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## An Open Letter to the Architectural Profession and the Building Trade

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Our products today, as is the case with most other firms, are available only for essential building work and we regret our inability to accept orders of a more general nature.

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Yours faithfully,

ARENS CONTROLS LIMITED

*[Signature]*

Secretary.



# THE ARCHITECTS'



## JOURNAL

THE ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL  
WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED THE BUILDERS'  
JOURNAL AND THE ARCHITECTURAL ENGINEER  
IS PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY BY THE ARCHI-  
TECTURAL PRESS (PUBLISHERS OF THE ARCHITECTS'  
JOURNAL, THE ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW, SPECI-  
FICATION, AND WHO'S WHO IN ARCHITECTURE)  
FROM 45 THE AVENUE, CHEAM, SURREY.

\*

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BY POST TO CANADA ..... £1 3 10  
BY POST ELSEWHERE ABROAD ..... £1 8 6  
SPECIAL COMBINED RATE FOR SUBSCRIBERS TAKING  
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45 The Avenue, Cheam, Surrey  
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The Editor will be glad to receive MS. articles  
and also illustrations of current architecture in this  
country and abroad with a view to publication.  
Though every care will be taken, the Editor cannot  
hold himself responsible for material sent him.

THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 1942.

NUMBER 2474: VOLUME 95

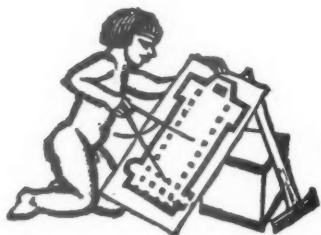
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The fact that goods made of raw materials in short supply  
owing to war conditions are advertised in this JOURNAL  
should not be taken as an indication that they are necessarily  
available for export.

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.

In common with every other periodical and newspaper in the country, this JOURNAL is rationed to a small proportion of its peace-time requirements of paper. This means that it is no longer a free agent printing as many pages as it thinks fit and selling to as many readers as wish to buy it. Instead a balance has to be struck between circulation and number of pages. A batch of new readers may mean that a page has to be struck off, and conversely a page added may mean that a number of readers have to go short of their copy. Thus in everyone's interest, including the reader's, it is



important that the utmost economy of paper should be practised, and unless a reader is a subscriber he cannot be sure of getting a copy of the JOURNAL. We are sorry for this but it is a necessity imposed by the war on all newspapers. The subscription is £1 3s. 10d. per annum.

from AN ARCHITECT'S *Commonplace Book*

"Let those that dig a well or pit be careful to lay planks over it, and so keep them shut up, not in order to hinder any person from drawing water but that there may be no danger of falling into them; but if anyone's beast fall into such a well or pit thus digged and not shut up, and perish, let the owner pay its price to the owner of the beast."

*Josephus, Book IV. Chapter VIII.*

## NEWS

- ★ Lord Reith has joined the Navy  
page 431
- ★ Lord Woolton's suggestions for using  
local architects for the design of British  
Restaurants - - - - page 433
- ★ Professor Abercrombie has been ap-  
pointed to plan the area surrounding the  
County of London - - - - page 440

### LEVERHULME SCHOLARSHIP

The Leverhulme Scholarship tenable at the Architectural Association School of Architecture, value £1,000, which includes payment of fees and maintenance for a period of five years, has been awarded this year to Mr. David S. Roberts of Gloucester.

### LORD REITH

Lord Reith, Minister of Works and Planning until February 23, when he was superseded by Lord Portal, has been appointed Lieut.-Commander, R.N.V.R., on the staff of the Rear-Admiral, Coastal Forces.

### DEBATE

In the House of Lords last week Lord Reith, in a debate on the public services, discussed building and civil engineering and the building materials industry. He said: "Some measure of central regulation and control is required by some kind of national board whose powers would include price control. It would settle prices and secure economies of materials and machinery. There would be an enormous

amount of work to be done by both public and private interests. All work, public and private, over a certain figure should be subject to licence. All public expenditure would be subject to a schedule of prices, and work would be done under standard specifications and a standardization of forms and methods of contract. Under standardization codes of practice and research would be adopted. Next, electricity. I have never been able to see why the Central Board and the Commissioners should not be amalgamated, and I would have them given rights and powers over distribution with this object in view, that over the whole country there should be one uniform price for electricity, with consequent benefit to planning, as, for instance, in the location of industry. Gas and water, roads and river management and sewage and subsoil water—there are too many authorities and too many types of authority."

### SOCIAL QUESTION

A pastoral letter on the social question by the Hierarchy of England and Wales, was read in all Roman Catholic churches last Sunday. It details "ten minimum conditions for a Christian way of life." One of the items is: "the minimum living accommodation for a family should be such that no one has to sleep in the living room; that there be satisfactory sanitation; that there be a bathroom for each family. Slums should be abolished, there is no excuse for slums."

### HONOURS

The list of Birthday Honours included the following awards: *Order of Merit*—Augustus John, R.A. *Knight Bachelor*—T. P. Frank (co-ordinating officer for public utility services, London C.D. Region, and Chief Engineer to the L.C.C.); *C.B.E.*—J. A. Dawson, Director of Works, Air Ministry; P. W. Jupp, Director of Lands, MOWP; George H. Parker, Chairman, National Joint Council for the Building Industry; H. E. Walker, Deputy Director of Public Works, Nigeria; H. E. Brooke-Bradley (Deputy County Surveyor, Worcestershire); H. M. Enderby (City Surveyor, Canterbury); F. H. Gibbons (Borough Engineer, Dudley); C. J. Mole, F.R.I.B.A. (Assistant Director of Works, MOWP; and H. Wooldridge, Senior Scientific Officer, D.S.I.R.); *O.B.E.*—W. E. Rice (President, London Master Builders' Association); *M.B.E.*—W. P. Haldane (Deputy City Engineer, Edinburgh); H. H. McTaggart (Quantity Surveyor, Department of Health for Scotland).

### LORD SANKEY ON BUILDING

Viscount Sankey presided at the first meeting, last Friday, of the special Reconstruction Committee recently appointed by the Building Societies Association to consider post-war problems. "The proper housing of our people will be of primary importance in our reconstructed world," he said. "Indeed, next to the immediate anxieties of the war, housing is, I should say, their deepest concern. It is right and proper that Building Societies should see how they can assist in obtaining the much-desired better houses for a people who so richly deserve them. Jerry building must not be allowed to raise its ugly head again in our post-war world. Building Societies have suffered much unjust and damaging criticism in recent years because of the activities of the jerry-builder. They agree with, and must co-operate with those who feel strongly that jerry-building is a social menace to be ruthlessly destroyed. Let us then co-operate with those who will demand that there should be no more jerry-built villas, no more hideous houses, no more drab and unlovely blocks of flats. The homes of Britain must be worthy of our people who are entitled to be well and comfortably housed. They cannot be expected to live happy lives unless they are comfortably and properly housed. They are entitled to plenty of space and to the best conditions for the family—the basis of the life of the Nation."



## deputy secretary, planning department, mowp

*Mr. Lawrence Neal, recently appointed by Lord Portal to be Deputy Secretary in the Planning Department of the Ministry of Works and Planning. He is a founder member, and member of the Council of P.E.P., and is actively interested in several of its planning surveys, more particularly those concerning industrial matters. He has had a wide range of*

*commercial and administrative experience and his official appointments include: Member, Sea Fish Commission, 1933-36; Member, Retail Trade Commission, set up by the Board of Trade. Mr. Neal is forty-six years of age, and is Chairman and Director of Daniel Neal & Sons, the boys' outfitters.*

### PLANNING

Mr. J. W. Stephenson in his Presidential Address to the annual conference of the National Federation of Building Trades Operatives at York last week, said:—

"A great clamour will arise for houses immediately the war ends. Amid this clamour will be the demand for cheap, mass-produced, hastily-erected dwellings. Only good building

is worth while. To build cheap, mass-produced houses will be cumbering the earth with costly rubbish, swindling the public and engendering a new, awful slumdom. If Britain is to be properly rebuilt, these things are essential:—

"The intimate discovery of building needs through local surveys; The initiation and planning of building by public authorities; organisation of the building industry as a

public service, rationalised and fully equipped with up-to-date plant and machinery; and a great improvement in the conditions and status of building operatives.

"When the war ends, thousands of building workers will hasten back to their trades. They will head a tide of workers of various kinds, to whom building will appear to offer secure employment. Their impact will tend to lower wages and thrust building workers back to the



hell of casual labour from which the war has temporarily enabled them to escape."

### BRITISH RESTAURANTS

Lord Woolton, Minister of Food, in a circular letter to the Lord Mayors, Mayors and Chairmen of Councils in England and to Lord Provosts, Provosts and Conveners of County Councils in Scotland, on the subject of British Restaurants, wrote: "At the present time, two British Restaurants a day are being opened in this country. May I venture to impress upon your Council, if it is proposing to bring into existence any new British Restaurants, the importance of ensuring that these places shall be so designed and decorated internally as to give an air of brightness and cheerfulness? I believe that it would add to the morale of the country that these war-time creations for communal feeding should be pleasant to eat in, and that the design should be suitable for the purpose for which they are created. Some Local Authorities have anticipated this appeal, and I take this opportunity of expressing my gratitude to them for the care and thought which they have clearly given to the simple but artistic decoration of the British Restaurants in their areas. I should regret any attempt at standardization of decoration, because these places being community centres, their design and appearance should be appropriate to the areas in which they are established as well as fit for the purpose that they are to serve. It will probably be necessary in most cases for the Restaurants to be installed in existing buildings adapted for the new purpose, but by wise choice and placing of lighting fittings, and pleasant colour schemes, even the most unpromising interior can be made interesting. Special attention should be paid to the design of lettering in notices displayed in the building. Such conditions fortunately can be obtained by the exercise of thought and imagination and without additional expenditure of money. I am sure that your Council will bear in mind the possibility of using the services and artistic capacity not only of the architects in the locality who might be interested in such things, but also of the pupils of the local School of Art, who, in some cases, have contributed excellent work to such restaurants. My Department also may be able to give your Authority assistance in this direction, if it is desired. My motive in writing to you has been the hope that in these measures forced upon us by war we may be able to add to the amenities of life by creating some beauty whilst providing for a necessity."

### MOWP

Three appendices to the Ministry of Works' *Schedule of Cooking Appliances* have now been published by H.M. Stationery Office. These are: Appendix A—Kitchen Machinery; Appendix B—Tea Making Appliances; Appendix C—Portable Equipment.

Government Departments (who, with manufacturers, co-operated in producing the appendices) will quote from these schedules when ordering kitchen equipment.

*Appendix A—Kitchen Machinery* (price 4d.), describes in detail the types of automatic, semi-automatic and hand-operated machinery used in Government sponsored canteens. These types include Dishwashing Machines, Mixers, Vegetable Paring Machines, Slicers, Mincers, Potato Mashers, Potato Chippers and Refrigerators which will be used in Government sponsored canteens.

*Appendix B—Tea Making Appliances* (price 6d.), contains illustrated descriptions of Cafe sets (with boiler above or below counter), water boilers for use with separate urns for bulk tea making, urns, bulk tea makers, etc.

*Appendix C—Portable Equipment* (price 4d.), is also illustrated. It describes ranges, food containers, ovens (suitable for use on ranges), cooking stoves, milk or porridge boilers, trolleys, pot racks, etc.

*What is a job committee? It is a group of men drawn from all the personnel on a given job which gets together to discuss ways and means to eliminate obstacles to maximum output. Architects should have a place on these committees. This leader explains why.*

## JOB COMMITTEES

A GOOD deal of publicity has been given to the achievements of production committees in the engineering and armaments industries. The evidence of their usefulness is convincing and the Ministries of Supply and Aircraft Production officially encourage their formation. Their existence in the building industry has received much less notice and architects may be surprised to learn, from a Parliamentary reply by Mr. George Hicks on June 10, that no fewer than 42 have been set up on that small section of the building industry controlled by MOWP. Mr. Hicks was "satisfied that such committees are of value in the war effort."

The need for architects, surveyors, and other professional and technical people to be represented on these committees is so obvious that it might appear unnecessary to stress it. And yet it must be said that the profession has shown hardly any signs that it is aware of the need. Recent enquiries by the A.A.S.T.A. found no job committee which had an architect member, or indeed a technician of any kind, though the committees realised the serious need for them. If architects want to get the utmost out of themselves they must see that this position is rapidly altered.

Job committees offer a chance to fight many of the evils from which, more than anyone, the architect suffers. They discuss all matters relating to progress, difficulties of execution, and allocation of manpower and materials. Here the architect can get support against critics with insufficient knowledge; here he can explain fully novelties of construction so that they are carried out with understanding by the operatives. At such meetings no one can give more valuable help than the architect, and no one can extract more benefit from the discussions. It is the architect who gains most from the wide diffusion of knowledge throughout the job.

No question of professional etiquette is involved. In 36 of the 42 job committees mentioned above both operatives and management were represented. A job committee is simply a body of men determined to eliminate obstacles to maximum output, to economise in labour and material, and to rouse and use the enthusiasm of everyone to speed up the work.

In order to do this the operatives have a simple but effective system of representation on the committee by means of elected members. These representatives both collect suggestions and complaints and publicise the decisions of the committee. A

similar system would be necessary amongst architects and architectural assistants, whether on the site or in the drawing office. We suggest that in these job committees our profession has its last chance during the war—and on this will depend its chance after the war—to overcome the isolation which has afflicted it for so long.

There is a bad tendency to speak of the national building programme as practically completed and to look on the architect's job as of progressively less importance. This is certainly not true. Work in progress now is as important as any that has gone before and its completion is essential to the offensive strategy which the whole country is demanding. It is in that spirit that architects and all building workers must carry out their tasks.



*The Architects' Journal*  
45, The Avenue, Cheam, Surrey  
Telephone: Vigilant 0087-9

## NOTES & TOPICS

### POSTWAR PREVIEWS

In the last few weeks Anglo-American leaders have shown some realization that their audiences are beginning to want a little more detail in references to the post-war world. The title and size of the job have been stated often enough, and an outline specification of constructional methods is now needed if heckling is to be avoided.

★

No leader has yet been bold enough to oblige, but some have ventured as near to doing so as the barbed wire fence of "Highly Contentious Issues" allows. We have been told that the postwar era is to be that of "the common man," that we have now solved the problem of production, that all that remains is the efficient organization of distribution, and that if we do not provide fully for the needs of all common men, we're sunk.

We know these things are true, But when one visualizes the machinery which will be needed for the physical part of the job—the part which architects can most easily comprehend—one cannot escape depression. And this depression comes not so much from the slow speed with which that machinery is being prepared as from the absence of clear public explanation of why it is being prepared at all. In the absence of a carefully prepared and sustained programme of explanation, it is only too probable that the common man will himself defeat the Common Man's Postwar Programme.

★

People who imagine that the whole postwar business is in this country a clear-cut question of Right v. Left, Capitalist v. Red, seem to me most woefully wrong.

★

It is obvious that after the war there will be, to begin with, a very general distaste for anything big, anything nationally organized and most things new. And the common man—after being sent about the world willy-nilly like a human postal packet for several years—will share this distaste very strongly.

★

Secondly, it seems clear that any system of production and distribution which will bring security to the common man will have to be nationally controlled, and that this cannot be done without considerable redistribution of local authorities' powers. And of the hundreds of authorities which will be affected,

both the salaried officials (two-thirds of whom vote Labour) and the unpaid officials (two-thirds of whom vote Tory) will fight like Commandos to stop anything of the kind.

★

Anyone who doubts this should look at the tight mosaic of local authorities which exists in Northumberland and Durham, and should remember how quickly a Royal Commission dropped the idea of introducing into that area some very much needed reforms. An M.P. who was involved in the affair told me that the representatives of the various authorities were just as chummy and co-operative as a barrellful of vipers.

★

Thus unless the Common Man, in office or out, is told why changes will be needed, why national and regional authorities will be needed, well before Bills are introduced to set them up, he will probably vote against them both. No such campaign of explanation has yet been started.

### THE OPEN FIRE

Commenting recently on Mr. Fitzmaurice's discourse concerning heating and ventilation, I observed that the English would rather produce any number of bogus scientific arguments in support of the open fire than admit the one genuine æsthetic one. A correspondent reminds me that three hundred years ago we were prepared for greater frankness.

★

Sir Henry Wotton wrote in 1624: "... the Ancients did warme their Roomes with certaine secret Pipes that came through the Walls, transporting heate (as I conceive it) to sundry parts of the House from one common Furnace; I am ready to baptize them *Caliducts*, as well, as they are tearmed *Venti-ducts* and *Aquae-ducts* that convey Winde and Water; which whether it were a custome or a delicacie was surely both for thrift and for use far beyond the German *Stoves*; and I should preferre it likewise before our owne fashion, if the very sight of a fire did not adde to the Roome a kinde of Reputation,\* as old Homer doth

\* αἰθρομένου δὲ πυρὸς γεραιωτερος οἶκος ἰδεσθαι. Hom. Epig.

THE COMPLETE BUILDER-LANDLORD, 1880  
(BY ONE WHO HAS BEEN A TENANT)  
No. 8.—THE DOOR-HANDLE SPREE.

teach us in a verse sufficient to prove that himselfe was not blinde, as some would laie to his charge."

Sir Henry admits that for thrift and use (economy and efficiency) caliducts win.

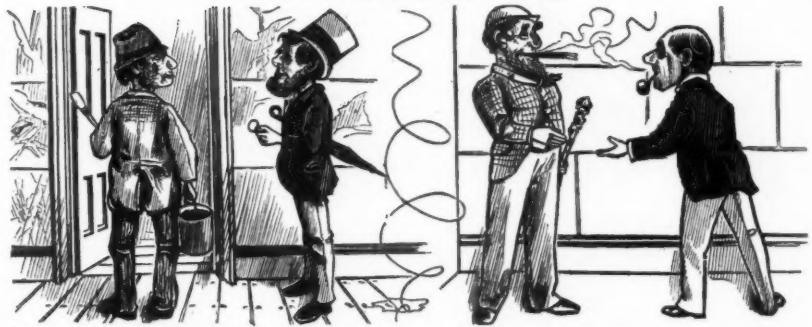
THE GRAND CONTOUR CANAL

The phrase has an old-fashioned ring about it but that, it seems, is only because one knows nothing about canals. It is all wrong to imagine that the chief function of an inland waterway is to provide safe boating for boy scouts and respectable employment for gypsies. Mr. Pownall\* proposes to spend 150 million pounds on building a new one.

The country is full of canals already in various stages of decay but [the Grand Contour Canal would be different; 100 feet wide, 17 feet deep, with a clear headway of 25 ft., it would hug a single contour line (310 ft.) for the whole 864 miles of its length so that one could float from Newcastle to Southampton or from London to Leeds without the inconvenience of rising or falling one inch.

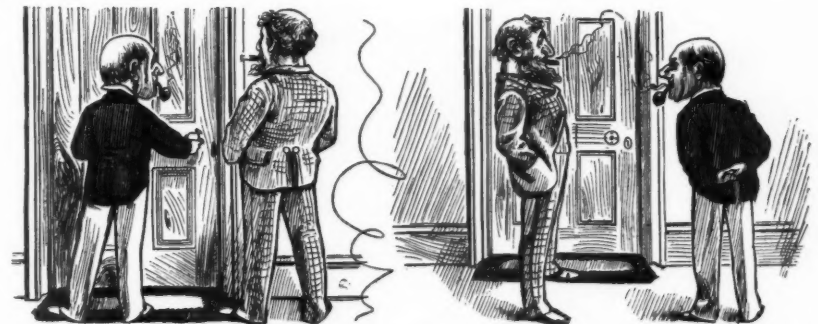
The initial jump from sea level to the height of this natural canal line, could, Mr. Pownall says, be made most conveniently in a vertical lift which would accommodate ships of 1,500 tons displacement. Indeed, in spite of being told in rather technical language the story belongs unmistakably to the fairy-tale class. A lockless canal system for instance could be used as a water grid and made to carry water from Wales to replenish the underground reservoirs of London. It could also be used for cheap transport of bulky goods which at present can scarcely be moved at all. Prefabricated houses might drift up and down it singly or in droves. Slag heaps from Chesterfield might be carried away to fill holes in Cornwall. Large pieces of machinery weighing as much as a ton might be

\*The projected Grand Contour Canal. J. T. Pownall. Cotterell & Co., 2/-.



Oh, and door-handles, too! You say to your general Plumber - Carpenter - Painter - Labourer - and - Man-of-all-work, "Here are the handles; but mind you don't put them on till the day before the Tenant enters, as they aren't warranted to bear more than a week's wear."

So the Tenant having entered, asks a friend to look at his new house. "Come on, old fellow," says he, "I'll show you the rooms."



"Hullo!" says he, "here's the handle off the drawing-room door; so we can't get in there"

"Why, here's the bedroom door-handle off, too! Can't go in there. I'll just pocket all the handles that come off, and show 'em to the Landlord!" And he collects a good pocketful



"I'm afraid we must have a quiet smoke on the stairs, old boy," he says, "as we can't get into any room"

"Well, good bye," he says; "sorry you couldn't see the rooms; but I'm determined I'll show 'em to the Landlord!" Which he does, the Landlord experiencing the utmost surprise.

Published 1880 by Fun Office the Complete Builder-Landlord is an early attempt to rouse public opinion against the jerry builder by the newly-discovered weapon of the comic strip. This week's strip shows that the door-handle joke is anyway sixty-two years old. YOU in the first caption refers to the villain of the piece, the builder.

brought on hire to you or me from a hundred miles away and make the return journey for the very reasonable sum of 8/-.

Unlimited quantities of coal, it seems, could travel from London to Manchester in 40 hours, considerably less than goods usually take

by rail. Canals, according to Mr. Pownall, offer the best hope of a speed up, partly by setting new standards of comparison but chiefly by relieving roads and railways of heavy traffic and freeing them for fast passenger services.

ASTRAGAL.





## LETTERS

JOURNEYMAN ARCHITECT  
F.R.I.B.A.

Mrs. E. V. PENN,  
Acting Secretary, A.A.S.T.A.

### Charm

Sir,—That my criticism of *Your Inheritance* should have been thought worthy of editorial comment in a publication so powerful in the formation and guidance of opinion as the ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL is an honour that is highly appreciated.

However it is the subject rather than personalities that matter and as I feel that the propagation of planning principles is a subject of the very first importance, I venture to put forward the following further views for your consideration.

It is becoming a widely accepted view that a planned social betterment is the most important problem with which not only this country but the whole world will be faced at the end of the war; if indeed it is not so faced, as many think, now. Further it is becoming clear that the factor essential to the success of such an undertaking is the support of a determined demand by the general public. And that as the public is already suffering from a surfeit of anything savouring of dictation the first need is the spreading of information. This last, as will no doubt be agreed, is the purpose of the publication of *Your Inheritance*. The point in dispute is the quality of the production. In my review I regarded this as a good effort spoiled.

Very rightly you draw attention to the fact that the preying on man's natural aptitude to fear is a psychological factor in the effecting of sales which has been successfully exploited. This is particularly true of the vendors of quack medicines, but it is also true of more reputable undertakings such as those you cite; it is also true of Insurance companies; and it has been largely reverted to recently as a means to force the freedom-loving nations to stand up and fight against the tyrant.

All this is very true; but my contention is that neither by working on fears nor by ridicule is the best result to be obtained in building up a support of public opinion so essential to the

success of "planning." On the contrary I contend that the most productive method of salesmanship—which this is—is to give pleasure to the prospective customer; and that the readiest way of doing so is by charm of presentation. In this quality *Your Inheritance*, though an excellent conception, is lacking; and what might have been a thing of beauty has been perverted into a production of ugliness and offence, which even if convincing, is more likely to produce enemies than friends to the cause which I know the Architectural Press has so much at heart. The fact that a second edition has been in demand, though pleasing, in no way detracts from the fact that four or five further editions would have been more pleasing still and more productive of the desired end: i.e. the influencing of a friendly public regard. This, I reaffirm, is to be most readily derived from charm of manner, thought and presentation.

Surely the failure of the greatest exponent of fear as the stepping stone to world domination should by now have served to recall the teaching of The Greatest Propagandist that in the strength of a proper humility lies the way to success; and what is humility but charm?

"Suffer little children to come unto me and forbid them not, for of such is the Kingdom of God." Most assuredly; but never a wax doll—in bed—with its eyes and mouth open!

JOURNEYMAN ARCHITECT

Hatfield.

### Unity in the Architectural Profession

Sir,—A few weeks ago you published a letter in which I speculated, first, whether any architect would join an alternative society if he could just as easily gain admission to the R.I.B.A., and, secondly, whether the right to use certain affixes without the trouble of sitting a qualifying examination, is not the real incentive to membership of those societies. No reply has been made by any members of the alternative societies to give enlightenment on these questions or to suggest that my speculations were ill-founded.

One of the principal objects of unification must be to safeguard the standard of qualification for admission to the profession, and therefore the composition of the Architects' Registration Council is a vital factor. I understand that representation on this Council of the various professional bodies it comprises is proportionate to their membership; and as the R.I.B.A. is at present the dominating influence no attempt to impose a standard lower than the Institute's final examination is likely to be made. Only this examination and the degree and diploma examinations of schools of architecture recognized by the R.I.B.A. are at present accepted as qualifications for registration.

Thus it would seem that if this position continues, future generations of architects will have qualified for membership of the R.I.B.A., and the alternative societies must in time die of exhaustion.

To avoid this fate, these bodies will no doubt exert every effort to increase their membership with the object of gaining control of the Registration Council and approval of a lower standard of entrance examination; this would be necessary to provide easier entry as a counter attraction to the R.I.B.A. qualification.

Therefore it is in the interests of all members of the Royal Institute, and particularly of those who have passed qualifying examinations, to maintain the Institute's dominant position on the Registration Council. To do this the Institute must itself admit those registered architects whom the alternative bodies are striving so hard to attract to their membership; at the same time the interests of those who qualify by examination must be safeguarded.

I therefore suggest that real unification could be achieved and present standards maintained by the adoption of the following proposals:

- (1) Admit all registered architects (not already members) to the Licentiate Class of the R.I.B.A.
- (2) Withdraw the provision whereby licentiates can transfer to the Fellowship Class and thus ensure that the Fellowship and Associateship Classes shall in future be reserved to those who have passed the full qualifying examinations.

It might seem a hard sacrifice to admit as licentiates many registered architects who might otherwise be rejected, but I submit that if the objects were achieved the price would be worth paying and the occasion could not recur.

Incidentally, as membership numbers have assumed such importance, the few R.I.B.A. members who are also members of alternative societies (from which I exclude the A.A. and the A.A.S.T.A.) should consider how they could best help the Institute.

F.R.I.B.A.

Cheshire.

### Low Salaries paid to Building Draughtsmen

Sir,—The A.A.S.T.A. has recently received many applications from members for assistance and advice in the matter of salaries. A survey recently made of salaries paid to professional and technical staffs in the building industry revealed that average salaries are shockingly low and the Association is taking up individual cases in increasing number.

A particularly flagrant example has been brought to the attention of the A.A.S.T.A. The draughtsmen in a firm of Construction Specialists informed their union that they are

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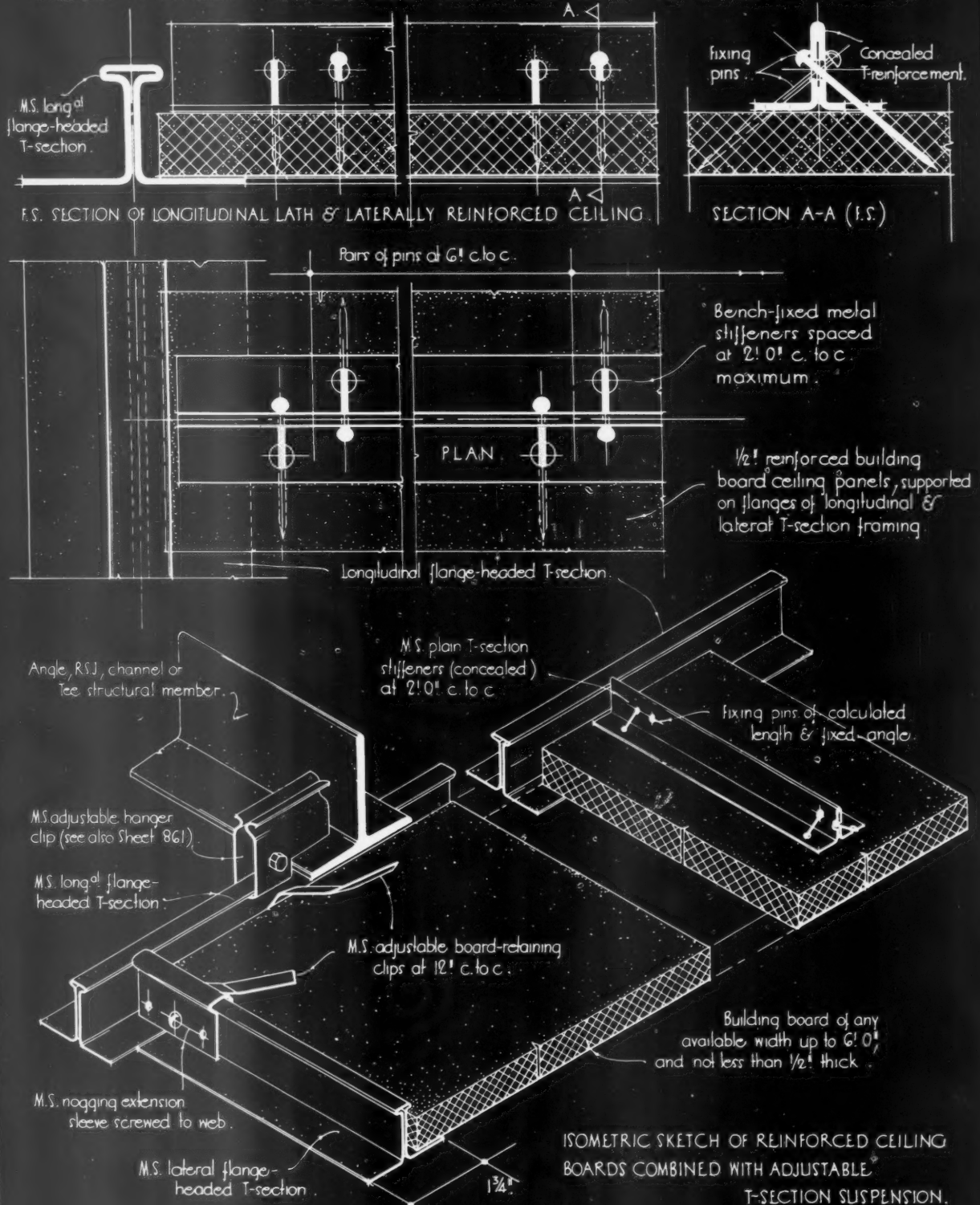
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## THE ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL LIBRARY OF PLANNED INFORMATION

## • PIMCO • SYSTEMS : CONCEALED REINFORCEMENT TO CEILING PANELS :



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## INFORMATION SHEET

• 868 •

### CEILINGS

**Product:** Pimco Systems Concealed Reinforcement (British Patent No. 530192).

**Description :**

Where building boards are supported at their borders by metal laths—of T section for example—the width of boards should not normally exceed 2 ft. for  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. board, otherwise sagging will occur. It is frequently desirable that greater widths should be used, but hitherto no fixing means has been available which did not involve the exposure of nail or screw heads. Concealed reinforcement provides a satisfactory method of stiffening boards of any available width without the exposure of intermediate fixing means. Boards, which should be not less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  in.

thickness, are available in various widths up to 6 ft.

The reinforcing laths of T section are fixed to the backs of the boards, before erection, by pins engaging holes in the web and flanges. Since the pinning angle is fixed the operation is practically foolproof.

**Erection :**

(a) Pinning : Lay board face down on flat surface, e.g. floor. Place T lath on board parallel with, and centred at 2 ft. approximately from end of board. (It will suffice if the laths are approximately parallel but care should be taken to see that end of lath does not project over edge of board.) Insert pins through T web and flanges in alternate directions. Fix remaining T's similarly spaced—last T to be not more than 2 ft. from end of board.

(b) Fixing : The reinforced boards may now be fixed to structural members by any suitable metal fixing method. The example shown overleaf is fully illustrated in Information Sheet No. 861.

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receiving respectively 20s. (age 16), 25s. (age 17), £4 (age 31, qualified architect), £4 5s. (age 30, over eight years with this firm), £5 5s. (age 29, registered architect in charge of the drawing office), and these amounts include war bonus.

These salaries are *pro rata* less than the wages of building operatives and there is no possibility of increasing the weekly pay packet by bonus earnings. Yet three of the men concerned have had years of training and experience and one of them has been in the service of the firm for over eight years. It is deplorable that such a situation should exist these days when an all-out effort is required of all workers.

The matter was taken up directly with the management, but a blank refusal was met. The Association then went to the Ministry of Labour and the case is being taken to arbitration.

E. V. PENN.

Acting Secretary, A.A.S.T.A.  
London.

*The Minister of Works and Planning Bill passed its Second Reading in the House of Lords on Wednesday of last week; the motion for the Bill to be read a second time was introduced by LORD PORTAL, whose speech (from Hansard) is reported in full below.*

## PLANNING BILL

### Second Reading in the House of Lords

My Lords, I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time. The Bill deals with the setting up of a Ministry of Works and Planning. I want noble Lords to know this is a first step, and a first step only in carrying out the policy of the Government which was announced in this House by my predecessor on February 11 last. His Majesty does not need statutory authority to appoint a new Minister, but, when a new Minister is appointed, legislation is generally required for the transfer to the new Minister of functions previously exercised by some other Minister and for other purposes. The present Bill provides for the transfer of certain properties and functions to the Minister of Works and Planning, when

he is appointed, and makes other provisions which are customary when a new Ministry is set up. I shall deal shortly with the various clauses.

I take first Clause 1. Subsection (1) provides that if His Majesty appoints a Minister of Works and Planning certain things shall be transferred to that Minister. The method of transfer is dealt with later in Clause 6. These things are set out in subsection (1). Those named in paragraphs (a) and (b) are the functions and properties of the Commissioners of Works and the Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland. The Commissioners of Works have the general function of acquiring, constructing, owning, maintaining and furnishing all properties required for civil government purposes in Great Britain (except that Post Office properties are owned by the Postmaster-General and in part maintained by the Post Office itself). The Commissioners also have miscellaneous functions under various Acts of Parliament. A good example is the Ancient Monuments Acts, under which they exercise a general supervision over ancient monuments in Great Britain. The Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland own and maintain certain properties in Northern Ireland used for Imperial Government purposes (for example, the Belfast Custom House). Since the establishment of the two Irish Governments, three officials of this department have held office as Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland.

Then, under paragraph (c), come the functions of the Minister of Health under the Town and Country Planning Act, 1932, except those under Section 32 of that Act. The 1932 Act covers all the main functions of the Minister of Health in connection with planning. Section 32 is excluded from the transfer because this section concerns the responsibility of the Minister of Health for the supervision of local government finance and not his planning functions.

With regard to subsection (3) I would point out that my predecessor and I were also appointed First Commissioner of Works, so that the functions of the Commissioners of Works would continue to be performed. It will probably take a long time to transfer all those functions to the new Minister, because the Orders in Council effecting the transfer, which I shall mention later in dealing with Clause 6, will have to specify all the different Acts of Parliament containing them. To collect this information will be a long business, and not urgent once the main functions and properties have been transferred. Further, in addition to the functions already described, the Commissioners own properties used for British Embassies and Consulates in foreign countries and the houses and offices of United Kingdom High Commissioners in the Dominions. These cannot be transferred by an Act of the British Parliament (except, in the case of

certain Dominions, at the request and with the consent of the Dominion Government concerned, which we cannot well seek in war-time). The Commissioners of Works must, therefore, remain in being until each of these properties has been separately conveyed to the new Minister according to the law of the country concerned.

This cannot be done quickly, particularly as many of the countries are in enemy hands. For these reasons, the Commissioners cannot be abolished for some time, and this subsection therefore provides that, until they are abolished, the Minister of Works and Planning shall also be First Commissioner of Works. This means that it will not be necessary in future to appoint the Minister twice over, once as Minister and once as First Commissioner.

Clause 2 is in the customary form. Ministers on appointment take the oath of allegiance and the official oath. In Clause 3, subsection (1) empowers the Minister to appoint secretaries and other staff with the consent of the Treasury. This is the usual form. The expression "secretaries" includes Parliamentary Secretaries. Although in practice these are members of the Government appointed by the King on the recommendation of the Prime Minister, in theory they are appointed by the Minister. The subsection also provides for the payment of the Minister and staff.

Section 6 of the Ministers of the Crown Act, 1937, provides that if a Minister holds two offices he shall be paid only one salary—that belonging to the more highly-paid office. As I have already explained, the Minister of Works and Planning will also for some time be First Commissioner of Works, and subsection (2) of Clause 3 of this Bill therefore brings him within the operation of Section 6 of the 1937 Act. It does the same thing, by way of precaution, for the Parliamentary Secretaries of the new Ministry. Subsection (3) provides for the payment of the Minister's expenses.

The Succession to the Crown Act, 1707, makes it illegal for anyone appointed to any office of profit under the Crown created since October 25, 1705, to sit or vote in the House of Commons. Clause 4 of this Bill removes this disqualification so far as the Minister of Works and Planning and his Parliamentary Secretaries are concerned. The proviso ensures that not more than two of the Ministers (Minister and Parliamentary Secretaries) shall be able to sit in the House of Commons at one time.

Coming now to Clause 5, by subsection (1) the Minister is made a corporation sole, with a seal. This is a legal provision which enables the Department to own and deal in property, and ensures that the Minister of the day shall always be the owner of that property, without having to take conveyances of it from his predecessor.



Subsections (2), (3) and (4) deal with purely legal points. They make it easy for documents, regulations and orders for which the Ministry is responsible to be received in evidence by the courts. Subsection (5) provides that no stamp duty is payable on deeds to which the Commissioners of Works are a party. In cases of sales of property by the Commissioners where duty would be payable by the purchaser and this exemption might lead to a loss to the Exchequer, care is taken, under Treasury instructions, to see that the price paid reflects the exemption.

In Clause 6, sub-section (1) provides that the transfers of functions and property shall be made by Orders-in-Council. In this way it will be possible quickly to make the more important transfers, while the transfer of all the functions of the Commissioners of Works will, as already explained, involve a good deal of research and the amendment of a good many Acts of Parliament. In the same way, the Minister of Health has planning powers under various other Acts besides the Town and Country Planning Act, 1932; for example, the London Squares Preservation Act, 1931; the Green Belt (London and Home Counties) Act, 1938; the Allotments Act, 1925, and various County Council Acts. These powers will be transferred in due course by Orders in Council. The sub-section provides that powers under the Defence Regulations (which are held both by the Minister of Works and Buildings and by the Commissioners of Works) shall be transferred, not by Order in Council under this Bill, but by Defence Regulation. This has the advantage that it still leaves it possible further to amend those Defence Regulations, if it is desired to do so. The powers in question include licensing of building, registration of building and civil engineering contractors, requisitioning of property and other less important matters.

Subsection (3) of Clause 6 provides that subsidiary matters in connection with the transfers of powers shall be dealt with by Order in Council. These comprise: (a) such repeal or amendment as may be necessary of Acts of Parliament, regulations and other instruments; (b) the transfer of the Minister of Health's planning functions under other Acts than in 1932 Act (for example, the London Squares Preservation Act, 1931, and the other Acts which I have mentioned); (c) the transfer of functions of one of the Commissioners of Works, as distinct from the Commissioners as a body. This is necessary because, under various Acts, the First Commissioner alone has certain functions (for example, the Chequers Estate Act, 1917, under which he is one of the administrative trustees of the Chequers Estate); (d) and (e) the carrying on of such matters as of Health under the Town and Country

## MEMORIAL TO LENIN



*The monument to Lenin which the Finsbury Borough Council has put up in Holford Square (where he used to live) was recently unveiled by the Soviet Ambassador. Designed by B. Lubetkin, the monument is in coloured marble and white concrete. The only symbolism in a strictly architectural design consists of a broken length of steel chain anchored to the concrete base. The bust is illuminated by natural top lighting; a piece of armourplate glass has been inserted in the roof directly above the bust.*

### DESIGNED BY B. LUBETKIN

Planning Act, or of litigation to which the Commissioners of Works are a party, and the continuing in force of orders or directions already given by the Minister of Health or the Commissioners of Works.

Subsections (4) and (5) of Clause 6 provide for the abolition by Order in Council of the offices of the Commissioner of Works and the Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland respectively, as soon as the transfers of their functions and properties are complete. Subsections (6) and (7) are in common form. Subsection (8) provides that any Order in Council repealing, modifying or adapting any enactment shall be laid before Parliament.

The last Clause, Clause 7, provides that the Bill shall extend to Northern Ireland and the Isle of Man, to cover the Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland, and because the Commissioners of Works own certain properties in the appeals already made to the Minister Isle of Man used for coastguard pur-

poses. The planning functions to be transferred do not extend either to Northern Ireland or the Isle of Man.

This Bill, my Lords, constitutes the first step in carrying out the Government's policy. The objective of that policy is to secure the right use of the land of the country for all purposes. For this, existing planning powers are known to be inadequate, and it will be necessary to introduce legislation substantially amending, strengthening and extending the present law. Before this is done, I consider it essential to have the final Report of Mr. Justice Uthwatt's Committee, and the Report of Lord Justice Scott's Committee, which I am pleased to tell your Lordships' House are now near completion. In my speech in this House on April 21, I outlined my policy, and I do not propose to deal with this at length today. I will refer once again to the speech made by my noble friend Lord Latham, with reference to delays in procedure. It is quite apparent to me



# HOLFORD SQUARE, HOLBORN



that there will have to be a speeding up of procedure under the Town and Country Planning Act. I made it clear that in planning the use of land it will be the duty of my Ministry to see that the national policy laid down for agriculture, location of industry, and for transport and communications shall be observed.

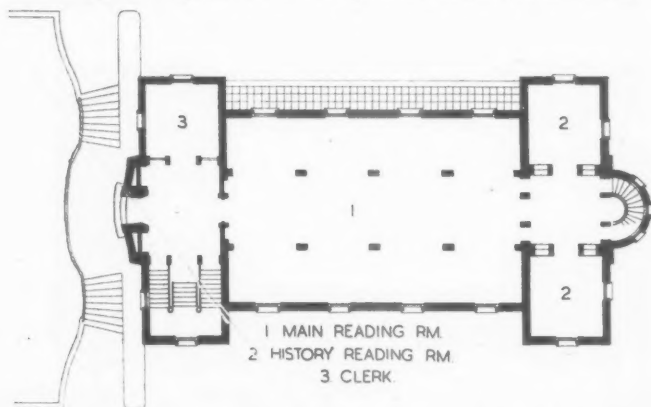
In trying to overcome the difficulties caused by the existence of numerous planning authorities in the various areas, I think your Lordships will be interested to hear what is being done in Greater London. Lord Reith took the view that in planning the reconstruction of the London region a beginning should be made with the central areas, particularly in view of the fact that enemy bombing had been largely concentrated at the centre. Accordingly the Corporation of the City of London and the London County Council were invited by him to prepare provisional plans of redevelopment for the City and County respectively. Those provisional plans are now in an advanced stage of preparation, and I took the view, therefore, that the time had arrived when consideration should be given to the question of planning the area surrounding the County of London, which, in many ways, forms a composite whole with the City and County. I referred the matter to the Standing Conference on London Regional Planning, with the suggestion that a comprehensive plan for the whole of the region should be prepared by an eminent planner to be appointed by me; making clear that it would be for the planner to advise me on the precise area or region which it would be best to include in the plan, and that he would need the assistance of the local authorities, both county and district, in the region in regard to the supply of facts, figures and other information. I pointed out that the plan must be based on present facts, but must be sufficiently flexible to enable any necessary adjustments to be made as the war proceeds and post-war prospects emerge with greater clarity.

I am glad to say that at their meeting held on the 27th of last month the Standing Conference welcomed my proposal and suggested that the eminent planner might well be Professor Abercrombie, who was already preparing the re-development plan for the County of London as consultant to the London County Council. I intend to adopt this suggestion, and to appoint Professor Abercrombie accordingly. He will enjoy the help of the Technical Committee of the Standing Conference and will work in consultation with the transport and other public utility services. I am convinced that these steps will have the approval of your Lordships' House, and will prove a valuable contribution to more efficient planning, which I know the House desires. This Bill starts us on our way.

## NEW WORK AT



*Above: The entrance at the western end of the Holywell Quadrangle. Facing page: top, the main reading room; bottom, the south side.*



### ARCHITECT: HUBERT WORTHINGTON

**GENERAL**—Two new buildings at Oxford are illustrated in this issue—the Library at New College and Garden Buildings, Merton College.

**LIBRARY**—The new library, built because the existing one was considered unworthy of the College

in beauty and convenience, came into being under the guidance of the late warden, the Rt. Hon. H. A. L. Fisher, O.M., and Professor J. L. Myers, librarian. The site is at the western end of the Holywell Quadrangle, between the Bell Tower and the cloister on the south, and the old Holywell houses

## OXFORD. I: NEW LIBRARY

on the north. The new building was kept as low as possible to line with the city wall, and to avoid competing with the dominating masses of the mediæval hall and chapel. It has been planned as an island building set in a garden, an extended garden and not a curtailed one, for the site was largely obtained by the demolition of small buildings, and the clearing of backyards.

PLAN—Opposite the entrance is the main reading room, with a wide central space, four cubes long, and four spacious book-

lined bays on either side. On the south is a terrace which readers can use in summer. Beyond the main reading room a western hall, or crossing, with slender oak piers, leads by a semicircular staircase to the lower floor. On either side of the western hall are the two history rooms. Along the main length of the north side is the book-stack. A double stair leads down to the stack, and the history, law and rare-books rooms, with tutorial studios.

CONSTRUCTION AND FINISHES—For the foundation,



piles going down some forty feet were necessary, and the walls had to be built on a reinforced concrete frame supported by these piles. To avoid the danger of shaking the ancient foundations of the chapel and ante-chapel, the bell tower, cloisters and city wall, pressure piles were necessary, and these called for much ingenuity. The buildings are of stone, with Clipsham dressings and Bladon walling. The keystone to the deep-set main doorway has the arms and mitre of William of Wykeham, the founder of the College, and the arms of Warden Spooner and Warden Fisher, who were mainly responsible for the scheme, are carved higher up.

## NEW WORK AT OXFORD

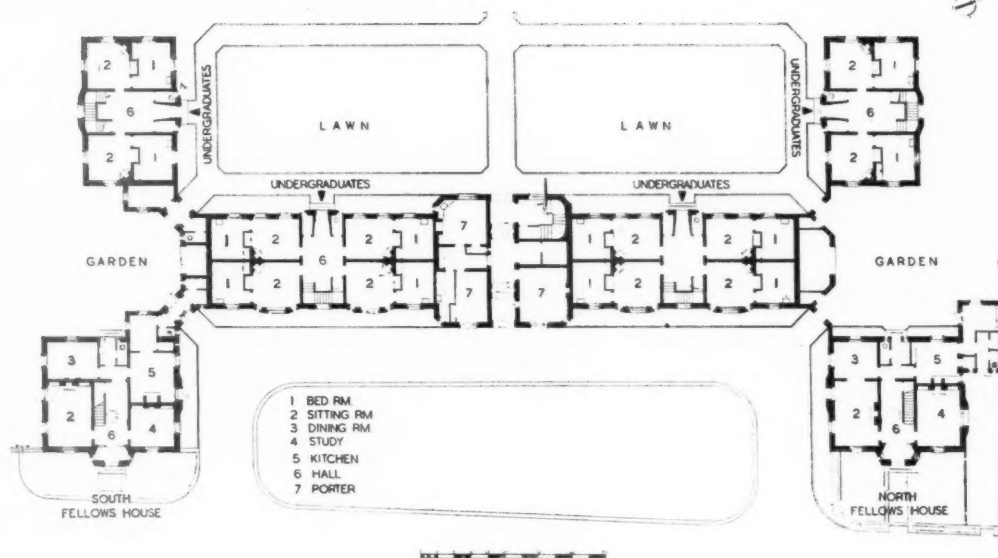


*Above : The entrance hall with the glass-fronted librarian's room. Left : top, the front of the building, with the gently curved, projecting centre. Centre : the curved back staircase to the lower floor ; the railing has the crozier of the founder of the college as its motif. Bottom : one of the eight spacious bays in the main reading room. Facing page : two views of Garden Buildings at Merton College. Top : the main front. Bottom : one of the projecting wings.*

1. NEW LIBRARY



## DESIGNED BY HUBERT WORTHINGTON



## 2: GARDEN BUILDINGS



**GARDEN BUILDINGS** — This building is erected on an independent site, but within easy reach of the college. It provides twenty-four undergraduates' sets, a common-room, two fellows' houses and a porter's lodge. The site was a market garden behind an old wall that bordered on Rose Lane. Opposite are the Botanic Gardens. At the back runs the City Wall. The general layout is somehow reminiscent of the

English Palladian tradition. It is centred on a main axis through the archway under the common-room block, which lines with the side gate of the Botanic Gardens on the east, and a new archway in the city wall on the west. From this spine the building extends towards north and south with four subsidiary blocks in the corners. It was important that the building should be kept as low as possible so as not to block the view of



Magdalen tower from Merton Street and the Fellows' terrace. The low-pitched copper roofs helped to meet this need.

**PLAN**—The common-room is in the centre of the first floor, above the archway. It is lit by three tall and two narrow windows, and has fireplaces at each end. Breakfasts are served here from a small kitchen, lunches and dinners being taken in college. For the undergraduates' sets the traditional Oxford staircase principle was thought to be both the most economical in planning, and the most satisfactory in use. Eight sets are served by each staircase in the centre block, and four in the two wings. Each set has a sitting-room with a bedroom opening off it. The rooms are light, with a pleasant outlook over flower-beds, large expanses of lawn and fine old trees. Bathrooms and showers are at first floor level over the entrance lobby. The Fellows' houses differ in plan to suit aspect and prospect. They were built for married Fellows with children, and have a sitting-room, dining-room, study and five bedrooms each.

**CONSTRUCTION AND FINISHES**—The foundations (as also in the case of the library for New College) offered a formidable problem, and consequently piles of nearly twice the height of the building had to be driven over this considerable area. The piles are tied in by reinforced concrete beams on which the walls rest. The building has a frontage of 285 feet. The Bladon walling, with Clipsham dressings to quoins, doorways and window surrounds, is capped by a strong horizontal moulding. All the internal woodwork is of oak or teak. Below, a sitting room.



*Problems connected with post-war reconstruction were dealt with by Mr. A. C. BOSSOM in a recent lecture to the I.A.A.S. Points from the lecture are printed below:*

## POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION

There is one, and only one, controlling issue before the nation: Winning this war. But, while the younger men and women are fighting and working for this, the older men and women must plan and prepare for the nation's future so that, when the world returns to peace, Britain will not, as far as construction is concerned, be a place tied up with limiting regulations, hindered by ancient prejudices and out of touch with the latest developments. Obstacles must not be permitted to prevent full-speed ahead as soon as the "Cease fire" sounds; but time is not on the side of planners, for there is a tremendous amount to be done if we are to be ready to build the best for Britain.

What are the two things the men and women released from the Services and munition factories will want? First, a good pay envelope; and, secondly, a decent home. Both these results can be brought about by the efforts of the planners. The pay envelope will be enlarged if our places of work—offices, workshops and factories—are scientifically designed when reconstructed and equipped with good lighting, heating and ventilation. This will reduce the cost of production, increase output and leave more to be divided among the workers.

If we are to have happy homes, if the serious decline in population is to be arrested, our homes must be large enough and the average house should have at least five rooms; should be switch controlled, and drudgery reduced to the minimum by every mechanical aid and process. It should be well and attractively situated.

Will anyone refute the justice of striving for these two objectives? Surely, they are the inalienable rights of every man and woman: but to achieve them, we must tackle our reconstruction problems from a five-pointed foundation. This pentagon is: Knowledge, vision, audacity, judgment and charm. We must know of the best; we must have energy and drive in leadership; we must think big and plan big; we must choose the best for the long and the short run; and we must have brightness and delight in everyday life.

The British building industry is a sheltered industry and has not been spurred on by the competition of other countries. Town and Country Planning Acts have been slow to produce results or prevent the defacement of places of beauty and historic interest. Large cities have spread over good agricultural land. The speculative builder has been encouraged. Ribbon developments are ruining our landscape. Indeed, the control and balance between the different departments and municipal authorities must be re-examined and clarified if we are to do justice to our mammoth post-war task.

How can this be done? It is useless to do it piecemeal. The Government, or some Government controlled agency, must acquire all the "blitzed" areas to be reconstructed at their pre-war, say, March, 1939, value. These areas should then be properly laid out and offered for sale or lease to either municipal

authorities or private owners for development by individual initiative. This will mean: (1) Slums will be wholly uprooted and properly town-planned; (2) By reselling or releasing the Government will recoup its expenses and the benefit of the enhanced value will accrue to the national exchequer; and (3) Private initiative will be enlisted in all re-developments. This principle can apply to all large "blitzed" towns and areas.

In planning, towns must have breathing spaces; architectural treasures such as St. Paul's, Westminster Abbey and the Houses of Parliament must have a fitting setting. London's green belt should be completed and extended, and on the inner side a circular perimeter railway built. All main railway lines should terminate here, be connected with the perimeter railway, and this in turn linked with the centre of the City by the existing underground system and surface arteries. Storage depots, fuel dumps, markets, hospitals, playing fields and market gardens should all border on the green belt and, adjacent to the perimeter railway, our great aerodromes should send planes to all parts of the world and themselves connect up with the inner metropolis by an adequate air-taxi service.

Industrial and residential areas should be set apart from each other. Pendentive towns can arrange for every house to have running water, gas and electricity and, in large communities, municipal heating or thermostatic control can be installed at time of construction. The wealth of the nation is in its men, women and children, and everything possible should be done to cater for their health and happiness and to remove all narrowing restrictions. This national investment will, in turn, create greater national assets.

To give our commonsense, scientific, artistic and ingenious qualities full play we must: (1) Obtain and digest the best existing knowledge; (2) Reduce it to a series of crystal-clear principles; (3) Make it available to architects, engineers and operatives through our technical schools; and (4) Local authorities and private owners will have to draw up plans and specifications accordingly. The eagerly awaited Uthwatt Report and Lord Justice Scott Report may clear up many of these points.

**Labour.**—Sound and careful judgment will have to be used if the building industry is to provide work for the millions released at the end of the war, and all adjustments will have to be thoroughly considered by the Government and the existing leaders of the various crafts.

**Materials.**—We now have, and are constantly adding to a very wide range of new building materials and methods. As these inventions come forth, the country should be allowed to adopt them once they have been approved by the British Standards Institution. We should introduce electric welding and cut out riveting where possible. A wide range of plastics, derived from different sources, can provide all sorts of articles and different treatment for walls, floors, roofs and staircases.

**Standardisation and fabrication.**—The modern building should be fabricated in workshops which are comfortable and scientifically laid out, the different parts completed separately and brought to the site for assembly. Operatives should work to a proper TIME AND PROGRESS SCHEDULE, and adequate supervision follow-up and speeding-up, cut out waste of time and materials, and deliver the goods on time. Scientifically planned, complete bathrooms, kitchens, built-in fittings should be manufactured by the thousand and sold by the unit to reduce cost, and be offered to the public as a whole unit. The one-pipe plumbing system should be allowed in this country.

**Forms of contract.**—Drawings and specifications should be complete in all details when handed over, and trained mechanics will be able to work from them without constant reference back.

**Landscaping.**—Our climate lends itself to landscaping and charm, beauty and grace can be added to every construction by this being taken into account in the first instance.

Charm and happiness will result from ending

drudgery in the home, and slaving in the workshop and factory. Small factories can be standardized in construction, and the "flatted" factory will reduce overhead charges, provide ample light, good ventilation and a standard form of heating. Communal rest rooms and restaurants can be provided. Exports for at home and abroad will be increased.

From this pentagon of fundamentals it is seen there is no reason why our post-war Britain should not be beautiful and bountiful; why it should not employ our large numbers; why anachronisms should not be ended, and health and happiness brought into our lives and the lives of future generations.

The door is opening as never before for the architects, engineers and building industry generally. But time is on the wing, and there is much to be done before these dreams can become beneficial realities.

## SOCIETIES AND INSTITUTIONS

### HOUSING CENTRE

At a recent meeting of the Housing Centre Mr. Max Lock, A.R.I.B.A., outlined the problems that are facing those who are considering the post-war reconstruction of Hull. He said the size of the problem required the utmost co-operation between industrial, official, trade and professional interests on the one hand, and the closest contact with Regional and Central Authority on the other. Mr. Lock was awarded a Grant by the Leverhulme Research Fellowships to direct a co-operative planning research group to survey existing conditions in industry, housing and communications in Hull and its Region, and he is working in consultation with the Ministry of Works and Planning and the Ministry of Health.

Quoting Lord Reith, Mr. Lock emphasised that "survey must precede all planning, local, regional, national." The cure for the universal civic malady, known to the Americans as "urban blight" lay only in a dispassionate diagnosis of existing conditions, which involved a careful enquiry into the opinions of industrialists, officials and employees alike. Much help had already been received from some of the largest firms in Hull, who had answered questionnaires relating to the location, staffing and distribution factors in their factories; a housing questionnaire has also been prepared. Students of the Hull School of Architecture during their vacation had given valuable help in carrying out surveys of housing types and traffic flow in the city. He continued:—

The universal need for our cities is for a standard system of survey—especially of those large obsolete blighted areas of chronic decrement caused by a mal-adjustment of legislation, finance and distribution to the changing tempo and life habits of to-day with its technical advance and continually changing pattern of living. Despite thirty years of planning legislation, a Local Authority is still permitted to allow (and encourage) an outward extension of its boundaries while at the same time making no provision for rehabilitating its central core. The Barlow Report has put forward proposals for a remedy, from which the Uthwaite Committee's recommendation concerning the Acquisition of Development Rights forms the first encouraging step.

The Federal Housing Administration in Washington, in its latest handbook on urban redevelopment, strongly stresses the need for properly constituted Planning Agencies; a need equally urgent in this country, and which in each city could be jointly created by Local and Central Authority, thus affording this essential service (now in so many places a merely subsidiary section of local government) the place that it should have in Civic Administration. Besides linking the Local, Regional and National Planning programmes,

such an agency would act as centre for "civic surgery" and diagnosis whose job would be:

- (a) to review, collate and interrelate the work of all official departments;
- (b) to organise information in the form of maps and statistical tables as and when it may be needed;
- (c) to act as practical diagnosticians of all conditions relating to the physical environment; and
- (d) to organise publicity to enlist the co-operation in planning matters of the citizens themselves.

The basic premises in the reconstruction effort are:—

- (a) the really fundamental reconstruction effort must have its roots in the local community;
- (b) housing is not enough. New estates should comprise part only of properly integrated neighbourhood units;
- (c) residential areas of decrement should be declared areas of rehabilitation and should be gradually demolished and re-planned. A building tax levied on new buildings might help to finance these rehabilitation schemes in the same way that taxes on automobiles help to pay for the upkeep of Trunk and Country Roads;
- (d) Planning must be on a long term basis, and built up on a continuously re-applicable technique of change. The life of some buildings would be licensed, involving reform in housing finance and building technique.

Hull provides an unusually interesting and promising field of study for the following reasons:—

1. It is the undisputed centre of its own influence, unimpeded by contiguous local authorities forming vast conurbations or urban blight (as in Manchester, Birmingham, London).
2. It contains a well-balanced diversification of expanding industries, combining also Port and Manufacture.
3. It possesses an unspoilt hinterland of rich soil for agriculture and market garden produce.
4. It contains the essence of a good radial road system, so that comparatively small surgical operations are needed to complete the links of a chain of ring roads around the main core of the city.
5. There is very little leasehold land in Hull, the predominantly freehold property being more easily publicly acquired or pooled.
6. Its seven miles of dock front provides a good basis for industrial linear development along the river front. Similarly, Hull's fan-shaped built-up areas form a basis for good radial replanning of living space.
7. Its future prospect of increasing trade with the U.S.S.R. and Scandinavian ports is a consideration of national significance.

The most obvious needs for immediate attention are the regrouping of some of the industries, especially those in the areas of blight and decrement, the improvement of road communications to and between factories and docks (involving the abolition of level crossings), and finally the provision of more central open space, especially near the Humber river front.

With the initial advantage that Hull has in possessing an inherently healthy framework, and with a properly directed pooling of interests together with the spirit of co-operation, there can be laid down the initial framework of a city worthy of carrying into the post-war age its tradition of "Britain's Third Port."

### CHARTERED SURVEYORS

The seventy-fourth annual report of the Council of the above Institution is again largely coloured by the developments of the conflict in which the British Commonwealth and its Allies are engaged. It records a considerable increase in the number of members who have joined the Forces, while the demand made by the nation on the youth of the country

has naturally made heavy inroads upon the number of those who in normal times would have presented themselves for examination and come up for election. Yet, the membership of the Institution again shows an increase over previous years; and it can be recorded that for the examinations held in March, 1942, no fewer than 900 candidates presented themselves. It is pointed out that on May 1, 1942, there were 2,374 members of the Institution serving with His Majesty's Forces. Many more are engaged in whole-time or part-time service in civil defence, and there has been an increase in the number of those who are holding civilian appointments in Service and other Government Departments.

### A.A.S.T.A.

The questions of hours of work and deferment of staffs in non-industrial establishments were discussed in a statement issued by the Ministry of Labour and National Service.

The General Council of the Association of Architects, Surveyors and Technical Assistants endorsed the statement and agreed that the A.A.S.T.A. is in wholehearted support of the basic principle that *full use* must be made of man and woman power. While sacrifices and long hours have been demanded of industrial workers, many non-industrial establishments have maintained peace-time hours and holidays. An all-out effort can, and should be expected of technical men and women to end this war. No sacrifice of time, energy, or convenience which will shorten the war by one day is as great as the daily suffering of the fighting men and civilians now in war-ridden zones.

The Association wishes to draw attention to the following points made in the statement and to the comments made by the A.A.S.T.A. Council (given in italics):—

1. Where it is found that hours fall short of 46 per week, exclusive of meal breaks, it will be assumed that a reduction of staff could be achieved by increasing hours, unless special circumstances make the generalisation inappropriate. Applications for deferment will be considered in this light.

2. Hours of work should be increased only where the volume of work justifies it, and where longer hours would result in the possibility of reducing staff. Otherwise staff should not be asked to work longer.

3. In certain cases the desired reduction of staff can be accomplished by other means than by an increase in hours, *i.e., by reorganisation of the work.*

4. Where hours of work are increased, this will not affect existing agreements or practice with regard to payment for time worked in excess of the agreed normal working week. *If hours are increased overtime should therefore be paid. The Association working rule is time and a half for any overtime up to three hours in any one day, and double time for any time over the three in any one day and for time worked between normal closing time on Saturday and beginning time on Monday, and for time worked on statutory holidays.*

5. Where holidays are longer than two weeks their curtailment should be considered as a means of saving man power and retention of staff to enable longer holidays to be taken is not justifiable.

### MEETINGS

*Tuesday, June 30.*—International Arts Centre, 22, St. Petersburg Place, W.2. "Appreciation of Architecture." By Jane Drew. 7 p.m. Housing Centre, 13, Suffolk Street, S.W.1. "Rural Housing." By A. E. Monks. 1.25 p.m. *Thursday, July 2.*—A.A.S.T.A. At Washington Hall, Washington Road, S.W.13. "An Architect Goes to Mexico." Talk, with lantern slides, by Gordon Stephenson. 6.30 p.m.

*Wednesday, July 1.*—Housing Centre, 13, Suffolk Street, S.W.1. Annual General Meeting. 5 p.m.

*Wednesday, July 8.*—National Federation of Building Trades Employers. Half-yearly Meeting at the Connaught Rooms, W.C.

★ *I am 23 years of age and wish to enter the architectural profession. What salary might I expect in an architect's office? - - - - -*

Q 929

★ *CAN you send me the list of books on the Construction and Equipment of Modern Farm Buildings referred to? - - - - -*

Q 931

# 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.

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 to—

THE ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL  
45 THE AVENUE,  
CHEAM, SURREY.

Telephone: VIGILANT 0087

Q 928

ENQUIRER, BERKSHIRE.—*Would you please send me a copy of the reply you gave in the JOURNAL some weeks ago, regarding an address at Cheltenham to which to write immediately calling-up papers were received by architects if they were on the CENTRAL REGISTER, and engaged on war work.*

We cannot trace having given a Cheltenham address to which a person could write after having been called up.

In reply to one enquiry about the Officers Emergency Reserve we advised writing to the Under-Secretary of State for War, War Office, A.G.12, Cheltenham.

In THE ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL for Jan. 29, 1942 (page xvi), there is a copy of a letter from the War Office to the R.I.B.A. asking for particulars of mem-

bers and students who are not already serving and are desirous of consideration for Commission in the Royal Engineers. In reply to an enquiry on this subject we stated that particulars should be forwarded to the Under-Secretary of State, War Office (A.G.7), Cheltenham.

If you can give a more definite reference to the reply you are referring to, or explain your problem, we will do what we can to help you.

Q 929

ENQUIRER, LONDON.—*I am 23 years of age and wish to ENTER the ARCHITECTURAL PROFESSION. I have had considerable experience of draughtsmanship, with a furniture manufacturer before the war, and now with an aircraft manufacturer. I am already attending classes at the Northern Polytechnic with a view to taking the R.I.B.A. examinations. What I really want to know is: What salary might I expect in an architect's office, what increases could I expect after a short amount of practical experience and to what extent would the passing of the R.I.B.A. examinations affect my earning capacity.*

Salaries of architectural assistants vary in different offices, and according to the demand. Judging by pre-war standards we should expect an assistant who was really proficient in draughtsmanship, and who had been studying architecture for some time to commence at a salary of about £5 0s. 0d. per week, and an assistant who had passed his R.I.B.A. examinations but was lacking in practical experience to start at about £6 0s. 0d. per week. Rises in salary depend to such a large extent upon the individual concerned, the office in which he is employed and the state of the building trade that it is impossible for us to give you any idea of the salary you might achieve in a few years time. If you remain at one firm and prove your worth, failure to take or pass the R.I.B.A. examinations would not matter much,

but it would undoubtedly influence the outlook of a new employer.

If you are considering entering the architectural profession, you might do well to join the Association of Architects, Surveyors and Technical Assistants, 113, High Holborn, W.C.1, as a probationary member, as the subscription is very small and it would assist you to obtain a job after the war.

Q 930

ENQUIRER, LANCS.—*Could you let me have some references to sources of information regarding standardized KITCHEN and SCULLERY COMPONENTS. There are, I believe, some suggestions from Mr. Howard Robertson and Mr. Yerbury.*

We assume that you are interested in what has already been done in the standardization of kitchen equipment, etc., rather than in the theoretical consideration of standardization for the future.

A schedule of "Austerity" cooking appliances for new British Restaurants and Canteens has been published for the Ministry of Works and Planning by H.M. Stationery Office, price 1s. This schedule replaces that issued in September, 1941, and considerably reduces the number of designs, types and sizes then approved. It was produced with the full co-operation of manufacturers and Government departments and includes all equipment necessary for canteen kitchens in wartime.

Any references to standardization of units other than for wartime use can only be regarded as suggestions, which will not necessarily be carried out.

Q 931

SURVEYOR, EDINBURGH.—*With reference to Question 61 of the Information Centre, in the issue for October 26, 1939, could you send me the list of books on the Construction and Equipment of Modern FARM BUILDINGS referred to?*

We regret that some of our records have been lost and we no longer have copies of the list referred to in the ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL of October 26, 1939.

With the kind permission of the R.I.B.A. Librarian, we have copied out the names of the actual books contained in the list, but the greater part of the list consists of references to periodicals which it is unlikely you would be able to obtain except through a library. The full list can still be seen at the R.I.B.A. Library.

A great deal of useful information is obtainable from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Journal, Leaflets and Bulletins, and we should advise you to apply to H.M. Stationery Office, 120, George Street, Edinburgh 2, where you will probably be able to obtain these.



# PATENT WELDED TUBULAR CONSTRUCTION

Data Sheet No. 4

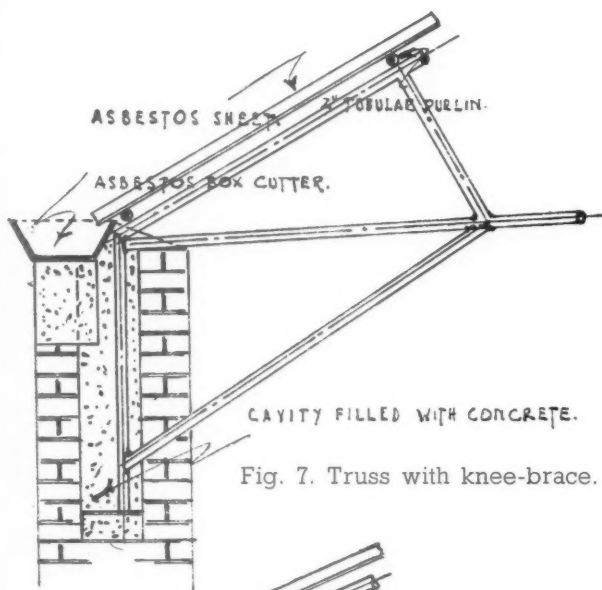


Fig. 7. Truss with knee-brace.

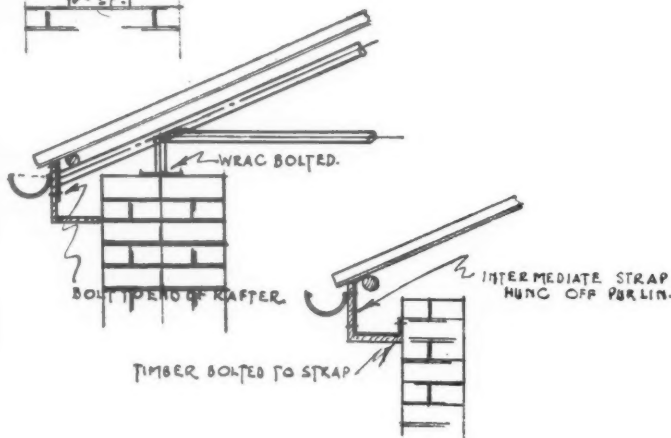


Fig. 9. Truss wrag bolted and with gutter strap suspended from purlin.

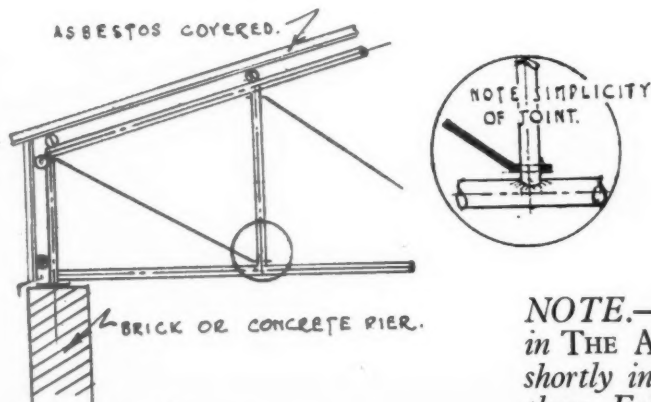


Fig. 10. Girder type roof principle as applied to brick or concrete construction

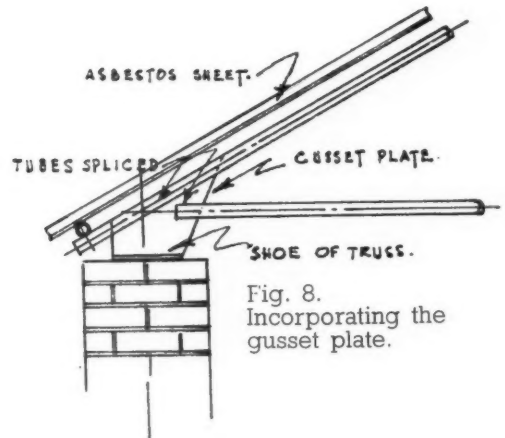


Fig. 8. Incorporating the gusset plate.

## WITH BRICK OR REINFORCED CONCRETE CONSTRUCTION

The sections detailed in this Data Sheet shew the application of welded tubular trusses to brick or reinforced concrete construction (see also Data Sheet No. 11). The detail in Fig. 7, shewing truss with knee-brace, is not considered advantageous in brick or concrete construction since the incorporation of the knee-brace only effects a lowering of the support by one or two feet; the constructional methods detailed in Figs. 8 and 9 are more generally to be recommended. In Fig. 9 it will be noted that the purlin has been fixed at the lower end of the rafter member and affords a convenient attachment for the gutter straps. In all-steel frame construction, when steel columns are utilised in place of brick or concrete piers, knee-braces can be incorporated with practical advantage. Where the gable ends of the building are to be in brick or concrete, the roof purlins supplied are attached to the brick or reinforced concrete piers; alternatively, the gable ends can be carried out in welded tubular frame construction, and the tubular sections for assembly are supplied complete with the necessary wind braces, etc.

Fig. 10 shews girder type roof principle, as applied to brick or concrete construction.

A standard range of welded tubular roof trusses are available from spans of 15 ft., increasing by multiples of 5 ft., up to 120 ft.—they may be factory fabricated and delivered to the site in composite form ready for final assembly or, as is sometimes more advantageous, they can be delivered in smaller prefabricated sections to be welded on the site; a special mobile welding plant and mobile units of skilled welders is available for this purpose. (Site welding is more fully dealt with in Data Sheet No. 7).

**NOTE.**—These data sheets are appearing weekly in THE ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL—they will be available shortly in complete Folder form and application for these Folders should be addressed to Scaffolding [Great Britain] Limited, 77, Easton Street, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire.

Note Book of Agricultural Facts and Figures for Farmers and Farm Students, by P. McConnell. Published by McDonald and Martin, Ltd., price 10s. 6d.

Management of the Dairy Plants, by M. Mortenson. Published by McMillan Co., New York (1921).

Dairy Engineering, by G. T. Bowen. Published by Chapman & Hall, price 18s. 6d. (1925).

Modern Farm Buildings, by D. N. McHardy. Published by Crosby Lockwood (1932), price 8s. 6d.

Farm Buildings (new and adapted), by Edwin Gunn. Published by H. C. Long (1935), price 5s.

Farm Equipment, Buildings and Machinery, by P. McConnell. Published by Cassell and Co. (1910), price 1s.

How Concrete can Help the Dairy Farmer. Cement and Concrete Association.

Modern Farm Buildings, by A. Hopkins. Published by Rober McBride & Co., New York (1920).

The Modern Homestead: Its Arrangement and Construction, by R. Henderson (1902).

Modern Homestead, by S. Taylor (1905).

Handbook of Farm Buildings, by T. Winder. Sheffield, 1908.

Economic Farm Buildings, by C. P. Lawrence. London, 1919.

Buildings for Small Holdings, by Thomas Potter. London, 1909.

Concrete Cottages, Small Garages and Farm Buildings, by A. Lakeman. London, 1918.

#### B.I.N.C.

"The present position of the building industry in its corporate organisational capacity is one of semi-inertia both as regards the war effort and the post war problems;" states the current issue of the *Building Industries Survey*,

published by the Building Industries National Council.

"No body of agreed principles, whereby the maximum effort in either of these directions can be made, has yet been established. There is still no officially recognised focal point of contact between the great composite industry of building (the expenditure through which still represents a considerable portion of the war-time national exchequer) and the administration of His Majesty's Government. Such a position, whatever the causes may be, constitutes a hiatus in the national war effort, which, having regard to the ever present possibility of sudden and most urgent demand and which, in the light of its possible repercussions is as inefficient as it is indefensible. It is not too late to remedy much of the insufficiency inherent in such a position. Neither is it too late to obtain the views of the industry as to the manner in which the maximum concentration of the resources of the industry in any direction can be achieved. While the present position remains, it is inevitable that no headway commensurate with the need can be made in ascertaining the demands of the physical constructional problems of post-war economic resuscitation. Because of the vastness of its war problems—not in spite of them—H.M. Government must give increasing attention to the part industry as a whole (as well as to the key position which the building industries will fill), must play in any orderly approach to, and preparation for, the return to peace. If this essential need is not met, the cessation of military hostilities will be the mere prelude to internal and external industrial and economic warfare. There is, moreover, a need for greater simplicity in all phases of Government administration in relation to the Building Industries. (The current issue of *The Survey* contains an analysis of some aspects of this problem).

74 8/26-28  
"So far as the building industries are concerned, the necessary representative machinery of contact for the mutual consideration of all the problems involved exists. This piece of national industrial and economic machinery must, in the light of the vital public interests involved, be used to the full. The representative capacity of the building industries has been ascertained as the result of a preliminary survey of bodies concerned with building activity. This indicates an expanding measure of industrial organisation directed to the consideration of the wide range of subjects of common interest and concern. It illustrates, moreover, the extent of voluntary centralisation of action by those industries.

"Preliminary surveys of the need for constructional and reconstructional works should immediately be undertaken. It would appear, moreover, to be essential that the fundamental place of the whole category of public works, as a prelude to economic development, both in this country, in the Dominions, the Colonies and in all the industrially backward countries of the world, be established as a key to, and prime physical means for freeing the enormous volume of the world potential real wealth."

#### C.P.R.E.

An exhibition of photographs, plans and designs of modern houses, cottages and bungalows, arranged by the Worcestershire Branch of the C.P.R.E. is now being held at the Victoria Institute, Worcester. It will remain until the end of June.

#### APPOINTMENT

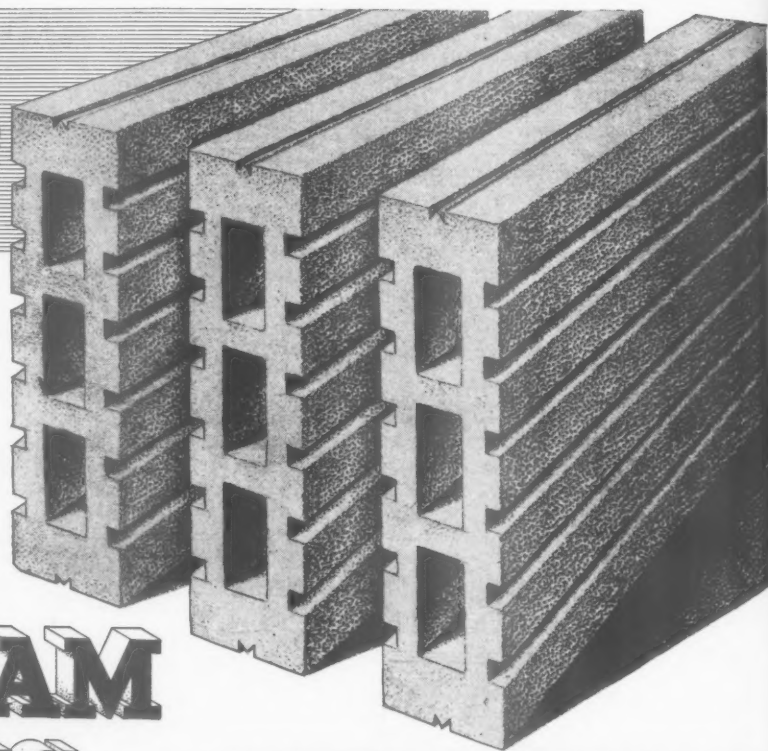
Mr. R. Meiggs has been appointed to succeed the late Mr. Walter R. Smith as Head of the Labour Branch of the Home Timber Production Department. The official designation of the post has been altered to that of Chief Labour Officer.

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