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Silk Twists

Their known and unknown uses

In the language of fashion, the word "silks" generally implies beautiful silk fabrics, soft in textures and glowing with the colours in vogue. Apart from these, however, the fine products of the silk spinning industry can be applied to many other uses, the best known of which being, of course, highly prized silk hose and knitted lingerie. For such articles, as for silk fabrics, the manufacturer requires silk twists such as tram, organ-sin, crêpe, grenadine, etc.

It is often forgotten, however, that the most remarkable characteristics of natural silk — its solidity, durability and especially its unsurpassed elasticity — are particularly suited for the production of excellent sewing materials. According to the purpose for which they are required — hand or machine sewing, darning or buttonhole-stitching — the twists are made by special processes, dyed in all possible tones and colours and finally sold on the market in small reels or in skeins.

Sewing-silks play no negligible role in the home, in the dressmaking and ready-made clothing trades, in footwear manufacture, as in many other industries besides. It is most important that for the high quality products of these trades and industries, the fabrics or leathers should not only be sewn together, but that the seams should mould themselves to the movements of the body without tearing; and no other material fulfils such requirements so well as silk with its quality of elasticity.

It is well known, of course, that silks are employed for fine embroidery on clothes, banners and ecclesiastical ornaments. But it is less well known that silk twists are also used for brushes, hair nets and fishing tackle, and in surgery and dentistry.

Silk twists also go to the making of gauzes for millers and film printing, while special silks are preferred for the insulation of fine wires in the cable industry. And so, silk twists, under one form or another are used as raw or accessory materials in countless industries.

For over a century, Messrs. Zwicky & Co. of Wallisellen and their predecessors have been producing all these types of special silk twists. Raw twists are thrown on powerful machinery and then either sent out as raw materials to weaving, knitting or hosiery mills, or treated in the firm's own dye works; once dyed, they are again either consigned to other industries, or prepared by the firm as sewing, darning, embroidery or buttonhole silk. A world-wide organisation distributes these products to industry, wholesale dealers, shops and specialized trades. This necessitates a network of foreign branches and a great number of depositories, from which buyers can obtain

immediate delivery of any goods or colourings required. Apart from the silk twisting mills, the firm also runs an up-to-date skein-dyeing works for silk, spun silk, rayon, cotton and staple fibre, besides a department for hosiery dyeing and finishing.

Dependent as they are on the dictates of fashion — both as regards colourings and products — silk twisting mills, and particularly sewing silk factories, form an essential element of the fashion textile industry.

