CHAPTER ELEVEN: TRIMMINGS

As advice on trimming each hat which is described in this book is given in the chapter devoted to it, this chapter only deals with the subject in general. It also includes instructions on making several of the more common types of decoration.

Most hats depend for effect, to a very large extent, on their trimmings, but however small and simple the trimming, it may be a mere bow or twisted end, it is nevertheless of the greatest importance for it to be placed on the hat in exactly the right position.

Therefore, endeavour to make your arrangement artistic and original. Refuse to be satisfied with the initial placing of a trimming; try the hat on with it in various positions before making your decision. Do not shy at experiment; if you have a bunch of flowers, for instance, and are striving for effect, instead of just clumping it together at one side, try placing it under the brim. If this is not quite right, ignore the brim altogether, and arrange it in various positions across the crown. This will give better results than by just placing the decoration at the side, front or back, as the case may be.

Having made up your mind exactly where the trimming is to be placed, try to affix it to the hat in such a way as to make the needlework utterly invisible. Practise the art of making the point of re-entry of the needle coincide with its point of emergence from the fabric of the hat. Quite a lot of work in millinery needs a firm hand; this should be forgotten when trimming hats. If, for instance, you are trimming a hat with a cluster of
flowers or a small feather mount, try to give it the effect of having been arrested in flight.

Stitch lightly and handle the trimmings as delicately as possible. When making bows or ends in silk materials and velvets the utmost care must be taken when turning the work to the right side, as silk will only take a very light pressing in order to eradicate creases, and velvet may not be pressed at all, it may only be steamed.

A ribbon is often too thick and wide to be made up, as a trimming, into a tied bow. The bow has therefore to be made in separate pieces in such a way as to give the effect of a complete bow. The method is as follows.

TO MAKE A BOW. Loop a piece of the ribbon to the required size and cut it off the strip. Pleat the ends together, then stitch them together, using stabbing stitch. Make another loop of the same size and pleat and stitch the ends together in the same way. Arrange the loops at a jaunty angle to one another, with the pleated ends overlapping slightly, and stitch them together. If further loops are required, these should be made by the same method and added to the original cluster one at a time. Do not attempt to make the bow by pinning all the pieces together and then stitching them.

For the ends, cut two pieces of ribbon of appropriate size, i.e., slightly longer than the doubled length of the loops, mitre one end of each piece and pleat the opposite ends. Arrange the ends with the loops, pleats towards the centre, avoiding if possible, the appearance of a set bow. For example, try placing one end standing up in front of the loops on the right side and the other at the back of the loops on the left side. Stitch the ends in position.

To make the tie-over in the centre, loop a short length of twisted or pleated ribbon over the centre of the bow and join the ends of this loop at the back.

TO LOOP RIBBON FOR MAKING A CHOU. Make the first loop and fold the ends in one or two pleats. Stitch the pleated ends together with stabbing stitches, and, without cutting the material of course, make another loop in the same way and stitch it. Continue in this fashion until the required number of
loops have been made, arranging each loop into position before stitching. The important points to be borne in mind are, stitch each loop—do not pin, leave the thread uncut at the end of each loop and do not break off until the final loop, use double Sylko and, if necessary, vary the size of the loops according to taste. If required, mitred ends may be added to this chou.

TO MAKE A COCKADE. All kinds of ribbon may be made into cockades but the best ribbon for the beginner to use is petersham, the weave or “grain” of which lends itself most readily to fashioning into a circular shape. Working from left to right, make one or two small pleats of, say \( \frac{1}{4} \) in., in length, the edge of each pleat almost touching the edge of the preceding one. Stitch each pleat along the edge as you go, the stitches, of course, being invisible on the right side. Pleat and stitch a sufficient length to be formed into a circle, or rosette as it is called (fig. 65). When the required length has been pleated, lay the pleated ribbon flat on the ironing board and press the pleats with a hot iron and damp cloth. Form the pleated ribbon into a circle, turn the end of the ribbon under to form the last pleat and slip-stitch it in position.

If one cockade only is not considered to be sufficient trimming for a hat, two or more may be employed. The best arrangement for two is made by completing the first, pleating and pressing the second, then pushing the end through the centre of the completed cockade and finally joining the ends of the second. If a fairly wide ribbon is used the centre hole will have to be made large enough to take the width of the ribbon of the second cockade.

The cockade trimming lends itself to quite a lot of variation; for instance, several pleated lengths may be prepared and used as semi-circles, instead of full circles. A suggested arrangement on these lines is shown. Cockade trimmings are particularly suitable for sports hats.

HOW TO MAKE FLOWERS FROM FELT SCRAPs. Flowers made from odd scraps of felt form a very effective trimming. Figure 66a shows drawings in actual size and shape of petals which are cut from scrap felt to be assembled into the form of a rose. Cut
Fig. 65. Method of pleating ribbon for the cockade and suggested variations

Fig. 66 A. Patterns of large and small petals for felt flowers
out five large and six small petals to make one rose. Hold each petal in the steam and curl the tip in the fingers from the widest part to the top. Roll a small-sized petal to form a bud and secure the shape by stitching though the roll at the bottom of the bud. This forms the centre-piece. Stitch the remaining five small petals around this centre piece, leaving about \( \frac{1}{2} \) in. of the centre piece protruding at the bottom. Each petal must slightly overlap the next. Arrange and stitch the five large petals to the centre piece in the same way.

If the petals lose their curl whilst the flower is being made up, steam and curl them again. A light coating of felt stiffener will ensure that the flower will retain its shape.

**HEAD DECORATION TRIMMED WITH FELT FLOWERS.** Four of these felt flowers arranged around a felt headband trimmed with veiling make a very attractive and inexpensive form of headwear.

Cut a strip of felt about 1½ in. to 2 in. wide, of the same colour as the flowers, and pin it round a dome-shaped head block, keeping the line across the front curved as for the upsweep. Steam the strip thoroughly, iron it with a damp cloth to remove the fullness at the sides and, if necessary, retrim the edges to an even width. Join the back and arrange the four felt flowers across the front of the headband following the curved line; do not bunch them together. Stitch each flower to the felt headband, arrange the veiling in loops which stand up at the back of the flowers and finish off by tie-tacking the veiling into position.

**HOW TO MAKE RIBBON LOOPS.** To make ribbon loops as shown on the finished sailor in felt (fig. 17), first make a loop at one end of a length of ribbon. Pleat and stitch together the ends of the loop. Before making the next loop leave a space, the size of which will vary according to the width of the ribbon. For example, if a 3 in. ribbon is being used, an appropriate space would be about \( \frac{3}{4} \) in. The space should be slightly less if the ribbon is narrower. Make the next loop, pleat and stitch, and continue until a sufficient number of loops has been made for an effective arrangement across the front of the hat. Remember not to make the loops too large or they will droop after the hat has been worn a few times.
Fig. 66 B. The flower made from scrap felt

Fig. 67. Two views of the head decoration trimmed with felt flowers
HOW TO STITCH VEILING ON A HAT. There is only one way to stitch veiling on a hat, that is, by tie-tacking. First arrange and pin the veiling into position. This should be done with the hat on a block or head, or, better still, on a live model, as the exact effect can then be studied to the best advantage. Use a minimum number of pins to hold the veiling into position.

Handling the veiling as delicately as possible, lay it lightly around or over the hat, and drape, loop or tie it as desired. When the veiling has been suitably arranged, tie-tack it to the hat where it is pinned. The correct way to make a tie-tack is to insert the needle (which has been threaded with Sylko to match and knotted at the end of the thread), on the outside of the work, picking up the veiling and catching the material of the hat. Draw the thread until about 1 in. from the knot is left, take the knotted end between thumb and forefinger of the free hand (holding the thread taut with the other) and twist the short end around the thread to tie a knot. Make a further knot in the same way, then cut the thread as closely as possible to the knot.