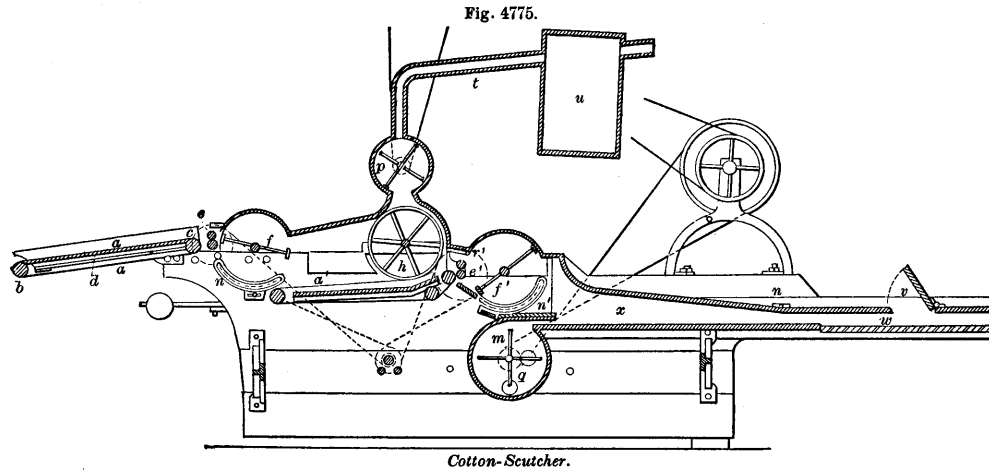


**Scutch'er.** (*Cotton-machinery.*) A machine, also known as a *batting-machine* or *blower*, which separates the individual fibers that have been loosened and cleansed by the *willower* or *opening-machine*. See also **BATTING-MACHINE**, page 251; **COTTON-CLEANER**, page 633.

This machine is fed by means of the cotton being spread by hand on the feed-cloth *a*, passing over the rollers *b c*, and moving slowly in the direction of the arrows. The roller *c*, which is 3 inches in diameter, is driven at the rate of four revolutions per minute. The cloth is supported by the table *d*, and consists of a series of bands, which can be strained more uniformly than would be the case if the whole were one cloth. At *e* the cotton is caught between the nipping-rollers *e*, which present it to the batting-arm *f*, revolving 640 times a minute, and having arms, at the end of which are fixed, longitudinally, two narrow thin strips of sheet-iron. These, catching the cotton



presented to them by the nipping-rollers, tear it off, separating the fibers from each other, and letting the dust, etc., fall through the grid *n*. The fibers thus torn asunder are again collected upon a second feed-cloth *a'*, where they are pressed together by the drum *h*, and then again caught by the nipping-rollers *e' r'*, to subject the cotton to a second batting operation at *f'*. As only the heavy impurities pass through the grid *n'*, a sucking action is provided by means of the fan *p* over the perforated compressing-drum, revolving 150 times per minute, by which the light dust is sucked up and conveyed through the channel *i* into the box *u*, where it is deposited. From the second batting-apparatus the cotton fibers are thrown into the closed channel *x*, and are driven through the same by a second fan *q*, revolving 700 times per minute. At *w* is another grating, consisting of bars slantingly placed, and at *v* are two doors through which the cotton is taken out.

This batting-machine can produce 500 to 600 pounds of scutched cotton in 12 hours.

2. (*Flax Manufacture.*) A machine for dressing flax. See **SCUTCHING-MACHINE**.

3. (*Silk-machinery.*) A beating-engine, in which floss and refuse silk — the fibers having been previously disentangled, straightened, laid parallel, and cut into lengths — is brought to a downy condition, in which it may be treated like cotton by *carding*, *slubbing*, *roving*, and *spinning*.

The scutcher is also used to lighten up the staple and restore the downy condition thereto, after the operations of *cleansing*, *washing*, and *pressing* the fiber. From the second *scutcher* the silk staple passes to the *carding-machine*.