

**GAUZE** (Fr. *gaze*, ML. *gazzatum*; probably of Eastern origin; cf. Pers. *gazi*, thin, coarse cotton cloth, less probably from the Syrian city of *Gaza*). A light transparent fabric, originally made of silk. The openness of texture is obtained by crossing the warp threads between the threads of the weft, so that the weft passes through a succession of loops in the warp, and the threads are thus kept apart, without the liability to sliding from their places, which would take place if simple weaving were left so loose and open. Large quantities of medicated and antiseptic cotton gauze are used by surgeons. *Bolting cloth* is a gauze made of unsized silk for separating the products of a flour mill. (See FLOUR.) Fine wire cloth is called *wire gauze*. The term is also applied to light woven fabrics of silk, linen, or cotton, such as are used in the manufacture of summer underwear.