

MAKING CLOTH OUT OF RAGS.

Process of Shoddy Manufacture at a Newark Plant.

"Last year's rags are this year's clothes," said a maker of shoddy to the Sunday News reporter the other day. "It will doubtless surprise many people to learn that they are wearing their last year's cast-off clothing in the new apparel they have bought this year, yet such is frequently the fact. Discarded socks, worn-out under-clothing, and cast-off garments of all kinds eventually find their way into the ragbags and from there to the rag dealers and then to the manufacturer of shoddies and flocks, where the tattered remnants of what were once sartorial triumphs are reconverted into a semblance of the original wool. After that the cloth is once more made into clothing."

Millions of pounds of rags are brought to a shoddy mill in this city in the course of every year, and after going through a series of processes are converted into cloth. To manufacturers this is known as shoddy; to the public it is often "all wool and a yard wide."

A representative of the makers, who took the Sunday News man through the extensive plant the other day, said:

"There is a strange misapprehension in the mind of the public about shoddy. They know it is something made of rags and that is about all. If you were to ask the average man what he knows about shoddy he would tell you it was a coarse material that was used in making rag carpets or something equally ridiculous. The ordinary man would become highly indignant if you told him that he was wearing shoddy, and would deny it in the most emphatic manner and assert that the goods were pure wool. Well, they are right and at the same time they are wrong.

"All shoddy is wool, and most of it is the wool that has been previously used in the manufacture of woollen cloth. That cloth, having been made into garments which have served their time, is put through a process which makes it again the wool of commerce. The underclothing, socks, coats, waistcoats, trousers and dresses, which were worn in all their pristine freshness a year ago, may be serving you again in the same way, while you know nothing about it. Of course it seems strange to tell a man that his handsome new winter overcoat is composed in part of old socks, undershirts and the odds and ends of discarded dresses, but it is often the fact nevertheless.

"It is the presence of shoddy in the goods we wear that makes our clothing so cheap to-day, and enables us to indulge in such a variety. The use of shoddy enables us to buy our clothes at one-half the price we would have to pay if the material was composed of nothing but the wool as it come directly from the sheep-shearers.

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When you can't eat breakfast, take Scott's Emulsion. When you can't eat bread and butter, take Scott's Emulsion. When you have been living on a milk diet and want something a little more nourishing, take Scott's Emulsion.

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"The revamped wool, when it leaves this shoddy shop, is in every particular as chemically pure as the scoured wool, and the only difference is that the staple of shoddy is slightly shorter than that of the virgin wool. When it is used a second time in making garments it shows no trace of injury to the cloth, and to all intents and purposes it presents the outward appearance of virgin wool. That is why it is used so generally in all goods which have a woollen structure.

"It is safe to say that if a cloth seller or dealer in clothing should say to a prospective customer that there was shoddy in a fabric, the customer would indignantly refuse to buy it, but the fact is that there is not one person in a thousand who can tell at a glance whether a piece of goods is shoddy or virgin wool. The dealers in the goods themselves, as a rule, cannot tell the difference when a fine grade of shoddy is used. The only distinctive mark, and that is not always a certain one, is the price, for the fabric made of virgin wool costs twice as much as that composed in part of shoddy. Then there is shoddy that varies in quality just as the original wool does. Some is of so fine a texture that it eludes the detection of all save experts, and then there are the coarser grades that proclaim their origin to the most inexperienced."

The shoddy maker proceeded through the plant with the reporter, and explained the processes by which old clothing is made into new. In the yards of the shop rag dealers were unloading bales upon bales of shreds and patches of what had once been clothing, and these were being taken to the store room to await their turn for reconversion into their original elements.

"These rags are put through nine different processes in the course of our treatment before they are ready to be made into fabrics again," explained the reporter's escort and guide. "We can, if the occasion requires it, take the rags that come in to-day and turn them out to-night as carded wool. That is the extent of our work here—we do not go into the conversion of wool, or shoddy, into cloth. We merely supply the material for the cloth makers. Our chief work is reclaiming the wool fibre, just as foundries and manufacturers of copper and brass save what is known as the waste material in their business by reclaiming it. Our endeavor is to extract the fibre in its original state by washing and drawing out the good that has not been worn or injured in the original cloth. The short, brittle twists of yarn are lost in the process of renovating the wool. Fully 65 per cent of the material is lost to us in the course of our reclamation.

"The first process is to disinfect and carbonize the waste material, after it comes into our hands. The rags are placed in a huge hexagonal iron box, which is kept revolving within a bricked inclosure, like an oven. This is connected with an acid generator, which receives its supply of acid from a crock standing outside the oven. The temperature of the oven is kept at 240 degrees, while the disinfection is going on. The heat and the acids destroy all the cotton weave and out of a bundle of cloth there will only remain a handful of wool. This is known as the dry bath."

There is also a wet process, by which the same results are obtained, and this is applied to different grades of goods. Sometimes the rags are sorted before they are put through this process. This is particularly the case when they come direct from the mills. The waste material, ends of piece goods, bundles of tangled yarns and similar material, are sorted into colors, light and dark, before they are subjected to the bath treatment.

The next proceeding is to put the rags through the duster, a big square wooden box, which conceals an endless wire screen and paddles which beat the dust out of the material as it is carried along the screen. An exhaust fan carries off the dust that falls through the screen.

After this the stock is neutralized by placing it in a washing machine, where it is subjected to a thorough immersion in a solution of soda ash and ammonia. This machine is similar to that used in paper mills for wood pulp, a circular copper drum, inside of which is a tub, perforated like a sieve and having a paddle which beats the material as it is rapidly revolved. A skimmer is employed to skim off the dirt as it comes to the surface of the tub.

When the goods have been taken from the washer they are placed in wired trucks to dry, and after that they are thrown into the hydro-extractor. The drying machine is a series of wooden compartments, forty-five

feet long through which air, at a temperature of from 120 to 240 degrees, is circulated. The material is carried through the compartments on an endless wire apron and the dust is fanned out during the process. Once more the material is dusted in a box-like machine containing heavy paddles and a coarse wire screen through which the short, light fibres, which are useless, are carried off.

This is a very dirty part of the work, and the men employed at it are usually covered with a coating of fine fibres. Some of them wear clothes over their mouths and nostrils to avoid inhaling the fine stuff as it fills the room about the machine.

Again the substance is sorted into fine and coarse grades. After that it is saturated with olive oil, to restore the animation which the wool has lost through the washing and heating processes.

The picking of the rapidly dissolving material is the next proceeding, and it is one of the most interesting of the many. The picker is a machine not unlike a big printing press, with large cylinders and sets of rolls. A steel cylinder is covered with teeth, which pick out the heavier parts of the material as it passes under it, while the lighter material, that is the much desired wool fibres, is caught by the corrugated rolls and automatically passed through the feed rolls. In this process all semblance of the original rags is lost. The shoddy is now a mass of flimsy stuff with the wool predominating; and here and there shreds of cotton that have not been entirely eradicated in the preceding operations. A man stands by to take out the cotton weave and leave the yarn.

All is now ready for the carder, which does the final work prior to packing it in bales for shipment to the cloth manufacturers. The stock is fed into iron baskets on the carding machines, and these baskets operate automatically and feed it into rollers. The stock is passed from one roller to another, until it finally comes out at the end of the machine in the form of a batting, as it is rolled around the last cylinder. All the short brittle threads of wool have been taken out, and what remain are the longer threads as they have been extracted from the fabrics which came into the shop as rags or the waste ends of mill material.

These are 200 grades of rags, and all these are carefully sorted into the right classes before they reach the picker machine. Italian women are employed in the sorting, and while it may not seem much of an achievement to distinguish one kind of rags from another, some of the sorters are very expert. Some rags contain more wool than others and are valuable in that respect, while others have wool of a finer quality, and it is desirable in the making of the different grades of shoddy to obtain all the fine wool possible.

The Newark shop turns out from 8,000 to 10,000 pounds of shoddy daily, and it is estimated that of the millions of pounds of rags gathered here every year a goodly proportion comes back again in the form of clothing for men, women and children.

Flock is a variation of shoddy under another commercial name, and its manufacture has been taken up recently by the local firm. Flock is made from "shearings" or small particles of woollen cloth shorn from the cloth in the mills that make fine faced woollen goods. The flock is out and ground into fine particles and is used again in the making of heavy-weight material, the kind used for better quality overcoatings.

Some idea of the ramifications of the industry may be gathered from the fact that the firm manufactures over 800 different kinds of shoddy varying in color and quality. Some of the higher grades of the shoddy cost more than the lower grades of virgin wool.

The first shoddy was made in Batley England, in 1813, and for years was looked upon with intense disfavor, but the improvements made in machinery for its manufacture during the last two decades tended to improve the quality of the material, and since then it has become an important article of commerce. It was introduced in this country about sixty years ago, and the first shop in this city was started by the present firm about twenty five years ago. Since then the firm has increased its capacity more than five-fold.—Newark News.

To Cure a Cold in One Day
Take Laxative Bromo Quinine Tablets. All druggists refund the money if it fails to cure. E. W. Grove's signature is on each box. Price 25c.

No man has the heart to say "No" when a girl asks if he really and truly loves her.
Beware of the tireless worker who is always trying to work you.
A bachelor says it's woman's art to deceive and man's folly to believe.
About the time the average man succeeds in developing a theory it explodes.
Love that has nothing but beauty to keep it alive is very apt to be short-lived.

CODES OF THE KITCHENS.

Rules That Govern Cooks Generally Due to Superstitions.

"Take a good lump of fresh butter and roll it in flour, place it in a lined saucepan with a half pint of good, rich cream, stir it gently over a low fire, always the same way, till it begins to simmer." This recipe for the making of melted butter is quoted from an old fashioned cookery book of a century ago, but the direction to stir "always the same way" is observed as religiously today as it was then and probably will be for a thousand years to come. All cooks of all nations stir not only the same way, but also from east to west, a sure indication that the practice originated with sun-worshippers.

Speaking of stirring brings to mind that in most households—country ones, at least—the practice of the whole family joining to stir the Christmas plum pudding is still in vogue. There are many peculiar old-fashioned superstitions connected with cooking. For instance, in Scotland when oat cakes are being baked it is still customary to break off a little piece and throw it into the fire. At one time whenever a baking was made, which was perhaps once a month only, a cake was made with nine knobs on it. Each of the company broke one off and, throwing it behind him, said, "This I give to thee; preserve thou my sheep," mentioning the name of a noxious animal—fox, wolf or eagle.

A roast pheasant is usually sent up with the tail feathers. This practice is a memorial of the days when a peacock was skinned before roasting and when cooked was sewed in its plumage again, its beak gilded and so served. Tossing the pancake is another interesting food superstition. Formerly the master of the house was called upon to toss the Shrove Tuesday pancake. Usually he did it so clumsily that the contents of the pan found their way to the floor, when a fine was demanded by the cook. The custom is still kept up at Westminster school, where a pancake is tossed over the bar and scrambled for. The one who seizes it is rewarded with a guinea.

The origin of the cross on hot cross buns is a matter of dispute. There is little doubt that cakes partly divided into four quarters were made long before the Christian era. At one time it was believed that bread baked on Good Friday would never grow moldy, and a piece of it grated was kept in every house, being supposed to be a sovereign remedy for almost any kind of ailment to which man is subject. In many parts of England it is considered unlucky to offer a mince pie to a guest. It must be asked for.—Boston Journal.

The Bostonese For It.
She was a spectacled lassie from Boston and had taken charge of a country school. Two or three weeks later one of the trustees visited the school.
"Well, how are you getting along?" he asked.
"Very nicely now, thank you," she replied, "but it was hard at first."
"Is that so?"
"Oh, yes. You see, in the beginning I tried moral suasion as a corrective measure; but, failing in that, I resorted to a tangible instrumentality."
"A what?" gasped the simple minded trustee.
"A tangible instrumentality," she replied sweetly—"a good, stout hickory switch, don't you know?"—New York Press.

Base Deception.
She was a charming little thing, but she was not familiar with the country and its ways. Still, although she was from London, that great brute of a cousin of hers had no right to attempt to deceive her. He had volunteered to show her round the farm, and by and by they strolled into the cow shed.
"Dear me, how closely the poor cows are crowded together!" she remarked.
"Yes," he said. "But, you see, we're obliged to pack them close."
"Why?"
"So that they'll give condensed milk," he said without a blush.
And the dear girl smiled and said she hadn't thought of that.—Answers.

WHY THE JUROR HELD OUT.

The Secret That Was Imparted to an English Chief Justice.

The most remarkable case of a jury "standing out" against what seemed irrefutable testimony, and all through the resolution of one man, occurred before Chief Justice Dyer many years ago. He presided at a murder trial in which everything went against the prisoner, who on his part could only say that on his going to work in the morning he had found the murdered man dying and tried to help him, where by he had become covered with blood, but when the man presently died he had come away and said nothing about it because he was known to have had a quarrel with the deceased and feared he might get into trouble. The hayfork with which the man had been murdered had the prisoner's name on it. In other respects his guilt appeared to be clearly established, and the chief justice was convinced of it, but the jury returned a verdict of "Not guilty."

This was Chief Justice Dyer's case, and he put some very searching questions to the high sheriff. The cause of the acquittal, said the official, was undoubtedly the foreman, a farmer of excellent character, esteemed by all his neighbors and very unlikely to be obstinate or vexatious. "Then," said the judge, "I must see this foreman, for an explanation of the matter I will have." The foreman came, and after extracting from his lordship a promise of secrecy proved at once that the prisoner had been rightly acquitted, "for," said he, "it was I myself who killed the man."

It had been no murder, for the other had attacked him with the hayfork, and—as he showed—severely injured him, but in the struggle to get possession of the weapon he had the misfortune to give the man a fatal wound. He had no fears as to his being found guilty of murder; but, the assizes being just over, his farm and affairs would have been ruined by a confession, through lying in jail so long, so he suffered matters to take their course. He was horrified to find one of his own servants accused of the murder. He supported his wife and children while in jail, managed to be placed on the jury and elected foreman. He added that if he had failed in this he would certainly have confessed to his own share in the business, and the judge believed him.

Every year for fifteen years the judge made inquiries as to the foreman's existence, and at last, happening to survive him, he considered himself free to tell the story.—London News.

She Treasured His Seal Lock.
"I suppose," remarked the man who prides himself on his winning ways with the other sex, "that in the pretty locket you are wearing there is some memento—some token of a past love affair."
"How did you guess it?" asked the dazzling creature beside him.
"Yes, there's a remembrance—a lock of my husband's hair!"
The man of fascinating manner looked surprised. "Why," said he, "I had no idea that you were a widow. They told me, if I mistake not, that your husband was alive!"
"And so he is," responded the beautiful woman, "but his hair is gone."

Stopping the Rush.
A clergyman once preached a long sermon from the text "Thou art weighed in the balance and found wanting." After the congregation had listened about an hour some began to get weary and went out. Others soon followed, greatly to the annoyance of the minister. Another person started, whereupon the parson stopped his sermon and said: "That is right, gentlemen. As fast as you are weighed pass out!" He continued his sermon at some length after that, but no one disturbed him by leaving.—V. C.


CASTORIA.
The Kind You Have Always Bought
Bears the Signature of *Dr. J. C. Williams*
—God never forgets the man who forgets himself.
—The average age of United States senators is now 59 years. Eight are less than 45.

MALARIA Germ Infected Air.

Malaria is not confined exclusively to the swamps and marshy regions of the country, but wherever there is bad air this insidious foe to health is found. Poisonous vapors and gases from sewers, and the musty air of damp cellars are laden with the germs of this miserable disease, which are breathed into the lungs and taken up by the blood and transmitted to every part of the body. Then you begin to feel out of sorts without ever suspecting the cause. No energy or appetite, dull headaches, sleepy and tired and completely fagged out from the slightest exertion, are some of the deplorable effects of this insidious malarial. As the disease progresses and the blood becomes more deeply poisoned, boils and abscesses and dark or yellow spots appear upon the skin. When the poison is left to ferment and the microbes and germs to multiply in the blood, Liver and Kidney troubles and other serious complications often arise. As Malaria begins and develops in the blood, the treatment to be effective must begin there too. S. S. S. destroys the germs and poisons and purifies the polluted blood, and under its tonic effect the debilitated constitution rapidly recuperates and the system is soon clear of all signs of this pressing disease.

S. S. S. is a guaranteed purely vegetable remedy, mild, pleasant and harmless. Write us if you want medical advice or any special information about your case. This will cost you nothing.

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Pianos, Organs, Small Musical Merchandise, And Sewing Machines, In great variety.

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