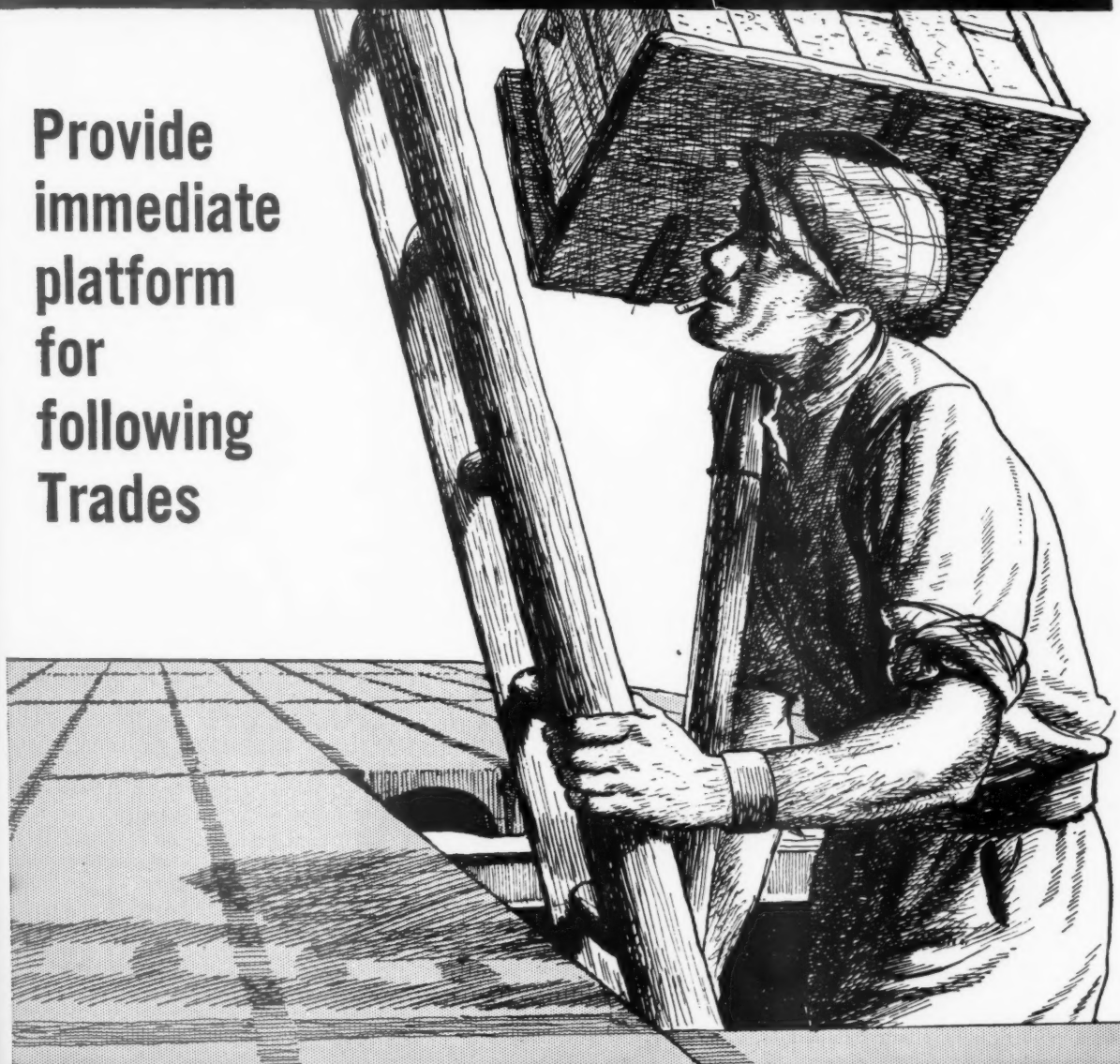


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Though every care will be taken, the Editor cannot
hold himself responsible for material sent him.

THURSDAY, JUNE 19, 1941.

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Owing to the paper shortage the JOURNAL, in common with all other papers, is now only supplied to newsagents on a "firm order" basis. This means that newsagents are now unable to supply the JOURNAL except to a client's definite order.

To obtain your copy of the JOURNAL you must therefore either place a definite order with your newsagent or send a subscription order to the Publishers.

POLICE STATION IN LONDON

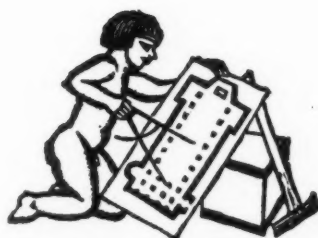


*Police Station in London. By G. Mackenzie Trench.
(From The Royal Academy Exhibition).*



DESTRUCTION OF THE CITY TEMPLE

The City Temple, Holborn Viaduct, London's largest and best known Congregational Church, was burnt out during an air raid. Opened in 1874, the church was basilican in form and free classic in style. It was designed by Lockwood and Mawson. The photograph shows the nave after the fire.



THOUGHTS INSPIRED BY THE FIRST SITTING OF THE RIBA RECONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE

IN three recent leaders on the design of small houses the JOURNAL has faced its readers with a problem it believes to be inevitable: a permanent change in building practice. A change in the technique of designing—from the control of particular buildings to the control of general types—is already adumbrated by such things as the B.R.S. building bulletins. They recognize that before the building, the building programme must be planned. And none too soon. These last weeks of the war have given the building industry a vast, immediate, and increasing, problem of re-housing. To solve it will mean a sifting of technical methods, and a keen comparison of their merits on the basis of labour, materials, time, and results. That such a way of setting about building is not the only one we unfortunately know, from the reports of the Select Committee on War Expenditure, if from nothing else. We know there is always an apparently easier way out. Yet ultimately, for reconstruction, as for the war, the alternatives are to build in an inventive and comprehensive way, or to get stuck in the mud. Since the war has turned our technical problems into public ones we have to deal with them now, or admit that the intellectual contribution of the building industry, towards solving building problems, is a very small one.

We now face the technical building problem of the war—large output, little time, unskilled labour, limited types of materials, standards of A.R.P.

In reconstruction, we may expect to have available more factory space and labour, to use more metals and diverse synthetic materials, perhaps to drop A.R.P. precautions, and to cheapen building.

Before the war, the problems were to increase output, to cheapen building, to end jerry building, to have any comprehensive plan adopted. Such problems suggest factory products, meticulously designed and mass produced. But so far we have had prefabrication only in special building types and parts. We still have to learn what to try to do with it. Prefabrication to some architects has been, romantically, a symbol of technical progress. To others, regretfully, it has meant the passing of the Good Old Days and proper building, a type of jerry building. Only in the United States has it been thought of for many years as an obvious solution to the housing problem which still, somehow, would not work. Private enterprise could not cope with it, but even so—just before this war—a British building society could successfully build our usual type of suburban cottage in the suburbs of New York.

There has, however, been an intuitive urge to use the development of industrial techniques for building—one might say that Mr. Buckminster Fuller's bathroom, pressed complete with its plumbing from one sheet of metal—a beautiful shape, but much too small—is as much the product of a style as is a cusped window. It developed reasonably from one of the fields in which modern mass production must irrevocably win: equipment, fittings, windows and doors, staircases. It illustrates an advantage of prefabrication which may often be the determining one, that if anything complicated has to be repeated often it should be machine-made. Away with double-hung sashes, and with gathered and raking flues.

The development of wall panels, made from plastic materials such as glass, resins, asbestos cement has been another movement in the same direction. Being factory made, they are naturally turned into finished products in factories. Much of the impetus for prefabrication comes from them. The material as well as the product can be designed for its use. In peacetime, their full development depends on co-ordinated long-term research—which as yet we scarcely have. It is of no use discussing the peak of development of a rational building technique, while different sections of the industry tend to be at sixes and sevens, but we can acknowledge that the use of wall panels suggested the saving in time and skilled labour which could be general in the industry.

Beyond such generally accepted uses, which have come easily to the industry before the war, is the promise of larger units. Using timber, the Scandinavians built with large structural wall and floor units. Several peacetime designs for Dutch barns, sheds and huts—all either temporary or not for humans—might have led to a wider application of the principles of standardization. That they did not do so was due partly to there being no shortage of skilled labour. Yet there was at times such a shortage in the United States, so it was not this alone which held us back. Partly, we must admit, it was due to there being no imperative desire to solve the slum or other problems. A stop-gap policy of subsidies, coupled with jerry building, was adopted instead.

Thus the use in building of modern industrial developments has descended upon the designers and executors of war buildings almost as a novelty. A change of attitude and method has been and still is urgently needed; in a subsequent issue the JOURNAL will try to sum up the progress which has been achieved so far.



The Architects' Journal
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NOTES & TOPICS

THIS FREEDOM

THE problems the R.I.B.A. Reconstruction Committee has to deal with differ in kind from any that have gone before within living memory in one absolutely vital aspect. Call zero year 1940. Before that date every committee that ever sat was working within terms of reference imposed from without by circumstances which it is now polite to refer to collectively as *Obstruction*—the stuff of which vested interests and borough surveyors are made. It is too early to say borough surveyors have ceased to exist (far, far too early), but not too early to say they can never exist again in exactly their pre-war state. In short, while in the nature of things obstructions always have existed, and always will exist, it is no longer in the power of man to say exactly what they consist of for purposes of reconstruction.

★

Which means that the planner has been deprived at one blow of the limitations of his craft, a horrible predicament for anyone, particularly a planner, to be in, since it means he is faced with the necessity of reconsidering every aspect of every problem afresh. How—to take the most important example of all—can any proposals for town planning be put forward by a committee without it has an agricultural policy? And how can an agricultural policy be formulated when not a single factor in farming can be taken as fixed?

THE CASE FOR MIXED FARMING

Without answering that question, I would refer whoever is interested in the agricultural problem to a pamphlet I mentioned in passing a fortnight ago, by G. Goddard Watts, *An Agricultural Policy for Britain*—a more exact title would be *The Case for Mixed Farming*. It is worth reading as a forceful exposition of the case for raising corn as well as stock, which is the basic principle of mixed farming. "It has been seriously suggested," he says, "that Britain should not trouble to produce her own food to any extent,

contenting herself with the production of, say, fresh milk, fresh eggs, fresh vegetables and fruits, leaving the production of corn and beef to the great agricultural countries which have specialized in them, and which for various reasons can grow them far more cheaply."

★

"He would be a brave man indeed who would argue a case for growing corn in Britain simply for the corn. But the production of corn is the economic corollary of the economic production of milk. We now know that, to get the best pastures and to keep them good, they must be ploughed from time to time. We must plough for grass and plough for milk. But unless a cash crop, in the form of corn, can be taken before the grass is sown down again, the operation of re-seeding often becomes impossibly expensive. The corn takes up the nitrogen left behind by the old clover roots and it cashes the fertility stored up in the old sward by the animals that have grazed it. Stock, grass and corn are really three parts of one farming operation, and if one part is cut out the whole proceeding over-balances. . . . The thin envelope of fertility upon which the human species depends has been torn up and exhausted in some parts with continual corn growing. In others, livestock have been crammed on to once fertile plains and grassy savannahs so that the over-grazed herbage becomes barren desert."

★

"When we say the soil has 'lost its fertility,' it is only another way of saying that the soil is sick. It suffers from indigestion, by too much dunging and not enough cropping, or from pernicious anaemia, by too much cropping and too little dunging. . . . The only way of restoring balance to the soil, and so, ultimately, health to ourselves, is by mixed farming, and there are at least 8,000,000 acres of permanent grassland in England and Wales that should revert to it in one form or another. Under mixed farming, each farm would be encouraged to produce to the full what its own particular conditions fitted it to produce. It would be the antithesis to the policy of trying to produce selected food on a national scale—the policy that led to the unsatisfactory state of farming before the war."

★

And not only farming, but *farmland*, too. And not only in England. Over the rest of the globe strange things have been happening to land that has been abused by over-cropping and under-stocking. The North American prairie lands are blowing away in dust; from 30 to 50 per cent. of America's original total of soil fertility is gone; the Missouri basin has lost an average of seven inches of topsoil in 24 years (the mean rate of soil *formation* is estimated at one inch in 10,000 years); the biggest new Californian desert has advanced 40 miles in one year, destroying 2,500 farms; the Sahara is moving southwards at the rate of half a mile a year; parts of the Orange Free State, noted for their fertility, have since the beginning of the century become waterless desert; and in China, Russia, New Zealand, South America and Australia the same thing is going on. The pamphlet is published by George Allen and Unwin, and costs a shilling.

REGISTERED ARCHITECTS AND THE R.I.B.A.

Entrance to the profession being shut against all new entrants who are not prepared to pass qualifying examina-



All Hallows' Church, North Greenford, Middlesex. By Cyril A. Farey. (From the Royal Academy Exhibition).

tions, the question whether or not the R.I.B.A. should offer its licentiateship to suitable candidates among unattached architects, arises almost inevitably. In fact it has arisen.

★

I don't know how many such "unattached" architects there are, or what professional qualifications they possess. But it is reasonable to suppose that out of every 100 there are 20 or 30 whose abilities and standard of practice are as high as that which the R.I.B.A. expects, but who have never bothered, despite the ructions over the Registration Bill, to join a society.

★

A case could be made out for inviting those unattached architects who so desire, to apply for the Licentiateship of the R.I.B.A., providing it is made clear that only those candidates possessing suitable qualifications will obtain membership.

★

It may be that few would avail themselves of the opportunity and fewer still would be granted membership. But now that the main object of the Registration Bill has been gained and the future is well guarded, does the R.I.B.A. gain or lose by offering membership to as many freelances as possible?

YEOMAN (OF SIGNALS) SERVICE

Most people are pretty tired of having modern architecture compared with the external appearance of a ship. In fact, presumably because it is so difficult to fit everything in, it is very unusual to find a ship designed with the considered firmness and fine economy of a well-detailed modern building. Admittedly the difficulties of a ship architect must at times be overwhelming, but in particular the *planning* of passenger accommodation—except, of course, on the O'Rourke line—never seems to show much directness and simplicity of purpose. There must be

many architects who have felt their irritation mounting as their stomachs sank, while they wandered, caged, queasy, and impatient, through the gently heaving labyrinths of a modern liner, in a hopeless search for the dining room, the barber's shop or even that ill-ventilated telephone box, their cabin.

★

This war has given one architect, at least, a chance to get his own back. A colleague now serving afloat writes to say that since his peace-time profession was discovered he has built up quite a decent little practice. His first commission, granted with good-humoured suspicion, was the replanning of the sick bay so that the surgeon need no longer perform operations in the hammock store.

★

The success of this piece of elementary planning—so easy to a man accustomed to RESEARCH in the A.A. library—encouraged the captain to demand that an 8 ft. by 9 ft. cabin be converted into a ship's chapel, using a colour scheme of red, gold and black. This proved more difficult, but the job is well under way (to use a nautical phrase) and it seems possible that the wardroom will be next on the list.

★

My correspondent says that he feels quite at home below decks in a warship. With its abundance of rivet heads and white paint, of gleaming metal, flush light-fittings, "strip" flooring and circular "posts," it resembles, he writes, the entrance hall of any contemporary block of flats. The walls, apparently, meet at equally queer angles, and the atmosphere is just as oppressive.

★

There is, however, no truth in the rumour that an ex-architect soldier boarding a cruiser which was removing to safety the national treasures of Greece, and bumping into a Caryatid on Mr. Stoker's mess deck, was heard to cry: "My God! Another Tecton job?"

ASTRAGAL

NEWS

HONOUR FOR ARCHITECT

In the King's list of Birthday Honours His Majesty conferred the M.B.E. upon Mr. J. Fernandes, consulting architect to the Government of Madras.

NEW ESSENTIAL WORK (BUILDING AND CIVIL ENGINEERING) ORDER

Mobile Force for Building of 100,000 workers

Details have been issued of the new Essential Work (Building and Civil Engineering) Order, whose purpose is to secure labour to speed up the building of aerodromes, factories, and other constructional works of vital importance.

The main provisions of the Order are that, when an undertaking is scheduled:—

(a) The right of the employer to discharge a worker, and of the worker to leave, is strictly controlled.

(b) A guarantee of a certain minimum time-rate of wages is given.

(c) Cases of alleged absenteeism, unpunctuality, failure to comply with lawful orders and behaviour impeding production are dealt with under a special procedure.

Not only a particular undertaking but a building "site" can be scheduled.

It is laid down that arrangements should be made, in all cases where it is practicable and desirable, for a system of payment by results. The wording of the Order allows full elasticity on the method of applying the principle, and covers a wide range of variations, including a system of bonus on output.

Scheduling in the building and civil engineering industries will begin with a few large contracts of special importance. It is hoped that it can be extended quickly to other parts of the Government building programme.

Another provision is for the enrolment of building volunteers, who in return for special privileges will be ready at once to go to work wherever (in Britain) they are most needed. It is hoped to raise a large body of picked workers for this purpose.

The Order is a part of a wider scheme framed by the Ministry of Works and Buildings for the control and direction of the two industries in the interests of the war effort.

Mr. Ernest Bevin, Minister of Labour and National Service, explaining the provisions of the Order, said that the future of the industry depended very largely on the success of the scheme. It was well-known that the full productivity of the war effort was dependent to a large extent on the expediting of certain buildings and civil engineering works in the country. We must speed up the effort on airfields, and on War Office and Admiralty construction. There was not time to stop and argue with anybody.

For the first time there had been introduced for the building trade a guaranteed week, and it was for those in the trade not to spoil it. As long as he could remember they had been trying to get paid for time lost owing to climatic conditions, and he was quite certain that if they were determined to make the scheme a success the new arrangements would become a permanent feature of the industry. Machinery had been provided for dealing with absenteeism and other hindrances to production.

With regard to payment by results the situation was such that the method should be adopted as an incentive wherever it was desirable and practicable. The civil engineering side of the industry had always had payment by results to a limited extent, and the system was to be extended. There had been a lot of Sunday work, but both sides of the industry were anxious to stop it. They preferred to do their work in six days, and it was noteworthy that where a six-day week was worked absenteeism was very limited.

Referring to the establishment of a mobile force, Mr. Bevin said that this had been fixed at 100,000 workers. Such a force was essential for the repair of damaged buildings, works, or airfields. Every eight weeks they would be given return tickets so that they could visit their families. He thought the men in the industry would have to be supplemented by about 50,000, mainly labourers, for the most serious shortage at the moment was of semi-skilled men.

Lord Reith, Minister of Works, said that the object of the scheme was to get through a Government programme of about £1,000,000 a day. The rigours of civil licensing would be increased in order to concentrate energies on essential building, and standards would have to be reduced, but the work would not suffer on that account. Nothing that was not necessary, however, could be permitted. Grouping was an important matter, and small concerns would have to co-operate in order to get the maximum efficiency.

In the next six months, and in spite of all handicaps, records must be broken. Before the war the strength of the building industry was about £1,350,000. To-day it was about 750,000. Included in the building programme were ordnance and munition and other war factories, aerodromes, defence works, emergency hospitals, hostels, repairs to factories and houses, and essential services.

MASONIC HONOURS FOR THE PRESIDENT, R.I.B.A.

The M.W. Grand Master, The Duke of Kent, K.G., has honoured the President of the R.I.B.A., Mr. W. H. Ansell, M.C., by conferring upon him the Grand Rank of Assistant Grand Superintendent of Works for the ensuing year. Bro. Ansell is a Past Master of The Arts Lodge No. 2751, of which he was secretary for many years, and in 1920 he was appointed to London Grand Rank. The honour conferred on Mr. Ansell is a token of the high regard held by Grand Lodge for the work now being undertaken by the Institute under his leadership.

LETTERS

J. C. RATCLIFF

ANDREW BOYD, A.R.I.B.A.

DAVID PERCIVAL

Secretary, Committee of Technicians in the Building Industry.

Reconstruction after the War

Sir,—Your journal has consistently advocated a policy of planning and reconstruction after this war, making use of the best technical knowledge and organization available in the profession.

Hand in hand with such preparatory measures must go collaboration with the executive functions of the building industry, and I am writing to suggest that you publish a series of articles on the organization of this industry in this country, to enable architects better to think ahead and fulfil the qualities of leadership that must be expected of them.

The more experienced members of the profession must perforce have had considerable dealings with the organizations of the building industry, but to younger members—and particularly those "school-trained"—such information would not come amiss, if only to prepare for hard realities they must face up to sooner or later in their planning ideals.

I would suggest these articles bring out the following points:—

Analysis

(a) The existing machinery of trade union (building operatives) and contractors' (employer's) organizations, leading up to the Joint Boards and national machinery.

To complete the picture, the civil engineering and allied industries must not be forgotten.

(b) The geographical basis of present working conditions and wage-structures ("local working rules") with possibly a brief historical résumé of the background to this side.

(c) The means and methods of recruitment and training for building tradesmen, not forgetting the building trades labourer.

Proposals

(d) Suggested improvements as regards (a), (b) and (c) in view of the greater efficiency required of the building industry for reconstruction

(e) Relations between the architect and the building industry—on national and local basis.

I am not suggesting a lengthy treatise on these matters, but it would seem the right opportunity now to present a picture of the executive organizations, in being or required, to architects before their minds become too interested in their technical problems to pay heed to these things.

J. C. RATCLIFF

Chilwell

Technics and Politics

SIR,—Many architects must have been pleased to see an editorial from you on the much-discussed relation between "Technics and Politics." But may I submit the view that this relation is closer than you imply, and that the "purely technical" questions, to which you want technical societies to confine themselves, are fewer than you assume.

Political neutrality is possible on what proportions of lime, cement and sand are best against crazing. On such questions no one would dispute your position. It is not possible on larger questions of policy involving people—the interests of ordinary users of towns houses. In some of these questions—reconstruction and town planning, for instance—the political aspects of the problem are far more important than the technical; as we saw from Nazi housing policy in Germany and also from our own inter-war failure in these two fields, which no one could convincingly attribute to lack of talent or technical possibilities.

The fact is that a pronouncement by a technical body on one of those larger questions is based on political and social assumptions, including some aims which are assumed to be desirable and feasible and others which are assumed not to be. This political and social basis can be concealed and pretended away, or it can be admitted and made explicit. To disregard or underrate it is only too often a cover, whether conscious or unconscious, for conserving existing political and social relations—with all their obstruction to technical improvement and achievement.

I suggest that the real "clear-headedness" consists in being aware of, making up one's mind about and informing the public of such a basis, and if a technical body refuses to discuss this or—following from that—accepts any social and political basis that is imposed by authorities it may be letting down both the public and its own technical ideals.

London

ANDREW BOYD

SIR,—We very much agree with your editorial of May 22 in stressing the importance of "Technics and Politics." It seems necessary, however, to emphasize that the C.T.B.I. is *not* another technical body. It was formed specifically to provide a forum for the discussion of *political problems as they affect technicians*; for example, why the obnoxious cost plus system on Government contracts persists, and why technical advice is grossly underrated.

Among our members various points of view are included—over ultimate aims we could argue hotly—but we all subscribe to a broad minimum programme. This programme consists, in brief, of protection of the people's living standards—housing, food distribution, wages, all questions of first importance to all except a tiny minority; an adequate A.R.P. and Evacuation policy—the need for that is a platitude; maintenance of democratic rights—that should need no discussion in a war for democracy; nationalization of the country's land and resources—the planner's *sine qua non*; national self-determination for India and the Colonies—not mere promises of this to Nazi-occupied countries; a policy of friendship with the U.S.S.R.—mere common sense, and a well-deserved compliment to the State in which technicians enjoy so high a status; a Government that really represents the interests of the mass of ordinary people—not those of Big Business; and an eventual peace that gets rid of the causes of war—peace without annexations or indemnities, those crazy mistakes this generation is so dearly paying for.

It will be noticed that this is (in outline) the programme of the People's Convention, which did in fact inspire us to get together, and to which we send financial support and delegates who can place before a wide audience the views of technicians.

Correspondence and answer is not a satisfactory way of clinching discussion; we propose to deal with the whole question raised by your editorial in a short pamphlet we are now preparing, and hope you will in due course review it. Meanwhile we shall always be pleased to supply information to any of your readers who express support or criticism to us.

London

DAVID PERCIVAL

FLASHBACK

THE THIRTIES have now joined the Nineties in history—they have become a PERIOD. We are still too close to the Thirties to sum up their essential character, but we can, in moments of relaxation, look back at aspects of them with a certain pleasure. This is what Mr. Hugh Casson is doing—doing for the architectural profession before others do it for the larger world.

VARIATION ON B . . . WAY

By Hugh Casson

Winfield was the sort of John Piperish house which, as your first job in a new office, you are sent to measure up. It stood high, red, iridescent and pretentious among the dark metallic-looking shrubs of an elaborately hideous garden; and it positively bristled with angle bay windows, gabled dormers, glazed porches, white-painted balconies and fretted ridge-tiles. Within, it was a labyrinth of high angular rooms, long corridors, blanch-mange-like fireplaces, floral cornices and cavernous pantries, and although it occupied a perfectly flat site, the changes of level upon the ground floor were as frequent as they were puzzling. Every room was brightly carpeted and packed with very glossy furniture.

In the midst of this opulence, like a pebble enclosed within an ornate casket, sat the owner of the house, a grey, stolid, humpy little retired provision merchant called Truss. He was seated before a dusty little fire, in what Mrs. Truss called his "Den," and was engaged in reading his son's school magazine.

At the age of fourteen Mr. Truss had been an errand boy, and he was deeply impressed by "The Boucherturian," its crested cover, its list of Old Boys' activities, and its semi-facetious, self-important air. He had just perused the list of preachers for the term and had reached the characters of the XV. . . .

"C. L. Cutts has a nice feint, but is reluctant to use it. Must learn to keep his head up. A first-rate hooker" . . . when suddenly the front door bell shrilled. Mr. Truss looked up irritably as a tumult of barking broke out in the hall. He heard his wife's footsteps—would she never learn to leave door-opening to the maid?—and her voice speaking in that tone, so high as to be almost beyond the register of the human ear, which she used when addressing the dog.

A moment later the study door opened, and she entered.

"It's Mr. Fallace, dear," she said. "Quiet, Patch! He's come to see you about Tinker's Bottom. Get down you naughty boy."

Mr. Truss laid down his magazine. "Come along in, Fallace," he shouted above the din. "I've been wanting to see you. Quiet, you brute."

Heralded by hysterical yelping from Patch, Mr. Fallace strode into the room. He was an unattractive young man, rat-skulled, with burberry-coloured eyes and a fair moustache which failed to conceal a jutting upper gum and its frill of short yellow teeth. In an effort to minimize his physical defects—for presence was an important item in the armoury of a promising young estate agent—he affected a brisk military walk, loud-checked and double-slitted coats, green pork-pie hats, huge fur gloves and a curious vocabulary, half oriental, half-Sioux.

"Salaams, oh big white chief!" he said, advancing across the room with hand outstretched.

Mr. Truss, a little embarrassed, gripped it. "Morning," he said, "how's business?"

"Mustn't grumble," said Mr. Fallace airily. "Pulled off a very nice deal yesterday. I sold that derelict cowshed in Downpinny Lane to a London firm for conversion into a weekend cottage. Thought of doing the job myself only I hadn't the capital just then." His opaque eyes rested meaningfully upon Mr. Truss. "Properly handled it should prove a little gold mine."

Mr. Truss grunted. "Well," he said, "how about Tinker's Bottom? Got any ideas?"

Fallace drew up a chair and seated himself in it importantly.

"Ideas," he said, "are my business. I got a million of 'em." As he spoke he thought with satisfaction of his brightly painted little shop window in the High Street of Boxton with its array of little white cards arranged in "modern" patterns behind the glass. Fallace did not believe in the simple announcements "To Let" to "To Be Sold." His cards bore such striking messages as "Love in a Cottage? This is the place for it," or "It may not be romantic but the tradesmen call daily," or "Won't the kiddies love this quaint old garden?" It made people laugh a bit, but they came inside.

Mr. Truss was rummaging in a drawer. "Got a plan of the place somewhere," he muttered. "It's under your blotter, dear," said Mrs. Truss, who, having pacified Patch, was seated by the window with her knitting.

Mr. Truss found it and unrolled it gingerly. Slicing across it like a wound ran the red-marked new by-pass road.

Mr. Truss had got wind of where this new road was planned to run from a friend on the local council, and he had hurriedly bought up the surrounding land before it was scheduled as green belt or some such similar nonsense. It was this area, now a serene deserted valley, which he was intending (with the help of young Fallace) to develop.

Together they went over the plan, letting their imaginations range over its lonely slopes.

"Well," said Mr. Truss at length, "you couldn't choose a better site for good-class housing on a main road with plenty of traffic to watch and only half an hour from the cinema and shops. Old Poacher certainly put me on to a good thing." He turned sharply. "Don't forget, by the way, we're using his bricks when the job starts."

Fallace leered. "You can tell White Man," he said, "that Red Feather does not forget his friends."

"Well mind he doesn't—I mean you don't," said Mr. Truss shortly. He disliked Fallace's facetious phraseology as much as he admired his business acumen.

"Now what class of house do you advise? Seven hundred, fifteen hundred, three thousand?"

Fallace leant back and crossed his legs. "No question about that," he said. "The demand in this district is for the smart £1,500 house with about half an acre of garden—and a garage, of course."

Mr. Truss looked disappointed. "Not the big stuff?" he asked plaintively. "I'd thought of something like I've seen in Surrey—you know, real old timber and tiled roofs over the drive gates." Fallace shook his head.

"No can do. Believe me Mr. Truss, there isn't the demand here. Anyway I've got a much better idea."

"A road house," said Mr. Truss.

"Not exactly," said Fallace.

"Nothing very new about them," said Mr. Truss. "I've seen hundreds of 'em, and they don't look as if they had much of a turnover from November to March either. Can't expect to with nothing but a swimming pool full of dead leaves to look at."

"Tck, Tck," said Mrs. Truss. "Don't they clean them out?" As usual nobody answered her.

"True, O King," said Fallace, "but I wasn't thinking of that sort of place."

"Well, let's hear your idea," said Mr. Truss. He settled back in his chair and started to fill his pipe. Might as well give the young fellow a break. Pity about his teeth, though. Made him look like a horse.

"Well," said Fallace, "I got the idea during last Easter weekend. I had fixed to go down to Torquay for a couple of days by the old briny—it's usually only three hours run in my bus—that's an average of over forty most of the way."

"Fancy," said Mr. Truss mechanically.

"This time," Fallace continued, "I was having a bit of mag. trouble, and I decided to stop at the next garage and have it seen to. Well the next place I got to was at the bottom of a long hill—a bigish village—pretty enough, too, with a good-class of resident. While I was waiting for the chap to fix my mag. I took a toddle round.

"Of course, I'd been through the place masses of times before but never noticed

it—never see much when the old crate is on form." He gave a braying laugh.

"Well, there were a lot of people besides myself fooling round with cameras taking pictures of the cottages, and there were some tea-shops doing very nice business. It all looked pretty prosperous to me—and A.A. standard, too—none of this C.T.C. stuff. The garage man told me the place was called B... way. Quite well known he said it was. People came from all over the place to see it. Americans even. They were always busy at week-ends. I asked him if there was anything particular to see there—somebody's birth-place or a haunted house or something—but he said no, they just came to see the village."

"I love old villages," said Mr. Truss, "they're so quaint."

Fallace continued unnoticing.

"Well, I said to myself, there's the answer to Tinker's Bottom."

"Where," said Mr. Truss, who was a little battered by this long recital.

"Don't you see," said Fallace excitedly.

"An old English village. That's what you want to make of the place. None of this expensive swimming pool stuff. All you need is some old cottages round a village green, a couple of tea shops and a pub and you've got a gold mine."

Mr. Truss looked puzzled.

"Imitation stuff?" he said.

"That's right," said Fallace. "You've got to do the thing properly, of course—none of this inch slating for half timbering. You must make it look really old and lay it out tastefully."

"Won't that mean an architect?" said Mr. Truss suspiciously.

Fallace brayed. "No wantee those wallahs," he said, "spending money regardless. I've got just the lad in my office. He's done two years at the Teck and has got it all mapped up."

Mr. Truss pulled ponderously at his pipe.

"It's not a bad idea, Fallace," he said.

"It's an absolute snip," said Fallace.

"And this is the point. While these cottages look like 5s. a week stuff, actually they'll be fifteen hundred pounders with tiled bathrooms and garages."

"Garages?" said Mr. Truss.

"Oh, you can disguise them as little barns or dovecotes or something," said Fallace. "We can put some old well-heads in the garden and—"

"Tiled roofs over the gates?" interrupted Mr. Truss.

"Why not," said Fallace. "We can sell village crafts and antiques and home-made cakes in the shops. I'll make an arrangement with Honeybees, Ltd., to supply the honey and some white property hives to stick around the green, and Hortikraft turn out a good line in sundials and gnomes."

Mrs. Truss brightened. "Can we have some of them here?" she asked. They do so add to a garden."

Mr. Truss, deep in thought, did not reply.

"Of course, we'll have to change the name of *Winfield* to *The Hall*," he said. "Makes it more in keeping." He sucked at his pipe. "I suppose we couldn't arrange for me to be called Squire?"

He glanced self-consciously at his wife, but well trained, she kept her head bent over her knitting.

"No can do," said Fallace decisively. "You can't expect forelock-touching from people who own a £1,500 house. Still," he added, seeing disappointment shut like a blind over Mr. Truss's face, "we might import a few genuine rustics at weekends. Get 'em to sit round on the green and in the pubs."

"Just like the pictures," said Mr. Truss with a nervous laugh.

Fallace rose to his feet, satisfied that the idea had been sold.

"Well," he said. "Must toddle along now. Think it over and let me know when we can start." Absently he worked out what percentage he could get out of Honeybees and Hortikraft as he crossed the room to say good-bye to Mrs. Truss before opening the door to go.

Mr. Truss remained seated, his eyes vacant and unseeing. In imagination he was already doing the rounds of his tenantry against a confused background of smocks and bobbing curtsies, of thatched roofs, thank-ee—kindly squires and packets of tea.

"Good-bye Fallace," he said vaguely. "Can you bring in some sketches on Tuesday?"

Fallace popped his head round the door giving Patch, who had broken into noisy life again, a surreptitious kick with his foot.

"Can do," he said. "Cheeribye one and all."

The rat-skull withdrew, and the room sank into a silence broken by the click of Mrs. Truss's needles and the faint valedictory barking of Patch.

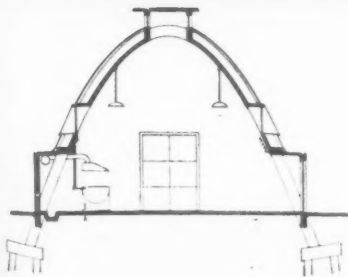
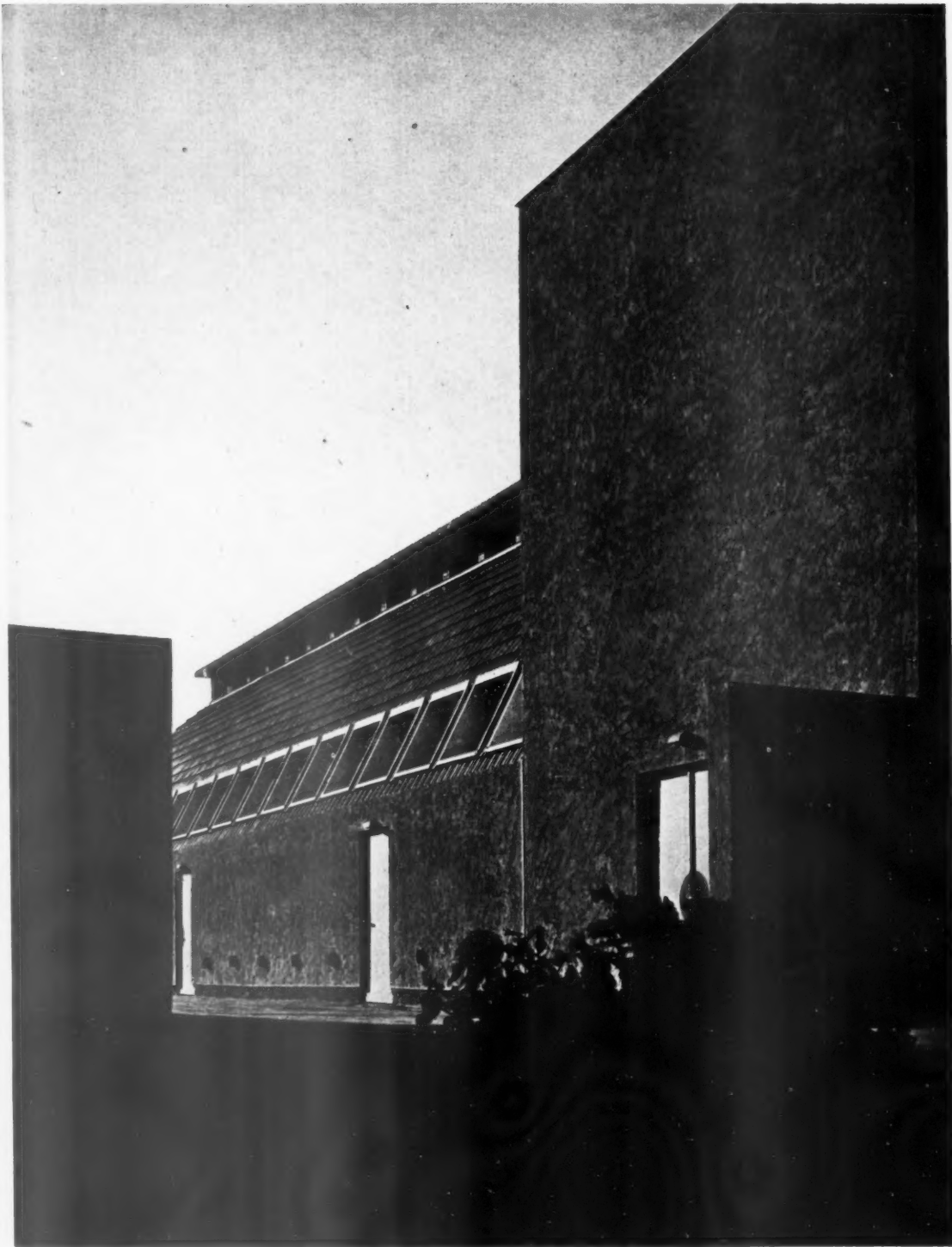
"Nice lad," said Mr. Truss. "Clever too. I think I'll offer him the job as my agent. He'll be useful for fixing up about leaking roofs and arranging shoots and . . . things," he finished lamely.

"Perhaps I'd better get some new plus fours."

"Yes dear," said Mrs. Truss.

RAILINGS ROUND LONDON SQUARES

In the House of Commons Mr. H. MacMillan, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Supply, replying to Sir T. Moore, said that systematic approaches had been made to the great majority of the parties interested in the ownership of the railings around the London squares, and as a result in a large number of cases railings had been surrendered for scrap purposes. There were still difficulties arising from the many different interests involved and legal restrictions imposed on the owners and trustees, but these were being dealt with as rapidly as possible. Meanwhile the flow was satisfactory from the practical point of view.



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MACHINE HALL IN PALESTINE

BY ERICH MENDELSON

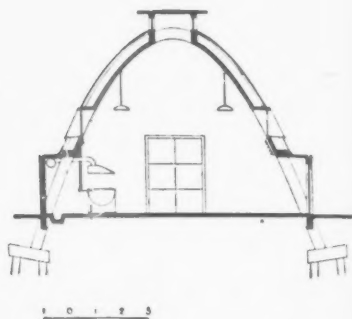
Above and left, photograph and section of the machine hall. It is built of reinforced concrete and the roof is covered with cement tiles. The section of the hall is elliptical to facilitate natural ventilation.



GENERAL—The machine hall, known also as the technical laboratory, is at Rehovot, Palestine, in the first portion of the Daniel Wolf Buildings, a series of research laboratories and workshops for the study of applied chemistry. The buildings are planned round an enclosed courtyard: see layout plan below which shows the complete scheme.

Left, a close-up of the elevation of the elliptical shaped machine hall.

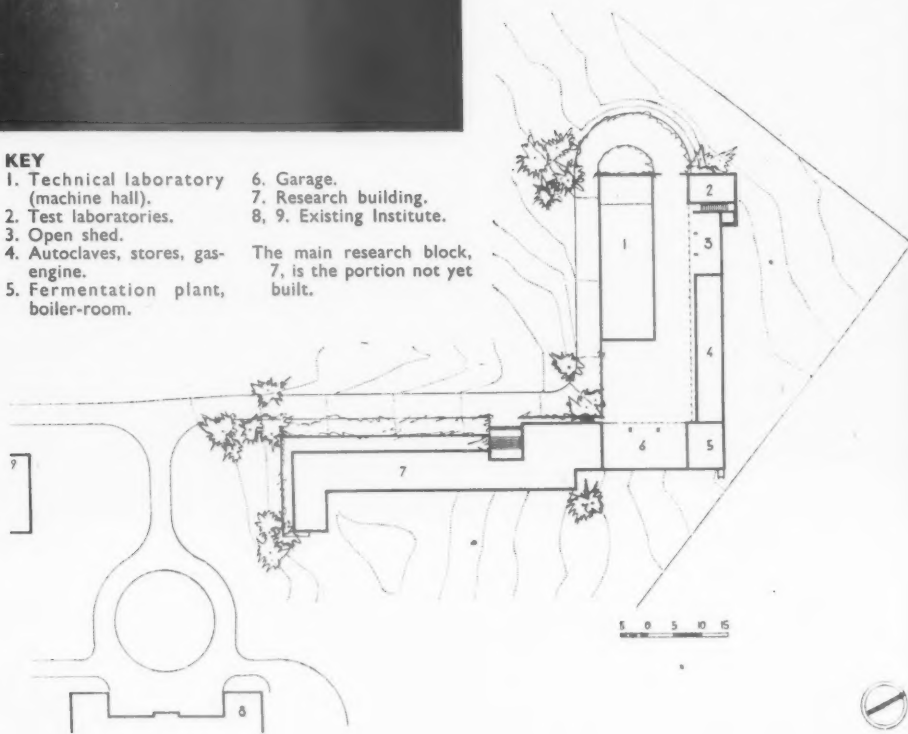
SECTION THROUGH
MACHINE HALL



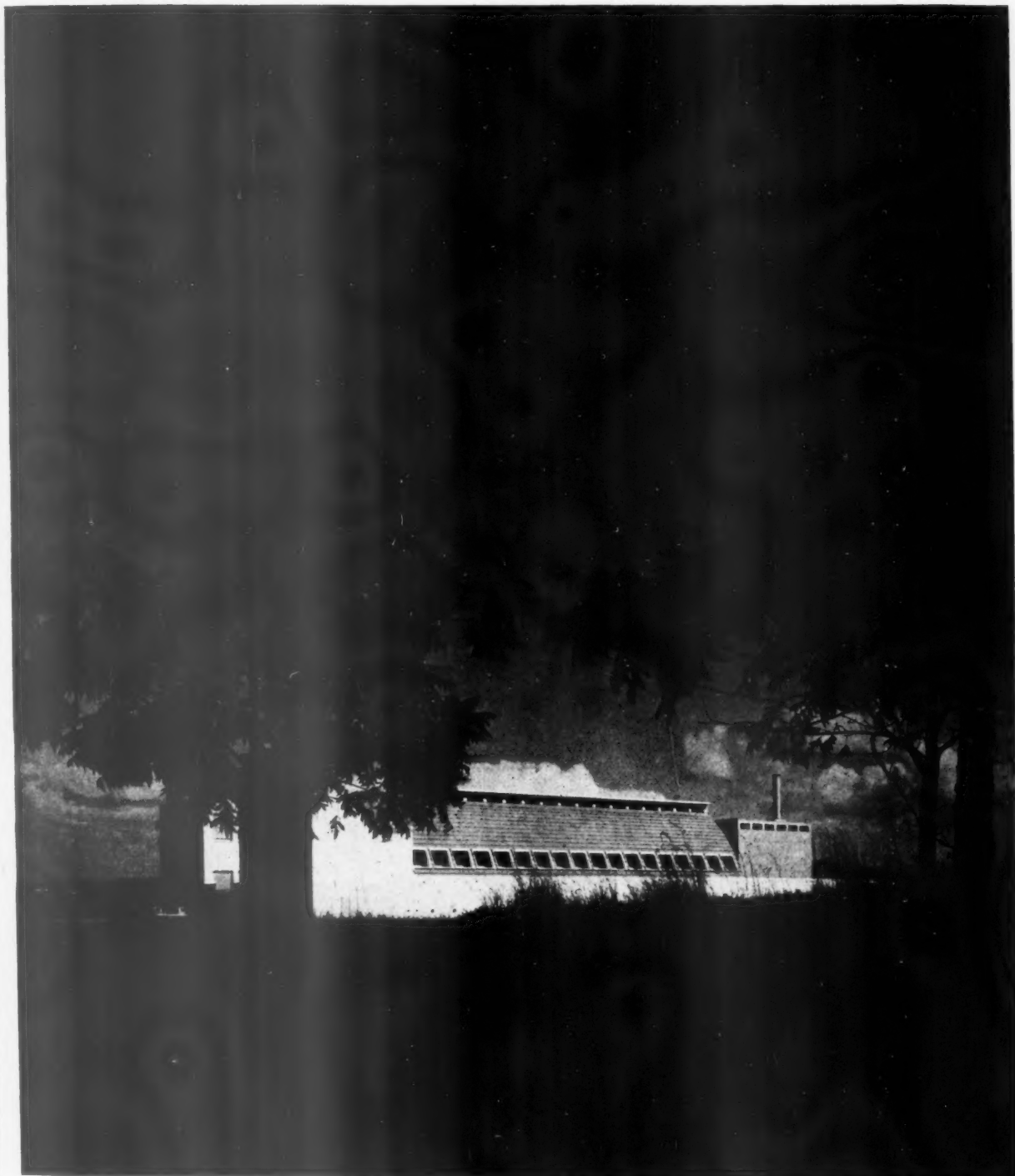
LAY OUT PLAN
OF LABORATORIES

KEY

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Technical laboratory (machine hall). | 6. Garage. |
| 2. Test laboratories. | 7. Research building. |
| 3. Open shed. | 8, 9. Existing Institute. |
| 4. Autoclaves, stores, gas-engine. | The main research block, 7, is the portion not yet built. |
| 5. Fermentation plant, boiler-room. | |



M A C H I N E H A L L I N

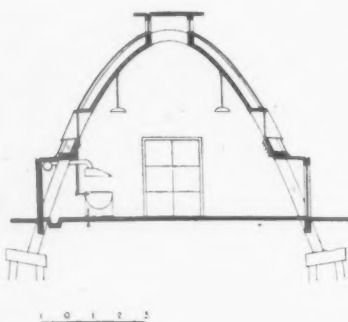


CONSTRUCTION.—The machine hall has pile foundations and parabolic reinforced concrete ribs supporting 4 in. slabs. The roof is covered with cement tiles on wood battens. The use of metal had to be avoided as far as possible. In addition to the natural ventilation through the roof, the hall has a fan-driven exhaust service for fume cupboards and hoods over boilers. Steam, gas and high- and low-pressure water services are provided. The laboratories consist of a two-storey reinforced concrete building

on pile foundations, with 8 in. walls insulated by a $2\frac{1}{2}$ in. pumice brick wall with a $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. air space between. Floors and walls are tiled. Equipment includes fume-cupboards, lockers in ash, and tables with tops in acid-proofed oak. All services run clear of the walls. The sheds are one-storey reinforced concrete buildings on pile foundations.

Above, the machine hall seen from the main road on the north side of the site.

P A L E S T I N E • B Y E R I C H M E N D E L S O H N



DESIGNED BY
ERICH MENDELSON

Left, the interior of the machine hall.

MACHINE HALL IN PALESTINE

FUTURE OF CITY CHURCHES

The Bishop of London (Dr. Fisher) announced at the London Diocesan conference that he was setting up a special commission to consider the future of the City churches.

Lord Merriman has consented to become chairman of the commission, and the Lord Mayor (Sir George Wilkinson) and Mr. W. H. Ansell, President of the R.I.B.A., will serve on it. The clerical members will include the Dean of St. Paul's, the Archdeacon of London, and Dr. Don, Canon of Westminster. To these will be added other representatives of the City and some representation of wider interests.

Question of policy concerning the City churches in relation to post-war reconstruction among other matters will be considered, and the commission will make recommendations to the Bishop of London and, if so requested by him, take the necessary steps to give effect to them.

STANDARDIZATION OF BRICKS

The following statement has been issued by the Ministry of Works and Buildings:

Standardization of the common brick to two sizes has been agreed by manufacturers throughout England and Wales, in collaboration with the Ministry of Works. In England and Wales the majority of the 850 brick manufacturers, who produce about 5,000 million bricks a year, have for some time been making bricks of the agreed size. The minority are now changing their plant and many of them are already producing bricks according to the agreed standard specifications, which are as follows:—

LENGTH.		WIDTH.		DEPTH.	
Type I.	Type II.	Type I.	Type II.	Type I.	Type II.
in.	in.	in.	in.	in.	in.
8 $\frac{1}{4}$	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{1}{4}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Tolerance	Tolerance	Tolerance	Tolerance	Tolerance	Tolerance
± $\frac{1}{16}$	± $\frac{1}{16}$	± $\frac{1}{16}$	± $\frac{1}{16}$	± $\frac{1}{16}$	± $\frac{1}{16}$

While this agreement between the brick manufacturers and the Ministry of Works is due to the pressing needs of wartime building, this is no new problem. A com-

mittee of makers and users of bricks, working through the British Standards Institution, agreed standard sizes of bricks in 1936. Thus, when the Ministry of Works found that standardization was essential to the nation's huge war building programme, it had the fruits of this labour from which to work.

Standard Type I related to facing bricks, and Types II and III to common bricks and other bricks. These standards were, in 1936, adopted by the London Brick Company, the whole of the Fletton brick-makers, and by a large number of other manufacturers throughout the country. A number of makers, however, continued to make bricks of slightly different sizes because of local tradition, and usage in villages and country districts dating back for many years has maintained these trivial differences in sizes. There were in all 17 sizes.

In war the production of bricks varying slightly in size from the bulk production was found to create difficulty in supply and transport. An operation such as a Royal Ordnance Factory requires millions of bricks, which must be drawn from a large number of works. Thus, in the absence of standard sizes it has been necessary, in the past, to draw upon distant brick works, imposing a heavy burden on transport, petrol and man power. It has also happened that a firm of brick makers has been compelled to stop production of one size because of a sudden demand for a few thousand bricks of another size which were necessary to finish an urgent job. The change over resulted in wastage of time and effort in the brick factory.

The adjustment in manufacture, which was of small cost, is being borne by the makers. It will result in a speed-up of production of bricks and avoid many irritating difficulties. Makers have suggested that arrangements should be made for the disposal of existing stocks, and that exception should be made when special work requires other sizes of brick.

As will be seen from the figures given in

the standard specifications, tolerances are allowed in all dimensions. Facing bricks may, after the war, be made in other sizes, but war must override æsthetic objections. In war, moreover, most brick work is camouflaged.

Users of bricks in England and Wales, for any purpose whatever, are now requested to work to the two standards. They should arrange for this without delay, to avoid further hampering of the manufacturers by demands for sizes now obsolete. The Minister of Works desires to express his gratitude to the brick manufacturers for their co-operation, without which this all-important step towards increased output could not have been accomplished.

WESTMINSTER HALL

In the House of Commons, Mr. Hicks, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Works and Buildings, questioned by Mr. Hannah about the Australian Government's offer to provide new beams to repair the roof of Westminster Hall, said he was grateful for the suggestion, but it would appear preferable to await the end of hostilities before deciding what permanent reconstruction was necessary. It did not seem likely that much replacement of timber would be needed.

WAR DAMAGE PAMPHLET

The War Damage Commission's explanatory pamphlet (Form C.I.A.), dealing with that part of the War Damage Act which relates to land and buildings, is to be placed on sale to the public. The pamphlet was designed for the assistance of those people whose premises had actually suffered damage, and arrangements were made for a copy to be issued free to each claimant. In view of the general demand for the pamphlet, particularly on the part of those persons and institutions who desire a large number of copies, arrangements have now been made for the pamphlet to be on sale through H.M. Stationery Office at a cost of 3s. per 50 copies. The charge for a single copy will be 1d.

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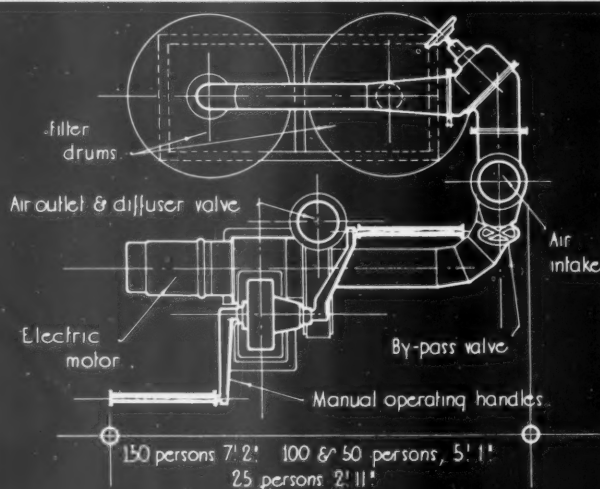
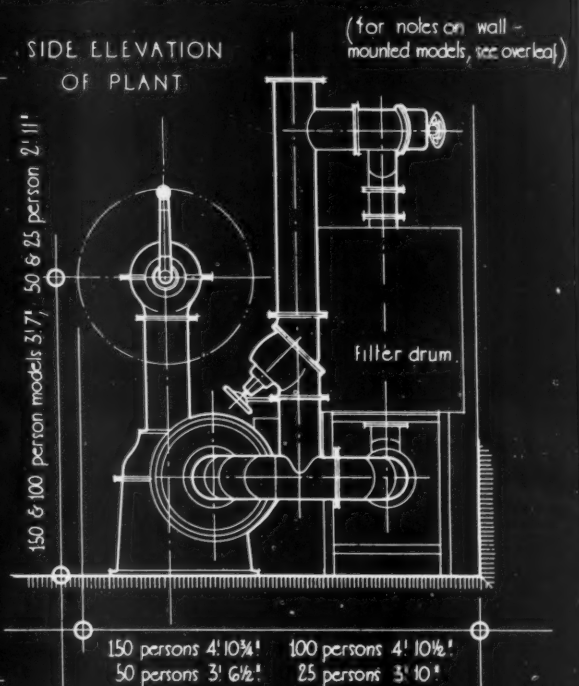
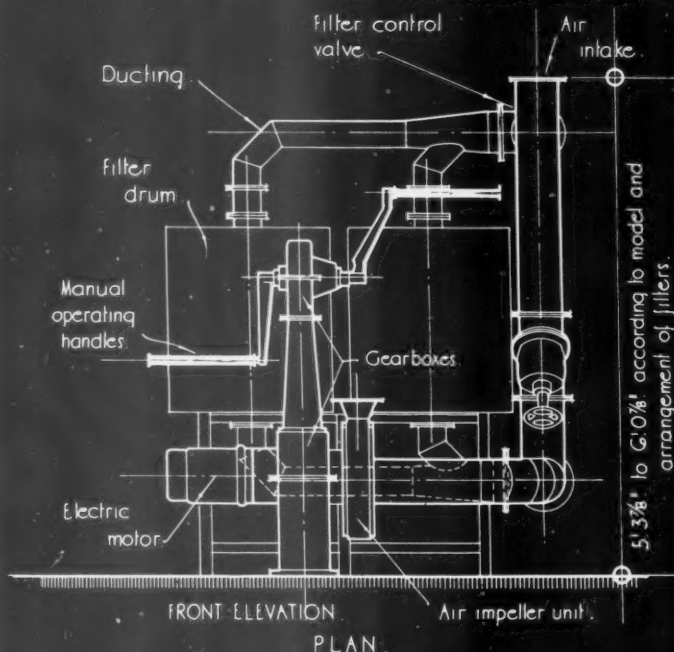
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THE ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL LIBRARY OF PLANNED INFORMATION.

ANDAMITE SYSTEMS OF STREAM VENTILATION AND AIR PURIFICATION FOR AIR RAID SHELTERS:



ALTERNATIVE ASSEMBLIES:

All models can be arranged in alternative assemblies for awkward or small plant rooms.

LARGE INSTALLATIONS:

Where filtration plant is required for more than 150 persons, a system made up of standard size models is recommended in preference to a single plant of larger capacity.

TABLE OF STANDARD SIZES & CAPACITIES OF VENTILATION & AIR PURIFICATION PLANTS:

PLANT SIZE	CAPACITY IN CU. FT./HR. ON BY-PASS	FILTER SIZE	CAPACITY IN CU. FT./HR. ON FILTER(S)	NO OF PERSONS ON FILTERS AT 150 cu ft. PER PERSON PER HOUR.
25/375	15,000	20G9	3,750	25
* 50/750 A	22,000	2070	7,500	50
* 100/150 A	40,000	2 x 2070	15,000	100
* 150/225 A	60,000	3 x 2070	22,500	150

Issued by Andamite Limited.

INFORMATION SHEET: A.R.P.: SHELTER VENTILATION & GAS PROTECTION.
SIR JOHN BURNET TAIT AND LORNE ARCHITECTS ONE MONTAGUE PLACE BEDFORD SQUARE LONDON W.C.1.

INFORMATION SHEET

• 831 •

A.R.P.

Subject : Andamite Stream Ventilation and Air Filtration systems. Home Office Licence No. XXIII.*

• **Description :**

The combined ventilation and air filtration plant illustrated on this sheet is designed to provide protection against all known war gases, and is suitable for installation in all types of P.A.D. Buildings. Under normal conditions the plant is used operating on a by-pass ventilation plant, the filters being brought into operation in case of gas attack. Assuming the building is reasonably gas-tight, the installed plant capacity should provide clean air to every part of the building, maintaining an internal pressure above atmosphere so that the air flow is always outward—thus preventing the infiltration of gas through slightly damaged structures.

Components :

Each model consists of standardized components for the three functions listed above :

(a) A centrifugal air impeller unit, electrically and/or manually operated and capable of delivering its rated output against a total resistance of 8 in. W.G. The unit is manufactured in four sizes, and is driven at a speed of 2,850 R.P.M. Shafts and double gearing for crank-handle operation are carried in ball bearings and oil baths respectively.

(b) Air-flow Equipment. This comprises air intake and air distribution throttle valves, air diffuser valves for spreading the air uniformly, rosette valves for passing air from room to room, and into the air locks, air evacuation valves for passing excess air to atmosphere (this valve being of non-return type with counter-balance adjustment and locking device) and air volume and pressure gauges.

(c) Air Filtration Equipment. A dust filter fitted at the top of the intake pipe to collect coarse atmospheric impurities, a condense drain at the lowest point on the intake assembly to prevent moisture reaching the gas filters ; filters to collect arsenical smokes and poison gases.

Operation :

Upon starting up the motor, air is sucked by the fan through the intake ducting and impelled either directly into the building through the diffuser valve or through the distribution ducting to the input positions desired.

Should gas be present, the by-pass and filter control valves are reversed in operation, and the incoming air first passes through the thick layer of asbestos merino wool which removes greasy smokes and arsenical irritants. The air is then drawn through closely packed activated carbon in the form of small granules. The interior of the filters is protected with an anti-corrosive compound.

The aerometer indicates whether or not the correct quantity of air is being delivered into the shelter, and consists of a bobbin in a glass tube, held in equilibrium by the action of the passing air stream.

All models are adaptable for manual operation by crank handles connected by shafting and bevel gearing to the impeller unit. In the presence of gas, the degree of over-pressure built up internally can be read directly from the pressure gauge.

Assembly :

All models can be arranged in alternative assemblies. Thus flexibility is obtainable to suit difficult plant room conditions.

The two largest models are designed for floor mounting only, the operating equipment being directly bolted, and the filter drums resting on a suitable steel stand as indicated. Although the filter drum of the 50/750 Model may be similarly mounted, the total assembly of both this and the 25/375 Models may be wall-mounted on brackets.

Maintenance :

The impeller unit, shafting, gearing, etc., are totally enclosed within a robust cast-iron casing. All other valves and measuring instruments are of suitable metal alloy with contacting surfaces ground to fine limits. The replacement or cleaning of the filters is the only periodic maintenance required, and the need for this is indicated by checking on the aerometer the rate of air passing into the building.

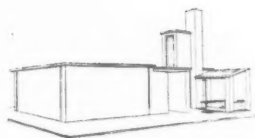
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Telegrams : Camouflage, Knights, London
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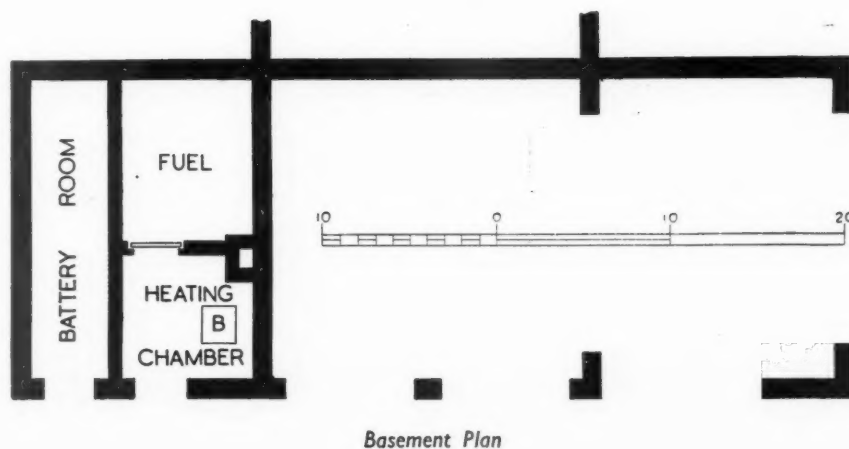
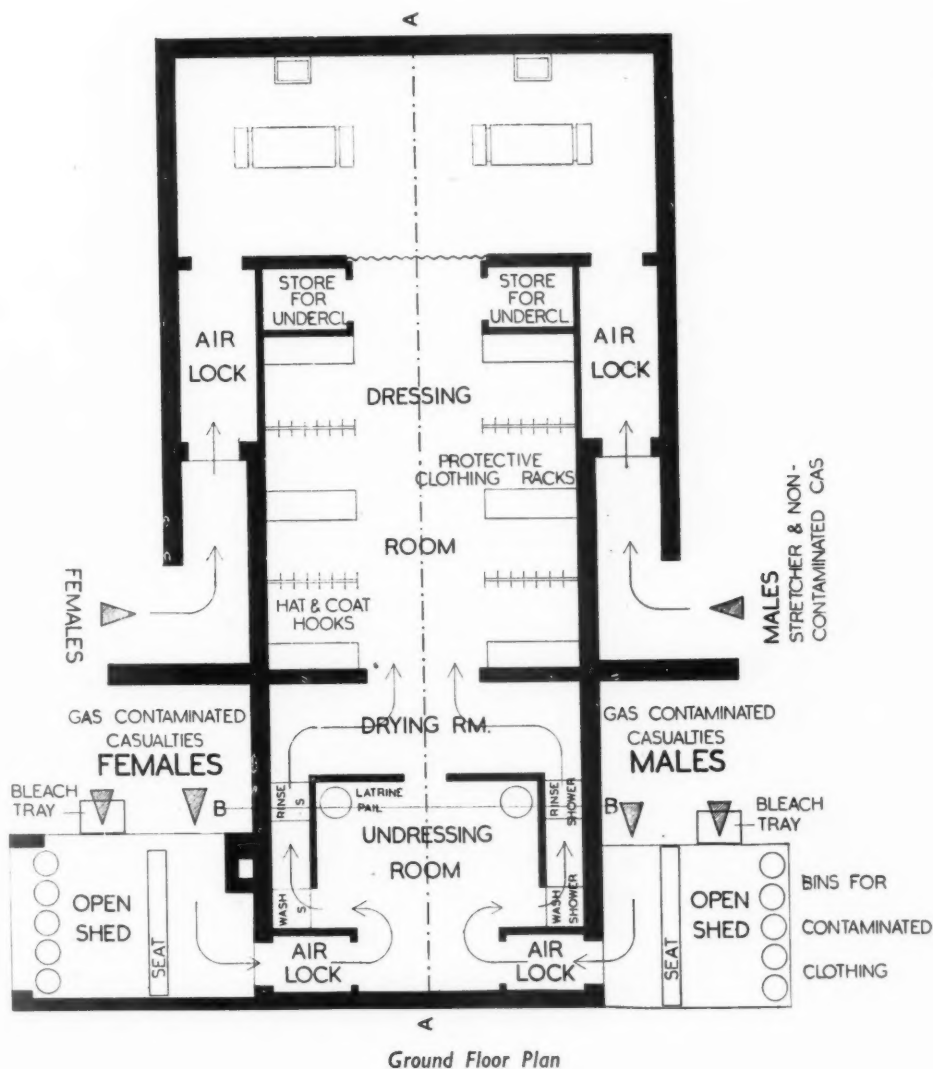


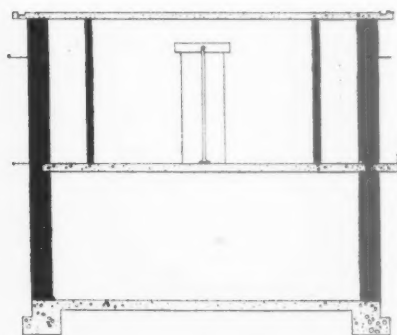
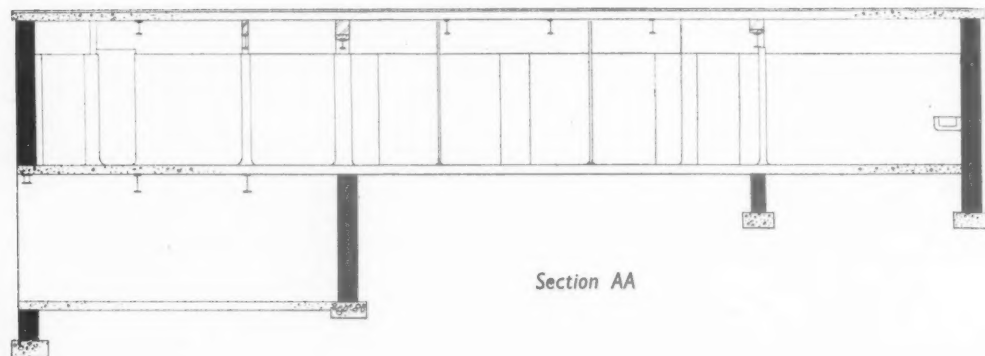
FIRST AID AND CLEANSING CENTRE

DESIGNED BY F. W. B. YORKE

CONSTRUCTION — External walls, $13\frac{1}{2}$ in. brickwork, in cement mortar; floors, cement concrete, finished with cement and sand paving $\frac{3}{4}$ in. thick, and treated with a solution of silicate of soda, while green. The floors of the undressing room and showers are laid to fall. Flat roofs, reinforced concrete 6 in. thick and $6\frac{1}{2}$ in. thick at apex covered with bituminous composition. Internal partition, 26 in. plain galvanized iron sheets on $1\frac{1}{8}$ in. angle iron framing or in $4\frac{1}{2}$ in. brickwork. Doors $\frac{1}{2}$ in. plywood, covered with 26 in. gauge galvanized iron sheeting, all joints and seams being sealed and fixed direct to the angle iron framing. Internal and external doors to air-locks are 2 in. deal solid doors, covered with 26 in. gauge galvanized iron sheeting, the joints and seams being sealed; they are hung with butts, set screwed to the 2 in. by 2 in. galvanized iron framing surrounding the doors. The closing handles are designed to tighten the doors against the frames when closed. The doorways have a Portland cement threshold 6 in. high, and the doors are fitted with felt gaskets to give a gas-tight seating for the whole of the perimeters. Every door opens away from the air lock.

SERVICES — The water storage tanks are placed 2 ft. 6 in. above the top of the concrete flat and are enclosed by brick walls $13\frac{1}{2}$ in. thick. All exposed iron work internally is galvanized. In addition to the water points, a hose connection for hosing down and decontaminating the whole building is fixed direct to the main. Showers consist of 5 in. galvanized perforated hoses, controlled by chain pulls with automatic cut-out and fixed 7 ft. 3 in. from the floor. The supply pipes have thermostatic valve control and supply $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 gallons per man of water at 100 deg. F. Heating and hot water is by a combined system from an automatic boiler, thermostatically controlled. The hot water cylinder is 200 gallon capacity to maintain the service for two hours should the electric supply become effected.





Top right, dressing room, above; undressing room and two views in the first-aid theatre

FIRST-AID AND CLEANSING CENTRE • BY F. W. B. YORKE

ASSESSMENT OF DAMAGE

The War Damage Commission points out that certain statements made during the hearing of a recent widely reported case at the Clerkenwell County Court were based on a misapprehension. Both the plaintiff and the learned Registrar who heard the action indicated that the second form sent out by the Commission to war damage claimants states that fees for assessment of damage can be charged for as part of a claim.

A study of the form itself will show this impression to be quite inaccurate. Note 5 of the explanatory notes is in these terms:—

"The proper cost of the necessary employment of an architect, engineer, surveyor, land agent or other person in an advisory or supervisory capacity in connection with the execution of the works for the repair of war damage will be treated as part of the payment to be made by the Commission. The account of such person must be attached to the claim. Fees for advising on or supervising works will be paid only where it is necessary to employ professional assistance. The Commission cannot pay any fee for advice sought by the claimant in completing this form."

From this it will be clearly seen that while,

in accordance with the terms of the War Damage Act, professional fees in connection with the execution of repair work will be paid for as part of the claim, professional assistance in the formulation and assessment of a claim will not.

THE WORK OF THE GUINNESS TRUST

At the Housing Centre, Mr. F. L. Leigh-Breese, secretary of the Guinness Trust, gave an address on the work of the Trust. He stated that the net rents of the Trust's old building in Walworth was still the same as when building was opened in 1891, i.e., 1s. 9½d. per room. The gross rent was 2s. 7d. per room, because of increased rates. From the first the Trust had provided amongst other amenities a supply of hot water and sheds for perambulators and bicycles. With regard to air raid shelters, the lecturer said that converted ground floor flats were preferred by the tenants.

HOWARD MEMORIAL MEDALLIST

Mr. Richard Barry Parker, F.R.I.B.A., P.P.T.P.I., who, with his cousin, the late Sir Raymond Unwin, planned the layout of Letchworth, has been awarded the Ebenezer Howard Memorial Medal for his contributions to the world of town planning. Besides his part in the design of the world's first garden city, Mr. Barry Parker has carried out town planning work in Brazil and Oporto, and for Hampstead Garden Suburb and Earswick (the Rowntree model village). Mr. Barry Parker has been connected with varied public activities during his long residence in Letchworth, and his work has included chairmanship of Letchworth Bench of magistrates, the presidency of Letchworth branch of the League of Nations Union, presidency of the Adult Educational Settlement, and membership of the local Education Sub-Committee and School Managers.

SOME QUESTIONS ANSWERED THIS WEEK:

★ *WHAT is my position as Quantity Surveyor under the new Schedule of Reserved Occupations?* - Q 736

★ *WHAT is the best substitute for cork tiles as insulation below concrete screed?* - - - Q 737

★ *WHAT is the best floor for a sugar room in a brewery?* - - - - - Q 740

THE ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL

INFORMATION CENTRE

THE Information Centre answers any question about architecture, building, or the professions and trades within the building industry. It does so free of charge, and its help is available to any member of the industry.

Enquirers do not have to wait for an answer until their question is published in the JOURNAL. Answers are sent direct to enquirers as soon as they have been prepared. The service is confidential; and in no case is the identity of an enquirer disclosed to a third party. Samples and descriptive literature sent to the Information Centre by manufacturers for the use of a particular enquirer are forwarded whenever the director of the Centre considers them likely to be of use.

Questions should be sent by post to—

THE ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL
45 THE AVENUE, CHEAM, SURREY

—but in cases where an enquirer urgently requires an answer to a simple question, he may save time by telephoning the question to—

VIGILANT 0087

The reply will come by post.

Q 735

STUDENT, CHESHIRE.—*I would like to know if there is anything in the Defence Regulations Act forbidding the photographing of buildings of any kind. I am interested from a constructional point of view.*

Photography is restricted under Regulation No. 5 of The Defence Regulations, 1939. Briefly the position with regard to buildings is as follows:—

No person, except under the authority of a written Permit, may photograph a building in any area specified by order of a competent Authority, or photograph any premises in relation to which an order has been made or any prohibited place within the meaning of the Official Secrets Act.

This means it is now not permissible (without a written Permit) to carry a camera, or to photograph any building in a Defence Area, or to photograph specific buildings in other areas. It is not possible to give here a list of the buildings (in areas other than Defence Areas) which may not be photographed, but the list is given in The Control of Photography Order (No. 1) S.R. & O., 1939, No. 1125, obtainable from H.M. Stationery Office, Kingsway, London, W.C.2. Generally speaking the restriction

applies only to buildings which have a military value, such as barracks, aerodromes, docks, factories and stores for munitions, also utility service companies premises, hospitals or stations at which casualties, whether civil or otherwise, are treated, and buildings which have been damaged by enemy action.

In practice, amateur photography of any building is now rendered extremely difficult by the excessive zeal of minor officials and members of the public, who frequently demand permits without any authority to do so. And unless you wish to photograph a specific group or class of buildings for purposes of your studies and consider it worth while seeking a permit for the purpose, you will find architectural photography very difficult.

Q 736

SURVEYOR, LONDON.—*I understand that RESERVED OCCUPATIONS have been changed AND I should be obliged if you could tell me how I am affected. My brother is also working in a Quantity Surveyor's office so perhaps you would tell me how all ages are affected. Incidentally, neither of us is qualified, but I suppose that the term QUANTITY SURVEYOR includes unqualified as well as qualified people.*

There is one other thing, and that is that I have heard something about "Protected Works." Can you explain this too, if it is likely to affect me?

1. The Schedule of Reserved Occupations and Protected Work (Revision 10th April, 1941), makes provision for raising the age of reservation in three stages. As far as quantity surveyors are concerned, the age of reservation for the first two stages is 23, but for the third stage it is raised to 25. Men who are under 25 and become de-reserved, at the third stage, will not, as a rule, be required to join their units before 1st October, 1941, but they may be required to attend for medical examination before that time.

2. The Schedule applies to a person "who follows, as his primary occupation, an occupation named in the Schedule, whether he is employer, employee or person working on his own account." It is clear, therefore, that the reservation of surveyors does not apply only to qualified persons.

3. In certain cases employers can have their establishments registered as "Protected Establishments," and upon application men engaged upon

Protected Work will be reserved at a lower age than the normal age for the trade. This only applies, however, when alternative ages are given in the Schedule. No alternative ages are given for quantity surveyors, so you cannot have your age of reservation altered because of the work you are engaged upon.

4. Your employer can, if he thinks fit, apply for the deferment of your calling up. Such application will only be admitted, however, if the Minister of Labour and National Service is satisfied that you are engaged on work of urgent public importance, and are personally indispensable for it, i.e., no substitute, capable of doing the work, can be obtained.

Q 737

ARCHITECTS, BIRMINGHAM.—*In an important building we had specified 1 in. granulated CORK SLABS laid on the outside of concrete flat roofs as insulating material. The cork was bedded in semi-dry cement and sand, and SCREEDED ON TOP with a semi-dry mix of grit, sand and cement to fall to receive asphalt covering.*

Can you advise us as to the substitution of an alternative material for the cork, and one which will not rot or decay beneath the cement screeding.

We do not know of any other insulating material which will remain permanently satisfactory after being covered with a cement and sand screed. We think that you would do better to use the insulating material on top of the screed; if this is done, any of the well-known insulating materials such as Tentest, Celotex, etc., can be used.

The insulating material must be covered over with a felt sheathing before the asphalt is laid, but all good asphalters are conversant with this method, and will usually undertake the laying of the insulating material as well as the asphalt covering.

Q 738

SHOPFITTERS, LONDON.—*During the summer of last year we received from a well-known commercial house an order to make SPECIAL OFFICE EQUIPMENT, counters, etc., and alter certain existing fittings to suit the new furniture. Having carried out the work we made several applications to fit on the site, but were asked to delay this pending the installation of new counting machines.*

As the fitting in position is regarded in the trade as part of the job, naturally we made no separate application for payment for the work already done. Neither did we insure it under the Government scheme for stock insurance, as we do not manufacture any stock articles and, therefore, do not hold the £1,000 minimum to make this obligatory.

As a consequence of the fire of December 29 last, these articles were DESTROYED along with the rest of our property. The buyers now refuse to pay on the grounds that since we had not delivered to them, and regardless of the fact that the goods were made to order, they were still our property, and as such should be made the subject of a claim to the Inland Revenue.

Can you tell us whether there is any legal ruling on such a case, and/or whether the District Valuer is bound to accept our title to ownership for compensation purposes?

The Centre cannot undertake the duties of a solicitor, nor undertake to give a valid legal ruling on any questions, but in our opinion the ownership of the goods in question would not pass to the purchaser until delivery had been effected, providing there were no terms as to payment on account, etc., in your agreement with the purchasers, which might alter the position. We believe that the purchasers' contention is correct, and we do not consider that the District Valuer would have any grounds for rejecting your title to ownership for the purposes of compensation.

Q 739

ENQUIRER, MIDDLESEX.—*For quotation in a forthcoming series of articles I am writing in a heating and ventilating trade paper, would it be possible for you to furnish me with information as to what steps are being contemplated or undertaken by the ARCHITECTURAL profession in regard to RECONSTRUCTION of buildings?*

Naturally, I am not asking for confidential information, and I would like to be able to quote to the readers in the heating and ventilating trades, what steps are being taken by architects to :—

1. Prepare new designs.
2. Set up advisory bodies.
3. Co-operate with Ministry of Works and Reconstruction.

The articles will appear during the next six months in the monthly issue of the trade paper concerned, and it is my hope that members of the heating trade would consider reconstruction not

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With so many of our representatives in the Forces we regret it is not possible to maintain our normal personal contacts. Our earnest desire is that our full service to you shall be maintained; if there are any matters

you wish to discuss we will gladly send one of our remaining technical or sales representatives to visit you. We will fix appointments if you will please telephone Head Office (Kingston 2140) or any of our Branch Offices.



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only from the trade's own aspect, but with a view to collaboration with architects so that design of buildings may be arranged not only to give the maximum in appearance, service and amenities, but to do so suitably with the equipment that will have to be furnished by other trades concerned in the reconstruction of the buildings.

Any information that you could give me which I could quote in these articles with the constructive idea mentioned above would be greatly appreciated.

There is undoubtedly a good deal being done both by committees and by private individuals. We think that you would do best to get in touch with Mr. Raglan Squire, Secretary to the R.I.B.A. Reconstruction Committee. You can write to him at the R.I.B.A., 66, Portland Place, London, W.1, and probably he would have no objection to you telephoning him at Welbeck 2636.

There are, of course, other groups interested in reconstruction, such as The Architectural Science Group and The 1940 Council, but we think that it would be better for you to write to Mr. Raglan Squire first. If you mention these two groups when writing to Mr. Squire he could probably tell you whether they could give you any information which he is not himself in a position to give.

Q 740

BREWERY, SURREY. — The SUGAR ROOM in the brewery is a steel-framed building with hollow tiled FLOOR, covered with granolithic cement rendering. This is unsatisfactory as it will not clean. On the top of this existing flooring we wish to place another surface that will withstand sugar penetration and heat from the Copper House under (the temperature sometimes reaching 90°), and will wash down.

We should be obliged if you could tell us what you consider to be the best type of floor surface.

One of the most suitable floors would be acid resisting bricks bedded in an acid-resisting cement compo. 2 in. acid-resisting paviors can be obtained from many well-known brick companies, and Messrs. Prodorite Ltd. manufacture "Cement Prodor," which can be used for bedding the bricks. You will do well to get in touch with Messrs. Prodorite Ltd., of Eagle Works, Wednesbury, who will give you full particulars not only of their own material but of suitable bricks, and the method of laying them. We can give you the names of other acid-resisting cements, if required.

An alternative flooring is asphalt, which has been used in many Sugar Rooms. A special grade of asphalt

is required, and any reliable firm would undertake the work under a guarantee. The names of asphalt manufacturers are so well known that we are not including a list here, but we can send you names and addresses if you wish.

As a third suggestion, you might consider the use of teak. We have no actual experience of the use of teak in Sugar Rooms, but we are of the opinion that sugar in itself could not harm teak, and the Timber Development Association also shares this view.

If the room is not subjected to hard wear, hard tiles, such as quarry tiles, should be satisfactory, preferably bedded in Cement Prodor, or some similar material, as mentioned above. There is always the possibility of the glaze getting chipped or worn, however, and we do not think that this would make such a satisfactory floor as those previously mentioned.

Lastly, if all these suggestions are too expensive you could use a cement and sand flooring in which has been incorporated one of the usual floor hardeners. The use of a hardener would undoubtedly prolong the life of the floor, but it could not be considered absolutely proof against sugar penetration.

Heat should not affect any of the floors mentioned above if precautions are taken when laying.

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