Cornices.—The term cornice is usually applied to the projecting course which crowns that part of the building to which it is affixed. One important function of a cornice being to protect the surface of the wall from moisture, it should be designed to carry out this purpose effectively. Provision should be made for the proper discharge of rain water from the top surface, also a continuous "*drip*" should be provided as near to the nosing of the cornice as the detail will allow.

A sketch detail of a piece of cornice is given in Fig. 180, illustrating its various parts.

Modillions are the projections under the *corona* of the cornice, resembling brackets.

Dentils are the small blocks in the *bed moulding* of the cornice.

Balustrades.—Sometimes a parapet wall is built above a cornice in the

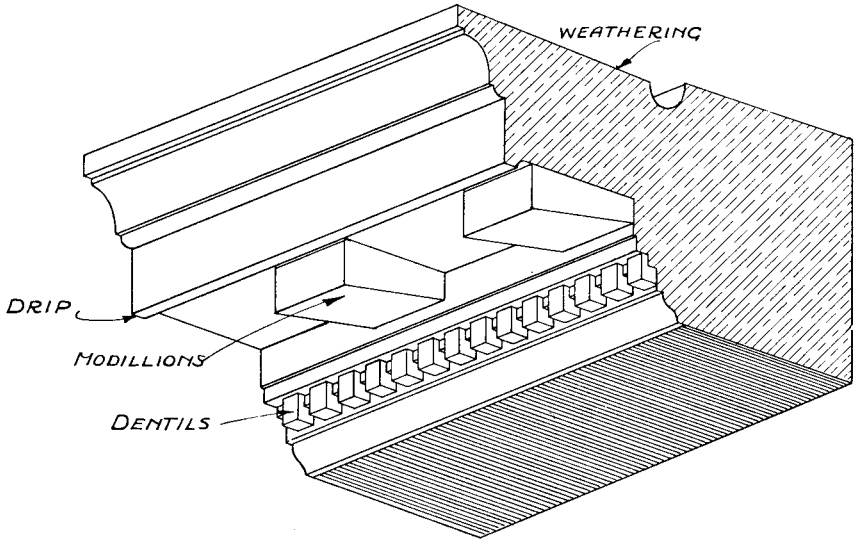

FIG. 180.—DETAIL OF A PIECE OF CORNICE IN ONE BED.

form of a balustrade. Fig. 174 shows a portion of a balustrade in conjunction with the *Tuscan Order*. It is composed of *plinth*, *balusters*, and *capping*. The top surface of the plinth should be worked inclined towards the inside face, whilst horizontal seatings should be provided for the balusters. The interval between the balusters should not be more than half their largest diameter, or less than one-third.

Baluster Die.—Balusters are divided into bays, each bay containing about nine balusters and two half-balusters, which are usually worked on the die-stone of the balustrade at each end of the bay, as in Fig. 174. This stone is called a *baluster die-stone*.

The **Capping**, being a form of coping, should be designed to fulfil that function. Slate dowels should be fitted in the top and bottom joints of the balusters to prevent their displacement.

Construction of Cornices.—With regard to construction, a cornice may

be complete in one stone, as in Fig. 181; but large stone cornices are usually built up in a series of courses, each course forming a cantilever for the projecting course immediately above. Sufficient weight on the wall should be provided to more than counterbalance the oversailing portion. The stability of the cornice is often assisted by placing a course of stone immediately above the cornice. This course is called a *blocking course*, the top surface of which should be inclined, and each joint strengthened with *metal cramps*.

When cornices are built up in height with several stones, great care should be exercised in the placing of the beds. *Modillions*, unless supported by

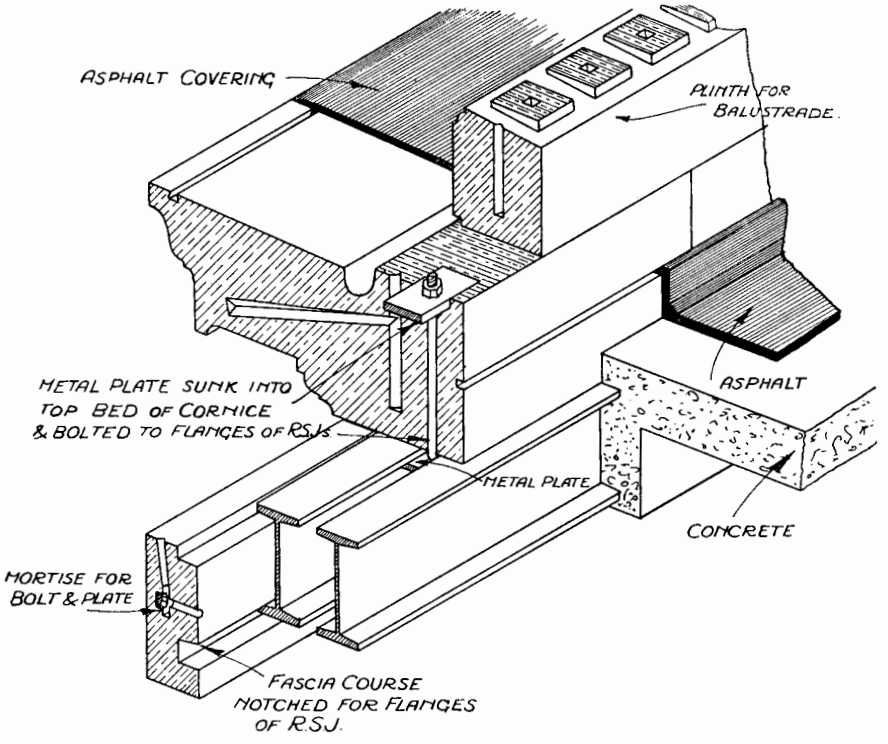

FIG. 182.—TAILING DOWN CORNICE.

steelwork, should be worked out of the solid stone. A bed-joint is often arranged immediately over the *modillions*, but this practice is not to be recommended, although a great saving of labour in working the modillions is gained by placing the bed-joint in this position. Should a settlement of the wall occur, there is a probability of the modillions being broken off. In fixing, the *mortar bed* should be kept clear of the top surface of the modillions, thus reducing the risk of breakage.

Tailing Down a Cornice.—Cornices with large projections often require tailing down to ensure stability. An effective method of accomplishing this is given in Fig. 182. A metal plate is sunk in the top bed surface, a *tailing-down bolt* is threaded on the plate and fastened under the top flanges of the