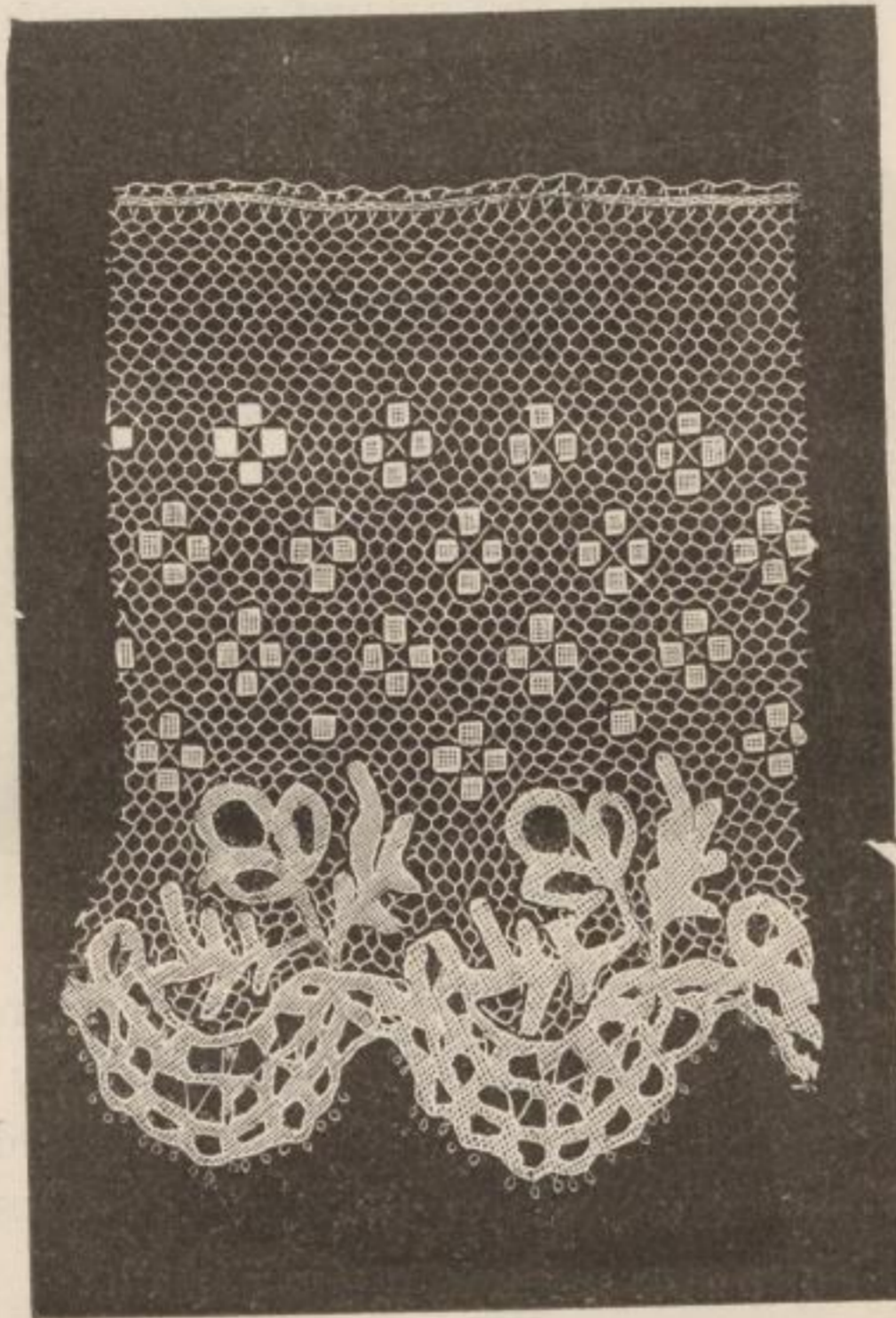


longer and heavier than the others. Figs. 120 and 121 represent the "point" ground, from the beauty of which the laces of the midland counties derived their reputation.

Fig. 121.



Buckinghamshire "point."

## NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

The laces of Northampton do not appear to have attracted the notice of the writers of the last century so much as those of the sister counties.

Anderson mentions that Kettering has "a considerable trade in lace;" and Lysons, later, observes that lace is made at Cheney. Certainly, the productions of this county a century back were of exquisite beauty, as we can bear testimony from the specimens in a pattern book inherited by Mr. Cardwell, the well-known lace merchant of Northampton, from his predecessor in the trade, which we have had an opportunity of examining. We have also