

THE POPLIN INDUSTRY OF DUBLIN.

POPLIN is a fabric which, although it is not always favored by fashion, invariably excites the admiration of women by reason of its unassuming beauty. It is woven of the finest kinds of Cape wool and the best of China silk, and costs, if genuine Dublin poplin, invariably from $6\frac{1}{2}$ to $8\frac{1}{2}$ s. per yard, for a cloth 24 inches wide, from which it will be seen that a poplin gown is generally more expensive than one of all silk. The reason of the high price is partly owing to the value of the fine material used in weaving, but partly also to the circumstance that poplins are mostly woven by hand. There is no doubt that if an enterprising manufacturer introduced a partly inferior article, but externally of the same attractive appearance, and one that could be bought by the multitude, he would dispose of it readily. Poplin will never become entirely unfashionable, as it always will meet with admirers among the wealthier classes, and, again, its high price will keep it from being utilized by the masses.

The poplin industry was originally introduced into England, among a number of others at present highly flourishing in the United Kingdom, by fugitive French Huguenots. In 1693 a number of silk weavers from Lyons settled in Dublin and introduced poplin weaving; the Irish Government did its utmost to encourage it, and in a few years afterward it had developed into a most flourishing industry. The Government placed at the disposition of the Royal Dublin Society, to whose care these weavers had been confided, large amounts of money, to be expended as it deemed best. But the society was not successful, and ceased to exist in 1840. The poplin industry, the principal centre of which is still in Dublin and vicinity, languished during the periods of the political troubles in that country, and retrogressed sadly. But after the partial pacification the industry commenced to flourish again more than ever, and attained to its highest development between 1860 and 1870. At the end of 1870, a perfect mania for emigrating to America and Australia seized on the poplin weavers, many of whom abandoned their looms to find fame and fortune elsewhere, in some other occupation. In 1884, barely 400 weavers had remained in the country. It is a remarkable circumstance that the weavers had at that time no valid reason for emigrating, as they were well paid for their work, and had constantly plenty to do. Instances came up where large orders had to be refused, as there was not a sufficient number of skilled operatives to be had for the complicated work. Since 1885, the Irish poplin industry has grown steadily, and the fabric is to-day about the most favored in vogue. The style of weaving is at present also used for fine qualities of furniture brocades, for which it is peculiarly well adapted to bring out the artistic patterns. These brocades are in demand and sell at high prices.

LADY DOCTORS ON VEILS.

An English paper has been interviewing lady physicians and surgeons on the question of veils being injurious to health. They agree in saying no, though some of them oppose the wearing of veils on other than hygienic grounds. Miss Sharpe said: "I do not remember ever having heard of a case of illness that could be traced to wearing a veil. I am sure a veil will not hurt the eyes, unless one tries to read while wearing it. For ordinary looking about a veil offers no obstacle to the view, except, of course, when a black spot is directly in the line of vision. No," the lady replied to a further question, "I am not sure women would give up veils, even if they found them bad for the health, because gauze on the face so greatly enhances the appearance. And," she added, laughingly, "I wear a veil, not for the looks, but because it keeps the wind and dust from my face, and prevents my hair getting disarranged." Mrs. Keith does not think the veil is the cause of ill health to women, although it might well be by catching microbes in the part moistened by the breath, where dust always lodges. Mrs. Keith said: "Un-

less a woman reads when she is wearing a veil, I do not see how it could trouble her eyes enough to bring on headaches or other troubles. I do not need a veil, because, you see, my hair (which was severely parted) does not require it. But one is very much more comfortable, especially on a cold, windy day, with a veil." The views of the other lady doctors consulted as to the evils of veils made it clear that, so far as their professional opinion goes, fair woman may go on adding to the loveliness of her features by covering them up without any fear of unpleasant consequences.

HOW WILL THE PLAGUE AFFECT JUTE?

This question is beginning to be seriously considered. Should the plague reach Calcutta, the effect would certainly be to curtail production in the jute mills there. Goods shipped from an infected port would also be out of favor. The first effect would, therefore, be to throw more of the orders into Dundee. The world has become one market-place; the wires unite the most distant producers, and in a day the whole current of business can be changed. In the event of this taking place, there is the further danger of the calamity spreading into the jute districts. This would at once stiffen jute in stock here. And further trouble might speedily arise from the famine; more rice and less jute might be planted. These considerations, together with the possible increase of the tariff in the States, all tend to make the larger manufacturers in Dundee extremely cautious sellers, more especially as the present prices of goods are so unremunerative. Such considerations may seem sordid, but on the Exchange nothing is left out of view, and Dundee business men are, accordingly, anxiously discussing the question. The possible benefits thus foreshadowed are, however, such as, out of regard for suffering humanity, they would prefer not to receive.—Manchester Textile Mercury.

HAT BRIMS AND CROWNS.

There is a radical change from the autumn shapes. Variations on the flat brim are many, but they are brought about mostly by the use of different curls at the edges. There are hub curls, pencil curls, pressed curls, double curls, reversed curls and any old curl that can be devised or copied from the blocks used in seasons long past. On all these brims the binding will be narrow.

Stiff hats are not the only ones which will have brims of novel or revived shape. The soft hat manufacturers are vying with one another in the production of altered patterns. Herein they have a great advantage, it being possible to get a variety of effects with bindings that are not permissible on stiff hats.

In stiff hats brown is the predominant spring color; in soft hats the same color is used, although pearls with black bands have become staple.—New York Press.

IMPORTANT BUSINESS CHANGE.

The large and long established Greene & Sons Co., Montreal, in retiring from business, has sold the stock in trade and good will to a new firm, to be known as Edgar, Swift & Co. Mr. John Edgar has been for thirty years connected with the business, and has been a shareholder and director of the company for twenty-five years. Mr. Swift is also an old employe. The Greene & Sons Co. has a history of sixty years of successful existence, which all who know the heads of the new firm will expect to see continued under their management.

FANCY HOSIERY.

Fancy hosiery is making a strong bid for popularity, and some choice novel effects have been brought out this season by importers of French and German goods. Many importers have faith in fancy styles, but as yet they derive little encouragement from the limited demand coming along, as the demand is almost entirely confined to black goods, with a sprinkling of tans.—Boston Textile World.