

CREFIELD—The silk trade was quiet lately. The retail trade has not opened up in either the large cities or the provinces, the season being several weeks late. Efforts of wholesale houses to secure fresh orders meet with only moderate success. Among the desirable fabrics taffetas continue to hold the lead, but the supply has become sufficiently large to interfere with profits. Aside from taffetas, bold-ribbed serges and mervelens, for jacket and cloak linings, remain in good demand, but in all other lines trade is quiet, and even moire velours, which had been the feature of the season, appear neglected. The falling off in the demand for silks seems to be due, to some extent, to the great favor bestowed on velvets. The demand for plain and fancy velvets in black and colors remains heavy, and appears to be on the increase. Plushes and velours du Nord are also much sought, and the supply for the time being seems inadequate. The demand for these goods will naturally decrease in a few weeks, but for velvets the demand is expected to increase, and it is likely that next year pile fabrics will enjoy even greater popularity than at present.

FINISHING LOW-GRADE CHEVIOTS.

While the finishing of this class of goods does not have to undergo so many operations as some classes are subjected to, nevertheless the work needs the closest attention in every respect. A great deal of carbonized stock is used in the manufacturing of them, and should this part of the business not be properly attended to it is likely to cause trouble and an annoyance to the finisher in various ways, says a writer in *The Boston Journal of Commerce*. For instance, the finisher does not usually handle the stock during the process of carbonizing and neutralizing, and any variation in the strength of the acid and the proper neutralization of it has such a decided effect on the manner in which the finisher should treat his goods to overcome the difference in the handling of the stock before it reaches him. After the pieces come from the loom and are perched, measured, weighed, and the number, length, weight and style marked on the end, they are given to the burlers, who remove all knots, kinks, bunches, etc., then the sewers look them over and mark with chalk all imperfections that need sewing, such as mispicks, threads out and wrong draws. After having carefully performed this part of the work, the goods are now ready for the fulling mills. Should the lists have a tendency to roll they should be tacked before fulling, which is usually done by machines made for the purpose. The goods are now ready for the fulling mills or washers, whichever we will subject them to, according to the condition of the stock and what it is composed of, and the way it has been treated up to this stage. Should it have been properly carbonized and neutralized, and all the acid removed therefrom in the raw state, it would be best to full them in the grease. Provided there is any acid left in the goods when they come to the finisher, they should by all means be scoured before fulling and all traces of the acid removed before the goods are fullled. Of the two methods, that of neutralization of the stock in the raw state is the most preferable and by all odds the cheapest and most beneficial in its results in accomplishing the desired object—that of producing a sightly fabric that feels well in the hand and has a good felt. A much better felt is produced by fulling in the grease than fulling clean. The presence of acid in the goods when they come to the fulling mills is a serious detriment to their progress, and they ought by all means to be washed, extracted and dried if it is possible before fulling. We will take the former method of the two and full them in the grease.

There are two ways of soaping a piece of goods before fulling: That of entering the goods in the mill and then pouring the soap on to them while they are running, and the other is the use of the soaping machine by which the soap is distributed

more evenly and a more even moisture is obtained by running the goods through the soaping twice and changing ends. After sewing the goods in the fulling mills and marking with string on the list one yard apart, as a guide for the amount of shrinkage you have to take of them, put down the trap and weight according to the shrinkage required. The soap should be perfectly cold. Close the mill for a sufficient length of time till the goods have commenced to full. Be careful not to get them too warm as the heat from fulling will soon start the colors on goods of this quality. After fulling to the required width and length they are then ready for scouring. A much thinner soap can be used in scouring than fulling. See that a good lather is obtained. After first starting up run them about fifteen minutes, then commence to thin down the liquor by gradually allowing a flow of water to run in the washer and frequently opening the gates to drain off the suds. When all traces of soap have disappeared turn on the cold water and rinse well. After the goods come from the washer extract as soon as possible and dry them. It is best to cover them with wrappers if they have got to lay any length of time, as they are liable to get air stained. Low quality goods are more subject to this than goods of a good grade of stock. After drying a steaming on the brush will soften and loosen the nap. In shearing square the nap so as it does not look long and spirally. Have them looked over for specks and pressed, examined, measured, rolled and packed in cases for shipment.

NEW ANILINES, DYESTUFFS.

Direct Deep Black R.W. (Patented)—The somewhat greenish shade of direct deep black E recently patented by the *Farbenfabriken* has led the above named firm to produce and place upon the market a new cheap, one dip black of a less greenish tone, called Direct Deep Black R.W. A small card of loose dyed patterns is in rapid preparation, showing some good combinations with benzo olive, etc. Considering the concentration of this color its price compares most favorably with other allied blacks. An advantage also not to be overlooked is its adaptability to be topped with aniline salt, producing a shade which should meet with appreciation.

Benzo Chrome Brown, 5G.—The well-known aniline family of Benzo Chrome Browns has recently been added to by the above homogeneous brand. Benzo Chrome Brown is used in the same manner as the older brands, more especially for the dyeing of cotton, viz., with glauher salt and soda ash, and after chroming with equal parts of chrome and blue-stone. Dyed direct it produces an orange brown very fast to light, which can be used to advantage in mixtures owing to its clearness of shade. If the direct dyed shade is afterwards treated with 3 per cent. bichromate of potash a great alteration in shade takes place (the shade being converted into a yellowish brown), its fastness to washing being at the same time very much increased.

If an addition of blue-stone be made to the chrome bath a still greater change of shade takes place, a yellow tan brown being obtained, which is extremely fast to light, and washing. In combination with the older brands of Benzo Chrome Browns (G, R, B, and 3R) it serves for the production of old gold, straw, tan and Rhaki shades. In the dyeing of half-silk and half-wool this new color is not so adaptable as the former brands.

Benzo Olive.—This is by no means a new product; but owing to recent improved methods in the mode of its manufacture has led to a consequent reduction in price. Benzo Olive gives a dull green shade, very fast to light, and also to washing; it can be used for olives, and on account of its level dyeing properties, for combinations. In combination with direct deep black R.W., very fine blacks can be produced. By topping