

THE MANUFACTURE OF TWO-COLORED YARNS AND FABRICS.

HITHERTO, threads of worsted yarn of various colors have been manufactured by twisting and doubling together threads previously dyed to their respective shades or colors. It was impossible to manufacture fancy threads of two colors from raw yarns twisted or doubled before dyeing, because in the latter process, they were both equally colored by the dye, and therefore, received the same shade of color. The object of an invention recently patented is to obtain, in a single dyeing operation, the effect of a two-colored thread by the combination of a raw, fine cotton thread with a raw worsted yarn thread. It is well known that fibrous materials differ in their relative dispositions to take or absorb color, and the operation resorted to in order to produce the requisite tint depends upon the material it is desired to dye. This combination of two threads of different material admits of varied effects being produced by one or more dyeing operations. When a twisted or doubled thread of this description is dipped in the bath intended for dyeing wool, the cotton is not dyed, but its color remains the same, whilst when it is dipped in the "cotton" bath, the wool may not be dyed at all or it may receive a different shade of color. For instance, the dyeing of the combined thread in a bath of black dye would produce a black and white thread; the color of the cotton can, therefore, be varied at will by dipping it in a bath of the required dye, while the color of the wool remains unaffected, the process required for dyeing wool being generally different from that required for dyeing cotton. It is of importance to employ only fine cotton threads in this combination, because the fine "numbers" are always uniformly spun, and this facilitates the production of an almost perfectly homogeneous thread. Wool threads, on the contrary, cannot be spun uniformly throughout, and the result of this is the formation of thick and thin places in the thread. If woollen threads variously colored are twisted or doubled, the thread produced by this combination presents corresponding irregularities, which are, of course, more or less noticeable in the woven fabric. Instead of dyeing the combined thread and then weaving it, the fabric may be first manufactured from the combined raw white thread and subsequently dyed, or these combined threads may be woven in combination with other threads. The difference between the effect produced by the fancy yarn, as hitherto manufactured, and that produced by the yarn made in accordance with this invention is very striking.