

CARDING OF COTTON, &c., the process of disentangling and arranging in parallel rows the fibres of cotton. This operation may be compared to the combing and brushing of one's hair, and the *card* combines the properties of the comb and brush, being a brush with wire teeth instead of hairs. These teeth are inserted in strips of leather, which are fixed upon the surface of a cylinder. Several such cylinders are arranged so that the ends of the teeth are nearly in contact; and the cotton being brought to them, is caught up, passed from one to the other, and combed out as the cylinders revolve in the form of beautiful films or fleeces, which are removed by a smaller drum-card, called the 'doffer,' and again from this by the 'doffing-knife.' These films, which are of the width of the drum, are next contracted to a narrow ribbon, by being passed through a funnel; and thus narrowed, are called the 'card ends' or 'slivers,' and are now ready for the next process of 'drawing' or 'doubling.' See SPINNING.