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As I Saw It

By LANCELOT SUKERT, A. I. A.

WASHINGTON in its glorious springtime attire! What a gorgeous setting for a convention! Verdure everywhere, rich and heavy with the scent of spring blossoms! The famous Japanese cherry trees, their original hundred increased to a thousand by the skilled hands of horticulturalists, literally loaded down with huge, thickly packed blossoms! What a sight for architectural eyes! Tree bowered avenues and parks filled with gayly attired tourists and sartorially perfect architects! Swarms of taxis, "anywhere in the city proper, 20c" running about like ants. Well dressed, prosperous appearing and wholesome looking citizenry. Wooded "circles" and richly foliated parks every few blocks, in whichever direction you stroll. Wide avenues lined with overhanging elms, forming great, green gothic naves. Chateau-like mansions rubbing shoulders with chaste colonial facades, and the lovely old Octagon, in all her primness. Trim hedges and luxuriant box trees, looking for all the world as though they had been rendered against the elevations by Otto Eggers. The simple beauty of the White House, the ages-past atmosphere of the fine old Greek doric Patent Office and the glorious majesty of Henry Bacon's Lincoln Memorial, reverently facing the spire-like obelisk commemorating the city's namesake. Washington the beautiful, how appropriate that we should convene there in the spring. Her beauties are redolent with lofty inspirations.

To thoroughly appreciate an Institute convention, one should arrive about two days in advance. Dropping into the Octagon, one finds the Board of Directors in the midst of its five-day pre-convention session, seated about the lovely Duncan Phyfe table, beneath the portrait of the Father of our Country. One wonders how many boards are privileged to convene in so charming a setting. The staff of the Octagon is agog with convention matters, preparing records and the myriad documents that, a few days later, the delegates receive so nonchalantly. There is a hushed rush of completing the preparations for the convention. The intruder feels that he has interrupted important work, despite the hearty

welcome he receives. Strolling over to the Mayflower Hotel he finds the marble-lined halls filled with other early arrivals and those who have come for the pre-convention meetings, which, because of their more intimate character, are fully as interesting as the convention itself. Here, beneath the cold white marble statue of Venus and Adonis sit Earl Reed and John Bollenbacher, of Chicago, in leisurely conversation. The Collegiate Schools of Architecture are meeting, divided into groups. Visiting the discussion on Design, one hears the arguments pro and con the teaching of the orders, followed by a discussion on the advisability of continuing with the esquisse system. Both subjects prove to be excellent starting points for intensely interesting comments by instructors from all parts of the country. One cannot help but feel the spirit of sincerity with which these men are carrying on their tasks. The discussions go off on tangents and arrive nowhere in particular. One thing leads to another, as do so many discussions on design, and the original points are lost, but ideas have been exchanged, new friends have been made, and one leaves, satisfied that there are as many methods of teaching design as there are teachers, and that all are good, so long as they are fired with sincerity. Here one learns theory propounded by men unsullied by the harrowing distractions of business; and one feels that the shaping of the minds of our future architects is in good hands.

Apparently unruffled by the long grind of the five-day session of the Board of Directors, Frederick Garber and Max Furbringer sauntered into the lobby of the Mayflower, (they're both bald-domed but you can tell them apart—Max carries a cane), engaged in heated argument concerning the qualifications of the candidates for second vice-president of the Institute. "Peaslee must be reelected," said Max, "because he has set a pace as a cartoonist. His boots will be hard to fill." It seems that Horace whiles away the time at Directors' meetings delineating the profiles of our august directorate with special emphasis on their facial characteristics. Frank Adams, entering into the discussion, remarked: "I don't mind his cartoonin' me," speaking in his delightful

Floridian southernese, "but I does object to the conversation he shows eminatinn' from my mouth: 'If a motion has been made, I'll second it.'"

The convention, either by a reflection of the times or by design, certainly gave an opportunity for the small-townners to have their say. In fact, they dominated the show. The first evening session proved to be a high-spot. Billed on the program as: "The Practice of Architecture During a Depression," the discussion got right down to brass tacks. Perhaps we have become surfeited with the talk of millions to be spent on Federal buildings. Maybe we have become wearied with the recurrent romance of skyscrapers soaring to eery heights. The debate on modernism is now an old story. Ninety percent of us never get a chance at ninety percent of that sort of thing. Many of us who give sincere and enthusiastic personal service, slaving over a single drafting board and intensely happy in our servitude, may love to hear the big talk of the wizards of architectural promotion, but when the discussion gets down to the business of designing a new front porch, as it did on Tuesday evening, it's right down our alley. Arthur B. Holmes of New Jersey warmed our hearts when he talked of charging a fee for consulting services. How often we have been called upon to give free advice and have done it in the hope of ingratiating future clients, knowing full well that a lawyer or doctor would be expected to charge for services of similar character. Wm. Draper Brinckloe, of Easton, Maryland, talked our own language when he told us how to properly plan a house for the farmer, whose wife demands that the bath shall be on the first floor, adjacent to the kitchen, to conserve plumbing costs, and that the important entrance should be "around back" where the hands can enter, with a coat and wash room so that they can clean up before entering the farm kitchen for their pork-pie, and how foolish to go into detail about trim, siding, etc., on farm houses when the local contractor simply has to use whatever may be available locally. Dwight James Baum (one suspects that "Baum" is a contraction of "Beau Brummell") told us that we are overlooking a lucrative field in not pursuing farm building prospects. We wonder if those cute little twenty room igloos of his that we see published were built for dirt farmers and if the first floor bath adjoins the kitchen. Also, just how does one go about it to get a farmer, with his distrust of the city feller, to hire an archyteck? (In a Ford?)

Bob Kohn, (we can call him Bob, now that he has shed the dignified robes of office) is without a peer in presiding over conventions. Both at the San Antonio convention and this last one, his

sparkling humor never failed in the pinches. During the rather unexpected but delightful scrap over the scheme of unification, Robert H. Orr, of Los Angeles, (who we may rightfully call the "daddy of unification"), wound up his remarks by reciting his own poetic panegyric on the subject, remarkable for its meter, its rhythm, its length and its having been memorized. (He admitted in the lobby, afterwards, that it is also an acrostic, the initial letters of each line spelling American Institute of Architects when read vertically; clever people, these Californians!) After the applause which naturally followed, Stephen Francis Voorhees, (never knew his front names before, had to look 'em up in the *Annuary*) protagonist for the opposition, arose, not quite certain just how to reply to an argument set forth in iambic pentameter, whereupon the chairman, with twinkling eyes, remarked that if he so chose, Mr. Voorhees might take a few moments to transpose his reply into verse.

Oratory of the good old Daniel Webster type, as exemplified by that greatest Institute orator of all time, James Monroe Hewlett, was strangely lacking. Of course we must except the remarks of the silver tongued Louis LaBeaume, whose style and vocabulary always entrance us, and the pertinent words of the beloved C. Howard Walker, who shakes his leonine head, once crowned with fiery red, now turned snowy white, as vociferously as ever while voicing his rage at the more youthful element's assaults upon tradition. But the oratory which quite swept the convention off its feet was offered by an outwardly calm, but, as he admitted, inwardly quaking young man from New Jersey, who, if you please, first apologized for his lack of oratorical ability and then proceeded, by the unconscious but nevertheless cleverest possible trick of oratory, to tell, in his simple and direct way, his experiences as the only architect in a small town not far removed from a great metropolis, where the big guns get all of the important work and the Small House Service Bureau becomes the only competitor for the small work. Seymour Williams needed no logic as an argument. His story was an argument in itself. It was so sincere, so human and, withal, so pertinent that it won a moral victory for those from New Jersey and New York State who would change the complexion of the Architects' Small House Service Bureau.

None but an architect could possibly have conceived so ponderous a title as "The Architects' Small House Service Bureau." One is led to wonder, after listening to Seymour Williams, just why the word "service" was included. No matter how good they may be, stock plans hardly con-

stitute service. After having been connected with it for several years, even that stalwart Bostonian, William Stanley Parker, has given up the repetition of this ponderous expression, boiling it down to the "Bureau" as though it were a piece of bedroom furniture. (Mayhap of Mayflower origin.)

When the New Jerseyites (or is it Jerseyans) pack for the annual trip to the convention it is as natural for them to include a brief case full of arguments against the Bureau as it is to include their socks and ties. They arrived this year, bristling with pointed arguments and homely examples. Heretofore they have been snowed under with parliamentary procedure. They always get the final spot on the program, which any vaudevillian will tell you is tough. This year the board, desiring to see them have a fair chance to fight it out to a finish, had roped off a metaphorical ring by adopting a set of rules limiting debate, thereby taking some of the zest from what might otherwise have been a real battle. Perhaps the fiery scrap over unification was quite sufficient for one convention. At any rate the battle turned out to be quite an orderly affair. William Stanley Parker was the favorite, for, even if he were not so able a speaker and even if he were not so thoroughly conversant with his subject, the Architect's Small House Service Bureau had already weathered several storms and was reasonably well entrenched as an Institute activity. In the face of the Bureau's directorate of men whom Seymour Williams admitted we all know and revere, thereby making his fight, so he said, all the harder, and in the face of repeated failure, also admitted, the stick-to-it-iveness of New Jersey finally won the victory of compromise. The final decision has been postponed for one year, with the contestants themselves appointed as judges.

Did you know that our august and faithful treasurer, Edwin (alias Slim) Bergstrom of Los Angeles, has two complete travel kits in exact duplicate of one another? He keeps one at the house and the other at the office, so that when he has to rush off to Washington he's always packed and ready to leave for a two weeks' vacation on a moment's notice. Like George D. Mason of Detroit, he carries all sorts of gadgets and dofunnies which he has found necessary in emergencies from time to time during his travels, including pocket flashlights, repair kits, sewing equipment, cleaning fluid and an outfit that looks for all the world like a set of burglar's tools, but, unlike Mr. Mason, he has *duplicate* outfits.

Returning delegates usually report to their home chapters on the business of the convention, but seldom, if ever, do they tell of the real thrill of meeting old classmates, yes, and old teachers and other old cronies in the lobby of the hotel, or of the even greater thrill of coming in intimate contact with the distinguished leaders of the profession. There is an additional thrill in finding that the men who produce distinguished architecture are, themselves, distinguished.

Not for several years has a convention of the Institute witnessed a debate like that on the subject of unification. The committee of State Society and Institute Members which had been appointed at the San Antonio convention last year with definite instructions to report back this year with a scheme to accomplish "direct unified relationship" between the Institute and the various state organizations, either already formed or to be formed in the future, had worked hard during the year and, having discovered what seemed to be the only feasible scheme by which the entire profession might be unified under the leadership of the Institute, had prepared and offered a report which was accepted by the Board of Directors, turned over to the committee on by-laws, written as an amendment, duly sent out to all Institute members with explanatory notes and finally brought up for consideration at the convention. Those who expected its passage without difficulties were doomed to disappointment.

Despite the articles which had appeared in THE OCTAGON and the architectural press on this subject, and the report of the 1931 Convention, and despite the publication of the proposed by-law amendment with explanatory text, there were some who, thinking unification another attempt to undermine the high standard of Institute membership, stood up on their hind legs and proceeded to polish up their nimbi (haloes to you) until the underlying purpose of the scheme was explained.

The New York City chapter delegation (and its roster reads like the blue-book of architecture) had caucused the previous evening and prepared a plan of action designed to upset the scheme proposed by the committee and to substitute another plan whereby the Institute might enter into separate affiliation agreements with each of the existing state organizations, if, as and when the latter found the same advisable.

It was pointed out that this scheme made no provision for the formation of state organizations where none now exist, permitted the state groups no representation at Institute conventions and failed to provide a means of bringing into state societies and through them, into close relationship with the Institute, those unattached architects who have been accepting all that has been done for the profession by the Institute and the various state organizations without having contribu-

ted in any way or having any voice in professional affairs either locally or nationally.

The fight waged back and forth between the New York delegates with their heavy barrage of able oratory and the various invited representatives of the state societies until the apparent deadlock was broken by Emery Stanford Hall of Chicago, upon whose motion the chairman appointed a committee of two from each side of the debate, with instructions to bring in a mutually agreeable scheme during the following day's session.

The committee labored far into the night. At three a. m. someone had the bright idea to end the deadlock by combining the two schemes and letting the various state organizations have their choice of (a) forming a loose affiliation with the Institute or (b) becoming a state member of the Institute with limited delegation at Institute conventions, thereby satisfying both sides of the question. To show that there was mutual agree-

ment, Mr. Voorhees, who had led New York's fight against the original scheme, offered the substitute amendment, which was seconded in turn by representatives of all of the state societies having participated in the makeup of the original plan. To quote Electus B. Litchfield, what started out to be a bitter contest ended up in a love feast.

It is strange that both of the convention battles, (Unification and the Architects' Small House Service Bureau) ended up, one with a definite compromise, and the other, for lack of time, in a delayed compromise. Everyone, we are sure, will be satisfied with the final decision on unification. We are hopeful that the committee appointed to bring in a new plan for the operation of the Bureau will reach as acceptable a solution.

On the whole, (to use a strictly architectural adjective) it was a swell Convention.

The Font of the Helicon and the Forge of Hephaestus

SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS AFTER

WHEN the courteous and urbane Martin Van Buren (1782-1862) introduced Richard Upjohn to young "Dick" Hunt, then supervising architect of the extension to the National Capitol, the American Institute of Architects was conceived. This was in 1854, the beginning of a portentous epoch, the twilight of the Golden Age, and the genesis of the Gilded. The venerable ex-president, then in his seventies—of the same stock as the illustrious Vanbrugh of Blenheim and "The Provoked Wife,"—doubtless had a few drops of the *ichor architectonis* in his veins. He saw a storm brewing and knew that the Heliconiades were in for a licking and thought something ought to be done about it.

Hunt was 26, recently returned from his European studies (1843-1854), mainly in the Ecole des Beaux Arts, where he had won high honors. He designed under Lefuel, the *pavillon de la Bibliotheque* opposite to the Palais Royal, and had been inspector of works on the buildings connecting the Tuilleries with the Louvre. The Encyclopedia Britannica, to which acknowledgment is due for the above information, is silent on Upjohn, there being no hiatus between "Upholsterers" and "Upper Sind Frontier".

Anyhow the two Dicks put their heads together and in due course the Institute was delivered. Upjohn was the first president, ably assisted by Hunt as secretary. In those days when they got a good man, they kept him. For

nineteen years there was no other incumbent. From 1877 to 1881 Thomas U. Walter of Philadelphia was president, and then from '87 to '91 Richard M. Hunt, which brings us down practically to the present day. Upjohn used to design Gothic churches, if we remember rightly, and some very good ones, too. The Central Church in Newbury Street, Boston, still holds its own after 50 or 60 years. The broached spire (if that's the right term) is graceful and suave in contour, which, Professor Chandler used to tell us, is no mean achievement. Church architects nowadays rather shy at the broached spire, perhaps it's too difficult to manage; it's got to be just right or it's a flop. The broached spire cracks and falls down sometimes unless it's tied together with steel (which complicates matters), and moisture penetration enters into it and so, what with one thing and another, it's easier and more modish to cover up the hard place with a *cusped machicoulis*, some swell undercut mouldings, and a few pinnacles.

Dick Hunt wasn't exactly a church worker. He wasn't built that way. He was an extremely brilliant man, forceful and picturesque to a degree. We saw him once or twice while the Administration Building at the World's Columbian Exposition was going up. We were a tender young draughtsman in the "Fair" office at the time, and when he came in the draughting room breathing fire and brimstone, we trembled and

worshipped. Our ambition was to grow up and be a great big man just like him. We've since grown up some and wear suspenders instead of a belt, but that's about all. One day in New York we called on a friend who had a job in Hunt's office. In the reception room was a large plaster model of "Biltmore" and we were tiptoeing gently around it to see all sides. Suddenly Hunt walked into the room and noticed what we were doing. "Turn it round! damn it, turn it round! That's what it's for," he boomed. The model was mounted on a pivot, of which fact we were unaware.

In the ante-paternalistic and pre-functional days the Boston Society of Architects used to have some awfully pleasant meetings attended by 50 or 75 per cent of the membership instead of the handful of the faithful who now come. We used to gather at the Old Parker House of sainted memory, or the Thorndyke (ehul!) and the Exchange Club among other places where the food was good and the cellars well stocked. If the meeting was scheduled for seven o'clock everybody arrived early and discussed technical matters for an hour or so over their *aperitifs*, thus leaving the after-dinner symposium free for aesthetic subjects. That's the only way to settle these technical problems, talk them over man to man, glass in hand. Gone at in this way, they cease to be dry anhydrous subjects. After a frugal meal of tender T-bone steak and potatoes, pont l'evêche and Bent's water crackers, washed down with a large pewter of musty or a bottle of Pontet-Canet, we were ready to listen to the words of wisdom from our elders while sipping a bit of Scotch and soda.

The real inspiration of these meetings often came from invited guests, Hopkinson Smith for example, who told us how to make water colors in picturesque language, so that we all felt full of enthusiasm, imagining ourselves Winslow Homers and John Singer Sargents. Cass Gilbert visited us one time and grew positively lyric after a few of Henry's masterpieces concocted at the Altar of Dionysos. We shall never forget his exordium to the young architect nor his peroration ending, "By God I love my art with all my heart!" We walked home full of noble thoughts.

But we digress, perhaps. Still on the other hand, as this is the 75th anniversary of the Institute, mention of things *post homium memoriam* may be permissible. Recent conventions, in the opinion of some, have been as jejune and arid as the Steppes of Odessa or the sandy wastes of New Mexico, though like those monotonous areas they have their flowering cacti and occasional fascinating mirage. An effort was made several years ago to enliven the proceedings at the Annual Conventions by the injection of the humanities and discussions on aesthetics. The report of the

Board of Directors was postponed until the afternoon of the first day and even, of late years, the custom has been to split up the document into chunks and dole it out a little at a time, scattering the gobbets through the various sessions, like chopped chives in an *omelette ciboulette*. This helped some and it's always beautifully read by our delightful secretary whose modulated voice possesses such a soothing somnolent charm that one can almost doze placidly throughout the reading. We'd much rather he'd read us from the meditations of Marcus Aurelius or from the Essays of Montaigne, for then we could really listen, but of course that wouldn't do at all. Why can't the directors who are all far wiser than we, settle about ninety per cent of the mooted points and only tell us the high spots? Then we'd have time to talk about the Muses and the Amenities, and visit the Cathedral close and tool along under the cherry blossoms. Evening sessions are more fun. In the first place they usually follow a good dinner when one is feeling kindly toward the world, they only last an hour and a half or so and generally something interesting happens; a famous artist speaks or somebody gets a medal or something. After adjournment around ten, groups of congenial souls sit down and talk it all over and order buckets of ice and a dozen more bottles of White Rock. We don't want to seem captious, realizing only too well the troubles, barrassments and perplexities of the program committee, having served ourself in a similar capacity in our own chapter, where our efforts were a dismal failure, but surely the Fine Arts are, at least in the opinion of many, vastly more significant to architects than Stabilization, Registration, and a lot of other "ions" and "isms," important as the latter may be. We don't believe the two "Dicks" who founded the Institute ever cared a hoot about such things. They were artists and builded fine buildings and possessed the respect and confidence of the public, and the name of one of them at least is in the Encyclopedia Brittanica. The Institute was organized "to unite in fellowship the architects of the United States of America, to combine their efforts so as to promote the aesthetic, scientific, and practical efficiency of the profession, and to make the profession of ever-increasing service to society." Why not keep those ends constantly in mind in the order named?

The 1932 Convention was much like the last three or four, only more so. A *nouveau* delegate sitting beside us, patiently listening, asked, "Are all conventions like this?" Even President Kohn, after his opening address (which, by the way, was one of the high spots), turned to the distinguished group of ex-presidents and others sitting on the platform and asked them if they wouldn't like to take seats on the floor so they

could "squirm around." The exodus was unanimous.

Possibly some noble souls sat through every session, morning, afternoon, and evening, but it was not unusual to see delegates tip-toeing softly out of the hall with a fixed look of determination. One just *had* to come up for air occasionally. It was in this way we missed one of the finest "scraps" in recent years, the discussion over the proposed change in the by-laws to permit of "Unification." Here Dr. Walker and the embattled architects stood and fought nobly for the Muses, thereby making the world safe for Aristocracy. Friday afternoon's discussion on the Institute's endorsement of the Small House Service Bureau was an example of worthy academic debate. The able speakers on both sides adhered to their texts and the merits, pro and con, were presented admirably. It seemed to us the honors belonged to New Jersey and Virginia, they—and others—holding it a manifest inconsistency that the Institute should endorse one bureau for the production of stock plans while condemning another (the proposed Government Board of Public Works), for doing the same thing.

A subject that was in everybody's mind, a very interesting and impelling subject, received scant attention during the sessions, though much dis-

cussed in lobbies and around festive boards; those occasions referred to in the official program as "for luncheon parties and social contacts—no special events scheduled." We refer to the modern trends in Design. Now Architecture was a Fine Art once, and still is in spots, even in the United States. It must be admitted that "Functionalism" is exciting, even stimulating to the imagination—an admirable quality in any craft. To our limited understanding and in view of the results thus far achieved, Functionalism seems to belong rather to the realm of Practical Arts than to the Fine Arts. Its chief interest lies in the high degree of skill shown by some of its protagonists in the very clever details of lighting fixtures, shop windows, balcony rails, and the employment of new metals and materials with strange names. Its highly sensational in the treatment of wall surfaces and supporting members. We recall a recent erection known as "The House of the Varicose Veins." It must be heaps of fun and its ingenious designers ought to go in for the Craftsmanship Medal.

The effect of Functionalism on Architecture may be just what is needed for its development during the next two or three decades. They say the first hundred years are the hardest.

HUBERT G. RIPLEY, F. A. I. A.

A Past-President Looks at the Convention

PART I

THE recent Sixty-fifth Convention of the Institute really afforded a most encouraging display of initiative on the part of the Architects. There was no wailing and mighty little gnashing of teeth about hard times. Of course, economics was to the fore in every discussion and there was a most exciting interchange of progressive ideas on what could and should be done to improve professional relations, housing, land economics, new fields of practice, education and even the Small House Bureau! From my point of view, there never has been previously a series of such sensible, practical feet-on-the-ground discussions, yet at the same time inspired with an imaginative (dare I say it?) aesthetic ideal.

But on those three days of meetings when I presided and practically expressed no opinions of my own, I was frequently choking with undelivered speeches! Trying to think back about the things that were discussed at the Convention, without me, I turn quite naturally towards that evening devoted to new fields of practice. There was a lot of good stuff in those talks. Why is it that the good doctor is able to make quite a decent living

out of his current family visits and office consultations at \$10 and \$5—or even at \$3 each? People go to a doctor about every little ailment and they expect to get good advice worth the price about their little troubles. They do not delay their visits or calls (if they can help it) until they need a major operation. Why have the architects failed to develop that same common, everyday use of their services? It is well known in Europe. When I visit my school friend, Cornille, who is an architect in Avranches, he is out all morning on a series of visits to a farmer who wants another dormer on his barn, a lady in her little town house who needs advice about re-plastering the back of the courtyard and replacing its cobblestone pavement, and to the Curé of the next village who wants him to tell the painter what color to use on the old chapel walls. Three visits perhaps at fifty francs each? Perhaps so, but Cornille is highly respected in his town, is more regularly consulted than the lawyer and has a steady income on which to rely between those rare "big" jobs which his diploma from the Ecole des Beaux-Arts qualifies him to do. A few weeks ago I asked a well known New

Yorker if he would use the services of an architect more often if he knew he could call on him to visit a building and advise on the repainting of a room or for some minor change for a fee of \$10. "Sure," he said, "but I would never think of doing such a thing because you never can ask an architect anything without getting a big bill." Then he went on to tell me that he was just now trying to settle a bill, to help out a friend who had carelessly asked an architect to look over a piece of property which he thought he might purchase for a country house. The architect had looked it over and had made a little sketch in a few hours showing how it might be used. He did not buy that property. Now that he had bought elsewhere and engaged the local architect there—after two years—the first architect sends him a bill for five hundred dollars. "No," said my friend, "you have got to look out about consulting an architect. You can't do it as you would a doctor."

Now, of course, an architect's ideas are his sole assets and we know that some clients try to get those ideas for nothing. On the other hand, there may be a wonderful chance in this consultation practice for architects to steady their incomes—flatten out the chasms of income. Two or three men at this Convention told of their experiences in this field. Architects have always been considered a bit of a luxury, only to be used for big work. We want people generally to know, as we do, that architects really are a necessity. For good architecture (even if it is only the selection of the right green for a pair of shutters) is a necessity in an age when architecture for the first time in four centuries is actually taking on new and vital forms growing out of uses and materials.

It seems to me that this idea that the architect should occupy himself with getting a consultation practice is only one of the many opportunities for professional service which have been somewhat neglected. The possibility of cooperation between architects and farm bureaus was described at the Convention as being another such field. The small house, as such, is another. As a matter of fact, the small-house problem (in my humble? opinion) is not going to be solved either with or without the endorsement by the Institute of the Small House Service Bureau. To do so, architects everywhere must interest themselves in the improvement of small house design. It seems to me that the average run of small houses scattered throughout the country, houses designed for private parties by honest-to-goodness architects are no better in design than they should be. There is not one case in a thousand where the designer of the house has given consideration to the neighbors. I have seen rows of speculator built cardboard cottages that gave a more harmonious spirit to

the neighborhood than some of the individual architect designed stuff. Goodness only knows there is room for improvement in the design of small houses (and large ones) and the opportunity is great right now when we seem to be moving also towards large-scale operations. It seems to me that the Institute will do well to spread throughout the country that knowledge of good planning, good exterior design, and harmonious street and neighborhood design which have been so rapidly advancing in recent years. An effort should be made everywhere to get hold of those (literally) hundreds of thousands of people who now build new houses each year without the services of an architect. As one means to that end the Small House Service Bureau has not been half tried. If it were really tested out in every section by the architects themselves in an attempt to capture the practice which has escaped them heretofore, then we would soon know whether or not to amend it, improve it, or discard it entirely for something better. But merely to say that this is no good—this present Small House Service Bureau—and to put nothing in its place except a vague hope that the little clients and the speculators, thousands of them—mind you, will come trooping into the offices is just dodging an issue, or rather, losing a real opportunity for service.

And again this must all be made a part of the general consideration of housing, not designing and building houses, but housing. We have been talking about it ever since the first year of the war but now it seems as if it were actually on its way. Ten years ago it would not have been possible to hold a convention audience of two hundred or more through a two or three hour session such as that on the Economics of Site Planning and Housing which Frederick Biggers' committee staged at this last Convention. There was enough sound knowledge on the subject in the audience to have furnished material for a symposium requiring hours of further time—had that been possible. The world do move. We are not so cock-sure about a lot of things as we were before November 1929; "Own Your Own Home," for instance. Thousands of people who believed in it all over the country have lost out. Perhaps it is true that few of these, if any, owned well built houses designed by good architects. But the fact is that these workers put their savings into buying a house somewhere near their work and then the work faded away and the mortgage-man took the house. Even worse off than these were the poor (and rich) people who bought into "co-operatives" of the kind the speculator found so profitable to put up and sell; not so profitable now for either speculator or purchaser. What about the blighted areas of all

kinds? Some of the suburbs just built are just as much blighted areas as the downtowns, left by the waysides of our fast growing(?) cities. It was the prospect of uncovering the economics behind all of this that formed the most suggestive part of the report and discussion.

The Institute is going to make history if it can keep up this sort of work. The available material is majestic in volume. The architects are the people to do the job of study and analysis. But they must organize the best and most disinter-

ested of their powers. The events of this past year, discussed at the Convention, showed clearly that the opportunity for leadership is theirs. In times of trouble and distress the world always turns away from materialistic ends towards a leadership of ideals and imagination. This is for us a challenge. I wonder if we can make ourselves worthy enough to meet it?

ROBERT D. KOHN, F. A. I. A.

(To be continued in the July number)

Finances of the Institute

EXCERPTS FROM THE REPORT OF THE TREASURER
TO THE 65TH CONVENTION OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

The Treasurer herewith submits to you the sixty-fifth general report of the finances of the society. The report shows the financial condition of the Institute at the close of the fiscal year of 1931, and the income and outgo of its funds during that fiscal year, beginning January 1 and ending December 31, 1931. In connection therewith the Treasurer calls to your attention some financial and related problems that confront the Institute.

The detailed audit and report of the books of the Treasurer for 1931 were made by Price, Waterhouse and Company to the Board of Directors, and are on file at The Octagon. The financial statements in this report of the Treasurer are taken largely from that audit.

The gross operating income in 1931 amounted to \$115,497.87 and the gross operating expenditures were \$124,440.46. The difference between the income and expenditures, less \$791.59, the amount of the reduction of the Press deficit, is the operating deficit.

The gross income received in 1931 was approximately \$26,000.00 less than that received in 1930, after making allowances for certain amounts that were receivable in 1930 and not in 1931. About \$7,000.00 of this difference is accounted for by the lesser dues received, and about \$14,200.00 by the decreased revenue from the sale of documents and books.

What of 1932? The gross income received during the first three months of 1932 was \$13,100.00 less than that received during the first three months of 1930. If a similar proportionate loss continues through the balance of the year, then the general operating income for 1932 will not much exceed \$90,000.00, as compared with \$115,497.00 in 1931. The Executive Committee, aware in February of a

NOTE—The above is *not* the complete text of the Treasurer's Report. Items of general interest are here reprinted. The complete report, with tables, is available to Institute members upon request to the Treasurer, at The Octagon.

deficit of at least \$12,000.00 this year, reduced the appropriations made in November by \$6,638.00. Under the present indications, the incoming Board must make very substantial additional curtailments if the budget for 1932 is to be balanced.

[The Board of Directors at its post-convention meeting April 30, did balance the budget by making reductions in appropriations of a total sum of \$19,082, effective at once.]

The balance sheet reflects the curtailed revenues of the Institute. The amount of cash on hand is large, but practically one-half is the cash collected on subscriptions to the new building project. This amount is being held in cash, at interest, inasmuch as it is returnable in full to the subscribers if the building project is not carried through.

Inventories decreased from \$17,872.46 in 1930 to \$16,535.23 in 1931. Notes and accounts receivable decreased from \$2,691.85 in 1930 to \$944.28 in 1931, and \$780.85 of past due members notes were written off last year. Fixed assets were \$164,621.77 in 1930 and \$163,122.08 in 1931.

The securities held by the Institute are bonds, yielding, on the average, 4.67% on par. The market value of the securities, of course, has followed the general downward movement of the securities market, and is very considerably less than the book value and the par value under the present conditions. It may be years before they recover. But none have yet been defaulted either as to interest or principal, and so far as can be ascertained with competent advice the securities constitute a first-rate list, except one issue, of which one-half came to the Institute as a gift.

Accounts and notes payable in 1930 were \$12,517.76 and in 1931 were \$21,945.57. The increase is due to this year end borrowing on account of the deficit. The notes are inter-fund loans, however, and there are no banking loans.

The net worth of the Institute, exclusive of its accumulated special funds and reserves was reduced

from \$144,120.78 to \$135,459.89, while the total assets were \$507,019.97.

The Institute is sound financially without any doubt. If during these depressing years it is hard-pressed to maintain its activities at their usual scope, it does not differ from all other institutions. But with a balanced budget, it will go through.

Dues

During the year 1931, the Board remitted for cause the current annual dues of eight members, in the amount of \$200.00.

The net amount of dues in default at the close of the year was \$23,491.75, and 716 members were in default therefor. This compares with \$12,761.00 in default at the close of 1930, 379 members being in default therefor. The comparative figures for 1929 are \$11,563.00, owed by 310 members.

Sales of Documents and Books

The decreased revenues from the sale of documents and books is an indication of the curtailment in building work. In 1929, the Institute derived a net income of \$8,367.09 from these sources and in 1930 a net income of \$1,035.71, whereas in the year past it sustained a net loss of more than \$2,300.00.

Press Deficit

The Press deficit stands at \$4,817.57. Press Bonds amounting to \$225.00 are still unredeemed, and there is outstanding a note to the Henry Adams Fund for \$11,000.00.

Gifts

During the year the Carnegie Corporation continued its contribution of \$15,000.00 to carry on the lecture courses in Harvard University and the University of Oregon. Two-thirds of this was allocated to Harvard and one-third to the University of Oregon, but in 1932, the two universities will share equally in the gift.

Messrs. Charles Butler, William Emerson, William B. Ittner, George C. Nimmons, and C. C. Zantzinger made a gift of \$310.00, representing the royalties received by them on their publication, "The Significance of the Fine Arts." This donation will be used by the Education Committee this year.

The Central New York Chapter has donated a Press Bond of \$100.00, to be placed in the Structural Service Fund of the Institute.

State Associations

If the proposed amendments to the Institute By-Laws, permitting the admittance of state association members, are adopted by this Convention, it may be that one or more of the associations will become members during the current year. The admission and other fees of such members will make no appreciable difference in the net operations, for it is conceded that the aggregate amount of such fees will pay only the expenses of the Institute in connection with the state associations. If it is proven that the

Institute loses thereby, then there must be a readjustment of such fees.

Building Subscriptions

The Board has made no attempt to urge additional subscriptions to the new building project, nor has it pressed the collection of any of the subscriptions already made, owing to the general financial conditions. It will continue that policy at least during the current year. The total amount subscribed is \$113,300.00, and \$57,963.00 has been paid in on these subscriptions.

Custodianship

The Board has accepted the custodianship of \$1,500.00 which has been placed in its hands by the Illuminating Engineering Society to pay over to the Beaux Arts Institute of Design at its order. This money is to be used by the Beaux Arts Institute of Design for prizes for their students. The Board accepted this custodianship as an assistance to the other two societies, at their solicitation.

Producers' Council Agreement

A supplementary agreement with The Producers' Council carries on the same terms and conditions as existed in 1931.

It is hoped by both organizations that further curtailment of the services of the Institute to The Producers' Council will not be necessary.

Standard Documents

The Standard Contract Documents have heretofore been sold almost at cost, while the Board has been waiting until the most favorable time to increase the sales price of these documents. The present ebb of sales seems to be the time when the change would cause the least disturbance, and hereafter the Institute should derive a small gain from these sales.

Chapter Taxes and Refunds

In order to diminish the burden of the Chapters for Convention taxes, the Board is following this year the procedure inaugurated at the Sixty-fourth Convention, and the Treasurer is collecting from or refunding to each Chapter only the differences between the tax and the refund of the respective Chapters. As before, this results in the Chapters having to advance only about \$1,200.00 instead of the \$12,000.00 which prevailed heretofore.

Public Information

The appropriations for Public Information were severely curtailed in 1931, and a greater curtailment must be made in 1932. The Publicist, Mr. Grady, is carrying on, however, and will continue to do so, although there can be no adequate remuneration for his personal services during this temporary curtailment.

The subjects thus reported are the important financial items of the year. During 1932 there will be a close hewing to the line.

The Structural Service Department

F. LEO SMITH, TECHNICAL SECRETARY

Devoted to the advancement of knowledge of materials, method of construction, and equipment for buildings, and to a better understanding of the art and science of architecture.

Adequate Electric Wiring.

Specifications for electric wiring are frequently based upon the requirements of national or local electrical codes which merely establish minimum standards for safety without insuring adequate and efficient wiring systems. Costs estimated on the basis of wiring per outlet, watts per socket or on lamp renewals per year are not necessarily a true indication of the possible economies.

The most important element in cost calculations is often overlooked. In an electric lighting system the actual light produced must be considered in its relation to the other factors involved in order to insure an adequate, efficient and economical system. The relationship between lamp operation and the more obvious items of expense is not generally understood, and ordinarily is given little consideration.

Mazda lamps produce light most economically when operating at the normal voltage for which they are designed. Low voltage conditions seriously affect the efficiency of the lamp, and the light produced is least when most needed. Adequate wiring is essential to prevent excessive voltage drop and the resulting reduction in the light received per dollar spent.

Savings effected by the use of minimum permissible wire sizes are soon wasted in loss of operating efficiency. Wattage which should be producing light at the lamps is dissipated in heating wires which are too small to properly carry the imposed load. While No. 14 wire can safely carry 15 amperes and satisfies code requirements for 15 ampere branch circuits regardless of length of run, a two volt drop will occur for every twenty-five feet of run. Where lamps operate on under-voltage the light output decreases more rapidly than the wattage with a resultant rise in the unit cost of light.

Architects and building owners should insist on wiring specifications which will provide ample capacity to insure against obsolescence and inefficiency rather than to rely upon conformance with electrical code requirements which are intended as minimum safety standards. Inadequate specifications force competitive bidding to low estimates based on minimum code requirements, usually resulting in overloading, inefficiency and early obsolescence.

The wiring specifications recommended by the wiring committee of the National Electric Light Association are intended to provide for a standard of adequacy for present and future needs and to establish a definite basis on which to prepare electrical

wiring bids. These specifications define the minimum limits for wiring installations for lighting and other applications of electricity in connection with so-called lighting circuits which will insure adequate carrying capacity and reasonably small voltage drop.

Complete information on the specifications of the National Electric Light Association is available to Institute members through the Structural Service Department.

Preservative Treatment of Wood.

Before most structures reach the stage of obsolescence, certain of their important structural parts are subjected to deterioration because of decay and insect attack. The impregnation of these parts with chemical preservatives enhances their lasting properties from two to five times and, in some instances, gives them a certain degree of fire resistance.

This view is supported in a current publication of the National Committee on Wood Utilization of the United States Department of Commerce, entitled "Treated Lumber: Its Uses and Economies."

Foundation timbers, sills, floor joists, and other sub-structural members are often used in contact with the earth or in other locations where there is moisture, which causes decay and is also conducive to insect attack.

In most buildings in the United States only a relative small percentage of the lumber need be chemically treated to insure adequate protection against these destructive agents, but in the aggregate millions of dollars in repairs and replacements could be saved annually.

Coal-tar creosote and zinc chloride are the two principle wood preservatives mentioned in the publication. Any preservative chemical to be thoroughly effective, it is stated, must be injected into the fibers of the wood under pressure. In this manner the wood is made poisonous to insects and decay-producing fungi, but not to humans or animals.

Glass Brick.

The constantly increasing demand for more adequate lighting of commercial and industrial buildings is, no doubt, responsible for the recent development of a commercially practical glass brick. While glass is ordinarily considered a fragile material, it is claimed that glass brick can be produced which will have a compressive strength far in excess of that required to support loads usually encountered in masonry wall construction.

Glass brick are intended primarily for use in non-load-bearing walls and no attempt is being made at this time to compete in price with other forms of masonry. The producers are endeavoring to combine the qualities of other materials with the special advantages of glass.

In size, two glass bricks are equivalent to three bricks of standard dimensions. The reasons for adopting this particular size and shape are not apparent. The brick are open on one side and are provided with ridges and depressions to facilitate accurate placement. Ordinary cement mortar is recommended for laying.

Experiments have been made with various surface patterns to determine the most effective light gathering forms. Prismatic ridges may be used so that light striking the outer face is refracted inward, diffusing the light and making the wall translucent but not transparent, insuring necessary privacy.

Heat-resisting glass is used for the purpose of reducing the danger of breakage through sudden temperature changes. Such glass is also less susceptible to damage from careless handling.

The Structural Service Department has received no authoritative data on the practical application of these glass units in actual use. Some question might be raised as to the effectiveness of the bond between the mortar and the brick. The Department has no positive assurance that walls of glass brick can be made water tight.

Bureau of Standards—Publications.

The United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of Standards, has recently issued a revised edition of the National Directory of Commodity Specifications. This publication is intended to encourage the use of national specification standards formulated by organizations and agencies which are recognized as authorities by the Federal Government.

This Directory was first issued in 1925 and the 1932 edition was compiled at the urgent request of State purchasing agents. It contains an alphabetical index of commodities and a classified list of specifications with brief statements regarding their origin and use, together with a summary of each to enable the reader to determine whether the scope of a particular specification meets his individual needs.

The work of preparing this Directory has been carried out cooperatively by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce and the National Bureau of Standards in conformity with a comprehensive program recommended by an advisory board composed of official representatives of fourteen national organizations interested in the utilization of specifications. Periodical revisions will be made as conditions require.

A complimentary copy of this publication has been presented to the Structural Service Department of the Institute through the courtesy of A. S. McAllis-

ter, Chief of the Division of Specifications, Bureau of Standards, in recognition of the cooperation of the Institute in contributing valuable material to the manuscript. The information which it contains is of great interest and value to the architectural profession. Copies of this new Directory, issued as Miscellaneous Publication No. 130 of the Bureau of Standards, may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., at \$1.75 each.

Another Bureau of Standards publication of interest to architects is the recently issued Standards Yearbook for 1932. This volume presents a picture of the standardization movement in various fields of industry as conducted by certain national and international agencies.

A special feature of the new Yearbook is a series of articles contributed by experts in the several fields of communication. Special consideration has also been given to current standardization programs of recognized groups, outlining accomplishments to date.

Reference is made to the activities of the American Institute of Architects in standardization work in connection with the issuing of standard contract forms, recommendations as to size and character of advertising matter, and the development of the Standard Filing System. The cooperation of Institute members and the Structural Service Department in the work of standardization committees, dealing with building materials and appliances, is outlined.

Copies of the Standards Yearbook for 1932 may be secured from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., at \$1.00 each.

Standard for Steel Reinforcing Bars.

An American Standard for steel reinforcing bars has recently been approved by the American Standards Association. The new American Standard gives eleven standard cross-sectional areas for steel reinforcing bars, ranging from 0.05 to 1.56 square inches. Such designation is commonly used for this product rather than designating a round bar by its diameter or a square bar by its side.

The standard was submitted to the American Standards Association jointly by the Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute and the National Bureau of Standards, as endorsing sponsors. The Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute, which represents a large percentage of the fabricators of steel reinforcing bars, has strongly promoted the establishment of the standard in question, while the Bureau of Standards has published the standard as Simplified Practice Recommendation R26-30.

Copies of the standard may be obtained at five cents each from the American Standards Association, 29 West 39th Street, New York, N. Y.

A Survey of "Old Philadelphia"

By SIDNEY E. MARTIN, A.I.A.

Chairman of the Committee of the Philadelphia Chapter on a Survey of Old Philadelphia

IN 1930 a Committee of the Philadelphia Chapter of the American Institute of Architects was appointed to conduct a survey of a section of the city known as "Old Philadelphia." It comprised the built up area of the city in 1776 and represents the scene of the birth of the Republic. In this section so rich with historical associations, there still remains a greater wealth of our early Georgian Architecture than is to be found elsewhere in America.

It was of these fast disappearing landmarks that we proceeded to make a record. To be sure incomplete measured drawings of many of them had been made and published from time to time but there still remained a vast wealth of material of which no record existed.

With a fund of \$5,000, which had been provided by an anonymous donor, we set out to accomplish the task. It was decided to make a map of the entire section on which was to be noted all 18th Century and some early 19th Century structures that were still standing and had not been so altered as to render them valueless from an architectural point of view. Co-ordinated with the map was to be a written description of these structures calling attention in brief to their salient architectural features. Later it was decided to add to the architectural comments, noteworthy historical facts.

Ample photographic records were to be taken and where important buildings were in imminent danger of destruction, measured drawings were to be made.

We are happy to say that the work as originally outlined is now completed and that the accomplishment far exceeds our greatest expectation. The material for a first volume is about to go on the press.

In all, over fifty members of the Chapter have given their services in one capacity or another towards the success of the enterprise. There are the eight original members of the Committee who have directed the work since its inception; twenty-two investigators who made trips to assigned sections within the "Old City" and reported their findings to the Committee; twelve Team Captains who have had charge of the making of measured drawings; a committee of eight who have directed a campaign for the raising of additional funds and who have been assisted by fifteen additional solicitors; a committee of five who have investigated the cases of unemployed draftsmen before they were assigned to the work.

In February, 1931, the first unemployed draftsmen were put on our payroll, a few of these original men are still being given employment. About sixty in all have received help from our Committee and at the present writing forty-one are receiving a weekly wage.

Until recently we paid them \$4.00 a day and gave married men with children and no resources five days work a week. This scale diminished according to their dependencies down to single men to whom we gave one day's work a week. Due to the shortage of funds we have found it necessary to drop the men to whom we had been giving one and two days work and to put the remainder on a \$15.00 basis for a five-day week.

We have now made complete measured drawings of fifty-six projects and have a number of others on the boards. We have gone far beyond the confines of "Old Philadelphia," and have developed sufficient material for at least two other volumes were funds available.

In addition to the original \$5,000, we have raised from the Chapter and their employees \$8,300 and from friends of the profession about \$4,700, making \$18,000 in all.

While the cost of photography, photostating, map making and other incidental expenses in connection with the book we are about to publish, were properly chargeable to the original \$5,000 we have kept our overhead down to a minimum in the administering of the funds raised purely for the unemployed. To date it amounts to about \$200.00.

Looking back over the work as an unemployment measure, that is now in its second year, we do not believe that we could have hit upon a more successful procedure. With the members of the Chapter volunteering drafting room space and in many instances supplying materials, the work was performed with the least possible overhead. When once properly started it required very little supervision. The men felt themselves still a part of the profession and soon became convinced that the work in itself was worthwhile. There developed a healthy rivalry between the various teams as to the excellence of their drawings.

Self-respect has been eminently maintained not only by draftsmen but also by the architects whose privilege it has been to assist in making this work possible and when all is said and done we will have made a valuable contribution to the records of American Architecture.

With the Chapters

Brooklyn Chapter.

"The Chapter at its April meeting made a second contribution of \$100.00 for the Architects Unemployment Emergency Relief Work and took steps for the wives of the members to raise additional funds for this cause by means of entertainments, card parties, etc."

Chicago Chapter.

At the May meeting of the Chicago Chapter, consideration was given to a resolution submitted to it by the Committee on Public Expenditures requesting the Chapter's ratification. The major points of the suggested resolution were (a) reduction of taxes; (b) resolution on tax paying; (c) restoration of public credit; (d) better cooperation between officials and taxpayers; (e) stabilization of property values; and (f) start towards economic recovery locally.

The Chapter endorsed the objects and purposes of the Committee and pledged its cooperation.

This item is mentioned here chiefly because it is an example of what many members of the Institute have been advocating for a long time—a more active interest in civic affairs by the architects, particularly as a group.

The delegates to the Sixty-fifth Convention reported to the Chapter at the May meeting.

"The History and Historic Architectural Monuments of Illinois" will be the general topic of the June meeting, the principal speaker to be Thomas E. Tallmadge, F. A. I. A., Member of the Institute's Committee on the Preservation of Historic Buildings and Chairman of the Historic Monuments Committee of the Chicago Chapter.

Dr. Otto L. Schmidt, Past-President of the Chicago Historical Society, will speak on the "Old History of Chicago;" Professor Earl H. Reed, Jr., Head of the Department of Architecture of the Armour Institute of Technology, will speak on "Examples of Historic Architecture in Illinois;" and Dr. James A. James, Head of the Department of History of Northwestern University, will speak on "Illinois and New Orleans in the Eighteenth Century."

Columbus Chapter.

Miss Marie Gule, Assistant Superintendent of the Columbus Public Schools, spoke at the May meeting of the Columbus Chapter, at the Columbus Gallery of Fine Arts on "The Dynamic Symmetry in Art." This talk was illustrated with slides relating to the subject.

Tentative arrangements have been made for a spring outing which will be held late in May or early in June. The program includes a visit to the

plant of the Southwestern Portland Cement Company at Osborn, Ohio, in the morning and golf in the afternoon.

Dayton Chapter.

Members of the Dayton Chapter have accepted an invitation to furnish sketches for small, low-priced houses in connection with an exhibit at the Dayton Art Institute. Tentative sketches have been submitted and regulations governing the size, cost and presentation of sketch projects have been adopted by the Chapter. Houses are to cost between \$4,000.00 and \$7,000.00, and are to be limited to 20,000 cubic feet in volume. Plans and elevations are to be at one-eighth inch scale and standard size sheets have been selected. Names of firms will not appear on the individual drawings but will be separately listed.

Walter R. McCornack of Cleveland, will address the annual meeting of the Dayton Builders' Exchange. The Secretary of the Dayton Chapter has been instructed to advise Mr. McCornack that Chapter members will attend this meeting to hear this address.

At the recent meeting of the Dayton Chapter, it was voted to write to Mrs. Charles S. Schneider, of Cleveland, expressing the sympathy of the Dayton Chapter in the untimely death of Mr. Schneider.

Detroit Chapter.

After the routine business of the Chapter, the April meeting adjourned to the auditorium of the Detroit Institute of Arts where the Chapter enjoyed a most interesting lecture by Mr. Connick on the subject of stained glass, illustrated with many beautiful colored slides. The lecture was sponsored jointly by the Detroit Chapter, the Michigan Society of Architects and the Detroit Institute of Arts and was open to the public.

Georgia Chapter.

"There is another form of publicity, individual and indirect, understood by a few, and within the reach of all of us. That is memberships in a social club, civic club, Chamber of Commerce, etc.; not only membership but regular and consistent visits to these organizations and taking part in their discussions, particularly of those matters with which we are familiar; also the attending of public meetings, especially those called to advance some civic enterprise.

"There is no need to dwell upon the contacts, acquaintances and friendships formed in this way which are so valuable and necessary to all professional men."

(From an address by Thomas H. Morgan, F.A.I.A., at a meeting of the Georgia Chapter.)

Kentucky Chapter.

President Grimes gave a complete description and report on the activities at the Architects and Builders Exhibit.

He also told of the plans of the *Herald-Post* for the publication of pictures and plans of residences which are to be supplied by the Chapter members.

E. T. Hutchings, one of the Jury of Award, reported on the recent competition conducted by the Chapter for a "Commercial Group in a Residential Community," and gave a report on the method of judging the entries, pointing out the good and bad points of each design. All designs were on display at the meeting.

President Grimes then called upon J. C. Murphy, who sponsored the competition, to make the presentation of the award. The prize was awarded to Bergman Letzler, Junior of the Kentucky Chapter.

J. C. Murphy and Ossian P. Ward reported on the Sixty-fifth Convention of the Institute.

Mr. Ward, one of the members of the Examining Board, suggested that there is urgent need of a State Building Code to insure safety in the practice of structural design in rural buildings.

Mr. Steinkamp of the Cincinnati Chapter, gave an interesting talk about the operation of the Ohio State Building Code, stressing the good and also the evils of such a code. He warned the Chapter as to some unsatisfactory points in the Ohio Code and suggested that too much detail be avoided in the compilation of any proposed building code.

Minnesota Chapter.

Special action was taken by the Minnesota Chapter at its May meeting in regard to the advancement to Fellowship by the Jury of Fellows of William Wallace Tyrie, and to whom the Certificate of Fellowship was presented at the Sixty-fifth Annual Convention.

This action is in line with a recommendation of the Jury of Fellows. The Jury of Fellows has recommended that the citations of those advanced to Fellowship be read at the Convention, but that the Institute By-Laws be amended so as to permit the certificates to be presented through the Chapters, at which time special programs may be arranged or special action taken by the Chapters in connection with the presentation of the certificates.

At the May meeting of the Minnesota Chapter Wm. M. Engemann, an architect from St. Paul, gave a most interesting talk on his recent European trip and showed about a thousand photographs taken during his travels in the Scandinavian countries of Norway, Sweden, and Denmark, and in Germany.

New Jersey Chapter.

Major George Oakley Totten, Jr., President of the Washington, D. C., Chapter, on invitation, at-

tended the March meeting of the New Jersey Chapter. Major Totten spoke of the work of the Washington, D. C., Chapter, and at the request of the Secretary gave a short history of the International Congress of Architects. His talk was greatly enjoyed by the members.

Oregon Chapter.

Fred Aandahl reported for the Publicity Committee, outlining their intentions of publishing in the newspapers information regarding prominent local buildings.

A letter from Nat G. Walker, of Ft. Myers, Florida, President of the Florida Central Chapter, regarding a financial organization of architects was read by President Doty. It was moved by Folger Johnson that a copy be made for each member of the Chapter and Mr. Walker be advised that the Chapter is interested and is investigating the matter. The motion was adopted.

Philadelphia Chapter.

The Philadelphia Chapter is engaged in an extensive radio broadcasting program. The broadcast is given each Thursday afternoon from 6:00 to 6:15 over local stations WIP-WFAN, and the following is the tentative program:

May 12—E. H. Silverman—"What is an Architect?"

May 19—Albert Kelsey—"The Benefits and Savings to the Individual Through the Architect."

May 26—George W. Pepper, Jr.—"How to Select an Architect."

June 2—D. Knickerbacker Boyd—"Building Materials—Their Selection, Manufacture, Sale and Installation."

June 9—Kenneth M. Day—"The Development of Blighted Philadelphia."

June 16—Sydney E. Martin—"How the Architectural Profession Cares for the Unemployed Draftsmen."

June 23—John P. B. Sinkler—"The City Architect—What He Is and What He Does."

June 30—George Howe—"Modern Architecture—Its Principles and Advantages."

Pittsburgh Chapter.

Henry Wright, of New York, attended the March meeting of the Pittsburgh Chapter. He was introduced by Frederick Bigger and gave an interesting talk on modern housing as affected by European precedents. He illustrated his talk with lantern slides. At the conclusion of his lecture, he was tendered a rising vote of thanks.

South Texas Chapter.

Addison S. Nunn read a letter from the *Post-Dispatch* with reference to submitting plans and specifications to be run for twelve consecutive weeks

in the Sunday paper. Several members of the Chapter expressed the opinion that such a campaign would be advantageous.

It was suggested that a Committee of the Chapter should be allowed to pass on the copy of the publication of these drawings, in order that this information to the public may be properly presented.

Southern Pennsylvania Chapter.

Prior to the formal meeting of the Chapter, members and guests meeting in the Main Engineering Building of the Pennsylvania State College, made a tour of inspection of the work of the students of the Architectural Department. This inspection proved to be very interesting.

At the formal meeting of the Chapter a resolution was adopted thanking Julian Millard for the interesting and cultured address delivered to the Chapter and its guests at State College on the subject of the Plan of Washington.

A resolution was adopted extending thanks to the Pennsylvania State College for the use and privilege of their school for the annual meeting of the Southern Pennsylvania Chapter.

After adjournment of the meeting the members gathered at State College Hotel, where they were met by members of the faculty of the Pennsylvania State College, and later entertained by interesting talks by Mr. Morris, Executive Secretary of the Pennsylvania State College, Mr. Harris, head of the Department of Architecture of the College, and by Mr. Green and Mr. Rudy.

Mr. Rudy after making a few remarks presented to the Pennsylvania State College a plaster cast of the bronze medal made in 1889 by St. Gaudens to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of Washington's inauguration.

Virginia Chapter.

The Special Committee on School Building Division of the State Board of Education reported at the annual meeting of the Virginia Chapter, the progress which the Committee had made. A resolution was adopted requesting the Committee to continue its efforts to have the Division of School Buildings of the Board of Education act in a supervisory capacity over the school building construction and to have the practice of preparing plans and furnishing architectural service to local School Boards discontinued.

The minutes of the annual meeting of this Chapter also show that the Virginia architects are earnestly endeavoring to obtain the enforcement of the Registration and Certification Law and to have the legislature pass amendments to this law, which amendments have been sponsored by them.

Washington, D. C., Chapter.

The Allied Architects of Washington, D. C., Inc., the membership of which is largely made up of mem-

bers of the Washington, D. C., Chapter, are sponsoring a competition for a memorial to Robert Mills. The object of this competition is to obtain designs from local architects and architectural draftsmen who are not, during the period of the competition, otherwise employed in architectural work.

In recognition of the fame of Robert Mills and of his contribution to our early architecture, the Allied Architects has proposed the erection of a suitable memorial to him, to be placed over his (now) unmarked grave in Congressional Cemetery.

Robert Mills was born in 1781. He designed the Treasury Building, the old Patent Office, and the old Land Office, all in Washington, and at the age of sixty-seven designed the Washington Monument.

The Chapters of the Institute have been advised that the Washington, D. C., Chapter has reprinted its six bulletins on the value of architectural service and that they are now available in one volume.

The Chapter advises that the type is standing and that if other Chapters desire to obtain a reprint of this bulletin with the names of their respective Chapters substituted for that of the Washington, D. C., Chapter, such could readily be done at a nominal cost.

For additional information, address the Secretary of the Washington, D. C., Chapter.

Washington State Chapter.

At a recent meeting of this Chapter, Chester J. Hogue, President of the West Coast Lumbermen's Association, a guest of the Chapter, was called upon to address the Chapter.

He remarked that he was glad of the opportunity to report on recent progress in the merchandising of lumber. He told of the moisture content meter and said that timber graded for moisture was now stocked by some companies. Mr. Hogue also told of progress in the development of moisture resistant coatings for wood and fire resistant coatings, and called attention to the new standard mouldings developed with the cooperation of the architectural profession.

West Texas Chapter.

At the annual meeting of the West Texas Chapter, of which there is a branch at Austin, a resolution was adopted to the effect that the annual meetings of the West Texas Chapter would hereafter be held at Austin, and previous to the national convention.

The interest which the West Texas Chapter is taking in the architectural students of the University of Texas is indicated by a resolution adopted at the annual meeting, complimenting the work of the students of that school.

Among the important subjects discussed and acted upon at recent meetings of this Chapter were: The

Proposed State License Law; The Texas Centennial; Historical Landmarks; Annual Exhibit of Austin Branch; and Architects Exhibit at the Builders' Exposition and Home Show.

Wisconsin Chapter.

"Bruce Uthus reported on the Builders' Congress, which he was largely instrumental in forming, and of which he has been elected President. H. W. Buemming moved that the Chapter extend a vote of thanks and appreciation to Mr. Uthus for his splendid work in organizing this group. The resolution was unanimously adopted.

"The Home Show competition was the major subject of interest of the special meeting of the Chapter,

April 8, at which approximately seventy were in attendance. Prizes were presented to the three whose designs had been selected by the Jury of Award. The prize winners were Walter W. Judell, John S. Shepherd, and Ralph H. Kloppenburg."

Alexander G. Guth, Secretary of the Chapter, was the original worker on this Home Show project. Harry W. Bogner was Chairman of the Home Show Committee.

Other chapters interested in a competition of this character may wish to communicate with the Secretary of the Wisconsin Chapter for details as to the manner in which this competition was so successfully conducted.

Items of Interest

A Cheerful Fellow.

One of the recently honored Fellows of the Institute wrote a most cheerful letter to the recently made Past-President, who suggested its publication in *THE OCTAGON*.

Madison, Wisconsin
May 11, 1932.

My dear Past-President Kohn:

Now that the trailing clouds of glory have swept from Washington to Wisconsin and colored all the sky, I wish to express to you again my appreciation of the honor conferred by the election to Fellowship in the Institute.

Madison, as you know, is the Olympus on which right mannered people acquire distinction and, in line with that practice, the University, two years ago, placed on my brow the honorable title of Doctor of Letters.

This was so that in conversation with Presidents, Deans and Doctors of various kinds I might look them in the eye.

However, the degree of Fellow awarded by the American Institute of Architects, a national organization, and independent of what good friends in the University could offer, has created a quite different sensation. In short, I am the only man in town. When I say this I mean, for example, that I received only yesterday a twenty per cent discount on some artist's canvas. I am invited to a meeting of the Literary Club. The garage gave me a rate of six dollars a month. Mr. Horlick sent me malted milk. I am transferred to a new set of offices with a private office eighteen by twenty-eight in size. My salary has not been cut—yet.

And finally I may sign myself

Very respectfully yours,

ARTHUR PEABODY,
Lit. Dr., F.A.I.A.

A Correction—"The Planning and Building of Washington."

In the notice appearing on page 19 of the April issue of *THE OCTAGON* regarding the publication of the book on "The Planning and Building of Washington," the name of Francis P. Sullivan, now President of the Washington, D. C., Chapter, was inadvertently omitted as a contributor.

Mr. Sullivan was a large contributor in the preparation of that volume, and prepared the material for Chapter IV on "Municipal Buildings."

This correction is made in justice to Mr. Sullivan, and to complete the record.

Taxation—W. R. B. Willcox.

At the recent Institute Convention, W. R. B. Willcox, of Eugene, Oregon, delivered an address on "Taxation as Related to Architecture and the Practice of the Profession," and submitted a Report on this subject by a Special Committee of the Institute of which Mr. Willcox was Chairman. Copies of this report may be obtained either from *THE OCTAGON* or direct from Mr. Willcox, 1272 Kincaid Street, Eugene, Oregon.

Exhibition—Modern Architecture.

The Institute has been requested by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce of the Department of Commerce and by the Division of International Conferences of the State Department, to advise its members that, through the Italian Ambassador, this Government has been requested to bring to the attention of interested persons and organizations in the United States the Fifth International Exhibition of Modern Decorative and Industrial Arts and Modern Architecture, to be held at Milan, Italy, from April 1 to August 31, 1933.

For a copy of the digest of the program and regulations of the Fifth International Exhibition, ad-

dress THE OCTAGON, 1741 New York Avenue, N.W., Washington, D. C., or Fifth International Exhibition Modern Decorative and Industrial Arts and Modern Architecture, 17 Via Moscova, Milan, Italy.

Zoning and City Planning—Publications Available.

The Division of Building and Housing of the National Bureau of Standards has recently issued a number of bulletins in regard to City and Regional Planning and Zoning.

The titles of these bulletins are as follows: "A Tabulation of City Planning Commissions in the United States;" "Survey of City Planning and Related Laws in 1931;" and "Regional Planning Commissions or Organizations."

These reports show that zoning regulations were adopted last year in sixty-eight communities, increasing the number of zoned cities and towns in the United States to 1,150; that zoning enabling acts are now in effect in forty-seven states and the District of Columbia; and that sixty-nine per cent of the entire urban population of the United States is now subject to zoning control.

These reports may be obtained by addressing a request to Division of Building and Housing, Bureau of Standards, Department of Commerce, Washington, D. C.

Award—Folger Shakespeare Library.

"The Board of Review of the Architects Advisory Council of Washington, D. C., announces that it considers the Folger Shakespeare Library as outstanding among buildings of its type, and accordingly awards it the rating of Distinguished Architecture, the highest award made by the Council for private buildings in the national capital.

"The building was designed by Paul P. Cret of Philadelphia, with Alexander B. Trowbridge of Washington as consulting architect."

Economy—Common Sense.

"The curtailment of public construction work practically to the vanishing point under pressure of the economy complex that is paralyzing public administration in this country is not only a powerful deflationary force intensifying the depression but is the most stupid kind of economy to practice. As we have repeatedly pointed out in these pages, the only possibility of promoting business recovery is by restoring the purchasing power of consumers, and this means applying credit or currency expansion at that point in the economic circle at which it will do so most speedily—which is in the hands of the unemployed. * * *

(Editorial—*The Business Week*, April 20, 1932.)

Members Elected—April 16, 1932, to June 15, 1932

<i>Albany Chapter</i> - - - - -	MILTON LEE CRANDELL
<i>Buffalo Chapter</i> - - - - -	PHILIP PHILLIPS
<i>Cleveland Chapter</i> - - - - -	MERLE W. ALLEY
<i>New York Chapter</i> - - - - -	LEWIS BOWMAN, ASHFORD SCLATER ELLIS, ERARD A. MATTHIESSEN
<i>Philadelphia Chapter</i> - - - - -	HENRY D. DAGIT, JR.
<i>Pittsburgh Chapter</i> - - - - -	ALLAN H. NEAL, ALFRED DAMIAN REID
<i>West Virginia Chapter</i> - - - - -	GEORGE B. CUNNINGHAM

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