

PACKING ONE OR SEVERAL BOXES AT THE SAME TIME.

It is becoming much more common among expert packers to grade the apples fairly carefully in the orchard to exclude all culls and No. 2 fruit, and then to place the No. 1 fruit in boxes at the right hand of the packer (presuming, of course, that he is a right-handed packer). The packer then has two, or in some cases even four, empty boxes before him. He picks up the apples just as they come, without any regard whatever to size, and places each in one of the boxes according to size, thus grading as he packs. Undoubtedly with expert packers this is the preferable way. It saves handling the fruit and dispenses with considerable sorting before the apples come to the packer's bench. The other method, of course, is where apples are placed upon the packing table and the packer proceeds to pack a single box, picking out from the heap the proper grade for size as he proceeds. Having finished a box of one size, he then proceeds to pack the sizes that are left. It can be readily seen that the packer has to do considerable sorting as he selects his fruit for a particular box, and in the process must shove the apples about more or less.

Plate 15, Fig. 2, shows an arrangement where a packer is packing into several boxes. In such cases it is better to have the packing bench against the wall and on a slope, with about six feet for each packer. The bench, of course, slopes at a convenient angle from the wall, and the paper is placed on a shelf just above the boxes. One objection to this arrangement is the difficulty of getting light. It would be better, in cases where this method of packing is adopted, to have the packing room on the southeast side of the building, if possible, insulated from the store room, and provided with a window for each packer.

THE WRAPPING OF AN APPLE.

In wrapping an apple it is not at all probable that any two packers will use exactly the same motions. They should, however, secure the same result; that is, a square of paper placed neatly around the apple so that in the main the surface will appear smooth and, while creases must be made towards the upper end or the tail of the wrap, these creases are evenly distributed, so that each specimen leaves the hand of the wrapper tightly wrapped, with neat folds, the main twist of the paper being over the stem of the apple. It should be the aim of the packer to acquire a set of motions that he will use uniformly throughout his work. There must be one particular way in which he can do it better than in any other way, and it is desirable that he should practice this until it becomes automatic. Below are given a number of photographs of an expert wrapper, taken at critical points in the operation. Although these positions from Plate 11 to Plate 14 are described at length, it will be readily understood that one motion follows the other so rapidly that the eye cannot follow it in actual practice. As a matter of fact, the eight positions blend into each other so imperceptibly and rapidly that an expert packer appears simply to be picking up apples with his right hand and paper with his left, and placing the wrapped apples in the box.

Plate 11, Fig. 1. The packer stands in front of the box which is being packed. The right hand reaches for the fruit at the same time as the left hand picks up the paper from the stand or bracket. In order to facilitate the picking up of the paper, the thumb or forefinger of the packer wears a cot or finger-stall of rubber.

Plate 11, Fig. 2. The packer is shown standing at one side of the box in order that the movements of his hands may be more clear. In the actual operation of packing he would, of course, remain facing the box. In this plate the apple is shown placed against the sheet of paper, the latter being still held in the left hand. In order to make speed the apple is often tossed or dropped on to