

Dictionary of Technical Terms Relating to the Textile Industry

(Continued from July issue)

Wool:—The fine, soft, curly hair which forms the fleece or fleecy coat of the sheep and some other animals, as the angora goat, the llama, alpaca, vicuna, and the camel. The wool or fleece of the sheep furnishes the most important material for clothing in all cold and temperate climates. It is softer than the actual hair; also more flexible and elastic, besides having a wavy character.

Chemically wool consists of keratine, a substance composed of carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, oxygen and sulphur. It differs from hair in its physical structure, the exterior scale structure of wool being most marked while that of hair is only faintly indicated: it is naturally less lustrous and more flexible than hair. Its length as placed on the market varies from about an inch up to sixteen inches, but if allowed to grow without restraint, the fibres may attain a length of something like forty inches. In diameter of fibre it ranges from about one five-hundredth part of an inch up to one eighteen-hundredth of an inch. The curls or waves upon it vary from one per inch to thirty per inch. There are naturally many types varying in length, fineness, softness, color, lustre, elasticity, and felting properties according to the conditions under which the wool has been grown.

In judging wool on the sheep's back or the fleece on the sorters bench, always look at the shoulders first. Always assuming that the wool to be inspected is really fine, first examine the shoulders as a part where the finest wool is to be found. Take this as a standard and compare it with the wool from the ribs, the thigh, the rump and shoulder parts, and the nearer the wool from the various portions of the animal approaches the standard the better. First scrutinize the fineness, and if the result is satisfactory the fleece in respect to fineness is pronounced *very even*. Next scrutinize the length of the staple, and if the wool on the ribs, thigh and back approximates reasonably in length to that of the standard the fleece as regards length and staple it is then *true and even*. Next satisfy yourself as to the density of the fleece by closing the hand upon a portion of the rump and loin wool, these points being usually the thinnest and the most faulty. If this again gives satisfaction, the wool is then *even to density*. Now, to summarize these separate examinations. If the fleece is of nearly equal length on shoulder, ribs and back, and density on shoulder and across the loins, you then deal with a perfect sheep for producing valuable wool, *i. e.*, a perfect fleece.

TECHNICAL TERMS USED IN THE WOOLEN INDUSTRY

Full-blood Wool:—Wool from a pure-blooded sheep (Merino is the standard).

Half-blood Wool:—Wool from cross-bred merino and English sheep.

Quarter-blood Wool:—Wool from sheep only quarter merino in stock.

Cross-bred Wool:—The wool of cross-bred sheep (usually the cross breeding is English and merino).

Mestizo Wool:—South American wool from cross-bred sheep.

Dead Wool:—Is wool that is shorn from the dead or killed sheep.

About one-seventh of the United States wool production is dead wool and comes from the packing houses. The yarn produced from it is not quite as strong as from the live sheep. Its clinging qualities are hurt by the shock of death to the sheep. Strictly speaking and in the west, dead wool is applied more particularly to sheep which have died on the ranch, and pulled wool, while being dead wool, is more particularly applied to the packing house product.

Pulled Wool:—Is strictly the packing house product and is the same as dead wool.

Scoured Wool:—Is clean wool and almost chemically pure.



WOOL FIBRES (Magnified).

Tub Wool:—Is not a term that is very well known, but is used in some Eastern States for wool which is washed after it comes from the sheep's back.

Washed Wool:—Is wool that has been washed on the sheeps back. The grease remains in the wool and a good deal of dirt also.

Wool in the Grease:—This is wool which is shorn from the sheep without any washing.

Shrinkage in Wool:—The percentage of loss by wool at scouring.

Yield of Wool from Sheep:—There is no way of telling accurately what the average clip from one sheep would bring as it depends on where the sheep are raised and other conditions, but generally it might be roughly figured from 7 to 8 pounds to the sheep.

Imported Wool:—About the same amount of wool as produced in the United States is imported. The United States product is about $\frac{1}{4}$ th of the world's product. Very little carpet wool is produced in this country, it nearly all being imported, and in the imported figures carpet wool is sometimes included and sometimes not, so that importation figures are misleading, unless this is known. Most of our carpet wool comes from China and Turkey. Australia is the country from which we import most of our wool.

Wool-carder:—A person who cards wool.

Wool-comber:—One who combs wool.

Wool-dyed:—A term applied to colored fabrics in which the color was originally dyed on the wool in either the loose or top form, as distinct from fabrics in which the color has been placed on the wool by either yarn-dyeing or piece-dyeing.