LACE COLLARS AND YOKES AS GIFTS

BY LILLIAN M. SEIDEL

Illustrated with Photographs

SIMPBLICITY in design and unity in the working out of it are essential points in handmade lace-work. Many charming articles for gifts or for personal use may be made, which are useful in this holiday season, if one has some patience and a little skill and pays attention to the details. Among the many varieties of lace and designs considerable ingenuity may be displayed.

The lace collar shown here is made of Brussels braid, using No. 20 linen thread.

Renaissance Stock Collar

This collar is particularly handsome when made up and is to be used almost exclusively with heavy broadcloth or velvet jackets. The stitches are the plain Russian, taking up a stitch in the open part of the braid exactly as you would in hand-sewing, crossing over diagonally, picking up the braid in the same manner, and so on until the entire leaf is made. The center leaves and corners are the Scruente leaves, running two parallel threads from stem to tip of leaf, weaving in and out until the thread is completely covered. The veins are a single thread, which is buttonholed being careful to have the buttoning run in the same direction, laid perfectly smooth. The entire filling should be couched, which have been already described.

Too much stress cannot be laid on this. Make all your leaves alike; flowers the same, buds, filling. Many lace-makers use such a variety of stitches, which lessens the work. The beauty of the intricate labor is lost in this endless variety, which is a hopeless, endless task. Take a rose leaf, bud, and background: the center of the rose naturally in a circle, the leaves one fine stitch, after the Valenciennes school, the background a edgework. Now fancy, as I saw today, the simplest collar imaginable, each thread so carefully done, a piece of elaborate work, every leaf and petal might have stood for a rose or a carnation, and the background was a little of every stitch in the calendar of needle-work. The person who had accomplished months of patient labor "to have a real lace collar to hand down to her grandchildren," had succeeded in binding down a sampler of stitches, but nothing to show whether she had made a grappes, Valenciennes, or point lace collar. She was triumphant over the fact that "she could make stitches with the best of them." So do, if you wish to put any value into your work, keep within the confines of a certain type.
and you certainly will be gratified with the result.

Beginners in lace-making make a mistake in attempting big designs. A tiny tie end of the little two-inch collars have enough stitches on which to do the first practicing; for an article once started, of large design and handsome braid as the first outline, is more apt to be laid away in disgust. A bolero jacket, if properly made, takes two or three months of the most infinite care. Whereas, if you take as a design any of the little collars pictured here, you will have finished after a day or two of work something dainty and pretty. You will have learned several stitches, and then be in a position to do something on a larger scale.

Every housekeeper has bits of embroidery left from her white sewing. Little bags made from ends of open-work embroidery are one of the greatest essentials for keeping your thread immaculate. It is no trouble to cut them. Four inches in length, by two to three in width, is sufficient. Sew the edges together to form a bag, and run a quarter of a yard of baby ribbon through the open embroidery. The dainty and neat this is, is of course the latter. You should let the thread pass through one embroidered eyelet-hole. When the thread is in the bag, tie the ribbon securely. This not only keeps the thread perfectly immaculate, but in place as well. The most effective work is raised by using colored thread, which is a standing approach to the worker.

The pretty collar here shown is designed for a child. It is an open-work Renaissance braid, easily made and wearing very well. No, 300 thread is used for the stitches, the French twist, edging, and an open mesh being used for the outer leaves. A week's careful work will give you a dainty little collar, lovely for either house or outdoor wear.

The edging stitch makes it light and dainty. The design is quite as good for a collar for a child's frock or for a young woman; in the latter case, however, the design would be drawn a bit larger than for the former. Any of these designs adapt themselves to Christmas gifts.