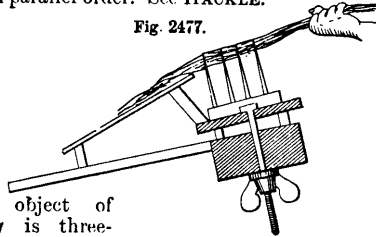
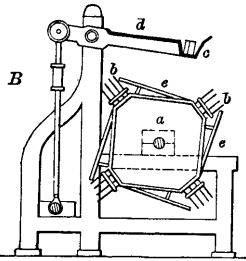


Heck'le. A board with sharp steel wires over which flax or hemp is combed, to clean, split, and arrange the fibers in parallel order. See HACKLE.

Fig. 2477.



The object of *heckling* is three-fold: first, to disentangle and straighten the fibers; secondly, to split the wider ribbons, to lessen them and equalize their size; and, thirdly, to remove the shorter stuff from the longer, the *low* from the *line*.



Heckle.

Heckles are of various grades of fineness, but the finer have shorter and more slender teeth; the grades are known as the *ruffer*, *common* 8, *fine* 8, 10, 12, 18; in allusion to the number of pins in a row. The pins are driven through a tin-covered board, which is clamped to the bench in a backwardly slanting position, as shown in the illustration. The bunch of flax, known as a *strick*, is thrown upon the *heckle* and drawn towards the operator, a sloping board at the back preventing its penetrating too far. One end being dressed, the *strick* is reversed in the hands of the operator, and the other end is *heckled*.

From 100 pounds of well-cleaned flax, 45 to 50 pounds of *heckled line* are obtained by hand labor of twelve hours.