Name.	Straw.	Flax.	Yield per cent.

Fig. 23.

The quantity of scutched flax done by each workman per day is weighed, the percentage of fibre from the straw calculated, and the comparative merits of the several scutchers ascertained. The scutching-wheels make from two hundred to two hundred and fifty revolutions per minute.—They are covered in to prevent dust and accidents.

It was before noted that scutching machines are now made which do away with skilled labour.

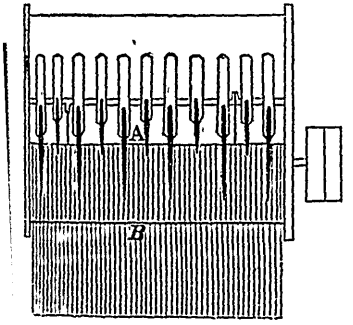

Fig. 24.

A large per centage of codilla, or more commonly, tow, is made in scutching. Different methods are in use to effect the separation of the shove or woody stem. Tow machines are a substitute for hand-picking. Fig. 24 gives a front view of one of these. The wooden arms A, which project in front, are alternately raised and depressed by cranks on their respective axles, connected by rods with others on the driving shaft below

The alternate striking of the tow by these arms has the effect of separating the shoves which fall through the wires B. These shoves are commonly burned and the ashes used as manure.

Tow, like flax, varies much in quality. There are A 1, A 2, B, C tow, &c. A 1 comes from the sorters', A 2 from the scutchers' bags; B and C are the codilla from the machine.

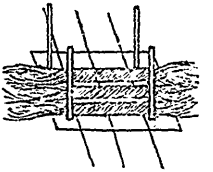

Fig. 25.

Flax is taken from the scutchers to the sorting-room. Here it is sorted into first, second, and third qualities, each determined by the judgment of the workman. It is commonly