

not washed on the hands, because they become soft when wet and might split along the seams. Slightly soapy final rinsing water assists the cleaning.

Other types of leather gloves may be sponged with a soapless detergent, rinsed, dried, and treated with leather cream.

#### Coats, Bags, and Trimmings

Coats, bags, and trimmings may also be treated with soapless detergent, which is especially suitable for suede. It must be remembered that the effects of wear cannot be removed and that cleaning emphasises fading and wear of the material.

#### Specially Stained Clothing

Ordinary spots and stains on clothing such as food, ink, and grease marks are removed by methods appropriate to the type of fabric, consideration being given to whether it is washable or not. The cleaning of washable and unwashable materials was described in the "Journal of Agriculture" for February and March 1950.

Another type of discoloration, sometimes found on white woollen and silk articles and known as "yellowing with age", may be due to:—

1. The use of sulphur dioxide in the original bleaching of the wool and silk, which makes the bleached article tend to absorb oxygen from the air and return to its original colour. This is difficult to prevent,

because of exposure of the material to the air during wearing and drying. The effect may be minimised by rolling silks in a towel instead of drying them outdoors and by avoiding bright sunshine when drying white woollens.

2. Gradual accumulation of iron from the water supply. This applies especially to wool, which readily takes up iron from the washing water. Little can be done to control this.
3. The effect, over a long period, either of using alkalis that are too strong or of not sufficiently rinsing out soap and mild alkalis which concentrate into the fabric while it is drying. The condition can be avoided by thorough rinsing and by the use of only the mildest alkalis.

#### Trimmings

Trimmings sometimes necessitate the dry cleaning of an otherwise-washable garment.

Contrasting colours in piping and in bindings of buttonholes, ties, and sashes must be tested for colour fastness before a garment is washed, as there is danger of the colours running into each other or "marking off" when wet.

Imitation sequins, often made with a gelatine base which would soften or melt in hot water, should be removed if they are in the form of a motif which is stitched on; otherwise the article should be dry cleaned. Whole rows of sequins may be attached by

one thread, and care must be taken not to break this thread.

Lacquered buttons and buckles should be removed before a garment is laundered. Warm soapy water, besides possibly damaging the lacquer, could cause staining from the lacquer to penetrate the surrounding material. Metal buttons, including those with a cloth covering, which may rust, are better removed.

Plastic trimmings, buttons, and slide fasteners may in some cases soften or melt with the heat, and care must be taken in washing garments with such articles not to have the water too hot and not to leave them in the water long enough for these fittings to soften and lose shape. Slide fasteners must be closed and lying flat before being passed through the wringer. In ironing care should be taken not to allow the iron to touch any plastic object.

#### Articles for Dry Cleaning

In general the following types of articles are better dry cleaned:—

1. Heavy outer clothing which would hold too much water, might shrink, and would be disarranged by washing, as, for example, suits (woollen or worsted), overcoats, skirts, sports coats, and blazers.
2. Delicate fabrics of complicated construction such as evening dresses of silks, crepes, velvets, and gossamer woollens.
3. Fabrics with fugitive colours and garments with contrasting colours.
4. Fabrics with water-soluble finishes or trimmings.
5. White or light-coloured leathers such as are found in gloves, belts, and such like.

#### Colour-fastness Test

The end of a belt or some inconspicuous part of a garment which requires testing for colour fastness may be immersed in a bowl of hot water and left for a few moments, then squeezed out and dried; it can then be compared with the untreated portion. If there is no appreciable difference and the water is not coloured, the material can be considered washable. If the water is tinted after the first test, it does not necessarily mean that the fabric is not colour fast, but if the water is still coloured after the second or third test, the colours must be regarded as fugitive and the article treated accordingly.

#### Shrinkage Test

To test for shrinkage a fairly large piece of material, say 5 in. square, is necessary. A piece of paper the exact size of the sample is cut for comparison. The sample of material is washed in the usual way and tested for size against the control paper. If the sample is smaller, it should be ironed while still damp, because sometimes ironing corrects apparent shrinkage. If the washed and ironed sample is any smaller than the control paper, the material is not unshrinkable, and if the article is already made up, it should be dry cleaned. If the material is not made up, it should be pre-shrunk.

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### Emergency Press for Ribbon or Collar



[Sparrow

If hair ribbons, a loose collar, or the collar of a silk and rayon garment are crumpled and there is insufficient time to heat the iron, smooth the ribbon or crumpled collar against the side of any clean and very hot kettle or pot that is already on the stove.

—MOLLY MACPHERSON, Field Officer in Rural Sociology,  
Department of Agriculture, Auckland