

Bad Aluminium.

THE *Engineer* (London) has recently been warning its readers regarding the dangers of using aluminium that is not free from sodium, which is often distributed in irregular fashion through the former metal, so that comparatively large quantities may occur in one spot. The sodium is almost as sensitive to the effect of damp air as to water, and the result of the combination is caustic soda—a powerful solvent of aluminium. So many useful applications of this metal have already been found, many of them peculiarly suited for use in India, that it would be disastrous were the mania for buying cheap to

overrule the discretion of the first artisans who begin to make aluminium vessels for domestic use here. The cheapest brass, copper, iron, and tin plates, the cheapest wire and soldering materials, have alone currency in our bazaars, and unless the indents for aluminium are most carefully specified, our first supply may be sufficiently impure to condemn it in public opinion for years to come. Any one who desires to use this metal for the manufacture of cooking vessels in Bombay should take the precaution of having it analysed before beginning to use it. Sodium is the most objectionable of all the impurities in aluminium. If its presence be proved to be sufficiently small the other impurities may generally be neglected.

Weaving Design

For Damases: The particulars are:—16's warp, 16's weft, grey; 56's reed, 60 picks; 50 p. c. size. Take plain picks and plain ends as required round the pattern.

