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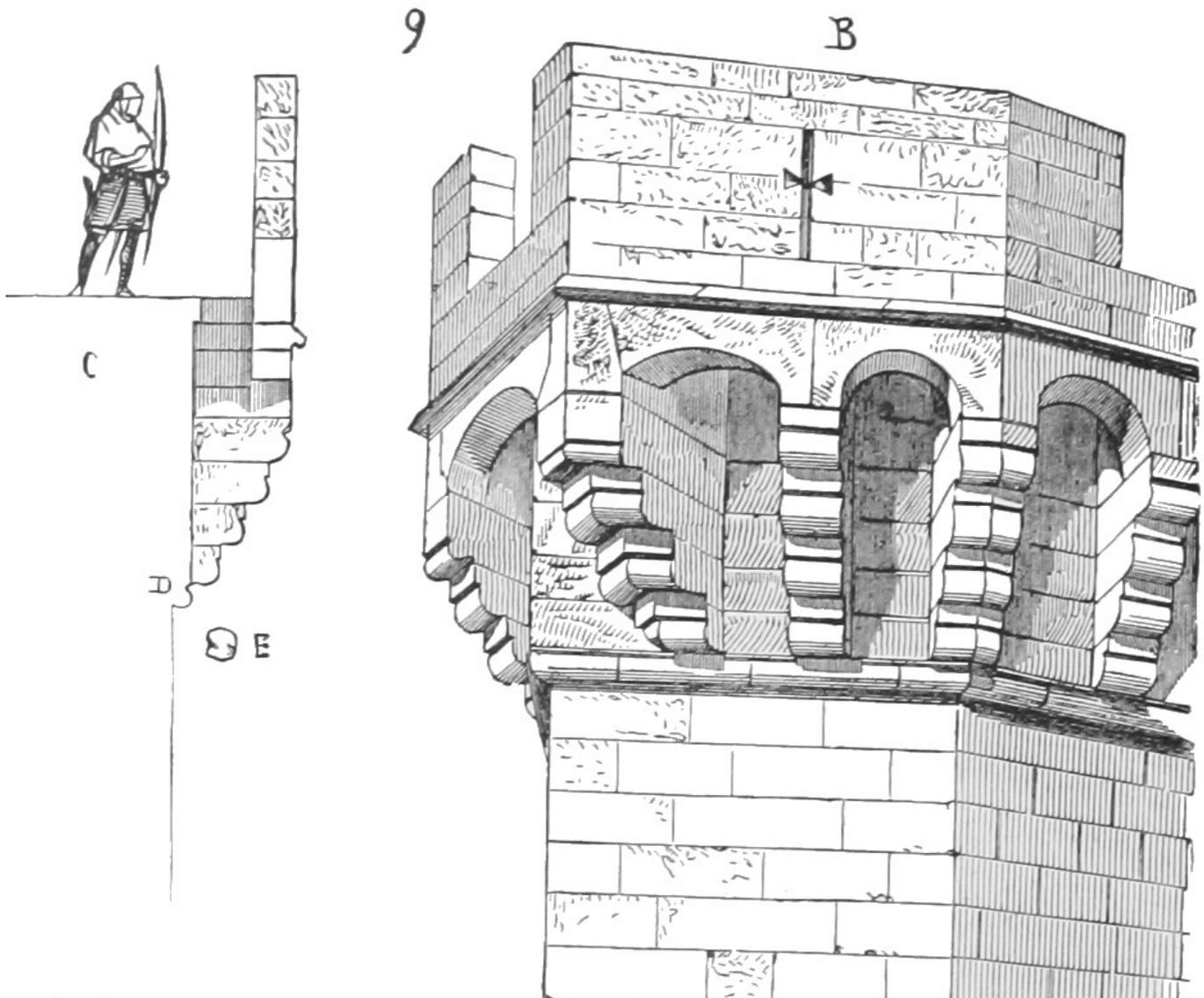
# Castle Oron

## The Machicolations



A machicolation is a stone structure with openings between supporting corbels, located at the top of a tower or a defence curtain, in order to allow direct shots.

This active defence system, especially in the form of “corbelled machicolations”, became popular around the end of the Middle Ages (second half of the 13th century) in replacement of the hoarding system, and was used similarly to throw various materials to defend the foot of fortifications.



Contrary to what is shown in war movies taking place in the Middle Ages, when a castle was besieged, the defenders did not throw boiling oil on the assailers from the top of the walls. Oil was a rare and expensive edible at that time. Pitch, sulphur or boiling water were sometimes used. However, water was a precious resource during a siege, as was fire wood.

Machicolations were rather used for downward shots with bows, or to throw stones or carcasses to provoke epidemics, or vats full of excrements.