

A few words on preparing a batch in the picker room. That this should be done rightly is very essential to success in the carding room. Where a smooth yarn, free from specks is desired, both the percentages of wool and cotton being small, those stocks must be carded before mixing in the batch to insure success. First, the wool must be thoroughly cleaned of burrs in a burr picker that is kept in as near a perfect condition as possible. The burr cylinders must be kept cleaned as often as required, the brush properly set on the same, in order that a perfect delivery be obtained at all times, and the screen over main cylinders kept clean at all times, and the feed as laid on the feed apron not too heavy nor run so fast as to give more stock to the main cylinder than the burr cylinders will take and deliver freely, so that little stock will remain on the main cylinder at any time. Last, but not least, the exhaust fan must be kept well belted, and run in its proper direction, and the foreign matter, dirt, etc., beneath the main cylinder, kept cleaned out as often as necessary. Any neglect to care properly for the burr picker will cause trouble that cannot be afterwards eradicated.

Having the stock ready for the mixing picker, it must be thoroughly mixed by making layers of one upon the other of the different kinds of stock, and then broken from top to bottom as it is fed on the apron of the mixing picker. As to the oil to be used, experience has taught that in the past we have used too much rather than too little. Usually shoddy as it comes from the shoddy mill has oil enough on it (and frequently too much) for all purposes. If these batches are made up before being colored very little oil will need to be used. Water should be used to moisten the stock. If the stock is colored, only half the quantity of oil will be required that would be put on all-wool stock.

Stock handled as above will be in prime condition for the cards, which must be at their best, whether they are good or bad. Iron wire is a back number in a card room, with one exception, that is, the fancy. Nothing is nearly as good as an iron wire fancy for this, but for all other purposes nothing will equal tempered steel wire.

### INFANT MORTALITY IN FACTORY TOWNS.

Attention has been forcibly called of late to the low birth-rate in Ontario. Similar conditions seem to prevail in some parts of England, and in connection therewith attention is also called to the infant mortality which prevails in factory towns. Discussing this question the Textile Mercury remarks:

The decline in the birth-rate of this country is likely to bring into greater prominence the high and increasing infantile mortality which is working with it to deplete the vital forces of the nation. For years past we have been accustomed to watch with satisfaction the direct effect of efficient sanitation, and of the wider distribution of wealth with the consequent improvement in the circumstances of the people, in reducing the death-rate; but what we have gained in one direction is being more than lost in another. Although the limit of amelioration may not have been reached, it is certain that there is so much less room for relieving pressure upon the national vitality; thus the diminution in the death-rate will proceed much more slowly than hitherto, so that if the causes that bring about such a serious decrease in the number of replenishing lives are maintained or increased, we shall before long have to face all the dangers, industrial or defensive, of a shortage in the population. It is in these respects that the pitiful and certainly largely preventible mortality among young children becomes of so much moment, and we may be sure that when it comes to receive proper consideration much of the blame for the heavy loss of young

lives will be laid at the door of the factory system, and more especially upon the employment of married women. We know that the percentage of married women employed is not so large as is generally supposed; it is certain that the feeling of employers is opposed to their engagement; and we have good authority for the assertion that in factory towns "most affected by married women's labor, the percentage of married women employed is diminishing." But we know, only too well, that it only needs an outcry to be raised over this question—and more particularly if raised when a dissolution of Parliament appears imminent—for some fresh and vexatious regulations to be proposed, and, no matter how unreasonable, to be probably imposed upon factory employment. Mrs. Florence J. Greenwood, sanitary inspector at Sheffield, who has written a paper on the subject (recently issued as a pamphlet\*), anticipates that the employment of married women in factories and workshops may be prohibited by law. But while married women have voices and their husbands votes their position is secure enough, no matter though their offspring may be left in jeopardy. Interference would more likely be attempted at the expense of the employer, and perhaps aim at providing, at his expense, periods of absence (on full wages, of course) before and after confinement for married women, perhaps for nurseries and attendants in mills, and stated intervals during working hours for the imparting of what Mr. Micawber would have called Nature's lacteal nutriment.

### CANADIAN MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION.

#### THE WOOLEN SECTION.

The annual meeting of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association was held in Montreal on the 5th and 6th inst., P. W. Ellis, president, in the chair. Among those present connected with the textile trades were the following: B. Rosamond, M.P., Rosamond Woolen Co.; David Morrice, sr., David Morrice, jr., W. J. and R. D. Morrice, of D. Morrice, Sons & Co.; R. R. Stevenson, Excelsior Woolen Mills; Geo. D. Forbes, the R. Forbes Co.; Jonathan Ellis and J. B. Henderson, Fenman Mfg. Co.; Chas. J. Alexander, of Scotland; James Kendry, Auburn Woolen Mills; John Dick, Cobourg Woolen Mills; Geo. Pattinson, Preston Woolen Mills; R. J. P. Murray, Toronto Carpet Mfg. Co.; John Hewton, Kingston Hosiery Co.; R. Dodds, Guelph Carpet Works; C. R. H. Warnock, Galt Knitting Co.; W. E. Paton and John Turnbull, Paton Mfg. Co.; S. T. Willett and Brock Willett, Richelieu Woolen Mills; Joseph Horsfell, Montreal Woolen Mills; C. E. Burrows, Trent Valley Woolen Co.; John F. Morley, Canada Woolen Mills; Wm. Thoburn, Thoburn Woolen Mills; Oxford Mfg. Co., Oxford, N.S.; Ed. J. Coyle, Millichamp, Coyle & Co.; Joseph Beaumont, Glen Williams; A. G. Lomas, Adam Lomas & Son; E. T. Dufton, Stratford Woolen Mills; Moritz Boas, Canada Knitting Mills, St. Hyacinthe; A. H. Baird and H. Stroud, Paris Vincey Mills; James A. Clark, Bullock's Corners; Geo. Reid, Geo. Reid & Co., Toronto; Frank Paul, Belding, Paul & Co.; W. H. Wyman, Corticelli Silk Co.; G. E. Amyot, Dominion Corset Co.; J. E. Molleur, St. Johns, Que.; Clayton & Sons, clothing manufacturers, Halifax; Williams, Greene & Rome, shirt manufacturers, Berlin, Ont.; P. H. Burton, Merchants' Dyeing and Finishing Co., Toronto, Cornwall Mfg. Co.

The woollen section held a session, at which the following resolution was passed and afterwards adopted by the association for presentation to the Government:

\* Is the High Infantile Death-rate due to the Occupation of Married Women? (Sheffield: Bale, Sons, and Danielsson, Ltd. Price 3d.)