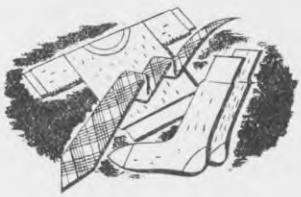
or other words. For instance, there is a school of thought that likes to think that cloth containing 3–5 per cent. of other fibres can be labelled " All Wool," and so on. This must be combated and proper labelling enforced. Testing of fabrics for fibre content is a specialized chemical, physical, and microscopical matter; the provision of such facilities will be necessary.

What HAS wool got that the other fibres have not got? And *vice versa*? Wool has a remarkable elasticity; it absorbs moisture; it " felts " well, and, because of its wavy nature, forms yarns, which enclose air readily—that's why woollen fabrics hold heat in cold weather and provide insulation in hot weather. Many of the artificial fibres are highly inflammable, but wool burns with difficulty, and can be considered reasonably fire-resistant. Wool is very soft and light, dyes readily and evenly, and will withstand rough treatment—witness the Army overcoat.

But wool has what its supporters call a " tickle " and its enemies call an irritation. A method of removing this has been worked out. The felting power of wool can be removed by one of a number of treatments, and in hosiery, underwear, and flannel this has already been proven in use.

The rayons, on the other hand, tend to be very weak when wet, but the fact that they dye differently from wool means that they can be used to produce fancy effects. Their lustrous appearance is very attractive to women. The cellulose synthetic fibre from seaweed absorbs moisture remarkably well. Some of the new resinous fibres are immune to attack by acid and alkali, can be moulded while hot, or are waterproof.

When we speak of textiles, we mean anything from suitings and frockings to woolpacks and tarpaulins, from parachute fabric to insulation and upholstery, from tent-cloth to industrial filters. It is a very wide field. Given fair treatment in international politics in the post-war period, and given reasonable scientific support to enhance its special characters, wool will come through.



Why Sea-water is Dangerous to Drink

Everybody knows that sea-water should not be taken to quench thirst, but do you know why? The amount of salt in sea-water is equal to a teaspoon of salt in a 6 oz. cup of water. This is three times as much salt as there is in the bloodstream. If you drink sea-water when fresh water is not available, your body water will be used up to dilute the extra salt; and then your thirst is increased, you suffer from retching and cramps, fever comes on, and finally you go out of your mind.

However, British medical authorities point out that the experience of survivors from shipwreck, as well as the results of experiments, suggest that sea-water in small quantities is valuable for moistening the lips and for moistening the mouth as an aid to swallowing food. It is stated that if the total amount of sea-water consumed daily in this way is not more than 6 oz., no harm is likely to result in the course of a lifeboat voyage of at least ten days. Taken in quantities, however, sea-water is very dangerous.

To keep yourself in good physical condition, you need at least 18 oz. of water a day—that is, 2 oz. more than a pint. But a healthy man can live from eight to twelve days without any water. One important thing to remember if you have no water is, don't eat. If you do eat, the water in your body will be used up in digesting and assimilating the food. Don't drink liquor, either—it will make you sick and delirious.