

# THE ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL & *Architectural Engineer*

*With which is incorporated "The Builders' Journal."*



FROM AN ARCHITECT'S NOTEBOOK.

*To talk of architecture is a joke,  
Till you can build a chimney that won't smoke.*

ARISTOPHANES: "THE BIRDS."

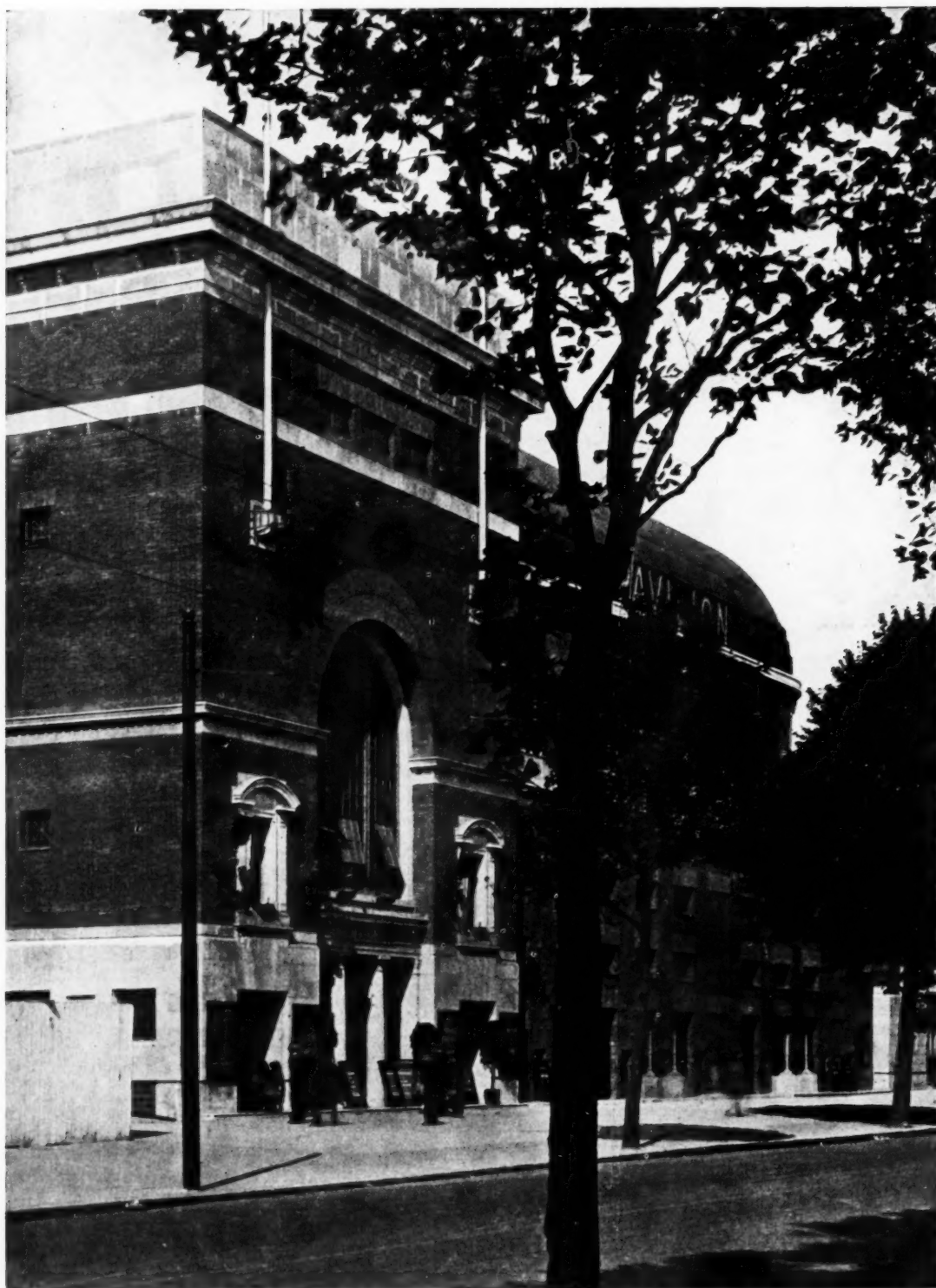
*(Translated by James Robinson Planché.)*

27-29 Tothill Street, Westminster, S.W.1.

"The Best Street Frontage of the Year"

The Shepherd's Bush Pavilion

Frank T. Verity, F.R.I.B.A., Architect



The jury appointed by the R.I.B.A. have awarded the Medal for the Best Street Frontage in London for 1923 to Mr. Verity's Shepherd's Bush Pavilion.

# THE ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL

27-29 Tothill Street, Westminster, S.W.1.

Wednesday, May 7, 1924.

Volume LIX. No. 1531

## Architecture and the Government

CASES have been reported to the committee where architects, in pursuance of certain 'artistic' ideas, have refused to permit the use of British slates, and have insisted upon the roofs of the houses being carried out, at increased cost, in foreign tiles. This, the committee suggests, should not be permissible in connection with any housing scheme subsidized by British taxpayers." The above paragraph, in an appendix, constitutes the only reference to architects or architecture in the whole of the White Paper (Cmd 2104) that has recently been presented to Parliament by the representatives of the building industry. The committee would, no doubt, defend the omission to mention the architecture of the proposed two and a half million houses on the plea that architectural effect must be obtained by skill in design and by good proportion and grouping, and that architecture ought not therefore to affect the finance of the scheme and the practical side of the provision of materials. This contention is a sound one, but it would have been more reassuring if the committee had not left the public to draw its own inferences. If England is not to be disfigured by these new houses it is essential that the architectural profession should be adequately represented on the proposed statutory committee that is to control the scheme, and yet this proviso is not mentioned in the report.

It is astounding that those ostensibly representing private enterprise should consistently and completely ignore one of our most vital needs—an improvement in the architecture of the small house and suburb. However drastic the assertion may appear, it cannot be questioned that private enterprise has made England an object-lesson in how not to design small houses, and how most efficiently to disfigure natural beauty and distort local character. The so-called economic house-builder has uglified the country with such persistence that almost every Englishman now believes that small house building is an evil blight whose growth we have unfortunately to foster in an endeavour to cope with the accommodation problem. The hideous villa is a by-word. Lord Curzon, in opening the Architecture Club Exhibition, after reviewing the value of our major works of architecture, said that there were two directions in which we had disastrously failed—in the villa and the workman's house. He compared the nucleus of an old town in relation to its modern suburbs to a piece of fine embroidery trimmed with a frilling of coarse calico. The pertinacity with which the champions of private enterprise wriggle out of giving any definite assurance that they care a halfpenny piece about the beauty or ugliness of their works is a constant source of irritation to those who would like to support them, but would resist to the utmost any attempt to perpetuate the type of atrocity with which private enterprise is identified. Such criticism is always countered by the excuse that houses must be built "to attract," which means that bad taste must be pandered to and encouraged. Is it not obvious that if the people who design the villa themselves knew and cared anything at all about design they could quickly raise the level of public

taste? But while a case may be made for allowing private enterprise to spoil the countryside when it is doing so at its own expense, what kind of justification can there be for private enterprise to expect any Government to subsidize ugly and tasteless building?

If the matter merely concerned the "artistic feelings" of the few it might be of little moment, but modern science is more and more insisting upon the importance of environment upon human psychology and upon the moral and physical welfare of mankind. Architectural, and indeed all educated, judgment is unanimous upon the general principles that underlie the simplest work, and it is no argument to say that architectural taste is only a matter of opinion. Buildings surround the bulk of our population, and 90 per cent. of our buildings are miserable, soulless structures or pretentious unarchitectural shams. Can we wonder why our people are discontented? England holds the unenviable distinction of leading the way in blind commercialism. Its Governments have always been "practical and hard-headed" (one might say "wooden-headed"); they have never admitted that trade was not everything. The same tendency is visible elsewhere: the church finds that the suburbs who pay for their own cinemas and public-houses cannot be expected to have churches unless these are presented free through the sale and destruction of the church's most valuable possessions. Again: the advertiser's tyranny had reached such an extreme that public opinion has at last compelled him to modify the force of his attack. The wave of indignation against these and similar outrages is gathering force; influential societies have been formed and have already shown how much constructive work is waiting to be done by those who will take the lead against vandalism, folly, and tastelessness. The source of all these evils is ignorance; for if people could only be brought to take a wider view than that bounded by their own immediate profit there are few who would not modify even their own gain for the good of the country and, in the long run, of themselves as well.

The future of the country is dependent as much upon good houses as upon cheap houses. The builder is pre-eminently a man who can build cheaply and efficiently. While this has been denied in many quarters, yet architects will not be found to question it. The architect does, however, emphatically deny that the builder is competent to leave his own province of building and enter into the architect's province of designing. It is not the builder's job and, to be candid, he is as a rule utterly incapable of producing a design in the least degree passable. The functions of the builder and the architect are clearly defined, and yet the majority of small house-builders stray over the border line and dabble to the public detriment in an art of which they have not the most rudimentary knowledge. Until recently they had a reasonable excuse in that the fees an architect would presumably have charged would have been out of the speculative builder's reach. This reproach has been removed by the action of the

R.I.B.A. and the builder's representatives in fixing an agreed and entirely reasonable scale of fees for speculative work. What has been the result? Practically nothing. The builder too often continues to design his houses (in the train) on the back of an envelope, and unsatisfactory houses continue to spring up.

Anyone familiar with the average Addison housing scheme can see the extent to which architects have learned to rely for effect upon proportion and grouping without any expenditure upon "embellishments"; indeed, these houses designed by architects are monuments of simplicity compared with the usual type of structure erected by the speculative builder, and it is therefore unfortunate and misleading that the only reference to the architectural profession in the report should be that quoted above, which gives the impression that architects are extravagant. It is to be hoped that Mr. Wheatley will strongly encourage the employment of architects in all State-aided work, adopting the scale of fees already agreed between the R.I.B.A. and the builders. Mr. Wheatley recently paid a well-deserved tribute to Dr. Addison for insisting rigidly upon an adequate standard in his local authorities' and public utility societies' schemes, and there should be a wide field for any British Government that has the courage finally to break through the traditional indifference to all matters of art. The last Government paved the way for a more general advance by appointing the Commission of Fine Arts; for, however much one may criticize the Commission in detail, this recognition of the arts still represents a great advance. The preservation of ancient monuments, including the City churches, the war against smoke, the restrictions on advertising, and, above all, the safeguarding of the architectural standard on all State-aided housing schemes are questions upon which a Government is sure of the support of the vast majority of thinking men.

MANNING ROBERTSON.

### Draughtsmanship at the Academy

Coming from the richly colourful galleries of portraits, nudes and landscapes direct into the architectural room, the visitor cannot but be struck by the change in the tonal effect of the walls. The architectural drawings, it must be confessed, do not blend well. Many of them are excellent examples of draughtsmanship and individually attractive enough, but, taken as a whole, they disagree violently. The cause of this unhappy effect may be explained by the fact that the drawings are, as usual, packed in as tightly as can be, and that in many cases they are too strong individually, both in design and colouring, to accord well with their neighbours. There are, of course, some notable exceptions, among which Mr. Atkinson's, Mr. Hepworth's, Mr. Bradshaw's, and Messrs. Davis and Watts's drawings must be mentioned. Mr. Hepworth, with his black crayon drawings, shows that monochrome can be a very effective medium for architectural perspectives, while Mr. Atkinson's broad masses and subdued tones are very restful to the eye. The naturalistic draughtsmanship of Mr. C. W. English has quite an old-fashioned look in comparison with these modern renderings. The honours of the Academy, in point of number of exhibits, go to Mr. Farey, who has as many as thirty drawings in the room (it is quite possible that we missed a few in counting). Mr. Farey's industry is amazing, and he maintains, moreover, a high level of technical excellence. We had almost given up hope of seeing Mr. Walcot again in the architectural room, but he is here this year, represented by a characteristic drawing for Mr. Oliver Hill. Another drawing that could be mistaken for a Walcot is Mr. Hepworth's perspective of the Garden Court of the Bank of England for Mr. Herbert Baker. There are fewer elevational drawings this year, which is not really to be grieved over, for the Academy is essentially a popular exhibition, and the public will not look at any drawing of a technical nature; they would not understand it if they did. Also there are fewer examples of the "pretty-pretty" type of

perspective that was so abundantly in evidence in the years before the war. This is probably due to the fact that the picturesque cottage kind of architecture is not so fashionable as it was. The bulk of the domestic work on view is in the Georgian tradition, and it is not an easy matter to adapt the pretty-pretty perspective to the severe outlines of this type of work. Taken all in all, the room is well up to the Academy standard. But architecture can never be represented as it ought to be while the accommodation is so pitifully inadequate.

### Unity First

On the question of the amalgamation of the R.I.B.A. and the Society of Architects we publish some correspondence in this issue. As our readers are aware, we are wholeheartedly in favour of the proposal, and we shall do everything in our power to promote a movement which, we are convinced, must contribute to the advancement of the architectural profession. For all this, we are not blind to the fact that there is a considerable amount of opposition to amalgamation, and since a satisfactory solution of the problem can only be reached by agreement, we welcome correspondence from our readers, no matter whether they agree with us or not. It is for us to try to show them—may we hope, convince them—that the best interests of the profession are served by amalgamation. What is the real object of amalgamation? Surely Registration, upon the necessity for which everybody seems to be in agreement. The only difference of opinion is with regard to the method of securing it. The opponents of amalgamation say that it will not help Registration, or that we ought to try to get Registration before amalgamation. The obvious truth is that without unity there can be no Parliamentary support of a Bill. With unity, we have the considered opinion of so great a legal authority as Mr. Shortt that "the hands of the R.I.B.A. would be immensely strengthened. Coming to Parliament, as they would, for the protection of the public as well as for their own better regulation, they would speak with the united and unanimous voice of the whole profession. I am of opinion that their chances of success would be infinitely greater than they would be in present circumstances." Obviously, therefore, amalgamation must be precedent to Registration. To remain disunited and to expect success is no more reasonable than to expect a general to carry the enemy's trenches with sundered and mutually antagonistic forces. The moment is a great one for the future of architecture. Discord now may have the effect of postponing for a generation a great and much needed reform. It is our sincere hope that free and full discussion of the difficulties may be the means of achieving that unity of front which is the one vital essential to success.

### An Exhibition of Modern Swedish Architecture

We would draw the special attention of our readers to the exhibition of "Modern Swedish Architecture" which has been arranged by the A.A., with the permission of the Council of the R.I.B.A., to be held in the galleries at 9 Conduit Street. The exhibition will consist of drawings and photographs of the work of twenty of the leading architects of Sweden, together with models of various buildings, including a large model of the new Town Hall of Stockholm. The exhibition will be opened on May 12, at 3 p.m.; by His Excellency, Baron Palmstierna, Swedish Minister in London, and we hope to deal fully with it in our next issue. On the evening of the opening day at the Architectural Association, a paper on "Modern Swedish Architecture," illustrated by lantern slides, will be read by Mr. Hakon Ahlberg, of Stockholm. The A.A. fancy dress ball in aid of the Architects' Benevolent Fund, and in connection with the exhibition of "Modern Swedish Architecture," will be held in the galleries of the R.I.B.A. on May 16.



# London Bridges

By MAJOR HARRY BARNES, V.P.R.I.B.A., F.S.I.

A RIVER is an obstacle to road traffic. The Thames is no exception. A bridge is a means of removing the obstacle. It is a leap across the stream. It may be an ugly, ungainly contortion or a graceful active bound. London bridges furnish examples of both. It would be unkind to specify; I should probably make a mistake. Sir Reginald Blomfield has confessed to a sneaking admiration for the South Eastern Railway Bridge to Cannon Street, and I must confess that to me there have been times when even the Charing Cross Bridge has seemed bearable. How dangerous these confessions are, or at least would be, if they were all uttered by men of Sir Reginald Blomfield's weight and influence. Yet so it is; the piers of Charing Cross Bridge sometimes seem to me like patient elephants herding in a pool; at others, dim reminders of submerged temples at Philæ. But this is not imagination, it is disease, and in expiation let me say that if ever the London County Council have an opportunity of deciding its fate, my thumb shall be turned down as relentlessly as that of the noblest Roman of them all.

Having, I hope, escaped chastisement by my last appeasing paragraph, let me risk all again by asking: is it necessary that a bridge should be arched; why not a post and lintel bridge? All architecture, I have been long taught, divides itself into two classes: arched architecture, and pillar and beam architecture. Is one class entitled to monopolize all the bridges? I know where I am drifting to. A pillar and beam bridge means stone pillars, but steel beams. Well, why not? It's no good ignoring steel or draping it as the early Victorians were credited with doing to their table legs. Anyway, I'd like to see some of our great ones, known or unknown, showing us what could be done with that combination.

I confess I'm not very happy about Lambeth Bridge. I came into the room late on the occasion that Sir Reginald Blomfield's design was approved by the Improvements Committee, and was happy under the impression we were getting a stone bridge; for despite all the bravado of my opening sentences I am a sentimentalist and like old things and old ways and old forms, and while my intelligence talks to me of steel, my heart still prattles to me of stone. It was only after the meeting that I learned the stone was but the skin, and that the bony structure was of steel. Well, the human frame seems to justify the combination, and Mr. Trystan Edwards jape in "Architecture" at the gentleman with the decorated and exhibited braces seems to argue that stone facings may be as permissible coverings as coats and vests. It's all very complex, as G. P. Huntley used to say, no doubt subconsciously affected by Freud.

I see Sir Reginald Blomfield and Prof. Beresford Pite have been lustily tilting at each other in "The Times." Well, it's a public quarrel, so I suppose anyone can join in; my difficulty, lured as I always am by combat, is to decide the side I want to join. I have said I don't like sophisticating my friend in the street with the idea that he is walking on a stone bridge when he is really being carried by a steel one; and yet ferro-concrete likes me not. I suppose cement is the friend of man, but I wish it had another colour. I am told that in America they can make it white. I hope it is true, and I wish they would be quick. No, I won't have cement bridges. I have quite decided I'd rather be the biggest humbug on earth and cover my steel ribs with the thinnest shell of stone that would adhere to it than wear cement. But how reckless all this talk is. I haven't been to Wembley yet, and I'm told that when I go I shall be convinced that cement's the thing whereby to make a palace for a king—or words to that effect. Well, it may be, for I have an open mind.

To get back, however, to our bridges. If rivers are an obstacle to road traffic, bridges are an obstacle to river

traffic, and I can't help feeling, the unfortunate result of a certain fairmindedness that Nature forced on me, that if rivers mustn't interfere with roads, roads mustn't interfere with rivers. I tremble to think what I am leading up to. For if what I have said means anything, it means that the river should have a say as to the number of stepping-stones the road puts in her. Which, being very plainly interpreted, means that the Port of London Authority has a right to be heard on the number of spans a bridge across the Thames should have. Every additional span means an additional pier, and every additional pier is an additional obstruction to river traffic. But this is pushing matters. It means that the Port of London Authority might make out a case for rebuilding Waterloo Bridge with fewer spans than at present. Horrors! so it does, but still they are the guardians of the river, and the river has its rights, and they are entitled to be heard.

If my recollection serves me aright, old London Bridge had more arches than Waterloo Bridge, and I wish it was there yet, and if it were I should join in any hullabaloo that was raised to prevent it being pulled down, but I should do it relying on the belief that there would be a sufficient number of Philistines and utilitarians to see that present-day needs were not sacrificed to the preservation of the past. It is an *impasse*. The only way I can see out of it would be for every new century to abandon the haunts of the preceding one, to build (as the birds do) new nests every century, leaving the old ones to the antiquary and the archaeologist. But that's a vain hope, let's bid it adieu and turn to our present problem.

Waterloo Bridge is to be rebuilt; is it to be rebuilt exactly to John Rennie's design? As far as the width goes I have no hesitation in answering, No! How many people who suggest it know that it is only half the width of Westminster Bridge, and two-fifths the width of Blackfriars? I agree it needn't be as wide as either, but we mustn't pretend that one hundred years has made no difference to London and that the same strait-jackets will fit us now as then. I hope those who cry for wide roads won't join in the demand for narrow bridges; to do so would be to sell their reputation for a song, for the new bridge will certainly be between 70 ft. and 80 ft. wide. As to the reproduction of the elevation to the bridge, I hope that can be done. The onus of proving it can't will certainly lie on other shoulders than those of the L.C.C. At the same time let us face the fact that architecture is made to serve the needs of man, and those needs are not to be sacrificed to it. If we are in a period so barren that we cannot clothe the fulfilment of our needs in grace and beauty we must just pay the price of it. But I don't believe it. To avoid alarm let me say I think the battle has really been fought over the Lambeth Bridge. The House of Lords has been satisfied to give the Port of London Authority a height of 21 ft. under that bridge, and I should imagine there will be little difficulty in doing the same at Waterloo.

Let my last word now be a word as to the approaches to the new bridge. A bridge and its approaches should not be separated. We have the chance of making one of the finest bridge approaches in the world from the Strand to Waterloo. The widening of Wellington Street has revealed the western façade of Somerset House; the whole of Lancaster Place is coming down to be rebuilt as Government offices, the property at the corner of the Strand and Wellington Street is down, and everything points to the possibility of a really magnificent approach being made by a consideration of the rebuilding of Wellington Street as a whole, taking into account the existing frontage of Somerset House. The matter will be raised with the L.C.C., and it is hoped every eye that is open to the opportunities of rebuilding London will see to it that this glorious one is not missed for want of advocacy.

# Architecture at the Royal Academy

## A Critical Survey

**O**F the architecture on show at this year's exhibition of the Royal Academy, first place must be given to Sir Edwin Lutyens' "Castle Drogo, Devon." A large domestic dwelling, built for peace and not for war, Sir Edwin has still retained, without affectation, the style and grandeur of those ancient castles that, as at Warwick, Stirling, Glamis, and Fotheringhay, are now homes.

Second place might be given to Sir John Burnet's "Vigo House, Regent Street," a very modern piece of work; and third place to Mr. Robert Atkinson's "St. Catherine's Church, Hammersmith." For the rest, we will attempt to deal with the more important exhibits in the order in which they are hung. It should be understood that even the fairest of critics has only one pair of eyes—and certainly should have only one mind—and cannot always be right in judging what is good and what bad. If any differ from our opinion, they may have ample grounds for so differing; we have selected just those works which pleased or displeased us most. "So many men, so many minds."

Mr. M. Seth-Ward exhibits a design for new buildings in Hammersmith Road. The block is of a better type than that which usually fails to enliven our streets, and should do something to brighten what is at present a depressing neighbourhood. In his "House in Kenilworth Road, near Warwick," Mr. P. D. Hepworth maintains the English tradition for good domestic work, as do Messrs. Hennell and James in their "House at Hampstead Garden Suburb." This latter is, indeed, among the best of the domestic work shown. (See illustration on page 789.)

Mr. F. Milton Cashmore has a "Garden Pavilion, Upper Drive, Hove," which is rather too formal. Mr. Briant Poulter's "House on Frimley Ridges" is somewhat in the Newton manner. Mr. C. Cowles Voysey's "The New Cottage, North Lancing," is very well planned—it is well-nigh square, and walling has been reduced to the minimum, but the resulting elevations are almost too neat and simple. Messrs. Lowry and Woodhouse have designed a "Proposed House in Hertfordshire" in the Georgian style—the tendency in the Academy work this year is decidedly Georgian—adding to the riches of a county already known for its quantity of domestic work of that period. The "House at Barnsley, Yorkshire," by Messrs. Kenyon and Livock, is by architects who evidently know their district, and it is probably built of local stone.

A small bank for the Town Centre, Welwyn Garden City, has been designed by Mr. Louis de Soissons. (An illustration is reproduced on page 788.) It has the *quietness* which one now gets only in small country towns, where every building has not to vociferate louder than its neighbours to assert itself as an institution of importance.

Messrs. W. H. Brierley and J. H. Rutherford, in their "Ivories," Cowfold, Sussex, present us with a house having a long elevation which seems all windows and shutters. Mr. Guy Dawber's "New Loggia and Terrace at Coombe Ridge, Kingston," is in the grand manner. Mr. Seth-Ward again appears with a house at Beaconsfield, so much in the Tudor style that a later generation may be imagined as having some trouble in dating it. Messrs. Knapp-Fisher, Powell and Russell show a design for "Churchill Rectory, Oxford" that is not too happily in harmony with the church close at hand. Mr. Matthew Dawson's "Housing Scheme at Wandsworth" is a departure from the sometime awful box-like appearance of some housing schemes. Here we get houses reminiscent of the charming old almshouses which belong to a younger and quieter world. Mr. Oliver Hill's "Façades to New Houses in Smith Square and Offices

in Quality Court" is somewhat Wrennish (though still Oliver Hillish), with good results.

Mr. Harold Falkner's house at North Munstead, near Godalming, has a lot of character, though the chimneys have been made much too much of. Mr. Joseph Sunlight shows a design for the Bengal Council Chamber, and a design for a similar building is shown by Mr. George Greaves. The former is the more imposing, though both have their good points.

"Vigo House, Regent Street" (for which Sir John J. Burnet and Partners are the architects) is one of those big new buildings which are now planting themselves in the place of Nash's stucco. Did every one of them possess the beauty and originality of this, we might not have heard so much of Regent Street's "vanished glory" (though the street has undergone a change, it is true—a change from the meek to the Magnificent).

Mr. Oliver Hill has a proposed "Block of Business Premises," the site of which is unmentioned. The design is one of fair proportion and good detail, though we do not care for the balconied recess, which, when such have gone out of fashion, will look a little silly.

Sir John J. Burnet and Partners are the architects for the Cape Helles War Memorial, Gallipoli. A tall needle of stone rising from the edge of the high cliff, it will be a landmark to all ships passing through the Straits. For some, the cliffs themselves will be sufficient memorial.

Another Regent Street building ("Chesham House, Regent Street") has been designed by Mr. Henry Tanner. It is in the fashion to which much recent shop work has accustomed us.

Messrs. Detmar Blow and Fernand Billerey have designed the only town house on view—"No. 9 Halkin Street." It is too Georgian for modern London.

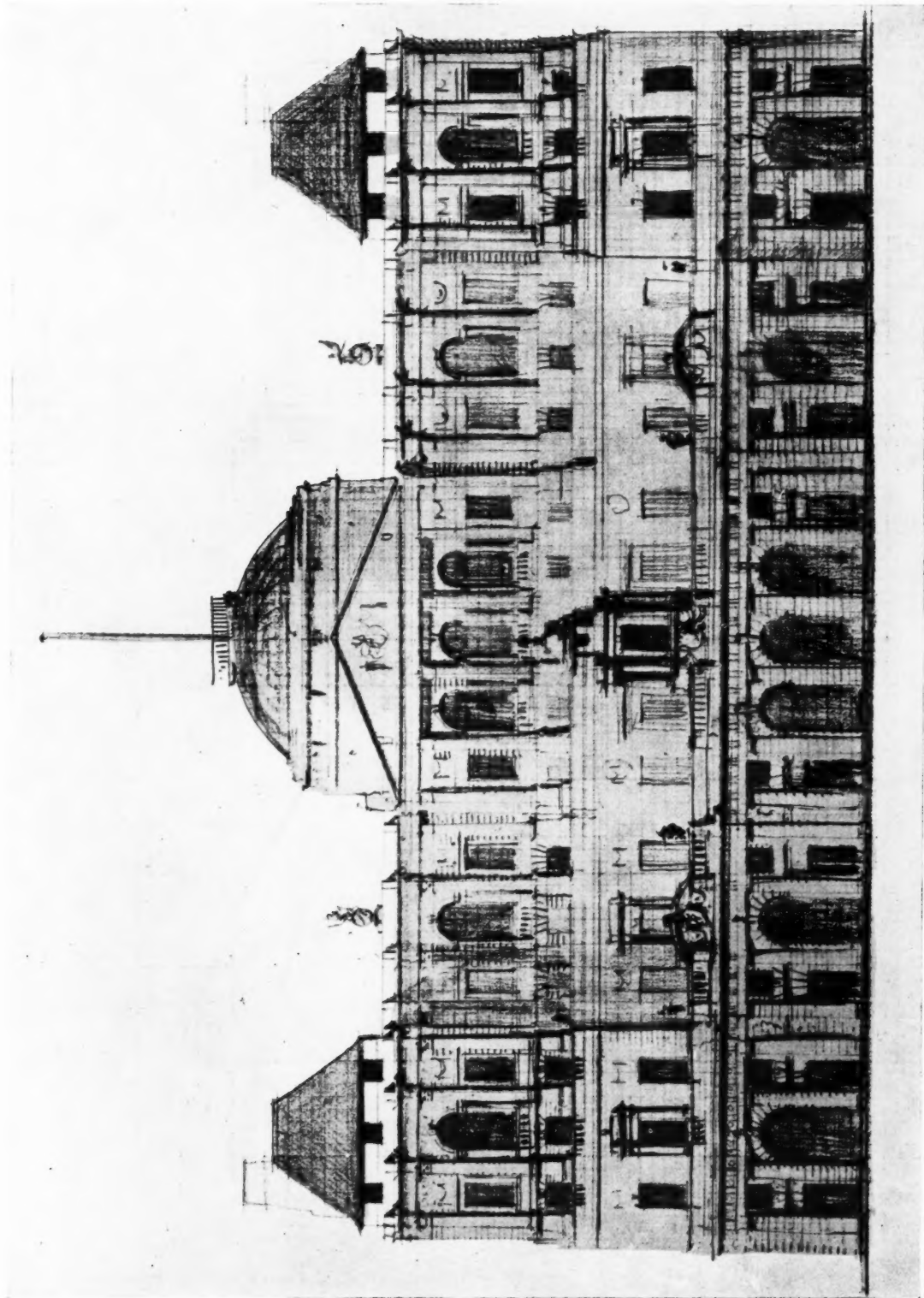
Mr. Herbert Baker's "Garden Court, Bank of England" is a piece of design in which new work has very cunningly been knitted into the old. Mr. Baker is one of the few architects alive capable of giving us great monumental work.

The new building for Messrs. Liberty, in Argyll Place, Regent Street, by the late Mr. Edwin T. Hall and Mr. E. Stanley Hall, will arouse some interest. Of Tudor design, with a great display of half-timbering, this is the sort of building to win much popular praise. Nor can it be in any wise unmerited when the picturesque is combined with good proportion and detail.

Messrs. Gregory and Saunders' "Competitive Design for the 'Chicago Tribune' Tower" is very spirited. The power of the Press, the majesty of the printed word, seems to have inspired it, as it rises up on its island site, free of all other buildings, and out-topping them all. An important piece of work is shown by Messrs. Mewès, Davis, and Sir Charles Allom, in their "New Offices for the Hudson's Bay Company, Bishopsgate," though only a detail of the entrance to St. Helen's Place is given.

Sir Reginald Blomfield shows a detail of the centre bay of Messrs. Barker's new premises, High Street, Kensington. The design seems to indicate the spending of much good money upon the building, which is in the style we had hoped belonged to the Victorian era. Much more dignity is achieved by Messrs. Oswald P. Milne and Paul Phipps in their "Design for an Office Building in London."

The Bishopsgate Telephone Exchange, designed by Mr. John H. Markham, is of a remarkable character. We have but one criticism: the doorway feature might have been better contrived. The Winter Garden, Southend-on-Sea, by Mr. D. K. Martin-Kaye, may do much to improve the amenities of that place. The Memorial and Library,



SKETCH PROJECT FOR A LONDON SITE. SIR EDWIN L. LUTYENS, R.A., ARCHITECT.

(Royal Academy Exhibition.)



Caterham School, by Messrs. Kieffer, Fleming and Keesey, is very fresh and youthful in design. Here is the something which the older men cannot give us: it comes from the younger men alone.

A proposed "Masonic Hall, Stroud," has been designed by Messrs. Falconer, Baker and Campbell. Remarkable in composition and detail, the doorway appearing in a triangular feature, and the elevation shown having no windows, but overspread with signs and symbols, the masons themselves will no doubt understand what it is all about.

The design for the "Refronting of the Elevation, Morgan Grenfell Bank, Great Winchester Street, E.C., " by Messrs. Mewès and Davis, maintains, perhaps advances, the reputation of that firm for giving our grey old London something of the elevation and gaiety of Paris.

In their design for "Farrington's Girls' School, Chislehurst," Messrs. Crickmer and Foxley have, in our opinion, wrongly made the central feature less important in elevation than the two side wings, though, in plan, it is the most important block of the three, containing the assembly hall, etc.

In his "Competitive Design for Offices at Liverpool for Messrs. Alfred Holt & Co.," Mr. Curtis Green clearly offered that shipping firm a very fine building. Messrs. Hayward and Maynard's proposed rebuilding of Nos. 58-60 Charing Cross is very distinctive. Mr. William G. Newton's entrance pavilion to the Memorial Hall, Marlborough College, and the hall and classrooms, Uppingham School, have the distinction and refinements which appear in all

work by him. Especially do these qualities appear in the former, which is coldly beautiful in its perfection of proportion and classicality of detail.

Messrs. W. F. Granger and J. R. Leathart's "New Cinema in Kensington Road," is one of the best cinema elevations we have seen. It is full of colour and shows fine feeling in design. Cinema managers might note that, whatever others may have been submitted to the committee, there are only two cinema designs on view.

Two of Messrs. Nicholas and Dixon-Spain's Kasr-el-Aini Hospital drawings are worth examination, though in that for the medical school the pedimental features on the left- and right-hand blocks are examples of when *not* to arrest the attention. Moreover, each has that abomination "an unsupported pediment."

Messrs. Lanchester, Lucas and Lodge's design for the Cairo Hospital displays a very fine lay-out—as was to be expected. Mr. Hubert Lidbetter's "New Headquarters of the Society of Friends," if they are erected to this design, will be the making of the dismal Euston Road. Messrs. Gibson and Gordon's new business premises for Oxford Street have the same bigness of scale that most of these blocks now have.

Mr. H. P. Burke-Downing's "St. Margaret's Church, Putney" (of which an exterior view of the east end is shown) is well proportioned. Mr. H. Austen Hall's design for showrooms in Church Street, Kensington, is a plain and straightforward statement which could not have been more clearly made. All members of the Institute will, of

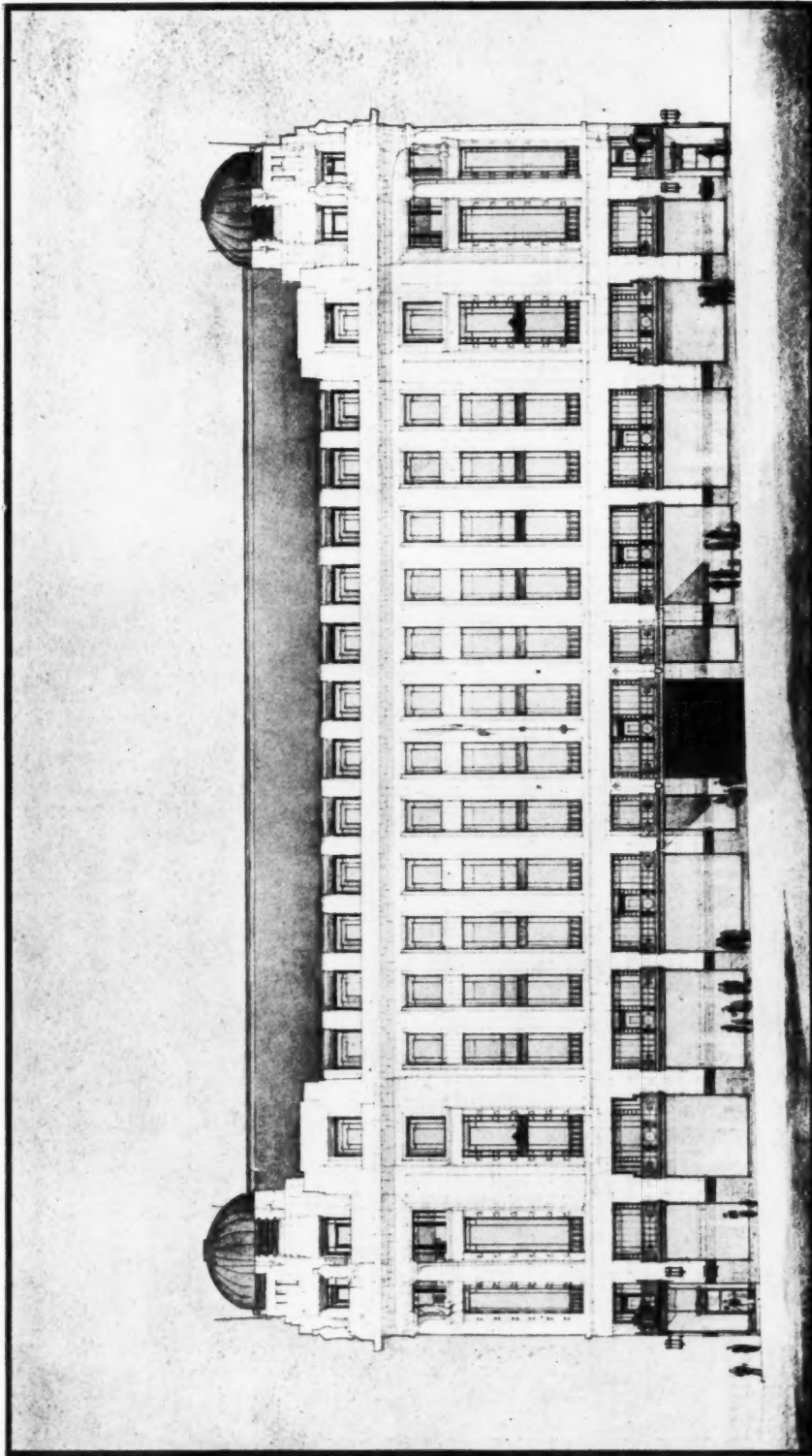


ADDITION TO WESTFIELD COLLEGE, HAMPSTEAD. GARDEN FRONT.

W. CURTIS GREEN, A.R.A., F.R.I.B.A., ARCHITECT.

(Royal Academy Exhibition.)





VICO HOUSE, VICO STREET, REGENT STREET, LONDON: SIR JOHN BURNET, A.R.A., AND PARTNERS, ARCHITECTS.  
(*Royal Academy Exhibition.*)

course, stop before Mr. Arthur Keen's design for the New Meeting Room at the R.I.B.A. We notice the familiar figure of the librarian, Mr. Rudolf Dircks, in the picture. Now, had it been a photograph, we should have known that that gentleman was what is called "caught" by the camera, but as it is a careful perspective, we presume Mr. Dircks was "press-ganged" to provide the human note.

Mr. Walter Tapper's decoration of Lower Chapel, Eton, as a war memorial, and his church at Gorton, Lancashire, indicate that Gothic is an art not dead.

Among the ecclesiastical work shown, attention should be given to Mr. W. D. Caröe's Church of St. Helen, St. Helen's, Lancashire (an exterior view from the north-east is given), which has a fine tower. Mr. Evelyn Simmons's "St. Ninian's Church, Gretna" has much grace. Mr. G. Gilbert Scott's new church, Ampleforth Abbey, Yorks, of which an interior view is given, is one of the notable exhibits.

Messrs. Richardson and Gill's design for new premises, No. 51 Gresham Street, E.C., indicates that Professor Richardson practises what he preaches, i.e., that architecture should be structure first and last. But there are limits—oh, there must be limits! Or we shall be compelled to keep all the adjectives out of speech, and wash all the colour out of life.

The memorial pavilion for the City of London School, Grove Park (Messrs. Ralph Knott and E. S. Collins), must have been as refreshing as a *sorbet* to Mr. Knott after the big County Hall—and before his next big job! The Lascar Memorial, Calcutta, by Mr. W. I. Keir, is a beautiful thing.

Mr. F. W. Troup's Record Office for the Bank of England is a little heavy and depressing.

Mr. Lionel Budden had a fine site given to him for the Birkenhead War Memorial in Hamilton Square, and he has risen to the opportunity.

Mr. Edward Maufe's Chaplain's House, Church and Institute for the Royal Association in Aid of the Deaf and Dumb, Shepherd's Bush, is rather monastic. The deaf and dumb should have something lighter to look upon. Mr. Curtis Green's addition to Westfield College, Hampstead (a view of the garden front is on show), displays an interesting treatment—though a little severe, perhaps (for we hold that colleges and institutions should be, if not the gayest of buildings, at least not too awe-inspiring and reminiscent of the gown and the cane).

Sir Thomas Jackson's memorial chapel in the south choir aisle of Bath Abbey is very rich. Mr. R. Anning Bell's design for the mosaic of Ireland in the lobby of the Houses of Parliament, and his design for the mosaic of Scotland, are worthy of the great building in which they are placed.

Sir Aston and Mr. Maurice Webb's dining hall, the Russell School, "Ballards," Addington, is not, we feel sure, sufficiently homely. It is too impressive for poor youth.

The sketch project for a London site, by Sir Edwin Lutyens, is one of those drawings which will eventually find its way into a portfolio in the British Museum. Apart from the insight it gives as to how the great design, the design itself is one of genius—though we fancy the architect would change his mind about the roofs of the end pavilions at a later date.

The alterations to Westminster Hospital which are being carried out by Messrs. Percy Adams, Charles Holden, and Lionel Pearson, are upon the lines of the old building, and give a finish which it lacked.

Several designs are exhibited of buildings in the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley. There is the entrance to the Food Section, the Palace of Industry, by Mr. Edward Maufe; "The Times" building, by Messrs. Oswald P. Milne and Paul Phipps (a good design, but in no way reminiscent of that great organ); and the All-metal Pavilion, by Mr. W. Braxton Sinclair. This latter is excellent.

Sir Reginald Blomfield's model (to half-inch scale) of the Memorial to the Missing, Menin Gate, Ypres ("To the Armies of the British Empire who stood from 1914 to 1918, and to those of their dead who have no known grave" is the inscription it bears) occupies almost the whole of the central floor space of the architecture room. Of tremendous scale, the models of the human figures do not reach as high as the base of the great columns: under the great arch men are dwarfed to pygmies and crawl upon the earth. The side colonnades give one the true scale.

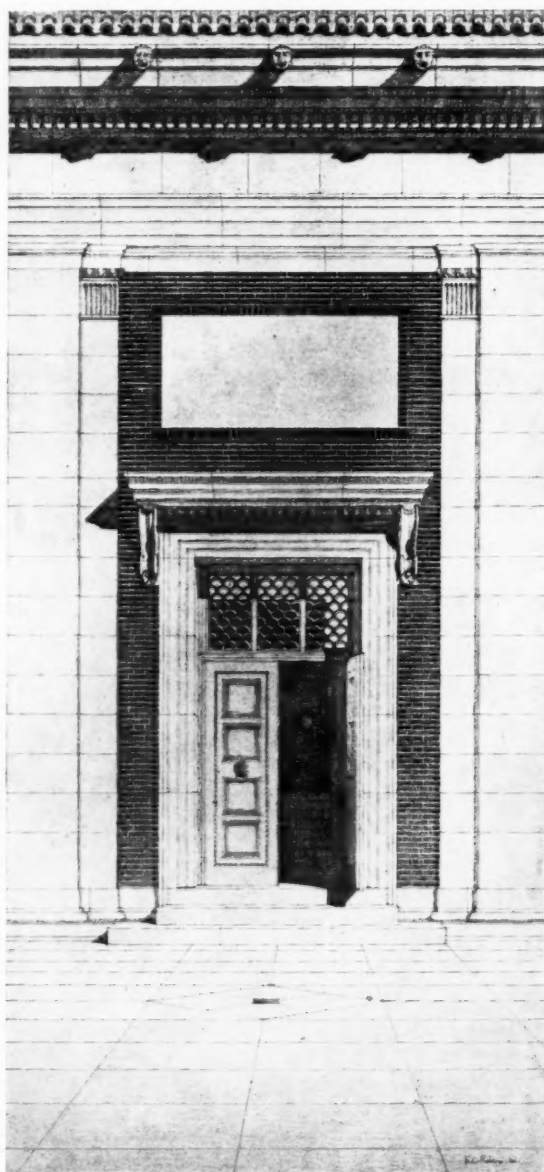
Mr. Frank T. Verity's cinema theatre (the Plaza Theatre, Piccadilly Circus) has a nice feeling about it, though criticism might be made of one or two minor details in the design.

The model of the Cavalry War Memorial, Stanhope Gate, Hyde Park (Sir John Burnet is the architect, and Captain Adrian Jones the sculptor) suffers in an unfortunate contrast between the classic architecture and the mediæval equestrian statue.

Mr. Beresford Pite's additions to the Insurance Office in Euston Square is overbearingly heavy, an effect due to uncontrolled strength and vigour in the detail.

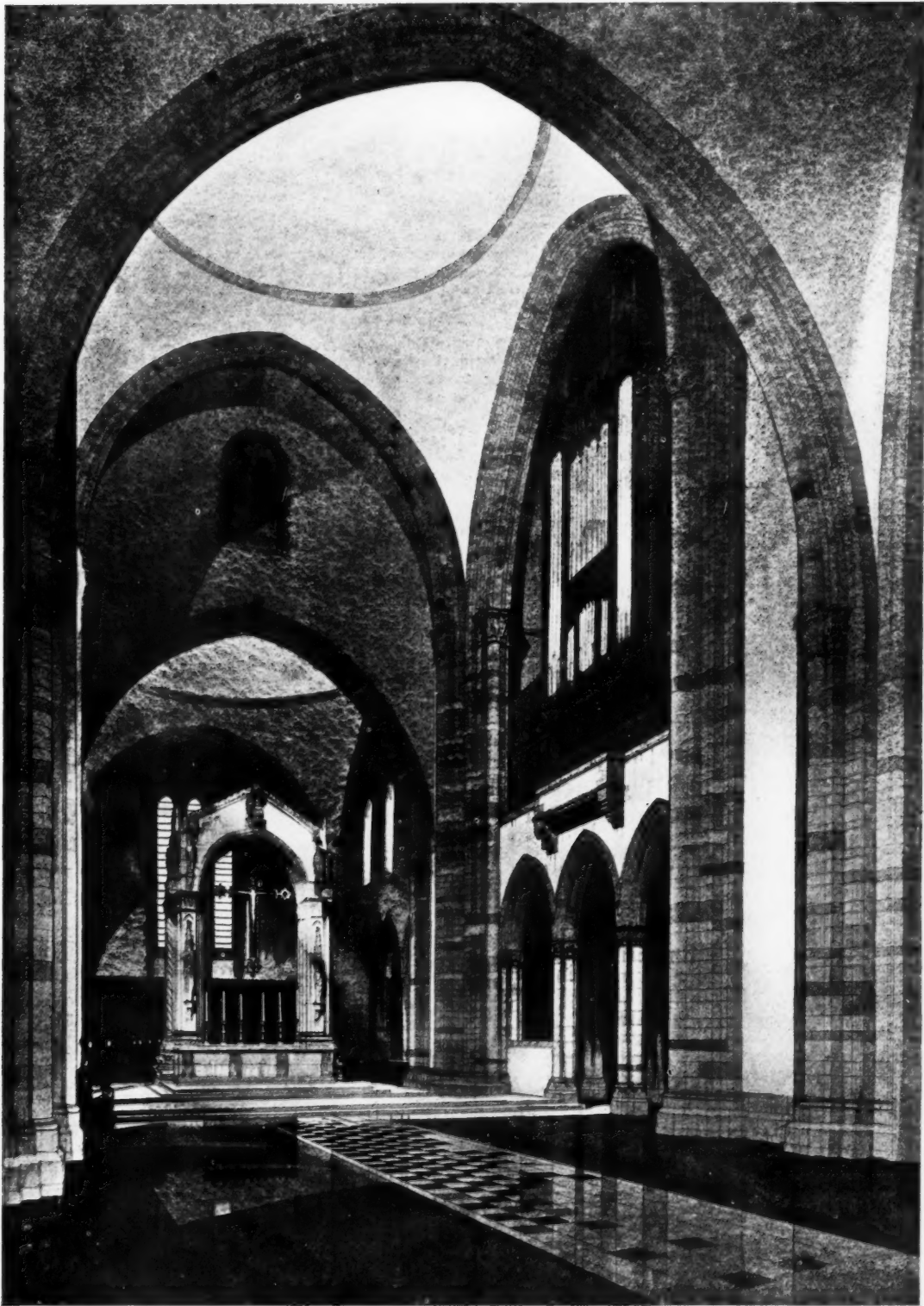
A fair amount of stained glass designing is on view, though much of it indicates that glass staining and designing is not nowadays a strong art (nothing less than a revolution can restore perfection); still, some beautiful work is shown.

H. J.



MEMORIAL HALL, MARLBOROUGH COLLEGE.  
AN ENTRANCE PAVILION

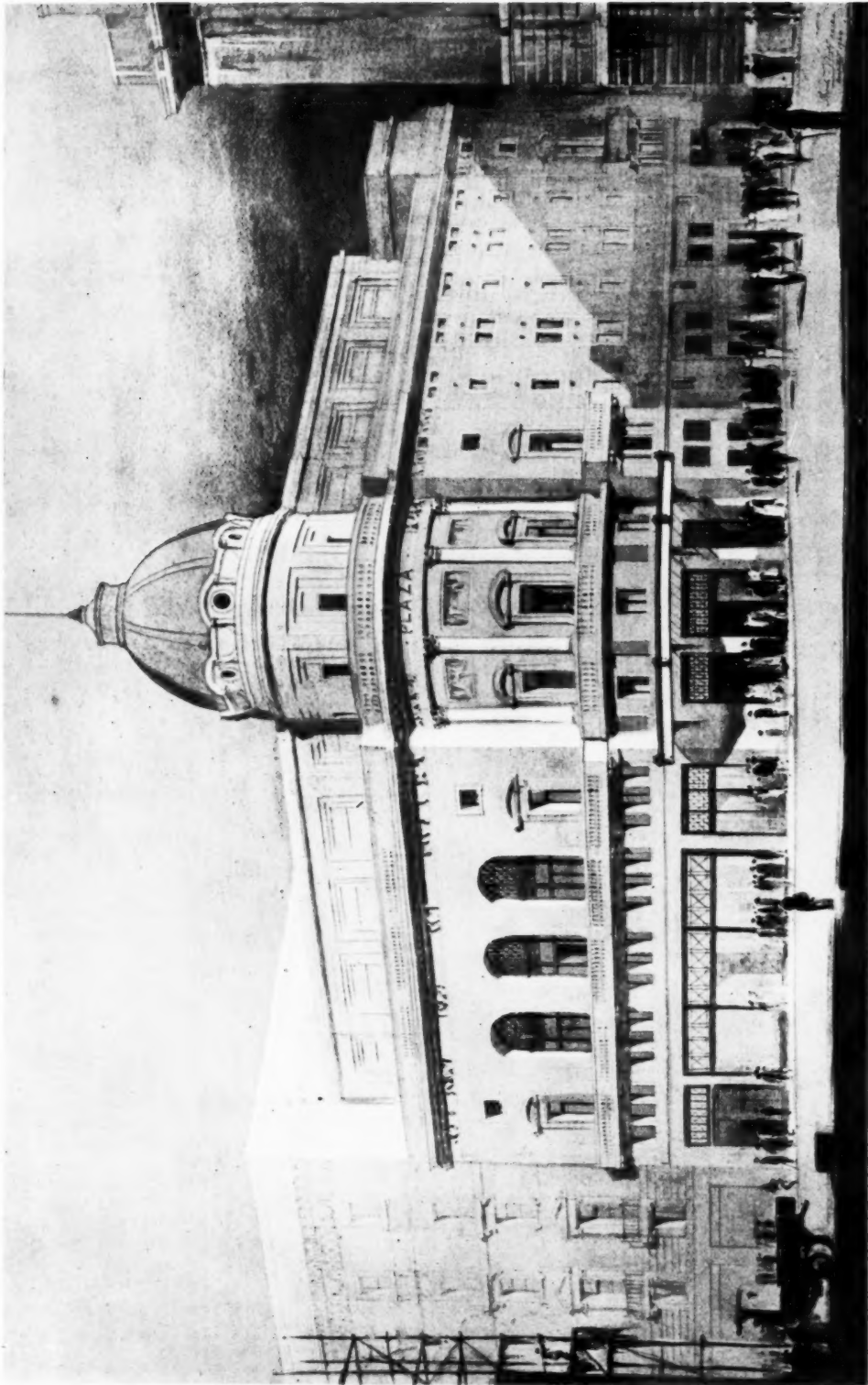
(Royal Academy Exhibition.)



INTERIOR OF NEW CHURCH, AMPLEFORTH ABBEY, YORKS.

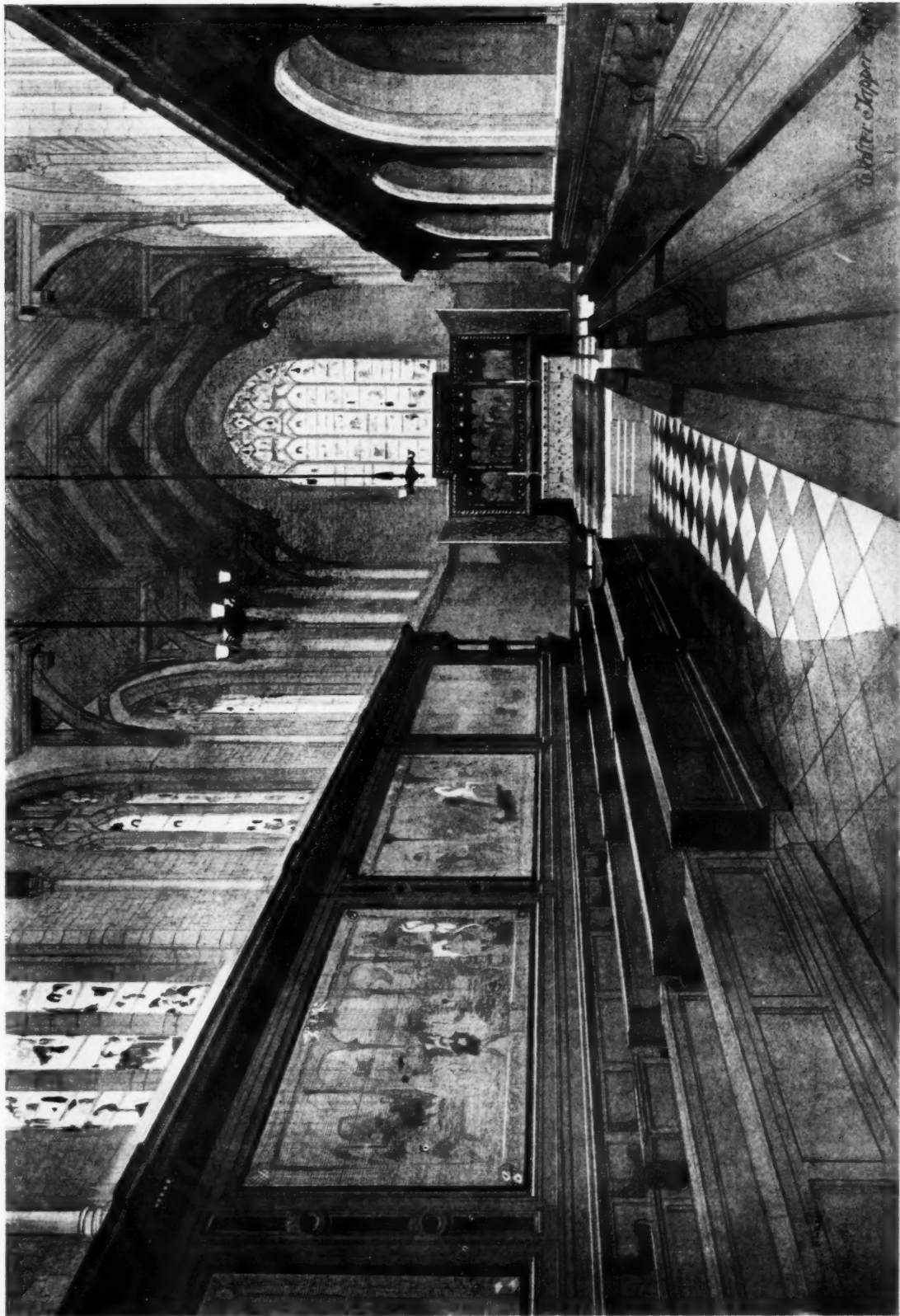
G. GILBERT SCOTT, R.A., ARCHITECT.

*(Royal Academy Exhibition.)*



THE PLAZA THEATRE, PICCADILLY CIRCUS, LONDON.  
FRANK T. VERITY, F.R.I.B.A., ARCHITECT.  
(*Royal Academy Exhibition.*)





WALTER TAPPER, F.R.I.B.A., ARCHITECT.

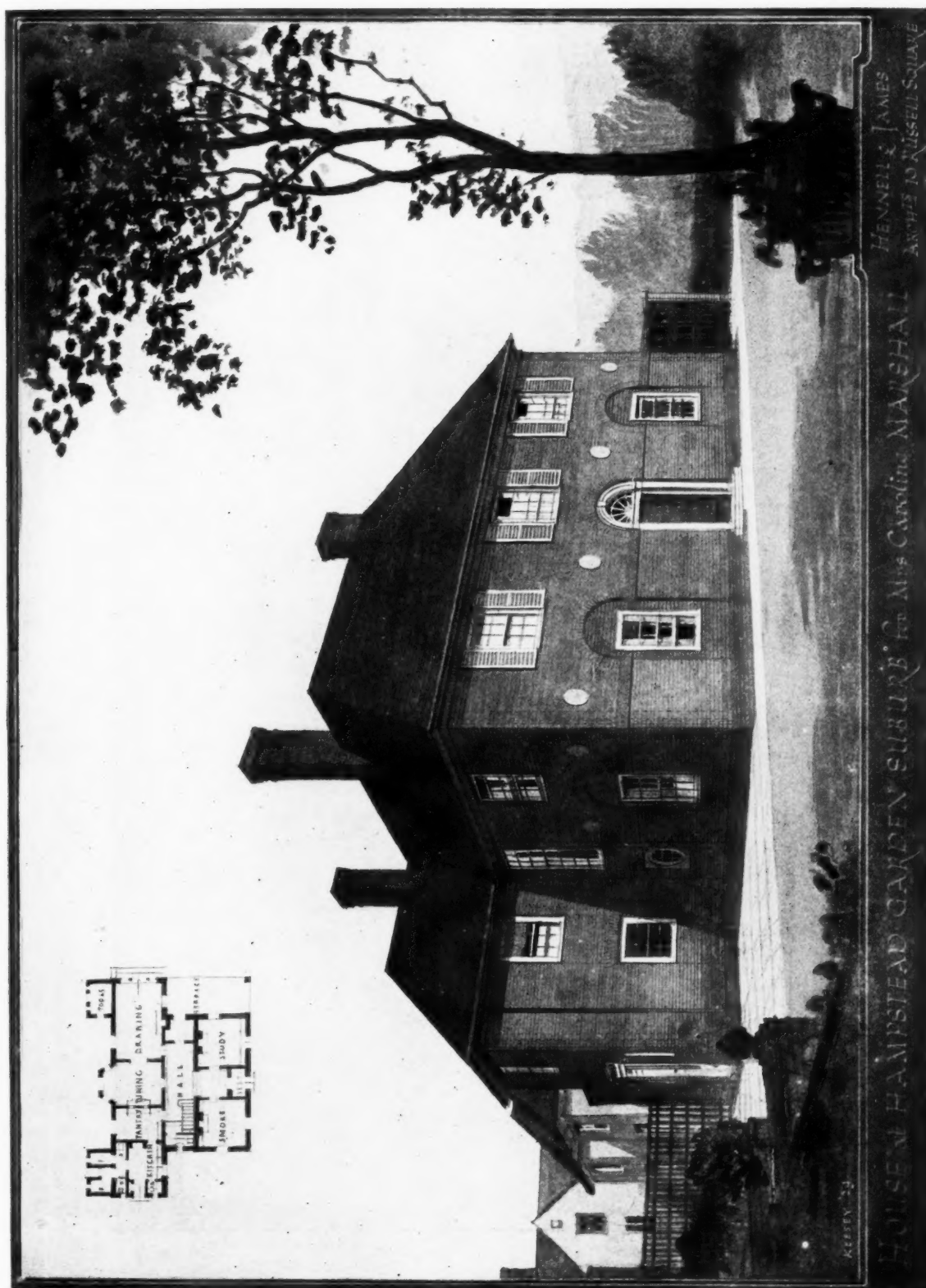
DECORATION OF LOWER CHAPEL, ETON, AS A WAR MEMORIAL.  
(Royal Academy Exhibition.)



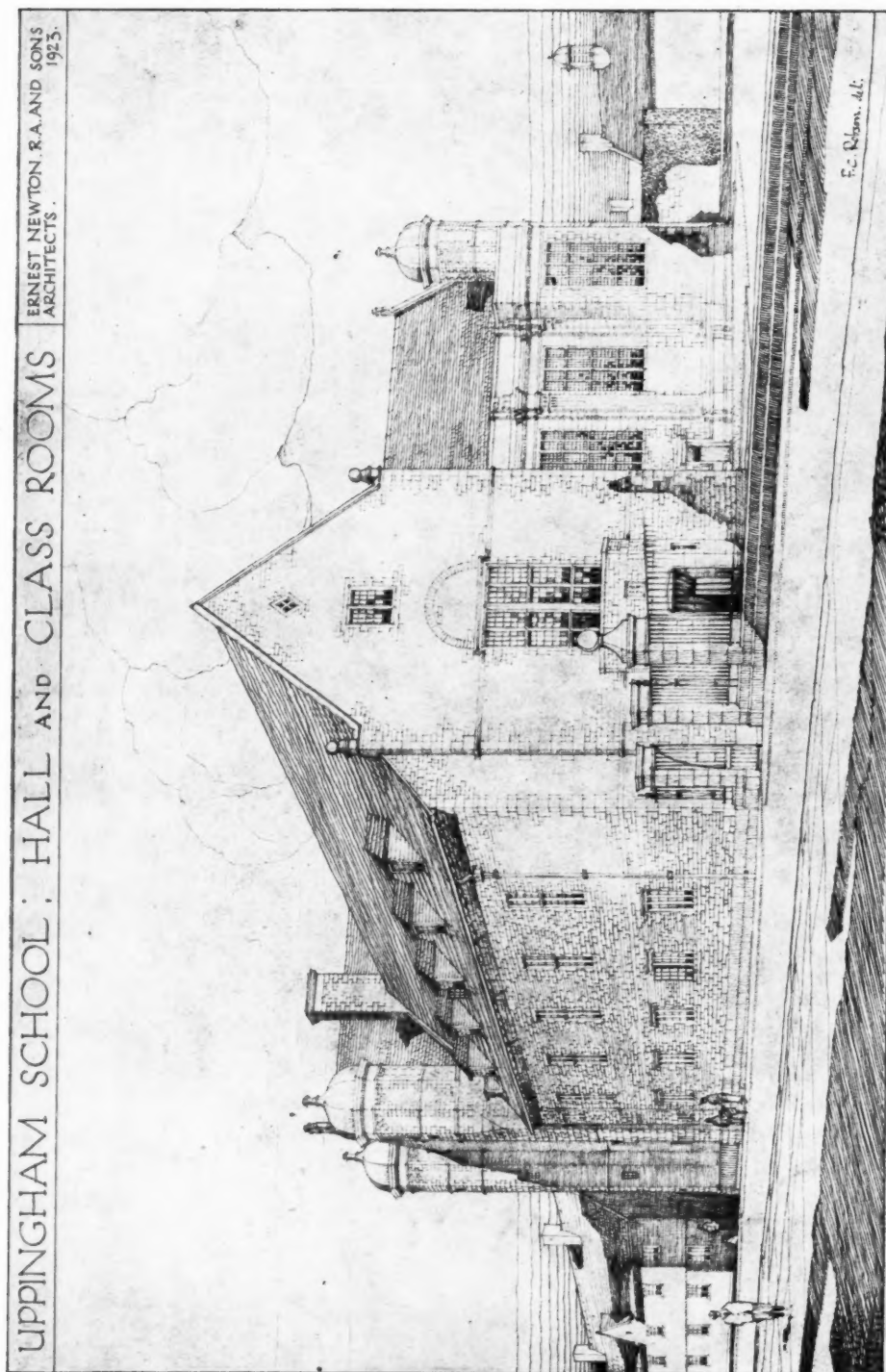
PROPOSED BANK PREMISES, TOWN CENTRE, WELWYN GARDEN CITY.

LOUIS DE SOISSONS, F.R.I.B.A., ARCHITECT.

*(Royal Academy Exhibition.)*

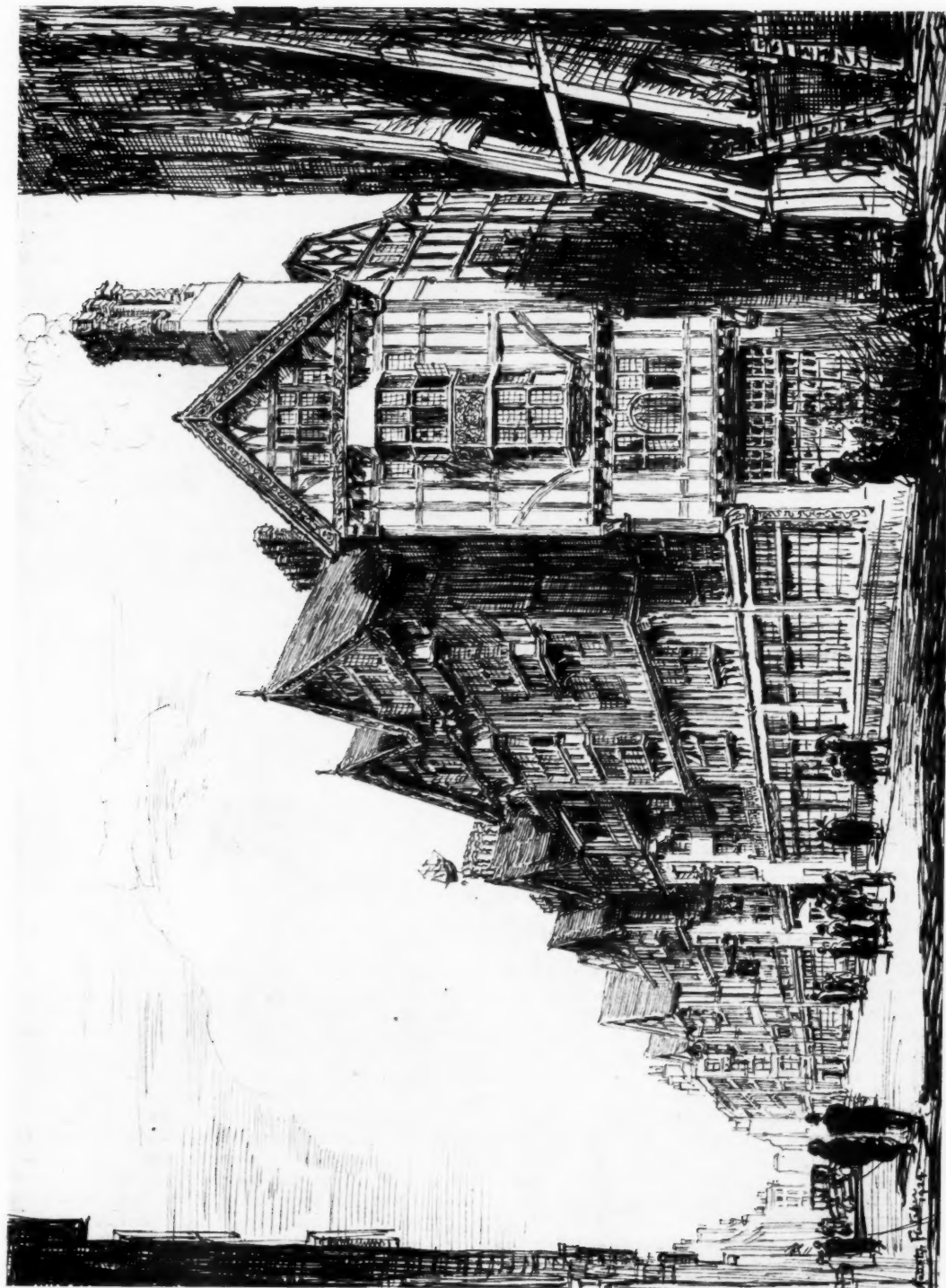


(Royal Academy Exhibition.)



(Royal Academy Exhibition.)





NEW BUILDINGS, ARCYLL PLACE, REGENT STREET, LONDON. THE LATE EDWIN T. HALL AND E. STANLEY HALL, F.R.I.B.A., ARCHITECTS.

*(Royal Academy Exhibition.)*

## The R.I.B.A. Elections

*Following an introductory article we publish on this and the following pages the views of correspondents for and against the proposed amalgamation of the R.I.B.A. and the Society of Architects. As we point out in a note in this week's issue, the columns of this Journal are open to the free expression of opinion on this vital question. Only by a perfectly frank exchange of views will it be possible to reach a basis of agreement that will provide a way out of the difficulties that seem to beset the approach to Registration.*

**J**UST before the R.I.B.A. elections last year we wrote in these columns: "At the present moment all is not well with the Institute. If it is to regain health and strength and add to its prestige, dissensions within its own ranks must cease; and a sure means to this end is to secure the election of a strong representative Council." Such a Council was elected by an overwhelming majority over the nominees of the "Defence League." As warm supporters of the list of nominations put forward by the "1922 Emergency Committee," we should like to offer our hearty congratulations to the Council whose term is now nearly expired upon the record of work done during the session, of which the crowning achievement is the culmination of the negotiations with the Society of Architects for an amalgamation, of which the terms were published in a recent issue.

As a testimony to the soundness of the proposals, one cannot fail to be struck with the list of names appended to the R.I.B.A. letter, which includes not only the president and vice-presidents, and the whole of the Council, but practically the whole of the presidents and immediate past-presidents of the allied societies throughout the United Kingdom. Such unanimity is remarkable, coming as it does from a body of architects who have fully discussed the proposals at various stages during the progress of the negotiations. The considered opinion they now express should not fail to convince the electors that the policy of the Council is one which every member of the Institute should support. The present Council of the Institute has shown its strength by the statesmanlike manner in which it has frankly put the case before the electors, and it now rests with the electors to do their part and return to office a Council identified with the present proposals, in order that they may complete the work they have so successfully initiated.

Too often has the Institute failed through want of continuity of policy, and one cannot too strongly deprecate

the attitude of members who band themselves together from time to time to oppose a policy too frequently imperfectly understood, and often, we regret to say, willfully misinterpreted.

This was notoriously the case with regard to the unification proposals of the Council of 1922 and 1923, with the result that the Institute was discredited among its own members, and before the public. If "health and strength" are to be regained, and they undoubtedly have been in a large measure during the past session, whole-hearted support must be given to those who are working to give the Institute the position it should occupy as the representative body of the architectural profession; it is only by so doing that registration can be looked for. We began with a word of congratulation to the Council of the Institute, and we should like to close with one to the Council of the Society of Architects, who have fought the fight for registration for forty years, and have not only convinced the profession at large of its desirability, but have also converted the members of the Institute to the same opinion after many years of opposition. No mean achievement. They have organized a Society with a total membership of 1,634, and their Council are now willing to hand over their child to be brought up with another family, convinced that it will be for the good of the child and the family. What higher ideal for any parent? We congratulate the Society of Architects; the Institute cannot fail to be strengthened by the inclusion of the members of the Society within its ranks, but to secure this the votes of the electorate of both bodies must be recorded in favour of the proposals of the respective Councils. So far as the Institute is concerned, this will be achieved by returning to office the nominees of the present Council. Let those who have the interest of the profession really at heart see to it that they return their voting papers with their votes recorded for those who will carry the policy to completion. Apathy is not fair at such a time to the profession or to those who are working in its best interest.

## Unity Among Architects

By W. S. PURCHON, M.A., A.R.I.B.A.

**T**HE photograph taken in connection with the recent dinner of the South Wales Institute of Architects, and published in our last issue, is of particular interest at this time when the thoughts of architects are once more definitely turned towards the question of unity. The group is symbolic of that union of forces, the desirability of which would seem to be at least as clear in architectural matters as in other affairs.

So far as its own district is concerned that union is an established fact in the South Wales Institute as in other allied societies, and possibly were London and district our allied society, as well as being the headquarters of the parent body, the problem of unity would have been settled long ago, as it will doubtless be settled shortly. For in the provinces the prime necessity for presenting a united front has already led to members of the Society and of the Institute working loyally and happily together in the service of the mistress art, and the results of this local unity have surely been to the advantage of all concerned, whether directly or indirectly.

How obvious in the provincial area seem the advantages of the single professional society! One body of architects, with one council, one president, and one secretary to deal

with the City Council and its by-laws, to deal with questions of professional practice, to deal with local matters of architectural education, to encourage its younger members by competitions and prizes. The suggestion that two separate bodies could do this local work better seems manifestly absurd, so much so that in all probability it has not occurred to anyone to make it.

It may possibly be argued that what may be good for a group of architects in a provincial centre may not be good for British architects as a whole, but this does not seem likely. For given the necessary amalgamation of the Institute and the Society the united front which the profession will be able to present will undoubtedly be to its advantage in dealing, on a larger scale, with similar matters to those mentioned above. Professional practice, control of competitions, negotiations with the Government and public bodies, architectural education, and the award of studentships, etc. In all these matters it may well be that we are agreed that a single body can help the profession better than could two distinct societies, and we are probably all agreed that these are ways in which we all wish the profession to be assisted.

A further point is also involved—registration, and

clearly amalgamation seems to be the best way towards that desirable end, just as clearly as it is the *only* way towards registration with the R.I.B.A. as the supreme registration authority—a still more desirable end!

In these matters of consolidation and amalgamation the present Council of the R.I.B.A. has done remarkably sound work, and the précis of the proposals agreed between the councils of the Institute and the Society is a particularly statesmanlike document which should be carefully studied by all members of the Institute. In reading such a document it should be realized—as both councils have realized—that members of each body must make some concessions to the common good, and certainly in this case such concessions as may be required seem trifling in comparison

with the ultimate advantages to be derived from the scheme.

Members of the R.I.B.A. have been given a great opportunity by their present Council—the opportunity of realizing a great ideal; and it is to be hoped that all members will rise to the occasion. Long and strenuous efforts have been made by a number of earnest workers; all that is asked of the members at this juncture is that they give the results of these deliberations their careful thought and vote in accordance with their decision at the approaching council election. That you will support the council in its efforts is the hope of the present writer, but, in any case, vote! We do not desire the views of 50 per cent. or 60 per cent. of the members, but of 100 per cent.!

## Unification?

By CRUSADER

**T**HE bargain has been struck, and its terms are now public property. It is known that the R.I.B.A. proposes to absorb the Society of Architects, and that there are to be sacrifices on both sides. Unification is to be achieved and the prospect of registration is supposed to be brighter.

If registration fails—after unification—then one unified body will influence public action generally more easily than do two, presumably being easier to handle; the R.I.B.A. will have absorbed a possible rival, and will be £5,000 a year in pocket over the deal, its income being increased by some 25 per cent.

All this sounds very jolly if it were not for the mention of sacrifices to be made; it must remind the Associates of the R.I.B.A. especially of the sacrifices made by them in 1910-12, when the Licentiate class was created, in order to "unify" the profession.

What are the further sacrifices these terms are said to represent?

On the side of the Society of Architects the Fellows who are to become Fellows of the R.I.B.A. will pay no entrance fee and £5 5s. a year for this privilege. But this would be no sacrifice, because no architect can become F.R.I.B.A. on smaller terms.

The 980 members of the Society of Architects who would become Licentiates of the R.I.B.A. would be, in all but name, Associates of the R.I.B.A., for they would have "full corporate powers, and powers of voting on all subjects." For this they would pay no entrance or examination fees, and £3 3s. a year, just the same subscription as the examined Associates. They would get equal powers with the Associates, and a degree of apparently equal or even greater value in the eyes of the public.

Now, the degree of A.R.I.B.A. has been declared by the Board of Education to be equal in value to that of Bachelor of Arts; the proposed 980 new Licentiates—being indistinguishable in the eyes of the public from Associates—would gain, for £3 3s. a year, a degree apparently equal in value to that of B.A. Where is the sacrifice in this? Imagine the University of Oxford selling degrees in this manner!

On the side of the R.I.B.A. It would appear that those Fellows who did not enter by way of the Associate examination, some 57 per cent. of the total Fellowship and over 44 per cent. of the Council, have nothing much to complain of; certainly they would make no sacrifice.

The position of the examined Fellows will not be quite so satisfactory to themselves, for it is certain that a great many of the new Licentiates would soon become Fellows, as happened in 183 cases since 1910.

But with the Associates the case would be entirely unsatisfactory. No Associate has been elected to the R.I.B.A. without strict examination, according to the Charter and by-laws, since 1882. For the last forty-two years every Associate has had thoroughly to earn his diploma. It is a good degree, and is valued by its holders accordingly. Indeed,

many Associates will not become Fellows because they feel that they belong to the examined class, and they view with some distrust the frequent admissions to the Fellowship of those who have not previously qualified by examination for the Associateship.

In 1910 the Associates agreed very generously and with the belief that their action would "unify" the profession, to the formation of the existing Licentiate class. They realized then, what has since proved to be the case, that in the eyes of the public a Licentiate's degree is as good as, possibly better than, that of an Associate. The Council of the R.I.B.A. now proposes to repeat this process with added weight, and with the prospect of further admissions without examination as the years go by, but without being able to give the merest hint of a promise that registration will ever be obtained.

But in spite of this it is safe to say that if the Council can produce written and reliable evidence that unification of this sort is the means, and the only means, of obtaining registration, and that by adopting this means it will be obtained at no very distant date, then they will get the majority they seek on the next Council by the aid of the votes of Associates. But not unless. Surely the Associates would not propose to commit suicide, after the attempt of 1910? The charge of selfishness which has been made against the Associates is very easy and very cheap, especially to those who have not submitted themselves to the regular examination.

All Associates, and especially those who have become Associates since 1910, may well ask themselves: "Do you propose to let go the value of your degree so easily? It is true you will be allowed to call yourself a Chartered Architect, but so will the other fellow!"

The Associates would, indeed, make sacrifice on the altar of chance.

But the Council thinks its proposals would not affect the status of the Associates; that everyone will know exactly where he stands, and that the public will readily distinguish between an examined Associate and an admitted Licentiate! It is not so. The value of the Associateship would be lost. The attitude of the Council in this towards the Associates is exemplified in the old story of the ship's cook who dropped the skipper's silver teapot overboard, and consoled himself with the thought: "a thing can't be lost when you know where it is!"

But the greatest sacrifice of all would be on the part of the R.I.B.A. as a body, for its system of admission by examination, under which its present unique position has been built up during the last forty-two years, would be seriously undermined, if not destroyed. For the proposed irregular admissions would have to be repeated at intervals, until such time as registration be obtained—which may be never. The front doorstep of the R.I.B.A. would never be worn away whilst any architect may slip in by the—shall we say—secondary entrance.



It is absurd for the Council to say "there will be no further admissions to the R.I.B.A. without examination." What if registration be not obtained within the present young generation? In that case the R.I.B.A. would be quite helpless in the matter of more and more irregular admissions, for a rigid adherence in the future to their pronouncement would stultify the present effort (if successful) within a very short time. In any case, this Council cannot make promises for future Councils, and it should never be forgotten that "unification" would have to be repeated again and again until registration becomes law. The Council has, in fact, given an undertaking to the Society of Architects to "promote a Registration Bill, and to pursue it until it becomes an Act."

As regards the existing Licentiates, they will presumably be called upon to pay an extra guinea a year, but for this great sacrifice they would be rewarded by getting as much as would the burnt offering from the Society of Architects.

On the whole, therefore, it would appear that the sacrifices are entirely on the side of the R.I.B.A., and that the Associates would bear almost the entire burden, whilst the examination system, which has been so great a safeguard, would fall into discredit.

But if, and when, the scheme is carried through, unification will not even then be obtained. This truth should be realized fully before anything destructive to the R.I.B.A. be done. Neither in the present nor in the future can any architect be forced to join either the R.I.B.A. or the Society of Architects, and it is the fact that many architects doing good work will not now do so.

The Council's scheme is absurd, for even its immediate object cannot be wholly obtained by the proposed measures.

If registration is the real object of the R.I.B.A., as it was of the Society of Architects, then unification of the two bodies can be arranged without absorption. Two societies working together without jealousy, would perhaps carry more weight with Parliament than a single one which will be divided against itself. Unification with registration is reasonable and practicable; unification before registration is neither.

But more and more it appears that registration is not the first and only end of this bargain. Other objects are becoming clear through the dust cloud, the existence of which have not been admitted until now.

Now, the Charters of the R.I.B.A. state that the Institute was founded "... for the general advancement of Civil architecture and for promoting and facilitating the acquirement of the knowledge of the various arts and sciences connected therewith." And *not*, as is stated in the R.I.B.A. Memorandum for Opinion of Counsel, "to protect the interests of the profession."

It is clear that the sale of valuable degrees for £5,000 a year would not further either of the objects of the Charters, but that the R.I.B.A. would tend still further towards that professionalism from which it even now suffers, and away from its proper purpose. No number of medals for street frontages would ever make an effective antidote.

If this thing be done, will registration follow inevitably and soon? If the answer is a definite "Yes," then let it be got on with at all possible speed, but if no definite promise is forthcoming, let the whole matter be dropped by the R.I.B.A., lest in wobbling on and on the Institute commit the unpardonable crime of betraying its best friends.

## Correspondence

### The Proposed Amalgamation of the R.I.B.A. and the Society of Architects

To the Editor of THE ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL.

SIR,—With a view to ascertaining the real effect of the proposals put forward by the R.I.B.A. Council I have collated certain figures from the Kalendars which will, I think, be of general interest to members.

All matters of governance are in these days a question of majorities, and it is therefore essential in considering the present proposals to grasp the essential facts as to when the control of the Institute is now and/or will be in the future.

At the present moment the majority of the corporate members of the Institute have entered it by examination, the figures being as follows:—

(1) Fellows elected from the Class of Associates ..	462
Associates .. .. .	2,352
	2,814
(2) Fellows elected from the Licentiate Class ..	180
Fellows directly elected before 1910 ..	305
Fellows directly elected 1910-1923 inc... ..	11
	496
Majority of corporate members who have entered by examination .. .. .	2,318

Even if the franchise is extended to make the Licentiates corporate members the control would still be in the same hands, as the figures would then stand:—

Examined Fellows and Associates as (1) above ..	2,814
Fellows as (2) above .. .. .	496
Licentiates .. .. .	1,402
	1,898
Majority .. .. .	916

Under the present proposals, however, this control would pass to fresh hands, as follows:—

Fellows as (2) above .. .. .	496
New Fellows from Society .. .. .	200
	696
Members of Society .. .. .	1,137
Licentiates R.I.B.A. .. .. .	1,402
	3,235
Total .. .. .	2,814
Examined Fellows and Associates as (1) above ..	2,814
Majority of members who have not passed R.I.B.A. tests .. .. .	421

It must also be remembered that the allied societies are not likely to accept an inferior status for their members (the majority of whom are not members of the R.I.B.A.) than the society has obtained, and if unification is to mean anything it cannot stop at the present proposals.

As far as I am aware no figures have been published showing the actual composition of these societies, and I therefore give them:—

Allied Societies.	F.R.I.B.A. and A.R.I.B.A.	Licentiates R.I.B.A.	Non Members R.I.B.A.
In England and Wales ..	711	225	893
Institute of Ireland ..	15	3	121
Scottish Incorporation ..	148	106	242
	874	334	1,256

On these figures then a further influx of 1,256 members may be anticipated who have hitherto been only affiliated, but have had no membership in the Institute.

As the issue is presumably limited to the United Kingdom I have not mentioned the approximately 1,500 members of the overseas allied societies who are not members or Licentiates of the R.I.B.A., although the circulars sent out by



the Council are backed by representatives of the Cape and New Zealand.

In this connection it may be of interest to note that of the forty-five additional names appended to the Council's circular letter fifteen are those of gentlemen who are neither members nor Licentiates, and of these, two cannot be found in the current Kalendar in any capacity.

Also the weight behind all these signatures is not so great as might appear, since two names appear on behalf of a society of only twenty-one members (one Associate R.I.B.A., one Fellow, three Licentiates, and sixteen non-members R.I.B.A.), and another represents three Associates, two Licentiates, and twenty-six non-members.

In the aggregate they stand for societies having a total membership of 825 corporate members R.I.B.A. (who are not likely to be unanimous), 311 Licentiates, and 1,533 non-members.

I mention these facts because after all the actual issue is a domestic one to the Institute and its corporate members, and will be held by many to concern them and them alone.

In the foregoing I have endeavoured to state facts without controversy, in the hope that so stated they may be of use to my fellow-members generally.

W. TRAVERS.

April 30, 1924.

*To the Editor of THE ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL.*

SIR,—Your advance forecast of the R.I.B.A. Council's proposals for amalgamation with the Society of Architects, and incidentally the Defence League's circular letter of three months ago, prove to be singularly correct, though both fall short in one notable particular, that with regard to the position of the Associates affected by them, and by no means the least important.

Apparently, then, the aim of bringing all architects in the United Kingdom within the fold of the Institute has been dropped as impracticable of realization, an impossibility pointed out from time to time by its objectors, and unification in the sense with which it was launched has therefore lost its meaning, and become a dead letter. Unity is now the new watchword, with its operations confined to the Society and the R.I.B.A. alone, and your heralding of it accompanies a hope that the project will not meet with factious criticism.

Whether it is seriously thought in any quarter that the new proposals are such as to modify criticism and opposition—and you remark that the outstanding contention is now boiled down to that of the examined members of the Institute—I venture to think that a close perusal of them leaves little room for doubt, for in their far reaching sequence they transcend the most drastic conception that could enter into mind as to what extent any Institute Council would dare to go. What of the opinion of the minority within the Institute itself? Only to take last year's election; one by no means favourable to the Defence League, yet disclosing a minority well above one-third strong opposed to any policy of tampering with the Institute as constituted. Does the R.I.B.A. Council expect to advance the cause of unity by such means as ignoring the views of this minority whilst accepting the dictation of those without, or by further widening the cleavage, already unfortunately existing, by such drastic proposals it has set in store for the Associate class?

For, and Associates will do well to ponder it before consenting to submerge themselves, the proposals aim at nothing less than the destruction of the unique position and numerical importance long held by them as a body, and rightly held in virtue of the vast labours in the aggregate involved by them in securing it. It will be readily seen that the raising of the Licentiate Class, including those to be transferred from the Society to corporate membership of the Institute, with the levelling of the subscriptions to give it plausibility, at one stroke reduces the Associate Class to a level of inferiority, and a farcical situation is brought about. For Associates then might just as well become

Licentiates, or the latter Associates, for all the distinction that will remain to them, or for all the difference that is likely to be recognized outside. Such a proposal, moreover, would not only constitute a breach of faith with the Associates on the undertaking given them in 1909—it would be rank injustice towards them.

As to the proposals for absorbing the Society, no logical reason is assigned for it other than that it is in the interests of something which may or may not happen afterwards. What is clear, is that the Council has succumbed to pressure from the Society, fostered undoubtedly through the overtures of R.I.B.A. members of the Unification Committee of two or three years ago. For years the Society of Architects claimed registration of the profession as the chief plank in its platform. Many within the Institute sympathized with and admired its single purpose, as also its independence. What, then, has caused it to forsake its old love for that of submergence within another kindred institution? To claim that it is an essential forerunner to obtaining registration is misleading. For if such were the case, why are not non-Institute members of Allied Societies also to be absorbed. Contrariwise, to achieve the professed object of registration, why should the Society not be content with a federated alliance with the Institute on identical lines with the Allied Societies, without sacrificing its individuality, and without embarking on a course which can only end in widening the breach already existing within the Institute?

These are questions which have yet elicited no satisfactory explanation. The desire for registration may be, as we believe it is, general, but it is not likely to be advanced one jot by the proposals outlined. As now framed, they will be more likely to do harm to that cause by further developing unrest and dissatisfaction, in which the guiding principle will have been lost sight of.

WILLIAM H. ASHFORD.

## Modern Swedish Architecture

*To the Editor of THE ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL.*

SIR,—May I call the attention of your readers to the very important exhibition of "Modern Swedish Architecture" which has been arranged by the Architectural Association, and for which the Council of the R.I.B.A. have kindly lent their galleries? The exhibition will be opened by the Swedish Minister, Baron Palmstierna, on Monday, the 12th inst., at 3 p.m.

The architects of Sweden have gone to considerable trouble and expense to prepare and send the exhibition over to England, and it is hoped that the architects of England will show their appreciation by visiting the exhibition in large numbers. The exhibition consists of drawings, photographs, and a number of models, all of which will not fail to arouse interest.

F. R. YERBURY,  
Secretary of the A.A.

## Moving the Hive

*To the Editor of THE ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL.*

SIR,—One reads a great deal about housing just now in both technical and daily Press, much of which in the latter appears to be written by people with small knowledge of the subject. An article such as "Moving the Hive" in your issue for April 23 is very refreshing.

Mr. Manning Robertson has evidently studied to good purpose the subject of housing in the past, in the present, and as it may be in the future, because he bases his theories on the psychology of the people, and not on any academic idea.

He says, "If all those who design houses co-operated in the movement, success must be assured." And this is so. The small builder generally answers to the true description

of a craftsman, but curiously enough he is consistently ignored by architects, and of course he returns the compliment.

A combination of the two would undoubtedly improve the whole of our architecture, for "the tallest tower is based upon the earth."

ARTHUR WELFORD.

## The Proposed Amalgamation of the R.I.B.A. and the Society of Architects

The following resolution has been passed unanimously by the Councils of the following allied societies:—

- Ulster Society of Architects.
- Liverpool Architectural Society.
- Nottingham and Derby Architectural Society.
- Northamptonshire Association of Architects.
- Glasgow Institute of Architects.
- Manchester Society of Architects.
- Berks, Bucks, and Oxon Architectural Association.
- South Wales Institute of Architects.

"That the Council of the ..... note with regret the attitude of certain members of the R.I.B.A. who seek once again to place obstacles in the way of a union between the two principal architectural bodies in the country.

"The Council of the ..... assure the Council of the R.I.B.A. of their whole-hearted support in the effort that is being made to obtain unity in the profession."

The following resolution has been passed unanimously by the Councils of the following allied societies:—

- The Northern Architectural Association.
- The Gloucestershire Architectural Association.

"The Council of the ..... assure the Council of the R.I.B.A. of their whole-hearted support in any effort that is being made to obtain unity in the profession, and await with interest any scheme to further this object."

The following members of the Allied Societies' Conference, who were unable to append their names to the letter sent out before Easter to members of the R.I.B.A., and signed by the members of the Council and by members of the Allied Societies' Conference, have informed the Secretary of the Royal Institute that they desire to support the Council's proposals:—

J. Leighton Fouracre, President, Devon and Exeter Architectural Society.

G. D. Oliver, Chairman, Cumberland Branch, Northern Architectural Association.

D. W. Galloway, President, Dundee Institute of Architects.

W. S. Purchon, Chairman, Central Branch, South Wales Institute of Architects.

C. F. Ward, Chairman, Eastern Branch, South Wales Institute of Architects.

Frank S. Swash, Past-Chairman, Eastern Branch, South Wales Institute of Architects.

G. Vincent Evans, Chairman, Northern Branch, South Wales Institute of Architects.

Letters sympathizing with the registration policy of the Institute have also been received from Oscar Wilson, hon. secretary of the Singapore Society of Architects; S. M. Eveleigh, president of the Architectural Institute of British Columbia; G. A. Roberts, of Sydney; Storey and Van Egmond, of Regina, Canada; and from William P. Bannister, of the State Department of Education, the University of the State of New York.

## King's College, Cambridge, Competition

The Council of the R.I.B.A. have had their attention called to the recent correspondence in the professional Press on the subject of the Collegiate Buildings competition for King's College, Cambridge. At the request of the Council the matter was investigated by a committee, which submitted the following report:—

"We have made a careful examination of the instructions issued to the competitors in this competition, and also the correspondence and comments which have appeared in the Press regarding the successful design.

"We have also interviewed Messrs. Budden and Rowse, the winners of the competition, Messrs. Tait and Rees, the writers (with Mr. Gordon Holt) of the letter which was the subject of the complaint, and Mr. Lovett Gill, the assessor.

"It should be observed, firstly, that the competition was a small private limited competition, and as such did not come under the regulations of the R.I.B.A., and, in point of fact, was not in accordance with those regulations; secondly, that so far as the cost, planning, and style of the proposed building were concerned, certain suggestions only were made in the 'Instructions' issued to the competitors, but emphatically there were no binding conditions; and, thirdly, the award, having been made by the assessor, was confirmed by the Building Committee and the Governing Body of King's College.

"We are of opinion, firstly, that the assessor was perfectly justified in the award which he made, and that Messrs. Budden and Rowse won the competition by perfectly fair means and without violating any 'Conditions'; secondly, that the letter signed by Messrs. Tait, Holt, and Rees was unfair comment in that it charged Messrs. Budden and Rowse with violating 'Conditions,' and, further, it indicated that they had won the competition by unfair means, and as a result other letters appeared in the Press, which, in the main, accepted the statements of Messrs. Tait, Holt, and Rees as the truth; and, thirdly, that Messrs. Budden and Rowse have suffered professional injury as a result of the letters published in the Press—particularly as a result of that signed by Messrs. Tait, Holt, and Rees.

"We therefore recommend the Council to call upon Messrs. Tait and Rees to issue a statement in the public Press withdrawing the offending letter and apologizing to Messrs. Budden and Rowse."

This report was approved by the Council of the R.I.B.A. on March 3, 1924.

At the request of the Council Mr. Thos. S. Tait, A.R.I.B.A., and Mr. Verner O. Rees, A.R.I.B.A., have written the following letter, and Mr. Gordon H. G. Holt, has asked to be allowed to associate himself with it:—

*To the Editor of THE ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL.*

April 4, 1924.

*King's College, Cambridge, Competition.*

SIR,—With reference to our letter which was published in the technical Press in November last regarding the above competition, we are informed that the successful architects, Messrs. Rowse and Budden, have been prejudicially affected by the statements contained therein.

On reflection we frankly admit that the assertion that the winners had violated any of the conditions was wrong and that the inference contained in the letter that Messrs. Rowse and Budden had won the competition by these means was entirely unjustified.

We sincerely regret that our action has prejudicially affected Messrs. Rowse and Budden, thereby causing them to suffer damage, and we ask them here and now to accept our very sincere apology.

Yours faithfully,  
(Sgd.) THOS. S. TAIT.  
" V. O. REES

## Augustus John's "Thomas Hardy"

The sketch portrait of Mr. Thomas Hardy, by Mr. Augustus John, A.R.A., which was recently presented to the Fitzwilliam Museum, Oxford, has been engraved by the Chenil Galleries, 183a King's Road, Chelsea, and a limited edition of this is now offered to the public at 18s. 6d. All readers of Hardy know the photographs of the great writer from the reproductions which have frequently appeared as frontispieces in volumes of his prose and verse. Mr. John's portrait comes to us with something of strangeness in it. The later photographs had shown Hardy with a face saddened and softened, but Mr. John has shown him with the sadness increased to starkness. Without having met Mr. Hardy, it is difficult to say who is right—photographer or painter. Perhaps both are right. But one feels instinctively the greatness of Mr. John's work, and all Hardy lovers will desire to possess the engraving. If one had never read a line of Hardy's, from looking at this portrait one could imagine his works.

H. J.

## Book Reviews

### *Masters of Architecture.*

Under this title are published four illustrated monographs which treat of the architectural works of Inigo Jones, Chambers, Hawksmoor, and Vanbrugh.

At this present period of ingenious economy in the planning and treatment of buildings, an evening spent in the atmosphere of the creations of these architectural giants is a tonic refreshment. Obviously schemed to interest—and incidentally instruct—the general public, the books admirably fulfil their purpose. But the architect who will take a busman's holiday from Blenheim to Faversham and back to Spitalfields via Somerset House, is the man who is going to reap the no less real benefits of a complete change of mental outlook.

These books, written each by a different author, each man in his vein, should nevertheless, if possible, be considered together, like the four instruments of a quartet, for they reveal the same great qualities in architecture woven into the expression of different creative personalities. And outstanding throughout their work is evidenced one common trait which to-day from architecture has largely disappeared—nobility. None of these men seems to have been capable of meanness of conception or poverty of character.

Mr. Goodhart-Rendel has dealt with Hawksmoor, and Mr. Christian Barman with Vanbrugh. Each writer seems to have found his task congenial, and leaves the reader sharing his admiration, albeit a trifle bewildered at the former's dark hints at Vanbrugh via Hawksmoor, and the latter's implications of Hawksmoor via Vanbrugh. In either case, as with Mr. Ramsey's sincere and altogether helpful study of Inigo Jones, we have writing which equals the excellence of the photographs which form the body of each book.

Mr. Trystan Edwards speaks much and well of Somerset House, but to some appears unfortunate in his reference to nearby Scotland Yard, a building which surely reveals in another guise many of the qualities which he must admire in Chambers.

Mr. Ramsey is perhaps most illuminating when he so clearly "places" Wren and Jones "as in all Jones' buildings there is the civic or urban note, so in all Wren's, even in his most ambitious projects, we find the domestic or rural touch . . . Even St. Paul's . . . is still the parish church of London." The pictures of Jones' buildings come with singular freshness. Could anything be more flavoured and of more singular appeal in its own peculiar way than St. Paul's, Covent Garden, and the long front of Lees Court, Faversham?

In Mr. Goodhart-Rendel's Hawksmoor we find the unappreciated master with a subtle but moving message,

sombre in expression maybe, but grand as "a Roman of the Roman early age"; while in Mr. Barman's Vanbrugh we see the harassed genius, heckled by a nagging duchess, and fighting in vain for the means to continue his glorious adventure of Blenheim.

Sir William Chambers is, perhaps, the least romantic figure of the four. Fortunate in his friends, and meeting success at an early age, the human touch comes in his little weakness for things oriental, and the faint note of apology with which he introduces his book on Chinese buildings to an uncompromising public.

For Mr. Yerbury's photographs there can be nothing but praise. They are admirably and sympathetically taken. The highest compliment to their author is to say that they reveal fresh beauties in the buildings which they illustrate.

HOWARD ROBERTSON.

"Masters of Architecture." A series of monographs under the general editorship of Stanley C. Ramsey. Inigo Jones by Stanley C. Ramsey. Hawksmoor by H. S. Goodhart-Rendel. Vanbrugh by Christian Barman. Chambers by Trystan Edwards. 10s. 6d. each. Ernest Benn, Ltd., London.

### *"The Effort."*

We have received a copy of "The Effort," a magazine published by the students of the Central School of Arts, Birmingham, which includes a school of architecture run jointly with the Birmingham Architectural Association. The magazine illustrates the exhibition held to celebrate the jubilee of the Birmingham Architectural Association, which covers the work of its members over the last fifty years. The exhibition met with such appreciation that its period was extended.

### *A Directory of Local Authorities.*

The new edition, just published, of "The Empire Municipal Directory and Year Book" covers the official year of local authorities, April 1 to March 31. It is in its forty-second year of publication, and constitutes a complete encyclopædia on all aspects of municipal work—the special articles being written by acknowledged authorities. It also contains complete and officially corrected lists of all the corporations, county, urban, and rural district councils in Great Britain and Ireland and our overseas Dominions, and their chief officials. Among the new features of this year's edition is a list of the chief engineers, etc., of the most important foreign cities. Besides being of great value to municipal officials, the book should be indispensable to business firms who do, or want to cultivate, business with local authorities and their engineers and other officials.

"The Empire Municipal Directory and Year Book." Price 11s., post free in United Kingdom. 8 Breems Buildings, Chancery Lane, London, E.C.4.

### *A Useful Guide Book.*

This book contains a list of the principal licensed hotels and restaurants of Great Britain. It enables the public to see at a glance the full tariff charges of the respective establishments, and successfully disposes of the rumours which have been made in some quarters as to excessive charges during the period of the British Empire Exhibition. A comparison with last year's guide reveals the fact that the hotel charges have not been increased this year. The Incorporated Association of Hotels and Restaurants, who officially issue the guide, was founded in 1906, and represents most of the principal licensed hotels in Great Britain, including those owned by the railway companies.

"Guide Book of the Principal Hotels and Restaurants of Great Britain." Price 6d. net. Issued by the Incorporated Association of Hotels and Restaurants, 11 and 13 Southampton Row, London, W.C.1.

## Serious Accident to Sir Aston Webb

Sir Aston Webb, President of the Royal Academy, was seriously injured in a motor-car accident which occurred after midnight on Saturday when he was driving home with three friends after the Royal Academy banquet.

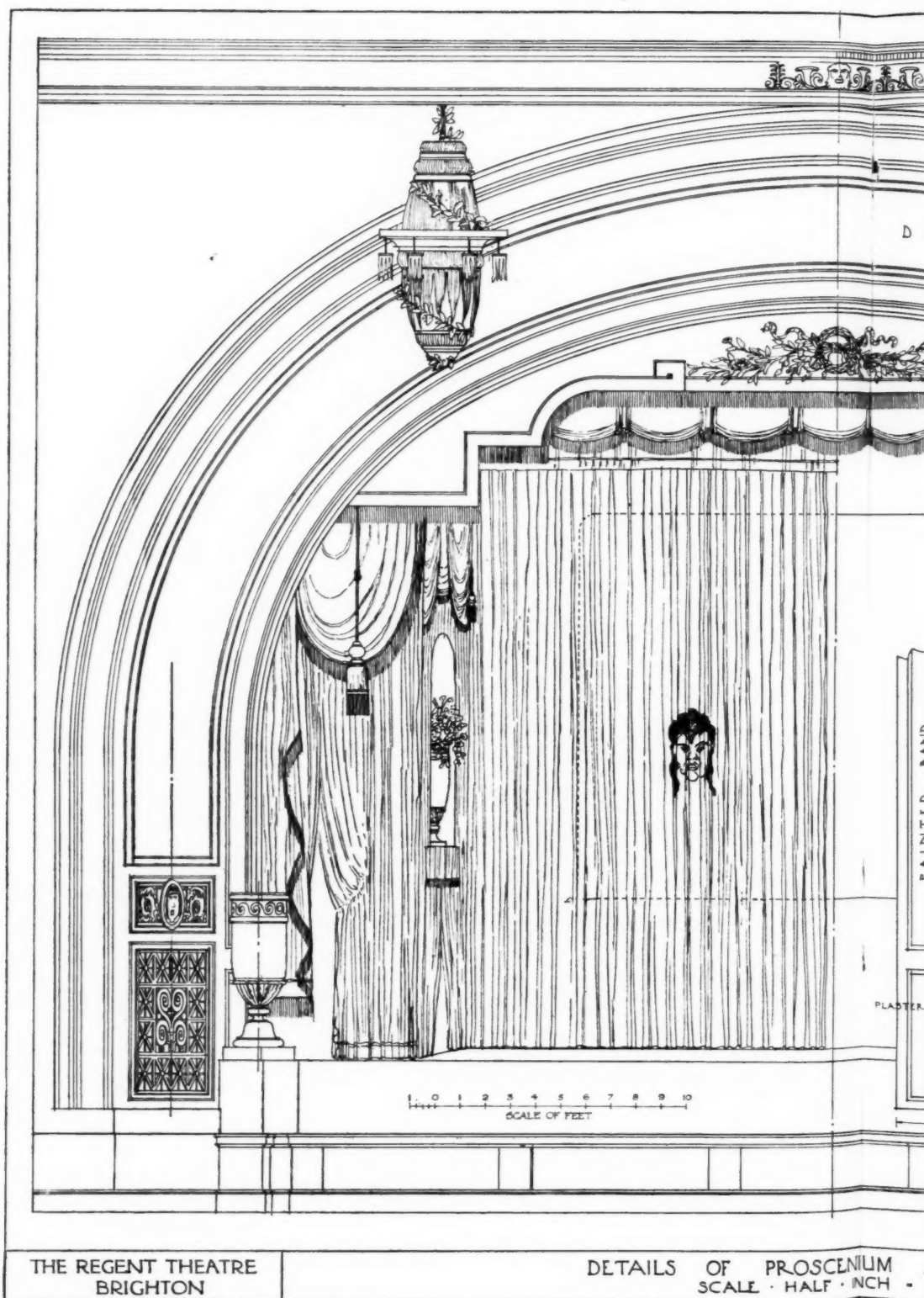
Sir Luke Fildes, R.A., who was with him in the car, was also seriously injured, and Sir William Llewellyn, R.A., and Mr. S. Melton Fisher, A.R.A., were slightly injured, the former being cut about the head and bruised.

Sir Aston will be seventy-five on the twenty-second of this month.



## Architects' Working Drawings. 77.—The Regent Theatre,

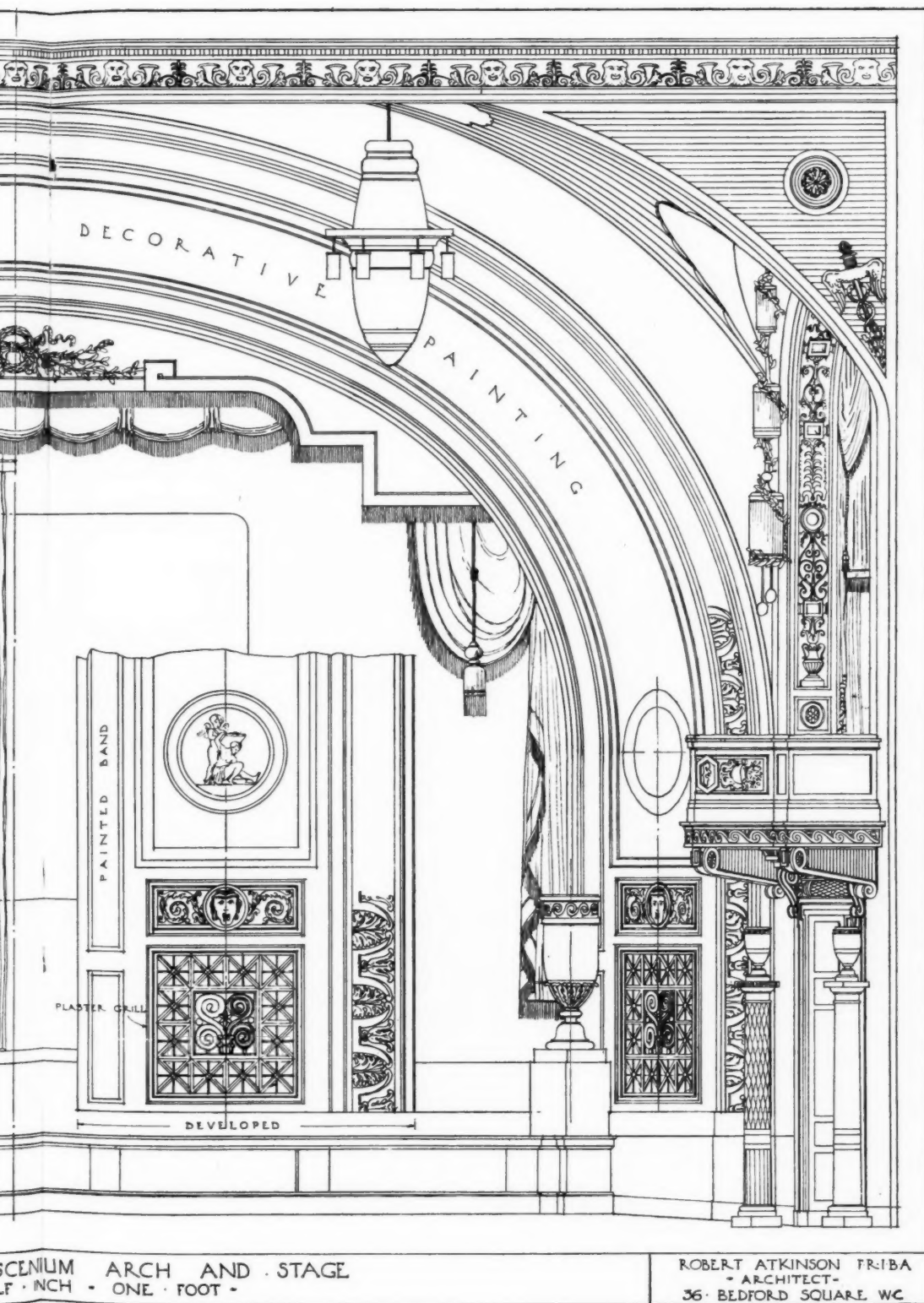
Robert Atkinson, F.R.I.B.A.



The proscenium arch of this cinema theatre has a simple splayed reveal, decorated with a procession of figures in red and gold.



Theatre, Brighton : Details of Proscenium Arch and Stage  
 on, F.R.I.B.A., Architect



PROSCENIUM ARCH AND STAGE  
 HALF INCH - ONE FOOT -

Colours in red and orange on a purple ground. The work was executed by Mr. Laurence Preston, of the Brighton School of Art.

# Branch Library Competitions in Leeds

## The Winning Designs

**T**HE competition for the two new branch libraries in Leeds, at Burley and Bramley, has resulted as follows:—

**Burley.**—First premium, £35, Mr. G. B. Howcroft, Upper Mill, near Oldham; second premium, £20, Messrs. Foggitt and Addison, Leeds; third premium, £15, Mr. A. E. Dixon, Leeds.

**Bramley.**—First premium, £35, Messrs. Foggitt and Addison, 84 Albion Street, Leeds; second premium, £20, Messrs. Parkin and Sheffield, Leeds; third premium, £15, Messrs. Kitson, Parish and Legard, Leeds.

The work will be carried out under the general direction of the architects who designed the successful plans.

The assessor was Mr. Percy Scott Worthington, F.R.I.B.A.

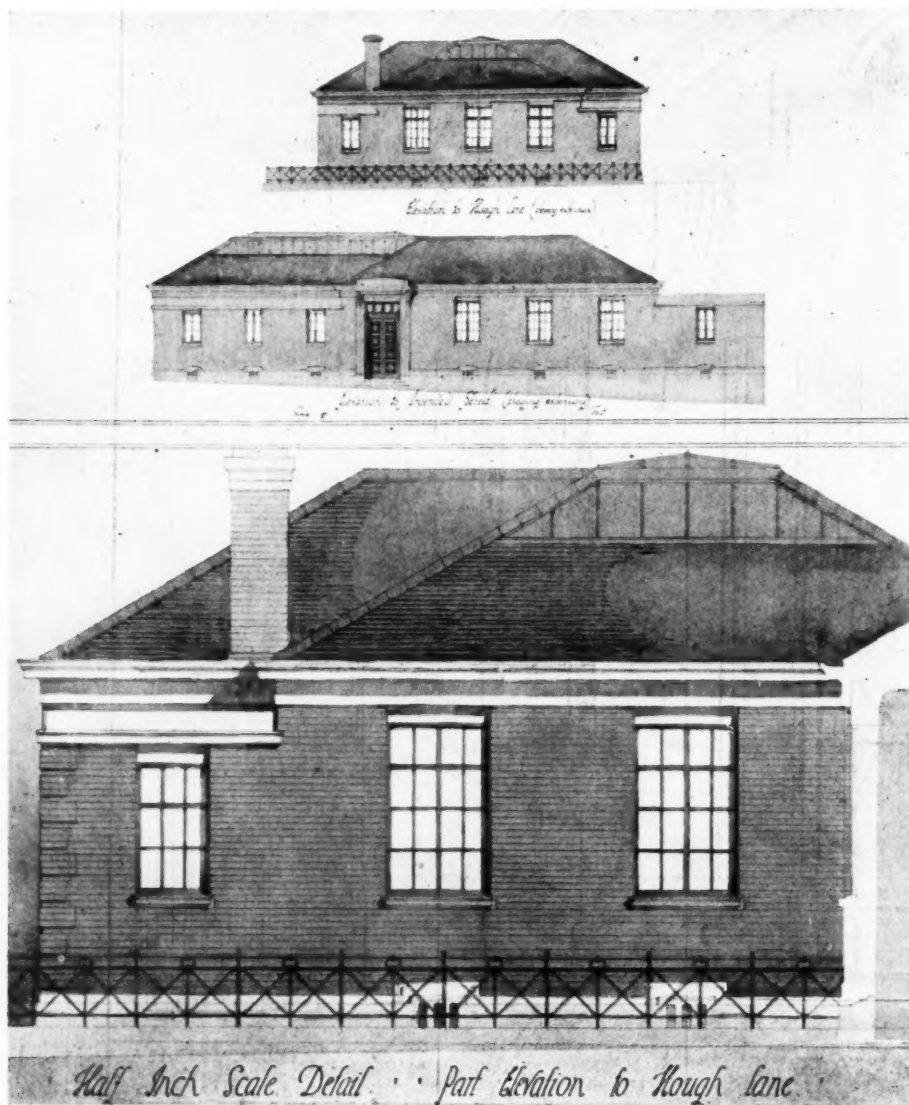
In the case of both libraries the now usual "open access" system has been adopted, the shelves radiating conveniently in a staff enclosure. In both libraries two reading-rooms have been provided—one for adults and one for juveniles.

Both libraries consist of a ground floor and basement. In the case of the Bramley branch library the filing room is provided for on the ground floor, the basement floor being taken up with the staff room, store room, heating chamber, and staff offices.

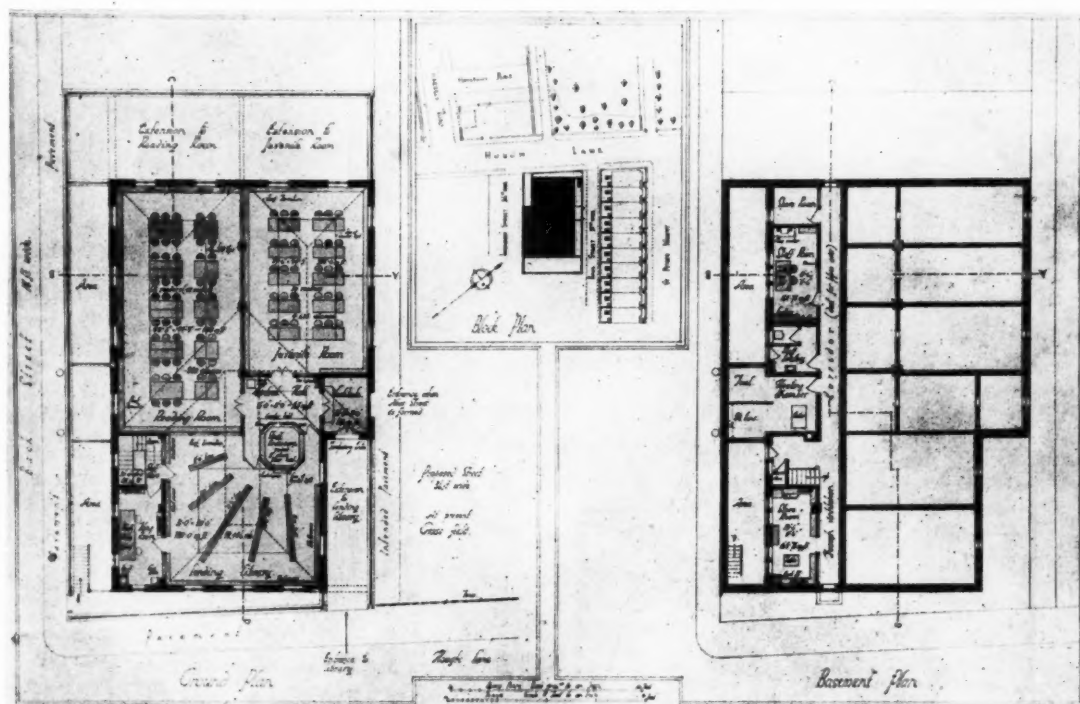
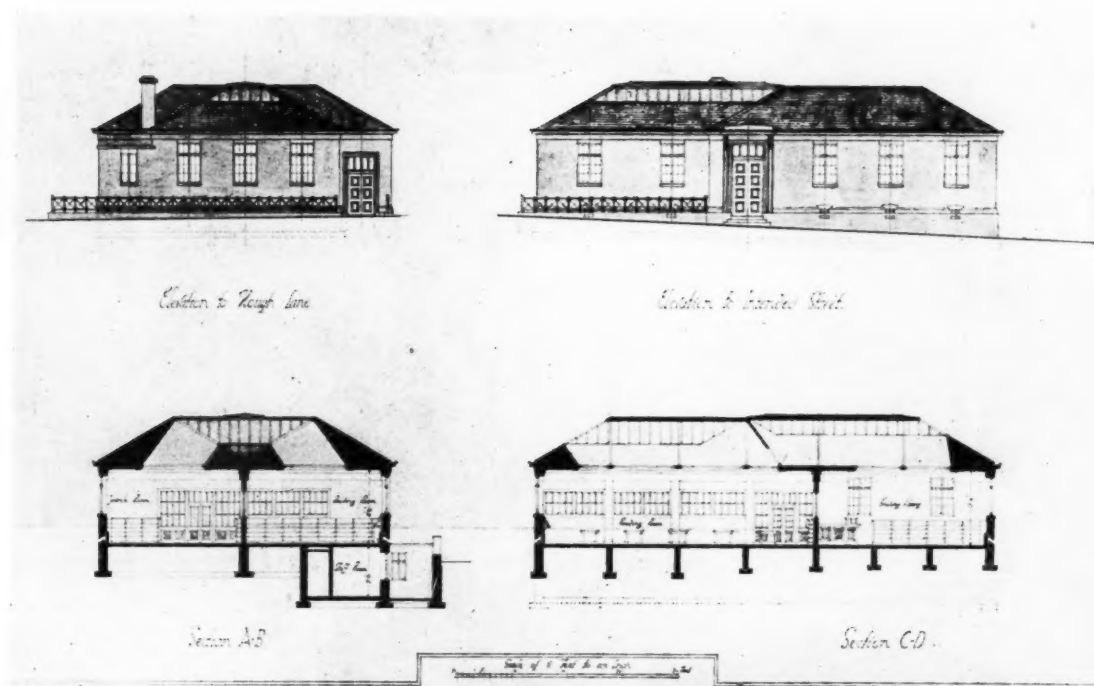
In the case of the Burley library the filing-room is in the basement, along with the staff and storage rooms.

Each library is very economically planned, and provision for extension is made for the library at Bramley.

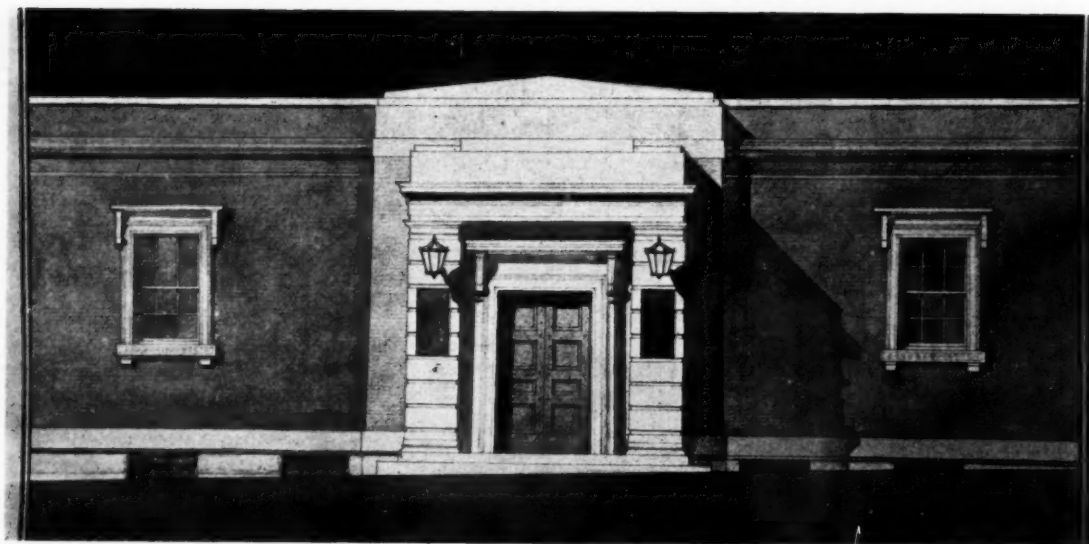
The elevations in both cases are simple and unpretentious.



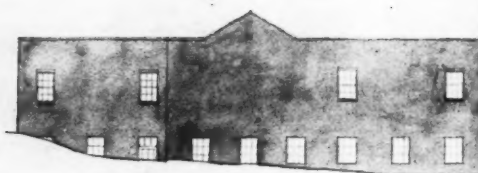
BRAMLEY (LEEDS) BRANCH LIBRARY COMPETITION.  
FOGGITT AND ADDISON, ARCHITECTS.



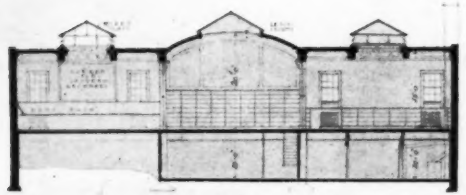
BRAMLEY (LEEDS) BRANCH LIBRARY COMPETITION: FIRST PREMIATED DESIGN.  
FOGGITT AND ADDISON, ARCHITECTS.



ELEVATION TO EASTERN ROAD

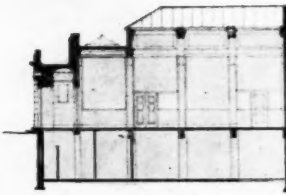


BACK ELEVATION

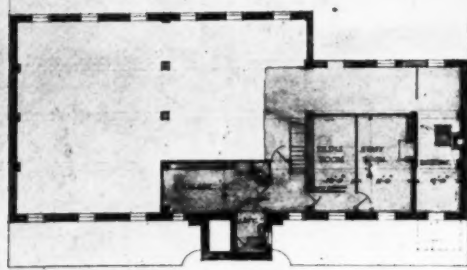


FRONT ELEVATION

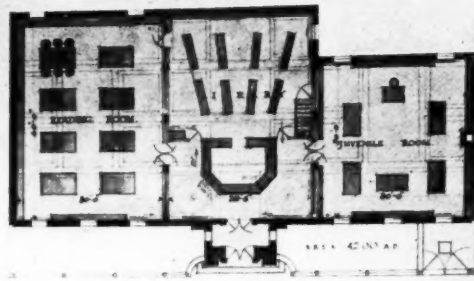
FLOOR, 46'0" x 21'



BACK ELEVATION



BASEMENT PLAN



GROUND FLOOR PLAN

BURLEY (LEEDS) BRANCH LIBRARY COMPETITION: FIRST PREMIATED DESIGN.

G. B. HOWCROFT, ARCHITECT.



# Little Things That Matter—29

## Economy in Design, in First Cost, in Upkeep, and in Working

By WILLIAM HARVEY

**T**HE last thing that is learned by the architectural student and the first thing that is required of the practising architect is attention to economy, and under the conditions governing house building at the present day the need for rational economy is more than ever acute. Economy in architecture does not begin and end with the payment of the final certificate on the contract. Not only have repairs to be considered, but the labour of running the house must be taken into account.

The primary consideration of a restricted first cost is forced upon the designers of buildings independent of the fact that greater expenditure to begin with might lead to economy in the long run, for a substantial building is a distinct asset, but the construction of a house, however sound, in accordance with a plan in which convenience has been sacrificed to cheapness does not achieve economy in any real sense of the word.

It is not possible to describe these three branches of economy simultaneously, and though they ought not on any account be divorced in reality, design for economy in first cost will be first considered.

A minor saving is effected by placing the house towards the front of the plot in order to diminish the run of drainage and of water, gas, and electric mains, and this is a saving too often pursued to the edge of parsimony and beyond. A matter which very greatly affects economy is the arrangement of the house on simple four-square lines. Brickwork and roofing material are both expensive items, and their cost is increased by any departure from a simple rectangular plan.

This principle seems to have been understood by builders of former generations, but the cult of the mock mediæval, with its porches and picturesque additions has permitted it to lapse for nearly a century. The saving in material alone is very considerable (see Figs. 1 and 2), for every break in the line of a wall increases its length without a proportionate increase in the floor area and cubic contents of the building. Such breaks also demand additional labour in building up quoins, in forming hips and valleys, and even in the setting-out of the building upon the site. The nearer the building approaches a cube in its proportions the greater is the amount of enclosed space for a given area of enclosing walls and roof.

It is neither practicable nor desirable to reduce house design to this state of primitive simplicity, and considerations of structure also affect the question, but it is distinctly worth an architect's while to direct his design towards simplicity in main outlines if he wishes to make provision out of a small permissible expenditure for materials of admirable quality and for convenient fittings and detail. Simplicity in roofing is as important as in the walls. Dormers and gables, other than the two gables at the end of the roof, are very expensive in that while they add somewhat to the surface of roof covering they add enormously to the actual labour and material used in the completed roof. (See Figs. 3 and 4.)

Every line of hip or valley demands a departure from the use of the normal rectangular tile or slate, and whether this accommodation to the oblique is achieved by cutting and trimming or by the purchase of specially shaped material, cost is increased without proportionate gain.

Certain efficient roof coverings, which not only keep out the wet, but look attractive when exhibited in large plain masses involve a great deal of difficulty if it is required to

cut them to the line of hips and valleys. A great part of the saving effected by the use of certain tiles may be spent in cutting these special materials to the oblique line of a valley. Tile after tile may be wasted in the attempt, and at the best the line of hacked edges will have an irregular appearance altogether out of key with the tiles themselves.

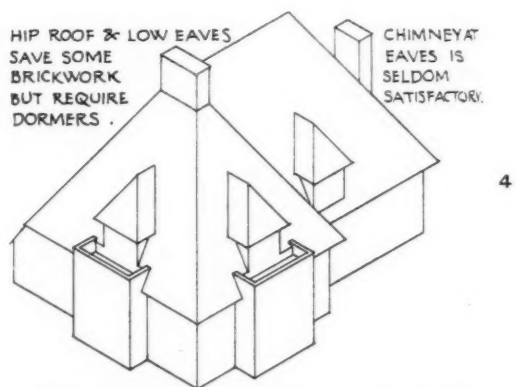
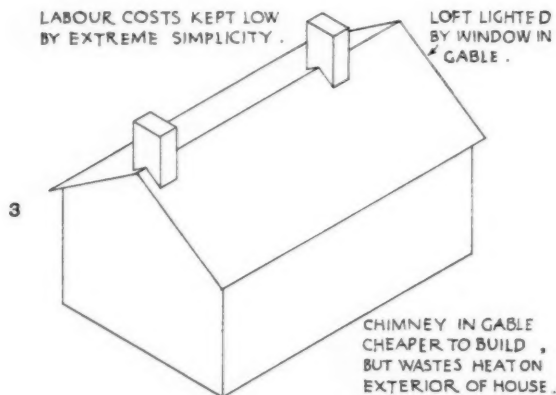
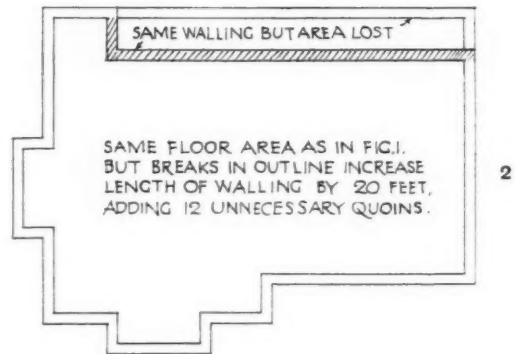
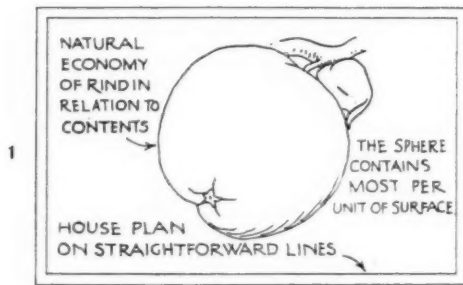
The valley gutter of lead or zinc is also costly, and is undesirable on account of its forming a weak place in regard to the exclusion of rain and also on account of its colour, which is bound to make it look like a breach in the otherwise uniform tone of the roof. Hips are not so difficult to manage cheaply, for the added hip tile covers the joint, and rather rougher cutting will suffice.

Additional labour is required beneath the roof covering in framing up complex roofs with breaks of plane, and though picturesqueness of appearance may be pleaded against the inconvenience of dormer-windowed rooms, it is only in exceptional circumstances that it can be said that money has been saved by their use.

Discussion has often been raised on the question whether a simple roof with eaves 6 ft. 9 in. above the bedroom floor is dearer or cheaper than a roof with eaves at a height of 3 ft. with attic rooms lighted by dormers. (See Figs. 5 and 6.) The cost of extra height of walling in the one case has to be set off against that of cutting and trimming rafters and roofing materials and of the ashlar to a height of 5 ft. that is required to satisfy the by-laws in most districts. The costs of materials and labour affect the comparison in any particular case, but there is little doubt that a straightforward plain building is the less expensive per cubic foot of contents, for the accommodation is curtailed in the case of the dormered building by the space lost behind the ashlar and by the fact that the sloping part of the ceiling comes down to a point 21 in. lower.

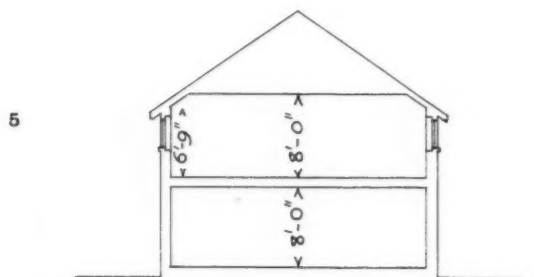
Another controverted question concerns the relative cost of solid concrete ground floors as compared with floors composed of small joists built upon sleeper walls. Many factors enter into this comparison, and while it is possible to advocate concrete on a dry, well-drained site, its use would demand very special precautions on a damp, water-logged foundation. Where the by-laws require a layer of concrete to be deposited over the whole area of the house it is only reasonable to make it serve two purposes instead of one, though it is not easy to obtain a really satisfactory finish that will also stand the tests of economy in upkeep and convenience in working the house. Oak block flooring laid in mastic direct upon a screeded surface is probably the most satisfactory return for outlay, and is, therefore, economic though not particularly cheap. Other possible finishes are soft wood blocks, or boards laid to dove-tailed fillets fixed in the concrete, but here the saving in first cost is probably liable to be reversed in the long run by the question of repair and renewal. Moreover, the appearance of a soft-wood floor in wear is not such as to permit of its remaining altogether uncovered, and cost for carpets or linoleum is likely to be incurred. The suggestion that concrete floors should be finished by the direct application of linoleum to the screeded surface has been made, and meets with marked success, provided that the concrete is bone dry at the time of laying the linoleum, and can be kept dry afterwards.

In actuality this means that the floor has to be kept without its permanent floor covering for several months until it is thoroughly free from the water of construction.

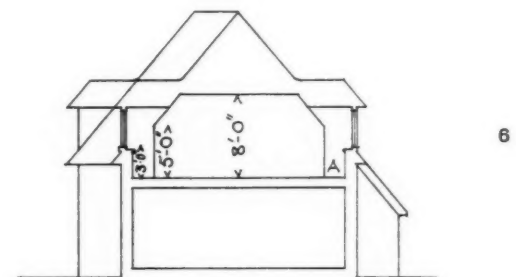


TYPE OF HOUSE FOUND ECONOMICAL PRIOR TO THE VICTORIAN PERIOD AND GOTHIC REVIVAL.

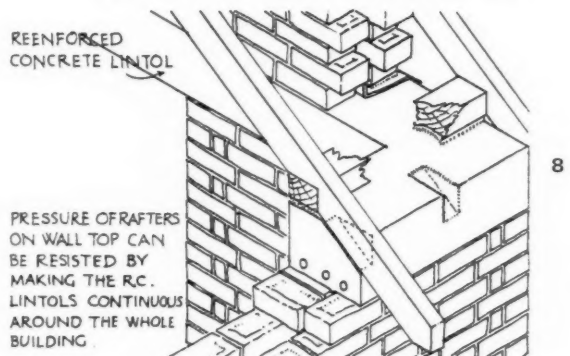
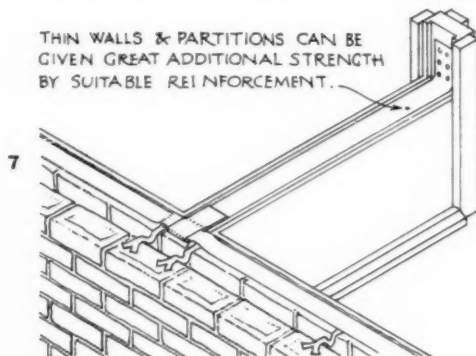
THE CHEAPNESS OF INCONVENIENT ATTIC ROOMS NEGATED BY COST OF LABOUR IN TRIMMING ROOF.



SECTION SHOWING ARRANGEMENT FOR MAXIMUM 1ST FLOOR



SECTION SHOWING SPACE LOST IN ASHLARING AT A



"LITTLE THINGS THAT MATTER": DIAGRAMS ILLUSTRATING ECONOMY IN DESIGN, ETC.  
DRAWN BY WILLIAM HARVEY.

Its surface must be sound enough to stand foot traffic without undue dusting up during this period, though strips of matting that can be easily taken up and dried in the sun are useful as a temporary measure of protection.

Although architects seem to be content to have linoleum laid direct on concrete either with or without a layer of mastic, the makers of linoleum are more pessimistic about its durability and point out the liability of their material to rot under what they consider an altogether unfair test.

The laying of linoleum on concrete is attended with a slight additional difficulty, in that while linoleum laid on wood generally expands in the first few days and can afterwards be trimmed to shape, linoleum laid on concrete will shrink with the slightest sign of moisture and, if it has been cut to fit in the first instance, will need piecing out at the skirtings.

As this method of flooring is undoubtedly cheap in first cost a way will probably be found to overcome these difficulties, for the objection that the floor is hard, cold, and unyielding to the tread does not seem to have very much behind it.

Minor economies can be affected in first cost by planning to use all materials in their stock or market sizes, but there are limits to saving in this direction as a small permissible variation in size will overthrow the results of foresight and calculation.

The use of few materials rather than of many, the repetition of simple useful details, the standardization of such things as window panes and door panels throughout the house, all make for economy in first cost.

Simple and substantial construction and the choice of enduring material is the secret of reducing the cost in maintenance. The prevention of defects should be aimed at in all matters of design, and the plentiful use of reinforcement, triangulation, and tension members which can be adapted easily and cheaply during the construction of a house will add immensely to the endurance of building materials used in our attenuated modern manner. One excuse for the picturesque style of building with many breaks is the possibility of making one part of the building buttress up adjoining parts, and if, in the interests of economy in first cost, these picturesque breaks have been dispensed with some equivalent method of strengthening the building must be found. The cross walls specified in the by-laws of many districts are intended to serve some such function.

Where by-laws are relaxed and it is possible to use thin partition walls, these should be strengthened by the insertion of two or more courses of hoop-iron bond anchored into the exterior walls of the building by being attached to similar reinforcement embedded in their thickness. (See Fig. 7.) Purpose-made reinforcing material may be substituted for the hoop-iron with advantage, but in either case the strength of a comparatively thin wall is immensely increased at slight cost. Outward pressure exerted upon the walls by the roof is a potential source of trouble and must be very carefully guarded against in the first place by arrangement of the carpentry, and in the second by tying back the wall plates at each gable and partition with hoop-iron reinforcement wrapped around the plates and nailed. One excellent method of holding a thin walled building together in spite of its roof pressures is to make a continuous reinforced concrete band around the building at eaves' level. This is nothing more than the development of the reinforced concrete lintols of the upper windows, which gain in strength by being made continuous as well as performing the additional function of mutually anchoring in the return walls of the building. (See Fig. 8.)

Economy in working the house depends to a very large extent upon the amount of human energy that has to be spent in performing the daily routine of life within the walls and in the processes of keeping the house in fair condition from the point of view of appearance.

The housewife's duties include certain minor elements of decoration as well as preparation for feeding, recreation, and sleep.

Economy of labour in maintaining a high standard of decorative neatness should be thought out throughout the whole design of the house, and two alternative courses are open to the designer. An ultra-hygienic point of view demands that all surfaces shall be smooth and washable, but the result of the system is liable in this climate to appear uncomfortably frigid. It is not so economical of labour as might be supposed. A shining surface in our moist atmosphere does not keep clean of itself, and the tiled walls of a hospital are continually washed to avoid the deposition of a sooty film. It is quite usual in places where this care cannot be given to see tiled walls cleaned to the height of 6 or 7 ft. and dingy grey from this point upwards, and there is nothing so dismal as a neglected glazed brick area. For economy in labour glazed surfaces should be confined to positions in which washing and wiping down is in any case inevitable. For the walls surrounding baths, lavatory basins, and sinks, tiles are recognizably fitting, and the same may be said for those parts of the chimney immediately adjoining the kitchen range or other cooking apparatus.

Excessively rough surfaces also demand considerable care in upkeep, and it seems that moderately smooth rather than highly polished surfaces are most economical of labour in this climate.

The modern tendency towards simplicity, whether genuine or affected, shows itself in the use of brick fireplaces. A soft brick that absorbs sooty stains adds a burden to the housework, and only hard and non-crumbling bricks, which may be cleaned with hot water, soap, and soda, should be installed. The hearth or curb should be able to stand kicking and the action of fidgeting feet without chipping, and the parts of the fire back exposed to heat must be capable of withstanding its action. It should be kept in mind that brick fireplaces have been tried in hundreds of old cottages, and the use of tar, of blacklead, of ochre, or of whitewash to disguise the discoloration of unsuitable bricks should serve as a useful warning to architects to avoid giving more trouble to the housewife than she can reasonably be expected to bear.

## Parliamentary Notes

[BY OUR SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE.]

Mr. Snowden, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, in introducing the first Labour Budget, stated that the Inhabited House Duty would be abolished. Steps would be taken with regard to land valuation and taxation, on which preliminary work had already been begun. A short Bill would be introduced reviving the Land Valuation Department.

In reply to Sir G. McCrae, who asked the number of houses authorized, under construction, and completed to date, under the provisions of the Housing Act of 1923, by local authorities, public utility societies, and private enterprise respectively, Mr. Greenwood, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Health, said the following table gave the particulars desired:—

SCHEMES.	Number of Houses.			
	Authorized.	In contracts on April 1, or in respect of which definite undertakings have been given to pay subsidy.	Under construction on April 1.	Completed by April 1.
Local authorities ..	43,315	25,586	10,183	3,847
Private enterprise ..	77,666	47,230	19,086	3,708
Societies, trustees and companies under Sec. 3 of the Act of 1923 ..	5,775	3,575	1,136	585

Mr. Greenwood further informed Sir G. McCrae that the number of houses completed with the aid of the grant under the Housing (Additional Powers) Act, 1919, was 39,184. On April 1 173,620 houses were included in tenders approved under the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1919. Of these, 169,526 had been completed, and 3,760 were under construction.







be said that the American policy in general or the Chicago policy in particular has been attended with consequences of a nature calling for drastic change.

The great difference between the London and Chicago load schedules raises the question of which is the more correct. The question cannot be answered mathematically, but from the analysis of an apparently simple case (the simplest case is full of complexities) certain helpful inferences may be drawn. Because of its importance as a class, I have selected a case in domestic architecture, for which the London and Chicago superimposed floor loads are 70 and 40 lbs. per sq. ft. respectively.

When the immense variety of human habitations is thought of, it is easily understood why definite data is conspicuous by its absence.

I do not think it is disputed that 40 lbs. per sq. ft. is a sufficient allowance to cover the weight of the furniture and occupants of an ordinary room under ordinary conditions. For a very ordinary room of 200 sq. ft. floor area the allowance is fully  $3\frac{1}{2}$  tons. As in the case of the office, already mentioned, the actual weight may not exceed 20 to 30 cwt.

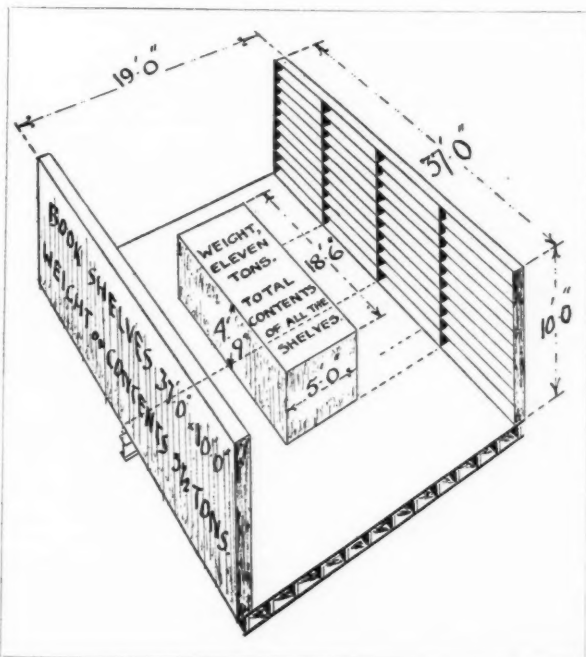
But our present concern is with the extraordinary conditions. We wish to judge whether 40 lbs. is enough or 70 lbs. too much to allow for the contingencies of a heavy concentration or suddenly applied load. For the reasons expressed in the previous article, I do not propose to consider the possibility of a domestic building being used for a different purpose.

What conditions are likely to produce the heaviest concentration and the heaviest moving load in a residence? I suggest books in bulk for the first and dancing for the second.

After several preliminary calculations I have found that if an H beam  $12 \times 6$  ins. @ 44 lbs. per ft. (1904 British Standard) and an H beam  $12 \times 5$  ins. @ 30 lbs. per ft. (1920 British Standard) are used for the 70 and 40 lbs. unit loads respectively to support the centre of the floor of a room 37 ft. long by 19 ft. wide, they are working under equal conditions of stress so that direct comparisons can be made between them. Assume an ordinary wooden floor and plaster ceiling weighing 14 lbs. per superficial foot of floor area; this is the dead load.

Floor area:  $37'0'' \times 19'0'' = 703'0''$  sq. ft., of which the half, say 350 sq. ft., is supported by the steel beam.

Total dead load: 350 sq. ft. @ 14 lbs. = 2.2 tons.



CONCENTRATED LOAD ON FLOOR.

Unit live and dead loads: London,  $70 + 14 = 84$  lbs.

Chicago,  $40 + 14 = 54$  lbs.

Total equivalent distributed dead and live loads:—

London: 13.1 tons. Safe load on  $12 \times 6$  ins. = 13.1 tons.

Chicago: 8.4 tons. " "  $12 \times 5$  ins. = 8.6 tons.

Note that the specified loads are almost identical with the safe loads on the beams calculated for an effective span of 20 ft. with a factor of safety of 4.

The calculated deflection of each beam under its respective load is approximately  $\frac{1}{8}$  in. or  $\frac{1}{16}$  in. per foot span. This is the usual toleration over plasterwork.

For the condition productive of the heavy concentration, assume the room to be a library with bookcases or shelves lining each 37 ft. side. (See sketch.)

Books in bulk are about the heaviest goods likely to be found in quantity in a house, and may be taken as weighing 56 lbs. per cubic foot. Filled bookshelves will not weigh more than 40 lbs. to 45 lbs. per cubic foot, if allowance is made for spaces due to the variety of book sizes.

If the dead load of 2.2 tons is deducted from the London total load of 13.1 tons, the remaining (say) 11 tons, considered as the weight of books in bulk, would require two bookcases, each 37 ft. long by 10 ins. broad by 10 ft. high, to contain it.

For some purpose, such as a removal, the books may be removed from the shelves and piled on the floor. Assume the pile to be made on the middle 5 ft. of the span of the beam.

At 56 lbs. per cubic foot, a pile weighing  $5\frac{1}{2}$  tons will contain half of the contents of all the shelves, the dimensions of the pile being 5 ft. wide by 10 ft. long by 4 ft. 6 in. high.

The following is the effect of such a pile on the H beam  $12 \times 6$  ins. as required by the London specification:—

Stress due to weight of floor	..	1.257 tons per sq. in.
" " " books	..	5.5 " " "
Total	..	6.757 " " "
Factor of safety	..	4.1 (nearly)
Deflection	..	$\frac{1}{8}$ in. (nearly)

On the H beam  $12 \times 5$  ins. as required by the Chicago specification:—

Stress due to weight of floor	..	1.02 tons per sq. in.
" " " books	..	8.25 " " "
Total	..	10.17 " " "

Factor of safety .. .. 3 (nearly)

Deflection .. ..  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. (nearly)

If the total contents of all the shelves, weighing 11 tons, are piled on the middle 5 ft. of the beam span the effect is as follows:—

On the H beam $12 \times 6$ ins.—	
Stress due to weight of floor	.. 1.257 tons per sq. in.
" " " books	.. 11.0 " " "
Total	.. 12.257 " " "
Factor of safety	.. 2.1 (nearly)
Deflection	.. $\frac{1}{4}$ in. (nearly)
On the H beam $12 \times 5$ ins.—	
Stress due to weight of floor	.. 1.02 tons per sq. in.
" " " books	.. 16.5 " " "

Total .. 18.42 " " "

or  $3\frac{1}{2}$  tons above the mean elastic limit which spells failure.

Inferences from the above are:—

The maximum load, on which the calculations are based, may be described as extreme. A large proportion of rooms in upper floors of houses and tenements are beyond the possibility of such heavy concentrations.

The calculations do not take into account the supporting effect of the wooden floor, which is not a negligible quantity, even assuming that the joisting is discontinuous over the steel beam.

The probability of the total load occurring only on the portion of floor supported by one beam is slight.

The probability of a concentration of the whole of it, near the centre of the span, is more slight.

The London load allows amply for heavy concentrations. Half of the total load may be concentrated near the centre of the span without encroaching on the factor of safety of 4. If the total load is concentrated in this manner, there still remains a margin of  $2\frac{3}{4}$  tons within the mean elastic limit. Although nearing the danger point, this does not necessarily mean disaster.

The Chicago load calls for a closer examination of the probabilities. A pile containing three-quarters of all the books would produce yield-point stress. It is more likely, however, that only half of the books would be on the beam, the other half being on the portions of the floor supported by the end walls. The total stress of 10 tons per square inch from the load of half the books is not considered dangerous for occasional temporary loading.

Suddenly applied loading is the next consideration. With the assistance of persons of different weights and activities, I found that if a man stands on the platform of a weighing-machine, jumps up from it as high as he can, and re-lands on it as heavily as possible, he is able to "tip the beam" at a weight about three times his actual weight; that is, a ten-stone person, by jumping, has the effect of a  $3\frac{3}{4}$  cwt. static load.

Dancers, as a rule, neither jump so high nor land so heavily as my friends the experimenters, so that an allowance of  $3\frac{3}{4}$  cwt. per dancer is generous.

On this basis the H beam  $12 \times 6$  ins., is sufficiently strong, without encroaching on the factor of safety of four, to support fifty-eight dancers on an area rather less than 19 ft. sq., the floor space occupied by each dancer being  $3 \times 2$  ft. (See sketch.)

In the same way, and with the same factor of safety, the H beam  $12 \times 5$  ins. will accommodate thirty-four dancers. (One does not care to think of many more than thirty-four dancers on a 19 ft. square floor.)

The maximum weight of a crowd of people packed closely is 80 lbs. per sq. ft. of floor area. Such a crowd, almost incapable of movement, would produce a uniformly distributed load (including weight of floor) of 14.7 tons on the beam. This would not increase the stress on the  $12 \times 6$  ins. materially, and the stress of 12.8 tons per sq. in. developed by it in the H beam  $12 \times 5$  ins. is still 2.2 tons within the mean elastic limit.

The above method of allowing three times the weight of a dancer as an equivalent static load is not the correct scientific method of allowing for impact, but against this the number of dancers assumed is liberal, and the chance

of such a number jumping simultaneously and landing heavily is very slight.

The inferences to be drawn from the moving loads are :—  
The London allowance is ample.

The Chicago allowance is unlikely to be exceeded in a private house.

The general inference is that 40 lbs. per sq. ft. is a sufficient live load allowance for ordinary rooms in dwelling-houses, and that 70 lbs. per sq. ft. provides generously for heavy concentrations and moving loads.

Further consideration will be given to the subject of loads in the next article.

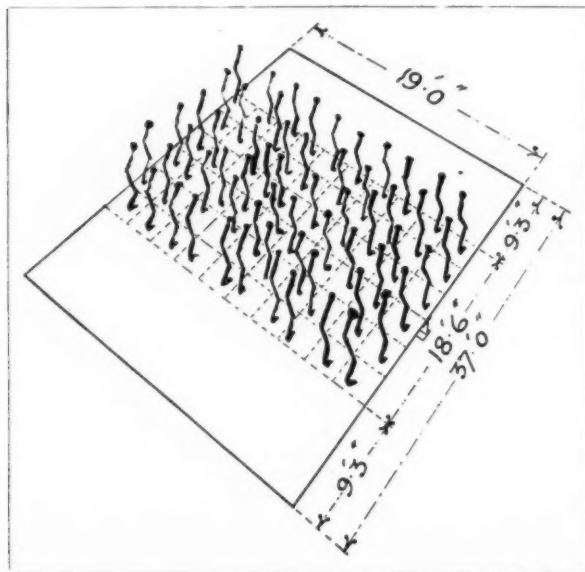
[The previous articles in this series appeared in our issues for September 5, October 17, November 14, January 26, and March 12.]

## New Legislation Suggested for London Slums

Lieut.-Colonel Cecil B. Levita, C.B.E., M.V.O., J.P., the chairman of the London County Council Housing Committee, in delivering a lantern lecture on "Slum Areas in London," before the London Society, said that he was of opinion that the blot on our civilization constituted by insanitary areas could not be removed within a reasonable period, if at all, under the powers of the existing Housing Acts. It was imperative that town-planning principles should be compulsorily applied to built-up areas, and new legislation devised to this end. With regard to new legislation, it was suggested that instead of proceeding to acquisition, clearance, and rehousing when an area had been declared, after public enquiry, to be an insanitary area, the local authority should be empowered to suspend all action for such a period as, having regard to all the facts, seemed fit. A district so declared should be replanned by the authority, which would itself reconstruct, at public expense, only such parts as it deemed necessary, subject to the approval of the Ministry of Health. This, in effect, would be the extension of the town-planning provisions now limited to undeveloped land, to the built-up portions of the town. He did not suggest that the scope of the Act should be confined to slum areas. On the contrary, the Act should give local authorities wide powers to deal with the control and development of large cities, to prevent the existing conditions being worsened by the intrusion of undesirable elements into districts, or the use of land for purposes for which it was not suitable, limiting its future use to a purpose for which it was most suited.

Under such an Act, he said, it should be possible to limit the period within which insanitary areas would totally disappear. Objection might be raised to such legislation on the score of hardship, but he would reply that to avoid hardship the existing penal clauses of the 1919 Act, essential as they were in principle, required greater elasticity, when insanitary areas were dealt with, than obtained to-day. The local authority should possess discriminatory powers of adjustment and compensation to deal equitably with hard cases. For instance, owners of insanitary property, notably the freeholders, in many cases were powerless though anxious to overcome bad conditions; property condemned by reason of environment suffered equally with thoroughly insanitary property. Again, legitimate local trading interests frequently were extinguished without compensation by a reconstruction scheme. He also submitted that, at any rate, objections urged against town planning of built-up areas should have no validity when applied to areas declared after public enquiry to be insanitary areas. In his opinion, with an experience of more than ten years on the L.C.C. Housing Committee, new legislation of a comprehensive character more adapted to present-day needs was urgently required to solve the problem of the London slums.

The meeting was held under the chairmanship of the Rt. Hon. Neville Chamberlain, M.P.



A FLOOR LOADED WITH DANCERS.

## Contemporary Art

### *English Water-colours.*

The magnificent collection of drawings in water-colour by Turner, Cox, and de Wint, which are now being exhibited at Agnew's Galleries on behalf of the Artists' General Benevolent Institution, comprises 138 examples. It is, perhaps, the finest exhibition of its kind ever held, and serves to demonstrate in the most forcible manner the glory of the English school. It does not include the great gallery drawings, but there are large examples which serve the purpose of indicating the complete mastery which these three great masters possessed of the medium. It is particularly rich in the interpretation of architecture, and David Cox is represented in this direction by more than one example. The most notable thing about the examples of this master is the modernity of his work. He anticipated Sargent and showed the way to the young exponents of water-colours of the present generation. Turner and de Wint have had their universal influence in the past, but it is to Cox that the present revival owes its impetus. The most fecund drawings in this respect are his "On the Mountain" and "The Skirts of the Forest." It is not to be wondered at that Turner's architectural draughtsmanship secured the slavish admiration, lavish appreciation, and generous imitation of Ruskin when such superb drawings as "Malvern Abbey," "Salisbury Cathedral," "Conway Castle," and the "England and Wales" series of 1825-1835 are studied, or the earlier German set. A convenient arrangement for study has been adopted in the hanging of these works which consists of groups before 1810, 1817-1820, 1825-35, 1836-43, and a number of important sketches.

The excellence of the Turner drawings in architecture is matched by that of the de Wint's: "The Saltwood Castle," the fine setting in landscape of Canterbury, of "Crowland Abbey," the fresh strength of "The Glebe Farm," the beautiful "Suffolk Village," "Kirkstall Abbey," and "Lowther Castle," and the clean freshness of "Dover Castle." There are many others only less important and over almost all of them there is the magic tone which this master knew so perfectly how to produce, a tone on a less mighty scale than Turner's in his impressionistic work, but altogether effective in its own particular way. Most of this exceptional collection of drawings is but little known. Its items have not been borrowed from public galleries, but for the most part from private sources, and few of them have more than a bowing acquaintance with the sale-rooms, for many have been in their present owner's hands for many years, while a goodly number are the property of Messrs. Agnews, to whom the lover of masterpieces of water-colour drawings owe a debt for assembling so magnificent a demonstration of English water-colour art.

### *The Leicester Galleries.*

It is interesting to study some forty or so examples of so sound and so English a painter in oils as Algernon Talmage, A.R.A. His pictures are now well distributed in public galleries, and from their appearance at the Academy, and most other important exhibitions, are now well known. They are always recognizable, sound, and possessed of pleasant and invigorating colour. They are interesting historically as the beginnings of the powerful school—now happily located within the Academy ranks—which includes A. J. Munnings and Philip Connard, all robust exponents of English landscape, English life, both human and animal. Talmage's horses and cattle are more prominent in this exhibition than his men and women, but the latter are there, as well painted as the horses and cows, and "The Birthday Present" is a distinctive example embodying all the factors which make his pictures so satisfying.

In the same galleries is the water-colour work of Gerald Ackermann, sound, picturesque drawings, the best of which are the series of windmills at Cley-on-Sea and elsewhere. This artist loves all buildings, however, as may be judged from his "Cley Church" and "Stokesay Castle," and the thin, pale atmospheric effect seen in "Durham," and "Richmond Castle" is arresting.

A curious set of water-colour drawings designated "Desire and Destiny" is shown by W. H. Walker at Walker's Galleries. They consist mostly of what look like book illustrations. They are, indeed, very pleasing illustrations of certain poetical quotations, and of quaint conceits of their author.

KINETON PARKES.

### *The Royal Birmingham Society of Artists' Spring Exhibition.*

At this exhibition there are paintings by Holland Hobbs, Walter Brand, John Cotton, and James Swan, all local architects, and members of the R.I.B.A. Their work is pleasant enough, but it has no distinction; architects' paintings seldom have. This is not an age of Michael Angelos and Leonardo da Vincis. But we must remember that the modern architect has many mundane and uninspiring things to occupy his time that were mercifully spared the versatile masters of old.

But this cynicism is a poor welcome to the excellent exhibition under review; especially as the first picture to attract my attention was an original and vital painting in old method (a rare thing these days). It was a sedate little water-colour by Geo. Cooper, with a happy title by Tennyson: " . . . Autumn, with the noise of rooks, that gather in the waning woods." Another fine picture was "Eglise Saint Sauve, Montreuil," by Marianne L. Trench, who, by rendering simple tones with a broad, dry brush, conveys an admirable sense of atmosphere and depth. Her other picture, "Across the Estuary, N. Wales," reveals the quality of her style even more successfully. There is very little paint on this picture, and very little colour, but this bold restraint produces fine suggestive results. "Sweet Auburn! Loveliest Village of the Plain," by Harold Swanwick, and "The Sussex Downs," by G. R. Rushton are very successful pictures in a conventionalized Cox method, which is very popular just at present. Mr. Swanwick has rendered the distant haze of the valley very convincingly, and the shepherd and sheep in the foreground give pleasing vitality to the quiet, peaceful countryside.

The portraits are disappointing. There are one or two encouraging exceptions, but nothing very good. Two bright clear portraits that have quality are: "Miss F. M. Jameson-Smith," by F. Jameson-Smith, and "Portrait," by W. E. Wigley. "John B. Johnson, Esq.," by James V. Andrew, is one of those ruthlessly efficient portraits of which one says: "It is like him!"

Of the small but excellent collection of sculpture, I particularly like "Sleep," by H. A. Walker. It is a simple but very expressive and charming work. The little bronze figure of a soldier "On the road to the line," by John W. Gunn, is also very fine and "living," but rather clumsily finished.

EDGAR LUCAS.

## Wembley Town-planning Exhibition

The town planning exhibition now being held at the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley will remain open until May 17. It is the most representative and effective exhibition of town planning in Great Britain and the Empire that has yet been held. Organized by the Town Planning Institute, the exhibition is divided into nine sections, each representing a branch of the subject, but many plans will be found to include features of several branches, so that the grouping is only approximate, and the complete exhibition should be studied.

Work by members of the Institute is not confined to this exhibition, but is to be found in other pavilions such as that of India, and in the building of the British Government, and its annexe, which building contains, among other things, two striking models, one illustrating the ordinary town that has grown up higgledy-piggledy, to the great disadvantage of its inhabitants, and the other showing the same site developed as it might have been, and providing full scope for healthy, vigorous and efficient life.

The plan of the British Empire Exhibition is itself of great interest. The grouping of the main buildings; the lay-out of the gardens; the arrangement of the principal avenue, called Kingsway, leading up to the main part of the Stadium, which makes a fine terminal feature. It is interesting to note, in this connection, the great impetus that was given to town planning in the United States by the object lesson in planning afforded by the Chicago Exhibition.

Among those exhibiting are: the Ministry of Health, Professor S. D. Adshead, Raymond Unwin, Adams and Thompson, Professor Patrick Abercrombie, G. L. Pepler, Sir Edwin L. Lutyens, R.A., and Herbert Baker, E. G. Allen and Partners, Thomas H. Mawson and Sons, C. C. Reade, Government Town Planner to the Federated Malay States, W. R. Davidge, H. V. Lanchester and Louis de Soissons.

At the town planning conference which is being held by the Town Planning Institute in connection with the exhibition, papers are being read by some of the foremost town planning experts of this country. We hope to publish extracts from these papers in a subsequent issue.



## Societies and Institutions

### *The International Congress on Architectural Education.*

The arrangements for the papers to be read and the discussions to be held during the Congress have been revised, and it has now been decided that papers shall be read on the past, present, and future of architectural education in Italy, France, America, and England.

### *Manchester Society of Architects.*

At the annual general meeting of the Manchester Society of Architects, the retiring president, Mr. Francis Jones, F.R.I.B.A., cordially welcomed Mr. Arthur J. Hope, F.R.I.B.A., the new president. Mr. Hope is one of the architects for the recent work at the Manchester Royal Exchange. The result of the election of officers for the session 1924-5 was announced as follows:—

Council: Fellows.—W. S. Beaumont, Professor A. C. Dickie, A. W. Hennings, P. Howard, Francis Jones, Paul Ogden, J. H. Sellers, Isaac Taylor, and Dr. P. S. Worthington. Associates.—H. W. Cruickshank, G. B. Howcroft, and W. C. Young.

Hon. Secretary: John Swarbrick.

### *The Sheffield, South Yorkshire, and District Society of Architects and Surveyors.*

At the annual general meeting of the Sheffield, South Yorkshire, and District Society of Architects and Surveyors the following officers were elected:—

President:—H. L. Paterson, F.R.I.B.A.  
Vice President:—F. E. P. Edwards, F.R.I.B.A.  
Hon. Treasurer:—R. Fowler, F.S.I.  
Hon. Secretary:—H. B. S. Gibbs, A.R.I.B.A.  
Council:—E. M. Gibbs, F.R.I.B.A.; T. Winder, Licentiate R.I.B.A.; W. C. Fenton, F.R.I.B.A.; W. J. Hale, F.R.I.B.A.; A. F. Watson, F.R.I.B.A.; C. B. Flockton, F.R.I.B.A.; J. R. Wigfull, F.R.I.B.A.; W. G. Buck, Licentiate R.I.B.A.; J. Amory Teather, Licentiate R.I.B.A.; H. I. Potter, A.R.I.B.A.; J. M. Jenkinson, A.R.I.B.A.; H. P. Wrench, A.M.I.C.E., Licentiate R.I.B.A.; C. M. Hadfield, F.R.I.B.A.; E. M. Holmes, B.Eng., F.S.I.; A. Whitaker; J. C. P. Toothill, A.R.I.B.A.

The membership is as follows: 1 Honorary Member, 25 Fellows, 46 Associates, 2 Students, and 6 Lay Members, making a total of 80 as against 77 last year.

### *Devon Architectural Society.*

At the annual meeting of the Devon and Exeter Architectural Society the president, Mr. Percy Morris, presented the prizes for the competition instituted by the Three Towns branch for the Associate members and Associates. The subject set was a design for a seaside residence. The design of Mr. J. R. N. Millman was placed first, and Messrs. F. M. Pidsley and E. E. Brown tied for the second place.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: Messrs. J. Leighton Fouracre (Plymouth), president; S. Dobell (Exeter), and A. C. A. Norman (Plymouth), vice-presidents; R. A. Mill (Plymouth), C. S. Appleton (Torquay), and E. F. Hooper (Exeter), members of the Council. Messrs. S. Dobell and L. F. Tonar were re-elected honorary treasurer and honorary auditor, respectively, and Mr. J. Challice (Exeter) was elected honorary secretary (*pro tem.*).

### *The Modern School and the Future Race.*

At a meeting of the Architects' and Surveyors' Assistants' Professional Union held in Olympia, Mr. G. Topham Forrest, F.R.I.B.A., architect to the London County Council, delivered an address upon "The Modern School and the Future Race." He said that in the Metropolis there were nearly 1,000 public elementary schools in which 700,000 children were being taught; sixty-one central schools with accommodation for over 20,000; sixty-seven secondary schools attended by 31,000 boys and girls, and about 260 technical schools and evening institutes with 200,000 pupils all of which were maintained or aided by the London County Council.

The first thing which the school board required when it began its work was the provision of suitable buildings. At that time church halls were commonly used as schools, it being considered that any building was suitable for this purpose. One inspector reported at that time that thirty-six young children were in an upper room into which the rays of the sun in June could not enter. One other school was held under two railway arches, capable of holding only 241 children, the average attendance being 388.

In contrast with to-day in London there were lofty school buildings, which outwardly suggest their purpose. Spacious playgrounds, school halls, and classrooms, proper light and ventilation were obvious everywhere. The schools were designed not only for the child but for the teacher. Not long ago gymnasiums and extensive playing grounds, etc., would have been considered waste of money, but to-day they were regarded as essentials.

### *The Architects' and Surveyors' Assistants' Professional Union.*

A National conference of members of the Architects' and Surveyors' Assistants' Professional Union was held at Olympia, with the President, Mr. J. W. Denington, Licentiate R.I.B.A., in the chair.

In his presidential address Mr. Denington indicated the union's passage through the most serious industrial depression of modern times. Although this had occurred two years after the union's inception they had comparatively speaking come through with an excellent reputation and a satisfactorily increased membership. They had enrolled 275 new members in less than two years, and seventy during the past three and a half months.

Mr. McLachlan, A.R.I.B.A., chairman of the Executive Council of the Architects' and Surveyors' Assistants' Professional Union then gave a brief survey of the union's career.

Mr. John Mitchell in reviewing the work of the union drew attention to the good services which had been rendered to members through the Correspondence Design Club. He said that through the employment bureau 212 men had been placed in positions since January 1, 1923, and all of them at salaries which were in accordance with the union's minimum salary rates. Large numbers of private offices now accepted the minimum salary as well as the architectural departments of the Co-Operative Wholesale Society, Ltd., etc.

A dinner was held in the "Pillar Hall" immediately after the conference when the chair was again occupied by Mr. Denington. The toast of "The Union" was proposed by Mr. H. V. Lanchester, F.R.I.B.A., who congratulated the union on its work and on the organization which they had built up and wished them every success in the future. This was responded to by Mr. Charles McLachlan, A.R.I.B.A., who thanked Mr. Lanchester for his good wishes on behalf of the union.

### *The Society of Arts Scholarships.*

The scholarship for the Study of Modern Architecture Abroad, which was instituted by The Society of Architects last year, but the winner of which was unable to proceed, will be awarded this year for what is therefore virtually the first time. Candidates must make application before May 27 next, submitting at the same time examples of original architectural work and letters of recommendation. There is no competition in the usual sense of the word, and the representative jury will select a candidate wholly on his personal qualifications for the task which he proposes to himself when making his application. One or two small alterations have been made to the conditions since they were first issued last year. The minimum period of travel has been reduced from six months to three months, and the Council is empowered to arrange for the period of study to be divided into two portions. This is an amendment which should make a considerable difference to those candidates to whom a prolonged absence from the country would prove a very real difficulty.

The Victory Scholarship, entries for which are invited by the Society at the same time, has now been awarded four years in succession. The conditions of this scholarship also have been amended so as to allow competitors in the final stage to make a preliminary study of the subject which they will be required to develop. While the complete programme will only be put before them, as hitherto, upon entering the "en loge" competition hall, the nature of the subject is now to be disclosed to them one week in advance. The Council of the Society, however, state that in view of this concession the jury will pay special attention to the clause which disqualifies a design for exhibiting a fundamental deviation, however small, from the original "en loge" sketch. Entries for the Victory Scholarship must also be sent in before 6 p.m. on Tuesday, May 27, 1924.



## Law Reports

### Curious Point Under a Lease

*Boswell v. Crucible Steel Co. of America.*

King's Bench Division. Before Justices Bailhache and Roche.

This appeal by the defendants from a judgment of Judge Granger, sitting at the Southwark County Court, raised an interesting point as to liability to repair plate glass under a covenant to repair.

Mr. Greaves Lord, K.C., for appellants, stated that the point was a short one and related to the construction of a covenant in a lease. Appellants were the tenants, and the respondent, Boswell, the landlord of certain premises in the High Street, Borough. The builders had a shop front with large plate-glass windows, which formed the exterior wall. These windows had been cracked and broken by people outside, and the landlord said the appellants were bound to repair them under a covenant in the lease. The covenant was as follows :—

"The tenant will at all times keep the inside of the premises, including all landlord's fittings and additions, in good decorative repair and condition."

The County Court judge decided in favour of the landlord, and the point was whether the plate-glass windows were inside or outside, and also that replacing plate-glass windows was not decorative repair.

The court dismissed the appeal with costs.

Mr. Justice Bailhache said that without expressing any decided opinion as to whether these were landlord's fixtures, or whether they should be treated as part of the structure of the building, he thought that upon the whole the County Court judge was right. His lordship came to the conclusion that the scheme of this lease was that the tenant should deal with the windows. The tenant had to paint the outside of the window-frames, and it would be a little odd if he had not to deal with the glass which came between.

Mr. Justice Roche concurred.

### Custom of Trade—Interesting Action

*Ellis Hands and Dean, Ltd. v. Hands and Dean.*

April 30. Chancery Division. Before Mr. Justice Astbury.

This was an action by Messrs. Ellis Hands and Dean, Ltd., of Colwyn Bay, against Messrs. Hands and Dean, also of Colwyn Bay, for an injunction to restrain the defendants and each of them either solely or jointly with any other person from carrying on or being interested in a similar business to that of the plaintiffs within a radius of ten miles from Colwyn Bay Post Office. There was an exception to the claim, which allowed the defendants to carry on the business of wholesale hardware, builders' and plumbers' merchants and factors.

Mr. Luxmoore, K.C., for plaintiffs, said they alleged a breach of a covenant between them and defendants. The defendants practically admitted that there had been sales which would constitute a breach, namely, retail sales to private individuals, but they set up a custom of the trade which would allow a wholesaler to sell to any private individual at retail prices. It would be astonishing, said counsel, if there was such a custom. The plaintiff company was incorporated under the name of Ellis and Jones, ironmongers, Colwyn Bay, and by an agreement of August, 1920, they acquired from defendants their business for which defendants were paid shares and cash. The defendants' business was a wholesale business of builders, plumbers, and hardware merchants, carried on as Hands and Dean. The plaintiff company's name was then changed to Ellis Hands and Dean, Limited. The defendants became directors, but in February, 1920, two retired from the company and set up their old business again close to plaintiffs' business. They sold their shares to Mr. Jones and his wife. The plaintiffs threatened proceedings against defendants, and as a compromise the agreement of May 7 was entered into, which allowed defendants to carry on a wholesale business only. A question was raised in the defence that wholesale applied only to hardware, and that defendants were allowed to carry on retail business of builders' and plumbers' merchants. The compromise agreement also prohibited the use of the name of Hands and Dean, and defendants now carried on as Hands & Co. Plaintiffs discovered that defendants had supplied to persons retail orders for goods similar to goods sold retail by plaintiffs. The defendants said it was a custom in the trade of wholesale hardware merchants to sell to retail ironmongers at wholesale price, to builders, plumbers, electricians, etc., at

a trade price, to private persons at retail price, but custom was not solicited, and such persons were only supplied because of some personal connection between the merchant or his employees and the private person. In the builders' and plumbers' merchants' trade it was the custom to sell to private persons under similar conditions.

His lordship remarked that if inhabitants of Colwyn Bay sent postcards for dustbins, brooms, or frying pans, defendants claimed that they would be able to supply them.

Mr. Luxmoore: As long as they do not solicit the custom. Counsel added that plaintiffs admitted certain things claimed by defendants were within the province of wholesale business, but objected to their claim to supply private persons.

Mr. Archer, K.C., for defendants, said they did not contend they were entitled to carry on retail business so as to compete with plaintiffs, but they understood they could sell to builders, plumbers, etc., and to private persons when introduced by a builder or plumber at retail price.

Mr. Luxmoore said he agreed to that.

Mr. Archer said he did not claim to supply to other private persons. There had been a misunderstanding, and defendants did not want to do anything unfair.

After counsel had consulted their clients Mr. Luxmoore announced they had come to terms. The plaintiffs admitted that defendants as wholesalers, were entitled, under the covenant, to carry on their wholesale business, including the specific sales he had admitted.

The injunction granted, plaintiffs would waive any claim to damages, and defendants would pay £200 in full satisfaction of plaintiffs' costs. Counsel added that plaintiffs would treat in a friendly manner any suggestion from defendants as to what they might do under the covenant.

His lordship made an order on the terms come to.

## Birmingham and Empty Houses

The Minister of Health received a deputation from the Birmingham Town Council. The deputation urged that some means should be found for preventing the holding up of empty houses for sale, either by charging the owners with rates even when they are empty, or by giving the local authority further powers to take them over compulsorily by purchase or lease. The Minister replied that he had every sympathy with the object in view, but that he was afraid that at any rate as far as the rating proposals were concerned, it was unattainable as it would require legislation of an important and contentious nature which there would be no chance of getting through this year. There were also difficulties in the way of giving local authorities the suggested powers outside the rating proposals in regard to empty houses—amongst other reasons because of the difficulty of deciding whether houses were being legitimately kept empty or not. He promised to consider any suggestions that were made to him.

## New Inventions

### Latest Patent Applications.

9613.—Daniels, W. B., Downing, C. J.—Building blocks, etc. April 16.

9380.—Leeming, E. L.—Cavity walls. April 14.

### Specifications Published.

213664.—Stansfield, E. C. H.—Actuating mechanism for devices for indicating, registering or recording traffic over stairways.

213714.—Morgan, H. R.—Devices for illuminating the interiors of buildings by reflected daylight.

201937.—Bouton, A. and G.—Hollow blocks for floors and ceilings.

### Abstract Published.

212106.—Building Accessories and Flooring Co., Ltd., Goodwin, H., and Smith, H., Bull Street, Burnley.—Coloured asphalts.

The above particulars are specially prepared by Messrs. Rayner & Co., registered patent agents, of 5 Chancery Lane, London, W.C.2, from whom readers of the JOURNAL may obtain all information free on matters relating to patents, trade marks, and designs. Messrs. Rayner & Co. will obtain printed copies of the published specifications and abstract only, and forward on post free for the price of 1/6 each.

## Trade and Craft

### *The British Reinforced Concrete Engineering Co., Ltd.*

The head office of the British Reinforced Concrete Engineering Co., Ltd., still remains at No. 1 Dickinson Street, Manchester. The recent notice of removal to more commodious premises, i.e., King's Buildings, Smith Square, Westminster, S.W.1, refers to their London office.

### *Messrs. Peter Robinson's New Building.*

In our issue for April 16, page xli, we stated that the Associated Fire Alarms, Ltd., had carried out the automatic fire alarm installation in the eastern section of Messrs. Peter Robinson's new building. The firm informs us that they installed their automatic fire alarms throughout the western section also.

### *Mr. Ellacott Genner's New Appointment.*

Mr. L. J. Ellacott Genner, who for the last four years has been responsible for Western Electric advertising, is transferring his services to the National Federation of Paint, Colour, and Varnish Manufacturers of the United Kingdom in the capacity of manager and secretary of the "Paint More, Save More" campaign.

### *The P.L.A. Pavilion at Wembley.*

The contract for covering the floors of the Port of London Authority's pavilion at the British Empire Exhibition, Wembley, has been secured by Messrs. Vi-Board (Sales), Ltd., of Abbey House, 2-8 Victoria Street, S.W.1. This firm has had several large contracts of a like nature lately. The special adhesive used in all instances is Lactocol.

### *"The Roadmaker."*

The April issue of "The Roadmaker," the journal of the British Reinforced Concrete Engineering Co., Ltd., of 1 Dickinson Street, Manchester, contains the following special features: "Concrete Roads," by H. Percy Boulnois, M.Inst.C.E., F.R.San.Inst., etc.; "The Road as a Thing of Beauty," by C. G. Harper; and biographical details concerning the career of Mr. W. Herbert Bateman, the borough surveyor of Calne. As usual, there is a cartoon by G. M. Elwood, and illustrations are given of roads in the construction of which B.R.C. fabric has been used.

### *"Leyland" Indiarubber Tiling.*

The Leyland and Birmingham Rubber Co., Ltd., of Leyland, near Preston, England, have sent us a copy of the 1924 issue of their "Leyland" indiarubber tiling catalogue, which contains many new designs and illustrations. Amongst the large number of public and commercial buildings in which Leyland rubber tiling has been laid are: "Lloyds," London; the London Metal Exchange; the Cunard Offices in London and Liverpool; the Exchange Station, Liverpool; Euston Station, London; Africa House, London; Britannic House, London; Guy's Hospital, St. Thomas's Hospital, the North British and Mercantile Insurance Company, and Lloyds Banks. The tiling has also been used largely on ocean liners, and has been supplied to the following steamship companies: the Cunard Line, the Union Castle Line, the Canadian Pacific, the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, the Anchor Line, and the Allan Line. The firm also laid the rubber blocks surrounding the Cenotaph in Whitehall, and in various roadways throughout London. A copy of the catalogue, with samples of the tiling, will be forwarded on application.

### *Unbranded—No Man's Property—Any Man's Opportunity.*

Under the above title Messrs. Rayner & Co., of 5 Chancery Lane, London, W.C.2, registered patent and trade mark agents, have issued a pamphlet in which they emphasize the great value to be obtained from the branding of goods with registered trade marks. If the trade marks are not registered and protected by law, for the sole use of the owner, they may be worse than useless. The firm rightly point out that "it is not until you have made a success with your goods that others will begin to copy your marks and make profit out of your years of work. If you are not protected by registration you will then have to bear the heavy cost of litigation and take all the risks of an action at law. The goodwill for which you have worked will be threatened with destruction." The suitability of the mark is a good feature, but, in the opinion of the firm, the absolutely important point is to obtain "registration" of it. The pamphlet is full of convincing information, and gives some

useful particulars with regard to home, Empire, and foreign trade marks. The firm's practice and experience in connection with the registration of trade marks extends over a period of nearly forty years.

### *"Endurance and Safety."*

Messrs. Charles Churchill & Co., Ltd., of 9-15 Leonard Street, Finsbury, London, E.C.2, have issued a new edition of their booklet entitled "Endurance and Safety," which briefly describes the uses and advantages of "Alundum" slip-proof products. Among the installations made by the company are the following:—

Boroughs.—Birmingham, Blackburn, Blackpool, Bradford, Cambridge, Hackney, London (City), Manchester, Reading, Walsall, Wandsworth.

Tramways.—Birmingham, Bristol, Glasgow, Huddersfield, London Metropolitan, Preston, Salford, Sheffield.

Railways.—London, Midland, and Scottish Railway; London Underground Railway; Metropolitan Railway; Southern Railway.

General.—Bedales School, Petersfield; Blackburn New Majestic Cinema; Blades, East, and Blades, Ltd.; Bristol, St. Monica Home; B.S.A. Co., Birmingham; Carr & Co., Ltd., Carlisle; Glasgow Evening News; Lloyds Bank, Maidstone; London Temperance Hospital; Moss Gear Co., Ltd., Birmingham; Newcastle Children's Hospital; Pickford's, Ltd., Southampton; Reckitt's, Ltd., Hull; Reyrolle & Co., Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne; St. Andrews Golf Club; Stafford County Hall; Territorial Association, London; Turners Asbestos Co., Rochdale; W. D. & H. O. Wills, Ltd., Bristol; Worthing Secondary School.

### *The Origin of Period Decoration.*

It has rightly occurred to P. J. Spencer, the writer of this valuable pamphlet, that among those who deal with artistic fixtures there may be some who have not had the opportunity of studying the basis or origin of the various styles known to them as period styles, such as Tudor, Chippendale, Sheraton, Adam, Georgian, etc., and who have not heard of the great antiquity of the origin of the various details that make up these styles. He says: "We know of the Ribbon and Reed band, origin 4000 B.C., the Laurel band, 700 B.C., the Corinthian column standard, 430 B.C., etc., but from where did all these ornaments come? There is no question as to their efficiency as decorative mediums, because, after being in use, with comparatively short intervals, since 4000 B.C., they have become almost household words to-day, A.D. 1924." His object in the pamphlet is to put as briefly as possible before those interested, a history of the origin of our English styles. He deals first of all with the best known details, gives an account of their origin and date, then traces their journey to England and shows how they came to be embodied in the styles we know to-day. This information, of course, is of the greatest use to those who have to suggest suitable fixtures to harmonize with architectural interiors, for it must always be remembered that the basis of all good design has a definite use and reason. Copies of the pamphlet can be obtained from the Publicity Department of the Edison Swan Electric Co., Ltd., 123-5 Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.4.

## Competition News

### *Southmoor Colliery Cottage Hospital Competition.*

In publishing the assessor's award and a criticism of the designs in our issues for April 16 and 23 we stated "that the design placed second is by Messrs. Shannon and Sons, of Malton." The name of the firm should read "Channon and Son," not "Shannon and Sons."

## List of Competitions Open

Date of Delivery.	COMPETITION
July 4	The Glasgow Corporation invite competitive plans of a public hall to be erected on a site near Bridgeton Cross. Estimated cost £25,000. Premiums £150, £100, £75 and £50. Apply Office of Public Works, City Chambers, 64 Cochrane Street.
Sept. 30	Designs are invited for a statue in bronze and a pedestal (at a cost of about £5,000) in honour of the late Sir Ross Smith, K.B.E. Apply The Agent-General for South Australia, Australia House, London.

## The Week's News

### *New Wesleyan Hall for Attercliffe.*

A new Wesleyan Hall is to be built at Attercliffe, Sheffield, to replace the old Wesleyan Chapel.

### *Westgate Sea Front Improvements.*

Westgate proposes to spend £4,250 on sea front, bathing, and bandstand improvements.

### *Felixstowe Cottage Hospital Extensions.*

The Felixstowe Cottage Hospital Board of Management propose to build two new wings at a cost of £3,000.

### *New Fire Station for Leicester.*

Plans have been prepared of a new fire station for Leicester. The cost is estimated at £51,754.

### *A War Memorial for Haslingden.*

The Haslingden Town Council have accepted the design of Mr. L. F. Roslyn, R.B.S., sculptor, for the borough war memorial.

### *An Archaeological Discovery at Peterborough.*

At Castor, near Peterborough, a portion of carved stone, thought to be a fragment of a Saxon or an Early English altar, has been found in the chancel at Kyneburgha Church.

### *More Houses for Dorchester.*

The Corporation of Dorchester are applying to the Ministry of Health for sanction to a loan of £15,000 with which to carry out a housing scheme.

### *More Houses for Tendring.*

The Tendring Rural District Council have received the sanction of the Ministry of Health to a loan of £11,000 for the erection of working class dwellings.

### *Additions to St. Nicholas's Church, Liverpool.*

The architectural sub-committee of St. Nicholas's Church council have resolved to proceed with the additions to St. Nicholas's Church, Liverpool.

### *Change of Address.*

Messrs. Cooke and Davies, F. and A.R.I.B.A., architects, have moved to No. 44 Great Russell Street, W.C.1. Telephone: Museum 4136.

### *A New Town Hall for Budleigh Salterton.*

It is proposed to erect a town hall at Budleigh Salterton, Devon, from the designs of Messrs. J. Hatchard Smith and Sons, of London and Budleigh Salterton, architects. The cost is estimated at £4,000.

### *Forty Houses for Chorley.*

The Chorley Town Council are applying to the Ministry of Health for sanction to a loan of £1,120 for the purchase of a portion of the Highfield Estate. It is proposed to erect forty houses.

### *Middlesex Road Improvements.*

The Middlesex County Council have received the sanction of the Ministry of Health to a loan of £18,900 for the widening and improving of the Uxbridge main road between Hanwell and Southall.

### *Proposed New Public Baths for Broadclyst.*

In "The Week's News" in our last issue we stated that Mr. F. D. Acland, M.P., has offered to build and equip public baths at Broadclyst, near Plymouth. This should read, near Exeter.

### *£500,000 Site for Flats.*

A transaction in real estate involving nearly £500,000 has been completed in the Regent's Park district. It concerns the Northgate Estate, which has been acquired by a new company for the erection of flats.

### *A Leicestershire Church Damaged.*

The steeple of St. Peter's, Witherley, near Atherstone, Leicestershire, has been struck by lightning. It fell through the roof of the church, doing considerable damage to the interior and cracking the tower down to the fifteenth-century window over the west door.

### *The Exhibition of Architecture, Wembley.*

The exhibition of architecture now being arranged by the R.I.B.A., and the Architecture Club, will be held in the short period Exhibition Galleries of the Palace of Art, British Empire Exhibition, Wembley, from May 26 to July 5. The

exhibition to be opened by Lord Crawford at 3 p.m. on Monday, May 26, will consist of photographs and models of the recent work of living architects in Great Britain and Ireland, India and the Dominions.

### *Burton's Ancient Bridge.*

The Burton-on-Trent Town Council have rejected a £100 scheme for the preservation of the arch of the ancient bridge over the Trent. The arch was discovered during the excavation for the widening of the present structure. The Mayor pointed out that the arch was probably a thousand years old, and of great historical interest.

### *The Need for More Hospital Accommodation.*

In view of the shortage of hospital accommodation, the Minister of Health, Mr. Wheatley, has asked the Voluntary Hospitals Commission to inquire into the extent of the additional voluntary hospital accommodation required in England and Wales and the best means of providing and maintaining it. The matter will also be discussed at a conference of representatives of local voluntary hospital committees on June 18 at the Ministry of Health.

### *The late Mr. James Salmon, F.R.I.B.A.*

We regret to record the death of Mr. James Salmon, F.R.I.B.A., F.I.A. (Scotland). Mr. Salmon was a grandson of the late Bailie James Salmon and a son of the late Mr. Wm. Forrest Salmon, and continued a line of architects which had been prominent in Glasgow since 1820. He had travelled and sketched in almost every country in Europe, and was a member of the Chelsea Arts Club. Well known in the profession, he lectured on both the scientific and the artistic aspects of architecture to professional societies in Glasgow and Edinburgh, and was responsible for the design of many prominent buildings in Glasgow.

### *The Tenth British Industries Fair.*

On April 28 the British Industries Fair was opened at the White City. The fair is the tenth of an unbroken series. First organized in 1915, with no thought of repetition, it proved of such value to both manufacturers and buyers that it has become an annual feature in British business circles. It is organized each year by the Department of Overseas Trade, and, in addition to being self-supporting, it is in its many business-like features quite unlike any other event of its kind held in the Empire. Business men can obtain tickets of invitation from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35 Old Queen Street, Westminster, S.W.1.

### *Municipal Engineering Quantities.*

Mr. Harvey R. Sayer, Assoc.M.Inst.C.E., F.S.I., A.R.I.B.A., in reading a paper before the Institution of Municipal and County Engineers, proposed that the council of the institution should approach the council of the Public Works Contractors' Association with a view of setting up a joint committee consisting of an equal number of municipal engineers and public works contractors, to collect information as to the various methods of preparing bills of quantities for roads, sewage, and waterworks, etc., in different parts of the kingdom, and to draft a comprehensive set of standard rules of measurements of municipal engineering works, together with suggested types of bills of quantities for public works contracts.

### *The Clopton Bridge Controversy.*

A deputation of members of the Warwickshire County Council, the Stratford-on-Avon Town Council, and of the Society for the Preservation of Ancient Buildings waited on the Minister of Transport to discuss what measures should be taken to provide better facilities for traffic across the River Avon. Clopton Bridge, the only crossing in that neighbourhood, is inadequate for the amount of traffic, but there exists divergence of opinion as to what steps should be taken to alleviate the congestion. The Stratford Town Council and the Warwickshire County Council wish to widen the present bridge, but the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings propose that a new bridge should be thrown across the river higher up, thus preserving the beauty of Clopton Bridge. After hearing the views of the various parties, Mr. Gosling, who was accompanied by Sir Lionel Earle, on behalf of the Office of Works, suggested that the Ministry of Transport, the Town Council, and the County Council should consult with the Ancient Monuments Board regarding the appointment of an architect to advise on the most suitable course to be adopted.







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