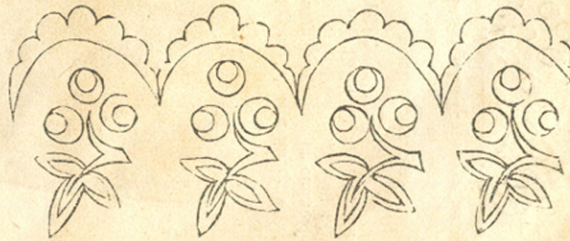


FOR A CHILD'S FLANNEL SHIRT.

LITTLE BOY'S JACKET AND PANTALOONS.

A dress for a little boy when first leaving off frocks. The belt where the pants are attached is underneath, about two inches from the bottom of the jacket, and fastened to it. Made of any material, but not the same in both.

CORNERS FOR A POCKET HANDKERCHIEF.



THE ART OF ORNAMENTAL HAIR-WORK.

Elastic.—There are some plaits which, from the peculiarity of their construction, will not bear to be strained, or, rather, have not sufficient elasticity in them to enable them to regain their original form after being stretched. To remedy this defect, a piece of some elastic material is usually passed through the piece of work, after the mould has been withdrawn, and is fixed at each end of it. This material may be of any kind, provided it possess the necessary quality of elasticity; it is commonly either made of fine brass wire twisted spirally round a wire, and is known as wire elastic, or it is made of India-rubber, with or without a coating of silk; the former, called silk elastic, may be had either round or flat, and of any size and degree of elasticity.

When the plait is of a close texture, it matters little what sort of elastic is put into it; but if the plait has holes in it, it will not do to use wire or plain India-rubber elastic, either of which would present an unsightly appearance. Silk elastic must, in this case, be employed, and care be taken that the silk is, as nearly as possible, of the color of the hair.

Objection is sometimes made to the use of any form of India-rubber, because, after a time, it causes the gold with which the hair-work is mounted to turn black. As this effect is not often produced before the hair-work is also much worn, the objection does not appear to us to merit much consideration. If, however, any fears should be entertained of this being the case, and the plait will not admit of wire elastic being used as it is, a small piece of hair-work must be made of some close plait, just large enough to cover the wire elastic, which will then have an ornamental instead of an unsightly effect. Indeed, if it were not for the extra trouble which it entails, we should say that, whenever elastic is used, it should always be covered with hair.

Elastic is often made by the hairworker out of the hair upon which he is engaged, by making eight strands of twenty hairs, and working No. 2 plait on a No. 22 or 23 mould. Before boiling the work, he compresses it into the shortest possible length, by slipping it along the mould, and fastens it in this shortened condition, so that it may remain so while it is being boiled. On removing the mould, after the work is dry, it will be found to possess a great deal of elasticity, and it has a very neat appearance.

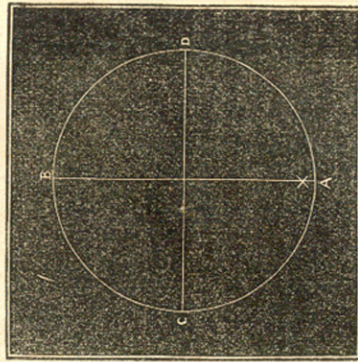
General Directions.—Patience, neatness, and a systematic method of proceeding are indispensable. Hair-plaiting is easy, but cannot be done without care and attention. It is especially desirable to keep a note or register of the number of strands and hairs and the size of the mould of every piece of work done.

In working a plait, that is, in shifting the strands into their fresh places, the bobbins must not be handled, nor must the strands be allowed to fall with a jerk upon the table. The strands are to be worked with the tips of the fingers, across which the bobbins will strain the strands with sufficient weight to allow of their being easily moved. The strain which is put upon each strand by the weight of the bobbin should not be relaxed from the beginning to the end of the work, or the evenness of the work will be affected. If the bobbins are handled, this relaxation will most likely occur, or else some extra strain will be put upon the strand by its being pulled; both are equally objectionable.

No. 1.—ROUND CHAIN PLAIT.



A and B change places to the left; C and D change places to the right.



Let the four strands be arranged on the table as shown in the diagram. Care must be taken, during the work, to keep each strand in a straight line with the opposite one, and to keep each pair of opposite strands at right angles with the other pair.

As an easy way of recollecting how to work the plait, remember, in each case, to take the