

EDWIN MAY.

Construction of Prison-Walls.

104865

PATENTED JUN 28 1870

Fig 1.

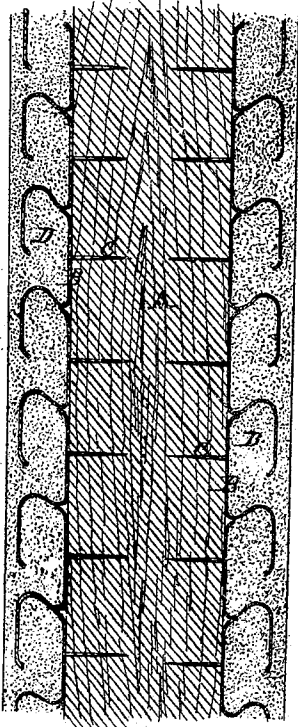


Fig 2.

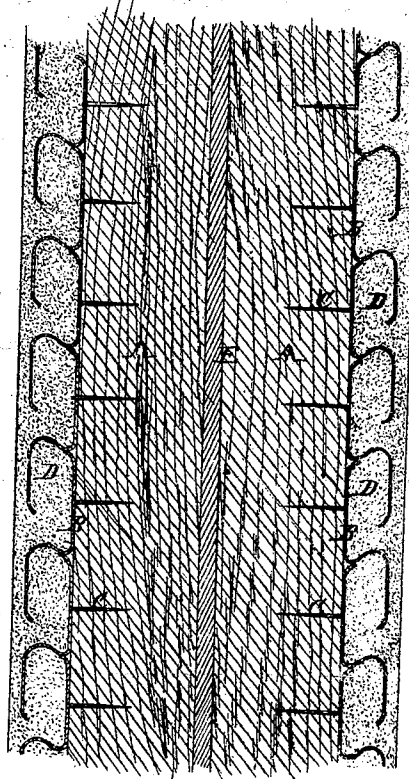
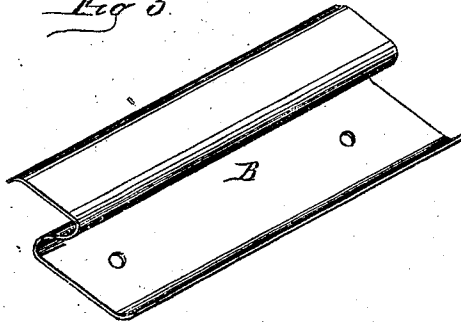


Fig 3.



Witnesses
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EDWIN MAY, OF INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA.

Letters Patent No. 104,865, dated June 28, 1870.

IMPROVEMENT IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF PRISON WALLS.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EDWIN MAY, of Indianapolis, in the county of Marion and State of Indiana, have invented a new and useful Construction of Inside Walls of Buildings; and I do hereby declare the following to be a correct and sufficient description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawing which makes part of this specification, and in which—

Figure 1 is a sectional view of a portion of a wall, constructed according to my improvement.

Figure 2 is a similar view, showing a slight modification.

Figure 3 is a perspective view of a piece of iron lath, used in the construction of my improved wall.

Like letters of reference indicate like parts in the several figures.

My invention is designed for all inside walls, partitions of cells, and ceilings of prisons, or strong rooms for the insane.

The cells in prisons are now commonly made of iron or of stone. Iron cells are very unhealthy, on account of the dampness condensing on the ceilings and walls. Stone cells are very costly, and can be made only to a certain size.

My improved construction obviates both difficulties, and by it a strong, healthy cell or strong room of any size can be built.

My invention consists in constructing such walls of a center of hard seasoned wood, on each side of which a heavy coat of plastering is held by my improved iron laths; or of a center of iron plates, covered on each side with hard seasoned wood, of any desired thickness, and the wood covered by plaster.

In fig. 1, of the drawing—

A represents the wood, to each side of which the laths B are secured by nails C, the plastering D filling in the spaces between the laths, and being held by the same.

In fig. 2—

E represents the iron plates, covered on each side by the hard wood A, to which the laths B are secured by nails C, and plastering applied to the outside, as before described.

The lath used being a non-absorbent, allows chemical action to take place, so as to change the plaster-

ing to an artificial stone; and as the laths are made in narrow strips, the heat, in case of fire, will not displace them, while their peculiar form produces a double wall of iron, and keeps the plastering or mortar where it will protect the wood.

A wall made without the inside iron plate, as shown in fig. 1, will be found a safe, fire-proof wall.

The iron plates, when used as shown in fig. 2, are so housed in and protected by wood and plaster that no oxidation can take place.

An inmate of such a cell, trying to cut through such wall, will find it difficult to pick off or deface the plastering, and impossible to hide the traces of his work. Should he succeed to get through the plaster, the laths will form a serious impediment; and should he even succeed in piercing them, the hard seasoned wood would present new difficulties; and when the iron plates are used, they will effectually stop all further progress.

The escape of prisoners is prevented by discovering their efforts to escape. In cutting out of iron cells a small quantity of dust will effectually hide the cut or saw-kerf made by the saw used; but any defacing of the walls constructed according to my improvement must immediately show.

The great advantage of my improvement is the cheapness of its construction, the perfect dryness of the walls, and their being completely fire-proof.

The iron plates and wood-covering may be made of any suitable or desirable thickness.

Having thus described my invention,

What I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. An inside wall, formed of iron plates, hard seasoned wood, and plastering, the plastering being kept in place by laths, B, substantially as herein described.

2. An inside wall, formed of a core of hard seasoned wood, A, both surfaces of which are completely covered with iron laths, B, so that the plastering D is separated from the wood by a nearly continuous surface of iron, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

EDWIN MAY.

Witnesses:

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