

**NEXT MEETING**

Time: Wednesday, June 5, 12:30 p. m.

Place: Architectural League.

Subject: Annual Meeting.

Chapter officers will be elected and brief reports will be heard from outgoing officers and committees. The business meeting will be followed by presentation of awards:

APARTMENT HOUSE MEDAL

Medal in Group I (houses over six stories) will be awarded to Messrs. Harrison & Fouilhoux for the design of the Rockefeller Apartments.

Medal in Group II (houses six stories or under) will be awarded to Clarence S. Stein for the design of the new wing of the Phipps Garden Group.

Special Commendation will go to Walter B. Sanders and John S. Breck for a three-family apartment house at 235 East 72nd.

These awards will be accompanied by certificates to the owners.

THE ARNOLD W. BRUNNER SCHOLARSHIP

The 1940 Scholar is Truman J. Matthews of Santa Fe, New Mexico. His proposed study is announced as "The Architecture of the South-western United States."

Honorable Mentions go to Theodore C. Muller of Boston, Mass., and to Norman R. Sturgis, of Albany, N. Y. **THE LeBRUN SCHOLARSHIP**

This year's scholarship will be awarded to James Breed, of Richmond, Virginia.

CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP CANDIDATES

The names of the following men have been presented:

For Institute Membership

1. Eli Constantine

Sponsors { John C. B. Moore
L. Bancel LaFarge

2. Robert Allan Jacobs

Sponsors { Ely J. Kahn
Wallace K. Harrison

NEW MEMBERS

The following Institute members have been elected:

Richard Marsh Bennett
Donald Thornton Graf
William Reed Huntington

GREATER NEW YORK FUND

The largest committee active in any section of the professional division in the third annual campaign of The Greater New York Fund is the thirty-man group conducting a drive among the architects.

Frederick G. Frost is chairman and J. Andre Fouilhoux is co-chairman. Members of the profession are being informed of the purposes of the Fund and the needs of the 393 voluntary welfare and health agencies for which it is asking the support of business firms and employee groups. If your firm has not been approached you are requested to notify one of the chairmen.

The professional division is made up of numerous sections, each representing a separate profession. Accountants, architects, physicians, lawyers, members of the various branches of the graphic arts, etc., are combined into one division to help agencies affiliated with the Fund in their annual task of caring for the welfare needs of more than two million New Yorkers. In the first six weeks of the drive, this division had reported \$211,987.00 in contributions.

Prior to the formation of the Greater New York Fund, architects and their employees were subjected to hundreds of solicitations in various fields of welfare and health work. Their support of the Fund in its three drives indicates the extent to which they appreciate the opportunity it offers to give once each year to an all-races, all-creeds social welfare activity, thus avoiding the inconvenience of repeated appeals.

CERTIFICATES OF MERIT

Announcement is made of the Award of Certificates of Merit to Architects for Small House Design. This award is being sponsored by the Small House Committee of the Chapter in cooperation with other societies in this area.

All registered architects are eligible. The opening date for submission of entries is June 1, and no entries will be accepted after August 30. Official entry blanks may be obtained at the Chapter office.

PRE-CONVENTION MEETING

The annual pre-convention meeting of the Chapter was held on May 14 after a luncheon at the Architectural League. Fifty-six members were present. Time was equally divided between instructing our delegates to the A.I.A. convention, which was held on May 20 and 21 in Louisville, Kentucky, and President Frost's recent letter to Nicholas Murray Butler of Columbus University.

This letter (for text see the April *Oculus*) deplored the fact that the University is constructing its new Theatre Arts Building from plans by one of its own departments. Mr. Butler's reply is printed in this issue.

Harvey Stevenson presented a resolution on this matter. The salient points brought out in the discussion were that this resolution should be purely in the spirit of a protest, and avoid in every way the semblance of a suggestion of a job for an architect. Also, that it should stress the fact that Columbia's keeping this work within one of its own departments shows a tendency towards the general movement of encouraging bureaucracy.

The meeting approved, with one exception, the eleven amendments to the A.I.A. By-Laws which had been printed in full in the April *Octagon*. The objection was to the eleventh amendment dealing with the nomination of Regional Directors. In this the time fixed for such nominations is left to the discretion of the Secretary. Charles Butler moved to amend the motion by withholding the Chapter's approval of this eleventh amendment, and further by providing that a committee be appointed to re-word the same to provide that the time limit for presenting nominations be definitely fixed in the By-Laws.

The delegates were also instructed to vote for the Amendments to Part II and III of the Standards of Practice, again with one exception. This was Paragraph 7 of Part II, whereby any two members of the Institute may engage in a competition if definitely employed with adequate compensation.

Messrs. Woodbridge and Rich on behalf of Eric Gugler, Chairman of the A.I.A. Committee on Competitions, protested this provision. They brought out that the A.I.A. Committee on Competitions was unanimously opposed to this paragraph, and further that they had not been consulted regarding it. If adopted this provision would supersede the A.I.A.'s "Circular of Information on Competitions"; also it would immediately weaken the high standards of the competition code which the Institute had been working for for many years. Further it would appear that the spirit behind this proposal was obviously in favor of the selective method, whereas the N. Y. Chapter has gone on record in favor of competitions.

It was the sense of the meeting that no attempt should be made at the Convention to reword Paragraph 7 but that an effort should be made to refer it to the A.I.A. Committee on Competitions.

Five resolutions from Chapter members, previously approved by the Executive Committee, were then presented and approved as modified. The resolutions with comments and changes follow:

1. A request that the A.I.A. appoint a Committee to study and improve Convention procedure.

2. A request that the A.I.A. appoint its Resolutions Committee sufficiently in advance of the Convention to allow for open hearings.

It was pointed out that both of these matters have already been taken care of by the A.I.A.

3. A request that the A.I.A. publish in the *Octagon* all Convention resolutions, and further that it publish from time to time the methods of carrying out the same.

It was pointed out that the first part of this request was unnecessary since all resolutions are automatically printed in the *Octagon*, but that the second part of the request was in order.

4. A request that all Chapters send to the *Octagon* any actions they take which they may deem to be of interest to the general membership, and that the *Octagon* be required to publish the same automatically in its next ensuing issue.

An objection was raised to this by Mr. Harmon who, as Chairman of the Committee on Revising the *Octagon*, was familiar with the difficulties as well as the cost of publication, and who suggested that dissemination of such information might be left to the discretion of the *Octagon*, either through its pages or by bulletins.

5. A resolution that no Chapter shall take any action on affairs outside its own territory except through the Regional Director.

The sponsor of this resolution, Mr. C. C. Platt, explained that this was an effort to strengthen and solidify the Institute and its Chapters. It was suggested, however, that the passage of such a mandatory measure would tend rather to discourage action and curb the initiative of Chapters, to whose discretion action in such matters should be left. It was suggested that the resolution be modified to include notification of such action to the Regional Directors and to the Chapters affected.

DR. BUTLER REPLIES

We print the letter received by Mr. Frost from President Butler of Columbia in reply to his letter treating with the subject of the University's undertaking an important theatre arts building for their campus from plans by the University's Department of Buildings and Grounds:

"On receiving your letter of May 1, I referred it to Mr. Francis Blossom, Chairman of the Trustees' Committee on Buildings and Grounds, which is the academic authority having jurisdiction over all matters of planning, construction, equipment and operation of University buildings. I have received from Mr. Blossom a memorandum under date of May 3, a copy of which I am glad to enclose to you herewith.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) Nicholas Murray Butler"

"Memorandum May 3, 1940

"In my capacity as Chairman of the Trustees' Committee on Buildings and Grounds, may I suggest the following reply to Mr. Frost's letter addressed to you under date of May 1, 1940:

"The small building which is to be erected for dramatic arts we regard as a temporary structure to care for the courses in playwriting and production now housed in Earl Hall, which is to be restored to its original assignment.

"Our Department of Buildings and Grounds at Columbia University is, I believe, competent to undertake and supervise the planning and erection of a building of this type. The Director is a licensed Professional Engineer of thirty-eight years' experience and his drafting department is in charge of a competent licensed architect.

"The plans of Brander Matthews Hall were developed in consultation with experts representing the dramatic interests of the University, who will occupy the building until such time as it is replaced by a much larger permanent structure which it is expected to erect when funds are available, under the direction of architects selected for the purpose.

(Signed) Francis Blossom"

EMPLOYEE RELATIONS

The Chapter through our Industrial Relations Committee has been attempting to establish approximate standards of working conditions, to which all members can subscribe. Two years ago, when Alfred Fellheimer was chairman of this committee, serious thought was given to this matter, and a year ago our young Associates, headed by two members appointed by Mr. Frost, turned out a document which became the subject of discussion at two evening meetings. The result was called the "Employer-Employee Agreement—An Application for Employment."

A mimeographed copy of this document was sent out to our membership with the request that information as to individual office conditions be stated. Exactly 24 have replied! Feeling that such apathy is a sad commentary on the general attitude toward this vital question, Chairman Hofmeister of our Industrial Relations Committee presents for the Chapter's earnest consideration the following schedule:

Working hours per week, 35 at basic rate.

Overtime hours per week, 7 at basic rate.

Additional overtime hours at 1½ the basic rate.

Vacation—one day for each month.

Holidays—total of 11 for the year.

Sick leave (within any one year)—½ day for each month.

Notice of termination of services—

1 week for 6 mos. employment or over; 2 weeks for 1 year or over.

On the enclosed postcard you are asked to state whether you subscribe to this schedule, and to record thereon any suggestions or comments.

PRESIDENT'S REQUEST

Another Chapter year is coming to a close. After our Annual Elections on June 5 our new President's first duty will be to set up the committees to serve for the next season. This duty will be considerably lightened and the Chapter will be assured of interested committeemen if you will indicate on the enclosed card the committees on which you would be willing to take an appointment.

Our little gray Year Book lists the following twenty-three appointive committees: Admissions, Audit and Budget, Biographies of Members, By-Laws, Civic Design, Competitions, Contracts, Education, Fifth Avenue Association, Finance, Fine Arts Federation, Industrial Relations, Jury on Apartment House Medal, Large Scale Housing, Small Housing, LeBrun Scholarship, Legislation, Meetings, Membership, Public Information, Public Schools, Recreation, Housing Fees.