

DICTIONARY OF TEXTILE TERMS.

(Continued from September issue.)

Kemp: Kemps are a kind of imperfect fibres met with in badly bred wools. The characteristics of an ordinary kemp fibre is a hair of dead silvery white, thicker and shorter than the good wool. Kemp fibres do not seem to differ considerably in their chemical composition from the good or true wool fibres, but possess no absorbent power, thus resisting either entirely, or partly, the entrance of dye stuffs; producing a different shade from that imparted to the good fibres of the same lot, hence kemp fibres will be readily detected in dyed lots of wool, yarns or fabrics. The presence of kemp fibres in a lot of wool will also result in poor spinning and poor yarn, since they will not thoroughly combine with the good wool, and will show prominently on the face of the yarn or fabric. Neither will they felt. In the wild breeds of sheep kemp is plentiful and appears to be part of their nature; and in domestic sheep it may be looked upon as an inherent tendency to reversion to the original and native type of the animal. It is sometimes found in the finest grades of wool as well as in the coarsest. In the fine wool sheep, kemp occurs most frequently in the neck of the fleece and on the legs, whereas in the coarse woolled sheep, it may be found on any part, especially if there is a lack of trueness in the blood. The presence of kemp in a fleece greatly depreciates the value of the lot of wool, and a buyer is always cautious to ascertain if wools contain them. On account of its non-absorbent power, occasionally this feature is made the basis of novelty for dress fabrics, etc.

Kendir Fibre: The plant producing the Kendir fibre is also known as Dog's Bane. It is a native of islands in the Adriatic Sea. Fibres obtained from the stems and branches have been used for fishing nets and ropes, also in the manufacture of Russian paper money. Another species (*A. Cannabinum*) has been utilized for twine bags, and as a substitute for hemp.

Kennedy: A Highland tartan, composed of a green ground, dark blue and black checks and red and yellow lines.

Kennets: A coarse Welsh cloth.

Kensington Quilt: Indicating the use of large patterns formed of coarse thread on a fine plain woven ground.

Kentish Sheep: A type of sheep known in England as Romney Marsh, being raised in south-eastern England, in the extensive marshes of the County of Kent, and is the product of the crossing of the original native breed of that district with the (new) Leicester breed. The weight of the fleece is from 7 to 10 lbs. In Holland these sheep are known as the race of the *Polders*.

Kentucky Jean: A cheap, but durable fabric made of cotton warp and wool filling; formerly made in color resembling Cadet and Oxford mixtures, but now made in various shades. Used for trousers, etc.

Kentucky Sheep: A good American breed, known as the Improved Kentucky sheep, was begun 70 years ago

by crossing the common native sheep of that locality with Merino, South down, Leicester, Cotswold, and Oxford down rams.

Keratine: A term applied to the combination of elements forming the wool fibre, these being carbon 50.5 per cent, hydrogen 6.8 per cent., nitrogen 16.8 per cent., oxygen 20.5 per cent., sulphur 5.4 per cent.

Kerchief: A square or oblong piece of linen, silk, or other material, worn folded, tied, pinned or otherwise fastened about the head or neck; also a handkerchief or a napkin.

Kerf: The material (flocks) shorn off with one cut of a cloth-shearing machine.

Kermer: Waist shawls for women, of pure silk, or silk mixed with cotton, made in Egypt, and worn by the natives.

Kermes: A dyestuff of great antiquity, being used by the Hebrews, and mentioned by Moses, their earliest writer. It seems probable that the Hebrew word several times translated *scarlet* in the Old Testament was used to designate the blood-red color produced by kermes with alum mordant. This was one of the three colors prescribed to be used for the curtains of the Tabernacle and for coloring the holy garments of Aaron. The term *gramm*, which was given to kermes by Pliny, probably on account of its resemblance to a grain or berry, was adopted by more recent writers, and is the origin of the term ingrain color, which is still in use. Our words vermilion and crimson are also derived, respectively, from the old Italian words *vermiculus* and *cremesimo*, the former of which signifies the kermes insect, and the latter being probably a corruption of the original Arabic *kermes* or *krames*. Coming to later times, we find kermes in general use as a dyestuff in Europe as early as the tenth century. In Germany, from the ninth to the fourteenth century, the serfs were bound to deliver to the convents every year a certain quantity of kermes amongst other products of husbandry. It was collected from the oak trees on St. John's Day, between the hours of eleven and noon, with religious ceremony, and on this account it received the name of *Johannisblut* (St. John's blood). At that time a great deal of German kermes was sent to Venice to produce the *scarlet* to which that city gave its name. About the year 1550, cochineal was introduced into Europe, and since it is far richer in coloring matter than kermes, it gradually superseded the older dyestuff, which has not been used to any extent for at least one hundred years. It is, however, still employed in some countries, to which it is indigenous, *i. e.*, Italy, Turkey and Morocco. Kermes is derived from the insect *Coccus ilicis*, which is found principally upon the *Quercus coccifera* or *Ilex oak*. The dyestuff is obtained in a similar manner to cochineal, and is also of similar appearance, but it contains only about one-tenth as much coloring matter, which is probably identical in chemical composition with that of cochineal. One peculiarity of kermes is that it

possesses a pleasant aromatic smell, which it also imparts to cloth dyed with it. It is employed in exactly the same way as cochineal, and it has been frequently stated that it produces more permanent colors than that dyestuff, but there does not appear to be any foundation for this assertion.

Kerr: A Highland tartan, constructed thus: A wide red bar, split in the centre by three narrow black stripes which are spaced their own width from each other; a black stripe, about one-sixth in width of the red bar; a dark green bar the same in width as the red bar, split with a pair of black stripes (as wide as those in the red bar) near each edge, being spaced from the edge of the green bar and from each other correspondingly to their own width.

Kersey: A compact woolen fabric, fulled so as to completely conceal the warp and filling, the face being finished with a short, extremely fine nap, and highly lustrous. A light weight beaver (from 22 to 24 oz. in weight) having a smooth face with a soft nap, and made in all qualities, from the coarsest to the finest; used for fall overcoatings, cloakings, etc. The weave used is a double cloth construction, with the plain weave of the 4-harness broken twill (warp effect) for the face, and the plain, or the 4-harness broken twill (warp down) or similar weaves, for the back. Originally made from fine merino lamb's wool for face, and somewhat coarser grade of wool for back, which imparts to the cloth an excellent face. Laid wide in the loom, and heavily felted in the fulling process, both in length and width. The cheaper grades are manufactured from a fine-fibred wool and shoddy, with low grades of shoddy and mungo for back. Named from the English town, *Kersey*, where from the 11th to the 15th century, a large woolen trade was carried on. Kersey of early history was a coarse cloth and known under different names, and consisted of cotton warp and cheap grades of woolen filling, including shoddy. Also called *Kersey-merc*.

Keymo Finish: A finish (said to consist in running the fabrics through a sulphuric acid solution) given to all-wool goods such as flannels, shirtings, etc., to render them unshrinkable.

Khaiki: A Japanese silk of plain weave (washable) but of not so fine a texture as habutai.

Khair-tree: A hard wood tree, chiefly found in India and Southern Asia (*Acaia Catechu*) the wood, twigs, leaves and fruit of which, by boiling and evaporation, yield the commercial catechu.

Khaki Cotton: Various East Indian and Chinese cottons yielding a tan or reddish colored staple.

Khali: Natural brown felted Persian fabric, embroidered in colored silk and silver flowers.

Khirkah: A garment made of patches, etc., worn in Mohammedan countries by derwishes and other religious enthusiasts.

Khum: Dyed T-cloth in Turkey; used for long coats by the natives.