

gerious and noisy, and his taste for holidays insatiable. The funeral of his father or mother may serve half a-dozen times as an excuse for leave unless it is observed by his immediate superior. Every new employment is bought by a bribe to the *muccadam*, and the active presence of an inspector at the gate of issue at chosing time is justified by the pilfering instincts of the men. Pay day is a period of mingled joy and apprehension to the mill coolie, for he knows, if he has been extravagant, that a familiar face is waiting at the mill gate to recover instalments of interest on loans that have been contracted at rates for interest which may run up to 30 per cent. per annum. One-third of the month's pay is often sacrificed in this manner, and *the debt is hereditary*. There are no Trade Unions in India, because there is no social organisation that could collect and hold money for such a purpose. Nevertheless, the Indian mill hands know how to strike, and even to riot in formidable numbers. Their savings (when they do save) go to the family plot of land or are invested in jewellery which may at any time be converted into cash at a slight loss. Many were therefore able to find a retreat when the exodus due to plague took place last year. Those who remained received a very great increase of wages and daily pay which they managed to keep up by partial strikes in spite of the efforts of their employers, long after the necessity was past. Wages are still abnormally high in Bombay, and nothing but the difficulties of migration due to quarantine, keep the mill hands together at the present time. Higher wages do not have the same effect on the operative here as in Europe. The standard of living among coolies remains the same, although when money is plentiful they will squander it in vice or luxury or temporary gratification, if they do not hoard

it. They are thus always able to live on the very smallest means and to dispense, if need be, with a roof, for a great part of the year. The complete separation of the mill coolie from agriculture seems to be a necessary condition of the success of cotton manufacture and a higher standard of living, with more numerous necessities, appears to be the only influence likely to steady him.

By the courtesy of the manager we are enabled to illustrate the present article by photographs of the staff and employes of the Sassoon Spinning and Weaving Company's mills, one of the largest and best managed mills in Bombay. The mill contains 100,000 spindles and 1,300 looms with Mr. Cowasjee D. Panday as manager. The post is an important one, but he is fully qualified for it considering his long experience of mill management, and the thorough practical training he received in his apprentice days, under competent European fitters and overlookers. Messrs Barlow and Wrigley, who form the European staff of the mill, as carding and spinning masters respectively, have had an excellent Lancashire reputation, which they have fully maintained. Mr. Aderjee B. Shroff, M.I.M.E., has worked his way up in the same concern which he joined some twenty years ago as a fitter, and now has the satisfaction of being placed in charge of the magnificent engines which drive this large mill. Mr. D. Katrak, apparently of the old school, is thoroughly practical as a weaving superintendent and quite up to date in plain and fancy weaving and in bleaching, finishing, dyeing &c. His connection with the Sassoon Mills is also of a long duration.

In a future issue we hope to depict the life of a typical mill manager and overlooker in an Indian cotton mill.

### Weaving Design.

This design may be used for Damask Cloth: the particulars are: 18's warp, 26's weft, 50 p. c. size, 52's reed, 56 picks; 4 dent plain and 8 picks plain on the sides of the design.

