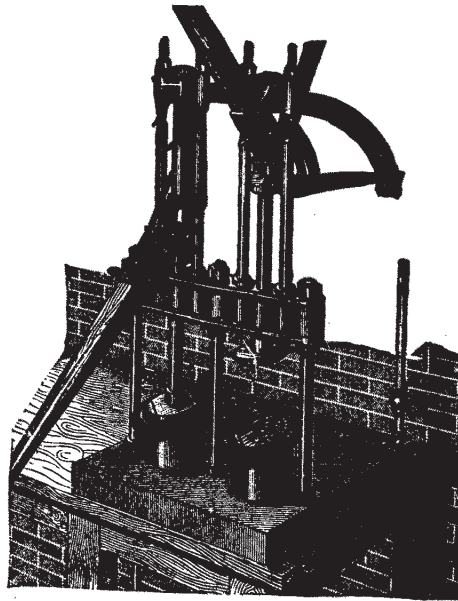


Hat Press. A machine in which pressure is brought against the inside of the hat to cause the latter to expand while hot and soft against the inside of a mold of the required shape.

Hydraulic presses are used in Europe for this purpose, but have not proved so satisfactory in the United States for some reason.

India-rubber blocks, however, made in the shape of the hat, are used in molds which surround the hat-crown only. Fig. 1328 is *Osterheld & Eickemeyer's* machine for that purpose. Three wrought-iron columns which support a cross-head are fitted into a metallic bed-plate, which is hollow and is heated by steam. A mold of brass of suitable shape is

Fig. 1328.



Hat Press.

put under a plunger operated by a hand-lever. When the mold is heated to a certain degree a hat is put into the mold, and a rubber die provided with two handles is placed inside the hat. The plunger, which has an oval flange fitting the mold loosely, is now lowered and by means of a toggle lever, which presses against the upper cross-head, the rubber is compressed, and thus the hat pressed against the hot mold. In the illustration one hat is shown as under pressure while the other is ready to press down the lever. The hat is left in this position for from 3 to 5 minutes, and it has, when removed, a smooth and glossy finish.