

tention to pass an Act of General Pardon, this must be an original act of the Crown, who sends it to the Houses of Lords and Commons, where, after being *once* read, it is passed.

The old French terms are still much used in official documents and announcements, and the Clerks of the House may still be heard to say, "La reigne remercie ses bons sujets, accepte leur b n volence et ainsi le veult," when a Bill of Supply has been granted on the occasion of some allowance to any member of the Royal Family, &c., &c.

As a rule the debates in the House of Lords are less frequently of the exciting nature of those in the Commons: the reasons are many. The Chancellor of the Exchequer has his place in the Lower House, and there the great financial question of the Budget is discussed. The members of the Lower House are chosen from every phase of political opinion, and thus arise discussions on points which would receive unanimous support in the Lords. But great orators are alike to be heard in each House when some great event of national importance is before them.

RACK-FRAME KNITTING.

UNDER this new name I am not going to introduce to you any novel work. A look at the illustrations will show you at once that you are familiar with a few of them. You have all made, or at least heard of, this kind of knitting as scarf or frame-knitting, which is, in fact, its trade designation. Neither term, however, conveys a fair idea of the work; there is another sort of frame used for the same purpose, and scarves too can be done as well with needles as with pegs. Moreover, with the latter other things besides comforters can be turned out; therefore to the uninitiated the trade-appellation is perfectly vague. Now, being rather old-maidish in my ways, I am most particular to have a place for everything and everything in its place, and for the same reason I like outspoken things, which lead to no indecision or equivocal. "A spade is a spade," that is my motto. Hence, for your better enlightenment, I have coined the speaking title of rack-frame knitting. I had first thought of calling it *peg*, but this would not have been so precise. Pegs take different shapes and may lie in different sorts of rows, while a rack is even one of the toys of a baby, and our frames have the pegs set in just the same straight way.

You see that in the most trivial matters a little thought and trouble are always indispensable; never forget this if you want to do your duty and to succeed in the world. The new title explained, I must tell you why I consider such easy work sufficiently important to rite a paper upon. I acknowledge that for a long time I looked upon the occupation as a childish pastime, but one day, being very ill and unable to see, to think, or even to bear the slightest sound, I listlessly took up a frame which happened to be near me, and almost unconsciously wound the wool round and round until, behold! I saw that I had got through quite a good piece of knitting! This surprise rather roused me up, and gradually I seemed to feel better as the work proceeded. How true it is that the best solace for physical and mental depression lies in some *trifling employment* which will divert our thoughts from our sufferings and prevent the hours lagging so wearily! Indeed I believe the rack-knitting is just the very thing for elderly ladies and invalids, it does not call for any attention or good sight, so large are its wooden spikes and so thick the wool. It has also another advantage: it can be made in a recumbent position, either with the right or left hand, and requires but little motion, and that only from the elbow.

Mark well that when I said invalids I did not specify ladies, for I think the frame will be quite as much a boon to the infirm or rheumatic man, and not less so to the boys during the long winter evenings or wet half holidays, when, for want of something to do, they drive the whole household nearly out of their wits. I really wonder that in these days, when so much is astir for the distraction and improvement of our boys, nothing as yet seems to have been done to give them a love for some quiet fireside pastime, which, keeping them at home a little more, will preserve them from the society of bad companions, and later in life from the inducements of the publichouse. I have well studied the subject, and have been struck by the difference between the homes of idleness and those where father and sons take to some little hobby, such as fretwork, knitting, &c. The Kinder-garten system has this very end in view; unfortunately it is not sufficiently followed, specially in the lower classes. Anyhow I strongly advise mothers and sisters now and then to induce their sons and brothers to share their occupations, were it only for peace' sake. I have generally found boys very much delighted with the framework, particularly as they had no tools to buy for it, and with a little coaxing they will manage a very fair piece to help you on. Therefore to the invalid, the blind, and the young of both sexes the work may prove useful.

Like everything else, this knitting has a drawback; no attempts seem to have been made in England to extend its application beyond mufflers, nor to greatly diversify the stitch. Yet, as shown by the illustrations, there are many innovations to be brought in, and no doubt when once the class of workers whom it specially benefits will have taken it in hand, they will soon discover fresh and pretty modes of turning it to account. I have never tried it, but it occurs to me that the braid for bath towels might readily be made on the spiked frames in any width, for although from twelve to thirty pegs are current in the trade, any size could be ordered of a turner.

As I told you, the work is very old, and in all our grandmothers' workboxes might be found a small ivory tube fitted with pegs. This tiny instrument is the origin of the frame-knitting, and by schoolgirls it is replaced by a more primitive tool—the reel.

The cut represents a cork, another thing always ready at hand, but I far prefer the machine reel as being so much firmer; besides, the hole is already bored, needing only widening to the required size. The cork or reel prepared, you have but to fix in the four or six pins or needles, which serve as tiny posts on which to twine the stitches. Now, with a bit of wool, silk, narrow braid, or whatever you have at disposal, lay the foundation round, thus:—Pass the wool from left to right at the back or inside of the poles, twist it round one peg, pass to the next, twist again, and repeat for the remaining two or four. You have now fastened a loop on each pin. In the second circle, do not coil the wool round the pegs, but merely hold it in front, with the left hand, and make it secure at each post by lifting over it, with a large pin, the loop of the first circle. Work thus, round and round, always keeping but one set of loops on the pins; little by little you will see your small tube-chain emerging down through the hole of the reel; continue till you have the length desired. Fig. 1 shows the work mounted on the cork, and fig. 2 the pipe in course of execution, though very much enlarged.

Necessarily the cord obtained by the reel cannot be very wide, and is only suitable for watch-guards, eye-glass chains, &c. As children are seldom trusted with a large amount of silk, they spend their pennies in skeins of some bright Berlin wool, always giving the

preference to the shadod and the Dolly Varden. Then they race one another as to who will make the greatest number of yards, and I assure you the boys are not by any means the drones of the hive.

When they can proudly display six, eight, or even twelve yards of tubing, they remove the loops from the pins, and fasten off by drawing the wool tightly through all at once.

"What is to be made with that endless pipe?" you may ask. Very pretty and compact mats by sewing the cord round and round, just as for the string mats, and finishing off

by an upright wavy border, similar to those you have probably often made for crochet cuffs. Into one hole work a scal-

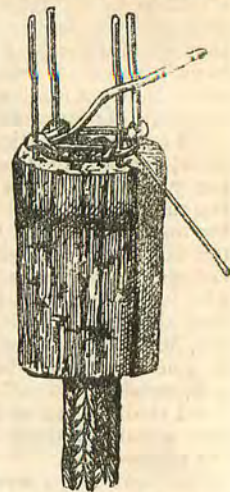


FIG. 1.—COMMENCEMENT OF CHAIN.



FIG. 2.—CHAIN ENLARGED.

lop of seven long trebles, and, without any intervening chain, make the same number of trebles a quarter of an inch or so higher up, but exactly in the same line of holes. To descend and complete the wave make one single crochet a thread farther on, then seven trebles again, slantwise downwards on the level of the first group of trebles. Naturally the space between depends on the desired depth of the fluting.

A much stouter cord can be obtained by working it upon two opposite pairs of pegs on the rectangular frame, of which I will speak by-and-by. Indeed, many other contrivances will suggest themselves to the intelligent girl.

ROUND OR CROWN FRAME.

Now, to pass to a more important undertaking, I will tell you how to make a scarf on the round or circular frame. Choose a coarse wool. Any of the Scotch fingering yarns are too thin, but double Berlin, or, for less expense, three or four thread fleecy, will all do very nicely. These round frames are not ruinous. One of twenty-eight pegs costs about two shillings, and with it you will produce a seamless tube, 15 inches in circumference—i.e., right round; the prongs stand a little more than an inch high and half an inch apart. Take your wooden crown in the left hand, seizing the inside of the rim with the fingers and resting the thumb on the outside. Under this thumb secure, for a little while, one end of the wool, and going from left to right, twist it round every peg, gradually twirling the frame as you

do so until you have returned to the starting-point, which will always be indicated by the end of the wool, just as in the rounds of your stockings. At the back of the spikes you will have reproduced the continuous line seen in fig. 4; the coiling here has formed two

slighter make consists, for the second row, in slipping the loop over a stretched thread, instead of the regular loop. In another method the continuous line lies in front, as in fig. 4, which you obtain by curling from left to right. In the returning round you pass the wool as shown by fig. 5.

able to manage many useful articles, as sack-slippers, bags for the dressing-room, and even straight under-sleeves, supposing you have a smaller frame containing, perhaps, twelve teeth. Crochet or knitted lace is a tasteful finish to the work. However, before quitting the subject, I may as well describe how to

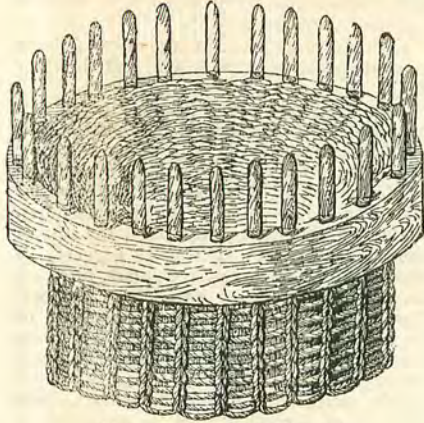


FIG. 3.—ROUND FRAME.

loops, whilst in front there is but one loop like for knitting. Work a second round in the same way, but instead of twining it all at

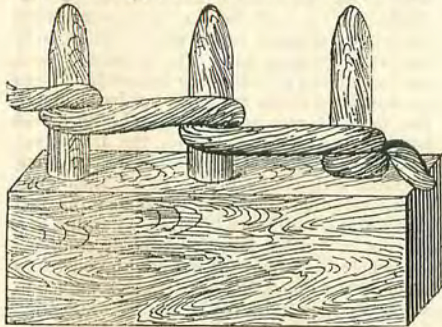


FIG. 4.—FIRST DETAIL.

once you may do a few at a time—say, six or eight—and with your finger or knitting-pin lift the under loop over the upper one and let it drop at the back.

You have now the whole secret of the work; is it not easy and regular fun? So quickly made, too, you will find a quarter of a yard oozing out below the frame in no time. When you have a good length for a comforter, mind that there is but one loop on all the pegs, then remove them, and with a threaded needle pass through the loops, puckering them up and making them fast by a knot. Repeat this at the opposite side and add pretty tassels. Your scarf will show large loose webs, whilst the inside will, of course, have the purled appearance of a stocking. There are several ways of slightly altering the web; I will only mention two or three, leaving to your imagination the pleasure of finding out new things. A

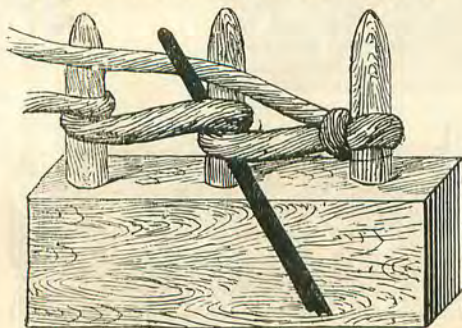


FIG. 5.—SECOND DETAIL.

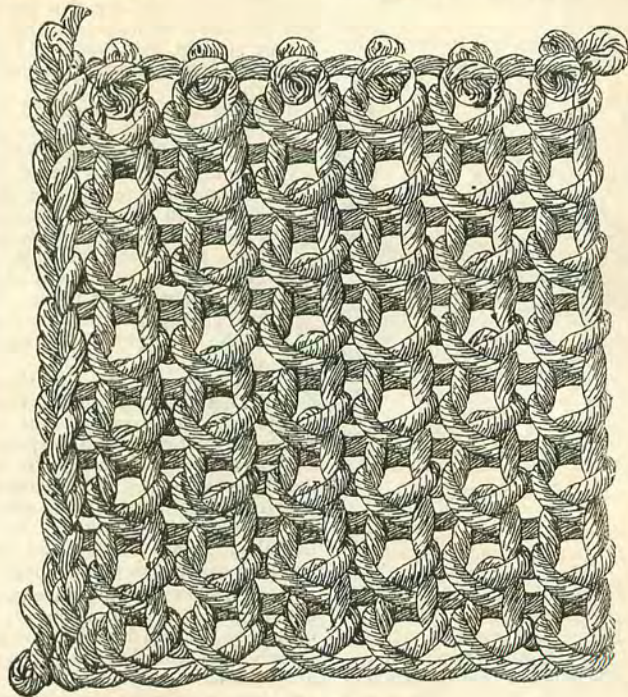


FIG. 6.—RIGHT SIDE.

When instead of three rungs on the peg you have four by an exact repetition of the first round (fig. 4) you obtain no longer a web but a rather pretty open work with a right

form, on this frame, a plait-web (see fig. 7), by making two rounds according to the first explanation, and commence a third one, which gives three loops on each spike. Then draw

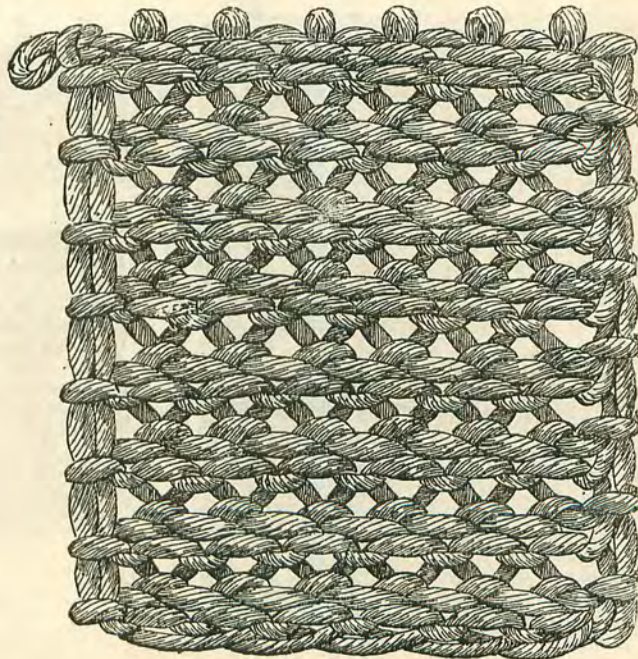


FIG. 7.—WRONG SIDE.

and wrong side as beautifully delineated in figs. 6 and 7, for the better understanding of the young ones.

I think with these few directions you will be

the lowest loop over the two above, and repeat as long as required. Evidently the scarf becomes closer, and hence warmer, the crossing threads of the web are doubled, and

when removed from the frame two loops necessarily lie together, and must be threaded together. If you prefer a strip to a tube, work backwards and forwards, the width of the band depending on the number of pegs taken.

LONG FRAME FOR FLAT KNITTING.

With the long frame every one of the above stitches can be reproduced, only in lieu of the boa you will have a flatter doubling. The

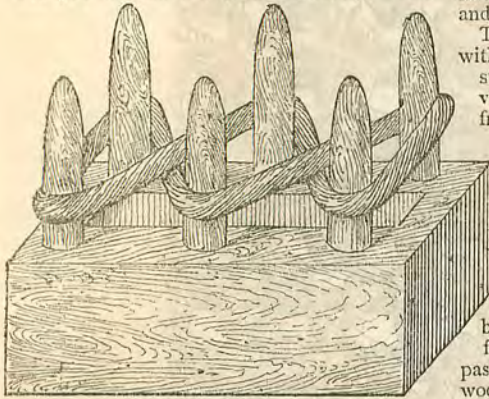


FIG. 8.—THE X FOUNDATION.

rectangular frame much resembles the one of fig. 10, except that a connecting peg is fitted at each end; this kind is, I believe, the sole one known in England. A frame of twenty-six teeth gives a breadth of about twelve inches, twofold if worked right round, and single if made on one row of spikes. But should you not like, for a change, to learn how to produce a warm strip without any wrong side? I will just give you two examples: tie the wool round one of the end pegs, leaving aside the two corner ones, pass it round the opposite spike, and from thence thread it from one side to the other, forming a series of V's similar to the foundation of your Swiss

obtain a second one go through this process again, then carefully pull every under strand over the upper. Repeat. This method makes a double-faced knitting, as in fig. 9, composed of webs, separated by straight bars or purls. Replace these X's by eights or a double herring-bone, twine a second layer, and again draw the first loop over that above and you will produce a double-crossed knitting, divided not by straight bars, but by a strange interlacing not unlike the rib of the brioche (figs. 10 and 11).

To make things quite clear I will go over with you the respective ways of making the stitches. I will dividethem into two classes, viz., those adaptable to both round and long frames, and those reserved for the long ones alone. In every case remember that to form a stitch you must always have two loops on a prong, the entire work being done on the under loop, which, slipped over the peg, falls inside. When possible, always pull with the finger instead of the needle, as it is not only easier but quicker.

1.—Left to Right.—Pass the wool to the back between two spikes, bring it again forward, then round to the back again passing it this time behind two pegs; bring the wool forward, and from right to left, curl it round the second peg, then behind two and repeat to the end. Second round alike; you have two loops, at each prong lift the under loop over the top one. At the end of the circle one loop only remains on the pegs, as in fig. 3.

For a thicker rib twine three rounds before one is picked up; consequently when the under one has been dropped there must always be two loops instead of one on the spikes. In a lighter make only prepare one round, and for every succeeding circle drop the stitch over the strand of wool just held in front.

Right to Left.—To bring the wool in front, exactly the reverse of the preceding method, drop the end of wool inside, and twist it round each post from right to left, back to the right and across

the end of the circle you will have two twirls on each prong (fig. 4). For the second round proceed with a single strand as shown in fig. 5. Two rows similar to the first will give four twirls, two of which are dropped each time, and thus produce an open work, with a wrong and a right side, as exemplified by figs. 6 and 7.

2. This class includes the two fanciful foundations representing X's and herring-bone.

All the various ways are now, I hope, thoroughly mastered, and the only puzzle that remains is what to do with these tubes or strips which we cannot shape with our elementary machine, the forerunner of the round Rapid or the long Lamb's knitting-machines. Besides the bed-socks, little bags, and scarves already alluded to, I would suggest an attempt at the large carriage purses, provided they have a lining of sateen or sarsanet. These fashionable pouches, enlargements of the old money purses, could be made in strips seamed together, leaving, of course, a large centre slit for the hand; the ends, drawn tightly, terminate, like the mufflers, with tassels; each compartment is separated by big ivory rings. The circular knitting might also answer the purpose, if, to form the slit the tube was broken at the right height, by working backwards and forwards instead of all round. A nice cover could likewise be contrived for a chair-bolster, and numberless petticoats, straight vests, wraps, quilts, sofa and carriage rugs, &c. The colouring need not be uniform; contrasting horizontal stripes are obtained in the usual manner by changing the wool at regular intervals. Longitudinal bands cannot be executed on the frame, but evidently the effect may be produced by sewing together stripes of various colours, their ends being mounted on a large wooden pin and cast off as for ordinary knitting. A fringe or a crochet or knitted lace will prettily complete the whole. I would further advise you to try to introduce simple little patterns so much in vogue for knitted gloves. PENELOPE.

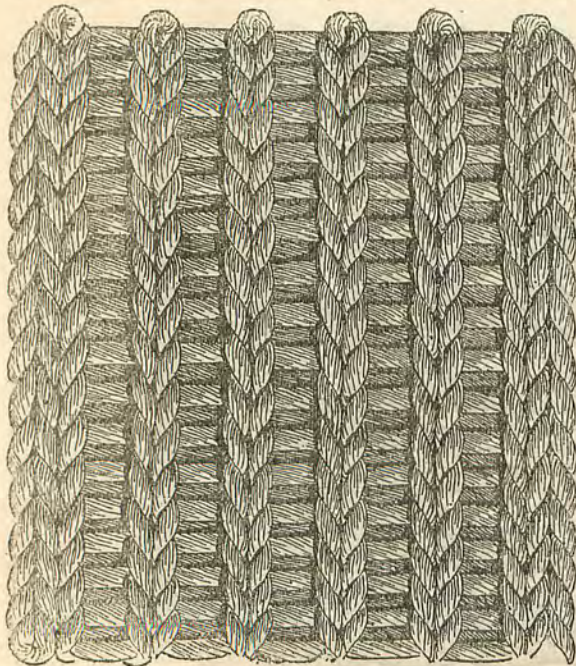


FIG. 9.—DOUBLE FACED KNITTING.

darning. Half of the pegs on either side are still empty, now come back in the contrary direction, thus shaping X's or lattice-work (fig. 8).

There is but one strand on every tooth, to

two pegs, bringing the wool inside, to the right again between the two enclosing pegs. Continue thus. At

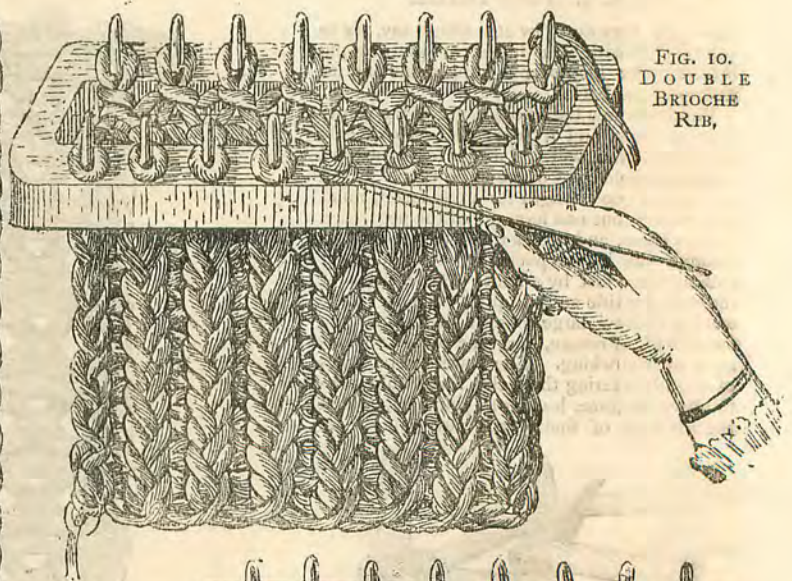


FIG. 10. DOUBLE BRIOCHE RIB,

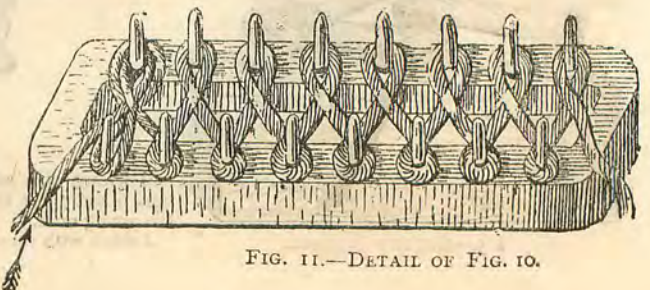


FIG. 11.—DETAIL OF FIG. 10.