There is nothing so uncertain and changeable as taste and fashion, and nothing so demoralizing to taste as feeding a market with more goods than are required. This is what the Americans have been doing. The Dyed Goods Economist says that "the profits in the calico printing industry in the United States have been steadily declining for years past. Compared with fifteen years ago dress calico printing was but a fraction of what it then was. In that time more than 100,000 machines, that formerly produced calicoes for dress, have disappeared, and of those machines now running, only a hundred were of the more productive sorts. And as for other purposes than dress, such as quilts and furniture tapestry," there does not appear much on the horizon. In the meantime we do not hear much of the "Calico Printing Union," from which so many benefits were expected to accrue to the trade. All statements to the effect that the scheme has collapsed are, we know, strenuously denied by some persons interested, but for all that we venture to think that this is a good deal of truth in them. Although in previous comments on the subject our views have leaned towards the syndicate, we believe that it is possible for it to be a success, or even to commence to exist, while small firms ask ridiculously high prices for plans, in some cases not worth in the market open 40% of the sum named by the owners. At the same time we are aware that there are substantial firms keenly desirous of seeing the scheme successfully floated, and whose success and continued support may confidently be counted upon by the commercial public. We are looking ahead, seeing that the industry with which their fortunes are bound up cannot emerge from the troubled waters which now surround it, unless some action is taken with a view of stopping the practices which constitute the curse of the business. We are glad to learn this week from a reliable authority, that the opposition of the Scotch printers is not so general as was feared, and that several of the largest firms across the Tweed are still distinctly favorable to its success, seeing in it a hope of reasonable profits unless the Union, or a combination of some kind, is formed. The delay that has undoubtedly taken place, and which is furthermore informed, chiefly due to the recent financial condition, the effects of which are yet extremely apparent to and to the trade, to Sir John Pollock's personal advent in Glasgow having been delayed owing to various unforeseen circumstances, domestic affliction, ill-health, etc.

The fact is the print trade has become completely demoralized owing to the influence of outsiders, not practical printers, whose only guide to price in what they are told by customers that their neighbours are willing to take, and who are under the thumb of the middlemen who have recently sprung up and exploited needy printers, who must keep their works going at any cost. No combination or agreement as to prices has been found possible, or practicable, a Union such as contemplates can alone redeem the trade from its present low ebb, and that combination will offset the sanitating effects of better printers, acting in the interests of their lords and masters the middle-men, toQuote what one of them has said, "we have the greatest interest in the trade, for they are required to make up the deficit, and as a result of this, the trade has several times been taken to the extreme impartiality. Such is the language used by a well-known Scotch printer in reply to a report that the scheme had collapsed. While welcoming such an outspoken utterance from a quarter where the project has not received so much encouragement, we think it a pity that the progress of the scheme should be delayed owing to the ill-health of one gentleman. Cannot others be found to assume the responsibility during Sir John's indisposition? Surely there are those connected with the firm of James Black and Co, able and willing to meet the Scotch section of the trade in Glasgow for the purpose of discussing matters.

### Reviews of Books

**Designers' Large Scale Cutting, Tracing, and Driving Road Map of Manchester, on 75 Miles About Manchester (53. Market Street, Manchester).**

This is a clearly-arranged map mounted on cloth and based upon the Ordnance Survey. The specially interesting feature is the work of the length of the central Manchester included in it. Other maps of the size of the sheets are used, but it is only a few sheets that have been put on. It remains, for instance, the register of Mr. D. H. Graham's commercial interests are coloured, and that the maps are clearly printed. It is not an illegible map in the whole sheet. To commence the work of printing travelling through the important industrial districts connected therein, the work, which is published at the low price of 2s. 6d., should prove of great value.

In Japan velvet is rapidly going out of fashion in favour of silks. Of late years this article has been established almost exclusively for export, although German material is on a par with that of England; and we cannot see the British cloth dealer (or merchant) competing with the great Birmingham firm on the same sort of terms.

The kind in demand is mostly black, but a few coloured and striped goods are disposed of. It is a distinct novelty and one worthy of being recorded in the columns of "The Textile Economist" that a German should acknowledge the inability of his countrymen to produce as cheaply as Great Britain.

### Designing

**NEW DESIGNS.**

**FANCY TWILLED GINGHAM.**

Eighty ends per inch of small figuring warp, 80 picks of 50% woof cassimerine twill.

**Warp patterns:** 153 dark green, 12 silver grey, 8 dark green, 4 red, 4 white, 12 dark green, 6 silver grey, 6 silver grey, 4 silver grey, 4 silver grey, 8 silver grey. Repeat with the first 153 dark green, 12 silver grey, 8 dark green, 4 red, 4 white, 12 dark green, 6 silver grey, 6 silver grey, 4 silver grey, 4 silver grey, 8 silver grey, 4 silver grey, 8 dark green, 8 silver grey. Repeat with the first 153 dark green, 12 silver grey, 8 dark green, 4 red, 4 white, 12 dark green, 6 silver grey, 6 silver grey, 4 silver grey, 4 silver grey, 8 silver grey, 4 silver grey, 8 dark green, 8 silver grey. Repeat with the first 153 dark green, 12 silver grey, 8 dark green, 4 red, 4 white, 12 dark green, 6 silver grey, 6 silver grey, 4 silver grey, 4 silver grey, 8 silver grey, 4 silver grey, 8 dark green, 8 silver grey. Repeat with the first 153 dark green, 12 silver grey, 8 dark green, 4 red, 4 white, 12 dark green, 6 silver grey, 6 silver grey, 4 silver grey, 4 silver grey, 8 silver grey, 4 silver grey, 8 dark green, 8 silver grey. Repeat with the first 153 dark green, 12 silver grey, 8 dark green, 4 red, 4 white, 12 dark green, 6 silver grey, 6 silver grey, 4 silver grey, 4 silver grey, 8 silver grey, 4 silver grey, 8 dark green, 8 silver grey.
FANCY STRIPED COTTON CHECK.

This is a very fashionable cloth. The grounds are in all shades of blue, bronze, purple, dark fawn, and prunes, in conjunction with white, for the stripes and transverse bars. It is made 80 ends per inch of 40's cotton for the ground, and 24's cotton for the fancy strip. 40's cotton weft. 80 picks per inch. Pegging plans are numbered for reference of draft and tread. Weave pattern: 1st dark blue, 1st white, 2nd dark blue, 2nd white, 3rd dark blue, 3rd white, 4th dark blue, 4th white, 5th dark blue, 5th white, 6th dark blue, 6th white, 7th dark blue, 7th white, 8th dark blue, 8th white. All 8 picks per inch. Weft: 1 thread woolen, 2 worsted. Weight: 1 pick woolen (like warp), 1 worsted woolen (black), 1 cotton.

LOW WOOLEN NOVELTIES.

In Design 40 we have endeavored to give expression to an idea for novelties in low woolens which should prove of some service. Briefly the cloth is constructed as follows:

Warp:
1 thread woolen, 2 worsted.

Weft:
1 pick woolen (like warp),
1 worsted woolen (black),
1 cotton.

Practically the woolen warp and weft interweave two and two twill per inch, forming the face cloth, the cotton warp and weft form a flannel cloth, while the thick woolen pick gives the back, thus covering the cotton. The special feature of the arrangement is that the face cloth is modified in effect by limiting to the cotton cloth. Thus honeycomb, diagonal or check effects may be produced as required. In Design 40 we have adhered to the foregoing particulars, as will readily be seen, two and two twill being formed throughout, and the thick woolen pick bound to the cotton cloth, and the cotton cloth to face cloth on the two possible systems, for illustration. A further development would be to figure with the thick cotton, say combined with half the cotton warp. Other methods might also be used without, save in extensive figure effects, resorting to the use of anything but cotton.
WEAVING MODIFICATIONS.

In continuation of our remarks on weave modification when dealing with the "Sateen" sombre colour, we furnish this week weaves A, B, D, E, and F. A trial shows how far these methods by which new effects are obtainable.

ZEPHYR STRIPES IN COTTON.

On 72 ends per inch, 30's worsted 12/1 twist, 72 picks 50's worsted spun, 28 inches wide; in cloth plain weave, 2 dark blue, 2 white, two in a head; 10 dark blue, 2 white, two in a head; 16 dark blue, 2 white, two in a head; 16 dark blue, 2 white, two in a head; 2 dark blue and 1 of white, 3 dark blue, for 10 ends, and repeat from the first 2 dark blue. Variation in colour:

Salmon for dark blue.
Light blue.
Rose.
Blue green.
Red.
Lavender.

Welt in every case, grey or cream.

Weave D is a much used make, being suitable both for woolens and worsteds, contrasting as a somewhat irregular make with more regular twills, etc. Notice here the construction, simply a pick of plain and a pick of two-and-two weft rib producing an effect on four threads and four picks. An effect based on a similar construction is that given in C, consisting simply of a thread of plain and a thread of two-and-one twist, repeating two picks and two ends, and it is here that more useful effects may be produced by the means.

In weave E a method of modifying weave A is shown. This consists of doubling the picks or putting down each pick twice, thus extending the design to double the number of picks. In like manner the threads or both threads and picks be treated. Thus in weaves E and F we have weft doubled and both weft and warp doubled respectively producing effects in which the maximum flax is four, that is an increase of one and a half threads or twills repeat on eleven and fifteen threads respectively. Many excellent weaves will furnish modified bases for modifications of effects suitable for both coarse or fine worsteds or for woolens.

MUSLIN OR LACE STRIPED ZEPHYR.

First Pattern: 30 in. In cloth, 50 ends per inch, 40's twist, 80 picks per inch, 40's worsted. So dark fawn (5 white, one dent, two dents empty), 5 white, one dent, two dents empty, 5 white, one dent, two dents empty; 5 white, one dent, two dents empty, 5 white, one dent, two dents empty, 5 white, one dent, two dents empty; 5 white, one dent, two dents empty, 5 white, one dent, two dents empty, 5 white, one dent, two dents empty, 5 white, one dent, two dents empty.

Second pattern: 4 light mauve, 2 red, 4 light mauve, 2 black, 2 black, 30 light mauve, 2 black, 4 white, 6 light mauve, 2 black, 4 light mauve, 6 red, 2 white, 12 light mauve, 4 white, 2 black, 4 light mauve, 2 white, 2 red, 6 white, 2 black, 4 light mauve, 2 black, 4 light mauve, 2 white, 2 black, 4 light mauve, 2 white, 2 red, 4 light mauve, 2 white, 2 red, 8 red, 4 light mauve, 2 white, all on 1, 2, 3, 4 shafts.

No. 4 pegging plan (one empty dent) 2 white, one in a dent, one empty dent; 2 white, one in a dent, one empty dent. Repeat the 2 white and 5 white with empty dents; repeat 13 times the shafts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 ends, and repeat the pattern from the first 3 of light mauve. Weft all bleached white.