Scutch'er. (Cotton-machinery.) A machine, also known as a batting-machine or blower, which separates the individual fibers that have been loosened and cleansed by the willower or opening-machine. See also Battin'g-machine, page 591; Cotton-cleaner, page 633.

This machine is fed by means of the cotton being spread by hand on the feed-cloth a, passing over the rollers b, c, and moving slowly in the direction of the arrows. The roller c, which is 3 inches in diameter, is driven at the rate of four revolutions per minute. The cloth is supported by the table d, and consists of a series of bands, which can be strained more uniformly than would be the case if the whole were one cloth. At e the cotton is caught between the nipping-rollers e, which present it to the batting-arm f, revolving 500 times a minute, and having arms, at the end of which are fixed, longitudinally, two narrow thin strips of sheet-iron. These, catching the cotton presented to them by the nipping-rollers, tear it off, separating the fibers from each other, and letting the dust, etc., fall through the grid a. The fibers thus torn together are again collected upon a second feed-cloth a', where they are pressed together by the drum h, and then again caught by the nipping-rollers e', to subject the cotton to a second batting operation at f. As only the heavy impurities pass through the grid a, a sucking action is provided by means of the fan p over the perforated compressing-drum, revolving 150 times per minute, by which the light dust is sucked up and conveyed through the channel t into the box u, where it is deposited. From the second batting-apparatus the cotton fibers are thrown into the closed channel z, and are driven through the same by a second fan w, revolving 500 times per minute. At w is another grating, consisting of bars slantingly placed, and at a, c are two doors through which the cotton is taken out.

This batting-machine can produce 200 to 600 pounds of scutched cotton in 12 hours.

2. (Flax Manufacture.) A machine for dressing flax. See Scutching-machine.

3. (Silk-machinery.) A beating-engine, in which floss and refuse silk — the fibers having been previously disentangled, straightened, laid parallel, and cut into lengths — is brought to a downy condition, in which it may be treated like cotton by carding, stubbing, roving, and spinning.

The scutcher is also used to lighten up the staple and restore the downy condition thereto, after the operations of cleansing, washing, and pressing the fiber. From the second scutcher the silk staple passes to the carding-machine.