Spin'dle.

4. (Spinning.) "a. A skewer or an axis upon which a bobbin is placed to wind the yarn as it is spun.

The kinds, of which there are many varieties, are the —

-live spindle, in which the bobbin is fast on the spindle, and rotates with it.

-dead spindle. A skewer, not movable, on which a bobbin revolves to wind the yarn. The drag of the bobbin depends upon the tightness on the spindle, and is adapted to the degree of twist required.

-ring spindle, one which has a traveling ring upon it. See Ring and Traveler.

d. The distaff and spindle — the oldest known form of spinning-machinery, if such it can be called — were familiar to Egyptians, Phcenicians, Hebrews, Arabsians, and Hindus, in the time of Abraham, and also to the Greeks in the time of Homer.

In Fig. 530, the helical oil-screwing groove is cut in the spindle, and ends above in an annular groove in the latter and a cotter-like groove in the bolster.

c. A measure of length. A spindle of 18 hands of cotton yarn is 15,120 yards. A spindle of 24 hands of linen yarn is 14,400 yards.

5. (Weaving.) The skewer in a shuttle, or on which a bobbin or cap of yarn or thread is impaled.

6. The stem of a door-knob, which actuates the latch.