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Langley Scholarship Announcement
Spatial Metaphysics and All That
With the Chapters—As of Interest

Volume 9
NOVEMBER
1937

Number 11

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THE OCTAGON
November, 1937

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<tr>
<th>State</th>
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<tr>
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<td>W. Gordon Jamieson</td>
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November, 1937

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Madison ....................................... Joseph D. Livermore
Maine .......................................... Philip Shirley Wadsworth
Minnesota ..................................... William Grey Dorr
Mississippi .................................. Eugene D. Drummond
Montana ........................................ Glenn Gordon Cottier

Nebraska ..................................... Josiah Dow Sandham
New Jersey .................................. Kenneth W. Dalell
New York ..................................... Clarence S. Stein
North Carolina ................................ George Watts Carr
North Carolina ................................ Samuel G. Wiener
North Texas .................................. Arthur E. Thomas
Northern California ..................... Harris C. Allen
Northern California ..................... J. Howard Hicks
Northwestern Pennsylvania .............. J. Howard Hicks

Oklahoma ................................... George Blumenauhr
Oregon ........................................ A. Glenn Stanton
Philadelphia ................................ Richard W. McCaskey
Pittsburgh .................................... Raymond M. Marlier

Rhode Island ................................ Edwin E. Cull
San Diego .................................... Frank L. Hope, Jr.
Santa Barbara ............................... E. Keith Lockard
Scranton-Wilkes-Barre .................... Lewis Hancock
South Carolina ......................... Stephen Thomas
South Carolina ............................. Cletus W. Bergen
South Carolina ................................ Maurice J. Sullivan
Southern California ..................... George J. Adams
Southern California ....................... James W. Minick
St. Louis .................................... George W. Spear
St. Louis .................................... Edwin H. Lundie

Tennessee ................................... J. Frazer Smith
Toledo ........................................ William M. Fernald

Utah ........................................... Edward O. Anderson
Virginia ..................................... Louis Philippe Smith
Washington, D.C. ........................ L. Justement
Washington State ........................ Andrew Willatsen
Westchester ................................ Kenneth K. Stowell
West Texas .................................. Bartlett Cocke
West Virginia ................................ H. Rus Warne
Wisconsin ..................................... Gerrit J. de Gelleke

HISTORY OF THE INSTITUTE (23)
Hobart B. Upjohn, Chairman
5952 Grand Central Terminal, New York, N. Y.

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF ARCHITECTS (24)
(Personnel to be announced in the January number of
THE OCTAGON.)

EQUALIZATION OF DELEGATES EXPENSES (25)
William H. Crowell, Chairman
1040 Pacific Building, Portland, Ore.

CITY PLANNING (26)
Ralph T. Walker, Chairman
101 Park Avenue, New York, N. Y.
The Edward Langley Scholarships for 1938

The American Institute of Architects from January 1 to March 1, 1938, will receive proposals of candidates for Edward Langley Scholarships for the year 1938. Awards will be announced about June 1, 1938.

These scholarships are awarded annually for advanced work in architecture, for study, travel or research, as the holder of the scholarship elects. Awards to undergraduates are precluded, but awards may be made to architectural draftsmen who desire to do undergraduate work or take special courses in architectural schools. An award in a succeeding year to a holder of a scholarship is not precluded.

Competitive examinations will not be used as a method of selection.

The awards will be made and the grants determined by a committee of The Board of Directors of The Institute, according to the character, ability, need, and purpose of each candidate and the funds that are available. Only a very limited number of awards can be made in any year, so, to avoid unnecessary disappointment, a candidate should not be proposed unless his qualifications are outstanding and it is evident the profession will be benefited by an award to him.

The scholarships are open to all persons engaged in the profession of architecture. To facilitate making the awards, such persons are grouped as follows:

Group 1. Architects in active practice; architectural draftsmen employed by architects, whether the draftsmen are engaged in drafting, writing specifications, supervising, or acting as executives, and whether or not they are college graduates.

Group 2. Teachers in schools of architecture; students about to graduate from such schools; post-graduate students of such schools who are engaged in post-graduate work either in college or in travel.

How to Propose Candidates

Forms of Proposal.

Proposals of all candidates must be made in duplicate on printed forms, which may be obtained from The American Institute of Architects, 1741 New York Avenue, Washington, D. C.

Group 1 Candidates.

Any architect in the United States or Canada may propose any other architect or architectural draftsmen as a candidate for an award in Group 1, but no one shall propose himself.

All proposals of candidates under Group 1 must be sent to the Regional Director of The American Institute of Architects who represents the district in which the proposer and the candidate reside, and must be in his office not later than March 1, 1938. The name and address of the Regional Director will be furnished with the printed forms of proposal.

From the proposals received by him, the Regional Director will nominate a prescribed number of candidates from his district to the Board Committee. The Director may request any candidate to submit examples of his work and to appear before him or his representative.

Group 2 Candidates.

The faculty or head of any architectural school approved by The Institute may propose any teacher in any such school, or any graduate of such engaged in post-graduate work in the school or in travel, or any student about to graduate from the school, as a candidate for an award in Group 2, but no one shall propose himself.

Proposals of candidates from Group 2 must be sent to the Committee on Education, The American Institute of Architects, 1741 New York Avenue, Washington, D. C. and be in that office not later than March 1, 1938.

From the proposals received by it, the Committee on Education will nominate a prescribed number of candidates to the Board Committee.

Awards of Scholarships.

The Board Committee will make its selection for awards from the candidates nominated to it by the Regional Directors from Group 1 and by the Committee on Education from Group 2.
IT IS with considerable diffidence that the writer takes up his pen to protest against the increasingly vague “argot” used in the *“Record” and in local architectural discussions. For he may divert the very spate of mystical language complained of from its usual butt of traditional architecture upon himself. But, come what may, it must be done.

Let it be clear at the outset that the writer is in complete sympathy with the modern movement in architecture, and has expressed that sympathy in speech, writing and building materials. It is not the standards of criticism (in his view valid) to which he would object, but simply the phraseology in which these criticisms are expressed.

To get down to specific examples, I have before me the March number of the “South African Architectural Record,” which will serve to illustrate my remarks. Any other number would do equally well.

The first article I come to is “The Genesis of a House,” a criticism of an outstanding example of local architecture by Mr. Kurt Jonas, an architectural student at the Witwatersrand University of acknowledged brilliance. Selecting an example, I quote: “... Here we find, indeed, a four-dimensional composition of space enclosed by solids. Especially the north and north-west aspect of the house shows a dynamic balance of forms, such as it would be hard to surpass. At the same time, it is not lacking in that interpenetration of spaces which brings out the hollow character, full of fluctuating life, which is expressive of architecture as compared with sculpture...”

The first sentence means, presumably, “Here we find a hollow house,” but why in the name of Einstein “four-dimensional”? I am aware that physicists now hold that bodies extend in at least four dimensions, but this seems quite irrelevant to the house and the context. Then “dynamic balance” is a contradiction in terms, for any balance is in its nature static. This word dynamic is misused twice more in the article. Dynamics, it need hardly be said, is the science which treats of bodies in motion as opposed to “statics.” How can this word be applied with any meaning to the facade of a building except in the catastrophic circumstances of an air-raid. I prefer my facades static.

Even if we concede some metaphorical significance to “dynamic balance” in this case, it is difficult to see how much meaning can be reconciled with the further description of the same facade: “... What is most remarkable about the front facade is the classic repose which has been achieved in spite of the multitude of forms employed...” Can the same aspect of the same building reasonably suggest “dynamic balance,” “dynamic tension” and also “classic repose”?

In the third sentence perhaps the author will explain what is meant by “the interpenetration of spaces.” It is no slip of the pen, to be regretted but forgiven, for it occurs three times in the same article. Can spaces “penetrate” anything, or each other, and if the latter would they not become one space?

It will be a great disservice to the new architecture if its spirit of modernity is obscured by a haze of verbiage almost mediaeval. And I say mediaeval advisedly, for the state of mind of the users of such vague language as has been quoted is not so very far removed from that of the learned Tollius when he described some Stone Age tools as “generated in the sky by a fulgureous exhalation conglobed in a cloud by the circumposed humour.”

Although it may be held that the language of Shakespeare, Darwin and Newton, reinforced by the accepted vocabulary of architectural terms, should be adequate to express any ideas on the subject, however poetic or profound, the writer concedes the desirability of new terms to describe new things. Our language is living and must grow.

The jargon complained of, however, is not made up of new terms, but of old terms given new meanings or deprived of all meaning. These terms are drawn from all departments of knowledge, e.g., from philosophy (metaphysics), mathematics (func-
tion), mechanics (tension, dynamic), biology (organic), general science (personal equation) and so on. In their original connections all these words can be precisely defined. They are all useful and expressive words.

Now it would be bad enough if these valuable expressions were given new defined meanings, although in their ambiguity they would lose their clarity and force. But in the way they are employed in the new jargon they have no definable meaning whatever. Perhaps the most abused term of all is "function," which is used in a host of different senses. Here are a few examples from the same article:

"... the strongly marked division of functions"; "... the application of the principle of separate expression to separate functions"; "... separating the different functions of a building on the horizontal plane with strongly articulated connecting links..."; "this function of the screen wall..."; "... an easy flow of functions"; "... the mental discipline with which the architect conceives his aesthetics in the material of practical functions..."; "... the expression of functions..." Can there be a definition of "function" (or two definitions) which will fit in all these instances?

By all means let us have new terms as the need for them arises, but let them be new, meaningful, potent words carefully defined, and not distorted old ones. Then they will be valuable aids to architectural discussion.

There is great need to explain to the general public the essentials of the new architecture, and the latter cannot come into its own without an informed public to furnish understanding clients. It would be a useful service to this end if our architectural journal were to use simple language, understandable to the layman. And this would be a benefit rather than a detriment to the criticisms expressed. If the latest discoveries of science can be put into simple language by such masters of elucidation as Jeans, Eddington and Huxley, then so can the most profound thoughts on architecture by its exponents.

The language of the article quoted (which is typical and not selected because any worse than many such examples appearing monthly in the "Record") is calculated to mystify rather than enlighten the layman. It may be said that the "Record" is not intended for laymen, but for specialists. If so, it is a pity, and the journal, beautifully printed and illustrated though it now is, can play but a very restricted part in the progress of architecture in this country. Even if the "Record" is intended for professional architects only, the objections to architectural mysticisms remain valid. Many highly qualified architects share the perplexity of the writer.

May I repeat my whole-hearted sympathy with the tenets of modern architecture, and because of this sympathy plead that its apostles in South Africa carry into their prose some of the fine simplicity of their design.

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So What?

A REPLY TO A. R. WILCOX by KURT JONAS

I DO not intend to answer Mr. Willcox in the sarcastic vein which he has chosen for his criticism, although I dare say the task would not be very difficult. But I prefer to keep, or rather to raise, the discussion onto a quite objective plane.

Mr. Willcox has chosen an article of mine to demonstrate what he thinks is a mystification and confusion of language. He selects a number of expressions, which he considers vague, undefined and either meaningless or self-contradictory. There might be some justification for this criticism, if the article on "House Stern" was a self-contained example. But I have made it clear in the introduction to that analysis that it was the application of definitions and principles arrived at in a number of articles which had been published in the "South African Architectural Record" before. Obviously definitions cannot be repeated each time a word is used.

I do not know of any brilliance of mine that could be acknowledged; but I do claim to be
fairly conscientious. For that reason I started
the discussion of architectural aesthetics with a
number of careful definitions of all relevant terms.
Optimistically, I expected the same conscientious-
ness from the reader. That would imply that a
reader, coming across an article which states to be
based on a general theoretical thesis given before,
would look up the definitions (which he may well
have forgotten in the long intervals between the
single articles) before accusing the writer of vague
mysticism.

In this respect Mr. Willcox is certainly not an
"ideal reader." Therefore it will be best if this
answer consists mainly of quotations from that
earlier essay, "Towards a Philosophy of Architecture" (January, 1936), covering the different points
of the criticism in their proper order.

Why the use of the word "four-dimensional"?
I quote: "The sphere of architecture is space. We
must define space. But we cannot. For space is
defined by movement. And movement presupposes
time. Therefore we should speak more correctly
of space-time. In the following the term space will
always be used in the sense of space-time, thus
designating four-dimensionality. The line stands
for one-dimensionality, the plane for two-dimen-
sionality, the solid for three-dimensionality, space
for four-dimensionality . . . therefore: Architecture
is a four-dimensional art."

Since the average man's feeling for language is
not such, that he will, in reading, realize the full
significance of a word like "hollow," it is necessary
to draw his attention to the fact by using the
more explicit term "four-dimensional," not just
vaguely, but in the clearly defined form quoted
above.

"Dynamic balance." I quote: "We take the
entirety of space, its body, as immobility. And its
pulsing life as movement. The synthesis, in which
immobility and movements are suspended, preserved
and transformed, is balance. We define balance as
that state in which the manifold movements are
of such a relationship that their sum total equals
the weight of the immobile body. The balance,
therefore, is not static, as it would be if immobility
should dominate. It is dialectic-dynamic, although
movement does not dominate either. But from our
definition of balance it is clear that the synthesis
of two logically and statically irreconcilable forces
is accordingly an essentially dialectic state."

I might add that if one factor would dominate,
we could no longer speak of balance. Therefore
"dynamic balance" could only be criticised as a
tautology, not as a contradiction in terms. The
reason for using this tautology is the same as the
one mentioned above: The reader would not
normally see the full implications of the word
balance, and it is therefore better to add the
defining attribute, dynamic. How necessary that
is, is borne out by Mr. Willcox's assumption that
"any balance is in its nature static." This state-
ment is in flagrant disagreement with both common
usage of these words and with their accepted scien-
tific meaning. A match-box lying on a table is
in a static state. Nobody would speak of it being
in balance. But if it is balanced on the point
of a pencil, it is kept in that position by the "inter-
play of forces," which is the definition for a dynamic
state. Clearly nobody would call this balance static.

This brings us to the second definition which Mr.
Willcox gives, and which is equally wrong. "Dyn-
amics, it need hardly be said, is the science which
treats of bodies in motion. . . ." Nothing of the
sort. That science is called "Kinetics." Neither
in its etymological derivation, nor in its scientific
application has the word dynamic ever had an
exclusive connection with movement. The Greek
"dynamis" means "force," dynamics is the science
dealing with forces in bodies (which forces may
or may not produce movements), and dynamic is
called the state of a body in which (conflicting)
forces are at work, thus upsetting the static state
and producing either movement or a state of balance,
according to the relation of these forces. Whose
terms, then, are vague and undefined?

Now it may be clear why a facade can at once
suggest dynamic balance and classic repose. Be-
cause the two very largely supplement each other.
The contradiction, which must not be denied, is
already given in the very definition of balance as
a dialectic, i.e., self-contradictory state. But this
is a contradiction not due to the man's poor logic,
but to the higher logic, the dialectics of all life
and art. To emphasize this I started that essay,
"Towards a Philosophy of Architecture," with the
statement: "Modern architecture is the realization
of a contradiction in itself." I cannot go into the
details of the argument which is contained in that
article and can be referred to.

The third objection is to the "interpenetration
of spaces.” This term, which I believe I introduced into the architectural discussion, designates the form which movement takes in architecture. Naturally spaces can penetrate, though not solids, yet just spaces. Once we speak of space sub-divided, that is, of spaces as a plural, the term takes on a meaning almost identical with volume. Now we need only imagine two shafts of coloured light (conical volumes) partly cutting each other, and we will visualize an interpenetration of volumes without the two volumes becoming one. In architecture the corresponding phenomenon of interpenetrating spaces has been demonstrated so often that I need not trace it here.

And now to “function.” This word has two principal meanings. The one is mathematical and did not occur in the article concerned. The other is a word of such every-day meaning that it seemed unnecessary to define it. A wrong estimation. Here is the definition of the Oxford Dictionary, which to my mind fully covers not one, but all the quoted instances. “The special kind of activity proper to anything, the mode of action by which it fulfills its purpose.” In this sense the word was first used in 1541, and has been used since in all realms of science (Adam Smith: The function of money, etc.). I do not see where, in the light of this authoritative definition, I misuse the word function.

Having disproved all the single allegations of vague or undefined language, there is no need to say anything more against the accusation of mysticism in general. That not all things are so simple as some people believe, that there are inherent contradictions in life and in art, is no fault of mine. It is the task of the writer to show and to express this dialectic state, not to cover it with a torn figleaf of simplifying logical construction, all for the sake of a mentally lazy layman. For the layman really interested in architecture, who reads the “South African Architectural Record” regularly, not just once, these things will be as clear as for the architect, provided both have the minimum of philosophical training which is necessary and usually considered part of the general education.

And that brings me to the last point. Mr. Willcox objects to my taking terms from all realms of human activity. Yes, I do so. On purpose, and always only where a natural connection between architecture and that particular science is given. The reason is obvious: Architecture cannot be isolated, and the architect, to fulfill his “function” in society, must be somewhat of a philosopher, an economist, an engineer, a biologist and a psychologist. Perhaps this diversity of aspects accounts for the fact that matters of architecture, which, after all, is an art, cannot be expressed with the simplicity of a Huxley. But to give the greatest amount of accuracy must certainly be the aim. It is this I have attempted to do. If this reply has shown that the terms used are not so much lacking in accuracy as Mr. Willcox has assumed, it will have served its purpose. It then will be one step more towards the illumination of the theory of architectural aesthetics which was the task set to my whole series of articles.

Clarke Heads Commission of Fine Arts

Gilmore D. Clarke, landscape architect, of New York City, Honorary Member of The American Institute of Architects and a member of The Board of Design of the New York World’s Fair, has been chosen to succeed Charles Moore as Chairman of the Commission of Fine Arts.

The Commission is composed of seven members, including three architects, one landscape architect, one artist, one sculptor and former Chairman Moore, who retains his membership. The Commission, created in 1910, has passed upon every public building erected in Washington since the Lincoln Memorial, exercising authority to approve or reject designs for any structure abutting on or facing government property. It passes upon sites for all memorials, and functions continuously upon these important projects while they are under construction by ruling on the many aesthetic questions which arise.
November, 1937

A JOURNAL OF THE A. I. A.

With the Chapters

EXCERPTS FROM MINUTES, BULLETINS AND REPORTS

Baltimore.

President Fisher, at a recent meeting of the Executive Committee of the Chapter, presented the following resolution which was forwarded to the Governor of Maryland:

"Whereas, The State of Maryland through the agency of the Tercentenary Commission, created for the sole purpose of making a worthy monument to the founding of the Maryland Colony, expended its funds successfully for the beautification of the site of the Colony's original capital, and by the generosity of certain citizens, succeeded in restoring approaches to it; and

"Whereas St. Mary's Female Seminary without reference to the Commission which has accomplished these improvements has demolished an important part of the planting so accomplished, and erected buildings and other utilitarian projects for its own use to the serious detriment of the principal approach to the restored Capitol, and in complete disregard of the Commission's Plan, adopted and approved by the Board of Public Works; now therefore be it

"Resolved, That the Baltimore Chapter of The American Institute of Architects, does earnestly petition the Board of Public Works of the State of Maryland, to cause the removal of these detrimental buildings and structures to other locations, and to restore the approaches of the Colonial Capitol to the suitable and successful condition which was originally planned. And be it further

"Resolved, That the Board of Public Works shall be asked to grant to the Tercentenary Commission any necessary legal controls to assure the perpetual maintenance of this approach free from interference or damage by other bodies either public or private, and that copies of this Resolution be presented to His Excellency, The Governor of Maryland, to the Board of Public Works, and the Maryland Tercentenary Commission."

Central New York.

A recent meeting of the Executive Committee of the Chapter was called to order by President Todd at The University Club in Rochester. Messrs. Kaelber and Cummings were elected to fill the two vacancies on the Board of Directors to serve until the annual meeting of the Chapter.

It was announced that the new By-laws had been approved by The Secretary of The Institute and were now ready for printing and distribution.

Mr. Kaelber moved that, due to the wide-spread geographical nature of the Chapter, an informal nominating committee be appointed to nominate Officers and Directors for consideration at the next annual meeting.

Chicago.

Forty members and guests were present at the dinner which preceded the meeting of the Chapter, held at The Architects Club in Chicago, on September 14.

Following the dinner, President Merrill called the meeting to order and requested reports from the Secretary and the Chairmen of the various standing committees. Mr. Ralph Gross, President of the Chicago Architectural Club, was introduced and spoke on the work accomplished by Mr. Brodt while a traveling scholar.

There was extended discussion as to a new location for Chapter meetings and it was moved by Mr. Fugard that the Chapter remain at and continue to hold its meetings at the Architects Club until negotiations had been completed enabling the Chapter to hold meetings in the building at 1801 Prairie Avenue.

The balance of the meeting was devoted to discussions of programs for future meetings that would be of interest to the members.

Kentucky.

The French Village was the scene of a recent dinner meeting of the Chapter, presided over by O. P. Ward, Chapter Secretary.

Following dinner and the routine business meeting, Bergman Letzler read a most excellent paper dealing with some of the problems confronting the younger members of the profession, and later led a discussion on modern architecture.

There was extended discussion on the merits and demerits of the system of architectural education now generally in vogue, and much was said in regard to the highly controversial subject of competitions.

Santa Barbara.

The annual meeting of the Chapter was held recently at the Hotel de France in Santa Barbara.

Following a delightful dinner the meeting was called to order by President Wm. A. Edwards.
Other members present were Messrs. Armitage, Carjola, Cooke, Howell, Lockard, Murphy, Soule, and Parsons.

New officers were elected for the ensuing year:

President ___________________________ Henry W. Howell
Vice-President ________________________ Miss Lutah M. Riggs
Secretary ______________________________ Chester L. Carjola
Treasurer ______________________________ Winsor Soule

Southern California.

A well attended meeting of the Chapter was held at the Art Center School on September 14. Mr. Edward A. Adams, Director of the School, assisted by members of his staff, greeted the members and proved to be excellent hosts. A drafting room, with its walls covered by some fine photographs of the Paris International Exposition, and with some interesting and appropriate table decorations, was used for the dinner meeting that followed.

Mr. Adams gave some of his impressions of the Paris Exposition and described the work being accomplished at the school. Kem Weber told of his work with the school as an instructor in industrial design. A motion picture, beautifully photographed by a member of the school faculty, and showing the entire development of a project in one of Mr. Weber's classes, was shown. After the program the chapter members were taken on a tour of inspection of the galleries and classrooms.

Washington State.

A special Chapter meeting was held at the Gowman Hotel in Seattle for consideration of local Seattle business to be given attention prior to the final meeting of the season to be held sometime later in Tacoma.

After President Gowen had called the meeting to order a report of the Building Industry Contact Committee was called for and presented by Mr. Herrman, a member of the Committee. This report submitted proposals of the Seattle Chapter of the Associated General Contractors for agreement between that organization and the chapter relative to standard practice in calling for bids, letting of sub-contracts, alternates, unit prices and other matters related to the letting of contracts. These were informally discussed and the Seattle Chapter of the A. G. C. informed that their proposals had been received and were being given consideration.

A revision of the recommended schedule of charges to cover P. W. A. work was also discussed.

Wisconsin.

The Chapter resumed activities by holding a regular meeting on Wednesday, September 15, at the City Club.

The luncheon was held in the main dining room of the City Club's new quarters. After an inspection of the results accomplished by the creative efforts of Roger Kirchhoff, the business meeting was opened with a motion and resolution commending Mr. Kirchhoff for his accomplishment.

The general business meeting following was devoted mainly to a discussion of the ever-present problem of advertising. Leigh Hunt commenced the discussion by reading his notes representing conclusions reached in his study of the subject. Roger Kirchhoff brought up the question of cooperation with The Producers' Council in the matter of publicity and advertising. Mr. Wyrick of the Milwaukee Journal, who was present at the meeting, was invited to give a general picture of newspaper policies regarding editorial matter, news items, and regarding advertisers.

A motion was passed instructing the publicity committee to investigate the matter and report at the next meeting.

New Book

"Manhattan Magic" by Mario Bucovich.

The M. B. Publishing Company, 12 East 41st St., New York, announces the publication of "Manhattan Magic" by Mario Bucovich, price, $2.00.

The volume contains an historical foreword and a collection of eighty-five photographs, most of them of architectural subjects in New York City. Previously a similar book "Washington, D. C." was published. It is planned to continue the series to cover other large cities of the country.

The publishers state that these books are being put on the market on the theory that there is a cultural demand for material of purely American background.
Monmouth College Ceremony.

On invitation, President Maginnis appointed Past President Irving K. Pond to represent The American Institute of Architects, on October 28, at the inauguration of President Grier of Monmouth College, Monmouth, Illinois.

A Prophesy.

Clarke G. Dailey, president of the Real Estate Board of New York, says that the next decline in the curve of real estate activity may come about 1948, basing his prediction on the history of real estate cycles in this country. "In the United States," he said, "the cycles have been about eighteen years in duration instead of the fourteen mentally graphed in Joseph's dream, so presumably we have nine fat years and nine lean years. A study of curves depicting real estate activity, volume of foreclosures and the like over a period of years shows there are usually four or five years of precipitate decline and about fourteen years of gradual improvement."

Conference on Residential Construction.

Local residential construction will be the subject of a conference sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce of the United States at the Chamber's headquarters in Washington on November 17 and 18.

William Stanley Parker, F. A. I. A., General Chairman of the Construction League of the United States, and Chairman of The Institute's Committee on Construction Industry Relations, will act as Chairman of the morning session on November 17, the topic of which will be "Municipal Problems."

Walter R. McCormack, F. A. I. A., Chairman of The Institute's Committee on Housing, will speak at this session on "Effect of Obsolete Municipal Codes and Other Unnecessary Restrictions on Building Costs."

Among the speakers at other sessions of the conference will be A. P. Greensfelder, Chairman of the Construction & Civic Development Department Committee, United States Chamber of Commerce; Charles F. Lewis, Director of The Buhl Foundation, Developers of Chatham Village, Pittsburgh; Stewart McDonald, Administrator of the Federal Housing Administration; and Russell G. Creviston, President of The Producers' Council, Inc.

The closing session will be addressed by Nathan Straus, Administrator of the new United States Housing Authority, who will speak on the Wagner-Steagall Housing Act.

Coincidental with the conference will be the meeting in Washington of the Assembly of the Construction League of the United States; The Producer's Council; and the semi-annual meeting of The Board of Directors of The Institute.

Appraisal Forum Date Fixed.

The National Appraisal Forum, sponsored by the Joint Committee on Appraisal and Mortgage Analysis, will be held in Washington, D. C., on Friday and Saturday, November 19 and 20, according to an announcement by Frederick M. Babcock, Committee Chairman and Director of the Underwriting Division of the Federal Housing Administration.

Members of about thirty organizations have been invited to participate in the Forum, which represents the first effort to bring together members of all groups interested in the property valuations. It will open November 19 with a general discussion of the assembly and use of appraisal data, with afternoon and evening conferences on urban and rural valuation problems following. On November 20 reports on the group meetings will be heard, also a concluding address on the general subject of property valuation and mortgage lending.

Classifications of urban and rural appraisal data of general scope will be distributed, together with a catalog of appraisal data of all types. These data were compiled under supervision of the Committee, which is composed of representatives of both governmental and nongovernmental organizations interested in appraisal problems. A number of exhibitions also are being prepared for the meetings.

The Architects' League of Northern New Jersey.

Through the courtesy of Harry Lucht, Secretary of the Architects' League of Northern New Jersey, the annual Indian Summer Frolic of the League was held on September 25, at the State Line Club at Upper Saddle River, New Jersey.

A large number of architects, material men, contractors, builders and friends turned out to enjoy a day of baseball, horseshoe pitching, quoits, etc.