day; it is horribly cold, but I will have the screen put up to keep off the draft from the door, and we'll heap plenty of coals on; then I'll have for dinner a roast chicken and a nice little puddling made in it. No, Keziah, nothing like the By-the-bye. I must remind Keziah to put just a touch more lemon in the breadcrumbs. After dinner I shall put on my fur cloak, and go out to look into the Christmas shop accordingly. Enough about the By-the-bye, I must remind Keziah to put just a touch more lemon in the breadcrumbs.

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The fatal document—for so it certainly appeared to be in Miss Chapmower's eyes—ran as follows:

DEAREST LITTLE ROSIE—All has been well here, and the forty-seven babies have been well. Not one of your thirty-seven babies forgotten. Shall be with you as usual with the first peal of bells on Christmas morning; what a jolly time we will have of it!

Your own—

P.S.—Have not time to put date, but you know it, my beauty.

Keziah's first impression on reading this letter was one of the most overwhelming astonishment. It certainly did seem a most extraordinary and grotesquely impossible thing to find Miss Chapmower spoken of as the possessor of thirty-seven, not even least, but to hear her august majesty addressed in such a free and easy style as the above was little short of startling and incredible.

When she had, however, partly got over her surprise, the first thing which struck her was that the delivery of the letter must have been a mistake; she had heard of such at Christmas time, when so many letters are flying hither and thither through the land. A sad, foolish waste of time and pen and ink and her mistress always said. She therefore examined the envelope eagerly; but there was no mistake, there was Miss Chapmower's address as plain as the face of the post-office, and in Miss Chapmower's cap to view.

"Miss Rosamond Chapmower, 9, Anleigh-Terrace, Bellminster."

Then Keziah's keen eyes inspected narrowly the handwriting and the paper. But these brought no light; it was a bold, manly hand, with nothing peculiar about it, and the paper had no stamp of any sort upon it. The post-marks were simply London and Bellminster. No, Keziah could not in the least find any key to the mystery.

There was no one, she was quite certain, in the whole town or neighbourhood who, besides her mistress, bore the name of Chapmower, which made the matter yet more impossible to solve. At length a bright idea flashed across Keziah, and to her mistress, who sat by with a flushed bewildered look, and with a half-finished egg before her, she exclaimed:

"I'll tell you what it is, ma'am, it can be nothing but a piece of clean, downright imperience."

"But who, I should like to know, Keziah, could possibly dream of preparing such nonsense as this, I cried Miss Chapmower, her dignity starting up in stiffest armour at the notion."

That's more than I can say, ma'am; but there be folks going in the world that be had enough for anything, and they be generally those who do look as smooth and sweet as sugar and cream. I shouldn't be surprised if it's that oily-tongued fellow, Rolls, the confectioner. I caught him winking and grinning to his shop-boy the very last time I left the shop, and happened to look back; and he has a brother in London too!"

"I am quite sure no one in the town would have such unheard-of audacity," replied Miss Chapmower solemnly.

Nevertheless, Keziah persisted in her theory. "It's just a piece of imperience."

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

SOCK AND STOCKING KNITTING.

I DARE SAY those of my young friends who have tried the heedless stockling in such favour abroad have fancied that this style of work was but play. This primitive mode, however, was only offered to gratify fashion's current whim, and as a first dip into the mysteries of stocking knitting; not that the difficulties are very great, but like everything else worth doing, this branch has a few rules to be learnt and followed. Hence I reserve the elementary principles for a special chat with beginners.

The lesson is prepared for the clever ones already initiated into the entire management of a stocking. In anticipation of Christmas gifts and festivities, I have chosen the annexed specimens, rather lacey and pretty, so they will take some time to do, and we must set to the task immediately, if we wish to be generous with a small outlay. Therefore let us take the bull by the horns, and venture at once on the longest piece of work—the lady's stocking, with its honeycombed insertions.

Speaking, as I suppose, to experienced knitters, I need not explain the stocking row by row; the main points will be sufficient guide (see Fig. 1, 2, 3).

Materials—Chinese knitting silk, Angola wool, Victoria yarn, coloured cotton, &c.

Fig. 1. LADY'S OPENWORK STOCKING.

Fig. 2. DETAIL OF HONEYCOMB.
to stand for the seam; three more rounds plain, five rounds pur. These close circles may be reversed at will, so as to produce a band of the plain knitting, or of projecting purfs.

**Honeycomb.**—Wool forward to make one, slip one, knit one, pass slipped stitch over; repeat across the round, then knit one, purl one; the 2nd Round—Plain; purl the seam stitch. The 3rd Round like first, but to obtain the diagonal look of one face, be sure to slip the stitches in the same direction, and they will make a neat honeycomb stitch; then pass the slipped stitch over. Repeat twelve times. After the last ribbed stripe, prepare your needles for the heel. The honeycomb presents on one side slanting lines, divided by four holes, and on the other side diamond-shaped holes connected by purfs. (As seen in the detail, Fig. 2.)

**Heart-shaped Heel.**—For the handed or manufacturer's heel, I must refer you to the paper on "New Heels" in the September part of THE GIRL'S OWN PAPER, I will this time explain the convenient heart-shaped heel. Divide the stitches in two parts; forty-two for the front and forty-three for the heel. From this number you will infer that thirty-six stitches have been lost by the eighteen intakes, which, for this beautifully shaped stocking, graduate from the third band of pur, knit the remaining eighteen stitches on the needle. Turn the work, slip one, knit three, pur and the seam stitch, knit one, knit two together, but from the back, to allow the decrease to slope in the right manner—knit one. Turn, pur and until you come to the stitch above the turn, knit two together of the last row. Pur this stitch together with the next stitch. Pur another to close the decrease. By this means the intake always verges to the left of the previous one, and one fresh stitch is reduced at each row. Knit in this manner until the stitches taken together come at the end of a round, which will do after the twentieth-round. Turn and knit the next row, knitting the last two together, also to make both sides match.

**Gusset.**—Pick up, and meanwhile knit twenty-one stitches along the left side of the heel, to meet the front needles; these you knit in order to reach the right side of the heel, which you raise up as before, and then knit along the back needle to the seam. Take care to divide the stitches well between the front and back needles; the next twenty rounds, as the fingers of the palm, are marked, then cut the round, and string it on the knitting pin, and the round is repeated alternately from the front and from the back, according to the seams which the stitches should shi. After the decreasing rounds are finished, you have forty-four stitches in all on the needles; then knit fifty-seven rounds, honeycombed on the instep, afterwards six entirely plain.

**Ankle.**—Knit or purl eighty-eight stitches on each needle, for the toe will be narrowed in three sections, thus:—Knit two together, two to the back, twenty-two, plain. Two to the back, twenty-two, plain, repeat exactly for the two other needles. Five rounds plain, knit two together, two plain, two together from the back, twenty, plain; repeat twice. Five rounds plain. One decreased round, and six rounds plain, three times; one decreased round, five rounds plain, one decreased round, three rounds plain. One decreased round, and one round plain, three times. There now remain four stitches on each needle, which make in all twelve. Cast them off by knitting each needle together twice, leaving six; again knit two together three times, leaving three. Draw the wool through and secure it by two or three light stitches with a crochet-hook. Break off. This stocking measures from top to turn of heel 23½ inches, and from the back of the heel to the toe 10½ inches, allowing 11 stitches to the inch.

Now I am going to explain a sweetly pretty sock, not at all difficult to manage (Fig. 3). The design (Fig. 4) runs in a triple strip down the front, while the back is plain.

**Materials.**—Knitting cotton. No. 13, mohair or Imperial silk; needles, No. 17 or 18.

Cast on sixty-four stitches and rib, with two slipped stitches over. Repeat from * twice, pur and one, knit one from the back, pur and one, fifteen plain.

**Back.**—Seam one, knit fifteen, * pur and one, knit one from the back, pur and one, slip one, knit one, pass slipped stitch over, knit five, knit two together; repeat from * twice. Finish as above.

You thoroughly understand that the pattern requires five rounds and represents six diverging lines terminated by holes and pointing out the heart-shaped heel. The end of the pattern is produced by the result of the decreasing done alternately by taking two together or drawing one slipped stitch over. The heart-shaped heel is repeated the pattern again twelve times, and you have reached the heel, after working for the leg sixty-eight rows in all, without any decrease.

**Shell-stitch Heel.**—Divide the sixty-four stitches as follows. Twenty-seven on the heel needle and thirty-one on the two front needles. Knit the twenty-seven; then begin and forwards for twenty-nine rows, slipping the first stitch of every line.

**Turning of Heel.**—Purl back to the seam stitches, which you now continue, two together, pur one to set the decreasing; turn; knit three, knit two together from the back, knit one; turn; pur four, pur two and one; turn; pur two, knit two together, knit one; turn; pur six, pur two together, pur one; turn; knit seven, knit two together from the back, knit one. Continue thus until you have worked off all the purfs.

You have noticed a slight difference between this closing and the one described for the lady's heel, viz., the suppression of the seam stitch under the ball of the foot, and the sharper turn imparted by leaving no plain stitch on either side of the seam. I give you both ways that you can choose the one most convenient for your purpose.

**Gusset.**—Pick up and knit the fourteen slipped stitches along the sides of the heel, beginning, of course, with the left-hand one, and proceed with the pattern as you work round the front. After one plain round shape the gusset on the left-hand needle by knitting to the last six; then two together and four purfs on the right-hand needle, twenty-four plain, and two together from the back, knit one. Continue plain. Decrease thus until sixty stitches in all are left on the needles, i.e., thirty-three for the front and twenty-seven broken, and twenty-seven plain. Work nine patterns of forty-five rows, and end the openwork. Knit ten rounds plain.

**Arrangement.**—Knit twelve on each needle, and knit two together, first from the front then from the back for every round; the rest of the stitches plain. When you have made eighteen rounds you will find but two stitches on each needle. Cast these off by knitting two together three times, and draw the thread at once through the three last stitches. Break off and darn the end in and out on the right side. The length of the sock is 6½ inches from top to end of heel, 10 inches from top to toe. Twelve stitches are taken to the inch.

**Infants' Shoes.**—These are made in every family; the female members specially delight in working these little trifles for their pets, as they have the double advantage of being inexpensive and quickly made. The one shown in our illustration (Fig. 5) consists of a tiny shoe, a pair of grey silk stockings and a white fancy sock. To execute it begin with the middle of the sole. Cast on sixty-nine stitches, dividing them equally on three needles. Knit one, knit two together, knit one from the back of the seam-stitch. Finish the needle plain. Knit plain to the twelfth stitch, then three needle on the needle to meet, and finish by knitting from the back. Eleven plain; third needle, twenty-three plain. The first
Sock and Stocking Knitting.

Increase is for the toe and the second for the heel.

2nd Round.—Purl.

3rd Round.—Make two at the toe end by knitting from the front, and from the back of the two first stitches; knit plain to the heel—increase, then make two in the same manner. Finish plain.

4th Round.—Purl.

5th Round.—Plain with increase.

6th Round.—Purl.

7th Round.—Plain, with increase, widening heel for the last time. Work to the fifteenth round, enlarging the toe end only. You now have eighty-eight stitches on the needles. Nine two rounds alternately purl and plain. In the last round increase one in the centre of the second needle. Leave aside on twelve fifty of the back stitches for the upper part of the shoe; the remaining forty will be for the cap of the shoe; set them on the needles thus—twelve at the toe end on one, and fourteen on each of the side needles. The right-hand needle remains idle, and all the work is done on the left-hand one; the stitch followed is the well-known moss. Knit one, and purl one alternately, going towards the toe; leave the fourteenth on the needle, turn and work back on these thirteen, knitting the purled stitches and purling the knitted ones of preceding row. Turn and work down again, this time knitting the spare stitch together with the last.

4th Round.—Turn and knit back. In the 5th and every other row, knut up one of the toe stitches together with the last, till all the twelve have been worked off.

28th Row.—Work down again.

29th Row.—Return, and at the beginning knit the fourteenth stitch off the right-hand needle.

30th Row.—Work to the toe end; turn the shoe inside out, and cast off together the thirteen stitches from the two side needles. Next make the roll by knitting four rounds on the fifty stitches left aside and the stitches of the cap; cast off. 

Left.—This is worked from the shoe upwards in the shell or inverted wave pattern, one curve being sunken and the other raised by purfs which almost conceal the holes. The former requires six stitches, and the latter twelve; pick up and knit along the cap eighteen stitches, taking them four rows inwards, not to spoil the roll; pull back on these eighteen, at the same time purling one stitch from the side of the foot together with the first and last stitch. In the third row commence the pattern for the instep, which contains a complete sunken curve, and two halves of the inverted ones. Purl two together three times; purl one and make one six times; purl two together three times.

4th Row.—Purl eighteen, catching the first and last stitch as before always below the roll.

5th Row.—Knit eighteen.

6th Row.—Purl eighteen.

7th Row.—Like third.

8th Row.—Similar to fourth.

9th Row.—Same as fifth.

10th Row.—Replication of sixth. Continue thus until the fourteenth row, when you will have secured seven of the side stitches, leaving eighteen on each. Work the fifth row, and instead of turning back, pick up with a third needle the stitches along the right-hand side, following on the pattern, i.e., purl three times; two together; purl one and make one six times; purl two; purl three times.

16th Row.—Turn, slip the first stitch, purl the remaining thirty-five. With a fresh pin pick up and purl the stitches along the left-hand side of the foot.

17th Row.—Turn, slip one, knit fifty-three.

18th Row.—Turn, slip one, purl fifty-three.

19th Row.—Turn, purl two together three times, * purl one and make one six times; purl two together six times, * repeat from *, then purl one and make one six times, purl two together three times.

20th, 21st, and 22nd rows are like the 16th, 17th, and 18th. Five more patterns, then three plain rows.

You are ready for the seven rows of ribs, in three plain and three purpl. Cast off and trim with a crochet edge as follows: One double crochet into the centre of a rib; one chain, one picot (of five chains and one single), one chain, repeat seventeen times.

Through a row of holes thread an anklet of half-inch coloured ribbon.

Baby's Shoe.

Begin with the sole. Cast on two needles, fifty-three stitches. Knit in garter stitch for eleven rows (Fig. 6).

Instep.—12th Row. Knit twenty; * slip one, knit two, purl two together, pass slipstitch over, knit two, make one by throwing the wool over the needle. Knit one, purl one, knit one, make one, knit two, slip one, knit two together; pass slipstitch over *, knit two. These stitches from * to * are reserved for the instep, and will remain the same to the thirty-second row inclusive. The purl stitch always stands for the centre, and the middle ones give perpendicular lines of holes on either side. Every alternate row is, of course, purl. The plain stitches gradually added on each end form the sides. Two extra needles are now required.

Having worked the twenty plain and the fifteen ribbed, turn the knitting, leaving eighteen on the left-hand needle.

13th Row.—With a fresh pin purl fifteen; leave eighteen on the right-hand needle; take a fourth pin and work over the fifteen purl stitches.

14th Row.—Slip one, repeat instep pattern from * to *, knit one, knit two off the left-hand needle, which has remained idle. You have fifteen stitches on the centre pin.

15th Row.—Turn and purl fifteen; pull two off the right-hand needle, also idle. Hence from the fourteenth to the thirty-second inclusive you add two stitches at each line.

16th Row.—Slip one. Repeat from * to *, knit one and the two extra stitches.

17th Row.—Purl.

18th Row.—Slip one, knit two, repeat from * to *, knit two and the two extra ones. Knit every alternate line.

20th Row.—Slip one, knit three, repeat from * to *, knit three and the two extra stitches.

22nd Row.—Slip one, knit four, repeat from * to *, knit three and the two extra. You have now twenty-five stitches on the front needle and eight on each of the side ones, in all forty-one.

24th Row.—Turn, slip one, knit five, repeat from * to *, knit six, and the eight left on the adjoining needle.

25th Row.—Purl all on the front needle, as well as the eight left on the opposite needle. Two of the pins are then suppressed, and the remainder of the shoe is executed with two only.

26th Row.—Slip one. Knit twelve, repeat from * to *, knit thirteen.

28th Row.—Slip one, knit eleven; repeat from * to *, knit twelve.

30th Row.—Slip one, knit ten; repeat from * to *, knit eleven.

Fig. 5.—Baby's Shoe.
...slip one, knit nine; repeat from * to *, knit ten. See that you have thirty-one stitches on the needle. The shoe is finished.

 Anklets.—Three rows of garter stitch. 30th Row.—Runner. Slip one, make one, knit two together to the end; three rows of garter stitch.

 Leg. Most Stitch.—30th Row.—Knit one, purlo one, etc. 43rd Row.—Purl every other row purled. 49th Row.—Purl one, knit one to the end. 44th Row.—Knit one, purlo one, etc. Increase also one at each end of the row, doing the same in the 50th and 52nd Row.

 50th Row.—Like the 49th.

 52nd Row.—Knit one, purlo one, etc. After this row stop the increasing by which you have obtained eight more stitches.

 54th Row.—Purl one, knit one to the end. Two rows of garter stitch; finish by ten rows of broken stitch, make thus: slip one, knit one; slip as though you were going to purl, knit two together, continue from *. Work the second and all subsequent rows in the same manner, being careful to knit together the made stitch and its fellow one produced by the two drawn together in the previous line. The stitch, slipped purl fashion, stands out by itself as a raised web. Two rows of purlo. Cast off very loosely, and sew the shoe together on the wrong side, stitch by stitch, tightening the heel and toe to round them off better. Importantly, finish with a small crochet edging in silk; one chain, one double crochet through every other cast off stitch. 2nd Row.—One treble, six long trebles, one treble through one chain to the third from the end of the second row, and then, and so on. A pretty vandyke can also be formed with the point de neige, making five or six chain between each stitch.

 Thread a narrow ribbon through the runner and tie in front.

 In answer to your question we must inform you that all the varieties of the point de neige can be worked both in a narrow and wide way. In the first instance you cast off and break the wool at each end, and work the remaining edges round and round, increasing at the corners by four chain, on the return of the round make two additional stars. Be careful to remember the four chain at the beginning of each round, which stands for the foundation of the point. Then this point lace will also form a charming edging, worked in some contrasted color, to make a mere crocheting four chain between each star.

 B. and S. C. and Henry R. St. Clare.—All the instructions for crocheting the point de neige to work with a thumb and the following recipe given, the same number of stitches which we can supply them. Cast on a sufficient number of stitches to cover the base of the foot. For the size of the needles, and consistencies of the wool, allowance must, of course, be made on their own judgment. 1st Row.—Knit in simple garter-stitch, or in long rib, until you have made a place large enough, and then employ to cover the back of the hand, but also to reach half way round the palm, in order to conceal the seam, that will form in the middle of the back, of the palm. On reaching the right place for the thumb, bind off the row, and leave the wool hanging loosely for a time. You will require it again shortly. Then take a needle threaded with wool or cotton, and pass it through the last seven stitches. Secure this thread by means of a knot, to prevent the dropping of the stitches, and when you think the thumb be completed, 36 stitches will now remain on the needle, divided into two equal parts, and with the empty needle draw it through the 5th stitch, so as to form an extra row. Make five more in a similar manner. These different stitches which will serve for the foundation longitudinally, of the thumb. The needles being removed, bind off the thumb; but the guide must now be formed thus: knit the six stitches, and purl one; knit the sizes are the same, seven in all. Turn, slip the first stitch, and knit the remaining six. Knit back again, taking another from the needle, and knit six more stitches, knit and slip seven; and continues in this way until 25 stitches have been increased; 25 more will be left on the needle for the wrist. The thumb being now finished, cast off the same number of stitches that you added for the thumb, which is six, and break the wool. You must here put back the seven additional stitches, which will hold its original number once more—21 stitches; and you have now 27 stitches to move and forwards as before, until you have a sufficient number of rows, when cast off, and sew up the bottom, and afterwards the two edges of the thumb, completing the work.

 MAGAZINE for Ladies During July 1897, page 345. There are other articles on this work, so you had better refer to the back numbers of the magazine for instruction in the matter.

 EDUCATIONAL.—

 NELLI—Apply for all particulars to the secretary or head mistress, Miss Russ. The fees are from 3 to 4½ for any three subjects taken at once, and an additional charge per subject, to assist those who desire a little extra teaching; but the classes are not very large, and are given free to pupils who cannot attend the school. The school is well fitted up.

 PAULA L. LAVASONI writes an admirable hand herself; her wishes will be considered. Address Mrs. Pele, Tremeurs, the wood, near Cambridge, for all information respecting instruction by correspondence; she will supply the books and all the subjects. The fees for a year's course (which synchronises with the terms of the University school) four guineas; a four months' course two guineas; teachers half a guinea each. There is a loan fund for further reduction.

 Euphy Ta—You will have to be contented with bookkeeping. There is a class held for training young women as clerks and bookkeepers, on the evening of 2nd and 3rd of every week at 6 o'clock, at the office of the Society for the Employment of Women, Liverpool Street, W. We are glad that you took courage to write to us, as you are so good as to say from "Freedom and patience with others." We shall always be pleased to hear from, and connect you with

 VERNON, NURSES.—Nursing as a Profession.

 R. N. F.—Use a lemon to take off the stains on your fingers. Trim the hat with rows of lace, either black or white, that choose top of *, until your writing seems careless.

 DULCET.—Use a darker red to trim it with; pale blue is used to mix with red at present. You might use both a dark red and the pale blue for the foliage.

 DECU.—To Awake is an irregular verb. We recommend to all those learning English Tongues, by Angers.

 FAREWELL.—These words deserve our best thanks. You write a pretty, well-formed hand. We are glad you like our articles on Needlework. We have every reason to believe that if you continue to write we shall soon learn the organ stops; but the playing with the piano is as well. It is all a matter of taste. Your voice is trying to the back. To many women it would be a relief.

 PARADOX.—We are unable to supply addresses of foreign schools; but it is quite possible that a situation may arise in such a place, at a German school. Look amongst the advertisements in the newspapers, and you will find the names of persons who cannot assist you in disposing of your poems in any magazines.

 MISCELLANEOUS.—

 EMILY.—We cannot give addresses. Do not go beyond your ordinary friendly behavior.

 CANDY.—You have probably received your certificate by this time. We are very pleased to see that your father, Mr. Felix of Pisa, who deserted the Ghibellines, hoping to obtain supreme power in Pisa, and formed an alliance with Giovanni Visconti, who was to supply him with soldiers; but the plot was discovered and both were hanged. In the end the Count fell into the hands of an enemy, who proved a monster of cruelty for him and his family, and was himself starved to death in the Torre del Rain, Pisa. After his death the followers of the Ghibellines were named "running one."

 ACCOUNT.—A little soda in water is said not to be injurious, and yet to soften very hard water. It is well-beaten to answer all invitations, whether for your own health, or for that of others.

 THE EVERGREEN SISTERS.—Always take your music when you go. If you are perhaps in the habit of "running down," he asked to do so, it is a very valuable accomplishment, and you will be able to play by memory.

 EADILS.—"This is how the doctors will be," will you give him the information on "Blind Stocking."

 E. F. B.—If you are going to have your hair cut, you are especially to have it cut low. You may take a paragraph into your notice of "The New Romance." It will be the best to begin upon. Of course her progress will depend on her perseverance. Your writing and composition are very good.

 FERN.—Read "Pressed Grasses and Ferns," page 345.

 EMMA ROSE.—The fire of scintillating point to a very irritating effect, because it seems to be that which the lining membrane of the nostrils. Now whatever tends to give tone to the general system will help to excite them. These, when used regularly, and regularly, and two or three months' course of the not-lavendered water will do all. A bit of honey food would also do, a good dessert twice a week or, as the French say, "le vrai caramelo,"

 HEARTBREAK.—If you want staffed birds well in cases for the corners of your rooms, you must be set upon artificial eggs and turned birds. They might then be placed upon brackets; very charming ones may be bought for a shilling a pair, or two. These brackets are of carved wood, made abroad, and look very nice on the walls of a room. 2nd February, 1867, fell on a Saturday, and August red, 1868, on a Friday.

 CLEAN.—The breath in the voice is caused by constitutional debility. You must endeavor to strengthen your system by wholesome food, and to make cheerful and cheerful occupations, by a glass of milk, or in any other way, which you do you a deal of good if you could take if not, try a course of daily exercise. To this, a glass of wine, a daily teaspoonful of parsley, and the same at night, a glass of water, will make an excellent breakfast. If the breath of the patient is of the day is not half enough, nor a fourth enough for marked improvement. Yet, remember, it is at all events a sign of the health of the patient, and an indication of the verge of fatigue. Handsome glowing.