

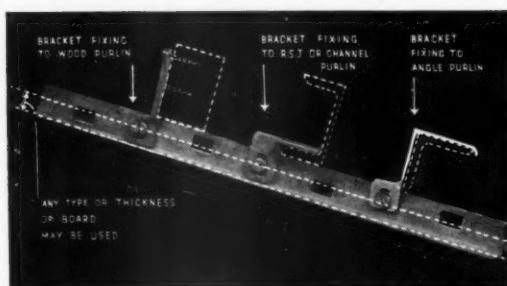
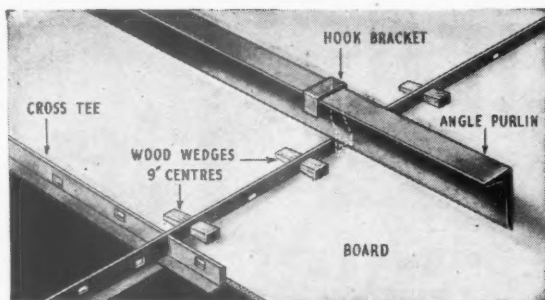


FOR APPLYING ANY TYPE OF BOARD TO CEILING & WALLS

The Wallboard is secured to sherardised, pressed steel, slotted T-section by wedges. To the right are shown the methods of attaching the support to various forms of purlin.



Escalator Tunnel at St. John's Wood Underground Station. Architect: S. A. Heaps.



8 POINTS TO BE NOTED

1. Fixed to **UNDERSIDE** of purlins — steel or wood — covering unsightly hook bolts, clips, etc.
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5. Can be applied to new or old buildings of any construction independently of the roofing contractor,

who proceeds with his work ahead of the AnD Wedge Method.

6. Any thickness of board can be used, from $\frac{1}{8}$ " to $\frac{5}{8}$ ".
7. This method can be used for applying linings to exterior walls.
8. The simplicity of application is such that any contractor can apply the AnD Wedge Method, and the materials making up this method can be purchased by the contractor.

Full particulars, specification and a typical layout will be sent on request

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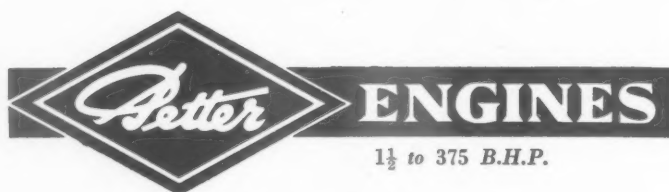
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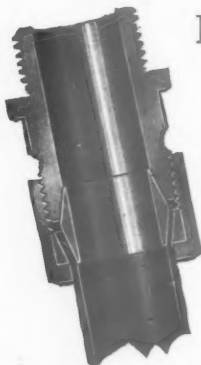
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PAT. The "Securex" Joint REGD.

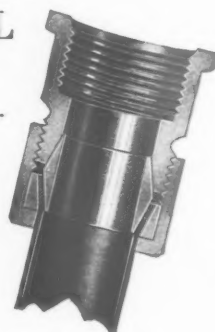
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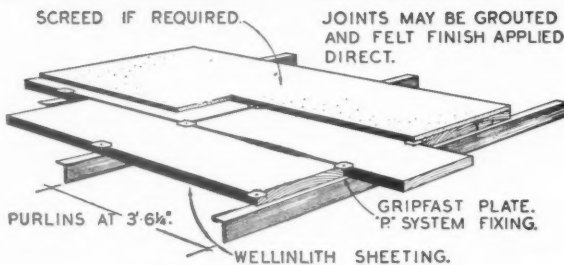
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London Office—Norfolk House, Laurence Pountney Hill, E.C. 4 (Closed temporarily. All communications to Regd. Office).
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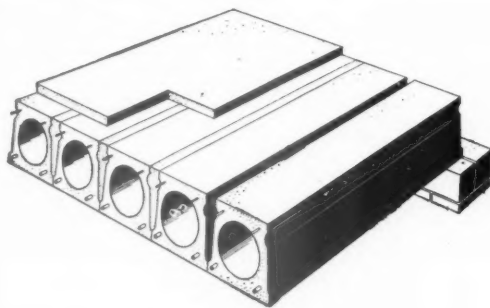
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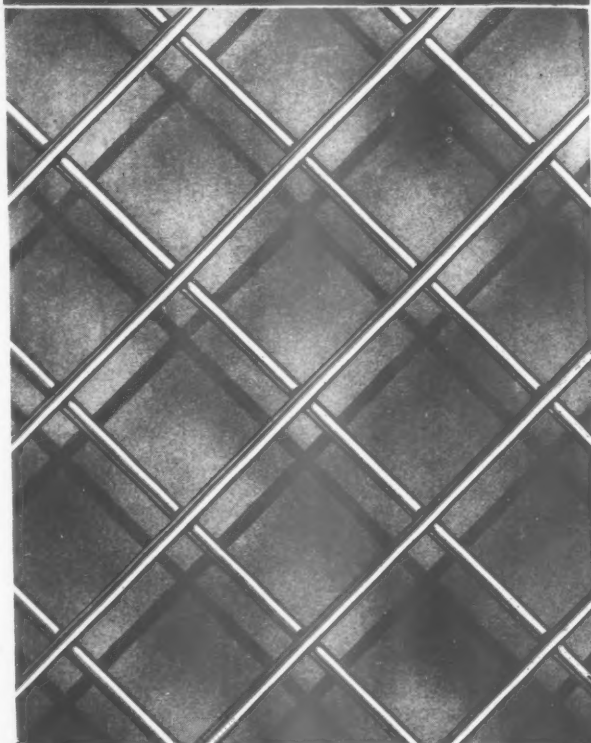
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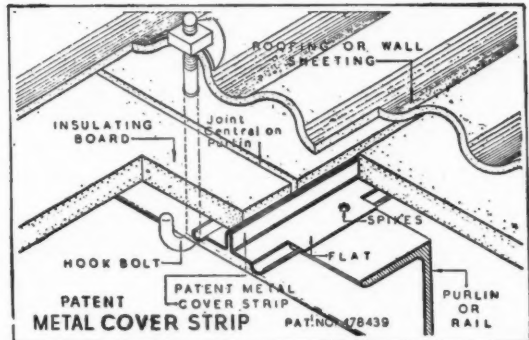
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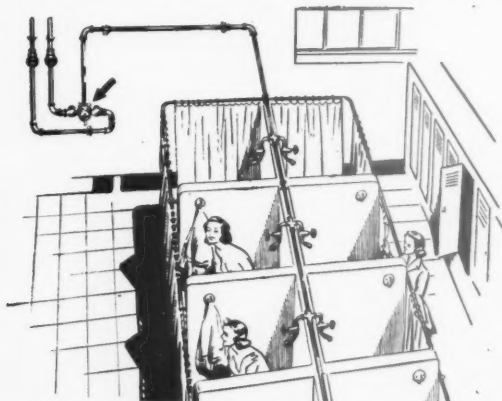
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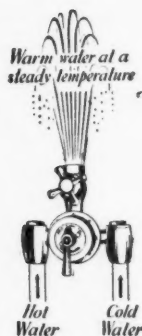
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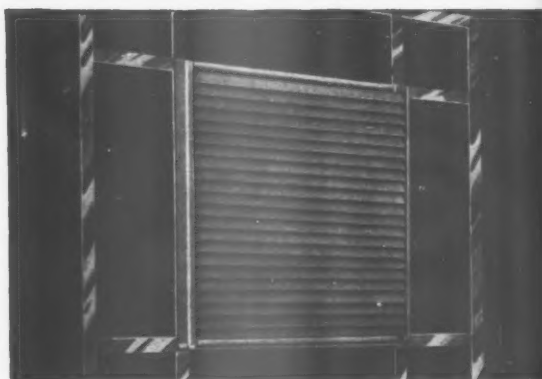
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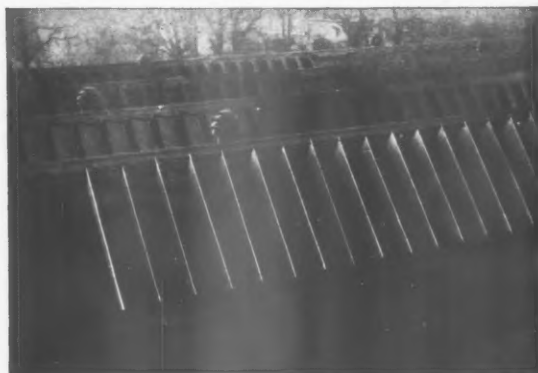
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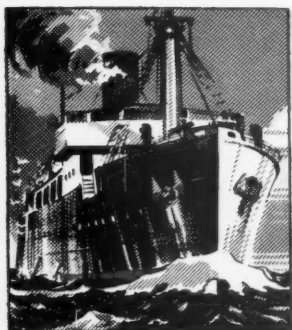
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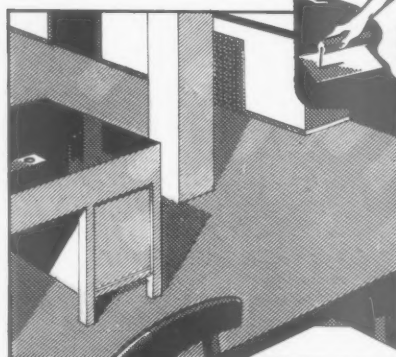
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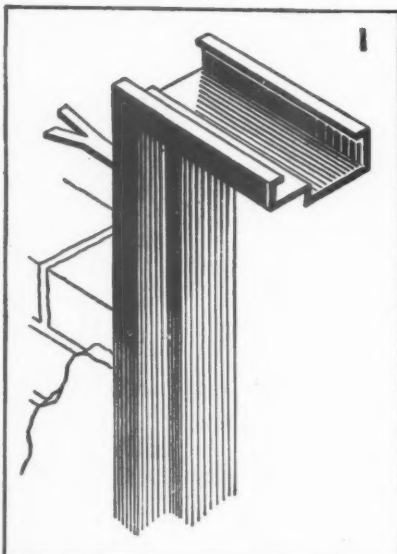
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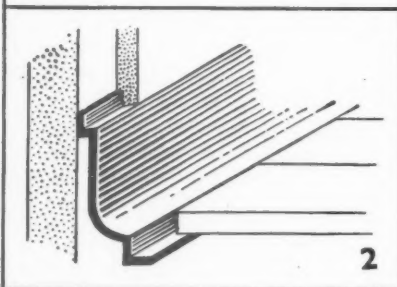
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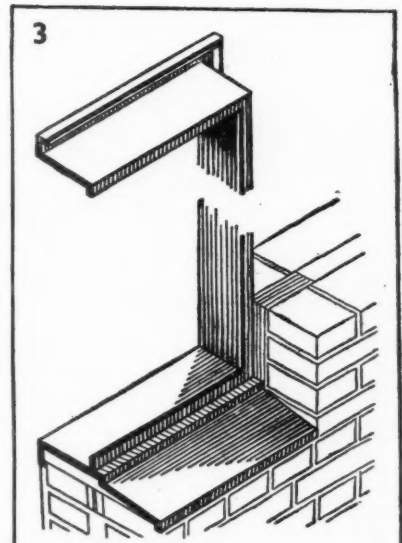
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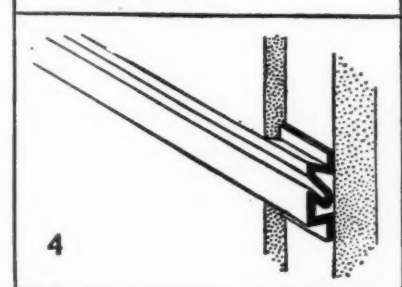
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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1942.

NUMBER 2498: VOLUME 96

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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

But the inside of the farm was disappointing. A most finished young person received her. "Yes, Mrs. Wilcox; no, Mrs. Wilcox; oh, yes, Mrs. Wilcox, auntie received your letter quite duly. Auntie has gone up to your little place at the present moment. Shall I send the servant to direct you?" Followed by: "Of course, auntie does not generally look after your place; she only does it to oblige a neighbour as something exceptional. It gives her something to do. She spends quite a lot of her time there. My husband says to me sometimes, 'Where's auntie?? I say, 'Need you ask? She's at Howards End.' Yes, Mrs. Wilcox. Mrs. Wilcox, could I prevail upon you to accept a piece of cake? Not if I cut it for you?"

Margaret refused the cake, but unfortunately this acquired her gentility in the eyes of Miss Avery's niece.

"I cannot let you go on alone. Now don't. You really mustn't. I will direct you myself if it comes to that. I must get my hat. Now"—roguishly—"Mrs. Wilcox, don't you move while I'm gone."

Stunned, Margaret did not move from the best parlour, over which the touch of art nouveau had fallen. But the other rooms looked in keeping, though they conveyed the peculiar sadness of a rural interior. Here had lived an elder race, to which we look back with disquietude.

Howards End, by E. M. Forster.

Though every news item is news to someone, it doesn't follow that all news has the same value for everyone. The stars are used to draw attention to the paragraphs which ought to interest every reader of the Journal.

★ means spare a second for this it will probably be worth it.

★★ means important news, for reasons which may or may not be obvious.

Any paragraph marked with more than two stars is very hot news indeed.

NEWS

MOWP has appointed Sir John Greenly, K.C.M.G., C.B.E., to be Chairman of the Tribunal which has been established, in

accordance with the recommendations of the Simmonds Committee, to consider APPEALS FROM BRICK MANUFACTURERS whose undertakings are scheduled for closure under the scheme recommended by the Committee. The membership will be as follows:—One representative from each of the following

Departments: Ministry of Labour, Ministry of War Transport, Ministry of Fuel and Power and two representatives from the Industry.



The Association of Building Technicians, in a report on PRODUCTION COMMITTEES for Building and the Technician's share in them states:

One of the most important innovations in the wartime building industry is the policy of joint discussions between contractors and operatives' elected representatives. Several new factors have led to this policy. First, there is the general recognition of the urgency of the work. Secondly, there are unprecedented welfare difficulties—of transport to out-of-the-way sites, billets, canteens, and so on—which can obviously best be solved in consultation with the men. Thirdly, there is the shortage of labour, and the need to raise the output per man, which raise the status of the operative. This third cause is paralleled by an entirely new emphasis on the labour requirements of building work. Many contractors and supervisors are thinking in terms of man-hours for the first time, while the operatives, being paid by results, have a direct as well as a general interest in output. The changeover from traditional to wartime building techniques also makes discussion necessary.

Six months ago joint committees were already set up on some 40 sites under the Ministry of Works alone, and by now there must be many more. This practice is supported by the T.U.C., which has passed a resolution demanding production committees wherever the Essential Work Order is in force.

The report just issued by the A.B.T. describes the working of these Committees at first hand. It consists, that is to say, of accounts, opinions, and suggestions written by the men on the sites themselves. Its object is to show vividly what seem to be the main problems to the men who are actually faced with them, how they overcome them by building up the joint committees, and how this method could be of use on sites which have no organization as yet.

The report is written particularly to encourage technical men to develop this method of meeting what may otherwise seem to be inevitable difficulties.



It was announced in Parliament last week that the Government had decided to constitute a separate MINISTRY OF TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING in England and Wales under a separate Minister. The announcement was made in the House of Lords by Lord Portal and, in the Commons, by Sir William Jowitt. Extracts from their speeches are printed on pages 379 and 380.

On Thursday last, in the Henry Florence Memorial Hall of the R.I.B.A. building, the London Master Builders' Association held



Press Officer of MOWP

One of the strange relationships of the war, and one that the reader (as opposed to the writer) of news is probably hardly aware of, is that which exists between the press and the war-swollen government departments. The press, the great independent (and occasionally irresponsible) institution of free speech, has come up suddenly against massive bureaucracies equipped with mediaeval powers of coercion, censorship and punishment. Bitter indeed would have been the warfare between these opposing powers had not some genius ordained that the new government publicity departments should be staffed by prominent members of the press, versed in the ways of Fleet Street. The arrangement

has worked astonishingly well; and the building world in particular was fortunate to get in Harold Gladstone Lewis, press officer to MOWP, a strategist as well as a propagandist of high quality. Born in 1894, Mr. Lewis was educated at London University and at the time of his first war appointment had completed twenty years in Fleet Street, latterly as owner of two news agencies. To him is due much of the credit for the healthy relations which exist between MOWP, the press and the building trade (plenty of hard slogging on all sides but no malice and quite a bit of co-operation); and he, too, though the trade is almost wholly unaware of the fact, is the man who puts across building to the nation.

a reception to celebrate the SEVENTIETH ANNIVERSARY of its establishment in 1872. The guests included the Lord Mayor of London, 14 Metropolitan Borough Mayors and 14 Members of Parliament. Mr. W. E. Rice (the President) and

Lord Portal, Minister of Works and Planning, made short speeches.

Presenting the first report of the BIRMINGHAM RECONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE, which anticipates

an expenditure of nearly 100 million pounds, Councillor Norman Tiptaft (Chairman) said:

These schemes do not, by any means, represent the whole physical reconstruction necessary. That will involve much larger figures, but the Committee felt that the most urgent post-war problem might be unemployment, and therefore its first duty was to find out what schemes could be made available to prevent it as far as possible.

The Council will recognize the difficulty of a local authority, even one as important as our own, making a definite blue print for its future, without knowledge of what the Central Government intends to do. So far, the Government has not really got down to Reconstruction. It has had various reports prepared—the Barlow, the Scott, the Uthwatt and now the Beveridge. They will doubtless provide the basis of much future legislation.

The field is so extensive and complex, that it will be appreciated under present conditions the Prime Minister can hardly regard it as an outstanding urgent task for himself. He is rightly devoting himself to winning the war: but, because the Prime Minister is so fully occupied, it would appear desirable that some of his colleagues should be entrusted, not only with the study of the many problems involved, but also with preparation of the necessary legislation to solve them. To that end, we welcome the Reconstruction Debate on the Address, and hope preparatory plans will be accelerated thereby.

Finally, it must be made clear to both Capital and Labour, that Reconstruction this time really does mean a new sort of world. Provided that on the one hand there is social security for Labour, dilution of trade union membership—particularly in such trades as building where the demand is likely to be heaviest—must, if communal needs demand it, be accepted.

We regret to record the death of MR. JOSEPH ABRAHAM MEIKLE, F.R.I.B.A., at his home in Clapham. It will be recalled that Mr. Meikle was joint plaintiff in the action brought last year against Mr. Edward Maufe, A.R.A. and Heal & Sons, for infringement of the copyright in drawings and plans made by the late Cecil Brewer and Arnold Dunbar Smith for part of Heal's premises in Tottenham Court Road. The plaintiffs were awarded the case.

Until further notice it is necessary for the following procedure to be observed in placing ORDERS FOR ASBESTOS CEMENT corrugated and flat sheets, including any necessary accessories such as ridgings, etc.

All orders for quantities in excess of three tons to be forwarded to:—The Convener, Asbestos Cement Industry Operating Committee, Ministry of Works and Planning, Lambeth Bridge House, S.E.1, made out to the manufacturer whom the buyer would like to supply the material.

All orders for quantities up to but not exceeding three tons to be forwarded to the Assistant Director of Emergency Works or the Emergency Works Officer for the area in which delivery of the material is required.

In all cases orders must be accompanied by full particulars of the job for which the material is required, including the Contract Number and the name of the Government Department sponsoring the work.

The above procedure applies to all orders, whether placed by a merchant or by the user direct on the manufacturer.

LAST WEEK'S BIG NEWS

IN October, 1940, Mr. C. R. Attlee rose to his feet in the House of Commons and announced that the Government had decided to create a Ministry of Works and Buildings with Lord Reith as its head. He explained that the new Ministry would "take over the whole organization of the Office of Works and will be responsible for the erection of all new civil works and buildings required by any other Government department" but not for "highly specialised work at present carried out by Service Departments." Eighteen months later Lord Portal was appointed Minister of Works and Buildings in succession to Lord Reith and shortly afterwards a Bill was passed through Parliament changing the title of the Ministry from Works and *Buildings* to Works and *Planning*. Now another change is to be made, not only in the name of the said Ministry, but in the powers vested in it; for its planning powers (such as they are) are to be taken away and invested in a new Ministry of Town and Country Planning.

The news that a new Ministry was to be created was announced last week in the House of Lords, by Lord Portal and, in the Commons, by the Paymaster-General, Sir William Jowitt. Lord Portal explained the reason for the new Ministry in the following words: "With regard to the machinery for the control of the use of land and the administration of town and country planning, the Government have come to the conclusion, after giving full weight to the views expressed by the Scott and Uthwatt Committees, that in a matter so vitally concerning the interests of everyone in the country the fullest measure of direct responsibility to Parliament must be maintained, and that executive responsibility must rest in England and Wales with a Minister of Town and Country Planning and in Scotland with the Secretary of State for Scotland. In view of the increased responsibilities which will attach to the post of Minister of Town and Country Planning in future, and of the importance of the Minister being able to devote the necessary time and attention to his task, the Government have decided to ask Parliament to constitute a separate Ministry of Town and Country Planning in England and Wales under a separate Minister." Lord Portal pointed out that the Minister would be a member of the Ministerial Committee already considering the future policy of reconstruction under Sir William Jowitt's presidency, and his main function would be to ensure, in association with the Departments concerned, that the translation of the agreed national policy into terms of land use and physical development was conceived as a single and consistent whole.

Thus, in a few words, Lord Portal tells us he won't be Minister of Works and *Planning* much longer. When the new change is likely to take place is not known, but it is certain that a Bill giving effect to his announcement will not be long delayed. Some members of the House of Commons, during a two-day debate last week, are of the opinion that the sooner the change takes place the better. In the words

of Mr. Mander, the Member for Wolverhampton: "The Ministry of Works and Planning has had an unfortunate life so far. There have been changes of Minister and policy, and I hope that we are now to arrive at a time when some definite policy will be adopted. It seems to me very much a matter of the man who is appointed to do the job. If he understands it and has determination to get on with it, it will succeed. Otherwise we shall be no farther on than we have got up to the present."

Has the time arrived for a definite planning policy to be adopted? The main functions of the new ministry as outlined in Parliament are pretty vague. Will it, as Astragal asks on this page, be just another stooge taking over the work formerly carried out by the Ministry of Health Town Planning Section with a somewhat greater sounding title? Or does someone, somewhere (in the Ministry of Aircraft Production perhaps), mean business?



The Architects' Journal

War Address: 45, The Avenue, Cheam, Surrey

Telephone: Vigilant 0087-9

NOTES & TOPICS

NEWEST MINISTRY OF PLANNING

The events of last week were so exciting that the most phlegmatic observers found themselves losing, if only for a few hours, the ability to distinguish sharply between the recommended and the real. The trumpet peals of Beveridge, following so closely the pipes of Scott and Uthwatt, temporarily bowled most of us over. As the B.B.C. 9 o'clock News ran its course on December 1, it seemed—almost—that public, experts, *The Times* leader writers and Cabinet were marching into the future, hand-in-hand, in perfect harmony . . .

By next morning the need for pinching ourselves had undergone sensible diminution. Architects and town planners could begin to estimate where Sir William Jowitt's speech left those things in which they were specially interested; and in making this estimate they recalled, if they were wise, where things were when Sir William began to speak.

Both the Scott and Uthwatt Reports recommended that a Minister for National Development of high Cabinet rank should be put in charge of both planning for National Development (or non-physical planning) and the physical planning needed to carry out agreed National Development policy. This Minister for National Development would preside over a committee of departmental Ministers (Trade, Agriculture, Transport, etc.) which would decide what the broad lines of National Development policy were to be. Third, a Central Planning Authority, responsible directly to the Minister for National Development, would supervise and co-ordinate the carrying out of the National Development policy in physical form. Thus the Central Planning Authority would largely consist of territorial planners, but would also contain experts in transport, agriculture, etc., to maintain liaison with interested Ministries.

One other point should be borne

in mind before considering the Government proposals announced by Sir William. It is possible to reform physical planning methods and machinery without having any planning for National Development at all, although of course both are essential if we're going to make Britain a country worth living in. But it has been suggested that certain of the Government's supporters favour a great show of action over physical planning reforms under cover of which plans for comprehensive National Development will be quietly scuppered. Some people will suggest anything.

Now consider Sir William's speech. A Minister for National Development of high rank is not going to be appointed—or at least not yet—but a committee of Ministers is going to continue to think about reconstruction policy. Second, the Government is not yet ready to declare its opinion of the all-important Uthwatt "Acquisition of Development Rights" scheme. Third, a new Ministry of Town and Country Planning is to be created under a Minister who will be a member, but only a member, of the Committee of Ministers examining reconstruction policy.

It is this last announcement which will be most anxiously thought about. The Scott and Uthwatt Committees believed that the Central Planning Authority must stand outside the ranks of Ministries, that it should be a kind of Imperial General Staff for planning responsible to Parliament through the Minister for National Development only, that it should be, one supposes, something between the U.S.S.R.'s GOSPLAN and the L.P.T.B.

The new Ministry is to be none of these things. It will be just another Ministry which will take over the work formerly carried out by the Ministry of Health town planning section, although its powers may be somewhat greater. Sir William may say that the new Minister's "main function in association with Departments concerned would be to ensure that the translation of the agreed national policy into terms of land use and physical

development was conceived as a single consistent whole"—but this cannot be considered much more than blarney.

★
Architects remember the creation of another new Ministry—that of Building—which was to co-ordinate and to a large extent take over the war building of other Ministries. And they know that those other and older Ministries told the Minister of Building to go to Jericho. Exactly the same things will happen if this newest Minister of all tries to co-ordinate the post-war plans of other Ministries—particularly if that co-ordination is to be narrowly restricted to *physical* questions.

★
Of course where we've had several changes there is nothing to prevent us having more. The Ministry of Town and Country Planning can be changed in a few months' time into a Ministry of National Development responsible to a Minister ranking next to the Prime Minister. Then we may get somewhere. At present it looks as though Sir William Jowitt's Committee still hoped that, with a little trimming, a little adjustment, a few new titles, the old ways would get us along very well.

AERODROMES

Last week it was suggested on this page that some of the troubles in aerodrome construction that were suffered by the Air Ministry might be due to the fact that their staff architects were not being given enough say in the business.

★
In fairness to the Air Ministry, however, it should be remembered that these architects were let loose on the pre-war aerodrome expansion scheme, but completely failed to make the most of their opportunity. Many of you must have passed some of these huge camps under construction in pre-war days, and wondered at their impeccably Georgian detail, their sashbars and columns, their absurdly symmetrical layouts and their hangars whose silhouette had been vetted, so it was rumoured, by a real Royal Academician.

★
Perhaps it was not the fault of the architects and they were only carry-

ing out as best they could orders from "higher authorities." For all I know the R.A.F. like living behind sash-windows and beneath 60-degree tiled roofs. Yet while appreciating the competence of these period aerodromes, it would be difficult to imagine buildings more unsuitably designed and more likely to encourage the popular belief that architecture is "ART." For aerodrome buildings and, indeed, all iron-architecture, there are surely three main requirements:

1. Operational efficiency.
2. Flexibility (i.e. capability for rapid adaptation or expansion).
3. Inconspicuousness, from the point of view of amenity and camouflage.

The buildings in these pre-war aerodromes may certainly possess the first of these qualities, they most certainly do not possess the other two, and for this the architects of Air Ministry cannot escape some of the blame.

★
Having succeeded so well in producing 18th century-style aerodromes, they can hardly be surprised that their qualifications are not in great demand to-day by the Ministry which employs them.

HOUSES AND MR. BROWN

In his reply to a recent debate the Minister of Health made no bones about the housing position being bad. Since then a deputation from Liverpool has been received by the Minister and the same melancholy housing story which had already been told by London, Sheffield, Manchester and other towns, was told again.

★
In his reply to the deputation, Mr. Ernest Brown said that the question of more labour and materials for housing was being considered; that he had hopes of some houses being built before the war ended: statements of admirable cautiousness. But then—probably from a forgivable desire to say something cheering—Mr. Brown expressed pleasure that Liverpool had plans all ready for 7,000 houses to go ahead directly the war ended, and hoped that all

local authorities would have their housing plans brought to a similar state of readiness as soon as possible.

★
One may easily run past this pronouncement without trying to read into it more than the trite geniality which Mr. Brown no doubt intended. But if one pauses and thinks about it, it is obvious that Mr. Brown has said something very sensational. He becomes the first member of the Government to admit plainly that the post-war housing demand will be so fierce that it will be impossible to begin "planning" housing after the war ends—that, in fact, such planning must be done *before* the war ends.

★
Yet that is not all by a long chalk. Mr. Ernest Brown asks all local authorities to prepare plans; and these plans, presumably, will not only be plans for individual houses but will also include layout plans for quite large housing areas. It is difficult not to be dismayed by this general invitation when issued by the Minister who, before the war, was in charge of both housing and territorial planning.

★
There are, secreted in MOWP, some able men whose job it is to enquire into post-war building problems and possible building methods; and these men have, or should have, all national resources to aid them. Surely it is they who should now be planning post-war houses in every detail, and working out how standardization, new materials and if necessary new methods of manufacture and construction, can be used to carry out an enormous housing programme in the shortest time.

★
If the Post-war Building section of MOWP are not doing this, what are they doing? In any event it seems deplorable that, at this stage, hundreds of local authorities should be encouraged to produce layout and working drawings of thousands of pre-war semi-detacheds with something like a promise that these drawings will be rushed into execution immediately after Armistice day.

ASTRAGAL



LETTERS

R. A. Bigham, F.S.I.

Sebastian Stafford

"Prob"

Hugh Davies

W. H. Gill

Pembroke Wicks

(Registrar, Architects' Registration Council)

Charles Read

R.A. Planning

SIR,—We all have our individual whims and fancies and it is probably as well that there should be a good deal of weeding out before our London is interfered with. However, I submit my criticisms for consideration.

The R.A. plans indicate to me an entire absence of air-mindedness. If the commercial centre of the world is to obtain any advantage from the advent of speedy transport, the time taken to reach commercial buildings from the 'plane will have to be comparable to the speed of the journey by air. Either the aerodrome will have to come to the Offices or the Offices will go to the aerodrome. My suggestion is that the elbow of the River on the South bank, north-east of Waterloo Station, be devoted to air transport. A landing ground and artificial pool to take both types of 'planes could be made in a position which would be convenient and would provide scope for a revival of the whole of the derelict South bank.

My other two criticisms are based

upon land transport and the assumption that there will be at least four times as many cars on the roads within ten years from the end of the War. How many there will be when our children grow up I have no idea, possibly there will be few pedestrians.

In any event there is hardly likely to be any inducement for shoppers to cross roads devoted to traffic and it would be better still if they were prevented from doing so. To use the existing shopping streets for this purpose would merely result in their becoming stagnant, and the shopkeepers moving to some quiet streets where their customers can stroll about in reasonable safety and comfort. There is no reason, however, why the traffic should not be canalised in back roads where the appearances of the buildings would be of minor importance. In any case it seems to be wrong to assume two-way traffic on any main transport routes. I would prefer to see three parallel roads each designated for one-way traffic, the outer ones going in opposite directions, the centre one kept as a reserve and switched over in the mornings and evenings, or at any other times the police found it advisable, to take the majority of transport in whichever direction this may be going. This, of course, is in actual practice with the escalators in the larger Underground Stations.

By all means let us have one or two processional ways for high days and holidays but in places where holiday making is in keeping with the surroundings.

London

R. A. BIGHAM

Lord Esher and the R.A. Exhibition

SIR.—The leading article "Lord Esher and the R.A. Exhibition," in your issue for November 19, contains a most effective analysis of the English tradition in town-planning, which one would like to see as widely publicised as possible. But may I—in the absence of more expert comment—suggest that the comparison between town-planning and landscape-gardening should be modified in one respect? Should it not be noted that the landscape-gardener can generally place his units—trees, bushes, plants, etc.—in the most aesthetically effective relationships with little regard for other factors. The nature of the soil—and of course, the lie of the land—may dictate some of the design; and where forestry is involved there are utilitarian rules to be observed. But on the whole landscapes can be designed "from the outside," whereas the first consideration in town-planning should be the function which each part of the town, and each individual building, is to perform.

Your comparison is illuminating, but, probably for lack of space, you did

not pursue the differences between the rural landscape and the urban.

SEBASTIAN STAFFORD.

Gloucestershire.

[We entirely agree. The landscape gardener's is a much simpler art than that of the layer-out of urban landscape in whose approach sociological considerations are bound to take precedence of visual ones. We would remind our correspondent, however, that the JOURNAL (leading article Nov. 19, 1942) was taking up not the town planner's but the R.A.'s position. In its own plan the R.A. has deliberately side-stepped all considerations but visual ones, approaching the reconstruction of London in the simple spirit (but alas, without the ideals) of the landscape gardener. This has enraged many serious planners, but the JOURNAL is prepared to agree that in its office as watchdog of the national way of looking at things, the R.A. has acted legitimately in abstracting for purposes of propaganda the one aspect of town-planning it is fitted to deal with, to wit the visual aspect. What the JOURNAL cannot understand is why having made this bold move, the Academy should proceed to turn out visual propaganda of a kind that displays a tragic insensibility both to the character of London and to the English visual tradition.—ED. A.J.]

Grading

SIR,—I am a probationer of the R.I.B.A., employed by the Ministry of Works and graded as a temporary architectural assistant, and studying earnestly for my intermediate and final examinations with a view of gaining, in due course, State recognition as a qualified architect. I am greatly concerned, however, and not a little discouraged to find surrounding me at the office many men who are fully qualified architects, yet graded like myself with the ignominious title of Temporary Arch. Assistant. Enquiries into this matter have brought to light the fact that in this Ministry, only a certain fixed number of men are employed in the positions of "Architect" or "Assistant Architect," and the qualification for such grading is, except in special cases, by internal pre-war examinations (not, it appears, recognized by A.R.C.U.K.) and length of service.

To me, such a state of affairs offers an insult to our profession, and seems not at all in accordance with the spirit of the Architects Registration Act.

Does the medical profession allow its qualified practitioners to be employed in positions wherein they lose their hard-won title of "Doctor," or are subjected to the designation of "Medical Assistant"? I think not!

Cannot the architectural profession, therefore, insist that each of its qualified members be given the courtesy of the title of "Architect," irrespective of the nature of the duties upon which a

[INTRODUCTION.—It is possible to regard the last three years as an unpleasant interlude at the end of which normal conditions will be re-established. To people who think this way the words *AFTER THE WAR* may mean what they seem to mean, but there are not many architects who confidently expect to return to the *status quo*. The majority feel that the war is not an interlude but the climax to a series of changes, the cumulative effect of which has been, amongst other things, to alter out of all recognition the conditions under which architects are trained to operate. For these people the significant date is not some future armistice but the declaration of hostilities on September 3, 1939, which finally put the closure on the particular world they had been accustomed to think of as normal. They are immensely concerned that steps should be taken now to re-organize the profession to meet the new conditions. These, as they see it, already exist, and after the war will continue to exist, modified certainly by the end of the war, but nevertheless growing out of it (the war, in this light, can be regarded as the first and painful stage of a British New Deal). THE JOURNAL has asked several different people to describe probable post-war developments in the architectural profession and the changes which are indicated if the profession is to be made fit for the kind of work that is likely to be required of it. These questions and their answers affect every architect (in or out of the services), without distinction of place, sex, seniority, or creed, from the President of the R.I.B.A. to the junior draughtsman. For this reason any reader who has something to say is invited to make his contribution to the series. Anyone who accepts this invitation is asked to be brief. In view of the paper shortage both sides of a page can be written on, and notes need not be typed.]

member might be engaged upon, or his departmental position?

May I humbly suggest that in view of the passing of the Architects' Registration Act the Government Ministries concerned reorganize their respective grading systems, even if it be only to render to architects this courtesy.

"PROB."

Registration

SIR,—The letter of Mr. Pembroke Wicks makes it clear that my dispute with the Architects' Registration Council concerns their assessment of my architectural experience. How they condensed my twenty-nine years to less than seven is indeed a mystery. I was then a member of the Architectural Association, who refused to help me.

I completed articles before the last war, and it is a disgrace that the status I held on my return from that war, has been lowered by some delicacy of Architectural Registration.

Yorks

HUGH DAVIES

SIR,—In Mr. Pembroke Wicks' interesting letter about registration, he states that a prosecution under Section I of the Act is possible if it can be proved that the unregistered person is practising or carrying on a business as an architect.

Does the term "carrying on a business" include persons employed by Government and Local Authority or large business firms, as well as those in private practice on their own account?

The term "Architect" should apply only to persons qualified or registered. All other persons should be prevented from using the title for any purpose whatsoever. It is vital that the profession should have a united front after the War. If the general public discover that unregistered persons can call themselves, and can even print the

words "Registered Architect," on their notepaper, it will have grave doubts about consulting Architects at all.
Bath

W. H. GILL

SIR,—Your correspondent "Registered" has misunderstood my letter in your issue of November 5th, and has alarmed himself unnecessarily.

Section I of the Architects Registration Act, 1938, prohibits an unregistered person from carrying on any kind of business under the title of "architect"—whether such business be architectural or not. The words of the Act are "shall not practise or carry on business"—and there is no limitation as to the nature of the business. For example, an estate agent or accountant printing the word "architect" on his letter heading would be committing an offence under the Act, unless he was registered as an architect.

PEMBROKE WICKS,

Registrar, A.R.C.

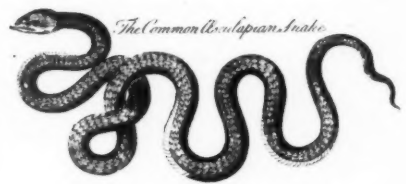
After the War

SIR,—The majority of architects can undertake a much greater volume of work than they have ever had the opportunity of handling. If post-war building is rationally distributed it is reasonable to assume it can be efficiently dealt with by the profession as now constituted, but the point to emphasise is that it must be spread over the whole profession.

If architects prove their worth by carrying out the post-war programme in a satisfactory manner, it will probably be an incentive to gain support for legislation to be passed making it unlawful for Local Authorities to accept and approve plans which have not been prepared by a registered practitioner, a development which would greatly strengthen the position of the profession.

Chorley Wood..

CHARLES READ.



AFTER the War 2

[BY A. H. TATTON-BROWN]

Widespread and general interest in reconstruction suggests the possibility of a golden age of architecture after the war. In spite of this the majority of architects are seriously worried about the future of architecture and of their profession. Reasons for this discrepancy are fairly obvious. A vast building programme has recently been executed largely without the help of architects. The majority of such architects as have been employed have not been employed as responsible agents but as salaried draftsmen or clerks of the works, working for either

- (a) large engineering contractors,
- (b) Government departments.

The fact that they have been working for salaries is not itself bad. Methods of payment are of secondary importance. But it is generally agreed that conditions at present normally attached to working for a salary are not compatible with the execution of first class work, because they deprive architects of their proper share of responsibility. This belittling of architecture and

architects has resulted in muddle and confusion on a colossal scale in an industry which in war and peace alike is the backbone of the national economy. In the national interest, no less than in their own, it seems urgently necessary that architects should combine—

(1) to create an organization representative of the profession as a whole—designers, organizers, assistants and draftsmen, teachers—and capable of negotiating with the Government on its behalf;

(2) to issue a clear statement describing the advantages of good design (technical as well as æsthetic), and also the working conditions necessary to produce it and make it readily available to the public and to the nation in peace and war alike.

There are really two sides to the same problem. Recent correspondence in professional papers suggests that a number of architects are interested in the question of professional unity and realize the need for a policy, but nobody has yet attempted to put one forward, and there are still far too many architects who show no signs of realizing that there is any need to do so. There are those who assume that existing tendencies will automatically be reversed after the war, and look forward to private practice along pre-war lines again becoming the rule. There are others who welcome present tendencies without realizing that the gradual disappearance not only of the private architect but of everything he has stood for in the past, is likely to be accompanied by the death of architecture, unless the change-over is very carefully controlled by people who understand *what architecture means*. Somewhere between the two extremes the majority of younger men and women remain worried and dissatisfied. They recognize the limitations and weaknesses of private practice, as organized before the war, and have no desire to go back to it. (The architect is dead; long live architecture.) At the same time they are sufficiently clear-sighted to see that private practice has in the past produced architecture that is incomparably better than anything yet produced by any other system of employment, and so they see little hope for the future unless conditions of employment can be reorganized to combine the advantages of salaried employment or public service with other advantages previously associated only with private practice.

An attempt is made below to tabulate the advantages and disadvantages of both systems as they have existed in the past and to summarize the outstanding questions which seem to require an answer.

Advantages of "Architects' Departments"

(i) Economic security: the more closely an employer approximates to a local

or central government working to a long-term building programme the greater the security they can offer their employees. The demand for security is increasing.

(ii) Cheap service: The L.C.C. handle a vast quantity of work in a year. Fees on this at 6 per cent. would probably amount to considerably more than the total spent by them on salaries.

(iii) A "high average" standard of design. An elaborate system of checking and cross-checking by numerous different specialist departments, all under the control of one responsible person at the top, ensures this.

(iv) Satisfaction of working for a non-profit making organization (applies to central and local government departments only).

(v) Better organization: a large turnover makes it easier to standardize details and methods of construction, etc. It also facilitates research on design problems. In this country little advantage has been taken of these possibilities.

Disadvantages

(i) The system of checking and cross-checking:

(a) makes innovation difficult and tends to stereotype practice;

(b) prevents originality of design.

Many men of ability would rather leave the profession than work under such conditions. At the same time it is difficult to allow greater freedom and responsibility to assistants as the man at the head of the department must answer to Parliament or the local council for work carried out by men working under him, and is exposed to much more intense criticism of *every detail* than any employer in private practice whose work must be judged *as a whole*. The larger and more impersonal the central or local government body to which the architects' department is attached the more serious this difficulty becomes; it is peculiar to architects' departments responsible to democratically elected institutions.

(ii) Promotion tends to be by seniority rather than merit.

(iii) Organization on departmental lines makes close collaboration between different types of specialist difficult. Buildings tend to be designed as a collection of parts, alternatively plans are standardized. In neither case can the results be described as architecture. It is difficult to see why this should be so. But in this country it undoubtedly is so. The larger the department, the greater the centralization, the more serious this difficulty appears to become, e.g. it is acute in MOWP and the L.C.C., whereas Mr. Forshaw managed to overcome it at the Miners' Welfare Department.

(iv) The architect loses contact with his client (except in cases where he is employed by a large firm to supervise their own buildings). As the chief function of an architect is to interpret

the wishes of a client this loss is very serious. There are grounds for thinking, however, that an architect working for a small local authority, e.g. Coventry 200-300,000, can by propaganda and other means establish some degree of personal contact with the community for which he builds. In spite of this it seems probable that for housing (as opposed to public buildings) the continental method of financing the undertaking through co-operative housing societies employing their own architect, is preferable to the more impersonal English method of making the local council responsible for all low rent housing within a certain area.

Advantages of private practice

(i) In private practice the architect responsible is usually the actual designer of the work, whereas this is seldom the case in an *architect's department* (there will be, of course, under any system draftsmen and assistants working under the direction of a responsible architect).

(ii) Private practice makes possible informal consultation between architects, engineers and other specialists (specialist designers are in fact seldom consulted at all unless the contract is a large one).

(iii) The responsible architect is in direct contact with his client as the user (except in cases where the buildings are put up as a spec).

Disadvantages

(i) It usually takes a long time to build up a personal connection and during this period the would-be private practitioner, unless he has ample private means, leads a hand-to-mouth existence, and is usually crippled by his inability to employ the necessary draftsmen and typists.

(ii) Many firms remain permanently undersized and understaffed. This complete lack of specialization means that the architects concerned cannot give the public the standard of service they have a right to expect. This brings discredit on the whole profession.

(iii) Even in well-established firms the work of job getting absorbs a disproportionate amount of energy.

(iv) The general insecurity of architects in private practice is reflected in the conditions of employment of draftsmen and assistants. Salaries paid are low and only the senior assistants of established firms enjoy any security of tenure.

Failure to employ architects

When formulating a policy for the profession as a whole there is another fact which has to be taken into consideration—namely, that there is a large volume of work not at present handled by architects at all.

(a) Small additions and alterations. Fees probably have something to do with this. A client thinking of adding a garage could, if he consulted an architect, easily run up a bill of £20 or £30. This seems expensive and

might be a case for Architectural Consultation on the same basis as a lawyer—say 7/6 a time without visiting the site—and fee and expenses if a visit to the site is required.

(b) Cheap new work, i.e. jerry-built houses, small shops and factories. Here the cause seems to be a combination of (i) high fees; (ii) piece-meal development; (iii) bad taste. The R.I.B.A. scale of charges allows for great reductions on repetition work, but builders left to themselves prefer to build "individual" homes, which makes architects appear expensive.

Appendix

Doctors faced with a similar problem, i.e. that of making medical attention available for the majority of people who cannot or will not pay the usual scale of fees, have worked out a solution based on the recognition of two entirely different systems of payment, which combines the advantages of private practice with those of a State service.

(i) For those of ample means who employ doctors as a matter of course: fee per consultation.

(ii) For those who prefer to go without a doctor rather than pay the usual fee: compulsory insurance combined with free medical attention. The latter arrangement is gaining ground at the expense of the former.

Compulsory health insurance means, in fact, that the medical practitioner is guaranteed a minimum income and quantity of work by the State (though the panel patient still has the right to choose his doctor and the doctor to reject a patient). In spite of this the general practitioner is left free to carry out his work in his own way and to be personally responsible for what he does, within very wide limits.

It is suggested that after the war the possession of a panel should be made conditional on willingness to conduct the practice from a Government-run health centre, linked with the hospital system of the district but with a certain amount of specialist equipment on the spot. The object of this arrangement being (i) to encourage specialization and co-operation among G.P.'s; (ii) to ensure that real specialists are easily available and are consulted.

The problem of reorganizing the medical profession to meet post-war needs is not dissimilar from the problem now confronting the architectural profession.

In both cases it is necessary in the interests of the community to make professional services available to people who, left to themselves, fail to make use of them. There is the same need in both cases to preserve the personal responsibility of the private practitioner and the personal contact between him or her and the client. In both cases there is need to encourage greater specialization and provide a higher standard of service; also to make the services of specialists more widely avail-

The debates which follow deal very closely with the problems the architectural profession will face *after the war* (in the JOURNAL's meaning of that phrase), and have therefore been included in the series bearing that title. They are, however, unsolicited contributions made by Lords and Commons, in Parliament assembled, where last week yet another chapter in the history of reconstruction was written when Lord Portal announced the formation of a Ministry of Planning.

able. And, lastly, it is desirable in each case that the work of the private practitioner should be linked on to a centralized State hospital or town planning service.

Main questions requiring an answer are:

A. What steps should be taken to create an organization representative of the profession as a whole? At present we have

(i) R.I.B.A. representing private architects and teaching teachers.

(ii) A.B.T. A trade union of assistants.

(iii) N.A.L.G.O. representing official architects as civil servants.

There is no professional association existing primarily for propaganda and public relations—as a Trade Association does for a commercial interest.

B. How can the public be made to understand and demand the kind of services architects are in a position to provide?

C. What degree of security is it reasonable for architects to aim at and how can this be guaranteed? The above question would obviously have to be answered in conjunction with another.

D. To what extent should methods of organization and standards of professional service (as opposed to professional practice) be controlled in the interests of the public and how?

E. How can the personal responsibility of the architect vis-à-vis the client be reconciled with some measure of security and control over quality?

F. How can entry into the profession and subsequent advancement be made to depend more on merit and less on seniority or the possession of a private income?

G. How can the professional services of architects be made available to every potential building owner?

H. What scope is there for

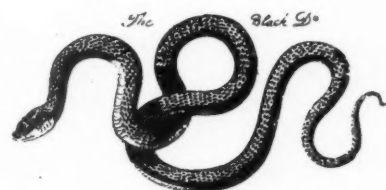
(a) official architects?

(b) private architects?

How should the work of both be related to that of

(i) other specialists, e.g. structural, heating and lighting engineers, landscape architects interior decorators, etc.

(ii) Town planners.



AFTER the War 3

[IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS]

Lord Addison: I wish to ask the Minister of Works and Planning whether he has any statement to make in regard to the machinery to be set up for the Central Planning authority.

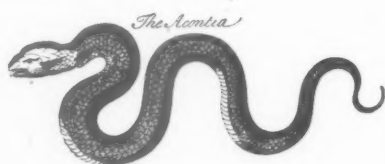
Lord Portal: The Government have been giving consideration to the recommendations in the recent Reports of the Committees presided over by Lord Justice Scott and Mr. Justice Uthwatt in regard to the constitution of the Central Planning Authority. Both Reports rightly attach great importance to the correlation of Government policy in regard to town and country planning with the policies that are being pursued in agriculture, transport, industry and labour, public utilities, etc., policies compendiously described by the Scott Committee as "national organization" and by the Uthwatt Committee as "national development," and both recommend the appointment of a Cabinet Committee for the purpose under a specially nominated senior Minister as Chairman.

The Government fully accept the need for such correlation. It would not be appropriate for me to say anything at this stage which might bind this or future Governments to final acceptance of the Committees' views that this correlation could best be carried out by a Committee of Ministers presided over by a senior Cabinet Minister. It is also relevant that, as the House is aware, the consideration of future policy in reconstruction matters is already pro-

ceeding under the supervision of a Committee of Ministers presided over by the Paymaster-General, though all decisions of major importance arrived at by that Committee are submitted to the War Cabinet for their approval. In the initial stages it will naturally fall to that Committee to deal with preparatory work which will be carried out during the war for bringing a national policy in regard to the control of the use of land (including town and country planning) into close accord with the general economic and social programme.

With regard to the machinery for the control of the use of land and the administration of town and country planning, the Government have come to the conclusion, after giving full weight to the views expressed by the Scott and Uthwatt Committees, that in a matter so vitally concerning the lives and interests of everyone in the country the fullest measure of direct responsibility to Parliament must be maintained, and that executive responsibility must rest in England and Wales with a Minister of Town and Country Planning and in Scotland with the Secretary of State for Scotland. In view of the increased responsibilities which will attach to the post of Minister of Town and Country Planning in future, and of the importance of the Minister being able to devote the necessary time and attention to his task, the Government have decided to ask Parliament to constitute a separate Ministry of Town and Country Planning in England and Wales under a separate Minister. This Minister will be a member of the Ministerial Committee already referred to. His main function in association with the Departments concerned will be to ensure that the translation of the agreed national policy into terms of land use and physical development is conceived as a single and consistent whole.

While they have not felt able to accept the recommendations of the Scott and Uthwatt Committees for placing the main responsibility for the control of town and country planning in the hands of a permanent Commission the Government fully recognize the value of a permanent body of this kind as part of the machinery of the new Ministry. In their view there will be important functions for which a permanent Commission, acting under the Minister of Town and Country Planning, would be the most appropriate body, in connection, for instance, with the acquisition of development rights, if some such scheme were to be adopted. There are no doubt a number of other matters such as the management of property which could be usefully delegated to a Commission. In the legislation to be submitted to Parliament, therefore, the Government contemplate making provision for the appointment of such a Commission to assist the Minister of Town and Country Planning.



AFTER

t h e W a r

4

[IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS]

Mr. Arthur Greenwood: There are some people in this House, as well as outside, who hold opinions that the post-war planning should be relegated to post-war days. I profoundly dissent from that point of view, a point of view which fails to appreciate either the urgency or the complexity of the vast range of inter-related problems which will face the world and every nation in it, whether they are belligerents or not. To leave the gigantic tasks of preparation until the days when we shall be overwhelmed by the rush of events would inevitably lead to mess and muddle, to the postponement or possibly to the destruction of legitimate hopes, and might end in a bitter disillusionment which might, in this country, have ugly means of expression. I believe that it is vital for another reason to reach conclusions during the war as to our post-war policy and to take steps to implement those decisions from now onwards.

There are three published documents which are somewhat inter-related and in certain aspects closely inter-related—the Barlow Report, the Scott Report and the Uthwatt Report.

The success of the schemes which are involved in the proposals arising out of these Reports depends on the character of the central authority to be established. In my view it ought not to reside in a single Department. There should be a National Development Board presided over by a Minister free from departmental responsibilities and composed of the Ministers whose Departments are concerned with various aspects of national development. The location of industry, the preservation of the best agricultural land for agricultural purposes, national parks, transport, housing, schools and hospitals—this wide range of problems cannot properly be dealt with within any one Department. After all, there is a difference between an architect and a master mason. The architect is presented with the first problem, and he is the man who should work out a plan. The Board which I suggest, representative of the Departments concerned, could lay down the major principles and the policy to be followed. It would then be the duty of responsible departmental officials to co-operate with one another in applying them to the many complex problems which will arise. Questions often do arise between Departments and some of them are often controversial, but the vast majority of them are settled by agreement. I feel that these proposals would provide a workable set-up for dealing with our internal development in all its ramifications after the war. In fact, I had an

ambition to be chairman of that development board in more difficult days.

Major Sir Edward Cadogan:

While I am quite prepared to allow that the particular functions of the new Ministry of Works and Planning, as far as they deal with present and urgent needs, are of very definite value, and while I am quite prepared to concede that much of the planning which is engaging the attention of other Ministries, such as the Board of Education, is unexceptionable, I believe that in the Government's long-term policy it is in the rather more visionary proposals that there are grounds not only for criticism but also for apprehension. When we are informed of all that the various Ministries are engaged upon for after the war, I cannot help envying the Government their optimism, in which I shall not be expected wholly to share.

My criticism of the Government's planning is that it does not seem to be in the proper sequence. The trouble with certain planners is that they start at the wrong end. They are even now hood-winking the public with all sorts of elaborate schemes of ideally-constructed cities, national parks, green belts, gargantuan arterial roads, free public school education for all, free meals for all, and all the rest of it. They do not seem to appreciate, or they are too obtuse to understand, that there are two conditions precedent to the fulfilment of all those beautiful day-dreams. The first is to discover some more effective substitute for war as a means of settling international disputes than has been devised by the wit of statesmen hitherto. It is of no avail to set about physical reconstruction until we can improve upon the League of Nations. What will be the merit of rebuilding the Guildhall, or the Wren churches, if they are going to be blown over again a few years hence?

Is it within the range of possibility that all our building will have to resemble that strange structure which has recently been erected upon the Horse Guards Parade? That would be standardisation with a vengeance. Let us put an end to war before we make plans of that sort, and such a happy issue out of our afflictions is not likely to be fulfilled in the twinkling of an eye, and certainly not so long as our men of science, instead of applying their intelligence and their energy to the cure of malignant disease, are fully engaged upon inventing higher and more powerful explosives, a task in which they seem to be singularly successful. Until we fulfil this condition precedent, a considerable number of our young men will, instead of being engaged on constructive work and development work, still have to man the Navy, the Army, the Air Force and the munition factories. Have the Government taken that probability into consideration when calculating what resources will be available for them to carry out their short-term policy?

This brings me to the second condition precedent which must be fulfilled before we start smearing the whole of England with ferro-concrete and tarmac. There must be a definite and immediate planning of our finance and industry and commerce. That will not be exclusively a national enterprise. The problems of currency, exports, tariffs and kindred questions will have to be settled by the whole civilised world in conference. Does anyone suppose that is going to be a swift, perfunctory process? Until we know where we are financially and commercially, it will surely be futile to talk about picking up the City of London by the scruff of its neck and depositing it somewhere else.

I appeal to the Government to give the House some assurance that before everything, good, bad, and indifferent, is thrown into the crucible of the Minister of Works and Planning, Parliament will be allowed to exercise some vigilance over what is fashioned out of the material and, still better, to have some control over what is to be scrapped and what is to be saved from the melting pot. Everything that is archaic is not necessarily defective and valueless because it is archaic.

Sir Geoffrey Shakespeare: I should like to start by congratulating the Government on securing the production of the Scott and the Uthwatt Reports. They are absolutely first-class documents. I do not wish to deal with the Scott Report now. The Uthwatt Report is a model of what reports should be. The problems dealt with in it are exceedingly important, although few people in the country are conversant with them. I do not pretend to be. The legal history of every issue discussed is set out with brilliant condensation. It really is a model Report.

I wish I could congratulate the Government on the way they have handled this problem in the last two years, in regard to machinery. They started by making a fundamental mistake by taking planning away from the Ministry of Health. I should have thought it was obvious to anyone who has had long experience that, as the local authorities are, in the main, both housing authorities and planning authorities, it must lead to delay and difficulty if the local authorities had to go to one Department for one thing and another Department for another. It happened that the present Minister of Health was the only Minister who knew both about housing and about planning, and that must have been the reason why they took planning away from him and gave it to a Department and to a Minister, Lord Reith, who knew nothing about them. As soon as he started learning his job he was sacked, and somebody else was put in—Lord Portal—who had to learn the problems from the beginning. To make matters worse, the Paymaster-General was appointed, and you can see him skirmishing down Whitehall, street fighting against all the Departments that deal in any way with planning. He has had responsibility without power. I am sure this lay-out will not do. It is absolutely fantastic. It is time that an end was put to this higgledy-piggledy—if I may borrow the phrase of my colleague the hon. Member for Norwich (Mr. Strauss)—and we had a wide vista of rational planning for the future. May I also join with my hon. Friend in what he said about the planners? I am sure the present lay-out and elevation will have to end, and end quickly, and some Minister of Planning be appointed with a department, and that department and he be subject to challenge in the House. It is no good thinking that you could have a commission which would take this out of the hands of Parliament. That would never do. If you want to bring in the planners, you can bring them in on an Advisory Council. I have no objection to a commission managing a financial estate. It may be useful. Let me warn the Paymaster-General that whenever planners start talking about the beauty of the countryside a wild light comes into their eyes, and there is no sin they would not commit. If he must have planners on his Council, I advise him to choose a few good economists who can add a little freezing mixture into those boiling solutions which have been concocted by the planners.

Do not think that I am reactionary. I am a passionate housing enthusiast. Those who were with me in this House during the great slum crusade will perhaps agree that I am a practical housing enthusiast. I was then associated with Sir Edward Hilton Young, now Lord Kennet, who never got the credit due to him for what he did. We rehoused nearly 1,000,000 slum dwellers in five years, as compared with 200,000 who had been rehoused in the previous 50. While that was going on we provided homes for 5,000,000 or 6,000,000 persons who were rehoused by private enterprise, by the sort of activity of which I have been speaking. We have got a brilliant building organisation in this country and the success of that five years was entirely due to the fact that the local authorities were working to the full on what they could do—slum clearance—and private enterprise was working to the full on what it could do. We shall need both. If you create conditions in which private enterprise cannot do it you will do a great disservice to millions of families.

I honestly think that we have a tremendous chance in the next 10 or 20 years of making an England nearer the England we would desire to see. The process of reconstruction and redevelopment itself will provide so much work and employment that it may well be the central pivot of the whole post-war prosperity.

Sir William Jowitt: May I suggest certain principles to which I, at any rate, shall always try to adhere in the course of our reconstruction Debates? The first is this: I believe we must always remember that victory, complete and unqualified, is the necessary foundation for any reconstruction work at all. We must not allow ourselves to be distracted by talk of reconstruction from the stern task of securing that victory. In the second place, all talk of reconstruction is a mockery if the world is to remain hereafter under the constant fear of aggression. A system which secures us from aggression, whatever the cost, must be built up if we are to have any effective reconstruction. Thirdly, let us by all means be completely realistic in our approach to reconstruction problems. Let us face up to the difficulties, which are very great, frankly and squarely, because, though the difficulties are great, I firmly believe that the opportunities are even greater. Fourthly, I shall try throughout to avoid slogans—Homes for heroes, wars to end war, the promised land, land of promises and the like—for after all, better times will be won not by slogans, but by the enterprise and the efforts of the common people. Lastly, when I hear some of this criticism of the idea of planning I believe that the greatest asset that we have, or have ever had, is the character and the ability of our own people. Planning is good if it enables our own people to develop their own personalities. It is bad if it reduces us all to the level of ants in an ant heap.

I want to say something about housing, because it is obvious that in our plans for the future that must be given a very high place. Tremendous need arises for the repair of war-damaged houses, and for the building of a large number of dwellings of the right kind in the right places for those who have lived in slums or overcrowded houses, for families separated by the war, for young couples who have married since the war started, and for others. If we are to get right down to it and to avoid delays, much preparatory work must be done before the war ends, such as the acquisition and surveying of sites and the preparation of lay-out plans. That is the background against which we are examining this problem. My right hon. Friend the Minister of Health has his Central Housing Advisory Committee, and, in co-operation with my right hon. Friend the Minister of Agriculture, who is responsible for the rural aspect, he is busily assessing the needs and preparing ways and means of meeting them, just as my Noble Friend the Minister of Works and Planning is busily dealing with such problems as those of raw materials. I have not been unmindful when studying the Scott and Uthwatt Reports that housing raises the whole question of the acquisition and development of land. Housing in Scotland raises problems of great magnitude and complexity, and to these my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Scotland is already giving the most active consideration.

That leads me to a few words about the Barlow, Scott, and Uthwatt Reports. I cannot say more than a few words, although each would be worthy of a separate Debate. All three advocate, though not in precisely the same terms, the establishment of a central planning authority. The Barlow Report discussed the geographical distribution of the industrial population and analysed the effect on our urban population of the industrial spread between the two wars. The Scott Report called for the rehabilitation of rural England. Then came the Uthwatt Report, with its two problems of compensation and betterment. All those reports performed a very useful service. I shall select one of them today—time forbidding the rest—and say something about the Uthwatt Report.

That Report raised four main propositions:

first, the machinery of the Central Planning Authority; second, the acquisition by the State of development rights in all undeveloped land outside built-up areas; third, the conferment on local authorities of wide and simple powers for the compulsory acquisition of land; and, last, a periodic levy on increases in annual site values. These matters have been considered by our Ministerial committee and passed on by them to the War Cabinet, and I am able to-day to announce certain decisions. With regard to the first point, the central machinery, the Government have been giving consideration to the recommendations in the recent reports of the committees presided over by Lord Justice Scott and Mr. Justice Uthwatt in regard to the constitution of the Central Planning Authority.

Both reports rightly attach great importance to the correlation of Government policy in regard to town and country planning with the policies that are being pursued in agriculture, transport, industry and labour, public utilities, etc., policies compendiously described by the Scott Committee as "national organisation" and by the Uthwatt Committee as "national development," and both recommend the appointment of a Cabinet Committee for the purpose, under the specially-nominated senior Minister as chairman.

The Government fully accept the need for such correlation. It would not be appropriate for me to say anything at this stage which might bind this or future Governments to final acceptance of the Committee's view that this correlation could best be carried out by a Committee of Ministers presided over by a senior Minister. It is also relevant that, as the House is aware, the consideration of future policy in reconstruction matters is already proceeding under the supervision of a Committee of Ministers over which I preside, though all decisions of major importance arrived at by that Committee are submitted to the War Cabinet for their approval. In the initial stages it will naturally fall to that Committee to deal with the preparatory work which will be carried out during the war for bringing a national policy in regard to the control of the use of land (including town and country planning) into close accord with the general economic and social programme.

With regard to the machinery for the control of the use of land and the administration of town and country planning, the Government have come to the conclusion, after giving full weight to the views expressed by the Scott and Uthwatt Committees, that in a matter so vitally concerning the lives and interests of everyone in the country the fullest measure of direct responsibility to Parliament must be maintained, and that executive responsibility must rest in England and Wales with a Minister of Town and Country Planning and in Scotland with the Secretary of State for Scotland. In view of the increased responsibilities which will attach to the post of Minister of Town and Country Planning in the future, and of the importance of the Minister being able to devote the necessary time and attention to his task, the Government have decided to ask Parliament to constitute a separate Ministry of Town and Country Planning in England and Wales, under a separate Minister. This Minister will be a Member of the Ministerial Committee already referred to. His main function, in association with the Departments concerned, will be to ensure that the translation of the agreed national policy into terms of land use and physical development is conceived as a single and consistent whole.

While they have not felt able to accept the recommendations of the Scott and Uthwatt Committees for placing the main responsibility for the control of town and country planning in the hands of a permanent Commission, the Government fully recognise the value of a permanent body of this kind as part of the machinery of the new Ministry. In their view, there will be important functions for which a permanent Commission, acting under the Minister of Town and Country Planning, would be the most appropriate body, in connection, for instance, with the acquisition of development rights, if some such scheme

were to be adopted. There are, no doubt, a number of other matters, such as the management of property, which could be usefully delegated to a Commission. In the legislation to be submitted to Parliament, therefore, the Government contemplate making provision for the appointment of such a Commission to assist the Minister of Town and Country Planning.

Sir H. Williams: What is now to happen to the Ministry of Works and Planning, which has had three different titles in about three months?

Sir W. Jowitt: The necessary adjustments will be made. This constitutes a separate Ministry of Town and Country Planning.

Sir H. Williams: But what will happen to the Ministry of Works?

Sir W. Jowitt: It will go on.

Mr. Bevan: I think the whole House will have welcomed this

decision by the Government; but will the Government undertake, as an additional Ministry is being appointed, a reconsideration of all the Government machinery, to abolish some of the redundant Ministries? If we have many more Ministries, the whole House of Commons will be in the Government.

Mr. Mander: Sir W. Jowitt announced legislation with regard to the Ministry of Planning. This Ministry has had an unfortunate life so far. There have been changes of Minister and policy, and I hope that we are now to arrive at a time when some definite policy will be adopted. It seems to me very much a matter of the man who is appointed to do the job. If he understands it and has determination to get on with it, it will succeed. Otherwise we shall be no further on than we have got up to the present.

I was disappointed that the Paymaster-General felt obliged to announce that no decision had been arrived at with regard to two important recommendations of the Uthwatt Committee, with regard to the purchase of development rights and the betterment tax. It may be that the Government are afraid of opposition.

S U M M A R Y

Returning to the four main points raised by the Uthwatt Report which are: (i) Central Machinery; (ii) Acquisition of Development Rights; (iii) Increased Powers of Compulsory Purchase; (iv) Periodic Levy on Urban Site Values, Sir William Jowitt made the following announcements.

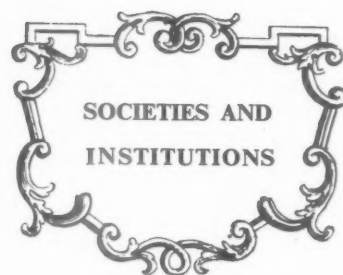
CENTRAL MACHINERY. (a) *Policy.*—The Government fully accepts the need, stressed by both the Scott and the Uthwatt Reports, for correlation at the centre but does not consider it appropriate at this stage to say anything which might bind itself or any future Government to formal acceptance of the Committee's view that this correlation could best be carried out by a committee of ministers presided over by a senior minister. For the time being the work of formulating a national policy will remain in the hands of the Committee of Ministers over which Sir William Jowitt has been appointed to preside and decisions, when reached, will be submitted to the War Cabinet for approval.

(b) *Administration.*—With regard to machinery for the control and use of land and the administration of Town and Country Planning the Government considers that the fullest measure of direct responsibility to Parliament must be maintained. Executive responsibility in England and Wales will rest with a Minister of Town and Country Planning and in Scotland with the Secretary of State for Scotland. In England a new Ministry will be set up for this purpose under a separate Minister who will be a member of the Ministerial Committee already referred to. His function will be to ensure that the translation of the agreed national policy into terms of land use and physical development is conceived as a single consistent whole. The Ministry of Works will continue to exist and the necessary adjustments (not specified) will be made.

ACQUISITION OF DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS.—No decision has yet been reached.

COMPULSORY PURCHASE.—Wide and simple powers will be conferred on local authorities for the compulsory purchase of land. The Government is prepared to discuss the extent to which and the manner in which financial assistance could be given out of taxation but considers that local authorities, when preparing schemes, should have in mind the desirability of making them self-supporting.

LEVY ON SITE VALUES.—The Government has come to no conclusion. This is "a highly controversial matter which in any event could not become effective for seven years."



Mr. Eric L. Bird, A.R.I.B.A., who is on the staff of the Research and Experiments Department of the Ministry of Home Security, recently delivered a paper to the Architectural Association under the title

T o w a r d s a CONSOLIDATED BUILDING PROFESSION

I do not want the motives of this paper to be misjudged. This is an objective study—at least, it is as objective as I can make it. Such a study is liable to be construed as an "attack." I may be accused of casting reflections on this or that body, or that I am "letting down the side"; that was a typical pre-war outlook. This paper is not propaganda for any institution or group of persons, but is for an idea—an idea based on the conception that our loyalty is to the national interest as a whole before that to ourselves and to our professional institutions. The A.A. is peculiarly fitted to receive and judge of such a paper, partly because it has always been aloof from inter-professional rivalries and also because it has been always receptive of new ideas.

The function of the industry is to provide the nation with the buildings it needs. You will notice that I say "buildings" and not "works and buildings." I hold that public works—roads, railways, docks, sewerage and water schemes—are essentially dissimilar from building. Public works are concerned with large amounts of a few materials assembled on a large scale; their emphasis is mainly on performance and hardly at all on aesthetics. Building on the other hand is an affair of assembling a larger number of materials in small quantities, detailed design and craftsmanship being essential conditions; also in building, aesthetics and performance are about equally important and in some cases, in peace time, though not in war, aesthetics may predominate. Therefore in referring to "engineers" I mean those sections of engineering of all kinds which are concerned with building. I entirely reject the notion that a man trained in public works is *ipso facto* competent to direct building.

Before the war the business of providing the nation's building was a haphazard affair, exactly reflecting the casual, *laissez faire* system—or lack of system—which characterized our national economy. We have now, for war purposes, substituted a direct-acting, controlled system of national economy and with it a similar system of providing buildings. The details of the system are unimportant for our present considerations—they are admittedly imperfect. The fact of control is what matters.

The system of public control of building and the co-operative aspects of professional work go together. We have largely ceased to be professional rivals and have become partners in a gigantic undertaking. What is to happen

after the war? It is, I think, first of all clear that professional relationships—the extent of co-operative working—will depend a great deal on the political set-up of the country. If control and unified effort are to remain as a means of winning the peace, we must readjust our professional organization to accord with it.

Even if the nation reverts to unregulated competition—a scramble for jobs and contracts, the devil taking the hindmost—there will still remain improvements we can make in professional relationships. Indeed such improvements would have to be made if we were to meet the relentless competition of big business, which under such a political system would be in a dominant position. I hope, and indeed think, that the nation will not be so blind as to take the latter alternative, because we know now that it can only lead to periodic booms and slumps, to defensive tariffs and quotas and eventually to another war.

The building industry falls into two main divisions. The first is the professional division whose job is to define problems, to design solutions of them and to supervise their execution; this work is perhaps defined in a single phrase used by the Architectural Science Board, namely, "The specification of proper particulars." The second division of the industry is the executant—the manufacturing and distribution of materials and the assembly of buildings according to the proper particulars as specified by the professional side. These two divisions are fundamental.

The way in which the professional and executant sides of the industry will have to work to provide the nation's building will depend primarily on the political and economic set-up of the nation. With unregulated profit and competition, they must remain rigidly separated. The professional side works for fees according to set scales of charges and acts as the agent of building owners. It has to defend them against the possibility of unregulated profit and the liability to poor workmanship which goes with it. We have all seen this method at work. Looked at from the detached viewpoint of providing the optimum building for the nation, we find that it often resulted in technically bad, wasteful and poorly laid out building, that frequently the wrong kinds of building were erected and that it failed to supply certain necessary types, such as housing for the poorest-paid workers. For this state of affairs the economic system, and the kind of building it brought into being, were to blame.

Under a system of controlled building output—a rudimentary type of which is now in operation—the distinction between the professional and executant sides need not be rigid. This is because the executant side receives a limited remuneration, either by way of salary or fixed profit. The need for the professional side to protect the client against bad building at too high prices disappears. It is to the interest of the executant side to carry out the proper particulars to the best of its ability and at a reasonable speed, so that there is steady production in both manufacture and erection, presumably according to a pre-arranged national programme of work. This is the system that has allowed the Russians to build whole cities. Under it a team of architect, town planners, engineers, managers and operatives can be detailed to do a specified job, whether it is a single building or a whole town. I am not arguing the merits or demerits of this system, but simply stating that it is a possibility well within the present political horizon. It is, however, more likely that the professional and executant sides will remain separate entities, at least for the time being. The day of a national building guild has not yet dawned, if it ever does.

I propose, therefore, taking a nearer and narrower view of the professional side, examining it in some detail. In doing so I suggest that it is not our business as professional men to agitate for this or that political system, but to be ready to work with the one which becomes established in order to carry out our job of providing the nation's

buildings. What we do as individual citizens is another matter.

The pre-war professional side was hardly satisfactory. Much of it was casual labour, not merely for the assistant but also for the principal. Many practitioners competed against one another in the open market, though there was partial control by a code of professional conduct and scales of charges; nevertheless there was something of a scramble for jobs which, because a decent living depended on the luck of the scramble, was hardly to be wondered at. The salaried men were in a more secure position financially, but they and their work often suffered from the fact that they were employees and not consultants. There were undignified squabbles between salaried and privately practising groups of men. Further, there was, and still is to a large extent, competition between the professions. The architectural and engineering bodies kept a shrewd eye on the various fields of work, while big business built up a vast system of speculative building.

What a vast amount of time and energy the professions wasted in these rivalries! To those of us who are at present working as members of professional teams, how petty and unnecessary it now seems. May I draw a parallel to this state of affairs? How rash and foolish now appear the jealousies and squabbles, the insistence on trivial rights by the small nations of Europe before the terrible Nazi flood engulfed them. May we not take warning and consolidate the building professions lest we become engulfed by the flood of big business and the technical man finds himself the wage-slave of a dominant board of directors? After all, the political cat may jump down on the capitalist side of the wall on which it is now sitting; but whichever way it jumps, it is in the nation's interest, not to mention our own, to consolidate the professional side.

What is the basis for consolidation? I suggest that it is two-fold; professional competence and professional integrity. The one is useless without the other; together they are a guarantee of that professional freedom, without which the nation cannot be served with an honest and competent building technique. It is essential to the spiritual health and the economic health of the nation that the artist, the technician and the scientist shall be in a position to present facts as they see them, or to provide solutions of technical problems, uninfluenced by political or commercial policies. To obtain that freedom from the nation—which means obtaining its confidence—they must know their job and be beyond suspicion of trucking to policy or of working solely for their own ends. This is not to be construed as an argument in favour of private practice, though the private practitioner is usually in a better position than the salaried man to retain technical integrity. Whereas the private practitioner at worst can lose a single job, the salaried man is liable to the sack. It is to the credit of many salaried men that they occasionally risk the sack for the sake of their technical integrity.

For the professional side integrity is, of course, more than technical honesty: it embraces commercial honesty because professional men have to handle large sums of other people's money. In this connection I should like to pay a tribute to the great work of the R.I.B.A. in building up its Code of Professional Conduct. This work has progressed for many years almost unnoticed by the majority of members, who are accustomed to take the Code for granted. They know little of the battles lost and won by that small and slowly-changing group of men who have formed the R.I.B.A. Practice Committee during the last 40 years or so. It is to the lasting credit of those men—for the most part little known to the profession as a whole—that the Code has become established, even though as yet it is not perfect nor always fully operative. It must be agreed by all thinking persons that a Code of Professional Conduct, rigidly enforced, is essential if a profession is to enjoy public confidence.

The other requisite is professional competence, which means primarily a sound system of education. I say "education" and not merely "professional education" because the ultimate standard attained by the technician depends in no small measure on the grounding he has received up to the age of admission to the specialist, architectural and engineering schools; the specialist school has to take what it gets into its first year. He would be a rash man who asserted that our national system of education is the best in the world for the making of a technically-conscious nation. Nor is the general standard of technical education itself anything like so high as it might be. A few pioneer schools, like the A.A., have always been willing to experiment, realizing that education is itself a science that must change and expand with the civilization it helps to mould. It has always seemed odd to me that in a nation which depends for its existence on technical and scientific achievement in manufacture and on the sea, that the public education should be literary, hidebound and bookish while technical education should be under-endowed, academic and not universally obtainable. I admit that these strictures do not apply wholly to some architectural schools, but there can be little doubt that architectural education has considerable scope for development and requires much expenditure of thought and money. I suspect that it is much the same with many engineering schools and I know that my remarks are true of many schools training craftsmen, which in any case are all too few in number.

Some time ago the R.I.B.A. Architectural Science Board published its first report on architectural education. That report recognized the need both for a higher standard of technical and scientific education in entrants to the profession and the need for greater concentration on the purely technical side of architecture. The dual nature of the practice of architecture was realized by the sub-committee which drafted the report, namely, that the architect is concerned both with aesthetics and with building performance; it felt that the architectural schools were not giving sufficient attention to the study of performance in order to accord with a world which is becoming increasingly technical. Its report was misunderstood in some quarters, many casual and unthinking readers assuming that their insistence on technical and scientific education was in opposition to education in aesthetics. The two studies are, of course, complementary for the architect. A test of technical education in building can be made by examination of current building. Taking the last 20 years as a whole, we find a very irregular performance—much poor design by architects and much wasteful construction by engineers. There are good men here and there whose work bulks large in the technical journals, but the general level throughout the country is low. My recent work examining air-raid damage has shown me just how low this average is.

When considering the two subjects of professionalism and competence, it is worth while pointing out a constitutional difference between the R.I.B.A. and the Institution of Civil Engineers. The Institution of Civil Engineers is primarily an educational body, or rather it controls engineering education by its examination system. It is little concerned with the professional or "trade union" side. It admits to membership persons who pass its examinations regardless of whether they are employed professionally or commercially. It has no Code of Professional Conduct similar to that of the R.I.B.A. Many of its members, however, belong to the Association of Consulting Engineers which operates scales of charges and a Code of Professional Conduct.

With the R.I.B.A., on the other hand, professionalism is strong; the R.I.B.A. became something of a trade union in order to obtain registration. Beyond registration lay the objective of requiring entry to the profession solely by examination. Thus, in order ultimately to raise the general level of

competence in the profession, the R.I.B.A. had to begin by admitting into two classes of membership, without examination, persons whose technical competence was in some cases slight. Thus, as things are at present, it will be seen that neither body fully accords with my provisos as to entry to the profession.

I would again emphasize that I am not "attacking" either of these two bodies—or any other body. They are governed by their charters and conditioned by social development, and to their histories no reasonable man can take exception. What I am trying to do is to seek improvement at a time when men's minds are prepared to discard old ideas in order to make a serious effort to build a better world.

So I return to my starting point, namely, the fact that the rank and file of architects, surveyors and engineers of all kinds concerned with building, have discovered that they are all in the same boat; and that they have a common basis of accord in professional competence and integrity; that to quarrel among themselves for precedence or control of the industry is a waste of effort.

I do not propose any set method of achieving the aim of consolidating the building professions. The work would be extremely complicated and must be that of many men having different abilities and specialized knowledge. But some sort of union of professional societies or of professional men appears to be desirable, if not essential. There must be a common code of professional ethics and a common educational policy. Such a union would be in a far stronger position than is that of the present rival bodies to bring pressure on the Government to construct a national system of public education in technics; they would be in a stronger position to do their collective job—provision of optimum building for the nation. They might well begin by drawing up a statement of principles, in much the same way that the drafters of the American constitution began with a declaration of the rights of man—that is to say of the principles on which the union of the American states was based.

Perhaps the most awkward fence to take will be the professional qualifications of the man who is to direct a particular operation—who, in fact, is to be head of the team. My answer is that it all depends on the job. In cases where structure and performance are the dominant considerations, the engineering specialist is the man; in works involving aesthetics and the humanities, the architect; in large-scale planning, the town planner; in cost investigation, the quantity surveyor; in research, the scientist. In any case, the very existence of union would cause these questions of precedence to disappear, specially when a common basis technical education had been operative for some time.

It is perhaps worth while pointing out that the professions, as they are at present constituted, are tending to include specialists who are employed by general practitioners. The R.I.B.A., for instance, has members who act as acoustic, illumination and legal specialists and who advise other architects. It seems odd that for certain subjects, such as structural design and costing, it should be necessary to employ members of other bodies. They might just as well all be members of one body.

Let us look for one moment at two other countries. Both Sweden and Switzerland are advanced democracies—far more advanced towards real democracy than we are. The building work of both is of outstanding merit; it has a uniform high level of quality and a unity in design and performance that we achieve very rarely. It is not irrelevant that both have single technical bodies embracing all professional men concerned with building. The Swedes call theirs by a name unpronounceable by an Englishman but which is best translated as "The Swedish Technical Institution." But the reason for the high level of quality and of unity in their buildings, bridges and other structures lies not so much in their having one professional body controlling building, as in their system of education.

This provides a sound technical basis in the preparatory stages, from which specialist technicians can branch off into aesthetics, engineering or building science according to their personal qualities. Their education gives them a common language; they understand one another's contributions to a common problem; they work as teams. Contrast for the moment what happens with us. We demolish a bridge that has unity, a perfect blend of structural efficiency and architectural expression. What do we substitute for it? A structure is erected that consists essentially of box-sectioned beams of reinforced concrete resting on thin cutwater piers of the same material. This is camouflage with stone slabs hung on so that the whole simulates an arched masonry construction. So much for a common understanding between architect and engineer. Neither is to be blamed for the construction of this living lie; it is the system that is at fault. Such a thing could not happen in Sweden and Switzerland. Moreover the British public is so untrained in technics that it baldly and ignorantly accepts a piece of constructed scenery as a work of architecture.

Is it possible to repair this state of affairs—to amend the work of our great-grandfathers who allowed men like Telford and Rennie to become separated from men like Cockerell and Elmes? I think we can do it and that we have got to do it. The new world ideals that are now growing in men's minds demand it; the team method of working now in action in the building profession has for the first time made it realizable. It will not be easy; there are many old ideas to be scrapped, many past events to be lived down or overlooked; there are vested interests in the way. Yet if this war has taught us anything, surely it has taught us that we can achieve any objective to which we set our minds, labours and good-will in a co-operative effort. In this paper I have not tried to do more than point out the objective, to indicate the essential basis and to show that the time is ripe to attempt it—hence my title "Towards a consolidated building profession."

MANCHESTER SCHOOL

The following prizes have been awarded in Competition to Student Members of the Manchester Society of Architects and affiliated Societies: *Senior Measured Drawings Prizes*: First, Bradshaw Gass Prize, J. E. Partington (Manchester University School of Architecture); Second, Society's Prize, not awarded; *Junior Measured Drawings Prize*: Society's Prize, R. Byram Duckworth (School of Architecture Municipal School of Art); Special Prize, Derek A. Cobb (Manchester University School of Architecture); *Sketches Prize*: Beaumont Prize, Derek A. Cobb (Manchester University School of Architecture); *Essay Prize*: President's Prize, David R. Byram (Manchester University School of Architecture); *Senior Design Prize*: First, Society's Prize, Corporal K. R. Taylor (Manchester University School of Architecture); Second, Woodhouse Bequest, J. E. Partington (Manchester University School of Architecture); *Junior Design Prize*: Society's Prize, Denis Bowman (Manchester University School of Architecture).

MOWP

MOWP has issued the following notices:—Payment by Results Essential Work (Building and Civil Engineering) Order, 1941: Further rates have been approved by the Payment by Results Joint Advisory Panel and are issued as Addenda 15 and 16. Addendum No. 15 contains additional items to Schedule No. 9 in respect of pipe laying and Addendum No. 16 gives output and bonus rates for work on pavings which form a new Schedule—No. 26. Copies of the new Schedules may be obtained from The Secretary (A.S. 64 Payment by Results), Ministry of Works and Planning,

London, S.E.1, on application, until they are included in a further publication by H.M. Stationery Office.

PIPE LAYING.

Schedule No. 9 (additional items).

Materials to be strung out along line of trench. Output basis includes making good any defective joints in testing.

		Basic Out-put Per Man Per Hour	Bonus
Laying asbestos cement pressure pipes in trench including bends, tees and jointing	3 in. diam.	30 ft. lineal	4d. per 10ft. lineal
Ditto	4 ft. ..	24 ft. ..	5d. ..
Ditto	6 ft. ..	12 ft. ..	10½d. ..

Suitable adjustment to be made for other sizes of pipe. Bonus to be distributed in the proportion of 5 shares to Ganger, 4 shares each to Pipelayers, and 3 shares each to Labourers.

PAVINGS.

Schedule No. 26.

Rates include for all normal straight cutting. Suitable adjustments to be made for excessive straight cutting and for raking and circular cutting.

	Basic Out-put Per Man Per Hour	Bonus.
2 in. precast concrete slab paving to footpath and hut floors, laid dry ..	2½ yds. super	5½d. per yd. super
Ditto, bedded and grouted in mortar	2 yds. super	7d. per yd. super

Bonus to be distributed in the proportion of 5 shares to Ganger, 4 shares each to Pavers, and 3 shares each to Labourers.

Economy in the Use of Hessian for Pipe Insulation.—The Jute Controller has drawn attention to the unnecessary use of hessian canvas as an additional wrapping to needlefelt used for pipe insulation. This extra wrapping, involving a consumption of up to 10 oz. of hessian per sq. yd. can be dispensed with in war time.

It is recommended that specifications for insulation with needlefelt should (generally) be as follows:—"Cold Water Feed and Vent Pipes should be wrapped to an average thickness of (usually) 1 in. with needlefelt. Types reinforced with paper or hessian may be used. An additional wrapping of hessian must not be used. Where exposed to the weather the insulation shall be protected by wrapping with roofing felt bound with wire."

DIARY

Friday, December 11.—Architects' Registration Council, 66, Portland Place, W.1. Council Meeting 2 p.m.

Tuesday, December 15.—Institution of Civil Engineers, Gt. George Street, S.W.1, 2 p.m. "Modern Development in Cement in Relation to Concrete Practice." By F. M. Lea.

Friday, December 18.—Housing Centre, 2.30 p.m. Mr. H. G. Strauss is to present the prizes and open an exhibition of the winning entries in the Town and Countryside Competition for Schools.

Thursday, December 17.—Town and Country Planning Association. At the Y.W.C.A., Gt. Russell Street, W.C.2, 7.15 p.m. "The Housewife Looks at Planning." By Dr. Edith Summerskill, M.P.

Saturday, December 19.—Ecclesiastical Society, 6, Queen Square, W.C.2, 2.30 p.m. "The Builders and Historic London." By Mrs. K. A. Esdaile.

Tuesday, December 22.—Housing Centre, 13, Suffolk Street, S.W.1, 1.15 p.m. "A Social Intelligence Service." By W. Mc.G. Eagar.



L. E. Walker, Photo

THE GUILDHALL, KING'S LYNN

THE large hall dates from 1423 and was originally the Hall of the Trinity Guild, an association of merchants. The entrance, unmistakably Elizabethan, displays the arms of that monarch but also, above, the heraldic bearings of Edward the Sixth, which delightful piece of masonry was once part of the

demolished St. James' Church. Without this seeming redundancy the building would be the poorer, and so, too, it may be said that much work done with bare sufficiency by the use of plain Portland cement would be more satisfying if it had a modicum of 'PUDLO' Brand waterproofer.

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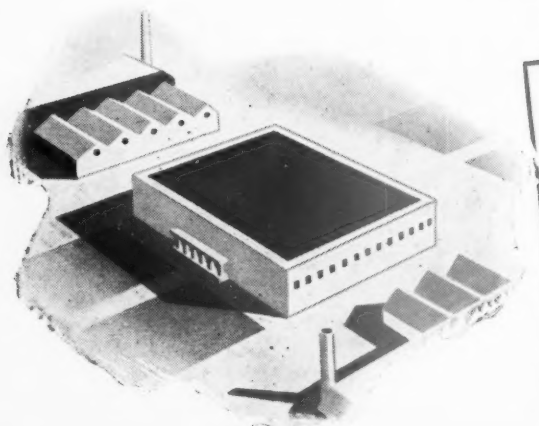
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BUILDING OPERATIVES

We have received the following statement from Mr. R. Coppock, C.B.E., General Secretary of the National Federation of Building Trades Operatives:—

There has been a lot of uninformed criticism in irresponsible quarters against building workers, the allegations against them taking the form of petulant complaints about high wages, slackness and absenteeism. It is time, therefore, that some notice is taken of the criticism, and so the object of this memorandum is to give a reasoned reply on behalf of the operatives. It may be asked why notice should be taken of "irresponsible quarters," but the reply is not so much directed to those as to persons who, well intentioned though they may be, are nevertheless influenced by charges repeatedly made and have not obviously the information readily at their disposal which would enable them to countervail either stupidity or malice or both.

It is generally recognized in knowledgeable circles that building workers, if not literally in the "front line," are at least in the forefront of production and occupy as important a place as any in the vital sphere of the war effort. Factories and aerodromes must be built; not a machine can be produced or a plane used before the essential prerequisites are made available. The proper accommodation of the thousands of troops—our own and of our American and other Allies now installed in this country—relies on the substantial and speedy work of building trades workers.

Much of what building workers regarded almost as sacrosanct has gone by the board in their determination to further the war effort. They have, for instance, accepted a scheme of bonus payment as a war-time emergency measure in defiance of principles to which they were so closely attached in peace time; for the building industry is and has been for decades a plain time one.

Workers have been sent all over the country, transferred with little warning to inaccessible places and have had to endure all the hardships attendant upon lack of normal convenience and of amenities which have come to be recognized as customary in a civilized community. Before building workers could enjoy even the minimum comforts they had themselves to construct their own habitations under some of the worst possible conditions. Dissatisfaction is occasionally voiced against the onerous burdens of the Excess Profits Tax by persons who have had their peace-time profits restricted, but one has yet to be convinced that these complainants are deprived of personal comfort and lead a less sheltered life because of the imposition of higher taxes. One can pass a financial burden on to others, but one cannot vicariously endure loss of personal liberty and of free movement.

Let us deal with each of the charges made, taking first that relating to excessive wages. An instructive confirmation of the view that excessive wages (if there are any) are an explicable exception rather than a general rule may be gained from an examination of a report of the Select Committee on National Expenditure. This Committee made a thorough investigation into aerodrome construction costs, in the course of which they took evidence from those closely concerned—from Air Ministry officials and engineers, from surveyors, contractors and their agents and from the workmen. Wage sheets were inspected. The Select Committee say they take a favourable view of the way in which the workers do their work. Because of the obvious difficulty of firms in choosing young, strong men, they have to rely on less experienced men who are called upon to do heavy and unfamiliar work at short notice, men who additionally suffer the burdens of fatigue on account of the large amount of time wasted (unavoidably so in most cases) in travelling long distances to and from the site. The Committee arrive at the conclusion, having examined wage sheets, "that there has been considerable exaggeration of the amount of wages commonly earned on work of this kind, particularly by unskilled men." They go on to say:

"There are instances of large weekly sums earned by some of the more highly skilled men, such as scraper drivers working long hours at a high rate. In other cases, where the system of bonus payments instituted under the Essential Work Orders operates, members of gangs have earned considerable additions to their basic wages by means of hard work and long hours. The total sums received by an individual workman may also include a subsistence allowance of 24s. 6d. a week to men living away from home, allowance for travelling time where long journeys have to be made to and from work, and overtime payments at time-and-a-half, or double time on Sundays, where extra work has to be done in the long days of spring and summer. In the case of public works visited during the course of the present inquiry, the average earnings of the workpeople employed did not appear excessive. Figures obtained of the gross earnings (including bonuses, allowances for time lost in travelling, etc.), showed that on no site did the average earnings of labourers exceed £5 15s. 8d., and in some they fell much below this figure and were as low as £4 10s. The highest average earnings for bricklayers found on the works visited in England and Wales were £7 14s. 10d. On the other hand, on one site they did not average as much as £5. The variation around these average wages was, of course, often considerable, for example, the earnings of labourers on one contract, whose average was £5 7s. 1d., ranged from £4 5s. 9d. to £9 3s. 10d. Thus occasional individuals had large pay packets. Investigation showed, however, that these cases were the result of long hours of work or of exceptional effort on a payment by result basis (our italics).

"Particular inquiry was made into the wages paid to boys, and evidence was given of the undesirable effect upon agricultural workers who, although engaged in work of national importance in the production of food, were receiving much less than boys of 17 or 18 who left agricultural work for the more attractive emoluments offered to unskilled workers on some neighbouring

aerodrome. At one time boys were paid at the same rate as men, if they were doing men's work (our italics). Since November, 1941, however, the position has been adjusted, and boys are now paid a proportion of the rate paid to men for the same work, according to age.

"It may be noted that, for the entire country, the average total earnings of workers employed on public works contracts have shown a smaller increase since the beginning of the war than those of workers in industry generally. According to the *Ministry of Labour Gazette*, June, 1942, the percentage increase in average earnings between October, 1938, and January, 1942, was 32 per cent. for public works and 46 per cent. for industry as a whole."

On the accusations against workers of slackness, reported in the press and elsewhere, the Select Committee made it their concern to find out to what extent such charges had any basis, and while admitting that undetected or ineffectively dealt-with cases have occurred, they are unable to subscribe to the view that slackness is widespread. Proven cases of slackness are, of course, dealt with through the disciplinary machinery of the Essential Work Orders.

In dealing with charges of absenteeism the Committee find that:

"The evidence received on this point is of a somewhat varied nature. In one group of sites, in a remote and inaccessible part of the country, the rate of absenteeism was low, though there was a tendency among the men living on the site to visit the nearest town, which is several miles away, on Saturday mornings to do their shopping and see to their private affairs. In some cases in Northern Ireland the rate was high on festival days, and at times when there was a heavy demand for seasonal agricultural labour that was here paid at a higher rate than labour on the airfields. In England, a high figure was recorded on occasions such as the day after a bank holiday . . . taking the figures of ten aerodromes . . . the average figure (rate of absenteeism) at those aerodromes was between 5 and 6 per cent. This figure inclusive of sickness and other unavoidable causes." (Our italics.)

Here, then, are the views of an impartial tribunal in reply to charges of excessive wages, slackness and absenteeism made by persons who, in their haste to prove an untenable case, illogically argue from a special and exceptional instance and draw a general conclusion. A common enough fault, but not necessarily to be condoned on that account.

It will be noted that where higher wages then customary are paid there is complete justification for them on account both of the arduous nature of the work and the long hours wrought. Comfortable critics who spend their time penning indignant letters to the press would do well to ponder and gain knowledge of the unenviable conditions which beset men in the building and civil engineering industries.

The Select Committee in their report referred to stress the necessity of close attention being paid to welfare arrangements, urging that the best use be made of available food by good cooking and that sympathetic consideration be given to "the desire of those men who are separated from their families for visits home at reasonable intervals." Good welfare conditions are particularly essential in strenuous times like the present—a point which the Industrial Health Research Board adequately reinforce in one of their statements that an effective worker must be in good health, to attain which "he needs at least adequate food, regular sleep, regular periods of leisure and reasonable conditions at work."

The Board adds:

"War-time, judging by this war and the last, tends to obscure these truths. Since the human being is not a machine he has the power to 'rise above himself,' to make himself by force of will produce more work than is his ordinary maximum. Hence the amazing success of emergency efforts. Unfortunately, industry often fails to acknowledge the extraordinary effort as extraordinary, and complains when the extraordinary gives place to the ordinary, or below ordinary."

General speaking, the building trade worker gives of his best and is entitled to be encouraged in his effort. Speed records in building construction have been made and broken in this war, and where comparatively high wages have been received they have been fully earned by the toilers.

This memorandum is designed with the object of assisting those who wish to see affairs in their proper perspective, and it is hoped that that purpose is served.

BRITISH STANDARDS INSTITUTION

At the Annual General Meeting of the British Standards Institution, Sir Percy Ashley, K.B.E., C.B., accepted the invitation to remain as Chairman of the General Council.

Dr. E. F. Armstrong, F.R.S., formerly Chairman of the Chemical Divisional Council, was co-opted as a permanent member of the General Council.

The Chairman reported the recognition of H.M. Government of the Institution as the body for the issue of national standards, with the exception of those issued by the Medical Research Council in the British Pharmacopoeia and Codex.

Since the last meeting the Institution has published 160 new and revised standards, bringing the total issued to 1,300. These include war emergency specifications prepared at the request of the Ministry of Aircraft Production, Board of Trade, Ministry of Home Security and Ministry of Supply.

British Standard Specifications are the result of the voluntary work of some 8,000 representatives of most of the industrial and trade organizations in the country.

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

War Address:

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THE ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL

INFORMATION CENTRE

Q 999

ARCHITECT, NOTTS.—*What is the name of a publication regarding STANDARD METHODS OF MEASUREMENT appertaining to QUANTITY SURVEYING. The latest revision—if there has been one—is what I need.*

The Standard Method of Measurement of Building Work is published by The Chartered Surveyors' Institution, 12, Great George Street, Westminster, London, S.W.1, and The National Federation of Building Trades Employers, 83, New Cavendish Street, London, W.

The latest edition is the 3rd edition—September, 1935, and costs 7s. 6d. The most up-to-date reprint contains a supplement with questions and answers on the measurement of building work.

We are not quite clear as to the meaning of your last paragraph. If you require a list of books on Quantity Surveying apart from the Standard Method of Measurement, we can let you have one, but if you are writing to the Secretary of the Chartered Surveyors' Institution for a copy of the Standard Method of Measurement, you would do well to ask him for a list of books also.

Q 1000

ARCHITECTS, LEICESTER.—*There seems to be a difference of opinion as to the interpretation of the Act regarding DECORA-*

TION TO HOUSES. It is certain that a room which has had plaster cracks filled in and wallpaper spoilt should be re-papered as, at least, the psychological effect is not good for the occupants. Certain assessors argue that if a room had not been decorated for five years before the damage, the owner should contribute five-sixths of the cost as the normal period between decoration is six years. We disagree with this view and contend that in some cases where care had been taken, the paper would not have had to be renewed for some time, and in all cases the owners have not allowed for spending money at this time and to penalise an owner because he has suffered damage is most unjust. If these assessors are correct, it should be carried out in all trades. If the life of a roof is 60 years and it is blasted away and the house had been built 20 years, the owner should contribute one-third of the cost. In our opinion this is ridiculous?

It is clear that if the owner is entitled to a cost of works payment at all, he is entitled to reinstatement and cannot be asked to bear part of the cost of restoring the building to its original condition. At the same time, the owner is not entitled to claim the cost of improvements.

Taking, as an example, the case of a very old roof, the War Damage Commission could insist upon limiting their payments to restoring the roof to its original condition—possibly with old and rotted timbers, defective slates, etc. The owner would seldom care to have his building restored with old and defective materials, and for this reason he would normally choose to have the work done properly and to pay part of the cost himself.

The same principle must apply to redecoration, but the difficulties of applying it are obvious and we do not see that any strict interpretation or ruling can be given. It is, in fact, impossible to restore decorations to their condition immediately prior to the war damage, if they were at that time already scratched, faded, etc.

Internal decoration is a question of effect rather than protection and our opinion is that the War Damage Commission need only pay for restoring the decorations in such a manner that their effect upon a reasonably minded tenant of the class likely to occupy the premises is the same as the effect produced by the decorations before war damage.

Many owners would prefer to have the job done really well and to pay part of the cost and if this is not the case it would be a wise precaution to agree the Specification with the War Damage Commission or to inform them of the proposals, making it clear that such proposals are considered as reinstatement under the Act and giving them an opportunity to dispute the matter before the existing work has been covered up.

If such precautions have not been taken, the War Damage Commission

may well question the necessity for the work specified and could present a fairly strong case if it is known that the building had not been decorated for many years prior to the damage.

Q 1001

ARCHITECT, STAFFS.—What possibilities are there in **ARBORICULTURE** for a youth of good education who is about to leave school? Is there a degree offered at Birmingham University in this science, or if not at what University are such facilities available? Also, are any open scholarships devoted to the study of this subject and, if a degree is obtained, what manner of employment would be offered, and with what prospects?

We are indebted to the Institute of Landscape Architects for the following information:

Birmingham University does not offer a degree in Arboriculture; Reading does (or did before the war); Oxford, Bangor and Edinburgh Universities give Diploma Courses in Forestry; the Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew, takes about 10 students in this subject. There are no open scholarships in Arboriculture.

We regret that we cannot give any information as to the prospects of a youth who has obtained a degree. The Institute of Landscape Architects (Craven House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2), the Royal Botanical Gardens, and any of the Universities mentioned should be able to give you further information on request. Alternatively, you might try the Forestry Commission, 25, Savile Row, London, W.1, or the Timber Development Association Ltd., 75, Cannon Street, London, E.C.4.

REFERENCE BACK

[This section deals with previous questions and answers]

Q 975

Architect, Devon, writes: "With reference to the queries in my letter published in the JOURNAL for October 1: I am mystified by the statement in your last two paragraphs dealing with overtime under the Essential Work Order. It is not clear to me whether in the example you quote the man receives overtime rates for his 2½ hours overtime in addition to the 5 hours plus 3 hours idle time (which make up the 8 hour guarantee period) at plain time. I seem to remember when I was studying the point at the time that there was a paragraph either in the Uniformity Agreement or the Payment by Results of the Essential Work Order leaving the question of overtime in the event of broken time being incurred during the day, to the discretion of the Contractor. Not having the documents to hand I am pleased to accept your interpretation published in the JOURNAL, but I should be further obliged if you could clarify the two paragraphs to which I refer."

In the first place you should consider the wages that a man earns by working and the guaranteed minimum payment that he is entitled to, under the Essential Work Order, as two entirely separate things. We deal with them separately below:—

1. Assume that a man's wage is 2s. per hour, that he has worked 5 hours during normal working time and 2½ hours overtime. For the day's work he is entitled to be paid (whether or not the Essential Work Order has been applied) 8½ hours at 2s. You may prefer to see it set out as follows:—

		s.	d.
5 hours	@ 2s. 0d...	10	0
2 "	@ 2s. 6d...	5	0
½ hour	@ 3s. 0d...	1	6
		16	6

The payment of overtime is not left to the employer's discretion. 16s. 6d. is the amount earned and, for the purpose of this example, you can consider that the man has now been paid.

2. If the Essential Work Order has been applied it is necessary to ascertain whether the payment made is sufficient, because the Order guarantees a minimum payment, and we are assuming that the man was stopped working for part of the day for reasons beyond his control.

When comparing the guaranteed minimum wage with the wage earned for work done, overtime must be treated as if it had been paid for at plain time rates. The reason for this is fairly obvious, but in any case this ruling is laid down in the Order, and the reason for it is irrelevant.

Applying this ruling, the man must be considered to have earned 7½ hours pay at 2s., but the minimum guaranteed wage is 8 hours pay at 2s., so he is entitled to ½ hour at 2s. for "idle time."

This extra shilling must now be paid to the man in addition to the 16s. 6d. already paid.

3. We believe that we have now answered your question, but there are two things to which we should draw your attention:—

(a) If the man in the example given were earning a bonus under the "Payments by Results" Scheme, his bonus would be calculated on a weekly basis, and the payment of it would not affect, or be affected by, the payments mentioned under 1 and 2 above.

(b) The "Guaranteed Minimum Day" only applies to persons working for bonus or rather to all persons who are not paid purely on a time basis. Persons paid on a purely time basis are guaranteed under the Order a "minimum week" of 44 hours. The minimum payment to such a man earning 2s. per hour, would, therefore, be £4 8s. per week, and to ascertain whether he was entitled to payment for "idle time" you would have to calculate the hours worked during the whole week, as if they had been paid for at plain time rates.

PATENT WELDED TUBULAR CONSTRUCTION

Data Sheet No. 9

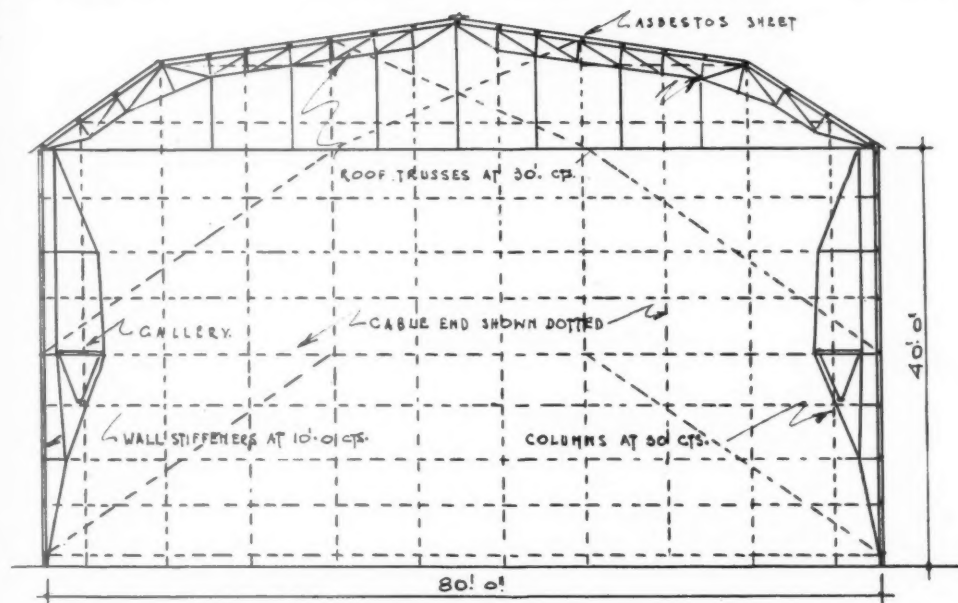
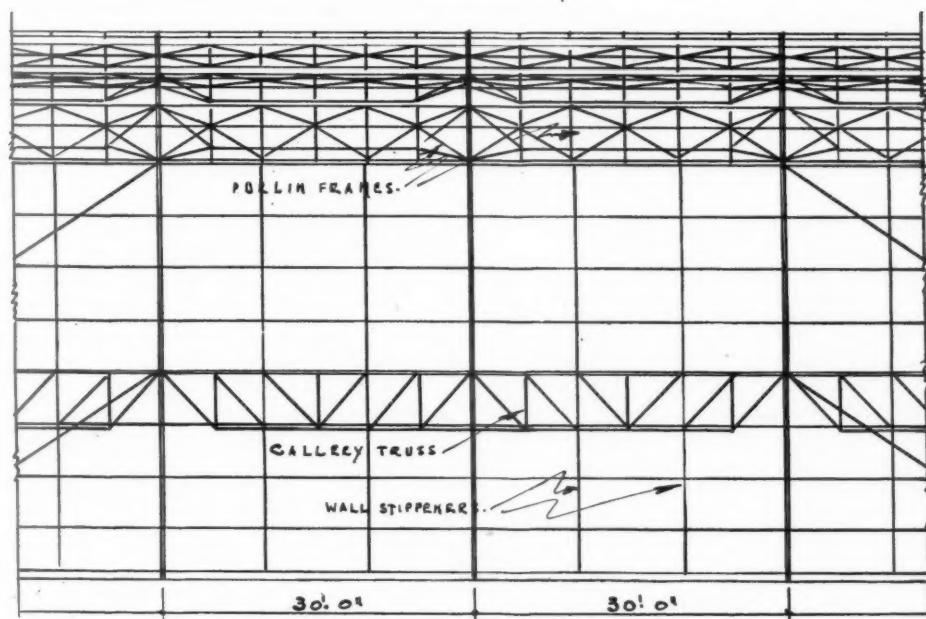


Fig. 20 (left). Tubular frame construction for an 80' span building.

Fig. 21 (below). Elevation detail.



80' SPAN STRUCTURE

Previous sheets have dealt with the lighter type of structural steel assembly. For larger structures, of any dimension, welded tubular steel construction is equally flexible and adaptable, and has been shewn to effect a saving in steel tonnage of nearly 50 per cent.

The frame construction shewn in Fig. 20 (elevation in Fig. 21) was designed as the housing for a model stage at a film production centre. This structure has a clear span of 80 ft., is 120 ft. in length and the height to the eaves is 40 ft.; the roof trusses and the tubular columns are placed at 30 ft. centres. Along either side, and extending the whole length of the structure, is a gallery supported on tubular trusses. The whole of the exterior is covered with asbestos-cement sheeting.

The tonnage of this particular structure is 37.5, and cost details, inclusive of delivery and erection, but excluding floors and foundations, are available.

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

P R I C E S

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ERRATA:—Owing to Printers' errors the following corrections should be made to the Prices in the Tenth Wartime List published in the Journal for October 15th:—

The title for sheet glass should read "Sheet glass in crates of stock sizes (ordinary glazing quality)" the plates not being cut to size as stated in the list.

The price for British Polished Plate Glass in Plates not exceeding 3 ft. sup., Glazing for Glazing Purposes, should be 2s. 9d. per ft. sup., and not 2s. 6d. as published.

There has been no alteration in the prices of the Basic Materials given below or in the Rates of Wages during November.

BASIC MATERIALS	Increase over pre-war prices at end of										
	Jan., 1942	Feb. 1942	Mar., 1942	April, 1942	May, 1942	June, 1942	July, 1942	Aug., 1942	Sept., 1942	Oct., 1942	Nov., 1942
	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.
Portland cement	+37-8	+37-8	+37-8	+37-8	+37-8	+37-8	+37-8	+41-46	+41-46	+41-46	+41-46
2-in. unscreened ballast	+71-01	+71-01	+71-01	+71-01	+71-01	+71-01	+71-01	+71-01	+71-01	+71-01	+71-01
Fletton bricks (at station)	+11-89	+11-89	+11-89	+11-89	+18-38	+18-38	+29-19	+29-19	+29-19	+29-19	+29-19
Stoneware drainpipes (British Standard) 2 tons and over	+28-13	+28-13	+28-13	+28-13	+28-13	+28-13	+37½	+37½	+37½	+37½	+37½
Roofing tiles	+30	+30	+30	+30	+30	+30	+42½	+42½	+42½	+42½	+42½
Steel joists (basic sections) ex mills	+47-5	+47-5	+47-5	+47-5	+47-5	+47-5	+47-5	+47-5	+47-5	+47-5	+47-5
Lime greystone	+35-29	+35-29	+35-29	+35-29	+35-29	+35-29	+35-29	+35-29	+35-29	+43-53	+43-53
Sheet lead	+54-35	+54-35	+54-35	+54-35	+54-35	+65-22	+65-22	+65-22	+65-22	+65-22	+65-22
Iron rainwater goods and soil pipes	+26½	+26½	+26½	+26½	+26½	+26½	+26½	+26½	+26½	+26½	+26½
Copper tubes	+29-79	+29-79	+29-79	+29-79	+29-79	+29-79	+29-79	+29-79	+29-79	+29-79	+29-79
White lead paint	+31-82	+31-82	+36-36	+36-36	+36-36	+36-36	+38-64	+38-64	+38-64	+41-67	+41-67
RATES OF WAGES (Central London Area)											
Labourers	+19-05	+22-22	+22-22	+22-22	+22-22	+22-22	+22-22	+22-22	+22-22	+22-22	+22-22
Craftsmen	+14-29	+16-67	+16-67	+16-67	+16-67	+16-67	+16-67	+16-67	+16-67	+16-67	+16-67
LABOUR—Rates of Wages since 1st February, 1942.											
LONDON DISTRICT	Craftsmen			Labourers			N.B.—Painters				
Within 12 miles radius	2s. 0½d.			1s. 7½d.			½d. less than				
From 12-15	2s. 0d.			1s. 7d.			other craftsmen				
GRADE CLASSIFICATIONS											
	A	A¹	A²	A³	B	B¹	B²	B³	C		
Craftsmen ..	1/11	1/10½	1/10	1/9½	1/9	1/8½	1/8	1/7½	1/7		
Labourers ..	1/6½	1/5½	1/5½	1/5	1/4½	1/4½	1/4	1/3½	1/3½		
P. Davis.											
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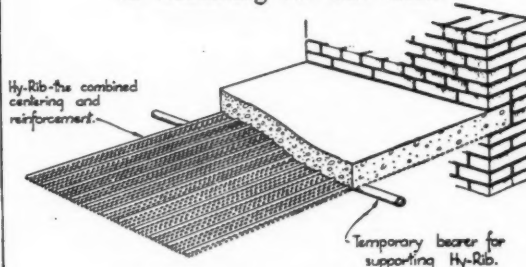
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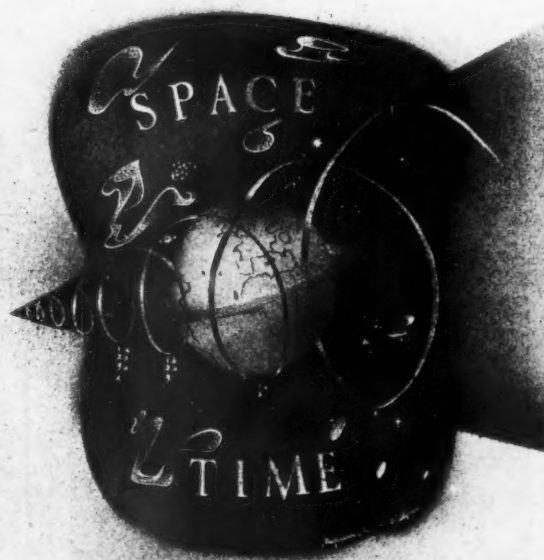
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Replies to Box Numbers should be addressed care of "The Architects' Journal." War Address: 45 The Avenue, Cheam, Surrey.

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Six lines or under, 8s.; each additional line, 1s.

The Incorporated Association of Architects and Surveyors maintains a register of qualified architects and surveyors (including assistants) requiring posts, and invites applications from public authorities and private practitioners having staff vacancies. Address: 75 Eaton Place, London, S.W.1. Tel.: Sloane 5615

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NORMAN SMITH,

Registrar. 846

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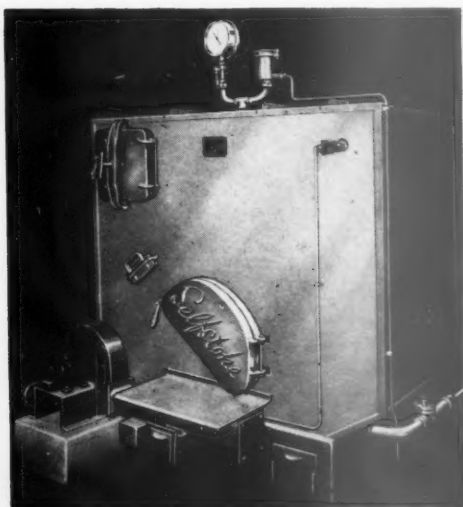
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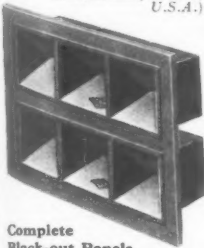
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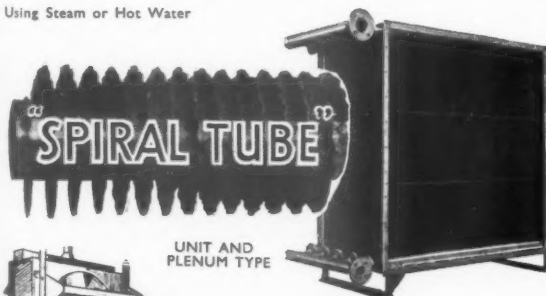
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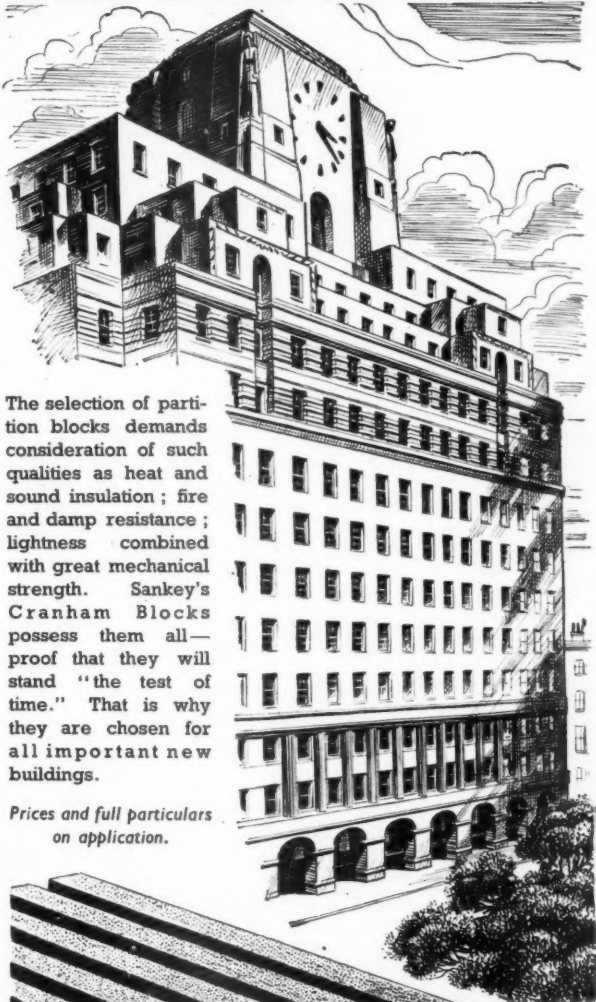


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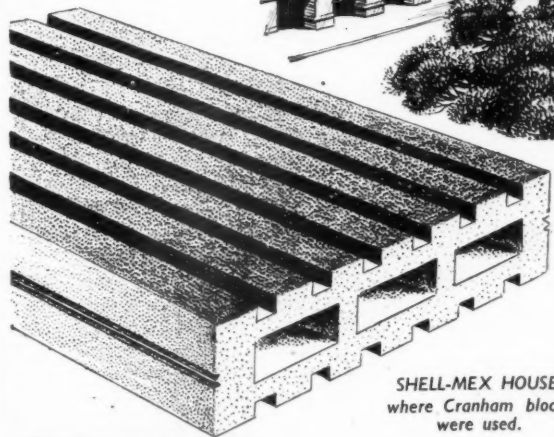
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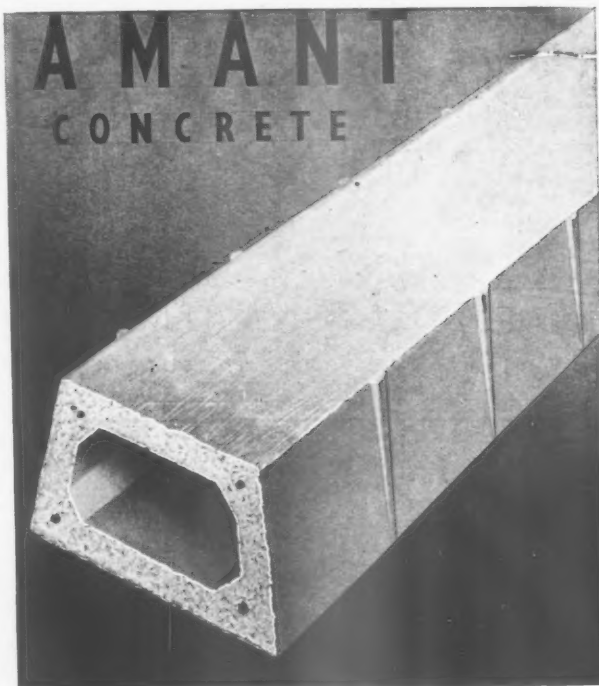
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