LACERS AND EMBROIDERIES.

In no one article, perhaps, is female extravagance in dress carried to a greater length than in the use of elegant and costly laces and embroideries. Almost fabulous prices are sometimes paid for them. The rich laces in this country are imported principally from France and Belgium. The costliest specimens of lace are easily disposed of. Lace at twenty shillings ($5) a yard—and that but one-twelfth of a yard wide—finds ready pardons. The demand for rich laces is constantly increasing.

and the finest idea connected with it by unsophisticated minds is that it wants washing. Fashion, however, corrects this notion. Point de plume is as fine as a spider's web, and as light as thistle down. Brussels point d'applique ranks very high. It is formed by sewing sprigs, the real point upon illusion or any other kind of plain lace. It is very much used for flowers, and costs from six to eight pounds per yard, five-eighths wide. It is very pure in color, which is owing to a white powder with which it is saturated, and which it continues to retain, and obviates the necessity of washing.

Houppon lace came into fashion in 1842, and ever since its present position to Queen Victoria. Consecrating the ineradicable condition of the lace-workers of Devon, she determined to assist them by bringing their manufacture into fashion, and in furtherance of this laudable purpose had her wedding dress made of it. Houppon at once became the rage, and has continued popular and expensive ever since, although, previously, purchasers could hardly be found for it. Chantilly lace is always black, is exceedingly fine, and is much used for veils and fly霪os.

Our supply of the more elaborate specimens of embroideries is derived from France and Switzerland. Although the Swiss are really superior to the French, yet no despotically do French fabrics rule the fashionable world, that the former are obliged to be sold as French.—Shaw's London Magazine.