

Hand Sewing Lessons: A Graded Course for Schools and for the Home (Classic Reprint)

Sarah Ewell Krolik

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Excerpt from Hand Sewing Lessons: A Graded Course for Schools and for the Home

The value of these lessons has been proven by fifteen years of experience in the "Self-Help Circle," a school organized to instruct girls in the domestic arts. At first they were taught on clothing for themselves, which they paid for in small sums from week to week.

It was found that while all learned to make garments for home use, few became expert needlewomen. Haste to complete wearing apparel resulted in inferior workmanship. A combination course was adopted which gives variety with continuity. It has been used for several years with excellent results. Pupils are taught that only by careful practice can they hope to excel, that these models are the way marks of their progress, and will be treasured by them in the future as their own handiwork. With the text, they form a book of reference on making and mending garments that is highly prized.

"Hand Sewing Lessons" is a book for those who wish to learn sewing and how to teach it to others. It gives a practical course for normal and high school classes and supplies trained teachers with printed instructions for pupils in place of written ones that take so much time and that overlap the work of other departments. The stitches are combined for practice while new ones are being learned, so as to form a continuous line of progress and carry out the principle of bridging the way from the known to the unknown, and of making a pleasant road to knowledge, which will become a part of daily life in after years.

Thanks are due to Mrs. Edwin E. Leggett of Detroit, former superintendent of the Solvay Sewing School, Delray, Michigan, for suggestions from her school notes and plan of finger exercises, and to Mrs. Julia d'Arcambal Giddings for her assistance.

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