Scutching is an operation succeeding that of breaking, and similar in its operation. Its effect is to still farther separate the woody portions from the fiber, the shives from the hare, by a beating operation, which makes short bends in the stalk, as it is crimped between the bars of the descending and stationary jaws.

Scutching is performed with the scutching-sword a held in the right hand, while the left a handful of the bruised stover is introduced into the groove g in the stand b. A leathern band is stretched between the upright of the stand and the stake h, which causes the sword to rebound after each downward blow, thus easing the labor of the workman.

All remaining woody particles are removed by a blunt knife, the flax being laid across the workman's leg, which is covered with a piece of leather. In the machine (Fig. 4777) for threshing and scutching flax,