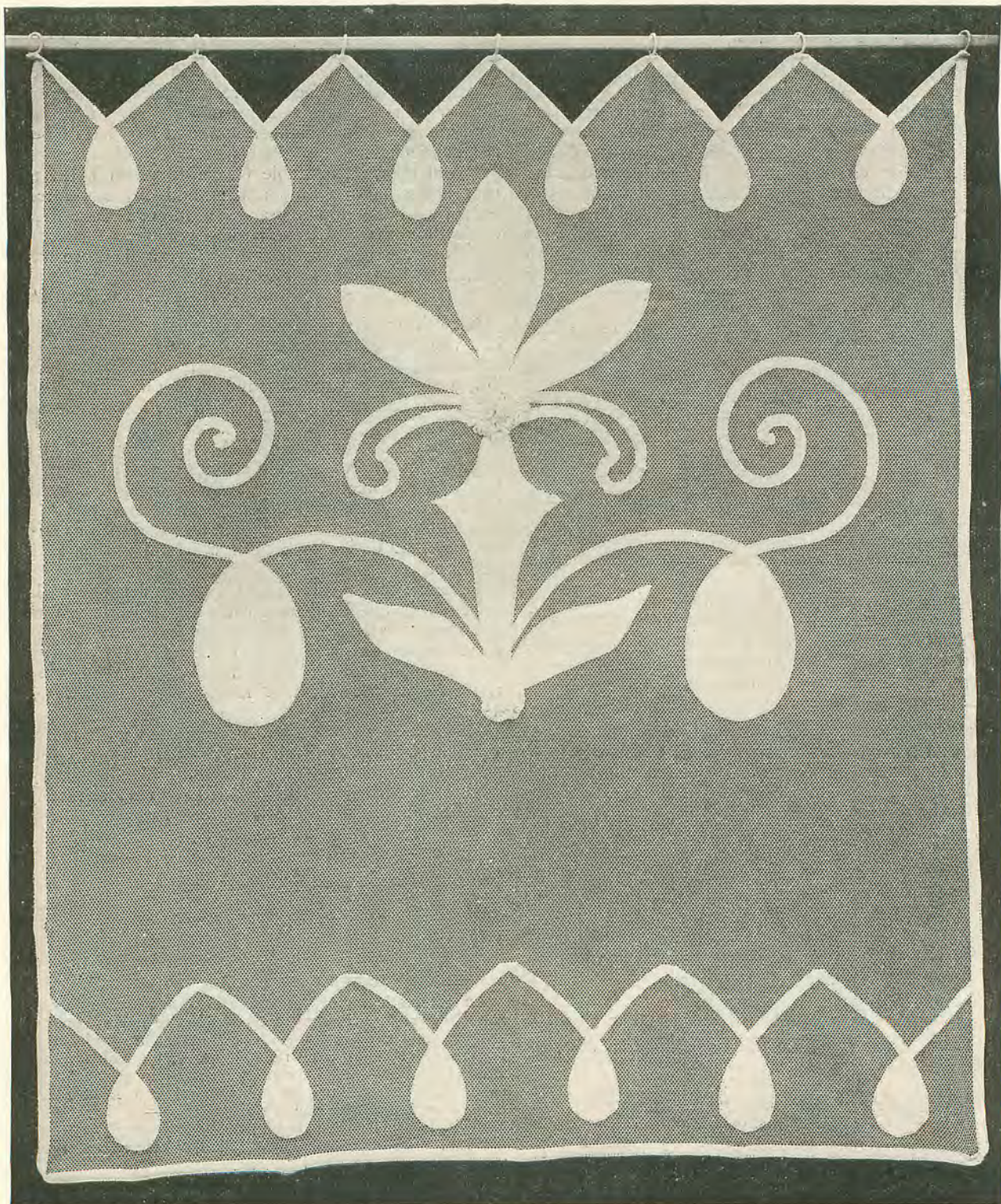


NEW AND PRETTY BRISE-BISE CURTAINS.

By LEIRION CLIFFORD.

THE newest and prettiest *brise-bise* blinds come, as their foreign name suggests, from France, Switzerland, and Belgium, but are well adapted for use on our English windows, especially on those of casement shape. One piece

of canvas, muslin, or silk, covers each of the lower panes of a window, and should, when made up, be half as wide again as, and equal in depth to, the glass it is to veil. More fulness can be allowed in soft silk than in firmer materials.



NET BRISE-BISE CURTAIN.

As our illustrations show, these blinds are ornamented with lace, which, in machine-made curtains, is woven into the stuff, but in handwork is usually embroidery or crochet.

A bold form of *appliqué*, outlined with lace braid, is shown in one sample, and the second is of cream canvas

and crochet. On silk blinds finer varieties of either of these kinds of work can be employed.

It should be noticed that *brise-bise* blinds have a scalloped top; one small curtain ring is sewn at the back of each vandyke, and a rod run through the rings serves to



A CROCHET BRISE-BISE CURTAIN.

extend the blind parallel with the window-sash or moulding. The blinds are usually from twenty-four to thirty inches

wide, by from thirty to thirty-five inches in depth, and the points at the top are from five to nine in number.

To make such a blind as that in Fig. 1 requires a piece of coarse mosquito net for the foundation, a quarter of a yard of fine pillow-case linen of wide width, and twenty yards of lace braid a quarter of an inch wide.

Some such design as that here shown should be selected; that is, one with a deep vandyke at the top, and a handsome scroll for the middle of the curtain, and a row of the same or of smaller vandykes running along the bottom. This pattern should be marked out on a piece of tracing linen, on to which the net is then tacked, the stitches going close to the outlines but not upon them. The *appliqué* pieces for the filling of the larger scrolls are to be cut from the linen and tacked into place, where they are held by the lace braid that runs over the outlines and covers all the raw edges. The stitches sew the braid to the net and to the *appliqués*, and must not be taken through the tracing linen also. Both edges of the braid are sewn down, the stitches being taken round the outer edge of the scrolls first and then round the inner edge, where the braid must be gathered evenly in.

Two rosettes of lace braid are tacked on important parts of the design, and it is easiest to make these up first, by gathering the braid round and round on a small circle of linen, and then stitching this into position. Along all the edges of the blind a second line of braid, run on the wrong side, covers the cut edges of the net and makes a firm margin.

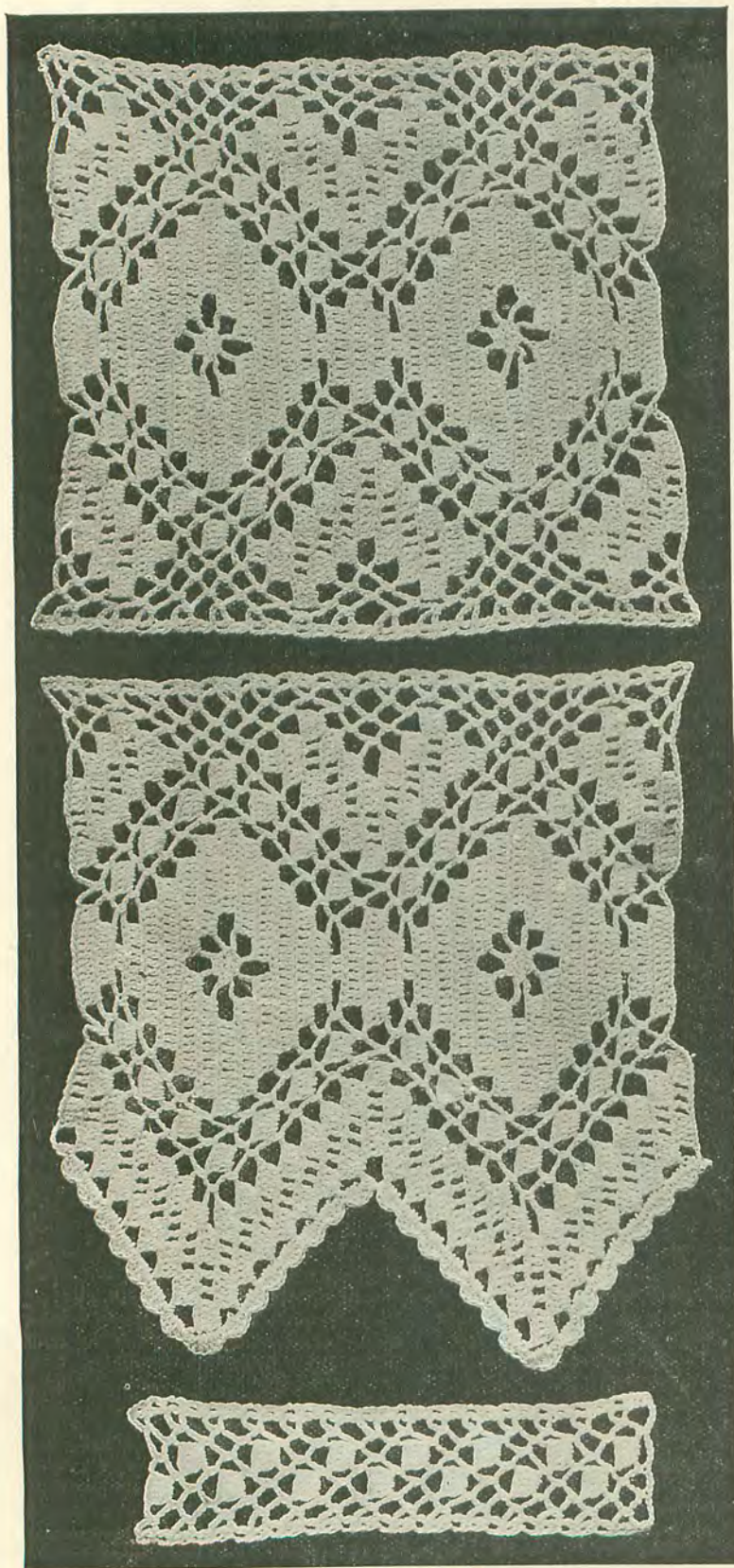
Finally the net is cut away beyond the braid all round and in and out the scallops at the top. A small ring is stitched on the wrong side of each vandyke near the tip of it.

The second blind is made of half a yard of canvas twenty-one inches wide, and two balls of coarse cream crochet cotton. The sizes of canvas and of thread can be chosen according to taste; in the model, twenty-four threads of canvas were counted to the inch, the cotton was somewhat coarser than the strands of the canvas and worked with a No. 4 steel hook. Three strips of canvas were used and four of narrow crochet insertion. This insertion, and the wider one at the base, as well as the vandyke lace, were designed of similar patterns so that they could be used together. The top edging is six and a half inches wide, the deep insertion five and a half inches, and the narrow bands are an inch and a quarter wide. Eight repeats of the broad laces formed the width of the entire blind, but more or fewer can, of course, be made, and the canvas strips can also be varied according to the size the curtain is required to be.

Those expert in crochet can copy the patterns as here given (at Fig. 3), while other workers will find equally suitable designs in some one of the many modern hand-books on crochet. They should choose a decided vandyke, and in the coarse cotton it is sure to work out effectively.

From the two widely-different *brise-bise* blinds here described, our readers should be able to glean ideas for making them in various styles according to the rooms in which they are to be used.

Colour is often introduced; for instance, on the net an *appliqué* of Turkey twill couched down with black braid will be found very effective when put up to the light at the window.



CROCHET PATTERN.