PART III

'LIBERTY,' OR DRAWN SILK HATS

Children's 'Liberty' Hats. — Children's gathered hats are generally made in Liberty or Pongee silk and drawn on wires, and thus come under the heading of drawn work. The silk is cut either on the crossway or down the piece. The latter is the most economical way when two or more hats are to be made from the same silk, and saves much trouble in regard to the joins, though undoubtedly the best effect, as far as the edge frills are concerned, is obtained by the first method.

Width and Quantity required. — The lengths or length of silk will need to measure in all two and half times as much as it is intended the circumference of the edge of finished hat shall be; and the width, equal twice the diameter of brim, with (if making a double frill) a plus equal to twice the width of each frill. The widthway is then folded, and the exact line of the half marked. This done, it is inverted 1 in. or more, according to the width
allowed for frills—and if crossway lengths are used—with closed seams all pressed in one direction; then the four thicknesses are tacked together low enough down the width to just catch the edge of inverted fold (Diag. XXXVI., Fig. 1). The length is then divided into halves and quarters and gathered, with the exception of 3 in. at immediate back, just above and below the tacking line, the space between measuring $\frac{1}{4}$ in. This forms the first casing (Diag. XXXVI., Fig. 2).

The Rule Governing the Width of Casings.
—The rule for regulating the width of casings is that the space between the two lines of gathering must never be wider than to just allow for the admittance of a wire doubled at its end. If this rule is not adhered to, when drawn up the gatherings will not fit as close as they should to the wire, and a bad effect will result.

The spaces between casings generally measure 1 in. to $1\frac{1}{4}$ in.
The Process of Inserting Wires in the Brim.

—All the wires are cut to the longest or edge measure, plus 6 in. to allow for turnings and possible eventualities, as the ravelling of silk filaments off the wire, etc., and are inserted at one time, to run in the direction the seams have been pressed, beginning at the ungathered space. The wire nearest the edge is then made into a ring the size required, with 1 in. to 1½ in. overlap, in the same way as the rings for hat shapes, likewise the rest of the lengths of wire in their order until all are fastened, the brim at intervals being placed on the table so that the manipulator may make sure that it will lie quite flat, and that the spaces between casings are stretched to their widest extent. When this is not satisfactorily accomplished the rings must be let out or taken in as may be required, until the right effect is produced.

Making Foundation Crown.—Before drawing up the gathering threads the foundation of crown is made, stiff net or muslin being generally used for the purpose. It is made in two pieces, sideband and tip; the first is made of double material, joined in a round, and wired at both edges. The tip, made with single material is circular in form and about 13 in. in diameter, and is sometimes gathered; at others, pleated before sewing to sideband.
When this is done the wire on lower edge of band is bound with muslin.

**Fixing to Brim.**—The inner edges of silk brim are separately gathered, and the under one drawn up to size of the head measurement and sewn just inside sideband. Four or more support wires, as may be required, are then slipped between the silk of brim and one end made fast to the edge wire, the other to the band. The remaining gathered cut edge of brim is then drawn up and secured to the outer side of sideband, after which the gathering threads of brim are utilised to continue the casings along the space left to facilitate the insertion of wires, and fastened off neatly.

**Arranging the Silk Crown.**—The silk is arranged in a variety of ways on the foundation crown, the most usual of which is to take a width and a half of crossway silk measuring 12 in. or more through, not along the crossway, turn in ¼ in., gather one edge four or five times at intervals of ½ in., draw up to size of band, evenly distribute the fulness, and sew on at headline, so that it neatens brim. Gather the remaining edge of silk, draw up tightly, and set on at centre of crown, and neaten with a silk-covered diamond or circular-shaped button mould.

Another style is produced by arranging the
top edge of crown piece in five points (Diag. XXXVII.), which are left to hang loosely; and yet another way by using a circular piece, gathered at the edge and sewn on band as the two previous styles, and the top arranged in Tam-o'-Shanter form (Diag. XXXVII., Fig. 2).

**Drawn Tulle Hats.**—Drawn tulle hats are not formed by casing tulle and inserting wires,

as are the 'Liberty' hats. Instead a wire shape is made, and a length of tulle measuring four to six times the measurement of the edge circumference and twice the width of brim, plus 1 in. or more for frill, is gathered on to it. The method usually employed is to fold in half the width of tulle, and at a distance of \( \frac{1}{2} \) in. in from the double edge run a gathering thread. One half of the tulle is arranged over, the other half under the brim, so as to bring frill to edge; the round wires of brim are then
cased in by running gathering threads on each side of them, through both thicknesses of tulle. When the crown is to be of drawn tulle a second length of tulle is required, which is sometimes so arranged that puffs are left between the casings.

**Drawn Net, Chiffon, and Areophane Hats.**—Drawn hats suitable for ladies are often made in chiffon, net, etc. These are made on similar lines to the 'Liberty,' except that the frills at edge are generally replaced by straw lace, or a number of small tucks, flowers, etc., and the brim ornamented between casings. The foundation, however, is very different. When it is intended to ornament the brim with tucks the casings are not made prior to, but after the tucking of material. To form the foundation four supports, arranged as when making a wire shape, are required; to these the drawn material is secured (Diag. XXXVIII., Figs. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5).
Drawn Bonnets. — Drawn bonnets (Diag. XXXIX.) are formed by running several tucks in single material. The round wires are inserted in these. A skeleton shape (Fig. 3) is made of support wires; the wired material is secured to this by sewing one cut edge to the inside of shape, and the other, when turned in and cut close, to the centre of crown (Diag. XXXIX., Fig. 1).

If a coroneted shape is being manipulated the material for coronet is prepared separately, and the tucked portion measured off in graduated spaces in accordance with the form; this is sometimes made with flat casing, as also the brim of an open-fronted bonnet.