brown color, and the stalk to become yellow, for about two-thirds of its height from the ground. When any of the crop is lying and suffering from wet, it should be pulled as soon as possible, and kept by itself. So long as the ground is undrained, and imperfectly levelled before sowing, the flax will be found of different lengths. In such cases, pull each length separately, and steep in separate pools, or keep it separate in the same pool. When there is much second growth, the flax should be caught by the puller just underneath the bolls, which will leave the short stalks behind. If the latter be few, it is best not to pull them at all, as the loss from mixture and discoloration by weeds would counterbalance the profit. If the ground has been thoroughly drained, and laid out evenly, the flax will likely be all of the same length. It is most essential to take time and care to keep the flax even, like a brush, at the root ends. This increases the value to the spinner, and, of course, to the grower, who will be amply repaid by an additional price for his extra trouble. Let the handfuls of pulled flax be laid across each other diagonally, to be ready for the

RIPPLING,

Which should be carried on at the same time, and in the same field with the pulling. If the only advantage to be derived from rippling was the comparative ease with which rippled flax is handled, the practice ought always to be adopted; but, besides this, the seed is a most valuable part of the crop, being worth, if sold for the oil-mill, £3 per acre, and if used for feeding stock of all kinds, at least £4 per acre. The apparatus is very simple. The ripple consists of a row of iron teeth screwed into a block of wood. This can be made by any handy blacksmith.* It is to be taken to the field, where the flax is being pulled, and screwed down to the centre of a nine-feet plank, resting on two stools. The ripplers may either stand or sit astride at opposite ends. They should be at such a distance from the comb as to permit of their striking it properly and alternately. A winnowing sheet must be placed under them, to receive the bolls as they are rippled off; and then the ripplers are ready to receive the flax just pulled, the handfuls being placed diagonally, and bound up in a sheaf. The sheaf is laid down at the right hand of the rippler and untied. He takes a handful with one hand, about six inches from the root, and a little nearer the top with the other. He spreads the top of the handful like a fan, draws the one half of it through the comb, and the other half past the side; and, by a half-turn of the wrist, the same operation is repeated with the rest of the bunch. Some, however, prefer rippling without turning the hand, giving the flax one or two pulls through, according to the quantity of bolls. The flax can often be rippled without being passed more than once through the comb. He then lays the handfuls down at his left side, *each handful* crossing the other, when the sheaf should be carefully tied up and removed. The object of crossing the handfuls so carefully, after rippling, when tying up the beets for the steep, is that they will part freely from each other when they are taken to spread out on the grass, and not interlock and be put out of their even order, as would otherwise be the case. If the weather be dry, the bolls should be kept in the field, spread on winnow-cloths, or other contrivance for drying; and if

* The finer ripples are made of half-inch square rods of iron, placed with the angles of iron next the ripplers, 3-16ths of an inch asunder at the bottom, half-an-inch at the top, and 18 inches long, to allow a sufficient spring, and save much breaking of flax. The points should begin to taper three inches from the top.