

Car'pet, n. [It. *carpetta*. Etymol. uncertain.] A kind of stuff embroidered with figures of various fruits, flowers, &c.; an ornamental covering for floors, stairs, &c.; a wrought cover for tables.

—Level ground covered as with grass.

"The *carpet* ground shall be with leaves o'erspread." — *Dryden*.

Carpet knight. A knight who has not seen service in the field:—hence, a soldier accustomed to a home life of ease and luxury.

"Some of our city captains and *carpet knights* will make this good, and prove it." — *Burton*.

—One who is created a knight for other than military capacity and service.

"He is *knight*, dubbed with unhack'd rapier, and on *carpet* consideration." — *Shaks*.

To be on the Carpet. To be mooted; to be under debate or consideration; to be the subject of deliberation; as, that matter is next to be brought on the *carpet*.

(*Manf.*) *C.* were first brought into use by the inhabitants of Eastern countries. In Egypt, Syria, Turkey, and Persia, the *C.* is the chief article of furniture to be found in ordinary houses, the peculiar habits of the people requiring but little more in addition. For many years Europe received all her supplies from the East. The manufacture is said to have been introduced into Europe by the French, in the reign of Henri IV. The manufactories of *Beauvais* and of the *Gobelins*, established by Colbert in 1662–1664, are still existing, the latter producing unrivalled fabrics. In England the manufacture of *C.* was not carried to any great extent until the middle of the 18th century. The *Turkey C.* are made in one piece, and generally consist of a dark central ground, figured with a small irregular angular pattern in various rich colors, surrounded by a border. A genuine *Turkey C.* should be free from any admixture of

green, which is the sacred color of the followers of Mahomet. In the U. States the manufacture of *C.* is very extensive, and carried on to great perfection, owing chiefly to the perfected loom and other inventions of Mr. Bigelow, of Boston, that have entirely revolutionized this branch of manufacture, where steam-power is applied. The business is actively carried on in various States—chiefly in Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, and Pennsylvania. The principal kinds of *C.* made in this country and in England are the *Brussels*, *Wilton*, *Kidderminster*, *Tapestry*, *Axminster*, *Three-ply* and *Ingrain*, *Dutch*, *Venetian*, *Printed Felt* and *Druggat* carpet. The *Brussels Carpet* is a mixture of linen and worsted, but, like the *Turkey carpet*, the worsted only is shown on the upper surface. The basis or cloth is a coarse linen fabric, and between the upper and under threads of the weft, several (usually five) worsted threads of different colors are firmly bound in. The pattern is produced by drawing to the surface, between each reticulation of the cloth basis, a portion of the worsted thread of the color required at that spot to produce the pattern; these updrawn portions are formed into loops, by being turned over wires, which are afterwards withdrawn, and the loops thus left standing above the basis form the figured surface of the carpet. This will be better understood by reference to the diagram, Fig. 521, which is a slightly magnified section of a *Brussels carpet*, cut across the wires and the threads of the weft. The large dots above are the sections of the wire; the smaller dots, those of the weft or shoot threads; the wavy lines, the warp; the parallel lines, the five colored worsted threads; and the loops over the large dots are the updrawn worsted threads forming the surface of the *C.* The machinery and processes by which this arrangement is produced are rather complex, and require to be seen to be fully understood. The *Wilton C.* is made like



Fig. 521. — CARPET-WEAVING.

the *Brussels*, but the wire has a groove in its upper surface, Fig. 521, and instead of being drawn out, it is liberated by passing a sharp knife through the worsted loop into this groove, and thus making a velvet pile surface instead of the looped thread. *Kidderminster C.*, sometimes called *Scotch C.*, present the same pattern on both sides, with the colors reversed; thus, if red stars are shown on a white ground on one side, the other side will present white stars on a red ground. These *C.* consist, for the most part, of the interweaving of two cloths, which are woven at the same time, each cloth being perfect in itself, and necessarily of different color. *Tapestry C.* are made in a manner similar to that in which *Brussels* and *Wilton C.* are manufactured; but only one yarn is used instead of five or more of different colors, as in the *C.* just named. This yarn is dyed at different parts of its length, to suit the requirements of the pattern, and as the whole pattern is printed on the yarns, the machinery required is of a far less complicated nature than when it is required to pull many yarns of different colors above the surface of the cloth which forms the basis in order to produce the desired design. *Axminster C.* are made at *Axminster*, in *Devonshire*, in a manner similar to that in which *Turkey C.* are manufactured. Tufts of worsted are tied to a warp of strong linen and secured by a linen weft. The process is tedious, and the *C.* are necessarily expensive; they are made in one piece, to suit the size of the rooms for which they are required. *Ingrain C.*, so called because made of only two ply or thicknesses. The colors are reversed on either side, and the warps as well as the filling may be cotton or worsted. *Philadelphia* is the largest manufacturing city in the U. States of these goods. They are made by the *Jacquard* attachment, and mostly woven on hand-looms. *Dutch* and *Venetian C.* are much alike in their manufacture. The patterns adopted are usually stripes. The chain consists of stripes of woollen yarns of different colors, and the filling is of wool hemp, or cotton. The *Printed Felt C.* are made of coarse wools, brought into a compact mass by the process of felting, and the pattern is imprinted in colors by means of rollers on which it is cut. *Axminster C.* are the most expensive; but this is, in a great measure, compensated for by their durability. *Tapestry C.* are cheaper, but the colors are not so lasting as those of the *Brussels C.*