NOTES

A MACHINE FOR DEHULLING OATS

In connection with such experiments as testing oats for smut, or determining the amount of hull and groats, it is desirable to have a convenient method of dehulling the seeds. Different methods have been used, such as running the oats through a small head thresher which has been geared rather high. While this method removes the hulls fairly satisfactorily, it is likely to injure many of the kernels. The method of removing the hulls by hand has been followed, but this is a rather tedious and difficult process and is not very practical, particularly during the present shortage of labor.

In connection with experiments conducted by the Department of Plant Breeding at the Cornell University Agricultural Experiment Station, Ithaca, N. Y., it seemed worth while to design a machine for dehulling oats. One of our experimentalists, George H. Willis, in cooperation with L. H. Scott, worked on this problem and they have developed a machine which has proved very satisfactory. The machine is approximately 12 inches by 6 inches by 4 inches, and consists of two rollers made of old steel drill ends set very close together, operated by a set of gears and run by a small electric motor. By controlling the speed it is possible to dehull oats satisfactorily. It requires much less time than to dehull by hand and the work is much easier.

Views of the machine are shown in Figs. 1 and 2. In Fig. 1, the rollers are shown, and also the container which catches the dehulled kernels. This container is easily removed to transfer the kernels into

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