

## DICTIONARY OF TEXTILE TERMS.

(Continued from October issue.)

**Fibre:** The name given to the individual constituents of a thread. Thus fibres constitute threads, and threads constitute cloths.

The fibres of commerce are divided into four classes: mineral, animal, vegetable and artificial fibres. In the first, asbestos is the only representative; in the second, there are silk, wool and hair. The third class comprises cotton, flax, hemp, jute and ramie. Artificial fibres refer to imitation silks, which have gained commercial importance.

**Fibre Silk:** The commercial term for artificial silk.

**Fibre Tester:** An instrument for determining the elasticity and breaking point of fibres.

**Fibrilize:** The process by which certain fibres are separated from the stalk and then shortened in their length.

**Fibrillæ:** The strands or minute chains of cells forming secondary deposits in the cotton fibre.

A silk term used in Europe meaning the divided microscopic fibrets or sfaldature of the brin.

**Fibroin:** One of the main substances the natural silk fibre is composed of, the other being *sericin*. The proportions present are about 2 : 1. The insoluble part of the silk after the removal of the *sericin* in the process of boiling-off, *i. e.*, the actual silk fibre.

**Fibroina:** A silk term used in Europe meaning fibroin, silk fibre.

**Fichu:** A small triangular piece of muslin, lace, or any light material worn by women about the neck.

**Fiddle:** In wool or worsted carding, an implement used for smoothing the points of card clothing. It consists of a piece of fine emery cloth stretched between two end-pieces of wood connected by a curved handle. In shearing (finishing) a similar tool used for sharpening the revolver blades.

**Fifth Combing:** In wool sorting wool taken from the thigh.

**Figured Poplin:** A stout variety of poplins ornamented in the loom with figures. The ground is composed of clear, sharp cords extending across the width of the fabric. It is sometimes woven entirely of silk, but oftener of silk and wool. Used for high class upholstery purposes, and for curtains and hangings.

**Fiji Sea Island Cotton:** Belongs to the same species (*G. Barbadense*) of cotton as the True and Florida Sea Island cotton, but it differs considerably from them in its appearance, both externally and internally, with the exception of its color, which is of a light creamy and glossy silk, similar to the Florida cotton. It is also very clean, as regards freedom from foreign and earthy matter, but it is very defective in other respects, containing very large percentages of nep or contracted fibre, broken and ruptured fibre, and stringy matted locks of cotton. When compared in strength with that produced on the native soil it is rather weak, nevertheless, it incorporates fairly well with it when a mixing of the two kinds has been made. In length, the staple is very irregular, which, of course, is the means of caus-

ing a great amount of waste in the working. The maximum is 2½ inches; minimum, 1½ inches; and mean, 1.87 inches. It will thus be observed that although it possesses longer fibre than the Sea Island proper, the mean length is the same in both varieties. When viewed under the microscope the Fiji variety of cotton is shown to be less regular in the number and roundness of its natural twists than either the true or the Florida Sea Island cottons, and the deposit of matter on the inner surface of the fibre walls does not appear to have been so great.

**Fil:** The French term for the combined silk threads as they come from the reel.

**Filament:** A fine thread, fibre or fibril.

**Filature:** An establishment containing machinery for reeling raw silk from cocoons, for producing gregé, the raw silk of commerce.

**Filature Reeling:** The reeling of silk from the cocoon on a commercial basis, *i. e.*, at the filature. Four or more ends of a corresponding number of cocoons are run together *i. e.*, are united in the ply thread in which silk reaches the market, known then as gregé or dumb single, to be afterwards thrown into tram, organzine, etc.

**Filature Silk:** Reeled silk produced in the filatures or factories—as distinct from silk prepared by hand-reelers.

**Fil de Florence:** The segregation of the silkworm pressed out and used for fish line. Also called *Silkworm Gut*.

**Filet Lace:** Any lace made with a square mesh net.

**Filibeg:** The Scotch term for their modern Kilt as distinguished from the earlier large Kilt, which covered the body.

**Filiera:** A silk term used in Europe, meaning the fibre-forming tube and exit orifice of the silkworm.

**Filière:** A silk term used in Europe, meaning the pierced guide, often of agate, through which the cocoon threads or baves pass from the bassine to the reel to form the hanks of raw-silk.

**Filletting:** A narrow strip of card clothing, used to cover rollers and cylinders of the carding engine.

**Filling:** The threads running cross-wise in a cloth. Yarn forming the transverse threads in a fabric. The American expression for the words *weft*, *woof*, etc.

Weighting, such as starch, size, etc., put into goods during or after the dyeing and finishing operations for the purpose of adding weight to the cloth and making it firmer.

**Filling Effects:** A designation given to weaves or fabrics in which filling effects predominate, to that of the warp.

**Filling Engine:** The machine to which silk waste is subjected in the manufacture of spun silk or *chappe*, between the operation of the cocoon opener and the dressing machine. Its object is the first combing out of the mixed-up mess of silk waste fibres presented to it, and then cut to size.

**Film:** See *Fleece*.

**Filoselle:** Soft embroidery thread, made of silk waste. Also called *Filo*.

**Fimble:** The male plant of hemp, which is smaller and matures earlier than the female plants.

**Fine:** Wool sorter's term, indicating the best part or shoulders of an extra fine lustre fleece, generally 40's to 44's quality.

**Fine-draw:** To sew or close up faults in a fabric by inserting missing threads, etc., by hand with a needle.

**Fine-drawer:** The women who do the fine-drawing or mending in a textile mill.

**Fine Frame:** See *Jack Frame*.

**Fine Tow:** The lint separated from the long fibre when the flax is dressed; used for small ropes, cords and tow cloth.

**Finger:** The sixteenth part of a stone of flax.

**Finger-board:** That small flap of the threadboard of a ring-frame or twister, to which the thread guide is adjusted. When the machine is running, said finger-board is down, *i. e.*, in a horizontal position, whereas it is raised in a vertical position for the purpose of doffing or repairing a broken thread, etc. Also called *Finger-head*.

**Finger-head:** See *Finger-board*.

**Fingering:** A coarse woollen knitting yarn used for the mending of stockings, etc.

An old English term distinguishing worsted spun on the small wheel from "Wheelin", as was spun with carded wool on the large wheel.

**Finisher:** The last machine of a set of wool or cotton waste carding engines.

**Finisher Box:** A gill box used after combing to straighten the fibres of the combed top, to produce a regular, well finished top, suitable for the worsted spinner, or a drawing box employed as a means of leveling previously drawn slubbings.

**Finisher Lap Machine:** See *Cotton Scutcher*.

**Finisher Scutcher:** See *Cotton Scutcher*.

**Finisher Spool:** In wool or cotton waste carding, the spool containing the roving, as taken from the finisher.

**Finishing:** The series of operations of setting and imparsing a proper face and back to goods, after weaving, knitting or dyeing.

**Fiocchetti:** A silk term used in Europe, meaning minute excrescences, balls, slubs or specks, consisting of fibrillæ or sfaldature, on the silk fibre or fabric. Also called *Lousiness*.

**Fireproof Fabrics:** Fabrics made of asbestos, also of other fibres; in the latter case the cloth is rendered fireproof by chemical treatment. Permanent fireproofing, according to Perkin, is obtained by treating the fabric in a solution of sodium stannate of 45 degrees Tw. After a thorough drying the fabric is treated with a solution of ammonium sulphate of 15 degrees Tw.

**Firmness:** This, in connection with the finishing of cotton goods, is a degree of hardness applying more particularly to cloth having a thick, substantial, leathery feel, and in-

icates real or apparent strength and substance; the effect is favored by filling or assisting.

**First Combing:** The bulk sort of the clip.

**First Pieces:** A wool classer's term given to the longest of the skirtings of fleeces after the broken bits have been taken out.

**Fish Oil:** Oil like the Menhaden oil, prepared from the head and intestines of fish.

**Five-frame Brussels:** Brussels carpet composed of five different pile warps, in addition to the binder warp-threads.

**Fixed Air:** See Carbonic Acid.

**Fixing Agents:** Chemicals which attach dye stuffs or mordants to the fabric.

**Fixing Clay:** See Kaoline.

**Flaccidezza:** A silk term used in Europe meaning flaccidity; flabbiness; relaxed fibre; want of tension.

**Flake Yarn:** A yarn spotted with round or elongated lumps at varying distances, usually of a different material and color.

**Flanders Sheep:** A cross of the Lincoln sheep of England with the long legged Guinea sheep. Also called *Texel sheep*.

**Flanelle de Chine:** An all-wool, smooth-faced, plain-woven fabric, indigo-dyed, with saved lists.

**Flannel:** Wales, England, appears to have been the original home of flannels; history informs us that this was the only textile produced in that country for hundreds of years. It is constructed either of cotton or wool, or of an intermixture of these fibres and usually of a plain or twilled make. A coarse threaded, loosely woven, light-weight fabric, more or less spongy and elastic, with an unfinished lustreless surface, presenting if possible a non-shrinking character, making it specially suitable for being worn next to the skin. Generally speaking, all grades of plain colored flannels are piece dyed, the soft open texture of the goods permitting the fibres to absorb the dye matter as readily in the web as in the yarn. Flannels are subjected to several finishing operations, such as fulling, teaseling, pressing and stretching. They do not require a great deal of fulling, all that is necessary being a sufficient amount so as to give a degree of stability and body to the goods. Used for under clothing, bed covering, etc., also for outer garments.

**Flannelette:** A narrow, light-weight fabric composed of all cotton yarns, the filling being soft spun to permit of the raising of a very slight nap on the back of the goods, to produce an imitation of the true wool flannel. The cloth is woven with bleached yarn (warp and filling) the color effects being afterwards printed upon the face of the goods by the printing machine. Flannelette is made with simple one or two colored stripe patterns, either black and white or indigo blue and white, and in imitation of a Jacquard pattern. To provide substance to the pile, the yarn used must be of a comparatively low count, spun from fairly long stapled cotton. Used extensively in the manufacture of ladies' wrappers,

kimonos, etc., for house wear, which when soiled can be washed or cleaned. It is a rather inflammable fabric for which reason some of them are made fireproof.

**Flannel Suiting:** See Dress Flannel.

**Flat:** A term applied to the combing together of two threads in precisely the same order in the leash of a warp.

**Flat Cambric:** Cheap, plain, woven, piece-dyed cotton fabric, finished with a lustre and folded in laps.

**Flat Fold:** The way of putting up certain fabrics by rolling them without doubling.

**Flat Goods:** Knit goods, made in flat stitch without any ribs or fashioning.

**Flatness:** The degree of compression retained by the threads after a process of beetling or calendaring, in connection with the finishing of cotton fabrics. Although a legitimate and desired result in some respects, such as in the direction of producing smoothness, etc., it is also encountered to an undesirable extent in the process of closing when that process is carried to an extreme, as flattening is accompanied by corresponding thinness, and this, again, by "ragginess," in the absence of a stiffening medium or assistant, in the cloth; but in the latter case the reverse defect, known as "papery" feel, is liable to occur.

**Flat Orchil:** See Orchilla.

**Flat Point Lace:** Made perfectly flat without any padded or raised parts.

**Flats:** Card-clothed laths working over the upper surface of the main cylinder (swift) of the revolving flat card and which effectually smoothen the fibres, *i. e.*, are the means of carding the stock (cotton) in connection with the main cylinder. The flats, in the carding of cotton, take the place of workers and strippers used in connection with the roller card in the woolen, worsted or waste card.

**Flat Underwear:** Undergarments knitted in plain stitch.

**Flavanilin:** A crystalline dyestuff derived from acetanilid, which produces a yellow color on cotton, wool and silk. Also called *Flavaniline*.

**Flavin:** A yellow-brown compound, formed by the action of sulphuric acid on quercitrin, and used as a dyestuff.

**Flaw:** An imperfection in weaving, or a dropped stitch in knitting.

**Flax:** The fibre of the plant *Linum usitatissimum*, spun into linen yarns. It occupies the first position in the group of stem fibres, being not only the oldest, but next to cotton the most important vegetable spinning material known. Used for making linen thread and cloth, yarn, twist, string, fabric and lace. In its composition it is almost purely an un-lignified cellulose, and its specific gravity is 1.5. It is a better conductor of heat than cotton, hence linen goods always feel colder than cotton goods.

Russia produces more than one-half of the world's supply of flax, but that from Silesia, Belgium and Ireland is the best quality. Italy, France, Holland, Egypt, etc., are other important producers.

**Flax-break:** See Flax-scutchter.

**Flax-bush:** New Zealand flax, a strong fibre useful for making ropes, mats, etc.

**Flax-scutchter:** A machine to beat and break the flax straw after retting so that it is in a suitable state for the dressing frame. It is practically a breaker of the flax straw and also a partial cleanser. Also called *Flax-break*.

**Flax-tow:** Short fibres of flax; it bears the same relations to line sliver that noil does to combed top in worsted spinning.

**Flawort Seed:** These seeds are obtained from a plant found on the sandy shores of Southern Europe, those coming into the French market being derived from the sub-species *Pl. areraria W. and K.*, also occurring in Germany and Austria. For the preparation of dressings for fabrics the seeds are boiled for a long time with a suitable amount of water, so as to secure the dissemination of the mucilage therein. The resulting mucilage is employed to soften various dressing preparations, and is used more particularly in silk finishing, where it does admirable service.

**Flecked:** A spotted appearance on either yarns or fabrics due to some distinctive color or material thrown in some way or other on to the ground texture or color.

**Fleece:** The woolly covering of the sheep. A term specially applied to the coat of wool shorn from the sheep at one time, and then tied by means of a string for convenient handling in baling and shipping.

Cotton, so called during the process of carding. Before that it is called lap, and after it leaves the card it is made up into a sliver. Also called *W'eb* or *Film*.

**Fleece Lined:** A term applied to a variety of heavy-weight undergarments knitted with an extra backing thread. A heavy nap of fleece is then produced by running the cloth through a napper or a stiff brushing machine. Said extra thread is used so as not to tender the body structure of the fabric.

**Fleece Washed:** Wool washed while on the sheep's back. This is done largely on stations a good way inland upon which water is plentiful, in order to lower cost of carriage.

**Fleece Wool:** Wool which is not the first clip. The first clip is usually termed "lambs" or "yearlings" wool, and subsequent clips "fleece" wool, but if the lambs are clipped, the subsequent wools yielded are all fleece wools.

**Fleecy Hosiery:** Knitted goods made with a looped face and a smooth back.

**Flemish Point Lace:** Needlepoint lace made in Flanders.

**Flemish Stitch:** A Stitch used in making certain kinds of point-lace.

**Fleur de Soie:** A trade name for a Satin de Lyon, interlaced with a 12-harness satin weave.

**Fleur de Velour:** A superior grade of velours.

**Flipe:** See Slipe.

**Fliped Wool:** Skin wool from certain breeds of one year old sheep by which the wool as pulled off adheres so much together that it retains the form of the fleece.

**Flipes:** The folds into which a piece is thrown so that it may be looked over easily. The length varies from half to one yard.