

WEAVING AMONG LAKE-DWELLERS.

An interesting communication was presented by Dr. Weigert, before an Industrial Society in Prussia, upon the products of spinning and weaving discovered in the pile dwellings of Switzerland, in which he showed that even in the stone period flax was cultivated in large quantity, and worked up in the most varied fabrics, including the making of thread, ropes, etc. Remains of spinning-wheels of stone and clay are very abundant, as also the relics of the manufactured articles themselves. Plaited fabrics, which served as mats, coverlets, and walls, showed the extended use of this branch of manufacture. The remains of spindles proved conclusively that the art of weaving was known to these people, and that they used a loom with the chain standing vertically, instead of horizontally. An important conclusion was derived from this fact by the author, in regard to the development of civilization on the part of these people; since of the two methods—namely, whether the chain is horizontal or vertical—the former has been

peculiar to India and Egypt from the earliest period, while the latter was used among the Greco-Italian nations—a proof that the European culture was not influenced by Africa and Asia until it had itself made considerable progress.