

Now for a few words about the advantages of the new type of building material. In comparison with monolithic walls made of keramzit concrete, wood concrete and aerated foam concrete, building with blocks requires no expensive metal casing. The modulus of the block makes it possible to get away from building structures of the same type and ensures architectural diversity of both the housing development and the ancillary buildings. The building season is greatly extended. This is because no outlays are required for the pre-heating of mortar, as is the case in the manufacture of monolithic walls. When erecting walls made of cement-and-shaving blocks there is no need to employ highly qualified stonemasons. For filling the cavities, all kinds of locally available materials can be used: clay, lime, sawdust, gypsum. The house will retain heat very well at temperatures as low as minus 40 degrees. As the blocks are much lighter than bricks, the house can be built on shallower foundations. Building costs are 25 per cent lower than when erecting wooden houses. Walls made from blocks require no additional plastering work, either on the outside or inside of the house. Externally, they can be finished with cement paints. On the inside, wallpapering can be done after the surface has been rubbed down. The blocks are easily sawn, and wood-screws and nails fasten them securely.

We could go on at even greater length about the advantages of houses made from cement-and-shavings blocks, but it is preferable to talk about the potentialities of their use in our sector of the economy.

When we displayed fragments of walls made from our blocks at the Exhibition of Achievements in the National Economy of the USSR we were approached by the Deputy Director for Supply, of the Kishinev Furniture Factory. Like ourselves, the man was interested. Notebooks and pens were brought, and we did some estimating.

His factory produces 12 million roubles worth of furniture annually, using for this purpose 10 thousand