

## Hidden Perils in Winter Furs

### DYES THAT CAUSE DISEASE.

The number of cases of disease contracted from furs has been growing to such an extent that the Ministry of Health has been inquiring into the matter. The result of these investigations should prove a warning to women about to purchase certain furs, or fur-collared coats, for the Ministry has come to the conclusion that nearly all the cases were attributable to a cheap variety of rabbit skins, dyed to resemble "coney," known as "beaver coney."

The disease is an inflammation of the skin. The dye from the fur collar starts the trouble, which begins with a distressing rash and swelling of the skin around the neck, this extending, in many cases, over the face, accompanied by puffiness of the subcutaneous tissues which may be so great that the eyes are completely closed up for some days. Sufferers complain of the scalding pain of the rash, which is most intense in those women whose skins are naturally greasy.

Even Furriers are Affected. The trouble is traceable not so much to the furs themselves as to the chemicals used in the dyeing process. Mercury and arsenic are sometimes used for this purpose, and the chemicals are not always properly removed after the dyeing has been carried out. In other instances the infection is due to some disease, or some other cause, but here again, the danger is not so much in the furs themselves as in the hands of the furriers who often suffer from afflictions of the hands transmitted from infected skins.

A positive diagnosis of fur-poisoning can be made when, in a woman, there is a rash from any kind of skin disease, and enjoying good health, a rash appears on the wrists or hands after wearing a fur coat for a day or two. Fortunately, in the majority of such cases, immediate disuse of the offending garment and the application of suitable emollients will cure the skin trouble, but in very susceptible skins the seeds of chronic trouble may be sown.

Most of these dangerous skins come from Germany and America and risks are run in dyeing for the sake of cheapness. It is only necessary to consider the prices of some of the "furs" to realize that it would be economically impossible either for them to be genuine skins or to have been properly treated in the dyeing process.

All kinds of tricks are employed by unscrupulous furriers, and sometimes even experts are baffled by the manner in which the furs are dyed and faked.

Rabbit and cat skins are bought by unsuspecting women. The rabbit is usually sold under the pretence of being a "sea coney," or "sea coney," and has a ready sale.

The modern furrier can take the better-class hare and rabbit pelts and convert them into really beautiful imitations of seal, ermine, fox, and lynx. When buying a fur the purchaser should inspect the skin of the pelt, as if there are any weak spots these are apparent on the wrong side.

No fur needs more care in choosing than the ever popular fox. A long, loose-haired fur should be avoided; a close, short, full-haired pelt should be chosen. A good fox skin of this type will last for years. Grey smoked, and brown-black fox skins are all dyed; white is a natural color, and so are red and cross fox—a cross between silver and natural.

If the purchaser has reason to be suspicious she should refuse to purchase unless the trader gives her a written assurance that the skin is what it is represented to be. To buy in a haphazard fashion is to court skin poisoning.

## Winter Promises Hardships

### FOR VETERANS OF ENGLAND.

LONDON, Oct. 4 (A.P.)—Closing of the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley shortly will result in additional serious unemployment among former service men, according to officials of the British Legion, who are making extra efforts to provide work for the men now employed in the exhibition grounds and buildings.

Pointing out that for the last three months unemployment figures have been heavier than for the corresponding period of last year, one official of the Legion said that there was every indication that the coming winter would produce more distress among former service men than any since the armistice, due to the completion or abandonment of the many municipal relief schemes undertaken since the war.

Individual cases of hardship and poverty reaching his notice, he added, were increasing alarmingly in number.

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### Ladies' Tweed Costumes

SPECIAL CLEARING PRICE ..... \$7.18 EACH

### LADIES' GREY RAGLANS

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Buttoned and Laced styles.

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25 Pairs. Size 2 1/2  
37 Pairs. Size 3  
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Striped Flette. Large Pieces. Only ..... \$1.00 lb.

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Regular Price, \$31.00 Sale Price ..... \$12.50 ea.  
MEN'S TWEED PANTS, from ..... \$2.80 to \$ 5.48 pr.



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Satin Finish. \$1.00 value.  
Special Sale Price ..... 79c. yd.

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Regular 32c. Sale Price ..... 26c. yd.

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26c. to 33c. yard.

ENGLISH WOOL BLANKETS  
From ..... \$6.00 to \$12.00 pr.

## Fish That Help Fishermen

### ODD WAYS OF REAPING THE OCEAN'S HARVEST.

We know that the Chinese train comorants to catch fish for them, while in this country otters have been used for a similar purpose. But to use one fish for the purpose of capturing another is the strangest of ideas, and is practised only in North Queensland.

The tribe of blacks who fish in this extraordinary fashion live near Amity Point. When they see a shoal of mullet close to the shore the men run down to the sea and begin striking the water with paddles or pieces of wood. This is to call the porpoises to help them, and, incredible as it may seem, the porpoises understand, and, charging the shoal of mullet on the outer side, drive them shorewards.

The mullet, flying before their big snouts, rush into shallow water, and are scooped out by the waiting natives with hand nets.

Rowing to the spot one of the men begins beating on the side of the boat with a wooden club. The fish are terrified and jump high into the air, and some at least are sure to fall into the boat. From a dozen to twenty may be caught out of one shoal, and since they are big fish, weighing from two to five pounds apiece, the take is well worth having.

The writer has seen mullet taken in similar fashion off the Florida coast. The boat, however, went out on a dark night and was provided with a strong flare in the bows. Then the surface of the water was beaten with oar blades and the mullet jumped in to receive them.

scores, quite a number falling in the boat or into hand nets stretched out

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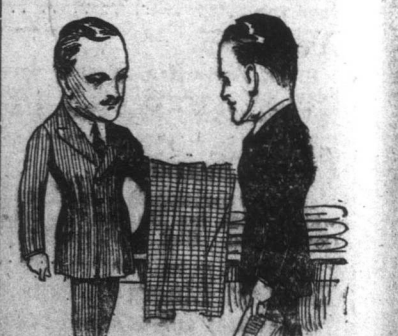
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