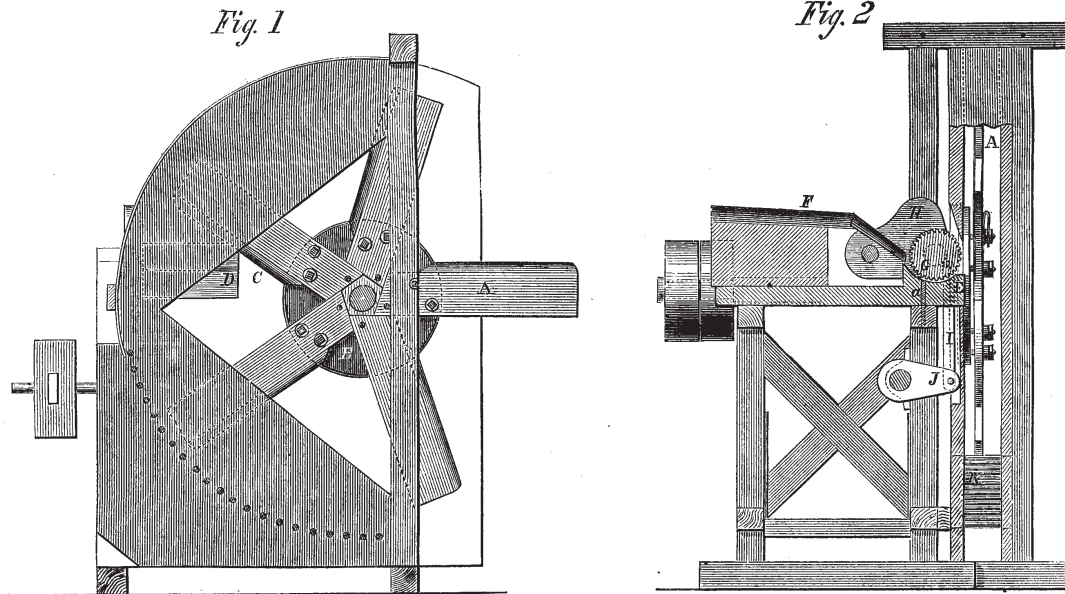


Improved Flax Dresser.

This machine is intended to clean and dress tangled flax and render it free from the shoove or wooden coating in which it is cased, so as to fit it for working. Fig. 1 represents an end view of the machine and fig. 2 a side view. In the first figure a five armed apparatus, A, is shown attached to a disk, B. These arms have scutching blades, C, bolted on them in such a way that they can be adjusted at will to work close to, or farther from, the dressing board, D. This detail is shown in fig. 2, at E. The flax is laid on a trough, F, and fed to the scutching knives by the roller, G. This roller is set in a bell crank, H, which connects by means of a link, I, with the crank,

**M'BRIDE'S FLAX DRESSER.**

J, below; a counterbalance on the shaft of this crank serves to regulate the pressure on the flax to be dressed, so that it is held firmly and yet fed regularly by the rollers until the scutching knives have removed the shoove. These knives work close to the dressing board, D, and are made self-adjusting by the springs at their backs so that no matter whether the mass to be dressed is thick or thin the office is properly performed. The disk, B, carrying the arms the scutching blades are on can also be set to dress a given amount of fiber. This is done by means of set screws and collars on the shaft the disk is secured to. There is also a screw stop at, *a*, which regulates the descent of the feed roller and prevents it from coming in contact with the dressing board. The woody portions driven off by the scutching blades fall through at the riddle, K, or sieve portion of the casing in which the arms revolve.

The combination of these several parts, it is asserted, produces an efficient and economical machine for the purpose. It was patented through the Scientific American Patent Office on Nov. 29, 1864. For further information address the patentee, William C. McBride, at Raritan, N. J.