WEAVING.—No. XIV.

JACQUARD APPARATUS.—INTRODUCTION.

In the previous articles we have endeavoured to show the invention of weaving, its history, and the developments of weaving—before the introduction of the Jacquard and other automatic machines. At that time the loom consisted of a pair of parallel beams, levers, pulleys, and treadles, which had to be compactly united or arranged together to produce the desired pattern or cloth to be woven. These machines required a great deal of manipulation, which often entailed a great amount of labour.

Before dividing the peculiarities of the old system of weaving into distinct classes, as we have done, a better and more definite idea of the principles could be obtained if each modification of the old system were capable of many modifications. For instance, in the second class the changes were shown by being operated upon the loom, as is well known, and it is, in this position that the Jaccuard still remains.

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The invention of the Jacquard apparatus was brought to comparative perfection by the year 1874, when a celebrated mechanic of Lavoisier's, Mr. Leveson, invented the tail cord and simple of the Jacquard loom, and placed the perforated paper in the cylinder on top of the loom, in the place of the pulley box. This cylinder, by means of holes representing one drawing of the cords, work this pattern. This pattern is three yards long, but it can be repeated as many times as the operator desires. The cylinder being turned as to present series of perforations the operations of replying length-when used on the loom, there may be more. It is the same as the woodcarver's machine excepting in rendering it in a more simple form.

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account given by Dr. Cartwright of the invention of the power loom (see Article II.) a marked difference appears. Dr. Cartwright's is a full and circumstantial account, and carries with it an unmistakable evidence of fact. But the account given by Jacquard dwells more upon the netting machine, and seems to avoid the real question at issue. He acknowledges the invention of Vaucanson, but after the subject has had fair consideration scarcely any other result can be arrived at than that given by Professor Willis, already quoted, viz., that Jacquard "must not rank as an inventor, but as a talented workman who has been able to carry out practically the inventions of others."