

# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

By MARY M. ATWATER

*Question:* "The edges of my rugs have a ruffy look—the selvage threads seem looser than the rest of the rug. What is the matter?"

*Answer:* The difficulty may be due to defective warping, but the more probable cause is excessive narrowing in of the edges. When weaving with a coarse weft as in rug-making it is necessary to narrow in a little in order to make a firm edge, but if the fabric is narrowed in a great deal it becomes almost impossible to beat well, and the selvage threads become stretched through the sawing effect of the reed. While it is true that in coarse weaving of this kind most of the take-up is in the warp, there is quite a bit of take-up in the tabby weft, and the tabby thread should not be drawn tight. Keep the fabric out to almost the width of the warp as it passes through the reed. If you do this,—provided the warp has been beamed correctly—you should have no trouble with your edges.

*Question:* In making a warp-face fabric, with the warp set very close in the reed, it is very hard to open the sheds, and it is almost impossible to beat closely. Is there any way to make these things easier to do?

*Answer:* Use a very coarse reed—four or six dents to the inch—and sley as many threads to the dent as may be required for the weave. To beat, insert through the shed a flat stick beveled to a sharp edge along one side and with a flat edge on the other side. Beat against the stick. The beveled edge, of course, should be next to the edge of the fabric and the flat edge against the reed.

*Question:* I have a great deal of trouble with my edges when weaving fancy twills and other similar weaves. How can this be remedied?

*Answer:* The best method is to thread the selvage on two extra harnesses. But as the selvage threads will take up more than the rest of the warp in most fancy weaves, the selvage threads should also be carried on a special beam. As this arrangement is not always possible it is necessary to take the shuttle around an edge thread in some cases, or to use two shuttles—both carrying the same weft—and lay them down in weaving, one behind the other, in such a way that the two threads catch along the edge. This is quicker and handier than going around an edge thread with the shuttle.

*Question:* Is it good practise to double the selvage threads to get a good edge?

*Answer:* In my opinion it is poor practise to double the edge threads. To get a good edge the weaving should be narrowed in a trifle. This brings the edge threads closer together than the rest of the warp. If the threads along the edge are also double threads a very thick, lumpy selvage is apt to result. The edge threads for a rug may be doubled if one wishes, but for a fine piece of weaving this should never be done.

*Question:* Why do I have rows of loops along the edges of my woven pieces?

*Answer:* You do not draw your weft tight enough. While the weft should lie loosely enough in the shed to permit take-up, it should not be loose enough to leave loops. Draw the weft tight enough to draw out any loop at the edge; then let the weft-thread lie at a slant through the open shed and beat.

# TRY THIS ON YOUR LOOM

By JOHN H. CLAYTON

**M**ANY weavers are making articles for sale, and find it a very profitable and interesting occupation. In fact, there are very few occupations that are more interesting than hand weaving with all of the beautiful combinations of patterns and modern yarns.

When weaving articles to order, from samples, most weavers find that there is one pattern called for more often than any other, and it would be very nice to be able to keep one loom set up for this pattern all the time, but most weavers cannot afford to keep a loom tied up all the time just for one design.

A very few dollars invested in an extra beam, set of harnesses and reed, will pay for itself many times over in the first few months. Forty, fifty or even one hundred yards of warp may be put on the loom at one time, drawn in, sleyed, and tied up for the much used pattern. Weave the articles required for the order, and when the loom is needed for another order, simply lift out the entire unit of beam, harness and reed, replace with the empty set and go right along with these in the usual way.

Upon receipt of another order for the popular pattern, remove the set already in the loom, and return the one already set up to the design needed, tie up and you are all set to weave. Fifteen minutes from the time you start to change over, you are ready to weave, instead of the usual four, five or more hours.

By careful calculating when planning the work on hand, you can make one warp serve several patterns that are woven in the same width and sett. When changing drawing-in draft on the samp warp it is best to open one tabby shed and insert a lease rod behind the harness, open the other tabby shed and insert a second lease rod. When you pull the warp out of the harnesses, this gives you an end and end lease which makes it much easier to draw in to the other pattern.

Using the above system for the majority of your weaving will result in increased production and profits, in addition to taking much of the lost time and needless effort out of the work.