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NEW BULLETIN DESCRIBES
HANDLING OF RABBIT SKINS

Rabbit fur is used more extensively by the fur trade than any other kind, according to a bulletin recently issued by the United States Department of Agriculture on "Rabbit Skins for Fur," by D. Monroe Green, associate biologist of the Biological Survey. With the disappearance of many of the fine-pelted fur bearers from many parts of the United States, the use of rabbit skins is steadily increasing. More than 100,000,000 rabbit skins are now utilized annually in this country, about 98 per cent of which are imported. Of this number, says the bulletin, about 55,000, dressed and dyed, are made into fur garments and into trimmings for women's coats, suits, and dresses. The remainder, not suitable for garments, are used as linings for men's and boys' gloves and in the manufacture of felt, used chiefly for making hats.

Aided by modern processes, American fur dressers and dyers have become so expert in changing the colors and appearance of furs that in many instances the pelt of the rabbit, under a variety of trade names, which are listed in the new bulletin, is replacing other skins more costly and attractive, as ermine, seal, beaver, and leopard.

Methods of handling rabbit skins, from the time the pelt is removed until it reaches the raw-fur market or is tanned for home use, are described in the bulletin, including methods of killing and skinning, stretching, drying and preserving, sorting and grading, marketing, packing and shipping, and tanning. Copies of the publication (Farmers' Bulletin No. 1519-F) may be obtained free, as long as the supply lasts, upon request to the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

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