

Children at four years of age are sent to the lace school, and are seated at "almofadas" (pillows), proportioned to their height, on which they soon learn to manage the bobbins, sometimes sixty dozen or more, with great dexterity.³³

Of the point lace made in the Spanish Peninsula, we have evidently but scanty information. The Spanish raised point would appear to be identical with that of Venice, but there are others with different characteristics which are assigned to Spain, such as the class in low relief, wanting the freedom and richness

Fig. 43.



Madeira lace, pillow-made.

of design of the Venetian, and passing in commerce as "flat Spanish point."

The fine points in relief of Italy and Spain were the result of such time and labour as to render them too costly for moderate means. Hence they were extensively counterfeited. The principal scroll of the pattern was formed by means of tape on linen cut out and sewn on, and the reliefs were produced by cords fixed and overcast after the work was finished, thus substituting linen and cords for parts of the needlework. These counterfeit points were, in France, the occasion, in 1669, of an ordinance.

³³ "Queen," August 1872.