AN EFFECTIVE HEAD THRASHER.¹

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For several years past one of the important lines of work at the Maryland station has been the breeding of wheat and oats by hybridization and by head or plant selection. Although the importance of working with large numbers has been fully appreciated, the great amount of hand labor involved in thrashing the single heads has always proven a formidable obstacle. With the idea of eliminating the tedious process of rubbing out the single heads by hand and thus reducing to a minimum the amount of labor involved in carrying on this line of work, the agronomy department of the station designed and constructed during the summer of 1913 a small head thrasher that has given excellent results. This thrasher may be driven by a small gasoline engine or electric motor.

The accompanying illustrations (Plate IX and fig. 9) give a good idea of the general design of the thrasher and the details of its con-

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