

Bulletin #8, May 1925

The draft this month is another overshot, referred to as "No Name Pattern No. 1". The repeat is 430 threads, taken from an old coverlet that was given to her and in two-pattern colors-blue and brown. It may make a good-looking dishtowel with sections of the pattern as a border. For a good look at 2 or more color coverlets, check out the massive 2 volume set by Helene Bress, *The Coverlet Book* from the Guild Library. It contains photos and drafts for some beautiful coverlets and has certainly expanded my appreciation of them. See the example coverlet fragment in the figure below done in two shades, taken from *The Coverlet Book*.

Mary covers a lot of Guild business on the first page of this Bulletin. She sends sample cards, Bernat Zephyr, cotton chenille and discusses future materials: carpet warp and cotton roving. She requests that anyone who had her samples return them and talks about going to court against Mr. Greenblatt who is using her mailing list without permission-an age-old problem apparently.

Mary solicited names of those Guild members who are interested in teaching weaving, based on enquiries she's received, and wrote about the profession of occupational therapy, the work she enjoyed the most of her life, based on her biography.

She encouraged those looking for a way to use their weaving knowledge to consider occupational therapy and recommends getting professional training from an accredited school and includes the names of three in Boston, St. Louis and Philadelphia. Today there are hundreds of schools with programs for occupational therapy aides, or master's and doctorate degrees.

And, if one is not interested in the practice of occupational therapy for others, she encouraged the practice on oneself and those about us. Guild meetings and workshops can be very therapeutic, I have found.

She discussed at length the use of weaving to treat ill-health, weariness, worry or stress. She says that "Creative work takes the worker out of himself for "art is long", it will be always there, obeying its own serene law, no matter how we feel, and no matter whether we get or don't get the things we most want."

The saying "Art is long, and life is short" is from the first two lines of the *Aphorismi* by the Ancient Greek physician Hippocrates. It refers to the fact that there is so much knowledge (or skill) to acquire that a lifetime is not sufficient.

Mary further stated that "A few hours at the loom will do more for the "tired feeling" than any "rest cure" ever invented and will reach the heart of the trouble as no cure out of a bottle can possibly do." She called the movement back to handicraft via the Shuttlecraft Guild, a "privilege to do missionary work in the field by upholding the highest standards of the work."

Mary also repeated the Bronson Weave draft from last month, as the copy was not good. There are 5 threadings and treadlings (rising shed included) given. These could make a set of

interesting towels, with various combinations of the 5. Any takers?

Overshot coverlet fragment, done in two shades. Source: Helene Bress, *The Coverlet Book*

