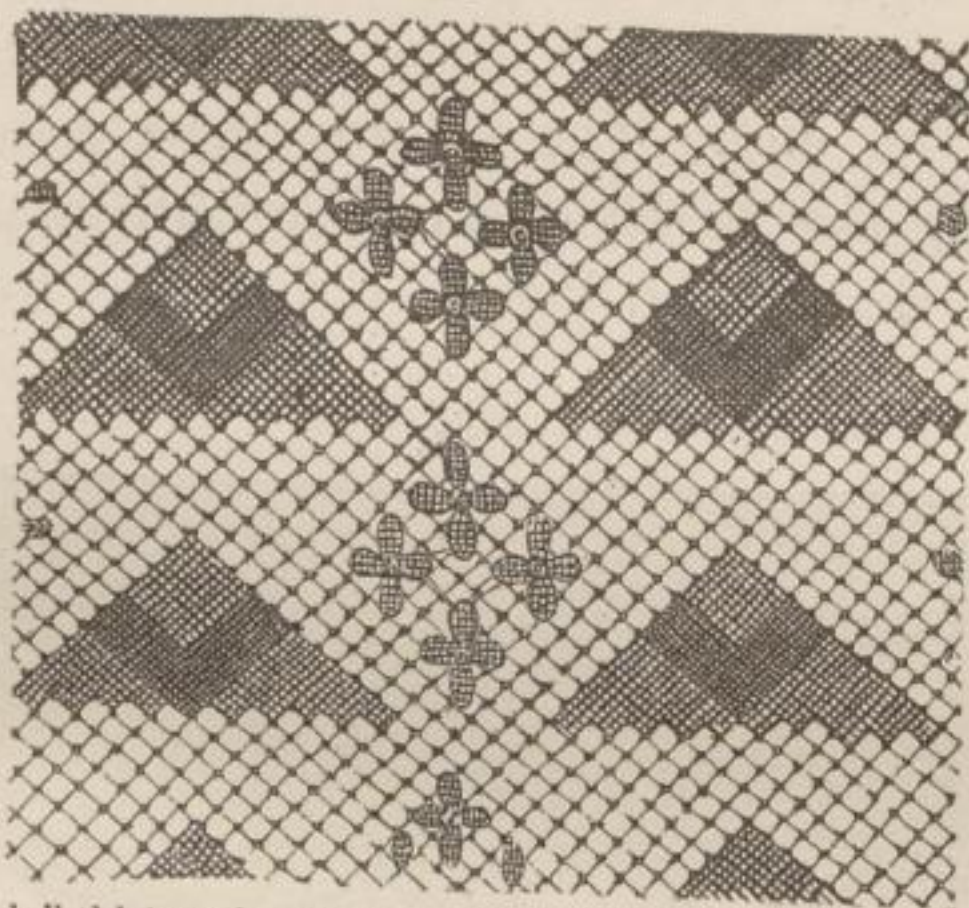


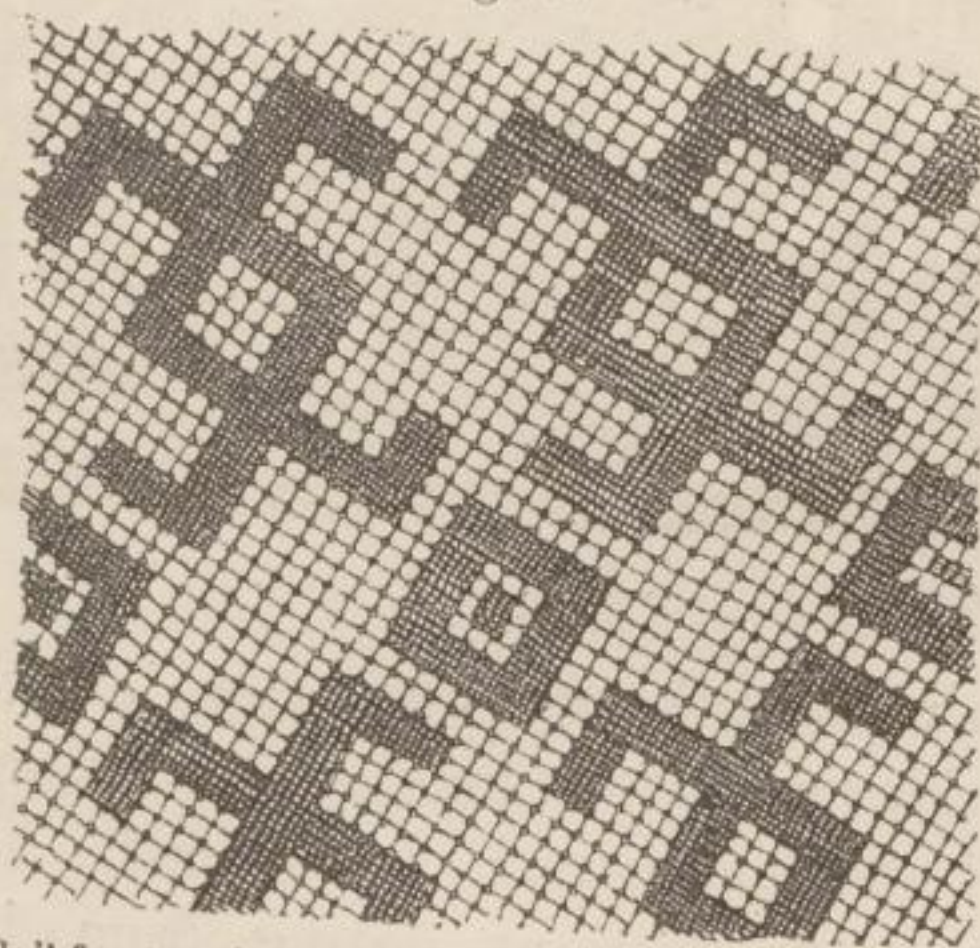
The description of the widow of John Whitcomb, a wealthy clothier of Newbury, in Henry VIII.'s reign, when she laid aside her weeds, is the first notice we have of cutwork being in general use. "She came," says the writer, "out of the kitchen in a fair train gown stuck full of silver pins, having a white cap upon her head, with cuts of curious needlework, the same an apron, white as the driven snow."

Fig. 2.



"Spiderwork," thirteenth century. Bock Coll. South Kensington Museum.

Fig. 3.



"Spiderwork," fourteenth century. Bock Coll. South Kensington Museum.

The embroidering on a net-work ground was a work of great antiquity. It is the "opus filatorium" of the fourteenth century,<sup>11</sup> the spiderwork or "opus araneum" of continental writers, revived, in modern times, under the names of "filet brodé" and "guipure d'art." We give two specimens of coloured silk network,

<sup>11</sup> Three pieces of this work are in the Exeter Inventory, dated 1327, quoted by Canon Rock.