

The second malpractice consists in deliberately adulterating a good quality cotton with an inferior and cheaper cotton and passing it off as the former. This practice is more widespread than watering, and because the detection of two cottons in a mixture presents certain technical difficulties, it is more difficult to tackle successfully. It enables the party indulging in it to make a short-lived profit, but as the mills fail to obtain the expected results, they grow suspicious and the whole district, or even the tract, suffers in reputation. Vigorous propaganda, backed by legislative measures such as preventing the transport of inferior varieties in the areas growing superior cottons are necessary to curb this malpractice.

The two malpractices referred to above are objectionable from another point of view. During the last two decades considerable amount of work has been done in evolving new and improved varieties, in which the

Indian Central Cotton Committee has played a very important part. This work has entailed the labours of a large number of research workers and the expenditure of moderately large sums of money. It is capable of yielding the best results only if the varieties so evolved are grown in a pure state and presented to the customers in an unadulterated and clean condition. If these pre-requisites are not fulfilled, neither the growers nor the consumers would get the fullest benefit from the efforts of the research worker, who is sometimes blamed by persons, not in the know of facts, for not producing spectacular results.

These are some aspects of the Cotton Industry in India relating to its progress from the field upto the factory. There are others which relate to its treatment within the factory and its utilisation for other than textile purposes. We shall deal with these in a subsequent issue.

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OPTICAL instruments are playing an increasingly important rôle in modern science and industry. The biologist needs his microscope, the engineer his transit, the metallurgist his spectroscope, the movie technician his camera and floodlights, the astronomer his telescope, and the flight navigator his drift indicator and sextant. Specialised knowledge and skill are required in the design and manufacture of all these instruments. "Optics" has thus become a profession which demands the service of experts in optics and optical engineering. The future of the profession is no less promising: already, more and more opportunities are provided in the applications of photo-electric cells, the electron microscope, television, etc.

It was essentially to meet these demands that the University of Rochester, founded in 1930 an Institute of Optics, with the enthu-

siastic co-operation of the famous firm of Bausch & Lomb Optical Co. The Eastman Kodak Co. has also made substantial contributions towards the establishment of this Institute. Rochester is in the centre of the great Optical Industry of America and by associating the Institute, with the well-known Department of Physics of the University, unique facilities are afforded for full instruction in all the fundamentals of optics and at the same time connecting the classroom work with research and practical achievement in the profession itself. The course is a four-year one, leading to the degree of *Bachelor of Science* in Optics. Those interested in further details, regarding expenses, student life at Rochester, list of courses, etc., are invited to write to the Director, The Institute of Optics of the University of Rochester, Rochester, New York.