

Knit'ting, n. (Manuf.) An art allied to weaving, but of comparatively modern date, the time and place of its invention being, however, disputed. *K.* consists in using a single thread, and with it forming a continual series of loops across the whole fabric; the next row passes through these, and they in their turn receive another set, until the whole is completed. *K.* is only employed to make small articles, such as stockings, gloves, &c.; and as it furnishes an easy and amusing employment for the hands, without engaging the attention much, it forms a useful and desirable occupation for ladies and others who do not require knitted articles as necessaries, for the *K.*-machines have now rendered it impossible for hand-work to compete with them in point of economy or beauty of workmanship. *K.*-machines are very various, both in form and mode of working. The improved Lamb *K.*-machine, however, seems remarkable above others for completeness and perfect simplicity. It operates with two straight rows of needles, running parallel and near to each other, the needles being operated by cams, which can be shifted by simply moving a lever, so as to make each row of needles operate separately, or both rows operate at the same time, and either way, from left to right, or from right to left. When a needle is moved up within range of the cam, it is self-acting, and continues to knit until moved down: and as any number of needles can thus be moved up or down, at either end of the rows of needles, so any number of loops can be added to, or taken from the web, and its size can be regulated at will. The loops can be adjusted to any desired length by turning a thumb-screw, so as to knit all kinds and sizes of yarn, rendering the fabric tight or loose as desired. The machine is attached to a common table by means of thumb-screws, and is operated by hand, with a crank. It is about 2 feet in length and 8 inches in width, weighing about 25 pounds. Its ordinary speed is from four to five thousand loops a minute, producing a yard of plain work in ten minutes, and a pair of socks complete in half an hour.