

CENTURY OF PROGRESS  
EXPOSITION ~ Chicago 1933



*Manufactured and Exhibited by the*  
**WHITING & DAVIS COMPANY**  
 Aluminum Palace - Section 4 Exhibit 5  
 General Exhibits Building

# THE ROMANCE OF MESH . . .

PLUMED knights jousting for a fair lady's favor—adventuring afar in quest of the Holy Grail—or loyally battling in defence of home and sovereign! Those are the romantic pictures which flash across one's mind at the mention of mesh, the ring-woven metal fabric from which ancient armor was made.



The exact period in which chain, or ring mesh armor was first used is unknown, but research reveals that it was at least prior to the year 700 A. D.

At first, only shirts or "hauberks," were made in ring mesh. Later, entire suits of armor were produced. The great labor and length of time required, made them very valuable, and by an ancient edict, they were "not to be bartered or sent over the seas."

There were several types of ring mesh, the armorers of different countries having varying ideas regarding the details of its making. Samples of English mesh armor made about the year 1000, for example, are heavier than mesh produced in France and other European countries. English mesh is also more intricate in its construction and should have had greater protective value than the French and other simpler types. Ancient methods of making metal mesh were

very laborious. Iron wire was used, as steel was unknown. Wire of the required thickness was first wound about a round iron rod. When the rod was covered by these windings, each twist was cut with a chisel, thus making the individual "rings." Each iron ring was then flattened and shaped with a hammer so that the ends overlapped. Ring after ring was interlocked to form the desired garment, and as each tiny ring was added it was secured in place by *riveting its ends*. Thousands of rings! Many weeks of labor!

The advent of firearms ended the use of metal mesh as armor. The laborious hand method of manufacture of mesh for other uses, however, remained practically the same for nearly 200 years.

About the year 1909, the rapidly increasing demand for metal mesh for many purposes resulted in the invention of machines for its manufacture. These, in their latest developments, may be seen in the



Whiting & Davis Company exhibit at the Century of Progress Exposition, Chicago, magically converting a bar of cold metal into shimmering, silken-textured metal mesh. The romance of mesh has become the modern miracle of mesh!

## Miracles



## in Mesh . . .

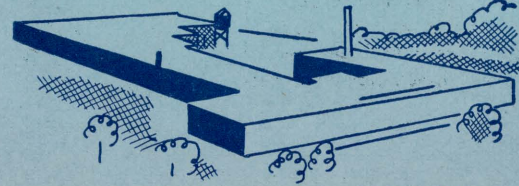
It is a long step from the cumbersome chain armor of olden days to the delicacy and charm of the many articles now produced in metal mesh—colorful creations of rare beauty, deftly fashioned into fascinating feminine allurements—truly Miracles in Mesh!

In Industry and Science also, metal mesh plays important exclusive parts, practical, experimental,—far removed from the day and need of its origin.

To one man in America is credit principally due for these Miracles in Mesh. Mr. Charles A. Whiting, President of the Whiting & Davis Company, long ago foresaw its possibilities in Fashion, Industry, Science.

The marvelous machines shown in the Whiting & Davis Company exhibit at the Chicago Century of Progress Exposition are the creations of his vision and determination—machines which produce in a day more metal mesh than the ancient armorer could weld in a lifetime.

On the following pages are shown or listed many modern uses of these Miracles in Mesh!



Whiting & Davis Company, Plainville (Norfolk County), Mass.

MESH IS FAVORED IN

*Feminine Fashions*

Illustrated or listed are a few of the many forms in which Whiting & Davis metal mesh is used in smart fashions and accessories.



Also hat, dress and shoe trimmings; dresses of mesh, cocktail jackets, capes, cuffs, belts, jewelry and many other fashion accessories.

*Miracles in Mesh in*  
INDUSTRY AND SCIENCE

Metal mesh as produced by the Whiting & Davis Company has a wide range of uses in Industry and Science. The strength of metal woven into a fabric of almost silken texture, permits its use wherever endurance and flexibility are required.

- Diathermy Electrodes
- Motion Picture Screens
- Theatrical Effects
- Fireplace Screens
- Hotplate Pads
- Mudguard Flaps
- Blowout Patches
- Mesh Portieres
- Radiator Covers
- Lamp Shade Trimmings
- Drinking Glasses
- Picture Frames
- and many other articles.

MADE IN  THE U. S. A

It is highly probable that there exist in your business ways in which metal mesh can be profitably used. For interesting information, write the

**WHITING & DAVIS COMPANY**

**Plainville, (Norfolk County), Mass.**

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