

tary worth to those engaged in English factories, would possibly have the effect of excluding German-made fabrics en masse from the English markets. Running parallel with the rate of wages there was the duration of the labor day, which necessarily very seriously affected the productive power of a body of operatives. Long working hours and meagre payments went hand in hand throughout Germany. In factories where day and night shifts were adopted those employed in the daytime labored from thirteen to fourteen hours, and the night workers from ten to eleven hours. The latter received the highest wages, with a view of inducing the men, who strongly disliked night work, to take their turns at the respective shifts. The general rule in spinning factories was a day of from twelve and a half to fourteen hours, with twelve hours' labor, and there were mills where the workers were constantly occupied from six a.m. to noon, and from one to eight or nine p.m. Some of the woolen concerns averaged a ten hour working day; others worked ten hours in winter and eleven in summer, and the third set from eleven to twelve hours all the year round, with from thirteen to fourteen hours in times of business pressure. One of the most important districts of fancy woolen and worsted manufacturing was Aachen-Trier, and the hours worked there might therefore be taken as typical of the general length of the working day in the best factories. There were in this district nearly 300 mills employing about 10,000 workers, one-third of which were occupied eleven hours in the day, one third ten hours, and the remaining third twelve hours, or even longer. The usual work time for adult artisans was from six a.m. to eight p.m., with one hour and a-half's interval for meals, making twelve and a-half hours per day.

Allusion having been made to the different associations, such as the Society of Craftsmen and the workingmen's committees, which have been established at several factories with a view of maintaining amicable relations between masters and men, the lecturer stated that the fact that over £2,000,000 worth of German fabrics should have been imported annually for the past few years into England need not be a matter for grave anxiety, when the wages and working hours in Germany were taken into account. It was more to the point that we should realize what was the exact capacity of the German manufacturer when stripped of these advantages. This might be estimated from the styles and qualities of the yarns and fabrics which he produced. Apart from the question of price, was he capable of making cloth finer in structure, more excellent in design, and better in finish than those producible in British factories? If he excelled in these essentials, our commercial supremacy in the textile industries was being severely assailed. The cheapest labor and the longest working hours combined could not prevent the precipitation of a serious disaster to British commerce in woven manufactures if in these matters the foreigner proved himself to be our superior. Low-priced work was no test of technical skill and productive power. In the woven fabrics imported from Germany we had ex-

amples of the standard of workmanship attained in German mills. These textures chiefly comprised low mantle cloths and cloakings, and limited quantities of dress stuffs composed of mixed materials, showing that almost invariably it was the price which caused these goods to sell in British markets.

Viewed from this standpoint, there was an impregnable argument in favor of our industrial pursuits, for in all classes of fancy fabrics of a high quality, whether in woolen, worsted, cotton, linen, or jute materials, the manufacturers of the United Kingdom had scarcely felt the effects of German competition. Those concerns which suffered most, and which would be still further reduced, were engaged upon plain and coarse fabrics. If more progression had been evident in the flax trade of Leeds, it need not have been so near the point of final extinction as it was to-day, and it would invariably be found that where constant improvement and expansion did not take place the process of decay was at work. A new industrial country speedily acquired proficiency in the simple grades of textile production, and for this reason the keenest competition always obtained in the plain trades, but it decreased in severity as the higher grades of fabrics were reached, simply because the number of manufacturers capable of producing them has comparatively diminished. The policy, therefore, for British manufacturers was to develop and foster the higher and more skilful branches of weaving. For some years this had been done in the woolen and worsted trades of Leeds. Had Leeds manufacturers remained contented with the plain woolen industry for which the town was famous over thirty years ago, the weaving trade of the locality would in all probability have, ere this, become extinct. It was the enterprise, energy and genius of individual manufacturers which had changed the entire nature of the textile work of the district, so that now, instead of Leeds being the centre of the plain cloth trade, it was rapidly improving in reputation as the centre of fancy woolen and worsted manufactures for gentlemen's and ladies' wear. If throughout the country there should be improvement and growth during the next decade corresponding to that of the last fifteen years in all branches of textile work, from the preliminary process of factory routine to the finishing of the woven fabric, it was reasonable to anticipate that instead of the volume of our exports of fabrics diminishing, they would greatly increase.

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## Textile Design

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### NEW FRENCH DESIGNS.

In smooth-combed wool designs, says *Les Tissus*, stripes are much more numerous than squares. They offer more variety and also fewer difficulties. Several articles are still made in which the warp is clear and the weft dark. These show all the details of the design. These effects are produced by using the warp and dark weft. For example, the warping produces two clear