

THE NEW TENERIFFE OR BRAZILIAN LACE.

BY LEIRION CLIFFORD.

ONE of the most recent introductions to the furniture of a fancy work-basket is the Teneriffe Lace-Wheel, by means of which pretty circles and other shapes can be made for edging doyleys. By joining these pieces of lace entire, doyleys, collars, and other dress trimmings and fancy articles can be contrived. This kind of needle-work is closely allied to Brazilian lace, a yet more novel and elaborate handicraft, to which work on the lace-wheel may well serve as an introduction. The latter shall therefore be first described.

The Teneriffe lace-wheel is a round of brass or of imitation tortoise-shell measuring about two inches across, and pierced with two sets of holes, 52 holes near the edge and 48 holes just within that boundary. For the easiest kind of lace circles put the wheel down on a firm cushion (as seen in Fig. 1) and put in 52 pins, one through each hole of the outer row. Take about six yards of crochet cotton, No. 24, or, for fine work, No. 36; tie one end round one of the pins, then bring the thread down to the pin opposite the first pin, pass it round the head of that pin, then back and round the pin next to the first pin, down to the pin next the second pin, and so on across and across the circle until each pin has been surrounded. Thread the end of the cotton through a darning-needle, and with this darn round the centre of the circle three times, drawing the thread closely and going over and under the pairs of threads. As

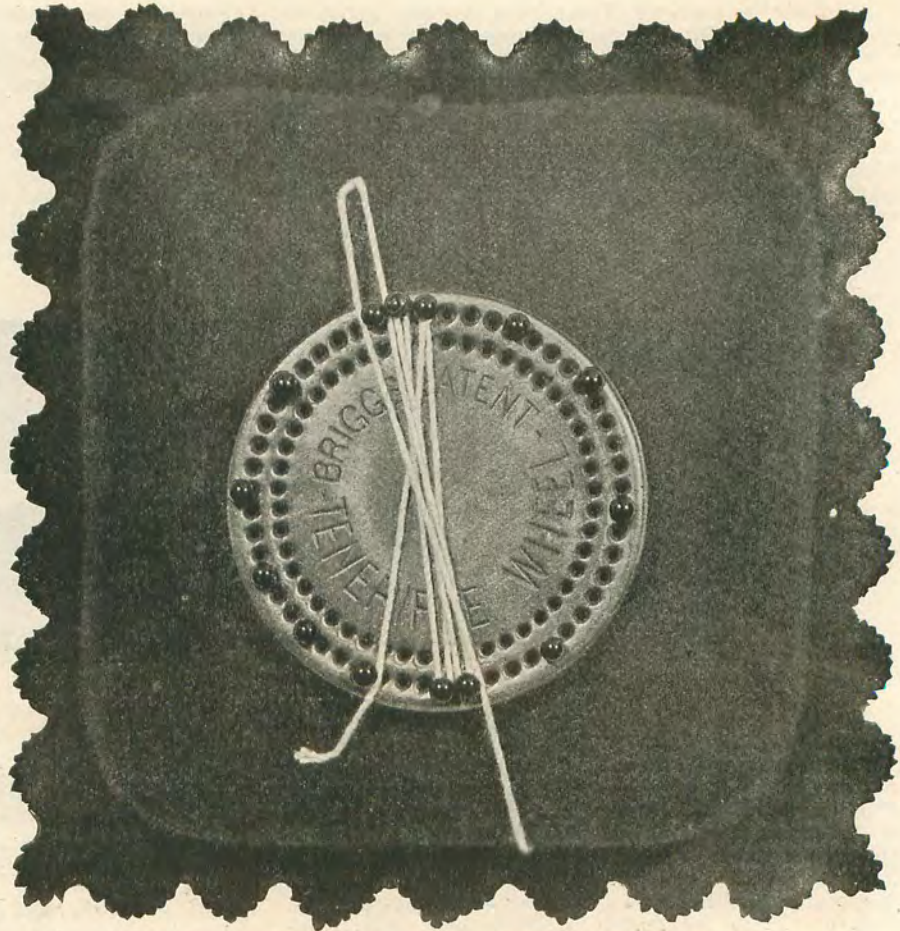


FIG. 1.—THE TENERIFFE LACE-WHEEL. (HOW THE CIRCLES ARE MADE.)

there is an even number of these pairs, it is necessary to miss one at the beginning of each round that those may be passed over that were passed under in the former round and *vice versa*. Next draw the working thread along about a third of the way to the edge, and there work round again, this time knotting the pairs of threads into couples. Move another third nearer the edge and knot round in the same way, but dividing the pairs of the former round by taking two threads from each cluster together. Lastly, slip the thread along to the extreme edge, just within the pins, and there knot two threads together all round, taking one from each pin together. The pins can now be removed, and the lace circle is finished. Smaller circles are made by using the inner set of 48 holes.

On some cushions the work is done without a wheel, circles in three sizes being printed on the material with which they are covered. The circles in Fig. 2 were worked on such a cushion and illustrate the varieties of size obtainable.

Another kind of lace-wheel is also provided that is pierced with holes for making square and pear-shaped sections as well as circles. These shapes are very effective when joined and made up.

Referring again to

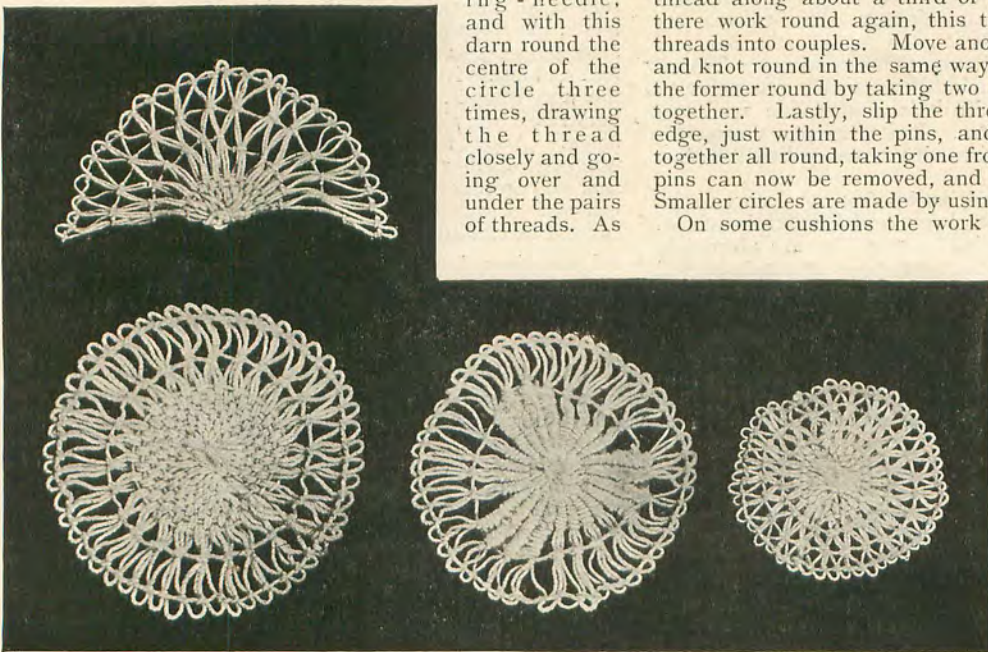


FIG. 2.

Fig. 2, we here find different ways of elaborating the lace, which will suggest yet others to ingenious workers. The smallest circle is made as above described; the others are begun in the same way, but in the middle one, which is on 48 pins, after the first three rounds of darning, the thread is whipped over four strands (two pairs) for six rounds. Then three of these sets of four strands are thus whipped over six times more, but in rows, not rounds, these three darned sets being alternate with three sets left open. The whipping over is done thus: bring the threaded needle down under two sets (of four strands each), *put it back between these two sets and out again after passing under two sets, that is, under the set last passed under and under the one beyond it; repeat from*. Finish with a round of knots, each uniting two pairs of strands, and add the outer row of knots as usual.

In the largest circle darn over and under for nine instead of for three rounds only, and add two rounds of knotting as before.

For the half-circle use the cushion, not the wheel. Put in 26 pins and 1 centre pin, and wind the thread from the centre out to each pin in turn and back outside the centre pin each time. Gather all the threads together with a stout knot in the centre and darn as described for the easiest wheel, but backwards and forwards in rows instead of in rounds. These half-circles or fans make, as do also

the rounds, an excellent lace for edging linen articles ornamented with drawn-thread work. Fig. 3 shows a doyley or pincushion-top trimmed with Teneriffe lace. The circles are sewn together and buttonholed down to the linen which is cut away beyond this edge.

Brazilian lace is somewhat similarly worked, but it has the advantage of calling for originality of design. The foundation is merely a stout card on which the worker traces and executes the lace to her own fancy. As a guide to stimulate invention I give a pattern for doyleys. Fig. 4 was worked on a circle seven inches across traced on a card, with two inner circles three-and-a-half and four-and-a-quarter inches across respectively. Round the edge 150 pins were inserted at regular intervals, and about these the working-thread was wound as usual. When all the strands were in place, the pins were replaced with stitches of black cotton, which are less in the way and also more secure. After the three rounds of darning, six rays of darning were worked extending to the inner round on the card, each ray worked thus in short rows: darn six rows backwards and forwards over 25 pairs of strands, then six rows over 23 pairs, six over 21 pairs, and so on, leaving one pair more unworked each side at each reduction until the last rows are over three pairs only.

Round the next circle marked on the card work a row of knots, taking each pair singly. Leave an eighth-of-an-inch

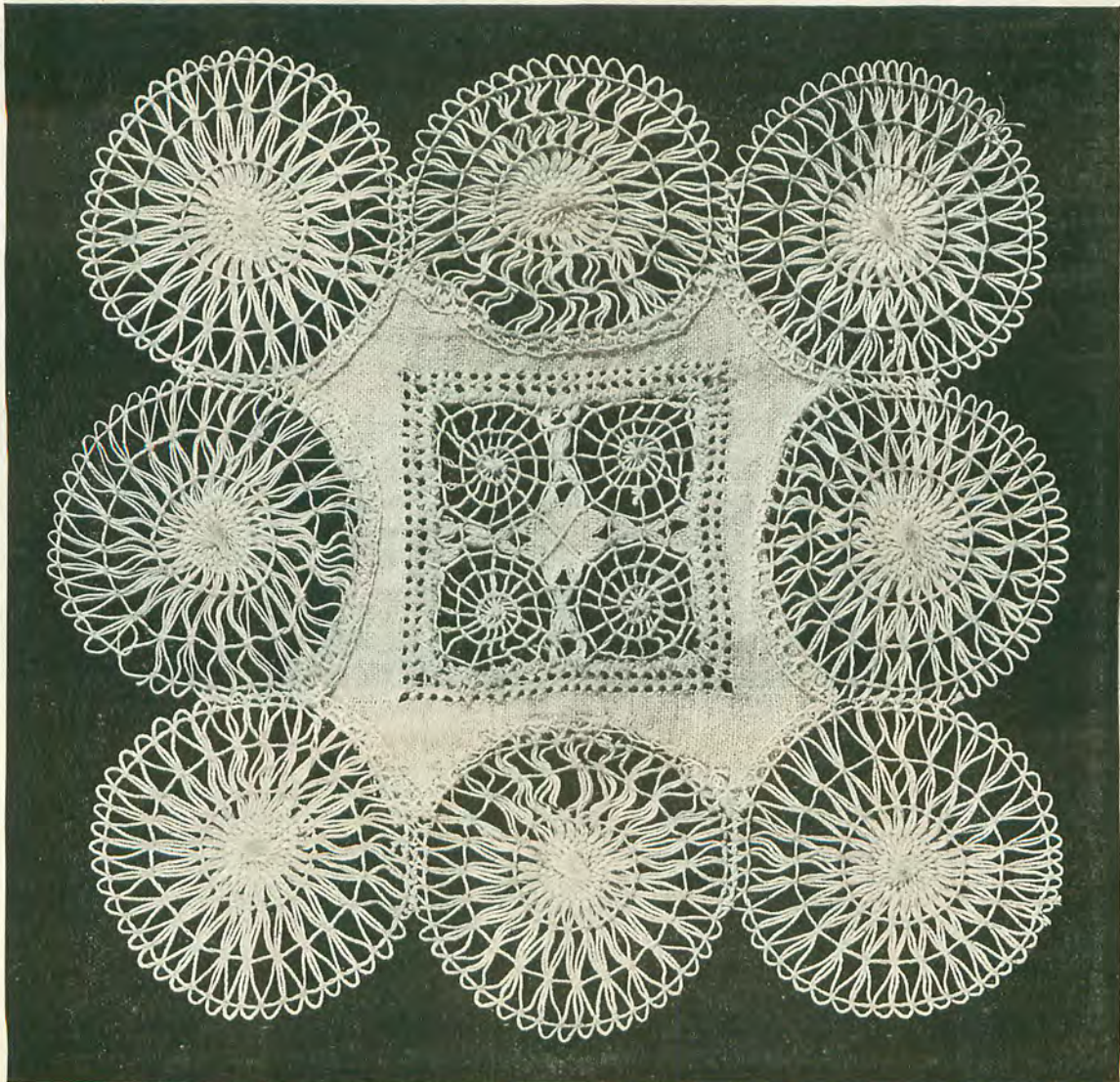


FIG. 3.

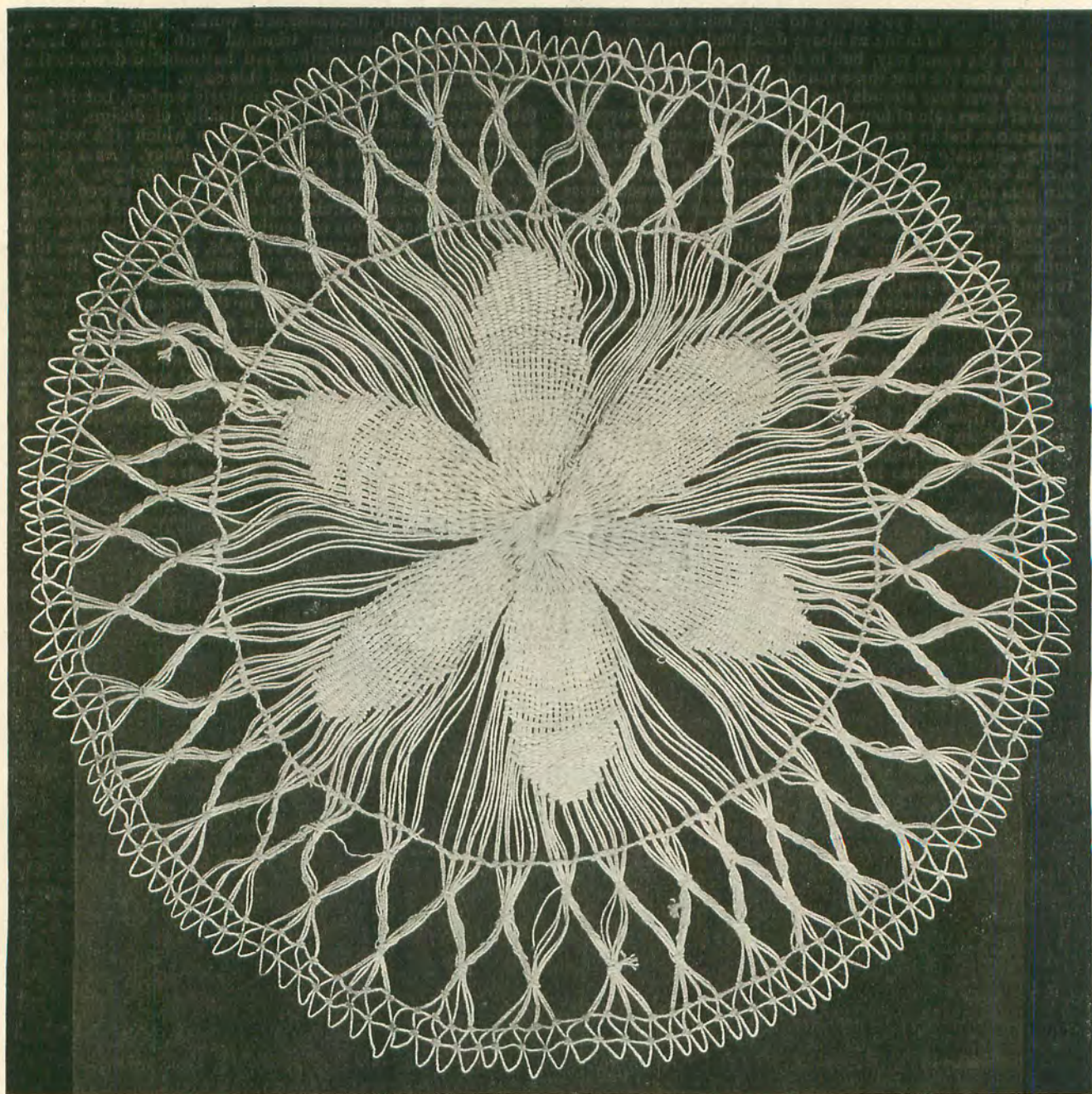


FIG. 4.

free, and beyond this knot round in groups thus: knot four pairs together, *whip round two pairs, working out half-an-inch towards the edge, knot the lower pairs (that were whipped round) in with the next two free pairs, move back to below the first knot, whipping over the lower two pairs as before, and there knot them in with the free pairs beyond, repeat from *. An eighth-of-an-inch beyond the outer knots knot the pairs again, this time singly, and

beyond this again do the outer round, which as usual consists of couples dividing the pairs of the last round and those on the pins also.

These illustrations will suggest many varieties of design and stitch, especially to her who is skilful in draw-thread work. Any of the patterns here shown can be worked with silk instead of with cotton, the richer material making the lace suitable for yet more purposes.

