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THE CANADIAN TEXTILE DIRECTORY

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PROGRESS OF THE DYEING INDUSTRY.

Artificial dyes appear to be gaining ground surely, if slowly. The first rank is still occupied by the alizarine colors, for in spite of paper controversies about the relative advantages of the coal tar colors and the natural dyes, the former come every day into greater and greater demand. The alizarines, and especially the blues, are also pushed forward by the prevalent fashion which prefers their dead green or reddish tones to the fiery copper-like hues of indigo. The alizarine cyanines, too, have the same advantage, especially with regard to the greenish shades they give with a mordant of fluoride of chromium.

Alizarine Black has improved its position, especially with loose wool. Naphthazarine, although not

strictly one of the alizarine group, is so much faster to light than logwood that its greater price has not prevented a great increase in its consumption. The single bath process, as recommended for cheapening the use of the Alizarine Black, the old sulphate of copper, as well as the later acetate of chromium process, seem quite abandoned. The best results are got by the usual mordanting with chromate and tartar, which also admits of the combination of Alizarine Black and logwood.

Among the great countries of Europe, Austria has made the use of alizarine dyes compulsory in dyeing military clothing. The German military authorities, who have the greatest possible interest in introducing alizarine colors, so as to support a rapidly growing home industry, allow Alizarine Black to be used, in combination with logwood, for grey mixture cloaks. Recognizing, too, that the rate of wear in a garment depends a great deal upon the wearer, they have had some portions of uniform made both of indigo and of alizarine-dyed stuffs.

Anthracene Blue, which is cheaper than Alizarine Blue, has crept in here and there, a proof that the objections of many dyers to the alizarine dyes is their high price. The default of Anthracene Blue is that the fabric will not take up more than 20 or 25 per cent. without smudging or running when washed. Hence it will not give deep colors alone. It wants also a stronger mordant bath, for while a bath of 3 per cent. chromate and 2½ per cent. tartar is strong enough for Alizarine Blue, Anthracene Blue requires 4 per cent. and 3 per cent. respectively. Mordant Yellow, which does not belong to the alizarine group, is very remarkable for its fastness to light and fulling, and is steadily making its way. It is, however, surpassed in covering power by Cassella's Anthracene Yellow.

In piece dyeing, too, the progress of alizarines as a class is slow, on account of the liability to want of uniformity if the least trace of oil has been left in the wool. Their strong affinity for metallic salts, especially those of chromium, and tendency to form lakes with them, is the reason of this want of power to give uniform results, for those properties prevent the dye from penetrating into the threads. A step in the direction of remedying this inconvenience has been made at the Höchst color-works, where they treat the material first with dye and Glauber's salt, secondly with sulphuric acid, and, lastly,