

★ ★ ★ ★ Spread Luster ★ ★ ★ ★

A COMPARATIVELY new type of paint, called *Spread Luster*, has recently been marketed. It is a widely-advertised paint of the synthetic resin emulsion type, the type which became very popular during the period of shortage in the supply of linseed and other drying oils. A test of this paint conducted by CR indicated that *Spread Luster* could be easily thinned with water as the directions stated and that it brushed easily at normal spreading rate. As applied, this paint had rather high hiding power, but its hiding power after it was dry was somewhat low. (This effect is just the opposite of that which is noted with a good oil paint, which usually shows better hiding power as it dries.) *Spread Luster* produced a very hard coat after drying, and this coat was quite brittle. When used to cover a previously painted surface which was showing slight cracking, it did not fill the cracks very well, and its surface was not quite smooth, compared with regular wall enamel. However, it did not produce a cracking or peeling surface itself during the test.

While being applied and while drying it gave off very little odor and dried rapidly. (In fact, unless care was taken, it showed lap marks for this reason, when painting up to a surface which had only been painted a minute or two previously.)

When samples were marked by various staining materials, it was found that marks made by a lead pencil (graphite), a fountain pen ink, and black India ink were easily and com-

pletely removed by washing, without any observable wearing away of the paint and without any alteration in the smoothness of the surface. An exception, however, was with a severe type of stain made with iodine. The removal of this required the use of an abrasive which altered the surface thickness and gloss. The painted panels were judged to wash as well as the average

semi-gloss wall paint, made of the usual ingredients with linseed oil.

Although the label on the can said that warm soapy water would do a good brush-cleaning job, it was found necessary to use mineral spirits after first washing the brush in the soap and water.

Finally, age tests, which were made to determine color fastness, showed that yellowing took place at a faster rate with this paint than with a good wall paint.

CR feels that *Spread Luster* which is said to require "no undercoating or sizing," coat, does not give as satisfactory a job as wall primer and semi-gloss paint of the usual oil type. It may be somewhat less expensive in use due to present shortages and high prices of paint materials. However, for the general run of interior house painting, where the highest standards of quality are not necessary, particularly on surfaces rather poorly adapted to high-grade painting, such as wallboard, *Spread Luster* seemed to be a very practical paint and it would have the decided advantage over some other types of paint that it can be brought back to its original good appearance by washing several times, unless it had been stained with one of the more difficult stains. It is not possible to say at this time whether this paint will stand up well over a long period of years.

B. Intermediate

Spread Luster (The Glidden Co., Cleveland, Ohio) \$4.98 per gal. (makes 5 qt. when thinned). Available in 11 different shades.

Please. . .

Be patient. As this goes to the printer, it is only the last week in September, but already our mail looks like the mail-order division of a big-city department store the week before Christmas.

Even if it were possible to secure on short notice help of adequate competence to handle orders and correspondence as promptly as we should wish, we wouldn't have space for desks and other office equipment for them. Our earlier plans for expanding our present quarters could not be carried out, because of governmental restrictions on building and today's prices for building materials and labor make new construction of office space impracticable at the present time.

We ask you to keep in mind the fact that, because of the rush of orders, it will often require at least four weeks to complete the processing of a subscription order after it is in our hands, and to send the initial material.

The answering of requests for information may at times require as long as three to four weeks. The inquirer will facilitate the handling of such requests if he will enclose a stamped addressed envelope for reply.