June 14, 1927. R. M. BROWN 1,632,431

WALL PANEL

Filed March 13, 1926

Fig. 1

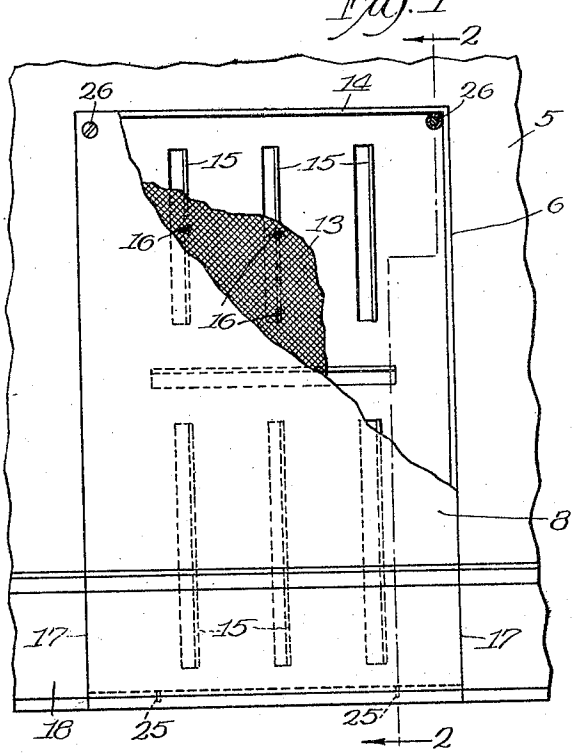


Fig. 2

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ROBERT M. BROWN, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, ASSIGNOR OF FORTY-FIVE ONE-HUNDREDTHS TO ALEXANDER POW, OF GLENCOE, ILLINOIS.

WALL PANEL.

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This invention relates to wall panels, and more particularly to a panel adapted to be removably secured in an opening in a wall which permits access to parts such as plumbing or electric fittings which are housed in a recess in the wall.

One of the objects of this invention is to provide such a panel, the appearance of which will conform to that of the surrounding wall, whereby the panel is rendered less obtrusive and more sightly.

Another object is to provide such a panel which may be removably secured in place in the opening, the means of securing being simple and easy to use. Still another object is to provide such a panel in which the outer surface is a layer of mortar or plaster of the same general characteristics as the mortar or plaster used in the construction of the surrounding wall, and a further object is to provide means for reinforcing such a layer so that it will not be easily broken, and may be removed as a unit without the necessity of extreme care in handling.

Other objects and advantages will become apparent when the following specification is considered in connection with the accompanying drawings wherein I have illustrated a selected embodiment of my invention and in which:

Fig. 1 is a front elevation of a wall having an opening therein closed by a panel of my improved construction, certain parts thereof being broken away to more clearly illustrate the structure, and

Fig. 2 is a section on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1.

Referring now to the drawings, a wall indicated at 5 of the usual construction having faces 5^a and 5^b of mortar or plaster or the like, is provided with an opening 6 to permit access to fittings or the like which are housed in a recess or chamber indicated at 7 within the wall. The opening 6 is closed by a panel 8 having a front face of appearance similar to that of the appearance of the wall 5.

The panel 8 comprises a sheet metal pan 9 having a back portion 10 and edge portions 11. The pan 9 is filled with a supply of plaster or mortar 12 of characteristics similar to those of the plaster or mortar used in the surrounding wall 5. In order to retain the filler 12 in the pan, I prefer to provide a sheet of metal lath or the like, 13, anchored to the pan in any suitable way to which the plaster will be bound in the usual manner. To further anchor the filler in the pan and to strengthen the front corner edges of the panel, I prefer to turn the front edge of the edge member 11 inwardly as indicated at 14. This turned over front corner edge obviously strengthens the frame around the panel and also protects the front edges of the panel against breakage, and is therefore, of considerable value. One convenient way of securing the sheet of metal lath 13 in the pan, is to provide a number of inturned flanges 15 which are provided by merely cutting the back 10 of the pan and bending a portion thereof inwardly, as illustrated. Such flanges also serve to stiffen the back and thereby strengthen the panel. A suitable number of holes may be punched in the flanges 15 and tie wires 16 passed therethrough and through the metal lath and the ends twisted together so as to effectively bind the lath in place.

Panels of this class are ordinarily located near the floor, and the opening therefore, usually intersects the base-board 18 which extends around the bottom of the walls. In order to render the opening as large as possible, and to permit full access to the chamber, I prefer to cut the base-board 18 as indicated at 17—17 in line with the side edges of the opening in the wall so that the portion of the base-board 18 between the cuts will be removable with the panel. In order to secure this removable portion of the base-board to the panel, I provide a strip of wood 19 embedded in the filler of the panel to which the base-board 18 and moulding 20 thereover may be secured in the usual manner, i. e., by nailing, as indicated at 21—21.

In order to prevent breaking of the wall 5 adjacent the opening 6, I provide a frame 22 preferably of metal, which extends entirely around the opening. This frame 22 is provided with a rear flange 23 and an inturned front flange 24, and is fastened in place by any suitable means, for example, by nails, passing through apertures in flange 23 and into the wood frame surrounding the opening as indicated at 23'. The inturned front flange 24 is very advantageous in that it strengthens the frame 22 and protects the plaster around the front edges of the wall opening against chipping or breaking. The panel may conveniently be held in place by

means of a pair of lugs 25 provided at the bottom of the panel which are adapted to enter apertures 25′ in the frame at the bottom of the opening, and the upper edge of the panel may be secured by means of screws 26 preferably disposed one in each upper corner and having threaded engagement with a bracket 27 secured to the back flange 23 of the opening frame 22. A collar 28 is secured to each of the screws 26 adjacent the back 10 of the panel by suitable means such as a pin 29. It will be obvious that when the screw is unscrewed so that it is disengaged from the bracket 27, the collar 28 will cause the panel to move outwardly so that it may be gripped at its edges and pulled out of the opening. I also find it convenient to taper the edges 11 of the panel as indicated so as to permit easier insertion and removal thereof.

I am aware that various changes in the form and construction of the parts may be made without departing from the essence of the invention and I therefore reserve the right to make all such changes as fall within the scope of the following claims.

I claim as my invention:

1. The combination of a wall having an opening therein, a frame for said opening, means for anchoring said frame in place, and a panel for closing said opening comprising a frame having an edge member and a back member, a filler of wall material in said frame, means for anchoring said filler in said frame and means operable by one movement to secure said panel in place and operable by another movement to eject said panel from said opening.

2. In combination with a wall having a chamber therein adapted to house certain fittings and an opening in one side of the wall to permit access to the fittings, a panel adapted to close said opening and comprising a sheet metal pan having edge and back members, a filler of wall material in the pan, means for stiffening the back of the pan, said means also being adapted to anchor said filler in the pan and means for removably securing said panel in said opening.

3. The combination of a plaster wall or the like having an opening therein, a frame for said opening permanently anchored in place and having an edge thereof adjacent the front edge of said opening and turned outwardly so as to serve as a plaster retaining means, and also so as to protect said front edge against breakage, and a closure for said opening comprising a panel of wall material adapted to fit inside of said opening so as to present a substantially flush wall surface, said panel having a frame extending around the periphery thereof, an edge of said frame being disposed adjacent the front edge of the panel and having its outer edge turned inwardly to serve as a plaster retaining means and whereby said panel edge is protected against breakage.

4. The combination of a wall having an opening therein, a frame for said opening, a panel for closing said opening and adapted to be set therein so as to present a substantially flush wall surface, means for removably securing said panel in place including a threaded member rotatably mounted in the panel but held therein against longitudinal movement, and a part secured to the wall adapted to be threadedly engaged by said threaded member.

5. The combination of a plaster wall or the like, having an opening therein, a frame for said opening, means for permanently anchoring said frame in place, an outwardly rebent outer edge on said frame serving to protect the edge of the wall around said opening and to retain the plaster in place, and a panel for closing said opening comprising a receptacle having a plaster filler and including a frame having an inwardly rebent edge serving to protect the front edge of the panel, and to retain the filler in the receptacle.

6. The combination of a plaster or like wall having an opening therein for permitting access to fittings disposed within the wall, an opening frame extending around the inside of said opening and permanently fastened in place, said frame having means at its outer edge for retaining the plaster of the wall in place and for protecting the edge of the wall around the opening from breakage, and a removable access panel mounted in said opening and comprising a receptacle having a plaster filler so as to simulate the appearance of the surrounding wall, said receptacle including an edge frame provided with means at its outer edge for retaining the filler in the receptacle and for protecting the edge of the panel against breakage, said opening frame and said edge frame having separable interlocking means on complementary sides adapted to position the panel within the opening along that side, and means for positioning the opposite side of the panel in the opening, comprising means operable by one movement to lock the panel in place and by another movement to release the panel and to partially eject same from the opening.

7. The combination of a wall having an opening therein, a panel for closing said opening and adapted to be set therein so as to present a substantially flush wall surface and means for removably securing said panel in place, including means operable by one movement, to lock the panel in place and by another movement to release and to partially eject the panel from the opening.

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