



FIG. 2238.

tree with its natural inclination to upward growth, sent up numbers of strong vigorous shoots, presenting a puzzling problem for the pruner to solve.

Fig. 2238 shows a tree improperly pruned, partially illustrating our remarks under this head.

Another very common error in the pruning of apple trees is the sawing of a limb so as to leave a stump, as in Fig. 2239. Nature may try as she will, but she cannot heal such a wound; her only way is to withdraw nourishment from the useless stub until it dies and finally breaks off, only to leave a hole into the tree for the entrance of decay. The correct method is to cut close to the main stem as shown in Fig. 2240 where D points out a wound now about healed over, and C and E recent cuts properly made.

Where large cuts must be made, in con-

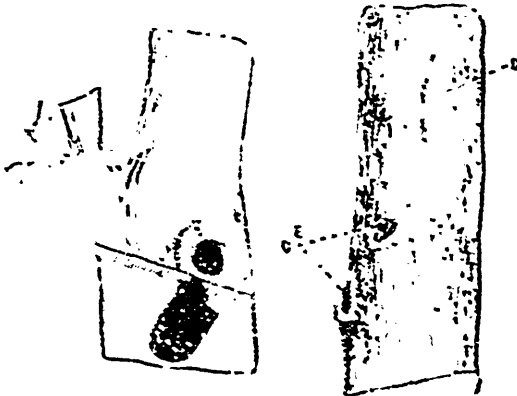


FIG. 2239.

FIG. 2240.

sequence of long neglect, the wounds should always be painted or varnished over so as to exclude decay, until nature has done her best to heal them over. But in our opinion the fruit grower who really understands the art as well as the science of his vocation, will never need to butcher his trees. From the very first he will study the natural habit of the tree, and find out whether it is upright and somewhat pyramidal like the Northern Spy, and the Cooper's Market, or spreading like the Greening and the Roxbury Russet, and every year he will prune to favor that natural habit of his tree. By attention to each tree, at least twice a year, once in the resting season and once in the growing season, he will make the whole vigor of his tree shape itself toward one ideal form, and none



FIG. 2241.

of the strength of its growth will be wasted. Thus he will sooner have fruit, and an orchard into which he can invite his brother fruit growers with pride and pleasure. Fig. 2241 shows a tree pruned with some judgment and may serve to illustrate what has been said upon this subject.

Tree butchery, or the cutting away of large limbs, referred to above, not only enfeebles the tree by reason of the decay thus developed, but it tends to throw the strength of the tree into water sprouts instead of into the fruit spurs.

A Wrong Method. The grower in such a case is beginning his work from the wrong place; he is beginning at the centre when he