and the three highest grades of shirtings have advanced ¼c. a yard, but medium grades are unchanged. Galateas and Oxfords and a line of cheap ginghams are up ¼c., skirtings and eiderdowns ½c., and flannelettes ¼c. Napped sheetings advance 1c., and shaker flannels ¼c. Cotton blankets have risen 2½c. per pair. In remnants of shirtings, tickings, flannelettes, etc., the rise has been about 12½ per cent.

The Dominion Cotton Mills Co. have also issued a list of prices showing an advance of ¼ to ⅜c. per yard, or about 9 per cent., on gray sheetings, and an advance in bleached goods of 5 to 7½ per cent.

NEW ENGLAND COTTON MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION.

The above association, which for the first time in its history held its meeting in Canada, assembled in Montreal on the 5th and 6th inst. A report of the meeting will appear in our next issue.

SOME CAUSES OF STAINS, STREAKS, ETC., IN FABRICS.

Stains, blotches, mildew, odors, streaks, slats, etc., will probably always appear more or less in fabrics of all kinds. There are many reasons why these defects cannot be entirely overcome. But they may be kept down to the least possible quantity with care. This is demonstrated by the varied condition of goods from different mills. Mildew stains, as is probably known to most finishers, are the result of heat and moisture causing fungi, resulting in the destruction or partial destruction of the colors in the goods. If the dyer, washerman, fuller, or finisher permits a piece of wet cloth to lie in a hot place for a number of days, fermentation begins after a certain time, and mildew is soon developed. The mildew stage is almost reached time after time in very many mills. This is the case where one department is ahead of the other to such an extent that the goods are piled up in the washing, dyeing, or fulling rooms. The pieces underneath frequently reach that stage of fermentation where, even if the dyes are not affected, the fiber is touched and weakened, resulting in tenderness of the goods. Such goods will not stand the tension strain.

The remedy for the mildew evil is to prevent the piling up of wet goods for any length of time. But the trouble may not be detected until too late. There are two stages of the mildewing period; if taken at the first stage, when the goods are lightly touched, a good soaping and washing will remove the stuff and leave the goods apparently in as good a condition as before. When the last stage is reached, however, a fungus growth is produced, and there is no known process for completely removing it. Of course, some energetic scouring, washing, and redyeing of the goods to cover the staining will so cover the affected portions that they may be sold, but still they are not right. There is a final stage of the mildewing which so works upon the cloth that the appearance after washing is as if the places affected were scorched. The coloring is permanent, and the places become so tender that one can push his finger through the texture. Such pieces should not be sent to market except as remnants to be cut into shorts, and even then only those portions not touched should be used.

The cause of slatting, blotching, and streaking of many a fine piece of goods may be directly traced to the bunching or twisting and knotting of the pieces in the washing, dyeing, and fulling. Some men put the goods into the machines and expect to run for hours, and keep in touch with the one side of the mill for the whole period of milling. The other side and the centre, not coming into contact with the knockers, sides, or friction rollers, would, of course, receive a different treatment, resulting in streaking the goods from end to end. The difficulty is remedied by occasionally turning the strings, opening them out, and seeing that all portions of the fabric are getting equal treatment. If there are four pieces under way, and they are solid colors or all white, they can be left to run with only an occasional examination. But if they be fancies, they require to be watched from start to finish. Some fancy colored pieces are so delicately colored that the tints are altered or dulled by simply stopping the washing and fulling long enough to change the run of the goods. The liquor has a chance to cool and change. In such a case put the goods back without renewing the liquor. Odors arising from mould usually result from the cloth having been stored in a damp place; but odors of oil, grease, dye, etc., are the result of defective manufacturing, and can be remedied only at the mill. To prevent streaks from flocking, the goods should be backed to keep the flocks from the face. Automatic flocking devices work well as a rule, but for ordinary purposes a slot about 4 in. wide must be cut into the front of the mill, and bearings for the rollers arranged. The flocks box is nailed or screwed up, and the flocks introduced into the box, from whence they are carried between turning rollers down to an apron. The latter revolves over the top rollers, thus carrying the flocks along and depositing them into the mill throughout the slot. The rollers are the width of the mill. They can be made of wood.

Sizing stains sometimes result from the use of ingredients of improper strength. The flour in the sizing is generally allowed to ferment for some time before it is introduced. It is then mixed and applied. The mixture should be tested before using by means of Twaddell's instrument, which is adapted for ascertaining the specific gravity of liquids. It consists of a tube, at one end of which two globes have been blown, forming a sort of double bulb. The lower one contains mercury enough to partially sink the apparatus in water, the upper bulb being filled with the air to keep the apparatus vertical. Mercury is used for weight in the lower bulb. The tube sinks in water to a given point, which is either marked permanently upon the stem or is indicated upon a slip of paper placed inside the tube before the top thereof is sealed. This slip usually carries a scale of equal spaces or degrees. To read this scale, multiply the number of degrees by five and add 1,000, which gives the specific gravity of the liquid.

The production of streaks and slats may be due to poor carding or spinning. A great trouble with some carders is that they depend too much upon subsequent processes to remove lumps, even in sliver. The product from the card in the ordinary mill goes right to the spinners to be spun, and the carder knows that there is no other chance to remedy bad work. If we examine his work and find it irregular, broken, twitty, or full of specks and burrs, the conclusion may be drawn that the machines are not kept in good order. A glance at the carding engines will probably reveal the fact that the wide carding points are clogged with lint or dirt, the journals gummed with dried oil, the rollers not set right, the belts loose and flapping about, and the steel points of the clothing bent and dull. Then, again, the cause of nits lies with the carding, through strippers neglecting to strip regularly. Use good wire, well ground, to avoid this. One of the principal advantages of hardened and tempered cast-steel wire is its durability. On account of its stiffness, resulting from its treatment during the process of tempering, the wire does not get out of place. This, as will be seen, secures a positive carding surface. This condition of the card wire enables it to hold well to the fibers during the process of carding. When we speak of self-clearing, we mean that the carding surfaces will not clog up.