## METALLIC MILLINERY.

THE WONDERFUL IMPROVEMENT IN THE ART OF WEAVING.

**Some of the Different Methods Employed Resembling in Metal—Figures Heretofore Woven in Silk, Linen and Wool, All First Kinds of Metals Used.**

The fashion which began some time ago of trimming the collar and cuffs of women's dresses with lace, brocade and other articles in metal, has not been confined to the dressmakers of Europe and America, but has struck a responsive chord in the savage breasts of the denizens of Africa. From all parts of the Dark Continent comes a cry for the cheap and gaudy metal millinery of Christendom. The demand is particularly large from the communities where brass, copper and other wire has long been employed as an ornament for the neck, arm, waist and ankle. The practice is followed in the warriors as well as the women, and is said to produce very picturesque results.

In Christendom the practice has gradually grown to rather large proportions. According to a late price list the metals employed to make the fabrics are gold, platinum, gold plate, silver, silver plate, nickel, steel, German silver, copper, lead and Berlin iron. The articles manufactured include collars, collarettes, waistbands, belts, sashes, braid, lace, crochet work and embroidery.

Over 1,000 designs are in the market already, and more than twenty manufacturers are ready to manufacture any design within a reasonable time to please either fancy or caprice. In one system the goods are produced in the simple by passing sheets of metal between embossed cylinders of hardened steel. This makes the cheaper and poorer work in the market.

It is claimed mentioned in manufacturing metal collars, belts and attachments for hanging watches, handkerchiefs and pocketbooks to the waist. The only drawback is that it makes a poor gift to buy a silver washed belt for $1 which resembles in a false way a handsome silver one costing fifty times more. The mills will also turn out fine goods such as lace work and the like.

METHOD OF WEAVE.

A second method employed does can be also produced and the expensive metal coined in goods of high beauty. Formerly it was difficult to get dies and stamps to do beauty work and delicate work. The weaving of silver and gold and the embossing of the wire about the lighter points needed. Recent improvements in machinery enhance and yet have brought to a new design for the factory, and now enable the manufacturer to engage not fabrics or delicate Brussels lace. In a series of experiments, according to this mode of manufacture, substitutes for production in wire, the best Alsatian lace work made of lace crystals. Nothing can take the place of crochet work.

The work is completely defined and can be brought down to a thickness not much exceeding silver foil. The texture of fabrics is excellent, exactly that of lace work. A steel collarette, to be fastened to the column of a dark steel collar, is made by this method with such close set angles and dies that we be suggest the finest kind of the jeweler's art.

The third system consists in so modifying the knitting machine and the lace loom as to allow the use of metallic threads instead of cotton. The first experiment in this line probably took place in the successful production of wire netting. The next step to the braiding and weaving of wire introduced sorts of patterns. The third step was easy, and brought wire wearing goods to a common level with all other kinds. Metal work has the advantage over linen, woolen, cotton and silk.

It can be drawn into threads of almost mathematical perfection, and through subsequent treatment with chemicals can be made almost finer than the human eye can perceive. When such filaments as these are employed in weaving the resulting web is more delicate than the gossamer of the gnats. By using a form of the Jacquard loom it is possible to weave colored patterns in metal, using red, green and yellow gold, white or black silver, gray platinum, red copper and other distinct shades.

DELICATE WORK.

By using the same variety of metals with a loom upon checkable effects can be produced such as an "ombré" over displayed. With the proper kind of metal, the durability of all these new fabrics, at products approaches indescriptibility. The cost of this textile process is much greater than with the cotton or silk loom. The price cost is very good, and the expense increases rapidly with the intricacy of the design employed and the finesse of the wire.

A fourth process has been introduced from Paris. Any article to be reproduced is immersed in a strong bath and exposed in a peculiar way to the action of heat, electricity and powerful magnets. The atoms of the article are electrized under these conditions and replaced by those of any metals desired. Among the things thus treated may be mentioned insects, blossoms, leaves, lace, basket work, seeds, shells and minute fabrics. Words fail to describe the marvelous fidelity with which the finest point and line is copied in the hardest metal.

The "lace" of a geranium leaf and even the antennae of a fly are thus reproduced faithfully. This process is the most beautiful as well as the most costly of all the ones described. It requires the highest mechanical and scientific skill to secure any result whatever. While in many cases it reproduces the most exquisite fabrics, yet the conditions of success are not thoroughly understood as yet, so that its failures are numerous and discouraging.

The last process promises to possess a great future scientific value for preserving permanently the forms of animal and vegetable life.—Drake's Magazine.

**Baby Moccasins.**

To make just the "smallest" pair of baby's moccasins, use a piece of white kid. They will need no lining, as they are to be worn over the first white stockings. They are made in two pieces, one of which is shaped a little like a horseshoe, and fits and covers the instep. The other and larger piece does all the rest, coming up around the tiny ankle of the back, and covering the small toes in the front, being laid under the smaller piece in gathers. All the seam is buttonholed on both sides with white silk. Among the sable small silver are not to the kid, a third of an inch apart, and through these runs a "baby ribbon" of white. The smaller piece of kid covers the instep like the "tongue" of a shoe; over this, and which ties in a dainty bow. These would be equally dainty made of pink, blue or gray kid; the ribbon should exactly match.—Housekeeper's Weekly.

**The Chorus Girl.**

It is now stated that the wages of a chorus girl depend largely upon her ability or inclination to convey the impression that she is carrying herself slightly at her work, and that she with difficulty avoids the notice of the footlights. A blase appearing girl is therefore worth five dollars a week less in the chorus than one who is able to look innocently surprised at or shocked at well known jokes of comic opera.—Boston Commonwealth.

Hollow chalk be cement and mixed with milk. Mashed potato should be dried with oat and pepper, put into the pan with a little water and bits of butter and baked quickly until brown. A rich milk gravy thickened with white sauce is very nice for mackerel or salmon.


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