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**SIMON AND SCHUSTER, Publishers**

## CHEMISTRY

## Plastic-Coated Fabrics

► **DAINTY** white gloves that may be washed under a faucet while still on the hands, and damask linen tablecloths from which spilled gravy may be wiped with a damp rag, are probabilities of the future if the fabric in the article is coated with a transparent plastic that does not materially alter its appearance or feel. This coating is now in extensive use in military fabrics but soon will be available for civilian purposes.

Application of plastics to the outer surfaces of fabrics is not new, but where employed, as in making kitchen oil cloth and rubberized raincoats, they changed the appearances and feeling of the cloth. The new method is with the use of vinyl butyral, and the invisible coating is so thin that its presence can hardly be detected.

Scientists of the Monsanto Chemical Company were assigned the job early in the war of finding materials with which to replace natural rubber for waterproofing and to extend the life of textiles. Intensive and concentrated research was begun even before the outbreak of the war closed off the nation's supply of natural rubber.

They turned to vinyl butyral, a plastic previously used almost exclusively as an interliner material in automobile safety glass. This material was available, and was quickly modified to meet textile requirements and those of rubber processing methods. It is now suitable for many uses, not only in coating fabrics, but also in the form of a free film, free in the sense that the plastic is used alone and not attached to a fabric.

*Science News Letter, May 12, 1945*

## From Page 300

should not try to be an executive—at least not right away.

And other interests, besides your particular occupational interests, may be important in picking the job that is best for you.

You need to be sure your pay will be adequate, the specialists warn. For most men that is a very important consideration.

Yet pay is almost never the whole story. It is not even always the most important point. You can have fine pay on a job and at the same time be very unhappy in it. There are many other things you will want to ask about a job besides how much it pays—always supposing that you are lucky enough to have much choice about which job to take. Here are some of the main questions:

You will want to know about getting back and forth from work. You will be interested in what kinds of places are available for you to live in. It is important to learn whether your work is always between set hours or whether you have to work special shifts and do a great deal of overtime. The cleanliness, lighting and ventilation of the place where you work may be important to you.

You may enjoy working with women, or you may hate it; that can be very important, especially if you are likely to

have a woman as supervisor or employer. If you are sociable, you may want to know whether the particular company demands constant attention to the work, so that you will not be able to talk while you work. If you smoke, you may want to know whether smoking is permitted during work hours. If the job is in a plant that provides music during work hours, that may be something you will enjoy or dislike very much.

Health benefits, medical attention, and retirement plans are important in giving you a feeling of security. For security, some men will choose a government job even if they would otherwise have preferred private industry.

Any of these things may seem of fairly small importance at the time of taking a job. Then the kind of work and your qualifications for it, plus the amount of pay offered may seem to be the main things.

But if you hope to stay in the same place for a period of years, these other sides of the job will come to seem more and more important. They are what make a job a good job.

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The U. S. *Mint* turned out during 1944 approximately 8,000,000 coins for more than a score of friendly nations.