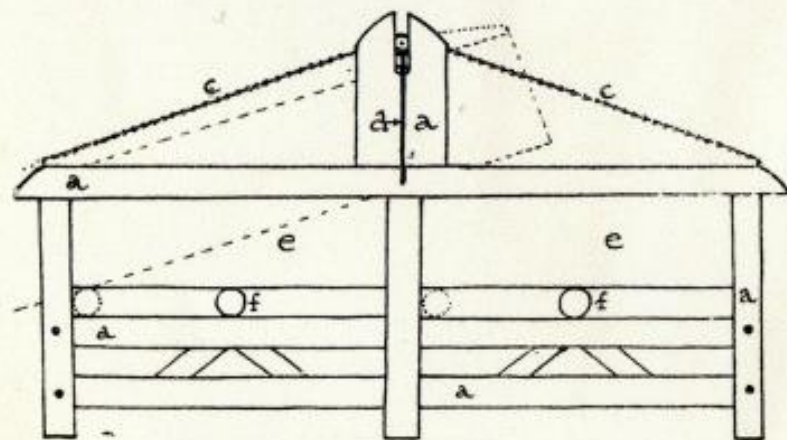
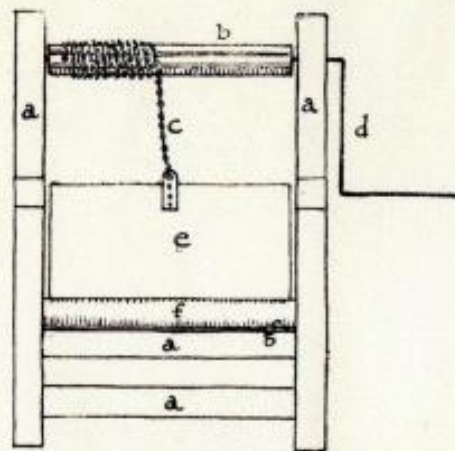


# The Village Mangle

By J. PEARCE (Local Recorder, Pendeen)

THE mangle, known as a bed-mangle, and whose dimensions are given below, was used in this village from before living memory until about four years ago, when the owner, having moved to a neighbouring one, was, for lack of sufficient space, unfortunately obliged to destroy it. Otherwise, as far as one could judge, it might have served indefinitely. Charges for its use were formerly one penny, and one half-penny on alternate weeks, but latterly one penny was charged each week.



The following particulars, obtained by the help of the late owner, will be better understood by a glance at the accompanying sketches:—

- (a) *Frame* Made of 3 in. by 3 in. deal.
- (b) *Tree* 2 ft. long,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  in. in diameter, deal, with strips of iron running its length, to prevent chafing by chains.
- (c) *Chains* Two, fastened to one end of box and tree respectively. (Formerly ropes were used, and tree was not protected by iron strips.)
- (d) *Handle* Made of iron.
- (e) *Box* 6 ft. long, 2 ft. wide, and 11 ins. deep. Top, sides, ends, and dividing piece in centre of  $1\frac{1}{4}$  in. deal, with top panelled. Bottom of 1 in. oak plank.
- (f) *Rollers* Three, 2 ft. 6 ins. long by  $3\frac{1}{2}$  in. diameter, deal. Only two in use at once.
- (g) *Bed* 1 in. oak plank.

Mangling was usually done by two persons; one turning the handle, and thus making the box run forwards and backwards on the rollers placed on the bed, while the other was preparing the odd roller.

Having placed an article round the roller, a piece of cloth (duck) was inserted, and the whole wrapped round tightly and placed on the bed, while one of those already there was taken out, and made the new odd roller. In order to effect this change, which was made at each end alternately, the box was turned to its full extent (overhanging bed, with rollers against frame as shown by dotted lines in drawing) and then the end was lifted by giving the handle another turn. When one person only was present a small block of wood was placed under the box to keep it up.

There have been other types used in this locality, and although they were destroyed too long ago for many particulars to be remembered, they may probably have resembled that shown by Phiz. in "Reduced Circumstances of Mr. Mantalini" (*Nicholas Nickleby*).

The writer has heard of one old dame who combined mangling with teaching; her scholars standing round the mangle, with their slates on it. Mangling, however, took first place, and the delight of the children on the appearance of a "flasket" of clothes may be imagined, they having to stand in the passage for not less than half an hour.