

DISCUSSION ON FLOUR MILLING MACHINERY.

MR. DAVIES said he supposed that few of the members had any critical knowledge of flour milling, but even then, the paper was of great interest.

Mr. W. Cruickshank said he had listened with great attention and pleasure to Mr. Nelson's paper. From the description given, the milling of wheat, etc., was a most interesting process, and hearty thanks were due to Mr. Nelson for the trouble he had taken in putting such a lucid explanation before them. Mr. Nelson had confined his remarks to the old fashioned stone mills, but had promised to give, on some future occasion, an explanation of the rolling system which was an Hungarian invention. This system would revolutionise milling, and stone milling would soon become a thing of the past. The Hungarians and Austrians had made a class of flour of exceeding fineness, for which they had been able to obtain high prices even in England; but now, the English machinery was so greatly improved, that the flour turned out from the mills was of a much better quality, and could more than hold its own with any foreign flours.

Mr. Trevor Jones asked for a definition of "sharps," and said that Mr. Cruickshank had added greatly to the interest of the paper by showing what English machinery had accomplished.

Mr. Dickenson had listened to the paper with pleasure, and from his shipping experience he knew how grain became mixed in carriage. As an instance of the precision and delicacy with which all kinds of cleaning machinery are now made, he alluded to a shot table upon which shot is assorted.

Mr. Stone had listened with profit to the paper just read. In his early days he had had frequent opportunities of seeing milling machinery in course of construction, and had followed the reading very closely. He remembered that in Sydney, in the early days,

there had been great opposition to the introduction of roller mills. He quite agreed with Mr. Nelson with regard to good clear plans, and he felt sure that if the engineers would only impress upon the public this fact, there would soon be much more work for professional draughtsmen.

Mr. Henson asked if the rollers had a grinding or a shearing tendency?

Mr. Nelson, in replying, said that the action was of a shearing nature. "Sharps" were, after flour, the finest part of the wheat. The impurities were grains of dust which had gathered on the hair of the wheat. The "scalper" was a contrivance for catching the crease-dirt of the wheat. He corroborated Mr. Cruickshank's remarks with reference to roller milling originating in Austria. He also said that Harrison Carter was the only man at present who entirely manufactured complete roller mills in England, the majority of rollers being imported from Austria. Ganz & Co., for whom he was agent, had discontinued exporting rollers to England. The "skirt" of a mill stone was from the external edge, internally about six or seven inches.