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## CHAPTER XXI.

### INTERMEDIATE PROCESSES BETWEEN CARDING AND COMBING.

#### GILLING AFTER CARDING AND PREPARATORY TO COMBING.

WHEN the wool which has been carded comes from the carding engine, it is passed through one or two gill boxes for the purpose of straightening out the fibres which may be lying across the sliver. This is a comparatively easy task, as complete separation of the fibres having taken place on the card it is only a matter of drawing them through the combs of the gill box, and of ensuring by suitable drafts that they shall take their places along with the others in a position ready for the ultimate combing.

In the treatment of short wools, however, it is frequently necessary to pass them through the additional operation of "backwashing," an operation which, incidentally, is seldom required for prepared wools.

#### BACKWASHING.—ITS NECESSITY, OBJECT, AND PRINCIPLE.

During the passage of the wool through the carding process and other operations subsequent to the wash bowl, it becomes more or less soiled, owing to the accumulation on the fibres of oil and fine metallic dust from the card pins.