

The Connoisseur

THE latest addition to the bibliography of lace gives practical instructions in "Lacis" By Carità (S. Low, Marston & Co. ros. 6d. net) or darning on net. The great strength and durability of Lacis, and the fact that repeated washings in no way diminish its beauty, must be counted as factors in its popularity, which remains undiminished since the Middle Ages.

Carità, who dedicates her book "à toutes Dames et Damoyelles pour passer le temps," has brought together some interesting facts which throw a light on the antiquity of netting. In Chaldæa, where there was an earlier civilisation than that of Egypt, net patterns appear—they are also found as traceries on Babylonian and Assyrian carvings. The reticulated headings of fringes formed by knotting the threads before they fall loose as fringe is a simple form of netting, and is a well-known feature of all Assyrian and Egyptian sculptured robes.

The passages concerning the netted bead coverings amongst Egyptian antiquities are corroborated in an interesting manner in the collection made by Professor Petrie and his students, which is now to be seen at University College. In Egyptian archæology the net



THE CREATION FROM "LACIS," BY CARITÀ

was considered as a symbol that guarded the soul. According to Professor Petrie, the net pattern is found in Egypt during the 12th dynasty, which corresponds to 130 B.C., and it became more general in the 18th dynasty. Altogether *Lacis* is a book which will interest those women who wish to master the technicalities of one of the oldest forms of lace-making, and who also take a delight in the history of a handicraft.