

OUR DICTIONARY OF NEEDLEWORK.

NO. II.—CROCHET.

BY MRS. JANE WEAVER.

IMPLEMENTS FOR CROCHET.—A needle of ivory, bone, or steel, with a hook at the end; whatever the material, the hook should be rounded at the end, and quite free from sharpness.

POSITION OF THE HANDS IN CROCHET.—The crochet-hook is held lightly in the right hand, between the thumb and the forefinger. The hook should be kept in a horizontal position, never twisted round in the fingers. The work is held close to the last stitch, between the thumb and forefinger of the left hand; the thread, crossing the fore and middle fingers of that hand, is held firmly between the latter and the third, and a space of about an inch is maintained between the fore and second fingers. A very slight motion of the left wrist, by which the second and third fingers are drawn back, suffices to lay the thread over the hook, and then a movement of the thumb and forefinger toward the middle one forms the thread so laid into a new chain-stitch. Thus, the chain-stitch is made without any movement of the right hand, which not only gives a much more elegant appearance to the hands, but also enables the lady to work much faster than she would if both hands were constantly moving.

CHAIN-STITCH.—Make a slip-knot at the end of the cotton, insert the hook in it; place your hands in the position already described, and make the requisite number of stitches as directed.

DOUBLE CHAIN-STITCH.—This is a stronger and firmer chain-stitch than the ordinary one; and as it resembles braid, is sometimes termed braid-stitch. When you have done two ordinary chain-stitches, besides the one on the needle, insert the hook in the first of those two, draw the thread at once through them both: then continue to insert the hook in the stitch just finished, as well as the loop on it already, and draw the thread through both.

SLIP-STITCH.—Insert the hook in a stitch, (having already one loop on it,) and draw the thread through both. This stitch is frequently used to pass from one part to another of a round, as by it there is hardly any depth added.

SINGLE CROCHET.—Having one loop on the hook, insert the latter in a stitch or chain, and draw the thread through in a loop. You have now two on the hook. Draw the thread through both.

SHORT DOUBLE CROCHET.—Having one loop on the hook already, pass the thread round it, and insert it in the stitch to be worked. Draw the thread through. You have now two loops on the needle, besides the thread passing round it, which we may call another. Draw the thread through all three at once.

DOUBLE CROCHET.—Begin as for the last; but when you have the three on the needle, draw the thread through two only. This leaves one besides the newly formed one. Draw the thread through both.

SHORT TREBLE CROCHET.—Pass the thread twice round the needle, before inserting it in the stitch. Draw the thread through, which is equivalent to four loops on the hook. Draw the thread through two; which leaves two, and the new one. Draw the thread through all three together.

TREBLE CROCHET.—Work as for the last, until you have four loops on the hook. Draw the thread, then, through two only at a time, so that it will take a treble movement to get them all off the needle.

LONG TREBLE CROCHET.—Pass the thread three times, before drawing it through the stitch, thus having five loops on the needle. Draw the thread through two at a time, until all are taken off. This will require four movements.

SQUARE CROCHET.—Square crochet is either open or close. Close consists of three consecutive double crochet stitches. For an open square, do one double crochet, two chain, miss two. Thus either takes up three stitches, so that the foundation chain for any piece of square crochet may be reckoned by multiplying by three, and allowing one stitch over. A piece of fifty squares would require a hundred and fifty-one foundation chain.

LONG SQUARE CROCHET.—By this method any ordinary square crochet pattern may be done on an increased scale. Allow four chain for the foundation of every square, with one extra. Then a close square will be four treble crochet stitches; an open square, one treble crochet stitch, three chain, miss three.

TO CONTRACT AN EDGE.—This may be done while working double crochet, treble crochet, or

long treble. In any one of these, do half the complete stitch, but instead of completing it, twist the thread round the needle again, until, on bringing it through the next stitch, you will have as many as before. Finish the stitch in the ordinary way; by this means you have worked two stitches at the bottom, and one only at the top. This stitch is frequently used in forming flowers.

TO ENLARGE AN EDGE.—This is also chiefly done when imitating natural flowers. It may occur with a double, treble, or long treble stitch. In either case work the next shortest stitch to it, on the side instead of on the chain-stitch. Suppose there is a long treble stitch, and you wish to increase the edge. Do a treble crochet stitch, inserting your hook in the side of the long treble: then a double crochet on the side of the treble, and a single on the double. Thus, with one stitch only on the chain, or last row, you would have four at the edge. This is much smoother and flatter than working four stitches in one.

TO JOIN A THREAD.—Always manage to do this in any but chain-stitches.

RIBBED CROCHET.—This is always worked backward and forward; and is produced by inserting the hook in the back of the chain, instead of the front, as is usual. Finish a stitch with the new thread, leaving a short end of both, of it and the old one, which hold in as you work.

TO WORK WITH SEVERAL COLORS.—This is always in single crochet. Hold in those threads not in use, at the back of your work, occasionally working over them, so that the loops may not be too long. When a new color is to be introduced, finish the old stitch with it. Thus, if two scarlet three green were ordered, you would work one complete scarlet. Begin the next stitch with the same; but instead of using scarlet to draw through two loops on your hook, to complete the stitch, you would draw green through. So if only one stitch of a color is ordered, you do not do the perfect stitch, but you finish one, and begin the next with it. Sometimes in working over cord in several colors it is desirable to have the part covering the cord in one color, and the upper or chain-like part in another. To do this, begin the stitch with one color, and finish with another. The upper half of the stitch is always of the old color. Thus three and a half green one and a half white, would be three perfect green; then begin the fourth stitch white, but finish it in green. The fifth stitch all white.

TO WORK OVER CORD.—Frequently done in making mats, baskets, &c. Hold the cord along the top of the work, insert the hook as usual,

and bring out the loop of wool, under the cord. Finish the stitch over the cord.

TO WORK IN BOTH SIDES OF A CHAIN.—Along the top of every line of crochet is the appearance of a chain, or succession of tambour stitches. Usually, the hook is inserted in the front one only of these; but occasionally in both, where strength is likely to be required.

TO WORK UNDER A CHAIN.—The hook is inserted under, instead of in a stitch: it will then slip backward and forward.

CROCHET WITH BEADS.—This is so common now, for jeweled d'Oyleys, mats, and other articles in cotton work, as well as for those in silk and metal beads, that directions for these will certainly be acceptable.

It must be remembered that beads are dropped on what is always considered the wrong side of a piece of crochet. In working from an engraving, therefore, work from left to right.

Beads may be placed on any kind of stitch. A chain-stitch will require one; a single crochet, the same; a double crochet, two; a treble crochet, three; a long treble, four. All are put on after bringing the thread through the stitch. In s c, d c, t c, l t c, a bead is put on with each movement.

TO INCREASE IN JWELED D'OYLEYS, &c.—Do one chain-stitch where an increase is required, instead of two s c in one. Thus you avoid a hole, always produced by the other method, in s c. In these d'Oyleys, the pattern is made in beads, on a cotton ground. As it is requisite that the beads should set very flat, any increase must always be in the cotton stitches.

TO CHOOSE COTTON AND BEADS WHICH WILL WORK WELL TOGETHER.—The cotton should be as thick as it is at all easy to get the beads over. If they run on too easily, the work will not look well.

TO MARK THE COMMENCEMENT OF A ROUND IN D'OYLEYS, AND SIMILAR ARTICLES.—Take a bit of colored thread if the ground be white, or *vice versa*, and draw one end of it through the last stitch of the first round, as you form it. Continue to draw it through the front part of the chain of the last stitch of every round. By doing this from the beginning, the plan is easily kept: otherwise it will be found a constant trouble to mark the stitch terminating the round, although the accuracy of the pattern depends on it.

THE SIMPLEST WAY OF COUNTING A FOUNDATION CHAIN WHICH IS AFTERWARD TO BE WORKED IN SET PATTERNS.—Instead of counting the entire length of stitches, which is both troublesome and confusing, count in the number required for a single pattern, and then begin over again.

Thus, if each pattern requires twenty-five chains, count so far, and then begin again: this will ensure your having the proper number to complete patterns.

DRAWING PAPER—Used for taking off patterns should be, not the tissue paper, but very thin bank post, or tracing paper—a paper rendered transparent with oil. It may be purchased of any artist's colorman.

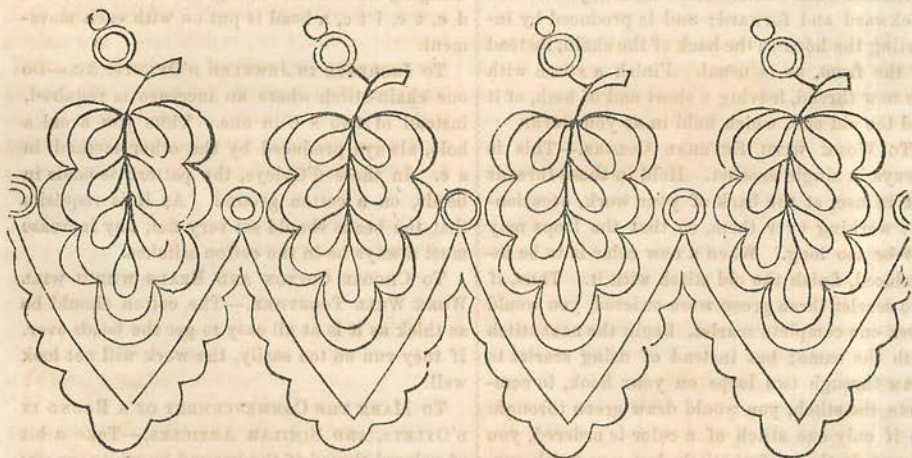
CONTRACTIONS IN CROCHET.

- ch. Chain-stitch.
- dch. Double chain-stitch, or braid-stitch.
- sl. Slip-stitch.
- sc. Single crochet.
- sd. Short double crochet.
- dc. Double crochet.
- stc. Short treble crochet.
- tc. Treble crochet.
- ltc. Long treble crochet.
- m. Miss.

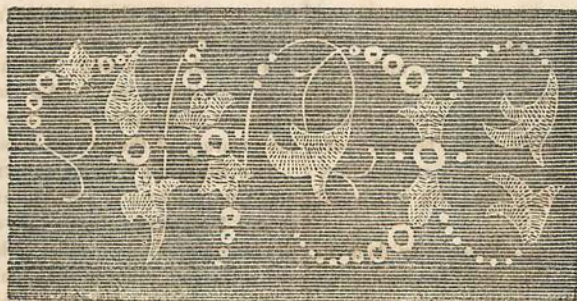
TO INCREASE THE SIZE OF AN ENGRAVED PATTERN.—It is frequently necessary to give, in the Magazine, a design which cannot be engraved of the full size. This causes some trouble to those who cannot readily enlarge a pattern for themselves.

But the method of doing it is, however, very simple. Take a piece of paper, the full size required for the article, and rule lines across it, at equal distances, throughout the length and width. Rule the same number of lines, also at equal distances, on the reduced pattern. The squares will of course be much smaller. It will be easy, with this aid to the eye, to get every scroll and flower in a square of the small pattern into the same space of the large one. When half of a collar or any other article is marked, if the other half corresponds with it—as it usually does, it ought to be transferred to tracing paper, by means of which the other half may be taken.

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