Notes

A LABORATORY MECHANICAL COTTON COMBER

A PRESSLEY automatic fiber sorter is used at the New Mexico Agricultural Experiment Station to determine the length of lint and the uniformity of lint length of the cotton breeding material. Each sample processed in the fiber sorter consists of 10 unginned seeds, which previously have had to be combed by hand. This hand combing has limited the use of the sorter and has limited the number of samples that have been processed. In the winter and spring of 1947, the Mechanical Engineering Department of the New Mexico College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts constructed a mechanical comber to comb the samples for use in the Pressley automatic fiber sorter. This comber is illustrated in Fig. 1.

The comber was so designed that the seedholder regularly used with the fiber sorter was used to hold the unginned seeds while they were being combed in the comber. Thus, the sample could be placed in the seedholder, combed, and could then be directly placed in the fiber sorter. The comber consists of two pairs of combs so set that the ends of the fibers are combed first. Then as the seedholder travels