

press, so that the « will » to twist is removed.

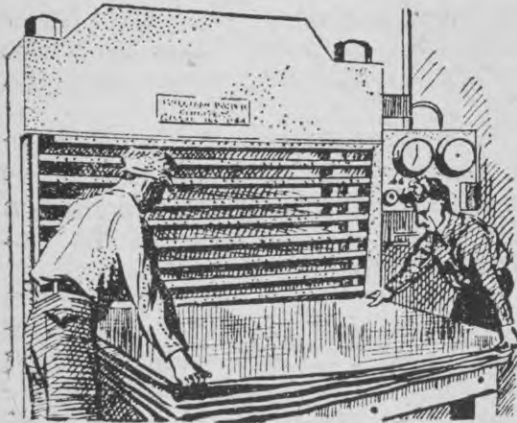
Stronger Than Metal

Strength in flat sheets is best obtained by setting the veneers at 90 deg to the face. Should a curved surface be desired, a 45 deg set is best, but the angle varies according to the percentage of wood in the crossband as against the total. In strength-weight ratio, plywood holds the advantage over metal, which aeronautic designers have been quick to recognise, but in winning this advantage, plywood still cedes to metal a margin in bulk.

Moulding of plywoods calls into play a series of presses, operated by hand, hydraulic and fluid pressure principles. Fluid pressure is a comparatively recent discovery, involving the use of a flexible bag. The plywood to be moulded is shaped according to the required design and placed in a chamber. Heat and pressure are applied simply by pumping steam into a rubber bag, which itself is in a metal chamber.

The resin agents are thus forced into the wood cells as the plywood is taking shape. Even pressure on curved structures is assured by the flexible bag process, thereby facilitating the manufacture of such equipment as hulls, fuselages or wings, either in one piece, in halves or in sections.

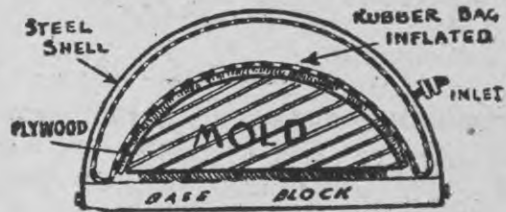
By its new qualities plywood has become a new material—flexible, purposeful, reliable. It must be regarded in a new light, for it will surely revolutionise future building and joinery industries.



Slicing Machine

New Zealand represents a fertile field for the progressive minds of these allied industries.

With closer co-ordination among architects, furniture makers and joiners, the development of pre-fabrication and built-in fittings need not threaten small industries, but rather offer a fresh opportunity for factories large and small to raise the standard and specialise in the manufacture



of home equipment, calling for skilled use of tools.

Blueprint on Trends

The cabinetmaker has the chance of preventing his business from pouring into other channels by moving with the trend and accepting it as his right, rather than fighting the idea and perhaps reducing his products in quality and value. Instead of turning out a wardrobe, the cabinetmaker should answer with a new-design product, complete with appropriate hardware, ready to be set in the measured space of the blueprint. Taste will dictate how the product must be patterned and finished.

This new aspect brings in its train the need for better understanding among the architect, builder and cabinetmaker. The designer and constructor of any building should have a fuller appreciation of the cabinetmaker's shop and the furniture factory to meet their needs more harmoniously. Actually as the architect and builder are likely to be his new customer—not the individual buyer as of yore—the cabinetmaker must make ready to become a sub-contractor, as it were, for there must continue to be an excessive call on his skill, time and machinery in the production of better-standard, modern, practicable furniture.