

Laces.

A WRITER in the *Chicago Tribune* says: There is really little known of the intricacies of lace-making. Point is the oldest lace known. It was used in the fourteenth century, and was then made by nuns, who, with much devotion and painstaking, manufactured it in small quantities for the noble ladies who could afford to wear it. The figures of the pattern were cut out of linen, and the exquisite fabric of the lace was wrought over those foundation pieces by the needle. This was the old lace, which was as beautiful and artistic as some of the old pictures of cathedral windows, veined with storied legends, which have been handed down to us in history. Into the soft, white, transparent lace the pale nuns wrought those visions of love and beauty, those palpable essences of thought, which forever formed a mirage in their desert lives. In the sixteenth century a new style was introduced, less durable, less artistic, but more useful. It was now the pillow was used. The lace was extensively made and sold in Tuscany, the Netherlands, and France. The machine lace has only been perfected in this century. It is made extensively in Nottingham, England, whence it goes over the whole world, often without the manufacturer's mark, and with only the name of the importer. Belgium, Brussels, and Antwerp are all lace-producing towns. Among the best of hand-wrought laces are the Rose point, Mechlin point, Portuguese point, Maltese point, point d'Alençon, and Brussels point.

The pillow lace comprises Spanish, grounded Spanish, Saxony Brussels, Flemish Brussels, Mechlin, Valenciennes, Dutch, Chantilly, silk lace and cotton lace, Limerick, Buckingham, and Honiton. This last and the Limerick, or Irish lace, are very much worn abroad, and are extremely elegant laces. Gold and silver lace is manufactured in London, Belgium, and other foreign places.