

direction, as in fig.5. Instead of making every pick of weft with a different sequence of colours, we make all of them the same but several inches longer than the width of the rug.

In our case if one square on the draft is one inch, the weft must be woven: 6" white, 6" black, and 7" white. In the second weaving we start with the first pick exactly fitting the left hand edge of the rug, and then shifting the next one about 1/4" to the left, and so on, until the last one is reached when it should come even with the right hand edge of the rug. The projecting ends are stripped of the pile, after the binder is woven but before the next shot of the pile weft, then cut to about 1" from the adge and tucked in as usual.



Fig.5

The Locked Wefts technique (HW 4, page 7) is an excellent method of weaving chenille rugs. Here it is better to use commercial chenille weft. Home made chenille does not slide very easily when interlocking. And in any case here we need only one solid colour on each side.

The best results are obtained with rather fine chenille. We wind it on ordinary bobbins, but if we can get larger shuttles it is so much the better, since the weft will last longer. Flat shuttles are of little use. The bobbins on the rack can be standard warping ones. Here we cannot hope to weave as fast as with plain, more slippery yarns. To keep the edges straight we must help the weft from the rack to unwind by pulling it with the left hand, and the shifting of the interlocking point cannot be done by pulling on the shuttle alone. The right hand edge must be straightened with fingers to prevent too much of pulling in. This obviously slows down the weaving, but on the other hand the size of the weft makes it so much faster, that all in all this is about the easiest way of producing pattern rugs, or for that matter - any pile fabric.

FROM THE CLASSICS.

"The Linen Manufacturer" by Alexander Peddie, Glasgow 1822.

The Art of Weaving is of very ancient origin: the many fabulous stories concerning it, such as the story of Penelope's web; and also the frequent mention of it in the sacred writings, clearly show, that the making of cloth from thread of wool, flax, hair, silk &c. is a very ancient invention. Like other arts, it has undergone an infinite variety of changes, and, consequently, improvements as to the preparation of the material and modes of operation followed by the artist. No person can ever practically be employed in all the branches of it; and, although each part bears strong analogy to the rest, yet a knowledge of the various parts can only be obtained by minute investigation, experience and reflection.
