

OPENWORK INSERTION WITH KNOTTED CLUSTERS SET CONTRARIWISE,
OVERCAST BARS AND FESTONS IN DARNING STITCH.

Drawn Thread Work

The empty spaces produced in linen by grouping together with stitches several threads, isolated by the drawing out of warp or woof threads or both, constitutes what is known as "drawn thread work".

By grouping together and covering the isolated threads with different stitches the most varied combinations and the richest patterns can be produced, suitable either as sole decoration or as a finish to cross stitch or other embroidery.

The simplest kind of drawn work is known as "hemstitching" which consists in drawing out a few parallel threads of the material at the head of a hem and fastening up the upper and last cross-thread to the folded hem above it, so as to prevent its ravelling downwards; thus leaving small open spaces between each of the clusters of threads. The borders, insertions and grounds, the Italian cut stitch, the different kinds of American, Danish and Norwegian openwork (*) and finally the Reticella cut work of Italian and Greek origin are all more complicated and elaborate forms of drawn or openwork; the latter being a transition from openwork on linen to lace work.

The patterns of modern work of this kind are very similar to certain lace patterns, they resemble the American ones and

contain, like these, stitches and figures often employed in the Teneriffe lace.

Viewed as regards the execution there are two kinds of openwork on linen: the one is produced by drawing out a certain number of either the warp or the woof threads, this is known as drawn work (the Italian *punto tirato*); the other requires the removal of both warp and woof threads and is known as cut work (the Italian *punto tagliato*).

Materials. — Openwork on linen is done on woven stuffs, the warp and woof threads of which should as far as possible be of equal size so that the spaces left by the removal of the threads may be regular in form. For table, bed and toilet linen, all the different kinds of white, cream or *écru* linens, used for embroidery, are suitable: for decorative articles, coloured linens are preferable, known as English or Scotch linens. The different kinds of tammy cloth serve for chair backs curtains and blinds; gauze and cambric, for dress trimmings.

For the work itself, when the threads of the stuff have been removed, a strong, twisted thread should always be used, one or other of the following articles, bearing the D.M.C trade mark: Alsatian thread D.M.C (*Fil d'Alsace*), Alsatian twist D.M.C (*Retors d'Alsace*), Lace thread D.M.C (*Fil à dentelle*), Crochet cotton 6 cord D.M.C (*Cordonnet 6 fils*), Special crochet cotton D.M.C (*Cordonnet spécial*), Crochet cotton bell mark D.M.C (*Cordonnet à la cloche*), Flax lace thread D.M.C (*Lin pour dentelles*) or Flax thread for knitting D.M.C (*Lin à tricoter*). The working thread should, generally speaking, be of the same size as the threads of the stuff, but for the raised parts which are to stand out in special relief a coarser thread should be used. For all the fillings and decorative figures in darning stitch, a loose pliable thread should be selected, such as Special stranded cotton D.M.C (*Mouliné spécial*), and Stranded flax D.M.C (*Lin mouliné*) composed of several strands, of which one or more can be used as required or else Pearl cotton D.M.C (*Coton perlé*) or Floss flax D.M.C (*Lin floche*), both with a slight twist.

Openwork on linen is generally done in one colour only, white on white, or in the same shade as the stuff; but we should recommend white thread for cream and écreu stuffs and a slightly tinted thread for the coloured lines. Openwork on linen in several colours is not often met with.

To facilitate the reproduction of our patterns directions as regards the course of the work and the materials to be used, are given, either beneath the engravings in the text, or, in the case of the plates, at the back of each plate.

Insertions (punto tirato).

Insertions are made, as we have already said, by drawing out either the horizontal or the vertical threads. The openwork hems form the starting point of this kind of work.

These hems often take the place of the ordinary hem when a richer effect is desired. Wider insertions are used as a trimming for bed and table-linen instead of embroidery or lace insertion.

Single hem-stitch (figs. 1 and 2). — Draw out two threads beneath the fold over, then tack down the hem above the isolated threads. Fasten in the working thread on the left, then slip the needle from right to left under three isolated threads, draw it out and pass it, upwards from below, under two threads of the fold of the hem. (See fig. 1.)

For the hem fig. 2, prepare it like the preceding one, and work as before from left to right, only that after having slipped

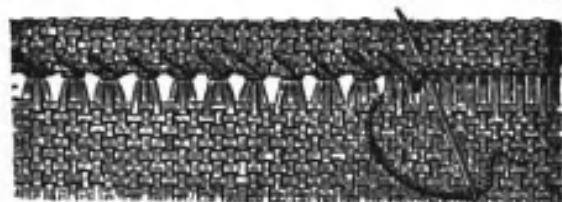


Fig. 1.
Single hem-stitch.

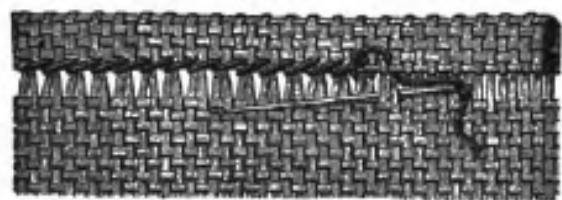


Fig. 2.
Another single hem-stitch.

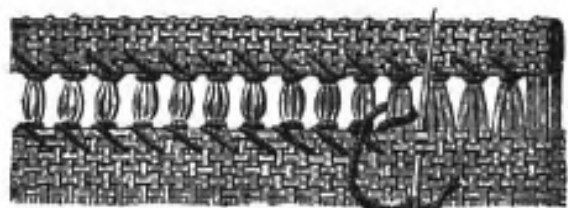


Fig. 3.
Ladder hem-stitch.

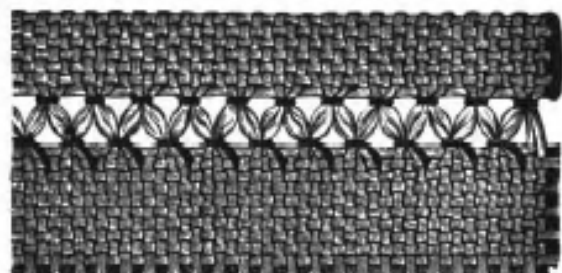


Fig. 4.
Serpentine hem-stitch.

your needle under the two perpendicular threads, you insert it into the hem downwards from above, over one thread, so that it comes out exactly at the very edge of the fold. These stitches which may also be made on the wrong side of the work, form a kind of cord beneath the hem.



Fig. 5.
Four-sided stitch.



Fig. 6.
Crossed back-stitch.
Right side.

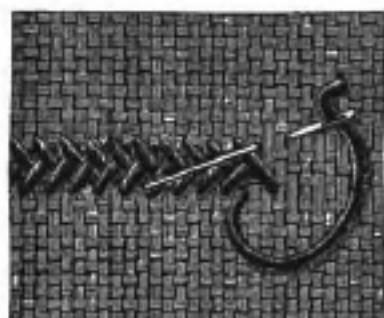


Fig. 7.
Crossed back-stitch.
Wrong side.

Ladder hem-stitch (fig. 3). — After making the first row of stitches, as shewn in fig. 1, draw out a few more threads, 5 in all. Then turn the work and make a second row of stitches like the first. You collect the same threads as in the first row thus forming vertical rungs or steps.

Serpentine hem-stitch (fig. 4). — Here again the first row of stitches is made as in fig. 1, by taking up each time an even number of threads. For the second row take up half the threads of two clusters, so as to divide the rungs or steps which will thus form a serpentine line.

How to secure the edges of the stuff in openwork. — After drawing out the threads for a hem or an insertion, you must secure the threads of the stuff on both sides of the openwork, so as to keep them in their place and prevent their slipping into the openwork part. This is an indispensable precaution in the case of wide hems or insertions; for small articles of fancy-work it is not so necessary.

The simplest way of securing the edges is shewn in figs. 1 and 3, it can also be

done by straight and oblique stroke stitches, set singly or grouped together in the shape of scallops or squares (see plates 1 and 4).

For the openwork parts, combined with embroidery in colours, use cross stitch and plaited stitch (see plates 13 and 19). In work of a more minute description, the edges are button holed or overcast as has been done in the patterns

represented in plates 2, 8, 9, 11, 12 and 18, where the stitches are thickly padded, thus producing a raised effect.

Figs. 5 to 9 also illustrate some stitches that may be used for this work.

Four-sided stitch (fig. 5). — Draw out one thread of the stuff, skip three threads and draw out one.

The stitches are made in a row from right to left. Begin with a vertical stitch upwards over the three isolated threads, then carry the needle on the wrong side of the work, three threads downwards to the left, make one horizontal stitch to the right, which will touch the vertical stitch at the top and finally bring out the needle below, to the left of the horizontal stitch. Then make a vertical stitch again and so on. By drawing the thread tight you get small square stitches accompanied above and below by little eyelet holes. In loosely woven stuffs it is not necessary to draw out a thread top and bottom, the openwork effect results of itself by the threads being drawn closely together.

Crossed back-stitch (figs. 6 and 7). The right and the wrong side of this stitch both serve for securing the edges of the stuff. Leave a band of stuff, three threads deep, then draw out one thread above and below.

For the execution described by the engraving, fig. 6, you insert the needle as for ordinary back-stitch, slip it under the stuff, slanting it a little towards the second outline of the drawing, and bringing it out one thread beyond the

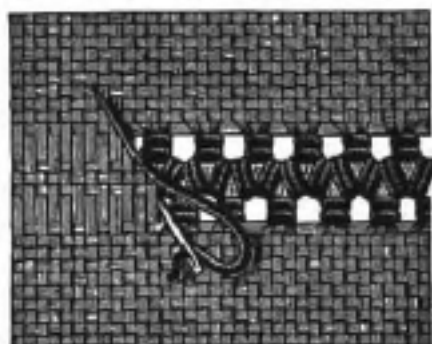


Fig. 8.
Fancy stitch worked
in one journey.



Fig. 9.
Fancy stitch worked
in two journeys.

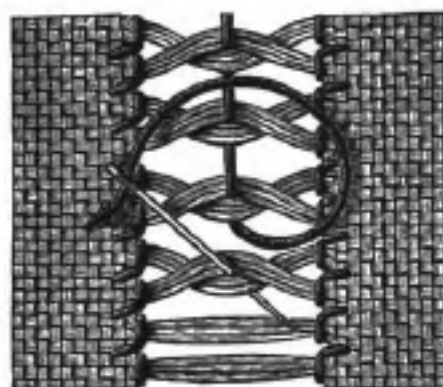


Fig. 10.
Whole clusters interverted
once.

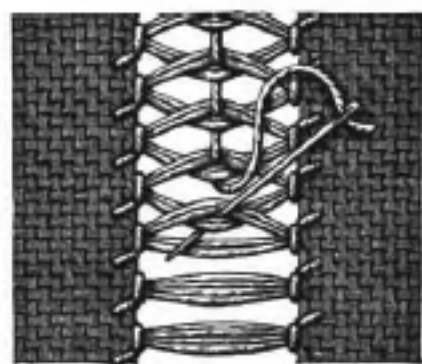


Fig. 11.
Divided clusters interverted
once.

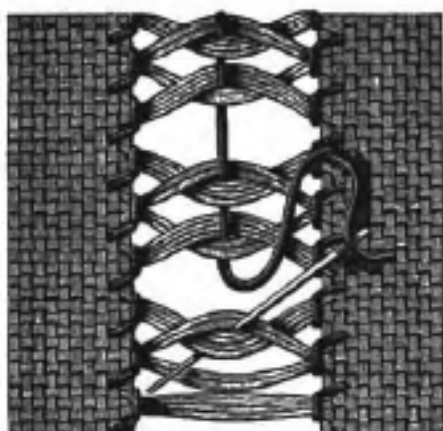


Fig. 12. Two whole clusters interverted once with two half-clusters.

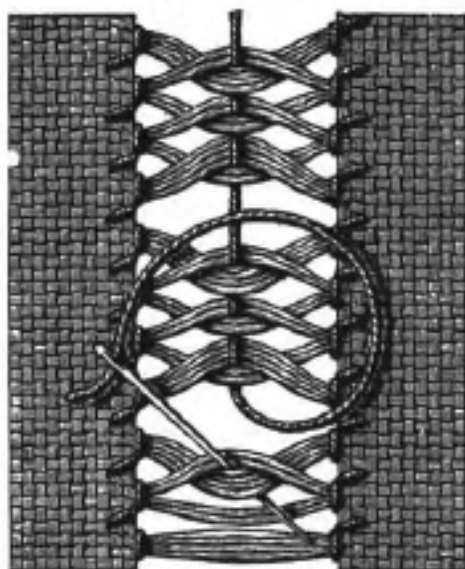


Fig. 13. Two whole clusters interverted once with four half-clusters.

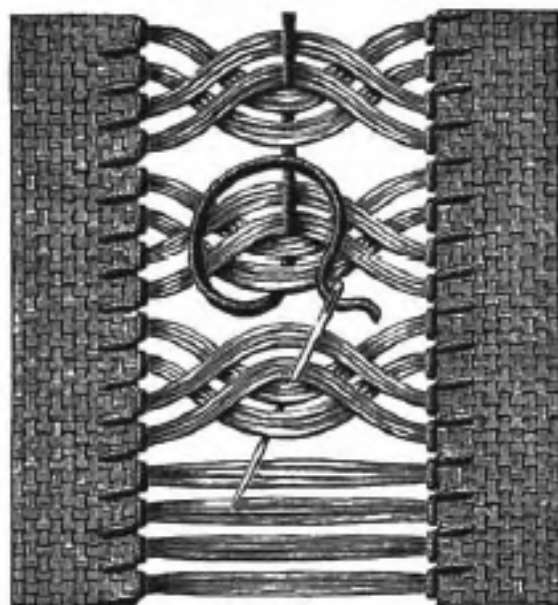


Fig. 14.
Four clusters once interverted
and once crossed.

first stitch. After making one back-stitch over two threads of the stuff, slip the needle upwards again under the stuff and bring it out two threads further on for a new stitch.

The intercrossing of the threads and the way this stitch is worked on the wrong side are shewn in fig. 7.

Fancy stitch worked in one journey (fig. 8). — Here again the band of stuff is three threads deep but two threads of the stuff must be drawn out both above and below.

Beginning below on the right, make two back-stitches from left to right over four disengaged threads, these are followed by two stitches over three horizontal threads and two vertical ones, sloped to the right; after which you make two horizontal back-stitches over four threads at the top to come back to the first line with two slanting stitches over three horizontal and two vertical stitches, sloped to the right. Continue in this manner drawing the stitches very tight and the open parts will come out very distinctly.

Fancy stitch worked in two journeys (fig. 9). — The stitches are made over five horizontal threads, and one thread is drawn out top and bottom. The first row consists of single stitches, see figs. 1 to 3, one of which is worked upwards and the other downwards (see also the explanatory detail on the left side of the engraving). In the second journey you add a row

of oblique stitches in the middle of the band, set between the stitches of the first row; in the engraving these stitches are shewn by a dark thread.

Different ways of openworking the bands of drawn stitch. — The openwork can be produced in various ways :

- 1° By drawing the clusters of threads opposite ways ;
- 2° By knotting the clusters ;
- 3° By embroidering over the clusters ;
- 4° By linking the clusters together with small decorative subjects.

Different ways of drawing the clusters together interverted (figs. 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18). — You draw

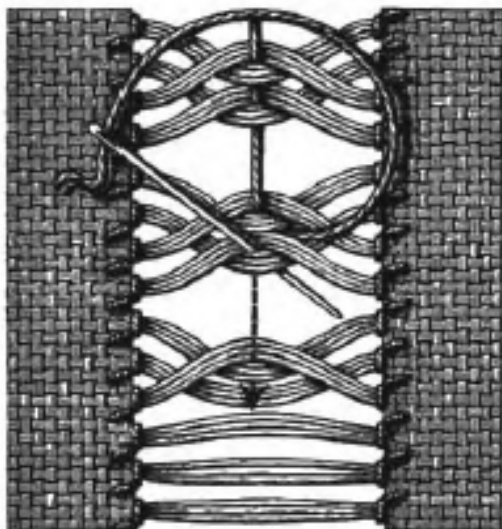


Fig. 15.

Flour clusters once interverted
and twice crossed.

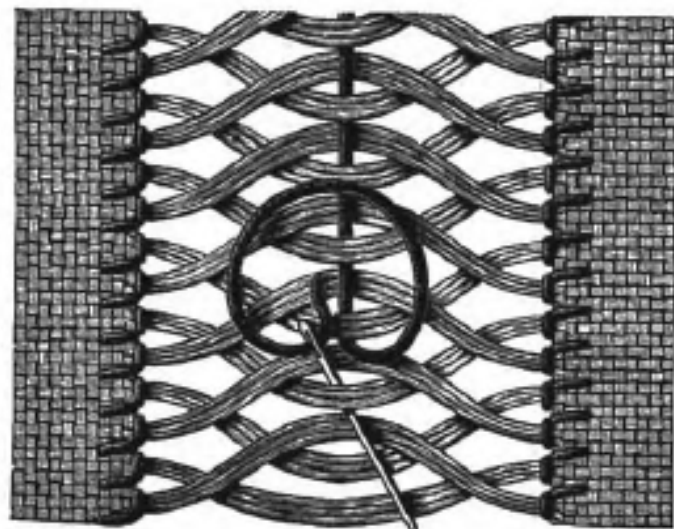


Fig. 16.

Whole clusters once interverted
and three times crossed.

the clusters together opposite ways by slipping a needle and coarse thread under one cluster which you then slip over one of the next clusters. To keep the clusters in their new position you pass the coarse thread between the clusters that are interverted.

You can draw the clusters opposite ways in one journey or in several parallel lines, then you can take either whole clusters, or divided ones, or several clusters at once as will be seen from the following examples.

We begin with the small strips made in one journey; fig. 10 shews us the plainest one, two whole clusters once interverted.

For this you draw, as we have just said, the second cluster over the first and the coarse thread passes over the second cluster and under the first. For the stripe fig. 11 the clusters are divided before they are interverted; this pattern presents a less open effect than the preceding one.

The engraving fig. 12 shews two whole clusters interverted

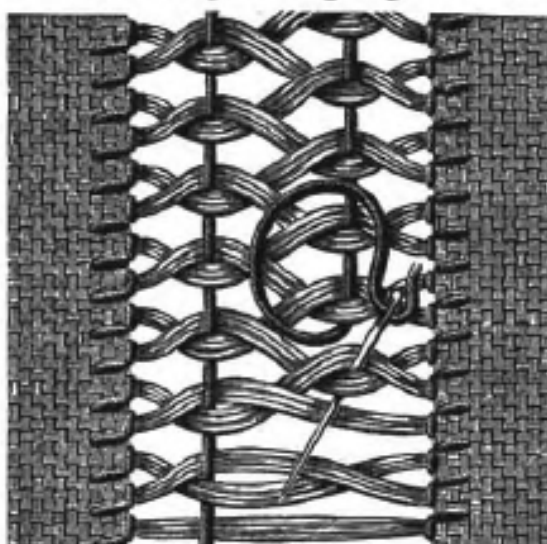


Fig. 17. Two clusters once interverted in two rows.

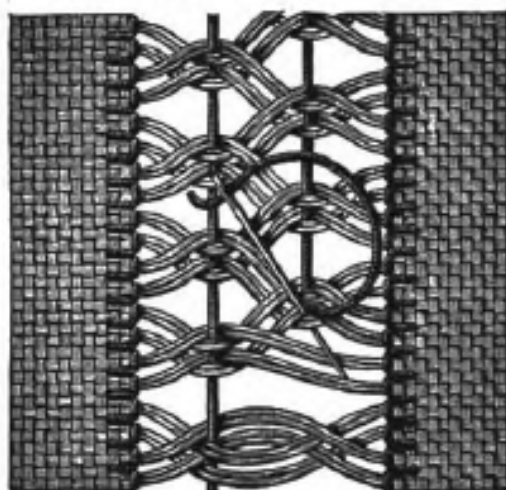


Fig. 18. Four clusters doubly interverted in two rows.

with two half-clusters and fig. 13 a design consisting of two whole and four half clusters.

The patterns of figs. 14 and 15 are formed of four clusters interverted at the same time. For fig. 14 you draw the third and fourth clusters over the first and the second, which gives a subject crossed once, whilst for fig. 15 you intervert the third and the fourth clusters and the fourth and the second; in this way the clusters appear crossed twice.

Finally fig. 16 shews how to execute in one journey a row crossed three times. To get this effect you intervert the fourth and first clusters, the sixth and the third, the eighth and the fifth and so on.

Two more patterns are added in which the clusters are interverted in two parallel rows.

Fig. 17 shews a double row of the motives of fig. 10, and fig. 18, a double row of the motives of fig. 15. The position of the needle shows the working of the second row.

Three-rowed insertion with divided clusters once interverted and little waved bands between (fig. 19). — The following patterns are to shew the uses to which the different crossed openwork stitches just described can be put.

For the three-rowed insertion, fig. 19, repeat the stitch illustrated by fig. 3 six times; the first and sixth time for beginning and finishing the insertion, the second and fifth time after having drawn out six threads of the stuff, the third and the fourth time after drawing out eight threads. All the clusters must consist of four threads of the stuff. The first and the third rows must be worked after fig. 4, the middle row after fig. 11.

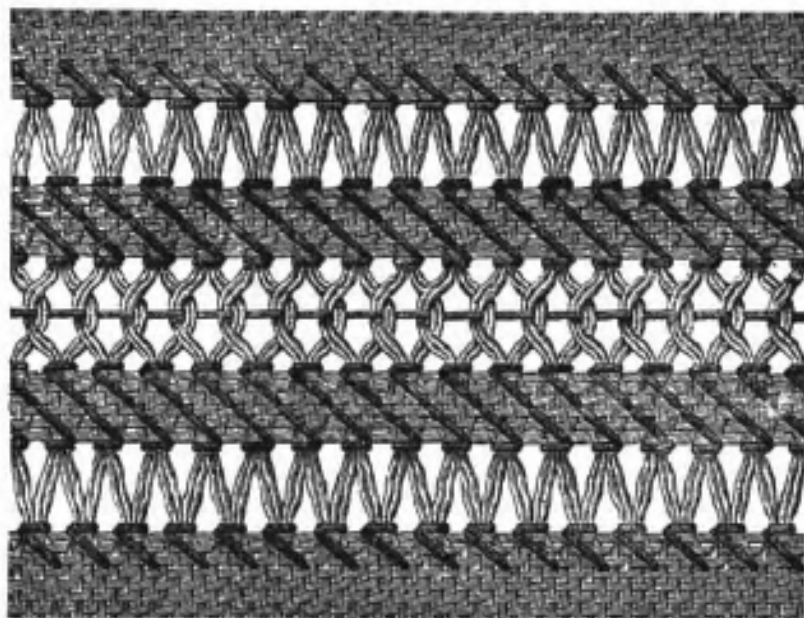


Fig. 19. Insertion consisting of three rows with divided clusters once interverted and small waved insertions between.

Materials: Russian linen, in *écru* and Pearl cotton D.M.C N° 5, in Cream-Yellow 712.

Insertions with interverted clusters in two rows

(fig. 20). — After drawing out twelve threads of the stuff and securing the

edges with the stitch shewn in fig. 3 worked over three disengaged threads, you

make two series of stitches interverting

the whole clusters as shewn in fig. 17.

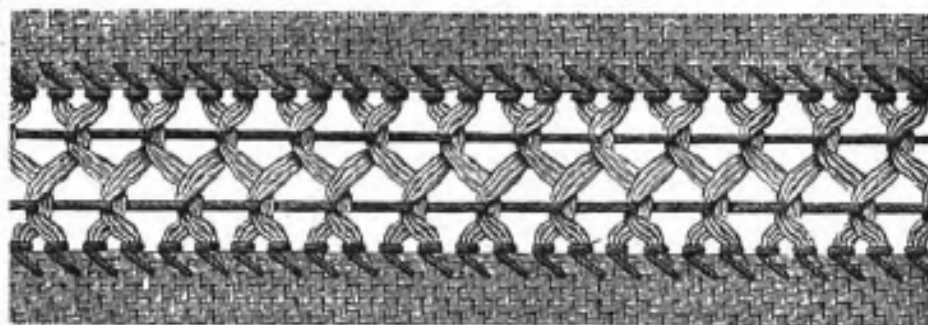


Fig. 20. Insertion with interverted clusters in two rows.

Materials: Plaited tammy cloth in *écru* and Crochet cotton, special quality D.M.C N° 3, in snow-white.

Insertion with interverted clusters crossed three times and embroidered over (fig. 21). — Draw out twentyfive threads of the stuff; the isolated threads on both sides are then secured by oblique stroke stitches over six threads.

The clusters are then crossed in the middle of their height by means of the stitch represented in fig. 16, after which you introduce another thread each side of the first, following the

clusters proceeding from the first assemblage. After drawing the first threads through you surround the clusters with over-cast stitches by means of a second thread, thus enclosing them between two threads.

Different ways of knotting the clusters (figs. 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31). — The insertions with knotted

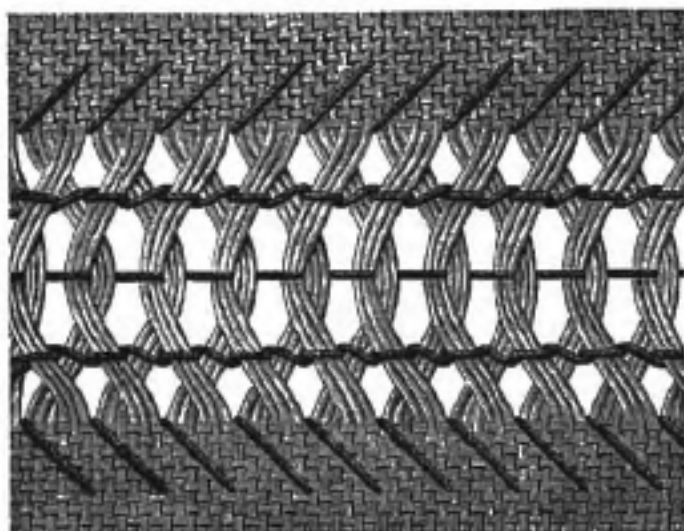


Fig. 21. Insertion with interverted clusters crossed three times and embroidered over.

Materials: Java linen, in écreu and Flax for knitting D.M.C N° 8, in white.

the clusters by a knot formed by an interverted chain stitch, in more elaborate patterns you can use both overcasting and button-hole stitch.

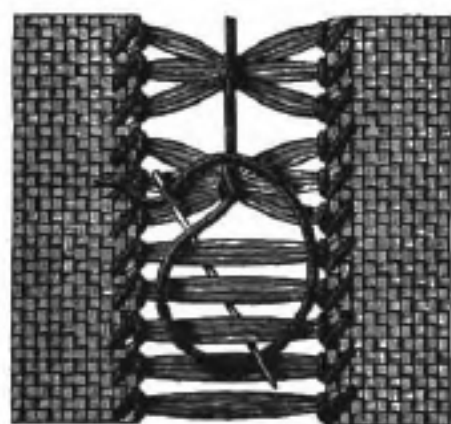


Fig. 22.

Triple clusters knotted once with a vertical thread.

We recommend all these kinds of openwork being done on the wrong side, in this way it will be found easier to carry the thread invisibly from one cluster to another and the chain stitch will also present a better appearance.

We begin our series of patterns by those with knotted clusters worked in one row and in which the auxiliary thread is visible; fig. 22 shows the making of a knot with an interverted chain stitch in an insertion formed by triple clusters, once knotted. The thread with which you make the collecting knots descends vertically and links the clusters together.

In fig. 23 the clusters appear much longer, they are knotted

twice, which forms a pattern with horizontal bars in the middle of the insertion.

For fig. 24 you draw four clusters together and these are afterwards divided in the second row so as to form in the middle a serpentine pattern.

In the next figures the thread that served to make the knots is carried over the clusters without shewing in the empty spaces between.

The little insertion fig. 25 is a specimen of single openwork without the edges being overcast or secured in any way by stitches, as in little articles of fancywork. The clusters of threads are knotted in a zig-zag line by means of single chain stitches and without overcasting stitches between these latter.

Fig. 26 shews a similar pattern but with the edges secured against fraying and the clusters encircled in the middle by an overcasting stitch.

For the insertion illustrated by fig. 27 you each time knot four clusters together; the serpentine bars in the middle of the strip are lightly overcast.

Fig. 28 shews an insertion consisting of a double row of sextuple clusters, the middle bars set in the shape of lozenges are encircled with button-hole stitches.

The single Turkish knot, fig. 29, is often used when the edges of a wide insertion are to be ornamented with a row of eyelet holes. After drawing out two or three threads of the stuff collect three or five together by means

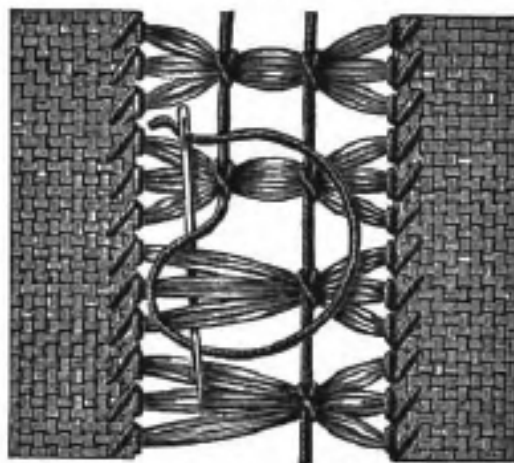


Fig. 23. Triple clusters knotted twice with two parallel vertical threads.

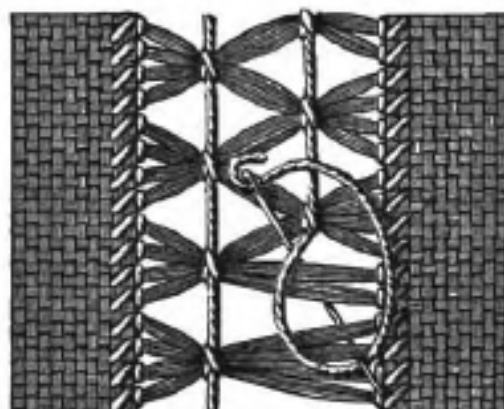


Fig. 24. Quadruple clusters, divided, knotted twice with two vertical threads.



Fig. 25. Single clusters knotted once in a serpentine line without overcasting stitches.

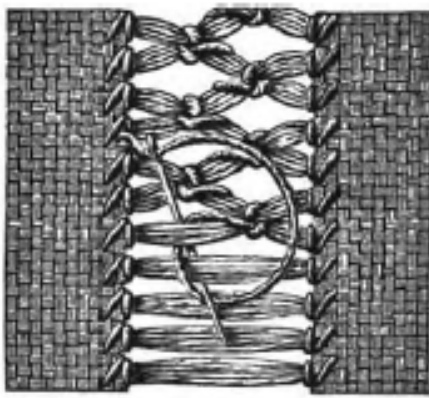


Fig. 26. Double clusters knotted once in a serpentine line with overcasting stitches.

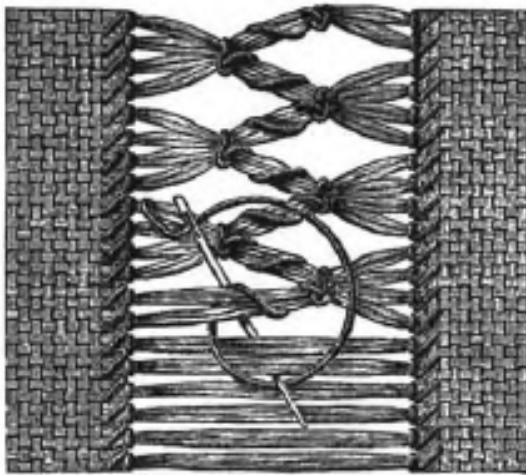


Fig. 27. Quadruple clusters once knotted in a serpentine line with overcasting stitches.

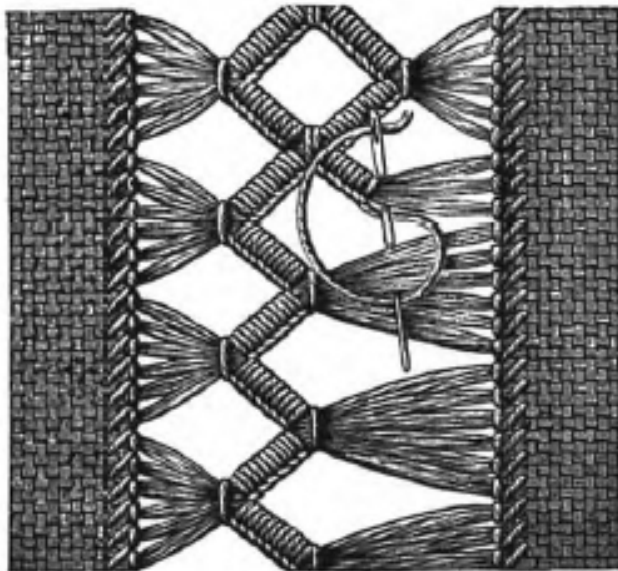


Fig. 28. Sextuple clusters twice knotted with a pattern consisting of button-holed squares.

of the knot explained by the engraving and the result will be a row of small round holes.

Fig. 30 shews the use of the Turkish knot to collect two clusters in a wider insertion. In this way small isolated crosses are formed, the opposite to those in fig. 22, where the clusters are visibly connected by the thread that served to make the collecting knot.

Finally, in fig. 31, we give a narrow serpentine insertion where the pattern is formed solely by horizontal overcasting stitches; this work is not very strong and we cannot recommend its use save in certain fancy articles not exposed to much wear.

The ensuing patterns of insertions will shew the use of the stitches we have been describing.

Insertion formed of two rows of triple clusters knotted once

(fig. 32). — Draw out twice twelve threads of the stuff with an interval of four threads and secure the edges from fraying by stitches over 2 threads, as in fig. 3. After fastening in the thread, knot three clusters together by means of three interverted chain stitches, see also fig. 22. The thread that crosses the middle of the empty spaces between must always be given a little play.

Insertion of knotted clusters with vertical bars (fig. 33). The stitches to secure the edges are to be worked over four threads, you then draw out twenty threads between the edges. The pattern itself is worked after fig. 23, only that instead of knotting the clusters together with only one chain stitch you do it with three.

Turkish insertion with two rows of isolated clusters (fig. 34). After securing the edges by stitches set over three horizontal and four vertical threads draw out for each band sixteen threads of the stuff.

The crossed figures of the second band are interverted as regards those of the first band. Fig. 30 shows the working of the stitch.

Different ways of embroidering the clusters (figs. 35, 36, 37, 38). — The third class of drawn work comprises the insertions with embroidered clusters; this work requires more trouble and patience than the preceding kind, for the clusters of threads entirely disappear under the embroidery that forms the pattern.

The stitch most frequently used for this embroidery is darning stitch, together sometimes with overcasting and button-hole stitches.

Fig. 35 explains the making of the little overcast bars used either for ornamenting a narrow hem or for making latticed grounds in works of a larger size. (See also the grounds, fig. 72 to 78 and the borders fig. 97 to 99.) As seen in fig. 35, the thread is carried downwards from above in the middle of the cluster to be overcast; beginning at the bottom, you completely surround

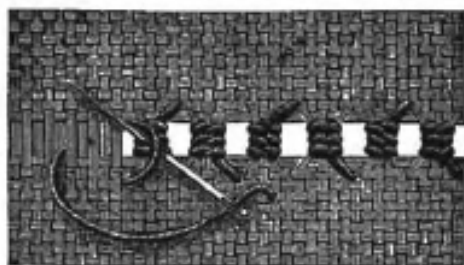


Fig. 29.

Single clusters knotted with the Turkish knot.

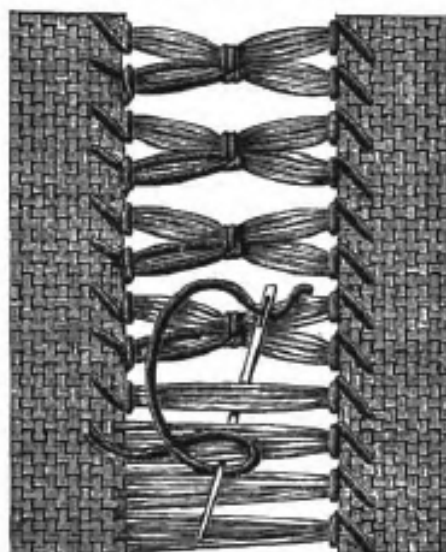


Fig. 30.

Double clusters knotted with the Turkish knot.

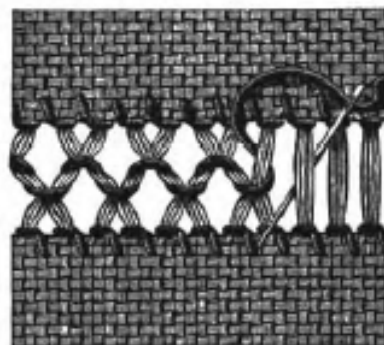


Fig. 31. Clusters knotted in serpentine line by horizontal stitches.

the cluster, consisting in this instance of four threads of the stuff, with overcasting stitches.

Fig. 36 shews the overcast bars placed in a zig-zag line. Here the bars are worked alternately upwards and downwards, and over clusters of three threads only. At the junction of two bars you connect them by two overcasting stitches over the six threads they are composed of; in this way you have an insertion of serpentine bars.

The bars covered with darning stitches, fig. 37, always

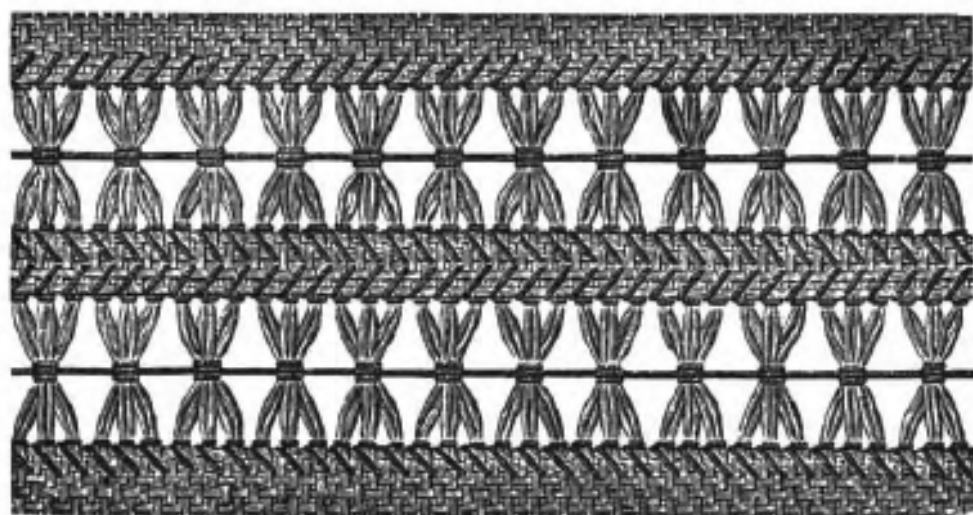


Fig. 32. Insertion formed of two rows of triple clusters once knotted.
Materials: Plaited tammy cloth in *écru*, Floss flax or flourishing thread D.M.C N° 16, in Saffron yellow 749.

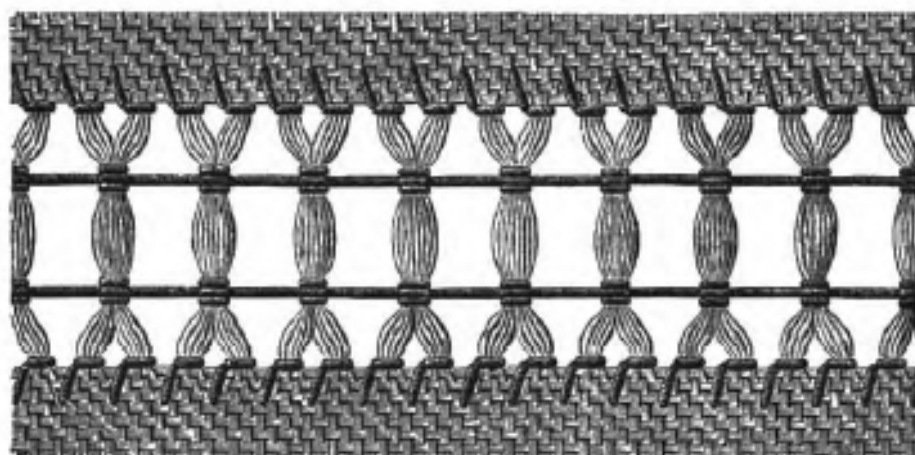


Fig. 33. Insertion of knotted clusters with vertical bars.
Materials: Double tammy cloth in cream, Crochet cotton 6 cord D.M.C N° 5, in Maize yellow 579.

require clusters made of an even number of threads. The bars are made from right to left, to and fro, the needle being always inserted in the middle of the threads of the cluster.

Insert the needle, eye foremost, the point turned against

the thimble, this facilitates the work and prevents you from splitting the threads of the clusters. When the bar is finished, turn the work round, so as always to work in the same direction, that is to say, having the finished part on the right of your needle.

To shew how larger figures are worked in darning stitch,

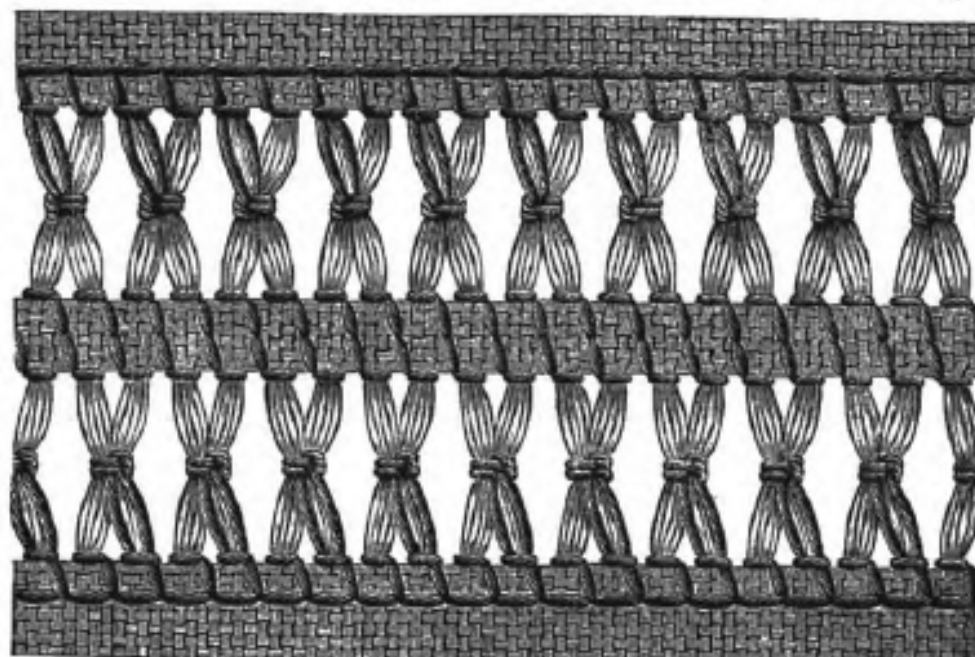


Fig. 34. Turkish insertion in two rows of isolated clusters.
Materials: Rhodes linen, in white, Pearl cotton D.M.C N° 5,
in Old gold yellow 680.

we give in fig. 38 an insertion composed of pyramids in course of execution and shewing the work in progress. The needle



Fig. 35.
Overcast isolated
bars.

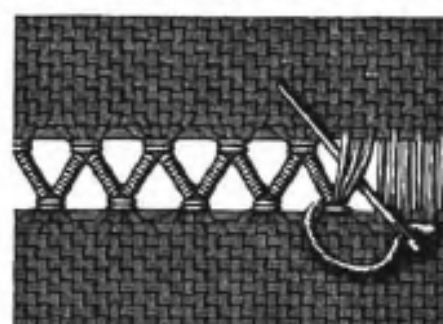


Fig. 36.
Overcast bars in a
zig-zag line.

travels to and fro over a settled number of clusters till all the threads of the stuff are entirely covered.

Insertions in darning stitch. — The following patterns represent insertions of Slav or Hungarian origin; they are executed in darning stitch. These insertions are employed as

borders for trimming house-linen and wearing apparel ; they are mostly executed in white on écreu linen, more rarely in colours. In the latter case, very bright decided colours are preferable : red, blue, green and orange, some parts are even embroidered in black. In addition to these patterns we give a series of Persian



Fig. 37. Bars covered with darning stitches.

subjects copied from the ancient veils, which are famous for their great beauty.

In these kinds of drawn work it often happens that the embroidery stitches that cover the clusters fill up the whole width of the insertion, it will therefore in these cases be unnecessary to secure the threads of the edges by overcasting stitches.

Insertion with two rows of bars in darning stitch in one colour (fig. 39).

Draw out 14 threads. Pass the working thread so that it should disappear under the darning stitches made to and fro over ten threads, in sufficient number to cover the isolated threads to half their height.

To reach the second cluster, re-insert the needle under the

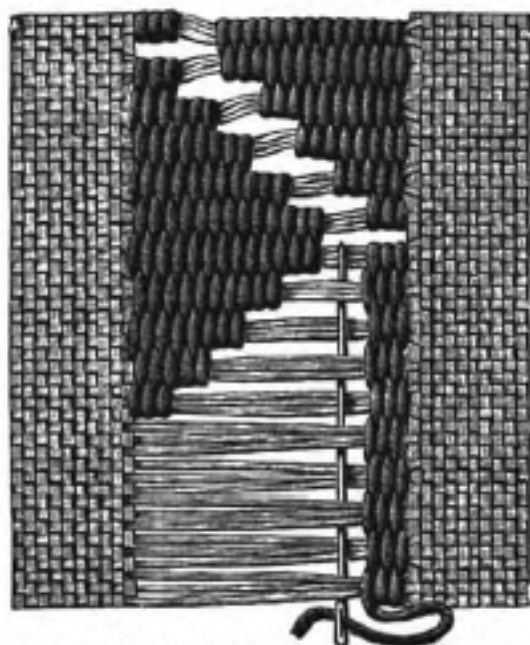


Fig. 38. Pyramids covered with darning stitches.

last darning stitches, carry the thread under the isolated threads and begin the second cluster by dividing the threads as the figure indicates. Fig. 37 also explains the execution of the bars in darning stitch.

Insertion with three rows of bars in darning stitch worked in three colours (fig. 40). — After drawing out 18 threads of the stuff collect the vertical threads and work the darning stitches over the ten threads as in fig. 39 but in three

colours instead of one, using always the same colour for three clusters in a diagonal line.

Insertion with three rows of bars of different lengths in darning stitch (fig. 41). — Secure the edges with stroke

stitches set slanting over four threads of the stuff, then draw twenty horizontal threads for the openwork. The bars of the two exterior rows, which are longer than those of the middle row, take a few more stitches to cover them than the middle ones which are nearly square.

Insertion in darning stitch diagonal rows of bars of two sizes form the pattern (fig. 42). — The edges are secured by oblique stitches over four threads of the stuff and 28 threads

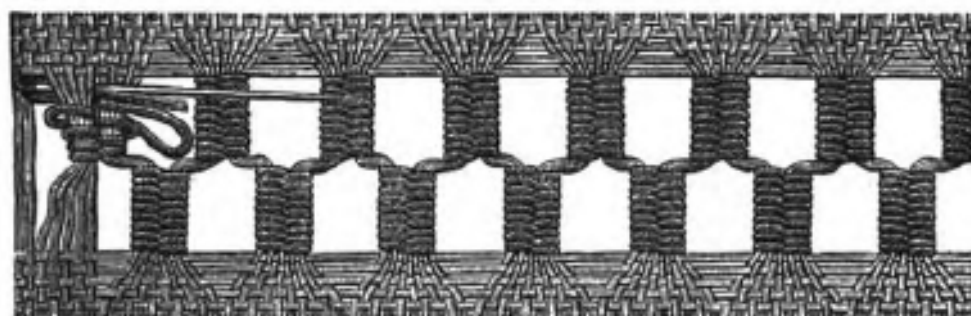


Fig. 39. Insertion with two rows of bars covered with darning stitches in one colour.

Materials : Cuba linen, in cream, Crochet cotton bell mark N° 5, in écru.

are then removed for the openwork. The pattern is composed of two diagonal rows of five bars covered with darning stitches worked over two clusters of threads which alternate with one diagonal row of five squares worked over 3 clusters of threads.

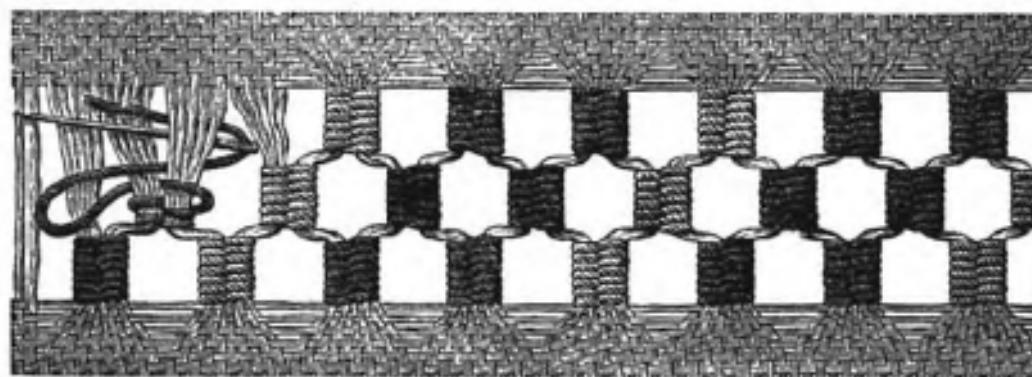


Fig. 40. Insertion with three rows of bars in darning stitch in three colours.

Materials : Plaited tammy cloth in white, Pearl cotton D.M.C N° 5, in Cardinal red 304, Pistachio green 319 and Mandarin yellow 741.

Insertion in darning stitch with pattern of pyramids (fig. 43). — Here too the edges are first secured by oblique stitches over four threads ; the openwork requires the removal of thirty threads of the stuff.

The pyramids are worked over twelve clusters of threads, the little squares placed in diagonal lines over two.