

PUBLIC SCHOOL DEPARTMENT.

USEFUL KNOWLEDGE.

(From the Royal Reader No. 3.)

CLOTHING.

Cotton.—What is Cotton? It is the soft down that grows in the seed-pod of the cotton plant.

Where does this plant grow? In the United States, and in India.

How is the Cotton made into Cloth? It is spun into yarn, and then woven into a web of cloth.

Where are the chief seats of its manufacture? Manchester, in England; it is also manufactured largely in Canada and the United States.

What is Cotton Cloth generally called? Calico, from Calicut, in India, where it was first made.

What is Nankeen? A kind of cotton, naturally of a yellow colour, first made at Nankin, in China.

What is the finest kind of cotton? Muslin; much used for ladies' dresses. The best is made in France.

Linen.—What is Linen made from? From the threads in the stem of the flax-plant.

Where does this plant grow? In Ireland, Holland, Germany and Russia.

What do we get from the seeds of the flax-plant? Linseed oil and meal; and oil-cake, with which cattle are fed.

What is Damask? Linen with figures woven in it; so called from Damascus, in Syria, where it was first made.

What is the finest kind of Linen? Cambric; so called from Cambray, in France, where it was first made.

Wool.—What is Woollen Cloth made from? From the fleece of sheep.

Where is it chiefly made? In the West of England, in Yorkshire, and in many towns of Canada.

What is Worsted? It is the name given to the coarser kinds of woollen stuffs, as flannels. It is also the name of the woollen thread or yarn used in knitting stockings.

What is Merino? It is a fine kind of woollen cloth; so called from the Spanish merino sheep.

Does all our Merino Wool come from Spain? No; the merino sheep is now reared in Australia and in America, and much of our merino wool comes from these countries.

What is Alpaca? It is a silky woollen cloth, made from the hair of the Alpaca sheep, which lives in Peru, in South America.

What is the finest kind of Woollen Cloth? Cashmere, made from the wool of the Cashmere goat.

Silk.—From what is Silk made? From the fine threads made by a caterpillar called the silk-worm, and wound round its body before it turns into a chrysalis.

Where did the Silk-worm first come from? From China; but it is now reared in all the warmer countries of Europe, especially in France.

What is Ribbon? Silk woven in narrow webs or bands.

What is Satin? A closely-woven and glossy silk fabric.

What is Sarcenet? A very fine, thin silk, first made by the Saracens.

What is Velvet? A thick silk cloth, with a shaggy pile on the surface.

What is Velveteen? Cotton Velvet; an imitation of silk velvet, made of cotton.

What is Crape? A kind of gauze, made of raw silk, and stiffened with gum-water.