HOW TO DO TUFTING.

A recent exhibit of early Canadian crafts at our Detroit Art Institute this fall showed some interesting old woven bedspreads woven in tufting technique. This form of weaving is also found in many other parts of the world; Sweden, Italy, and above all a Guatemalan piece with little separated bunches of tufts combined with a brocaded figure.

As some of my students have been enjoying this technique very much, and also as it may be woven on any loom allowing a plain weave, I thought guild members would be interested to hear what we have been doing with it too. Some most successful rugs have been woven on the table model 'earthside' loom, and the rugs here described were woven on that loom. Larger sizes can easily be evolved from the designs given on the next page if desired, and those who are using these looms will find rugs of this sort very saleable.

Materials. All kinds of yarn may be used for this technique. But we have been using Maysville Rug Filler and Home-craft soft cotton with excellent results. The rug shown at the left was woven of home-craft cotton, double wefts for the pattern design, and single for the plain weave between.

Method of working the technique for a rug. Weave enough plain weave with single home-craft cotton for a hem. Wind a shuttle with double weft. Throw a shot of this from right to left. Fasten the end of the weft around a warp thread on the right to hold it. With a stiff metal rod, 1/8", as long as the width of the material being woven, pick up loops of the double weft over the rod. Leave the shed open as you do this. Spaces between warp threads may be skipped as desired according to the pattern design being used. When left edge is reached bring the double weft up around a warp thread to keep it from pulling out. Pass the shuttle back to the right edge through the same shed. Then throw in the single weft, after changing the shed. Pull out the metal rod.

When threading the loom for these rugs, put double threads in for about 3 on 4 warps on each end. This helps to keep a good edge. Do not bring the picked up loops clear to the edge either. Leave at least a half inch of plain on each edge. This keeps the wefts from pulling out. Leave both the plain weave left and pattern weft loose in the shed to keep the rug out the full width of the warp. Take care in picking up the loops to pull them up over the rod all the same way, and keep them even. Do not draw them too tight over the rod. Knitting needles may also be used to pick up the loops. Always throw the double pattern weft from right to left and pick up in this row.

Pattern Designs below are planned for the table model Hearthside Loom. C marks the center of each design. Begin to pick up these designs on the right of the pattern.

Design No. 1 was woven by Mrs. Margaret Anderson of Seattle on a peach color warp. One repeat as marked move 11 inches of rug. 3 skeins of rug filler will weave a rug about 40" long. Use this double for picked up rows, single for plain weave.

Design No. 2 is just the opposite of No. 1. It was woven of all white home-craft cotton. Use double for the pattern design; single for the plain weave. One repeat of the design will weave about 9", be sure to beat each row down close. A comb may help this.

6 balls of white home-craft cotton are needed for this. This makes a very durable, serviceable rug which is attractive too. It will always wash to look well too.

Design No. 3 shown in the photo on Page 1, was woven of one strand of yellow and one strand of tan home-craft cotton for the picked up pattern weft and a single strand of tan for the plain weave shots. This rug has been particulate admired.

On all of these designs, the dark squares are for the picked up loops, and the light squares are for those not picked up.

These patterns have all been centered so they will fit the 214 warp threads of the Hearthside Table Loom which many of you are using. Thus the plain spaces at the beginning on the right of the design are left free, not picked up. Raise the warp threads and count spaces between for those not picked up for the pattern. Also you will see that you always put the plain weave in the same shed and the pattern picked up loops in the other plain weave shed.

Try out some of these rugs. We are sure you will like them.

February 1947

Nellig Sargent Johnson

12428 Mendota Ave., Detroit 4, Mich.