

A New Shine Remover for Fabrics

RECENT advertising has prominently featured a new product called *Shyn-O-Way*, "the laboratory tested formula that permanently takes the shine off your clothes." It is advertised to remove the shine from woollens, overpressed rayons, children's clothes, pants, skirts, jackets, shabby upholstery. *Shyn-O-Way* is said to be the invention of a university professor of chemical engineering. According to the laboratory tests mentioned in the advertising, *Shyn-O-Way* is said to do its work without injury to the fabric, provided the fabric is not one that would be affected by wetting.

Prior to the advertising of *Shyn-O-Way*, the recommended method for removal of shine from garments was sponging with ammonia (one tablespoon of ammonia to one quart of water) or hot vinegar. After sponging, the garment was covered with a dampened cloth and pressed on the right side. Another method sometimes suggested was brushing against the nap with a stiff brush or rubbing very lightly with 00 sandpaper or very fine emery paper, using a circular motion.

Analytical data received on *Shyn-O-Way* indicate that the manufacturers of *Shyn-O-Way* "have a good thing" from the profit standpoint, since *Shyn-O-Way* turns out to be 99¾ percent water. Its other principal ingredients are disodium phosphate (1/5 of 1 percent) and synthetic sulfated organic detergent, a product of character similar to the well-known *Dreft*, but only 1/20 of 1 percent of this material is present. Since the synthetic detergent

(worth about 80c a pound) is present in such very minute quantity, and since disodium phosphate is a very inexpensive material (worth at wholesale rates perhaps 10c a pound at the most), it seems that *Shyn-O-Way*, priced at \$1.50 a pint, must be included in that fairly long list of chemical products of which the bottle, label, costs of selling and advertising, and transportation to the dealers' stock might cost a good deal more than the preparation itself. The ingredients cost for a pint bottle of *Shyn-O-Way* would figure out to be something like 1/16 cent.

Tests were made on crepe rayon and on wool suiting using *Shyn-O-Way* and also for comparison a 1/5 percent solution of *Ivory* soap. Both of these were effective in removing shine, particularly with the rayon, but they were not so efficient with the wool suiting, and little difference was noted in the action of *Shyn-O-Way* and the soap solution when used according to *Shyn-O-Way* directions.

In another study, practical comparative tests were made on wool garments of the use of *Shyn-O-Way* and of the hot vinegar already mentioned. Both methods had the same effectiveness initially, and with both methods the shine returned after five days of wearing of the garment. A 0.2% (a fifth of 1%) solution of *Lux* flakes (approximately 1 level teaspoonful per gallon of water) was also tried and this was found to do as good a job of de-shining the seat of the gentleman's trousers as *Shyn-O-Way*. This latter treatment would seem to

be fairly closely equivalent to *Shyn-O-Way* since that preparation has chemical properties similar to those of a weak solution of soap, the function of the disodium phosphate in the mixture being apparently to make the liquid moderately alkaline.

Trousers that had been de-shined with soap solution, like those treated with *Shyn-O-Way* or vinegar, resumed their original shiny appearance after five days of use. The experiments indicated that the three methods of treatment (*Shyn-O-Way*, vinegar, and soap solution) gave pretty much the same results, and none of the methods appeared to have any particular advantage compared with the others.

Cumulative Index of Previous 1944 Issues Consumers' Research Bulletin

Anti-freeze testers† and solutions†	Jan., 21, 22
Batteries, charging, testers†	" 8
Hand soaps, protective creams†	" 5
Heating plants, thermostats, etc.	" 16
Mechanical pencils†	" 26
Motion pictures†	" 27
Observation post	" 3
Oils, winter automobile†	" 23
Phonograph records†	" 31
Process cheese†	" 10
Tooth powders†	" 13
Vitamins	Jan., 3, 12, 25, 26

† (dagger) in the above indicates that brand listings are included.