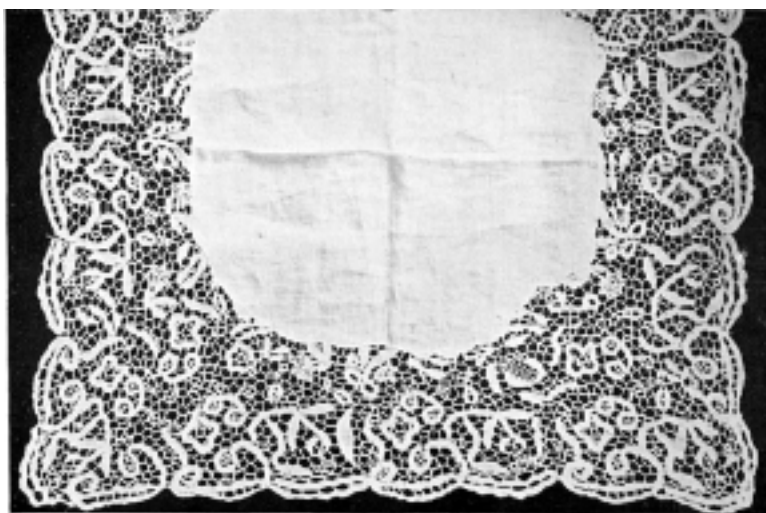


The Connoisseur

THE lace so much admired and prized by Her Majesty the late Queen Victoria ranks first among English hand-made lace, and was introduced into England by the Flemish refugees in the year 1724. In the earlier work the Flemish designs were used, but later the floral patterns were introduced. The lovely lace worn on Her late Majesty's wedding gown had the Rose, Shamrock, and Thistle introduced into the design, emblems of the United Kingdom, and is considered the finest specimen of Honiton work known. Unfortunately, nowadays one rarely sees any very fine work done, although there are several districts away from Devonshire where Honiton lace is produced. Kingston-by-Sea,



AN OLD HONITON LACE HANDKERCHIEF

near Brighton, has its workers who make some lovely lace; Diss, in Norfolk, too, can boast of a lace school; and Taunton also produces it. The Japanese have made this lace, and a set may be seen in the South Kensington Museum, showing what clever workers they are. In years to come, if good lace is to be had, it will have to be made by the natives, whose skill and patience are really wonderful.

Honiton lace is not the favourite it should be—one great fault being its extreme whiteness, which few complexions can stand. If Honiton lace workers would use a fine flax thread, instead of the cotton generally used, it would find a more ready sale, and would again become "the" lace. The accompanying photograph is of an Old Honiton handkerchief, more than a hundred years old, and shows the style of design in *those* days—totally different to that produced to-day.