

BURRING AND CARBONIZING

BURRING

BURRS

NATURE AND OCCURRENCE

1. **Formation of Burrs.**—Burrs are the rough, prickly seed-vessels of various kinds of plants, and burr-bearing plants are found in nearly all wool-growing countries. The seed-vessels are covered with either straight or hooked spines, or spikes, that project outwards in all directions, and the sheep, in grazing on and among the plants, comes in contact with the burrs, the spines of which thus become entangled with the fleece. Burrs vary considerably in size and form, but they usually consist of strips or bands covered with spikes. These strips, in the natural state of the burrs, are rolled into spirals, forming flattened, prickly balls, as shown at *a*, Fig. 1, that are of the size of a pea, or smaller. When the burrs are opened out, as at *b*, the strips of spikes are from $\frac{1}{2}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, and they look very much like centipedes. If they occur in this form in the later and final stages of yarn manufacture, they cause serious difficulties. The seeds from an opened burr are shown at *c*.

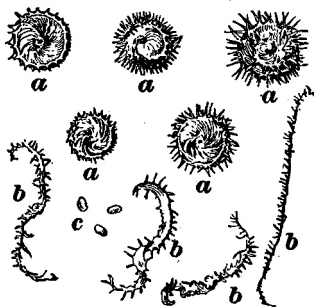


FIG. 1

