

THE ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL & *Architectural Engineer*

With which is incorporated "The Builders' Journal."



FROM AN ARCHITECT'S NOTEBOOK.

WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL.

*Out of the maze of miry street,
Out of the soil beneath our feet,
Shot from the dust, an arrow true,
Leaps the long shaft to reach the blue . . .
Penitential the vaulted space,
Yawns a gulf in the altar-place ;
Tarrys the vision our eyes desire,
Snow-flaked marble, mosaic afire . . .
Only the dust of earth is there,
Burnt with sorrow and brown with care.*

PALL MALL GAZETTE.

9 Queen Anne's Gate. Westminster.

Cordes



From a Water-colour Drawing by Keith Murray.

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Where Ignorance is Bliss

TRAVELLING this spring in Tunisia, I was struck by the curious fact that all the most unmistakably "Oriental" buildings were of a date posterior to 1881, and had been put up by the French. It may be laid down as a general rule that if ever, in North Africa, you see something that looks more richly like the Alhambra than Earl's Court itself, it is sure to be a work of the Europeans. In half a century of occupation the French have created examples of architecture far more Arabian than anything that the Arabs themselves contrived to invent in thirteen hundred years. The European architects have rifled the mosques, palaces, and native houses for their peculiarly Oriental "features." Out of the scattered bits they have composed kaleidoscopic schools, Government offices, and even churches, in which every inch of wall, inside and out, bears some unmistakably Oriental imprint. The Mohammedan architecture of North Africa is not particularly good; but at its best it is simple and dignified; and even at its floridly worst, its ornaments are distributed with a certain discretion and economy among restful blanks of plain mason's work. Not so the European imitations. There are no blanks. It is all Earl's Court. The results are indescribably frightful.

I have dwelt at some length on the Tunisian example because it illustrates in an obvious and striking way the dangers to which all contemporary architecture is subject. We live in an age when architects (like all other artists) know too much and acquire their knowledge too easily. Photography and an army of indefatigable art historians have made us familiar with every style that ever existed (or, at any rate, the traces of which have survived to our day) among every people of the globe. All art, in space from China to Peru, in time from the age of the Altamira cave paintings to the age of the Woolworth Building, is accessible to all who can get two householders to sign an application for a British Museum reading-room ticket. In three months any clever, industrious, and receptive young man can get to know the most striking features, the most characteristic technical tricks of all the styles of all the epochs. Is it to be wondered at if he applies his learning as a substitute for his own personal thoughts, preferring to search his memory or his books for a ready-made solution of the artistic problem which confronts him to the laborious process of working it out himself? In Germany, where art books are cheaper and more popular than elsewhere, where learning has a greater prestige and is more widely distributed, I have seen the most fantastic and chimerical mixture of styles. Already, eighty years ago, Von Klenze was combining the Greek and the Egyptian in his Propylæa at Munich. Since his day much stranger architectural and

decorative hybrids have been invented—negroid and Rococo, Nuremberg Gothic and Javanese, Aztec and Baroque. We have never achieved quite such extravagances here in England. But we have buildings that are certainly extraordinary enough. Of some it can be said that there is hardly a single European style current during the last two thousand years that has not contributed some characteristic detail to a vast assemblage of architectural "features." In all these cases learning has been made the substitute for original thought, and the architect has hoped, by using the achieved perfections of the past, to find a short cut to a new perfection of his own. Like the credulous magician, he has imagined that a mere repetition of ancient formulæ will automatically produce the effect he desires.

The hope is a most futile one. Each of the styles from which he borrows represents the thought and laborious artistic imagination of generations of men. You cannot acquire in half an hour the secret of an art which it took a hundred years to evolve to its perfection. The best you can hope to do is to copy, to caricature, or to achieve an elegant and learned pastiche corresponding to the school-boy's copy of Latin verses.

The artists of the past had this immense advantage over us, that they were not tempted, as we are tempted, to substitute miscellaneous learning for their own individual thought. For the simple reason that they had no miscellaneous learning. Of all but the single artistic tradition in which they worked they were almost totally ignorant. And being ignorant, they despised and derided all they did not know. Increased knowledge has enormously increased our capacity for appreciation. Never has taste been so catholic and eclectic as at the present time. "Tout savoir est tout pardonner"; we admire the bas-reliefs of Benin as heartily as we admire the frieze of the Parthenon. Not so our ancestors. Knowing, for all practical purposes, only one tradition, they were entirely convinced of its excellence; and when they saw examples of other styles they found them barbarous. Nothing is more remarkable than the way in which, for three hundred years, the architects of Europe concentrated their whole attention on the exploration and varied exploitation of a single style—the "Classical" style of the Renaissance. Employing the same elements, they produced works of art as different from one another as the churches of Bramante and of Alberti, Michelangelo's St. Peter's, and Palladio's Basilica at Vicenza; Inigo Jones's Banqueting Hall; and Bernini's Colonnade; St. Paul's, Somerset House, Kedleston, Nash's Regent Street. If the artists of the past were able to do this, it is chiefly because of their profound ignorance and consequent dislike of all traditions but that in which they

worked. This ignorance kept them undistractedly intent on the work in hand. They got out of their style everything that could be got by incessant thought and ingenuity. This state of things was particularly valuable for the minor artists, who were able, tranquil and undistracted, to concentrate all their efforts on a single style, which they implicitly believed to be the right style. All the good that was in them went into their work. To-day half their talent would be wasted in making experiments, copies, pastiches, and essays in a variety of styles. The great artist can sweep aside disadvantages—learning with the rest. But for the minor artist, who is much more at the mercy of his environment and his education, excess of knowledge is an almost fatal disadvantage.

Another disastrous result of learning and the modern sense of period has been the creation of new and entirely unæsthetic standards of excellence in architecture. In the course of the last century and a quarter a succession of ancient styles have been, for one reason or another, popular. The merit of buildings has been gauged by the closeness with which they approximated to ancient models. We begin the nineteenth century with a scholarly passion for the Greek. In St. Pancras Church Inwood erected, over a reconstruction of the Erechtheum, a steeple consisting of the monument of Lysicrates superimposed on the Temple of the Winds. Followed a Gothic period, during which architectural excellence was judged by the accuracy with which Peterborough, or Chartres, or the Sainte Chapelle, or the Palazzo Pubblico at Sienna, were imitated. The later nineteenth century witnessed the rise to popularity of the debossed Gothic and rudimentary wrong-headed classicism of the early French, Flemish, German, and English Renaissance. Then came Mr. Geoffrey Scott's "Architecture of Humanism," and a general revulsion of the public taste towards the grand manner of the later Italian Renaissance, towards the theatrical sublimities of Baroque, and the slightly comic, "amusing" elegance of Rococo.

In England we are still in what I may call "The Architecture of Humanism" stage. Regent Street is defaced by monstrous Baroque palaces. In domestic architecture, those who are in the movement have quite abandoned the quaint and cottage style of twenty years ago, and are putting up neat little houses in the manner of the later seventeenth or early eighteenth century, even (for the period is a trifle more amusing) in the Regency style. On the whole we may be thankful, for a modern cottage in the style of Wren is a more rational and therefore more satisfactory object than a modern cottage in the style of Westminster Abbey or of a mediæval hovel of mud and thatch. Still, one would prefer more original thought and less learning. And then, how insecure it all is! The fashion may change and our architects flit off at a moment's notice to Japanese or Babylonian. It will just be a question of consulting another set of documents.

We cannot, of course, abolish learning; it exists, and is accessible. It would be futile, moreover, to shut our eyes to tradition; for tradition represents the accumulated artistic experience of ages, and cannot without disaster be flouted or contradicted. All that we can hope is that a time will come when this learning, which in the arts is still something new, will be taken for granted to the point of being ignored; that the public will lose its over-acute sense of period and permit architects to think for themselves in terms of the essentials and fundamentals of all the styles—in terms, that is to say, of good proportion, discreet adornment, pleasing material and colour. Enough good architects have already freed themselves from preoccupation with Period to make us look forward with high hopes to the architecture of the future. On the other hand, the work of the bad architects, who have begun to think for themselves and be exclusively "modern," cannot fail to tinge our anticipations with a certain apprehension. A visit to the Exhibition of Decorative Arts in Paris is almost enough to make one hope that the prestige of Period will last for ever!

ALDOUS HUXLEY.

The Housing Trouble at Stepney

Stepney housing inquiry, held at Limehouse Town Hall towards the end of last week, should bring enlightenment on certain manners and customs of the people for whom houses must be provided. Truly their behaviour at the inquiry was very rude; but they certainly made it evident that they are passionately attached to their poor little homes, and are strongly prejudiced against block dwellings, where they would not be able to keep pigeons, fowls, and rabbits in "a bit of back garden." A ten-story flat, such as that proposed for them, they regard with aversion. They cannot reconcile it with their notions of a home. To them it appears like a barracks. No amount of evidence that, on the one hand, their small and worn-out houses are insanitary and inconvenient, while on the other hand, the proposed ten-story block would be a temple of hygiene, replete with every provision for ease and comfort, would convince them, whilst they are in their present temper, that the Health Minister is not an oppressive enemy. It is rather hopeless to attempt their wholesale conversion to healthy views, and the authorities are confronted with a decidedly awkward situation. Perhaps they may be able to set an example of adaptability and toleration.

Waterloo Bridge

It appears that at the hands of the L.C.C. Improvements Committee, who are considering the report submitted by the various bodies in favour of the preservation of Waterloo Bridge, the problem has resolved itself into two separate questions. Thus we have question No. 1: *Can the bridge be adequately underpinned?* And question No. 2: *Ought there to be a wider bridge?* Unfortunately, these questions are by no means independent of one another, and if both be answered in the affirmative we shall next have to decide which of the pair shall be given priority. By seeking to answer the second while the first is under debate, the L.C.C. have yet further strengthened the general impression that they are biased on the side of destruction. We incline to believe, however, that in this instance the inquiry was made in all innocence. Sir Reginald Blomfield, in his letter to "The Times," has pointed out to them quite incontrovertibly that you cannot preserve and widen at the same time, any more than you can have your cake and eat it. If the true and proper answer to either question be "Yes," then the other loses its point at once. The double question, it will be seen, is illusory, and to a sober eye there can only be one: *Save or destroy?* And the idea that there are two possible answers to this question is equally fallacious. There is only one Waterloo Bridge, and there is only one thing to do with it.

A Roman Pavement at Colchester

Our note last week on "Archæology as a Profession" was promptly followed by the announcement that a particularly fine specimen of Roman pavement has just been uncovered at Colchester. This particular discovery of pavement being within the walls of a town noted for its richness in Roman remains, it is not surprising to hear that the tessellations are of extremely beautiful design, and that "colourings of black, white, and red, have been introduced with excellent effect." In Colchester, Roman remains are, in a manner of speaking, indigenous to the soil—just as, in Oxfordshire, a man digging in his back garden would think it no miracle if his spade threw out heaps of yellow ochre, or in Bath or Cheltenham would think it natural to delve into a hot-spring, and on Ludgate Hill an excavator would be more vexed than surprised if his pick-axe broke on the footings of sturdy London Wall, so in Colchester some substantial and possibly beautiful relic of the long Roman occupation is always a probability rather than an unlikely chance: the better the outlook for archæology as a profession.

Architectural Style—9

By A. TRYSTAN EDWARDS, M.A., A.R.I.B.A.

Inflection

I HAVE assumed a multiplicity of diagrams on a small scale will serve the purpose of the present argument better than a smaller number of highly-finished drawings. The famous building illustrated in Fig. XXXIII owes not a little of its merit to the fact that it displays several kinds of inflection. In the first instance, the façade inflects itself to take account of the rotunda by projecting a hexastyle portico immediately in front of it. Do away with this portico, and it becomes immediately obvious that the façade would be inadequately prepared for the rotunda, and we should regard the latter as a surprise. Secondly, the columns of the rotunda are of a smaller scale than those beneath the pediment, and this expresses the different functions of these two features. The reader can easily imagine how displeasing the result would have been, were the order of the portico duplicated in the rotunda. Next, it will be observed that the lateral extremities of the building are punctuated by pairs of pilasters, by means of which these important positions in the façade show their affinity to the pediment, and yet express a suitable difference from it. This similarity in difference, which it is one of the principal aims of inflection to achieve, is also manifested in the relation between the fenestration under the pediment and that on the same level in the wings. The same type of window is repeated, with the subtle distinction that in the wings it is set within a niche. Needless to say, this building also satisfies the canons of number and punctuation—the central feature being broad enough to dominate the wings, which, however, to make assurance doubly sure, are conjugated to form a pair; this latter result being achieved by compromising their symmetry by the addition of the pilastered projections at the ends.

Example XXXIV A, which, incidentally, is a most flagrant example of unresolved duality, has the further defect that the two towers seem to be sublimely unconscious of the church which is wedged in between them as in a vice. Excellent examples of towers which are formally inflected to take account of the buildings adjacent to them are to be found in the great Gothic cathedrals. These are, of course, too well known to the reader to need illustration here, but I may refer him especially to Rheims, Notre Dame of Paris, and in our own country to Exeter, Ripon, Wells, Ely, York, Durham, and Canterbury Cathedrals, where he will find that in each case the tower has an important subdivision precisely at the level where the parapet of the main building of the church impinges upon it, and is generally also united to the church by points of accord at a lower level.

Example XXXIV E has the same defect as A, both the head of the doorway and the screen having a quite arbitrary relation to the pylons. A common effect of the absence of this kind of inflection is that the building seems physically

unstable. In the instances before us, the panel above the doorway looks as if it were made to slide up and down like a guillotine. The way to fix the panel would be to inflect the pylon at its level, so that its position would seem to be arranged for in the architect's original conception of the design.

The interesting design of XXXIV B, shows a semicircular aperture above an Order. In so far as one can regard this as one indivisible pattern, it fits comfortably in the space allotted to it between the great pillars and the pediment which surmounts them. It is questionable, however, whether the very important horizontal lines of the entablature do not charge too abruptly upon the vertical lines of the piers. If the lines of the entablature had been allowed to proceed after passing the piers, and had found expression on the flanks of the building, their temporary interruption would have been a quite justifiable æsthetic device. As it is, however, the flanks of the building seem insufficiently inflected to take cognizance of the striking composition adjacent to them.

Fig. XXXIV C is a pleasing and, it must be said, a somewhat rare example of a skyscraper, in which the main façade has been adequately inflected to prepare us for a central tower.

In XXXIV D we see a building imposing by reason of its scale and the simplicity of its parts, and yet it has the blemish that its upper story is entirely unprepared for. We cannot exactly say that if it is taken away we should not miss it, because the residue would constitute an unresolved duality which would cry aloud for a third story. The extent of such an additional story, however, would normally be for the whole length of the building, and at present the design shows a great lack of sensibility in not being inflected to express the fact that the third story extends to the central portion only. It may also be observed that the building has insufficient lateral punctuations.

Figure XXXV A shows an attractive building in which the central projection with pediment prepares us for the tower. This latter feature has the additional subtlety that the diameter of the small dome which surmounts it is reflected on the tower by means of small pedimented projections of width exactly corresponding to its own dimension. Moreover, the stringcourse which goes round the building takes up exactly the diameter of the arch above the doorway, thus giving to the façade the kind of homogeneity which was lacking in Example XXXIV B.



FIGURE XXXIII.

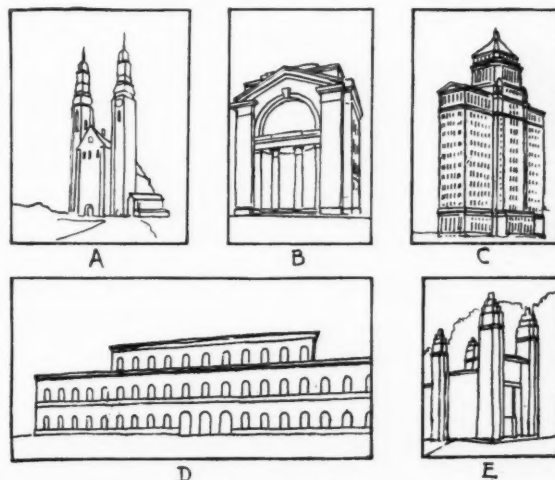


FIGURE XXXIV.

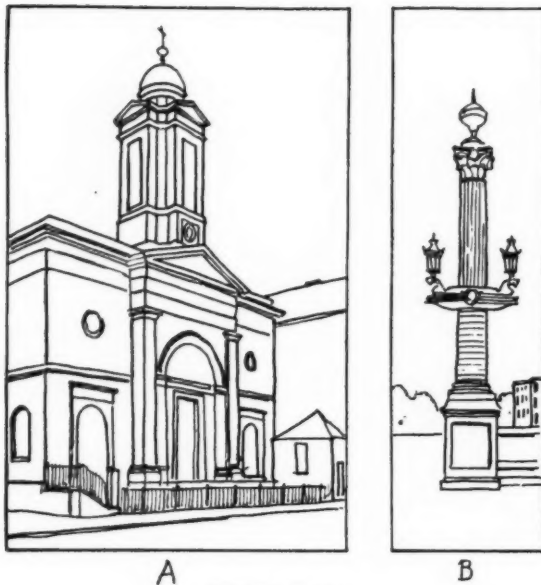


FIGURE XXXV.

In Fig. XXXV B the designer appears to have recognized the arbitrary position in which the lamps are fixed to the column, for he has tried to inflect the latter by placing annulets underneath the lamp supports, instead of the normal flutings, which continue above. Thus he hopes that the lamps will not appear to be about to slide down the column. The result is not satisfactory, however, because, while a close inspection may reveal the annulets, seen from a little distance away the inflection is invisible. In XXXVI A the great vault of the railway station is acknowledged in the front façade, for this latter has a central part exactly corresponding to it in width and properly punctuated by small projections. In B the great tower broadens out quite unexpectedly at what seems to be an arbitrary point, and although its fenestration does undergo a momentary change at the level of the top story of the main building, the inflection seems too insignificant to perform its aesthetic purpose. Example C is satisfactory, in that the pediment with its four columns is adequately prepared for in the basement. The beautiful designs XXXVI D and XXXVI E have this in common, that they both illustrate the inflection, which consists in the organic union of similarity and difference. In D the two wings are united to the central projection by sharing with it a small rectangular window over a larger pedimented one set in an arched reveal, the central feature achieving its proper distinction and priority over the wings by adding to this feature two similar small windows on its upper floor, and beneath them two taller rectangular windows, which suitably express their difference from the central one set in the arched reveal by forgoing the pediment adorning the latter. In E the central feature again partakes of the character of the wings, except that its archway is made to appear more important by broadening the interval between the pairs of Ionic columns on either side of it. In addition, the centre feature has a small sculptured attic, which gives it pre-eminence over the blocking courses which surmount the wings.

In XXXVII A the duplication of the pediments is an obvious blunder, causing not only an unresolved duality, but suggesting that the top pediment was not aware that its difference of function ought to have dictated a form of expression also different from that of the feature underneath it. This is another example of insensibility. In B the wings have made a gallant effort to inflect themselves to take account of the vertical dimension of the columns, which is taken up by incised panels. These latter, however, suffer from the defect that they are more visible upon the drawing board than in reality. In C the façade takes

account of the arcade by inflecting itself at its extremities by means of a slight rusticated projection. In this case the inflection is also punctuation. It is a little unfortunate, however, that the top window is repeated not only over the arcade but in the wings as well, where one would have naturally expected one of those subtle variations expressing similarity in difference. When that row of windows crossed the rustication, it was justified in celebrating this important event by some little artistic flourish, and its inability to do so must be counted to its discredit.

Example D shows the proper use of a symmetry. The façade inflected itself in two important ways. In the first instance, that part of it which carries the large segmental bay is isolated by means of a slight projection. Thus, one element of symmetry is complete, but in the subordinate part of the façade the symmetry is compromised by reducing the width of the rustication on the right-hand side. Thus the smaller element nestles up to the greater instead of expressing a too-arrogant self-sufficiency, as it does in Example XXXVIII, where both the wings are too independent of the central feature to form an organic unity with it.

In XXXVIII H these wings are inflected by the simple process of conjugation, and it will further be observed that the veranda, which in XXXVIII G is quite arbitrarily placed in H, is united to the porch, and also has a special position in that it embraces three windows separated from their neighbours in having a smaller interval between them. Example XXXVIII A is given here as the only instance in which our mediæval forefathers failed to inflect a façade in order to take cognizance of a tower. XXXVIII C is remarkable among other things for the subtle way in which the minarets, although quite separate from the main building, yet by their subdivisions are inflected to take cognizance of it. In F, another Indian building, the minarets are inflected at their junction with the main structure, and it may be further observed that the line of ornament which punctuates the main façades exactly corresponds to the level at which the great doorway starts upon the curve of its arch; so this latter, in spite of the fact that it appears to be somewhat isolated by its rectangular framework, yet succeeds in taking cognizance of its surroundings. The domes behind form a grand trinitarian composition, as does also the group of gables in B. This composition has the agreeable subtlety of being inflected to take account of the prominent doorway, by means of making the central gable narrower than the others. Had all three gables been of equal width, it is easy to imagine that a great doorway underneath only one gable would have been somewhat of an intruder.

The last illustration, XXXVIII E, shows an example of false symmetry, but in this instance the symmetry is about a horizontal axis. It is very obviously wrong that by its

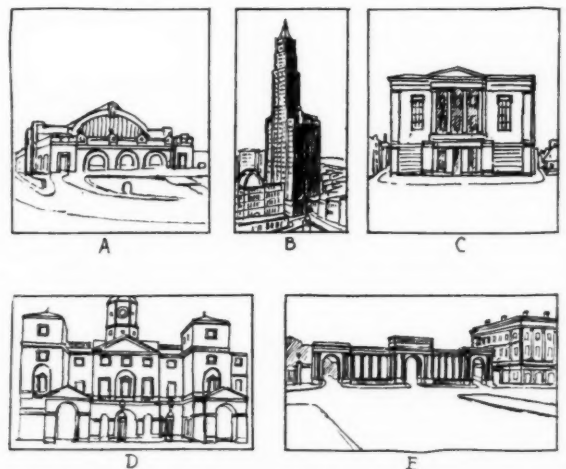
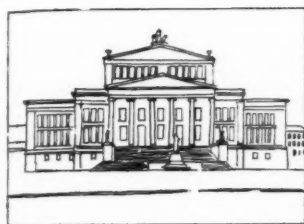


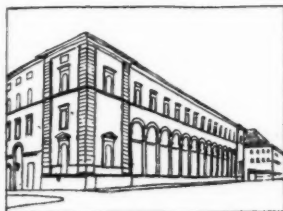
FIGURE XXXVI.



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B

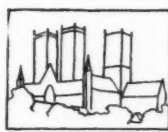


C

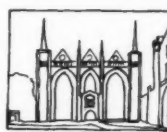


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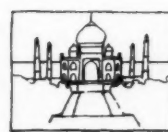
FIGURE XXXVII



A



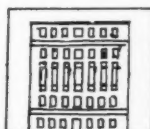
B



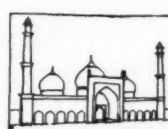
C



D



E



F



G



H

FIGURE XXXVIII.

fenestration this building should show itself similarly disposed to both ground and sky, and apparently quite indifferent if it were turned upside down.

So much for the inflection of façades. In the next article I propose to apply the canons of Number, Punctuation, and Inflection, to the design of plans.

The City of Dreadful Height

The following article by Mr. James Bone, the distinguished London correspondent of "The Manchester Guardian," appeared in that paper. By the courtesy of the Editor we reprint it nearly in extenso.

A DISTINGUISHED but irritable English author who went out for his first walk in New York was accosted by a native who identified him as a Britisher, and asked him what he thought of New York. The author replied in his depressed way: "Oh, it's not the place—it's the people." He was, of course, wrong. It is distinctly the place in New York; you are hardly conscious of people among your first impressions, so shattering, new, and brilliant are the sights your eyes behold. It is only afterwards that you are aware of the New Yorkers. No one can be "life-size" against the skyscrapers. At the base of these giants you see an undergrowth of buildings six or seven stories high which look like bracken round a tree. The actual trees themselves look like parsley; in Battery Point, besides the new skyscrapers, like parsley trimmings to galantines on end. Some of the foundations of new monsters go down a hundred feet, yet the builders have their own way of blasting the rock in sections, with an exactitude of charge and heavy muffling by nets that allow their quarrying to go on without wrecking the neighbourhood. Such buildings as the Pennsylvania Hotel have a population of 10,000 persons. The fast lift in the Woolworth building takes a whole minute to reach the top of its sixty odd stories. When you are at the top and look down on the little wharves with the little *Mauretania* and *Majestic* neatly tucked in their little slit of water you feel like Gulliver stooping down to take the Lilliputian fleet in tow. There ought to be a course of training for European tourists visiting New York besides the ordinary course of neck drill for seeing skyscrapers which the captain of the *Tuscania* has instituted. The fact is that for the first day or two your eyes and your mind are at war, and you are constantly feeling that it is all hallucination. You are the man seeing the giraffe for the first time, muttering now and then that you simply don't believe it.

This is a particularly good time for seeing New York. Skyscrapers are increasing so rapidly that a New Yorker after a European holiday finds the skyline unfamiliar when he returns. The time is coming when they will be too near together for individual effect, and the view from the sea will be of a gigantic serrated, terraced wall. To-day, at the lower end of the island, they are losing their appearance

of solitary lighthouses and campaniles, and New York is becoming a place of towers, like San Gimignano tremendously elongated. But to-day you can study them individually and place them in their periods: from the antique Flatiron building, with its huge cornice, to the Gothic Woolworth in glazed terra-cotta with gilding, and the beautiful Shelton Hotel, with its Bologna brickwork and squared stages of the zoned era. From any skyscraper you can behold others rising majestically out of the ruck of fifteen-story buildings and many tall, dim phantoms in the distance. Even the average now is above the spires of the churches. From the Shelton Hotel you look down on the top of the spires of the Roman Catholic Cathedral emerging in a heap of elderly buildings like office files on which discarded skyscrapers had been spiked. You look down on roofs with little pergolas with creepers and shrubs in smartly painted tubs, and film stars entertaining their friends to ices on the top of apartment buildings. You look out and down on a queer high-set metal bridge like a Meccano toy going over the East River, and you look down into an unbuilt space with only a network of railway lines and a tiny, cranky cabin, with beside it a chair on which a quiet Irishman sits and smokes his pipe, ruminating, it may be, on the people in the forty-story skyscraper that will soon be rising over the spot. He seemed a sort of watchman. I liked to look down from my twenty-second-story bedroom at his restful figure and, when I went out, to study him through a knot in the palings.

The contrast of his plank cabin among the tall buildings is still characteristic of New York. The high buildings seem the higher from the huddle of small dingy houses (like Soho houses) at their feet. In a corner of a street a few yards from Fifth Avenue there is a house with a little side garden. It belongs to two rich old ladies who cheerfully pay the enormous land tax because their dog must have somewhere for an airing. They have been offered vast sums for the garden to round off a skyscraper site, but they won't sell, for what would their dog do? A friend in a flat in the very expensive region near Central Park is awakened in the morning by the blacksmith shoeing horses in a little smithy below, possibly the last in Upper New York. He shoes horses for the riders in Central Park. It is only in New York that you

can see a rank of hansom cabs and victorias, or an ancient covered one-horse cart with "U.S." on its sides carrying city mails. It is only in New York you can see anything so antique as its elevated railway. In another ten years New York will probably be completely standardized and modernized, and its O. Henry contrasts and phantasy will have vanished like its lost saloons.

Discriminating people had never told me that New York had so much beauty. The famous silhouette of New York did not impress me (possibly because I saw it first in a Scotch mist) so much as some individual buildings, notably the Shelton Hotel, and the gay, delicate handsomeness of Park Avenue and Lexington Avenue, with their charming brickwork. The newer the buildings the better in this happy city. Their brown stone mansions of last century are uglier than Belgravia, and their replica period, of which the Vanderbilt mansion is a straggler, is very dull. But the hotels and apartment-houses in which prosperous New Yorkers live are pleasant edifices that create a real architectural effect. The combinations of marble or Indiana stone and brick are usually simple and effective. The American architects seem to have given themselves to the study of brick with characteristic closeness and intelligence, and everywhere one came on new signs of their mastery of the subject. Owing to the millions of bricks required for these vast buildings the architects and brickmakers find it economically possible to co-operate to produce particular kinds of bricks, and as the bricks have no structural office in these steel-framed cages all sorts of devices can be used to give variety and quality to the surface: passages of slightly projecting bricks, bricks with the joints scraped out at the front, leaving the brick edge open, and other devices for an enrichment by shadow of the huge brick surface. In many of the new buildings the influence seems to be Bologna, particularly in the intersecting arches forming a cornice and the use of projecting bricks. The addition of gargoyles, cartouches, and other separate enrichments high up on the face of the building are usually in perfect scale, suggesting careful experiment with models.

The brick varies in colour from an unsuccessful lemon white to deep red, with some particularly fine oatmeal tints in the later buildings that take the sunlight with a radiant sweetness. One had the ridiculous fancy about the Americans that after a generation of breakfast-food eaters the oats were now coming out in their architecture. In the clear, gay atmosphere of Manhattan these oatmeal palaces are delightful, even lovely at times, as they take the glow. (Why should our own new Regent Street not have been of brick?) They add quietly to one's growing conception of New York as feminine—feminine as Venice, with which city one observed unexpected links. One was particularly conscious of it sitting in the long hall of a Broadway luncheon club where the chief bankers of Down Town smoke for a little as they gaze down from the windows on either side of the room on their lagoons thronged with hurrying ships. The Venetian note sings out in their hotel saloons and the vast gilded entrance-halls to office buildings and even in their gilded elevators. Often the furniture is elaborate reproductions of the couches and chairs in the Doge's Palace. I suspect that they have Venetian typewriters and adding machines.

If New York by the chances of the Great War now holds its East in fee as Venice once held the other East, her signori in Wall Street have their counting-houses on a scale for the work. Their banks, especially York and Sawyer's, get grander and grander, and one looks up at the million windows of the quarter wondering what it would be like if heads looked out of every window. That happened on Armistice Day. The typists, they say, tore up the telephone books and threw down the pieces into the street. What a sight that business confetti must have been as it showered from these heights! What a gesture from these inhabited cliffs! But if only it had been the I.O.U.'s of Europe that Wall Street had torn up that day!

J. B.

New Façade to Messrs. Knoedler and Co.'s Premises, Old Bond St.

THOMAS HASTINGS, M.Arch., F.A.I.A.,
Architect

The new façade to Messrs. Knoedler's premises in Old Bond Street was designed by Mr. Thomas Hastings, who was also the architect for the firm's building in New York. Portland stone was used for the ground floor. The reception-room, illustrated on page 267, was entirely remodelled. While the length of the Bond Street frontage is about 30 ft., the premises extend in depth for some distance, and its galleries have been the repositories of some of the most famous pictures in the world.

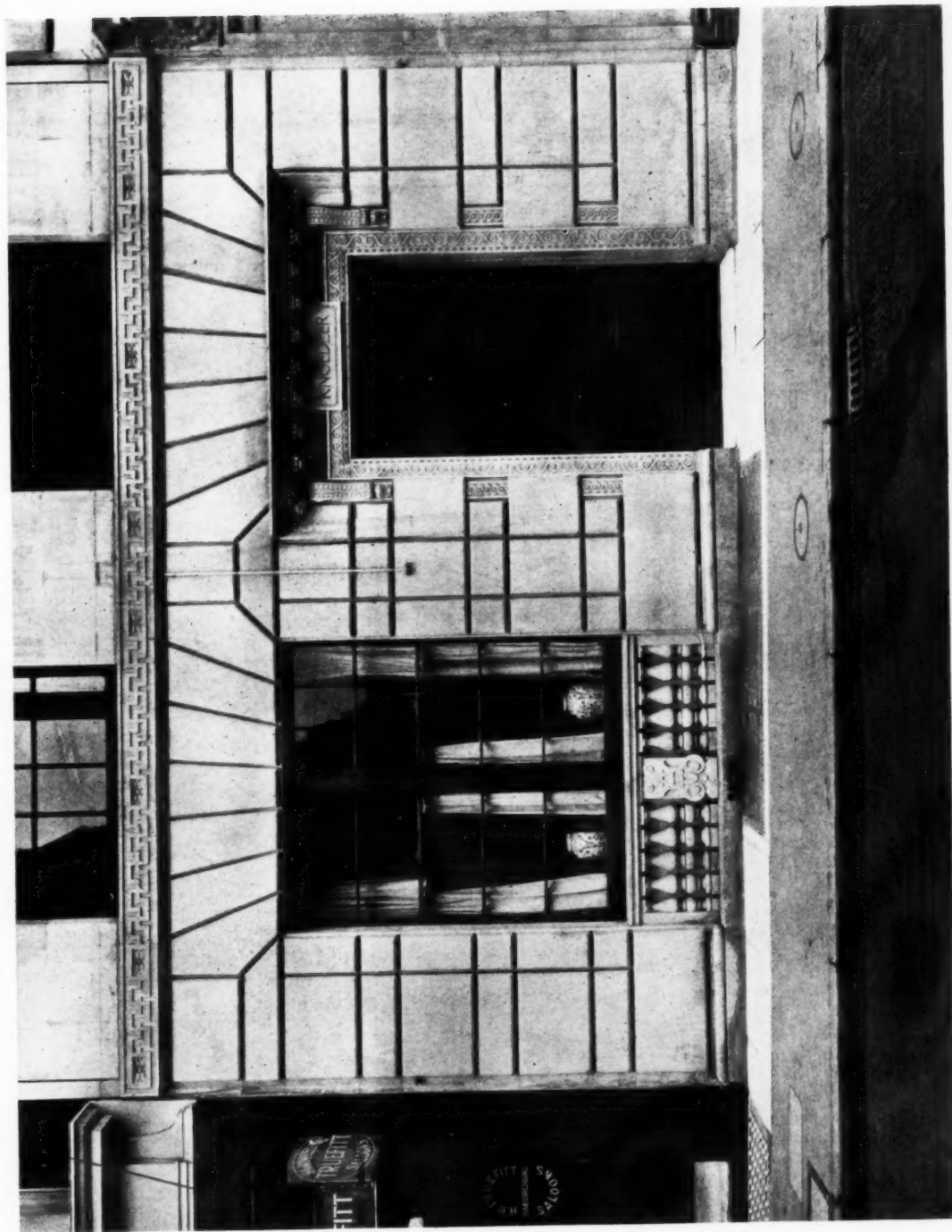


NUMBER 15, OLD BOND STREET.

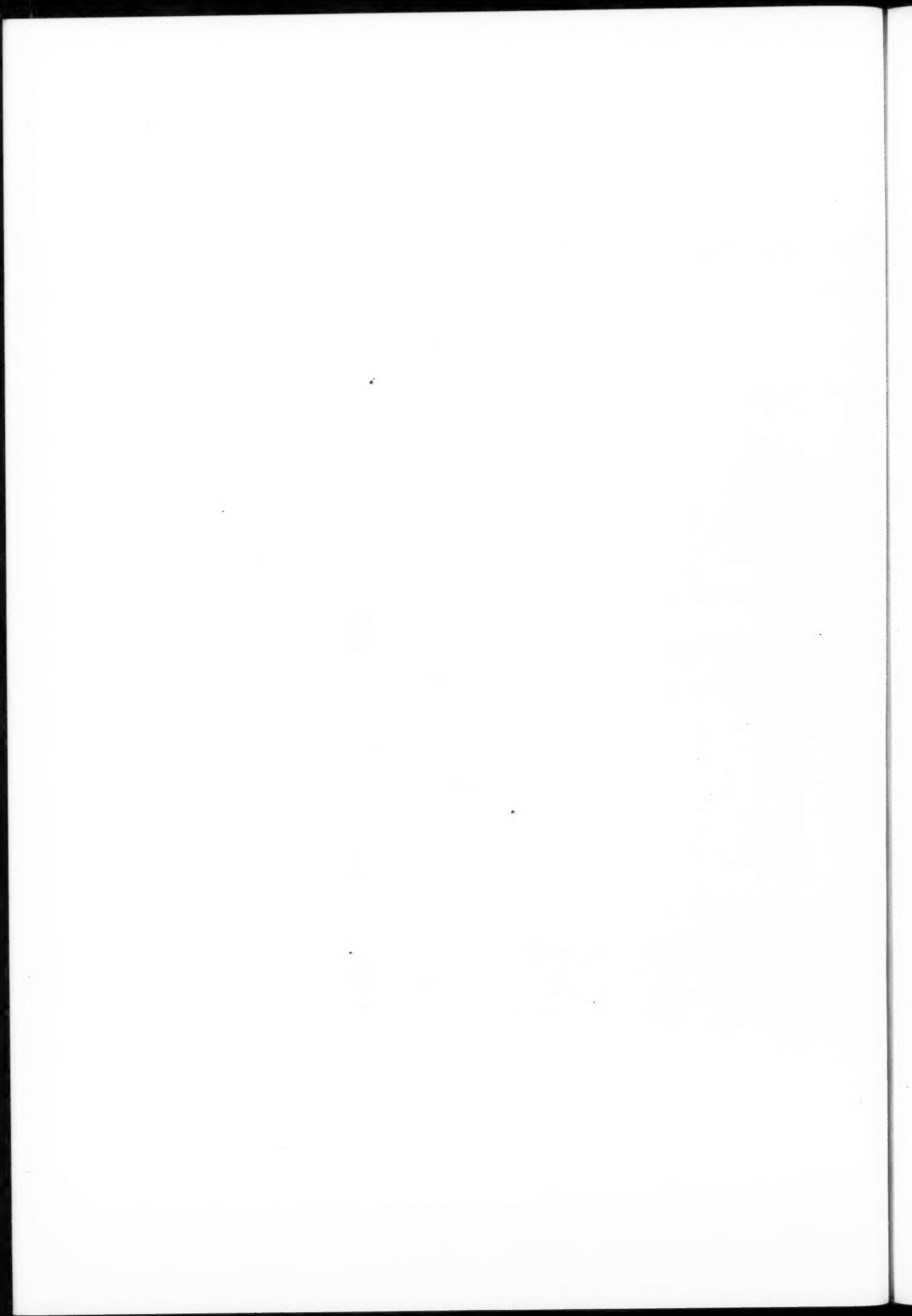
Alterations to Messrs. Knoedler and Co.'s Premises, 15 Old Bond Street :

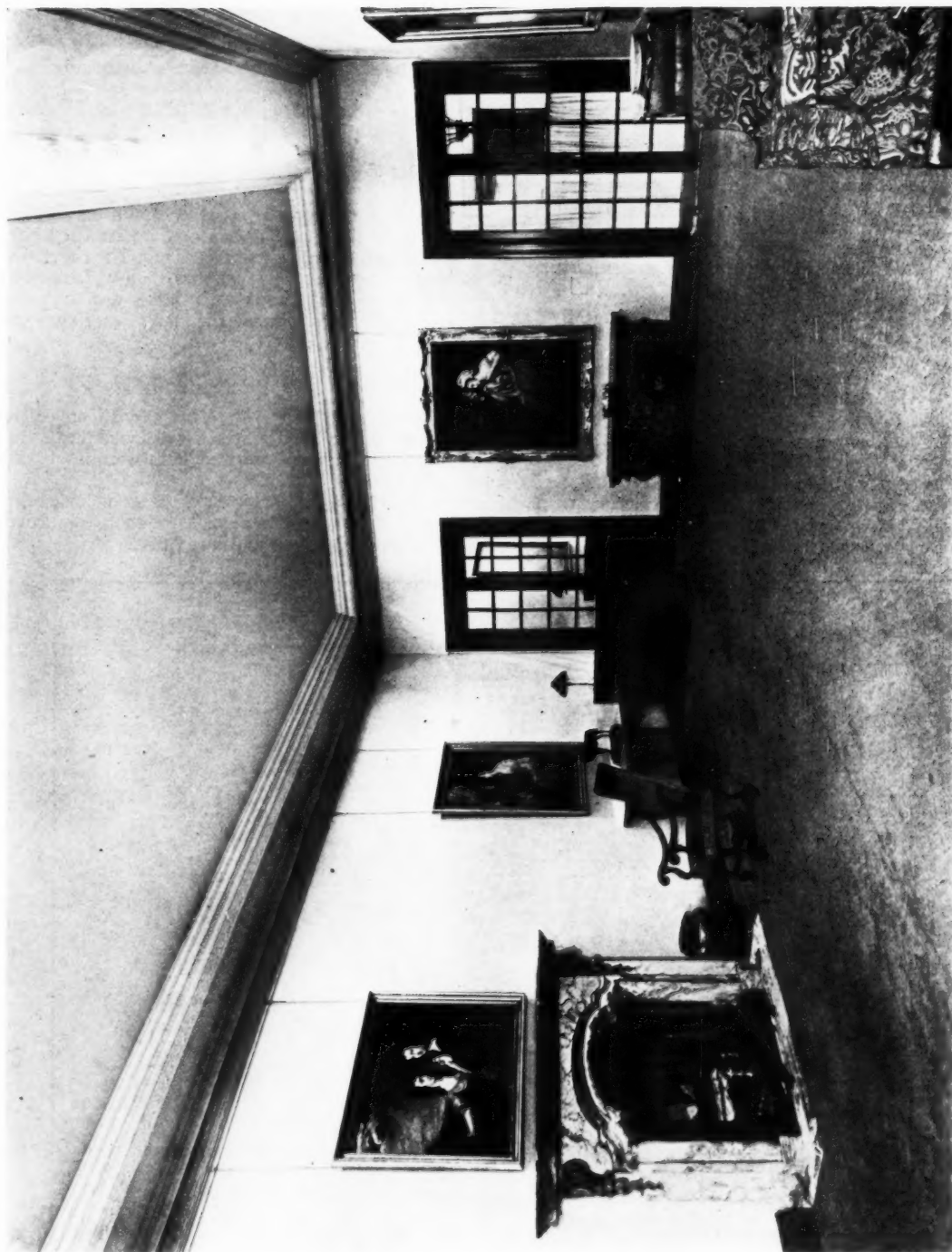
Detail of New Façade

Thomas Hastings, M.Arch., F.A.I.A., Architect



This new façade for the well-known Bond Street and New York picture-dealers is one of the few elevations by an American architect London possesses.





ALTERATIONS TO MESSRS. KNOEDLER AND CO.'S PREMISES, 15 OLD BOND STREET: THE NEW RECEPTION ROOM
THOMAS HASTINGS, MARCH, F.A.I.A., ARCHITECT

Recent Work at Welwyn Garden City

LOUIS DE SOISSONS, F.R.I.B.A., S.A.D.G., Architect

OUR illustrations of some of the more recent work carried out at Welwyn Garden City—recent, that is to say, in that it has been completed during the last two years—well show the varied classes of houses erected there. Property ranging from small dwellings costing little more than £500 or £600, and large houses of £5,000 or £6,000, have been built. The *cul-de-sac* of houses illustrated on this and the succeeding pages owes something both to the well-known college and almshouse "close." They allow of the erection of cheap and pleasant houses. Then, following, are "type" houses—also cheap in erection, because doors, windows, and so on, are standardized. At the same time, there is no monotony of appearance. The doctor's house is one such as is to be found in any good residential neighbourhood.

Perhaps the most marked quality in the Welwyn Garden City, as in the Hampstead suburb, is the preservation of individuality without the usual concomitant—incompatibility. It is an estimable merit of a well-planned garden city of houses such as those under notice, that it provides for just as much, or just as little fraternization among its denizens as they care to encourage. Here sociability need never become too free; and while the broad idea of a garden city suggests a certain community of citizenship and a certain feeling of fraternity, this, with well-considered planning such as that under notice, need never degenerate into "the freedom that restricts freedom."

Group of Twelve Houses at Welwyn Garden City; Orchard Cul-de-sac

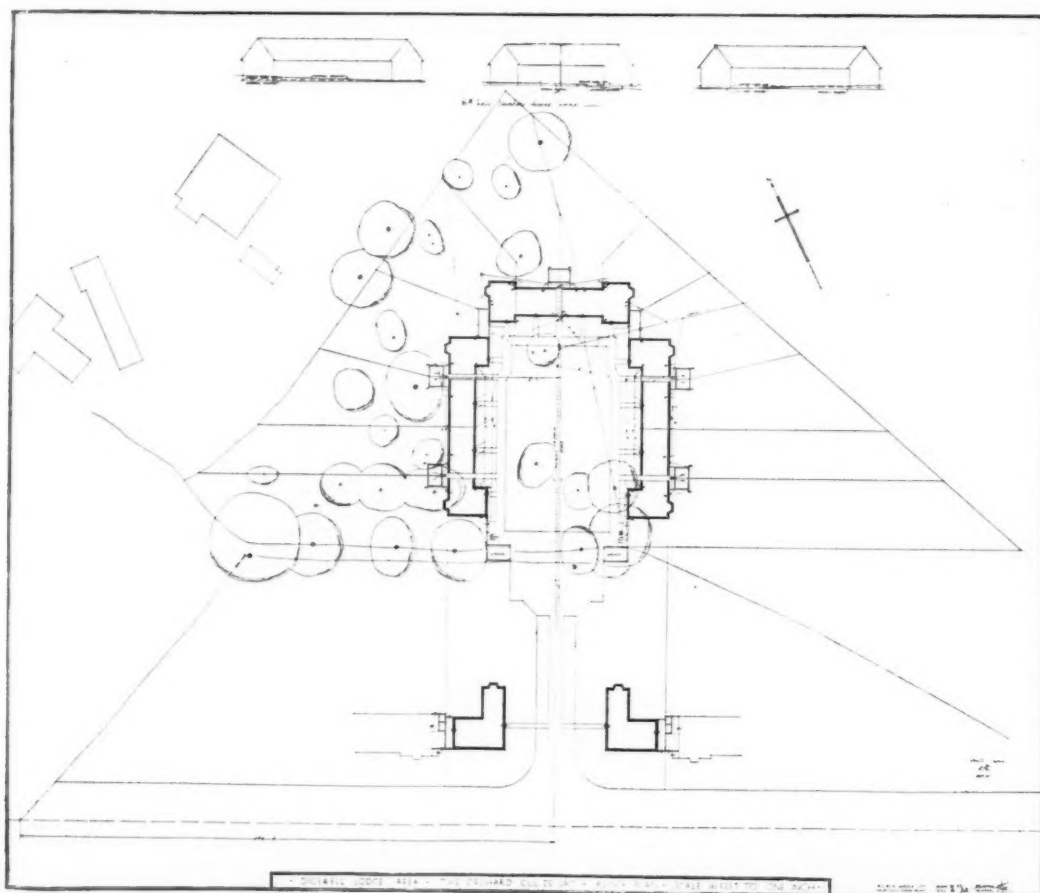
These houses are being built by Messrs. Welwyn Builders, Ltd., for sale. The walls are to be in sand-faced bricks, the roof covered in Downey's hand-made sand-faced tiles. The steel windows and leaded lights are by Messrs. The West Bromwich Casement Co. Domestic hot water is to be run off an "Ideal" open fire domestic boiler. The cooking to be by gas. The metal casements are set in oak frames.

The twelve houses present a scheme built on three sides of a square, on the site of an old orchard, and it has been so arranged as to sacrifice two trees only. The centre quadrangle will be treated as an open space, on which no fences or hedges are to be allowed; each house owner paying a fixed annual sum towards the maintenance of the central quadrangle or green.

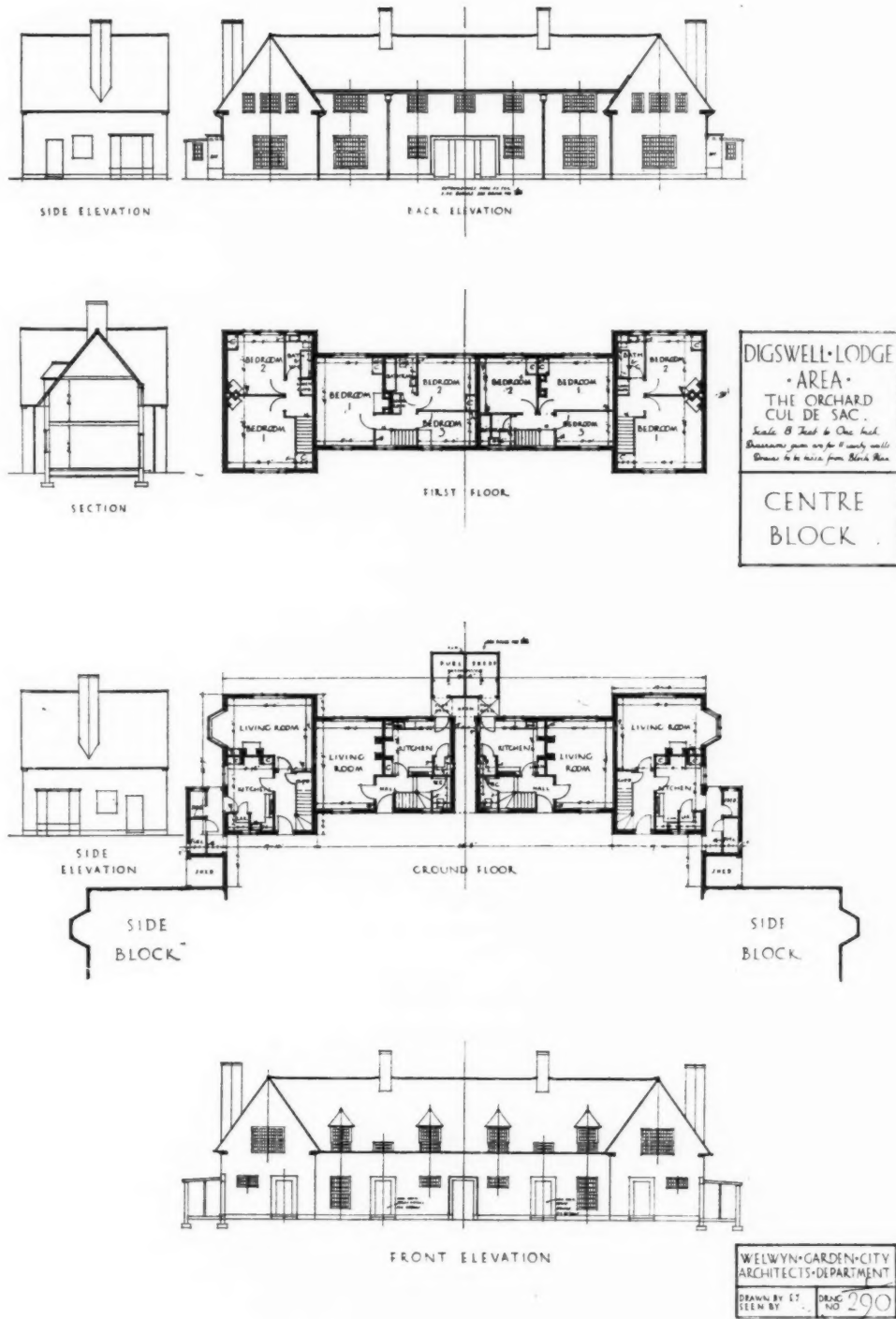
Pair of Houses Type 50

These houses were built in May, 1923, by Messrs. Welwyn Builders and Joiners, Ltd., for sale. "Cookanheat" range and central heating from two radiators were used, and in some cases "Thermostoves."

The walls are of 9 in. Fletton brick, the cement rendering of which was done with Sczerelmey, the roofs were covered with Tucker's hand-made sand-faced tiles.



A CLOSE OF HOUSES IN DIGSWELL LODGE AREA: BLOCK PLAN.

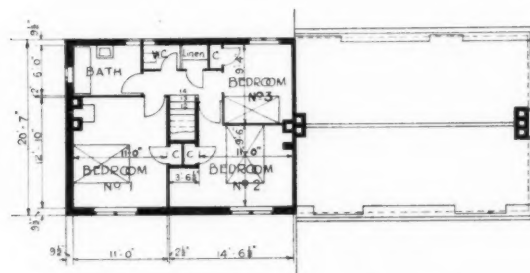


A CLOSE OF HOUSES IN DIGSWELL LODGE AREA: THE CENTRE BLOCK.

LOUIS DE SOISSONS, F.R.I.B.A., S.A.D.G., ARCHITECT

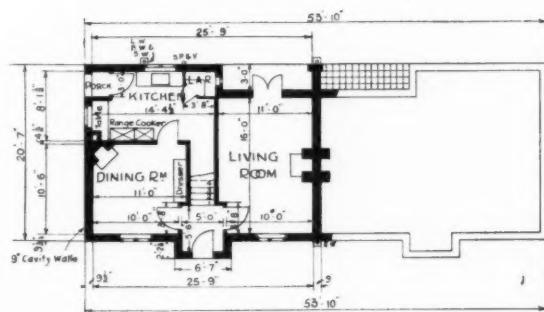


THE FRONT ELEVATION.



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

ROOF PLAN

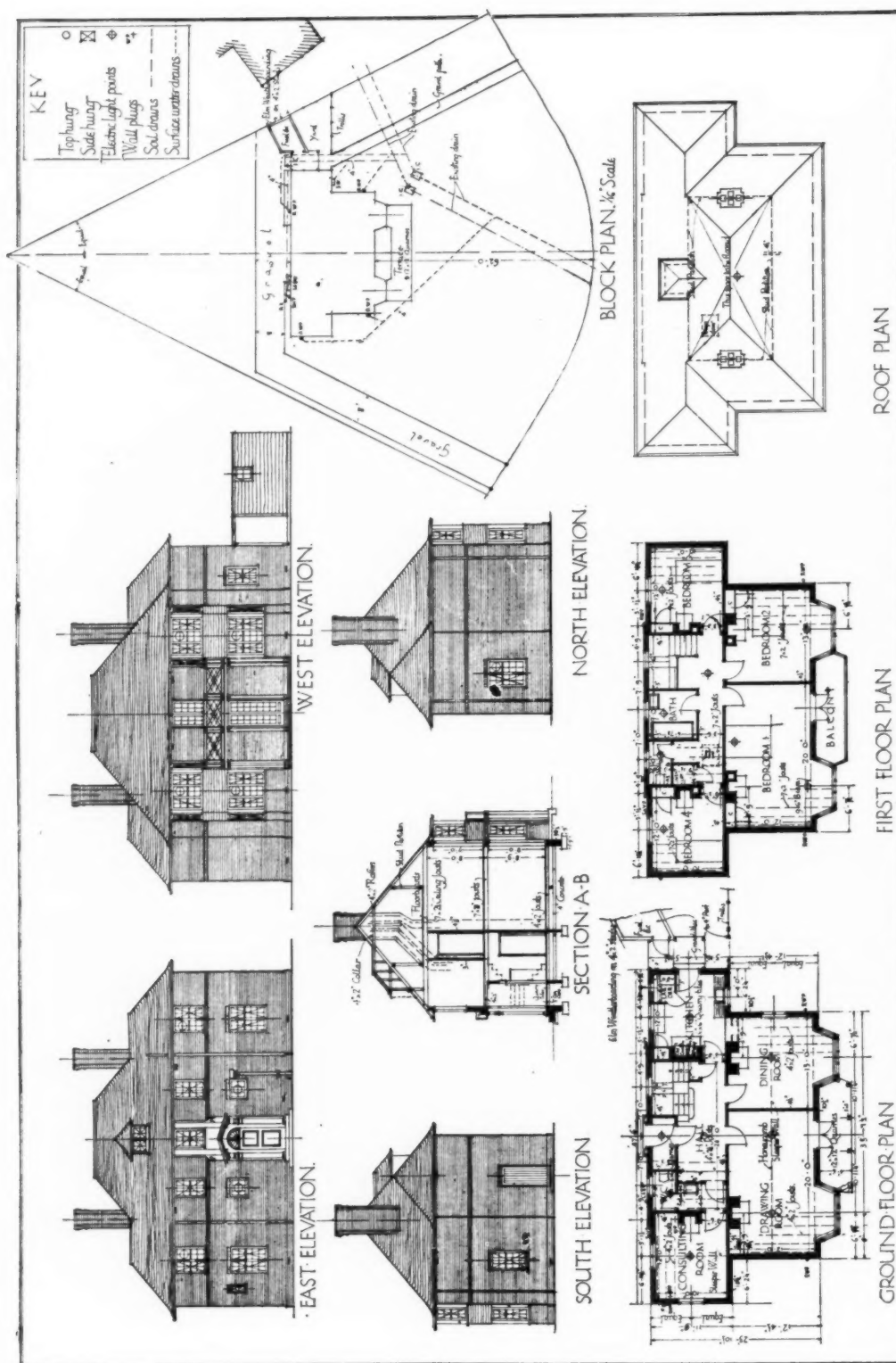


GROUND FLOOR PLAN

STANDARD TYPE COTTAGES IN BRIDGE ROAD, WELWYN GARDEN CITY;
LOUIS DE SOISSONS, F.R.I.B.A., S.A.D.G., ARCHITECT.



A PAIR OF HOUSES AT WELWYN GARDEN CITY.
LOUIS DE SOISSONS, F.R.I.B.A., S.A.D.G., ARCHITECT

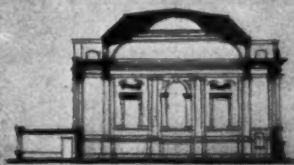


HOUSE AT WELWYN GARDEN CITY FOR DR. FRY : SCALE 8 FEET TO AN INCH

Louis de Soissons, A.R.I.B.A., S.A.D.G., Architect, Welwyn Garden City. Drawn by [initials] Traced by [initials] Checked by [initials] Seen by [initials] April 28th 1922 Drawing Number 966.



HOUSE AT WELWYN GARDEN CITY FOR DR. FRY. LOUIS DE SOISSONS, F.R.I.B.A., S.A.D.C., ARCHITECT



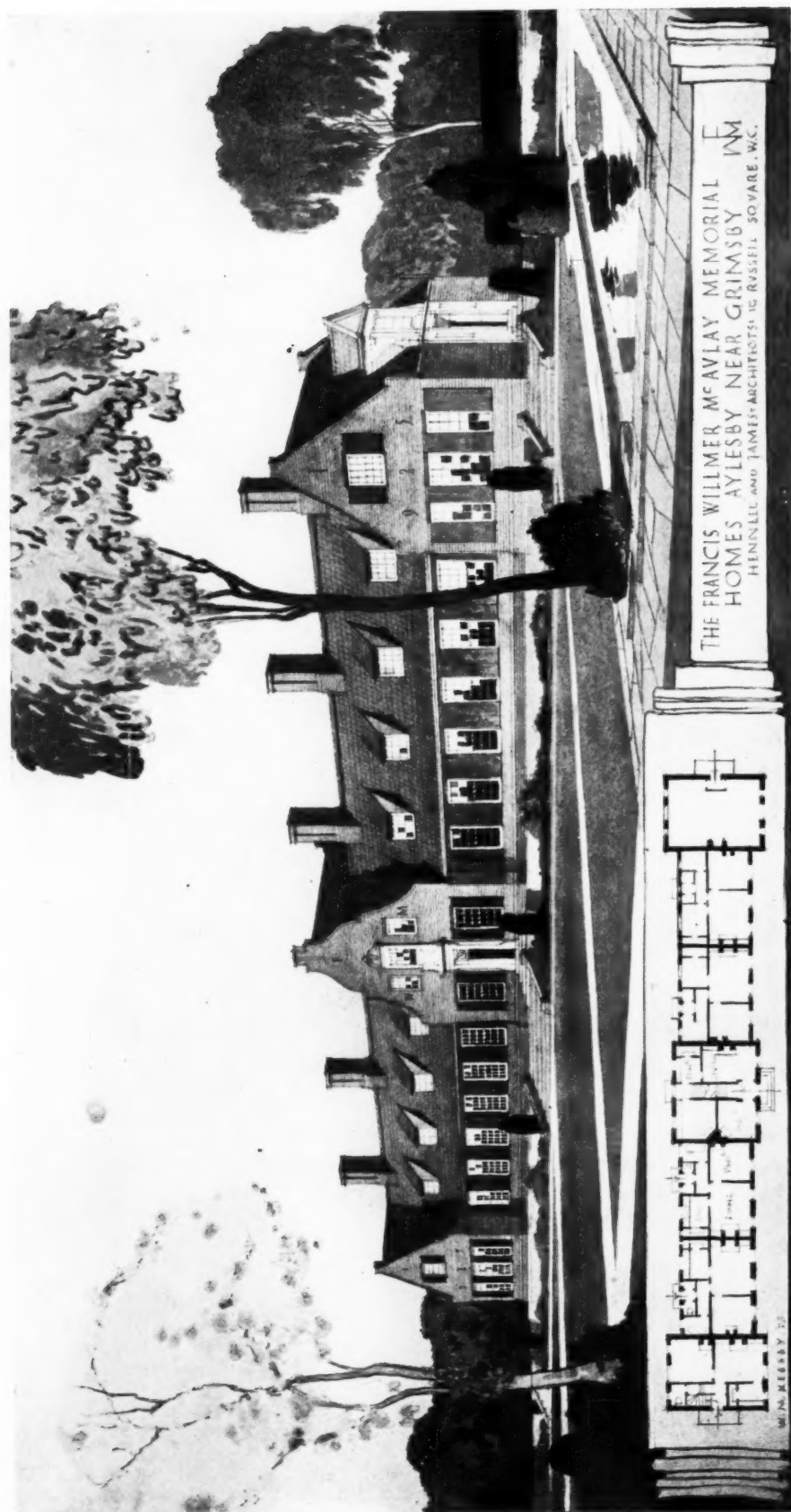
NEW PREMISES AT DONCASTER
BRIERLEY & RUTHERFORD ARCHT.

NEW PREMISES AT DONCASTER FOR THE WESTMINSTER B. W. H.
(Royal Institution.)



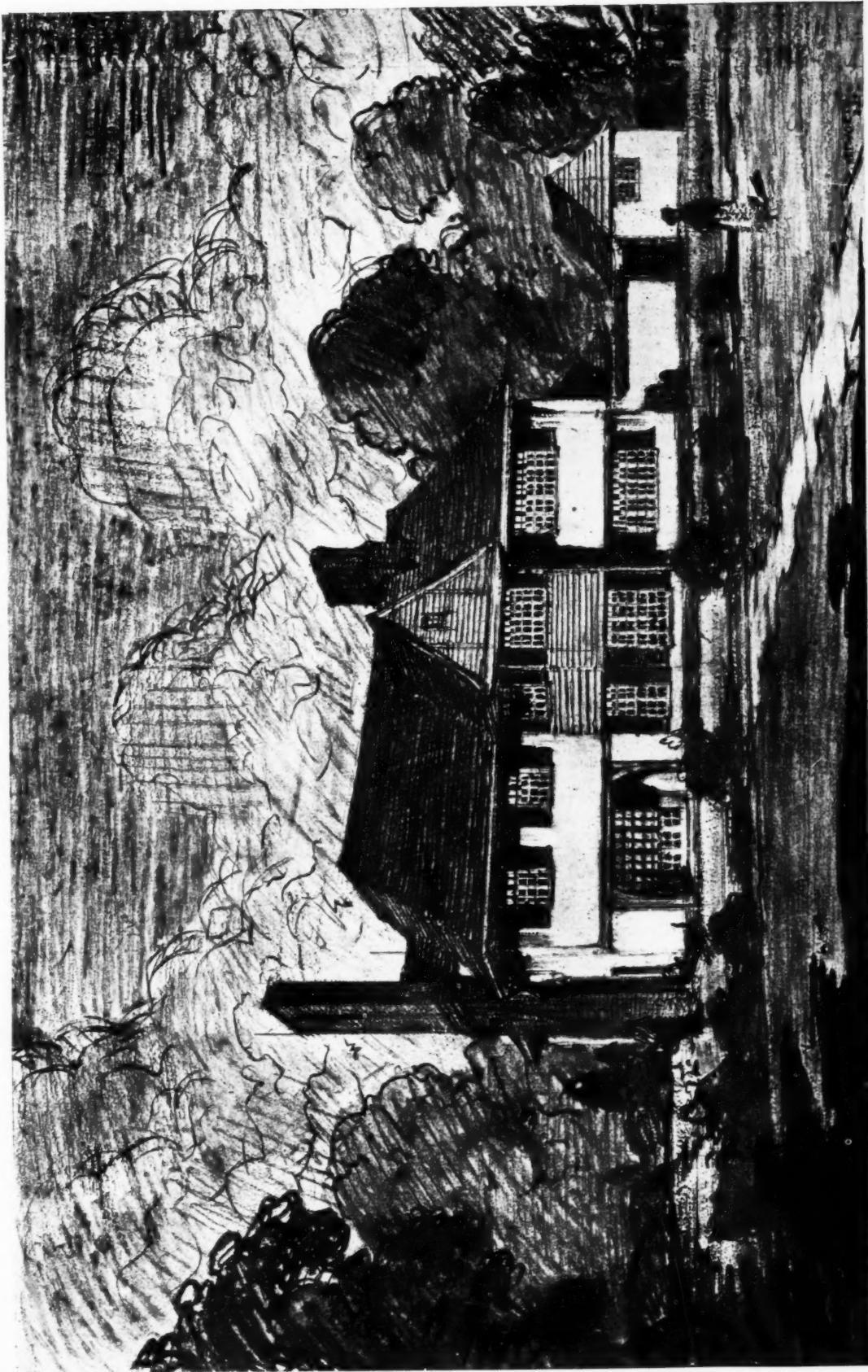
WESTMINSTER BANK LIMITED
ARCHITECTS, 13 LENDAL, YORK.

TERMS: W. H. BRIERLEY AND J. H. RUTHERFORD, ARCHITECTS
(Royal Assn.)



THE FRANCIS WILLMER McAULAY MEMORIAL HOMES, AYLESBY, NEAR GRIMSBY. HENNEL AND JAMES, ARCHITECTS

(Royal Academy Exhibition.)



HOUSE IN BISHOP'S AVENUE, EAST FINCHLEY. P. D. HEPWORTH, A.R.I.B.A., ARCHITECT.
(*Royal Academy Exhibition.*)

Regulated Architecture—I

A Substitute for By-Laws

By WILLIAM HARVEY

TO many architects and to most building owners the restraint exercised by the by-laws is undeniably burdensome. Arbitrary rules which intervene between the intention and the execution of a design not unnaturally seem mischievous and unwelcome, both to the artist who has bestowed time and thought upon its elaboration and to the person who has to suffer the delay and additional expenditure that these rules occasion. "Why may not one build what one pleases and as one pleases?" is a question that is almost certain to be asked in surprise and indignation by each individual in turn as his outlook is directed towards the practical consideration of building problems, and he finds himself for the first time confronted with the by-laws. A sense of obligation to the community may supply an answer in general terms to this oft-repeated question, yet each particular restriction inevitably presents itself as something harsh and senseless as it cuts athwart one cherished detail or another of a well-considered design.

Had the makers of by-laws been interested in all aspects of architecture they might surely have devised some method of softening the blows they deliver upon architectural art in attempting to drive the piles on which to erect an architectural science that shall ensure human safety and the permanence of material construction.

Beauty is a part of architecture, and no rule that aims at producing good building can completely attain its object if all artistic conditions are overset in the process of its application. Yet, as our regulations are applied at present, many designs are adversely affected, or even completely spoiled as far as appearance is concerned, by the alterations insisted upon by the by-laws and by those whose official duty it is to administer them.

But to admit that the number of designs injuriously affected is very great does not necessarily imply that all by-laws are to be regarded as an unmitigated nuisance, or that official surveyors should be spoken of as "Mandarins" or "Jacks-in-office," as hasty folk have been inconsiderate enough to call them. So far from this being the case, surveyors are usually reasonable and helpful men, willing to look at both sides of a question and discover if possible some method of administering the law with the least inconvenience. Their partial lack of success in this matter is not, therefore, to be regarded as a personal fault, but on the other hand the blame cannot be laid entirely upon the by-laws themselves.

A great part, perhaps the greater part, of the friction that occurs in the course of the application of the by-laws to particular plans and proposals might be avoided if these plans and proposals had been made by architects more fully conversant with the by-laws and more capable of taking up a sympathetic attitude of mind towards them. The surprise at finding oneself unexpectedly tripped up, and the suddenness of the fall, adds force to the shock, and the architect who neglects to consult the local authorities, or to read the by-laws, until an objection is raised to his plan, is naturally the one who feels most hurt and who raises the loudest outcry.

But even the utmost care will not prevent accidents where the by-laws of adjoining districts differ capriciously in a few particulars while agreeing in the rest. That one district should permit attic rooms to be built with ceilings sloping up from a height of 5 ft., while another requires a vertical wall or ashlar 5 ft. 6 in. in height, is a direct invitation to confusion and to vexatious last-minute alterations in design. Increasing the height of the attic ashlar either means flattening the pitch of the roof or increasing

the height of the eaves, and either process may spoil the effect of the building by altering its proportions. The material chosen for the roof-covering may also have to be abandoned, for plain tiles that are efficient on a steep roof cannot be considered safe and watertight on a low one.

The ideal of providing a reasonable minimum of cubic air space per square foot of floor area is a sound one, and if the by-law were to be stated as a fixed ratio it might be more logical. But it would also mean bothersome calculations for each attic room in each design, and builders, who are now driven to take advantage of all expedients in the interests of cheapness, would be tempted to omit the ceiling altogether for the sake of obtaining the cubic air space up to the apex of the roof!

That by-laws of some kind are necessary will be admitted by most architects who have lived and worked in lands where by-laws either do not exist or where they may be evaded with tolerable ease. The indescribable squalor in which Jewish immigrants lived in the neighbourhood of Jerusalem in Turkish times and in the early days of the British occupation (whatever they do now) was no advertisement for the policy of allowing things to regulate themselves. Dwellings composed of opened-out kerosene tins standing amid accumulations of stagnant sewage can hardly be taken as representing the architectural ideals of the golden age when laws do not exist because they have become unnecessary. As the inhabitants of these slum dwellings were almost exclusively recruited from Europe, and as the most shocking developments occurred after the Turks had been driven out of the country, the state of affairs can hardly be ascribed to the effects of Turkish misrule. As a matter of fact, the ordinary inhabitants of the Jerusalem district in Turkish days were singularly well housed in vaulted masonry constructions of great architectural character and beauty.

The jerry-building instinct does not only make its effects apparent in the hovels erected by poverty-stricken outcasts, and without by-laws to impose some standard of decency, a great many individuals belonging to so-called civilized communities would be quite content to erect cottages around their works or upon their estates in a more flimsy manner than they would themselves consider suitable for the construction of pigsties.

A streak of meanness crops out in the most unexpected places, and it is by no means always the poorest home-builder who is most deficient in the sense of architectural fitness. A landowner who is powerful enough to insist that by-laws do not apply within his boundaries is not always the best person in the world to be trusted to exercise his own discretion in such matters. The cottage that such a person may patch together out of old and rotting materials sometimes exhibits the utmost disregard for the by-laws and also for the very elements of order.

Difficult as it may be to make penniless squatters improve their homes and their mode of life, or to force them to install some efficient system of sanitation, it is also difficult to control the man of good family who is powerful enough to avoid the law, and is at the same time mean enough to take advantage of his position to do so.

Laws that cannot be enforced are admittedly worse than useless, but it would be absurd to consider that the by-laws which regulate building in this country belong to this class because they sometimes fail in face of besotted ignorance or deliberate craft.

English architecture is undoubtedly suffering very great harm at present from certain injudiciously framed by-laws, which needlessly misdirect design into channels that are

incompatible with convenience and beauty; but it is suffering far greater harm through the indifference of the English people as a whole to the rational design of buildings, their arrangement and convenient grouping.

The vast majority of Englishmen live in houses or in part shares of houses, but very few of this great number could be trusted to revise the existing by-laws governing house design, or could be expected to discuss them in an impartial or scientific manner. Too generally the Englishman's interest in building regulations begins and ends in some specific case, and his views are almost certain to be expressed in the form of a protest against what he considers an injustice inflicted upon himself or upon one of his friends.

"The autocratic surveyor has forbidden Jones at the oil shop to erect a wooden army hut on its flat roof," or "has put Robinson to a great deal of expense by making him add a lot of quite unnecessary piers to strengthen the four-story wall that he (Robinson) had erected in sound 9-in. brickwork."

Architects may disapprove of some by-laws; their clients not infrequently disapprove of all by-laws indiscriminately, since they "don't see their use." In these circumstances the by-laws cannot possibly be wholly done away with until a much more thorough education has inspired the whole population with a sense of the obligation of good building.

It need hardly be said that facilities for such general education of the people do not exist at present. Even in the technical and architectural schools the connection between the artistic side of design and the practical issues of safety, permanence, and convenience is often but feebly indicated. The successful student may leave school imbued with a feeling that by-laws are a hindrance to design, instead of with the knowledge that it should be his aim in practical life either to submit to them gladly, in complete assurance of their fitness, or to endeavour to amend them.

Did we as Englishmen, or as English architects, enjoy an introductory education in the more general aspects of architecture and its contact with hygiene and commerce, as well as its details and ornaments, the by-laws would not seem to us so strange nor so appallingly exacting when we at length come face to face with them in the design and erection of some specific building.

As a first step towards the establishment of an educated public conscience in regard to building, which might be depended upon to act as a substitute for by-laws, it is necessary to recognize clearly our deficiencies in the matter. That we "don't see the use of by-laws" if we are laymen, and grumble at them if we are architects, may only indicate how badly we are in need of their guidance, and how vital it is that they should be clearly formulated in the best interests of architecture as a whole, and then that they should be rigidly enforced. At the present moment an ordinary English building owner could not be trusted to exercise a sound discretion without the help of the by-laws which are for him the only available authoritative textbooks upon his duty to his fellow-man in connection with building matters. His architect may be more fully equipped with knowledge and with public spirit, but his influence may not prove strong enough to save the situation. Not all buildings are designed by architects, and in any case "He who pays the piper calls the tune."

The infants of the British race are not taught at their mothers' knees good manners in building, and if they blunder into the possession of enlightened views on the subject as they grow up, it is by luck and not by good management.

Sometimes a definite attempt to instil a sense of responsibility in the public mind results in the production of novels bearing upon the housing question, and Charles Kingsley's "Yeast" and "Two Years Ago" both deal with the effect of inadequate cottages upon the health and morality of the inmates. Such efforts are, however, highly exceptional. An intelligent and eloquent preacher often feels that architecture is not his province, and though he may invite the co-operation of his congregation in establishing and maintaining institutions in which young "first

offenders" may be saved from the contamination of the slums, he is dumb upon the subject of the design of buildings which are nothing more or less than potential slums of the future. The traditions of his calling do not do all that might be hoped to encourage him in this direction, and Kingsley and a few other lonely pioneers are conspicuous in that they have thought fit to interpret the negative injunction "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house" into a positive command to improve it for him.

If ever a working substitute for by-laws is to be put in practice without incurring the danger of worse architectural anarchy than we suffer from at present, it must be founded upon a generally accepted sense of mutual concern of the whole population in good and wise building. And though our generation does not happen to work by way of general popular education in building matters, such a course is not necessarily either impossible or impracticable.

We already possess some public apparatus for the instruction of the young in the handicrafts, and much might be done to direct this teaching into a more interesting and useful channel. Energy that is wasted upon absolutely useless paper folding and plaiting, and in the formation of objects which the youngsters' good sense directs them to destroy the moment they escape from school, might be devoted to the making of model houses and their arrangement in suitable groups. A syllabus that would permit of development from the kindergarten stage upwards in reference to architecture would give point and interest to instruction that is already established and already costs large sums of money that are now expended to very little purpose except to litter the streets in the neighbourhood of schools.

In the meantime education in architectural matters has reached a higher level in the person of the expert town-planner than is represented by the by-laws, and the secret of the success of certain housing schemes lies in the respect

FIG. 1.



HOUSES IN HAMPSTEAD
DESIGNED AS PART OF A TOWN-PLANNING
SCHEME WITHOUT UGLY PARAPETS TO PARTYWALL

HOUSES AS DESIGNED TO COMPLY WITH THE BY-LAW RELATING TO THE PARAPET ON A PARTY WALL.



they exhibit for rules that have been determined by research and investigation.

In the most successful housing schemes and town plans a compromise has been arrived at in regard to the application of the by-laws. Concessions have been made by the

authorities as to widths of roads, and in the materials and methods to be adopted in building. The town-planner for his part has guaranteed in return the preservation of open spaces and the avoidance of overcrowding. By-laws and the substitute for by-laws are adjusted to work together for the good of the scheme (see Fig. 1.)

Mere relaxation of all regulations without guarantees that a high standard of design and execution would be maintained could lead to no such happy results, for building that is guided only by ignorant and greedy exploitation is far worse than the by-law product, monotonous and grotesque as that may be (see Fig. 2). It has proved at least a stage in the development of something better, and but for the by-law system, which insists that some attention shall be given by building owners to their duties as well as to their rights, the still larger duties of the town-planner would never have been recognized.

Imperfect as they are the by-laws remain an educational agency of great value, and contribute to that fuller and wider knowledge that can alone find an effective substitute for them.

Book Reviews

English Rooms and Their Decoration at a Glance.

That the history of a nation is not just a matter of the names and dates of kings and queens and famous battles is being more and more clearly realized. Consequently the teaching of history is undergoing a great change, and there is an endeavour now to understand the thoughts and habits of the many as well as the actions of the few. To achieve this it is necessary to suggest a background for the daily life, and thus it is that the last few years have seen an enormously increased interest in such matters as the architecture, clothes, furniture, decoration, and so on, of past ages, in order that a more complete picture of an age may be built up.

Until recently there had been a certain lack of co-ordination of subjects actually related intimately which have been studied as isolated entities. Nowadays we have come to perceive that there is a more or less close connection between politics, religion, and architecture, between the arts and the social conditions, between international relationships and furniture, and so on.

Towards obtaining a picture of this background and an understanding of this relationship, the "At a Glance" series is an invaluable aid. Previous volumes in the series have dealt with architecture and with furniture. The latest addition is devoted to internal decoration; but as this subject is a big one, two volumes are to be devoted to it. The one now before us deals with the period from the Norman Conquest up to 1620. The second volume will carry on the survey until the end of the eighteenth century. The system adopted by Mr. Hayward is the same excellent one as that which prevailed in his book on furniture. The letterpress is clear, terse, and succinct, and explains the social trend and the changes in design which it brought about. The illustrations are clear, and consist of interiors and details of existing buildings. Under each illustration the actual or approximate date is given, thus literally "at a glance" it is possible to trace successive stages or periods of development. In the period under review we see the gradual transition from a condition in which everything is organized for war and defence to one in which neighbours no longer live in constant fear of each other, and consequently the comforts and graces of life begin to find expression.

We look forward with pleasurable anticipation to the second volume, in connection with which, however, we cannot help reiterating the same regret that we expressed elsewhere in connection with the volume dealing with architecture, namely, that the nineteenth century is not included.

Those who have seen the Period rooms at Wembley will understand how quickly change followed change, and yet how each, while the outcome of its own age, was related to the social conditions, ideals, and aspirations, no less than to the political creeds and the literary expression of its time.

H. J. B.

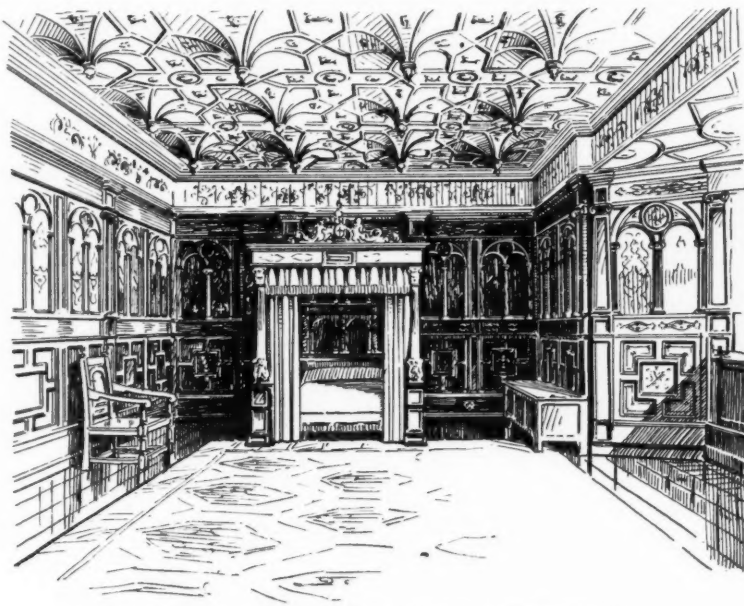
"English Rooms and Their Decoration at a Glance." By Charles H. Hayward. London: The Architectural Press. Price 5s. net.



THE HALL, AT GREAT DIXTER, SUSSEX.
15th Century.

The exposed timber work, although producing a decorative effect, is a necessary part of the construction, and is in no sense a sham applied surface decoration.

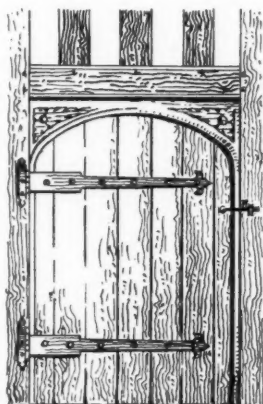
(From "English Rooms and their Decoration at a Glance.")



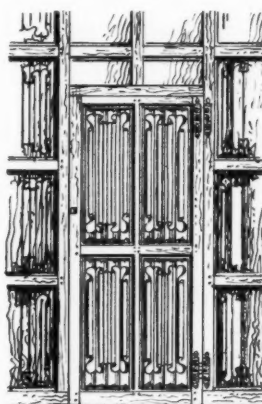
A BEDROOM FROM SIZERGH CASTLE, WESTMORLAND.
NOW IN THE VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM, SOUTH KENSINGTON.

Second half of 16th Century.

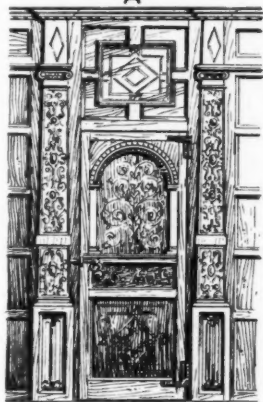
The room is richly treated in the Elizabethan style. The oak panelling is broken at intervals by pilasters, the capitals of which are carved with a very free rendering of the Ionic classical style. The upper panels are arcaded, and are inlaid with geometrical and arabesque designs. The heavy pendants in the plaster ceiling are very usual features in Elizabethan rooms.



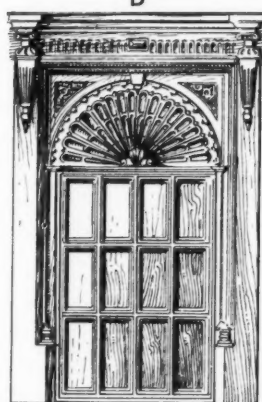
A



B



C



D

EXAMPLES OF DOORS.

A. An early 16th-century door with the typical Gothic heading, the spandrels of which are carved with leaf work. B. Simple door of the first half of the 16th century, with panels carved with the linenfold motif. C. An Elizabethan door decorated with inlay, and flanked by semi-Ionic pilasters. D. A Jacobean door headed by a series of flutes, arranged in a semicircle or fan shape.

(From "English Rooms and their Decoration at a Glance.")

A New Series of Cathedral, etc., Guide-Books.

In compiling this new series of guide-books to cathedrals, abbeys, and churches, a somewhat novel method of approach has been adopted. Mr. Gordon Home, who edits the series, asked his contributors, who are many, to dwell especially upon the human element in the buildings described, restricting architectural description to features of particular interest. To the credit of most of the contributors it can be said they have by no means forgotten that the human element inheres in the architect as well as in his work. Thereby they set a good example to certain writers in the lay Press who seem to regard the architect as impersonal and negligible.

As to the architectural details, these are to be found by the earnest inquirer in numberless technical books and periodicals. Their banishment from a small pocket guide-book can be willingly condoned, chiefly on the ground that 99 per cent. of the users of such books invariably skip anything that has the least appearance of technicality. They never let study interfere with enjoyment, and details merely worry them. They feel that the space would be more amusingly occupied with something more intimately personal—with historical or legendary rather than with purely architectural details—storied glass, and figures in bronze, stone, and wood, if you will, because of the obvious human element in them; but moulding and tracery are too remote from personality.

And so Mr. Gordon Home is certainly wise in his generation, and his little books, favouring the idea that the proper study of mankind is man, are thereby much more likely to become popular than those which seem to halt between vapid prattle and the dull cataloguing of unco-ordinated details. In the present series, both these pitfalls are skilfully avoided. Illustrations as well as text—and we notice with pleasure that the former include a good sprinkling of plans as well as an attractive array of elevations and views—serve to convey a just idea of the physical aspect of each building; which, after all, is at least as impressive and important as the necessarily brief accounts of warriors, priests, and kings, their amenities or their vicissitudes, their trials and triumphs, upon which the authors might have been tempted to bestow exaggerated attention, but which, as a rule, they have kept in true perspective.

From the round dozen or so of volumes that have been sent to us for notice, it would be invidious to select any for special commendation. All are so good that in each instance the editor seems to have appointed exactly the right person to compile the book; himself providing a large number of illustrations which, by their quality and copiousness, contribute substantially to the success of the series.

"Cathedrals, Abbeys, and Famous Churches." Edited and illustrated by Gordon Home. About a dozen volumes, each comprising 192 pages, 6½ x 5½ in. Price 2s. 6d. net per volume. London: J. M. Dent and Sons, Ltd.

Voluntary Hospital Accommodation.

The distribution of the Government grant of £500,000, and the corresponding effort made by voluntary agencies, has resulted in a marked improvement in the financial position of the voluntary hospitals, so far, at least, as current maintenance expenditure is involved. Attention has since been directed more particularly to the need for the provision of additional voluntary hospital accommodation, and early in 1924 the Minister of Health (Mr. Wheatley) asked the Voluntary Hospitals Commission to make inquiry on the following terms of reference: "The Voluntary Hospitals Commission are requested to enquire into and to report upon the extent of the additional voluntary hospital accommodation required in England and Wales and the best means of providing and maintaining it." The Commission have now presented their report to the Minister of Health. It is published by the Stationery Office as a command paper (Cmd. 2486).

The Commission point out that there is no general agreement as to the number of hospital beds required for a given unit of the population; and they have not attempted to lay down any ideal standard, as they felt that in the present circumstances inquiry could be more usefully directed to a consideration of what extensions could be regarded as immediately necessary and capable of accomplishment within a reasonable period of

time. Comparatively little building has been undertaken since 1914, and the hospitals have not, therefore, expanded with the growth of the population. But there has been a distinct improvement in the last two years, though a large proportion of the building undertaken in this period has been in respect of additional accommodation for nurses.

The additional accommodation recommended by local voluntary hospital committees outside of London amounts in England and Wales to 10,614 beds, and King Edward's Hospital Fund recommend an addition in London of 2,088 beds. The Commission regard the London figure as a conservative estimate, and they express the conviction that it does not permit of any reduction. But they come to the conclusion that the recommendations of some of the local committees are in excess of the immediate needs; and they therefore consider that there should be a reduction of 20 per cent. on the provincial figure. The Commission accordingly recommend that the need of additional accommodation in the provinces amounts to 8,000 additional beds.

The reports of the local voluntary hospital committees and the experience of the Commission in distributing the Parliamentary grant of £500,000 towards maintenance deficits point to the conclusion that the voluntary system has now recovered sufficiently to be able to undertake the maintenance of the 10,000 additional beds proposed. Figures are quoted in an appendix showing that in 1923 the voluntary hospitals in England and Wales (including London) taken as a whole, had a surplus on the maintenance account amounting to almost £497,000. But though during the last few years the majority of the hospitals have been able to balance their budgets, there has been no margin out of which capital for expansion on any considerable scale could be provided. In the circumstances the Commission recommend that some measure of State assistance is essential. Failing such assistance there is in most cases no prospect of essential extensions being undertaken within the next few years; and the Commission remark that "failure to meet the present needs of a growing population will not only entail a great amount of avoidable suffering, but it must also react to the prejudice of the voluntary system."

The Commission advise that at the present-day prices, excluding the cost of site, furniture, and equipment, a reasonable figure for the cost of extending plain buildings of a utilitarian character would be £400 per bed; and they recommend that the State should provide 50 per cent. of the cost up to a maximum of £200 per bed on condition that the remainder of the expenditure is raised locally, or is available from existing building funds. The Commission recommend that the first condition of administering such a grant as they contemplate should be to require each local voluntary hospital committee to submit a scheme for the provision of the necessary new beds in its area, if necessary, in consultation with the local committees of any other areas interested. In addition, it would be necessary to require that the beds be provided where they are most urgently needed; that full and effective use is made of them, and that they are provided at the lowest cost commensurate with the needs of the area. Extensions should, where possible, take place on the periphery instead of at the centre, and the erection of costly buildings of elaborate design should in general be discouraged, preference being given to buildings of a utilitarian and semi-permanent type.

In view of the heavier responsibilities and new duties which would devolve on local voluntary hospital committees if these proposals were adopted, the Commission recognize that some reconstitution of these bodies might be necessary.

New Entrance to No. 2 Gore Street

On the facing page we illustrate the new entrance to two flats at No. 2 Gore Street, Queen's Gate, S.W. Mr. W. K. McDermott, A.R.I.B.A., was the architect. Owing to the ground-floor level being 3 ft. below the pavement level, there was very little height available for the new doorway, which was consequently considerably recessed to give it importance. Fibrous plaster was used for the pilasters, the cornice, and the side panelling. The frames and posts are of deal, and the door and sidelights of oak. Extra large letter-plates were provided to take small parcels as well as letters. A parcel cupboard is arranged at the back, with a separate key for each cupboard. The wing walls are in "Atlas" white cement, with piers and finials at outer ends. The fibrous plaster work was executed by Messrs. Battiscombe and Harris, and the general contractors were Messrs. Hammond and Barr, Ltd.



NEW ENTRANCE TO NO 2 GORE STREET, QUEEN'S GATE, S.W.
W. K. McDERMOTT, A.R.I.B.A., ARCHITECT.

The illustration shows the new entrance to two flats. Owing to the ground-floor level being 3 feet below the pavement level, there was very little height available for the new doorway, which was consequently recessed considerably to give it importance. Other particulars appear on page 284.



The Equitable Life Assurance Building, New York City (Starrett & Van Vleck, Architects) is one of the most imposing business blocks in America. The stone of which it was constructed was backed, set, and pointed in "Atlas White" Portland cement mortar. The reasons therefor, and the method adopted, are set forth in "Non-Staining Mortar," a book I will be pleased to send to any architect interested.

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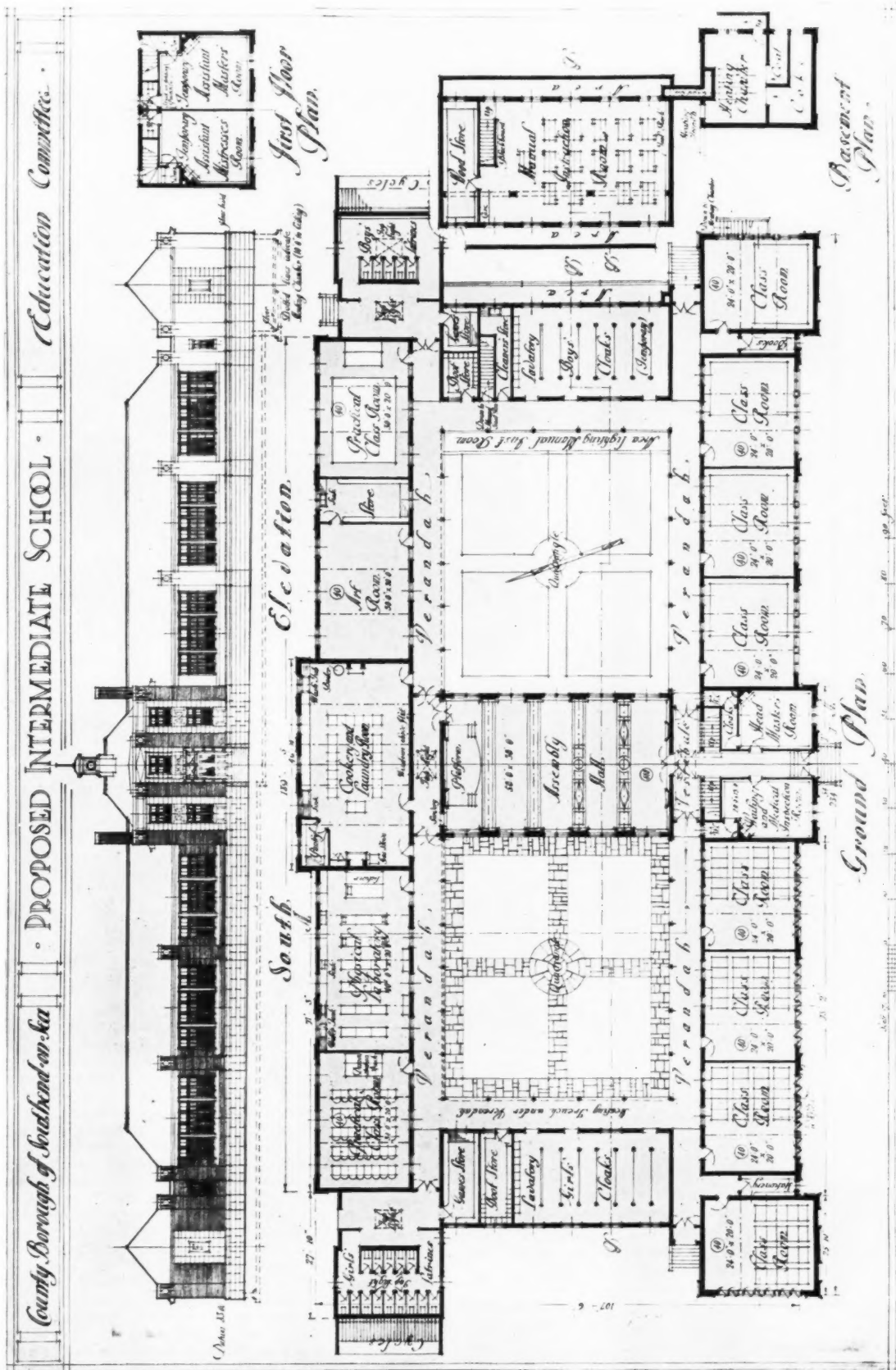
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SOUTHEND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COMPETITION: WINNING DESIGN. ERIC A. W. IXER, ARCHITECT.

Correspondence

The Manchester Art Gallery Winning Design

To the Editor of THE ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL.

SIR,—In your issue for June 17 you describe the lighting of the winning design in the Manchester Art Gallery Competition, and in your criticism state that for the upper galleries a modified form of the Hurst-Seager method is being used; and you further state: "That the upper floors, devoted to picture galleries, are mainly top-lighted, in the manner known as top-side-lighting—that is to say, the light is thrown on the walls and not on the floor, so that the visitor remains in shadow and reflections are avoided." This is exactly what top-side-light would do, and Mr. Webber himself has stated that this has been accomplished. He claims it is a "modified form," but it is so far modified that it would fail entirely to achieve the purpose intended. A very diminished light would fall equally on the picture and the spectator, and reflections would be dominant, for the only part of the room which would be better lighted than the spectator would be the top of the walls and the cornice.

In order that a comparison may be made with this design and the designs for top-side-light shown in the R.I.B.A. Journal and elsewhere, may I state the essentials which top-side-light demand, for it is only by this method that the desired effect can be obtained?

1. That the light falling upon the picture shall be from one source only.
2. That the source of light shall be invisible to the spectator when standing in the proper position for viewing the picture.
3. That the picture wall must be the best lighted part of the room.
4. That the spectator must be in a subdued light, having a ratio (as shown by my tests at Wembley, the Wallace Collection, and the Fitzwilliam Museum, published in the R.I.B.A. Journal) of 1 to 5 F.C.
5. The walls of the gallery must be far enough apart to permit tilting of the pictures, in order to avoid reflections of those on the opposite wall, as shown by my diagram in the R.I.B.A. Journal.

It will be seen, therefore, that the upper galleries of the Manchester design do not strictly conform to this method; and this, in a design showing such architectural skill throughout, is to be regretted.

Yours sincerely,

San Francisco.

S. HURST SEAGER.

Waterloo Bridge

Sir Reginald Blomfield, R.A., in a letter to "The Times" (referred to in a note on page 260), states: As recently stated in "The Times," it is now proposed to consider the possibility of widening Waterloo Bridge without any alteration to the existing piers. May I suggest that this proposal misses the point of those who wish to preserve the bridge? If the piers are to remain as they are but the roadway over is to be widened, it is obvious that this can only be done by some method of oversailing—that is, by reconstructing part of the footpath and the balustrade outside and beyond the side faces of the present bridge. The result must be a complete change in the design of the bridge, owing to the shadow of this overhanging structure; and, whatever else we may have, we shall no longer have the Waterloo Bridge that we know and admire. It seems to be forgotten that our concern is with the bridge as it is, and not with its alteration.

It is difficult to reconcile this proposal with the principal argument advanced for the destruction of the bridge, that the piers are unequal to their work. If carried out, this proposal would seriously increase the work of the piers. Either, therefore, the proposal is impracticable, or if it is

structurally possible the piers must be fully equal to their work, and there is no justification for the contention that the bridge must be destroyed because the piers are unequal to their work. May I again suggest that the right solution is to preserve the existing bridge as it is and to build a new bridge at Charing Cross clear of the property of the Southern Railway?

Law Reports

New Forest Rights

Attorney-General v. Bradbrooke.

King's Bench Division. Before Mr. Justice Finlay.

This was a motion in the action of the Attorney-General *v.* Bradbrooke, and raised the question of the rights of persons to set up stalls and serve mineral water to the public in the New Forest near Southampton.

An injunction was sought against the defendant, of Cosham, restraining him from setting up any stall in the New Forest until the trial of action.

The defendant wrote a letter to the Court, in which he said he had done this to get a living and save himself from going on the dole. He said he was a poor man and could not afford to come to London, and suggested that the trial of the action should take place at Southampton in order that he might be able to attend and state his case to more advantage.

It was stated that a number of persons had trespassed on the New Forest by setting up stalls. In one case a lady had obtained considerable notoriety by walking from Southampton to London, with her dog, to argue her case. When an interim injunction was granted in that case all the other defendants refrained from further trespass with the exception of three, of whom the defendant was one.

His lordship said there appeared to be no defence, and granted an injunction against the defendant until the trial of action.

Arbitration, Land Assessment, and Compensation Act or Public Health Act

Thurrock, Grays and Tilbury Sewage Board v. Thames Land Co.

King's Bench Division. Before Mr. Justice Roche.

This matter came before the Court on a case stated by an arbitrator, arising out of an arbitration between the Thurrock, Grays and Tilbury Sewage Board and the Thames Land Co., as to compensation for damage arising from laying a sewer and rising main through the property of the Thames Land Co. The parties arrived at certain terms, and the dispute was in regard to the balance formed by the arbitrator, who found that if the arbitration was under the Public Health Act his award would be £5,000, and if under the Acquisition of Land Act, 1919, it would be £2,000.

Mr. MacMorran, K.C., appeared for the Thurrock Grays Board, and Mr. Montgomery, K.C., for the Land Company.

The points at issue are fully dealt with in the judgment.

His lordship said the case presented many difficulties. The point he had to decide was whether certain rules which tended to limit or restrict the amount of compensation that might be awarded upon a compulsory acquisition of land which were contained in the Acquisition of Land Act, 1919, applied to this case. Mr. Montgomery had contended that the Act of 1919 did not apply for two reasons. The first was that the land in this case was not acquired compulsorily, but was acquired by agreement between the parties. He cited in support of his argument the decision in the case of the Corporation of Blackpool against the Star Estate Company. His lordship said he was unable to accept this argument of the Land Company. The case cited was one in which certain matters were dealt with by a private act. That was a different case from this one. That decision laid down the principle, however, that the Act of 1919 was not to apply unless the land was not merely authorized to be acquired but was acquired compulsorily. The answer to that in this case was that the laying of a sewer as the sewer was laid here involved the acquisition of land by a statutory body. The next proposition laid down by Mr. MacMorran was that in the circumstances of this case the laying of the sewer was a compulsory acquisition of land, as appeared from the facts recited in the agreement between the parties dated July 15, 1924. The sewer was laid before this agreement, and was laid pursuant to notices and powers conferred by the Public Health Act of 1875. His lordship thought the proposition was established that there was a compulsory



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acquisition of land pursuant to authority which brought the case within the Acquisition of Land Act, 1919.

He accordingly came to the conclusion that his answer must be in the affirmative to the question whether this was an arbitration under the Acquisition of Land Act.

Parliamentary Notes

[BY OUR SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE.]

Mr. G. Hall, a Labour member, has presented a Bill to make further provision with respect to the housing of miners.

Mr. Betterton informed Mr. Day that on June 22, 50,910 building trade workers were registered as unemployed, of whom 12,000 were skilled workers, 20,000 skilled workers' labourers, and 18,000 others.

Parliament rose on August 7 until November 16.

R.I.B.A. Final and Special Examinations

The final and special examinations, qualifying for candidature as Associate R.I.B.A., were held in London from July 8 to 16. Of the sixty-two candidates admitted (one of whom took Part II only), forty-two passed, and the remaining twenty were relegated. The successful candidates were as follows:

Aimer, K. W. (Special).	Parker, J. H.
Allcorn, W. J.	Prangeli, C. T.
Alsop, G. H.	Price, W. J. B.
Andrews, C. E. A. (Special).	Read, G. E.
Baily, B. W. S. S. (Special).	Rix, A. D.
Bhuta, G. M.	*Rizkalla, N. (Special).
Bowen, W. A. F. (Special).	Senyard, L. (Special).
Channon, G. D. (Special).	Sharma, P. L.
Chatterley, A. O.	Simpson, J. R. M. (Special).
Conolly, H.	Smith, E. S.
Cooper, J. B.	Stokes, H. W.
Fahy, C. P. (Special).	Taylor, K. S.
Forster, E.	Thompson, A. J. (Special).
Harman, R. S. D.	Tocher, W.
Hume, B. S.	Toone, A. A. G.
*Ibrahim, A. F. (Special).	Turner, E. G. (Special).
King, J. G.	Unwin, E. (Special).
Lander, F. J.	Winter, F. T. (Special).
Martin, G. L.	Woodgate, J. A. (Special).
Metcalfe, J. A.	Wray, K. F.
Miller, J. C.	Wrigley, F. H.

* These candidates are not British Subjects, but took the Examination for the purpose of obtaining certificates to that effect.

Special Examination in Design for Former Members of the Society of Architects.

The special examination in design for former members of the Society of Architects to qualify for the Associateship was held from July 8 to 13. Of the twenty-three candidates admitted, nineteen passed, and the remaining four were relegated. The successful candidates were as follows:

Adams, W. H.	Jones, E. D.
Bill, E. R.	Macphail, D. S.
Burton, F. C.	Marshall, J. E.
Chilton, E. A.	Millett, D. G.
Collins, H.	O'Beirne, T.
Collins, S. H.	Picton, C. J.
Fox, C. W.	Price, T. G.
Hughes, J. O.	Scales, S. G.
Jackson, G. W.	Werry, W. J.
James, J. C. F.	

Examination in Professional Practice for Students of Recognized Schools Exempted from the Final Examination.

The following candidates passed this examination, which was held on July 14 and 16:

Allen, A. M. (Architectural Association).
Asbury, F. N. (Liverpool University).
Barton, H. L. (Liverpool University).
Cameron, A. E. (Architectural Association).
Clark, J. C. (Robert Gordon's Colleges, Aberdeen).
Crossley, F. H. (Liverpool University).
Cuthush, P. (Architectural Association).
Deas, T. V. (Glasgow School of Architecture).
Farquhar, L. G. (Glasgow School of Architecture).
Gashan, W. (Robert Gordon's Colleges, Aberdeen).
Green, F. E. (Architectural Association).
Greenidge, J. T. W. (London University).
Khan, H. H. (Architectural Association).
Lawrie, R. S. (Robert Gordon's Colleges, Aberdeen).
Lewis, D. A. (Miss) (Architectural Association).
Lewis, E. W. (Architectural Association).
Low, H. J. (Architectural Association).
Meikle, E. (Miss) (Architectural Association).
Minoprio, C. A. (Liverpool University).
Morrison, R. H. (Robert Gordon's Colleges, Aberdeen).
Owen, J. H. L. (Liverpool University).
Percik, W. (Architectural Association).
Preston, F. L. (Architectural Association).
Roscoe, F. Jr. (Architectural Association).
Shaw, C. C. (Liverpool University).
Silcock, F. T. (Miss) (Liverpool University).
Stewart, A. M. (Robert Gordon's Colleges, Aberdeen).
Thearle, H. (Liverpool University).
Walker, A. G. (Glasgow School of Architecture).
Wall, M. A. M. (Miss) (Liverpool University).
Wills, T. T. (Liverpool University).
Wood, J. W. (Architectural Association).
Wood, T. R. (Robert Gordon's Colleges, Aberdeen).

Competition News

Enlargement of the Carnegie Hall, Dingwall.

The following notice has been issued by the R.I.B.A.: "The Competitions Committee desire to call the attention of members to the fact that the conditions of the above competition are not in accordance with the regulations of the R.I.B.A. The Competitions Committee are in negotiation with the promoters in the hope of securing an amendment. In the meantime members are advised to take no part in the competition."

Canberra War Memorial.

Competitive designs, open to architects of Australian birth wherever located, are invited for the Australian War Memorial at Canberra. To ensure that competitors abroad may be on the same footing as those in Australia, the conditions governing the competition will not be available in Australia until they are available at the office of the High Commissioner, Australia House, Strand. The Competition closes simultaneously in Australia and London on March 31, 1926.

The Bathgate Schools Competition.

Mr. T. P. Warwick, F.R.I.B.A., the assessor appointed by the West Lothian Education Authority in connection with the limited plans competition recently held for the Technical and R.C. Schools, proposed to be built in Edinburgh Road, Bathgate, has made his award as follows:

First (for both schools).—T. Aikman Swan, A.R.I.B.A., F.S.A., 42 Frederick Street, Edinburgh.

Second (£100).—Messrs. Reid and Forbes, 7 Ainslie Place, Edinburgh.

Third (£50).—Messrs. Thomas Roberts and Hume, 22 Engine Street, Bathgate.

There were eleven competitors.

List of Competitions Open

Date of Delivery.	COMPETITION.
Sept. 1	High bridge over Copenhagen Harbour. Three prizes to the value of Kroner 35,000. Apply City Engineer's Office, Town Hall, Copenhagen. Deposit of Kroner 100 (returnable).
Sept. 5	Proposed new out-patient and casualty department for the Board of Management of the Wolverhampton and Staffordshire Hospital. Assessor, Mr. T. R. Millburn, F.R.I.B.A. Premiums, £200, £150, and £100. Apply, with deposit of £1 1s., to Mr. W. H. Harper, House Governor and Secretary, Wolverhampton and Staffordshire Hospital.
Oct. 1	The Municipality of Drammen, in Norway, invites Norwegian and foreign architects and engineers to compete for the construction of a new bridge across the river of Drammen (Drammenselven) between the two neighbourhoods Bragernes and Strömsö. Judging Committee: Professor Otto Linton, Stockholm, appointed by the Norwegian Engineers' Association; Mr. Arne Eide, architect, Oslo, appointed by the Norwegian Architects' Association; Mr. M. E. N. Saxegaard, district-chief, appointed by the Norwegian State Railways; Mr. Olaf Stang, engineer-in-chief, Oslo; Mr. U. Lied, chief physician, chairman, appointed by the Municipality of Drammen; Mr. Otto K. Römcke, wholesale merchant, Drammen; and Mr. A. Heitmann Amsten, secretary, Drammen. Mr. Lied and Mr. Saxegaard are respectively president and vice-president of the committee. The following prizes are offered for the best designs: First prize, 10,000 Norwegian crowns; second prize, 8,000 Norwegian crowns; third prize, 6,000 Norwegian crowns. Apply Bureau of the Government Engineer (Statsingeniørkontoret) at Drammen. Deposit 40 Norwegian crowns.
Oct. 8	Proposed Fire and Police Station at Marlborough Crescent, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Premiums: £500, £300, and £100. Assessor, Mr. Percy S. Worthington, D.Litt., M.A., F.R.I.B.A. Apply, with deposit of £2 2s., to Mr. A. M. Oliver, Town Clerk, Town Hall, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, by July 4.
Dec. 31	The Argentine Government offer prizes of 10,000, 5,000, 4,000, 3,000, and 2,000 Argentine gold pesos for the best architectural designs for a National Institute for the Blind. Apply Enquiry Room, Department of Overseas Trade, 35 Old Queen Street, Westminster, S.W.1.
Jan. 1, 1926	New buildings for Liverpool College on a site at Mossley Hill. Assessor, Sir Giles Gilbert Scott, R.A. Premiums, £500, £300, and £200. Conditions and plan of site can be obtained from Mr. J. H. Lintern, secretary, Liverpool College, Sefton Park Road, Liverpool, on and after September 1, on payment of a deposit of £2 2s.
June 30, 1926	Competitive designs are invited by the Ministry of Wakfs for the rebuilding of the Mosque of Amrou. Prizes of £2,500, £1,000, and £500 are offered for approved projects. Those wishing to submit designs should apply before June 30, 1926, to H.E. the Under-Secretary of State to the Ministry of Wakfs, Cairo (cables "Wakfs Cairo"), who will forward details, conditions, etc. The final date for acceptance of proposals is January 1, 1927.
No Date.	H.M. Senior Trade Commissioner at Johannesburg has forwarded a copy of minutes received from the clerk to the Municipal Council of Pretoria concerning the erection of a new Town Hall in that city. It is stated in the minutes that competitive designs will be invited at a cost (first estimate) of about £200,000. British firms interested in this announcement can consult the minutes referred to on application to the Department of Overseas Trade, 35 Old Queen Street, London, S.W.1.
No Date.	A new secondary school for girls on the Thames House site for the Worcester City Council, at an estimated cost of £32,000. The competition is limited to local architects. Premiums, fifty guineas and twenty-five guineas.

The Week's News

Mr. J. O. Cook's Estate.

Mr. John Oliver Cook, of Wrottesley Road, Plumstead, Kent, architect, left £20,410, net personalty £18,070.

Housing at Surbiton Hill.

Over 500 houses are to be built on the Regent estate, Surbiton Hill, connecting Surbiton with New Malden.

Darlington Housing Schemes.

One hundred houses are to be built by the Darlington Corporation to let. It is expected that 500 additional houses will be erected during the present year.

Lanarkshire Housing Sites.

Sanction was given by the Lanarkshire County Council to the Middle Ward District Committee to acquire six sites for the erection of houses under the 1923-24 Acts.

£300,000 Bridge for Hull.

The Hull City Council have passed a scheme for the construction of a road bridge over the River Hull. The cost is estimated at £300,000.

Housing at Brandon.

The Brandon Urban District Council have appointed a sub-committee to consider the desirability of erecting fifty houses at Brandon and twenty-five at Sleetburn.

Cattle Market Extensions at Aylesbury.

The Aylesbury Town Council have decided to apply to the Ministry of Health for sanction to borrow £10,086 to cover the cost of extensions to the cattle market.

Proposed New School for Bratton.

The Wilts General Education Committee have decided, subject to the consent of the Board of Education, to purchase a site at Bratton for a new school.

A New Bridge for the Aire.

The old toll bridge across the River Aire, near Cardigan Fields, Leeds, is to be replaced by a new one. It was erected in 1829, and has been closed for the past year or two.

New Schools for Nottinghamshire.

The Nottinghamshire County Council are to erect new schools at Ollerton and Bilsthorpe. Each school will cost £22,000.

Housing Scheme for Lower Ward of Lanarkshire.

The Lower Ward District of the Lanarkshire County Council have resolved to apply to the Scottish Board of Health for sanction to erect 1,000 houses.

Hemsworth Rural Housing.

The Hemsworth Rural Council are arranging to build 250 new houses for South Kirkby as part of the scheme of 1,000 houses for the whole district.

The Guards' Memorial.

Workmen are preparing the foundations for the Guards' war memorial which is to be erected in the park enclosure adjoining the Horse Guards' Parade.

Mr. J. Broadbent's Estate.

Mr. John Broadbent, of Hale Road, Hale, Cheshire, architect and surveyor, and consulting engineer of Shell-Mex, Limited, left £5,955, net personalty £4,768.

More Houses at Yeadon.

The Ministry of Health have sanctioned the erection of seventy houses on the Hawthorne Crescent site, Yeadon, under the Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1924. The cost is estimated at £36,282.

Mr. A. Davidson's Estate.

Mr. Andrew Davidson, of Inverness, sculptor, left personal estate in Great Britain valued at £6,355. Among his works are the Flora Macdonald statue on Inverness Castle Hill, and the marble font in Inverness Cathedral.

Mr. O. C. Wylson's Estate.

Mr. Oswald Cane Wylson, M.B.E., F.R.I.B.A., M.S.A., of Beacondene, Whitstable, Kent, and of Buckingham Street, Strand, W.C., designer of many London and provincial theatres, left £1,482, net personalty £1,033.

Plymouth Town's £1,000,000 Plan.

An improvement scheme which might cost £1,000,000 is being considered by the Plymouth Corporation. The object is to provide a station for motor omnibuses, a parking place for shoppers' motor-cars, and to connect the Hoe with the centre of Plymouth by means of a thoroughfare.

Greasborough Housing.

The Greasborough Urban District Council having received the sanction of the Ministry of Health to proceed with the scheme to build a further thirty-two houses, decided at a special meeting to offer £1,550 to the Charity Commissioners for a site near to the Council's present housing estate.

Manchester's Housing Plans.

The Manchester Corporation Housing Committee suggest the further acquisition of land in Moston as a site for 610 houses of three types. The existing need in Manchester is estimated to be 17,622 houses, apart from 26,000 houses to replace those below a reasonable standard of fitness.

New Work Schemes for Manchester.

Schemes for the employment of nearly 4,000 men, at an estimated cost of nearly £195,000, have been approved by a committee of the Manchester City Council. The proposed new works include the construction of a tramway, arterial roads, and two new parks.

Architectural Partnership.

Mr. G. H. Foggitt, A.R.I.B.A., A.R.C.A., formerly of 84 Albion Street, Leeds, has entered into partnership with Messrs. Chorley and Gribbon, F. and A.R.I.B.A., of 3 Park Place, Leeds, at which address their practice will in future be carried on under the style of Chorley, Gribbon and Foggitt.

Housing at Southport.

The Southport Corporation Town-Planning Committee have decided to apply to the Ministry of Health for sanction to borrow over £102,000 for the acquisition of land and erection of houses. Of this sum, £50,561 is for the site at Shaftesbury Avenue, Birkdale, £36,158 for Canning Road (No. 2 scheme), and £16,069 for Shaftesbury Road.

House-building at Dunscroft.

At Dunscroft, half-way between Stainforth and Hatfield, 430 houses have been erected in twelve months just ended. Twelve months ago the site was beautiful woodland country, adjoining Dunscroft Abbey, and to-day there is a population of 1,500; within the next twelve months this figure will be doubled, as another 250 houses are being erected.

London's New Hotel.

After a lapse of eleven years, work has recommenced on the building of the Park Lane Hotel, Piccadilly. The new hotel will have nine stories above the ground level and 400 bedrooms. The ballroom will be one of the "finest in London." The contract for the work amounts to a little under £300,000, and it is hoped that by the end of 1926 the hotel will be ready for visitors.

Blackburn Improvements.

The Blackburn Corporation are seeking powers to borrow £87,600 to erect municipal houses and flats on the Brownhill Park site, £1,900 for the construction of a park and bowling-green, and £5,000 to render financial assistance to persons building their own dwellings. Altogether Blackburn Corporation has expended over half a million pounds providing citizens with housing facilities since the war.

The Incorporation of Architects in Scotland.

The first meeting of the council for the new session of the Incorporation of Architects in Scotland was held at 15 Rutland Square, Edinburgh—Mr. John Keppie, F.R.I.B.A., president, in the chair. There were elected to membership one associate and seven students. The personnel of the standing committees was gone over and fixed for the ensuing year. A report was submitted from the Practice Committee. It was remitted to a committee to consider and report on the question of overcrowding of the architectural profession in Scotland.

The Week's News—continued.

Mr. J. F. Fuller's Estate.

Mr. James Franklin Fuller, of Eglinton Road, Donnybrook, Dublin, architect and author, who died on December 8, aged eighty-nine, left personal estate in England and the Irish Free State valued at £32,216. He was for many years architect to the representative body of the Church of Ireland, to the Benchers of the King's Inns, and to the National Board of Education, Ireland.

Roofing-felt for South Africa.

His Majesty's Senior Trade Commissioner in South Africa reports that the Administration of the South African Railway and Harbours invite tenders for the supply and delivery of roofing-felt. United Kingdom firms desirous of receiving further particulars of this tender should communicate with the Department of Overseas Trade, 35 Old Queen Street, London, S.W.1.

A Model of St. Paul's.

A model of St. Paul's Cathedral, showing the faulty condition of the piers of the dome and the suggested method of saving the structure by means of hidden collars of reinforced concrete, has been ordered by the authorities of the Science Museum at South Kensington. It will be executed by the author of the scheme, Mr. William Harvey. The museum authorities required the model as a means of demonstrating to future generations the nature of the weaknesses discovered in Wren's structure, and the ideas of constructional experts of to-day.

Manchester and the Training of Building Apprentices.

Steps are being taken in Manchester to augment the supply of apprentices in the building industry. A committee has been appointed, under the chairmanship of Councillor Miles Mitchell, and everything is to be done to make employment in the industry attractive to the boys and their parents. The scheme is largely the work of Councillor Mitchell, and provides for the co-operation of the education authority, the employers, and the employees in securing boys and youths as apprentices. Technical and other educational training will be provided by the Manchester Education Committee and practical training by approved employers.

The Birmingham Housing Schemes.

Some astonishment has been caused in Birmingham municipal circles by the refusal of the Ministry of Health to sanction three small housing schemes designed to meet peculiar circumstances. The chief was a scheme to erect four blocks of flats of three stories in the Garrison Lane industrial district, a mile from the centre of the city. Each of the 180 flats was to contain living-room, scullery, and generally two bedrooms, with *cul de sac* roads flanked with grass plots and garden space. The original intention was to replace dilapidated and insanitary slum property, but owing to the acute housing scarcity demolition has been delayed. Apparently the Ministry object to the fact that baths were not to be provided. When the proposal was brought before the city council six months ago it was hotly opposed, but the majority of the council considered that adjacent cottage baths would suffice. A scheme for a number of experimental maisonnettes, or small flats, has also been rejected without any reason being stated. A scheme of eighty-six dwellings, smaller than the ordinary non-parlour type, for persons with a small family, or no family at all, has suffered the same fate. The Ministry insisted on separate bath-room provision instead of the bath occupying the scullery. This modification entailed a reduction in the living-room space, which, it appears, is not regarded with favour. The work had already been begun, but ordinary non-parlour houses are being substituted.

Presentation to Mr. J. A. Williamson.

Mr. J. A. Williamson, A.R.I.B.A., received a presentation from his fellow officials and members of Corporation, on the occasion of his retirement from the post of City Architect in Edinburgh. The gifts consisted of a silver salver, tea and coffee service, and a wallet of notes. Lord Provost Sir William Sleigh presided, and said that their pleasure in making the presentation was tinged with regret at losing such a capable and excellent official. He had served the city faithfully and diligently for over 45 years, and had proved himself one of the most devoted and painstaking of that admirable band of officials who had served, and were serving, the Corporation so well. In 1890, on being specially charged with the erection of

the Central Fire Station at Lauriston, Mr. Williamson was appointed Deputy City Architect, and in 1908, on the retirement of Mr. Robert Morham, he was placed in full charge of the department. He was also responsible for carrying out the erection of Portobello Baths, as well as the Town Hall and the Super-Electricity Power Station there, the new markets and slaughterhouses at Gorgie, the Gorgie Housing Scheme, and numerous other buildings, and it should be mentioned that he won the first premium prize of £250 in connection with the North Bridge competition. He had carried out his official duties with a skill and zeal which had earned for him the highest praise. Mr. Williamson, in reply, said that he had seen no fewer than sixteen Lord Provosts in the chair, and during that time he had seen many changes in the city—probably greater than at any other period in its history, including that of Lord Provost Drummond. He had seen provision made for the essential civic services—public parks, wash-houses, baths, fire-brigade stations, public-health services, markets, and slaughter-houses, electricity and tramways—none of which existed, except in a crude form, 45 years ago.

The National Association of Master Plasterers

The half-yearly meeting of the National Association of Master Plasterers was held at the Central Library, Blackpool, under the presidency of Mr. W. Masters, of Middlesbrough. During the past six months the activities of the Association have been very pronounced, inasmuch as its officials have been in attendance at something like twenty-two meetings of various kinds, namely, the National Allied Building Trades Employers' Executives, the National Allied Disputes Committee, the National Association of Operative Plasterers, the National Joint Council for the Plastering Industry, and with meetings of its own Executive. The operative plasterers have resigned from the National Wages and Conditions Council, and on April 1 this year were without rules and agreements, and were desirous of entering into agreements with the employers of plasterers either locally, regionally, or nationally. The National Association of Master Plasterers, being affiliated with the Wages Council, were prevented by that fact from entering into any agreements other than those agreed by the Wages Council. To preserve peace in the industry strenuous efforts have been made to secure a general meeting of all concerned, so that differences may be discussed, and so that it might be possible to continue the offices of the Wages Council in stabilizing wages on a national basis. However, the operative plasterers have taken a ballot vote of their members, with the result that on no conditions will they return to the Wages Council.

The meetings between the employers and operative plasterers have been marked by a distinctly friendly feeling, and the operatives have agreed to meet the National Allied Disputes Committee, so that they may put their case before them, explaining their reasons for resignation from the Wages Council, and to offer certain proposals, which have been approved and agreed by the two bodies concerned, for the future government of the plastering industry. The National Joint Council for the plastering industry have also had under consideration an educational scheme for apprentices to plastering, and during the coming session, it is hoped, classes will be set up in the various technical schools throughout the country. The scheme also includes the giving of prizes to successful students, whose work will be examined by an experienced and practical plasterer. The Council have also had under consideration a new form of indenture for apprentices, which is to be put into operation at once. The efforts of the National Association of Master Plasterers to preserve peace in the industry have thus far met with success, and it is hoped the forthcoming meeting between the National Allied Disputes Committee and the operative plasterers will result in some arrangement whereby that peace may be assured and consolidated.

The officials of the Master Plasterers Association record the continued increase in the numerical strength of its membership, and are hopeful that in the near future all master plasterers throughout the country will recognize the work done on their behalf, and hasten to affiliate themselves with the Association. The Association have decided to appoint an organizer, whose duty will be to approach all employers of plasterers throughout the kingdom, and thus they hope to swell the membership.

Trade and Craft

The Paris Exhibition.

The jury of award at L'Exposition Internationale des Arts Décoratifs et Industriels de Paris has accorded The Bath Cabinet Makers' Company, Ltd., Bath, a "Diplôme d'Honneur" on four pieces of furniture they are showing in the British pavilion. All the pieces were designed by Mr. C. A. Richter.

The New Headquarters of the British Medical Association.

The stone carving to the exterior of the premises of the British Medical Association, Tavistock Place, was done by Mr. Joseph Armitage, of 207 Gray's Inn Road, W.C.1, when it was erected for the use of the Theosophic Society. The building was illustrated in our issue for July 15. Sir Edwin L. Lutyens, R.A., was the architect.

Home Design.

Everyone who is designing, building, or purchasing a house, or remodelling an old one, should read through the current issue (No. 137) of that interesting little monthly "A Thousand and One Uses for Gas." This issue contains photographs of the various rooms in two houses in Surrey which have been equipped on sensible labour-saving lines. Sculleries, kitchens, halls, reception rooms, bedrooms—all have some special feature designed to abolish drudgery or dirt. One of the houses, with two reception and six other rooms (and of course the usual kitchen, scullery, and hall) is run easily with the help of one good "cook-general." The main feature in the fitting up of these houses is the adoption of cooking, heating, and water-heating appliances which do not require coal; but there are many other directions in which the design and equipment of these houses will interest architects, builders, and all who are about to commence life in a new home. Copies of this publication can be obtained free of charge on application to the secretary, the British Commercial Gas Association, 28 Grosvenor Gardens, London, S.W.1.

The Birmingham Building Trades Exhibition.

The Birmingham and Midland Building and Allied Trades Exhibition will be held at Bingley Hall, Birmingham, from September 7 to 19. It is the first of its kind to be held in the Midlands.

New Inventions

Latest Patent Applications.

- 19516.—Arstall, J.—Construction of houses. August 1.
19264.—Francis, A.—Device for spacing and locking shuttering for concrete walls, etc. July 29.
19197.—Heard, P.—Reinforcement of concrete, etc. July 29.
19321.—Johnston, P. L. G.—Reinforced-concrete building construction. July 30.

Specifications Published.

- 237010.—Prodor Soc. Anon and Levy, Dr. M.—Manufacture of concrete.
215357.—Pioda, L. E. W.—Manufacture of Portland cement.
237187.—Jaeger, G.—Concrete-mixing machines.

Abstract Published.

- 235257.—Schoenhoefer, R., 1 Wehrstrasse, Brunswick, Germany.—Concrete and mortar.

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.

The Latest Trade Marks

The following trade marks have been "accepted" by H.M. Patent Office, and unless any objection is lodged the Marks will be duly registered. Opposition must be lodged within one month from date quoted. All particulars and forms for opposition will be sent free by Messrs. Rayner & Co., of 5 Chancery Lane, London.

HARDMACTA.

- 459674.—Tarred Granite Macadam for road making.—The Whitwick Granite Co., Ltd., Leicester Road, Whitwick, near Leicester. August 5, 1925.

TUNNELITE.

- 459626.—Label device bearing the word Tunnelite for cement.—The Tunnel Portland Cement Co., Ltd., The Tunnel Cement Works, West Thurrock, Grays, Essex. August 5, 1925.



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