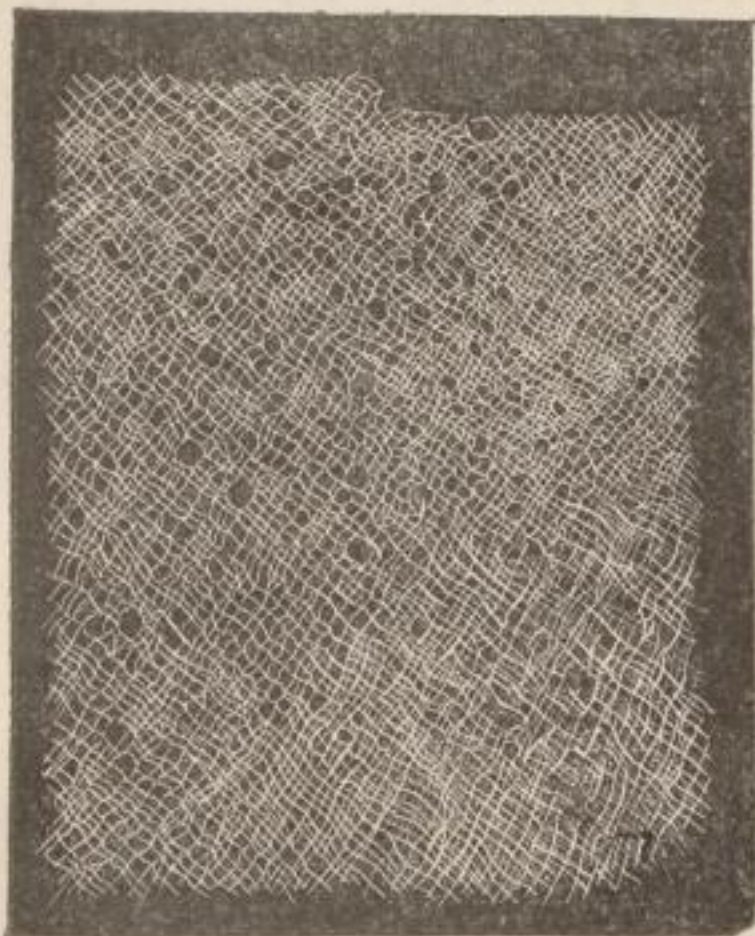


“motives,” produce their lace of a finer make and more complex pattern. The Calais lace is an admirable copy of the square-grounded Valenciennes, and is the staple trade of the manufacture. Calais also produces blondes, black and white, silver and gold, the white nearly approaching in brilliancy and whiteness the famed productions of Caen, which, by their cheapness, they have expelled from competition. She also imitates the woollen laces of Le Puy, together with black and white laces innumerable.

Almost every description of lace is now fabricated by machinery;²³ and it is often no easy task, even for a practised eye, to detect the difference. Still we must ever be of opinion that the most finished productions of the frame never possess the touch, the finish, or the beauty of the laces made by hand. The invention

Fig. 148.



The Lagetta, or lace-bark tree.

of machine-made lace has this peculiarity—it has not diminished the demand for the finer products of the pillow and the needle. On the contrary, the rich have sought more eagerly than ever the exquisite works of Brussels or Alençon, since machinery has brought the wearing of lace within the reach of all classes of society.

The inner bark of the Lagetta, or lace-bark tree,²⁴ of Jamaica, may be separated into thin layers, and then into distinct meshes, bearing some resemblance to lace (Fig. 148). Of this material,

²³ “The machines now in use are the Circular, Leaver, Transverse Warp, and Pusher. Out of 3552 machines computed to be in England in 1862, 2148 were at

Nottingham.”—*International Exhibition, Jurors’ Report.*

²⁴ *Daphne lagetta.*