

DIFFERENT WAYS TO

TEST TEXTILES

Office of Home Economics of De-Practical Methods Adulteration.

times handsomer and more durable than the old kinds. Linen has gone up so in price that many of us can not afford it and must content oursclves with cotton or cotton and linen is relatively high, other materials are ribbon-like and fuzzy.

linen threads. Cotton fibers, under the microscope, have a ribbon-like ap- machine which tears them apart and pearance with frequent twists, and a reduces them to fibers. Such goods broad flat central canal; linen fibers have many uses. It is stated by are round, jointed, and heavier than woolen manufacturers that the best

makes linen translucent and cotton superior to a low grade, short staple, army post schools, to be conducted unopaque. The finish must be washed new or virgin wool; also that it is der the direction of the army educaout of highly finished materials be- impossible to get the texture and fin- tional commission Hundreds of forfore the test can be used. A com- ish required for some of the best mer college and academy professors paratively simple test which, after grade goods without the use of some and instructors, drawn from the vasome experience, enables one to distinguish between linen and cotton is called the "tearing" test. One must tests as pure w , and small amounts rect and to teach these schools. be an expert to detect cotton and linen are almost impossible to detect, exmixtures in this way. The linen cept by the use of the microscope. The weaves in general are more difficult to tear than cotton. The torn ends a fabric give some idea to the shopper of the linen threads appear uneven in

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length and the individual fibers of the loss in weight, large additions of varends of the cotton threads are more the looks, feel, or structure of the silk

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partment of Agriculture Gives threads with a match, blow out the to four times as much mineral matof Test for flame and examine the burnt ends. ter added to it as its original weight.

for the money. Our grandfathers it will have a dull and somewhat is heavily weighted will have an ash used to buy pure virgin wool, but new fuzzy appearance, while the lustre which is stiff and which often holds processes have been devised which and smoothness of real linen will not the shape of the sample. utilize shoddy along with the wool in be affected by the treatment. Mersuch a way that the goods are some- cerized cotton damask keeps more than linen.

Woolen and Worsted Fabrics.

often mixed with it, the most com-A microscope is the most accurate mon being what it termed "shoddy." means of distinguishing cotton and This is old woolen material, tailors' clippings, etc. put through a special grade of worsted shoddy, which is of diers of the American expeditionary If the fabric is without starch, oil long staple, i. e., has long fibers, is force have enrolled as students in the shoddy. As shoddy is made from rious branches of the American expewool fiber it gives the same chemical ditionary force, have been sent to dirough feel and cheap appearance of of the presence of a large amount of shoddy.

Cotton is also used with wool. Such goods have many uses. It is a simple matter to detect the presence of cotton as wool is dissolved in alkalies and not affected by acids, while cotton is dissolved by acids and not affected by alkalies. The odor of burning wool is characteristic, too.

Detecting Over-Weighted Silk. When the gum is removed from silk produced by a silk worm, the silk loses from 20 to 30 per cent of its original weight. To make up for this

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threads are parallel; while the torn ious substances which do not change even in length, and the individual are often made. If no larger an fibers are twisted in every direction. amount than that of the weight of Knowledge Which Will Save You The sound of tearing linen is shrill, the gum boiled off is added, it is con-Money When You Buy Material— and that of cotton dull or muffled. | sidered legitimate; but much silk is Another simple test is to light the made which has as high as from three The cotton threads will have blunt This makes the silk brittle, and weak, ends, while the linen will be pointed. so that it wears out quickly. It is There is such a great variety of fabrics on the market now, and most of us understand so little about how they are made, that it is hard to know which ones will give the best value for the money. Our grandfathers the dense in the line of the money. Our grandfathers the line in will be pointed.

An easy way of distinguishing because the highly-seized and calender to death the line damaterial by burning a small sample. Pure silk burns rapidly, smells like the linen will be pointed.

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An easy way of distinguishing because the highly-seized and calender to determine heavily-weighted material by burning a small sample. Pure silk burns rapidly, smells like the linen will be pointed.

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Cotton is frequently mixed with silk. Such goods sold as mixtures lustre than untreated cotton, but less have many uses. It is easy to detect cotton in silk by the microscope as the fibers of silk are round and Since the price of pure, new wool smooth, while the cotton fibers are

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