



## H O R S E   H I T C H E S

Many such rings still exist, projecting from the walls of the more important houses or inns. The example shown in the upper photograph is in the wall of the Stirrup Cup (formerly New) Inn at Bisl y.

But HOW were they actually fixed in the wall, so as to prevent a headstrong horse dragging its tether free? Specimens in the Stroud Museum reveal all. Extending back from the ring & hook is the rest of the iron bar, about 4 ins. in height, 1 in. in thickness. The far end of the bar is hammered flat (oval or rectangular) and the whole is fastened into the wall by 3 or 4 long nails. The outside diameter of the ring is just under 3 ins., the hook 2 ins. high; total length of bar, ring & plate is more or less 20-23 ins. Dimensions vary between examples.

C.C.

(The example in the lower photograph is by courtesy of the Stroud District Museum.)

