

is now taken into the hands of the operator and carefully centralized opposite the line drawn on the board. Plaster-of-Paris cream is then run round it and over it in such a way as to embed the stone completely to the extent of not less than half an inch of covering at any part, and in such a manner that the embedding plaster also embraces the heels of the horseshoe (Fig. 1 D). The plaster is then allowed to set firmly, and if it can be left for several days until it is thoroughly dried so much the better, as it is found that the saw works more easily in thoroughly dry plaster. The stone is sawn directly through the plaster which embeds it in the line previously marked on the board, and a second cut is made through the plaster between the stone and the heel of the horseshoe. (If the stone is very large and hard, the board may be fastened in a vice, and the



FIG. 1.

saw cut made through the board also. This serves very materially to steady the saw.) This section thus liberated can then be readily detached from the board, and will be found to contain one-half of the stone, which can be easily lifted out of the embedding plaster, part of which may be cut away (Fig. 2 F). The removal of the stone from the plaster is facilitated by plunging the whole into hot water for a few moments, when the paraffin wax becomes softened and the stone can thus be easily separated from the plaster. The last trace of wax is then melted off by holding it under a hot water tap, or putting it into a basin of hot water for a few moments. The cut surface of the stone may be polished rapidly and easily by grinding it on a ground-glass surface. In the case of very hard stones the polishing process is facilitated by using powdered pumice stone or emery, though this is seldom