

of goods. Wool that is very long, strong, and coarse in fibre is often called "braid" wool, because it is from such wool as this that braid is made. Then there is other wool, not quite so coarse as the braid wool, but still quite long and very strong in fibre; this is made into what are called "worsted" goods. Worsted are used very commonly in making men's clothing. Some sheep produce wool that is quite long and yet very fine in fibre. Wool that is between two and three inches long and very fine in fibre usually sells for a higher price per pound than other kinds. It is used very largely for making ladies' dress goods, such as delaines, and is often called "delaine" wool. Wool that is short and fine in fibre is used for making such goods as broadcloth, fine underclothing, tweeds, and other goods of that kind. Some wool that is long and coarse has weak spots in its fibres; and any wool that has weak fibres cannot be used for delaines, worsteds, or braid, but is made into cheap tweeds, blankets, coarse underclothing, carpets, coarse stocking yarn, and such like. Thus, you see, there are many kinds of tweed, underclothing, blankets, and such goods, depending upon the quality of the wool that is used in making them.

Such goods as delaines and worsteds have a smooth surface. This is because the wool is put through machinery which stretches the wool hairs out straight, and they are then twisted together in such a way that all their ends are tucked in out of sight. This stretching is called "combing," and the wool fibres must be sound and strong in order that they may not break during the operation. But if you examine a piece of tweed or blanket, you will see the ends of the wool hairs standing out from the surface, making the material look rough. This is because the wool has not been combed, but has been put through a process called "carding," in which the wool is rolled up in such a way that when it is spun, the ends of the wool hairs stand out from the yarn and give a rough appearance to the cloth after it is woven. As a rule, wool that is less than two inches long is not combed, but is used for carding; and wool that is weak in fibre will not stand combing, and therefore must also be carded. There are many other interesting things which might be said about wool, but I shall simply ask that whenever you see a sheep, you will think of what you have learned about the wonderful coat it wears, and remember that we should always be kind to these gentle and timid animals because we owe to them much of the most beautiful and most comfortable clothing which we wear.