

# Know Your Fabrics

From a Panel Discussion at the Girls' Session  
of the Junior Farmers' Conference

*Editor's Note: This panel was arranged by Miss Lulu Row of the Women's Institute Branch to introduce "Know Your Fabrics," the new project for Junior Institutes and farm girls' clubs. Members of the panel were Miss Row, Mrs. M. E. Humphries of the Canadian Association of Consumers, and the Juniors, Helen Nesbitt, Kaye Prentice and June Otto. Because of limited space we can give only part of the discussion, set down as questions and answers*

**Q:** Is it necessary for the average person to know much about fabrics? We have been getting along very well and now the new fabrics are supposed to be better than the old ones. Nylon, for example, is stronger. Other new ones are super fabrics too. Of course, we still have some trouble. Even nylon is not perfect. Sometimes my nylons wear quite well and then others won't stand much at all, — they snag and run so easily. Is all nylon not of the same quality? They say the first nylons that were made wore for months and months. Has nylon been getting poorer?

**A:** The stockings today which "don't wear so well" are not the same stockings as those "first" ones. The 15 denier yarn, which is demanded so often now, was introduced only seven years ago! Before that all the nylons were 30, 40 or 60 denier.



At North Bruce Girls' Homemaking Clubs' Achievement Day, these girls from Park Head Club received their Provincial Honours, having completed twelve projects. Certificates were presented by Mrs. Stella Gaetes, former F.W.I.O. Board member. The girls are, from left to right: Shirley Smith, Margaret McIntosh, Ina McIntosh, Isabel Smith.



At Middlesex county Homemaking Club's Achievement Day for the unit "The Club Girl Entertains," the Lambeth Club gave a demonstration on "Your Table Manners." The girls demonstrate good manners and bad, while a commentator explains to the audience.

**Q:** What does denier mean?

**A:** Denier is the weight of the yarn, or thickness — a higher denier means a heavier or thicker yarn. The nylon filaments which make up these yarns are the same chemical substance as ever, so that we cannot say correctly that "nylon has changed", but when you put lighter yarns, right down to only one tiny filament per stitch, we can't expect those to stand pulling, snags and rubbing as well as yarn two to four times heavier. In addition we have encouraged, by buying them readily, stockings with less and less reinforcement at the foot and heel, to show off our open shoes.

**Q:** Is that all we need to know when buying — just denier?

**A:** No. Fit is important, and care. And right now I'll just mention gauge — the number of stitches per inch. The closeness of the stitches affects the resistance to snagging — a very important part of wear life. For any given denier, the more stitches per inch, the better resistance to snags. The thing to remember, then, is first to choose a denier heavy enough for our purpose, unless we want the stockings strictly for dress, then to choose the highest gauge we can find in that denier — a 60 or 66 gauge will be considerably less likely to run from snags than a 45.

**Q:** Do all the stores sell the higher denier? I don't think I ever see anything but what they call "sheer".

**A:** This is one place where you can start being an informed consumer, and a great help to CAC. Ask for the weight you want, and don't buy just what's shown. You can get a good selection of heavier weights through the mail order catalogues if nowhere else.

**Q:** I've had a nylon slip for a year and it is as good as new except for the color. It is not very white now though I've always been careful about washing it. Can I bleach it?

**A:** Yes, but not like cotton or linen. Nylon doesn't need frequent bleaching to restore whiteness as cotton does, because it's a very white fibre as made. There are ways to care for it to prevent a lot of darkening, but if you must bleach, try peroxide, or one of the powdered bleaches, and if that isn't enough, or if