

Ba-leen! The plates of fibrous material with a bristly fringe, which depend from the upper jaw of the *right whale* (*Balaena mysticetus*). There are about 200 of these plates on each side of the mouth in the outer row. These are from 10 to 15 feet in length, and about one foot broad at their base. An inner row of smaller subsidiary plates is arranged obliquely. The material is called *whalebone*; but the word is quite inappropriate, as it is not of the nature of bone.

The material is used for the ribs of umbrellas, stiffening for corsets, for chimney and street brooms, elastic brushes, heckles for flax-brakes, and is split into splints for plaiting like straw.

Strips of *baleen* have been aggregated by pressure, moisture, and heat, so as to become agglutinated, and thus form larger articles, such as walking-canes. Kortright's English Patent, 1841.

Artificial baleen is made in Germany, and consists of rattans impregnated with a strong black varnish. It is called *wallosine*.