

**Ripple.** An instrument (*a*) with teeth like a comb, through which flax is drawn to remove the capsules and seed therefrom, when the lint of the plant is to be used.

It is a very ancient instrument, having been used in Egypt in the time of the Pharaohs for removing the seed from the *dhura*, a variety of imphee or sorghum which was then cultivated for bread grain. The tombs have paintings *c* representing the rippling of *dhura*.

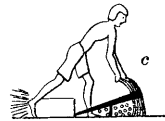
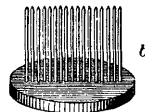
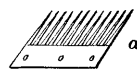
It was also used in the time of Pliny, for shelling the grain out of the ears of wheat; one mode of thrashing.

The implement (*b*) is placed on a stool, and the seed caught by a cloth spread beneath. The teeth are 18 inches long,  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch square at bottom, and tapering at the point.

A handful of flax is grasped by the butts, is spread like a fan, and, being thrown upon the comb, is drawn between the teeth, removing the seed.

The stalks are then carried to the steeping-pool or watercourse, where it is *retted* or *rotted*.

Fig. 4341.



Ripple and Rippling-Comb.