

**Carding-machine, n. (Manf.)** A machine in which the fibres of cotton are combed or carded, to disentangle them from each other, and bring them into a proper condition for spinning into yarns and thread. These machines consist of wooden cylinders or drums to which strips of leather are fastened, which are perforated with numerous wires regularly arranged. The wires are short and stiff, and the exterior of the cylinder resembles a circular brush. Several such cylinders are arranged so that the ends of the teeth are nearly in contact; and the cotton being brought to them, is caught up, passed from one to the other, and combed out as the cylinders revolve in the form of beautiful films or fleeces, which are removed by a smaller drum-card, called the *doffer*, and again from this by the *doffing-knife*. These films, which are of the width of the drum, are next contracted to a narrow ribbon, by being passed through a funnel; and thus narrowed, are called the *card ends* or *sivers*, and are now ready for the next process of *drawing* or *doubling*. — See SPINNING.