The necessary appliances for seutching consist of an upright frame or stock with a notch eut in one edge (fig. 14). Through this notch the operator holds a handful of flax which has already passed through the brake, and the shoves are knocked off





FIG. 15.—Scutching blades or handles. The direction of movement is shown by the arrow.

FIG. 14.—Scutching stock or frame. The arrow indicates the direction of movement of the scutching blades.

by the beating action of "blades" or "handles" attached to a revolving wheel (fig. 15). By carefully turning the handful of flax and subjecting it to the action of the blades, all the shoves are eventually removed and nothing but the fibre left. A careless seutcher will remove a large part of the valuable fibro in the form of waste or "tow" which sells at a much lower figure.

In Belgian mills the revolving wheel usually carries twelve wooden blades, while in Irish seutching mills there are six iron blades which are of a heavier type of construction, but revolve much more slowly.

It will be seen from the above description that the machinery necessary for braking and scutching is comparatively simple. Water-power may be used where available, or an oil engine, or an electric motor. Ten scutching stocks or more ean be operated by the same shaft. As scutching flax is dusty work, one or more ventilators should form part of the equipment.

YIELD OF FIBRE.

No statistics seem to be available showing the amount of scutched fibre produced per acre in Canada, although there are figures showing the weight of dry unthreshed flax straw, the average for the province of Ontario being about 2 tons per acre. The yields of straw per acre at Guelph are given in the next section. The amount of flax