Volume 32 | Number 6 Article 2

1952

Test Tube to Textile

Jane Brintlinger
Iowa State College

TEST TUBE TO TEXTILE

by Jane Brintlinger

Technical Journalism Sophomore

OUT OF the test tube, onto the loom and into the fabric is the route of the new man-made fibers.

"Lorette" by Milliken, 55 per cent orlon and 45 per cent wool, is the answer to a college girl's wardrobe blues. The fabric feels and drapes like wool, yet is wrinkle and crease resistant, and will not sag, stretch or shrink. Best of all, Lorette holds creases permanently, so your pleated skirt is now completely practical. Woven in checks, plaids and solid colors, Lorette skirts, jackets and dresses are good for any occasion.

From DuPont comes blended fabric news of "Suttalon," soon to be on the market. This blend of orlon and worsted makes skirts, dresses and children's clothes which are washable, will not shrink or sag and can be permanently pleated.

Washable Dacron

"Daclin" is another blend which is just coming on the market. Dresses and blouses are made from this combination of Dacron and rayon.

Great Britain developed a fiber which they called "Terylene." DuPont bought the patent rights, and during the experimental stage the product was known as Fiber V. The public was introduced to it as Dacron, the final name in the United States.

Dacron gives us washable slacks that hold their crease after repeated launderings. On account of low moisture absorption, Dacron fabrics resist staining and soiling, staying clean a relatively long time. These same slacks will not sag, for this fabric holds its shape. This non-stretching property is the reason Dacron hosiery is not made.

Practical Orlon

Orlon sweaters are becoming known as the college girl's cashmere, for they look and feel so soft and are not too expensive. An orlon sweater will withstand repeated launderings, is fast drying and holds its shape. Orlon also is made into light weight yet warm fleecy coats, wonderfully washable, so that even pastel colors are practical.

A blanket made of Dynel will keep you toasty warm, without being heavy, because of the insulating qualities of the fiber. The blanket may be a soft rich fleece, yet it will not mat or curl. Moths will not nest in your Dynel blanket, nor will mildew thrive.

Dynel curtains certainly lighten the burden of the homemaker. This miracle fiber gives curtains which resist damage from sunlight, smoke and soot. Due to size retention properties of the fiber, curtain stretchers are unnecessary. Repeated washings or dry cleanings are withstood by Dynel. Not just practical, Dynel curtains drape beautifully and may be very sheer.

The Newest — Acrilan

Acrilan is really a new fiber — full scale production just started this fall. This fiber is a member of the family group of Orlon and Dynel. Acrilan fabrics have insulating properties approximately the same as wool, yet are light weight, washable and will not shrink or stretch, even in washing. These desirable properties are imparted to blends, commonly of Acrilan with viscose, cotton or wool. Men's suits made from Acrilan certainly simplify a fellow's task of looking like the man of distinction.

In case the static in these fabrics, which makes them cling to you, stems a problem, science again comes to your rescue! An anti-static rinse has just been placed on the market — one which eliminates static until the next washing.

Combine Desirable Properties

"The fiber that blends" is the title given to the protein fiber Vicara. (The fiber-making process begins with another strange source, corn, which gives the protein.) Blends of Vicara with acetate, nylon or wool combine the desirable properties of each fiber. The wool and Vicara combination has the lovely feel of cashmere and a reduced tendency toward shrinkage. The felting property of wool is also decreased in the blend. Nylon with Vicara has increased absorptiveness and a soft warm feel. Acetate fibers blended with Vicara lose their natural body and stiffness to become soft and drapeable. The properties which it gives, in addition to reducing the cost of the final fabric, prove the worth of Vicara.

The origin of the new fibers may often be a combination of chemicals, but not always. Melted marbles give us fiberglas! Fiberglas curtains are soft, easy to drape and resist wrinkling. But their greatest advantage lies in the fact that Fiberglass curtains can be washed and rehung in just 7 minutes.

The mixture in a test tube may not seem of much value to us; but when a trained person can transform the mixture into fabrics, their value is obvious. These man-made fibers are miracles — in fiber!