HOSIERY (from hose, AS., OHG. hooze, Ger. Hose, hose, stockings). In its most limited sense this term refers to the manufacture of stockings (hose); but in its more general application it comprises all knitted goods, either made by hand or by machinery. The use of stockings originated in the cold countries of the north of Europe, and probably the first were made of skins and subsequently of cloth; they were also, until a comparatively late period, made all in one piece with the trousers, constituting trunk hose. These garments were separated, and the art of knitting was invented, it is supposed in Scotland, about the commencement of the sixteenth century, for knitting of bonnets and hose is referred to as early as 1550. Knitted stockings found their way to France from Scotland and led to the establishment of a guild of stocking knitters, who chose for their patron saint St. Fiacre of Scotland. Queen Elizabeth and her court were the first to wear silk stockings, and a machine for knitting them was invented in 1559 by William Lee, of Woodbridge, Nottinghamshire, which entirely altered the hose industry. In 1689 German immigrants of the sect known as Mennonites set up in Germantown, Pa., their stocking frames. By 1700 the stocking industry was established at several towns in Connecticut. In 1822 the stocking in-