

amongst themselves. The subject was fully considered, and from reports submitted it seemed that there was great unwillingness on the part of the workers to enter into a real Trades Union. On the suggestion of the Chairman, it was agreed that those present form themselves into a Committee for the purpose of starting a Mill and Factory Institute, and to make arrangements for inviting gentlemen thoroughly conversant with the trade to come to Dundee and give lectures on the jute industry in Dundee and foreign countries. It is believed that in this way it would be possible to bring the mill and factory workers in the city into an Association for mutual help.

Galashiels.

The tweed trade made a rapid improvement immediately before the Easter holidays, and still continues better. Repeat orders for spring came much later this year, but they have been fairly numerous and of great assistance in enabling manufacturers to get idle looms started. The winter orders are being well confirmed, and the prospects have very much improved. The price of manufactured goods is still very low. Buyers are therefore placing more freely, and may possibly have to pay more later on. Machinery is fairly well employed, and some makers are very busy. The yarn trade has got much better, and spinners are running night and day in some mills. The hosiery branch has had a good season's trade. It is more steady than the other, and does not fluctuate so much, and still goes on increasing. The increase of new firms, both in the tweed and hosiery trades, and in the introduction of new and improved machinery, by the

Belfast to have an interview with some of the members of the Government regarding the Factory Act Amendment Bill.

Dungannon (Co. Tyrone.)

On Saturday morning last, a fire was discovered to have broken out in the extensive store of Hale, Martin, and Co.'s spinning mill, and in a short time the immense stock of flax (the pick of the market in the North of Ireland) was one mass of flames. The mill was stopped, and the workers, in number about 300, turned out and did all they could to master the flames, but as there was no fire engine, buckets of water had to be carried from the mill dam. The scope of the fire was a little distance from the mill itself, otherwise the whole concern would have been destroyed. The damage is estimated at £10,000.

Miscellaneous.

CHINTZES AND CRETONNES.

The *Art Journal* for April contains an interesting illustrated article on Chintzes and Cretonnes, by Miss Lucie H. Armstrong, from which we are courteously permitted by the publishers to make the following extracts:—

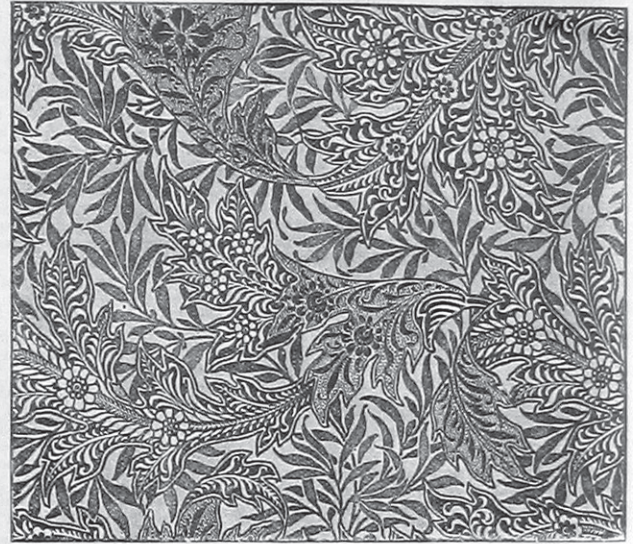
Almost as old as the hills is the fashion of printing

made in Europe in the direction of printing patterns on cotton as early as 1634. The introduction of calico printing into Europe is mainly due to the Dutch, the Dutch East India Co. having brought the Indian chintzes to Holland before we heard of them in this country. Flemish emigrants imported the art into England about 1676; a French refugee also set up a calico printing establishment at Richmond in 1690, and later on other works sprang up to supply the London shops with chintzes, their import from India having been prohibited by Parliament in 1700. This infringement on public rights having been supported with equanimity, Parliament next proceeded to issue a sumptuary law prohibiting the wearing of all printed calicoes—a prohibition which actually endured in force for 16 years, and nipped the rising industry in the bud. In 1736 this unjust law was repealed, but the cotton printer was handicapped by having to pay a duty of 6d. on every square yard of chintz. Later on, the duty was decreased to 3d., but it was not until 1831 that it was repealed altogether. The construction of these hard laws was chiefly due to the extreme jealousy of the silk and woollen weavers—a feeling which reached its climax in the Spitalfields riots, when the silk weavers paraded the town and tore the calico gowns off every woman they met. The imported industry, gradually triumphed, and printed calico goods became a part of the national need and an immense addition to the national wealth.

The manufacture has undergone considerable vicissitudes from an artistic point of view, and suffered, like



Conventional Pattern. Designed by Mr. Lewis F. Day for Messrs. Turnbull and Stockdale.



Conventional Foliage. Designed by Mr. Lewis F. Day for Messrs. Turnbull and Stockdale.

adoption of fast looms for tweeds and steam-driven frames for hosiery, has increased the production to an enormous extent. The volume of trade done now is larger than at any previous period, and points to a large increase of population, and every prospect of future extension.

Glasgow.

The following table gives the value and destination of the exports of cotton and linen goods from the Clyde for last week, and also the totals of the previous week. The first line refers to cotton goods and the second to linen:—

India.	U.S. & Canada.	W. Indies.	U.S. & South America.	Australia.	Continent.	Africa.	Asia.	Antarctica.	Total previous week.
£87,293	8,178	10,964	215	137	254	107,041	17,066		
192	5,029	545				8,766	11,468		

Hawick.

A fair amount of business is being done in the tweed trade at present, and in exceptional cases manufacturers have been fortunate in suiting the market, and are consequently extremely busy. There is more doing in the hosiery branch, the class of goods for which Hawick has obtained a name being still in demand. Several manufacturers have not so much to do as they would like, but over all there is a healthy feeling, and in some cases manufacturers are so busy as to require to work overtime in order to complete their contract within the specified period. There is thus plenty of work both for power and hand framework knitters.

IRELAND.

Belfast.

A deputation of Irish flax spinners, consisting of the Mayor of Belfast and two other gentlemen, have left

on cotton, and the pedigree of chintz commences in prehistoric times. Patterns on cloth were doubtless obtained, in the first instance, entirely through the medium of embroidery, but printed designs soon became a necessity with the increase of civilization. The earliest mention of calico-printing occurs in Pliny, who records his surprise at seeing the Egyptians exercise this wonderful method of dyeing, by which the white cloth was stained in various places, not with dye-stuffs, but with substances which had the property of absorbing colours. Herodotus mentions a Scythian tribe who stained their garments with the figures of animals by means of the leaves of a tree bruised with water, "which colours would not wash out, but lasted as long as the cloth." Calico-printing probably originated in India, where the abundance of dye-stuffs and the preference for cotton fabrics would naturally lead to the cultivation of this process. . . . The Egyptians probably learnt the art from India, for there was undoubtedly communication between the two countries before the first century, the time of Pliny. The Indian chintzes were much in request in Europe before the art of making them had been introduced and simplified there; most of them were made by very tedious processes, a great part of the pattern being painted by hand. The parts intended to be white were covered with wax before the material was thrown into the indigo vat, and the process of afterwards removing the "resist" occupied a considerable time. A piece of cloth, 5 yards by 2½, which was once made by three Indian princesses, is said to have taken them all their lives to accomplish. Calico-printing was of early date in China, and the Chinese wore block-printed calicoes long before any species of printing was known in Europe.

There seems little doubt that an attempt was

every other product of the period, from the bad taste which prevailed during the earlier days of her Majesty's reign. The first chintzes which came over to this country were most beautiful in colour and design. The Dutch adopted the exquisite patterns of the unerring Indian draughtsman, and these were equally suitable to furniture or wearing apparel. Later on they utilised some of the French designs, and these were principally floral, very true to nature, and beautiful in drawing. But presently the English commenced to design for themselves, and some terrible patterns were allowed to walk the earth. . . . About 40 years ago glazed chintz was greatly used for furniture, and some of the patterns were quite surprisingly bad. . . . There was great poverty of invention in the patterns, and where an Indian design was dealt with the artist would introduce extraneous curves, which were fatal to purity of effect. . . . A review of these ancient patterns makes us feel how grateful we should be to the aesthetic movement, which has done away with so much bad colour and design. . . . It is difficult to calculate the amount of harm which may be wrought by a bad design scattered broadcast over the world: how it influences the mind in childhood, and gradually vulgarises the taste.

There is something pleasant in the very sound of the word chintz. It calls up visions of life in an old-fashioned country house, of roses looking in at the window, and of other roses, almost as fresh, meandering over curtain and couch. Dolly Varden is a pleasant vision in her chintz gown, and Olivia and Sophia certainly wore such garments every day. But fashion goes before sentiment, and all these sweet recollections will not alter the fact that chintz has been out of fashion for a matter of 15 or 20 years. A few owners of large country houses have remained faithful to chintz,

and Messrs. Hindley can tell how these chintzes at the Duchess of Sutherland's has been replaced again and again. But the majority of the world got tired of chintzes, and chair coverings were going out of fashion, when some enterprising manufacturer saw the beauty which might lie in a fabric called cretonne, which is simply chintz without the glaze. It is a question whether chintz is perfectly suitable to a town. Its extreme daintiness seems out of place in a city, as the innocent chat of a country cousin seems almost like a reproach to a woman of the world. But the soft tints of cretonne are always pleasing and harmonious, and there is no fabric (with the exception of brocade) which looks so well in a drawing-room. If we cannot have richness, let us have simplicity. There is no middle ground between satin and cotton. The introduction of cretonne has had an enormous influence on household decoration, and we see agreeable patterns and harmonious hues where we should once have seen a whole appalling suite of furniture in one tone of colour.

There is a certain want of enterprise amongst some of the chintz manufacturers, and many of them go on printing the same patterns for a period of twenty years, unmindful of the development of taste which is going on around them. A deep debt of gratitude is due to the man who designs a beautiful pattern to delight our eyes, and we owe much to Mr. W. Morris, a pioneer in the renaissance of taste. Mr. Morris's patterns were mostly called after flowers, but the later ones bear the names of the rivers for which Mr. Morris has so great a love: the Wandle, the Loddon, the Kennet, and the Cray, have all been immortalised by Mr. Morris. The designs are not typical of any of the rivers; they are merely mixtures of scroll work with those wonderful flowers which belong to no particular order that could be classified by the botanists, but only live in Mr. Morris's fancy.

At Mr. Morris's factory at Merton Abbey, one may see the whole process of production, from the time when the chintz commences its career in the dye-vat, to the time when it becomes a thing of beauty on the printer's table. . . . Madder, weld, and indigo are the three principal dyes, and these are mixed with a mordant, for cotton has in itself no affinity with dye, but must be induced to cling to it through a chemical medium. . . . Mr. Morris's chintzes are all block-printed. . . . The difference between chintz and cretonne simply consists in the glazing, which is effected by the cloth being wound round a hot roller.

Messrs. Hindley are one of the oldest firms of chintz manufacturers. Many old patterns are to be seen here; most are of flowers drawn in a natural style, and printed in natural colours, for Mr. Hindley considers that one of the charms of chintz is that you get the flowers as bright as in nature.

Manchester produces many styles in chintzes and cretonnes, some of which form illustrations to this article. The love for striped chintzes must necessarily return along with the old forms of furniture, and some good specimens have lately appeared.

Some excellent patterns have been designed by Mr. Lewis F. Day, and printed by Messrs. Turnbull and Stockdale, of Stockdale, near Manchester, a firm well-known for their printing of reversible chintzes.

THE HOME SECRETARY'S FACTORY BILL.

On Thursday the Factory and Workshop Bill of the Home Secretary was again before the House of Commons' Grand Committee on Trade, Mr. Osborne Morgan presiding, and over forty members being present, including a strong muster of those from Lancashire.

Mr. Matthews opened the proceedings with an amendment to clause 7, intended to conciliate the various kinds of opposition to the fire-escape clause. He withdrew the provision that in every factory commenced after next New Year's Day there should be on each storey above the ground floor a means of escape independent of the ordinary staircase, and he proposed instead that the local sanitary authority should be empowered to require for every storey such means of escape in case of fire as can reasonably be required under the circumstances of each case; and proposed also to extend the same provision to the old factories. In both cases, however, it would only apply to factories containing more than forty workpeople.

Mr. Mundella thought this a fairly satisfactory concession, but other members for manufacturing constituencies were not quite of his opinion, and eventually it was agreed that in the case of old factories the owners, not the occupiers, should have the duty of providing any means of escape insisted on by the Sanitary Authority. Much distrust of that Authority being expressed, it was resolved, on the motion of Mr. J. Maclean, that should any difference arise between them and the proprietor of an old factory, either party should have the right to refer to arbitration. Thus

altered, the Home Secretary's amendment was accepted.

Mr. Sydney Buxton then moved the rejection of the clause, on the ground that clause 8 was sufficient.

Sir H. James opposed the amendment, remarking that clause 8 would leave security against fire to the casual visit of the inspector of factories, who was generally an unskilled person as far as such matters were concerned. The operatives had asked far more than the fire-escape clause conceded. They were willing to take it as a compromise, but would strongly resent being deprived of it altogether. The amendment was negatived and the clause added to the Bill.

Clause 8 was then considered. It gives to the Home Secretary power to make special rules and requirements against dangerous and unhealthy incidents of employment in factories, and it was described by the right hon. gentleman himself as a large experiment, placing all the factories of the country under his nursing care. Mr. Sydney Buxton moved to include workshops within its operation, and this was agreed to.

The next amendment, proposed by Sir Henry James, led to much confusion in the Committee generally. He moved that the Home Secretary should act when "the provision for the admission of fresh air is not sufficient for ensuring the good health of the persons employed in the factory." Mr. Matthews refused to accept this responsibility, and then Sir Henry James protested against what he regarded as a breach of agreement. He had consented to withdraw the proposal of his own bill that 600 cubic feet of air per person per hour should be admitted into every factory on condition that the proposal he now made were substituted. Sir M. Hicks-Beach endeavoured to shield his colleague from the wrath of the learned gentleman, but the latter, backed by Mr. Mundella, refused to be pacified. He would not accept a suggestion by his supporter, Sir William Houldsworth, that his amendment should end at the word "sufficient," nor would he listen to Mr. Matthews's argument that no amount of fresh air would be sufficient to secure good health to some people. So many proposals were made that the chairman and everybody else became bewildered. Ultimately Sir William Houldsworth's suggestion was moved by Mr. Winterbotham, and carried by 29 votes to 10. Sir H. James's amendment thus curtailed was then adopted, and clause 8 as altered was added to the bill.

The Committee then rose.

THE POISONOUS DYE 'SCARE AGAIN.

It has been remarked in France, says the *Daily News*, that the wearing by children of red stockings coincided with pustular eruptions on their legs and feet. "M. Schutzenberger, a chemical expert, says that all the many specimens submitted to him derived their red colour from matters derived from aniline, and containing a large proportion of antimonic oxide. As children perspire freely, this matter enters into solution, and is thus taken into the pores. The Professor had no doubt that it was the cause of the pustular rash which accompanied the use of red stockings."

Commenting on the above, the *Warehousesmen and Drapers' Journal* says:—"A little while ago the report ran that black stockings were going out of wear, which is not at all likely, but now it can be said, with tolerable safety, that red stockings are coming in. Not that there need be any hurry to send off orders for flaming hosiery either in large or small quantities, for it is in sensational articles and alarmist paragraphs upon arsenical poisoning and the injurious effects of aniline dyes that the red stockings will alone be prominent. The fact that sox, or socks, and stockings of these colours are so little worn at present will take most of the sting out of acrid warnings against antimonic oxide, arseniate of soda, pustular eruptions, and other analytical and dermatological terrors. Paper collars are also safely removed from the charges once brought against them, and the long popularity of subdued shades in dress has preserved us for some time past from the sweeping condemnation of carpets, clothing, confectionery, and paper hangings, to which we have at times been accustomed. The fact that a report has been sent to the Board of Health of Paris by a chemical expert to whom a commission had been given to enquire whether there was any connection between scarlet stockings and some skin complaints of school children, to the effect that the dye matter had brought out a rash on the little ones' legs, will put fresh life into the old jeremiads. It will be a wonder if the resolution of the Board of Health in favour of prohibiting all wearing apparel dyed with metallic preparations is not warmly seconded over here, especially as there is a strong tendency towards brighter and more pronounced colours in costume. Without any particular sympathy for coal-tar pigments, and certainly no favour whatever towards injurious or poisonous fabrics of any sort, it would still be much more satisfactory to have the question as to the effect of certain dyes, particularly upon certain skins, carefully en-

quired into and settled, rather than for trade to be subject to irresponsible and indefinite statements which prove nothing."

Textile Markets.

COTTON.

MANCHESTER, FRIDAY.

The indications recently given of slow markets in the early future have so far been completely justified. The demand for cotton has again been on the smallest scale, and prices, in view of the heavy receipts at the ports, and of cotton coming into view, are again drooping. The state of the cotton market is, however, only a reflection of those for yarn and cloth. In all alike there is a very slow trade. The little spurt that occurred two or three weeks ago has placed rather more looms under engagement than was previously the case. This, however, has been on the basis of prices that returned scarcely anything beyond bare cost of production. The trade continue to look forward very longingly but almost hopelessly for the advent of better times, of which, however, at present there is no sign in prospect. It looks as if the current crop of cotton, even should it attain nine million bales, ought to be by this time discounted, and it is possible that in the growth of this belief we may soon see a resumption of business on a more extended scale than anywhere at the moment anticipated. Still the pass-word ought to be "a careful watch" of tendencies. As we have before stated, the probabilities seem to point to a still further divergence in prices between the grades of American cotton from middling downward, and those above that point. The course of the market during the week has again shewn it. Speculations regarding the next crop and its quality and amount are already beginning to be heard. In some cases it is contended that the present extraordinary crop will have greatly exhausted the soil, whilst the low prices obtained for such a large proportion will deter extensive planting in the States where the inferior cotton of the current crop has been grown. Both of these facts, if facts they should prove to be, will tend to send up the values of new crop futures, which, it is argued, will advance considerably from their present position. This looks sound enough on the surface, but the reasoning ignores the fact that the extraordinary magnitude of the present crop is really due to the fertilisation of the soil arising from the extensive floods of the preceding season, which will hardly yet be exhausted, whilst its defective quality may be traced to adverse atmospheric conditions. The great state of Texas in both respects must be excepted from these remarks. The quality of its crop has been good, and has realised premium rates. This will enable the planters to purchase fertilisers and encourage full planting. With reasonably favourable weather during the growing season, and normal conditions during harvesting, the crop, though it may not reach the present one in amount, ought not to fall below a good average, whilst its quality may reasonably be expected to turn out better than the current one. Such are a few of the points that ought to be considered before extensive contracts for a long time ahead are made.

COTTON—The demand for cotton throughout the week has been, without variation, exceedingly slow. A small business has resulted, and the official quotations for both spots and futures shew a reduction. Our last report closed upon a very dull market, with spots the turn in buyers' favour, whilst futures gave way for current crops 1½ to 2 points, and ½ to 1 point for next crop. Crop movements on Saturday in the States still tended to depress the market, whilst the revelations of the quarterly stock-taking in Liverpool, shewing an excess of 42,000 bales American, intensified the depressed feeling. The spot demand was small, and futures gave way 1 to 1½ points on the day. Monday brought no relief; spots were easier, and the official quotations for middling and grades below were reduced ¼d. Futures were about ½ a point worse. The normal quietness of a Tuesday was intensified by the very small enquiry met with for spots, though futures were somewhat better owing to speculative operations, and gained 1 to 1½ points. A revulsion, however, occurred on Wednesday owing to large port receipts, spots being pressed for sale at irregular rates, and futures declining 2 to 3 points on the day. Yesterday the demand rather increased for spots, slightly steady rates, whilst futures made a gain of 1 point, but this was afterwards lost. The record for the week shews that quotations of middling and below are reduced ¾d., whilst futures have receded 4½ to 6 points for the positions from the current month to August, and 3 to 4 points for those beyond. Brazilian has been in a little better request, and a moderate business has been brought to book. This, however, has not been sufficiently good to prevent prices receding, these having generally been reduced ¼d. Egyptian