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Farm and Home Week Pays

Anna Westrom

Iowa State College

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Do You Test Your Textiles

BY AVIS DUFFEY

Every buyer, whether selecting material by the yard or in the finished garment, realizes that it is not an easy matter to distinguish fibers. The manufacturers are very successful in making one fiber resemble another but there are various simple tests which may be made without requiring much time or expense and yet give fairly accurate results.

Our grandmothers could go to the store and term a fabric "linen" if a drop of moisture placed on it was quickly absorbed in an even circle. Now, however, the manufacturer has learned to treat his cotton in such a manner that the sample must be washed to remove the dressing or this test is not reliable. The only dependable means of detecting cotton as an adulteration of linen is the microscope. Linen fiber, as seen under the microscope, can be distinguished from all other fibers by its joints or nodes. Cotton is twisted unless it is mercerized and then it is round in appearance. Wool is easily detected by its many scales which is known as lustrous, smooth, round threads.

Grandmother could ask for all wool material and be reasonably sure to get it, but many of our medium and low priced materials on the market today are a combination of wool and cotton. The chemical flame test is often found by testing to be cotton with a wool nap only or wool spun around a cotton core. It is rather difficult to make an accurate test unless a sample can be experimented on outside of the shop. The breaking test is probably the best one to apply if a sample cannot be obtained. The fibers at the end of a raveled thread of linen will be straight and irregular and each fiber end pointed while the cotton ends will be fuzzy. The wool fibers will be slightly rough and wavy while the silk yarn breaks with the separate fibers fine and straight.

If a sample can be taken it may be tested either by burning or by means of chemicals. Linen and cotton, since they are vegetable fibers, burn in the same manner. The flame is yellow and the odor of burning paper. They burn quickly and the ash left is gray and small in quantity. Artificial silk is also of vegetable origin and burns quite like cotton and linen but even more quickly. Wool burns slowly and leaves a gummy residue in the form of a ball. Silk burns quickly leaving its residue in a grayish ball of smaller proportion than that of the wool. Both give the odor of burning hair or feathers since both are of animal origin.

In addition to being an aid in detecting cotton as an adulterant of wool and silk materials, the burning test is useful as a test for weighing in silks. A pure silk burns quickly leaving the gummy ball described above, while a weighted silk burns more slowly and the raveled yarn retains its original shape.

A simple chemical test which may be used at home consists of boiling the sample in a solution of lye and water. (One teaspoon of lye to one pint of water makes a sufficiently strong solution.) After about five minutes boiling, the wool and silk will dissolve and the cotton and linen remain unchanged. This test is valuable in detecting cotton adulteration in wool and silk fabrics.

Artificial silk or rayon, as it is popularly called, is coming to be used widely. Altho it is an important fiber it is not as strong as the product of the silkworm nor as expensive. Artificial silk is more lustrous and glossy than real silk, and the fiber itself is coarser and less elastic than the natural silk fiber.

Perhaps these few suggestions may prove useful in judging fabric quality and content for, altho the price is usually taken as an indication of quality, experience proves that it is not always a reliable one.

Farm and Home Week Pays,

By ANNA WESTROM

Over 250 women registered at the booth in Agricultural Hall during Farm and Home week, Feb. 2-7. This does not include women who live in Ames or drove from nearby towns to attend the lectures, without registering for a room. These busy women spent one week of their much demanded time on the Iowa State College campus learning the art of homemaking.

They spent their days at lectures, which grouped themselves around the general subject, "The Cornerstones of the American Home," which include the health of the family, family development, and sound financial standards.

Dr. Caroline Hedger of the Elizabeth Memorial Fund of Chicago was an outstanding speaker, lecturing on "Child Life at its Best," and "The Homemaker and the Community Health Problem." Dr. J. F. Edwards, head of the department of hygiene gave daily lectures on health.

Family development was brought out in a number of lectures. Those by Dr. Smiley Blanton, director of the child guidance clinic, Lymanhurst hospital, Minneapolis, on "Emotional Life of the Child," and "The Menial Hygiene of the Home" were especially helpful. Mrs. May Pardee Younts, Iowa City Extension service, and E. L. Morgan, University of Missouri were other outstanding speakers.

Miss Fannie Buchanan, educational department, Victor Talking Machine company, talked on the use of music as a recreational feature in the home and in the community. She says, "Music washes away from the soul the dust of every day life." Mrs. Minnie Sharp, recreation director for the extension department of Montana State College of Agriculture, developed the recreational side of home life, and introduced "Problems with a Purpose" for the community.

Mrs. Clara J. Judson, budget specialist in the American Bond & Mortgage company, Chicago, discussed "The Business of Homemaking," "Training Children for Spending," and "America's Big Business." Miss Gertrude Lynx, extension home management specialist spoke on "Weighing Values in Spending the Homemaker's Time." Numerous lectures were also given by various faculty members.

One of the new outstanding features of this year's Short Course was the beginning of study groups on Child Life and on Home management, where women could exchange their own ideas and experiences. Both groups were so well attended that it was necessary to find larger rooms than had been planned for the meetings. "How can you get a child to eat what he should eat if he doesn't want to," was a question raised by one of the mothers at these meetings. Other mothers gave their experiences, and Dr. Hedger summed up the discussion in these words: "Know what you want the child to do, and do that same thing yourself. It is a two man job, and each must do his share." In this informal way the women became better acquainted, and realized that their problems were being shared by others.

After 4 o'clock the women were entertained at tea at the Home Management houses, and by meal Planning classes. They were also given a chance to use (Continued on page 16)
Iowa Child Welfare Research Station

(Continued from page 9)

Hospital has aided in the nutrition investigations. Superior children have received some extensive research by the department of anthropometry. The rural child is one of the most recent studies.

The station offers exceptional opportunities for those who wish to do research work toward degrees in the study and progress of children. Special courses are given to groups of nurses, teachers and social workers on various phases of child welfare work.

Altho the station was organized for laboratory work, the people in charge feel that others interested should know about their findings, too, so the result of much of their work is published in pamphlet form. The Iowa Child Welfare Research Station, University of Iowa, Extension Division, is the address to which persons wishing to secure these bulletins may write. The charge is very slight for most of these and some of them are furnished free.

In their effort to cooperate with the other child research work which is being carried on throughout the state, the work of State Services has been organized. This affords the following services: free psychological examination to all normal and superior children whose development it is desired to have recorded from year to year; evaluation of special abilities; assistance in "problem cases" of behavior; aid in solving cases of promotion; measurement and determination of the physical status of any children who may be brought in; assistance in the feeding of babies all over the state. The station works with the departments of the university and will examine children and recommend them for free clinical work if the parents are unable to pay for such services.

Altho the station is in need of departmen ts of heredity, prenatal care, preventive medicine, the work of the other departments is getting on a well organized basis and these will come. This will all result, it is hoped, in offering to the normal child a greater opportunity to develop to the most of his ability and thus improve the status of childhood as a whole.

Farm and Home Week Pays

(Continued from page 2)

the equipment in the laboratories, and to attend demonstrations given by students in different courses.

The reactions of women attending the Course were very favorable. Mrs. Baker of Nevada said that she always came, and that the meetings were a great help to her. She has had three children who became Ames students, and she always comes to the campus as often as she can.

Mrs. C. M. Woods, of Ames said, "I think the greatest help of the Short Course is in the light which it is shedding on life. The contacts with other people, and the exchange of experiences is one of the most valuable things we can hope to have."

Miss Elizabeth Wilson, of the research department of Montgomery Ward & company thinks the Course is of great value to the women. "We find that the educational movement is raising the standards of women's demands and I came here to find just what it is that the women want, so that we can serve them better."

WAYS OF MEAT CANNING

Would you please tell me the different successful ways of meat canning?

Meat may be canned by the cold pack method—first browned or packed into the jars raw. Another successful method is that of oven canning. Place jars in a pan of hot water and cook in the oven at 400 degrees F.—150 degree F. Meat might be canned on top of the stove and in the oven at the same time to hurry the process.