

the despair of workers, or else commonplace and ill-drawn combinations of well-known forms put together by workers or local agents. With a view to remedying, in some degree, this serious evil, the Irish Industries Association selected an intelligent girl, from the county Monaghan, who was a skilled worker in Carrickmacross lace, brought her to Dublin, and paid her expenses for a full course of instruction in 'drawing and designing' at the Metropolitan School of Art. The results have been most satisfactory. She has now established herself at Crossmaglen as an agent and instructress, and is in touch with some seventy or eighty workers, whose productions, under her supervision, have markedly raised the average of excellence in this industry, and find an immediate sale. A similar project is now being carried out in connection with the Carrickmacross centre, and the best results may be hoped from it.

Limerick lace is, perhaps, the variety which shows least sign of improvement. This lace being particularly easy to imitate by machinery, has suffered very much from degradation of pattern and workmanship; and the lavish use of the tambour stitch prevalent at present, has, to our mind, a coarse and inartistic effect. Limerick lace of the old type, in which the filling of the figures was done by a stitch giving the effect of net applied on net, and the outline by a single run thread, had a graceful and piquant appearance, not often met with now. It is right, however, to say that Mrs. Vere O'Brien's small lace school at Limerick has done much to introduce better designs; and that excellent Limerick lace is made at the Convent of Mercy, Kinsale. We believe that the lace pupils at this convent learn drawing at the well-equipped school of art which is attached to it, a circumstance which must have the best effects on their work. A worker who attempts to reproduce a design without knowing how to draw is in the same position as a man who is set to copy a writing in a language he does not understand. Theoretically it may be possible to do both accurately, but practically mistakes are sure to abound.

Flat point, the queen of Irish laces, is naturally in less vogue than the cheaper varieties. Yet it holds its own fairly well, and some costly pieces have lately been disposed of, e.g., a flounce for 200 guineas (3½ yards), made at Youghal, and a hundred and twenty guinea piece from Kenmare.

Rose point, or as it is often called, "Inishmacsaint" lace, is not much in demand at present. An exceedingly beautiful fabric, it is too stiff and heavy to suit the present taste and style of costume. A lighter variety, however, is now being made both at New Ross and at Youghal, and two excellent specimens were shown at the last Horse Show, one of which (from New Ross) was bought by her Excellency, Lady Cadogan. This variety of rose point will have a future before it if it is properly marketed. Of the two pieces shown at Ballsbridge one was, we considered, much too dear, and the other much too cheap—the latter, indeed, as we have since ascertained, cost considerably more to produce than the price put upon it. This is not business, and without proper business principles neither taste nor skill can avail very much for the advance of any industry. One of our illustrations is a fine piece of rose point lace made at Inishmacsaint for the Irish Lace Depot — *Irish Textile Journal*.

It appears that the anti-benzene-pyrene mentioned some time ago as a reliable preventative of spontaneous ignition of cleaners' naphtha (petroleum-spirit or coal-tar benzene), essentially consists of oleate of magnesia, whereof as little as 0.01 per cent. in the naphtha attains the purpose. The corresponding lime and magnesia salt, if quite dry, are also soluble in hydrocarbons, and may be used similarly, but their efficiency is much inferior. The cost of this alteration in the dry-cleaning process is so small compared to the safety it affords, that it should nowhere be omitted. Since it has been fully understood that electric tension brought about by friction and electric discharges are the cause of benzene fires, the *Dyer and Calico Printer* states that some firms have furnished their cleaning machines with earth wires, a contrivance the efficiency whereof may from theoretical reasons be called into question.

Foreign Textile Centres

MANCHESTER.—Recent advances in raw cotton were based upon the belief which exists with some that the crop will not exceed 8½ million bales, but these are not the views of cotton buyers. Spinners quote slightly higher rates in many cases, although others would take the prices current for a short time past. There was a moderate amount of China business put through recently, but India is quiet. In the Burnley district a number of looms are stopped, and the production appears to be considerably in excess of the world's requirements. There is not over much comfort to be derived from the Indian rain reports. Now that exchange has fallen it will not be easy to make up for the drop in the rupee price of Lancashire goods, the supplies in the chief markets being rather heavy. Calico printers are fairly busy. The designs in bronze powder which have been shown lately in washable prints are, it is believed, of continental manufacture, British firms not having come up to the foreign standard in these goods. For next spring and summer there is every present indication that in the finest class of cotton fancy dress goods the leading idea will be an extended use of silk combined with cotton in stripe form, such, for instance, as silk stripes, woven satin upon fancy armure or leno grounds, and an extensive use of tinsel or metallic threads. The difficulty is to get the metallic thread, of whatever it may be composed, to withstand the action of bleaching or dyeing. By improved methods, however, this will be overcome, and we shall, it may be expected, very soon see a much extended use of tinsel or metallic effects in woven goods of all kinds. To some extent this is already noticed in new French silk fabrics of the finest class. It is tolerably certain that the metallic effects will next year be seen in brocaded sateen cottons, in stripes and all-over leno and lace cottons and in velveteens, both printed and unprinted. In the latter class of goods the material was used to some extent a few years ago, but, for some reason or other, it did not take on as was anticipated. In the more ordinary styles of cotton dress goods there is most to be noticed in the leno branch. There has been some grumbling lately as to cutting prices in this branch, but this, of course, is all for the public advantage, and perhaps the goods will be a shade cheaper in consequence. Some astonishingly neat and effective patterns are now being produced in this class of goods, patterns which only a few years ago would have been considered impossible at the reasonable prices charged.

OLD AM.—A number of local spinning companies continue to throw out their old machinery and replace it by new, while others are having their machinery thoroughly overhauled and improved. Playing four warps is common at weaving concerns in this district. At one mill nearly one-half of the looms are stopped, and three-loom weavers are standing with one loom, while others are stopped entirely for weeks together. Short time is also being worked.

LEEDS.—In Leeds the clothing factories are benefiting from the finer weather, and there have been more orders both for overcoatings and suitings. Business in the warehouses is also reported to be improving. There is still a good demand for waterproof garments, and the factories employed with these goods are all very busy. In the heavy woolen districts, although the makers of light woolen for ladies' wear are well employed as the season advances, the makers of heavy goods are quieter, and the expected demand for woolens for the United States is still scarcely in evidence. There is a confident tone as to the future, and manufacturers do not care for repeat orders at former prices. Sales of assortment parcels of winter goods have been made on old terms. Heavy overcoatings are a slower sale than usual so late in the year. Presidents and beavers are strong, and tweed and chevrons form the bulk of the fabrics now in preparation. Mixtures and birds-eye meltons are fair in demand, but all-wool qualities are scarcely asked for. A few small American orders are to hand. Continental trade is as last reported. Shipments to Australia and the Cape keep satisfactory. Because of the famine a good many new Indian orders have been