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 dhara, a variety of impihe or sorghum which was then cultivated for bread grain. The tombs have paintings representing the ripppling of dhara.

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

The implement (b) is placed on a stool, and the seed caught by a cloth spread beneath. The teeth are 18 inches long, ½ 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.