

Textile Fabrics from Glass.

FROM one of our exchanges we clip the following, which belongs to the "interesting if true" class of items. We may note, however, that textile fabrics made from glass, and of the softest and most silky character, are nothing new.

"At the exhibition of the lower Austrian Polytechnic Association in Vienna, a new product of art is to be seen, consisting of various articles made of spun glass. Such, for instance, as head-dresses, ribbons, bracelets, cuffs, collars, watch-chains, curled and plain ostrich feathers, and the like. They are manufactured by M. Jules de Brunfaut, in Paris, and differ from the articles of this kind hitherto produced, in being incomparably finer, more tenacious, flexible, and durable. The apprehension which might be entertained in view of the probability that fine splinters from the collars or bracelets might detach themselves, and, penetrating into the skin, produce a painful effect, is said to cease as soon as the glass-wool, so to speak, of M. De Brunfaut is closely examined. The same is said to be at least as fine as the threads of a spider's web, as strong as wool, but withal more beautiful in appearance. As regards the tenacity of the threads, it is reported that they may be used equally well for knitting or sewing, and that with machines affording the very best back and chain stitches.

"Some medical men predict for this new product of art a useful future, from their own point of view. For instance, in grasping a ball of cotton with one hand, and an equally large one of glass-wool with the other, a strong sensation of warmth is immediately felt in the hand which holds the glass-wool. But when a small thermometer is inserted into each ball, it is discovered that after a lapse of five minutes, the thermometer in the cotton ball indicates a temperature of six degrees Fahr. greater than that of the thermome-

ter in the glass-wool, notwithstanding the latter at first caused a rise of the mercurial column. (?) On this ground it is suggested by medical men that the glass-wool may perhaps be employed to advantage in cases where an instantaneous generation of heat is desirable."
