

eight or ten inches in width. The favorite colors continue to be butter and ivory. Irish guipures and other laces of the same class appear at present to have quite lost their hold. Cheap qualities of Maltese, Torchon, Bretonne and Brabant laces are selling for special markets for assortments and for making-up purposes, but the sales are not sufficiently large to keep all the machinery employed. There is only a limited inquiry for muslin laces, Point de Paris and Broderie Anglaise. Surprise has been evinced at the diminished demand for Swiss embroidery, beau-ideal and everlasting trimmings for underclothing, and there is but little encouragement to produce novelties in these goods. Irish trimmings and crochet laces are at present slow, but shipping orders at a moderate amount have been placed for delivery later on. There is a fairly good sale for specialties in Honiton braids, beadings and purls. The hardening yarn market is having an effect on the prices of brown cotton nets, which are firm. Stiff foundation nets are being superseded for some purposes by cheap buckrams, and as a consequence they are only in limited request. The demand keeps steady for certain classes of bobbin nets. The machinery for producing these goods, however, is not kept fully employed. Prices for mosquito, corset and antique nets remain firm at recent quotations, but these goods are not in full request. Business has scarcely started yet for the current season in lace curtains and window-blinds. The new designs in many instances are out, and, as many of them display novel features, there is every possibility of trade being brisk in this department ere long. At present the demand is not sufficient to keep either the machinery or finishers fully employed. Hosiery goods, on the whole, continue to sell well. Black merino stockings are moving freely, and there is a demand for colored goods and fancy half-hose. There are many pretty designs in chevroned stockings selling, and manufacturers are constantly endeavoring to produce something fresh in these goods. Natural wool vests and combinations still sell in large quantities, and prices are firm. White merino and pure-wool vests are also in request. Cotton stockings and socks are somewhat slow, but there is a moderate demand for larger goods. No improvement is perceptible in the glove branches, which are not in a prosperous state.

LEICESTER.—Foreign competition in our branch of industry was never felt more keenly than it is at the present time. Foreign-made hosiery is finding its way into all parts of the world, and is even offered in competition with our own goods in our own markets. We have already felt the keen competition of our German neighbors, notably in cut goods, fancy and cotton hose departments, and though the majority of the latter class of goods made in Germany are shipped to America, in case of a falling off in that market, we shall find them here in larger quantities. Our English manufacturer does not readily appreciate the present conditions of trade, where all markets are competing for the trade of the world. Not a few look somewhat with disdain on the foreign manufacturer, but the vast strides Germany has made in hosiery manufacture would surprise them. The most improved machinery being at work, many of the finest grades of goods are produced. Especially noticeable is the quantity of fancy ladies' hose in lace work, diamonds, etc., in very fine gauges, such as are notably produced on Paget & Cotton's system of rotary frames. The German manufacturer is not only a man of business, but also a man of enterprise, ever ready to study the wants of those particular markets he is supplying, and to provide for those wants as far as he is able, however much that may inconvenience him for the time being. In a conversation with an American buyer this character was fully portrayed, in the case of ladies' cotton hose, which, to suit the particular habits of the American ladies, required to be much wider than our English goods. This was pointed out to the English manufacturer, but before he was ready to alter his particular styles the German manufacturer had made his samples and the orders were placed. Another instance of a similar kind came under our personal notice, where an article of German manufacture, on being shown to a buyer, was not exactly as he would wish. The required alteration being pointed out, no further comment was made, and a new sample with this alteration was submitted in a few hours, and the orders taken. The apparent aim of the German

manufacturer is to suit the purchaser, and of this we would advise our English manufacturers to take note. We may look forward in the future to a large trade in hosiery manufactures being done in the different parts of America. Every mail brings word of the opening of new knitting mills, or of additions to already existing ones, and though they are at present only largely employed in seamless stockings, and lower grades of rib and plain underwear, they are daily advancing in the manufacture of better class goods.
—*Knitter's Circular*

KIDDERMINSTER.—The *Shuttle* says that the general outlook of the local carpet trade is more hopeful, and the reports to hand inspire confidence in a coming revival. At a conference between the manufacturers and the carpet weavers on their recent difficulties the following rules were unanimously agreed to. (1.) That overtime to be worked by any firm shall not exceed fifty days in one year, the extra time worked shall not exceed two hours per day, but this rule shall only apply when more than four looms are run. (2.) That no overtime be made on Saturdays. (3.) That any firm desiring to work overtime under Rule 1 shall give ten hours' notice to the local secretary upon the firm, stating the time such overtime will commence and the probable duration of it. (4.) That where not more than four looms are run, and they are intended to run later than eight o'clock, a fresh weaver shall be put on after 5.30. Weavers on the firm wholly at play shall be preferred for doing the work. The same principle shall apply to looms run during meal hours. (5.) The rules shall come into force on October 1st, 1895, and be tried for twelve months.

SOUTH OF SCOTLAND.—The wholesale drapery trade of Glasgow is reported fairly active. South of Scotland tweed manufacturers report that good orders for next season are being booked. A fair business is being done in repeats. The demand for worsted cloths is still large, and makers engaged in this branch are exceeding their loom power. Spinners are fairly well employed. Good trade has been done in wool. The Kirkcaldy linen industry is satisfactory, home and foreign demands being encouraging. The floor-cloth and linoleum factories are moderately busy, and the outlook is considered hopeful. The Glasgow wool market continues active, and the demand for all classes is becoming more pronounced. Half-breds and crosses are all but cleared out, and cheviots—which form the bulk of white-faced stocks—are rather more inquired for. Well-grown clips of black-faced are in request, and of these a considerable quantity has been taken up by home buyers. The cotton market at Glasgow is fairly active, and prices show an upward tendency. Buyers are refusing to place orders ahead, and small lots only are at present being taken. In the Angola yarn trade all kinds have been advancing, and there is a confident feeling that values will go still higher.

BERLIN NOVELTIES.

Manufacturers of silks are doing their best to get all the advantage which fashion can give them for next season. Light colored taffeta grounds, plain or changeable, are principally shown for the coming spring.

The cashmere effect on light grounds prevails, and palm designs and cashmere arabesques are being made on grounds of white, straw yellow, corn yellow, gray blue and cornflower blue. Persian and Moorish designs in bright color arrangements are also seen.

Chiné effects are produced in large patterns. Flower designs are not used exclusively on these, and other figures are also made in warp-printed effects, principally on a light-colored foundation.

Large plaids with warp-printed designs, or crossed with wide stripes and plaids with designs in flowers and blossoms in the large squares, are seen.

Fluted stripes on light-colored grounds are made in tasteful combinations. Thousand-stripe effects crossed by wide colored stripes are shown in various arrangements on taffeta grounds.

New color combinations for changeable and chameleon taffeta are numerous.