

## ART NEEDLEWORK.

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FIG. 1.—PANELS FOR FRONT OF PIANO



FIG. 2.—PANELS FOR CABINET DOORS.

In fig. 1 I have given you a piano front of iris of various colours. A prettily-worked front to a piano is a pleasant change from the monotony of the old-fashioned style, and you can in most cases do one at home at little cost. The design can be worked on brown or bronze-coloured velveteen, or, indeed, on anything you like that is not too thick, and it can be all in one piece instead of in three panels. Work it solidly all in crewels, touched up with silk in the lightest part, and using finer crewel for the flowers; or it is more effective (though more expensive) to use silk entirely for the flowers. These need careful and artistic shading, as, indeed, do the leaves, threads of a light bluish colour being used to bring out the light parts. I advise you to work as much as you can from nature, or from a good coloured drawing; the increased effect will fully repay you for your trouble. A great many tall and showy flowers can be easily grouped, so as to make suitable panels for either the back or front of the piano (the backs want longer panels), and being strikingly ornamental, are well worth working; you can generally take out the framework in front of your piano, and after re-

moving the lining, replace it by nailing in your work. Fig. 2, panels for cabinet doors, can also in many cases be done at home. I have drawn this especially for such cabinets as one often sees in old-fashioned houses, and which by this time have come out of their hiding places in lumber or school rooms. You can easily get the glass removed, and replace it with work. The design of foxglove and swamp grass is to be worked on Japanese or Roman silk. You can use oatcake cloth or crash if you prefer it; work it with fine crewel solidly, and shade carefully. As in the piano back, the foxgloves may be either purple, pale yellow, or white. Whichever colour you may choose, a good deal of pale grey and green must be worked into the unopened flowers at the tips; for the swamp grass use a good selection of dark reds, browns, and golds. Hollyhocks in different colours, various lilies, and, for smaller cabinet doors, flower-pots with well placed flowers in them, would be good to use.

Fig. 3 is another piano front, which will not be as much trouble to work as fig. 1. If you do it simply in outline, use two or three shades of blue, brown, or red crewel on oatcake cloth, or crash of a rather dull



FIG. 3.—PANEL FOR FRONT OF PIANO.

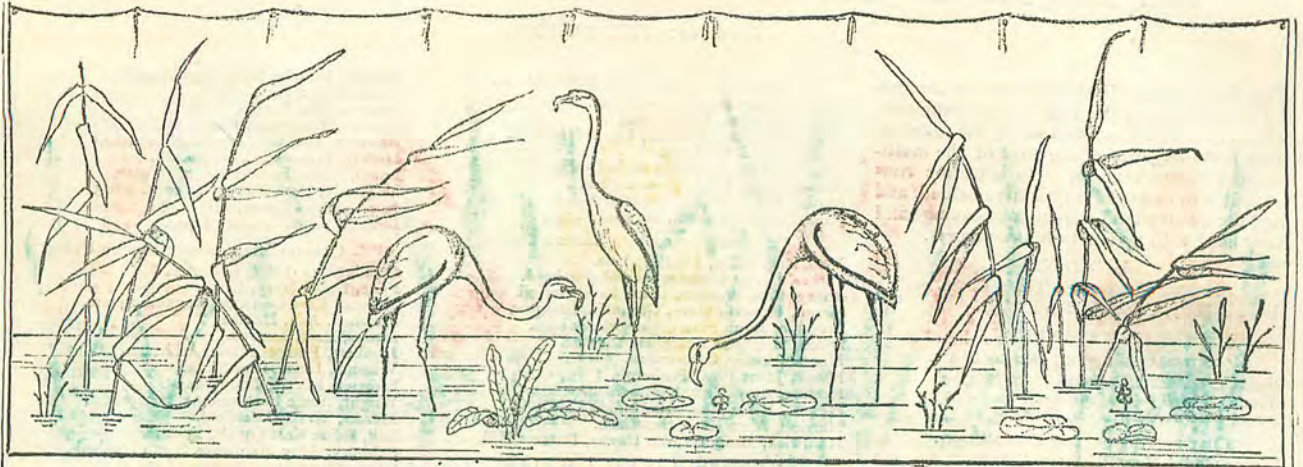


FIG. 4.—SPLASH BACK FOR WASHING-STAND.

brown colour; if you wish to make it very handsome use Japanese silk (tussore) on light-coloured Roman satin, and work it in a frame entirely with gold and silver thread. This would be very effective either for back or front of a piano, as indeed all Japanese designs are, and you can copy so many of these for yourselves in this style.

Fig. 4 is a splash back for a washing-stand. Work it in outline only on some material that will wash well, and be careful to use only fast-coloured crewels. As these articles are so likely to need washing or cleaning occasionally, you can either simply hem it or work two or three lines of crewel round, or you may ornament the edges with blanket-stitch and fasten it to the rod by means of small rings or knots of ribbon the same colour as the crewels used in working.

Fig. 5 is another design for cabinet-doors, in a less simple style than fig. 2. Work it on tussore, silk, or satin, and, if you prefer to use crewel for the leaves, the flowers and birds will be better done in silk; it should all be solidly worked. The flowers are scarlet, and a good deal of dark red and brown are needed in the shading of the leaves and stalks. The birds—Sappho or comet-tailed humming-birds—must be worked with the brightest of colours, well shaded into each other, the head and back bright green and

yellow, shaded into dark peacock-blue; the lower part of the back and the breast are crimson; wing covers black with crimson feathers; tail fiery red, with black tip to each feather; there is a patch of white about the eye, and the beak is black. The panels must be mounted very carefully, or, as you will see, the unity of the design will be spoilt. If satin be used, it should be worked entirely with silks.

Fig. 6, another splash back. I prefer designs with water for these articles, as they look cool and suitable. You can work this more solidly than the other if you like, but not entirely so, or the birds would be too heavy. Only the outline and shaded parts of these—sufficient to give them form—need be worked, but it would be more effective to work the rushes and water-plants solidly; put two or three lines of coarse crewel round in stem stitch, but beware of using colour that will wash out or run.

Crash or oatcake cloth will be most suitable to work this design upon.

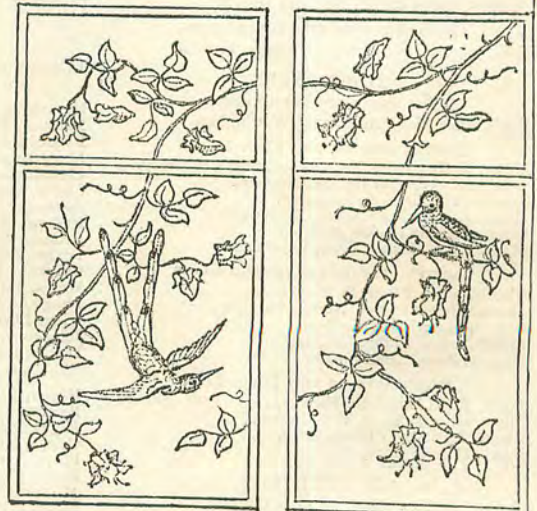


FIG. 5.—PANELS FOR CABINET DOORS.

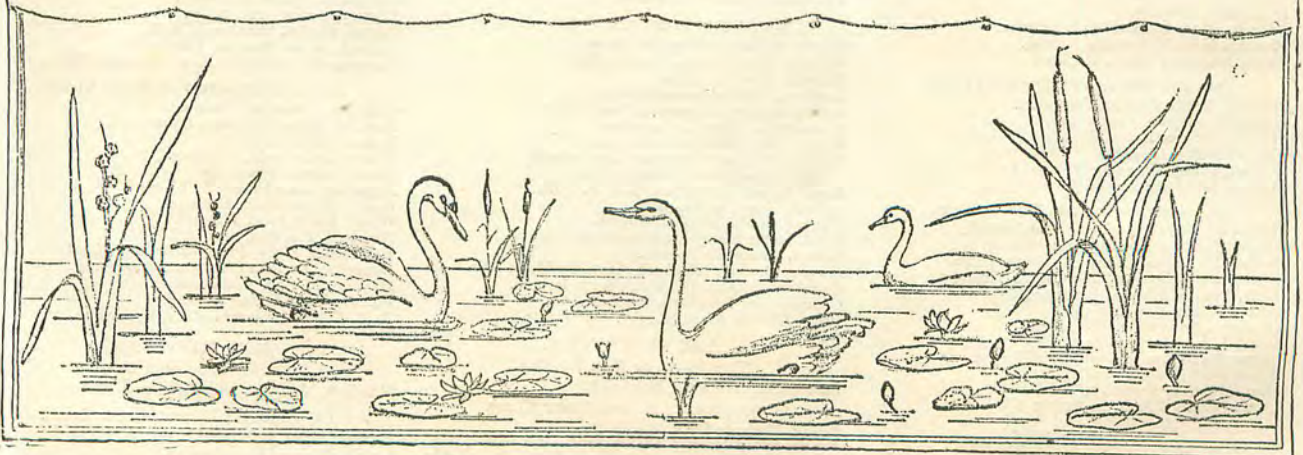


FIG. 6.—SPLASH BACK FOR WASHING-STAND.