

duced under domestic conditions has also been enormously extended. Ponies, kids, lambs and even pups are killed in large numbers to supply the increasing demands for fur. The great vogue of Russian lamb skins of which about three millions are used yearly, emphasizes the importance of achieving production of fur from domestic animals. The costly baby lamb or broadtail, the Persian lamb, the astrakhan and krimmer furs are the skins of the karakule sheep. The various names have been supplied by the furriers and have no geographical significance at the present time. If the marten and mink had been domesticated a score or more years ago, they might now be supplying fur in the same way as the karakule sheep, and, with the modern addition of the fox, would have served as a counterpoise in Canada to the monopoly now enjoyed by Russia—particularly Bokhara—in the production of domestic fur. When the perennially fashionable sable, ermine, chinchilla and silver fox did not supply the demand, the Persians, broadtail and seal became more costly. Gradually, too, from its plebeian rank of coat-lining at fifty cents a skin, mink was adopted into the select family of valuable furs, closely preceded by marten and, latterly, followed by fisher and cross fox. To take the place of mink as a coat-lining, muskrat or musquash was chosen, sharing this promotion with the less valuable marmot and hamster of Europe. To supply the demand for a medium-priced black fur of beauty, a common animal, the skunk, has been chosen and named Alaska sable. The black domestic cat, known to the trade as 'genet,' is also utilized to meet the demand for black furs, while northern hares and conies are extensively manufactured into 'Baltic fox' or 'white fox' or 'black lynx' or 'electric seal.'

Renaming Furs

When the fur dressers and dyers produced a clipped and dyed muskrat skin that resembled sealskin almost perfectly, it was found that it would not sell under its real name because it was a common fur, used largely by the poorer classes. Consequently a name was invented for it and this popular and high-priced fur is now sold as 'Hudson Bay seal'. The fur of the coney, a very cheap and common animal in France, is the raw product in producing 'electric sealskin', 'clipped seal' and 'Baltic seal'. Raccoon, when first introduced, was cheap and was in little demand, but when given the name 'Alaska bear' and 'silver bear' it immediately came into favour. Skunk, which is an excellent fur of a dark hue, though beautiful and durable, could not be sold as skunk, but, as 'black marten', and 'Alaska sable', it is in high favour and likely to remain in the class of the medium and higher priced furs. It is worth remarking that, since the prejudice against the muskrat, skunk and other cheap furs has been