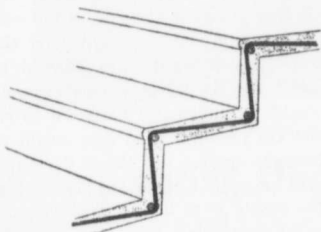


hind vertical boards so placed as to give the necessary thickness to the risers and projecting high enough to serve as a guide in leveling off the tread. Such steps may be reinforced where greater strength is desired or



where there is danger of cracking, due to settlement of the ground.

Where the nature of the ground will not admit of its being cut away in the form of steps, the risers are moulded between two vertical forms. The front one may be a smooth board, but the other should be a piece of thin sheet metal, which is more easily removed after the earth has been tamped in behind it. A simple method of reinforcing steps is to place a half-inch steel rod in each corner, and thread these with quarter inch rods bent to the shape of the steps, as

shown in figure, the latter being placed about 2 feet apart. For this class of work a rich Portland cement concrete is recommended, with the use of stone or gravel under one-half inch in size. Steps may be given a half-inch wearing surface of cement mortar mixed in the proportion 1 part cement in 2 parts sand. This system, as well as many others, is well adapted for stairways in houses.—Extract from Farmers' Bulletin No. 235, United States Department of Agriculture.

CLEANING A PAINTED WALL.

A little ammonia added to warm water answers admirably for this purpose. The advantage of ammonia is that it evaporates and leaves no residue; borax, soda and similar salts are apt to leave a residue which does not evaporate.

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