Woolen Manufactory. The treatment of wool is according to its staple, long or short, combing or carding wool; producing worsted or woollen.

The wool of England has always been celebrated; and even in the times of the Romans, a manufacture of woolen cloths was established at Winchester, for the use of the emperors.

The processes, in brief, are as follows: Each being described under its alphabetical arrangement:—

1. Sorting, to fineness, softness, strength, color, cleanliness, and weight; by which the various qualities of wool are placed together to avoid unevenness in the working and the fabric.

2. Sizing: washing in alkaline liquor, to remove scum and grease; followed by clean water.


4. Winnowing, or dlevling; to loosen out the locks and bunches.

5. Picking (also known as sorting, i.e., removing mats), or buring; to remove bars and other impurities.

6. Oiling; to prevent felting of the fibers in the subsequent operations.

7. Scrubbing; a preliminary carding, to disentangle the fibers.

8. Carding; to form the wool into a fleeces, slivers, rola, or rovings, as the case may be.

9. Slubbing to join the rovings in lengths.

10. Drawing and spinning; to attenuate the rovings and give the twist.

11. Spooling; winding on bobbins.

12. Weaving; to form cloth.

13. Pulling; to compact and felt the cloth.

14. Twisting; to draw out a nap.

15. Shearing; to cut the nap to an even length.

16. Pressing between hot plates, to give smoothness.

17. Brushing.

For specific list of appliances in the treatment and manufacture of wool and other fiber, see Cotton, Flax, Wool, Hemp, etc., appliances.

The Argali, or Ovis ammus (Linnaeus), is supposed to be the progenitor of the stock of the domestic sheep. The steppes of Central Asia are its home, and thence it has spread. Among the races of quadrupeds found in ancient caves throughout Europe, those of the sheep are not noted by Cuvier, Buckland, or de la Bothe. We read in Pliny, Varro, and Columella of breeds of sheep of gray, brown, russet, black, and golden colors.

The spinning of wool was well known in the time of Moses, and was practiced among the Egyptians, Phœnicians, Greeks, and Romans at early periods of their respective histories.

The Romans are believed to have introduced the art into Britain, and to have had a wool factory for the supply of the Roman army in Britain, at Winchester.

Sheep are mentioned in an English public document of 713, in which their price is fixed at one shilling. The mother of the renowned Alfred the Great was skilful in the spinning of wool, and instructed her daughters in the art.

Mr. John Coxeter of Greenham Mells, Newbury, had two Scotch Southdown sheep shot at his factory, at exactly five o'clock in the morning, from the wool of which, after passing its various processes, a complete damson-colored coat was made, and worn by Sir John Throckmorton, a quarter past six in the evening, being 24 hours within the time allotted, for a wage of 1,000 guineas. The sheep were roasted whole, and a sumptuous dinner given by Mr. Coxeter. — Old English paper.

Wool-Plies for Carding-Machine.