A THRESHER FOR THE PLANT BREEDER AND THE CEREAL CHEMIST

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The problem of threshing small quantities of grain easily and quickly without danger of mixing is one of the tasks of the plant breeder and the cereal chemist. The lack of a simple machine that will do this work has impeded the progress of both groups of scientists. There are many highly trained men who are spending much time in threshing by hand a large number of individual plants or other small lots of grain each year.

The recent development of interest in the protein test as a basis for buying wheat makes another need for a thresher of this kind. Judging from the experience of the past two years the testing of wheat before harvesting and threshing so that the producer will know the protein content of his crop when it is threshed will become rather general. A thresher of this kind at the testing laboratory or some other convenient place will prove a valuable asset.

In the summer of 1924, the writer planned and built the thresher described in this paper. The interest manifested in this thresher by visitors during the past two seasons prompted the writing of this paper. It was with a knowledge of the construction of the small thresher used by the Plant Breeding Department of Cornell University in 1913 that this task was undertaken. However, this thresher differs from the Cornell thresher in that it is more readily adapted to different kinds of work. The Cornell thresher was constructed for the purpose of threshing a few heads of grain or at most a single plant at a time, while the Montana machine will thresh a dozen or