

being always neutral. Or two colours can be used in two complementary sheds, followed by a shot of neutral binder. The second method will work with overlapping blocks as well as on opposites (figs. 5 and 6).

In all methods of weaving described above, the sett of warp and the grist of the binder and of the pattern weft should be selected so that the blocks of pattern could be squared without "cheating" i.e. without subtracting or adding shots of pattern to get the depth of blocks equal to their width.

When weaving in one colour only, two grists of binder may be used for better results. The binder which comes into the same shed as the pattern weft should be of the same grist as the latter, when the binder dividing the shots of pattern should be much lighter. This calls for three shuttles. For instance in fig.2 the binder used on treadles 1 and 2 must be finer than the one on treadles 3, 4, 5, and 6.

The sett of warp depends on the grist of the fine binder, the pattern weft, and the beating. It should be rather close to the sett for plain tabby, perhaps a shade more open.

WEAVING TERMINOLOGY.

The "TWO-HARNESS METHOD".

The ambiguity of the word "harness" (see 1-st issue of MW) becomes most annoying when the term is applied to the "two-harness method". Until quite recent times it could mean only one thing: weaving with two sets of heddle-frames, one with plain heddles, and one with long-eye heddles. The two sets (two harnesses) are about one foot apart, and the front one has long-eye heddles, when the back one has ordinary heddles but rather longer than usual. One set weaves the pattern (usually but not always the back harness), and the other weaves the ground. This method is rather involved but very economical, because the total number of frames is much smaller than in case of a single-harness loom (for the same weave and pattern), the tie-up much simpler, as well as the threading. But it requires a high degree of skill in setting up and gating (adjusting) the loom.

On the other hand what is described now, particularly in the United States, as "two-harness method" is nothing else but weaving on two frames, which is at the best a method suitable for tabby only, and even then not very good. If anything else but tabby is attempted the "method" becomes the pick-up - inefficient, time-consuming, and needless torture. Except of course in tapestry weaving, but then why call it by a new and misleading name, when this kind of weaving is probably thousands of years old. It should be called "weaving on two frames", exactly as walking should be called "walking" and not "two-foot-transportation method".
