

# What Other Needleworkers Have Found Out

ONE day I purchased some blue-and-white checked toweling, intending to make some dish-towels. When I examined the material I found it had such a smooth linen finish, and was so pretty, that it seemed a pity to cut it up as originally planned, and I decided to make a breakfast-set of it instead of towels. I made one long runner, the full length of the table, and on this, at each side-center I sewed a strip long enough to reach to the edge of the table, giving the appearance of two runners crossed at the center. On each side of the center square I traced a simple design in "thousand flowers," making a square of the embroidery. This is worked by making one long stitch for each flower-petal. I used dark-blue thread, matching the checks of the toweling in shade. I made four small breakfast-napkins, twelve by sixteen inches, putting a small design of three flowers in one corner of each. One doily I made large enough for creamer and sugar, with the design through the middle across the width of the goods. This gave a space on each side for the pieces. Another doily was just large enough for salt and pepper, with two single flowers on it. With this set I made a hot-toast napkin and four egg-cup covers. Instead of hemming or scalloping the edges, I drew a fringe one inch deep, and have a set that is much admired.—Mrs. D. R. Anderson, Arkansas.

FOR the little samples of tatting and crochet, which could never be found when wanted, I procured some strips of holland or the material of which window-shades are made, that had been cut from the sides when the shades were fitted to windows; plenty of such strips may be had of your furniture-dealer, or any firm which puts up shades. Then I obtained the backs of sample-books, such as the mills send out to dry-goods merchants, made leaves for my book of the strips, and tacked the samples in. Another happy thought, which saves frequent search for crochet-hooks, is to put the hooks in a toothbrush-case, such as may be had for a small sum at any drug-store. I like this far better than the holder of covered cork which so many use.—Mrs. H. G. Rule, West Virginia.

THE woman who has a little knowledge of embroidery stitches, crocheting and tatting, will find a veritable goldmine in the midsummer sales of white waists. Often the perfectly plain waist "goes begging," even at a low price, while its decorated sisters, of not so good material, are at once picked up by the average shopper. By giving the plain waist a few touches of handwork, French knots of delicate color on cuffs and collar, a simple edging of crochet or tatting, or a pretty filet-inset, it is quite transformed, and does not cost more than a fraction of what it would if purchased already "touched up." — Annette Zimmerman, New York.

AT a time when table-linen is so scarce and high it behooves us all to devise ways and means of making our old supply, obtained before the devastation of the flax-fields or the withdrawing of so many workers from the industry—last as long as possible. I use sets of doilies and centerpiece, which I formerly considered more of a "fad" than anything else. Frequently one can buy these sets, with scalloped edges (machine-done, doubtless), at a very low price. I have a set of this description; over the scallops I sewed rickrack braid, and finished with a simple crocheted border of knot-stitch, varying the number of rows according to the size of doily. It is attractive and easily laundered.—Mrs. J. L. Carter, Maine.

SILK stockings, indeed, any kind of stockings, are rather precious in these days of high prices, and the fortunate possessor of a pair desires to make them last as long as possible. Sometimes a stitch will get broken and will ravel down the entire length of the leg if not attended to. Take a fine crochet-hook, pick up the first unraveled stitch, and pull the first unraveled stitch through it; you now have another stitch on the needle. Pick up and pull the next unraveled stitch through this, and so on to the end, fastening securely with needle and

thread. The mending is invisible and is quickly and easily accomplished. Try it.—Mrs. C. E. Deming, Nebraska.

THE home-dressmaker and seamstress who uses cut paper patterns for the many garments that fall to her lot to fashion, often has a great many on hand. I have made a pattern-pocket, as suggested by one of our contributors, each section or compartment marked with the initials of the one whose patterns it holds, and find this a great help. In addition, when there are many parts of one pattern, say the sleeves, waist, girdle, etc., not all of which are used every time, I have found it a time-saver to slip each pattern into separate large envelopes—that is, I put the sleeve-pieces in one and label it, waist pieces in another, and so on; then I tie all these envelopes together, with the original envelope on top to tell me what the pattern is, and when I merely want to use the sleeve-pattern I do not have to undo and look the whole thing over. "Time saved is money earned," you know.—E. B. J., North Carolina.

NEEDLECRAFT is a perfect mine of pleasure to me, there are so many new ideas to be gleaned from it. For example, I used the design of kittens, in filet-crochet September, 1918, in decorating a guest-towel for my little granddaughter, Jean—a pair of kittens at each end of the border, and her name in the middle. For the other end of the towel I made a narrower border with the chicken (October, 1918) at each end.—Mrs. J. R. DeWolfe, Canada.

IN regard to the removal of iodine-stains I wish to add my experience. They may be removed by simply pouring boiling water through, as any fruit-stain. Stretch the spot over a bowl or other dish, and pour the boiling water from the teakettle. Simply sponging with the water will remove such stains, but it must be done in either case before it is otherwise wet. By this method the stained garment need not be washed at all.—G. H., Illinois.

OFTEN we find that a winter skirt sags slightly at the side or in front. If a medium-sized dark button is sewed neatly on the under side the looks of the garment are greatly changed.—E. E. C., Nebraska.

I TOO, found the collar in filet-crochet, given in January, 1919, altogether too large. I made it by leaving out the center design, and starting with seventy-eight spaces; it is very pretty indeed.—Mrs. L. L. C., New York.

## Directions for Stitches Used in Knitting

TO knit plain: Insert needle in front of stitch from left to right, thread over, draw through, and slip off the old stitch.

Narrow: Knit two stitches together. Purl or seam: Bring the thread between needles to front, insert right needle in front of stitch from right to left, right needle in front of left, carry thread around between needles, draw through, and return thread to back of work before knitting next plain stitch.

Purl-narrow: Purl two stitches together.

Over: Thread over needle before knitting, making an extra stitch.

Fagot: Over twice (the first "over" being that always used before a purled stitch, the second forming the extra stitch), purl two together.

Slip, narrow and bind: Slip first stitch, narrow next two, and draw the slipped stitch over. This is equivalent to knitting three together.

Slip and bind: Slip one, knit one, draw slipped stitch over. To cast or bind off work, continue this process as required.

Stars and parentheses indicate repetition, and are employed to shorten directions. Thus: \* Over twice, narrow, repeat from \* twice, and (over twice, narrow) three times, mean the same as over twice, narrow, over twice, narrow, over twice, narrow.



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