



Illustration VI

QUESTIONS and ANSWERS

By MARY M. ATWATER

Question: What can I do about badly rusted and bent heddles and reeds?

Answer: The best thing to do about rusted and bent heddles and reeds is, of course, not to have them. The better grade of heddles are rust-proofed, and reeds rarely rust on a loom that is in use. If the loom is to be stored for any length of time — particularly in a damp climate — it is wise to grease the metal parts before putting the loom in storage. But if the harm has been done — if, for instance, you have acquired an old loom that has been badly neglected — the time for preventive measures is past. Badly bent heddles and badly rusted ones are better discarded. If all the heddles are in poor shape it would save time and money in the end to purchase a new set of good rust-proofed heddles. A rusty reed can be cleaned by soaking in kerosene and brushing with a wire brush. Rusty heddles may, of course, be cleaned in the same manner, though this may

hardly be worth doing. A damaged reed, however — one that is bent, with the dents pushed together in some places and sprung apart in others — should be replaced. If it is a long reed, and some part of it is still usable, it is a simple matter to cut the reed and keep the usable part for narrow weaving. The ribs of the reed are half-rounds of wood — not metal — and may be cut with an ordinary knife. The dents are separate slips of metal, spaced by a tarred cord that is wound between the dents and around the ribs. The end-pieces of the reed are merely nailed to the ribs and can be removed and replaced without difficulty. The worst thing to do is to attempt weaving through a damaged reed. The imperfections of the reed will produce imperfections in the woven fabric, resulting in streaks the length of the weaving. If hand-weaving is worth doing it is certainly worth doing as well as possible, and it is foolish to handicap one's self with defective weaving equipment.