

Collier's

FOR MARCH 31, 1945

Sportswoman's
CHOICE
BY HENRY L. JACKSON



Gabardine topcoats, in similar model, are made for women as well as for men. The fabric wears exceptionally well and is appropriate with business and sports clothes. An excellent choice for travel wear, it is almost waterproof



Off-duty gabardine shirt (above) may be worn for gardening, golfing, lounging, looks well with tie and jacket.

Gabardine rainwear (below) is a favorite; many use raincoat for topcoat. Processed jackets are also popular



Young men like trim-fitting gabardine shorts to swim in. The Bermuda shorts of white cotton gabardine are used for all active sports: golf, tennis, sailing, as well as for general lounge wear. Yellow shorts are favored this year



Gabardine tailors well in slacks of wool or rayon blends. Slacks hold crease, combine nicely with colorful tweed sports jackets. They are perfect to wear on vacations, at resorts, over week ends



THE gabardine was the forerunner of today's coverall. Back in the Middle Ages, it was a cloak extending from neck to foot, and cinched at the waist by a cord or rope. Just how gabardine changed from a type of apparel to a kind of cloth is lost in history, although we know that, as cloth, it was first adapted to modern usage in weather-processed rainwear. It's still your best bet for stormy weather. The Navy chose it for the regulation officer's raincoat; in the Army, though, it's a great favorite among officers in the trench-coat model, and for summer uniforms.

There are gabardines and gabardines, but they have one common characteristic: fine but distinct and closely placed ribs on the face side. Sportsmen swear by it: golfers wearing short, gabardine jackets; fishermen in gabardine vests; professional and amateur skiers for ski pants; horsemen for riding clothes. The reason is that gabardine, with its tight, sturdy and long-wearing surface, sheds water and snow, refuses a foothold to thorns, burrs and briars, and is practically snagproof.

Among the different types are the 100 per cent wool variety (pretty scarce these days), various cotton and wool mixtures, and 100 per cent cotton gabardine. Mixed with fine Egyptian cotton, gabardine takes on a lustrous silky sheen mistakenly called "silk" gabardine.

Synthetic gabardine also is taking its place in the sun. You'll see it in swim trunks and robes; in slacks, shirts and shorts. It makes fine stitched sports hats and good summer neckwear. It packs well for summer week ends.

Although gabardine first won popularity in the so-called natural tan shade, today it is produced in as many colors as there are dyes. Next to tan, the preferred shades are blue, brown, green and yellow. The girls have taken gabardine up seriously, too, and wear something they call gabardine shirtmaker dresses. And they copy masculine rainwear—topcoat suits, shorts, shirts.

British colonials in India wore white gabardine suits extensively, and natives serving in the British Indian forces were uniformed in white gabardine. Unfortunately, dazzling under a tropic sun, it offered a perfect target for the enemy so it was dyed khaki.

The British put a new twist on gabardine for wear in the tropics by making the underside a bright orange or green, the idea being that it deflects the sun's rays. These "Solario" gabardines, highly popular in India before the war, may be taken up in this country.

Gabardine is extremely versatile: In light weights, its crisp, cool look makes it ideal for summer. In heavier weights, used for coats and sports clothes, it tailors trimly, retains its shape and press, wears well. It's good goods. ★★★