PROGRESSIVE LESSONS IN NEEDLEWORK

JOHNSON

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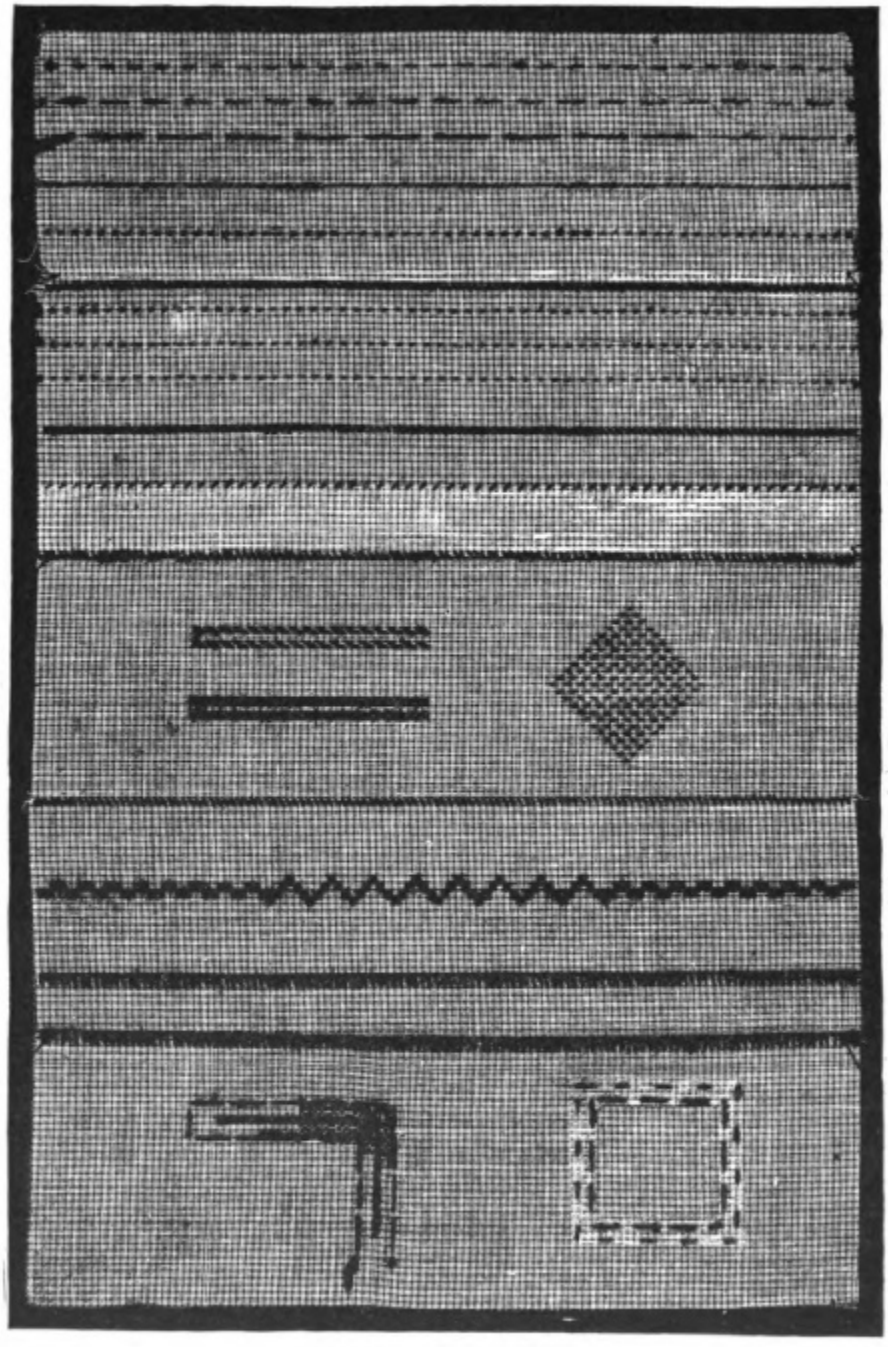

Fig. 3. — Sampler No. 1.

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The pupil should make a drawing on the blackboard of a piece of cloth, showing the selvedge, cut edge, and bias; she should also express in writing the idea formed in her mind by these terms. A clear perception of all this, when once gained, will be a help in every lesson.

Measuring and cutting: —

The class should be provided with rulers, from which to learn the inch and its divisions. Have each child cut from stiff and unruled paper a piece exactly 6 in. long and 1 in. wide, to use for measuring; have the edges even and the corners square. This measure is kept in the work bag. Mark, as on a ruler, the whole, half, quarter, and eighth inches. The pupil must remember these lengths, as they are often spoken of in her work and in places which cannot be easily measured. Let the pupils space the different measures on paper and on the blackboard by means of dots and lines, using the ruler as a test of exactness only.

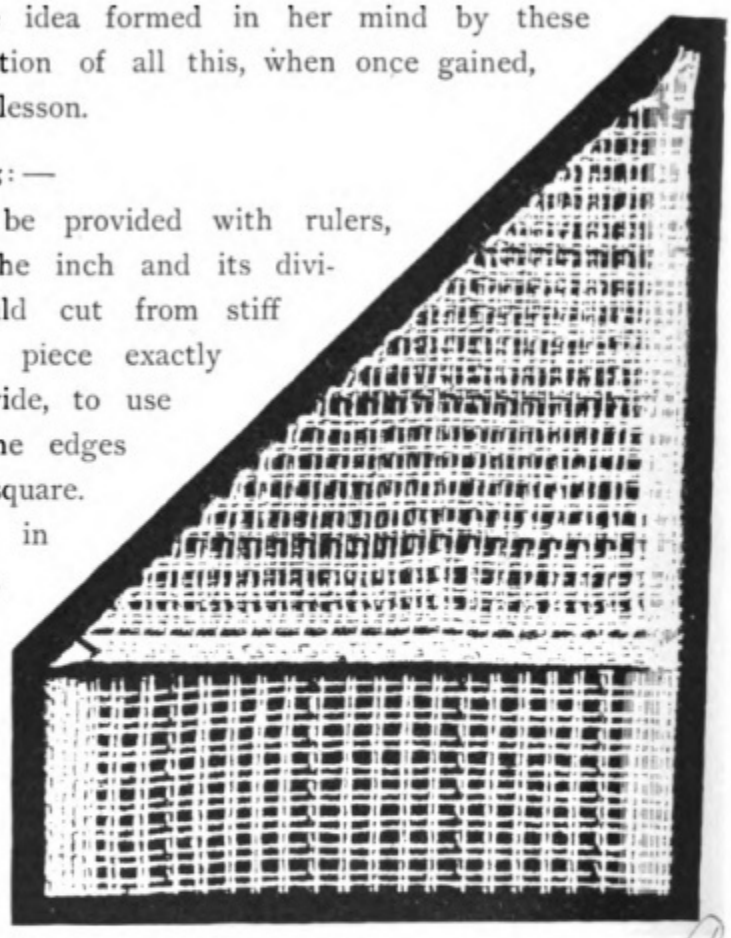

Fig. 5. — Canvas showing width and bias, or diagonal fold.

Folding and cutting: — I.

Give the child a piece of paper 3 in. × 9 in. Let her fold the lower left-hand corner over to the upper edge, and crease the diagonal

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the patch match perfectly, the centre of the patch being exactly over the centre of the worn place. Baste $\frac{1}{8}$ in. from the edges of the patch.

A patch well matched is less conspicuous hemmed to the outside of most garments; on white and many other kinds of cloth, it is better to sew the patch to the wrong or under side, as described in answer to question 45.

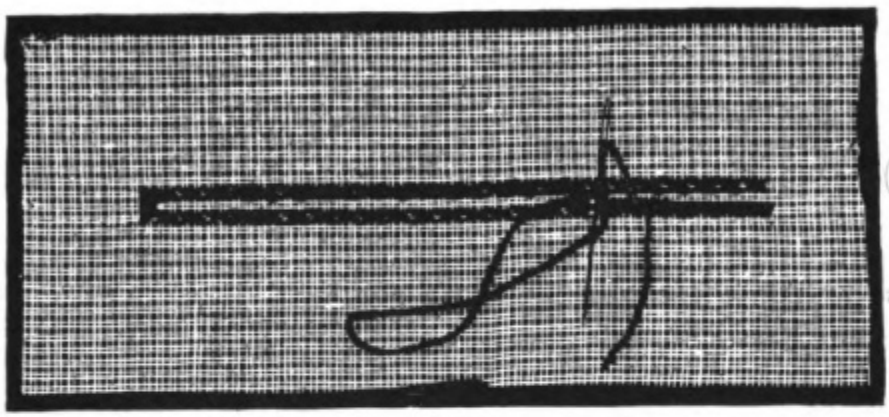

Fig. 9. — Buttonhole overcast twice with worsted (buttonhole stitch commenced).

III.

Buttonhole: —

Although the buttonhole is a very difficult part of the work for young children, if the method of making it is early learned it is a great help to careful sewing, and can be practised on canvas in the early part of the second year.

A fine needle and thread should be used in overcasting a buttonhole on cloth, because the edges may be overcast twice with a fine thread, and these stitches will not show under the buttonhole stitch when it is made with the coarser thread.

A buttonhole should be made with one needleful of thread, if possible. In case of accidental breaking, it can be joined underneath by a running stitch, while the unthreaded end is firmly held with the work by the thumb

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ing to the middle of the edge of the left thumb-nail (Fig. 19). Make the stitches small, but to show distinctly on the under side. (Illustrate on the blackboard.)

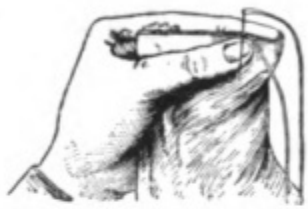

Fig. 21. — Work held for oversewing.

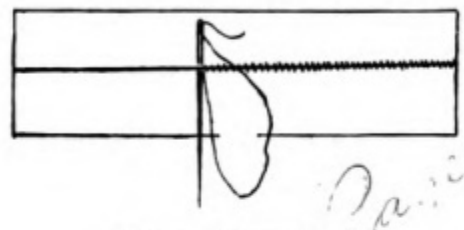

Fig. 22. — Oversewing.

33. How should the work be held for oversewing? *Ans.* The work should be held around the end of the first finger of the left hand, and kept firmly in place with the thumb and second finger (Fig. 21).
34. How should the needle be pointed in oversewing? *Ans.* In oversewing the needle should be pointed directly toward the chest (Fig. 22).
35. What must always be done after the seam is oversewed? *Ans.* Press the stitches flat on the wrong side, with the right thumb-nail, to finish the oversewing seam.
36. When is an oversewed seam used? *Ans.* An oversewed seam is used in joining two selvedges or two folded edges.
37. What is a selvedge? *Ans.* A woven or finished edge.
38. What is a raw edge? *Ans.* A cut or torn edge.
39. What is overcasting? *Ans.* Overcasting is the same as oversewing, the stitches being larger, and is used over raw edges to prevent them from ravelling (Fig. 23).

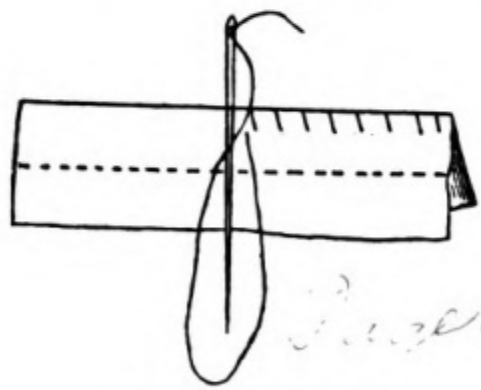

Fig. 23. — Overcasting.

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Page 153.

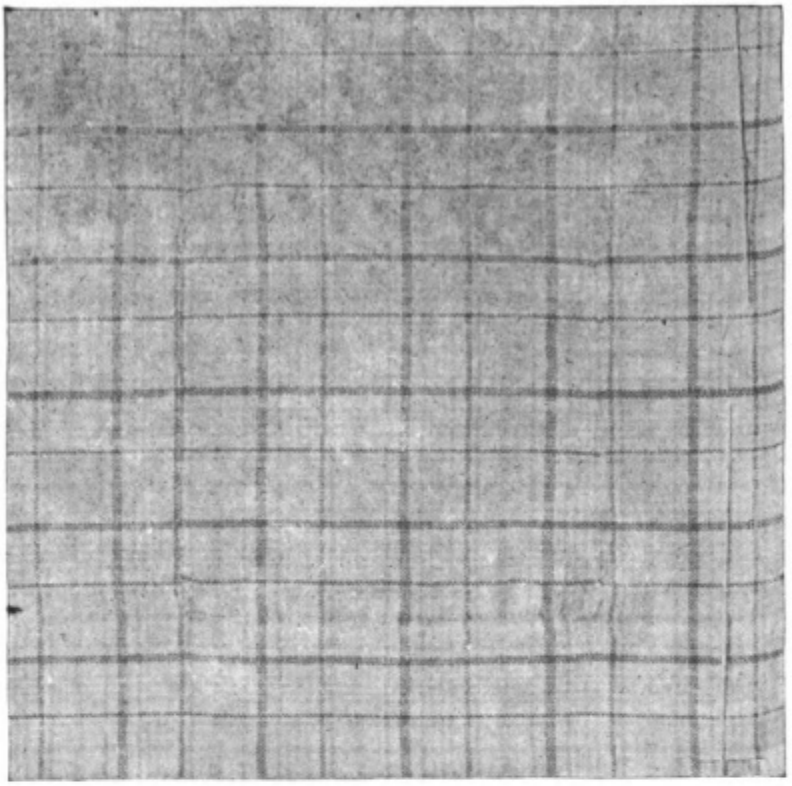

Fig. 33. — Oversewed patch. Upper or right side.

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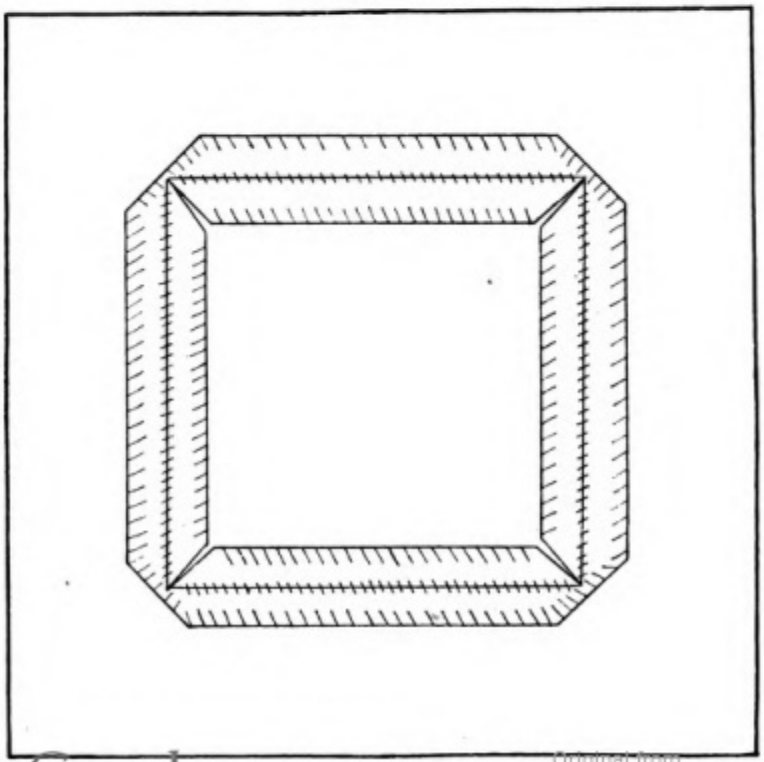

Fig. 32. — Oversewed patch. Under or wrong side.

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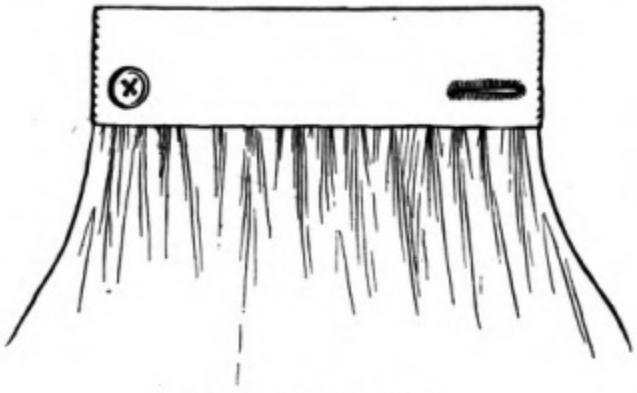
cross-bar by overcasting one stitch to the right, and then one stitch to the left, until three cross-stitches have been made. (This makes



Page 49.

Fig. 44. — Band finished.

a round, strong outer end to the buttonhole when worked.) Now cross-stitch the left-hand side back to the starting-point (Fig. 46).

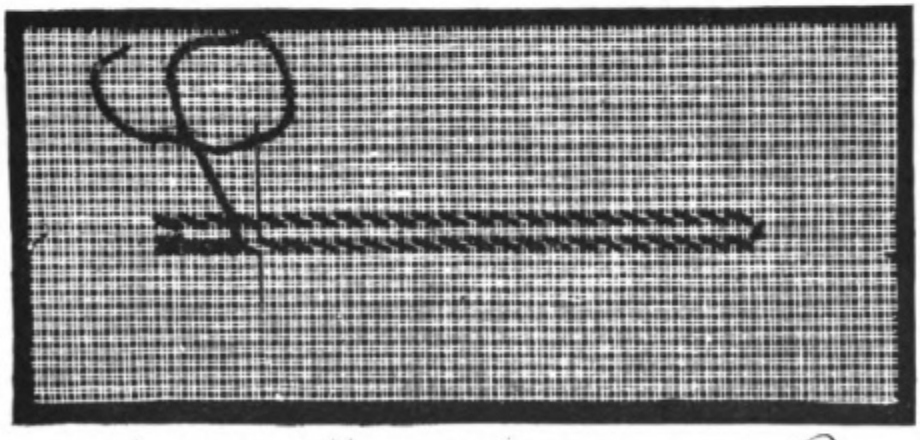


Fig. 45. — Overcasting the right-hand side, making cross-stitches.

Page 56-57

Then put the needle through to the under side, take one running stitch, and cut the thread. See buttonhole in canvas sampler.

Represent on the blackboard the different steps of preparing and the way of holding a buttonhole.

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71. How is a buttonhole worked? *Ans.* From the lower left-hand corner to the lower right-hand corner, then a straight bar is made across the lower or inner end.

72. How should the buttonhole stitch be made? *Ans.* In making a buttonhole stitch, the needle is put through the cloth, as for the overcasting, at the lower left-hand corner, then the thread from the eye of the needle is brought around the point of the needle from right to left, and the needle pulled through, bringing the loop up

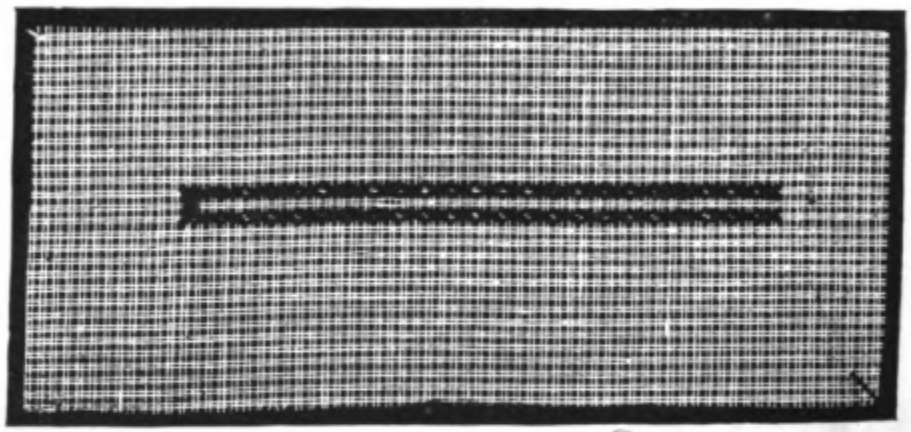

Fig. 46. — Buttonhole overcast twice.

Page 56-57

straight, care being taken that it passes over the other end of the thread. The stitches should be made very near together, especially at the round end.

73. How should the straight bar be made at the lower end? *Ans.* Draw the worked edges together by making four stitches, one over the other, across the lower end of the buttonhole, then, beginning at the right-hand side, make five buttonhole stitches covering these, the middle stitch directly in the middle between the two sides of the buttonhole.

Draw these steps in buttonhole making on the blackboard.

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much time should not be given to it. Outline-stitch can be used for initials and age, if a pupil's eyesight is too delicate to count threads.

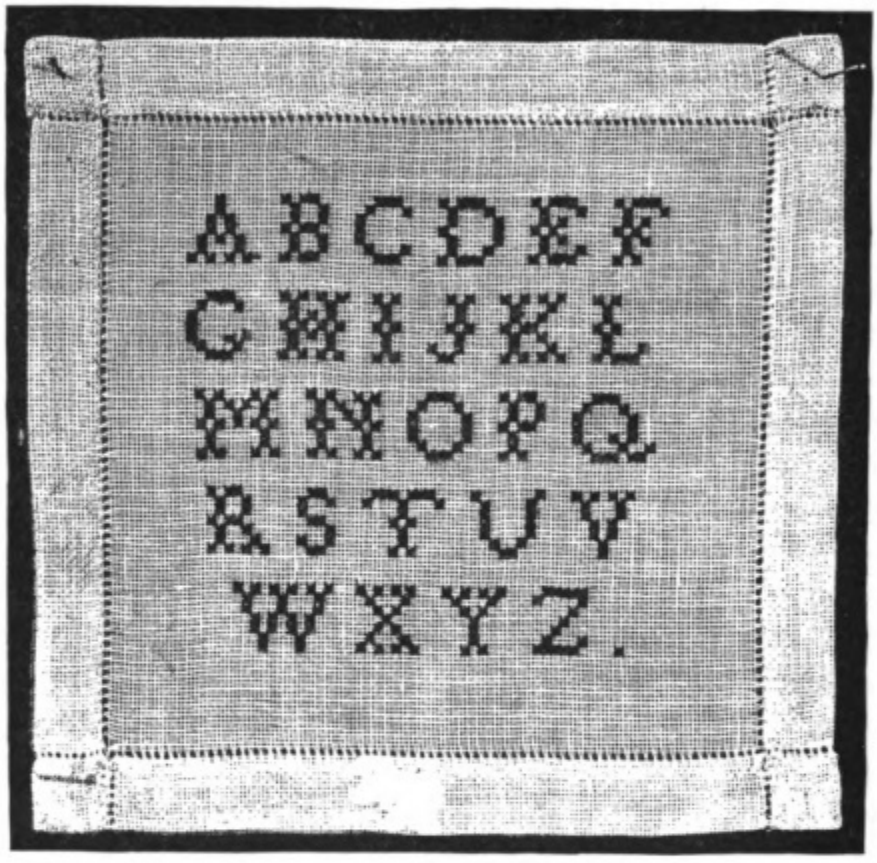

Fig. 49.

SAMPLER No. 3.

MATERIALS REQUIRED.

Two strips of bleached cotton (with selvedge on one side) 18 in. × 5 in.
Two strips of cotton (lengthwise, without selvedge) $9\frac{1}{2}$ in. × 5 in.
Three pieces of cotton (for patches) 3 in. square.
One piece of cotton (for band) $3\frac{1}{2}$ in. × 2 in.

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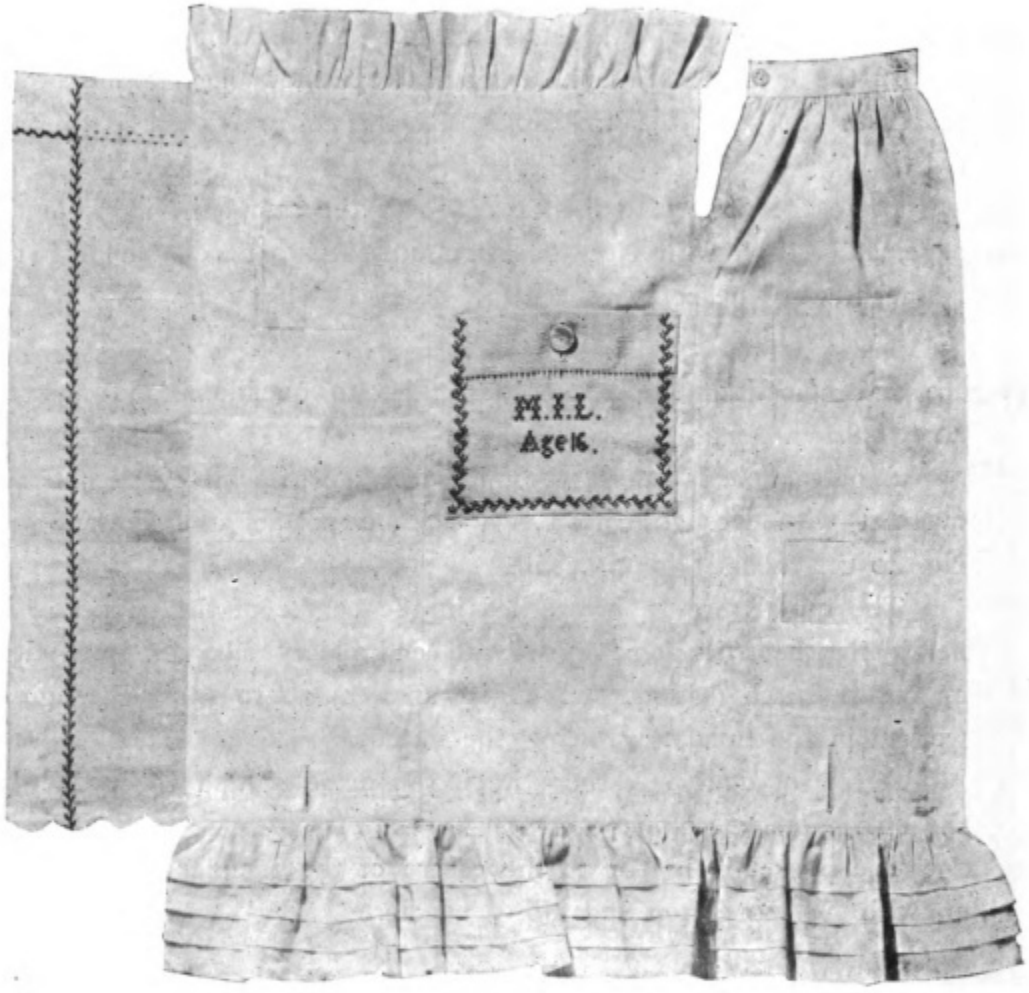

Fig. 51. — Sampler No. 3.

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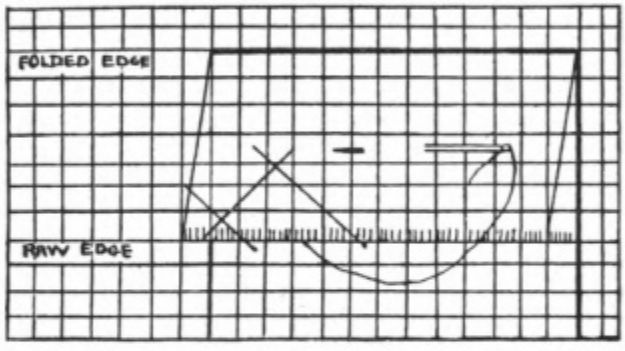
the right of the needle. The third stitch is to the left and above, as before (Fig. 55).

33. How is a hem blind-stitched? *Ans.* A hem is blind-stitched by catching the under part of the first fold down to the single cloth below it, with running stitches, so that no stitches show on the upper side.

34. What stitch is used to ornament the hem after blind-stitching it? *Ans.* To ornament the hem, feather or vine stitching is used.

35. How is feather or vine stitch made? *Ans.* A knot is made in the thread, and the needle is brought up from the under side of the



Page 117.

Fig. 55.

work, at the point farthest from the person, as feather-stitch is always worked downward or toward the worker. The work is held over the first finger of the left hand, kept in place with the second finger and thumb. The thread is drawn through, then placed under the thumb while the next stitch is taken; the needle is put through to the under side $\frac{1}{8}$ in. to the right and a trifle below the place where it was brought up, and brought up again $\frac{1}{8}$ in. perpendicularly; the thread is drawn through until caught in the loop formed by the thread held under the thumb. The next stitch is made in the same manner $\frac{1}{8}$ in. to the left and a trifle below, the third stitch to the right and below, and so on. This is the simplest

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form of feather-stitch, which may be varied in many ways, as shown by the illustrations (Figs. 56 to 57).

In describing the so-called "buttonhole stitch" of embroidery, it is spoken of as an embroidery edge stitch, so that the child may not associate it with buttonholes, and be tempted, by the ease of making, to use it for them.

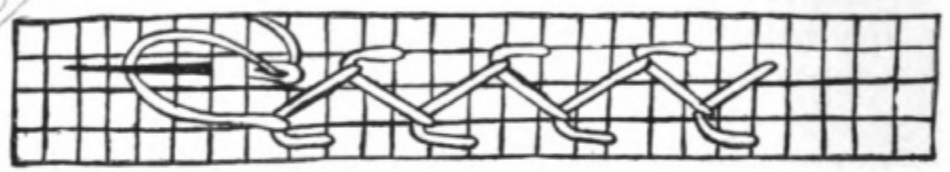

Fig. 56.

36. How is the flannel prepared for the embroidery edge stitch?

Ans. The flannel is prepared for the embroidery edge stitch by first marking out on card-board scallops of the required size. Draw a straight line 3 in. long, $\frac{1}{2}$ in. from the lower edge of the card-board. Mark off this line by dots 1 in. apart, and half way

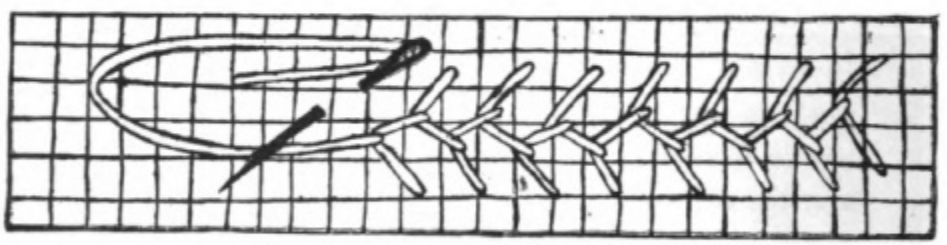

Fig. 57.

between each two make a dot on the lower edge of the card-board. Connect these dots by half circles and cut them out with the scissors. Then lay the card-board evenly on the edge of the cloth, and mark the scallops on it with a lead pencil, holding the side of the pencil with care perpendicularly against the edge of the card-board. Then, making a dot on the cloth just $\frac{1}{8}$ in. above the

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Page 107

Page 106.

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Fig. 58. — Flannel patch herringboned to the under side.

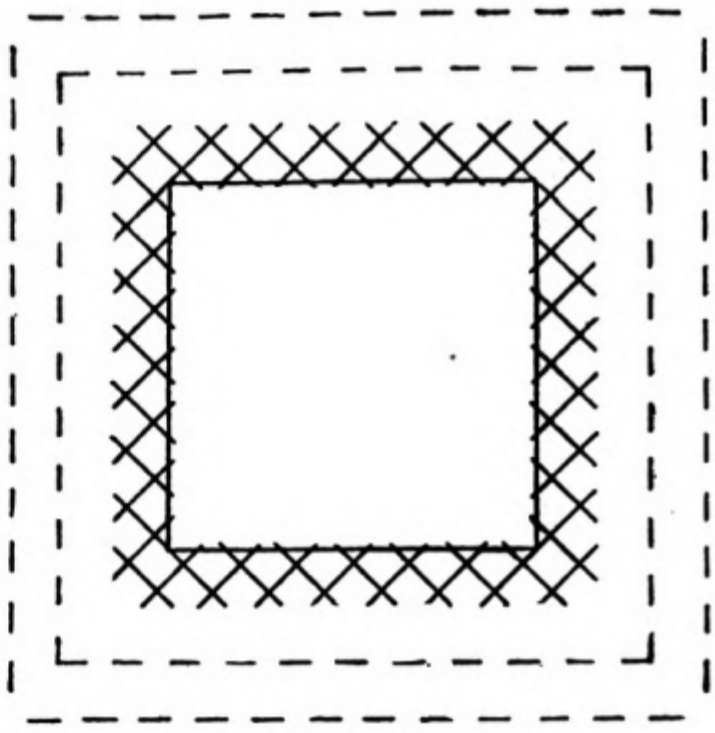

Fig. 59. — Flannel patch finished, showing upper or right side.

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48. How should the ends of the hem be finished? *Ans.* The ends of the hem should be oversewed; it is better to do this before the hemstitching, as it sometimes prevents unequal stretching.

49. What number cotton and what number needle are used for the buttonhole on the pocket? *Ans.* For this buttonhole, No. 70 cotton and No. 10 needle are used for overcasting, and No. 9 needle and No. 40 cotton in making the buttonhole stitch.

Page 115.

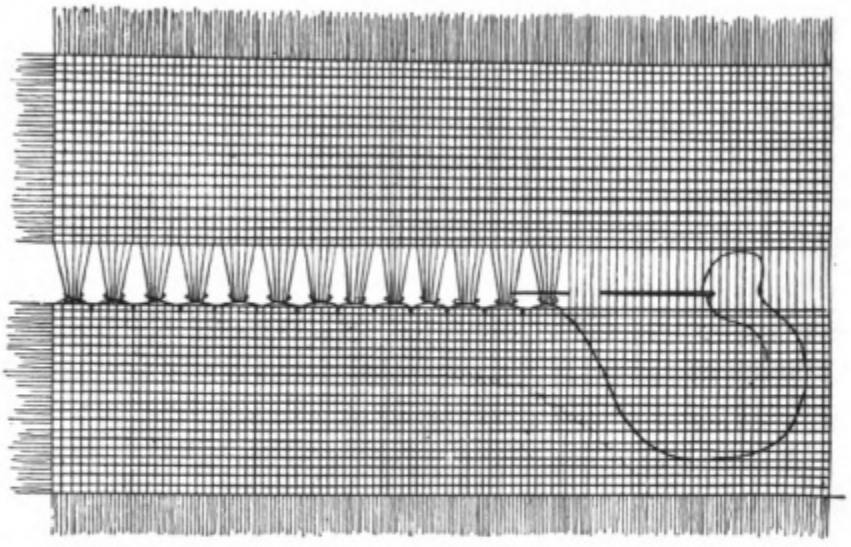

Fig. 60, A. — Hemstitching.

50. How are the letters made on the pocket? *Ans.* To begin the marking stitch, the needle is brought through to the upper side at the place for beginning the letter, the end of the thread being held on the under side until secured by the first stitch. The stitch is made by putting the needle through to the lower side two threads to the right and two threads upward (in marking on canvas or coarse crash) and bringing it up two threads below, perpendicularly. This makes the under half of the stitch. Next, the needle is put through to the lower side two threads upward and two threads to

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the left, bringing the thread diagonally across the lower half of the stitch and completing it. The pupil can see, from the letter she is copying, where the needle should be brought up to begin the next stitch, which is made in the same way. After finishing the first initial, four threads are left and a period made with a single cross-stitch. Leave four threads and begin the next initial, and so on.

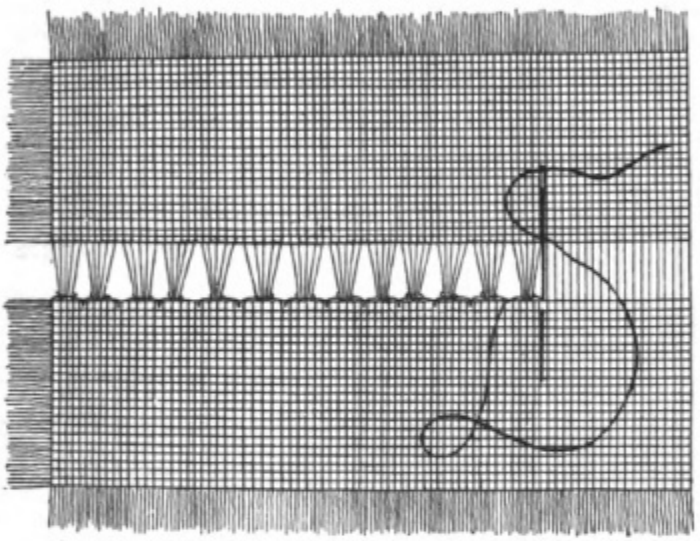

Fig. 60, B. — Hemstitching.

51. How should the thread be fastened in finishing? *Ans.* The thread should be run between the stitch and the canvas on the under side, for the length of three stitches, and cut off with the scissors.
52. In what direction should the letters be worked? *Ans.* In marking, the letters should be made from left to right.
53. How is the place to begin lettering the pocket to be found? *Ans.* To find the place of the first marking stitch, count the number of stitches necessary for all the initials, the periods, and the spaces between, then $\frac{1}{2}$ in. below the hemstitching, count from the

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figures, etc. In flannel the way of the nap, the selvedge, and the right and wrong sides of the cloth must be considered. As the edges of a flannel patch will not ravel, the raw edges can be herringboned to the under side of the cloth, and the raw edges of the cut can be neatly herringboned to the patch, as shown in Figs. 58, 59.

Fig. 61. — Patch hemmed to the right side.

Patching woollen dress material must be done according to the nature of the goods, the tear, etc., and judgment must be exercised in doing it. Sometimes more than one method may be wisely used. Four kinds of patches are described, viz. the hemmed-on (Fig. 61), the stitched-in, the oversewed, and the darned-on.

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Darned-on patch:— II.

When a large patch is well matched to heavy cloth, it shows less than a small one. Darning is better than a small patch. A thread of the same color as the cloth should be used when patching and darning.

A darned-on patch is used for heavy cloths, especially in mending

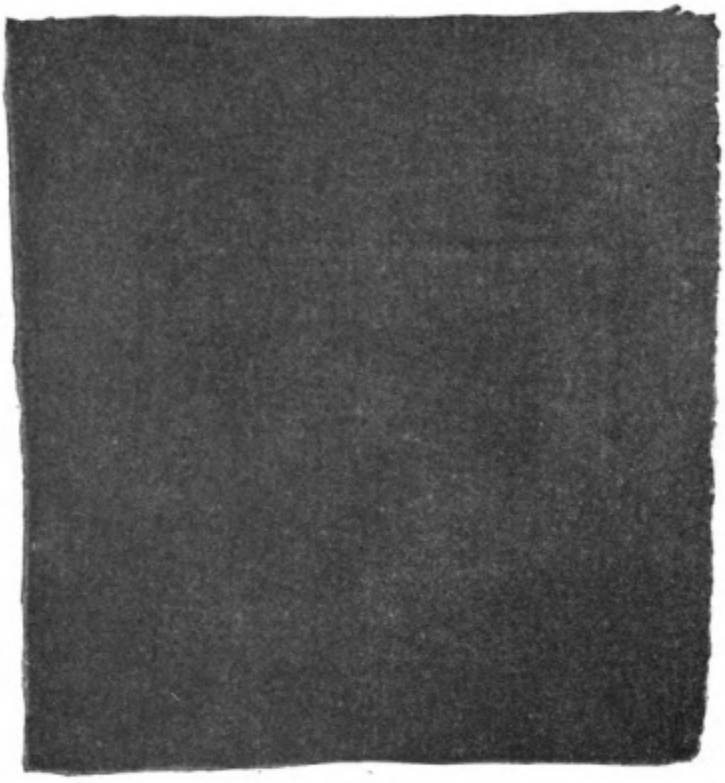

Fig. 62. — Darned-on patch.

boys' trousers. If possible, use a patch of irregular edges, as when sewed down it is less noticeable than one with straight edges, and can, with care, often be made almost invisible (see Fig. 62).

By fine overcasting of cotton or silk secure the patch to the right side of the garment, the stitch being taken through the upper surface of

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the edge of the patch. This brings the upper surface of the patch nearly to the level of the cloth of the garment. Then the darning stitches should be taken below the surface of the patch and the garment, never showing on the top. To hide the turning at the end of the lines of darning, take a stitch diagonally (always under the surface) from the end stitch of the line finished to the place where the next line is to begin.

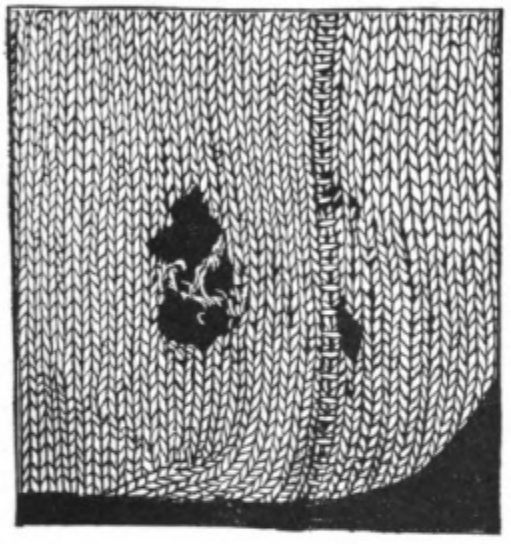

Fig. 63, A.

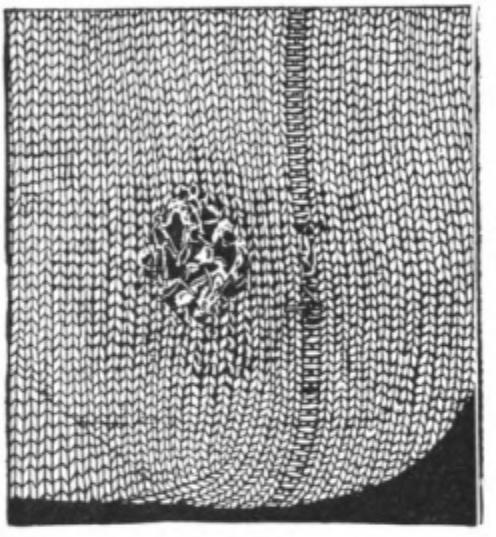

Fig. 63, B.

Pare off as little as possible of the ragged edges beneath, and catch them down securely to the under side of the patch with herringbone stitch so that the stitches do not show through.

The most important points of instruction are to consider the character of the cloth, the worn place, and the method of mending it.

III.

Darning: —

To darn a hole in a stocking (Fig. 63, A) or in woollen underclothing (if large), first draw the edges together as near as possible with fine

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cotton (Fig. 63, B); then make straight lines of darning between the two opposite sides of the hole, and leave a loop of the thread at the end of each line of turning, to allow for shrinking; darn across the hole in like manner at right angles to these lines (see Fig. 64). Each line of darning should begin 1 in. or more beyond the edge of the hole, and at

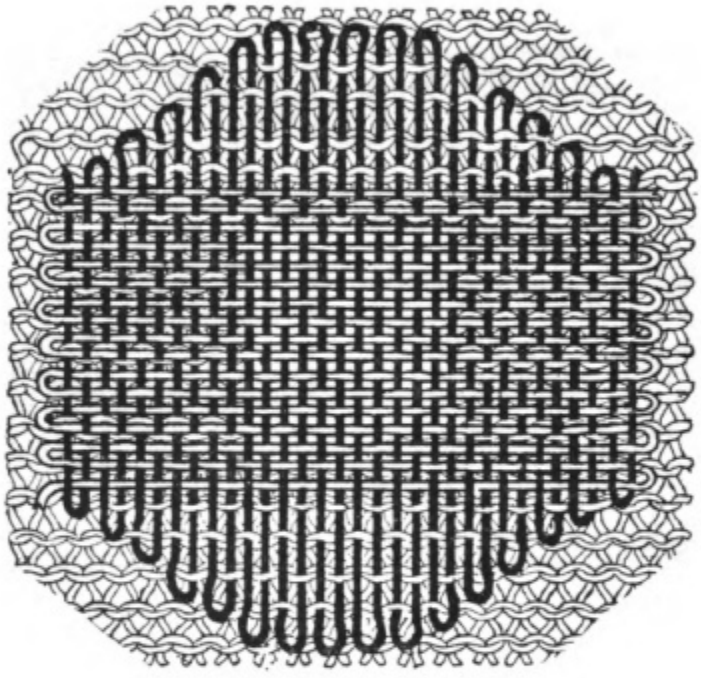

Fig. 64.

the left side of the worn or thin place. In one line pass the needle over the first thread and under the second, over the third and under the fourth, and so on, and in returning on the next line pass the needle over the threads taken up before, and under the threads left down (Fig. 64). (Illustrate on blackboard.)

If fine woollen thread is used in darning cotton stockings, the darn is much softer than when cotton thread is used. Care should always be

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taken when darning a worn place to make the lines of stitches of uneven length for the sake of strength. If the lines are of even length the whole strain is borne by one thread in the cloth, which soon gives way. Explain the different kinds of needles used for darning.

To show the necessity of darning before the hole actually appears, it should be explained that darning is a method of renewing the part of the cloth destroyed or weakened by wear, and in some cases is really hand-weaving. Thus, if the darning is over a thin place and not a hole, the work can be made stronger and less clumsy.

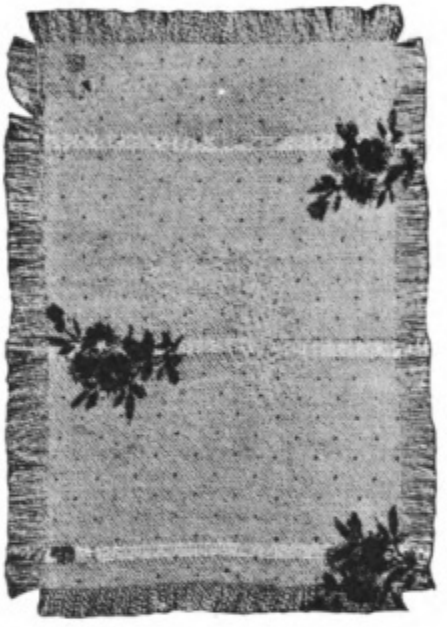

Fig. 65. — Darned with ravellings.

It would be well for the teacher to tell the child that, before stockings or woollen undergarments are washed, if a few stitches are taken with fine thread, drawing the torn edges evenly and as nearly together as possible, the hole instead of growing larger will full together at the edges and become smaller; thus the work of mending will be lessened, the mended garment will be stronger, and the mend itself is less conspicuous. Such information from a teacher is valuable for home use.

For darning woollen material, use a ravelling of the same if possible. Otherwise, use a fine worsted thread, splitting it if necessary and matching the color of the cloth (see Fig. 65).

In darning on silk or linen fabrics with fine floss, sewing silk, or ravellings of silk, the loops should be left shorter than in other darning, as the linen and silk threads do not shrink like cotton and wool threads.

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IV.

Mexican work (Fig. 66), As preliminary to general embroidery, is introduced in this grade. It gives a child valuable artistic training. Some children have natural gifts which are awakened and trained in this work in ways that are invaluable in after life. As a saving of school time, pupils may be allowed to take this work home and work on it there, when they show sufficient appreciation of neatness. It should be noticed that this primary Mexican work is practised in hemstitching and in herringbone stitch.

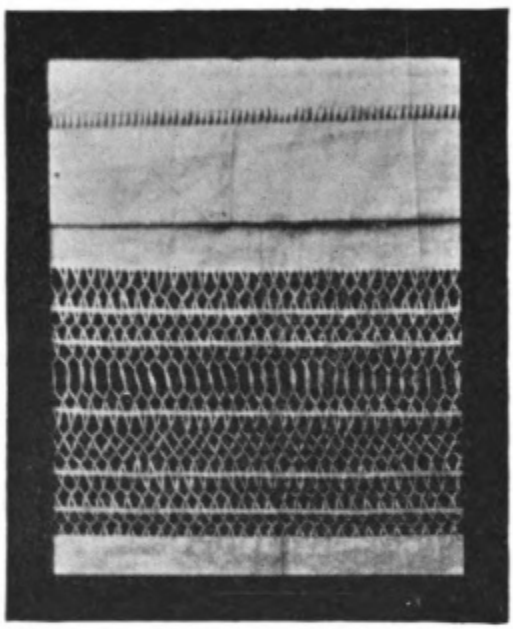

Fig. 66. — Mexican work.

V.

Cutting: — The scissors practice of the lower grades now becomes the wholly practical work of cutting patterns and garments. The pupils in this fourth year learn the use of the tape measure by measuring for patterns of plain undergarments. The measures are taken by the pupils on a child of the age and size to be fitted. These measures are written on the blackboard, where they are used in drawing a diagram according to the method explained in the class work. The pupil makes a similar diagram on paper.

VI.

How to measure for drawers pattern: —

For the length, place the end of the tape measure at the waist line on the upper part of the hip, and measure to three inches below

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The stitch is the same as that used in darning a thin place which is not yet worn into holes.

Couching is fastening a cord on a piece of work by oversewing or by embroidery edging stitches; it is used only in ornamental work (Fig. 78).

To make a French knot, fasten the thread with a rolled knot on the under side; then bring the needle to the upper side, pulling the thread through the cloth. Hold it by the left thumb down to the cloth at nearly an inch from this place, and pass the needle alternately under and over the thread from above to below between this place and the thumb, pointing it toward the thumb. Turn the needle back and pass it perpendicularly through to the under side as near as possible to the place where the thread comes up, then draw the thread through, not too tight.

Fig. 78. — Couching.

With heavy worsted there should be but one twist, with silk or cotton two or more twists about the needle, according to the size of the knot required. This French knot is used only for embroidery.

Outline-stitch is the stitch with which designs are outlined, and is also used to fill in on some kinds of embroidery.

To make outline stitch, the work should be held so that the line to be embroidered runs from the person. Fasten the thread by three running stitches along this line; with the needle pointing toward the chest, draw the thread through until but two stitches remain in the cloth; this leaves the end on the under side. Now carry the needle $\frac{1}{8}$ in. backward over these stitches, and take up on it four threads along the line of the design with the needle still pointing toward the

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Then take the thinnest kind of manilla paper to represent the dress material, and pin it over the dress lining in the same manner as the tissue paper was arranged on the small model. Use the manilla paper for a pattern from which to cut the dress material.

In cutting the dress goods, be careful to have the corresponding pieces for the two sides of the waist correct. If both are cut together, the cloth must be folded so that the right sides lie together. Single width cloth can be cut more economically if not folded. If one piece is cut first, it should be laid either right side on the right side, or wrong side on the wrong side, of the cloth from which the other is to be cut. Show on the blackboard the proper position of the right sleeve to the left sleeve when cut correctly. *Be very exact in cutting curves.*

Fig. 82. — Paper dress made by a pupil.

After the dress material is cut, the pieces should be laid on the corresponding pieces of the lining, and the two smoothly basted together 1 in. from the edge, with stitches from 1 in. to 1½ in. long. The seams should then be basted with short basting stitches of ⅛ in., always beginning at the notches made at the waist line.

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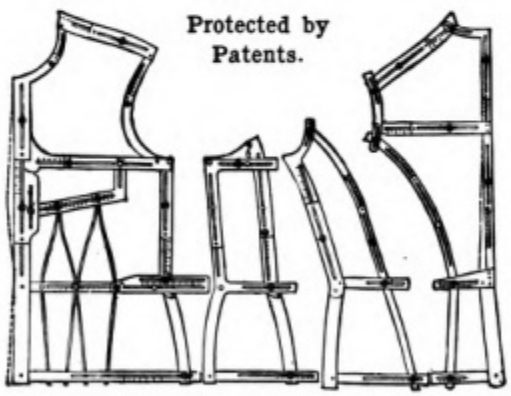

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