

**Cloth-press.** A hydrostatic press in which woolen cloths are subjected to pressure.

The cloth is arranged in regular folds, a polished pressing-board being arranged between each fold to prevent contact of the cloth surfaces with each other. Between each two pieces of cloth is an iron plate.

For *hot-pressing*, three hot iron plates are inserted between the folds at intervals of about twenty yards. Cold iron plates next to the hot ones moderate the heat. Pressure is then applied, and the pile allowed to stand till cold. The cloth is then taken and re-piled, so that the creases of the former piling come in the middle of the pressing-boards at the second pressure. Hot pressing gives a lustrous appearance, but is apt to spot with rain.

*Boiling* and *steaming* have been substituted for hot-pressing, or used in connection therewith.

In the former the cloth is wound tightly upon a wooden or iron roller, immersed in water heated to 180° F., steeped for five hours, taken out and cooled for twenty-four hours. It is treated in this way four or five times; is washed with fuller's earth. It is then stretched on a tenter-frame and dried in a steam-heated room.

In *steaming*, after the cloth is *hot pressed*, it is wound around a perforated copper roller, into which steam is then admitted. If at high pressure, it will pass through all the folds in a few minutes; if at low pressure, it will require one and a half hours. After this it is boiled twice. This steaming saves the time of three boilings.