

give them the privilege of having eight scholarships, which is the full limit, so successful has been the result of the scheme. Mr. Sumner generously donated the first scholarship. The Association gives a yearly appropriation towards the scholarships and donations are received from various sources. Some of the wealthy members of other Associations would do well to emulate the noble example set them by Mr. Sumner.

HOW THREAD CAME TO HAVE THE NUMBERS BY WHICH IT IS KNOWN.

MANY a seamstress, whether she wants No. 30, or 40, or 120 thread, knows from the number just what kind of sewing it can be used for, but how the number came to be just what they are and what they mean not one person in 1,000 knows; yet it is a very simple matter to explain, providing you only know the points and how to elucidate

them. When 840 yards of yarn weigh 7,000 grains, a pound of cotton, the threadmakers mark it No. 1. If 1,680 yards weigh a pound, it is marked No. 2. For No. 50 yarn it would take 50 multiplied by 489 to weigh a pound; this is the whole explanation of the yard measurement as used by the spool cotton manufacturers. The early manufactured thread was of three cord, the number being derived from the number of yards to the pound just as it is to-day. No. 60 yarn made No. 60 thread, though in point of fact the actual caliber of No. 60 thread would, equal No. 20 yarn, being made of three No. 20 strands, twisted together.

When the sewing machine came into the market as a great thread consumer, unreasoning in its work and inexorable in its demands for mechanical accuracy, six cord cotton had to be made in place of the old and rougher three cord, it being much smoother. As thread numbers were already established, they were not altered for the new article, and No. 60 six cord and No. 60 three cord were left identical in both size and number. To effect this the six cord has to be made of yarn twice as fine as that demanded in making the three cord variety. The No. 60 cord is made of six strands of No. 120 yarn. The three cord spool cotton is of the same number as the yarn is made of. Six cord spool cotton is always made from double its number. Thread is a simple thing, but, simple as it is, there are 2,000 kinds of it, and each kind goes through hundreds of different processes.

INDIA'S IMPORT OF RAW SILK.

OVER the external land trade of the Punjab, India, for 1888-89, it appears, from the recent report, that a large decrease in the import of raw silk from foreign countries has taken place. These imports, which in 1885-86 amounted to Rs. 646,930 in value, have now dropped to 124 maunds only, or a value of Rs. 51,200. In last year's report it was conjectured that the Ameer's fiscal policy and the disturbances in Afghanistan had brought about this result, but the imports from Cashmere, which in 1885-86 amounted to one and three-quarters lakhs of rupees in value, have since become reduced to some twenty-three maunds of a value of Rs. 9,550 only. Several reasons are brought forward as a cause for the present decline in trade. First, it is said that the rate of raw silk at Bokhara has become high, owing to the heavy duty upon it there, while Indian silk is becoming cheaper. Again, it is urged that a large quantity of raw silk is now imported direct from China into India, and that Bokhara silk probably finds a better market in Russia since the opening of the Trans-Caspian Railway. In Kulu the Yarkandis prefer the Russian market, where a better price is obtainable, although it is hard to say why such is the case. In Rawul Pindi the chief source of supply is Cashmere, but as the state industry has been for some years in a languishing condition, owing to large mortality among the insects and to bad management, the quantity of silk produced has consequently been less. Referring to recent attempts which have been made to revive the industry in Cashmere, it is interesting to learn that a consignment of silk-worms' eggs sent from France have unfortunately gone astray, while a lot from China hatched out before their arrival. A consignment of eggs from Italy have, however, it is believed, been received in safety, as well as a further supply from Bokhara, and probably a second attempt will be made to successfully introduce the French and Chinese species.—English Exchange.



BUTTONS IN 1891.

IT is almost certain that cloth or passementerie buttons will monopolize the market next spring. The small crochet-like cloth ball buttons which are found in all fashionable dress colors are much in demand at present, and will also be used next spring. Small ball buttons of mother-of-pearl and metal balls, engraved or covered with cloth are also favorites of fashion. These buttons will also be worn in spring, as will small gold ball and steel ball buttons, not larger than a large pea.

Among the novelties for spring, passementerie and cloth buttons deserve first place. Plain silk and wool, fancy and crocheted ball buttons and half balls will be worn.

Round buttons with additional ornament are new. Ball buttons with a large pearl in the centre, cloth balls with sharp cut stones and cloth balls with pearls will find favor.

For cheaper grades are recommended braid, crochet and plain silk braid buttons.

Passementerie buttons are made of thick cord or of cordonnet, covered with gold threads.

A new button has a border of thick cord, and in the centre a small leaf design covered with gold thread from which thick black cordonnet threads run in star rays to the border.

Another button has two cordonnet stripes which form a cross in the centre; in the corners are small designs in silk thread or cord.

Another button has a central design in thick cord, around which small cordonnet stripes form a star, reaching to the border where they are gathered in a thin cable cord.

Novelties in metal and fancy buttons follow Parisian dictates. A yellow metal button is in form of a palette surrounded by steel points, the metal palette being in several lively colors.

A gold button has a border of green metal leaves, the gold ground being covered with colored flowers.

A dull black wood button has in relief a four-leaved clover of jet. A nut button, black, is surrounded by steel points and has a steel star in the centre. Steel is considered very fashionable.

Enameled buttons with gold border show a peacock on a blue ground.

A brown leather button has a border of steel points and a white pressed feather tuft.

Pearl button manufacturers have also brought out many novelties. A natural mother-of-pearl button, gold engraved, is in the form of a shell.

Another mother-of-pearl button is adorned with metal flowers.

A white mother-of-pearl button, with gold engraved ground, has flowers in relief and leaves in the dark, natural colored mother-of-pearl.

Quite new are mother-of-pearl buttons with gold trimming and blue stone ornaments, the stones being imitations of turquoises. These are also seen in oval form.

Another novelty is buffalo horn made into buttons with steel ornaments and steel point borders.

Small, pea-like dress buttons are made of hard nuts or buffalo horn, also half balls, four hole buttons, with or without border, plain or in various colors. — Berlin Correspondent, Dry Goods Economist.

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