

### *Some Experiments in Embroidery*

topsyturvydom of modern ideas on decorative work which has turned the average house into a mere shelter for "art treasures."

Probably the reason for the melancholy which seizes one on entering a museum is largely due to the fact that one sees there a collection of objects divorced from their true use and function—treasures which were once the necessary household utensils of other days, and which were beautiful mainly in their adaptability for their uses. In the museum they are prisoned and doomed to idleness, like able-bodied paupers in a workhouse of the arts.

In the matter of embroidery, then, let our aim be to enrol the services of the needle in the great task of the adornment of the house, and so we shall find its first and most important use in the decoration of the walls of the rooms we live in; and here the use of broad *appliqué* will at once suggest itself. Or certain portions of the wall may be reserved for such decoration, notably over the fireplace, where the desirability of a rich background for ornaments may be noted. Next may be considered the advisability of embroidery on curtains, *portières*, and screens. Less desirable is decoration of this nature on such objects as upholstered furniture, and such things should be only so adorned in rooms which are for occasional

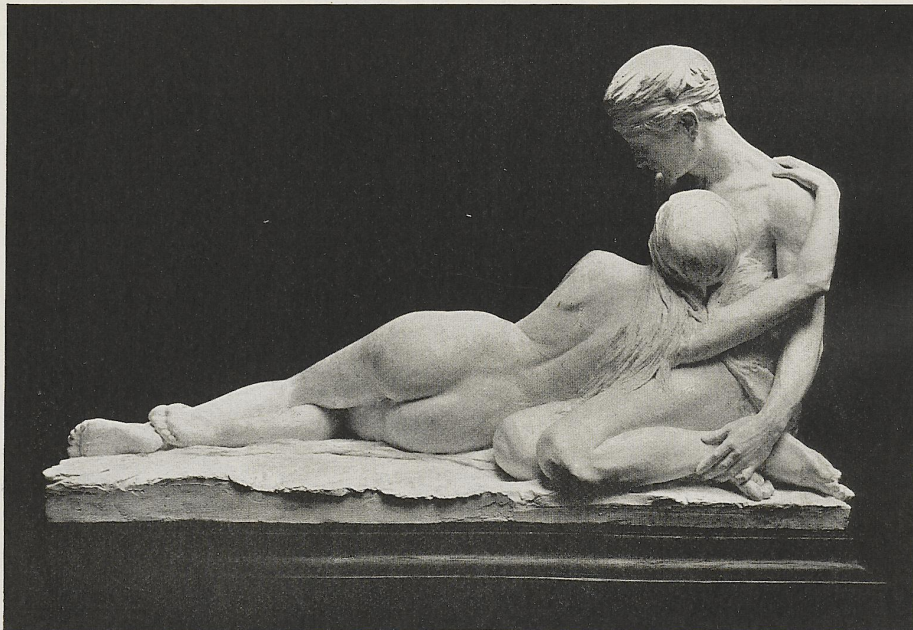
use or with patterns which are not easily soiled. In the bedroom embroidery may be used in the hangings and coverlet of the bed, and many smaller objects of household use may be adorned with needlework. Such are table covers, table centres, d'oyleys, and the like. In apparel, again, there is a limitless field for embroidery which can merely be mentioned here.

Embroidery in the garden may seem absurd at first; but much might be urged, if space allowed, for the use of simple and broadly designed flags, which in this cosmopolitan age need not, perhaps, be merely national, but some personal and individual symbol; and one may imagine the birthdays, for instance, of the members of a family each celebrated by the display of a particular and personal flag; while a further use for similar embroidery would be found in gay pavilions and tents.

#### STUDIO-TALK.

*(From our own Correspondents.)*

**L**ONDON.—It is a truism, perhaps, yet one which will well bear to be repeated, that, to whatever heights an artist's ambition may soar, he need not despise the having undergone a mechanic's training and discipline as the preliminary to his subsequent career. On the



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BY RICHARD GARBE