

COTTON WEAVING.

The Cotton Weaver's Handbook. By H. B. Heylin. Pp. x+326. (London: Charles Griffin and Co., Ltd., 1908.) Price 6s. net.

DURING the last twenty-five years many excellent books dealing with textile subjects have been published in Germany, America, and England, but in none of them has cotton weaving been treated as Mr. Heylin treats it. His book contains 462 pages, of which 112 are blank paper, 12 sheets are blank design paper, and 326 pages are of printed matter, the latter being divided as follows:—8 pages are allotted to the index, 30 to a reprint of cotton-weaving examination questions set by the City and Guilds of London Institute, and 36 pages to pictures of textile machinery. On the remaining 252 pages there are upwards of 350 figures, but with the exception of those relating to designs, drafts, and lifting plans, the illustrations are poor. Most of them consist of pictures of machinery and appliances which are of small value to the student, and when, as in this case, they are mainly without reference letters, and inadequately described, they do little more than add to the size of the book. The following may be taken as examples of the majority of these illustrations. Fig. 350 is a picture of a smallware loom, and the descriptive matter consists of "There is a separate shuttle for each tape woven." Fig. 357 has letters added to special mechanism, but these are not referred to. Figs. 273, 274, and 275 are perspective, edge, and plan views of ladder tape, and the only description given is that "ladder tape used for Venetian blinds is a good example of what may be done by the four-ply system of weaving."

In the text there is ample evidence of haste. Statements are repeated again and again, as on pp. 30, 32, and 34, where we are told that the scope for

producing a variety of weave effects is in proportion to the number of threads in the repeat of a design. Again, on pp. 16, 18, and 33, similar repetitions are found concerning broken drafts. That mistakes are very numerous will be seen from the following, which are selected, almost at random, from a long list. On p. 84 it is stated that the ordinary picking motion is "put out of action whilst the wire is inserted to form the warp pile." In these looms the shuttle and the wire are passed through the warp together. The twist tester figured on p. 190 is said to "take out the twist at both ends of the thread simultaneously," whereas it can only untwist from one end. On p. 124, Fig. 294 should read Fig. 296. On the last line of p. 170, /120 should read 4/120, and on p. 225 "the slacker will be the top speed" should read "the slacker will be the top shed." On p. 214 the calculation for determining the point of connection between the back heald cords and the tappet treadle is wrong, and resolves itself into a calculation to determine the required lift of a tappet for operating the back heald shaft. On p. 221 a swing pinion is said to be compounded with a wheel *D*, and also to gear with the wheel *D*. Three calculations are given on p. 245; one is without answer, and both the others lack some of the cancelled figures.

The chapter on weaves is the best in the book, but since this branch of the subject has been more exhaustively treated by German, American, and British writers than any other, it would perhaps be unreasonable to expect Mr. Heylin to say much that is new concerning them. With regard to the heading of this chapter, it is stated on p. 6 that the term "weave is sometimes miscalled design"; nevertheless, the latter term is used throughout the book. The chapters on the power loom and its accessories, and on preparing yarn for the loom, are quite inadequate. Frequent reference is made for details to the frontispiece, which is an unlettered picture of a power loom, and, therefore, affords no means of identifying the parts. To a reader who is familiar with the loom such descriptions as are given are useless, and to others they will be unintelligible. The "Costing of Cloth" precedes the "Systems of Naming Yarns," and prices are given in shillings, pence and farthings, instead of in pence and decimals of pence; also, where yarns are weighed, pennyweights and grains are used instead of grains only. Several pages are occupied with rules and examples for determining the counts of folded yarns, but in no case is the basis of a rule given; further, the problems do not amount to more than the addition, or the subtraction, of fractions, as, $\frac{1}{20} + \frac{1}{30} + \frac{1}{40} = \frac{1}{10}$, and $\frac{1}{12} - \frac{1}{20} = \frac{1}{30}$. An undated market report with official quotations for cotton and yarn occupies five pages.

By a thorough revision, and by filling in the blank pages and deleting the examination questions, the subjects named in the contents might be adequately dealt with, but in its present form this book contains so little that is new, and so much that is inexact or untrue, that it is difficult to say for whom it is suited.