



DECORATED BRICKWORK

The decorative value of brickwork is influenced by the size, shape, colour and texture of the bricks and mortar joints, in addition to the face arrangement of the bricks and form of the feature.

BRICKS.—The thickness of the bricks affects the appearance of faced brickwork considerably. Whilst a wall built of thick bricks looks strong, and these are therefore suitable for engineering work, it is generally agreed that the appearance of most walls is enhanced if 2-in. bricks are employed. Bricks which are uniform in shape, with straight, sharp arrises, give a mechanical appearance to a wall, which is avoided by the use of the somewhat irregularly edged and surfaced hand-made variety.

A wide range of colours and textures of bricks is now available (see pp. 12 and 13). Some walls are purposely built of bricks which are uniform in colour; such bricks must be carefully selected if a dull, monotonous appearance is to be avoided. Within recent years there has been an increased demand for multi-coloured bricks; these have a very pleasing appearance, provided the selected shades

suitably blend and violent contrasts are avoided. Regarding texture, bricks having a smooth surface can be readily cleaned and are therefore often employed for external walling in towns where they quickly become discoloured in the dust-laden atmosphere; otherwise sand-faced or richly textured bricks are generally preferred because of the excellent effect they produce.

JOINTING AND POINTING.—Particular attention should be given to the colour of the mortar, and the shape and texture of the joints used for facing work. Various forms of jointing and pointing are described on pp. 31 and 32, Vol. I. The appearance of a wall constructed of sound materials and workmanship may be completely ruined by the adoption of unsuitable joints. Thus, for example, joints least suitable for sand-faced bricks of rich texture and warm colouring are those of black or dark blue mortar (see p. 27) which are struck-jointed, on account of the colour and the *smooth* mechanical appearance.

The texture of the joints should conform with that of the bricks. Joints smoothed over with the trowel should not be associated with rough textured bricks, for which flush and recessed joints (see Vol. I) give the best results. If neither of the latter can be adopted because of expense, a satisfactory finish to