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Variation on the theme of Nylon

At the beginning of May this year, the Société de la Viscose Suisse at Emmenbrücke invited a certain number of journalists to visit its manufacturing premises after a comprehensive initial "briefing". As everyone knows, this company produces nylon under its registered trade mark "Nylsuisse".

The first talk was devoted to new developments in the field of nylon fabrics and was an opportunity for members of the press to get acquainted with a certain number of comparatively new products with a nylon base, which are appearing more and more frequently in the news. "Helanca" yarn (Regd. trade mark) is the oldest and best known of these products. It is an extremely elastic, crimped yarn, with numerous possibilities of use; it was created by the Swiss firm of Heberlein & Co. at Wattwil and is known and used today throughout almost the whole civilized world (see *Textiles Suisses* No. 2/1960, pages 164-165). Among the other products that are manufactured with Nylsuisse, let us also mention "Ban-Lon" (Regd. trade mark of the firm of Joseph Bancroft & Sons Co., Wilmington), made under licence in Switzerland by the Société de la Viscose suisse. This is also a bulky, crimped yarn mainly used for the manufacture of hosiery and knitwear. "Taslon" (Regd. trade mark of Du Pont, USA, and the Société de la Viscose suisse) is another bulky yarn in which the tiny fibres of which each yarn is composed possess an infinite number of little curls or



Testing the inflammability of different textile samples.

crimps produced during spinning, on leaving the nozzle, through the action of compressed air. Owing to its great covering power, "Taslon" enables light fabrics to be made from very little material. It is used for weaving fashionable fabrics as well as fabrics for industrial use; it does not stretch.

Let us also mention "Setalon" (Regd. trade mark), a special yarn for the manufacture of stockings, consisting of a nylon core surrounded by a silk yarn; "Nylcolor" (Regd. trade mark), a yarn of spun-dyed nylon. This process gives colours that are remarkable for their fastness; "Yuva" (Regd. trade mark), a nylon spun not in the form of a yarn but in a ribbon; "Nylflock" (Regd. trade mark), a cropping flock of 0.3 to 5 mm. nylon, used for making flock prints. "Agilon" (Regd. trade mark) is a crimped yarn with great elasticity and bulk; it is used for a variety of purposes, in particular for hosiery; it is the only nylon yarn which can be made in both single filament and multifilament form (produced under licence in Switzerland by E. Mettler-Müller Co. Ltd., Rorschach).

In this connection let us also mention the different sorts of stretch yarns used mainly in the manufacture of stockings.

As all sorts of ill-founded rumours are still circulating among the general public concerning accidents due to nylon's sensitivity to heat, the Société de la Viscose suisse made a point of devoting part of the "briefing" to the informing of journalists on this point. Unfortunately it is not possible for us to go into details here concerning the demonstrations; let us just make it clear however that, generally speaking, the lighter and flimsier a fabric, the more flounces, pleats and gathers a garment has, the more inflammable they will be. In itself, nylon is not combustible, that is to say that although it burns when in contact with a source of sufficient heat, it ceases to burn once the source of heat has been removed because the heat it develops in burning is not sufficient to maintain combustion. Naturally the finishing products used on nylon might increase its combustibility, for instance by giving off oxygen when subjected to heat. To sum up then, it may be said that nylon fabrics are not as a rule more combustible than fabrics made of other textile fibres; they are even less so in fact; the heat required to make a nylon fabric burst into flames is very dangerous in itself.

After a luncheon in Lucerne, those taking part in this interesting meeting were invited to visit the Nylsuisse production plant at Emmenbrücke.



Photos Steger.



During the Press reception at Emmenbrücke by the Société de la Viscose suisse.