

BARREL PRESS.

There are many different makes of barrel press. These have all been tried and the consensus of opinion seems to be that, all things considered, the most convenient and efficient type is that of the screw press. It is slightly slower in action than the lever press, but has the very great advantage of being very easily adjusted to the slight differences in length in the ordinary hand-made barrel. The old time lever press is now so seldom seen that it scarcely need be mentioned. It has nothing to recommend it.

The most desirable type of screw press is shown in Figure I. Occasionally where work is being done in the packing house the lower ends are fastened to a heavy block which serves as a support to the barrel in the process of heading. Of course, this would be quite unsuitable for orchard work.

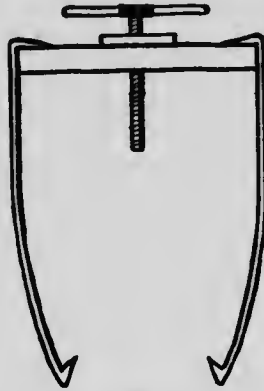


FIG. 1.

IRON CIRCLE PRESS HEAD.

In the ordinary wooden press head the greater part of the pressure comes upon the centre of the barrel head. To force the head into the croze, it is necessary to press the centre of the head some distance lower. After the head is firmly fixed in the barrel, and the pressure taken off, the head, of course, springs back. The apples are, therefore, subjected to fully half an inch more pressure in the centre of the barrel than is necessary if the pressure were applied near the outside of the barrel head. This can be done by means of the iron circle press head (Figure 2.) It will be noted that the bars A and B in the diagram are made with an arch, as in D. It will be noticed also that these bars are made with a shoulder E, to meet the inside of the iron circle C; otherwise, when the pressure comes where the two bars cross each other, there would be so great pressure on the rivets joining these to the circle that they would soon be cut off. These heads are now sometimes kept in stock by hardware men. If they cannot be procured at the hardware store, any blacksmith can readily make one. The circle should be 14 inches in diameter, and of quarter inch bar iron.

BARREL HATCHETS.

Even a man with a small orchard should not attempt to get along without a common hatchet. These hatchets are not made especially for barrel use and certain changes must be made in them before they are satisfactory. The hammer face of the hatchet is usually deeply hatched to suit the need of the lathers and others who use them for driving nails. For working about barrels this is a