

billiard-room, the large study, and the smoking-room. Each were alike locked, unused, and shrouded.

Beth laid her hand on the dining-room door and peeped in, but refrained from entering.

"How cold and dreary it looks," said the child. "I thought they were all warm, pretty rooms when we lived in them. Let's go upstairs. But stop, Jean—we haven't been to that door at the far end."

"Sure to be locked," said her sister, as she and Sybil followed. And so it proved; but with this difference, the key was turned on the inside, whereas the other doors were all locked from the outside.

Beth rattled the handle.

"Who is there?" asked a man's voice from within.

"It's father, Jeanie," she said excitedly to her sister. "Father, father, let us in!" she called, with her head close to the door. "Jean and I are here."

"Not now, my dears," answered the colonel. "I am busy, so run away, and I will come to you as soon as I can."

"I want to come in," said Beth pettishly, and pushing away Sybil's restraining hand; but enticed by Jeanie,

she desisted, and followed them upstairs to continue their researches.

With the exception of their own bedrooms, her father's, one spare room, and the servants', all were shut up; some, as they looked in, bearing marks of neglect, and sadly needing repair, others partly renovated.

The principal bedroom was the one they visited last, and the contrast it presented to the unused and desolate rooms they had been exploring struck them very forcibly. They stood for a few seconds on the threshold in mute astonishment at the spectral beauty of the place, as seen through the half darkness; then Jeanie went forward, and drawing aside the curtains, let in the light.

"How lovely!" cried Beth. "What a room for fairies to live in! And we to know they were always about us unseen."

There was reason for the child's admiration. The walls were a marvel of pale sea-green Japanese paper, tinted with just a reflection of delicate salmon-pink. The costly brass bedstead had a silken coverlet and drapery of the same delicately-combined colours, while full curtains of like material swept in graceful folds from the windows. Bevelled

plate-glass mirrors and carved oak panels gleamed and gave depth and mysterious glimpses amid the furniture. It was the bridal chamber, and the only room completely finished and furnished before Owen Stanard's fatal illness.

"Come away, Beth," said Jeanie, reclosing the curtains.

"Why?" asked Beth, noticing for the first time Jeanie's sad look of pre-occupation. "It's the only pretty room. Will it be ours?"

"Certainly not," replied Jeanie. "This was to be grandfather's bridal chamber."

"Oh, Jeanie, I didn't think of that! Let us go."

"I have never seen such magnificent rooms or such superb furniture," Sybil said to Jeanie. "How rich you must have been; and what a trial to so suddenly lose your wealth. Perhaps your father may soon recover some of his losses."

"I think there is no chance," answered Jeanie. "Why, even the furniture you so much admire is to be sent back and replaced by the old."

"Indeed!" and Sybil's hopes, which had risen somewhat at the sight of the handsome surroundings, fell to zero.

(To be continued.)

CROCHET.

LACE MANTEL-BORDER.



CROCHET LACE MANTEL-BORDER.

If the width of the border is required to be ten inches and a half use éru-coloured crochet cotton D. M. C. No. 15; but if a fine lace border six inches and a half wide is desired use D. M. C. No. 22.

Cast on 91 stitches.

1st Row.—Work a double into the first stitch, 1 chain, miss 1 and work a double into the third stitch, repeat until there are 10 doubles, counting the first one, 1 chain, miss 1, 4 doubles into the next four stitches, * 1 chain, miss 1, 1 double fourteen times, 1 chain, miss 1, 4 doubles into the next four stitches, repeat from * once, work 8 chain.

2nd Row.—In this and all succeeding rows, when 1 chain, miss 1, and 1 double are mentioned, the chain is always placed above the chain on the preceding row, and the double worked into and above the double in preceding row. The increase and decrease necessary to form the pointed border that edges the lace are made on the even numbered rows, the straight edge on the uneven rows. Where 4 doubles are worked together, the first and last are worked into the stitches below them; in order to keep the outer edges of the open diamonds these stitches enclose straight and solid. Be-

fore commencing the second row see that there are 14 single doubles and 15 single chains between each set of 4 doubles, as the whole pattern is thrown out if there is any mistake in the first row. *Second row.*—Upon the first, second, and third made chains in last row work 3 doubles, and a fourth double on the last double of the first row, miss over 2 chain and work 4 more doubles, putting the first into the fourth double of first row, the two next into the open space made by the one chain, and the last into the first single double of the first row (8 doubles are thus made without any chain between them), 1 chain, miss 1, 1 double twelve times, repeat from the commencement of the row, working the first set of doubles into an open space, finish with 1 chain and 1 double repeated nine times.

3rd Row.—1 double, miss 1, 1 chain eight times, * 4 doubles into an open space, 4 chain, 1 long treble, which work in the middle of the 8 doubles on second row, 4 chain, 4 double into the first space, 1 chain, miss 1, 1 double ten times, 1 chain, repeat from * twice, omitting the last set of 10 chains and doubles, finish with 8 chain.

4th Row.—Work 4 doubles upon the 8 chain as in the second row, * 5 chain, and 3 singles, putting the middle single above the long treble and a single on each side, 5 chain, 4 doubles into the first space, 1 chain, miss 1, and 1 double eight times, 1 chain, repeat from * twice, but end with 7, not 8, single chains and doubles.

5th Row.—1 double, miss 1, 1 chain six times, * 4 doubles into the last space, 5 chain, 5 singles over the 3 singles on last row and on each side, 5 chain, 4 doubles into the first open space, 1 chain, miss 1, 1 double six times, 1 chain, repeat from * twice omitting the last set of 6 chains and 6 doubles, finish with 8 chain.

6th Row.—Work 4 doubles on the 8 chain as in the second row, 4 doubles upon the first stitches of the 5 chain on fifth row (8 doubles in all), 5 chain, 3 singles above the 5 singles of last row, 5 chain, 4 doubles on the last stitches of the next 5 chain, 4 doubles in the first open space (8 doubles again together), 1 chain, miss 1, 1 double four times, 1 chain, repeat twice from the commencement of row, and finish with 1 chain, miss 1, 1 double five times.

7th Row.—1 double, miss 1, 1 chain four times, * 4 double into the last open space, 4 chain, 1 long treble placed in the centre of the 8 doubles on the sixth row, 4 chain, 4 doubles into the first stitches of the 5 chain on last row, 4 chain, 1 long treble above the 3 singles on sixth row, 4 chain, 4 doubles into the last stitches of the second set of 5 chain of last row, 4 chain, 1 long treble in between the 8 doubles, 4 chain, 4 doubles in the first space, 1 chain, miss 1, 1 double twice, 1 chain, repeat from * twice, omitting the last set of 1 chain, 1 double, finish with 8 chain.

8th Row.—4 doubles on the eighth chain as in second row, * 4 chain, 3 singles above the long treble, 4 chain, 4 doubles worked on the 4 chain in last row next the second long treble, 4 doubles over the next set of chains (8 doubles together), 4 chain and 3 single over the long treble in the seventh row, 4 chain, 4 doubles into the first open space, miss the second and work 4 doubles into the third open space, repeat from * twice, but omit the last

four doubles and work 1 chain, miss 1, 1 double three times.

9th Row.—1 double, miss 1, 1 chain twice, 4 doubles into the remaining open space, * 5 chain, 5 singles over the 3 singles of eighth row, 5 chain, 4 doubles worked between the 8 doubles of last row, repeat from * to the end of the row.

10th Row.—4 chain, * 4 doubles over the first 5 chain of last row, 4 chain, 3 singles over the 5 singles on ninth row, 4 chain, 4 doubles over the second 5 chain, repeat from * to the end of the row, but finish with 1 chain, miss 1, 1 double three times (in this row 8 doubles are again worked together).

11th Row.—1 double, miss 1, 1 chain, four times, 1 chain, * 4 doubles over the first 4 chain of tenth row, 4 chain, 1 long treble over the 3 singles of tenth row, 4 chain, 4 doubles over the second set of chains in last row, 4 chain, 1 long treble into the centre of the 8 doubles on tenth row, 4 chain, 4 doubles into the next set of chains, 4 chain, 1 long treble over the 3 singles of last row, 4 chain, 4 doubles into the last set of chains, 1 chain, miss 1, 1 double, twice, 1 chain, repeat from * twice, omitting the single chains and doubles the second time.

12th Row.—4 chain, * 4 doubles into the last 4 chain on eleventh row, 4 doubles into the next set of chains (8 doubles are together), 5 chain, 3 singles over the long treble, 5 chain, 4 doubles into the next set of chains, 4 doubles

into the next set (8 doubles together), 1 chain, miss 1, 1 double four times, repeat from * twice and finish with a fifth, 1 chain, miss 1, and 1 double.

13th Row.—1 double, miss 1, 1 chain six times, 1 chain, 4 doubles between the 8 doubles of last row, 5 chain, 5 singles on the 3 singles of twelfth row, 5 chain, 4 doubles between the 8 doubles on last row, 1 chain, repeat from the commencement twice.

14th Row.—4 chain, * 4 doubles on the last 5 chain of thirteenth row, 4 chain, 3 singles on the 5 singles of last row, 4 chain, 4 doubles on the second set of 5 chains, 1 chain, miss 1, 1 double eight times, 1 chain, repeat from * twice, but finish with 7 chains and doubles instead of 8.

15th Row.—1 double, 1 chain, miss 1, eight times, 1 chain, * 4 doubles on the 4 chain of fourteenth row, 4 chain, 1 long treble over the 3 singles of last row, 4 chain, 4 doubles on the second set of chains, 1 chain, miss 1, 1 double ten times, 1 chain, repeat from * once, and end with 4 doubles, 4 chain, 1 long treble, 4 chain, 4 doubles.

16th Row.—4 chain, * 4 doubles into the first 4 chain of fifteenth row, 4 doubles into the second set of chains, 1 chain, miss 1, 1 double twelve times, 1 chain, repeat from * twice, but finish with 9, instead of 12, 1 chain, 1 double.

Repeat from first row. Each open diamond takes 16 rows to complete.



UP THE STEEP HILLSIDE.

CHAPTER III.

PLEASANT PLACES.

THE next morning, Mary, accustomed to early hours in the country, was up and dressed before any of the others were stirring apparently, and not knowing what to do with herself, she went cautiously downstairs and through the open door into the lawn, which lay invitingly before her in the morning sun. The gardeners were already at work, laying out the conventional flower-beds, to be hereafter a blaze of purple and scarlet, and getting the tennis-ground ready for use; and as Mary rambled about the grounds (if one can be said to ramble in a well-kept London garden, where the very trees have a sleek society air about them, and seem to repel, by their own stately gravity, any approach to careless ease), she could have fancied herself in the heart of the country, instead of on the

outskirts of the great city. She was apparently standing in her own lawn at her old home; the birds were singing, not in these ornamental trees, but in her dear, rugged old chestnuts and elms at Langley. She was not even startled at a figure coming in at the gate, for Jack Adams was inseparably associated with the lawn since they had that memorable talk in it only two days ago, and it seemed natural enough that he should walk in at the gate and that she should go forward to meet him. She stopped abruptly, however, when she had walked a few steps, for the real scene forced itself upon her eyes, and she found she was going to meet, not Jack Adams, but Tom Davey. She flushed hotly at her foolish dreaming as he saluted her with a pleasant "Good-morning! So you have brought your early country habits into the town, I see," and was trying to compose herself to frame an intel-

ligible answer, when he considerably went on, "Our family is not at all renowned for early rising, except myself, you see; and as breakfast won't be ready just yet, I will show you through the greenhouses if you like."

"Thank you," Mary said, and pleased at the chance of regaining her self-possession, followed him to the gardens.

"Of course you feel interested in gardening," he went on. "Being a country girl, I expect you are a pretty good amateur gardener."

"Oh, pray don't credit us in the country with all the virtues," Mary said laughing. "I am afraid my gardening is very amateurish indeed. It is in towns that gardening is brought to perfection. We fall into a drowsy, slothful ease in the country, and let nature do the gardening in a great measure."

"And a fine old gardener she is too," he answered. "But you shouldn't depreciate