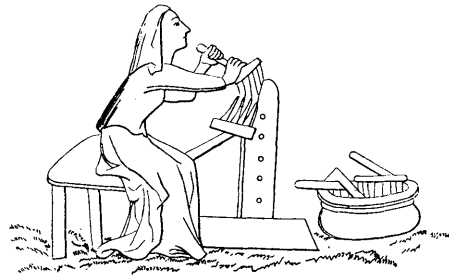


Fig. 1395.



A Lady carding Wool.

4. (*Hat-making.*) The former on which a *fleece* of fiber is taken up and hardened into a *bat*. Probably from *cone*, the usual shape.

### Comb.

A comb was formerly used to drive up the woof-thread to compact the fabric in weaving. It remains in the modern reed. Combs are used in the same manner by the modern Hindoos.

Combs for removing the grain from the straw (wheat or flax) were used in Egypt and in Rome. See RIDDLE.

2. A rake-shaped implement consisting of a head with two or three rows of tapering steel teeth, the rows being of different lengths.

The tool is used in *combing* long-stapled wool for worsted goods. The combs are used in pairs. Short-stapled wool is *carded*.

The combs or cards for wool-carding are shown in the illuminated manuscripts and missals of the Middle Ages, so called. (See Fig. 1395.) A pair of cards were as necessary an article of furniture in a house as a distaff. It is more truly a pair of *combs* than of *cards*, and the wool is evidently long-stapled. This would be indicated by the pot of hot water in which the combs are placed.

3. The serrated doffing-knife which removes the fleece from the doffing-cylinder of a carding-machine.