

by Mrs. S. M. Leverett

Even if you do not spin there is no excuse for not entering the Products Show. We are very fortunate with our breed as we get that bit extra from our rabbits, so, why not show it off? I will start with the clipped fibre section.

First find a suitable container, for example a clean two litre ice cream tub or a margarine tub either square or oblong. Next choose a young adult rabbit with a coat no longer than three inches, groom to ensure that there is no feed or bedding in the coat, then with a clean sharp pair of scissors clip the rabbit and carefully lay each lock of fibre as it comes off in the same direction in rows in the container. Put on a lid or cover with cling film. Ensure that there is not a new coat growing through the main coat as this is the most common fault in this class. You should also be careful when clipping that you do not get any second clip in with your fibre. If exhibiting coloured fibre it must be a good example of its colour.

#### Plucked Fibre Class

The rabbit must have at least four inches of coat and be in a moult before plucking. The coat should come away easily when gently pulled between the finger and thumb. This should all lay in the same direction on a polystyrene tray, then covered with cling film.

#### The Spun Yarn

This should be exhibited in a nice skein so that all the yarn can be examined by the judge, and not in a ball or on a bobbin.

#### The Garment Class

This must be an adult size cardigan, sweater, waistcoat or slip-over and must contain at least 25% Angora. The simple designs are often the most effective, try and avoid large areas of stocking stitch as this tends to bias. It is always nice to see colour used effectively especially as we have such beautiful natural colours in our breed. Natural and chemically dyed Angora can also be used with good results. The finish of the garment is as important as the knitting or crochet, as a well made garment will be spoiled by bad stitching. When judging I always turn the garment inside out and check the finish of the seams first, then look at the spinning and knitting or crochet. The suitability of the yarn for the garment produced must also be considered.

#### Any Other Article Class

There has been a great variety of things exhibited in this class over the years, for example: baby booties, shawls, dresses, bonnets, toys, scarves and gloves, so you can let your imagination run wild with this class. Give some thought to the compatibility of the fibre you are blending or plying with Angora and that it is suitable for the article you are making. Most baby garments should not contain more than 40% Angora as this would be too warm and fluffy.