NOTE

A SIMPLE HEAD THRESHER

In breeding work with small grains some method of threshing individual heads and panicles is indispensable. It is the purpose of this paper to describe the construction and operation of a cheap and efficient device designed for single-head threshing.

A motor-operated machine similar to that described by Kemp was formerly used at the Georgia Experiment Station, but experience has shown that the grille type of thresher herein described is more efficient than cylinder types. Peto has described a device for single-head threshing and reports excellent results from its use but the construction and operation of the apparatus described requires laboratory facilities and some little skill in metal work.

The thresher illustrated in Fig. 1 is of very simple construction and may be made from scrap materials. The metal seed-pan was made for use with the motor-driven cylinder thresher formerly used for threshing single heads, and the grille was constructed to fit the pan. A square cornered pie pan with sloping sides about 1 inch deep will serve for the seed-pan.

Fig. 1.—A head thresher. Wood construction is of 1-inch dressed material. The metal seed-pan (partly withdrawn) is scoop-shaped in its outline to facilitate the blowing out of chaff and sucking of seeds.

The grille is a section of galvanized hardware cloth of 3/8-inch mesh, mounted in a frame over the seed-pan, and three edges are covered with thin moulding. The scrubbing block is about 2 1/2 by 2 1/4 inches, and should be covered with the same type of wire cloth as that used for the grille. Reference to Fig. 1 will probably make further description unnecessary.

In operation, a spike or panicle of the grains is held on the wire screen by holding the culm in the left hand, while by a scrubbing motion of the block held in the right hand, the seeds and glumes from


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