. You have probably received your certificates by this time. 2. Ugolino was a Count of Pisa, who deserted the Ghibellines, hoping to obtain supreme power in Pisa, and formed an alliance with Giovanni Visconti, who was to supply him with soldiers; but the plot was discovered and both were banished. In the end the Count fell into the hands of an enemy, who proved a monster of cruelty; for he and his four innocent sons were starved to death in the Torre del Famede, Pisa. Your copperplate hand might be made a nice "running" one.

OLIVE.—1. A little soda in water is said not to be injurious, and yet to soften very hard water. 2. It is well-bred to answer all invitations, whether you accept them or not.

THE EVERGREEN SISTERS.—Always take your music with you, if you can play or sing, and are likely to be asked to do so. It is a very valuable accomplishment to be able to play from memory.

IDALIS.—The answer to "Mousse," page 431, will give you the information on "Blue Stocking."

F. H. and C.—Leave your umbrella in the hall, especially if it be wet. You may take a parasol into the drawing-room.

EXCELSIOR.—The word "Selah" occurs seventy-one times in the Hebrew text of the Psalms. It is considered to mean either a note of admiration to draw attention to some remarkable passage, or else it is a music mark for the singers in the Temple.

CONSTANCE.—We admire your wish to earn something to help in so good a cause; but, as you are at school, we think that your first duty is to take advantage of your present opportunities. Spelling, writing, and composition all need attention.

ESMERALDA.—The pianoforte would be the best to begin upon. Of course her progress will depend on her perseverance. Your writing and composition are very good.

FERN.—Read "Pressed Grasses and Ferns," page 556, vol. 1.

EMMA BON.—The fits of sneezing point to a very irritable condition of the nerve fibres that supply the lining membrane of the nostrils. Now whatever tends to give tone to the general system will help to soothe them. Let him live well and regularly, and take a two or three months' course of light-brown cod liver oil. Parrish's chemical food would also do good, a dessert spoonful twice or thrice a day.

HEARTSEASE.—1. If you want stuffed birds *not* in cases for the corners of your rooms, they must be set upon artificial twigs and turned stands. They might then be placed upon brackets; very charming ones may be bought for a shilling or two. These brackets are of carved wood, made abroad, and look very nice on the walls of a room. 2. February 6th, 1864, fell on a Saturday, and August 2nd, 1861, on a Friday.

GLADYS CLARKE.—The weakness in the voice is caused by constitutional debility. You must endeavour to spare more time for healthy out-door exercise, without this medicine will be of no avail. You must live on the most nourishing food, and seek cheerful but not exciting society. Cod liver oil would do you a deal of good if you could take it; if not, try a course of pancreatic emulsion, and take thrice a day a teaspoonful of Parrish's triple syrup of phosphates. Half an hour's vocal exercise during the day is not half enough, nor a fourth enough for marked improvement. But, remember, it is at any time injurious in the extreme to force the voice to the verge of fatigue. Handwriting good.

SILVIE DONARD.—You are making a grave mistake by feeding your gold-finch on hemp-seed, and pouring iron into him; no wonder head and wings change colour. Stop the iron and give the hemp most sparingly; give canary seed, poppy seed, linseed, oat grits, and a little green food, and put gravel in its cage.

BIRDIE.—Advice is of little use in affairs of the heart. But in reply to direct questions, while the idea of death speedily following such a union is superstitious, the probability of disease being perpetuated is great. Health, both personal and hereditary, is more to be desired than any other earthly boon.