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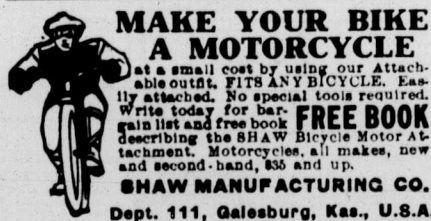
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## Hints for June Brides

When a woman pays a fair price for a cloth street suit she expects it to last one season at least without showing signs of wear, but frequently at the end of three months it looks shabby. Why? Perhaps the material was poorly dyed, or it was badly woven, or maybe it contained too much cotton, any of which faults she might have avoided if she had known any tests to apply and thereby judge of its wearing quality. You might try one or more of these: Hold the cloth up to the light; if it is well woven the threads will be even, no bumps and no loose threads will be evident; if, however, the surface shows irregular weaves, or blotches, or bumps, it is inferior worsted and will soon look the worse for wear. And, too, woven fabrics made of wool should be soft when gathered up in the hand and should spring back when the hold is loosened. Another excellent test of a good quality of worsted or wool is to place the thumbs on top of the goods about half an inch apart and the fingers underneath, then pull from each thumb; unyielding goods may be put down as capable of much wear, while in that which is poor the threads will pull or cockle and a hole will result. Take your handkerchief and rub it across the fabric; if it leaves a stain the goods are poorly dyed and the sun will soon make havoc of its beauty.

When purchasing material from the piece for your street suit, fray a few threads from the edge and pull them apart with your gloves off, if the fibers are hairy when pulled apart, curl up and become mussy in the hand, you may be sure that the material is pure wool. Try this especially with the weft or filling threads, as here is where cotton is often used and if it is, the filling shrinks when wet and causes a well fitting garment to lose its shape. If one cares to take home a sample an easy test of purity can be made as follows: Pull some threads of the warp and weft, untwist them carefully, separating the strands with a pin and apply the flame of a match; if each separate part of the thread is pure wool the singed fibers will curl and give out the odor peculiar to animal fibers; if the yarn is all cotton each strand will burn down steadily like a bit of punk. If the thread is part wool and part cotton, the wool strands when fired after separation will curl; the cotton strands will burn steadily. The old-time method of setting fire to the whole sample, not untwisting the threads, is not now reliable owing to the modern methods of concealing the cotton in the weaving.

Filling the linen closet with the necessary supplies for the home is not such an inexpensive process that one cares to be doing it at constant intervals, yet this is very often necessary when holes appear after a short period of wear. Not only is cotton used as an adulterant of linen, but cotton cloths are manufactured with a finish so nearly resembling linen that the ignorant customer can, with little difficulty, be tricked into buying it. The best linens require little or no dressing; therefore, one with a great deal of dressing should at least awaken suspicion. Dressing is likewise necessary when the detrimental effects of artificial bleaching are to be glossed over. The finest yarns have a luster of their own and do not require the gums and starch used to dress up the inferior materials. Our grandmothers taught us that we could recognize linen by wetting the finger and moistening the material; if the moisture were quickly absorbed it was linen, this being much more absorbent than cotton. There are naturally many grades of linen ranging from the coarsest and flimsiest to the very fine, almost as soft as silk. This difference is due to the yarns, the weaving, the bleaching, the dressing, and the adulteration. In sheeting and towels, even more than in tablecloths, it is possible to adulterate with cotton without fear of detection. Unless the shop is reliable and the law demands the presence of cotton to be noted, as in union cloth, it is very necessary to test the material carefully. Some linen yarns used in the cheapest grades of goods are practically shoddy, or the refuse of the finer yarns. There is less wear to these sheets and towels than there is in good cotton ones, and while the price

may be low on the tag, they will prove an expensive purchase.

Not only the bride-elect but the house-keeper of many years should realize it is false economy to buy cheap blankets, for these are household supplies we expect to last many years and for this reason an all-wool blanket is always to be sought. Tho the one highly adulterated with cotton may appear "just as nice" at the counter, it is more costly in the end, and when it visits the tub it comes out heavy, soggy and lifeless. "How can I tell an all-wool blanket?" asks someone. There is no royal road to decision, but by taking up two blankets, one all-wool and the other with a half or three-quarters cotton, you will notice at once that the all-wool blanket is perceptibly lighter than the other. Cotton adds weight, but not warmth. Blankets said to be all-wool—yes, even marked and guaranteed "all-wool"—are sold all over the country when the percentage of cotton reaches to even one-half. Right here it is only fair to say, however, that many expert buyers say a little cotton does not injure a blanket, but prevents it from shrinking too much when washed. The percentage, tho, ought to be noted on an accompanying slip, and undoubtedly will be, when the laws regarding textiles for the protection of the consumer have been sufficiently agitated to demand their passage. Study carefully the edges of a blanket and you can frequently discover whether the foundation is made of wool or cotton, for when cotton is used it is here discernible. But price is one of the best guides for the uninitiated, as it varies only slightly according to the location and style of the shop where sold. The lowest price for all-wool blankets for a single bed given by a reliable shop is \$9.50 a pair, for a double bed \$11. The blankets most commonly seen at \$6.50 for a double and \$5 for a single bed contain eighty per cent. of wool and twenty per cent. of cotton, which is not a large percentage of cotton.

We have all experienced having perfectly good dresses and petticoats made of silk go to pieces in a short time, even tho they spent most of the time reposing in the bureau drawer. A textile expert will tell you this is because it was "dynamited," or filled with gum. This, however, is only one of the many ways the silk manufacturer finds to make his raw material, which is most expensive, go a long way and bring him in a good surplus on his money invested. But we cannot afford to buy new petticoats and dresses every few days, so we must try to learn to choose the best of what is offered us. When a sample can be procured it may be tested at home in a simple way. Fray out the threads and break them; if they break easily the silk is not of good quality tho it may be all silk. The warp threads, running lengthwise, and the woof threads, going crosswise, should be of equal strength. If the warp threads are very weak your dress will split across the knees, if the woof threads are the weakest you will have an opportunity to sew it up the back. The threads may be burned; if they blaze with a decided flame the silk may have a cotton warp or woof, but if there is an odor like burnt wool it is probably silk. Or, one end of the sample may be burned, if it retains its exact shape after burning it is no doubt heavily weighted and your garment will soon go into pinholes. The soft-finished silks in the ready-made articles may be treated as to wearing quality by taking the silk between the thumbs and fingers and giving a gentle pull to ascertain if the threads will separate. If they pull apart when treated this way they will pull out wherever there is a strain.

Women spend at least ninety per cent. of the eight hundred million dollars annually spent in the United States for clothing and other textiles. And when we remember that by far the greater part of this enormous sum comes from the pockets of people of moderate means, who cannot easily replace clothing that has too speedily worn out, we begin to realize how careful we must be when we go shopping. —Marie Hamilton in The Mothers' Magazine.

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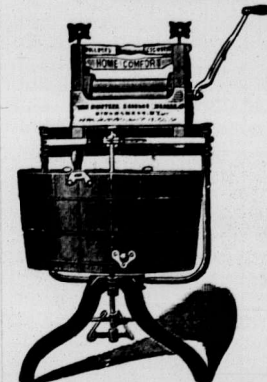
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