

returns is, however, confined to one or two departments, and will not, it is expected, affect the general returns to any great extent.

LYONS.—The Dry Goods Economist correspondent writes: The Lyons market is not very active, but a number of orders for spring have been placed. The manufacturing situation is slightly improved. As far as power looms are concerned, no improvement was needed, but for hand looms the orders recently placed will cause an increase in their production. This is already noticeable by the better employment of skein dyers. Among the favored articles continue to be light taffetas in the cheaper qualities. Mixtures of silk and cotton have also received some attention. Printed silks are favored and will be worn in all grounds. Good orders have been placed for mousseline with gold and silver effects, and manufacturers of these have plenty to do. A noticeable improvement has occurred in the demand for crepe de Chine. In fancy brocades with metal effects have been ordered. There is also a better demand for damasks in schappe warp and silk filling. The leading article on the looms continues to be mousseline. There has been an increase in the first eight months of this year of 12,000,000 francs in the value of all-silk tissues exported from France compared with last year, and this increase is directly traceable to the heavier exports of this fabric. The ribbon market is not very active, but a few orders have been placed in St. Etienne. Piece-dyed ribbons are slow. There is some demand for novelties, striped satins, plaids and printed warps. Velvet continues to give satisfaction. Piece-dyed panne does not seem to have met with great success and few orders have been booked recently.

CREFELD.—The improvement that had become noticeable in the demand for silks in Crefeld continues, and it seems as if at last the long period of dullness and delay was broken. Plain goods have sold in all-silk as well as in half-silk qualities. In the better grades of linings, taffeta plain, striped or checked, surah, merveilleux, etc., prices are fair, but in the cheaper grades and the half-silk qualities values continue depressed, owing to the large offering. The consumption of these cheaper goods in striped satins, serges, black diagonals, etc., is to some extent interfered with by that of cotton linings. The increase in transactions has, however, not yet freed the market of the features which have distinguished it thus far. These are the relatively large offerings, due to heavy stocks in some lines, and the disinclination of buyers to place orders for future delivery. This last fact is the peculiar feature of the situation at present, and does not tend to improve it as far as manufacturers are concerned. Cloakmakers have been buying readily velours du Nord and seal plushes, and there has been also a good business done in velvets suitable for cloak trimming purposes. In cloak-making silks, however, consumption has been small. For distributing trade business is still slow, and taffeta seems to be the only article liked. In other branches the same conditions prevail as previously. Cut edge ribbons give very little employment. The silks should be in full season at this time, but there is little activity. In umbrella silks production is fair, but more orders will soon be needed. The velvet and plush industry continue in good condition, although orders for delivery are not heavy. For ready delivery the demand is good for plain velvet as well as for panne. Velvet ribbons are in good demand and in small supply.

ZURICH.—There seems to be little desire on the part of Zurich buyers to place orders for spring and offered prices are so low as to discourage sellers. It is not believed that buyers can much longer delay their spring orders, but if these are not placed soon manufacturers will be obliged to run more looms out of warp. The stocks on hand are already large enough to meet requirements, and manufacturers may not be willing to add to them, although at the present cost of raw material they

would not run much risk in working for stock. Black damassés are in rather heavy supply and stocks of these are believed to be desirable. This of course, has affected prices, which are now very low. In this market conservative methods continue to be the rule, and there is no speculative feeling. The raw silk market has been a little more active, the low prices quoted for Italian silk having encouraged buying. Prices are weak.

THE COLONEL'S COMMENTS ON COTTON.

Colonel Alfred B. Shepperson, New York, publisher of Cotton Facts, returned a few days ago from an extended visit to Europe, where he studied the cotton situation carefully. He finds that stocks of all kinds of cotton in England and on the continent are very small. He estimates that on September 20 the stocks at Liverpool were only 105,000 bales of American cotton, against 700,000 bales last year, and of the supply on hand probably not over 40,000 bales were of the grades desired by spinners. The supplies on the continent amounted to not more than 700,000 bales against 2,200,000 bales a year ago. Mr. Shepperson in a recent statement says that after several years of depression, caused by overproduction of cotton, the consumption of the world has in the season just ended not only overtaken the production, but so reduced the reserves that the visible supply of all kinds last week was equal to only about four weeks' consumption of the mills of Europe and America. Mr. Shepperson estimates the consumption of American cotton last season at 11,000,000 to 11,200,000 bales. The increase of the capacity of American and European mills in the last year amounted to 1,600,000 spindles. It would not be wise to make an estimate of the present cotton crop at this time, he says, or to give serious consideration to the estimates of others. The weather conditions from now to November 25 can increase or diminish the yield by 20 per cent.

THE HUSBANDRY OF HORSEHAIR.

Horsehair is used extensively in the upholstery trade. Most of it comes from Russia and Siberia, and merchants, principally German Hebrews, go over to the Nishni-Novgorod Fair to purchase. What is known as English gathered hair—which grooms comb out of the horses' tails and sell to the marine store dealers, who in turn dispose of it to the manufacturers—sells at 1s. to 1s. 6d. per pound, but is usually much tangled and difficult to work up.

When the manufacturer receives the tails they are first sorted, black from gray. The longest hairs are used for weaving purposes, and make the horsehair for chairs, etc. What is not long enough for weaving is tied up into sticks and sold to the brush makers; and that which is too short for brush making is used for stuffing furniture and mattresses. Even the short clippings are useful in the garden for strewn on the surface of the soil to keep the slugs and snails off, for these creatures cannot stand the short pricking hairs when they attempt to cross a patch of garden on which it has been placed.

The curled hair is made by twisting the short horse-hair, mixed with cowhair and hoghair, into long ropes which are steeped in water, and then baked in an oven, then untwisted and put through a carding process. White horsehair is carefully sorted and bleached and used for hair and tooth brushes, soldiers' plumes, for fishing lines, sieves and various other purposes.

—The specifications for the United States army and navy underwear requires the overlock elastic seam and hem. The same seam is required by the German Government to be used on all underwear for the German army.