Picker. 1. (Cotton-manufacture.) A cotton-cleaner. A machine for opening the tufts of bale-cotton, reducing it to a more floccy condition, and separating from it dirt, burs, and other refuse.

In the machine, Fig. 3094, the cotton is fed in between rollers, caught by the teeth on the revolving drum, and drawn down against the teeth of the comb-plates, which act in succession upon the material, and each is cleaned by the withdrawal of its teeth through openings in a segmental apron partially surrounding the oblique-toothed picking-cylinder.

In Fig. 3095, the cotton or wool is fed into the machine by the endless apron a between rollers b, and is seized by the teeth of the picker d, which revolves in a slatted cylinder whose treads allow dirt and dust to pass off, the operation being assisted by the centrifugal action of the air, resulting from the rapid rotation of the picker. The fiber is seized by other cylinders f, g, and delivered from them by the pickers h, which, in turn, are cleared by the brush-blower i, which drives the fiber up the scoop to the condensing rolls m, which deliver it in a lap.

In another form, the floccy cotton from the willower is passed between fluted steel rollers, when a beater of two steel arms on a rapidly revolving shaft breaks it into fine floccy masses.

These fall on cylindrical sieves of wire, by the rotation of which they are carried in an even web to another series of rollers and beaters. When this process has been repeated several times, the lap or web of cotton passes between heavy iron rollers and is wound on a core of wood furnished with journals at the ends.

See Cotton-cleaner.

2. (Cloth.) A machine or an implement for burling cloth.

3. (Husbandry.) A machine for picking cotton from the boll in the field. See Cotton-picker.

4. (Ordnance.) A priming-wire for clearing the vent.

5. (Menoce.) An instrument for dislodging a stone from the crease between the frog and the sole of a horse's foot, or between the heel of the shoe and the frog.

6. (Founding.) A light steel rod with a very sharp point, used for picking out small, light patterns from the sand.

1. (Weaving.) The upper or striking portion of a picker-staff which comes against the end of the shuttle and impels it through the shed of the warp. It requires a tough and somewhat resilient material; the former that it may last, the latter that it may not injure the shuttle. Raw-hide is frequently used.

The usual form is a stuff weaving in a vertical plane, and operated opportunist by means of the lay, or through gearing, according to the construction of the loom.

In Fig. 3096, the picker-blocks are operated from the lay by a system of rollers and straps. Pulling on the straps raises the ends of the levers F F in alternation, causing them to pull the straps G G, which actuate the picker-blocks H.