



ABOVE: Ring spinning was developed in America in 1828 but was not immediately popular in Britain. This machine, built by James Sykes of Huddersfield in about 1865, was installed in Peter Anderson's Bridge Mill in Galashiels, where it was used until 1968. Ring spinning is a continuous process which normally produces a strong but lean yarn not generally favoured by woollen manufacturers, who require a full and lofty yarn. It is therefore unusual to find such an early machine surviving, as even those manufacturers who tried ring spinning usually reverted back to mules, which could provide the type of yarn they required.

BELOW: A cotton mule on the Platts stand at the London Exhibition of 1862. The American Civil War of 1861 led to a famine in cotton supplies to Britain and many textile machinery firms and manufacturers went out of business. John Platt showed initiative by converting his range of textile machines to process shorter staple cottons from India.

