Machinery and Appliances.

THE JACQUARD.

The word at the head of this notice, though a personal name, has become so thoroughly identified with the machine bearing it, that the individuality of the inventor from whom it is derived is almost lost. It is only amongst the more literate of the masses of people engaged in the textile industries that the fact is known that the Jacquard machine was invented in the first year of the present century, by an ingenious Frenchman called Joseph Marie Jacquard. The feminine

the growing taste of the various communities in which it was practised. The consequence was that the draught loom was invented, in which by a simple mechanical arrangement and the aid of a boy to pull the cords, the shedding was much more expeditiously performed. Skilled and careful drappers were not however over numerous in those times, than they would be found to be to-day, and the nature of the difficulties the old draught loom weavers would experience may easily be imagined. To remedy this the drawboy machine was invented. It was this system which Jacquard's invention superseded, and his ingenious machine or mechanical drawboy, as it might very properly be called, has ever since been a most important adjunct of the loom. As it issued from Jacquard's hands, it was.

compared to its condition to-day, a very

McMurdo, New-street, Miles Platting, Manchester.

The Jacquard is a remarkably simple machine when considered in relation to the fact that its power and range of work is almost unlimited. By its use the most elaborate figure weaving may be accomplished with the greatest facility, as may be easily proved by referring to the figured linens of Belfast, the quiltings and fancy cotton fabrics of Bolton and other Lanarkshire towns, and those of other fibres of several other districts in the kingdom. Jacquard machines are of various sizes from very few up to 1,200 hooks and even beyond. The higher numbers are, however, mostly used in hand looms. It would be a work of supererogation to undertake a description of the principles of a machine so well known as the Jacquard. All that is

baptismal appellative conferred upon him probably indicates that his parents were good Catholics. Such, however, has been the success of his invention that it may safely be asserted that he has exerted a much greater influence and upon a larger number of persons, than any of those who played such a prominent part in the revolutions, religious and political, which occurred during the prime of his manhood in France, and whom historians, and the public under their lead, generally regard as far more important personages than the inventor.

Probably the first form of ornamental or figure weaving was what is known as tapestry weaving, which at an early time achieved very high excellence. This, however, ultimately proved too slow and en masse a process to meet

SINGLE LIFT 000 JACQUARD MACHINE.—MR. JAMES McMURDO, MILES PLATTING, MANCHESTER.

necessary on the present occasion is to point out the improvements in its details introduced by Mr. McMurd. Our illustration represents a 000's single lift machine with swing motion. This type of machine is used for weaving all classes of goods where a high speed is not required. It is made with both swing or horizontal cylinder motion to suit the requirements of the purchaser. Amongst the improvements in details may be mentioned the fixing of the rods in the grids, which gives the latter a very steady motion; they are also fixed in brackets, at the top and bottom on the frame. The knives are made much stronger than ordinarily and are therefore much less liable to injury. The division is wider and the hooks are not so liable to be drawn as with
THE TEXTILE MERCURY.

News in Brief.

LOCAL CORRESPONDENTS AND CONTEMPORARIES.

ENGLAND.

Blackburn.

Last week Mr. A. H. Macdonald, fishery officer for the Blackburn area, visited the town and gave a talk on the importance of the fishery. He pointed out the need for better facilities and urged the importance of educating the public about fishery conservation.

Bolton.

Mr. John Taylor, rope manufacturer of this town, has received an order for 5000 tons of copper wire. He expects to deliver within six months.

Manchester.

The cotton industry continues to grow in this area. New factories have been opened, and the demand for cotton products is expected to increase in the coming months.

Leicester.

In the Conduit, the largest weaving shed in the town, the production of cotton goods has reached a new high. The weavers are working in shifts to meet the demand.

Macraefield.

We hear that Mr. George Macrae, a farmer in this area, has received a prize of £200 for his wheat crop. The wheat was adjudged the best in the district and has attracted the attention of many local farmers.

Oldham.

The Oldham Textile Technological School has received a donation of £1000 from the local textile manufacturers. This money will be used to purchase new equipment and improve the facilities of the school.

Edinburgh.

The Edinburgh Textile Museum has received a donation of £500 from the Edinburgh Textile Society. The money will be used to purchase new exhibits and improve the museum facilities.

Barbara.

The Factory Mill, a well-known establishment in this village, has announced that the mill will be closed for two months. The directors have stated that this is due to a reduction in the demand for their products.

The closure will cause considerable distress to the workers who have been employed there.