

*Lace-Making  
in the  
Tenements.* A thoroughly interesting experiment in lace-making has been carried out this summer at Greenwich House, on New York's lower West Side, under the direction of Miss Katharine Lord. Those who know the picturesque stories which are woven into the exquisite laces which have come down to us, know that in several instances the art of their fashioning has been almost, if not quite, lost. Many of the Italian women in the tenement districts are skilful lace-makers, but their materials are more often than not, of the roughest sort and of colors abominable. Lace-making has been carried on in connection with the work at South End House, Boston, until it is quite past the experimental stage, and the success of this summer's venture leads those who have been watching it, to believe that such is the case, also, in New York. Over thirty girls and women have been instructed in one or more kinds of lace-making; further, seven or eight expert lace-makers have been given employment. An exhibit will be held at Greenwich House some time in the fall.

The plan Miss Lord has followed has been to purchase the thread and give it out, and then buy the lace from the workers—much after the fashion in which all industry was carried on in the domestic stage. With the younger girls, the instruction has, of course, been very elementary; but with a skilled French embroiderer, with the Italian women who had spent their time on crude braid laces and the like, and with some Scotch women not unfamiliar with the craft, very little instruction has been needed to teach the finer patterns. It is believed that when a sufficient number of workers are employed, so that contracts with merchants can be filled reliably, steady work can be assured women and girls to take up lace-making in their homes and to mend old lace. For cripples, and for women with children, who cannot go out to factories readily, lace-making offers an opportunity for work. It is not to be compared with the ordinary sweating industries that carry household manufacture to such dire lengths.

This summer's experiment at Greenwich House, was carried on through the contributions of a group of young New York women. In developing the permanent work this winter with headquarters at Greenwich House, Miss Lord will carry on work with groups of women in connection with several of the other neighborhood centers.