Horizontal bars are nailed to these in a longitudal direction, on which the holders are suspended. The apartments are air-tight above. The only means of escape for the air as it becomes charged with moisture, being by descent to apertures in the floor leading to shafts, and up these to ventilators in the roof.

All Flax, after drying, improves by stacking. Technically speaking, it comes. Temporary sheds answer every purpose, if the roofs are water-tight.

The next operation, in order, is scutching.— The straw, in its passage to the scutching-room, is again weighed, and the loss by steeping and drying ascertained.

Before scutching, it is usual to pass the Flaxstraw through a breaking machine. Since the introduction of wet-rolling, and scutching machines, this has been partially discontinued.

The simplest form of break is of a mallet shape, (Fig. 17) and is much used in Belgium.— The Flax is broken by successive blows from its serrated surface.

Another form of hand-break is' represented by Fig. 18. which consusts mainly of two sparred frames, the upper movable on an axis at B, and the lower fixed. It is so constructed that the bars in the lower frame fit between those of the upper. The operator takes hold of the implement by the left hand at A, and with the right places some flax over the lower frame; the upper frame is then lowered, thereby breaking the woody portion of the stems. The flax is successively brought forward and broken until ready for hand scatching.

Breaking in retteries is better done by machinery than by hand. Fluted rollers of wood or metal are mostly used. One of these is represented by Fig. 19. Four or five pair of these work in a machine, one above another in each pair. The flax is fed from a table, and caught between the first pair, then by the second, third, fourth, and so on in succession.

These rollers are seven inches in diameter.— The teeth of the two first pair project an inch, and are severally one and a quarter, and one inch distant from breaking edge. Those of the three last pair project a little more than half an inch and are three fourths of al inch apart.

The first pair revolves a little slower than the second, the second than the third, and so on. Pressure is given and regulated by weight. Hand scutching of flax is still a very compractice; but it is tedious and expensive a whole. The s.mplest apparatus for the peris represented by Figs. 20, and 21. The foris the flat blade or sword, with its blanpoint, and the latter is the stock, in as which A, a handful of flax, is held by the hand of the operator, and struck by the scutin his right. New surfaces of the flax arsented to the blade, till all the wood is beout, and it is perfectly clean.

After flax is broken it is stricked, that is, into stricks for the scutchers. A strick is much flax as one hand can grasp, evenly ar ed, and slightly twisted. One girl strick two scutchers.



In mill scutching several wheels are fn. a shaft distant from each other three a more. It will be seen by Fig. 22, that so. blades of wood or metal, are screwed a periphery of these wheels. Upright pametal (B) called stocks, are so placed, its blades as they revolve pass near their sur-The tops of these stands are sometime level with the shaft, and sometime his. The blades are $\frac{4}{2}$ inch, and $\frac{7}{4}$ inch from a striking point, and $\frac{4}{4}$ and $\frac{4}{4}$ at heil. If are three feet six inches in diameter.

A boy supplies each scutcher with . weighs each bundle before delivering it . ters the quantity against his name. In simple form of entry.