

Hair-cloth. Cloth of goat's hair was used for covering the military engines of the Romans, as we read in Arrian, Thucydides, Ammianus, etc. Curtains of goat's hair were used in the Wilderness tabernacle of the Hebrews. The goat's hair cloth was called *shac* or *sac* in Hebrew, Chaldee, and Syriac; in the Septuagint it became *saccos*; in the Vulgate *saccus*. The Latin *sagum* and English *sack* perpetuate the sound and sense. (See SACK.)• The nose-bags of the Arabian horses are of goat's hair cloth, and from them they eat their barley habitually. Goat's hair cloth also covers their tents. See also CAMLET.

Horse-hair for the manufacture of hair-cloth is principally derived from South America, and is imported in bales weighing about 1,000 pounds.

In the process of manufacture, it is first sorted according to color, and then hackled to get the hairs straight and remove dirt. A number of tufts are then placed between the teeth of two cards, and the longer hairs removed by hand, so as to leave only those of uniform length remaining. It is now ready to be woven or curled, according to quality. Hair is curled by forming it into a rope which is afterwards boiled, and then baked so as to set the kink in the hairs.

Hair-cloth is made from the longer and better varieties. The hair is first dyed, usually of a black color, and is merely employed as the weft of the cloth, the warp being composed of cotton or linen thread, according to quality and purpose. The process formerly required two hands to each loom, but those at present used only require the attendance of one person, and recently power-looms have been employed.

After leaving the loom, the cloth is pressed between hot metallic plates to polish it.