

number of styles in mixture costume cloths and friezes taken up. In the heavy woolen districts there is also a better tone. Although there is little American trade, the demand for fancy woollens and serges for the home and colonial markets is good, and there is a large demand for the East both for light woolen blankets and rugs. It seems, however, that the Japanese are making an attempt to retain a good share of their manufacturing in their own country, as I hear that large orders for manufacturing machinery have lately been placed in Leeds. The trade in fancy rugs still keeps up wonderfully well, and blanket-makers have obtained season's orders quite equal to the average in size, although they complain a good deal of low prices. In flannels, the arrangements for next season are now to a large extent made, and as far as can be known there is every appearance of a better season for Yorkshire makers, who are now busy preparing sample ranges for travellers.

KIDDERMINSTER.—It is stated that the output of the local looms, as shown by the railway returns for the month of March, beats "record." Never before has the bulk of carpets sent out of the town been so great in any one month.

NOTTINGHAM.—Rather more activity is observable in most branches of the local trade. Manufacturers and warehousemen are looking forward to Whitsuntide with some anxiety and a certain amount of hope. Should the weather remain fine and warm until that period, doubtless there will be a good demand for lace goods amongst retailers, and for the next few weeks matters meteorological will divide attention with the state of trade. A pleasant Whitsuntide, followed by a hot summer, would be the greatest blessing the local wholesale trade has had for a long time. Meanwhile, preparations are being made to meet any demand that may arise. Cotton millinery laces are in active request. Valenciennes still retain their popularity, and large quantities of these goods are selling. Although American and crochet laces continue moderately active, the demand is below the average. At one period it was expected that Oriental laces would be extremely popular, and local manufacturers anticipated a large sale for these goods. They are still inquired for, but not to the extent anticipated. For the home trade and for export muslin laces, lappets, and *entre-deux* with imitation openwork embroidery, are in moderate request. The silk lace trade remains in a dull and lethargic condition, without immediate prospects of improvement. A limited inquiry is experienced for silk Chantilly, guipure, and Bourbon laces and nets. Business continues brisk in the bobbinnet, plain tulle, both in silk and cotton, and mosquito net branches. Prices remain firm; there are no large quantities of goods in hand, and as a consequence machinery is well employed. Aprons, caps, ruchings, and other articles keep the fancy making-up branches well employed. A large business is still being done in chenille and other spotted falls and veilings. A good demand is experienced for Honiton braids, purls, cotton and linen beadings and braids, principally for export. There is only a sluggish inquiry for everlasting, beau ideal, and other embroidery trimmings for underclothing, and shrinkage rather than expansion is to be noted in these goods. Irish trimmings are scarcely inquired for. Indian muslin curtains appear to be falling out of favor to a very great extent, and consequently manufacturers of lace curtains, window blinds, and toilets are kept actively engaged. Competition is, however, very severe, and the possible production is largely in excess of the actual demand. Activity still characterizes the hosiery trade, especially in the lighter variety of goods. Stockings and half-hose embroidered with silk are selling freely. Some beautiful lines are produced in these goods both for home and for export. Merino stockings in black and shades of tan are selling extensively. Fancy half-hose in merino and cashmere are in good request. Seamless hosiery has attracted a large amount of business. Natural wool vests and combinations are firm in value, and manufacturers are moderately engaged.

SOUTH OF SCOTLAND.—Manufacturers in the South of Scotland woolen district are still complaining that things are not as they should be, although it must be said that those makers who are making worsteds and fine Cheviots are not badly off for work; but unfortunately the taste for regular makes of Scotch tweed is not in

favor, hence a number of makers are badly off for work. Confirmation orders come in slowly. Manufacturers will be forced to advance prices, as they cannot go on booking at present prices, with the expected further advance in the price of wool at the ensuing London sales.

BELFAST.—Though manufacturers have been kept busy of late, and the turnover of cloth does not show any appreciable falling off, the condition of the spinning trade remains unsatisfactory, values being slightly lower on the month. Demand for yarns on the part of home manufacturers has been very quiet since last report, in fact entirely confined to the purchase of small sorting up lots as required from day to day. On shipping account, however, there has been rather more doing, the Board of Trade figures showing an increase in quantity equal to 21.8 per cent. for the three months over the same period last year. Whilst warp yarns and superior wefts are unchanged on the month, the tendency of prices has been weak so far as common line and tow wefts are concerned. At the same time stocks with spinners are comparatively light, and some have still a good deal of old contract work on hand. Bleaching cloths in the various widths and weights met with good attention for some time past, but lately there seems a little slackness in the giving out of fresh orders. Ballymena makes have also been rather duller, but values generally are well supported. County Down makes are in very fair demand, and production well controlled. Cloth for dyeing and also dress goods are moving off fairly well, but not quite so much doing as a short time ago. For roughs and other classes of tow goods a well sustained business is current, and prices rule firm. Towelling, glass cloth, and other household linens are in very good request, and various makes of union goods are still pretty freely bought. In linen handkerchiefs business has not been brisk, but cambric makes of all kinds and cambric cloth meet with a very good demand, supplies of hand-loom setts being in fact very scarce and likely to continue so during field work. Damasks move off steadily, but on the whole demand is not so brisk as previously.

LYONS.—Some business is being done in silk goods in Lyons, but this is only in moderate-sized parcels and small lots, and no large transactions are reported. From consuming markets the reports about retail sales in the first half of April have not been very cheerful. Buyers are, therefore, acting cautiously, and in view also of the low prices for raw material and the poor results of the business with America, the demand for goods keeps within the limits of actual needs. This cautiousness leads also to some troubles in the deliveries, especially of printed-warp styles, stocks of which have not been depleted with the quickness that was expected. Otherwise, however, and notwithstanding the production of the last 18 months, stocks are within safe limits. Fashion is favorable to silk, and the only factors that now affect the situation are the raw material market and the possibility of political complications. Orders for fall are coming in slowly. Some attention has been given to black and staple goods for fall, but only for testing the ground. It is not known to a certainty what are likely to be the leading sellers, and under these circumstances buyers can do nothing else but order a little of everything. For present consumption the lighter tissues are very strong. Muslins are in great favor and the activity in production continues. In tulles the supply cannot keep up with the demand. The warp-tinted taffetas are making room for these light fabrics and the light surface printed silks also come in for a good share of consumption. The heavier and richer tissues are slow for present consumption, but receive attention for fall. Satin duchesse is among the goods that are recommended for next season. An active demand is reported for staple ribbons, especially in satin-faced goods. A better business is reported in plain velvets for fall. Striped and shaded velvets are also better.

CREVELD.—The weather in the first half of April was not very favorable to the consumption of silk fabrics, and as retailers have not sold much, their demand for re-assortments has been limited, and wholesale distributors, as well as manufacturers, report business dull. The conditions of demand are sufficiently slow to make it appear as if the dead season had made a premature appearance, were it not for a fair movement in taffetas and allied fabrics, but