

# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

by MARY M. ATWATER


*Question:* "What are "Miniature Patterns?" What are they used for? and where do you get them?"

*Answer:* By "miniature patterns" people mean drafts of familiar patterns in overshot weaving, written on as few threads as possible. They were introduced, I fancy, to meet the present search for textures rather than for designs. They are used for upholstery and hangings, and for other decorative fabrics. Many of these little patterns have appeared in the WEAVER and others in the Shuttle-Craft Guild Bulletins and the Shuttle-Craft Guild Recipe Book.

I confess that I do not, myself, care for these patterns.

I think there are many weaves better fitted than the overshot weave for producing interesting textures. The ancient patterns, like "Whig Rose" for instance, have a character of their own that largely goes lost when they are written down to cover only a few threads. It seems almost like sacrilege to so distort them from their old historic form. I confess I have written many "miniatures" because people have asked me for them, but I do not like to do it, and I should like to suggest that we keep our beautiful old traditional patterns "as is" and find something else when we want to be "modern."

## AMERICAN HAND WEAVING — A BOOK REVIEW



A completely revised and rewritten edition of American Hand-weaving by Helen Louise Allen is now available. Eighty-nine illustrations have been added. The first edition included many ways of rendering original designs in plain weave, such as laid-in or soumak, various open work weaves, and four heddle textures, as "dukagoin" and dougle weave. In the pattern weave division, the use of the basic principals of the weaves such as M's & O's and Summer and Winter, as well as overshot enables the weaver to construct her own pattern.

In the new edition a section on tapestry weaves and on primitive technique as formed in the Indian weaving of Central and South America as adapted to four heddle looms has been added. The bibliography has been brought up to date. The book now comes in two bindings—paper covering \$2.00 and stiff bindings \$3.00.

This book can be ordered from Emile Bernat & Sons Company.

