

WEAVING

wide application to clothing generally, and many other purposes.

Out of the numerous attempts that have been made during the last ten years to weave by machinery a convex surface, such as is required in several articles of clothing, hardly one, up to the present time, has succeeded. This failure has been owing partly to deficiencies in the various inventions of this kind, and partly to the costliness of carrying them out. At last, after long and patient trials, a patent convex weaving-loom has been invented that not only answers all the purposes of the hand-loom, hitherto exclusively used, but also possesses the advantage, which is absolutely necessary in a country where labour is scarce, of doing ten times the amount of work in the same space of time. With the hand-loom, one man can make, at the very utmost, only four pair of stays in a day, whereas the new-invented convex weaving-machine turns out 40 pair daily. The superior lightness and flexibility of woven stays, and their perfect freedom from hard seams, have increased to a very large extent the demand for this class of goods. Up to the present moment, hand-labour alone has been employed in France and Würtemberg, two countries where they have been most extensively manufactured. In the United States, however, where the high wages for hand-labour have necessitated the most extensive use of machinery, this system could not be adopted with any possibility of pecuniary success; and, in consequence of this fact, a loom for weaving of stays and other convex goods had to be invented. This loom, which was constructed under the superintendence of M. Opper, for the Convex Weaving Company in New York, does the work automatically and to perfection.

The principle of a constant length of travel for the shuttle was adopted for the sake of simplicity; but, as it is necessary, in weaving the gores, that the weft-thread should pass through only a part of the breadth of the warp, the Jacquard has been employed for the purpose of taking up the portion of the warp required to be woven in that part. It is impossible by mere verbal description to give any adequate notion of this ingenious machine without seeing it in operation.

WEAVING. There is no branch of manufacture in which inventions and improvements are more rapidly succeeding each other than in weaving; but, as a rule, they are of minor importance, and rarely affect the general principles of the process. In 1867, however, the novelty of *Convex* weaving by machinery was introduced, and although only at present applied to ladies' stays, seems to promise a