

Carpets, Curtains and Upholstery.

BOKHARA AND PERSIAN RUGS.

BOKHARA, or Khiva rugs, better known in the Orient as Turkomans, rank among the finest rugs of the East. The colors used in them are few, chiefly various shades of maroon, red, and blue, interwoven with a creamy white. The pattern is also quite uniform, consisting almost invariably of a many-angled conventional figure, often repeated in the centre, surrounded by a border somewhat similar, but in smaller designs. But the variety of combinations that are evolved out of this pattern is infinite. When one sees one of these Turkoman rugs, it appears as if he had seen them all, and yet no two are alike, either in design or quality. The durability of these rugs is marvelous. They were not made originally for the market, but for the use of the tribes themselves, and are intended for portieres of tents and to throw over temporary divans. One may sometimes see rugs of this class 50 to 70 years old, that have been in constant use by some pastoral clan, and are still not only in excellent condition, but have acquired a velvety softness and a certain indescribable peach bloom or sheen. There are no rugs of the East that give more permanent pleasures to the artistic eye than those of the nomads of Turkestan.

The famed carpets and rugs of Daghestan are made in the Caucasus, and derive their name from the Province of Daghestan, on the shores of the Caspian. It is quite likely that many rugs sold as Daghestan are Persian. In point of fact, Daghestan belonged at one time to the Persian Empire, and there is little difference between the rugs of the two regions. The pile is closer, perhaps, in the average Daghestan rug than in most Persian rugs, and the surface is rich and smooth, but the general style is similar. The loose ends of the work of the Daghestan rug are often twisted into a handsome fringe. One of the finest of Oriental rugs is that of Samarcand. The pile is rich and heavy, soft as silk, and the prevailing tone-ground is a golden brown or mellow gray.

There is reason to believe that carpets, in part or wholly of silk, were at one time common in Persia. We know that the use of silk was well understood in that country long before Justinian caused it to be introduced into Europe. But carpets wholly of that material have for some time been only rarely made in the East, excepting in Cashmere and other parts of Northern India. Just now there seems, however, to be a revival of the silk rug for the benefit of foreign markets. Of course, such silk rugs are very costly. There is one before the famous Peacock Throne at Teheran, embroidered with gems and pearls. It was formerly quite common to weave gold and silver thread in Persian and Chinese carpets.

AN EMPEROR IN A RUG FACTORY.

On the recent visit of the German Emperor and Empress to Constantinople, they were taken out by special train to The Imperial Rug Factory at Herke. The Emperor and Empress remained an hour at the factory, examining everything. They showed the greatest kindness to the work girls, and made inquiries of them regarding their work and mode of life at the factory. Just before the departure of their Majesties the manager begged the Emperor to accept as a memento of his visit a magnificent carpet which the Sultan had much pleasure in offering to the German monarch. The carpet is intended for the hall of the palace in Berlin where the colors of the bodyguard and the models of the German warships are kept. The Emperor in accepting the present asked for a list of

the girls who had been employed in making the carpet, and announced that to each of them his Majesty will give a dowry on her marriage. Three small carpets of great beauty were also presented to the Empress. After inspecting the factory the Emperor and Empress were invited to lunch

in a kiosk specially built on the seashore to receive them. The building was in Oriental style, and the furniture was almost exclusively manufactured at Hereke. The guests were 60 in number. Before lunch the Emperor telegraphed to the Sultan his acknowledgments for the reception he had met with at Hereke, and for the pleasure which his Majesty and the Empress had derived from their visit.

REDYEING OF WORN CARPETS.

Among the many things that are dyed are carpets, those thus treated including moquettes, axminsters, brussels and ingrains. Ingrains, however, are more often cleaned only. Carpets are dyed, as many other things are, because they have become worn or faded. They may be dyed of almost any color, though the color they will take will, of course, depends somewhat upon the original hue. Carpets that are dyed are more often dyed of a solid color, but they are sometimes so dyed as to show the original figure with more or less distinctness, of course, not in its original colors, but in its outlines, the form of the figure showing in a darker tint of the same color as the surrounding body.

A NEW CARPET BEATER.

A New York man has invented a new carpet beater. This carpet beater consists of a handle having a cylindrical section provided with longitudinal grooves in opposing faces, the grooves having inclined lower faces. The portions of a rattan bow engage with the grooved surfaces of the handle extension. Clamping-sleeves conforming with the shape of the extension of the handle, and with the outer formation of the members of the bow, are also provided. These sleeves receive the members of the bow, and are passed over the extension portion of the handle. By this means, the members of the bow will be subjected to a wedge-like action to clamp them firmly to the handle extension, thus providing a secure fastening for the rattan.

THE ENGLISH CARPET INDUSTRY.

A Philadelphia manufacturer, recently traveling in England, had to say the following, to *The American Carpet Journal*, regarding the carpet trade in that country:

"One individual told me, in conversation, that the carpet industries of Kidderminster had been 'knocked out by the Americans.' On cross-examination he was unable to definitely state when, where or how, and I have not been able to corroborate his statement.

"To my knowledge, there has been no considerable importation of English carpets into the United States for many, many years, even under the lower duties imposed by the Wilson Bill, and I do not find any vast quantity of American carpets swamping the merchants and monopolizing the trade on this side.

"Perhaps it is the Canadian market that has been lost. I know that they are building up good sized plants over the border, and are using tons and tons of best 'all wool' super yarn, which is supplied by the philanthropic spinners of Philadelphia at from 5c. per pound up.

"My observations here, up-to-date, lead me to believe that, as a rule, where people cannot afford or do not care to use a good pile carpet, they put down an oilcloth or go without a floor covering. Plain weave goods, such as ingrains, are met with very infrequently. I went through a large stock in the west end recently,