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Death to the Clothes Moth

Jean B. Guthrie
Iowa State College

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"Moths are in the wool trunk!"

Dismaying news, this, when brought to the busy homemaker in the midst of fall house cleaning, by her small daughter, who, scouting for winter mittens, has encountered the tell-tale webbings, and larvae of the enemy comfortably enjoying a hearty meal on mother's woolen blankets and fox furs.

Mops and dust pans lose their attraction and the ranks of the wild animal hunters who prey on clothes moths and their squirming offspring gain one more vengeful recruit. And while the efficient homemaker fights moths she reads moths, and her ultimate success (for I predict glorious defeat of the enemy) will be due largely to a few practical scientific suggestions and a great deal of stick-to-it-iveness.

Do you realize what clothes moth destruction costs us as a nation? We feed these domestic pets two hundred million dollars worth of furs and woolens every year. Rather an expensive luxury, is it not? If clothes moths continue to live and multiply in the United States the fault will lie with you and me, for in spite of all the modern scientific developments we will have remained inefficient and unteachable homemakers.

First, let us take as our slogan the old adage, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." Don't let the moth egg hatch. The larvae are fast workers and once hatched they are difficult to destroy. Beat, brush, clean and air woolens at least once a month unless they are stored with some adequate moth proofing solution.

Moreover, center your campaign first against the eggs, as I have advised, and if that fails, then against the larvae. Battle waged against the flying adult is useless. It is the worm which wrecks the havoc.

"But," you will say, as I did, "what about the woolens which are not in every day use? Will moths destroy these if they are not brushed once a month?"

And I answer in the negative, for here enters the scientific solution to the storage problem—scientifically prepared moth-proofing solutions.

First, when you are ready to store your woolens, see to it that they are clean. Dry cleaning, done by commercial firms, destroys all eggs and larvae and also removes soiled areas on which clothes moths seem to feed most ravenously.

If you still believe in the efficacy of red pepper, tobacco leaves, the printer's ink of newspapers, borax, red cedar leaves and eucalyptus leaves in discouraging and destroying moths, you are wasting precious time while the enemy eats merrily on.

Such commercial proofing solutions as Larvex and Bisan scientists find to exert decided moth proofing effect, while solutions of sodium fluoride and silico fluoride also destroy their share of the marauders. Moth balls, you will find, will have much less killing power than naphthalene crystals.

Do not expect the slow evaporation of these destroyers to act successfully, however, unless the wool chest is practically air tight. You may easily render it so by sealing the cracks with adhesive tape or by papering the inside. Under these conditions one ounce of crystals or one pound of moth balls will kill eggs, larvae, pupae and adults in from three to ten days, depending on the size of the larvae.

Here are three 'do's' for moth killing:

First—If you find hair shedding from fur or holes appearing in woolens—watch out! You are feeding a moth.

Second—When the enemy appears, rout him with brush and sun, with boiling water, gasoline baths and dry cleaning.

Third—As a final discouragement, shut him up in a gas tight container with naphthalene crystals or your choice of moth proofing solutions and wait his demise.

Only by following suggestions such as these, simple as they may seem, may we rid our homes of this most annoying problem and exterminate our arch enemy, the clothes moth.

Long or Short?

By Irene Evinger and Lillian Goodrow

Are you aware of the great change in the style of our clothing? Paris says: Uniformity is gone—slapper style is passe, and the long skirts and higher waist lines are here to inaugurate a new mode. Low waisted, short skirted dresses hold sway over the sports woman and the new fashion has been adopted for afternoon and evening wear.

"The long dress for street wear does not look right. Its graceful lines are not suited to the purposes of the business woman. Fashion is then divided into two phases; the one following that which is charming and practical, the other that of beauty. It is beautiful because it has line and movement. The straight, slender silhouette is the basis of real chic."

French designers create many styles which we do not readily accept. The college girl is quickly accepting this new style from the number in evidence at the Memorial Union and at social functions on the campus. It is interesting to note how others feel about this change.

Miss Edna Rhodes of the Applied Art Department says: "To be beautiful, what we choose must first of all be suited to its purpose. Changes must be evolutionary to be beautiful and practical."

"Whether we like long skirts or not, we must admit that they are much more becoming to a greater number of women than the short skirts were," says Mrs. Graaff, of the same department. "Well dressed people are not choosing exaggerations, but they are gracefully accepting longer skirts and higher waistlines within moderation."

For general daytime use hemlines should be even, except for formal afternoon wear. Well known French designers prescribe coats covering the dress. (Continued on page 16)