CLOTH, properly a covering, especially for the body, clothing, then the material of which such a covering is made; hence any material woven of wool or hair, cotton, flax or vegetable fibre. In commercial usage, the word is particularly applied to a fabric made of wool. The word is Teutonic, though it does not appear in all the branches of the language. It appears in German as *Kleid,* dress (*Kleidung,* clothing), and in Dutch as *kleed.* The ultimate origin is unknown; it may be connected with the root *kli-* meaning to stick, cling to, which appears in " clay," " cleave " and other words. The original meaning would be either that which clings to the body, or that which is pressed or " felted " together. The regular plural of " cloth " was " clothes," which is now confined in meaning to articles of clothing, garments, in which sense the singular " cloth " is not now used. . For that word, in its modern sense of material, the plural " cloths " is used. This form dates from the beginning of the 17th century, but the distinction in meaning between " cloths " and " clothes " is a 19th-century one.