

OUR DICTIONARY OF NEEDLEWORK.

NO. VIII.—SILKS, WOOLS, &c. &c.

BY MRS. JANE WEAVER.

SILKS.

CROCHET SILK.—A hard-twisted silk, used for knitting and crochet. The sizes vary from one to five; the latter being the finest. Nos. 1, 2, and 3, are the most common. Observe, there is an immense difference both in the quality and price of crochet silk. Some work into a substance with scarcely any more gloss than cotton. In all respectable Berlin houses, the maker's name is attached to every skein. Pearsall's silks hold a high position, both for quality and tint.

NETTING SILK is not twisted so hard as crochet silk. The crochet silk is, however, often used for it.

SOIE D'AVIGNON.—This is an extremely fine silk, sold in reels. It is suited for the very finest (or fairy) netting. It is not generally obtainable, but is frequently mentioned in the periodicals.

CHINE SILK.—Netting or crochet silk shaded in more colors than one. Sold in reels or skeins.

OMBRE SILK.—Silk shaded in tints of one color only.

FLOSS SILK.—Sold in short twisted skeins. A very beautiful material, used in working flowers, &c.

DACCA SILK.—Used much in embroidery; is a sort of medium between the hard-twisted crochet silk and the floss, which it rather resembles; but it is put up in longer skeins.

FILOSELLE.—A coarse fabric, not of pure silk, although extremely brilliant, and capable of receiving the finest dyes. It is sold in large skeins, each weighing about a quarter of an ounce. Used much in tapestry and the coarser sorts of embroidery.

CHINA SILK.—A very fine silk, sold on very small reels.

SEWING SILK.—Sold in long skeins.

CHENILLES.—This beautiful substance presents the appearance of velvet. It is made in various thicknesses.

EMBROIDERY CHENILLE is not much coarser than crochet silk. It is greatly used in embroidery on canvas, satin, or cloth. There are gradations from this size to the thickness of a finger. The very thick is called *Rolio Chenille*.

WIRE CHENILLE.—This is made in as many thicknesses as the other. A wire is worked in the centre of it, so that it can be formed into loops, leaves, &c.

WOOLS.

The ordinary kinds are Shetland, Berlin, fleecy, and carpet yarn; also worsted, lamb's wool, and Pyrenees.

SHETLAND.—A very fine wool, used for veils, shawls, &c. It is not very much twisted.

PYRENEES.—This wool is of nearly the same thickness as Shetland, but more twisted. The dye of the colored Pyrenees is remarkably beautiful and fast, owing, it is said, to some peculiar property of the waters on the mountains, whence it derives its name. It is rarely met with genuine in this country.

BERLIN WOOL.—Only procurable in two thicknesses, four thread and eight thread, commonly called single and double Berlin. There are at least a thousand shades of this wool.

FLEECY.—A cheaper wool than Berlin, and now obtainable in a number of beautiful colors. It is made in two-thread, four, six, eight, ten, and twelve-thread, and is sold by the pound.

CREWELS.—Fine wool, sold in tightly twisted skeins, like crochet silk. Used for samplers. Very little used. It is suitable, however, for embroidering on muslin.

CRYSTAL WOOLS are wools round which bright gold or silver paper, or foil, is wound. This gives them a very gay appearance. They are sometimes called spangled wools.

PEARL WOOL.—This is a dye of modern invention. The wool is alternately white and colored, in one, two, or three colors, each not more than a quarter of an inch in length. It is a variety of Berlin made in four-thread or eight-thread.

CHINE WOOL.—Wool shaded in various colors.

OMBRE WOOL, OR SHADED WOOL.—Shaded in one coloring. Observe that every color but blue is pretty in this dye.

CRYSTAL TWINE.—A fine cord, sold in balls, either colored, or to imitate pure gold or silver. The two latter are called gold twine, and silver twine.

CROCHET CORD.—This is just like window-blind cord, but white, and of various thicknesses;

covered with wool or silk, in crochet, for mats. Caruntille, a fine wire used in flowers.

BRAIDS, (SILK.)

RUSSIAN BRAID is flat, and with even edges. Each knot is of one color only. The best is firm, even, and glossy.

STAR BRAID.—This braid appears like a succession of diamonds; the edges, therefore, are in points. It is an extremely pretty braid.

EUGENIE BRAID.—This appears as if crimped, or waved with irons.

ALBERT BRAID is more properly a fine fancy cord. For sofa cushions and ottomans it has a much richer effect than flat braid, especially if two shades or colors are laid on close together.

SOUTACHE.—A French name for very pretty ornamental braids, often combining gold and silver with chenilles, silks, &c. They are made in every variety of shade and pattern. Sold in pieces of about thirteen yards long.

Broad silk braids, used for aprons, children's dresses, &c., are rarely found in this country.

BRAIDS, (COTTON.)

FRENCH WHITE COTTON BRAID.—The term French applies to the *plait*, which looks as if woven. The best comes from Paris, and is very firm, even, and close; varies in size from No. 1 (very narrow) to No. 14.

MOHAIR BRAID.—Narrow, closely woven, brown or black silk braid, for chains.

RUSSIA COTTON BRAID is plaited like the hair formed into what is called the Grecian plait. It is used for children's dresses.

WAVED BRAID is another variety, used for the same purpose.

EUGENIE TAPE is a cotton braid, crimped like the Eugenie braid. It is nearly one-third of an inch wide.

WORSTED BRAID.—That usually sold is narrow, and intended for braiding anti-macassars, &c. It is in various colors, and washes well. It can also be had wider, for children's dresses.

VARIETIES IN EMBROIDERY.

BY MRS. JANE WEAVER.



EDGING FOR SKIRT.



EDGING FOR CHEMISE.



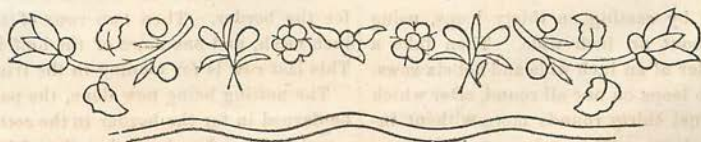
BRAIDING.



CHAIN STITCHING.



CHAIN STITCHING FOR FLANNEL SKIRT.



EDGING.