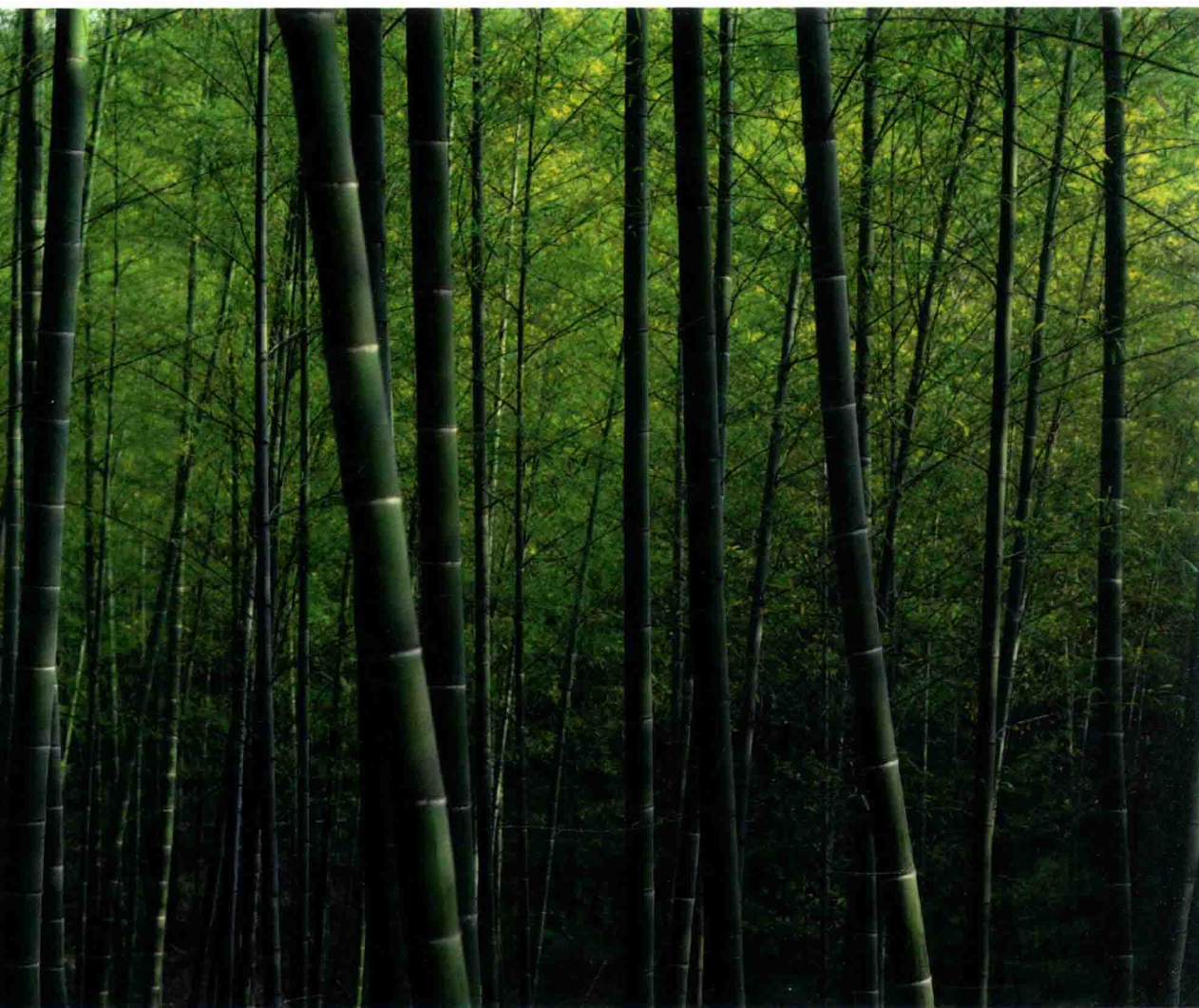




Textiles and Clothing

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TEXTILES AND
CLOTHING



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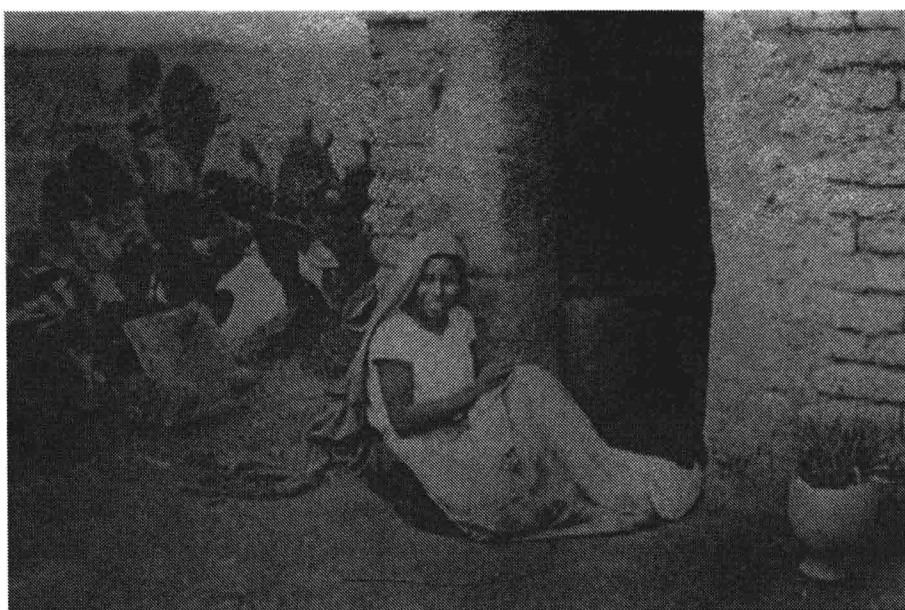
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TEXTILES AND CLOTHING



DRESS MAKING IN MEXICO

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“THE THREAD OF LIFE”

Spinning with the Distaff and Spindle. From a Painting.

TEXTILES AND CLOTHING

Origin of Textile Arts

Spinning and weaving are among the earliest arts. In the twisting of fibers, hairs, grasses, and sinews by rolling them between the thumb and fingers, palms of the hands, or palms and naked thigh, we have the original of the spinning wheel and the steam-driven cotton spindle; in the roughest plaiting we have the first hint of the finest woven cloth. The need of securing things or otherwise strengthening them then led to binding, fastening, and sewing. The wattle-work hut with its roof of interlaced boughs, the skins sewn by fine needles with entrails or sinews, the matted twigs, grasses, and rushes are all the crude beginnings of an art which tells of the settled life of today.

Primitive Methods

Nothing is definitely known of the origin of these arts; all is conjecture. They doubtless had their beginning long before mention is made of them in history, but these crafts—spinning and weaving—modified and complicated by inventions and, in modern times transferred largely from man to machine, were distinctively woman's employment.

The very primitive type of spinning, where no spindle was used, was to fasten the strands of goats' hair or wool to a stone which was twirled round until the yarn was sufficiently twisted when it was wound upon the stone and the process repeated over and over.



ITALIAN WOMAN SPINNING FLAX

Spindle and Distaff.

From Hull House Museum. (In This Series of Pictures the Spinners
and Weavers Are in Native Costume.)