

FLAN'NEL (OF. *flanelle*, of doubtful origin, possibly connected with OF. *flaine*, pillow case, which seems to be derived from the Celtic; Ir. *olann*, wool, Welsh *gwlan*, Corn. *gluan*; Bret. *gloan*, linen, Lat. *lana*, Eng. *wool*; with Fr. *fl* for Celt. *vl*, as in Fr. *flèche*, arrow, from Ir. *flisc*). A woven fabric used chiefly for underclothing and other garments. Flannels are usually made of wool, with which may be combined or woven silk, linen, cotton, or worsted yarns. They are dyed in all shades of solid colors, and many are printed or embroidered with various designs and patterns. Vegetable or chemical coloring agents are largely used for dyeing. All-wool flannels, which were used years ago by working people, have not been manufactured recently so extensively, owing to the cheaper and more attractive fabrics produced by the admixture or use of cotton, although all-wool blue flannels are still used largely by firemen, miners, sailors, and laborers. Flannels have suffered through the increased use of knitted garments, such as the so-called "sweater," and various forms of knitted articles of apparel for underwear which are used to their exclusion. French flannels are made of wool and worsted, or wool with silk warps in various grades, and are extensively used for women's garments. Canton flannels, so called, although made entirely of cotton, have the face of the goods carefully napped or teazled. The fibres are fullered and combed out so as to make a soft and fleecy surface. Outing flannels are loosely woven fabrics of cotton which have been manufactured within the past 30 years and have a napped face and are made in many designs with attractive colorings. Domett flannels are made with cotton warp and woolen filling, being manufactured in both plain and fancy colorings, in many instances the yarns being dyed before weaving.

For detailed description of manufacture of flannels and other fabrics, see WOOL AND WORSTED MANUFACTURES.