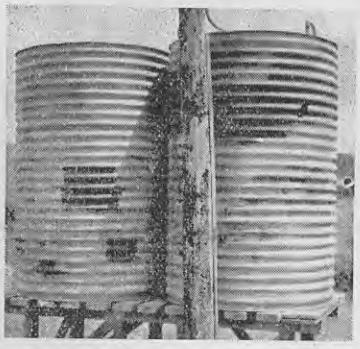
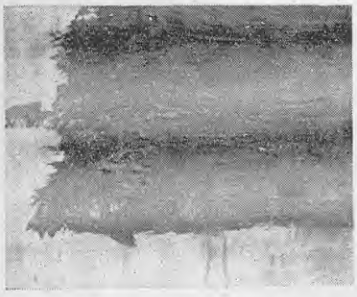
Another Method of Repairing Worn-out Tanks

A DESCRIPTION of a method employed in repairing worn-out tanks with reinforced concrete appeared in the January issue of the "Journal." While this method proved highly effective and seems almost to have conferred everlasting life on what was once a hopeless ruin of a tank—two merits which would be hard to surpass—what is claimed to be even a better alternative has recently been demonstrated by Mr. Robert Taylor on his farm near Warkworth.



Repaired tanks on Mr. Taylor's farm. The condition of the tanks before repair can be gauged by the numerous large patches shown in the illustration.

The water used by Mr. Taylor is highly impregnated with corrosive minerals, and the normal life of a tank is only about two and a half years. After costly experience, Mr. Taylor concluded that the recurring replacement charge for new tanks was too high, so he decided to patch up the old ones. He began by scraping the inside of a tank, intending to paint it over with water-proofing paint, but found that the metal in many parts was too thin to stand scraping.



A near view of a patch. The hole has been covered by two layers of cheese cloth, the texture of which can be seen in places showing through the paint.

He accordingly began by treating the holes and weak places from the outside with alternate coats of water-proofing paint and cheese cloth as follows:—

A covering of water-proofing paint.
A covering of cheese cloth stretched evenly over the part.
A covering of water-proofing paint.
A covering of cheese cloth, as above.
A covering of water-proofing paint.

Where the metal around a hole was very thin, the edges were held in place from the inside while the first coats were applied. When the various patches had been completed, a coating of the paint was then applied to the inside of the tank.

As will be seen by the numerous patches in the illustration, the tank was indeed far gone. The repairs, however, have actually resulted in a tank which was demonstrably better than new, as it has already given three years of trouble-free service, and appears good for many years more. As previously mentioned, a new tank was good only for about two and a half years' use.