
BERANDINE VS. WOOL.

SOME time ago a great fuss was made in a small way over the invention or discovery of a new fibrous material called Berandine. All known textiles were expected to be depreciated in value by this intruder, but wool more than any other, because Berandine, being derived with little trouble from the woody stems of peat, could be put upon the market for that infinitesimal quotation generally spoken of as next to nothing. It could be mixed with other more costly fibres without disadvantage, but especially with wool. When critical inquiry was made into these pretensions, the verdict was decidedly against Berandine. It was said to be rough to feel and difficult to deal with, its inferiority was considered to surpass its cheapness, and it was thought very unlikely that it would injure the market position even of waste wool or cotton. M. Berand, after whom it was named, and the stuff seemed to be snuffed out. Now we hear again that there is a future before the fibre, and fame in store for its originator. Undaunted by adverse opinion, the experiments of many years have been continued, and the turf-tow, in consequence of the improvements in treating it, can now be spun alone, if necessary, or mingled with wool or cotton. "Common goods can be produced in an admixture of 30 per cent. of wool. Fine Berandine serves to make curtains, carpets and common coverlets. With 50 per cent. of wool, beautiful fabrics are obtained for dresses, curtains and carpets." But, best of all in these hygienic days, it has been found that the material possesses strong antiseptic qualities, "that it is highly absorbent, and also serves to decompose vitiated gasses in the air, and to purify the atmosphere from their effects. It is greatly recommended for tropical climates, as it absorbs the miasma thrown off at night from the overheated ground." This is what may be called a large order, and we must wait for some further intelligence.—*U. S. Economist.*

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