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PITTSBURGH—Frederick Bigger, Westinghouse Building, Pittsburgh, Pa.; Hobert C. Bowen, 370 N. Craig St., Pittsburgh, Pa.


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The Sixty-Fourth Convention
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, APRIL 14, 15, 16, 1931

The Program:

Information concerning the program of the Sixty-fourth Convention, and various notices concerning Convention plans have appeared in the December, January and February numbers of THE OCTAGON. In the last number (February) President Kohn wrote about the broader aspects of the Convention, and chapters and members are referred to the President's discussion.

At the spring meeting of the Executive Committee, held in Washington on March 6 and 7, further progress was made in perfecting Convention arrangements. It was decided to follow the same procedure as last year in presenting the report of the Board of Directors. That is, the report will be read in full by the Secretary, at the opening session and then considered and acted upon, section by section, throughout the various sessions of the Convention. As heretofore, the Board's report will cover the work of the Standing and Special Committees and will submit resolutions and recommendations proposed by the committees, or by the Board.

This year the Convention meets a day earlier in the week than usual, namely, on Tuesday. It will conclude with a dinner at the evening session of Thursday, thus leaving Friday and Saturday of the Convention week open for those who would like to see something of San Antonio and its environs. The Executive Committee of the Institute could not meet the wishes of the West Texas Chapter to the extent of allocating to it any of the afternoon or evening sessions of the Convention. The problems before the Institute are too pressing. The Chapter has very graciously conceded priority to the demands of Institute business.

However, the West Texas Chapter points out that Friday, the day following the Convention, is a free day and that the Chapter is arranging a post-Convention program in which everyone attending the Convention is cordially invited to participate. That program at present includes visits to the Alamo, to several of the beautiful missions in the vicinity of San Antonio, and a general tour of inspection of some of the modern developments in San Antonio which make that city one of the outstanding cities of the Southwest.

Therefore, the Officers and Board urge upon all who attend the Convention to reserve Friday, April 17, for the program of the West Texas Chapter. The members of the Chapter are preparing to extend true Texas hospitality to the visiting architects. They will be disappointed if anyone leaves San Antonio before Friday evening.

Nominations of Officers and Directors:
The Offices and Directorships to become vacant at the time of the Sixty-fourth Convention are those of President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer; and of Director in each of the following divisions: New England Division, New York Division, and Central States Division.
An official notice concerning nominations and the procedure for making them appeared in the December number of The Octagon.

All nominations received at The Octagon, to the end of March 4, are listed herein. These nominations were made in accordance with the provisions of Section 2, Article 6, Chapter VI of the By-laws. Under Section 3 of the same Article opportunity will be given at the Convention to make nominations from the floor, for any office about to become vacant.

Nominations by petition are as follows:

For President and Director:
Robert D. Kohn, New York, N. Y.
By members of the Boston, New York, and Washington, D. C. Chapters.

For First Vice-President and Director:
E. J. Russell, St. Louis, Mo.
By members of the Boston, New York, and Washington, D. C. Chapters.

For Second Vice-President and Director:
Horace W. Peaslee, Washington, D. C.
By members of the Boston, New York, and Washington, D. C. Chapters.

For Secretary and Director:
Frank C. Baldwin, Washington, D. C.
By members of the Boston, New York, and Washington, D. C. Chapters.

For Treasurer and Director:
Edwin Bergstrom, Los Angeles, Calif.
By members of the Boston, New York, and Washington, D. C. Chapters.

For Regional Director, New England Division:
George H. Gray, New Haven, Conn.
By members of the Boston, Connecticut, and Rhode Island Chapters.

For Regional Director, New York Division:
Albert L. Brockway, Syracuse, N. Y.
By members of the Albany, Buffalo, Brooklyn, Central New York, and New York Chapters.

For Regional Director, Central States Division:
Frederick M. Mann, Minneapolis, Minn.
By members of the Iowa, Madison, Minnesota, Nebraska, St. Louis, and Wisconsin Chapters.

Monday, April Thirteen:
The day preceding the Convention.
Various meetings of Associations affiliated with the Institute, or in close touch with it, will be held on this day, and in some instances at suitable times throughout the Convention period. The following Associations are arranging for such meetings, and announcements concerning the time, place, and other details will appear in the Convention program:
The Architects' Small House Service Bureau
The Producers' Council

The National Council of Architectural Registration Boards
The Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture
The State Associations of Architects

Tuesday, April Fourteen:
Morning Session, The President's Address; the Report of the Treasurer; the Report of the Board of Directors.
Evening Session, "Public Buildings"—Arthur Wallace Rice, Chairman of the Committee on Public Works, presiding.
Wednesday, April Fifteen:
Morning Session, Report of the Board of Directors, continued.
Luncheon Session, Meeting with The Producers' Council.
Afternoon Session, Last half, "Experience Meeting"—open forum discussion. M. H. Furbinger, Regional Director of Gulf States Division, presiding.
Evening Session, Architectural Education, Charles Butler, Chairman of the Committee on Education, presiding.
Thursday, April Sixteen:
Morning Session, Report of the Board of Directors, continued.
Afternoon Session, Report of the Board of Directors, continued, and unfinished business.
Evening Session, the Convention dinner.

The foregoing is a sketchy memorandum of the major items of the Convention program. There are many interesting details which are not listed. Prominent architects and other distinguished leaders in the building industry are to take part in many of the sessions.

Friday, April Seventeen:
Reserved for the program of the West Texas Chapter.

Reduced Railroad Fares:
For this Convention each delegate and member attending, if he wishes to take advantage of a reduced railroad fare, should apply to his ticket agent for the "tourist rate."

Winter tourist tickets to San Antonio may be purchased over any railroad up to and including April 30, and are available for return any time before May 31, and over any route desired.

Hereafter, the certificate plan has been used. It will not be in effect at this Convention. The plan requires the presentation of one hundred and fifty certificates at the Convention, and requires the holder to return over exactly the same route as first used. Many delegates have expressed an in-
tention of returning to their homes by new routes and don't wish to be restricted by the certificate plan. The "tourist rate" quoted represents a substantial saving from most points, and possesses many obvious advantages.

Chapter Taxes and Refunds:
This year a modification of the customary method of equalizing delegates' expenses has been put into effect. Full information concerning the taxes and refunds under the modified plan has been furnished to the President, to the Secretary, and to the Treasurer of each Chapter. The rates at the Menger are $2.50 to $5.00 a day for single rooms with bath; and $4.00 to $8.00 a day for double rooms, with bath. Special attention is called to the time limit for making reservations—April 6.

In case the demand for reservations exceeds the supply of rooms, the Menger Hotel has agreed to make satisfactory reservations at nearby hotels and to give proper notification to that effect.

Committee Reports:
This year, under the procedure established two years ago and found satisfactory, the reports of the Standing and Special Committees of the Institute are addressed to the Board of Directors and not to the Convention. The Board's report will submit to the Convention the recommendations and resolutions offered by the committees. Therefore, action on the many matters coming under the jurisdiction of Institute committees will be reached in the seriatim consideration of the Board's report.

The Convention Committees:
President Kohn has appointed the following Convention Committees and their cooperation may be counted upon by the chapters and delegates:

General Convention Committee:
- Ralph H. Cameron, Chairman, San Antonio, Texas.
- Atlee B. Ayres, San Antonio, Texas.
- Raymond Phelps, San Antonio, Texas.
- George Willis, San Antonio, Texas.
- Prof. Goldwin Goldsmith, Austin, Texas.
- Lester N. Flint, Dallas, Texas (North Texas Chapter).
- Alfred C. Finn, Houston, Texas (South Texas Chapter).

Special Convention Committees:
- General Reception: Harvey P. Smith, Chairman.
- Transportation: Carleton W. Adams, Chairman.
- Dinner: Atlee B. Ayres, Chairman.

Proposed Trip to Mexico
Some of the members who will attend the Convention are planning a side trip to Mexico and Mexico City. They will leave San Antonio by a special car on the evening of Friday, April 17, over a route and on a schedule yet to be determined. This side trip is not under the auspices of the Institute, and the souvenir note is made at the request of interested members, who would be glad to have additions to their party. It is understood that the minimum cost of such a trip, for one week in Mexico, will approximate $150.00 per person. Much depends on the number who go. All who are interested should communicate with Horace W. Peaslee, 1228 Connecticut Avenue, Washington, D. C.
Quality vs. Price Competition
Cooperation in the Building Industry

These are the keynotes of a joint meeting of the Institute and The Producers’ Council—an organization of manufacturers or producers of building materials and appliances representing about twenty billion dollars of invested capital, and affiliated with The American Institute of Architects.

As a part of this year’s Annual Convention of the Institute, to be held in San Antonio, Texas, and as referred to by President Kohn in the February OCTAGON, a special joint meeting of members of the Institute and members of The Producers’ Council will be held on April 13 to discuss problems of mutual interest and concern. Mr. A. P. Greensfelder, the new President of the Associated General Contractors, has accepted an invitation to speak at the Convention. It is hoped that many of the Institute members will find it possible to be in San Antonio on April 13 and to attend and participate in what promises to be a most interesting and instructive meeting.

The Producers’ Council holds its annual convention simultaneously with the Convention of the Institute, and at the same place. The two groups mingle freely and participate in discussions of mutual interest. Heretofore the pre-convention meeting of the Council has been devoted largely to matters of routine. This year, however, the routine business of the Council will be postponed, and the pre-convention meetings devoted mainly to joint discussions of problems of mutual interest.

The objects of The Producers’ Council are to promote mutual understanding between architects, contractors, and producers of building materials, whereby the services rendered by each in relation to the others and to the public may be made more effective, and to uphold standards in building which will encourage the production of dependable materials, secure construction, meritorious architecture, and sound trade practices.

Obviously, these producers and the members of the Institute are mutually interested in many problems that confront the construction industry and that affect the architectural profession. There appear to be opportunities for cooperation in connection with many of the major subjects to be discussed at this year’s convention, provided mutually satisfactory ways and means may be found.

The employment of architects in private practice to handle public buildings is of interest and concern not only to the architect who designs the building but also to the producer who supplies the materials. Will the Institute and The Producers’ Council stand together in putting into effect any future policy on this question?

The Institute and The Producers’ Council are both interested in the subject of architectural education. For example, how shall a student in a school of architecture be trained to meet the new problems of design which are evoked by new materials? How can the student be reliably informed about new, and sometimes even old, materials? How can the producer learn the design requirements for new materials in order that he may manufacture materials which meet design requirements? Can The Producers’ Council as a group cooperate in making available to students the kind and character of information that is desired?

The Institute and The Producers’ Council are both interested in furnishing reliable information on materials and methods to practicing architects. Both organizations are cooperating and are active in this work. How can the service be improved? What does the architect want? Can The Producers’ Council or the Structural Service Department severally or collectively provide what is wanted?

Coordination of effort in the building industry is to the interest of all of its various elements. Personal contact and frank discussion of problems from different angles will do much to eliminate misunderstanding and bring about cooperation. It is to be hoped, therefore, that many architects and many producers will be able to attend the joint meeting and will take part in the discussions to the end that differences of opinion may be eliminated, and that further ways and means may be found whereby the reputable producer of a quality product and the reputable, competent architect may be brought together in such complete understanding as to furnish an example to other elements of the industry of what an even broader cooperation might be expected to accomplish.
PUBLIC INFORMATION

By WM. HARMON BEERS

Newspaper publicity arising through Chapter effort is gaining both in volume and character. Supplementing the national public information activity of the Institute, an increasing number of Chapters have organized effective local programs. This development, while gratifying, should be accelerated, and Chapter organization with respect to public information be made more complete.

Essential to a well rounded system of public information is the existence in every Chapter of a Public Information Committee. Apparently not all Chapters have organized such Committees. The Publicist of the Institute, therefore, is invoking the aid of the Regional Directors in closing up our ranks. In a letter to Mr. M. H. Furbringer of Memphis, Tennessee, the Director representing the Gulf States Division, the Publicist says:

"The publicity which attended your recent trip to Texas was significant in indicating how Regional Directors may be helpful in promoting the Institute's program of public information. "Not only were your remarks reported at length in the Texas newspapers, but they provided a theme for nation-wide publicity, both the daily and financial press of New York City, for example, displaying this news matter quite as prominently as the dailies of the Southwest. "To develop our system of public information among the Chapters, I suggest that each Regional Director ascertain at once whether every Chapter within his Division has a Public Information Committee. Such Committees should be formed in all Chapters in which they do not exist. Were every Director to assume this responsibility, a Public Information Committee would function in every Chapter of the Institute. "From time to time, the Publicist of the Institute forwards suggestive memoranda to chairmen of Chapter Public Information Committees. Relatively few names of chairmen, however, are on file in the office of the Publicist, and so these memoranda, for the most part, are transmitted to Chapter presidents. It would be advisable, I think, for you to request every Chapter president in your Division to provide you at once with the name of the chairman of the Public Information Committee of the Chapter. This information should be transmitted by you to the undersigned, so that he may maintain direct and continuing contact with these chairmen.

"Continued progress in publicizing architecture depends upon constructive activity by the Chapters. This activity must arise from Public Information Committees, and gradually acquire the force of Chapter tradition. So, let us close up the gaps. Once this is done, other means of cooperation by the Directors may easily be devised. Thus, they will be enabled not only to aid a major task of the Institute, but to foster closer relations with the Chapters within their immediate sphere of influence. "I am addressing a similar letter to the other Directors of the Institute." For the information of the membership of the Institute, it might be added that out of sixty-six Chapters in the Institute, only the following have officially notified the Publicist of the appointment of Public Information Committees for 1931: Albany, Boston, Central Illinois, Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Eastern Ohio, Florida, Hawaii, Kansas City, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Jersey, Northern California, Philadelphia, and Tennessee. It must not be inferred, however, that these are the only agencies at work. Memoranda are sent to the presidents of Chapters from which no official notification of the personnel of Public Information Committees has been received. In some Chapters the Secretary is charged with the responsibility of co-operating with the press. The response of the Chapters, on the whole, has been vigorous and effective, as clippings from the newspapers of the country which constantly reach the office of the Publicist attest.

It can be stated with confidence that architecture today commands a greater share of public attention and public appreciation than ever before. Both the press and the public are sympathetic to a marked degree. It is the responsibility of the architect to maintain and to enrich the architectural mind. This the architect can do because, patently, he "makes news." Failure to contribute to public enlightenment as to the aims of architecture can, it seems, result only from indifference. The following paragraphs of a letter from the chairman of the Public Information Committee of a large Chapter in the East support this view:

"There may be some opposition to our public information program, for there are those in the profession here who definitely oppose the idea of publicity as foreign to the architectural profession. "After all, is not the indifference of some of the important architects of each community one of
the chief difficulties we have to overcome? Usually these men are fortunate in having private incomes and a practice not dependent on the good will and confidence of the general public.

"Another important feature of successful publicity depends on the fact that the architectural profession will be open-minded to the changing conditions of the present day, and that it is prepared to give the public the best service possible. Here is a point where the architects themselves must look inwardly, and I think we will find a number of opportunities to make advantageous changes.

"The matter, as you say, is not a simple one, but nothing worth accomplishing ever is. The greatest danger at present is that without a definite policy the present enthusiasm may waste itself in ineffectual activity. What do you think is the key note of the situation; the point on which to make the main drive?"

In answering this query, it might be pointed out that in architecture as in salvation "Many are called, but few are chosen." This being so, it is the duty of the few to lead the many. Genius, or what passes current for genius, should not shrink from the forum, for "no amount of genius will replace facts where facts, and not genius, are necessary." The objectors to public information are those who would alienate the architect from his rightful place in the social order. The sponsors of public information are those who would create a working mental alliance between the architect and the masses. Sound ethics are not based on narrow inhibitions. Their horizon compasses a world in action, a world that is becoming more intelligent, and hence a world that needs to be informed.

A lesson of the existing economic crisis as to architects lies in frank recognition of the very sound principle that of all callings architecture is the most democratic. All human beings occupy dwellings, and all dwellings are in essence the product of the architect, professional or non-professional. The public en masse and all individuals therein constitute a universal clientele for the architect. However, the architect, as the Institute identifies him, reaches only an infinitesimal fraction of this cosmic field.

The explanation of this gap between the architect and the great world which he is fitted to serve lies in the obscurity which surrounds his functions. The average citizen regards the architect as an isolated aristocrat, who is content only with magnificence in terms of the past. Myriads of home owners have an affinity with architecture but not with the architect. For architecture they resort to their own crude skill, to the craftsman and the contractor, and to the manufacturing architect who purveys designs as the merchant purveys merchandise. Organized business turns to the engineer.

Clearly, the public must understand the architect; it must know his mission as it knows the mission of the lawyer, or the doctor, or the banker. Self-interrogation is the outstanding need of the architectural profession. The process of public information set in motion by the Institute must not be permitted to lag. Its development is a duty no less to society than to the architect. The thousands of columns of space now annually devoted to architecture by the newspapers of the nation indubitably evidence this. Conservatism is commendable, but it must not be archaic.

Whether architects are artists or business men, or both, is a question the writer is not qualified to decide. That it is a question is nevertheless an irresistible inference of current activity and discussion. One architect of great distinction went so far as to declare recently in a private discussion that "architects are manufacturers." In any event, their destiny is leadership, and leadership does not connote seclusion. The procession is moving, and with public information as his chariot, the architect should hasten to "get aboard."

It would be unfair to infer that in general architects are laggards in public service. On the contrary, considerable numbers of them are functioning effectively in those quasi public units of Chapter organization styled Committees on Public Information. It is not too much to say that they are the statesmen of architecture, and by statesmanship we mean that Euripidean quality which foreigners marvel, if not a lack of information. The public in masses and all individuals therein constitute a universal clientele for the architect. However, the architect, as the Institute identifies him, reaches only an infinitesimal fraction of this cosmic field.

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Termite and Fungus Damage in Buildings

By Mellen C. Greeley, A.I.A.

The writer first became interested in this subject of damage to buildings by termites and by fungi eight years ago when the residence of a client was attacked, and in spite of all that could be done, was damaged to such an extent that finally it had to be demolished. This was the first of a long list of examples coming under observation, and in seeking for a remedy the subject became so absorbing that an effort has been made to obtain and digest all available information. Knowing that only a small percentage of architects have had the opportunity for observation and believing that the subject is worthy of serious consideration it is a pleasure now to pass on to others a resume of knowledge gained from experience and study of technical records, in the hope that interest may be awakened more generally among members of the profession.

This paper was originally prepared as a talk before the Florida Association of Architects. Parts of it have since been "put on the air" over the radio station at the University of Florida as part of an educational series, and while the subject may be of more interest to those architects who practice in the southern half of the United States, and especially those who are called upon to design residential buildings, there is no portion of the country, and no type of building which may not under certain conditions be subject to attack either by termites or by fungi. If not the building itself then perhaps the contents may be attacked.

Those architects whose practice is limited to buildings of the strictly urban type may feel that they are immune, but even they may still live in suburban residences which may be liable to attack as in the case of a Philadelphia architect who told the writer of finding termites in his own home in one of the suburbs of that city. Termites are known to have destroyed valuable papers filed in strictly noncombustible vaults which were apparently immune from any other source of damage, and which were constructed entirely of steel, concrete and masonry.

If the architect is to hold the position of master builder and continue to be looked up to as the co-ordinator of all phases of the building industry he should know all building materials and their proper use. In most sections of the United States wood has always been one of the principal building materials and will continue to be used in spite of the many so-called substitutes, because wood has certain characteristics which no other material can supply; however, there seems to be an increasing menace from wood destroying insects and plants, the reason for which is not definitely known, so that it seems necessary for the architect to acquaint himself with the causes of destruction and with the remedies for them. It appears to the writer that this sub-

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A JOURNAL OF THE A. I. A.
ject of prevention of damage by termites and fungi is a worthy one for architects to sponsor, as the amount of damage to buildings caused by termites alone has been estimated to be as much as one million dollars annually in one state alone (Illinois), and most of that damage could have been eliminated by proper construction and preventative measures.

The United States Department of Agriculture, through the Bureau of Entomology, has made exhaustive studies of termites, and within the past few years a number of bulletins have been published giving information and advice. The State of California has also done fine work through their Termite Investigations Committee in conjunction with the University of California. The Department of Agriculture, the Forestry Experimental Stations of the University of Idaho, and the University of Wisconsin, and several others have conducted experiments with fungi and a number of bulletins are available on this subject. This paper will quote from these authorities and thanks is here given for direct advice furnished and for permission given to use information contained in bulletins written by Dr. Thomas E. Snyder, Chief Entomologist, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Dr. Ernest E. Hubert, Professor of Forestry of the University of Idaho, Dr. Hermann Von Schrenk, Consulting Timber Engineer and many others. A book by Maurice Maeterlinck, Belgian author, entitled “The Life of the White Ant,” contains valuable information about the termites and the subject is handled in such a manner that the book reads like fiction, although it is based strictly on scientific facts. In quoting hereafter the writer will make no attempt to be scientific as he feels that this subject is a real problem for the architect and that it should be faced in a work-a-day manner.

Termites and fungi are in no way related as the former are insects and the latter are plants; however, they are so often found in the same locations, and damage caused by them is so similar that it seems advisable to consider them as one subject. Also preventative measures which suffice for one are satisfactory for the other in most cases.

Termites are true insects, and are not ants, although they are often spoken of as “white ants” and sometimes as “flying ants.” They are related to the cockroaches but in appearance they resemble the ants more than they do the cockroaches. Unlike the ants, they live entirely under cover and except during the swarming period they are not likely to be seen unless the wood in which they live is broken into. Their food is almost entirely cellulose which is digested by the help of certain organisms contained in their digestive tracts, and they are one of the few forms of insects which can live on both live and dead wood. They are found in all parts of the globe except the very coldest and while they thrive best in the tropics, there are some forty or more species native to the United States and in all but three or four States they have been known to cause damage.

Termites have lived on this earth for many millions of years as witnessed by fossils found in the oldest geological formations, and the species with which we are concerned were probably here long before man appeared. In some parts of the world they are mound builders, in others they are satisfied to build subterranean homes, while there are some species which live entirely above ground in comparatively dry wood. In this country we have two general divisions, the subterranean species and the non-subterranean species. The latter have not become general, in fact they are almost unknown except in the most southern parts of the United States, which is fortunate for if they should become numerous it would be a difficult matter to combat them because of their habit of attacking wood at any height above the ground. The subterranean species cannot live without contact with moisture and as this contact is usually made with moist earth, the methods of prevention have to do with separating the structural frame of a building from the earth.

Originally termites confined their activities to trees and other growing plants, but perhaps due to the destruction of forests or perhaps because in many of our modern buildings we have made the wood more accessible they now seem to be leaving the forests and are becoming more prevalent in the cities. Termites live in colonies much as do the ants and the bees, and even more than the others, the termites have developed a high order of community life which has its kings and queens, its workers, its soldiers and other castes. Each colony is self-sufficient and no connection is maintained with any other colony, nor is there any permanent opening to the outside world. The colony usually lives in the ground or in the roots of trees, and at times may have excavations many feet in depth. It is this characteristic which makes them difficult to eradicate. As they live entirely in the dark none of the castes have eyes, except those few which develop both eyes and wings at the swarming period.

In locating food, termites show an almost uncanny knowledge or instinct and in order to reach it they often show an engineering ability which is hard to believe. They seem able to sense wood at a considerable distance, as for instance the sills of a building resting on masonry a foot or more from the earth, or the joists and flooring some inches higher, and having located this food supply they soon get access to it, always remaining under cover however. If the masonry is defective they may build their runways along the cracks or even
Also we should assist the building departments, the methods of prevention and cure which who hails to profit by the experience of others codes of the cities contain recommendations on the subject and, if possible, rules to prevent of the various cities in broadcasting information have been found effective by trained investigators. Then we should put into practice, in our own for repairs if omitted, it seems that any architect investigators are as follows, and as they require mendations made by scientific and by practical ourselves and so as to be able to advise others. To do about it, and how? First we should study poor construction. Some of the basic recom-

mbs of the termite colony become visible voluntarily, namely at the swarming period, which usually occurs in the Spring or Fall and always in warm weather. This phenomenon corresponds to the periodic swarming of bees, and there is a similar period in the life cycle of most of the true ants. At this time the termite colony which is normally a colony of blind neutrals suddenly develops castes which are complete with eyes, wings and sexual organs, and strangely enough, these castes open a passage to the outside and emerge to be fluter feebly for a short distance with the wind. It is this winged caste which is sometimes spoken of as "flying ants." They are the only means of forming new colonies, as the main colony will usually remain in one location as long as the food supply is sufficient, although they will travel a hundred yards or more to reach food, and may even move the colony to be near a new food supply. So much for the picture, but what are we going to do about it, and how? First we should study all available data on the subject in order to inform ourselves and so as to be able to advise others. Then we should put into practice, in our own work, the methods of prevention and cure which have been found effective by trained investigators. Also we should assist the building departments of the various cities in broadcasting information and advice, and should see that the building codes of the cities contain recommendations on the subject, and, if possible, rules to prevent poor construction. Some of the basic recommendations made by scientific and by practical investigators are as follows, and as they require only a small additional cost when the building is constructed, and may save an enormous expense for repairs if omitted, it seems that any architect who fails to observe these suggestions is not fair to himself nor to his client.

In new construction, no stumps or logs should be left under or near the building and no form lumber or stakes should be left in the ground. All scraps of lumber and shavings should be removed from under the building, and a final inspection made after the last sub-contractor has left. Termites are attracted to all such debris and after that is consumed they will naturally attack the nearest wood in the building.

In buildings with basements it is unwise to use untreated wood posts unless they have iron base plates above floor. In no case should old lumber be allowed to accumulate in a basement without careful periodic examination.

No untreated timbers should be placed in contact with the earth, nor within twelve inches of it, and even at that distance they should be well ventilated and set on good cement foundations. No built-in or spliced members should be used in the first story construction unless well above grade, and the ends of joists resting in masonry should not be built-in without ventilation.

As much light and ventilation as possible should be given under the building and special attention should be given to ventilation at the external corners to avoid "dead spots."

Earth filled terraces near house walls should be avoided unless the wood framing can be entirely cut off from all contact by metal or rich cement.

Wood sleepers, wood floors, and wood partition plates should not be used on concrete slabs resting on earth, unless the wood is treated.

Only cement mortar should be used for founda-
tion walls and piers and these should be capped with metal shields or with rich cement at least one inch thick. In locations known to be infested the metal shields should be placed on all pipes as well as on all masonry supports.

If stucco is used on the exterior of masonry walls care should be taken that a perfect bond be formed between the stucco and the wall with no crevices to form passages for the termites.

The use of coal-tar is recommended for use in filling all cracks in masonry or concrete and for spreading on the earth at the point of contact with masonry.

In the case of repair or replacement work, the above suggestions will apply according to the particular problem. If termite attack has begun all infested wood should be removed and burned, then the wood frame should be completely isolated from the earth, and only treated lumber used for replacement. Any termites left in the building will die if contact with the earth is prevented. If "flying ants" are observed it is a sure sign that there are one or more termite colonies near at hand and immediate action is recommended.
Both in new construction and in repair work it is a wise precaution to break up the ground under the building and sprinkle it thoroughly with a ten percent solution of sodium arsenite, but care should be exercised and this solution should be used only as recommended by the Government Bulletins.

Fungi

Fungi take many forms, some of which are beautiful and almost startling in form and color, such as the tree fungi and the "dutchman’s pipe," the "toad-stools" and other ground forms which often have the most vivid coloration. Then there are the edible forms, the mushrooms, which are not so beautiful nor as fantastic. The species which are destructive to wood, however, are not edible and are not at all beautiful, in fact they are generally almost invisible and when seen are almost repulsive. These forms are the cause of the condition in wood known as "dry-rot," a condition in which the wood takes on a dry, crumbly appearance and first breaks up into "cubes," then disintegrates entirely.

Decay in wood is never due to a "spontaneous oxidation process," or to "action of the elements," but is always the result of the breaking down action of fungus growths, and while the condition is often called "dry-rot" this cannot be brought about without a certain amount of moisture. Fungi, being plants, although of a low order, require for growth four things, namely:—(a) An abundant food supply, (b) favorable temperatures, (c) sufficient oxygen, and (d) sufficient moisture. For food, wood of any variety is sufficient. Temperatures such as prevail in the United States are satisfactory except perhaps in the northern parts during the winter. Oxygen is usually available in any building construction. Moisture, while probably the most important necessity for growth, is luckily the easiest condition to control in a building. Fungi will not live in wood which is completely submerged in water, nor will it live if the wood is "bone-dry," however there are degrees of moisture lying between these extremes which are often found in buildings.

Moisture may originate in a leaky water or steam pipe, or from a refrigerator, or from a broken rain water conductor, or it may come from condensation due to lack of ventilation or where wood is in contact with masonry or concrete slabs. Many architects have had experiences with decay of wood floors laid on sleepers even where the construction is several stories above ground, and perhaps have found that dampness was caused by the presence of steam pipes or water pipes which caused condensation.

Fungi plants are propagated from spores produced on the fruiting bodies, or from secondary spores emanating from the thread-like roots, or from contact. The life history of a plant is briefly thus:—The spores, which are invisible to the naked eye, germinate, much as any seed does, after contact is made with wood containing the proper amount of moisture. Tiny threads, corresponding to roots then grow and branch out, penetrating the wood tissue by dissolving their way through the cell walls and cells. Soon the wood becomes networked with these threads and begins to soften and decay. After decay has progressed for some time a fruiting body, or flower, appears on the outside of the timber, but attention is called to the fact that this fruiting body does not appear until the fungus has done most of its damage, and the roots may have progressed in the wood far beyond the point at which the fruiting body appears. It is this fact which makes it practically impossible to remove all infected lumber from a building in which the fungus has made much progress. Fungus plants do not need to have contact with the earth, although they do sometimes have stalks as large as a man’s arm running up into a vine-like growth hundreds of square feet in area, concealed within floor construction and in walls. After growth has commenced the plant seems to attract to itself moisture out of the air sufficient to maintain life.

As wood destroying fungi are found almost everywhere it is only fair to suppose that practically every piece of lumber is exposed to the possibility of infection at some time between the time it is cut from the log until it is used in the building. The spores seem capable of remaining alive almost indefinitely if kept in a dry condition, and of starting to germinate as soon as conditions are favorable, therefore it seems only to be necessary that we prevent the possibility of suitable growing conditions, in order to prevent damage from fungi.

Many of us have used lumber all our lives and many of us live and practice in parts of the country where forest products are one of our largest industries. Most of us wish to continue to use lumber and with proper precautions there is no reason why we should not do so.

If space permitted, the writer could describe personal experiences and observations which might save him from being thought the pessimist or alarmist which he is likely to be called on account of this article. His only defense is that he knows of his own knowledge the damage which may result when a building becomes infected, and because remedies and preventative are now known, which were not known or not available a few years ago when most of the experiences were encountered, it seems only a professional duty to warn of the dangers and tell of the remedies. It is a comparatively easy matter to prevent fungus infection, but it is almost an impossibility to eradicate it after it has made a good start. The same recommendations made for prevention
A JOURNAL OF THE A. I. A.

Lumber Treatment

The term "Treated-Lumber" as used in this paper refers to lumber which has had a treatment of some chemical, or mixture of chemicals, with the intention of making it immune to attack by termites and fungi. There is no species of wood used for construction which is not subject to attack, although such woods as red cedar, cypress, redwood and dense yellow pine seem to be less liable than some of the others. All species of wood can be treated so as to be practically immune to attack and these treatments differ with the kind of wood and with the purpose for which the wood is to be used.

Preservation of wood has been the subject of a vast amount of laboratory and field investigation on the part of some of the best trained chemists and scientists in the whole world and a great deal has been published on the subject. Railroad and telegraph companies have spent long years and millions of dollars developing materials which will prolong the life of the wood used by them. We, however, are especially interested in the preservation of such wood as is used in framing and finishing our buildings, therefore methods, and in a way, materials do not concern us as much as the ability to get treated lumber when it is needed.

Treatment to be effective must penetrate the lumber completely, or else each saw-cut or other break in the surface must be re-treated. Brushing or blowing on of a material rarely penetrates sufficiently to be effective, and is liable to leave ends or other untreated surfaces open for attack. Dipping has been recommended and is effective in many cases, if the work is carefully done, but unless it is done in a thorough way it is little better than brushing. All of these methods are liable to dry out or "leach" under ordinary conditions met in service. There may be dipping or other methods which have been perfected and in use in some parts of the United States, but the writer has not seen them nor can he get any definite information. The only positive method of treatment known, at least in the territory in which this is written, is that method known as pressure treatment.

Materials used for preserving wood are varied, the most common being coal-tar creosote, which is thoroughly effective, but wood treated with creosote cannot be painted and when used in a dwelling some objection may be raised because of the odor. Creosoted lumber will also leach through plaster or soft wood trim which comes in contact with it. The Department of Agriculture has worked out several formulae of which five percent zinc chloride or three percent sodium fluoride solutions seem to be the most available for general use. Several large manufacturers have perfected materials and methods of treatment which seem after tests of several years to be satisfactory for all purposes. In this territory, at least, it is possible to get lumber treated with a combination of zinc-meta-arsenite, which may be painted, sawed and worked as easily as untreated wood, and which has no odor after installation. Other manufacturers are prepared to make available for our use wood treated to serve every purpose and all that we have to do to encourage them is to use their materials where conditions warrant our doing so, and to be prepared to advise the general building public of the advantages of preventing damage from attack by termites and by fungi.

and eradication of termites apply in the case of fungi, except of course the metal shields, but some of the recommendations might be repeated for emphasis, as follows:

In new construction all lumber used should be dry when set unless it is in a position where it will be dried by the air. No untreated lumber should be allowed to come in contact with the earth, or with walls which are liable to remain damp. Ventilation should be adequate on all sides and ends of wood members especially at the lower side of sills and wall plates resting on masonry. Untreated lumber should not be used for wood sleepers, nor for the flooring placed on them, nor for furring on masonry walls. Sash and doors, especially on the north side of a building, should be carefully primed all over with paint or some other protective material, before they are glazed and on the edges after they are fitted.

In the case of repairs, it is especially recommended that all infected wood be carefully removed and burned; that if possible all wood be removed for several feet, beyond where the infection is visible. Also it is a wise precaution to inject some antiseptic solution into all spaces in the walls or floors so as to cover the surface of the wood. No untreated wood should be used in replacement, as the spores are carried completely through the construction frame by every movement of air currents.

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ARTICLE SIX of the Principles of Professional Practice provides that an architect "will not take part or give any assistance in obtaining advertisements or other support towards meeting the expense of any publication illustrating his work."

Despite the fact that the Institute Board of Directors has repeatedly expressed its disapproval of the issuance of monographs containing advertising, and despite the fact that there has recently been one case of disciplinary procedure under this section, the Secretary has received a number of letters which indicate that some members of the Institute are still in doubt as to the Board's interpretation of this section of the Code of Ethics. Therefore, in order to clarify the situation and to render assistance to those members who are anxious to uphold the policies of the Institute, the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors, in session on March 7, passed the following resolution:

Resolved, That the opinion of the Executive Committee is that there is a prima facie case of violation of article six of the Principles of Professional Practice whenever a special publication of a monograph, book, or pamphlet of an architect's work contains advertising by contractors or producers of building material; and that this also applies to cases where the works of two or more architects have been combined in the same volume.

FRANK C. BALDWIN,
Secretary.

Awards—Small House Competition

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Announcement was made today by Dr. Ray Lyman Wilbur, President of Better Homes in America, of the winners in the Small House Architectural Competition recently conducted by that organization. The gold medal was awarded to Reginald D. Johnson of Los Angeles for a bungalow erected at Hope Ranch, Santa Barbara, California.

Honorable Mentions in the two-story class were awarded to Dwight James Baum of New York City for a residence built in Fieldston, New York, and to C. C. Merritt of Larchmont, New York, for a residence at Greenwich, Connecticut. In the story-and-a-half class Honorable Mentions were granted to Raymond Percival of Hartford, Connecticut, for a residence built in Collinsville, Connecticut, and to C. C. Merritt of Larchmont, New York, for a residence at Greenwich, Connecticut. In the bungalow class Honorable Mentions were awarded to H. Roy Kelley of Los Angeles for a house built at Palos Verdes, to Roland E. Coate of Los Angeles for a residence at Leimert Park, and to Donald D. McMurray of Pasadena.

Each of these awards were made for houses actually erected in the year 1929, for the purpose of the competition was to discover and call to public attention the best small houses that had actually been built during the preceding year.

The Committee which judged this competition was appointed at the request of Dr. Wilbur by Mr. Robert D. Kohn, President of The American Institute of Architects, and the gold medal was the gift of Mrs. William Brown Meloney of New York City and is being designed by Gutzon Borglum, sculptor. The presentation will be made in April.

Mr. Frederick L. Ackerman of New York City served as Chairman of the Committee on Awards.
"H. Roy Kelley, of Los Angeles, California, for House 'F' at Palos Verdes. This house appealed to the Jury as a straightforward solution of the problem expressed through simple mass and compact plan.

"Roland E. Coate, of Los Angeles, California, for residence for Leimert Park, which was appreciated for its well organized plan, simple mass and well studied proportions and details.

"Donald D. McMurray, of Pasadena, California, for House No. 2 for its charming treatment of exterior and handling of planting.

"In the one-and-a-half story class, Honorable Mention is given to Raymond J. Percival, Essex Building, 15 Lewis Street, Hartford, Connecticut, for the residence of Mr. Stanley H. Withe of Sunnyside Farm, Collinsville, Connecticut, and to C. C. Merritt, of Larchmont, New York, for his design of residence of Russell Hoyt at Greenwich, Connecticut.

"In the two-story class, Honorable Mention is given to Dwight James Baum, Riverside-on-the-Hudson, New York, for a residence (of Miss E. C. Malady, Fieldston, N. Y.) of distinguished quality, and to C. C. Merritt of Larchmont, New York, for the residence of Mr. Frank H. O'Reilly, at Greenwich, Connecticut.

"The Jury feels that Better Homes in America is to be very highly commended for conducting this competition which deals with one of the most difficult problems that the architect is called upon to solve."

The designs of the houses winning prizes and honorable mentions will be published in April and distributed at cost in pamphlet form by Better Homes in America, 1653 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W., Washington, D. C.

A similar competition will be conducted in 1931 and the closing date for architects who can compete will be December 1, 1931. In this competition architects may submit photographs and plans of houses the cubic area of which does not exceed more than 24,000 cubic feet for the story and the story-and-a-half classes and 26,000 cubic feet for the two-story class. Houses competing must have been erected between the years 1926 and 1930, inclusive. Architects who are interested may secure copies of the outline of the competition by writing to Better Homes in America, 1653 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W., Washington, D. C.

As of Interest

Charleston, South Carolina—Plan for Preservation.

At the meeting of the Board of Directors, November 12, 13, and 14, 1930, the President reported concerning a proposed program for the preservation of the fine old buildings of Charleston, South Carolina, which are of great value to the whole country because of their historical association and exceptional architectural merit.

The Board adopted a resolution approving of the appointment of a special committee by the President to cooperate with other committees in Charleston and with Institute members there for the purpose of preserving and restoring Charleston buildings of architectural and historical merit.

The names of those persons who have been appointed by the President to this Committee are as follows:

Franklin O. Adams, Tampa, Florida
Leicester B. Holland, Washington, D. C.
Fiske Kimball, Philadelphia, Penn.
Alfred L. Kocher, New York City
Horace W. Peaslee, Washington, D. C.
Thomas R. K. Waring, Editor, Charleston Evening Post
Harrison Randolph, President, College of Charleston
Julian Mitchell, Attorney and Chairman of Directors of the South Carolina National Bank
Mrs. Cesare Andreini nee Eliza Ruger Dunkin, of Charleston

Captain Alston Deas, U. S. Army, President, Society for the Preservation of old dwellings of Charleston
Albert Simons, President, South Carolina Chapter, A. I. A.
Everett V. Meeks, Dean, School of the Fine Arts, Yale University, New Haven, Conn.

Public Works.

Inasmuch as the health of Mr. Wm. Adams Delano compelled him to resign as Chairman of the Committee on Public Works, the President appointed Mr. Arthur Wallace Rice of Boston to assume the Chairmanship. Mr. Delano, however, remains as a member of the Committee. The President also appointed Mr. Albert L. Brockway of Syracuse as a member of the Committee on Public Works, which Committee is now composed of the following members:

Arthur Wallace Rice, Chairman, Boston
J. C. Bollenbacher, Chicago
R. K. Fuller, Denver
Wm. Chas. Hays, San Francisco
Louis Justement, Washington
Thomas R. Kimball, Omaha
E. D. Litchfield, New York
Allison Owen, New Orleans
Rudolph Weaver, Gainesville, Fla.
Wm. Adams Delano, New York
Albert Brockway, Syracuse
Applications For Membership

March 14, 1931.

Notice to Members of the Institute:

The names of the following applicants may come before the Board of Directors or its Executive Committee for action on their admission to the Institute, and, if elected, the applicants will be assigned to the Chapters indicated:

Albany Chapter - - - - - Clarence Haynes Gardiner, Ralph G. Gulley, Ralph Edward Winslow
Baltimore Chapter - - - - - John A. Ahlers
Chicago Chapter - - - - - Harold Batchelder McEldowney, Wybe Jelles van der Meer
New Jersey Chapter - - - - - Edward M. Annitto
New York Chapter - - - - - Guy Lynn Rosebrook
North Carolina Chapter - - - - - Marion Rossiter Marsh
Philadelphia Chapter - - - - - Horace Trumbauer
St. Louis Chapter - - - - - William H. Mills
Southern Penna. Chapter - - - - - David Amos Royer
Washington, D. C. Chapter - - - - - Robert Frank Jordan

You are invited, as directed by the By-Laws, to send privileged communications before April 13, 1931, on the eligibility of the candidates, for the information and guidance of the members of the Board of Directors in their final ballot. No applicant will be finally passed upon should any chapter request, within the thirty-day period, an extension of time for purpose of investigation.

Frank C. Baldwin,
Secretary.

Members Elected From January 14 to March 7, 1931

Albany Chapter - - - - - J. Russell White
Brooklyn Chapter - - - - - William H. Sypher, II
Central New York Chapter - - - - - William McLeish Dunbar, James R. Vedder
Connecticut Chapter - - - - - Walter P. Crabtree, Jr., T. Merrill Prentice
Detroit Chapter - - - - - J. Robert F. Swanson, William Caldwell Titcomb
Florida Central Chapter - - - - - Roy W. Wakeling
Florida North Chapter - - - - - Alvin Roger Moore
Nebraska Chapter - - - - - Joseph Edgar Smay
New Jersey Chapter - - - - - Frederick A. Elsasser
New York Chapter - - - - - Lewis Greenleaf Adams, Stephen Merrell Clement, William Gehron, Greville Rickard, Michael Stillman, Robert Wiseman
Northern California Chapter - - Gwynn Officer
Philadelphia Chapter - - - Morkis J. Rosenthal
Southern California Chapter - - - Horatio Warren Bishop, Llewellyn A. Parker
Virginia Chapter - - - - - Karl J. Belser, A. O. Budina, Bennett B. Cardwell, Samuel Preston Craighill