Miss Hadley's Needlework Lessons

A Series of Six Lessons: By Sara Hadley

FIRST: MARIE ANTOINETTE LACE WORK

The Brussels stitch is simply a Berlin stitch worked loosely but with regularity. Its beauty depends upon the evenness of the work. The other openings are filled with Brussels lace as for the Brussels stitch. The Brussels stitch is worked in with lines of thread about an eighth of an inch apart; then from cross lines, intersecting these already made, passing alternately under and over them; work a re-union on every spot where two lines cross by working over and under the two lines three or five times.

If the worker prefers to dispense with the stitches a solid braid row may be substituted for the row.

The design illustrated for a valance-lace certain measures about 38 x 14 inches over all. The working pattern is firstasted to strong heavy wrapping paper or cloth. To form the flowers and leaves the petal and leaf outlines are drawn lightly on the wrapping paper and the lines are doubled and sewed together and then basted to pattern wrong side up (see cut of leaf). The petal is then fastened to the braid and leaves forming a stem, the ends of which are secured in present unraveling.

Be careful to baste all braids to the fabric on the pattern, overbasting where necessary, especially in making the stems. The stems in the flowers are worked with heavy linen thread, with the Brussels stitch in two opposite openings.

The lace completed, the net is laid over and carefully tacked to it to prevent shifting, and applied with the Marie Antoinette stitch, a long sewing stitch with a knotted loop as in festooning. The net is fitted closely to the stems, leaving the loops and removing lace from pattern. The right side of the work will then appear. From on the net side with a hot iron over a damp cloth. All Marie Antoinette lace is made in the same manner.

Nothing can exceed in beauty those modern laces if they are made with good materials, and care is taken to make the stitches properly. The Brussels design in keeping with the stitch.

The second lesson, in the next number of this Journal, will tell you how to make "Needle Point Lace."