

seam will always tend to produce streaks, not only at the ends of the piece, but at times far up into the goods.

In gigging and steaming the matter of tension calls for special notice. If the cloth is not uniformly stretched, or the roller is at all lumpy, streaks may be expected to show themselves. A knot or nail on the roller may occasion trouble, as it elevates part of the goods, and so makes the spot receive more tension and work than the rest. The brushes must be exactly even, and if at all worn must be clipped level or discarded. The brushes on the press and the shear are often the cause of many defects; an economy which would use them as long as possible is a false one. Whenever this defect appears a careful examination of the whole process of manufacture is sometimes necessary to discover the source; until the exact spot where the mischief has its origin is known, it is useless to think of a remedy.

IN a recent number of the *Dry Goods Economist* there is a sketch of a fanning apparatus for burning sulphur in the bleach-room of a knitting mill. This is not always a necessary adjunct of a bleach-room, and indeed, under ordinary conditions and where pure sulphur is used, such a machine is quite unnecessary, as pure sulphur burns down in a pot without any artificial draught, and when the fumes are confined in a close bleach-room the natural circulation of the warmed air is sufficient.

LISTER & Co., Ltd., Manningham Mills, Bradford, have taken out letters-patent for an improved system of pile cloth weaving, the object of which is to produce, in double-pile fabrics, woven face to face, two or more different lengths of pile, by employing, in addition to the ordinary pile threads, auxiliary pile threads, which are tied into the fabrics, floated on the face for a number of picks to form the required length of pile, and then floated on the back for a few picks. After the ordinary pile threads have been cut, the short floats are cut, and the threads thus freed are brought to the face of the cloth by carding or other means. Instead of forming short floats, the auxiliary threads may be crossed from one cloth to the other, in which case they are cut at the same time as the ordinary pile threads.

THE influence which the structure of the textile fibres has upon the absorption of dyestuffs in the process of dyeing has not yet been fully investigated, but that it is very important may be seen from Georgievic's experiments bearing on this point. He prepared some structureless cellulose from filter paper by dissolving it in Schweitzer's re-agent, and re-precipitating with an acid. A good quality of cotton was employed. On dyeing with pure Benzopurpurine 4B it was found that the cotton absorbed much more dyestuff than the cellulose; of Benzoazurine G there was but little difference in the result. Cotton had a much greater power of absorption for tannic acid than the cellulose. Experiments made with mercerised cotton and mercerised cellulose showed that the former had a greater absorptive power than the latter for coloring matters. Wool

fibre takes up color much more freely than wool powder, while asbestos fibre also takes up more color than does asbestos powder.

SPEAKING of English trade with Newfoundland, a correspondent of the *Draper's Record* writes from Manchester: "Newfoundland seal is rather dear, an English firm having secured the bulk of the catch. There is not much doing with St. John's at present, but merchants there are said to be more careful in their habits than has been the case for a long time past. Local business men are now actually to be seen wending their way home *on foot* at one o'clock for dinner from the Merchants' Hall. The business men of St. John's often had conveyances formerly if they went home for dinner at all. We know some of them in Manchester, and they certainly do not bear the reputation of being strict economists."

AMONGST the quaint customs that have come down to us, none is more interesting than that of making an annual distribution of livery cloth to the great officers of State and other functionaries. A gift of four and a-half yards of the best black cloth is sent to the Lord Chancellor, the Lord Chief Justice of England, the Master of the Rolls, the Lord Chamberlain, the Vice-Chamberlain, the Lord Steward, the Treasurer of her Majesty's Household, the Comptroller of the Household, the Home Secretary, the Foreign Secretary, the Attorney-General, the Solicitor-General, the Recorder, and the Common Sergeant. The Town Clerk receives six yards of black cloth and six yards of green cloth, and his principal clerk four yards of each. There are also gifts to minor officials. The custom, which has just been observed, comes down from the times when the citizens used to wear the cloth or livery of their special guilds or fraternities.

THE American Consul at Bradford has made an interesting report to the State Department upon the production and manufacture of mohair. "The almost unprecedented rise in the price of mohair and mohair products has aroused renewed interest in that lustrous material. In the last few months," he says, "immense fortunes have been made here in the mohair business. The price of the raw material has increased from 28c. to 64c. per lb., or more than 125 per cent.; of yarn (two-fold 32's light grey Turkey mohair) from 48c. to \$1.03 per lb., an increase of nearly 115 per cent., and of the finished product suitable for linings, dress goods, summer coatings, etc., from 17c., 21c., 23½c. and 27c. per yard, a year ago, to about 70 per cent. above these prices. One firm of manufacturers is alleged to have cleared \$5,000,000 in less than five months. Half-a dozen other firms, including spinners and raw material dealers, are reputed to have done almost as well, while merchants and all others who have been in a position to buy or sell the hair, the yarn, or the fabric, have made great profits." The most remarkable feature in the mohair trade is the enormous increase in the production in South Africa. From nothing at all thirty years ago, it has year by year increased, until now the exports from the Cape are