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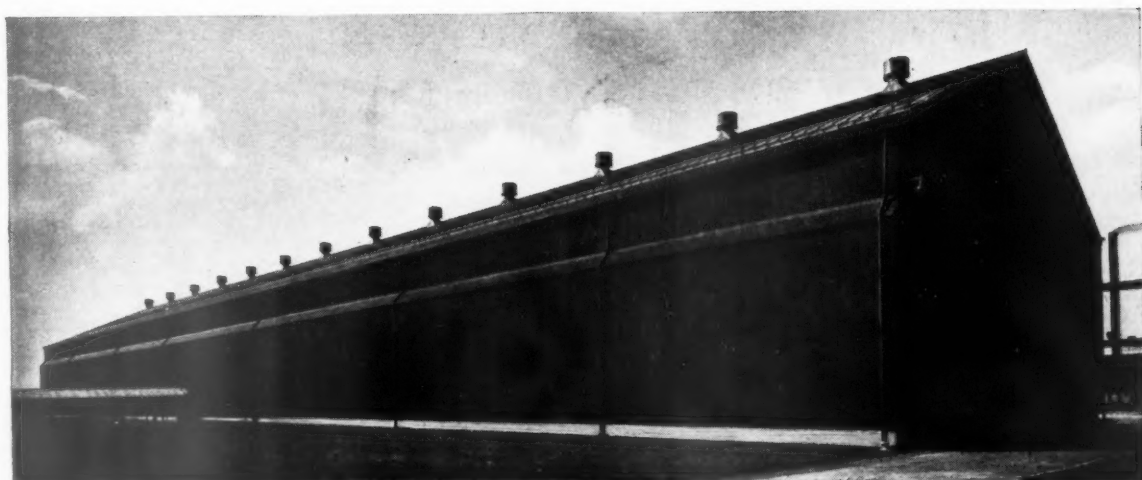
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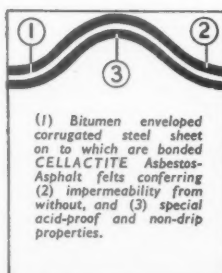
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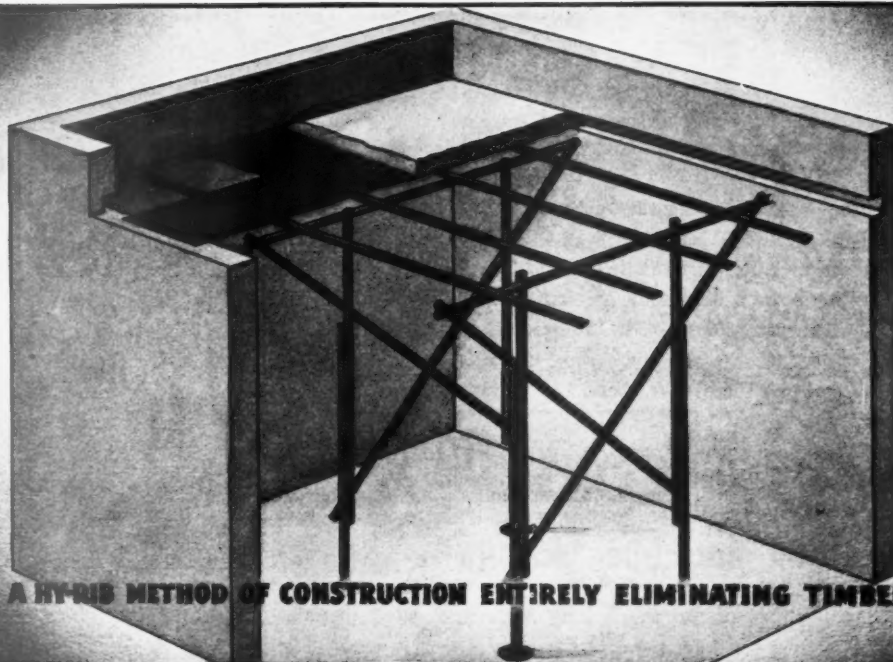
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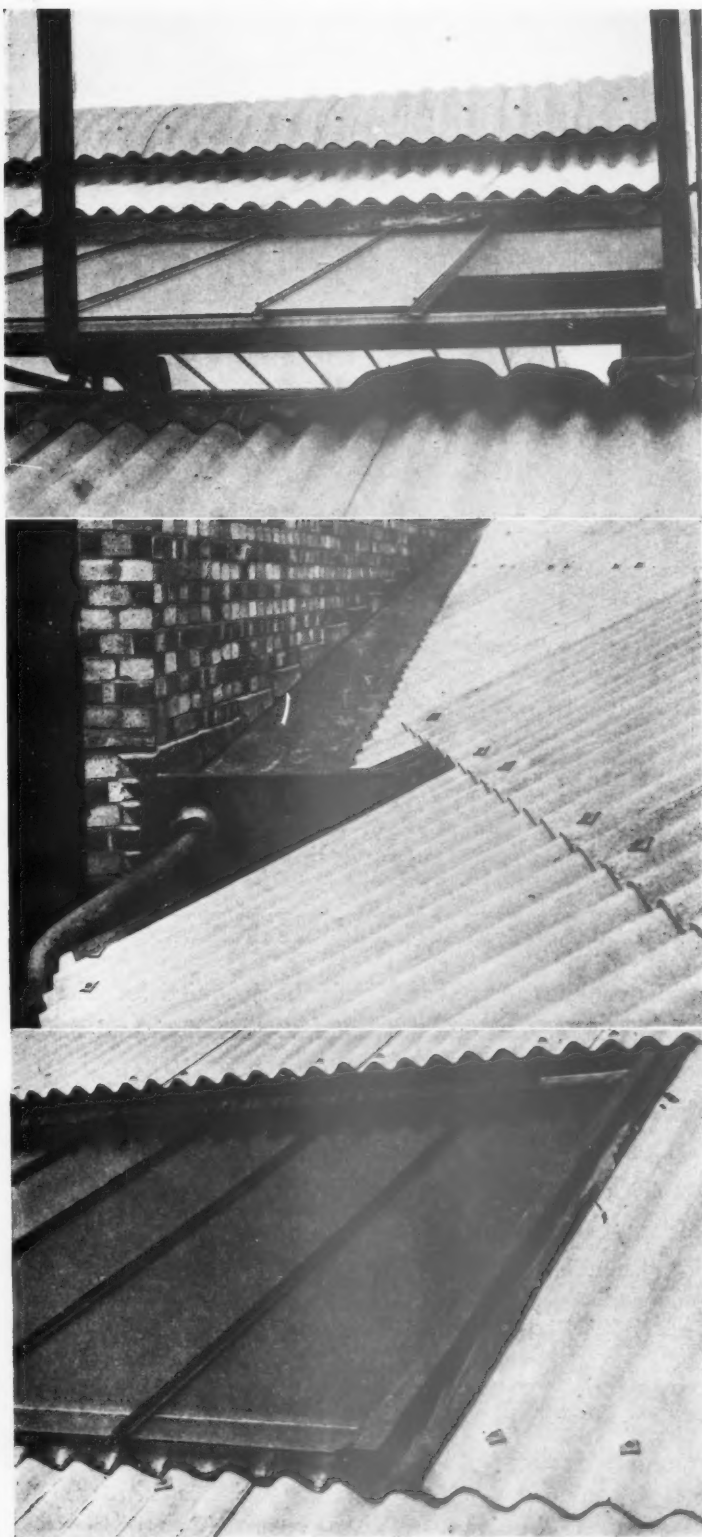
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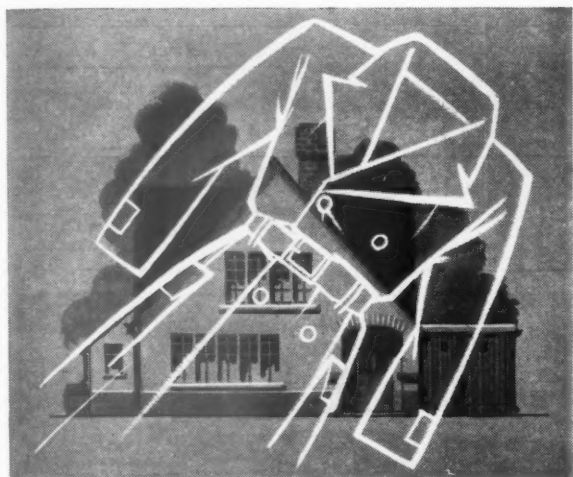
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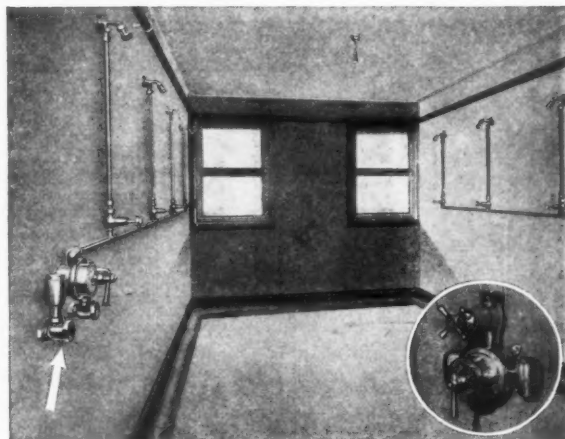
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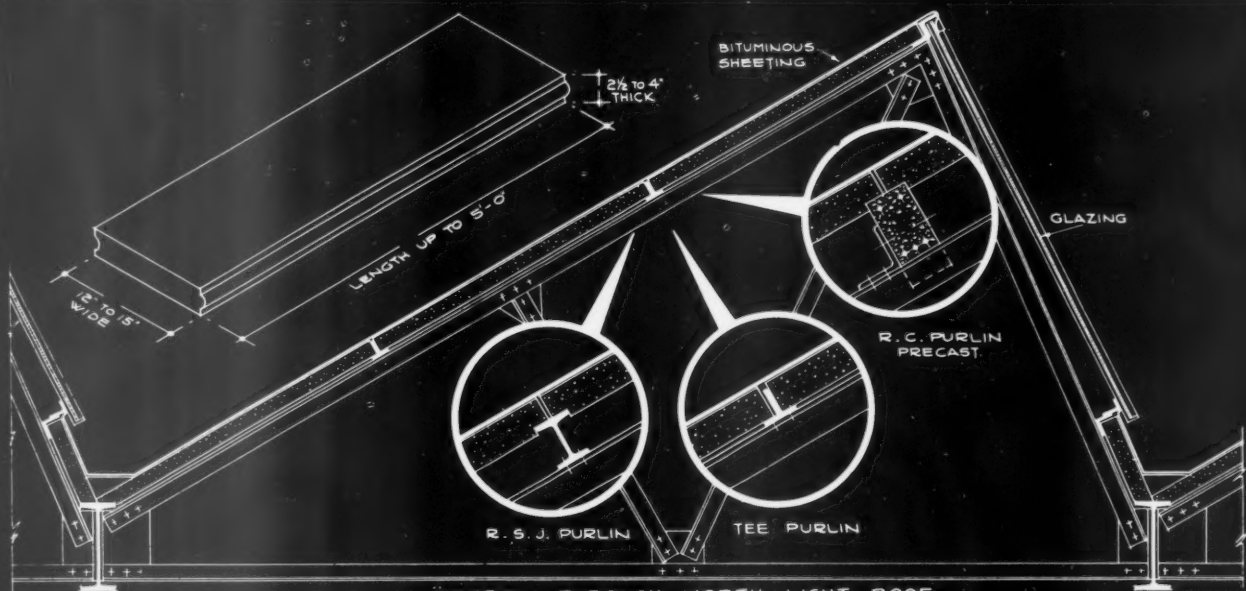
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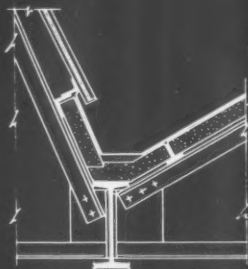
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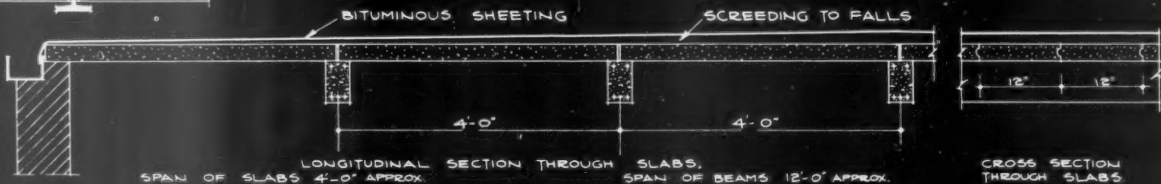
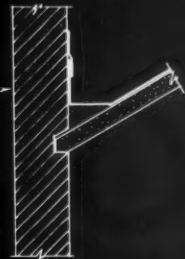


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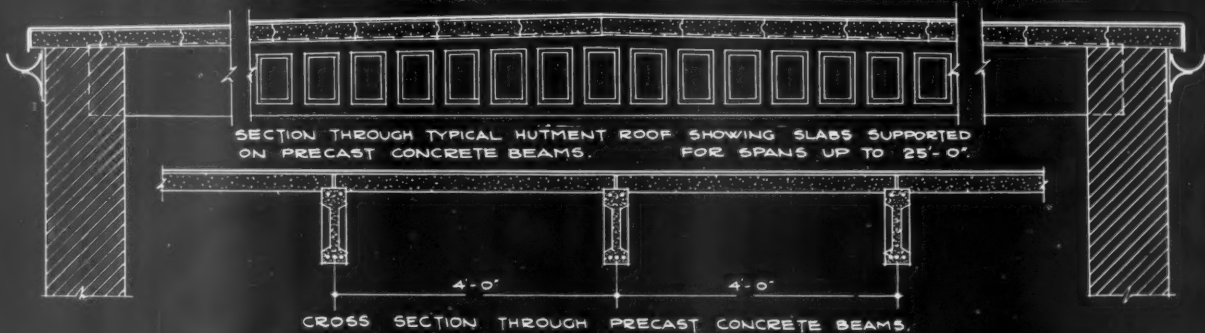


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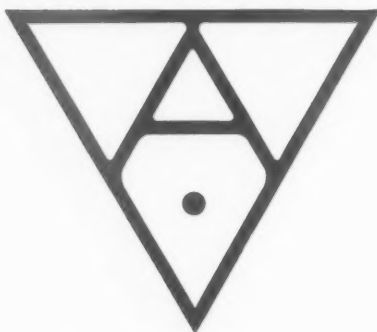
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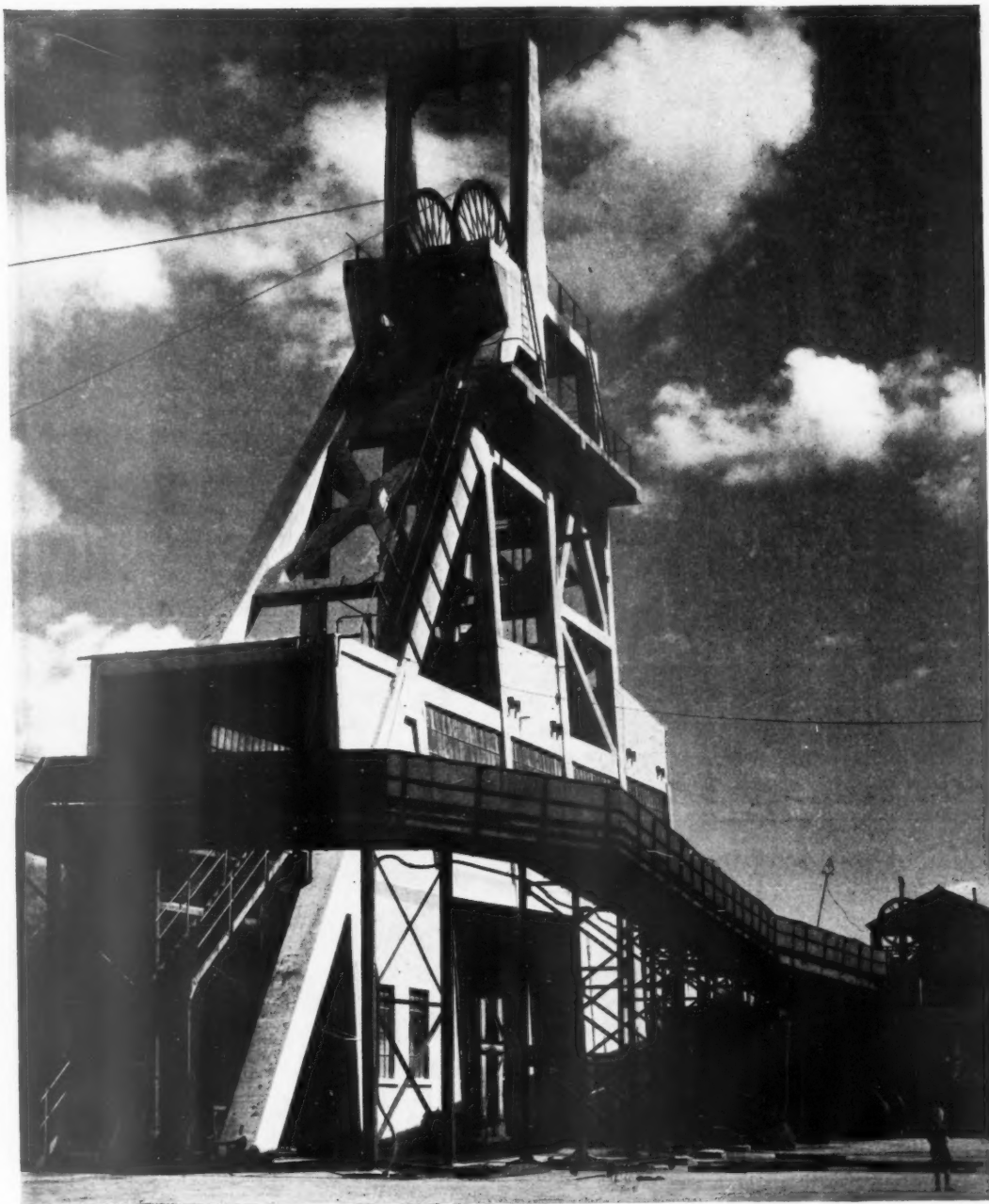
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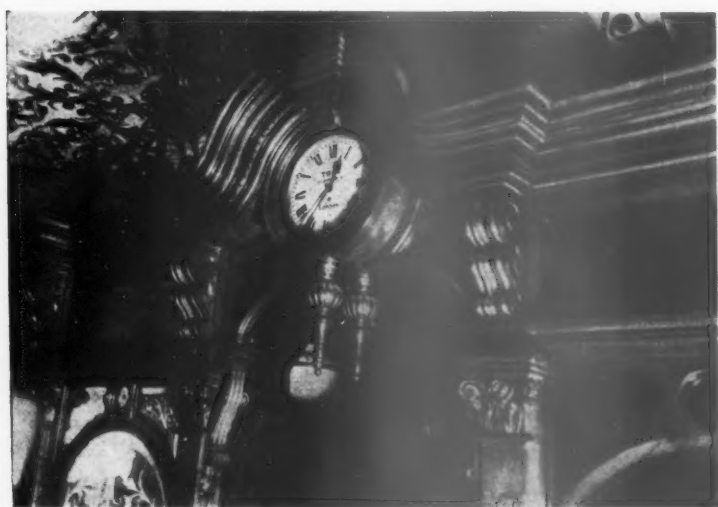
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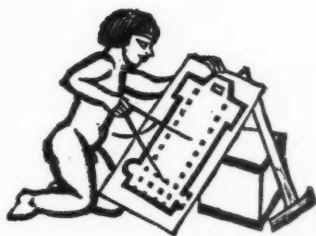
COLLIERY

*Reinforced concrete winding tower at Mary Colliery,
Lochore.*



THE ARCHITECTURE OF THE GIN PALACE

Two photographs from an article in this month's Architectural Review called FULLY LICENSED, which is referred to on the opposite page. Above, a detail in the Prince Alfred, Maida Vale. Left, the clock in the Elephant and Castle.



ARCHITECTURAL PAPER'S DISGRACEFUL PLOT

THE JOURNAL does not lightly fling stones at a contemporary. Yet it is compelled to draw the attention of all students of taste to the current issue of the *Architectural Review*.

In that issue there is a contribution by Mr. John Piper called "FULLY LICENSED" which, in the JOURNAL's view, takes advantage of the wartime preoccupations of the polite world to try to smash the last barriers between taste and tasteless chaos.

It is a cunning contribution, which purports to show the common significance of public-houses of all kinds and ages up and down the country. But the alert student of taste will barely have turned a page before he sees through this speciousness: Mr. Piper, with or without the connivance of the *Architectural Review*, is trying to set in motion an historic change in taste. His illustrations of Georgian pubs and Neo-Georgian pubs are a blind. All the best of his photographs exalt the Victorian Gin Palace and that alone.

It is all most cleverly done. A coat is trailed to draw sympathy for that which is doomed to disappear; the warming associations of all pubs are exploited; and then the photographs make the very best of massive mahogany, swirling brass gasoliers, and all the richness which lincrusta, mirrors, cut glass and marble attained in the hands of full-blooded Victorians. Finally, Mr. Piper yields an inch to gain a mile: the Gin Palace is not claimed as good taste. It is, instead, a *folk architecture* which should not be destroyed: a satisfactory pub *must not be* in consciously good taste.

Those who are interested in taste will see the thin end of Mr. Piper's wedge only too plainly. And if they know what is good for them, they will waste no time on discussion of what is or should not be good taste. They will take a firm stand on TASTE.

And TASTE—in the sense in which "Fully Licensed" dangles it before us—is the special favour in which one form of external or internal appearance is held at a particular time: together with the *Revivals* which that favour causes. It is the *Revivals* that matter here. For Mr. Piper is clearly trying either to begin a new *Revival* or to obtain support for the special protection of a particular style which will infallibly lead to a *Revival*. That is why the polite world must do all it can to expose him and to stop him.

Consider the matter but for a moment. What is

the greatest danger which now threatens TASTE? There is only one answer—the ever-shortening interval between a *Revival* and its *Prototype*.

The Classical *Revival* lagged a thousand years behind its original, the Gothic *Revival* waited barely three centuries. But three centuries was eternity to the post-Great War world. By then a *Revival* did not need the support of the whole country to give it countenance; three or four could make way together and the pace be vastly quickened. The pace *was* quickened. By 1930 Elizabethan, Jacobean, Georgian had had their days; and, since it was seen by then that the nearer *Revival* was to *Prototype* in point of time the more genuine period pieces would be available, Regency and Early Victorian overtook us almost simultaneously.

But then came the halt. So big and black were the associations of Middle and Late Victorianism in the minds of taste's arbiters, so voracious the demands of its furniture on space, that *Prototype* managed—at last—to make a getaway.

From behind the solid barrier of 1880 *decor*, *Revival* could make little sallies: Edwardian toques have been and gone, Edwardian coiffures are with us yet. But in the main, for a precious year or two, *Prototype* has been safe.

It is this safety which Mr. Piper, and the *Review*, are now trying to throw away. To change the metaphor, they are recklessly tampering with the sluices of the last dam.

Let us be quite clear about what will happen if they let so much as a trickle through. In a matter of months the stream will have engulfed fashions, furniture and all architectural form. Philip Webb and Gilbert Scott, Bodley and Art Nouveau will sweep down upon us from behind in one last piece of *Super-Revivalism*.

The very young and very swift, hand in hand with *Prototype*, may manage to keep a nose in front. But Mr. Piper and the *Review* should think for a moment of what will happen to our present great men if they destroy the Victorian barrier. There will be no escape for Sir Edwin Lutyens, Sir Edwin Cooper, and Mr. Lanchester. After forty years of progress in their art, these will be compelled by public taste to return again to their own beginnings—or else to see their own *Revivals* go marching on ahead.



The Architects' Journal

45 The Avenue, Cheam, Surrey

Telephone: Vigilant 0087-9.

NOTES & TOPICS

REGISTRATION

THE REGISTRATION which now interests everyone so much that imaginary announcements about it sell off evening papers every Saturday afternoon has overshadowed the Registration which applies to architects only.

But those architects who are not Registered Architects should not forget that if they are not registered by August this year they will not thereafter be architects. After August the Registration Act comes into force, and all those not on the Register by then will have to pass the qualifying examinations.

It seems extraordinary, now, that something like half a century of squabbles and several pitched battles should have been necessary before we all agreed that a man should show by examination that he has certain minimum qualifications before he is allowed to call himself an architect.

It is clear that the opposition which was most difficult to overcome was that of the idealists, who thought of the architect only as an artist whose genius should develop unhampered by professionalism, schools and stereotyped examinations.

This attitude, which depends for good results on enlightened patrons, refuses to recognize the actual conditions of modern practice. Patrons are now not individuals but committees, and are seldom enlightened; and the number of buildings on which architects are employed has risen enormously. The committees employ the architect whose name they can first remember, in the belief that one architect is as good as another. Because of this, the Registration Act's first object is to ensure a minimum competence in all architects.

In the last twenty years the goodwill built up by competent architects has been lessened by the activities of uncontrolled and unqualified adventurers. In the future this will not occur; and it seems improbable that the fire of many geniuses will be extinguished by their having to

show, before they begin to practise, that they possess certain minimum all-round qualifications.

LA GUARDIA FIELD

One of the largest of last year's U.S. projects was the La Guardia airport for New York's North Beach. Lewis Mumford has been pulling it to pieces (in print), complaining about the inept bulkiness of its buildings. You might like to hear his theory of what an airport should be:

Today people ought to know that an airfield should look as guileless as a Long Island duck farm but be built like the Maginot Line. In fact, an airfield is perhaps the only place where all the gadgets and fakeries and extravagances of modern building might be introduced freely and rationally justified. . . Let me draw up the ideal programme for such a place.

It should be built from ground level downward. The passengers' waiting rooms, booking offices, and restaurants should be at least one storey underground, to make the traveller feel he is still in his hotel. (A sour, stale cigar smell should indicate the air-conditioned bar.) Below these should be the hangars. Passengers should descend to the planes, and the loaded machines should then be lifted to ground level on a platform, like the orchestra at a big movie theatre. The control tower, which should be retractable at will, should have on its roof a neat little garden in boxes, like those on the Radio City roofs, to complete the camouflage.

Such an airport would be expensive, but why should a country that is laying out more than a billion dollars a year on armaments haggle about that? The invisible airport would be the last crown of a disappearing civilization. Are we men or are we moles?

DR. THOMAS ADAMS

Dr. Thomas Adams, who died last Sunday, was one of the very few British town planners who obtained reputation and opportunities before town planning reached its present stereotyped form and became little more than a process of impeding the ill-use of land.

After a few years of private practice, Dr. Adams became in 1909 one of the first Town Planning Inspectors, in 1914 he was appointed adviser to the Canadian Government, and in 1923 he began his great work—the New York Regional Plan. The main plan was completed by 1930, and Dr. Adams continued in later years to be consulted in its application.

In this country, Dr. Adams' firm of Adams, Thompson and Fry set a precedent for joint practice by town planners and architects: a combination which one may hope will become common when town planning ceases to be so universally regarded as a system of restrictive and interfering bye-laws which is a nuisance to everyone.

MORE DIGGING IN

I print below some further notes from an architect who has joined a Government Department Somewhere in the Provinces.

On your first day in this part of the war machine, you are given a number and warned that your lips are sealed as they have never been before. It is rather a relief to learn that your name is still to be used for ordinary purposes.

Anyone who has ever been in an Official Building knows the dark-green-dado-cum-brown-linoleum atmosphere that prevails, but it may not generally be known that a government department carries this atmosphere with it wherever it goes. A chameleon has nothing on even the most luxurious hotel once it has been commandeered, and the change takes place in a twinkling.

Gone are the plush, the Turkey carpets on which diamonded dowagers were wont to tread, while the Corona is relegated



from the smokeroom to the Typing Pool. Out go the divans ; in comes the lino. A bar-billiards table profanes the Looney Lounge and admission is by ticket only, like a station.

We architects walk warily and are very polite to the regular servants ; and they are very nice to us too. We take fairly easily to the work and have our minds broadened daily. It is even a little intoxicating—after years of interviews with District Surveyors—to find the boot is now on the other foot ; the plans are now submitted to us for approval.

And every now and then, peeping out whitely from a heap of crumpled, smudgy, blue prints is a scheme submitted by an architect. How one's heart warms to a drawing that can be read !—a drawing which, if I can whisper softly enough among these engineers, actually means something. The architect concerned is, I expect, surprised at the kindly helpfulness of Authority, and will never guess that the official stamp at the bottom left-hand corner covers an exile's tear.

HAFOD

Owing to the recent death of its owner (who was what the Press calls "a recluse"), one of the less celebrated eccentric houses of the late eighteenth century is now up for sale. This is "Hafod," a mansion built in a deep, heavily wooded valley in Cardiganshire by one of those grotesque figures of the romantic period—one Thomas Johnes. In style it is an ingenious blend of the Oriental and Renaissance, a mixture as it were of Sezincote, Brighton Pavilion and the Italianate waterworks to be seen in the Kingston district. Among the dripping trees and glades of its spacious grounds are fashioned many grottos, cascades, mournfully inscribed obelisks, and such-like "horrid" embellishments which were in those days

essentials of a gentleman's estate—all of them now in an exquisite state of decay which would have delighted Mr. Johnes had he survived to see it.

At one time Edward VII considered purchasing the house as a country residence, but decided eventually in favour of Sandringham, a far more suitable home for the age of Norfolk jackets and Sargent hats.

If you want to know what the place looks like, pay a visit to the Leicester Galleries, where John Piper is now holding a show. Some half-dozen of his exquisite water-colour drawings illustrate this curious house. I reproduce one of them on this page.

NEW OUTBREAK IN SCOTLAND

The supposed prevalence of petrol thieves has weighed on the minds of those who still run cars since the outbreak of war. It now seems possible that timber thieves, given a little time and publicity, may become as great a bogey.

I am told that a Scottish architect managed at last to obtain the few large scantlings needed to complete a country cottage and thankfully saw them deposited on the job one Saturday morning. On Monday a disconsolate carpenter told him they had vanished.

It is only fair to remember that timber scarcity in Scotland is no wartime innovation. Dr. Johnson noticed it in 1773. What is more, when he lost his oak staff in Mull, he would have it that it had been stolen.

"No, no my friend (said he), it is not to be expected that any man in Mull who has got it, will part with it. Consider, sir, the value of such a piece of timber here !"

ASTRAGAL

★ *FOR several months Mr. Howard Robertson has been preparing a survey of the internal relations of the building industry.*

★ *This survey has three main headings : changes in building organization and in the relationship of the industry's components ; architectural responsibility and comparison with other arts ; and education and other means of adjustment to new conditions.*

★ *As a result of his study, Mr. Robertson suggests that certain changes are called for in the industry's composition. And because Mr. Robertson is one of those who are in a position to carry out the changes he advocates, the JOURNAL believes that his views will be of the greatest interest to everyone connected with building.*

★ *The JOURNAL will begin to publish Mr. Robertson's findings on April 11, in a series of articles called*

THE NEXT YEARS

NEWS

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ARCHITECTURAL ASSOCIATION

Following resolution was passed at a meeting of the Association :

That this meeting of architects practising in North Staffordshire, held at the Grand Hotel on March 4, 1940, and convened by the North Staffordshire Architectural Association, resolves that a committee of architects be formed to co-operate with the North Staffordshire Master Builders' Federation, the Potteries Brick Co., Ltd., the National Association of Roofing Tile Manufacturers, the National Federation of Builders' Merchants (Stoke-on-Trent area), the Sanitary Earthenware Manufacturers' Association, the Sanitary Fireclay Manufacturers' Association, the Glazed Floor and Wall Tile Manufacturers' Association, and the local branch of the National Federation of Building Trades Operatives, and others, in launching a campaign of propaganda and action designed to effect the War period preservation of the British building industry, and that immediate steps be taken to arrange for delegates of the above-named organizations to meet and discuss the position with the local Members of Parliament.

NEW HONORARY ASSOCIATE, I.S.E.

Colonel J. Baldwin-Webb, M.P., has been elected an Honorary Associate of the Institution of Structural Engineers in recognition of the active interest he has shown for many years in the building and allied industries.

TIMBERLESS HOUSES

A scheme for the building of timberless Council houses was put before the Bristol Housing Committee at its meeting last week by the City Architect (Mr. T. Nelson Meredith).

The Committee were in favour of building two such houses as an experiment, and agreed to such a proposal being submitted to the Ministry of Health for its observation. Following report of the meeting is reproduced from the *Western Daily Press and Bristol Mirror* :

The Chairman (Alderman C. R. Gill) said that he had discussions with the City Architect and Mr. R. J. Allerton (Housing Manager) about such a scheme. If alternative materials could be used for timber and without being excessive in cost, they might be able to go on with the building of houses.

Mr. Meredith, in submitting his scheme for timberless houses, suggested the materials which might be used for construction, and said the cost, as near as he could estimate, should not exceed pre-war prices by more than 15 per cent.

It would be realized that if it were possible to use soft timbers, the cost would be increased to an equal and possibly a greater extent.



Dr. Thomas Adams, who died at his home at Battle, Sussex, on Sunday last. See Astragal's note on page 322.

Foundations were, of course, to be of concrete, and the walls of brick. Ground floor could be of concrete with Granwood lino or quarry tile finish. First floor could be of concrete or hollow block with lino finish. For the roof, he suggested precast concrete members or composite concrete and asbestos members, finished with clay tiles. Windows could be of steel, or alternatively precast concrete frames with steel opening portions.

Doors could be of pressed steel in pressed steel frames. Tiles and asbestos rubber could be used for the skirtings.

Stairs could be of concrete and lino treads, and among other suggestions was the use of bakelite for door furniture.

A flat roof would be more simple to construct and, incidentally, cheaper, but he submitted that the pitched roof was advantageous, both from a utility and aesthetic point of view.

The approximate cost of the pre-war non-parlour house was £355, and the new type of house would probably cost somewhere in the region of £430.

SUPPLY

Since the beginning of the war the Ministry of Supply has placed orders for materials, munitions and stores to the total of £508,000,000. This figure includes the sum of £34,000,000 for the building and equipment of Government and other factories. These figures were announced by Dr. Leslie Burgin, Minister of Supply, on Wednesday of last week at a press conference in London. He stated that at the outbreak of war there were nine ordnance factories; today there are 16 in operation, and 37 more are being planned. In reply to questions regarding timber supply, Dr. Burgin said that increased use must be made of hard timber. Dr. Burgin

was asked if he would see that, when a contract for a large factory was about to be placed, small firms of builders near the site were given a fair chance to obtain work on the job. He said that this was being done and stated that the correct procedure was for the builders concerned to apply to the Area Officer.

IRON AND STEEL CONTROL

Minister of Supply has made Control of Iron and Steel (No. 7) (Scrap) Order, 1940, Direction (No. 2) to take effect as from April 1, 1940, superseding the Direction (No. 1) issued with the Control of Iron and Steel (No. 7) (Scrap) Order, 1940 (S.R. & O. 1940, No. 287).

Issue of the new Direction marks an important change in the method of operation of the control of scrap iron and steel. Hitherto it has not been necessary for purchasers to obtain licences to acquire iron and steel scrap save for four special grades, but as from April 1, 1940, any person desiring to acquire scrap iron or steel must be authorised by licence so to do, except in the case of a person (other than one operating an iron or steel works or foundry or forge) who confines his acquisitions to quantities not exceeding, in the aggregate, one ton from any one person in any one week. This exception has the effect of leaving local authorities and voluntary organizations free to continue house-to-house and other collections of scrap as hitherto.

Application forms for licences can be obtained from the offices of the Iron and Steel Control, Steel House, Tothill Street, Westminster, S.W.1.

For the time being it is intended to issue general licences to merchants and restricted licences to consumers according to the quality they require.

Copies of the Direction may be purchased from H.M. Stationery Office, or through any bookseller.

ROYAL NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD

Following competition has been announced :

New concrete bridge of modern design and construction to replace an old one in a specified picturesque Welsh village. Prize: £10. Assessor: T. Alwyn Lloyd, F.R.I.B.A. Entry forms and particulars of competition may be obtained on application to the Local Organizer, Eisteddfod Offices, Mountain Ash, Glamorgan, enclosing stamped addressed envelope. Latest date for sending in designs is June 29.

DIARY

Thursday, March 28.—Institution of Structural Engineers, 11 Upper Belgrave Street, S.W.1. 5.30 p.m. "Examples of Modern Buildings, with particular reference to the Application of Reinforced Concrete." By Leslie Turner. Institution of Electrical Engineers, Savoy Place, W.C.2. 6 p.m. "Limitation of Transformer Noise." By B. G. Churcher and A. J. King. D.I.A. At the Building Centre, 158 New Bond Street, W.1. 6.30 p.m. "Window Display as a Medium for Propaganda." By Richard Harman.

Saturday, March 30.—Royal Sanitary Institute. Sessional Meeting. Colwyn Bay.

Tuesday, April 2.—R.I.B.A. Informal General Meeting to discuss "The Building Industry Now." 8 p.m. Housing Centre. Luncheon. 1 p.m. "The Effect of War on the Community Centres Movement." By Major E. Sandford Carter. Institution of Civil Engineers (Road Engineering Section). 5.30 p.m. "The Engineer's Part in the Promotion of Road Safety." By F. A. Rayfield.

As a result of the necessity of economizing paper in war-time, newsagents are unable to keep a stock of journals and periodicals for casual sale. If you wish to make sure of receiving your copy of this JOURNAL in future, you should either place a definite order with your newsagent or subscribe direct to

THE PUBLISHER, 45 THE AVENUE, CHEAM.

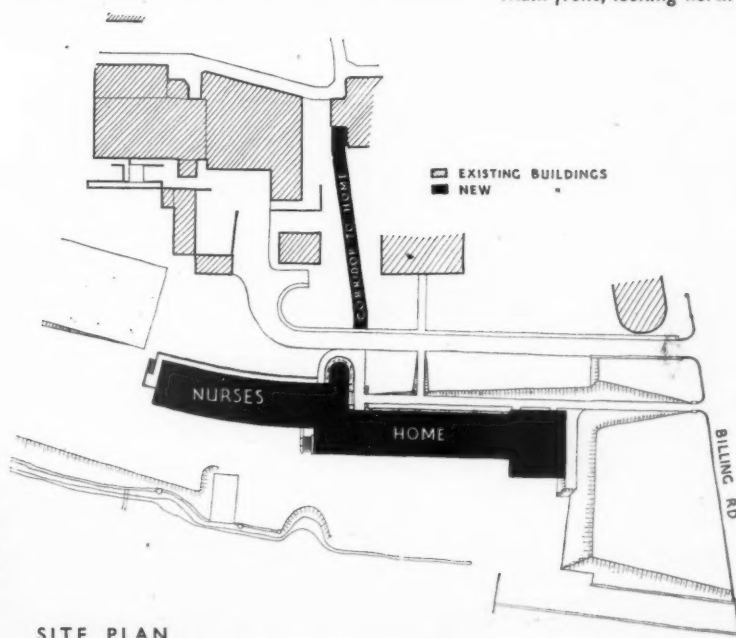
Annual subscription rates £1 3s. 10d. inland; £1 8s. 6d. abroad.

NURSES' HOME, NORTHAMPTON HOSPITAL

DESIGNED BY SIR JOHN BROWN AND A. E. HENSON

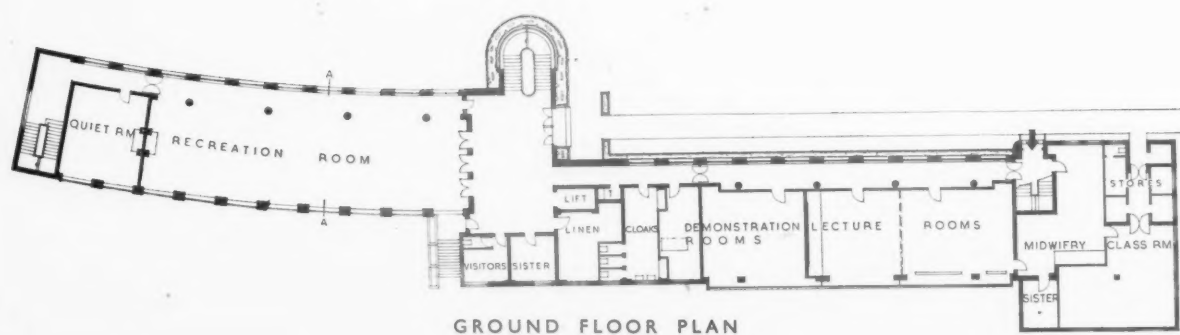


Main front, looking north



GENERAL AND SITE—Accommodation for the nurses outside the main hospital buildings, where they were housed in rather cramped conditions. Accommodation is provided for 120 nurses—40 on each floor. Site is on the east side of the hospital building. The ground falls, from north to south, about 8 feet in the length of the building; and, from west to east, about 5 feet across the greatest width of the building.

SITE PLAN



Main front, looking south



NURSES' HOME, NORTHAMPTON GENERAL HOSPITAL:



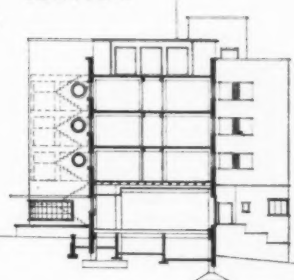
Main
entrance

PLAN—The plan, with a long corridor running throughout the length of the building on each floor and bedrooms leading off it on each side, was arranged so that each of the bedrooms had the sun at some time of the day. A lift in the main entrance hall serves all floors. The three upper floors contain accommodation for 120 nurses—40 to each floor, with the necessary sanitary conveniences and bathrooms. On each of these floors are a combined laundry and kitchen which enables any nurse to prepare a small meal for herself when off duty, a shampoo room, and linen and rubbish chutes down to the lower ground floor level. At roof level is a small sleeping-room for use in summer. In the basement there is a large box-room for the nurses' trunks, a cycle store, and games room.

CONSTRUCTION—R.C. frame, with brick filling; external walls are of brick. R.C. roof covered with bituminous sheeting with patent finish. Internal walls and partitions are of brick. Floors are of reinforced concrete.

EXTERNAL FINISHES—Walls, light brown lbstock facing bricks. Copings, reconstructed Weldon stone; windows, metal casements, with reconstructed Weldon stone heads and cills; mullions are of green glazed tiles.

SECTION



DESIGNED BY SIR JOHN BROWN AND A. E. HENSON

*Demonstration room**Lecture room**Recreation room*

SERVICES—Heating : radiators throughout, with ceiling panels in the entrance hall ; supply is from calorifiers in the basement, heated by steam conveyed in pipes from the hospital boiler house. Hot water supply : lavatory basins and

heated
also, t
quiet
contro
COST
Gene
suppl

*Staircase window : ground floor level*

NURSES' HOME, NO

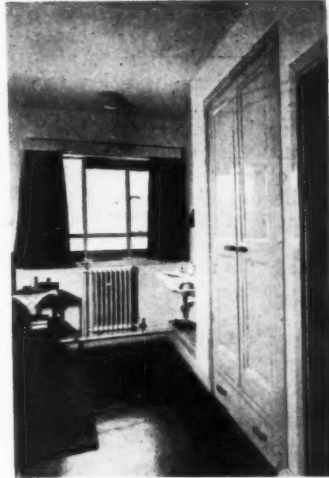
INTERNAL FINISHES AND EQUIPMENT—Floors : entrance hall and ground floor corridor, reconstructed Hopton Wood tiles ; recreation room and demonstration room, maple strip flooring ; rest room, lecture room, and games room, teak wood blocks ; corridors on first, second and third floors, rubber ; all bedrooms, linoleum laid direct on to screeding ; bathrooms and lavatories, 6-in. by 6-in. Roman tiles. Walls and ceilings : generally, distemper ; bathrooms and lavatories, enamel paint. Joinery : generally, deal, painted ; entrance doors and lift doors of oak. Each bedroom has a built-in wardrobe with a mirror on the inside face of the door, a lavatory basin, and a heated towel rail. Bedroom suite in oak consists of a bed, with a built-in locker for soiled linen at the foot, a chair, a bedside table, and a chest of drawers.



Fireplace in recreation room



Above and right, two views of the matron's suite



heated towel rails in all bedrooms; showers and basins in shampoo room; also, the usual supplies to baths and sinks. Coal fires: in recreation room and quiet room (rest room) only. Passenger lift, with full automatic push-button control serves all six floors of the building.

COST—£38,907 3s. 10d. Price per cubic foot, 2s.

General contractors were Henry Martin, Ltd.; for list of sub-contractors and suppliers see page 342.

ME, NORTHAMPTON: BY SIR JOHN BROWN AND A. E. HENSON

LETTERS

Architectural Criticism

SIR,—Your correspondent, "On-looker," seems somehow to have conceived the idea that it is a shameful thing for architects to be interested in "aesthetics." Surely it is quite impossible to be a good architect without being deeply interested in the appearances of buildings. There was never yet a good gardener who was not quite particular about the looks of his row of cabbages. Old Sir Henry Wotton's definition of "commodity, firmness and delight" can really be much more broadly applied. It could apply to the truism that nobody who sets to work to make any *useful* thing *well* can rest content until he has made of it a *good-looking* thing too. To my mind it is of no moment whether one approaches architecture from the point of view of appearance, or of planning, or of building construction, because good architecture consists of the merging of the three into an indivisible trinity, and any one of the elements must lead to the other two. Articles may be published, books may be written, architects may talk, about one or another of these aspects of this work, detached, for convenience, from the rest; and it may perhaps be the case (the Librarian of the R.I.B.A. can correct me if I am wrong), that the greatest amount of writing has been on the subject of "aesthetics." But, if this

really is so, why should we keep it dark? Why should people not be encouraged to realize that that vital element, present in some buildings and absent in others, from which they derive a pleasurable sense of general well-being is ART?

Cork.

HENRY H. HILL

Advice on Cast Iron

SIR,—Users and designers of industrial and domestic plant and equipment are finding themselves handicapped by shortage of or delay in obtaining certain ferrous and non-ferrous metals. It may assist them to learn that the ironfounding industry has organized itself to help in the present emergency. During the past twenty years an enormous amount of work has been done to increase our knowledge of the range of materials known as the cast irons, and many of the varieties available have properties not generally associated with cast iron. Almost any metallurgical structure required can be obtained in a wide range of strengths and standard national B.S.I. specifications are available for users, particularly 321/1938 and 786/1938. The industry itself has made great strides in continuous production methods, and generally in the precision of form, uniformity and soundness of the product, and where necessary a wide variety of finishing processes is available. Almost the whole of the raw materials employed are found within the United

Kingdom and manufacture is widely distributed.

The industry has formed the Ironfounders' National Committee, and information will be gladly sent by me, or can be obtained from the Chairman of our Technical Committee, Mr. J. G. Pearce, British Cast Iron Research Association, 21 St. Paul's Square, Birmingham, 3. No recommendation will be given unless there is a reasonable likelihood of the substitute material giving satisfactory service, and no charge or obligation will be incurred.

For specific cases, it would be an advantage if enquirers could send a print of the part in question, say what it has hitherto been made of, and, if working under unusual service conditions (stress, temperature, wear, corrosion, etc.) what life is normally obtained. It is also desirable to know whether design in the alternative material must be a copy of the existing part, or whether conditions permit a measure of redesign.

W. R. BLAIR

Director, Ironfounders' National Committee (Orchard House, Orchard Street, W.1)

Exhibition at Coventry

SIR,—May I correct a statement made by Astragal in your issue for March 21? With reference to Coventry, he states that the City Architect's Department are going to organize a public Exhibition to demonstrate the great advantages of a civic survey. Actually, the Exhibition is being organized by the Coventry Branch of the A.A.S.T.A.

(with financial help from Head Office), which includes almost the whole Department in its membership. Assistance is being kindly given by the R.I.B.A., the M.A.R.S. Group, the Housing Centre, by local societies such as the Coventry City Guild, and also by artists and other people interested in the ultimate beauty of the city. Upon the conclusion of the Exhibition the branch itself will commence a civic survey, and it hopes to have gained by this means considerable support for that vital task.

P. J. MARSHALL
Coventry. (Hon. Secretary)

SOCIETIES AND INSTITUTIONS

SOUTH WALES INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

At the annual general meeting of the South Wales Institute of Architects (Central Branch), following officers were elected for the year beginning July 1, 1940:

Chairman, Mr. John W. Bishop, A.R.I.B.A.; hon. treasurer, Mr. Harry Teather, F.R.I.B.A.; hon. secretary, Mr. W. S. Purchon, M.A., F.R.I.B.A. Executive committee: Messrs. C. F. Jones, A.R.I.B.A., Ivor Jones, A.R.I.B.A., Gordon Griffiths, F.R.I.B.A., A.M.T.P.I., T. Alwyn Lloyd, J.P., F.R.I.B.A., P.P.T.P.I., and L. R. Gower, A.R.I.B.A. Associates' and Students' Representatives: Messrs. D. C. Williams (R.I.B.A. Dawnay Scholar) and H. O. Williams.

Following were elected representatives of the branch on the Council of the South Wales Institute of Architects: Messrs. E. Attree, L.R.I.B.A., John W. Bishop, A.R.I.B.A., E. A. Evans, A.R.I.B.A., L. R. Gower, A.R.I.B.A., Gordon H. Griffiths, F.R.I.B.A., A.M.T.P.I., J. A. Hallam, M.T.P.I., L. R. Harries, L.R.I.B.A., T. Alwyn Lloyd, J.P., F.R.I.B.A., P.P.T.P.I., W. S. Purchon, M.A., F.R.I.B.A., F. W. Roberts, L.R.I.B.A., C. Rosser, A.R.I.B.A., Percy Thomas, O.B.E., LL.D., P.P.R.I.B.A., Miss J. B. Treatt, A.R.I.B.A., Howard Williams, A.R.I.B.A., P.A.S.I., J. Williamson, F.R.I.B.A. Representatives of Associates and Students: Messrs. D. C. Williams (R.I.B.A. Dawnay Scholar) and H. O. Williams.

INSTITUTION OF STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS

Examinations, February, 1940. Pass List is as follows:

GRADUATESHIP EXAMINATION: Messrs. J. A. Allan; R. C. Brown; M. D. Burke; W. W. Calder; W. J. C. Cave; E. P. Cronin; P. S. Eades; N. S. T. Ebborn; J. E. Ellerton; P. Elliott; A. J. Gathergood; J. V. Green; A. M. Hassanein; H. M. Jarvis; W. F. Lever; R. Lingard; P. B. Macfarlane; J. G. McLellan; J. C. Playle; C. W. Stratton; T. R. Tighe; T. C. L. Trafford; and L. J. Wood.

ASSOCIATE-MEMBERSHIP EXAMINATION: Messrs. H. Bramley; W. Calder; P. C. Chao; R. R. W. Clarke; I. C. Cocking; E. H. Cooper; R. H. Cousins; I. C. dos M. Pais Cuddou; G. W. Davis; W. P. Dumbleton; J. E. C. Farebrother; E. G. L. Ferguson; E. Harrop; H. M. B. Hirst; S. D. Hodgson; N. E. Hough; S. Ker; J. A. Lecky; W. F. Lever; J. G. McLellan; W. L. N. Madeley; A. R. Milloy; J. Mitchell; T. L. Morgan; E. Morris; G. Mundy; F. Norman; D. F. Orchard; K. D. Ormerod; K. Lakshman Rao; A. Robb; W. W. R. Roche; C. Sabaratnam; G. H. Scott; J. E. Stammers; J. B. Talati; R. G. Taylor; G. E. Thewlis; D. F. Weare; A. S. Webb; E. G. Winkell; and W. C. Wright. Palestine: B. B. Erdekian and M. Fainstein.

ARS EST CELARE ARTEM

[By J. H. HILTON]

THE ability to conceal the seams of a wig or a puppet's wires is necessarily an ingredient in the art of the perruquier, puppet-master or minister of propaganda. In the alliance of art and nature which go to make a something-or-other bride, in the ephemeral gardens of the Chelsea Flower Show or in the unbounded forest of the film studio, there is an imperative need for self-effacement by the artificer. He has undertaken to improve, abet, rival or burlesque nature, and to be successful his scheme and scaffolding must not obtrude.

Nevertheless, the degree of restraint required in such cases is rarely absolute. Women, it appears, both adorn their faces chiefly to please other women and, also, are always able to tell the work of art from that of soap and water: pleasure is not dependent on complete illusion. No one loves a judge for his rippling locks. And half the charm of a marionette is in his obvious limitations. To some extent the garden grown in a night is more delightful than would be the same garden built through months by the man next door. And lower in the same scale are the pleasures of arts dependent entirely on this love of artifice, such as the construction of seascapes out of butterflies' wings.

Attempts to improve, abet, rival or burlesque do not often occur in architecture in their pure forms. The construction of ruins is a case. The imitation of one material in another, of marble in painted stucco or of painting in inlaid marble, is not on the same level. If, which is rare, the deception is complete, it contributes to the architectural effect nothing which would not have been equally achieved in the real stuff. If the imitation is discoverable, and not offensive, it may ask for admiration on its own account—but as a work of an art which is not the art of architecture.

The essential for an illusion to please is that its duplicity should be obvious. The gilding is finer if the plaster is flaking, though a certain amount of artifice we all disguise. No one demands an outward and visible sign of every item in the bill of quantities. The priest of the cult of the Functionalist myth cheerfully allows the merciful dew of plaster and paint to fall equally upon the wall structural and the wall non-structural; and buries a bit of expanded metal to prevent a crack. In fact he often busies himself more to conceal construction than to reveal it; and loves a liner for her sleek epidermis, totally unsuggestive of most of her complex and oddly-assorted organs. Truth to tell he has no great objection to construction for appearance's sake. Anathema to him is

only the meddling with appearance for the sake of something irrelevant to appearance—a code, habit, nostalgia.

The danger is, as usual, that, while the high-priests interpret the scriptures with a strong dash of rather mystical freedom, the simple folk are apt to take them at face-value. There is in the doctrines an unexpressed ambiguity similar to the verbal ambiguity on which our text relies. In his concern with appearance, the architect has lately been muttering more or less, "My job is to deliver a satisfactory surface out of a matrix of elements, to which surface is not of prime importance. I must control these elements without my control becoming too obvious, for that would call attention to the thing controlled. Above all, I must not try to impose a preconceived pattern, for then the seams would gape." He has rather raised his voice in speaking of the things that are hostile to his need, and the passer-by goes on with the impression that he has heard the architect casting out the devil of design. He is bewildered, or sceptical, or simply pleased that the architect is giving up his nonsense and coming down to realities. Anyway, he goes on and reports that the architect is giving up art.

What the architect is giving up is the imposition of a partial art whose formulæ are too narrow for the elements he has to control. He is determined to leave nothing unsubdued to his purpose, nothing which by its failure to be assimilated will call attention to the process of assimilation. This process should be as unobtrusive as healthy digestion, and, in leaving no obstreperous element to call attention to the process the architect may be said to be concealing his art. By the coherence of the work of art, the work of art is prevented from obtruding into the effect.

The dangers of misunderstanding would be greater if indifference were not so widespread. But there is a noticeable risk that the architect, in vowing anew to deal faithfully with reality, may give the impression, even a little to himself, that in his valuation of values he gives the centre of the picture to the psychologist, the scientific manager and the accountant, leaving the spectator well in the corner.

In these days when the shock head of art is crammed into the bowler of business, and the flowing cravat of the original replaced by the diagonal stripes of the clubbable; when art is a word of shame and ornament one of obscenity (unless practising among the licensees of the sales department)—in these days of repentance for the unworldliness of our grandfathers, we do well to relapse occasionally into the belief that our grand concern is with appearances, and to take care that in the descent from our crystal-phantine garrets to the market-place we do not mislay our birthright on the dark and winding stair.



POLICE

STATION AT HAMMERSMITH

DESIGNED BY FARQUHARSON AND McMORRAN

GENERAL AND SITE—New Divisional Police Station Building stands on the west side of Brook Green Road, facing the Public Library. A private roadway has been formed along the northern boundary to give access to the yard and stables at the rear of the site.

Above, Coat of arms over the main entrance, executed from designs by Mr. G. Kruger Gray. Below, the stables. Floor is finished with non-absorbent paving tiles; stall divisions are formed with teak panels in cast-iron frames; and the ceiling is a reinforced concrete slab, supported on solid steel stanchions.





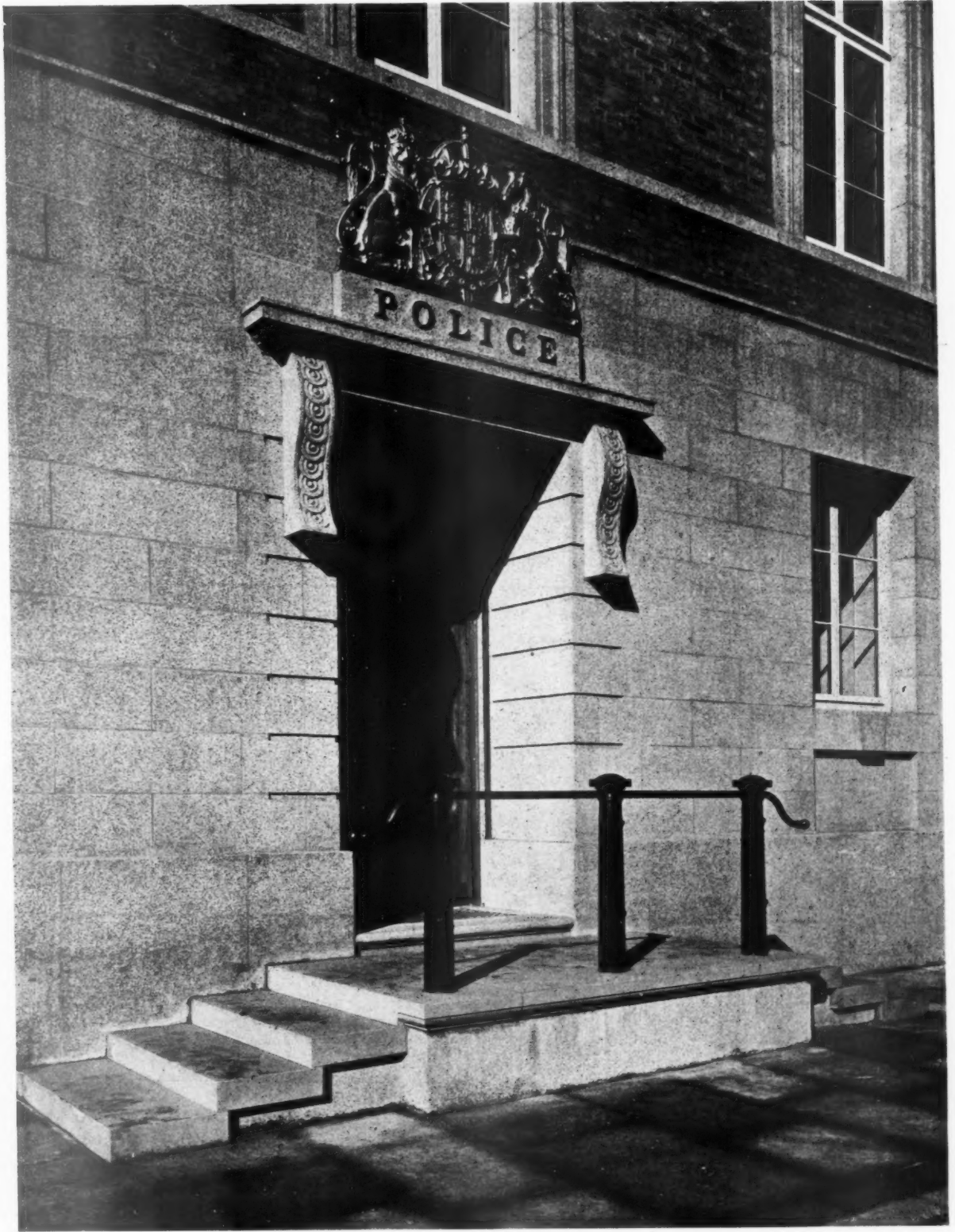
GROUND AND FIRST FLOOR PLANS

PLAN—Principal entrance for the public and divisional offices is in the centre of the main front, and a secondary entrance for station purposes faces the private road. A separate entrance is provided for resident officers.

Right, main front



HAMMERSMITH POLICE STATION • DESIGNED

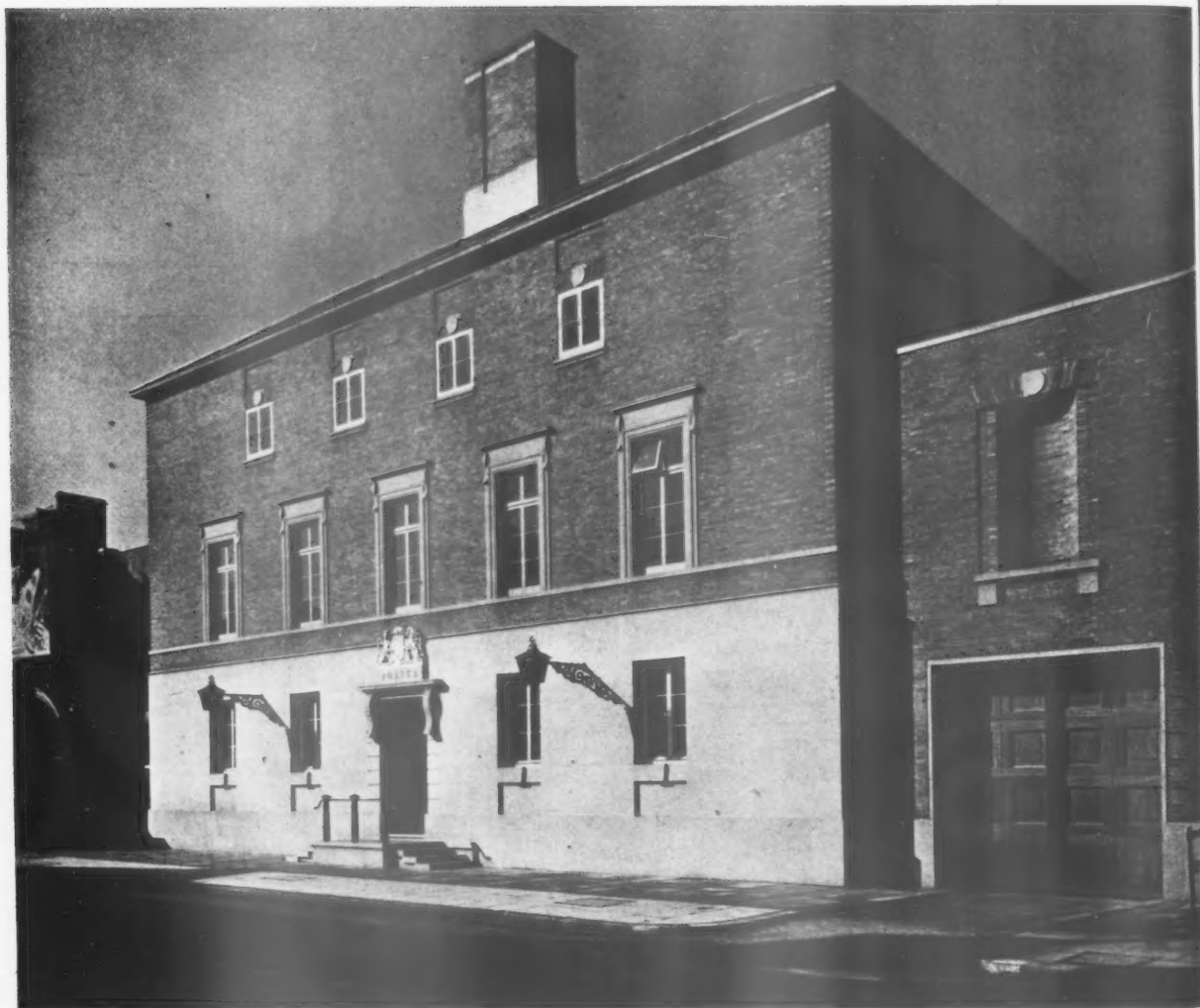


The main entrance

ED BY FARQUHARSON AND McMORRAN

CONSTRUCTION AND FINISHES—R.C. structural frame, designed by Mr. W. L. Scott, M.Inst.C.E., portions of which are capable of resisting the collapse of the super-structure so as to render the basement available for purposes of A.R.P. External walls are faced

with London stock bricks, and the main elevation with 10 in. by 5 in. by 2 in. buff facing bricks and Cornish granite dressings. All the materials and finishes have been chosen with regard to economy in first cost and maintenance.



Main front

HAMMERSMITH POLICE STATION • DESIGNED



Entrance to private road

NEED BY FARQUHARSON AND McMORRAN



Above, detail of side entrance at basement level ; right, top, entrance hall looking towards general office ; centre, corridor on ground floor ; bottom, general office.

1. Tanking the basement in asphalt and placing the steel reinforcements. The north and west retaining walls are also shown.
2. Reinforced concrete carcase of service staircase to living quarters.
3. Reinforced concrete frame ; and column and roof slab formwork.
4. Cell block. The cell windows are glazed with concrete lights.
5. Picking up the reinforced columns at second floor level.



1



2

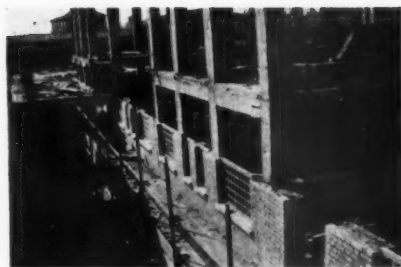
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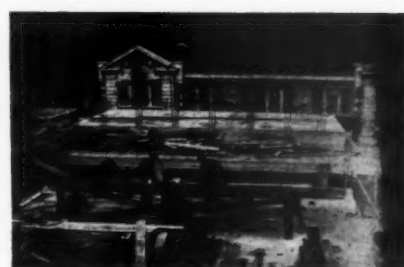
Ceiling treatment in entrance hall.



3



4



5

ICE STATION • BY FARQUHARSON AND McMORRAN

C



SERVICES.—Low pressure heating installation with automatically fired boilers. Cells have a system of forced ventilation.

General contractors were Holland & Hannen and Cubitts ; for list of sub-contractors see page 342.

Boiler house. Coal is delivered from the cellar, at the top of the iron staircase, to the hoppers directly underneath, which automatically feed the boilers for periods of about eight hours.

HAMMERSMITH POLICE STATION

• BY FARQUHARSON AND McMORRAN

B.S.I.

Revision of B.S. 690 has just been issued by the British Standards Institution. First issue of the Specification was published in July, 1936, and in the foreword to that issue it was explained that it had not been possible to include requirements relating to quality of the material, as adequate information as to what tests would be suitable was not available. It was stated, however, that research work was being carried out with a view to evolving suitable performance tests.

This research work having been completed, the specification has been revised so as to include the new tests. These are a test for water absorption and a test for acid solubility, both of which have been found to be appropriate for testing the quality of the material. Limits for the results to be

obtained with these tests are specified and a description of the methods by which the tests are carried out is also given. The opportunity has been taken to increase the figure specified for the transverse breaking strength of corrugated sheets. The foregoing are the essential features of the revision although the opportunity has been taken to make some editorial amendments.

Copies of the Specification can be obtained from the British Standards Institution, 28 Victoria Street, London, S.W.1. Price 2s. (2s. 2d. post free).

•
Attention has recently been drawn to the issue of a Standard, in the B.S./A.R.P. series, for the testing of incombustible material which is resistant to incendiary bombs. (B.S./A.R.P./27.)

This has now been followed by the issue of a further Standard for testing treatment applied to timber to retard its combustibility. Such treatment could be applied to the members of a roof or attic as a protection against the effect of an incendiary bomb.

Briefly, the method involves a comparison of the retardant effect of the material under test with that of a standard silicate paint ; the conditions under which the comparative test is made and the results which should be given by a satisfactory material are set out in this Standard.

A note at the beginning of the Standard states that the Building Research Station will be prepared to carry out tests for manufacturers of materials.

Copies of this new Standard may be obtained from the Institution (at above address), price 3d. post free.

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DETAILS SHOWING METHODS OF USING EUPHON-QUILT FOR THE REDUCTION OF SOUND TRANSMISSION BY STRUCTURAL ISOLATION.

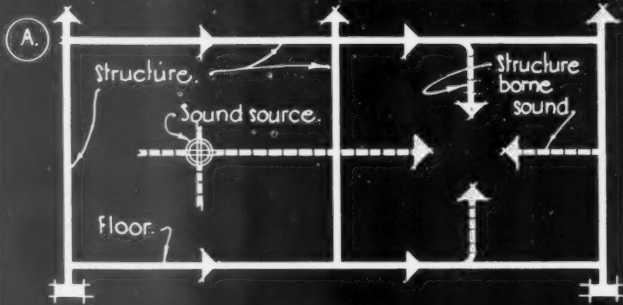


DIAGRAM SHOWING THE TRANSMISSION OF SOUND THROUGH CEILINGS, FLOORS & WALLS DUE TO STRUCTURAL CONTINUITY.

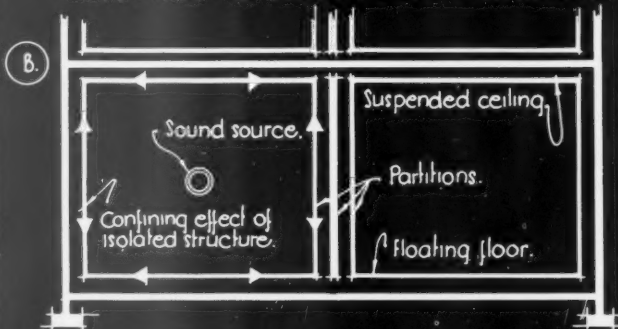
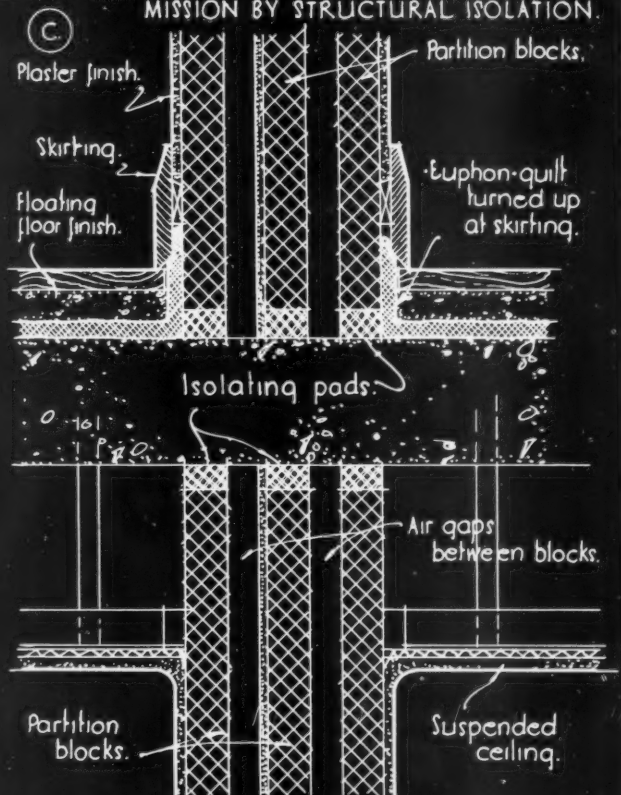
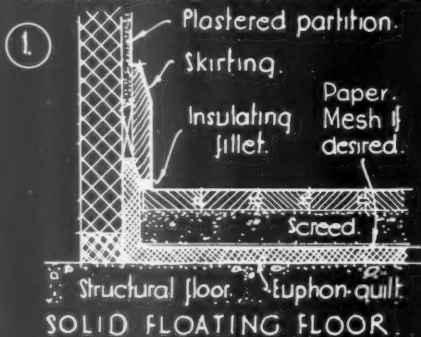


DIAGRAM SHOWING THE ISOLATION OF THE STRUCTURE TO PREVENT SOUND TRANSMISSION DUE TO STRUCTURAL CONTINUITY.

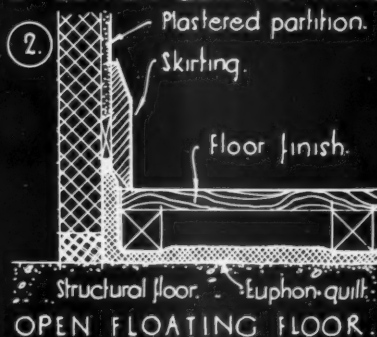


METHOD OF ISOLATING STRUCTURE WITH EUPHON-QUILT.

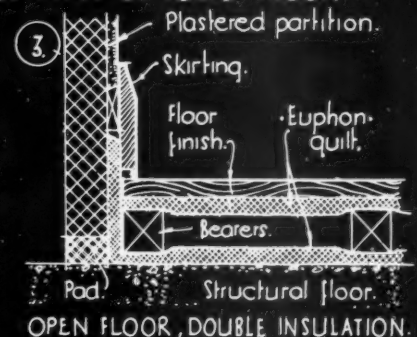
DETAILS SHOWING THE APPLICATION OF EUPHON-QUILT TO VARIOUS TYPES OF SOLID FLOOR:



SOLID FLOATING FLOOR.

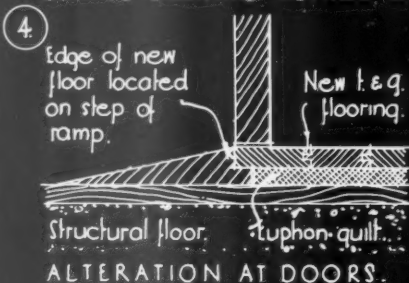


OPEN FLOATING FLOOR.



OPEN FLOOR, DOUBLE INSULATION.

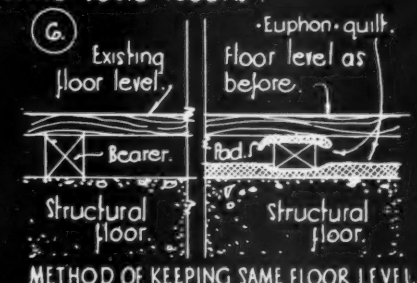
DETAILS SHOWING METHOD OF APPLYING EUPHON-QUILT TO EXISTING SOLID FLOORS:



ALTERATION AT DOORS.



ALTERATION AT WALLS.



METHOD OF KEEPING SAME FLOOR LEVEL.

Information from Glass Fibres Limited.

INFORMATION SHEET: SOUND INSULATION OF FLOORS & CEILINGS 1
SIR JOHN BURNET TAIT AND LORNE ARCHITECTS ONE MONTAGUE PLACE BEDFORD SQUARE LONDON WC1

THE ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL
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INFORMATION SHEET

• 782 •

SOUND INSULATION

Subject : Sound Insulation of Floors, No. 1

Product :
"Euphon" Glass Silk Quilt.

General :

This is the first of two Sheets dealing with the sound insulation of floors and ceilings and is confined to structural isolation in solid construction.

Description :

"Euphon" glass silk quilt consists of glass drawn out into long fine flexible fibres, quilted and enclosed on both sides in water-proofed Kraft paper and stitched with strong thread. Thousands of minute air cells are enclosed within this structure.

The quilt is incombustible, chemically inactive, odourless, non-hygroscopic and rot-proof. It offers no sustenance to vermin.

Its sound absorption co-efficients are 0.75 at 250 cycles, 0.9 at 500 and 1,000 cycles, and 0.95 at 2,000 cycles.

Practical Application :

Recent research work on the question of sound transmission in structures has shown that considerable reductions in transmission may be obtained by isolating from one another the component cells of the building under consideration. This is to prevent acoustic vibrations set up in one part of the structure from being (by virtue of structural continuity) transmitted along the structure itself, and so energising the air in another cell of the building.

In order to achieve this isolation, it is necessary to have a floating floor, designed so that its mechanical connection to the structure is of the lowest possible efficiency. This is a most important aspect of the problem of isolation, the structural separation of partitions and so forth being comparatively easily effected by supporting them on resilient pads.

Diagram A on this Sheet illustrates the transmission of mechanical vibrations set up in the structural fabric by acoustic disturbances. The vibrations are carried along the lines of the structure from one cell to the other as shown by the arrows and then re-radiated by other remote membranes.

Diagram B shows how minimum continuity of the structure isolates the cells and prevents transmission of structure-borne sound.

Diagram C shows the general method of constructing a suitably isolated partition and floor.

Diagrams 1 to 6 on this Sheet show various methods of treating new solid floors with "Euphon" Quilt, and also the alterations required where this quilt is to be applied to existing floors. Where butts occur in the quilt underlay, these should be covered with waterproof paper to

prevent the cement screed running between, and making mechanical contact between floor and structure.

Sizes and Weights :

"Euphon" Quilt is obtainable in light, medium and heavy weights. Rolls 1 yd. wide.

Grade	Uncompressed thickness	Yds. per Roll	Weight per sq. yd.
Light ...	$\frac{3}{8}$ "	27	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.
Medium ...	1"	27	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
Heavy ...	1 $\frac{1}{8}$ "	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ "

Costings (Pre-war) :

It is estimated that a normal 6-in. reinforced concrete suspended floor plastered and distempered on soffit and with 1-in. deal t. and g. flooring on 2 in. by 2 in. battens fixed with clips, would cost 20s. 2d. per yard super.

The following prices represent the estimated cost of similar floors plastered and distempered as above, but with light grade quilt and the floor finishes shown in the details on the front of the Sheet substituted.

In detail 1 block flooring on a screed is substituted for the ordinary boarding and battens, and in no cases are floor clips used in conjunction with the "Euphon" Quilt.

As details 4, 5 and 6 are for new floor finishes on existing floors, the cost of the floor construction has not been included, but the cost of taking up the existing floor and the new battens required for detail 6 have been allowed for.

Detail (1) :	26s. 10d. per yd. super
Detail (2) :	21s. 2d. per yd. super
Detail (3) :	23s. 8d. per yd. super
Detail (4) :	6s. 3d. per yd. super
Detail (5) :	6s. 3d. per yd. super
Detail (6) :	7s. 5d. per yd. super

All prices are average prices for work in the London area, including overhead charges and profit. Estimates by Messrs. Davis and Belfield.

Prices (Pre-war) :

Grade	Prices per sq. yd. net	
	Quantities up to 500 sq. yds.	Quantities over 500 sq. yds.
Light ...	1/9	1/8 $\frac{1}{2}$
Medium ...	2/2	2/1 $\frac{1}{4}$
Heavy ...	3/3	3/2

Issued by :

Glass Fibres, Ltd.

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DOULTON HOUSE

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Electrical Contractors for
Memorial Hall:

Bective Electric Co. Ltd.
36, Davies Street,
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Photo by courtesy of Messrs. Doulton & Co. Ltd.

This handsome modern building, standing on the Albert Embankment facing Lambeth Bridge, impresses the eye by the simplicity of line and motif in its design and by the effective use of coloured Doulton "Carraraware" facings. The interior of this fine building is similarly representative of the high standard for which the name Doulton is world-famous, and it is significant that for the electrical installation exclusive use was made of

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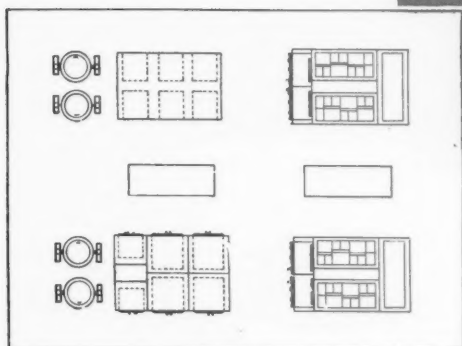
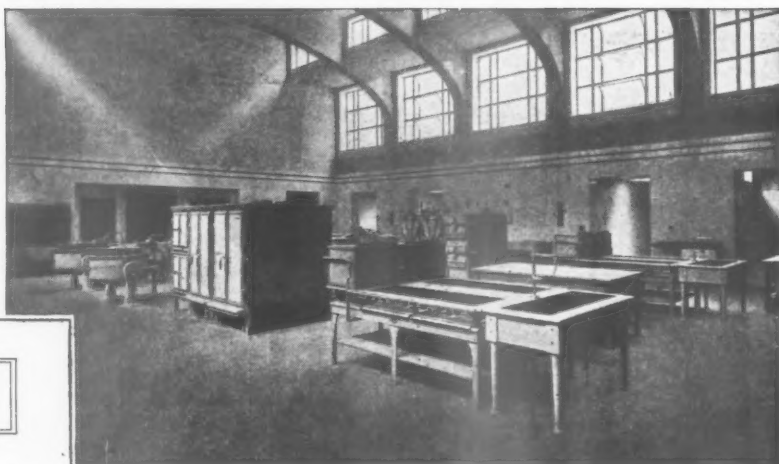


Rising mains, showing
power and lighting link
fuse boards for floor
distribution.



Work on low tension
feeder cables supplying
floor distribution boards.

Radiation installation at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham, one of the largest and best equipped Hospitals in the country. Photograph and layout of the main kitchen, which provides meals for about 1,000 persons.



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19 Queen Victoria Street, E.C.4.

SOME QUESTIONS ANSWERED THIS WEEK:

- ★ *WHAT is the percentage increase in building costs since the outbreak of war?* - - Q²²⁹
- ★ *CAN you recommend books on the subject of assessment of fire losses?* - - - Q²³⁵
- ★ *WHAT firms provide the special doors and windows used in police cells?* - - - Q²³⁷
- ★ *CAN you let us have names of manufacturers of gas-resisting paints?* - - - - Q²⁴⁰

THE ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL

INFORMATION CENTRE

SINCE the Information Centre was started many manufacturers and suppliers have asked for the names and addresses of enquirers to whom they consider their products would be of special interest. It must, therefore, be made clear that the Information Centre's Service is confidential, and the names and addresses of enquirers cannot be disclosed.

Manufacturers who feel that certain of their products would fulfil the special requirements of an enquirer are, of course, at liberty to send to the editor descriptive literature and samples, and these will be sent on in all cases where the Director of the Information Centre considers that they will be helpful to the enquirer. A number of enquiries are, however, made by telephone, and in this case the full name and address of the enquirer is sometimes not known.

Any questions about building or architecture may be sent to:

THE ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL

45 THE AVENUE, CHEAM, SURREY.

Telephone:

VIGILANT 0087

or ring the Architects' Journal Information Centre at

R E G E N T 6 8 8 8

Q²²⁷ ARCHITECT, LONDONDERRY.—*I have in course of erection a shop front, and I would be grateful for the following information: How to prevent WINDOWS STEAMING ON THE INSIDE. I have already a ventilator at base leading up through floor.*

The steaming up of windows is caused by hot air impinging on cold surfaces: consequently either the glass surface has to be warmed to prevent this deposition of moisture or greater rate of change of air has to be provided. On the actual steps to be taken in this instance, much will depend upon whether the window space is a separate compartment or open to the general stores behind. There are two general methods to be followed in whatever steps are taken ultimately. Double glazing of the window could be adopted, the distance between the glass lines being about $\frac{3}{4}$ in. This is effective in that the insulation provided by the air space makes it easier for the inner glass to attain the inside temperature of the premises, and so condensation does not occur. Any tendency for condensation to form on the inner surface of the outer glass is prevented easily by providing at the bottom of the space between the glass lines a layer of a dehydrating medium in the form of activated alumina.

Any firm of shop window glazing contractors could provide a double-glazed installation. An alternative method, providing the ventilation at present installed is adequate and efficient, would be to use a heating element at the base of the window just inside the glass. For this purpose a tubular electric heater is usually incorporated in the soleboard design.

Q228 ESTIMATING DEPT., BUILDING CONTRACTORS, LONDON.—*I am pricing some work on A GOVERNMENT SPECIFICATION, and a walling description is given as follows: 4½ reinforced metal bricks. Can you tell me what these are or, alternatively, what this means?*

We have no knowledge of any form of brick to which this description could be applied. Probably the work involves building with blue bricks, and with the expanded metal type of brickwork reinforcement running horizontally in the joint. Or it may be that perforated engineering bricks are to be used, and vertical rod reinforcement inserted. Reference to the drawings or to the Department concerned would be the only sure way of determining what the clause really means.

Q229 ARCHITECT, LONDON.—*What is the PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN BUILDING COSTS SINCE THE OUTBREAK OF WAR?*

The answer to this enquiry covers two phases, both of which must be taken into account when assessing the increased cost of building. The first is the increase in labour and materials costs. The following notes are as published in the ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL of March 7—"The percentage increase in cost of labour for Central London since pre-war days is 6.35 per cent. for labourers and 4.76 per cent. for craftsmen. The list of basic materials, which follows, shows the approximate percentage differences between prices published in August last and prices on February 29, 1940:—

	Per cent.
Portland cement	plus 9.8
2-in. Unscreened ballast ..	plus 17½
Fletton bricks (at station) ..	—
Roofing tiles	plus 7½
Steel joists (basic sections) ..	plus 7
Lime (Greystone)	plus 14.3
Sheet lead	plus 50
Iron rainwater goods	plus 12½
Iron soil pipes	plus 12½
Copper tubes	plus 25½
White lead paint	plus 21.2

but in using these percentage increases

reference should be made also to the accompanying notes in the same issue. The second, and more serious aspect, is the increased cost of building, arising from the alternative materials which have to be employed because of difficulties of procuring timber and other rationed commodities. Take for example small house property: the additional cost of providing a concrete upper floor and floor covering of cork tile instead of the normal wood joist and flooring would about equal the rise in cost of building of the entire house resulting from price increases of labour and materials.

Q230 URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.—*In certain of our A.R.P. Posts we are to install sleeping accommodation and TWO-TIER BEDSTEADS have been suggested for the purpose. Have you any knowledge of this type of bedstead, and particularly the name of a manufacturing firm?*

We believe that the Home Office approval has been given to a bedstead of this type, designed and produced



in steel by*. A sketch of the fitting is shown above.

Q231 ARCHITECTS, LONDON.—*We are preparing drawings for factory extensions, and the problem is one of PAVING FOR an outside LOADING DOCK where carboys of nitric acid are handled. What form of surfacing could be used? There is concrete existing, and the material adopted should be resistant to acid spillage and heavy traffic.*

Many forms of paving could be suggested, including surfacings of acid resistant cement mixes, reinforced and unreinforced mastic asphalt treated to resist acid, but probably the most suitable under all conditions of use would be the impregnated end grain wood blocks, such as are used in roadways. With

* Whitefields Bedsteads, Ltd., 12-16 Dane Street, London, W.C.1.

considerable spillage of acid—which is unlikely—damage might arise in places, but with road blocks of this type sections of the work can be easily and neatly replaced.

Q232 ARCHITECT AND SURVEYOR, SOUTH-GATE, LONDON.—*My position in regard to MILITARY SERVICE seems to be one which may not so far have arisen, and I should be glad to have your opinion. I am an architect and surveyor, and shall have to register in a few months' time. I am employed by a firm of architects and surveyors the principal of which is a Fellow of the Surveyors' Institution. Shall I be unreserved as an architect or reserved as a surveyor? I am a registered architect and also an architect and surveyor member of the Faculty of Architects and Surveyors.*

The position of a person as regards reservation depends partly upon what he is doing at the time of registration and partly on his usual occupation. Architects are now unreserved. Quantity surveyors are at present reserved from the age of 23. If the enquirer is now principally engaged on quantity surveying or has been principally engaged on such work in the past, he is entitled to call himself a quantity surveyor and will therefore be reserved. It is possible that his employer will be asked to make a statement that he was engaged as a quantity surveyor and is now employed on such work.

Q233 ARCHITECT, NOTTINGHAM.—*I have a problem which must be fairly common in these days of timber rationing.—A joist and boarded floor has been replaced by a solid CONCRETE FLOOR for timber economy, and the problem is to find an APPROPRIATE FINISH, having approximately the same qualities as wood, i.e. "warm" for the feet of office workers, resilient for walking, besides the usual desiderata of cleanliness, hard-wearing properties, etc. A jointless flooring finish is presumably indicated, and I have already particulars from the Marbolith Flooring Co. and various other firms supplying different types of Magnesite flooring. This, however, would seem rather "hard" for the type of finish required. Asphalt is prohibitive because of possible gas contamination; wood block comes under timber rationing—as far as the circumstances of this job are concerned; linoleum is an obvious possibility, but presumably not very hard-wearing on*



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concrete even with a good underlay. Can you advise me as to any other type of possible flooring finish please, together with the names of firms?

Since solid concrete floor structure is provided, other forms of floor surfaces which would be considered for the work are compressed cork tiles, rubber and cork carpet. These materials are all readily available, and all possess that measure of "Comfort" conditions under foot which are required. In your enquiry no information is given as to the actual quantity required; but we would suggest that you also enquire locally about supplies of wood block flooring, as supplies from pre-war stocks seem to be still generally available, particularly where the supplying firm is to lay the flooring.

Q²³⁴ ARCHITECT, LONDON.—*I have telephoned CUPRINOL, LTD., at the address and number appearing in the telephone book, but have received no reply. Can you tell me if they have an evacuation address?*

This company may now be found at the address printed below.*

Q²³⁵ CHARTERED ENGINEER, LAHORE, INDIA.—*I shall be most grateful if you would recommend books on the subject of ASSESSMENT OF FIRE LOSSES.*

Your enquiry was referred to the Librarian of the Chartered Surveyors' Institution, and after consultation with Mr. F. R. Eiloart, F.S.I., he recommends the following works: *E. J. Macgillivray and D. Browne: Insurance Law relating to all risks other than marine, and including life, fire, accident, guarantee, burglary, third party risks and employers' liability.* 2nd Edition, 1939. Published by Sweet and Maxwell, 2-3 Chancery Lane, London, W.C.2. Price £3 10s. *A. W. Baker Welford and W. W. Otter-Barry: The Law relating to fire insurance.* 3rd Edition. Published by Butterworth and Co., Bell Yard, London, W.C. Price £2 5s.

Q²³⁶ BUILDING CONTRACTORS, LONDON.—*What TIMBER is used normally FOR the BLADES or vanes IN A WATER-*

* Jenson and Nicholson, Ltd., Cuprinol Section, Jenson House, Stratford, London, E.15. Telephone No.: Maryland 4567.

COOLING TOWER in conditions where the wood will be permanently saturated? Is Western Red Cedar recommended for this purpose?

Normally Columbian Pine (Douglas Fir) is used for this purpose. Western Red Cedar could be used, and would be successful. With its adoption, however, it would be advisable, particularly where the water is used in a commercial process, to drain off the first few runs passing over the Western Red Cedar. This timber has an oily content which would pass off in these preliminary runs, but its service and durability thereafter would not be impaired.

Q²³⁷ ARCHITECTS, DUDLEY.—*What firms provide the special DOORS and windows used IN POLICE office detention CELLS?*

It would seem that in this work no special patterns of windows and doors are now used. In recent work the doors are formed of 2-in. solid flush doors with sheet metal facing towards the cell, and this metal is carried round the edges and fixed with countersunk screws. The door frames could be in metal trim or formed of sheet metal covering timber. With windows, a normal type of metal sash is used with the added provision of flat bars fixed externally. Approved details are available from,* but application for these details should be made by the public authority for whom the work is being constructed.

Q²³⁸ BUILDING CONTRACTORS, LONDON.—*On a job with which we are continuing there is specified a composite SHEET MATERIAL formed OF a PLY-WOOD core AND faced both sides with ASBESTOS-CEMENT. Apparently, however, this material was imported into this country and supplies are no longer available. Is there any home-produced equivalent?*

An exactly equivalent production is not made in this country. The nearest approach would be the combined sheets of plywood and asbestos-cement produced by Turners Asbestos Cement Co., Ltd.† By using a double layer of this combined sheet the effect desired would be obtained, that is, a plywood core and both

exposed surfaces of asbestos-cement. It might be also that you could interest the firm mentioned in the production of the double-faced asbestos-cement sheet with the plywood core as at one time imported.

Q²³⁹ OIL COMPANY, WEST COUNTRY.—*In the past, for our buildings abroad we have used quantities of a LINING MATERIAL purchased in America from the Marsh Wall Products Company of New York. We now wish to replace this with an EQUIVALENT British material if this is available. Could you inform us of likely manufacturers to approach?*

From the records available it would appear that the material is of the nature of a photographic reproduction of marble or veneer over a backing of asbestos, steel sheet or plywood. Materials of this description are made in this country by the firms mentioned below,* and marketed under the names of Prestal and Oxvar.

Q²⁴⁰ A.R.P. DEPARTMENT, BOROUGH COUNCIL.—*Can we have the names of MANUFACTURERS OF GAS-RESISTING PAINTS?*

From information provided by the National Federation of Paint Manufacturers the firms mentioned below,† among others, now produce this type of paint.

REFERENCE BACK

[This section deals with previous questions and answers.]

Q¹⁹¹. February 29, 1940

In this question published in the February 29 issue, the name of Messrs. Beckett, Laycock and Watkinson was given with others as being producers of Dovetail pattern steel sheeting. They now inform us that they have ceased production of this form of sheeting.

* The Preston Hall Industries, Ltd., British Legion Village, Aylesford, Kent. The Oxvar, Ltd., 1 Regent Street, London, S.W.1.

† Nobles and Hoare, Ltd., Cornwall Road, London, S.E.1. Cellon, Ltd., Richmond Road, Kingston-on-Thames. Jenson and Nicholson, Ltd., Goswell Works, London, E.15. Pinchin Johnson, Ltd., 4 Carlton Gardens, London, S.W.1.

HOUSE, DRUID STOKE AVENUE, BRISTOL



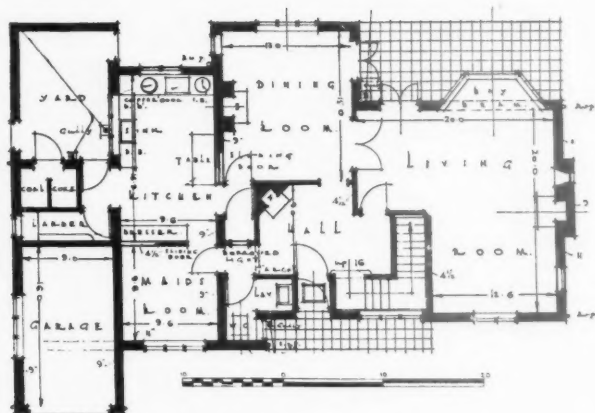
GENERAL AND SITE—This house was designed by the architect for his own occupation and is one of several executed by him in the neighbourhood. It is situated in a secluded avenue and the site is approximately 1 acre.

PLAN—Planned with due regard to aspect; principal rooms are at the rear facing south. Service quarters are well screened.

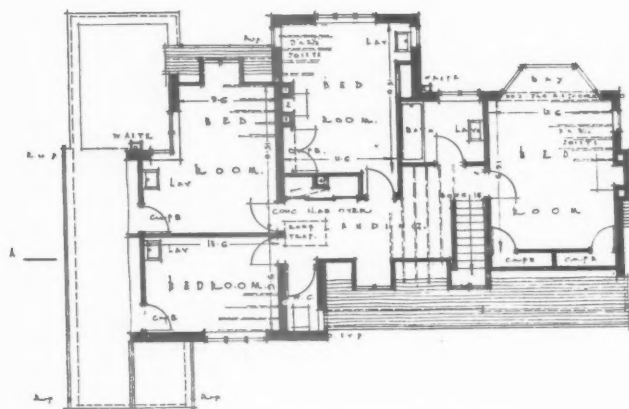
CONSTRUCTION AND EXTERNAL FINISHES—External walls, 11-in. cavity brickwork in cement mortar. Walls, cement rendered, coloured Portland stone colour. Facing bricks, local 2½-in. hand-made. Roof, dark hand-made Broseley tiles; metal casements in 4-in. by 4-in. deal frames, lead glazed.

SERVICES—Gas cooking. Hot water by Ideal boiler. Radiators in two bedrooms, dining-room and garage. Electric heating and lavatory basins in four bedrooms.

COST—£2,100.



GROUND FLOOR PLAN



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

D E S I G N E D B Y A L E X . F . F R E N C H

THE BUILDINGS ILLUSTRATED

NURSES' HOME, NORTHAMPTON GENERAL HOSPITAL (pages 325-329). Architects: Sir John Brown and A. E. Henson. General contractors were Henry Martin, Ltd. Sub-contractors and suppliers included: Trussed Concrete Steel Co., Ltd., steel rods and design, and fireproof construction; Excelsior Patent Stone Co., Ltd., artificial stone and stairtreads; D. Anderson and Son, special roofings; Hollis Bros. & Co., Ltd., woodblock flooring; North British Rubber Co., Ltd., rubber flooring; Ashwell and Nesbit, Ltd., central heating; A. Bell & Co., Ltd., grates and sanitary fittings and door furniture; Northampton Gas Light Co., Ltd., gasfitting; E. Goldston, Ltd., electric wiring and electric light fixtures; V. W. C. Jupp & Co., Ltd., electric fires; Crittall Manufacturing Co., Ltd., casements; Silent Door Co., Ltd., sliding door gear; J. R. Routhorn, plaster; Birmingham Guild, Ltd., metalwork; P. Jaconello, Ltd., marble;

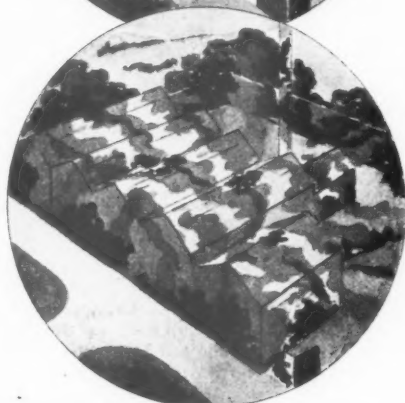
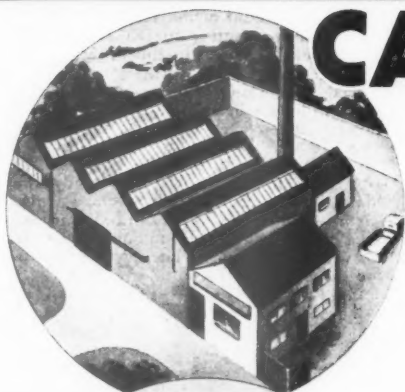
Carter & Co., Ltd., tiling; Jeffery, Sons & Co., Ltd., linoleum; S. L. Reynolds and Sons, carving; Matthews Bros., entrance gates; Express Lift Co., Ltd., passenger lift; Canister Works, rubbish and dirty linen chutes; Northampton Corporation, water supply; Minimax Ltd., hose reels; Pearce and Cutler, Ltd., mirrors.

HAMMERSMITH POLICE STATION (pages 331-338). Architects: Farquharson and McMorran. Consulting Engineer: W. L. Scott, M.Inst.C.E. Clerk of Works: W. W. Broadfoot. General Foreman: R. Weir. General contractors were Holland & Hannen and Cubitts. Sub-contractors and suppliers included: D. Anderson and Sons, Ltd., flat roofing; Bratt Colbran & Co., fireplaces; Camden Tile and Mosaic Co., Ltd., wall and floor tiling; Candy & Co., stable paving bricks; Carron Co., cast-iron stable fittings; Carter and Aynsley, Ltd., bronze busts; Cement Marketing Co., stock bricks; Chubb and Sons Lock and Safe Co., Ltd., cell locks; Constable, Hart & Co., Ltd., asphalt road surfacing; Dennison, Kett & Co., Ltd., roller shutters; J. L. Emms and Son, cast lead; Farnley Iron Co., Ltd., Staffs blue

bricks; Fenning & Co., granite work; Fitzpatrick (Contractors) and Son, Ltd., York stone paving; The Gas Light and Coke Co., cooking apparatus; Gent & Co., electric clocks; A. Goslett & Co., glass and glazing; Griersons, Ltd., electric installation; G. J. Green and Sons, Ltd., plaster; Hammond and Champness, hand power service lift; Higgins and Cattle, Ltd., hall lantern; G. Jackson and Sons, Ltd., fibrous plaster; J. Jeffreys and Sons, Ltd., heating installation; T. C. Jones & Co., Ltd., structural steelwork; Kingsmill Metal Co., Ltd., iron and bronze work; W. R. Leggett, Ltd., ironmongery; Lawford Asphalt Co., Ltd., asphalt work; Luxfer, Ltd., lantern lights and pavement lights, etc.; Midhurst Whites, Ltd., white bricks; Herbert Morris, Ltd., stable hoist; Alfred A. Odoni & Co., bicycle stands; R. E. Pearce & Co., steel windows; Pollard & Co., canteen show cases; Portland Stone Masonry Works, stone wall linings; Royde and Tucker, Ltd., sash chains; Shaw's Glazed Brick Co., white glazed bricks; Sliding Door Manufacturing Co., sliding doors; H. C. Slingsby, Ltd., loft ladders; Smith's (London), ironmongery; Stevens and Adams, Ltd., wood flooring; Stitson, White & Co., Ltd., plumbing

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Two views of the Multigrip machine described on this page. Left, clamped to the table ready for use; right, in operation.

and sanitary work: Stuarts Granolithic Co., Ltd., pavings; Venesta, Ltd., cell doors; John Wood, Ltd., linoleum flooring; Waring, Withers and Chadwick, Ltd., light fittings; Young & Co. (Westminster), Ltd., stable fittings; Northwick Brick and Tile Works, bricks.

MANUFACTURERS' ITEMS

We have received from Messrs. Partridge and Cooper, Ltd., of 22 Broadway, Westminster, S.W.1, a specimen of their new Multigrip machine for attaching papers, continuation sheets, enclosures, documents, etc. This small desk machine (see photographs on this page) is simple to use, and will fasten from two to twelve sheets in one operation without the use of

clips, pins, staples or metal fasteners. Price 10s. 6d.

The directors of the Ketton Portland Cement Co., Ltd., announce an interim dividend of $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. (less income tax at the rate of 7s. in the £), on the ordinary share capital of the company for the half-year to December 31, 1939, and on account of the financial year to June 30, 1940. Warrants for the interim dividend, and for the half-year's dividend on the $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. participating preference shares will be posted on March 23, 1940.

For some considerable time it has been apparent that the use of sandbags could not be

continued, first, on account of the cost and secondly, on account of the very great danger to the public of rotting masses of sandbags. After a great deal of experiment Messrs. P. Winn (Barking), Ltd., have therefore designed a special interlocking concrete block which is claimed to be practically 100 per cent. recoverable when its emergency duty as a protective device has been served. Size of each block is 18 in. by 9 in. by 9 in.

Firm states that no cement or other fixing medium is necessary in order to make a first-class job, and the whole work can be carried out by unskilled labour in the minimum of time. Block can be very easily whitened, or otherwise made distinctive by an outside wash.

Messrs. P. Winn (Barking), Ltd., River Road, Barking, Essex, can arrange to supply these blocks within a reasonable distance of their Barking works, and will be pleased to grant licences to manufacture on terms, to any responsible contractors. Full particulars are obtainable from the company.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The practice of Mr. J. D. Hossack, F.R.I.B.A., is now being carried on at 5 Guildford Avenue, Surbiton, Surrey. (Telephone No.: Elmbridge 3350.)

APPOINTMENT

Glamorgan County Council has appointed Mr. L. R. Gower, F.R.I.B.A., as deputy county architect, to succeed Mr. J. Williamson, F.R.I.B.A., who was recently appointed county architect. Mr. Gower has been in the County Council service more than 26 years. He previously held posts at Swansea and Neath.

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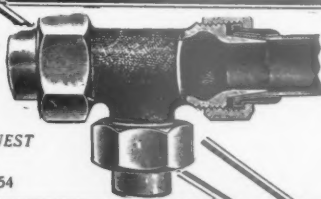
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