

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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BUILDING MATERIAL.

971,967.

Specification of Letters Patent.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM E. BROCK, a citizen of the United States, residing at 15 Mountain avenue, North Plainfield, in the county of Somerset and State of New Jersey, have invented new and useful Improvements in Building Material, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to improvements in the covering or finishing of the roofs, walls, ceilings and floors of buildings and has for its object to provide a simple, durable and economical covering which may be applied by comparatively unskilled labor.

In the finishing of the interior of dwellings and other buildings, it is now the common practice to nail wooden or metal lath to the beams or studding, to which is applied a coating of cement or plaster, the nailing and plastering requiring skilled and high priced labor.

By my invention I may prepare the slats or lath secured together in sections of suitable size and at the point of manufacture applying by mechanical means a coating of suitable plaster or other composition, so that the completed and coated sections may be secured to the walls, roofs, ceilings or other parts of the building with comparatively unskilled labor. I may employ cement, plaster or other suitable composition such as wood pulp as a material for the coating, depending upon the character of construction for which the material is to be employed. For the roofs and exterior walls of the building I may employ a mixture containing Portland cement.

Referring to the accompanying drawings wherein is shown a section of the improved covering and detail embodying the novel features of my invention in a preferred form; Figure 1 is an isometric view of a portion of the improved material or structure partly in section; Figs. 2 and 3 show in detail the mechanical means employed for holding the several parts together and methods of preparing the parts.

Referring to the drawings for detailed description of the article; 1, 1, 1, are a series of wooden slats similar to but preferably somewhat wider and thicker than wooden lath commonly employed in building construction for supporting the finish of plaster, which are spaced, preferably, about one eighth of an inch apart.

2, 2, 2, are slats of trapezoidal section

fitted into slots 3, 3, 3, of suitable outline, the dimensions of the several parts being so proportioned that the slats 1, 1, 1, will present an approximately even surface both front and back.

5 is a coating of cement, plaster, or other composition to be more fully hereinafter described, which is applied in any convenient manner to the assembled structure, to which it adheres tenaciously by reason of the large area of contact with the spaces between the slats and with the roughened or grooved surfaces of the slats.

Fig. 2 shows in detail one of the slats having grooves in the surface for the purpose of increasing the area of same.

Fig. 3 shows a detail of one of the slats, the surface of which is roughened or torn up by the action of suitable cutters or knives so that the area of contact between the slat and the plaster or composition will be greatly increased and the wood fiber thus raised above the surface of the slat will mingle with the plaster or composition, thus greatly increasing the bond between the two.

In practice I prefer to employ the slats 1, 1, 1, in Fig. 1 in lengths of about forty-eight inches and the inter-locking slats in lengths of about eighteen inches, so that the completed structure will form a board or section approximately of the above external dimensions, suitable for nailing to the beams, studding or rafters employed in building construction.

In cases where the cost of transportation is not excessive, I propose to apply the coating of plaster or other composition at a plant equipped with labor saving devices, although it is obvious that my improved structure may be put in place in the buildings or upon the walls or roofs and the coating applied by hand in the usual way, or a temporary plant may be erected at or near the site of the erection of the building for applying the coating.

In many cases for finishing the interior of buildings at medium cost, I propose to employ a coating of plaster or composition which will not become permanently insoluble after drying, so that in the finishing of a surface composed of my improved material it will only be necessary to moisten the surface of the material and by means of a suitable trowel or tool, rub over the surface and cause the plaster or composition of one sec-

tion to mingle with that of adjacent sections filling up the intervening spaces and producing an even surface to which may be applied if desired a finishing coat of plaster or cement after the manner usually employed.

Having fully described my invention, I claim;

10 In a sectional wall covering, a series of separate sections adapted each to be formed and applied as a unitary article, and each consisting of a series of parallel slats arranged parallel and having their faces

roughened, a series of thinner slats of trapezoidal section fitted to slots of similar form 15 in the back of the parallel slats to connect the latter firmly together, and a coating of plaster applied to the roughened surfaces.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of 20 two subscribing witnesses.

WILLIAM E. BROCK.

Witnesses:

D. M. RUNYAN,
F. R. HILL.