

SHODDY formerly meant only the waste arising from the manufacture of wool; it now has a wider and much more important signification, and is almost wholly understood to mean the wool of woven fabrics reduced to the state in which it was before being spun and woven, and thus rendered available for remanufacture. Woollen rags, no matter how old and worn, are now a valuable commodity to the manufacturer; they are sorted into two special kinds, the rags of worsted goods and the rags of woollen goods, the former being made of *combing* or long-staple wools, and the latter of *carding* or short-staple wools. The former are those properly known as *shoddy*-rags, and the latter are called *mungo*. Both are treated in the same way; they are put into a machine called a *willey*, in which a cylinder covered with sharp hooks is revolving, and the rags are so torn by the hooks, that in a short time all traces of spinning and weaving are removed, and the material is again reduced to wool capable of being reworked. It was formerly used as a means of adulteration and cheapening woollen cloths, but it is now found of greater advantage in making a class of light cloths adapted for mild climates and other purposes.

The name is a purely technical one, which has arisen amongst the Yorkshire spinners, and is derived from *shed*, the term having been formerly applied by the operatives to the *flue* or waste shed or thrown off in the process of spinning. See WOOLLEN MANUFACTURES.