

A SCRAP OF CARPET HISTORY.

In 1735 English Axminsters were first made. But it was not until 1749 that a loom was constructed that would produce a Brussels carpet, and here, says the *Cotton Factory Times*, is an exceedingly interesting anecdote, which has been handed down from father to son as an inviolable truth: During 1730 and 1735 John Broom travelled through Tournay and Brussels studying the stitch which was then known as the Brussels stitch. In Brussels, particularly, weavers were at the time making a carpet named after the town—the Brussels carpet. Broom studied with much earnestness the mystery of the manufacture, and finally made the acquaintance in Tournay of a weaver understanding the secret. He and this weaver immediately repaired to England, and near Mount Skipet, Kidderminster, they put up the first Brussels loom, in 1749. They operated in absolute secrecy, but in time their *modus operandi* was exposed. Broom and his Belgian workman labored night and day, and, it being well known where their operations were conducted, some enterprising fellow climbed to the window, and, night after night, from his perilous perch outside, he studied the operations of the mechanism within, until he was able to carry away in his mind a model of the Brussels loom. Then a second firm and several others soon came into the field, and in 1753 Kidderminster was doing considerable trade in the way of Brussels. To-day there is hardly anything else but Brussels made at Kidderminster.

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W. J. Matheson & Co., Ltd., dye-stuff manufacturers, of New York, in a recent bulletin giving samples of their New-Methylene-Blues, say: "For dyeing purposes our New-Methylene-Blues are equal with regard to fastness to the older marks of this class of dye-stuffs, but have the advantage over the latter to produce finer, purer shades, to be of greater tinctorial power, and to be lower in price. For printing purposes the New-Methylene-Blues are distinguished by their resisting steaming well, that the printing paste keeps very well, and that they are better suitable for resists than any competing dye-stuff, which latter advantage has specially been pointed out to us by printworks where our New-Methylene-Blues are in regular use. The fastness against washing and acids of prints done with our New-Methylene-Blues is excellent and not surpassed by any product of the Methylene-Blue series."

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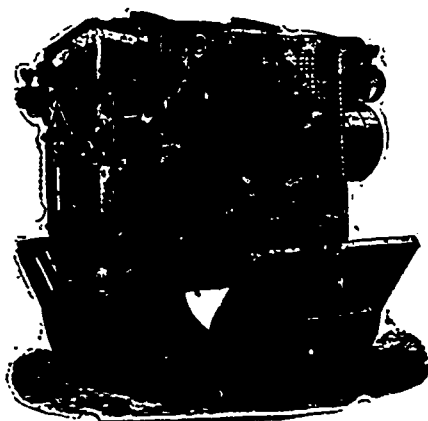
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