

Glass and Glazing.—A special committee was set up to consider several British standards which had been received relating to glass and glazing, to direct action necessary to determine whether these were suitable for adoption in New Zealand, and to prepare any such original New Zealand standard specifications as may be found necessary. Attention was given first to the British standard code of practice for glazing and fixing glass in buildings, which was found to be suitable for adoption in New Zealand.

Terrazzo Work.—In accordance with the usual procedure, the emergency standard code of practice for terrazzo work, issued in 1946, was reviewed in the light of the experience gained during its initial use. This review showed that, with a few comparatively minor amendments, the provisions were suitable for retention, and the specification, so amended, was recommended for issue in the regular series of standard specifications.

Building-boards.—With a view to amplifying the existing standard specifications for building-boards and fibrous-plaster wallboards and so making their provisions more effective, arrangements were made for two series of tests to be conducted by the Dominion Physical Laboratory. Samples are to be tested to arrive at a basis for suitable moisture content, impact, and transverse strength tests.

Asbestos Cement Sectional Committee

Asbestos Cement Roofing-sheets Committee Two meetings.

Asbestos Cement Roofing-sheets.—The standard specification for asbestos cement unreinforced flat sheets and corrugated sheets was amended by the inclusion of provisions relating to corrugated sheets with a 7 in. pitch, in view of the fact that experience has shown sheets with this pitch to be satisfactory. In addition, the committee considered representations from manufacturing interests asking that provision be made for the use of an admixture of alternative mineral fibre in lieu of asbestos fibre only, this request being necessitated by the present shortage of asbestos. Before making any decision in this connection, the committee directed that some tests should be carried out on products made of the substitute admixture in order to determine whether their strength or quality was reduced below safe or satisfactory limits.

Paints and Coatings Sectional Committee

(Four meetings)

Paints and Coatings Executive Committee	..	..	One meeting.
Paints and Coatings Technical Committee	..	..	One meeting.
Paints Technical Panel	..	..	Three meetings.
Conference of Government Purchasing Departments	..	..	Two meetings.

Ready-mixed Paints.—As recorded in the last report, the original emergency standard specifications for ready-mixed paints for finishing coats and undercoats for woodwork were reviewed in the light of further serious deterioration in the supply position, and it was decided to withdraw these specifications and to replace them with a new specification framed along different lines. In consultation with the Dominion Laboratory and other authorities, a completely new specification was prepared. This new specification places more stress upon the performance of the product than upon its composition, and is based upon pigment volume instead of the usual basis of weight per gallon. The specification stipulates general composition requirements, quality of raw materials, ratio of pigment to oil, permissible amount of thinner, the manner in which the various materials may be combined, and consistency and performance requirements, including drying and brushing properties, spreading rate, and hiding power. Appendices establish the methods by which the various tests are to be performed. Finally, the new specification provides for the type marking of paint to