Hand Netting with a Needle and Mesh Gauge

J. S. Redfield, publisher, 1844

Selected pages from The Ladies? Handbook of Knitting, Netting, and Crochet.

Work a foundation row, form netting knots and vary mesh size with a hand netting needle and gauge.

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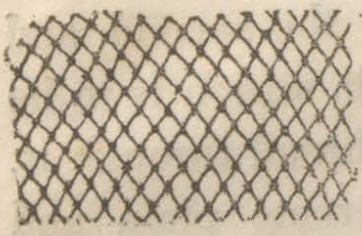
PLAIN NETTING.—Take the mesh in the left hand (having previously made a long loop



with twine, and fixed it to any convenient support), between the first two fingers and the thumb. The netting needle must be threaded with the material, and fastened by a knot to the long loop before spoken of, and the mesh must be held up as close as possible to this knot, *under* the twine. The needle is to be held in the right hand between the fore finger and the thumb, and must be passed under and around the left hand, so that the material may be formed into a slack loop, passing over all the fingers except the little one. In this position the material must be held between the upper side of the mesh and the left hand thumb, and the needle must be passed back round the pin or mesh, allowing the material to form a larger loop, so as to include the little finger. The needle will thus be brought round in front of the mesh, and must pass under the first loop between the mesh and the fingers, and thus through the loop called the foundation loop, and thence over that portion of the material which goes backward, for the purpose of forming the second

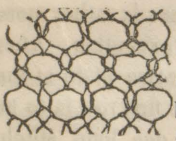
loop. The needle must be kept in its position, till the right hand is so brought round as to be able to pull it through; and then the needle being drawn out and held in the right hand, the worker must disengage all the fingers of the left, except the last, which is to retain its hold of the second loop, which was formed by passing the material round it. By means of this hold retained by the little finger, the material is to be drawn to the mesh, and the knot thus formed, be drawn tight to the foundation. This process is to be repeated until a sufficient number or stitches are found to be necessary according to the width of the net desired. As the mesh becomes filled, some of the loops must be suffered to drop off; and when the row is completed, it must be drawn out, and a row of loops will be found suspended from the foundation by their respective knots, and moving freely onward. The work is then to be turned over, which will cause the ends of the rows to be reversed; and in netting a second row, it will be done as before, from left to right. In commencing the second and all the succeeding rows, the mesh must be so placed as

to come up close to the bottom of the preceding row or loops, and the former process with the needle must be repeated. It will be needful to have a sufficient quantity of the material always wound on the needle, or otherwise it will not move freely round, as it is indispensable it should do.

NET WITH POINTS.—This is done by making a foundation of, say, ninety stitches. Net on this foundation with any color you please. Net fifty stitches and return back again, proceed as before, only decreasing ten stitches, and so go on until the required point is gained. Two colors are required.

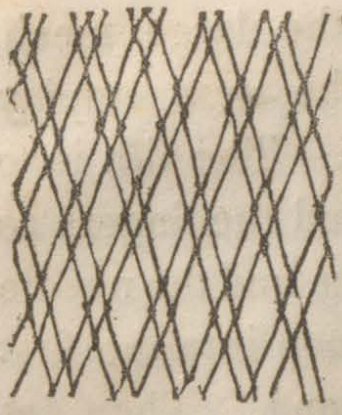
NET WITH BEADS.—Thread a long darning needle with netting silk, thread the beads as you want them, and pass one on the top of the mesh. Then net a stitch, passing the material under the mesh and through the bead; the silk must then be passed back again under the mesh, and it will draw the bead with it, and leave it on the knot.

GRECIAN NETTING.—This is beautiful, and should be worked with fine silk, and with two meshes, Nos. 9 and 18, one plain row is to be



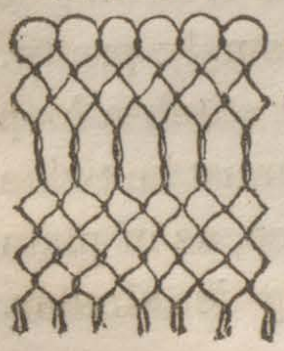
netted with the large mesh, and then in the next employ the small one. The silk is to be twisted round the fingers as in plain netting, and the needle must pass through the finger loop into the first stitch, and thence into the second. Then let the second be drawn through the first, and the first through the second, finishing the stitch by releasing your fingers, and pulling the material tight. The succeeding stitch, is a small loop, that appears to cross the stitches twisted together. These three kind of stitches form the pattern, and are to be repeated until the work is completed. Grecian netting may be employed for a variety of purposes and you can, of course, vary both the material and the meshes, as best accords with the design you are intending to accomplish.

Diamond Netting.—This kind of netting is easy of execution, and looks extremely pretty. It is done by making every other stitch a loop stitch, in order to which, the silk must be twice put round the mesh, instead of once, as in plain netting. Treble diamond netting is similar,



only the process is rather more complex in its execution. After netting three rows plain at the beginning, the first row is to be composed of one loop stitch, and three plain stitches, repeated until the row is finished; then in working the second row commence with a plain stitch, then follow with a loop, then two plain stitches, and repeat as before. For the third row begin with one or two plain stitches, make a loop, then net a stitch plain, and repeat the two loops in the plain stitch to the end of the row. For the fourth row you net three stitches in plain netting, then make a loop stitch, and repeat as in previous rows. An attention to this arrangement will soon enable the young student in net work to net in as many stitches as she may deem desirable.

PLAIN OPEN NETTING.—This is pretty, and



easy of execution. The operation is performed by netting three rows plain, then a row of loop stitches, then three rows plain, and a row of loops as before. You

may net to any length you please. These directions are all that are necessary, and if duly attended to, will enable the young lady to attain proficiency.