



UNWIN MEMORIAL

An impressive memorial meeting for the late Sir Raymond Unwin was held at the Architectural League on November 12. A tribute from the Royal Institute of British Architects was read, and addresses were made by George McAneny, Charles D. Maginnis, Leopold Arnaud and Russell Van Nest Black, past president of the American Institute of Planners, all men with whom Sir Raymond had been associated in his work in America.

In 1934 Unwin headed a group of visiting experts who toured this country to consult with local officials on the development of a sound housing program for the United States. After they had visited 15 cities a conference was held at Baltimore and the housing program was outlined. Sir Raymond was its leading spirit and chief draftsman.

During the last few years he had been a lecturer at the Columbia School of Architecture where he laid the groundwork for one of the finest academic courses in houses and city planning.

Sir Raymond was past president of the R.I.B.A., also past president of the International Federation of Housing and Town Planning. In 1937 he was awarded the Royal Gold Medal of Queen Victoria, which is conferred annually for distinction in Architecture, Science or Letters. He held honorary degrees from the Universities of Prague, Toronto, Manchester, Trondheim and Harvard. As consultant he lectured at M. I. T., Cornell and other American universities. In 1937 he received an Honorary Doctorate from Harvard.

Sir Raymond's greatness was shown by the wide range of qualities that impressed those with whom he worked. Some admired most his steady view and well reasoned philosophy that saw housing and city building as part of a whole rational social order. All recognized his kindness, modesty and the unending patience with which he always helped others over the rough roads of technical procedure that he had traveled for so long. All would join in the final sentence of the cita-

tion for his honorary degree at Manchester: "We salute in him a tried friend of a great idea who does not count the cost of service and takes full account of facts, and has proven his faith by work."

NEXT MEETING

Time: 6 p. m., Monday, Nov. 25.

Place: Architectural League.

Subject: Publicity.

Due to the fact that the Beaux Arts Society and the Beaux Arts Institute of Design have preempted the scheduled date of our next regular meeting of the Chapter on Tuesday, November 26th, for their Annual Dinner and Entertainment, and since many of our members are also theirs, we are moving our meeting up one day to MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25th.

We ask all to arrive at the League promptly at six o'clock so that we will reach the dining room while the evening is still young. After dinner there will be a short meeting at which there will be open discussion of several practical forms of publicity suggested by our Public Information Committee. We will then leave for the Columbia Broadcasting Studios, where Bill Lescaze has arranged a special program interesting to all who are conscious of the need of publicizing THE ARCHITECT.

PORTO RICO

The territory of our Chapter includes the Virgin Islands, Porto Rico and the Canal Zone. A group of Porto Rican architects wish to form a chapter of their own, but cannot do this until we relinquish their territory. You will vote on this at the next meeting.

CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP

The following have been elected:

INSTITUTE MEMBER

James Gordon Carr

ASSOCIATES

Maurice W. Bacon, Jr.

John J. Baron

Albert B. Bauer

John Newman Brownrigg, Jr.

Herbert Dreyer Phillips

LOSSES

Sanford B. Wells

Barnett Yurdin

THE ENGINEER SPEAKS TO ARCHITECTS

The Brooklyn Chapter held a joint meeting with our Chapter after a dinner on Tuesday, October 29. Walter D. Binger, Commissioner of Borough Works for Manhattan and practicing consultant engineer, addressed the 90 members and guests on the subject of "The Interlocking Functions of Engineer and Architect."

Mr. Binger declared that he was well aware of a trend which was healing the emotional cleavage between these two professions and foresaw the merging of these groups. This union would end a bi-partisan system whose origin is no more remote than the youth of some living professional men.

The lecture was illustrated with slides prepared to show from Ancient and Mediaeval sources the construction achieved when architect and engineer were one and the same person. To show the results of the recent drift apart of the professions Mr. Binger used a homely example picturing the early watering truck of the Sanitation Department which was wholly the conception of the engineer. This vehicle was frankly functional but also ugly. Beside it was a picture of a modern truck now in use in our city streets, improved in appearance by co-operation with a designer who was not limited to purely engineering knowledge but just as functional from the engineering point of view.

But all was not honey for the audience. With little apology to the sensibilities of the listening architects Mr. Binger cited examples from his own experience to point out that the architect had often hindered the engineer by taking the attitude that he just would not learn to use improvements in construction and new materials familiar to all wide awake engineers.

As a happy contrast to this, Mr. Binger showed a design series illustrating the pleasing results of engineer-architect cooperation in projects for which he had been responsible. Notable among these were views of the recently completed East River Drive for which Harvey Stevenson has been the consultant, grit chambers and

sewage disposal plants designed by the Department of Sanitation in cooperation with architectural consultants. These consultants included McKim, Mead & White, Cameron Clark, Sloan & Robertson, Ely Jacques Kahn and George A. Boehm. Cooperating with the Department of Sanitation also were landscape architects, among whom A. F. Brinckerhoff and Charles Downing Lay were represented.

President Frost announced that a suggestion was made to the Executive Committee that this Chapter, in conjunction with the Brooklyn Chapter, invite the A.I.A. to hold its 1942 Convention in New York City. The Executive Committee is following up this matter.

Robert F. Schirmer, President of the Brooklyn Chapter, was then introduced and read a short address. He outlined the activities of the Brooklyn Chapter and some of its members, in which he pointed out that the Brooklyn Chapter has given its approval to the architectural clinic at Pratt Institute (*see following article*) and also that this was the first time in history that the New York and Brooklyn Chapters have met jointly.

Another speaker was Clement R. Newkirk of Utica. Mr. Newkirk has just become Regional Director, A.I.A., for the New York District. He succeeded Richmond H. Shreve, who so ably filled this post for a term of three years.

THE PRATT CLINIC

The Architecture Clinic at Pratt Institute, which was announced earlier this year, has now opened. An advisory board headed by C. C. Briggs of the Department of Architecture, as Supervisor, announces a service consisting of information, advice and assistance to the public in relation to building problems. To graduate students is offered work under the direct supervision of registered architects.

The Clinic is prepared to answer questions received either in person or by mail. Where no special analysis is required there is to be no charge other than return postage. The Clinic will analyze building problems and give recommendations for procedure. For this service a registration fee of \$1 plus actual costs is charged. If the project requires the direct supervision of a registered architect the owner is required to pay a fee commensurate with accepted professional charges.

Operating with the approval of the Brooklyn Chapter the Clinic will aim to counteract the influence of certain unscrupulous building organizations and advertisers. Many architects will receive the benefit of part time or full time work guided to them as the result of advice given by the Clinic.

Pratt Institute feels that the influence of the Clinic will be felt educationally. Under present conditions a student who has completed his studies and received his Bachelor of Architecture degree is not allowed to engage in private practice until he has passed the State examination. To be eligible for this examination he must have the experience of actual practice. In recent years there has been so little employment in the architectural field that such practical experience has been extremely difficult to obtain. Therefore it is hoped that the Clinic will bridge the gap between school and practice.

COMMITTEE WORK

The chairmen of several of our committees have supplied the *Oculus* with news items during the month.

Leopold Arnaud, Chairman of the Apartment House Medal Committee, reports that his Committee expects to begin its work the early part of the year and that he will inform the members of the progress made toward the selection of this very important award.

Ely Jacques Kahn has this to say about the activities of the Civic Design Committee: "The Civic Design Committee of the Chapter is endeavoring to formulate a program wherein the overlapping activities of many members of the Institute might be called into play.

"The subject is broad. It covers city planning, in its full scope, cooperation with municipal bodies, and could, conceivably, accomplish important results if a clear program can be stated.

"The present effort is to sound out situations that present active material, as for example consideration of congestion in areas of the city where the very new developments in housing might conceivably cause far greater congestion than the slums they replaced.

"The essential point is that this committee may ask for more complete cooperation as soon as its own program is more precise."

Lorimer Rich, Chairman of the Competitions Committee of the Chapter, has passed along to us the following information which will be of interest to many members: "We note that the recent military appropriations bill which was passed and approved in June of this year carries an item of \$130,000 for the 'designing and preparing of working drawings and specifications of a building to replace the present Army Medical Library and Museum.'

"We further note that in the hearings held before the enactment of this legislation a representative of the War Department informed the Appropriations Committee that it was their intention to hold a nation-wide architectural competition for the design of

this building. The site for this building has not yet been selected but it will be in the vicinity of the present Library of Congress and of a monumental character."

John C. B. Moore, Chairman of the Committee on Education, reports that the Committee held a meeting late in October. Graham Erskine will again be in charge of arranging conferences with pre-architectural students. These conferences will be held, as last year, in private and public schools and colleges in the New York region. Their purpose is to answer questions about the profession raised by interested candidates. Some of these conferences are to be held in connection with the Engineers' Committee which provides the same service.

At this meeting a report was read from Truman J. Mathews, holder of the current Brunner Scholarship. This report is on file at the Chapter office.

SMALL HOUSE AWARDS

Out of the material submitted in the entries (photographs and blueprints) a group of the younger members of the Chapter created a somewhat unusual and interesting exhibit in Gallery B of the Architectural League. This was open to the public from November 2 to 9. The excellent newspaper publicity given us through the office of Mr. Grady has brought many a potential client into the League to see the display.

Our Associates responsible for the exhibit were Harvey Clarkson, Maurice W. Bacon, Spencer R. Smith, Sidney M. Shelov and Charles P. Donnelly, working under the direction of Nicol Bissell.

Herbert Lippmann, Chairman of our subcommittee for this award, said of this judgment: "It was one of the first to establish a minimum standard of excellence of low-cost individual homes in the region surrounding New York City, and the first to pass judgment on the Architect's contribution to the smallest house field. This kind of judgment is to be repeated annually for the houses designed each year."

"The purposes of this annual award are: To establish a yardstick of excellence among low-cost individual houses designed by registered architects. To spotlight the architect in this field in order to expand his authority and increase his opportunities; the architect's advice should compete forcefully with that of builders, realtors and supply companies in establishing 'What the People Want.'

"To provide another effective means of cooperation of the local architectural societies; the success of this program depends on such hearty cooperation. To appeal to pride of ownership of the certified houses, and thus to encourage architecture."