

REVIVAL OF THE BRITISH SILK INDUSTRY.

IT is not often that the demands of fashion tend towards the encouragement of our native industries; indeed, it would seem the farther removed is the place of production the more favour do the products receive. It comes, therefore, as a pleasant surprise to find that the word has gone forth that English silks have come into favour and are to be in great demand. The work from foreign looms has for so long dominated our markets that silk manufacture in England has for many years been drifting rapidly towards decay, and its total extinction seemed an imminent probability. The great centres of the industry have had to find other outlets for their labour, with more or less success. But now the hopes of the surviving manufacturers have been revived; looms are once more busily employed in meeting the demand that has arisen for home-made

silk materials. Among those who have prepared for the emergency is the firm of Liberty and Co., who inform us that they will soon be supplying none but British designed and manufactured goods, with but few exceptions. Many of our best designers have been employed to furnish designs both for dress materials and hangings, and in the latter especially have produced excellent results. The silk brocade materials which are illustrated here are good examples of the class of work that is being done in this direction. The "Renaix" pattern is produced in three schemes of colour; one, from which our illustration is made, has a rich yellow ground with the pattern in green and yellow; the others have grounds of sage green and white; the effect in each case being very refined. The "Patley" hanging is in white and dull yellow on blue ground, and



THE "HONEYSUCKLE" BROCADE.



THE "PATLEY" HANGING.



THE "RENAIX" BROCADE.

is also produced in three or four varieties of ground colour. Simple in design and subdued in colour, it, nevertheless, has great charm. Other effective designs are the "Mechlin" and the "St. Amand"—the latter a very rich combination of green and gold.

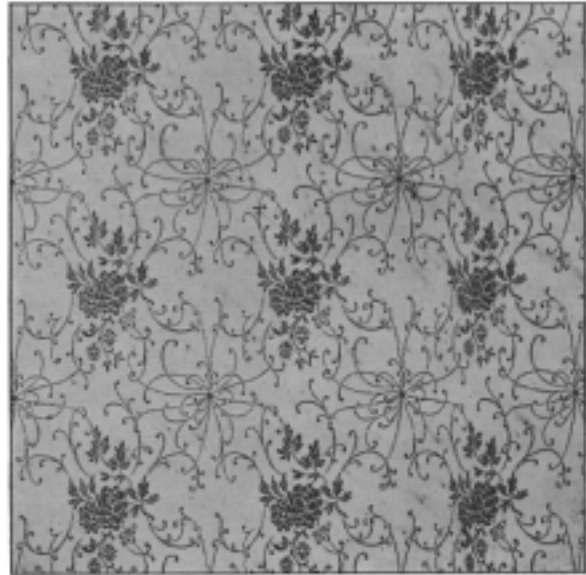
Passing to the dress-stuffs, we find that Japanese influence is paramount in the designs. The "Sakura" brocade, with a bright satin face, with its yellow flowers on a sheeny white ground, is perhaps more successful in its material than design, but the



THE "SAKURA" BROCADE.

"Guelder Rose," with its green flowers on a similar ground, is highly satisfactory. The "Delia"—a frankly Japanese design, is excellent, and we

regret that it does not lend itself to illustration. The "Livia" brocade, a material with a combined printed and woven pattern, is also a successful and



THE "GUELDER ROSE" BROCADE.

interesting example. The "Aliven" brocade in green is again an adaptation from a Japanese design with a praiseworthy result. The "Honey-suckle" brocade, which we illustrate, is worked out in red and blue on white ground. The "Orion" satin is a rich pure silk material in one colour—a beautiful golden yellow, which alone would prove that English weavers have not yet lost their old skill and cunning, in spite of their struggle for existence. We thus have here a development of an art-craft as unexpected as it is encouraging—one which will be watched with interest for the sake of its commercial as well as its artistic promise.

