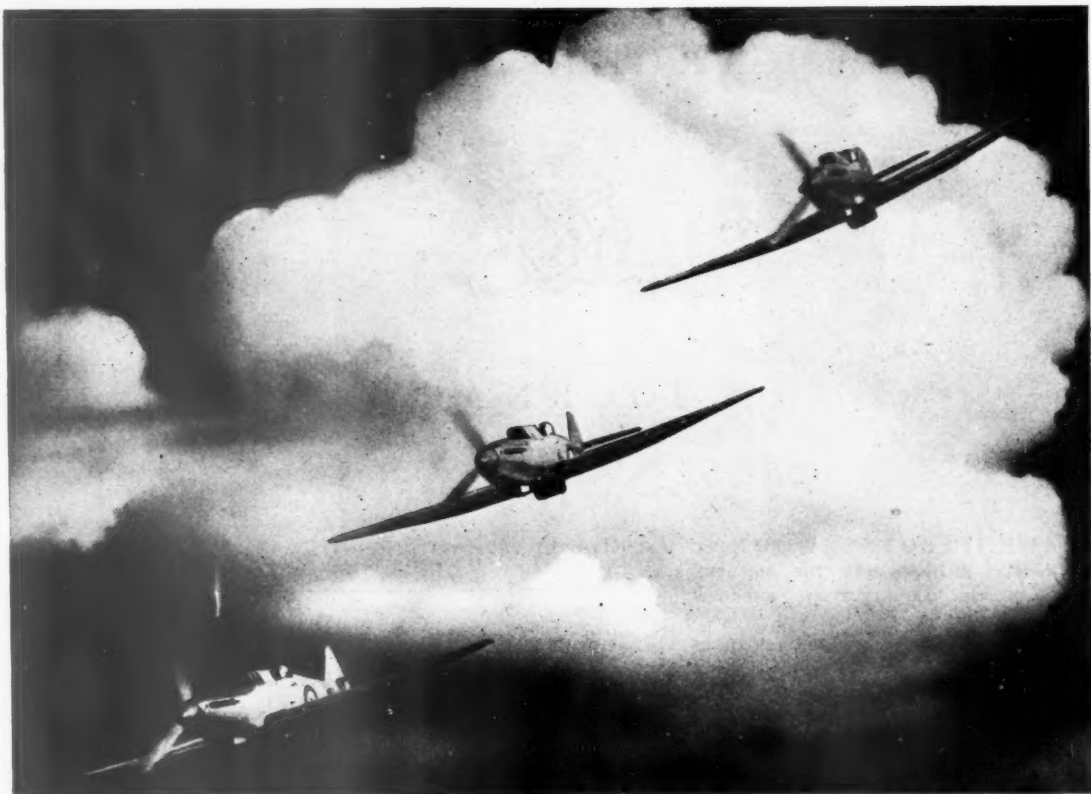


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THE ARCHITECTS'



JOURNAL

THE ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL
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THURSDAY, AUGUST 21, 1941.

NUMBER 2430 : VOLUME 94

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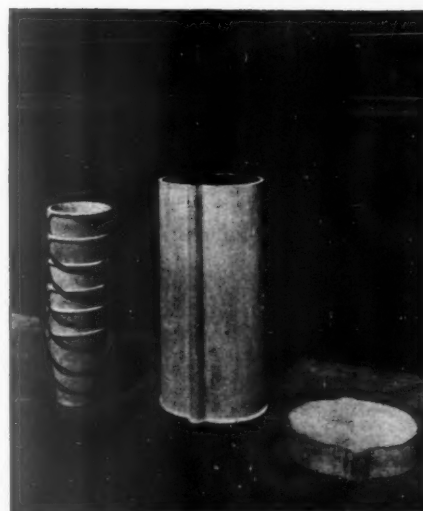
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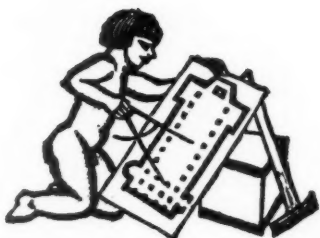
all ready for putting out a fire without any fuss.



NEW DIRECTOR OF WORKS

Mr. T. P. Bennett, F.R.I.B.A., who has been appointed by the Minister of Works to be Director of Works in succession to the late Lt.-Col. C. L. Howard Humphreys. Mr. Bennett was formerly Director of Bricks and subsequently Deputy Director of Works. Recently he carried out important architectural work for the Admiralty. He was a student at the Royal Academy School of Architecture, won the Silver medal for Sculpture and the Skinners Company Silver medal for City and Guilds Quantities, and was top in the students examinations. His architectural career commenced in the Office of Works, and during the last war he put up headquarters in France for Sir Eric Geddes when he was Director General of Transport, and later light railway workshops at Berguette, near Aire. After the war he became Chief Assistant to Mewés and Davis, Architects. In 1920 he was appointed head of the Northern Polytechnic School of Architecture and Building. In the same year he founded his own architectural practice, now known under the name of T. P. Bennett & Son,

and during the past twenty years has concentrated on its development. Increasing work from his practice subsequently necessitated his resignation from the Northern Polytechnic. He was appointed Special Lecturer for the Board of Education to teachers of architecture and building and made an Honorary Fellow of the Institute of Builders and of the Institute of British Decorators. He has employed sculptors and artists on many of his jobs, among them being Davis Ritcher, on Great Westminster House; Flora Lyons; Gilbert Bayes, on Brimsmead Piano Building, London, and the Fountains in Westminster Gardens; Aumonier on the New Theatre, Oxford and the Odeon Cinema, Belsize Park; and Bainbridge Copnall on Neville House, Westminster. Mr. Bennett is the author of books on the relation of sculpture to architecture and concrete, and has contributed many articles in the daily and architectural newspapers, including *THE ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW* and *THE ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL*. His wife is Mary Edis, the portrait painter.



WARTIME HOUSING

IN the middle of a War, housing, when its need is finally felt, is no better than an odious necessity. The machine is keyed up for death and destruction, and the national will directed towards the battlefield, so that most of the human considerations with which housing is surrounded appear as deflections from the War effort.

The present call for housing comes after nearly two years of War and at a time of the gravest national danger, when it might be possible to claim that anything that provided a shelter and the means of sustaining our effort through the next few months would meet the situation. Standards as we knew them once mean little. For how short a time can men be taken off the job of destruction to build some minimum accommodation for essential workers? That is our housing problem.

It is a change from the last War, when the delightful housing schemes for remotely situated munition factories set standards for what was to come after. This is in fact a grimmer war. Total war, the Nazis call it.

We might be justified, therefore, in building what housing is absolutely necessary for war workers and the homeless families of bombed cities in the flimsiest and most temporary construction as like as may be to a military camp, were it not that the sources of our timber supply are cut off by the German occupation of Scandinavia and by the submarines and raiders of the Atlantic. Two things most needed for light building, timber and steel, are denied us, and we must build as rapidly and cheaply as we know how in materials such as concrete and brick, never before associated with impermanence and speed, doing this with an inadequate labour force and the summer past its peak.

There is no time to build housing as we formerly understood it. The need for speed, and the conservation of effort, force us to the simplest types of accommodation and the pooling of all the household services that keep women in the home and away from the factories and fields.

The Government policy of hostel building with communal feeding, heating, washing and relaxation, is in accordance with the facts of our situation, and though it may be a lowering of housing standards, it is also an expression of our capacity to pool individual effort in face of common danger.

In the main our decisions are guided by the immediate situation, for we cannot afford to disperse one pound of energy. On the other hand we are fighting a war of which we cannot see the outcome as yet. It may last the winter or it may continue through several winters. And when it ends, we will be faced with a housing situation—the sum of past deficiencies and wartime destruction and dislocation—that even at this present juncture we cannot afford to overlook. In spite of the urgency of the moment, we are bound to take a longer range view of the housing programme in order to give what we build now a useful life during a possibly long war and through the dangerous interregnum that separates the end of it and the first-fruits of reconstruction.

We can do this without extra cost, but it involves the exercise of forethought. Instead of planning hostel towns in which quantity is the only consideration, we must have an eye for quality, too, and in the layout and the individual building plan be creating more lasting values. It isn't difficult for architects and there is nothing in the mechanical and technical desiderata of wartime building that militates against this longer-term policy. Hostels can be built with a view to conversion to better standards of accommodation later and layouts can cater for amenities which the present times cannot justify.

It requires, first of all, a selection of a limited number of housing sites where the long range view is applicable, where, that is, there is a certainty of a longer than wartime life for building. Housing must be classified according to wartime type and future peacetime need, and effort directed where it is needed. Construction must be standardised to avoid wasted effort and the varied housing policies of half a dozen central authorities co-ordinated by one ministry. Until we have cut out purely wasted effort, it is hard to believe that we have no time to consider the future.

In fact this War has already proved to us that in widely varying forms of national effort, more haste often means less speed. In building especially, this is true, and he who now has no time to plan has no great care to build. Whenever one is told, therefore, that hostels must be of the lowest type and built for one purpose only, one may take that as a reflection on who holds such views rather than on the situation which gives us leave to think some way at least beyond the end of our noses.



The Architects' Journal
45, The Avenue, Cheam, Surrey
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NOTES & TOPICS

REGISTRATION FOR BUILDERS

THE reorganization of the Building Industry is proceeding according to plan: visible progress is at last being made and the shape of things to come is gradually becoming visible. The first step was taken way back in June, when a new Essential Works (Building and Civil Engineering) Order was issued. This order dealt principally with conditions of employment throughout the industry, but it was announced at the time that it was 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. No indication was given of the lines along which this was to be effected.

This essential works order was quickly followed by the announcement that a mobile labour force of 100,000 men was being established to be held in reserve for the repair of buildings, works and airfields damaged by enemy attack. Nothing has been heard about this project since it was originally announced at the end of June.

Later voluntary registration of builders was invited (July 3), together with the formation of a National Building Council. The formation of a National Building Council was again heralded in *The Times* on July 31. Finally, on August 14, we were able to say that Mr. Hugh Beaver, Director-General of the Ministry of Works and Buildings, had been appointed chairman of the Council with Sir Ernest Simon as vice-chairman. But there was still very little information about the work it was to undertake beyond vague generalization coupled with the statement that it was to have advisory powers.

Now at last things are getting under way. A summary of the latest regulations, reprinted from *The Times* of August 14 re-appears in the news. The main points of the scheme are compulsory registration of all persons wishing to carry on business as a builder or civil engineering contractor after October 1, coupled with the provision that all builders wishing to register must satisfy

the minister "that the terms and conditions of employment jointly agreed in the industry, and any conditions as to hours of employment and Sunday work which the Minister may direct, will be observed by the builder or contractor."

REGISTRATION FOR ARCHITECTS

It is interesting to compare the present registration of builders with the registration of architects under the Act of 1939.

The Architects' Registration Act concerns itself with nomenclature only. The practice of architecture remains free to registered and unregistered alike. The conditions of employment, hours of work and rates of pay of salaried employees in architects' offices remain unregulated, a matter of negotiation between individuals. One wonders whether the present reorganization of the industry will spread to the profession.

POINTS FROM OXFORD REPORT ON PLANNING

Oxford has published what must be, I think, the first local report on post-war planning, exercising thus its ancient right of continuous thought whatever the circumstances.

There is need of thought in that place where "society" was too often in the past confined within college walls. A competent observer has stated that within six miles of Carfax "every mistake that is possible has been committed"—and he might have added that the worst have been made in the last twenty years and that the accelerating pace of a machine age must be met with such energy and determination as has never before distinguished the actions of that city.

This report, prepared by the Trustees of the Oxford Preservation Society, draws up a clear programme of investigation into the major problems confronting the various authorities which the Trustees see as forming the single planning authority of an Oxford region centring upon the city itself. This programme, as one has sadly to admit, must balance the rival claims of industry and learning, and their ancillary problems of traffic congestion, housing expansion, industrial segregation and the like.

It proposes a setting up of a Regional Board with power to prepare and maintain a general plan and to guide the constituent authorities and others towards the achievement of a balanced community with an harmonious division of urban and agricultural use of land, and having sketched this new framework of local government goes on to make a series of recommendations, some of which will undoubtedly recur in further and wider deliberations on the subject.

Among these is a suggestion that the public authority should itself make all the roads in its area and levy a charge on property to pay for the work, thus obviating many of the difficulties and injustices present in the existing system.

They plump, as one might expect, for larger powers of land purchase by public authorities as a way round the difficulties of compensation and betterment, valuation to be at market prices ruling when the powers are conferred, and being carried out as necessity dictates.



Pilot-Officer Pat Geoghegan, D.F.C., assistant advertisement manager of the *Architectural Review*.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR INDUSTRY

Another point of great interest is their suggestion that newly developing industries should contribute towards the cost of the housing they will need, thus bringing them into the orbit of social responsibility.

★

The last point I have space to mention is their insistence that a highly centralized administration with its "months or even years of delay" runs contrary to the tempo of good planning. Rather than this they would see well staffed regional branches taking proper decisions and referring only matters of high policy to the centre. With Viscount Samuel on the Committee their recommendation will carry weight.

★

The whole report moves with the strong feelings of local knowledge and pride, and with a sense of purpose. Locality is the salt of planning. I hope Oxford has lit a candle that no amount of centralized nonsense will extinguish.

MARTYRED MEMORIAL

Dear Astragal,

I rather think that the method used at Oxford for removing domestic utensils* from the Martyr's Memorial were: (1) rook rifle for china; (2) fire hose for enamel; (3) scaffolding (1924) for enamel fitted with plaster of Paris. Method (3) was very expensive. I was merely an observer of the 1924 demolition; no real interest in the installation.

A. O. RUSSELL.

Stoke Poges

* Note referred to read as follows:

Upon a recent Sunday morning officials of his (Lord Reith's) department were summoned urgently to Kensington Gardens to remove "a domestic utensil" from one of the more inaccessible peaks of the Albert Memorial—the first outbreak, so far as I am aware, of this undergraduate disease which has occurred in the London area for years. The old rules laid down by university experts presumably still hold good—a rook rifle for china, and scaffolding for enamel, but which method was used is not recorded.

D.F.C.

First D.F.C. of the war, in architectural journalism, goes to Pilot-Officer Patrick Geoghegan, assistant advertisement manager of *THE ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW*. A piece of shell from the German A.A. barrage got his bomber while on the way to the Ruhr—and got him, blowing off part of his left arm. He insisted on sticking to his post in the bomb-aimer's compartment and, though badly wounded, not only went on and dropped his bombs, but afterwards navigated his aircraft back to its base in England.

★

In the words of the wing-commander of his squadron, this action was in the highest traditions of the Royal Air Force.

★

One can only add that it is an action by no means out of keeping with the character of Pilot-Officer Geoghegan, who is something suspiciously like an ideal R.A.F. type—slight, casual, unassuming, debonair and good-looking. As if this were not enough, he owns a devastating Irish baritone in which he renders, without taking breath, "The Fluter's Ball," followed by "The Mountains of Mourne," at which point tears flow from his audience like wine. He is now in hospital with his arm hidden in plaster, but it is said to be mending.

THE HOME FRONT

The A.A.S.T.A. report* makes one wonder what really is going on in A.R.P. during the lull. Liverpool seems to have begun work on a programme of 1—2,000 houses for the bombed-out. The Ministry of Home Security say they are satisfied with the brick surface shelters, and in the really dangerous places these may be made yet safer. Does this mean that there's to be a higher standard? Officialdom has launched a good idea—the new mobile Assistance Board's office.

★

Evacuation: 1,200,000 people, 60 per cent. from London, have evacuated. Billets: A comprehensive survey is promised; 27 thousand houses have been requisitioned (in the whole country) most of them for the homeless. Feeding: There are 18 units of 8 Queen's Messengers, and over 750 feeding centres (of all kinds, in the whole country). Shops: Coventry has built some "temporary" ones. Shelters: Some 80 per cent. of the people stay at home (or leave the city), but many authorities have finished their shelter programmes; the London underground extensions will hold 90,000 people. Re-housing: The Clydeside has four hostel camps each for 500 people. There are also, of course, all the schemes in hand.

WAR EFFORT

On July 17 I wrote that it seemed odd, at a time when Builders were First On The Job, that brickmakers' coal requirements should have been given so low a priority by the Mines Department that many of them would soon have to close down.

★

I have now been told that brickmakers in one area were informed, on July 25, that normal coal supplies would be resumed at once. This may be a coincidence: or one person who matters may read his

ASTRAGAL

*A.J. August 7.

NEWS

COPYRIGHT A

★ Every Builder must Register with the Ministry of Works by Sept. 1—see this page.

ALL BUILDERS TO REGISTER

Every builder or civil engineering contractor in the country must register by September 1; otherwise he will not be permitted to carry on his business after October 1. That is the effect of a new regulation which has just been issued.

The regulation does *not* apply to employees. It does apply to all undertakings in both industries. In the building industry it includes general building, plumbing and glazing, painting, paperhanging and decorating, joinery and carpentry, plastering, slating and tiling. It also includes public works contracting, constructional engineering, installation of heating, ventilating and electrical equipment in buildings, and so on. All local authorities and public utility undertakings which have building or civil engineering departments or branches must register, but private firms, not themselves building or civil engineering undertakings, need not register in respect of a building maintenance branch unless the branch works for persons outside the main firm.

Forms, which are quite simple and require very few particulars, can be obtained from any local office of the Ministry of Labour on or after August 21. They must be filled in and sent to the Secretary, Ministry of Works and Buildings, Sanctuary Buildings, 18, Great Smith Street, London, S.W.1, by September 1.

Before granting a certificate of registration the Minister must satisfy himself that the terms and conditions of employment jointly agreed in the industries and any conditions as to hours of employment and Sunday work which the Minister may direct will be observed by the builder or contractor, but a provisional certificate may be granted before the Minister has satisfied himself on this point. In filling in the application form the builder or contractor undertakes to observe these conditions.

Certificate of registration will be issued as soon as possible after receipt of the application by the Ministry of Works and Buildings. Anyone carrying on business after October 1 in building or civil engineering without holding a certificate is liable, on conviction, to fine, imprisonment, or both.

It is not known to within many thousands how many builders there are. One estimate puts it at 80,000.

DUTCH ARCHITECTURE EXHIBITION

An exhibition of photographs by F. R. Yerbury, Hon. A.R.I.B.A., of Dutch Architecture, old and new, will be opened by Sir Edward Campbell, Bart., M.P., at 5 p.m. to-day, in the Building Centre, now at the Polytechnic Annexe, Little Titchfield Street, off 66, Great Portland Street, W.1. The exhibition, held by the Anglo-Batavian Society, in conjunction with the Building Centre, will remain open until Sept. 13. Mondays to Fridays, 10—5. Saturdays, 10—1.



← First Section → Second Section →



Above, a photograph of Peter Robinson's building taken from Oxford Circus, showing the main portion of the building facing the circus, built on land leased from the Crown, which the architects T. P. Clarkson and H. Austen Hall, had to design in conformity with the official scheme for Oxford Circus; also shown is a second section facing Oxford Street, built at the same time and designed by the same architects. Crown control ends where section two begins. This building is referred to in a letter from W. M. Hill published below.

On the right is a photograph of the original building erected for Messrs. Heal & Son by Smith & Brewer in 1917 and on the facing page is a photograph showing how the building

LETTERS

W. M. HILL
Chairman of Higgs and Hill Ltd.

KEYSTONE

Meikle v. Maufe

SIR,—In reading the account of the above case in the JOURNAL, I notice a statement upon which I should like to comment.

Mr. Shelley puts the following question to Mr. Meikle:—

“As an architect, if you put up a building and an extension is to be added to the building, would you

prefer your original idea to be carried out, or would you prefer some totally different structure to be put up, so that the artistic value of yours is destroyed?”

to which Mr. Meikle replies:—

“I don't think any architect would put up any extension that was not in architectural unity—not in harmony, in other words.”

This may be Mr. Meikle's opinion, but I should like to recall the following, to me, interesting example of what can happen.

Messrs. Peter Robinson Ltd.'s premises in Oxford Street were erected in two styles of architecture at the same time. You will recollect that on the

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was extended by Mr. Edward Maufe in 1937. Mr. Maufe, unlike Mr. Hall, used for his extension the same architectural treatment that had been used for the main building in order that the architectural unity of the whole might be preserved. As the result of an action (summarised in the Journal last week) brought by Mr. Joseph Abraham Meikle of the firm of Smith & Brewer and others, under the Copyright Act, 1911, against Mr. Edward Maufe and others, the defendants were ordered to pay the sum of £150. One of the most surprising things about this case is that it is the first of its kind.

Oxford Circus portion they were tied to the design laid down for the Circus, but immediately they got on to their freehold section the elevations changed very abruptly, without any architectural unity.

W. M. HILL

Architects after the War

SIR,—It is fully recognised that the paramount concern of everyone at this time must be the effective prosecution of the war. This policy, as it specially affects architects and their work, has been actively endorsed by you in the columns of your paper, but you have equally displayed a lively interest towards the future problems and well-

being of the profession in the post-war period which lies ahead.

It is a matter of much speculation not free from anxiety for many architects, particularly those who are not so young and do not find themselves included in the inner councils of professional affairs, to judge how they individually are going to be affected when they return to "the arts of peace." Many are absent on Service and others are engaged on duties away from their natural base. A large section of the profession is also distributed throughout the country and thus suffers a measure of detachment from the main centres of discussion.

Amongst them there are those who

feel that more might have been done for them as representatives of a great profession, by the R.I.B.A. As things are they feel they run a serious risk of being stranded and, unless they can wield much personal influence, have rather a bleak future ahead of them. Despite the considerable number of architects who have been given satisfactory war-time jobs (and we may assume this comprises practically every one of those previously employed in a Government or official capacity), there are still many of the older members of the profession who, for one reason or another, find themselves without any practice and either little or no substituted work or income.

It will not be asserted, we think, that architects as a section of the community have whined unduly, although, so far as its private practising members are concerned, the profession has been virtually extinguished for the time being along with the income production which it represented. The more so, therefore, is it natural that those of its number who have been adversely affected by what has happened, should wish to indulge in some sort of stock-taking with a view to the future. If some authoritative information could now be made available in regard to conditions and proposals which will affect the future of the profession so far as this is possible at the present time, architects not alone but also their patrons, would be greatly helped in their preparations to meet the post-war situation and the new problems then to be faced.

Points upon which such information is desirable, might include the following:

(1) Is it intended that architects shall be free to resume their practices immediately after the conclusion of the war with the necessary facilities for having private building work carried on, such as churches and various works of a domestic nature.

(2) Assuming an affirmative reply to the foregoing question, architects would be in a position to undertake in advance the preparation of plans for which they may be commissioned in readiness for putting in hand their buildings at the earliest opportunity possible. In the absence of information, architects

will continue at a disadvantage in giving replies to clients who are already beginning to make enquiries whether they will be able to undertake their work. Many architects are keeping their offices and equipment intact meantime with a view to resumption as soon as possible but for the time being entirely at unremunerated expense.

(3) Is it intended that practising architects of recognised efficiency shall be allocated a due share of the architectural and town planning work which will arise under the reconstruction programme, according to their particular experience and indeed, that there should be a sufficiency of architectural work for all to participate in.

(4) Is it not possible by means of a circularized referendum to ascertain the present position and to allocate work in connection with essential war-time buildings or some of the reconstruction schemes already being considered, to members of the profession who are not sufficiently employed in work of direct service to the war effort.

KEYSTONE

NATIONAL PLANNING

The following letter appeared in *The Times* on August 14:—

To the Editor of "The Times."

SIR,—It is unfortunate that the question of setting up a national planning authority has become so linked up with schemes for post-war reconstruction. The usefulness of a national plan should have been considered in the past, and must be considered now, on its practical utilitarian merits quite apart

from any schemes of rebuilding bombed areas which are now attracting so much attention. Had there been such a plan when the great rearmament and war-building programme began to get under way, it might have avoided many muddles—such as armament factories being built where no labour was available—and explained the apparent inconsistency of aerodromes being sited in first-class agricultural land. A complete plan for the most efficient utilization of the surface of our island has always been desirable, and is now essential, if the competing demands of our Government and War Departments are to be effectively made to serve the best interests of the nation. Every new factory, every new hostel scheme, every new aerodrome put up without reference to national, as opposed to departmental, interest simply adds to the chaos.

The first duty of this authority would be to prepare a survey based on the mass of information that already exists in unrelated, and often inaccessible form all over the country, for it should be understood that the countryside is more than a mere blank sheet of paper waiting to receive the planners' designs. The unfortunate story of a recent project of the Ministry of Supply for a factory in the Dove Valley provides a good example of the troubles which may be encountered by large Departments who, necessarily lacking local knowledge, locate their factories without proper guidance.

Having prepared the survey, the next step would be to make statutory planning obligatory throughout the country. Constructive guidance, rather than restrictive control, should be the object of planning, and with a "land use" survey completed and powers to plan the whole country, the Government and War Departments would soon appreciate the value of consultation before choosing any site. From guidance in war-time development to control over the location of industry after the war would be a simple step, but, although the long-term advantages of national planning are now generally admitted, it is not so often recognized that planning is an economical proposition, whether in peace or war.

Yours, etc.,

HOWARD ROBERTSON,
MICHAEL WATERHOUSE, Joint
Honorary Secretaries,
R.I.B.A. Reconstruction
Committee.

66, Portland Place, W.1.

NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD COMPETITION RESULT

Mr. Percy Thomas, F.R.I.B.A., and Mr. T. Alwyn Floyd, F.R.I.B.A., the assessors in the competition for designs for a Standardised Pavilion promoted in connection with the National Eisteddfod of Wales, held at Old Colwyn from August 6 to 8, have made their award as follows:—

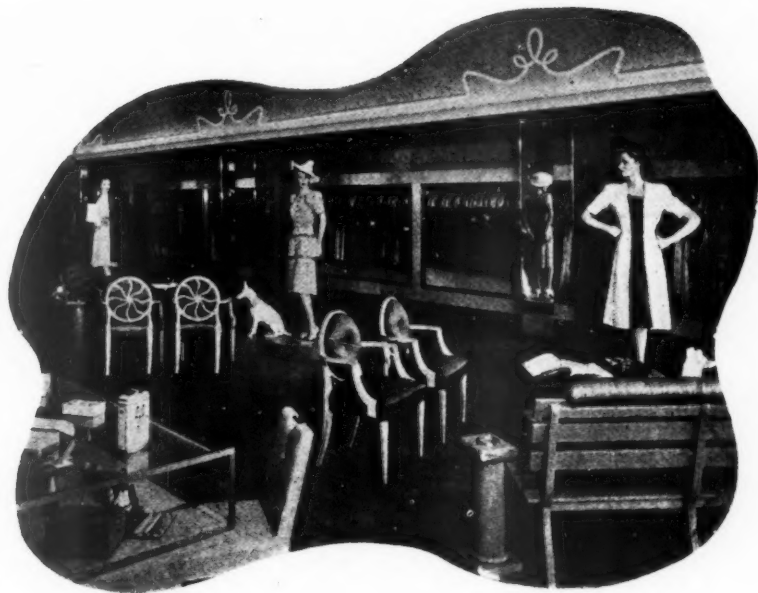
First prize (£75), Mr. Edward Banks.

Second prize (£25), Mr. Idwal Mort, Wrexham.

The competition was for a Standard Pavilion for the National Eisteddfod of Wales to seat about 12,000, including choir, and providing ample stage and its accessories, offices, press rooms and lavatories, also a covered-in space for competing choirs to assemble. Sixteen designs were submitted and these will be exhibited in the National Museum of Wales from August 25 to 30,



A model of the Emergency Nursing Centre at Guildford, designed by Miss J. G. Ledeboer, is the main feature of a travelling exhibition organised by the Nursery Schools Association. Here it is at Glasgow, with Mr. J. A. Boland, Sales Manager of Gyproc Products, explaining to The Lord Provost, Sir Patrick Donnan, the prefabricated standard unit form of construction developed by his firm and used for building the centre. Plans and photographs of the scheme appeared in our issue for July 10.



S H O P

AT MANHASSET, LONG ISLAND

RAYMOND LOEWY, DESIGNER;
STARRETT AND VAN VLECK, ARCHITECTS



GENERAL—Shop for women's and children's apparel and accessories and Lord and Taylor's first suburban branch. Situated in a sizable suburban town, the store is within easy driving distance from several others. Relatively few patrons will be casual passers-by; by far the greater number will arrive by car. Hence the conventional scheme of show windows to attract pedestrians has been discarded in favour of a design wherein the entire building is the eye-catching attraction. The whole selling area of the main floor may be glimpsed from the boulevard through the front window walls; and the attractive, landscaped parking area is an invitation to stop.

SITE AND PLAN—The store covers 58,000 sq. ft. of floor area. Because of a sloping site—a change in grade of approximately 18 ft.—each of the selling areas is, in fact, a ground floor. The lower level may be entered directly from the side street, by an outside walk and stair at the front of the building, or by an interior stairway. The penthouse—at present housing only air conditioning equipment—allows for future expansion. Lawns, gardens, terraces, flowered walks, built-in planting tubs and the landscaped parking area are an integral part of the design. The approach to the store from the boulevard front curves

Above, dresses; left, garden and parking area.



SUBURBAN APPAREL SHOP, MANHASSET

to a concave glass-enclosed vestibule. Huge clear windows at the left both open up the view of the store to the outside and furnish daylight within; the vertical windows in the fieldstone portion at night become spotlighted display points for manikins. Since motor traffic will account for a great many patrons, the parking area entrance is quite as important as the others. In the angle of the building at this point, large window areas overlook a lawn and garden.

CONSTRUCTION—The building foundation rests on a sand and gravel bottom with structural supports bearing on spread footings. Superstructure consists of a reinforced concrete frame and long-span pan floor construction. Wall materials are brick and fieldstone.

FLOOR PLANS—The layouts of the floors are a combination of two frequently opposed store-planning theories—open planning wherein all

Above, west front; left, entrance from the parking area.

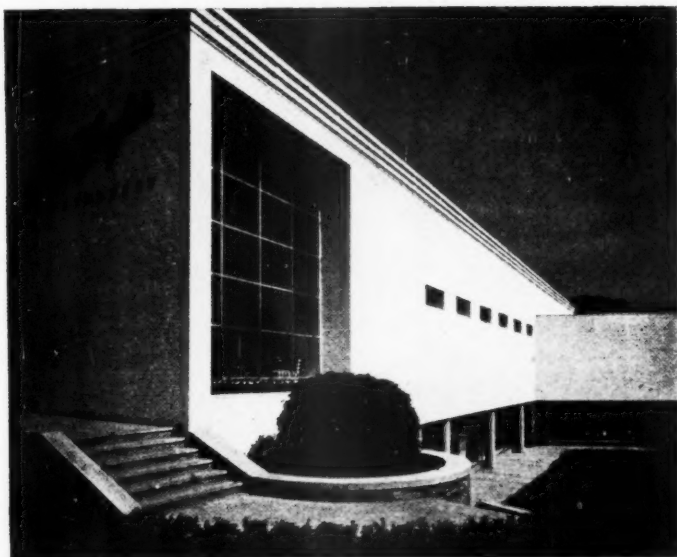
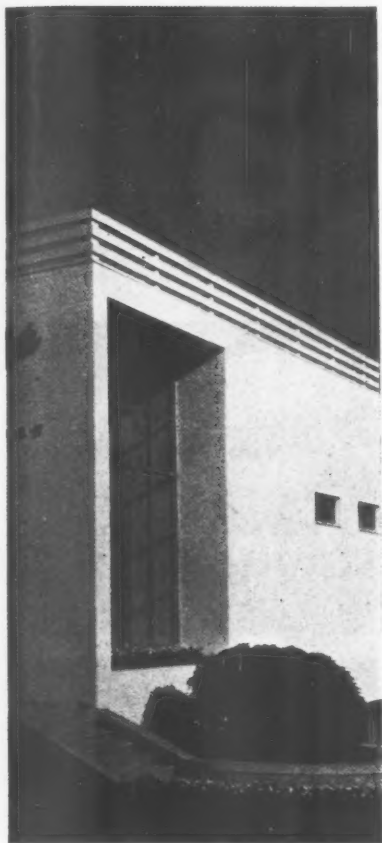
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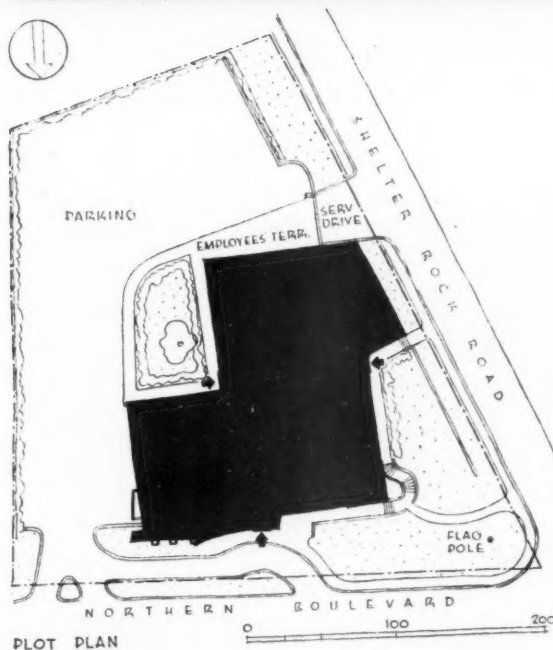
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Below and right, views showing continuation of west front; right, centre, night view.

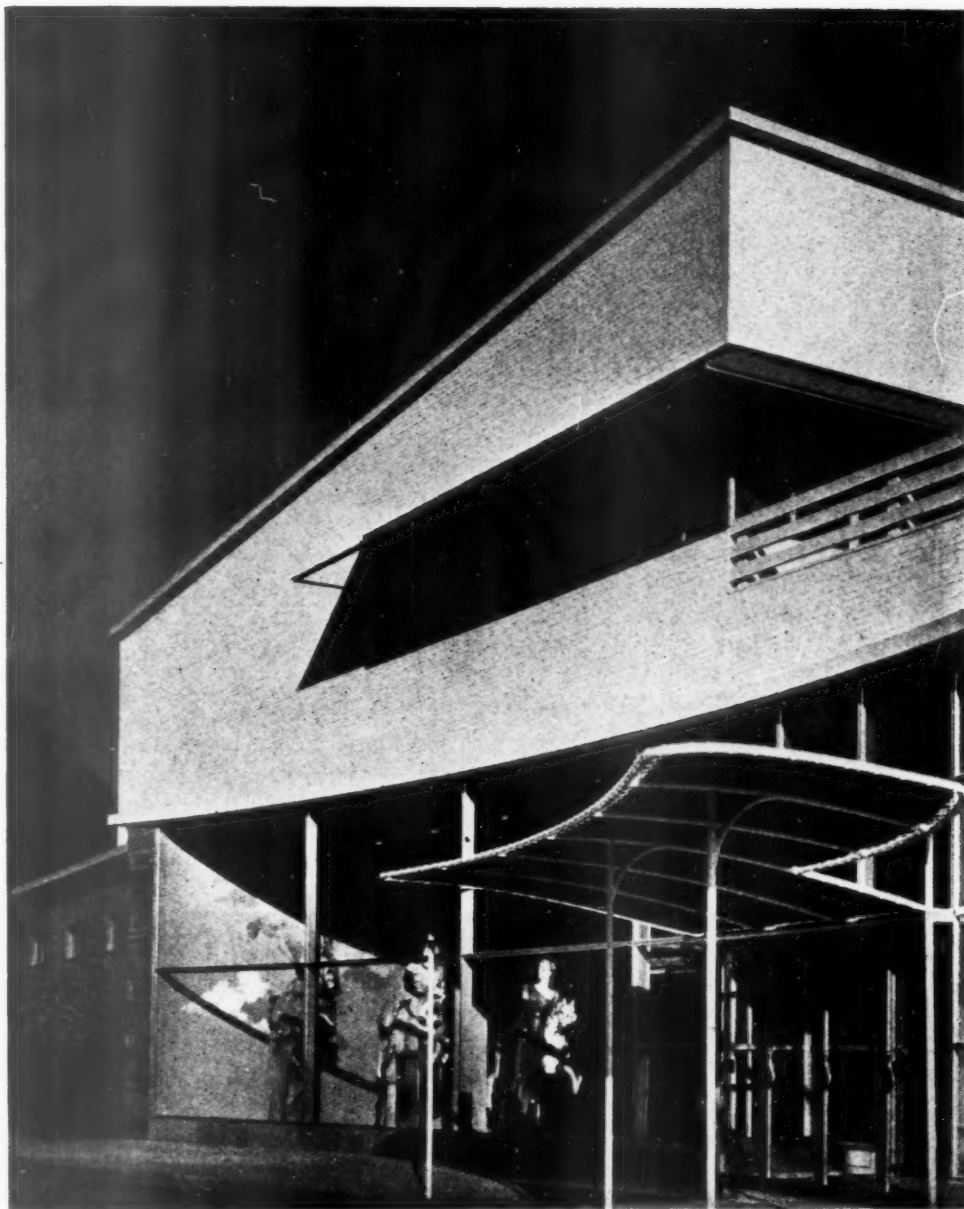


goods are grouped within a single large selling area, and the idea of independent departments in which various types of merchandise are handled separately. Individual departments exist, but they are set off—not shielded—from the main floor by low partitions of varying shapes that form separate selling alcoves and by changes in decorative treatment.

MAIN FLOOR—A whimsical dance-program theme distinguishes the intimate Apparel Shop. In the Millinery Shop, red accents occur both on mirror frames and in the chair upholstery. The Young New Yorker Shop has sentimental wall decorations of doves and flowers painted in pastel tints. Walls of the Shoe Shop are surfaced in a rose-patterned wallpaper. To set off the Sports Clothes area, a trompe l'oeil mural on the concave wall transforms wall display cases into tents at a country fair; the triple mirror into a ticket booth. Wall cases for dresses line the whole west wall, except at the north end, where



RAYMOND LOEWY, Designer; STARRETT AND VAN VLECK, Architects



the lower level, devoted to children's clothes and a beauty salon, is laid out in an informal open plan, with specialty shops centering on perimeter alcoves. At the foot of the stairs is a semi-circular counter unit with a pierced screen in back for display. Boys' clothes and furnishings occupy the north end of the floor. Backgrounds are of red plaster and gray-oak paneling. At the left of the stairway, along the east wall, are shops for girls of different ages. In the Younger Crowd Shop, the chair backs are decorated with painted hair ribbons. On the south wall is the Infants Shop—"a little bit of heaven"—done out in pink and blue,

with a blue sky and white clouds painted both on the background and side walls and up on to the ceiling. The counter is finished in blue rubber with white painted stairs. Quite distinct from the floor is the beauty parlour, at the south end of the area. Manicure tables are set against a curved wall which shields the hair-dressing tables from general view.

LIGHTING—Both floors have an unusual amount of daylight from the many windows. In addition, there is generous ceiling and indirect light at varying levels. Ceiling fixtures throughout (except for the main-

floor chandeliers) are flush, recessed units. These are laid out on regular spacing with sprinkler outlets and air-conditioning vents. Cove lighting in a dropped ceiling unit throws light up against plain overhead surfaces. Counter display cases and the side wall hang-rod cases contain fluorescent combinations. Key merchandising areas are spotlighted. In the Beauty Salon, circular flush ceiling fixtures distribute light on the manicure and hair-dressing tables.

Above, entrance from Northern Boulevard.

RAYMOND LOEWY, Designer; **STARRETT AND VAN VLECK**, Architects



CASES AND COUNTERS—The freestanding sales and display cases are a flexible combination of units. The display cases, mounted on bronze legs, alternate with the counters, are slightly higher and are never used for selling. Sales counter tops are surfaced with rubber. Special eye-level display cases are built in the walls of both the main-

floor shoe shop and the under-stair wall alongside the children's shoe shop on the lower level.

Top, younger crowd shop; centre, left to right, infants, shoes, intimate apparel; below, stairs to main floor, boys, girls.

The illustrations are from "The Architectural Record."

SUBURBAN APPAREL SHOP, MANHASSET



Gedney Church, Lincs.

THE early inhabitants of Marshland clung to the islands of higher ground above the general flood level and, as in the place-names of many fen villages, the final ey of Gedney is a contraction of *eyot*—meaning *island*. The foundations of this church are built upon a timber raft, and it floats on the thick cushion of waterlogged peat that lies a few feet below the ground surface. Although this foundation has sufficed, it had no margin of safety as is evident from the fact that the intention to add a tall spire, of which the base was actually formed, had to be abandoned. The ample factor of safety that attends the use of 'PUDLO' Brand waterproofer is one of the reasons for the consistently successful results obtained, in a very wide variety of applications, during a period of more than thirty years.

'PUDLO'

BRAND

CEMENT WATERPROOFER

It is tantalising, but inevitable, that so many of the interesting jobs in which 'PUDLO' Brand waterproofer is now being used must remain "unheralded and unsung" until after the war. In place of the illustrations that cannot be used, we are pleased to publish a series of drawings of East Anglian monuments; these drawings, in pen and wash, are the work of Leonard Squirrell, A.R.W.S., R.E., who, by the verdict of his fellow artists, is placed in the ranks of the foremost British landscape draughtsmen.

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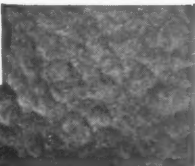
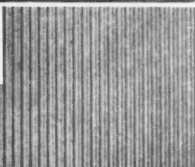

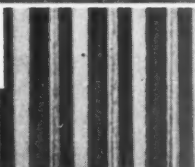
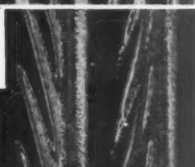
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Od. P. 51

FACTS ABOUT GLASS FOR ARCHITECTURAL STUDENTS

No. 3—Rolled Glass

Rolled Glass is the term applied to a translucent glass made by passing molten glass between rollers.

TYPE OF ROLLED GLASS	DESCRIPTION	NOMINAL THICKNESS	APPROX. WEIGHT PER SQ. FT.	MANUFACTURING SIZES	LIGHT TRANSMISSION
A ROUGH CAST DOUBLE ROLLED	 Both surfaces of irregular texture due to contact with rollers.	$\frac{3}{16}$ " $\frac{1}{4}$ " $\frac{3}{8}$ "	2 lbs. 10 ozs. 3 lbs. 6 ozs. 5 lbs. 1 oz.	120" x 46" or 130" x 26" 120" x 48" or 144" x 26" 110" x 48" or 120" x 26"	Diffused light for $\frac{1}{4}$ " thickness 80 % approx.
B PLAIN ROLLED	 One surface impressed with a pattern consisting of narrow parallel ribs (19 to the inch). Other surface flat.	$\frac{1}{8}$ " $\frac{3}{16}$ " $\frac{1}{4}$ "	1 lb. 3 ozs. 2 lbs. 10 ozs. 3 lbs. 6 ozs.	120" x 42" 120" x 46" or 130" x 26" 120" x 46" or 144" x 26"	Diffused light for $\frac{1}{4}$ " thickness 80 % approx.
C No. 2 FLUTED ROLLED	 One surface impressed with a pattern consisting of narrow parallel flutes (11 to the inch). Other surface flat.	$\frac{3}{16}$ "	2 lbs. 4½ ozs.	120" x 42" or 130" x 24"	Diffused light 80 % approx.
D No. 4 FLUTED ROLLED	 One surface impressed with a pattern consisting of broad parallel flutes (approx. 3 to the inch). Other surface flat.	$\frac{1}{4}$ "	3 lbs.	120" x 36"	—
E FEATHERED ROLLED	 One surface impressed with a pattern consisting of wide feathered ribs (approx. 2 to the inch). Other surface flat.	$\frac{1}{4}$ "	3 lbs.	120" x 36"	—

GLAZING SIZES

This type of glass is largely used for roof and factory lighting in patent glazing bars, either vertical or horizontal, and in suitable sizes specified by the trade.

USES

- A** ROUGH CAST DOUBLE ROLLED is used for skylights and roofing in public buildings, warehouses, factories, workshops, etc., when the extra protection afforded by Wired Glass is not considered necessary. It is also used for vertical glazing in factories, warehouses, etc., where a transparent glass is not required.
- B** PLAIN ROLLED: Similar to Rough Cast Double Rolled. The narrow parallel ribs have the effect of diffusing the light and also reducing direct glare from the sun.
- C** NO. 2 FLUTED ROLLED: As an alternative to Plain Rolled.
- D** NO. 4 FLUTED ROLLED: } Originally produced for washboards, but their decorative qualities have commended them for ornamental glazing and for artificial illumination.
- E** FEATHERED ROLLED: }

SPECIFICATIONS

In preparing specifications, the following clauses should be included for glazing:—

- (1) General Clause: All glass to be of the type, quality, and substance specified, and to be of British manufacture. The glazier must be prepared to produce at the completion of the job invoice or voucher from the manufacturer to show that the glass supplied is of the specified standard.
- (2) Glasses should be described by the recognised trade terms, thicknesses and qualities.

This is published by Pilkington Brothers Limited, of St. Helens, Lancs., whose Technical Department is always available for consultation regarding the properties and uses of glass in architecture.

LONDON OFFICE AND SHOWROOMS AT 63 PICCADILLY, W.1. TELEPHONE REGENT 4281

SOME QUESTIONS ANSWERED THIS WEEK:

★ *WHAT does Fit mean in relation to a Florist's Shop?* - - - - - Q 771

★ *HOW can I cure Condensation in a Pump Room and Natural Baths?* - - - - - Q 772

★ *CAN a Salaried Architect Claim Fees for War Damage Work?* - - - - - Q 773

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.

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 771

ARCHITECT.—*Business premises (florists) suffered damage by enemy action. The damage was confined to broken glass, the structure remaining sound. TEMPORARY REPAIRS were executed (spot light windows to shop fronts) and the question is whether these repairs rendered the premises FIT WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE WAR DAMAGE ACTS, 1940 and 1941. The Tenant Disclaimed and the Landlord served a Notice of Disclaimer.*

Could you let me have any decision of the Courts on such actions?

The Tenant has served a Notice of Disclaimer and the Landlord has served a Notice to Avoid Disclaimer. This being so, the Landlord must render the premises fit, as soon as is reasonably practicable. "Fit" means for the purpose for which the premises were used at the time of the damage, having regard to the class of tenant likely to occupy similar premises and to the standard of accommodation available, etc.

There has been no judgment in the Courts, as to the meaning of "Fit" in relation to a florists shop. If the shop has been repaired in

such a manner that there is a reasonable amount of window space available for display, it is probable that the premises would be considered "Fit" within the meaning of the Act.

Q 772

ENGINEER, DERBY.—*In a Pump Room and Natural Baths there is an unavoidable amount of condensation, and I am troubled very seriously with the plaster falling away from the ceiling of the concrete flat roofs which have quite a good key. Also the paintwork on the walls and ceilings seems to craze and fall away from the plaster. Can you suggest any remedies to overcome these difficulties which are no doubt due to condensation from the Natural Warm Springs?*

The defect you mention might be expected if the plaster and paint were not allowed to dry out properly when originally applied or if a flat oil paint or water paint was used.

If both the plaster and the paintwork were executed under proper conditions and a good gloss (oil) paint was used we suspect the presence of salts or other matters in the

water, which are injurious to paint. Once the paint has cracked or flaked off, the plaster is likely to deteriorate because of the continual dampness; on the other hand if a good protective covering can be achieved, there is no reason why you should have trouble with the plaster in future.

Any good paint manufacturer should be prepared to analyse a sample of the water and to advise the type of paint required.

If you would prefer an unbiased opinion you should send a sample to the Building Research Station, Gars-ton, Watford, Herts.

Q 773

ARCHITECT, SHEFFIELD.—*I am dealing with the completion of a large number of WAR DAMAGE Commission Claim Forms, and shall be glad of your guidance in the matter of claiming PROFESSIONAL FEES on the cost of the work of restoration of damage by enemy action. Sub-section (IV), of Section I of the claim calls for the Architect's account, and as I am engaged by my Company on a salaried basis, I am unable to produce an account of fees, and I am in doubt as to the proper method of making a claim. I take it I am permitted to charge on*

the usual R.I.B.A. scale for such work, but can you advise me as to what form this should take? Would it be permissible to set out an account, duly signed, on the Company's headed note-paper, for enclosure with the builder's account.

It is the intention in the case of "Cost of Works" payments that the Owner should receive as compensation, the actual cost to him of the reinstatement; such cost to include the actual cost of Architects' fees where they are properly incurred for supervising reinstatement, etc.

We think that it would be wrong for the Owner to claim full scale fees if his Architect was employed on a salaried basis, in the same way that it would be wrong for an Owner to claim full scale fees if he chose to supervise the work himself.

Your employers should send a statement showing the actual cost to themselves, based on the time expended.

There are no actual cases where this procedure has been laid down and you may like to seek another opinion, the Royal Institute of British Architects, 66, Portland Place, London, W.1, might be prepared to help you; alternatively your Company's solicitors.

PRICES

BY DAVIS AND BELFIELD, CHARTERED QUANTITY SURVEYORS

MATERIALS

The prices of basic materials have generally remained stable. Lead rose again slightly during June and roofing tiles rose during July.

LABOUR

Rates of Wages have not risen since June 1st. The rates for the Central London Area are 2s. 0d. and 1s. 6½d. per hour for Craftsmen and Labourers respectively.

BASIC MATERIALS	Increases over pre-war prices at end of						
	Jan., 1941	Feb., 1941	Mar., 1941	April, 1941	May, 1941	June, 1941	July, 1941
Portland cement	per cent. +35.37	per cent. +35.37	per cent. +35.37	per cent. +35.37	per cent. +35.37	per cent. +35.37	per cent. +35.37
2-in. unscreened ballast	+47.8	+47.8	+47.8	+60.9	+60.9	+60.9	+60.9
Fletton bricks (at station)	+11.89	+11.89	+11.89	+11.89	+11.89	+11.89	+11.89
Stoneware drain-pipes (British Standard) 2 tons and over	+18½	+18½	+18½	+18½	+18½	+18½	+18½
Roofing tiles	+20	+20	+20	+20	+20	+20	+30
Steel joists (basic sections) ex mills	+47.5	+47.5	+47.5	+47.5	+47.5	+47.5	+47.5
Lime greystone	+29.76	+29.76	+29.76	+29.76	+33.33	+33.33	+33.33
Sheet lead	+50	+50	+50	+50	+50	+54.35	+54.35
Iron rainwater goods and soil pipes	+18	+18	+18	+21	+21	+21	+21
Copper tubes	+27.66	+27.66	+27.66	+27.66	+27.66	+27.66	+27.66
White lead paint	+26½	+26½	+26½	+26½	+26½	+26½	+26½
RATES OF WAGES. (Central London Area)							
Labourers	+12.70	+15.87	+15.87	+15.87	+15.87	+19.05	+19.05
Craftsmen	+9.52	+11.90	+11.90	+11.90	+11.90	+14.29	+14.29

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TRADE NOTES

Timber Troubles

Under present conditions it is essential that economy must be rigorously pursued to avoid waste in timber. The Timber Development Association, Ltd. is very much aware of this fact and is rendering every assistance it can to all users of wood, whether in giving advice or by the issuing of technical and other leaflets.

One of the many leaflets issued deals with Decay of Timber in Buildings and explains in the most simple language the meaning of dry rot, how decay can be recognised, prevented and eradicated, and how certain preservatives can be applied. Prevention and eradication of decay, the leaflet states, can be effected as follows:

If there is no sign of decay in your woodwork, take every precaution you can to prevent the decay getting a foothold. The following measures are advisable:

1. Make sure that the damp course in your walls has not been rendered useless by the heaping of earth above its level when gardening.
2. Examine down-spouts from gutters and see that they are not choked with roots from nearby trees or masses of leaves. If this has happened it means that water will overflow the gutters and render the walls damp.
3. See that all air-bricks ventilating the underneath of floors are clean. Make sure that there are sufficient air-bricks to ventilate the entire floor area. It is worth having more put in if you are doubtful, or at least consulting an expert on the subject.
4. Prevent any water dripping from defective gutters, damaged tiles, etc., on to the woodwork.
5. See that there are no pockets of damp, stagnant air behind panelling, cupboards, etc.

(NOTE.—The best method of fixing panelling is on vertical battens; if this method has been carried out in your case, see that there are small vent holes (1/4-in. across) at the top and bottom of the panelling, between each pair of battens. This will ensure ventilation behind the panelling.)

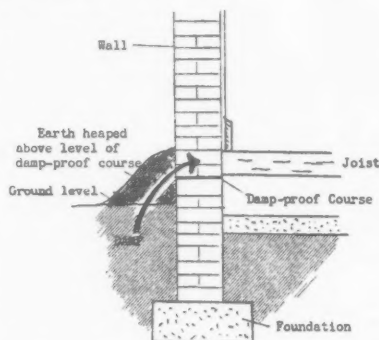
6. Treat with a preservative any timber that it is difficult to keep dry.

With all preventative measures the golden rule is—
"KEEP THE TIMBER DRY."

Eradication of Decay

If decay is found to be present, the following measures should be taken immediately:

1. Find out how far the damage extends and if possible the seat of the trouble.
2. Remove all superficial fungus and fruit bodies.
3. Cut out all decayed wood and a foot or more of the adjacent, apparently sound wood. Burn all this.
4. Sterilize any brickwork near the decayed timber by playing a blow-pipe over it or painting with a preservative.
5. Treat the remaining timber and any new timber with a preservative. New timber should be treated before installation. If creosote is used this should be applied under pressure.



Make sure that the damp course in your walls has not been rendered useless by the heaping of earth above its level when gardening.

Copies of the leaflets can be obtained from the Association (at 75, Cannon Street, London, E.C.4) whose staff of technical experts is available at any time to give free advice on all matters appertaining to timber.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Mr. Richard Nickson, M.A., F.R.I.B.A., has moved his office to Hinderton Lodge, Neston, Wirral, Cheshire (Telephone: Neston 159).

Building Industries Services, Ltd., Clay Products Technical Bureau of Great Britain, have moved to 110 St. Martin's Lane, W.C.2. Temporary telephone No. Temple Bar 1428.

PROTECTIVE WALLS FOR FACTORIES

The Ministry of Home Security Research and Experiments Department has issued a Bulletin (C.18) on the recent developments in protective wall design for factories. A protective wall subjected to a near bomb explosion may fail by being shattered into fragments forming destructive missiles; by overturning, causing serious casualties to workers taking emergency shelter and in damage to plant; or by being blown bodily across the shop sweeping all before it. The designs described and shown in the bulletin have been developed to lessen the possibility of these sources of failure. A principle of the designs is that the resistance of the component parts of the wall is graded so that, under excessive blast, the wall will bend over a comparatively short distance, without overturning or disintegrating. The wall consists of panels of reinforced concrete or reinforced brickwork spanning between steel verticals. These verticals are attached to feet in the form of spreader channels resting on, or preferably sunk in the floor. Tables show how the strength of the various wall components is graded to ensure that the wall behaves correctly.

TO USERS OF AUTOMATIC UNDERFEED STOKERS ALTERNATIVE STOKER FUELS

Owing to heavy demands by munition and other Government works, supplies of washed and graded fuels may be difficult to obtain.

In normal times the highest quality fuel is the cheapest, but in the present state of emergency the user must burn whatever fuel is available.

Do not consider reverting to the inconveniences of hand firing because the usual stoker fuels are in short supply. Both larger and smaller fuels (such as slacks) can be burned satisfactorily in "Iron Fireman" stokers. Slacks containing up to 50% fines can be used, while much larger sizes than the normal are suitable, depending on the size of the stoker. The lower quality fuels necessitate a little more attention than the washed and graded coals.

Your fuel merchant can maintain supplies by "ringing the changes" on whatever sizes of fuels are available.

Do not hesitate to consult us if in any doubt or difficulty.

Iron Fireman
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