

Stockings, Silks, Synthetics

Major objection of American women to stockings produced from such synthetic textile fibers as rayon has been the fact that they do not cling so appealingly to the feminine leg as silk. Consequently, women's hosiery has been virtually the only major silk product able to withstand the potent competition of synthetic yarn.

Last week, however, two of the nation's leading manufacturers of synthetic textiles were taking important steps to woo the feminine heart from silk to synthetic hosiery. The E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company announced that it had laid plans for construction of a new \$7,000,000 plant near Seaford, Del., for manufacture of a new synthetic yarn called "Nylon," which, used in hosiery, was expected to compete successfully with all types of silk stockings.† Later, the Celanese Corporation of America stated that it will build a \$10,000,000 plant near Pearisburg, Va., to make an improved yarn, also to be used in hosiery.

With these two concerns thus apparently satisfied by recent experiments that their new fibers could overcome feminine dislike for their old-type "artificial silk" stockings, observers predicted an economic upheaval in Japan, the major producer of silk consumed in the United States. Of the silk used in this country, about 80 per cent goes into stockings.

† Unlike rayon, which is made from wood-pulp, "Nylon" will be prepared from raw mineral materials.