

# GREEK WEAVING

By ROMA CROW WALTERS

**W**ITH all the fascinating weaving coming to our attention which is done on primitive looms, we treadle loom weavers are going to have to look to our laurels.

The accompanying illustrations show some bags from Athens, Greece, woven on the simplest of looms. The materials used are a firm but soft cotton warp, somewhat lighter weight than carpet warp set ten to the inch, and very fine stiff yarn—probably goat's wool. It is unusually tightly beaten and the finished product is an almost stiff piece of material which lends itself to the making of a practically indestructible bag. The handles are crocheted very, very tightly of the same yarn into a cord, and the bags when

held by the handle keep their shape as well as they did when lying patiently waiting to have their pictures taken. They are lined with a firm cotton cloth which of course helps hold the whole in shape.

The technique is the simple one used for weaving on cardboard—that children are taught in the lower grades. No effort is made to interlace the warp threads when color is joined to color by the weft as in the Navajo method or Scandinavian art weaving. The stiffness of the wool used as weft, the even weaving, and firm beating all tend to hold the pattern distinct and regular.

Although Bernat's Peasant wool can be used satisfactorily to duplicate these bags, the effect is not as smooth as the



Greek bags made of the much finer yarn. However, Peasant wool does insure durability which the fine soft yarns would not give.

Illustration No. 1 shows a very lovely bag in shades of Bernat's Peasant Wool in Navy 162 and Delft Blue 188 on a background slightly darker in tone than Natural 197. It is eleven by thirteen and a half inches in size and has served as shopping bag, work bag and on several occasions as a book bag.

Illustration No. 2 is woven in a much more complicated pattern and is truly a thing of great beauty. The background is an old black—the color found in old hooked rugs—and the design is woven in dull blues similar to Delft Blue 187 and 188 and a red duller in tone than 186 on the peasant wool color card. It has a distinct Indian flavor in design but the colors might have been copied from an old carpet

whose colors were "worn down" by the treading of many feet.

The three smaller bags (Illustrations 3, 4 and 5) have delighted children I know, and have been used to carry books and lunches to schools and picnic lunches to the park in summer. The rabbit and boat ones are woven in blues and the natural color wool. The wide eyed gentleman, No. 5, is made of brilliant red with a black face and bright blue eyes. The background is the same natural wool.

Of course these bags can be woven more quickly on a treadle loom, but they can also be done on the portable heddle looms that are becoming popular and that seem to be solving the problem for the person who does not wish to invest in the equipment for treadle loom weaving and yet who cannot quite stifle that longing to create something on a loom.

