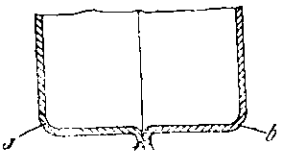
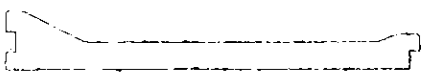
cording to one method, a pair of metal trays are formed from metal sheets by pressing them in dies so as to leave a flange or lip round the edge. This lip is turned over to form a bead. The two trays are now coated with vitreous enamel, or, if preferred, other enamel, but any enamel used must be very strong and impervious to render the metal non-porous. The edges of the bead are then cleaned and preferably given a thin coating of tin. One tray is then



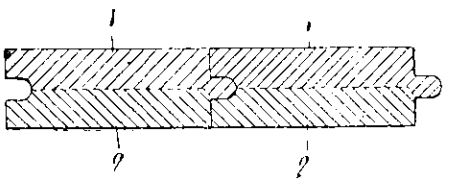
inverted over the other and the edges united together. Another way of forming a slab or panel is to take a metal tube and flatten it on a mandrel to form a thin rectangular shape. The tube is then coated inside and out with enamel by dipping and firing, and the open ends are closed with flat metal enamelled stampings having a dished edge which are preferably soldered into place. A further way is to take a single tray as in the first instance and close it by means of a flat plate.

Building Block.—A patent, No. 41,587, has been taken out by J. O. Olsen, of Hunter Street, Dannevirke. The invention consists in forming the tile at its groove end with an abutment projecting from its inner surface all down its height so as thereby to form a broad end face down the approximate centre-line of which the groove is formed, and in also thickening the tongue end of the block and forming the tongue to project down the inner edge of the



broadened face thereof. This allows for relatively wide tongues and grooves being employed, so that a consequent stronger joint is effected between the ends of adjacent blocks in each course. In addition, the inward projection of the block's thickness at the joint affords a ledge on which the wire-netting bond may rest, as such strip extends along within the wall-cavity, and has its two edges gripped between the horizontal joints of the wall-shells on both sides of such cavity.

Constructional Concrete.—A patent, No. 42,710, has been taken out by T. Creedon, of Prison Reserve, Mount Eden, Auckland, which consists of a building block or slab made of aggregates of concrete, one aggregate being the usual hard and strong concrete, and the other aggregate a softer concrete made of cement and crushed coke, coke-breeze, or crushed pumice and the like, the aggregates forming together a solid mass, one part of which is very hard and the



other comparatively soft. The part made of hard concrete forms the exterior of a wall, and the softer part the interior thereof, and inasmuch as the softer part is not subject to variations of temperature, breeze and pumice being bad conductors of heat, the humidity in the atmosphere coming into contact therewith is not condensed to any harmful extent, thereby overcoming a serious objection met with in ordinary concrete and in stone buildings.