What the World's Worn Since Day of Leopard Skins

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COMFORTABLY bundled up at some thrilling Thanksgiving football game, if you are warm enough, you give little thought to clothing. But in the throng of 75,000 people about you, intently watching the game, there are probably about 300 tons of wearing apparel. A change of clothing for everybody would add up to a dozen car-loads.

Think of our vast population, and of the amount of clothing replaced each year. That is why the making of materials and of clothing has developed into such a large industry.

Though some writers have facetiously suggested that man's first clothing was of dangling straps or strings, resembling horse's fly net and serving the same purpose, or that clothing was invented as a convenient means of carrying about plenty of pockets, the real reason for clothing was, and still is, protection.

In the history of clothing development as in other great processes, man made use of the material most convenient and most adapted to his needs. First, primitive man probably fastened skins together with crude raw fibers. Later certain hairs were beaten together to form felt. Gradually man began to look more discerningly about him and to make wiser use of his resources.

It is thought that wool was the first of the textile fibers to be used. The Egyptians employed it to some extent although they preferred linen because it was "purer." The ancient Israelites had no such prejudice against wool, however, and it is mentioned in the Old Testament repeatedly.

The so-called "native" sheep of America first came to Jerusalem in 1609. Sheep thrive in Massachusetts and in 1645, laws were passed encouraging the industry. Merinos did not appear until 1793. In 1802 Colonel Humphrey, minister to Spain, sent a considerable flock of Merinos to his farm in Derby, Connecticut. From the wool of these animals, President Madison's inauguration coat was made in 1809.

Strictly speaking, the term wool should only be applied to fibers obtained from sheep, but it has come to include camel's hair, cashmere from the Cashmere goat of Asia Minor, and Alpaca from the Alpaca and Llama of South America. Australia the largest wool-producing country, grows a quantity valued for its excellent spinning and felting qualities, and its good color.

Almost three thousand years before Christ the cultivation of the mulberry silk worm began. The Chinese were the first to use the process of boiling the cocoon in water and unwinding the fiber for use in making cloth. The idea of feeding and caring for the worms is credited to Empress Si-ling who lived about 2700 B. C. She wanted enough silk produced for the use of all the people over whom her husband reigned.

She herself carried on silk worm culture and silk spinning in order to set a good example for the women of the empire.

Cultivation of the silk worm began in India also at a very early date. Great caravans came from India and China with raw and woven silk, but its source was a mystery in Europe for many centuries. Silk was hopelessly expensive. In 270 A. D. Aurelian, the Roman emperor, is supposed to have said in refusing to buy his wife a silk dress, "The gods forbid that I should purchase silk at the price of its weight in gold."

Finally since the purchase of silk was such a great drain on the national resources, Justinian sent two monks who discovered the secret process and smuggled out some silk worm eggs. Only the southern part of Europe has been found suitable for the industry and ever since the supply has lagged behind the demand.

The mother country of linen is Egypt where it was already far advanced before the dawn of history. At some dim, early day the inhabitants of the Nile discovered that the plant would disintegrate if placed in water until fermentation begins. The part remaining was a group of long smooth fibers having textile possibilities.

Egyptian priests wore linen, and mummies, with the exception, were wrapped in linen, for which purpose every scrap and shred were saved.

Most mummy cloths are of exceptionally fine quality, some with as high as 540 warp threads to the inch.

Although Egyptian linen was the very best quality, numerous Biblical references indicate that linen cultivation, spinning and weaving were carried on by the Israelites.

In Europe linen fabrics dating back hundreds of years have been found. From the villages of the Swiss Lake dwellers, dating back at least ten thousand years, flax in all stages of development from the unprepared straw-bearing seed capsules to specimens of plaited and woven fabrics have been unearthed. Russia today ranks first in flax culture, producing four-fifths of the world's supply, though the region around Belfast is noted as the world's greatest center of linen manufacture.

Cotton was preceded only by wool and in its adaptation to use by man. Herodotus, one of the first Europeans to travel in Asia, makes note of it about 450 B. C., but it probably dated back, in India, to 3000 B. C.

Columbus discovered that wild cotton was native to America, and he found the Indians weaving cloth from its fibers. Now, though England ranks first in the weaving of cloth, the United States grows two-thirds of the world's supply of raw cotton.

(Turn to page 14)
**For a Homemaker's Own Library**

**WHAT books would you put in a Home Economics Library?** Some Iowa State women make these suggestions:

"Vogue," was one suggestion.

"Textile World," was the choice of some one else. Yes, that answer shows that she is a textiles and clothing major.

From an art major came the request for books on art appreciation. In fact she suggested why not have the art seminar in home economics building. A home management house advisor pleaded for stories that can be read in five minutes.

But what about books—you know, books similar to those behind the desk in the reserve room. It really requires deliberation to properly select them. But how about "Experimental Cookery" by Belle Lowe? That one we must have. Miss Lowenberg's "Food for the Young Child" must also be included. "Household Equipment" by Peet and Sater is another one.

"I suppose you had better include a Sherman 'Chemistry of Food and Nutrition,'" sighed one who was trying to learn the mysteries of protein metabolism.

"There must be included biographies of Ellen H. Richards and other home economics leaders as well as copies of the Journal of Home Economics," suggested a senior who was taking seminar quite seriously.

"But you will need some literature, some history, and even some mathematics books," contributed one girl. "In fact, why not pick up the whole library?"

**Know Your Onions**

From the "Market Basket" of the United States Department of Agriculture come these recipes using onions:

**Onion Soup With Toast and Cheese**

- 6 medium-sized onions
- 4 T. cold water
- 2 T. fat
- 1 pt. boiling water
- 1 qt. meat broth
- 4 T. flour

Cook the chopped onions in the fat until yellow, add to the hot water, and simmer for 20 minutes, or until tender. Add the meat broth. Blend the flour and cold water, add some of the hot liquid, mix well, and stir into the soup. Add the salt and pepper, and cook for a few minutes. Pour the soup into bowls or soup plates, place on top of each a slice of toasted bread, sprinkle the cheese over the bread and soup, and serve at once.

**Fried Onions and Apples**

- 3 T. fat
- 1 pt. sliced onions
- 1 qt. sliced tart
- 1/2 t. salt
- 1 T. sugar

Melt the fat in a heavy skillet, add the apples and onions, cover, cook slowly until nearly tender, and stir frequently to prevent scorching. Remove the cover, sprinkle the salt and sugar over the apples and onions, and continue the cooking until they are lightly browned. Serve at once.

**Scalloped Onions and Peanuts**

- 1 T. flour
- 1 c. milk
- 1 c. peanuts, ground
- 1 c. buttered bread crumbs
- 1 T. melted butter

Skin the onions, cook in boiling salted water until tender, drain, and slice. Make a sauce of the fat, flour, milk and salt. In a greased baking dish place a layer of onions, cover with the peanuts and sauce, and continue until all are used. Cover the top with buttered crumbs and bake in a moderate oven for about 20 minutes, or until the crumbs are golden brown. Serve from the baking dish. If peanut butter is used, mix it with the sauce.

**From Leopard Skins**

(Begins on page 9)

In 1921, cotton seeds were planted in Talbot County, Maryland, for the beauty of their flowers. Little mention of its cultivation is then made in historical annals until 1796, with the recording of the first successful cotton crop, raised by W. Elliot, in South Carolina. A year or so later the entire cotton production of the United States was reported to have been about ten tons.

"What stuff wilt have a kirtle of? I shall receive money o'Thursday," said Falstaff generously to Doll Tearsheet in Shakespeare's Henry IV. When the events of this play occurred, there were only the four fibers just mentioned from which Doll could have fashioned a kirtle—wool, linen, silk and cotton. But today, in addition to these, many synthetic fibers from the chemical laboratories are available.

Though Rene J. Reaumur, a French physicist, 1683-1757, dreamed of making silk, and in 1885, Audemars, a French chemist, took out patents for the production of "artificial silk" from a solution of nitrocellulose in various solvents, it was not until 1884, that a successful artificial textile fiber was invented by Count Hilaire de Chardonnet. Chardonnet nitrated cellulose with nitric and sulfuric acid. The resulting nitrocellulose was dissolved in an ether-alcohol mixture, spun into filaments by forcing the liquid through minute orifices, either into the air or into a hardening bath, denitratirg, bleaching and washing.

Since this discovery, three other processes, cuprammonium, viscose and cellulose acetate have been developed. Most of the artificial fabrics are durable and will dry clean well.

This, then, is in brief, the history of the silk worms, the sheep, the cotton plants, the flax, and the clever contributions of chemists. What a record has been made since the first thread and fabrics were spun and woven, to the present day, when the modern woman may choose her dress from a limitless variety of cotton, wool, linen silk, or artificial textiles!

**Try These Formulas for Nice Floors**

Dr. Peet, head of the Household Equipment Department, suggested these methods for cleaning linoleum and making your own hard wood floor polish in a recent WOI broadcast.

Despite the fact that modern houses are built with hard wood floors, many floors are oiled. For floor oil the following will be found to be suitable:

**No. 1**

- Potassium carbonate .......... 1/2 lb.
- Beeswax, shredded .......... 1/2 lb.
- Water ........................................ 31/2 pt.

Dissolve the potassium carbonate in a pint of the water and melt the remaining water and the beeswax together. Then mix the two solutions and boil the whole until emulsification takes place as judged by a creamy-like formation.

**No. 2**

- Kerosene ........................................ 1 pt.
- Linewater ........................................ 1 pt.
- Light paraffin oil .......... 1 gal.

Mix and shake before using.

Linoleum cleaner:

- Beeswax ........................................ 5 oz.
- Oil of turpentine ........ 11 oz.
- Varnish ........................................ 5 oz.

Melt the wax over a slow fire, take off the fire and add the turpentine, a little at a time, then add the varnish and mix well. To use: Clean the linoleum with soap and water, or, still better, with milk and water; and after wiping dry, apply the above cleanser with a soft cloth and polish with a clean cloth.

Jewel colors are not only coming to the fore in evening gowns, but are being extensively used by manufacturers in pottery, glass-ware and bric-a-bracs in general.