

# OUR DICTIONARY OF NEEDLEWORK

## NO. VII.—KNITTING.

BY MRS. JANE WEAVER.

**IMPLEMENTS FOR KNITTING.**—Needles, (or pins, as they are sometimes called,) of bone, ivory, or steel. They should be evenly thick throughout, except the ends, tapered to a point, without any sharpness. Some have knobs of ivory to prevent the work from slipping off at one end. Unless when, from the size of the work, long needles are indispensable, short ones will be found by far the most convenient.

**CASTING ON.**—Hold the end of cotton between the third and little fingers of the left hand, and let it pass over the thumb and forefinger. Bend the latter, and straighten it again, so that in the operation the thread shall be twisted into a loop. Now catch the cotton over the little finger of the right hand, letting it pass under the third and second, and over the forefinger. Take up a knitting-needle and insert it in the loop on the forefinger of the left hand; bring the thread round the needle; turn the point of the needle slightly toward you, and tighten the loop, while slipping it off the finger. Take the needle now in the left hand, holding it lightly between the thumb and second finger, leaving the forefinger free. This needle is kept under the hand. The other rests over the division between the thumb and forefinger of the right hand, and the thumb lightly pressing against it, holds it in its place. The forefinger has the thread carried from the left hand over the nail of it. Insert the point of the right-hand needle in the loop of the left-hand one; put the thread round it, and let it form a loop. Transfer the loop to the left-hand needle, but without withdrawing the other needle from it. Again put the thread round, to form a fresh loop, which slip on the left-hand needle, and repeat the process.

**PLAIN KNITTING.**—Slip the point of the right-hand needle in a loop, put the thread round it, and draw it out in a new loop.

**PURLING.**—Slip the right-hand needle through a loop, in the front of the left-hand one, so that its point is the nearest to you. The thread passes between the two, and is brought round the right-hand one, which is drawn out to form a loop on it. The thread is always brought to the front before purl stitches, unless particular directions to the contrary are given.

**TWISTED KNITTING.**—Insert the needle in the stitch to be knitted, at the back of the left-hand one, and, as it were, in the latter half of the loop. Finish the stitch in the usual way.

**TWISTED PURLING.**—Insert the right-hand needle in the stitch, not crossing the left-hand one, as is usual, but parallel with it. When the loop is on it, it can return to its usual place, and be finished like any other purled stitch.

**TO MAKE STITCHES.**—To make one stitch, merely bring the thread in front before knitting a stitch, as, in order to form the new stitch, it must pass over the needle, thus making one. To make two, three, or more, pass the thread round the needle in addition: once, to make two; twice, to increase three, and so on; but when the succeeding stitch to a made stitch is purled, you must bring the thread in front, and put it once round the needle, to make one stitch.

**TO TAKE IN.**—(*Decrease.*)—Either knit two as one, which is marked in receipts as k 2 t; or, slip one, knit one, pass the slip-stitch over the knitted. This is either written in full, or decrease 1. When three have thus to be made into one, slip one, knit two together, and pass the slip over.

**TO SLIP.**—Take a stitch from the left to the right-hand needle, without knitting.

**TO RAISE A STITCH.**—Knit as a stitch the bar of thread between two stitches.

**TO JOIN A ROUND.**—Four needles are used in stockings, mittens, gloves, and any other work which is round without being sewed up. Divide the number of stitches to be cast on by three. Cast a third on one needle. Take the second needle, slip it into the last stitch, and cast on the required number. The same with the third. Then knit two stitches off from the first needle on to the third. The round being thus formed, begin to use the fourth needle for knitting.

**TO JOIN THE TOE OF A SOCK, ETC.**—Divide the entire number of stitches, putting half on each of two needles, taking care that all the front ones are on one needle, and the sole on another. Knit one off from each needle as one. Repeat. Then pass the first over the second. Continue as in ordinary casting off.

**TO CAST OFF.**—Knit two stitches; pass the one

first knitted over the other; knit another; pass the former over this one. Continue so.

**BRIOCHE STITCH.**—The number cast on for brioche stitch must always be divisible by three, without a remainder. Bring the thread in front, slip one, knit two together. It is worked the same way backward and forward.

**GARTER STITCH.**—Plain knitting in anything which is in rows, not rounds. The sides appear alike.

**MOSS STITCH.**—Knit one, purl one, alternately. In the next row let the knitted stitch come over the purl, and *vice versa*.

**TO KNIT RAPIDLY AND EASILY.**—Hold the needles as near to the points as possible, and have no more motion in the hands than you can avoid. Keep the forefinger of the left hand free to feel the stitches, slide them off the needle, &c. The touch of this finger is so delicate that by using it constantly you will soon be able to knit in the dark.

**RIBBED KNITTING.**—Knit and purl alternately

so many stitches as two. In rounds the knitted must always come over the knitted, and purl over purl. But in rows, the purl stitch will be done over the knitted, and *vice versa*. Thus if you end a row with a purl stitch, that stitch must be knitted at the beginning of the next row, to make it right.

**CONTRACTIONS IN KNITTING.**—K. Knit (plain knit.)

P. Purl.

M. Make (increase.)

K 2t. Knit two as one. K 3t. Knit three as one.

D 1. Decrease one, by taking off a loop without knitting; then knit one, and pass the other over it.

D 2. Decrease two; slip one; knit two together, and pass the slip-stitch over.

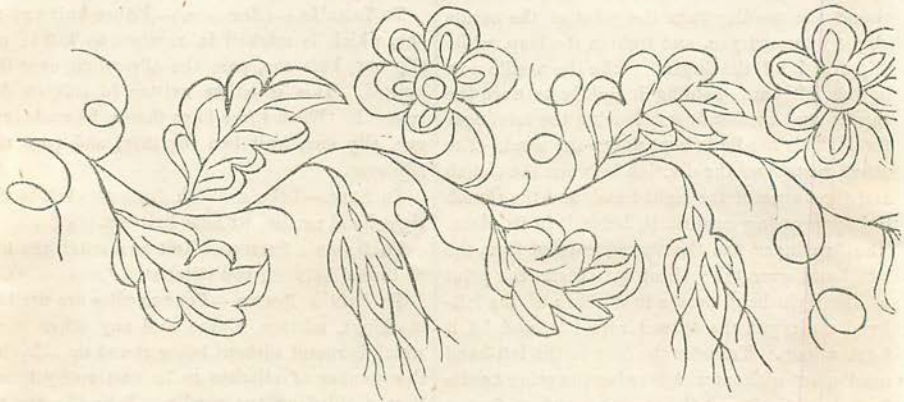
Sl. Slip.

R. Raise.

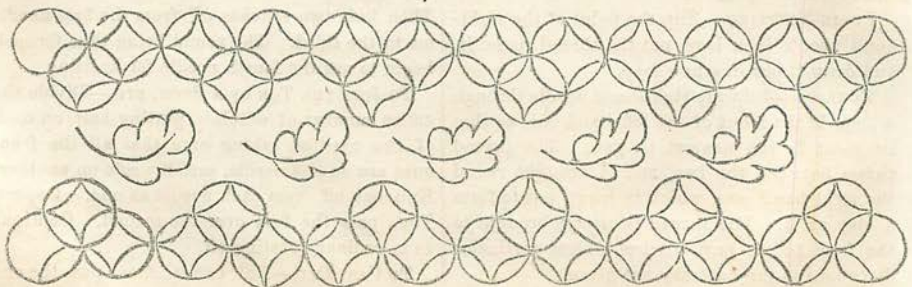
T.K. Twisted knitted stitch.

T.P. Twisted purl stitch.

## VARIETIES IN EMBROIDERY.



FUCHSIA PATTERN FOR FLANNEL.



WHEEL AND LEAF PATTERN.