

Practical Aids For Artistic Needlewomen

Design Appropriate To The Season

THERE is no more attractive gift for a householder than a handsome centerpiece, and the design shown today is perfect in drawing, grace of line and originality of border. It is the beautiful custom of the Germans to give Easter presents, just as we give Christmas presents, and today's design is ideal for the purpose.

The centerpiece in question is worked in the long-and-short stitch, fagoting and buttonholing, the first in the lilies, the second in the stems, unless the solid stitch is preferred, and the third on the border. The petals of the flower could only be done in the stitch suggested or French knots, for they give the impression of depth toward the center, but the stems and the outside line of each blossom and the buds would be perfection done in the solid stitch.

In case of the centerpiece being too small the outside edge might be cut even and wide clumsy lace sewed on as a finish. In this way the centerpiece could be made as large as one could desire, depending on the width of the lace. In sewing the latter on, however, it should first be basted, so it may be absolutely certain not to bind in any way; otherwise the effect will be spoiled.

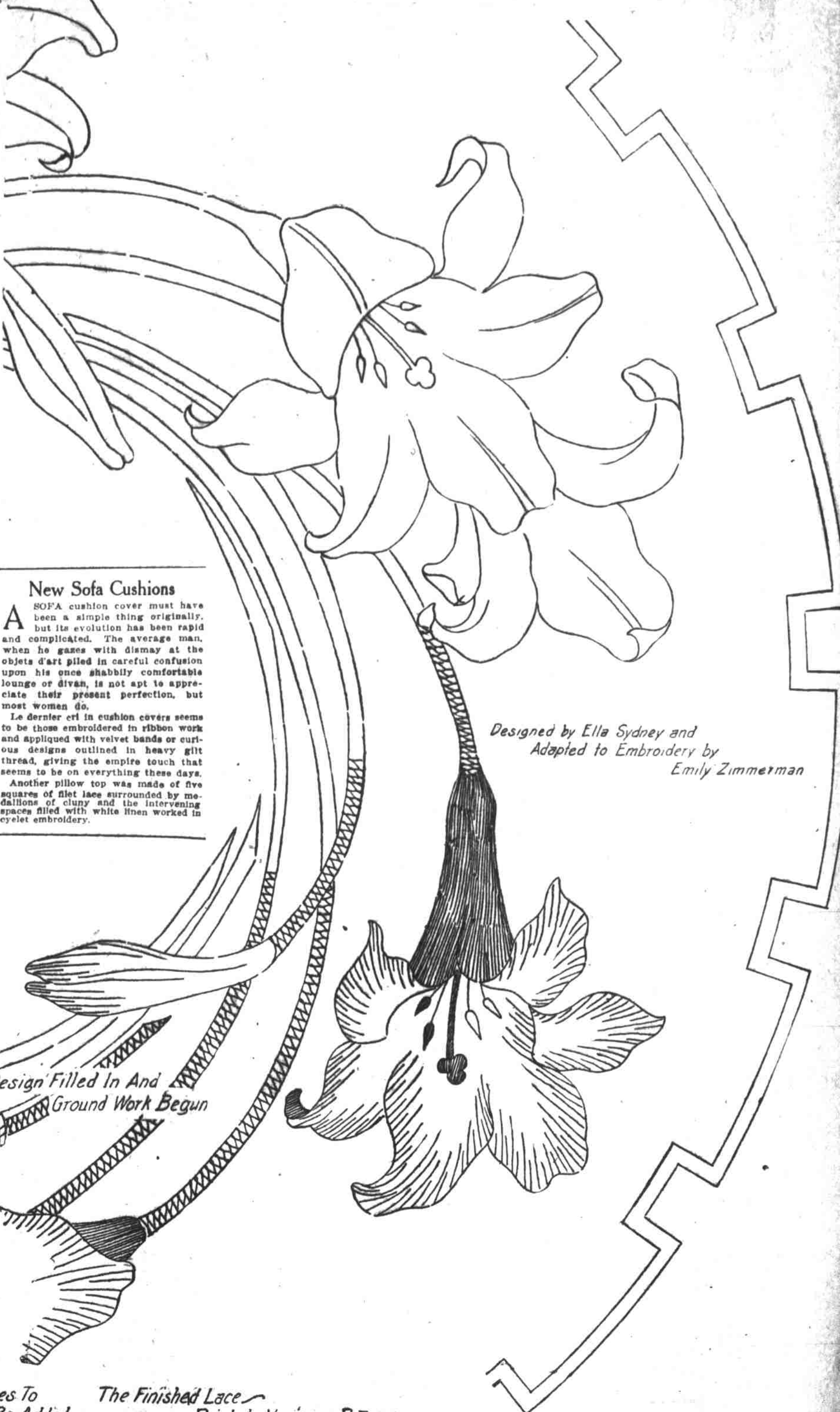
In making up such a rarely beautiful design it would be the greatest pity to introduce any color into the work. Such a virgin subject should be treated in the dearest of silk floss or mercerized cotton, and the foundation should be only pure white linen. The lace may be cut, if desired.

When the embroidered edge is preferred the stitches should be mirrored at the corner, so that they will not

make too square an effect; and sometimes lace sewed flat around the inside line, leaving the squares to overlap when they will, makes a most attractive finish to the centerpiece.

Solid French knots might be a most attractive way to embroider the petals of the lilies, particularly if the stems are embroidered in the fagot stitch or cross stitch, as shown in the illustration. The knots would give the flower a raised appearance, and they always aid in making work look lacy and attractive.

In using silk for the embroidery a heavy white twisted floss is best, but when colors are chosen, of course the flowers must be white, but the petals and stamens should be yellow. To be properly arranged the intertwining stems and the buds should be in light green, while the border may be finished in any shade that suits the taste of the embroiderer.



Designed by Ella Sydney and Adapted to Embroidery by Emily Zimmerman

AN ECONOMICAL LAYETTE

THERE are many economical ways of making a layette, or infant trousseau, but the dresses found to be most satisfactory are those made with a shirred yoke. These are cut something on the order of a woman's chemise and the neck is about the same size. The sleeves are cut so that the top fits into the neck line. Then a yoke about three inches deep is cut out in paper and fastened to both sides of the back and the middle of the front and the dress is shirred to fit. When finished the shirring is stitched by machine, through paper and all, to keep the gathering threads from breaking, and if the machine stitching is found, unalightly, feather stitching may cover the lines.

It all sounds like a great deal of work, but a baby's yoke is very small, and it takes not nearly so much time as one would expect.

The advantage of the shirred yokes is that, after the baby has grown, the stitching may be taken out and the yoke made larger. This need not be for some time, particularly if the sleeves are cut about one inch too long. The extra material may be taken up in three small tucks and they may be let out when necessary.

Fine coats are best made in small box pleats over the shoulder, back and front, for when the time comes every other one may be let out and the coat made many sizes larger. For the length of the sleeves, sometimes a little extra material is left over and gathered at the top, so the sleeve has only to be ripped out to be made larger. Other women prefer the tuck above the cuff, and this is after the most convenient method. To make the coat larger one has only to rip the shoulder seams and tucks and the work is done.

Many mothers are now making all the babies' dresses short, unless born in midwinter, for there is always the risk of cold when changing the length, while if they always wear fairly short dresses they get used to it. But it seems a pity to do away with the long infant dresses, and perhaps it is better to keep to the old way.

For the first few months white petti-

coats are a luxury, not a necessity, and it is a good plan to wait till the dresses are shortened and then make one waist for both white and flannel skirt. The waist is easily made when cut double, and after the side seams are sewn the two thicknesses are stitched all round, leaving only the waist line. When finished the tiny garment can be turned right side out and no bindings and hems will be necessary, and the double muslin makes a satisfactory waist, for it is not quite so thick as flannel and is yet not too thin.

The first flannel skirts must be made on their own flannel waists and the edges bound with galon. When the second dresses are put on the long skirts may be cut in half to make two short skirts. For this reason it is well to calculate how long the short skirts should be when making the long ones, always arranging that the hem in the lower half of the latter need not be ripped and that the gathers may stay in the upper half. This leaves only one hemming and one gathering to be done for two petticoats.

An infant cannot wear the first size clothes for more than six months at the outside, and it is therefore economy to make them so that they will last at least a year, particularly when it is so easy.

To Sew Hooks on Dresses

IN SEWING on hooks, whether used in connection with eyes or peets, always spread on the hooks, all sizes, before sewing on; it not only makes the strain come on different parts of the material, but it prevents them from pushing forward and showing at the edges of collars, plaquettes and such things.

When sewing them on a boned lining the bone can be slipped between the front curves and back of the hook, after they have all been sewn on, making it very taut, thus saving the labor of fastening the bone in the usual way. It must, of course, be fastened at either end after it is inserted, otherwise it will come entirely off during the process of hooking the dress.

Embroidered Pajamas

NEW pajamas for women are made collarless and with gathered sleeves, while white silk frogs fasten them down the front, which is embroidered in a huge but graceful design. On the whole, pajamas are but the natural things for women to wear, for they are both comfortable and economical, and at the same time easy to make. It takes less material to make a very good-looking pair of pajamas than it does to make a really pretty nightgown, and a little work will show on the former to much better advantage than a great deal of embroidery on the latter.

Some white linen pajamas are shown embroidered in poppy design down the front and around the cuffs, only the poppies instead of being done in red silk are worked out in white mercerized cotton. A heavy padding under the flowers gives them a most fascinating appearance, and makes the garment look Oriental in every line.

Another attractive design for this purpose is a large chrysanthemum design, worked in yellow mercerized cotton, with palest green for stems. It is really a very good combination, and no woman yet who has ever tried wearing pajamas has been willing to go back to the old-fashioned nightdress.

Hand-Embroidered Bibs

OF COURSE, we want the daintiest and the best for our precious babies, and are always ready with willing hands to make for them the prettiest according to our individual ideas of beauty, but when it comes to that useful but not poetic article of apparel, the bib, it is best to let common sense take the lead. However, dainty and at the same time serviceable bibs can be made by first making one of heavy padding, bound by tape and thick enough to keep dry the warm flannels and white dress beneath them. To hide this useful but unornamental necessity, make a cover of handkerchief linen, the edges scalloped with mercerized cotton and a simple design embroidered in the center. Nothing could be in better taste than baby's own monogram, and it has the added advantage of being easily done.

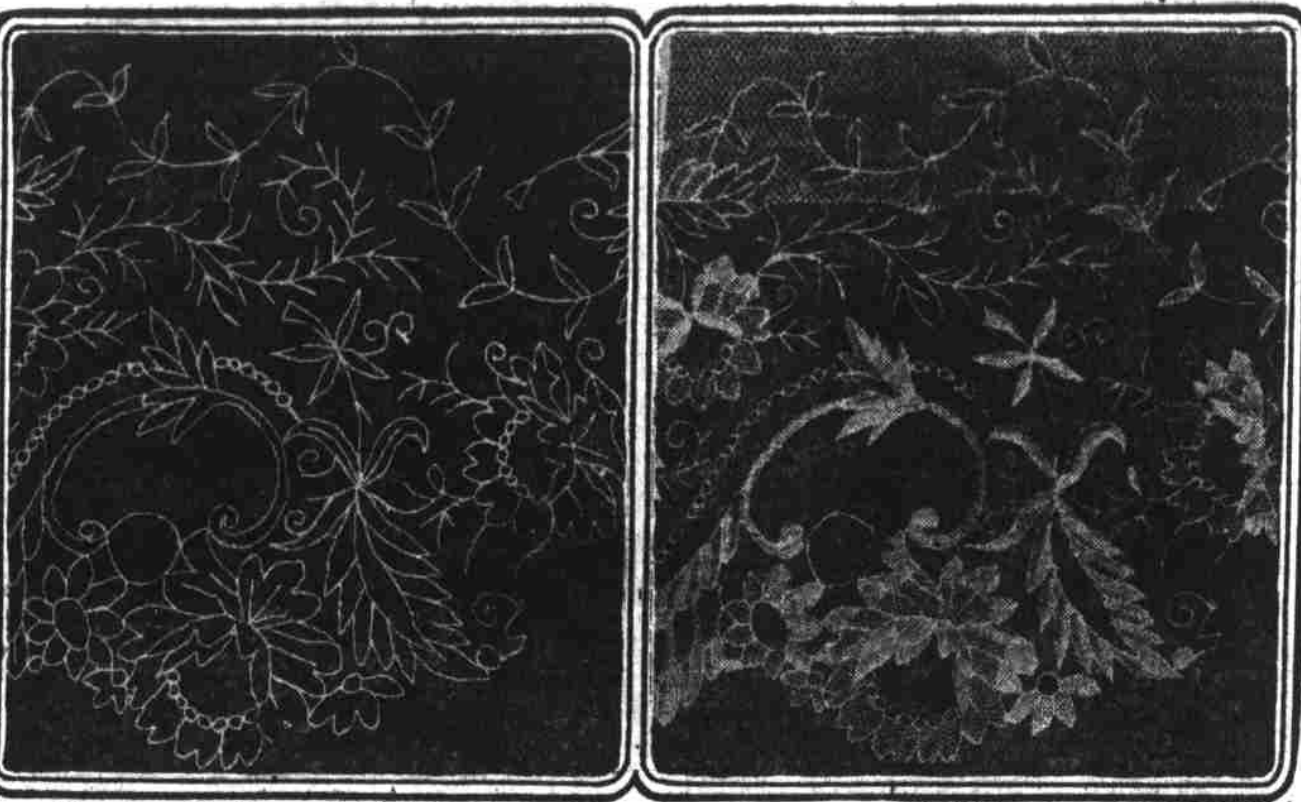
New Sofa Cushions

A SOFA cushion cover must have been a simple thing originally, but its evolution has been rapid and complicated. The average man, when he gazes with dismay at the objects d'art piled in careful confusion upon his once shabby comfortable lounge or divan, is not apt to appreciate their present perfection, but most women do.

The dumber art in cushion covers seems to be those embroidered in ribbon work and appliqued with velvet bands or curious designs outlined in heavy gilt thread, giving the empire touch that seems to be on everything these days.

Another pillow top was made of five squares of flax lace surrounded by medallions of cluny and the intervening spaces filled with white linen worked in eyelet embroidery.

Real Lace, Ancient and Modern



Design Outlined In Thread

WHEN the lacemakers and nuns of Italy had elaborated venetian point in almost every conceivable way, rose point had been invented, with its many fine cords or "brides" and its snow foundations. As time went on the work on this became more and more minute, until the lacemakers began to make a fine net, all with the point of the needle, as a foundation for the many beautiful designs of the day. In this the cordonet, or outlining cord, was omitted, and each tiny hexagonal mesh was made by four to eight stitches on a side, arranged in loops and twists. This ground was worked around the design, or "toile," and it was called the reseau. Grounded venetian point was the most beautiful lace that had ever been made at that time—about the sixteenth century—and its manufacture continued in Venice until the French Revolution, when commerce was interrupted and all lacemaking was stopped, excepting in Burano. This little island is one of the Venetian group, but it is quite detached from the rest of the city, and here a few peasants busily worked on fairy fabrics while all Europe was involved in the great civil war.

The lace made in Burano was not, however, of the best quality; the reseau was not the finest and the thread was rather inferior, but the lacemakers plied their trade, although in a desultory way, and the Venetians quite lost the art and turned their talents to other things.

But in the winter of 1872 the lagoons

of Burano froze over for the first time in the memory of man, and the natives, who earned their living by fishing, were suddenly starved out of work and dire poverty stared them in the face. Their predicament came to the notice of the government, and Queen Margherita, wife of Humbert, decided to revive lacemaking so the peasants of northern Italy would have some source of revenue not dependent upon the weather.

By that time there was but one woman left in Burano who knew the art, and she, Cencia Scarpariola, was so old that, although she could make lace, she could not impart her knowledge; but the good queen found some clever young girls, who watched the old woman at her work, and between them they found how it was done. Thus lacemaking was revived in Italy.

Grounded venetian point, or "point plat a reseau," is made in four stages. First, the design is drawn and pricked in the parchment, and the outlining threads are sewed through parchment and linen, as in "gros point de venise," but in the grounded point the threads are fine, for the work is without cordonet. In the next stage the fine mesh is worked in around the design, then the design is done, and, lastly, the filling in of the design with a fairy mesh called "ajours."

At present one may visit the lace shops in Venice and see the wonderful material being made by little girls of 8 and 10, for a lacemaker usually plies her trade between the ages of 3 and 15 only. After that her eyes are not so good and her fingers not so pliable.



Design Filled In And Ground Work Begun

Only The Finishing Touches To Be Added

The Finished Lace Point de Venise a Reseau

Embroidered Frock at Small Cost

ONE of the most popular materials for summer is dotted swiss, and this year it is shown in all sorts of designs and colors. Sprays of rosebuds, lilacs, forget-me-nots, shaded dots, embroidered rings, anything serves to make still more beautiful this durable and pretty fabric. But all of these new ideas are rather expensive, too much so, indeed, for the average pocketbook, while the old-fashioned plain white dotted swiss is well within the reach of most women.

A most attractive frock can be made by selecting a swiss where dots are rather widely scattered and basting around each dot a circle of colored thread, dark blue, light blue or pink. Thus a really hand-embroidered dress may be had at no cost at all, and the little embroidery may be done in heavy silk floss if desired, giving the appearance of mousseline de soie. As for a design for a dress of this kind, what could be prettier than one of the semi-priceless variety, with a long panel down the front from neck to hem and the sides tucked? In making up this

model it is only necessary to embroider the front panel, leaving the rest of the dress plain, and the busiest girl in the world could surely find time to do this much work without neglecting her duties at home or abroad.

Coiffure Decorations

THE fashion of decorating the hair seems to have returned to popularity, and the most attractive butterfly may be made at home of shirred chiffon on a wire frame and wings edged with spangles of peacock green.

A white butterfly may be made of tulle and edged all round with imitation pearls or white paillettes. It is a clever idea when using any light material to first wrap the wire with white radius silk or black satin, if black material is to be used. Many wreaths, too, are made of silk flowers, or more properly, ribbon flowers, which also have their foundation on a wire frame. A rose is cleverly made of plain satin ribbon twisted around and placed in the middle by a little row of yellow baby ribbon.