

by the needle. 2. *Mechlin lace*, a hexagon mesh of three flax threads twisted and plaited to a perpendicular line or pillar, with the pattern worked in the net. 3. *F valenciennes lace*, an irregular hexagon, formed of two threads, partly twisted, and plaited at the top of the mesh, with the pattern worked in the net. 4. *Lisle*

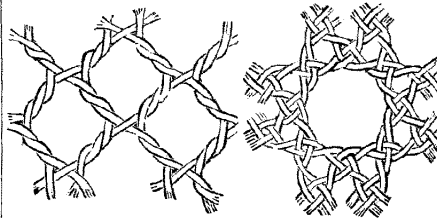


Fig. 1492. — PILLOW, CUSHION, OR BOBBIN-LACE.

lace, a diamond mesh, formed of two threads plaited to a pillar. 5. *Atençon lace*, also called *blond*, a hexagon mesh of two threads twisted similarly to Buckingham lace, and considered the most inferior of any cushion-made lace. 6. *Atençon point-lace*, formed of two threads to a pillar, with octagon and square meshes alternately. In the portraits painted by Vandyke during the reign of Charles I. (Fig. 438), and also in those painted afterwards by Sir Peter Lely and Sir Godfrey Kneller, and others, the lace represented is *Brussels point*, in which the network is made on the cushion with bobbins, and the pattern worked into the net with the needle. About 1777, a new ground was attempted by the lace-makers of Buckingham, which quickly superseded all others; this was the *point-ground*, which had, it is believed, been imported from the Netherlands. From the first appearance of this ground the origin of the modern pillow-lace trade may be dated. It was not, however, till the beginning of the present century that the most striking improvements were made. After 1812, at Honiton, the manufacture had arrived at that perfection, was so tasteful in design and delicate in workmanship, that the best specimens of Brussels lace did not excel it. During the war between France and England, veils of Honiton lace were sold in London at from 20 to 100 guineas. After that time, however, the effects of the competition of machinery began to be felt; and gradually the pillow-lace trade sank into insignificance. Lace is said to have been manufactured by machinery as early as 1768, by a stocking-weaver of Nottingham, named Hammond. Various other attempts in the same direction were made about the same time, and a few years afterwards the *warp-frame* for making *warp-lace* was invented. The invention of this machine has been ascribed to four persons, — Vandyke, a Dutchman; Mr. Clare, of Edmonton, near London; Mr. Marsh, Moorfields, London; and Mr. Morris, of Nottingham. By these machines, lace of an inferior kind was produced in large quantities, and Nottingham became the centre of the new trade. In importance, however, it was soon far eclipsed by the bobbin-net manufacture. In 1809, Mr. Heathcote, of Tiverton, took out a patent for a machine for making bobbin-net lace. This invention caused a complete revolution in the manufacture of the fabric. From that time, the machine became the subject of frequent improvement, and was worked by steam-power in 1816. Lace became a general article of consumption, and that which had been sold at \$5 a yard fell to 40 cts. The quality of bobbin-net lace depends upon the smallness of the meshes, their equality in size, and the regularity with which their hexagonal shape is displayed. At the present time its manufacture is largely carried on in France. Bobbin-net lace may be said to surpass every other branch of human industry in the complex ingenuity of its machinery.

Lace, *n.* [Fr. *lacet*, lace, braid, *lacer*, to lace; Sp. *lazo*, (*Manuf.*) Properly signifying a network of gold, silver, flax, or cotton threads, forming a transparent texture. The origin of this delicate fabric is not known, but it appears to have been worn by the Grecian and Roman ladies. At Venice it was early in use, and it is said that Marie de Medici was the first to introduce it into France from Italy. In England, from a prohibition, in 1483, of the importation of foreign lace, the manufacture would seem to have been established there prior to that date. But as pins, which are required in lace-making, were not used till the 16th century, the lace produced must have been of a coarse kind. The original manufacture was called *pillow* or *bobbin lace*, and was usually made of thread or silk, woven into netting with hexagonal, octagonal, &c., meshes. Afterwards it was ornamented with a thicker thread, called *gimp*, so interwoven with the meshes as to form flowers, or curved designs. Lace of this kind was made on a hard-stuffed pillow or cushion, covered with parchment, on which the pattern was drawn. Each thread was wound upon a bobbin, and, to form the meshes, pins were stuck in the cushion, and the threads woven or twisted round them. (Fig. 1492.) The spots for the insertion of the pins were indicated by the pattern, and also showed the place for the insertion of the gimp. As many as from 50 to 60 bobbins are required for every inch of breadth, and only one mesh can be made at a time. A piece of lace, 1 inch wide, with 50 threads per inch, will have 25 meshes in the breadth, or 625 meshes in each square inch of length, or 22,000 meshes in the yard. The most celebrated laces are: — 1. *Brussels lace*, a hexagon mesh, the most valuable, which is divided into two classes, — *Brussels ground*, which is made of flax threads, and *Brussels wire ground*, which is made of silk. The pattern is worked separately in both these cases, and set on