

CASHMERE SHAWLS.

At the best wool must be dear; a large goat gives at the most about six or eight ounces only of the grayish down which makes the shawl. This down or under-wool is bleached, spun into thread, and dyed of many lovely colors; and then the shawl merchants give out the yarn to their spinners, with minute instructions regarding the pattern and the quality. The poor "goatsman," or weaver, gets no more than seven or eight pence per day for the exquisite fabric which an Empress perhaps will wear. But, then, a really fine "Cashmere" will occupy a shop of three or four workers for a whole twelvemonth. The plain Cashmires are woven with a thin long shuttle alone; the richest are made with wooden needles, a distinct needle for every shade of color; and a quarter of an inch of such a shawl will often take three "goatsmen" a whole day to complete. Ladies ought to know that sometimes, to expedite the manufacture, the Cashmires make the article in separate pieces, which they sew together with such wonderful dexterity that in Paris or London many a shawl is bought for \$100, which is not worth half its price. The weavers work the wrong side uppermost, with a colored paper pattern before them for a guide; nevertheless they attain in the most beautiful accuracy. It is this mode of working that ruined all the imitators in Lyons, Nîmes and Paisley. The true Cashmere is indeed a delightful article—so light, and yet so warm, besides displaying a splendid harmony of tints which it has taken three or four thousand years to teach the weavers; for its design is as old as the Aryans. Therefore it must needs be imitated; and the French have their warp and weft of the genuine goat's wool, and faithfully copy the figures and hues of the original. But they cannot, with all their machinery and manifold shuttles, match the brown fingers of the Asiatic; and their Paris Cashmires show on the reverse side out ends of yarn which the veritable shawl never betrays. Lyons fabricates an extraordinary imitation, it is true, of the Oriental article—cut with such pains and cost that the price is scarcely lower than that of the genuine Strustring square. Could we but have the Kashmir goat's wool brought into the Punjab at a cheap rate of cost, the patient, humble spinners of India would beat Europe hollow, with all Europe's ingenuity. We have no machines that will go for twopence a day; for that price the Umritsar spinner's toes and fingers will work all the year round, turning out, in a place like a third-rate cowshed, a gorgeous blaze of color, "bright as sunlight to look at"—so the traders tell you—"and warm as sunshine to wear."—E.E.

A FISH-HOOK MACHINE.—A fish-hook is a little thing, you say, but the man who could devise the machine to which I am about to refer, would have been, in ancient times, more than Vulcan in legendary story. This little problem which English artisans have tried persistently to solve, but it was left for Dr. Crosby of New Haven, Ct., to accomplish it. He has machines now in operation which will pour out perfectly made fish-hooks as fast as a fanning mill, and the different machines make hooks from almost the size of the pen-holder with which I write down to those hardly half an inch in length, and of the finest wire. You see the wire runs from a reel into the machine, and on the other side the fish-hook drops out completed, with the exception that it must be tempered and colored. After the wire reaches a certain point, it is clipped off the requisite length. The next operation bars it; the other end is flattened. It passes around on revolving dies, whose teeth, formed like the notched spokes of a wheel, catch it and bear it from that operation to the next, until it is smoothed and filed, when it passes between two rollers that give it the prescribed twist and turn, and you see it drop into the receiver waiting it. It is bewildering to see this delicate, complex, and almost human machinery operate, so multitudinous in its parts, and yet so unerring in its work and motion. If a single movement of a single part should vary the fraction of a hair's breadth from its accustomed path, the result must be a failure; and yet the machine thunders and drives along as if its various members were as fixed and certain in their aim as the planets of the solar system are sure of their orbits. —Printers Ink.

THE DUTY OF PARENTS.—It is given but to very few of us to hand down to posterity a name made great and famous in the world's strife. We are most of us plodding, uninteresting folk, who seem to leave no mark on the world; history will never know us. But the capacity for producing either misery or happiness is hereditary, and does not stop with us. The children of capacious, exacting parents are often themselves capacious and exacting; while the memory of loving sympathy bestowed upon ourselves in our young days begets in us the like sympathy toward others. In this way we can all do a good work in the world, and leave behind us loving remembrances. What is it a man dwells upon in the memory of parents passed away? We fancy it is the games played and races run together, rather than the money left behind by them. It is the parents who most really educate the child; the schoolmaster will never do it. He may cram a certain amount of Greek and Latin into a boy's head, but there he stops. He will never supply the place of a father. It is for the latter to rouse in a child a taste for what is noble and beautiful. Above all, youth should be a time for love, and peace, and happiness, for none can say what shall come after. Who does not creep with pain at the cry of a child? Let the little ones, at all events have a happy childhood to look back upon, and then let fate do her worst; it cannot rob them of the remembrance of the past joys, which are their inheritance forever.

At Lord Lyons' recent state dinner in Paris, in honor of the Nabob from Bengal, the guest of the evening neither ate nor drank. According to his religion such acts of daily life must be done at home.



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