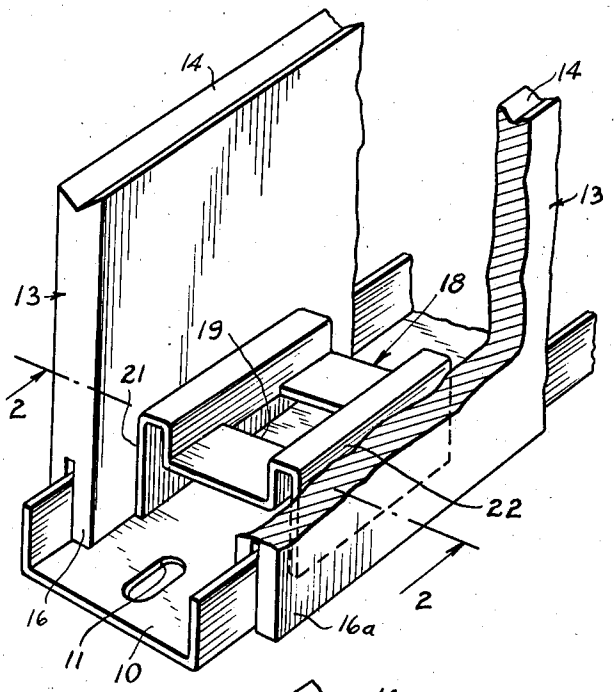
May 30, 1944. H. BRALOFF 2,350,093

WALL STRUCTURE

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Fig. 1.



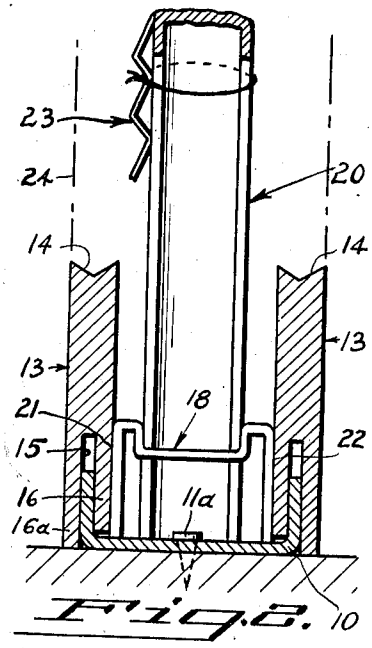


Fig. 2.

Fig. 4.

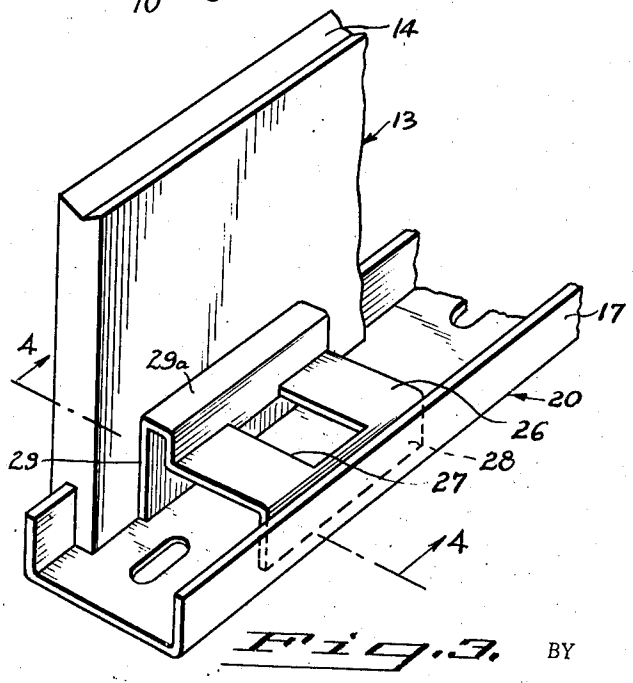
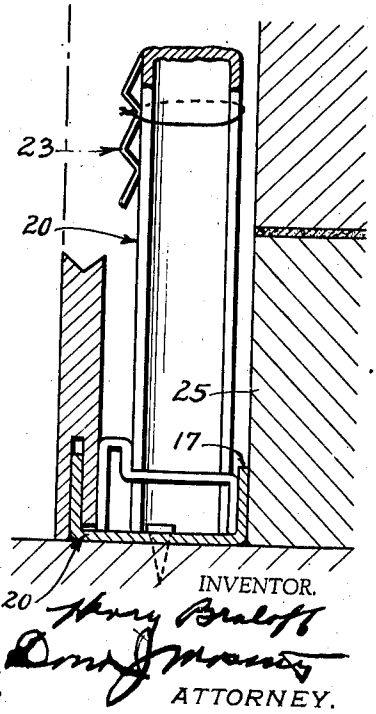


Fig. 3.



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INVENTOR.

Henry Braloff

ATTORNEY.

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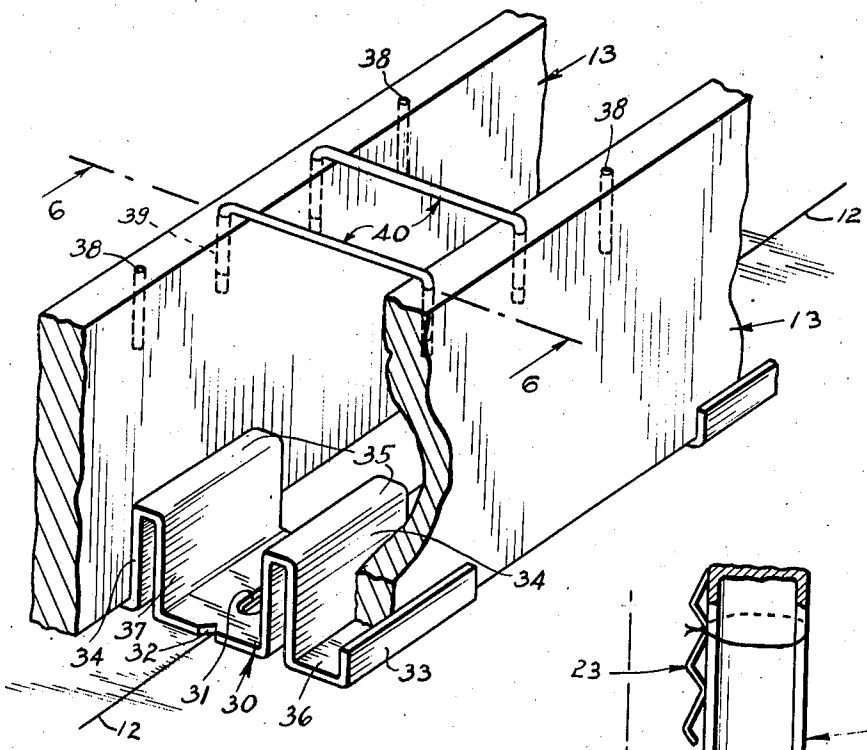


Fig. 5.

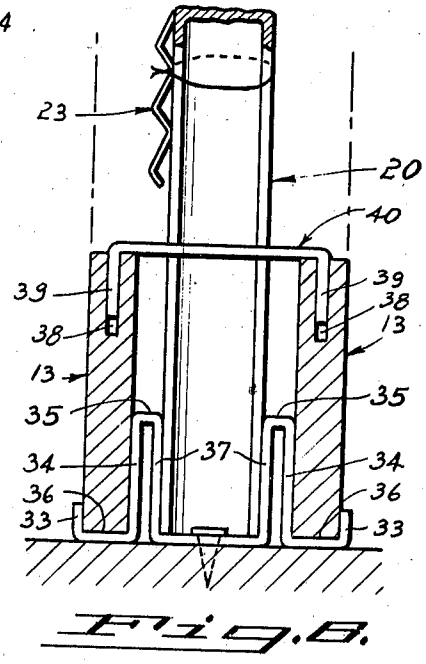
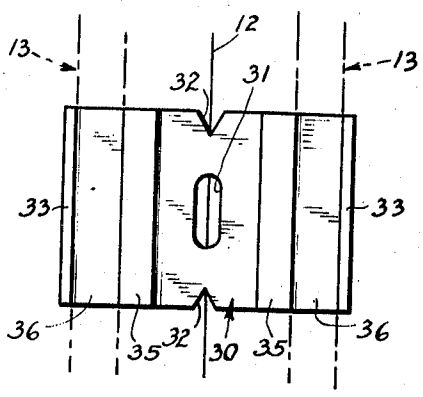


Fig. 8.

Fig. 7.



INVENTOR.

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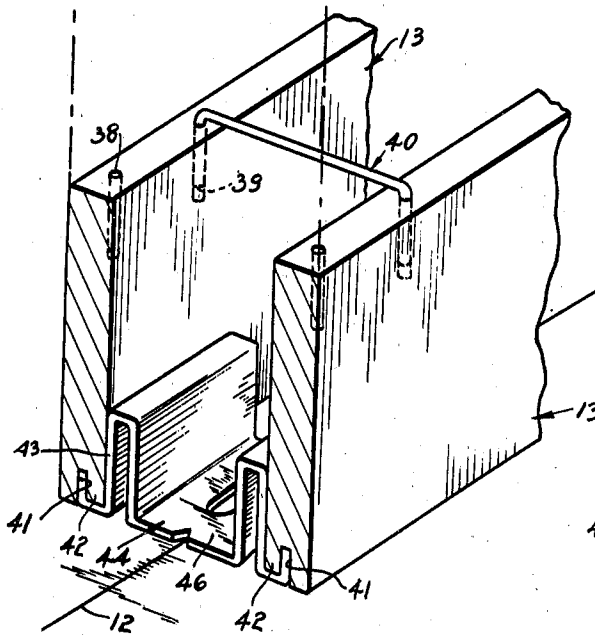
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WALL STRUCTURE

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Fig. 8.



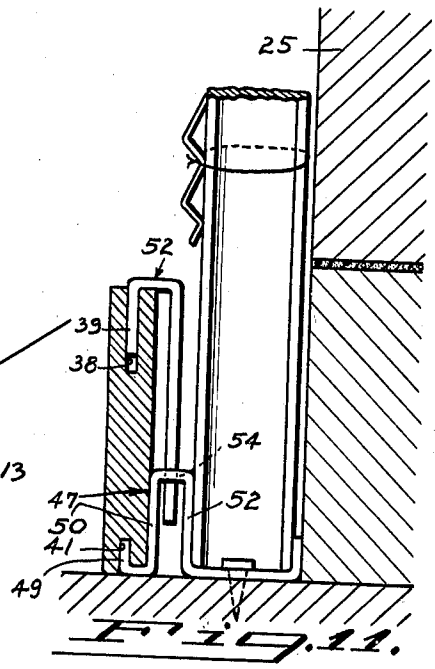


Fig. 11.

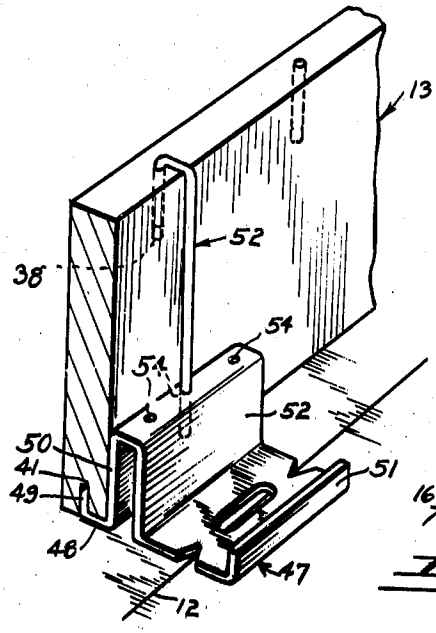


Fig. 9.

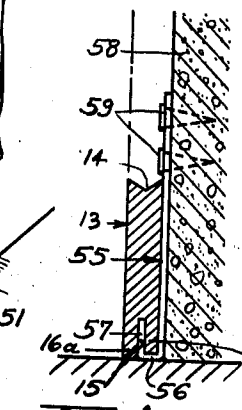


Fig. 12.

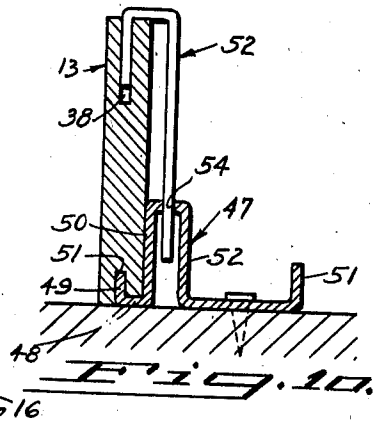


Fig. 10.

INVENTOR.

BY

ATTORNEY.

Patented May 30, 1944 2,350,093

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,350,093

WALL STRUCTURE

Henry Braloff, Rockville Centre, N. Y.

Application September 26, 1941, Serial No. 412,511

7 Claims. (Cl. 72—46)

This invention relates generally to the fabrication and erection of wall structures in building and other construction and is more particularly directed to a method and means of erecting interior walls and partitions, as well as other subdivision media.

As is well known, in order to expedite the erection of inner walls and partitions in buildings and at the same time reduce construction costs, various types of wall constructions have been proposed, involving the use of pre-fabricated forms of numerous designs. These have generally included devices of one form or another for connecting the wall uprights, as channel members, to the floor and ceiling of a building, together with specially shaped fittings and other media for grounding or keying plaster, which forms the wall surface to the assembled forms, certain of the constructions employing sheet metal members or elements, variously shaped for functioning as the wall base, or so-called toe or baseboard.

All of these proposed constructions, however, fail to satisfactorily meet the demand for a wall structure that may be economically produced and erected at a minimum of cost in time and labor and yet possess the requisite stability in resisting detrimental forces set up by vibrations of the building, and properties of non-corrosion, vermin, and fire-proof and non-adherence to paint or plaster, especially in the zone of the base of the wall, together with an appearance of permanence and other characteristics that are inherent to a properly erected built-in wall. For example, in many of the prior constructions, the pre-fabricated portions of the wall assembly are of somewhat intricate design, not only making them relatively expensive to produce, but requiring a degree of skilled labor for their installation and care to prevent adherence of paint and plaster, and later in the maintenance against corrosion or vermin attack. Further, the methods followed in providing a base for the wall, the so-called base or toe board, and for the bonding of the finishing surface of plaster therewith, in prior constructions, do not impart to the base zone the necessary stiffness or rigidity for resisting detrimental lateral and vertical forces and insuring a permanence of the jointure between the base-forming member and the plaster or other wall-surface-forming material.

The general object of the present invention, therefore, is to provide a method and means of erecting walls in buildings and other structures, involving the use of pre-fabricated components of a simple and practical design, which may be quickly assembled in an installation and prepared for the application of plaster or other wall-surface-forming material thereto by unskilled labor, to produce a wall structure in which the disadvantages of existing types of pre-fabricated and assembled wall constructions, as hereinbefore pointed out, are eliminated, thereby extending the potential field of utility of such constructions and especially affording an impetus to the development of pre-fabricated low-cost building development.

More specifically, it is an object of this invention to provide a simple and economical method and means of construction or erecting interior walls, partition and other subdivision-forming media, in buildings and the like, which will facilitate the completion of new constructions, as well as permit of the expediting of alterations in existing structures, with a concomitant saving in costs, and, at the same time, provide a wall or partition, the base of which will possess the desirable characteristics of non-corrosion, proof against fire and vermin-non-paint or plaster adherent, in conjunction with its structural stability.

It is also an important object of this invention to provide a wall construction, as aforesaid, in which the base-forming member of the wall is rigidly retained in the position in which it is initially set in the erection or assembly of the wall, thereby assuring a degree of stability which, heretofore, has been unattainable in a wall construction of this general type, and so constituted as to render it possible to effect a smooth and positive jointure between such member and the superposed wall surfacing material, as plaster, the bond between the surfacing material and the base member being of sufficient density to insure positive maintenance of the jointure, even where shrinkage of the plaster may occur.

A further object of this invention is to provide a wall construction possessing the aforementioned characteristics and advantages, in which the base-forming member is made of a non-metallic, non-porous vermin and fire proof and non-paint and plaster adherent material having the requisite degree of stiffness or rigidity, as a plastic, or the like, in lieu of sheet metal or wood, as in existing constructions, the rigidity of the material contributing to the stability of the base and of the wall as a whole, as well as to the permanence of the bond that is effected between the material and the wall surface-forming plaster, as heretofore pointed out.

Other objects and advantages flowing from the practicing of my invention will doubtless present themselves as the description proceeds, and I would have it clearly understood that I reserve unto myself all rights to the full range of equivalents, both in structure and avenues of use, to which I may be entitled under my invention, in its broadest aspect.

In the accompanying drawings, I have shown certain preferred embodiments of my invention, as they may be utilized in constructing or erecting single walls and partitions of the two-wall type, as in buildings and similar constructions, where plaster may form the wall-surface. However, my invention may take other forms, to meet specific requirements of production and use not only in the building construction art, but in other fields and structures, where the employment of my invention may be found to be feasible, without departing from the spirit and scope thereof.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a preferred embodiment of my invention, showing the base-forming members associated with their retaining means as employed in the erection of a two-wall partition.

Figure 2 is a sectional elevation on the line 2—2 of Figure 1, with an upright wall supporting element and attached wire lath, assembled in the retaining means.

Figure 3 is a view in perspective of a modified form of the invention shown in Figure 1, as used in the erection of a single wall.

Figure 4 is a sectional elevation of the structure of Figure 3, taken on the line 4—4 thereof, showing the building wall and an upright of my assembly, with attached wire lath.

Figure 5 is a perspective of another embodiment of my invention, as it may be utilized in the erection of a two-wall partition, showing a modification of the retaining means of Figure 1, and a method of bracing the base-forming members.

Figure 6 is a sectional elevation of the structure shown in the preceding figure, showing a wall upright, with wire lath attached thereto, in position within the retaining means.

Figure 7 is a top plan view of the retaining means illustrated in Figures 5 and 6.

Figure 8 is a view in perspective, illustrating a modified form of the retaining means shown in Figures 5, 6 and 7.

Figure 9 is a perspective view of a variation in the form of the retaining means of Figure 8, as designed for a single wall construction.

Figure 10 is a sectional elevation of the structure shown in Figure 9, showing the retainer as it is fixed to the floor, or other supporting surface.

Figure 11 is a view similar to Figure 10, illustrative of the position of the assembly, relative to the building wall, with the upright and plaster receiving medium attached thereto, in place in the retaining means, and

Figure 12 is a sectional elevation of a base-forming member and retainer therefor adapted to be fastened directly to an existing wall.

Referring now to the drawings in detail, in which like characters of reference are employed to designate similar parts in the several views, and more particularly to the structure shown in Figures 1 and 2, in which I have shown a preferred form of practicing my invention, in the erection of a two-wall partition, 10 indicates a so-called floor channel, preferably of sheet metal, although it may be formed of other material suitable to the purpose, the web of which is apertured at predetermined points along its median line, as at 11. These apertures may be elongated, as shown, or of other shape, to receive means for positively securing the channel to the floor or other supporting surface, as the nails 11a, shown in Figure 2. In the construction of a partition, one or several of these floor channels may be used, depending upon the length of the wall to be erected and the lengths of the channels. Where a plurality of channels are required, the ends of the juxtaposed channels may abut upon each other to form a continuous track, or the channels may be appropriately spaced relatively to each other, in axial alignment.

When the channels 10 are located and fastened in their prescribed positions upon a floor or the like, generally indicated at chalk line 12, they are ready for the reception of the base-forming members 13 of the wall, which correspond generally to the conventional baseboard of the built-in wall, as providing a finishing and decorative adjunct to the base thereof. However, whereas the conventional baseboard merely serves as a finishing piece, the base-forming member 13 of the present invention contributes materially to the strengh and stability of the entire wall assembly and upon the completion of the wall, virtually becomes an integral part of its surface, as, hereinafter, will become apparent.

The aforesaid member 13 conforms generally in contour to a conventional baseboard and may be of any suitable length, width and thickness, the upper edge or top taking the form of a V-shaped groove 14, while the bottom edge is centrally slotted, as at 15, one of the vertical surfaces defining this slot being undercut, as at 16. As will be evident, the slot 15 is provided for locating said base-forming member 13 upon the floor channel 10, in engagement with one of the upstanding flanges 17 thereof, in the association of the member with the channel, the longer slot-defining surface 16a being placed to the outside of the flange, so that the bottom edge thereof will rest upon the floor, while the corresponding edge of the shorter or undercut surface 16, will abut upon, or be poised above the channel web, the tolerance between the walls of the slot and the flange providing for a snug or close fit, yet permitting of the placement of the member in its functioning position upon the channel, without the use of tools or implements.

When the base-forming member is seated or located upon the channel, as described, it will be manifest that said member will becme a virtual upward continuation of the channel flange, the latter, of course, being housed or concealed within the slot 15, the rigidity of the flange and the spaced bearing surfaces 16 and 16a of the base-forming member contributing to the maintenance of a stable assembly. The stability of this interconnection of the base-forming member and the floor channel is appreciably enhanced, following the setting-up of parallel base-forming members in engagement with the respective flanges of a floor channel, by the employment of a socalled pressure clip 18, fabricated from sheet metal and preferably of the configuration shown, the web portion of which is provided with a rectangular slot or opening 19, formed to receive a furring channel 20, with its lower end bearing upon the web of the floor channel 10, the upper end of the furring channel being suitably connected, as by a similarly slotted fitting (not shown), to the ceiling of the building or room. These clips 18 may be located at such stations along the floor

channel as may be desired or found necessary, in the erection of a partition or wall, and function to urge the oppositely disposed base-forming members, with which their supporting surfaces 21 and 22 engage, into close association with the respective flanges of the floor channel, the anchoring of the clips, by the installation of the furring channels, of course, adding to the strength and rigidity of the assembly.

Upon the erection of the assembly, as just described, metallic lath or wire mesh, generally indicated at 23, may be suitably connected to the relatively spaced furring channels 20 or wall uprights, for the application of the wall surface-forming plaster thereto, the plaster being worked into the V-shaped groove 14 of the base-forming members 13 and bonding therewith, to provide a jointure that, in effect, produces an uninterrupted wall surface extending from the floor to the ceiling of the room or building, the plaster, indicated at 24, which is keyed to the wire lath, being a virtual continuation of the base-forming members, thereby entirely eliminatng dust-collecting surfaces and crevices, such as obtain in prior constructions, and providing a wall structure that is vermin-proof.

In this connection, it may be pointed out that the base-forming members 13 may be of any suitable material, but I have found it preferable in the actual practicing of my invention, to utilize a plastic, such as "transite" for example, which possesses those characteristics and properties, whereby I am enabled to attain the objectives herein set forth.

As shown in Figures 3 and 4, in the erection of a single wall or furring upon a masonry wall, I utilize a floor channel 20, fixed to the floor, as previously described, the channel being located upon the floor with one of its flanges 17 abutting against the building wall, indicated at 25 in Figure 4, the base-forming member 13 being engaged with the other flange 17 of the floor channel, as heretofore explained. However, in lieu of a pressure clip having a pair of co-extensive and similarly formed supporting surfaces (as the surfaces 21 and 22 of the clip 18) designed to bear against parallel base-forming members, I employ a pressure clip having a web 26, slotted, as at 27, to receive a furring channel 20, the web terminating, at one side, in an integrally formed dependent flange, providing a supporting surface 28, that is designed to bear upon the face of the floor channel flange in proximity to the building wall. Oppositely, a supporting surface 29, corresponding to either of the surfaces 21 and 22 of the clip 18, and similarly produced by the formation of a channel section 29a, disposed above the horizontal plane of the web of the clip, is adapted to bear upon the inner face of the base-forming member, the clip functioning in conjunction with the base-forming member and the flange of the floor channel in the manner heretofore described, to stiffen the base-forming member mounting. The connection of the wire lath to the furring channel 20 and the application of the plaster or other wall-surface forming material thereto, to complete the wall, is carried out, as in the erection of the structure of Figures 1 and 2.

In the structure shown in Figures 5, 6 and 7, in lieu of the floor channels 20, I employ specially designed fittings which are fixed to the floor, in which the base-forming members 13 are directly seated and braced against lateral displacement along their upper edges. These fittings, which may be of sheet metal, or castings, include a main web of body-portion 30, apertured, as at 31, for securing them to the floor, as described, the ends of the fittings being provided with V-slots or notches 32 for centering them along a chalk line 12, in their location in functioning position, upon the floor. Each fitting, as will be observed, embodies two relatively laterally spaced seats 36, upon which the base-forming members 13, employed in producing the two-wall partition shown, are adapted to be superposed in parallel, each seat being defined by an upwardly directed outer flange 33, and a vertical surface 34 spaced inwardly thereof, which is a component of an inverted channel section 35, the other vertical surface 37 of which merges into the web 30, in the plane of the seat 36. The height of the vertical surfaces 34 and 37 of the channel section, as will be noted, is appreciably greater than that of the flanges 33, the surfaces 37, in conjunction with the intermediate web 30 forming a seat in which the lower end of a furring channel 20 (see Figure 6) may be fitted, with its flanges in engagement with the opposed cooperating surfaces 37, to rest upon the web 30.

In this embodiment of my invention, the lower edge of the base-forming member 13 is uninterrupted, presenting a continuous flat surface connecting the two vertical faces of the member, for disposition upon the seat 36 of the fitting, the width of this seat corresponding approximately to that of the member 13, so that when the latter is entered in the seat, the opposite vertical faces thereof, will be in engagement with the flange 33 and channel section surface 34, respectively, the flange 33, as shown, being disposed externally of the outer face of the base-forming member. Along its upper edge, at equidistant points, or otherwise, the base-forming member 13 is provided with socket-forming openings or holes 38 for the reception of the complemental hook or socket-engaging ends 39 of the rods 40, these rods, as will be apparent, spanning the gap between the parallel base-forming members 13 and cooperating therewith to brace them, one from the other, in their upper zones, this bracing, supplementary to that afforded by the height of the fitting surface 34 in engagement with the inner face of the member, and the counterbracing in the area of the externally disposed flange 33, insuring a stiff and rugged wall-base assembly.

With the wall-base assembly completed, as just described, and the furring channel entered in the fitting, with its upper end suitably connected for support from the ceiling of the room or building, the wire or metal lath 23 may be stretched in position upon the cooperating furring channels of the structure under erection and the plaster or other wall-surfacing material applied thereto, as already explained, the plaster effecting a bond with the upper surface of the base-forming member and embracing and keying upon the protruding portions of the bracing rods or elements 40, to produce a continuous wall surface, extending from the floor to the ceiling, in which the member 13 functions as an integral part. As will be manifest, the fittings are fixed to the floor or other supporting surface, in such spaced relationship, as may be deemed desirable depending upon the length of the partition under erection. When the latter is completed, the outer flanges 33 of the fitting may be hidden or concealed by the installation of an overlying finishing floor surface of wood or other material, this method of erection being particularly advantageous in practicing my invention in structures where the

fittings may be fixed to sub-flooring or other supports, upon or above which the finishing floor surface may be laid. However, it is not limited to this specific form of application, since the flanges of the fittings may be otherwise concealed, as by an appropriately shaped overlying molding piece or other medium.

In Figure 8, I have shown a modification of the construction last described, which lends itself especially to installations of two-wall partitions where it may be desirable or necessary to fix the fittings directly to the finishing floor surface without resorting to the use of molding pieces or the like. In this form of my invention, the lower edge or bottom of the base-forming member **13**, similarly to that shown in Figures 1 to 4, inclusive, is provided with a centrally located longitudinally disposed slot **41**, one defining wall of which is undercut, as at **42**, this slot being complemental to the upstanding flange **43** of a fitting **44**, embodying channel sections and otherwise conforming to that of the embodiment of Figures 5, 6 and 7, in structure and in the manner in which it functions in the wall assembly, except that the width of the seat **46**, formed by the laterally spaced flange **43** and the cooperating vertical surface **45** of the contiguous channel section, upon which the inner face of the base-forming member **13** bears, as previously described, corresponds approximately to the cross-sectional dimension of the undercut portion **42** of the slot-defining surface of said member. When the base-forming member is located on the fitting, with the flange **43** housed within the slot **41**, thereof, as will be seen from the drawings, the undercut portion **42** is engaged with said seat **46**, while the base of the longer vertical slot-defining surface rests upon the floor, externally of said flange **43**, completely concealing the latter. The tie or bracing rods **40**, cooperating with the base-forming members, through the medium of inter-engaged rod ends and sockets **38**, function in this assembly, as heretofore described.

A modification of the fitting and the bracing means connectable to the top of the base-forming member **13**, of the structure of Figure 8, is shown in Figures 9, 10 and 11, which may be employed in the erection of a single or socalled furring wall, the fitting **47**, in this instance, embodying but one seat, as at **48**, formed by the upstanding flange **49**, in conjunction with the juxtaposed vertical surface **50** of the channel section of which it is a component, the slotted base-forming member **13** being locatable upon the fitting with the flange **49** entered in the slot **41** thereof, as and for the purposes already explained. In lieu of a second base-forming member seat, the fitting web terminates at its opposite side in an upwardly directed flange **51** which, with the vertical surface **52** of the channel section is adapted to engage the flanges of a furring channel, entered therebetween, as previously described. In this form of installation, the fitting is fixed to the floor or other support, with its flange **51** in proximity to the building or masonry wall **25**, as clearly shown in Figure 11, the relatively spaced base-forming member **13**, engaged with the fitting as described, adjacent its lower edge, being restrained from lateral displacement, as by tilting or other movement from the perpendicular, through the medium of a bracing rod **52**, formed with a hook-end **53**, adapted for entry in a socket **38** of the base-forming member, and connectable to the fitting **47**, as by inserting the end of the rod in a suitable aperture or socket **54** provided in the web of the channel section of the fitting, or otherwise.

In Figure 12 I have shown a method, whereby a base-forming block of the type illustrated in Figures 1 to 4, inclusive, may be utilized in furring a masonry wall. For this purpose, a sheet metal bracket of the appropriate length and height, indicated at **55**, embodying a horizontally disposed base-section **56**, terminating in an integrally formed upwardly directed flange **57**, functions as a support for the base-forming member **13**, said base section **56** forming a seat for the undercut slot-defining surface **16** of said member, when the aforesaid flange **57** is entered in the slot **15**, the slot-defining surface **16a** of said member assuming a position externally of said flange and in bearing engagement with the floor. The bracket **55** may be positively secured to the masonry wall **58**, by means of expansion bolts, or other suitable devices, as generally indicated at **59**. The furring wall is finished by the application of the plaster or other surfacing material to metal lathing, suitably mounted upon the masonry wall, or applied directly to the latter, if practicable, the material bonding with the base-forming member, within the V-shaped groove **14**, as heretofore pointed out.

As will be manifest from the foregoing, any member of floor channels, or floor fittings may be used in erecting a wall or partition, depending upon the length of the wall. Also, in the erection of a particular wall, several lengths of the base-forming material may be required, the members abutting at their ends, so as to form a continuous surface, pressure clips or floor fittings, as the case may be, being preferably so located that the jointure of adjacent base-forming members will be adequately supported thereby, any of the embodiments which I have described providing a wall assembly of a pre-fabricated type, that may be quickly and economically erected and may be advantageously used in new construction work, especially in low-cost housing developments, as well as in alterations, as in office and shop buildings where relocation of partitions is desired from time to time.

While I have described my invention, more or less specifically, with particular reference to the embodiments shown, my invention may take other forms and the various components of each of the assemblies illustrated and described may take other shapes. For example, the so-called pressure clips of certain of the constructions may be of different design and be adapted to receive a wall-supporting I-beam, instead of the standard furring channel, the same holding true with respect to the floor fittings used in other embodiments of my invention. Also, the tie rods for interconnecting the base-forming members in certain of the forms of my invention may be of other shapes than illustrated and otherwise engageable with the base-forming members and with the floor fittings, in those instances in which they are associated with the latter, or other appropriate supports. Likewise, variations may be effected in the formation of the base-forming members, in material and in elements of design, all of such changes or variations falling within the spirit and scope of my invention, as set forth in the following claims.

I claim:

1. A wall construction, including a channel element adapted to be fixed to the floor with its flanges upstanding, a base forming member for a wall having a slot intermediate its width ex-

tending from end to end of the lower edge thereof, said member being located upon said channel element with one of the flanges thereof entered in the slot of said member, the flange being concealed by the portion of the member external of said channel element, and means mounted to extend transversely between the opposite flanges of said channel element having depending vertical side walls to abut respectively upon said member at its inner wall surface, and the free flange of the channel element to cooperate with said slot-engaging flange to maintain said member rigid with said element.

2. A wall construction, including a fitting having a base adapted to be disposed upon the floor, said base embodying vertical surfaces forming the sides of the fitting, a wall surface base-forming member engageable with one of the vertical surfaces of said fitting and means normally independent of said fitting extending transversely across the same and having depending side walls engaging respectively said member under pressure at its inner vertical wall surface and parallel to the plane of interengagement of the vertical surface of the fitting and said member and the unengaged vertical surface of the fitting, to maintain said member in perpendicular registration with such vertical surface.

3. A base-forming assembly for a partition having two spaced walls, comprising a fitting including a web section superimposed upon the floor and vertically disposed flanges forming the outer sides thereof, a unit for forming the base of each wall engaged along its lower edge with each flange of said fitting to spacedly locate the units in the plane of the flanges and restrain such flange-engaged units against lateral displacement relative to said fitting, and means normally independent of said fitting and the respective wall base forming units having a section to transversely span the web of said fitting in vertically spaced relation thereto and having side walls, for pressure engagement with the laterally spaced wall base forming units at their inner surfaces, to maintain said units in parallel relationship.

4. A base-forming assembly for a partition having two spaced walls, comprising a fitting including a web section superimposed upon the floor and vertically disposed flanges forming the outer sides thereof, a unit for forming the base of each wall-forming surface engageable along its lower edge with a flange of said fitting to locate the unit in the plane of the flange and restrain such flange-engaged unit against lateral displacement relative to said fitting, and means normally separate from said fitting and the respective wall base forming units, embodying a section adapted to transversely span the web of said fitting in vertically spaced relation thereto and having depending side walls, for pressure engagement with the laterally spaced wall base forming units at the internal surfaces of said units and below the upper edges thereof, when said units are located in engagement with the flanges of said fitting, to maintain said units in parallel relationship, said means being locatable in functioning position from above the upper edges of the flange-supported units.

5. A wall construction including a fitting having a web section superimposed upon the floor and vertically disposed flanges forming the outer sides of said fitting, a unit for forming the base of the wall having a vertically disposed slot extending inwardly of its lower edge, from end to end thereof, one of the parallel slot-defining surfaces being deeper than the other, whereby said unit may be associated with said fitting with a flange thereof entered in said slot, the deeper slot-defining surface of said unit being disposed outwardly of said flange in abutting engagement with the floor externally of said fitting and means transversely spanning the web of said fitting in vertically spaced relation thereto and having a depending side wall in pressure engagement with said unit at the internal surface thereof, to maintain said unit in alinement with said flange and additional means at the other end of the aforesaid means from the depending side wall maintaining said pressure engagement.

6. A wall construction including a channelled fitting having a web section mounted upon a floor and vertically disposed spaced upstanding flanges forming its outer sides, a plurality of upstanding units for forming spaced bases of the wall, each having a vertically disposed slot extending inwardly of its lower edge, from end to end thereof, one of the parallel slot-defining surfaces being deeper than the other, whereby each unit may be associated with said fitting with a flange thereof entered in and engaging said slot, the deeper slot-defining surface of said unit being disposed outwardly of said flange in abutting engagement with the floor externally of said fitting and a clip having a web portion disposed in vertically spaced relation to the web of said fitting, and having sides projecting above and below the web portion thereof for engagement with the inner surfaces of opposite flange-engaged units, to maintain said units in vertical alinement with the respective flanges of said fitting.

7. A wall construction, having a flanged element adapted to function as a base of a wall assembly, said assembly including a base-forming member for a wall surface, having a slot formed intermediate its width in the lower edge thereof, and extending from end to end thereof, said member being located upon said element with said slot in engagement with a flange thereof, and means normally independent of said flanged element, disposed on said flanged element in spaced relation to the flange thereof in pressure abutment with said member, to maintain said member rigid with said flange, said means embodying a seat for embracing an upright wall-supporting piece above the web of said element.

HENRY BRALOFF.