

Science and practice

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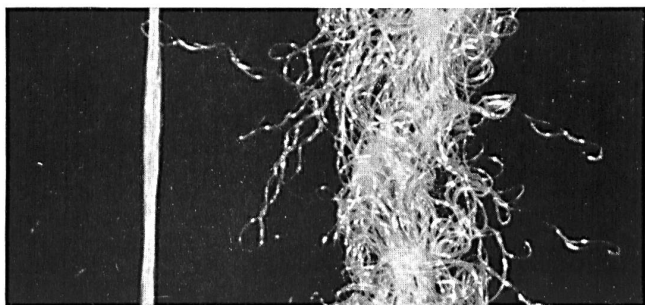
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Science and Practice

Helanca yarns

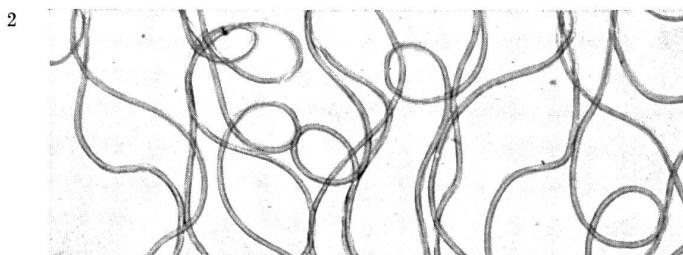
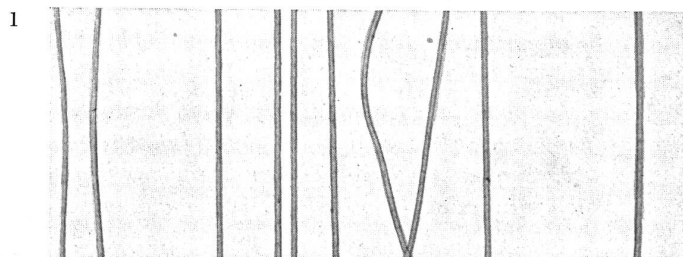
It is some time since **Helanca** yarns (regt. trade mark) were launched on the market and at the moment they are well known and enjoy a good reputation in many countries of both the old and new worlds. We think it interesting to mention here that this process was invented and perfected in Switzerland. Even before the war the firm of **Heberlein & Co. Ltd.** at **Wattwil** was carrying out research which culminated in a process applied to viscose rayon to give it a permanent crinkle. But the most surprising and favourable results with this process were obtained when using it on completely man-made fibres (nylon, grilon, perlon, etc.). Although the general principle has remained the same, the technical treatments have naturally been adapted to the new fibres, and the Helanca of today can be considered an entirely new product. The nylon yarn is subjected to a long finishing process which not only preserves all its qualities but gives it new ones. Normally the advantages of nylon yarn viz. that it has a tensile strength greater than that of steel wire of the same diameter, that it is resistant to wear, is not very easily dirtied owing to the fact that its smooth surface does not retain the dirt, that it dries quickly because it absorbs very little water, that its elasticity enables it to resist creasing, are offset by the fact that it has a disagreeable metallic handle and is hard and cold to the touch. The crinkling of Helanca does away with these defects ; it makes the fabrics and mesh materials of Helanca soft and extremely pleasant to the touch, it gives them great powers of thermal insulation, the porousness necessary to make them pleasant and hygienic to wear and, above all, an amazing and absolutely permanent elasticity. Add to this the fact that Helanca does not felt and, like nylon, is mothproof, and it is easy to understand why countless practical applications were immediately found for this material : in the hosiery and knitted wear industry it is used in particular for women's stockings and men's socks, pants, all



On the left, untreated nylon yarn ; on the right, the same yarn after the treatment which has transformed it into a Helanca yarn (magnification 40 x).

articles which have the advantage, thanks to their elasticity, of being able to stretch to fit persons of very different sizes without being tight, or forming creases, thus making it possible to reduce the number of different sizes that have to be kept in stock. With Helanca fabrics it is possible to make swimsuits that will remain elastic without the addition of any rubber yarns. Other uses will be found to confirm the advantages of Helanca, whose manufacture is patented in many countries.

The elasticity of articles made of Helanca is clearly shown in these three photographs of the same sock stretched to very different sizes.



1. Non-processed nylon fibres (greatly enlarged).
2. The same fibres after undergoing the Helanca process.
3. Below, by way of comparison, wool fibres shown with the same magnification.



The few photographs accompanying these very brief notes give a good idea of what the Helanca process represents for the finishing of entirely man-made fibres.

