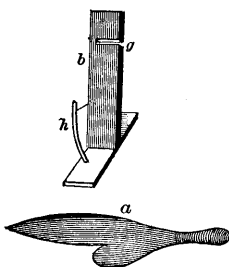


Scutch'ing-ma-chine'. (*Flax Manufacture.*)
 Scutching is an operation succeeding that of *break-
 ing*, and similar in its operation. Its effect is to
 still farther separate the woody portions from the
 fiber, the *shives* from the *hare*, by a beating opera-
 tion, which makes short bends in the stalk, as it is
 crimped between the bars of the descending and
 stationary jaws.

Fig. 4776.



Scutching Sword and Stand.

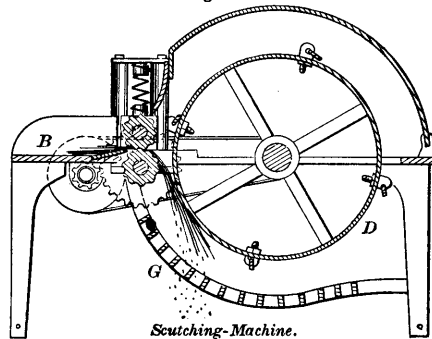
Scutching is performed with the scutching-sword *a* held in the right hand, while with the left a handful of the bruised stems is introduced into the groove *g* in the stand *b*. A leathern band is stretched between the upright of the stand and the stake *h*, which causes the sword to rebound after each downward blow, thus easing the labor of the workman.

All remaining woody particles are removed by a blunt knife, the flax being laid across the workman's leg, which is covered with a piece of leather.

In the machine (Fig. 4777) for thrashing and scutching flax,

the stalks are fed from the table *B* between two fluted rollers, the lower one of which is journaled in fixed bearings, and the upper is yielding, being pressed down by spiral springs. On passing through the rollers the stalks are subjected to the action of a series of swinging beaters pivoted in eyebolts on the

Fig. 4777.



Scutching-Machine.

drum *D*, which rotates at about 10 times the velocity of the rollers. The separated seeds drop through the slatted bottom *G*, and the bruised fiber is conveyed to an opening at the rear of the machine. See also SCUTCHER.