

WOOL OILS AND OILING

WOOL OILS

CLASSIFICATION AND TESTING OF OILS

INTRODUCTION

1. Object of Oiling Wool.—Owing to the removal of the natural, preservative, greasy matter, or yolk, by the scouring, it is necessary to lubricate the fibres of wool with oil before carding and spinning, in order to restore to a certain extent the natural suppleness of the fibre, and to facilitate, as much as possible, the motion of the fibres in sliding over each other during the subsequent operations. The oil will also help to protect the serrations of the fibres from injury, as the serrations of contiguous fibres are less liable to catch in one another. At the same time, oiled wool may be worked with the least waste possible in the carding and may be spun into the finest yarn possible consistent with the quality of the wool. Also, the natural elasticity and softness of the fibre are uninjured if the wool is lubricated and if the oil used is suitable for applying to wool. The oiling of wool before carding and spinning, therefore, is an important process and should be carefully done, not only with regard to the kind of oil used, but also with regard to the quantity used and method of application. Imperfect oiling results in gummed-up machinery, uneven work, and also in the destruction to a greater or less extent of the elasticity of the resultant yarn.

