

THE ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL



standard contents

every issue does not necessarily contain all these contents, but they are the regular features which continually recur.

DIARY

NEWS

from AN ARCHITECT'S
Commonplace Book

ASTRAGAL

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★ The war has both multiplied the number of Official Departments and Committees of all kinds to become more vocal. The result is a growing output of official and group propaganda. A glossary of abbreviations is now provided below, together with the full address and telephone number of the organizations concerned. In all cases where the town is not mentioned the word LONDON is implicit in the address.

AA	Architectural Association. 34/6, Bedford Square, W.C.1.	Museum 0974.
ABCA	Army Bureau of Current Affairs. Curzon House, Curzon Street, W.1.	
ABT	Association of Building Technicians. 113, High Holborn, W.C.1.	Mayfair 9400 (Extension 461).
APRR	Association for Planning and Regional Reconstruction. 32, Gordon Square, W.C.1.	Holborn 1024-5.
ARCUK	Architects' Registration Council. 68, Portland Place, W.1.	Euston 2158-9.
ASB	Architectural Science Board of the Royal Institute of British Architects, 66, Portland Place, W.1.	Welbeck 9738.
BC	Building Centre. 23, Maddox Street, W.1.	Welbeck 6927.
BCGA	British Commercial Gas Assn. 1, Grosvenor Place, S.W.1.	Mayfair 2128.
BEDA	British Electrical Development Association. 2, Savoy Hill, W.C.2.	Sloane 4554.
BIAE	British Institute of Adult Education. 29, Tavistock Square, W.C.1.	Temple Bar 9434.
BINC	Building Industries National Council. 110, Bickenhall Mansions, W.1.	Euston 5385.
BOE	Board of Education. Alexandra House, Kingsway, W.C.2.	Welbeck 3335.
BOT	Board of Trade. Millbank, S.W.1.	Temple Bar 8020.
BRS	Building Research Station. Bucknalls Lane, Watford.	Whitehall 5140.
BSA	British Steelwork Association. 11, Tothill Street, S.W.1.	Garston 2246.
BSI	British Standards Institution. 28, Victoria Street, S.W.1.	Whitehall 5073.
CEMA	Council for the Encouragement of Music and the Arts. 9, Belgrave Square, S.W. 1.	Abey 3333.
CPRE	Council for the Preservation of Rural England. 4, Hobart Place, S.W.1.	Sloane 0421.
CSI	Chartered Surveyors' Institution. 12, Great George Street, S.W.1.	Sloane 4280.
DIA	Design and Industries Association. Central Institute of Art and Design, National Gallery, W.C.2.	Whitehall 5322.
DOT	Department of Overseas Trade. Dolphin Square, S.W.1.	Whitehall 7618.
EJMA	English Joinery Manufacturers Association (Incorporated), Goring Hotel, Grosvenor Gardens, S.W.1.	Victoria 4477.
FMB	Federation of Master Builders. 23, Compton Terrace, Upper Street, N.1.	Goring Hotel, Grosvenor Gardens, S.W.1.
GG	Georgian Group. 55, Great Ormond Street, W.C.1.	Victoria 9787-88.
HC	Housing Centre. 13, Suffolk Street, Pall Mall, S.W.1.	Canonbury 2041.
IAAS	Incorporated Association of Architects and Surveyors. 75, Eaton Place, S.W.1.	Holborn 2664.
ICE	Institution of Civil Engineers. Great George Street, S.W.1.	Whitehall 2881.
IEE	Institution of Electrical Engineers, Savoy Place, Victoria Embankment, W.C.2.	Sloane 3158.
IHVE	Institution of Heating and Ventilating Engineers. 21, Tothill Street, S.W. 1.	Whitehall 4577.
IRA	Institute of Registered Architects. 47, Victoria Street, S.W.1.	Temple Bar 7676.
ISE	Institution of Structural Engineers. 11, Upper Belgrave Street, S.W.1.	Whitehall 9609.
ISPH	Committee for the Industrial and Scientific Provision of Housing. 3, Albemarle Street, W.1.	Abbey 6172.
LIDC	Lead Industries Development Council. Rex House, King William Street, E.C.4.	Sloane 7128-29.
LMBA	London Master Builders' Association. 47, Bedford Square, W.C.1.	Regent 4782-3.
MARS	Modern Architectural Research. 8, Clarges Street, W.1.	Mansion House 2855.
MOH	Ministry of Health. Whitehall, S.W.1.	Museum 3767.
MOI	Ministry of Information. Malet Street, W.C.1.	Grosvenor 2652.
MOLNS	Ministry of Labour and National Service. St. James' Square, S.W.1.	Whitehall 4300.
MOS	Ministry of Supply. Shell Mex House, Victoria Embankment, W.C.2.	Euston 4321.
MOT	Ministry of Transport. Berkeley Square House, Berkeley Square, W.1.	Whitehall 6200.
MOTCP	Ministry of Town and Country Planning. 32-33, St. James's Square, S.W.1.	Gerrard 6933.
MOW	Ministry of Works. Lambeth Bridge House, S.E.1.	Abbey 7711.
NBR	National Buildings Record. 66, Portland Place, W.1.	Reliance 7611.
NFBTE	National Federation of Building Trades Employers. 82, New Cavendish Street, W.1.	Welbeck 1881.
NFBTO	National Federation of Building Trades Operatives. 9, Rugby Chambers, Rugby Street, W.C.1.	Oxford 48809.
NT	National Trust for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty. 7, Buckingham Palace Gardens, S.W.1.	Langham 4041.
PWB	Post War Building, Directorate of. Ministry of Works, Lambeth Bridge House S.E.1.	Holborn 2770.
RC	Reconstruction Committee RIBA. 66, Portland Place, W.1.	Palace Gardens, S.W.1.
RCA	Reinforced Concrete Association. 91, Petty France, S.W.1.	Sloane 5808.
RS	Royal Society. Burlington House, Piccadilly, W.1.	Reliance 7611.
RSA	Royal Society of Arts. 6, John Adam Street, W.C.2.	Temple Bar 8274.
SPAB	Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings. 55, Great Ormond Street, W.C.1.	Holborn 2646.
TCPA	Town and Country Planning Association. 13, Suffolk Street, S.W.1.	Whitehall 2881.
TDA	Timber Development Association. 75, Cannon Street, E.C.4.	City 6147.
TPI	Town Planning Institute. 11, Arundel Street, Strand, W.C.2.	Temple Bar 4983.

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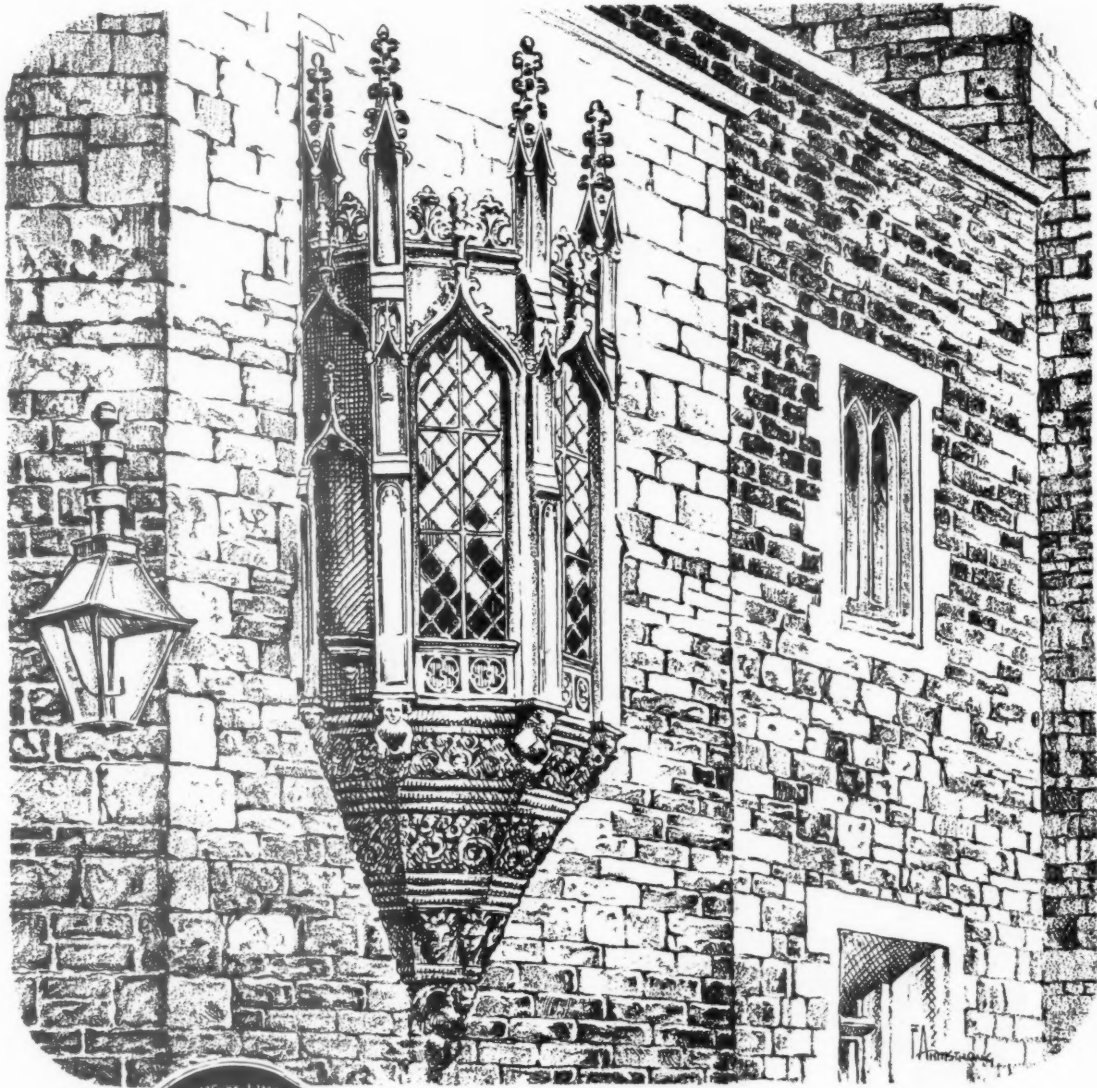
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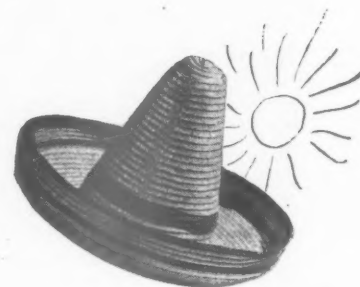
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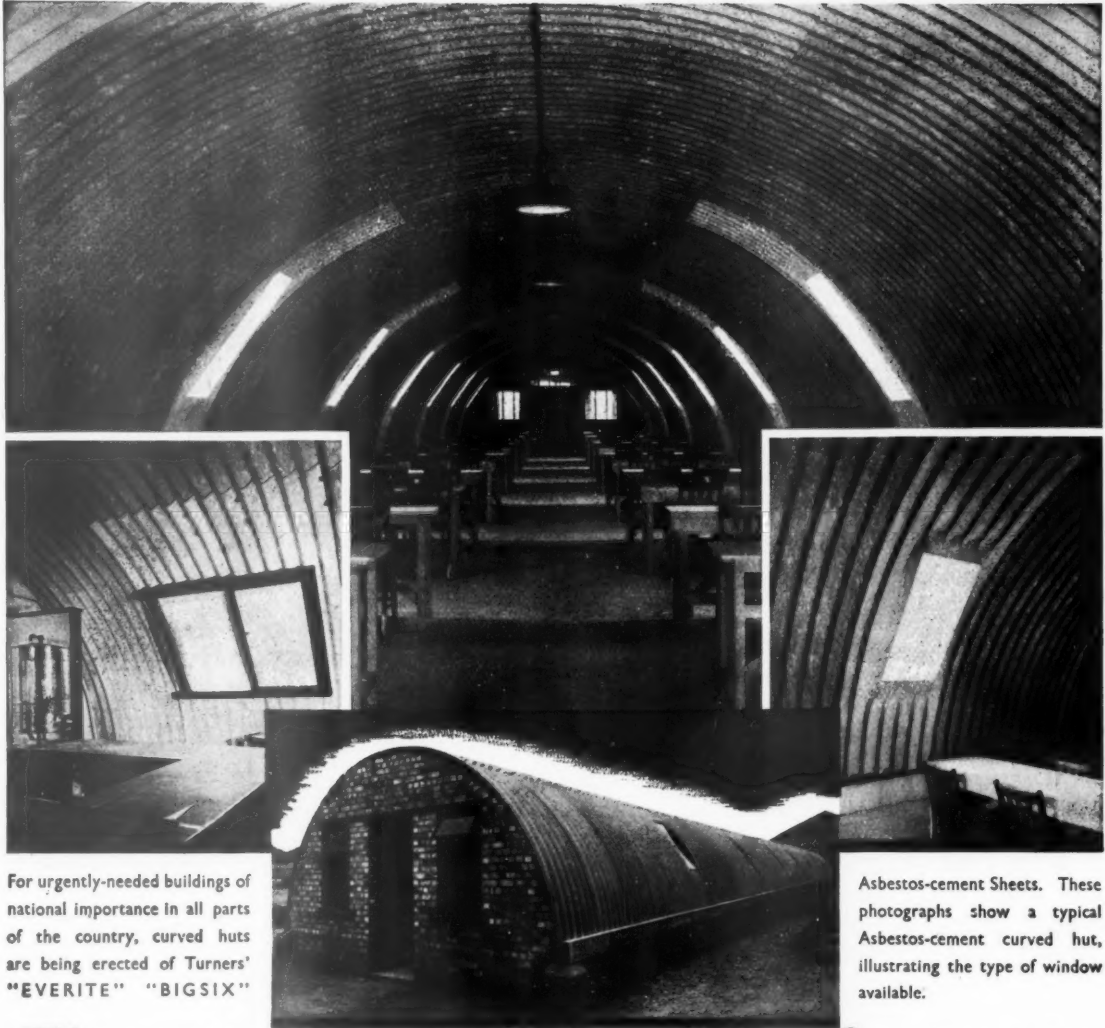
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No. 2

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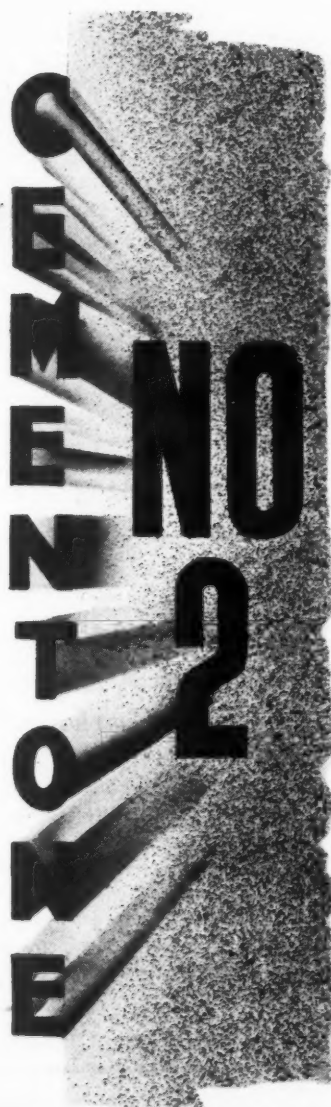
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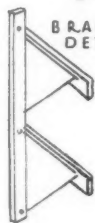
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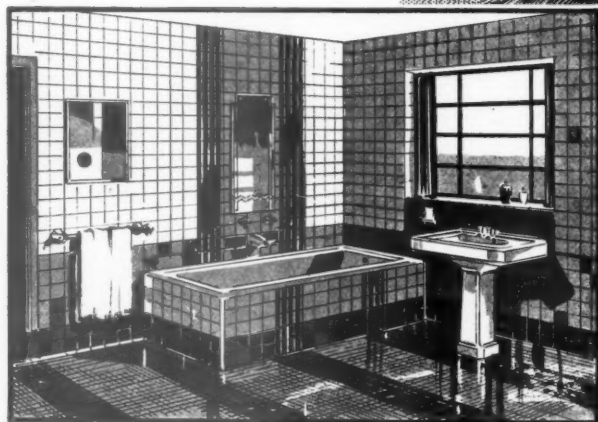
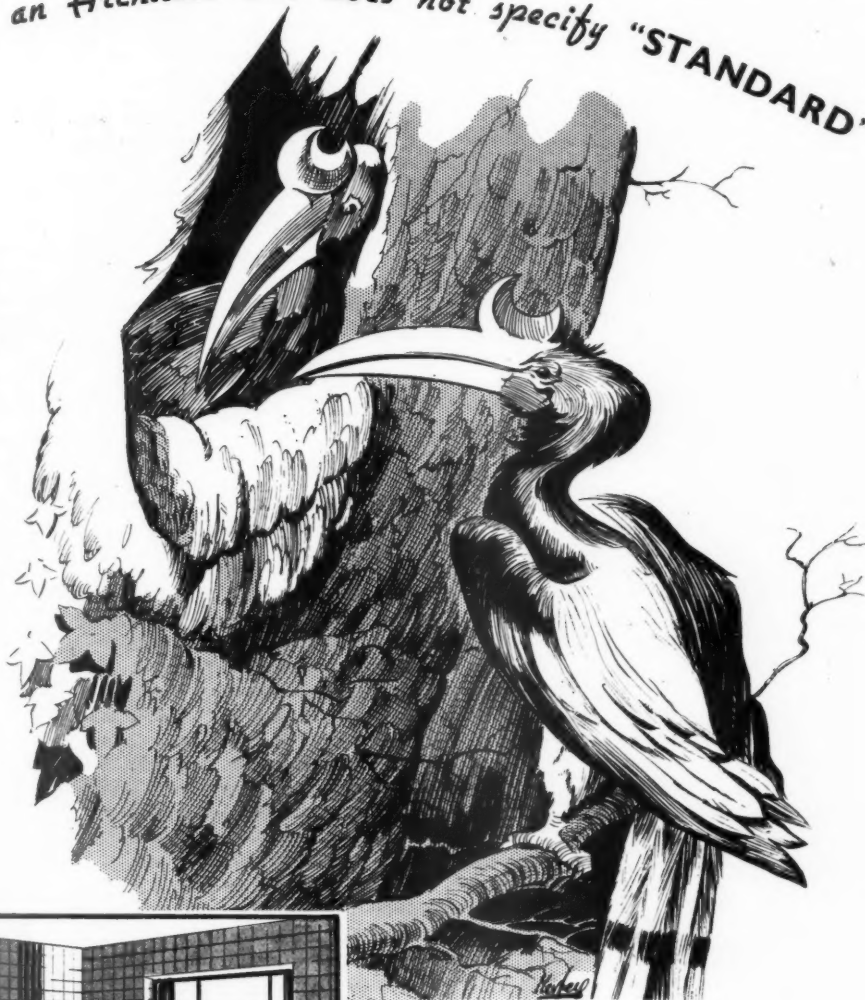
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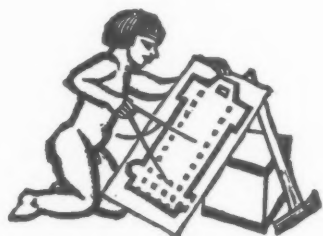
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DIARY FOR MAY-JUNE

Titles of exhibitions, lectures and papers are printed in italics. In the case of papers and lectures the authors' names are put first. Sponsors are represented by their initials as given in the glossary of abbreviations on the front cover.

BRISTOL. Colin Penn at *Inauguration of Bristol Area Branch, ABT.* At Crown & Dove Hotel, Horsefair. 6.30 p.m. (Sponsor, South Western District Committee.) JUNE 3

CRUMLIN, MON. T. Alwyn Lloyd, *Architectural Tradition and Modern Needs in relation to Design and Materials.* Lecture for Teachers. At Crumlin Technical College. (Sponsor, Monmouthshire Education Committee.) MAY 22

T. Alwyn Lloyd. *Architectural Traditions and Modern Needs in relation to Town and Country Planning.* Lecture for Teachers. At Crumlin Technical College. (Sponsor, Monmouthshire Education Committee.) MAY 29

EDINBURGH. F. Leslie Wallis, President NFBTE. *Re-building after the War.* At Edinburgh Rotary Club. MAY 27

GLASGOW. F. Leslie Wallis, President, NFBTE. *The Building Industry in War and Peace.* At Glasgow Rotary Club. (Sponsor, NFBTE.) MAY 25

ILKLEY. *Exhibition of Designs of the Ilkley Architectural and Replanning Competition.* In the Annexe (King's Hall), Ilkley. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. MAY 20 to 22

KNUTSFORD. *Homes to Live In Exhibition.* At the Drill Hall. (Sponsor, BIAE) MAY 20 to 26

LIVERPOOL. Donald V. H. Smith. *District Heating, Housing and Town Planning.* At the School of Architecture, Manchester School of Art. (Sponsor, Manchester School of Architecture.) 3 p.m. MAY 25

LONDON. *Learning to Live Exhibition.* At Harrod's Stores, Knightsbridge. Rooms are arranged as a nursery school, with equipment and toys. The toys have been made from blitzed and waste material by members of the N.F.S. of London, members of which are seen at working bench with timbers from bombed houses being turned into toys by the men and women. Other toys have been sent in from H.M. prisons, where many inmates have sent gifts to war-time nurseries, and there are toys made at the Nursery School Association workshops. All toys are given free to war-time nurseries. The cloakroom and lavatory arrangements for the children are set out in detail. There are models of nursery schools, including the circular one at Kensal House, and the prefabricated building at Guildford. MAY 20-29

Royal Academy's Summer Exhibition. In Burlington House, Piccadilly. 9.30 a.m. until 7 p.m. Weekdays; 2 p.m. until 6 p.m. Sundays. Admission one shilling. MAY 20 to AUGUST 7

Eighteenth Annual Conference, Electrical Association for Women. At IEE, Savoy Place, Victoria Embankment, London, W.C.2. Address by Viscount Samuel, *An Electrified Future.* In the chair, The Dowager Lady Swaythling. 1.15 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. MAY 27

Exhibition of the work of the London Regional Reconstruction Committee. At the National Gallery. The LRRC is a Committee appointed by the Council of the RIBA, with 12 members from the Institute and the AA respectively. It has been at work for nearly two years on the problems of reconstruction and post-war planning for the London Region. The latter for the purposes of the Committee's work has been defined as C.D. Region No. 5, the area of which is about 850 sq. miles, with a population of about 8,500,000. The exhibition will consist of proposals for a Regional Plan illustrated by plans and a plan-model to a scale of 6 in. to 1 mile. Many other drawings and diagrams will be exhibited to illustrate particular problems of the Region, such as transport, and to demonstrate the principles upon which the Committee have based their proposals, a Historical Section will be included in the exhibition. The Second Interim Report of the Committee, to be published at the time of the exhibition, will contain illustrations and form a comprehensive survey of the work of the Committee and of the exhibition. MAY 31

Rebuilding Britain Exhibition. At Royal Exchange. Open at 1.45 p.m. Monday to Friday; 10 a.m. to 12 noon Saturdays.

Housing Conference. At the Beaver Hall, Garlick Hill, E.C. Chairman: J. W. Stephenson, President NFBTO and Chairman of the Central Council for Works and Buildings. MOW. Speakers: Richard Coppock, General Secretary, NFBTO; W. H. Thompson, Solicitor; D. E. E. Gibson, A.R.I.B.A., City Architect of Coventry; Miss J. Blanco-White, A.R.I.B.A., and A.B.T. Subjects: The housing shortage—the problem and the main lines of solution (repairs, billeting, conversions, new building). Labour and materials problems. The rent question. Panel of Experts: A panel of experts will be present to answer questions. Discussion will be held. Delegates credentials are available from the Secretary of the ABT, 2/- each. Visitors' tickets, 1/- each. 2.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. (Sponsor, ABT.) JUNE 5

Professor Geoffrey Webb. *Sir Christopher Wren and his Successors.* At 20, Portman Square, W.1. (Sponsor, Courtauld Institute of Art.) 1.15 p.m. JUNE 3

STAFFORD. *Living in Cities Exhibition.* At Frobisher Hall, May 23 to 30; Nelson Hall, June 2 to 9. (Sponsor BIAE).

NEWS

THURSDAY, MAY 20, 1943
No. 2521. VOL. 97

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Though no feature in The Journal is without value for someone, there are often good reasons why certain news calls for special emphasis. The Journal's starring system is designed to give this emphasis, but without prejudice to the unstarring items which are often no less important.

★ 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 feature marked with more than two stars is very big building news indeed.

Five million volumes is the target of BOOKS TO BE RECOVERED from the homes and offices of Londoners during the fortnight, June 5 to 19. Metropolitan boroughs have arranged themselves into two groups—east and west. The drive is sponsored by the MOS and supported by the Waste Paper Recovery Association.

Trafalgar Square which will be transformed into a panorama, *London Goes to Sea*, depicting an Arctic convoy, a Mediterranean port and a replica of a bridge of a battle cruiser. There will be demonstrations of defence weapons, not yet shown to the public, marine bands will play daily and prominent speakers will address the public on the vital need of saving shipping by the recovery of all unwanted books, waste paper, rubber and so on. Ford's Showrooms in Regent Street will be devoted to an exhibition showing to what uses waste paper is put, while in conjunction with MOI, four general exhibitions, all entitled *Private Scrap Goes to War*, will be open to the public—one in Selfridge's in Oxford Street, another at Hammersmith, the third at Hackney and yet another in Lewisham. At Charing Cross underground station an exhibition *Private Scrap Builds a Bomber*, was opened on May 18 and will continue until the end of the drive. In some boroughs, the rates demand note is to be overprinted with suitable slogans, in others, local cinemas and theatres are being made available for the reception of books.



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THE SOURCE OF STYLE. [*From An Outline of European Architecture, by Nikolaus Pevsner (Pelican)*]. A style in art belongs to the world of mind, not the world of matter. Not all ages have considered, as ours does, functional soundness indispensable for æsthetic enjoyment. The position is similar with regard to materials. New materials may make new forms possible, and even call for new forms. Hence it is quite justifiable, if so many works on architecture (especially in England) have emphasized their importance. If in this book they have deliberately been kept in the background, the reason is that materials can become architecturally effective only when the architect instils into them an æsthetic meaning. Architecture is not the product of materials and purposes—nor by the way of social conditions—but of the changing spirits of changing ages. It is the spirit of an age that pervades its social life, its religion, its scholarship and its arts. The Gothic style was not created because somebody invented rib-vaulting. The Gothic spirit existed and expressed itself in rib-vaults, as has been proved, before the constructional possibilities of the rib had been discovered. The Modern Movement did not come into being because steel frame and reinforced concrete construction had been worked out—but they were worked out because a new spirit required them.

Mr. F. Leslie Wallis has been **ELECTED PRESIDENT** of **BINC** in succession to Mr. R. Coppock. Mr. Wallis is President of NFBTE, which he represents on the National Joint Council of the Building Industry and BINC. He is also Vice-Chairman of the Advisory Council of the Building Industry, appointed by MOW.

The Federation of Greater London Master Builders has decided to DELETE GREATER LONDON from its title.

At an extraordinary meeting, held in London, the President said: Having regard to the present strength of the Federation, over 2,000 members and the fact that it has now organized the whole of the London Civil Defence Region and some of the outlying districts into 37 Area Offices, there can be no reason why the Federation should not proceed to develop nationally by means of Area Offices on the same basis as that on which success in London has been attained. The best means of achieving this end would be by the deletion of the two words Greater London from the existing title and the mobilization of provincial builders as individual firms rather than *en bloc* through an existing association.

Letters from Mr. W. H. Ansell, P.R.I.B.A., and Mr. Arthur W. Kenyon, chairman of the London Regional Reconstruction Committee of the RIBA, appeared in The Times last week, concerning the STEPS NECESSARY BEFORE ORGANIZED BUILDING CAN BEGIN AGAIN.

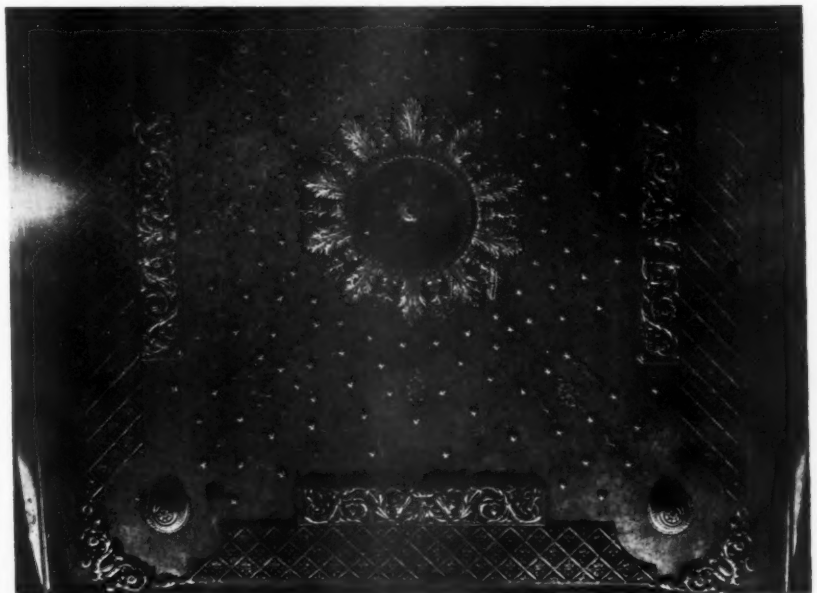
In his letter Mr. Ansell says: Nothing should be done which will impede the actual war effort, but that being assured, the Government should accept the Uthwatt committee's land proposals, or produce some of its own, so that local planning may be freed. The nature and extent of priorities should be determined and announced, based on the national need and the resources available. Those in control of projected building development should be encouraged to go ahead with plans within the limits imposed, and the architectural profession should be instructed to proceed with drawings,

so that at the end of the war and the consequent demobilization of building craftsmen there will be work ready for them to do. In his letter Mr. Kenyon says: Before all else comes Government decision and action on the several reports affecting the control and purchase of land. Without this control and the enlargement of the powers of authority the piece-meal destruction and misuse of our country, which has prevailed hitherto, will continue. An overriding necessity will be the co-ordination of the different interests concerned, such as transport of all kinds, redistribution of industry, needs of housing, etc. The full implication of these cannot be realized until the first sketches have been made for a master plan of Britain covering all aspects of physical reconstruction which concern the whole country. It is not possible for local authorities to fix suitable sites for housing, etc., until planning takes place and until they can be sure the sites they select are properly related with regard to industry, social amenities, and welfare. Selecting sites regardless of planning has proved a failure in the past. It is only after careful investigation of the needs of the country that local authorities can act. It is the creation of a master plan which would provide a programme to which the regional areas can work.

The RIBA has issued a scale of FEES FOR FARM WORKERS' COTTAGES. The scale is published in full on page 340.

The Theatre Royal at Bristol was opened last week by CEMA as the FIRST STATE THEATRE IN ENGLAND.

The theatre was designed by Mr. James Paty, a Bristol architect, and opened in 1766. It possesses unique features in the proscenium doors, the cat walks, and the thunder-run above the stage. Of historical importance also is the stage machinery for raising, hanging and fixing the scenery by the sloat, drum-and-shaft and grooves respectively. Threatened with demolition to make room for a warehouse the theatre was saved by the action of local trustees and has been reconstructed by Mr. J. Ralph Edwards, A.R.W.A., F.R.I.B.A. See also pages 326, 328 and 329.



The ceiling to the auditorium of the Theatre Royal, Bristol—England's first State Theatre, opened last week under the management of CEMA.



Leading Spirit of the First State Theatre

The Theatre Royal, Bristol, rang up its curtain, on May 11, under the ægis of CEMA. It is the oldest theatre in England and the first to be run by the State. Designed by James Paty, a Bristol architect, and opened in 1766, it was to be pulled down a year ago to make room for a warehouse, but the citizens opened an appeal fund, appointed trustees, and Mr. Ralph Edwards reconstructed the theatre. CEMA, a body wholly supported out of State funds, has now taken over the management from the trustees, hoping to hand the enterprise back to Bristol unencumbered with debt for local administration. The theatre is still largely in its eighteenth century shape but is newly dressed in Georgian green, pink and gold. Lord Keynes, world-famous as an economist, is also chairman of CEMA. Under his leadership the Council has made its first venture into theatre management. Friend of Roger Fry and Duncan

Grant, and husband of Lopokova, he has for years been a potent force in the cultural life of the country. He was born at Cambridge in 1883 and educated at Eton and King's. From 1906-8 he was at the India Office, from 1915-19 at the Treasury, from January to June, 1919, was principal representative of the Treasury at the Paris Peace Conference and Deputy for the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the Supreme Economic Council, and from 1929-31 a member of the Committee on Finance and Industry. He is a Fellow and Bursar of King's College, Cambridge, a Fellow of Eton College, a member of the Chancellor of the Exchequer's Consultation Committee, a director of the Bank of England, and author of the Keynes Plan for an international clearing union, debated in the House of Commons last week. Photographs of the theatre, and notes by Astragal appear on pages 325 and 328-9.

In the House of Commons Mr. Rostron Duckworth asked the Parliamentary Secretary to MOW why local authorities are permitted an expenditure of up to £250 per house in the case of war damage, whereas private owners are ONLY TO BE PERMITTED TO EXPEND £200 PER HOUSE, while the need is the same in both cases?

The Parliamentary Secretary to MOW (Mr. Hicks): Under the special scheme for the repair by local authorities of some 40,000 war damaged houses in England and Wales, the authorized average expenditure per house has been fixed at £200. Licences under Defence Regulation 56A are not required in these cases, but private owners wishing to do their own repairs must obtain a licence where the total amount spent on the property in any period of 12 months exceeds £100. The grant of a licence is dependent upon the facts of each case and is not determined by an arbitrary money limit such as that mentioned in the Question. For houses comparable with those being repaired under the special scheme, a broadly equivalent standard is now being applied provided labour and materials are available in the district.

An advisory committee on town planning has been appointed to collect views regarding EDINBURGH OF THE FUTURE.

The committee will consist of Sir Thomas B. Whitson, former Lord Provost, Sir J. Donald Pollock, Rector of Edinburgh University, and Mr. J. L. Clyde, K.C., who will act as legal assessor. Lord Provost Darling said, at a meeting of the City Council, that the committee will examine the broad basis of planning the Edinburgh of the future.

Mr. Anthony M. Chitty, F.R.I.B.A., A.A.DIPL., M.A., has been appointed SENIOR ARCHITECT, POST-WAR BUILDING, MOW.

The Tribunal of Appeal set up under the Architects Registration Act, 1938, under the chairmanship of Mr. J. H. Thorpe, K.C., to hear Appeals from persons whose applications for registration have been REJECTED BY THE ARCHITECTS REGISTRATION COUNCIL, sat in Edinburgh at the offices of the Royal Incorporation of Architects of Scotland on April 28 to hear Scottish Appeals, and on May 1 at the RIBA for the further hearing of English Appeals. Since the commencement of their work, the Tribunal have heard seventy-nine Appeals, of which twenty-two have been allowed and fifty-seven dismissed.

“SPRAT OF A BILL”

THE debate before the Second Reading of the Town and Country Planning (Interim Development) Bill* took place in the Commons on May 11. Part of this is reported on pages 330 to 336. The attendance of Members was exceptionally small. At one time only fifteen were present in the chamber. What is the reason for this lack of interest by our Government representatives in so vital a subject? Was it merely because M.P.s accept the Bill as a necessary interim move and are holding their fire for the more important Bills which we are told are to follow? Does it, on the other hand, reflect mass apathy towards the future planning of the country? Was the low attendance due to a natural reaction to the wording of the Bill, whose uninspiring legal jargon must have been incomprehensible to most Members of Parliament? Or did this lack of interest represent something far more significant and disturbing?

In trying to answer such questions, we are compelled to reconsider a certain ugly suspicion. Is apathy to planning due to a feeling of frustration and powerlessness? If so, something drastic must be done. Courage, plain speaking and integrity are urgently needed if all the fine hopes about reconstruction are not to be deliberately shelved immediately peace is declared.

Are certain vested interests the real brake on progress? If this contention is untrue or exaggerated and our democracy is as real as we would wish, only a little more enthusiasm by M.P.s on a matter which will vitally affect not only the health and happiness of the people of this country in the future but also their will to victory in the present can disprove it. Even though the Bill may be a stop-gap, more M.P.s should surely have taken an interest if only to urge the Government to greater action. Too much of the evidence supports the contention that the Government's hands are tied. Why is progress so slow? Why is all this incomprehensible, time-devouring legal ballyhoo necessary if the objective is clear, unless those who frame it realise that “to be intelligible is to be found out”? Why is the present Governmental machinery and organisation for post-war planning constructed like a Heath Robinson fantasy, when any normal and un-specialised intelligence could provide on paper after one hour of clear cogitation, far more effective, straightforward and simple a machine? Why has so little of any real practical value yet been accomplished in spite of a vast degree of effort on the part of so many groups and individuals? Why is it possible for a Minister of Health, with the support of the Treasury, to take the bit (and not his own bit) between his teeth on the matter of post-war housing, apparently without consultation with the new Ministry which should be primarily concerned?

Again, in answering these questions, the same suspicion arises

*A copy of the Bill can be obtained from H.M. Stationery Office, price 3d.

that somewhere inside the hub a brake is being applied and that certain power groups in the country, whether consciously or not, do not intend the new Ministry to be anything but a temporary and ineffectual sop to be snatched away as soon as the war ends.

There may be nothing wrong with the new Bill so far as it goes. But it is a very timid Bill and like the previous town planning Bills it is almost entirely negative with the chief advantage that it is intended, at least, to act as a freezing measure to prevent new building from thwarting potential planning schemes.

Mr. Morrison's speech, and indeed the Bill itself, gives the impression that he is trying to do his best in a well-meaning way against impossible odds, for he made a few promises about future Bills which are obviously desirable. Nevertheless most of the few Members present at the debate, though they accepted the Bill so far as it went, were not satisfied with progress, and rightly so. The following are a few typical remarks made.

Mr. Arthur Greenwood : For Heaven's sake let us know how we are going to march into the new world after the war. Where are we going to stand on this question of land ownership and control? Unless we know that, the whole outlook is quite hopeless. I want bold measures and I want them early.

Mr. Bosson : Is not this Bill something like using a sledge-hammer to crack a monkey nut? What is sorely needed is a statement of the main items of the policy of the Government. Without such a statement practically nothing can be done. Until we know about the settled policy on fundamental matters, such as the control of land and the Government's financial contributions, the work on the map itself, so to speak, cannot be started.

Mr. Moelwyn Hughes : It is rather dismal to see this House devoting its first serious attention to post-war town and country planning upon a miserable sprat of a Bill like this, and speaking as a comparatively junior Member, I deplore the fact that so little interest in this vital matter is being taken by hon. and right hon. Members of this House.

Mr. Mander : That is really the acid test, whether we are to make real progress in future or are to go timidly forward by one little step like this to another little step. I do not believe that that will satisfy the country. There are vested interests. Against them the Government will have to stand.

Mr. Silkin : I think this Bill has been prematurely born. It would have been better if my right hon. Friend had waited until he could have introduced a Bill of considerably wider scope.

Mr. Hutchinson : Land ownership does not give you planning. It is control of land which gives you planning.

That final remark was perhaps the most sensible in the whole debate, for ownership to-day does not necessarily imply control either in land or in the means of production. The point of control to-day lies in the power to issue and destroy credit. "Permit me to issue and control the money of a nation," declared a Rothschild in 1790, "and I care not who makes its laws." Members of Parliament are regrettably unaware of such truths and in fact of all matters relating to the grim goddess of Finance. Until the Government gains control of the nation's own credit, and from that essential point of departure proceeds to control and plan the land in the common interest on the basis of real wealth before money, "all talk of post-war planning, reconstruction and re-development" will be, as Mr. Silkin put it in the debate, "pure mockery."



The Architects' Journal

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N O T E S & T O P I C S

LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND THE BILL

One useful point at least will have been gained by the new Bill—the power MOTCP will have to disapprove of schemes advanced by local authorities. "I am all for democracy, but when I see the town planning committees of local authorities, I am forced to the conclusion that they have as much idea of beauty and of planning architecture as a child unborn," said Mr. MacLaren during the debate on the Bill. This remark raises a very important issue to which I intend to return.

THEATRE ROYAL, BRISTOL

Early last year the Theatre Royal, Bristol, was knocked down for £10,500 to a firm of auctioneers acting on behalf of an unnamed client. To save it from the indignity of becoming a warehouse, an appeal was launched and a local trust fund was inaugurated by the citizens of Bristol, who have now managed to acquire the theatre, with the help of the Council for the Encouragement of Music and the Arts. CEMA, a body under the Board of Education and wholly supported out of Treasury funds, has taken over the costs of equipment and management, hoping in time to hand the theatre back debt-free to Bristol for local administration. This, the oldest working theatre in the Kingdom, can thus be called the first State theatre in the country. It was opened last week with the production of the only possible play, Oliver Goldsmith's *She Stoops to Conquer*, in which Dame Sybil



Photo by R. F. Wills, by permission of J. Ralph Edwards.

The Theatre Royal, Bristol, has been saved by a local fund started by the Council for the Preservation of Ancient Bristol, and also by the timely help of CEMA. See Astragal's note and page 325. The photograph was taken before the new decorations were made.

Thorndyke took the part of Mrs. Hardcastle.

★

Very few eighteenth-century theatres remain, for they habitually burned to the ground every twenty years. But the Theatre Royal, Bristol, has somehow escaped fire during its hundred and seventy-seven years. More miraculously, like St. Paul's, it has also escaped the bombs, which have devastated the area around it.

★

The theatre was built in 1766 as a new experiment in theatre planning, for it was the first in the country to have seats rising in tiers in a semi-circle from the orchestra pit. Originally the ceiling was horizontal, and from its centre probably hung a huge chandelier throwing its effulgence over auditorium and stage. In 1800, the back edge of the ceiling was raised to provide room for a gallery, which has, no doubt, rather spoiled the charm of what must originally have been a simple and delightful interior. Some hold, with conviction, that the existing ceiling with its

gilded ornament—which is illustrated on a previous page, and is, as you see, a fine one—dates from 1766. Not only its character but also the improbability that the engineering skill of the time could have raised such a ceiling intact some twenty feet, suggests, however, that the ceiling dates from the time the new gallery was built. The theatre was redecorated in 1830 and also, most disgracefully, of course, in 1860, when a new orchestra pit was built. Most of the present ornaments are not original, for at the time the theatre was built it is likely that the surfaces were flat but enriched with decorative paintings. Much of the original colour has now been redeemed and the “grained” woodwork removed by Mr. J. Ralph Edwards, the architect who has been responsible for the war-time austerity decoration of the theatre.

A good part of the theatre, including the side boxes, still remains as it was when David Garrick first spoke his prologue there at the opening performance. James Paty,

the local Bristol architect who designed the theatre, provided such remaining unique features as a “thunder run,” a wooden trough high in the rafters down which cannon balls were rolled, “cat walks,” and stage machinery for moving scenery by means known in the technical jargon as the “sloat,” “drum-and-shaft” and “grooves.”

★

It is pleasing—to put it mildly—to know that the theatre has been saved, for here once sat George IV in the Royal box, and here at different times Mrs. Siddons, the Kembles, Kean, Macready, Irving and Ellen Terry helped to form that intangible *stimmung* that only the passing of the people of many generations can give to a place. An unpatriotic word, maybe, this *stimmung*, but one for which unfortunately no exact equivalent exists in the English language. The nearest word to it is “atmosphere,” a thing the planners of the future must not be so callow as to ignore and of which the small Theatre Royal at Bristol contains so much.

ASTRAGAL

The new Town and Country (Interim Development) Bill was presented by Mr. W. S. Morrison, the Minister of Town and Country Planning, last month. The Bill has been read a second time in the lower House and it will now pass through the Committee stage. The following is an extract of the Official Report (Hansard) of the debate which took place before the Second Reading on May 11. The objects of the Bill, said Mr. Morrison, are to extend planning control throughout England and Wales and to strengthen control over development in the interim period, while schemes are being prepared.

HOUSE OF COMMONS DEBATE

Town and Country (Interim Development) Bill

Mr. W. S. Morrison : (The Minister of Town and Country Planning, U.). I must say straight away that this Bill is but the forerunner of several Bills that must inevitably follow if the real new structure of town and country planning is to be erected. Our object is to secure that the land of this country shall be put to the best use in the public interest, that it shall be used to the best interests of all the people in the towns and the countryside. This object is an extremely practical one. It is not merely a question of what our towns and countryside are like to look at—it is a question of what they are like to live in, to be born in (which is very important)—to grow up in, to work in and to play in.

It is not my view that there is any necessary conflict between beauty on the one hand and utility on the other. Indeed, beauty, health and convenience should be sought together. They do not hinder each other but they powerfully reinforce each other. Nor do I find any antagonism between the interests of town and country in this task.

I hope in the meantime that interim development authorities will bear this matter in mind, and that if permission is sought to build on land of high agricultural value, they will consider whether there is not other land of lower fertility available. In this task they can avail themselves of the advice of my Regional Planning Officers, who in this regard will work in concert with the Rural Land Utilisation Officers set up by my right hon. Friend the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries. It is not only a national interest, but it is a good thing for dwellers in cities that they should have, for example, vegetables and dairy produce which have been produced near their homes, and so have a chance of getting those commodities cheap and fresh.

I need not rehearse the various considerations which have compelled those who have considered the subject to adopt the idea of a national central planning authority. The House accepted the fact in the Bill passed last February which set up this Ministry and which is the cause of my being here to-day. The matter was put in this way in the Uthwatt Report, paragraph 17:

"The system which we regard as necessary for an effective reconstruction, and which we have therefore assumed, is one of national planning with a high degree of initiation and control by the central planning authority, which will have national as well as local considerations in mind, will base its action on organised research into the social and economic aspects of the use and development of land, and will have the backing of national financial resources, when necessary, for a proper execution of policy."

That summary shows that the task of the new

Ministry is a vast one. It must be based on organised research into the social and economic aspects of the development and use of land. That research in itself is a formidable undertaking, and how many are the problems involved in this matter will be evident to anyone who has read those three admirable documents, the Report of the Royal Commission on the Distribution of the Industrial Population, which was presided over by Sir Montague Barlow, and the Reports of the Committees presided over respectively by Lord Justice Scott and Mr. Justice Uthwatt.

It is clear that the task before us involves a complete overhaul of the law and practice of planning, as well as research, and the study of those financial and administrative questions to which I have alluded. In tackling an undertaking of this size I think the first thing to do after you have surveyed the ground is to determine your order of priority of action. Work must go on simultaneously over the whole field, but legislation must put first things first. This Bill is, in my view, clearly the first step that must be taken.

The word interim has about it a somewhat temporary, stopgap sound; but that is not its meaning in connection with the Title of this Bill. Interim development is an inevitable stage in any planning machinery. It is that development which takes place between the time when the planning authority passes a resolution to plan and the final conferring of statutory force upon the planning scheme. At present about five per cent. of the area of England and Wales is subject to statutory schemes which are in force. The remainder is either not subject to a planning resolution at all or is in the stage of interim development. When this Bill is passed interim development will cover 95 per cent. of the land of England and Wales, the other five per cent. being already subject to statutory schemes. Therefore, the words interim development far from being a limitation of the Bill, is that term which is appropriate to express that stage of development at which control will be exercised over 95 per cent. of England and Wales.

The objects of the Bill are twofold. The first is to extend planning control throughout England and Wales, and the second is to strengthen control over development in the interim period, that is to say, while schemes are being prepared. The first object is attained by Clause 1. There are many areas, including some which have been very badly damaged by bombs in our urban centres, which are not subject to any planning resolution at all and therefore are under no form of planning control. There are rural areas similarly situated. The effect of Clause 1 will be to bring under planning control some additional 10,000,000 acres of land. It is clearly right

that this should be done. It is high time that such authorities as have not hitherto thought fit to pass planning resolutions should enter upon this duty, and begin as soon as they can if we are not to lose this opportunity of reconstruction which the war, with all its evils, has conferred upon us. The period of three months allowed in the Clause is thought reasonable to enable those authorities which have not hitherto undertaken the task to make the necessary arrangements for their new duties. As this inauguration of planning obligation and liability is now made universal by Statute instead of being left to the choice of authorities, it is thought that the elaborate provisions contained in the law as it stands for notices and registers can and should be dispensed with, and this is done by Sub-section (2).

Clause 2 deals with two matters in the existing law which I ask the House to agree with me in thinking are out of place in the conception of national planning and post-war reconstruction. The first matter is existing buildings, and the second matter is the peacetime procedure and time limits for dealing with applications for interim development. Let me take first existing buildings, dealt with in Sub-section (1). In that Sub-section there is a reference to a proviso to Sub-section (3) of Section 10 of the principal Act. That proviso in the older Act secured certain rights to owners of buildings which are destroyed or demolished which enable them to replace those buildings on those sites with similar buildings. In our present circumstances, this cuts right across planned reconstruction, and is therefore abolished by this Sub-section. It was appropriate enough perhaps—although I will not argue it now—in peacetime, when the demolition of buildings was rarely accidental but was done with a view to subsequent rebuilding. A provision of this sort, when the bombs of the enemy have destroyed and demolished so many buildings, would clearly cut across the conception of reconstruction if every pre-existing building retained its right of replacement.

Sub-sections (2) and (3) deal with the procedure and the time-table, and make changes on which local authorities set great store. Under the present law, that is, the Act of 1932, a man can make application in the interim period to develop land which may cover a large area. Whether he is able to carry out that development or not is irrelevant. The local authority has to deal with such an application within two months. Otherwise, the application is deemed to have been granted. If the subsequent scheme interferes with the building, certain rights of compensation arise. Such applications, which I may describe as being of a claim-staking nature, are now being made even though the work cannot be done in our present circumstances, and the local

authority is placed in a very awkward and, in my view, undesirable position, with regard to them, particularly in war-time. Not only are those authorities burdened with many duties and with very short staffs, but the penalties for failure to deal with the matter in two months are very severe on the local authority. The damage done falls upon the community.

Sub-section (2) enables the authority, if faced with such an application, to serve a notice of postponement upon the applicant unless he can show that the work would be done immediately if the application were granted. The House knows how difficult it is, while the war lasts, to get any building done. That means that, in order to show that he could proceed with the work, he would need, in most cases, to produce a licence from some Government Department to show that the building was needed in the general interests of the prosecution of the war. Sub-section (3) in effect makes the two months period work the other way round. An application is deemed to have been refused if it is not granted or otherwise dealt with in that period, instead of being deemed to have been granted, if not refused.

The object of Clause 3 is to enable an interim development authority to permit development for a limited period and then to remove the buildings at the end of that period without paying any additional compensation. Our old friend the existing building crops up again here. Owing to the destruction in our cities, it may be vital to the community that buildings of a temporary character should be provided in advance of the permanent reconstruction, such as the creation of a temporary shopping centre in a blitzed-out locality in a town. It would be in the public interest if such buildings were erected for a set period, whose duration was known in advance, while the permanent reconstruction went on, even if, in the meantime, they were placed on sites which are finally destined for a road, or an open space or used for some other purpose.

Under the law as it stands there is some doubt whether works erected under temporary permission may not legally be "existing buildings," with all the rights of replacement or of compensation in default which arise therefrom. If that is so, it would defeat the object of erecting temporary buildings for a set period. The common sense course seems to be to allow the owner to put up a building for a limited period without this burden of extra compensation falling upon the interim development authority, but the owner should retain in this respect such rights of compensation as he would otherwise have in respect of a restriction placed upon the use of the site for purposes of a scheme. I confess that the Clause looks complicated and obscure, but that is because the principal Measure to which it refers is both these things, when it deals with this topic. I have given the House the general effect of the Clause, and I will be glad to answer in Committee about the details of it.

Clause 4 gives power to the interim development authority, with the Minister's consent, to revoke or vary permission for interim development which has already been given. There are two main reasons for this. One brings us back again to the existing building, a creature of peace-time so difficult to fit into the post-war reconstruction period. The effect is that until the Bill becomes law the rights of owners to replacement of existing buildings remain. As Clause 2 is not retrospective, the interim development authorities would be compelled to grant permission to replace existing buildings, however bad that might be from the public point of view. I would remind the House that until Clause 2 is law, permissions for bad use of land may have been, or may be, given by default. It is clear that, with the vast problems of reconstruction facing local authorities and the chance of writing not only on a clean slate, but on a cleaner slate than in peace-time, power to revoke or vary these permissions should exist. The problems of reconstruction which now face planning authorities are so vast as to be insoluble under that rigid peace-time procedure. A plan which is good to-day may be

very bad to-morrow, because war damage may entirely alter the situation and involve the formulation of an altogether new plan. Safeguards against the abuse of the power to vary or revoke are provided by Sub-sections (2) and (3). Sub-section (4) deals with compensation, which is also later referred to in Clause 7.

I now come to Clause 5. In my view this Clause takes a much-needed step to make control over interim development real instead of illusory, as it now is in many cases. At present the developer, if he applies for interim development permission and is refused, can go ahead in defiance of the interim development authority and can use his land as he pleases. A certain penalty and ultimate sanction may await him, when the scheme comes into statutory operation; though that may be years ahead, because there are appeals against provisions and much procedure to be got through but the only penalty which falls upon this contumacious developer is that when the scheme comes into operation at the distant date, his building may be removed without compensation. I can imagine that where the building is expensive in relation to the expense of the land, that is a very real sanction, but the boot is on the other leg when it comes to buildings which are trifling in comparison to the cost of the land.

Take the case of a petrol station. Permission to erect has been refused by the interim development authority. While the planning scheme is passing through the various stages towards completion, the petrol station, even though it offends against every principle of decent planning and may be an eyesore to the whole neighbourhood, may, in that period, recoup itself with sufficient profits. The man can view with equanimity the removal of his pumps because he will still have the land, which is much more valuable than the pumps. We must give power of effective control during the interim period without waiting for an ultimate sanction at some distant date. That is what the Clause does.

Clause 6 is very important. It gives the Minister of Town and Country Planning new powers of control over decisions of the interim development authorities in regard to interim development. The present position is, that if an interim development authority refuses an application, there is an appeal to the Minister against the refusal. If the interim development authority decides to grant a permission, there is no power on earth to prevent it. It is obvious that such a position is inconsistent with national planning, because damage can be done by wrongfully giving permission just as by refusing it. If you refuse, you do at least maintain the *status quo*, whereas if permission is given for something that is contrary to national reconstruction damage is done which may be irretrievable for a generation. In the past, some local authorities have permitted development which has been the cause of bitter complaint locally. I think hon. Members would agree that it is time we altered the law in this respect.

I should like to say a word or two about national reconstruction which may be jeopardised or damaged by wrongfully giving permission for interim development. I need not give the House a list of them, but there are matters like Defence, or the location of industry or national roads. Coming nearer home to my own Department, there are such desirable projects as national parks, and the preservation of our coastline. These things may be jeopardised for a generation by permission given by an interim development authority for interim development inconsistent with the maintenance of the amenities and beauties of those two areas of our country. We have had some damage already by ill-considered building on the coast, and that ought to be enough to convince the House that this power of control by the central planning authority is overdue.

I earlier mentioned Clause 7. It gives the right of compensation for abortive expenditure in two cases where the Bill confers power to prevent development which was properly begun or contracted for—in the first place,

where permission is refused to complete work done before there was any need to obtain permission, that is to say, in the case of existing buildings and so on; and, secondly, where permission already granted is revoked under the powers sought under Clause 4. In this case compensation can be paid for abortive expenditure. Clause 8 makes important provisions with regard to joint committees. There are large numbers of these bodies in the country, and they are doing, on the whole, excellent work in planning up and down the country under the powers they have got. Under Section 3 of the 1932 Act, these joint committees can prepare and adopt schemes, but it is held that this does not enable them to act as interim development authorities for the purpose of controlling interim development as we seek to do it in this Bill. Sub-section (1) of Clause 8 enables them to be appointed in this capacity. Sub-section (3) introduces another change of substance with regard to these joint committees. At present a joint committee can only be appointed at the request of one of the authorities which is to be a constituent of it. Under Sub-section (3) the Minister can appoint a joint committee if he thinks it appropriate without any such request from one of the constituent bodies.

This seems to me to be an appropriate place to say a few words briefly about planning authorities in general. It is quite clear that the administrative boundaries of local authorities are rarely, except by accident, ideal for planning purposes. I take an ordinary case where an administrative boundary between two authorities is a river. If you are to plan a river, you must plan both banks at the same time, as is now being done on Merseyside, where the local authorities, realizing that the river must be treated as one unit for planning purposes, have come together to plan it jointly. They have the assistance of an expert from my Department to advise them, who goes there at their own request. Planning boundaries are never, and can never, be the same as administrative boundaries. For the purposes of this Bill I have adopted the lay-out of local authorities contained in the principal Act. That is not to say that I think them in all cases to be the best authorities for planning purposes. There would clearly, for example, be frustration of planning if every county district were to narrow its view to its own boundaries. To plan effectively, you must have regard to the widest area you can and take it as a whole. I hope by the aid of this Clause, and by the co-operation of local authorities, to make the best use of the existing authorities to secure this end. But if, as a result of the various proposals put forward by associations of local government bodies, there is to be a review of the functions of local authorities, then their functions as planners of town and country must also be re-considered in any such general review. There is this further point. This Bill greatly eases the problems of local authorities with regard to planning, and eases them for all time, I hope. It asserts for the first time a measure of control by the central planning authority over their activities. Later legislation will need to be introduced to state the will of Parliament with regard to more positive action to secure reconstruction, and it may well be that, in connection with powers of this positive character, we may require to consider afresh the authorities who are to exercise them. In the meantime I think we can do good work with this Bill as it is drafted, and we shall go ahead and see what we can do.

The remaining Clauses and the Schedules to this Bill are in the main formal and consequential, and there is nothing in them to which I need at this stage draw the attention of the House. In an old settled country like this there can be no easy road to effective planning. To reach our goal we shall have technicalities and controversies enough and to spare, now and in the future. But I hope that in arguing how these and future proposals affect private and local interests, we shall always bear in mind the object which we have in view.

Mr. Arthur Greenwood: (Lab., Wakefield). Our town and our country planning legislation, although it has been cumbersome, although it has been slow in operation and execution, has achievements to its credit, and those achievements ought not to be despised, but few people who care about the objects of town and country planning legislation can be satisfied with the progress that has been made. The real reason is—and I think we have got to face it, and I am not doing so in any narrow sort of controversial spirit—that we have not yet faced up to what is a fundamental question, the actual ownership of land and the form of control of land, if any. Legislation such as there has been, has been, so to speak, tentative from the time of the first Act in 1909 onwards, and largely because we have burked this major issue.

As regards the present Bill, I regard it as a useful Bill; I think it is a necessary Bill. It is an advance; it stretches the existing laws and the powers of the Minister. It makes certain improvements in the law which would have been difficult to effect under ordinary peace-time conditions. Therefore, the Bill is to be welcomed. I hope, and I am certain, that my right hon. Friend will exercise his powers to the full when the Bill is on the Statute Book. But the country is really awaiting decisions on the major issues. I do not agree that we can carry on the war merely by banning all controversy in this House. A little healthy controversy does this House no harm; often, it does it good. These issues must be faced sooner or later. We have been talking about them for two and a quarter years, and we have reached no decision on any big question.

There are four questions crying out for solution. The first is the future of land ownership and control. On that I can conceive that a Government composed of all the political parties is not likely to reach any agreement, other than a compromise agreement, on a question which is highly controversial; but for Heaven's sake let us know how we are going to march into the new world after the war. Where are we going to stand on this question of land ownership and control? Unless we know that, the whole outlook is quite hopeless. Secondly, people want to know about the Uthwatt Reports. They have been in the hands of the Government for some time. I fully appreciate that they raise difficulties, but the public want to know, particularly in the blitzed areas. All those local authorities are, naturally, gravely concerned. Thirdly, there is the question of how we are to achieve, leaving aside the question of ownership and control, the best use of our land and natural resources; and coupled with that is the question of the proper location of industry.

Unless, long before the end of hostilities, the broad lines of policy on the issues which are bound to arise in this Debate have been laid down and agreed, and the necessary legislation passed in the years after the war, the future efficiency of these little Islands will be greatly imperilled, and what beauty and amenities are still left to us seriously threatened, or even in large measure destroyed. While I accept the Bill—although we may talk about it on the Committee stage—I ask the Government to accept the implications of their past declarations and actions, without delay. My plea is a simple one. I want bold measures, and I want them early—for two reasons. I ask for the salvation of Britain from the despoilers. I ask for the best use of our lands, our harbours, and natural resources, for the prosperity and welfare of our people.

Mr. Bossom: (U., Maidstone). Planning is not only legislation. Planning is a physical thing; it is some work which has got to be done. It does not matter what legislation we pass in this House: it will not make any difference to the town or country unless the architects are informed and allowed to get to work. The nation's architects are available. There are thousands of them ready, willing, and able to go right

on with this work, without in any way interfering with our war effort. They are standing by, anxious to go ahead. And due to this, frankly, I am worried by the Bill which indicates how the mind of the Ministry is working. I believe that although the Minister is particularly anxious to get ahead in this matter, he has to a certain extent lost sight of certain of the vitals of this national planning situation. The principal Act was ineffectual for several reasons, and even if these are now all removed, the Bill will still not do much to meet the present war-time realities. It states, for example, "that areas not already under Resolution shall (now) be deemed to have been duly passed by the local authority" and "to have been approved by the Minister." This, I fear, is but little more than a pious hope and will continue so until we can get the Government's lead on many points of planning policy, so that men can get ahead and do the actual planning. It is no use saying that they are going to make their plans, if they do not know the governing conditions for which they are to plan. 'It is no use asking a man to design a house if you do not tell him the use and kind of house you desire. Local authorities will not be able actually to make progress until the Government have announced their general overriding principles which are the root that will control the trunk of our post-war planning. Ten regional advisers have been appointed, we were told by the Minister, and these advisers may be very good planners, but I believe that their knowledge of architecture is strictly limited. I understand—and I think I am justified in calling attention to this—that the Minister has received complaints about these advisers having little if any architectural knowledge. But, really, is not this Bill something like using a sledge hammer to crack a monkey nut? Why take up the precious time of Parliament at this period of the war with a matter of this kind? Are we not being asked to do something which really could be accomplished in a much simpler way.

Why not follow the example of the Minister of Works? It is impossible during the war to build without getting a permit from him, and why not introduce, purely as a war Measure, a short Order in Council, a standstill Order, on the existing 1932 Town and Country Planning Act? That would easily provide for anything that we can do under this Bill. The Ministry could then get on with the work needed for the actual planning itself.

What is so sorely needed is a statement of the main items of the policy of the Government. Without such a statement, practically nothing can be done. There are a few vital and indispensable matters which must be explained to the nation and debated in this House, such as the stabilization or not or some alteration of land treatment, its control and cost. There should be some definite information as to the policy of the Government as to what is proposed with regard to the financial aid that will be given to local authorities; without that it is literally impossible to make much progress. Until we know about the settled policy on fundamental matters, such as the control of land and the Government's financial contributions, the work on the map itself, so to speak, cannot be started.

The war is marching on, and I believe that it will take not less than 18 months from the time that these principles are laid before this House and when actual building could be started. We are going to require our building industry to help materially with re-employment, and there is little doubt that there is 18 months' intensive work of many varieties between the time Parliament gets these principles and the time when they can be translated into practical use.

May I hope that the Minister, now that he has introduced this Bill, will be able to get it through all its stages as quickly as possible and that he will then concentrate on the real measures of planning which require to be decided and for which both the country as a whole and practically all the local authorities are most anxiously waiting?

Mr. Jewson: (Lib. Nat., Great Yarmouth). It is most urgent that we should get on with our plans and preparations, and I ask for an assurance that this Bill, which in many respects is admirable, will not mean delay in that respect. There was some indication in my right hon. Friend's speech that this was the beginning of simplification of methods for builders, so that they will no longer have to deal with half-a-dozen Ministries in addition to local authorities. I hope that is true and that we shall be able to speed up matters.

I would like to know whether that means that the Minister has to take cognisance of the whole of our country from shore to shore so that he will have to deal with coast erosion and land reclamation.

Mr. Moelwyn Hughes: (Lab., Carmarthen). I have to confess that it is rather dismal to see this House devoting its first serious attention to post-war town and country planning upon a miserable sprat of a Bill like this, and to say, as a comparatively junior Member, I deplore the fact that so little interest in this vital matter is being taken by hon. and right hon. Members of this House.

Not only is the Bill out at heel but it is also out of time. The Minister in introducing it described it as the forerunner of other measures. I would draw the attention of the House to the proper order of dealing with post-war planning. The Uthwatt Committee, when they advised on this matter, said:

"In the legislation which we assume would be introduced at an early date on the subject by a central planning authority, provision should be made for vesting in that authority power to control building and other developments throughout the whole country by reference to national planning considerations and with a view to work being undertaken which might be prejudicial to reconstruction." That is the procession as outlined by the Committee. First of all, an effective planning central authority; secondly, a master plan, giving the main considerations on national grounds that are to be applied to this country and, finally, a method of closing up the gaps, by powers to prevent wrongful development. Obviously, a master plan could not be created in a day. That is the procession—the Lord Mayor's coach; the panoply of uniforms and, bringing up the rear, the corporation dust-cart. Here we have turned the procession the wrong way round. This Bill, designed to fill up the gaps, has put the Corporation dust-cart in front of the procession. This Bill is completely out of time and, I suggest, is also out of date. It is, in its own terms, to be understood by this House only with reference to the Act of 1932. It is in the whole of its format tied to legislation which has been proved deficient and defective and, in fact, a lamentable failure. Let us not forget that, before the war started, they had all had 6½ years in which to put the Town and Country Planning Act into operation. This Bill does nothing but put the Minister of Town and Country Planning in the same position as the laggard and poor authorities. Therefore, I submit that it is out of date.

I suggest also that it is out of step with the needs of to-day. Preceding speakers have emphasized that the needs of to-day are to plan ahead and to start doing it now. Building cannot start without local plans and local plans cannot be effective, from a point of view which receives acceptance throughout the whole House, unless they are dependent upon a general national plan. Unless we have the plans ready, we will have at the end of the war the same, perhaps even more chaotic conditions than we had after the last war.

Sir Francis Fremantle: (U., St. Albans).

This is a small Bill. The Minister has pointed out that it is an interim Bill dealing with interim planning, but it does not therefore deserve the name of miserable. I take it that this is a stop-gap Measure which is necessary before we proceed to the later stages of plan-

ning. But the first Measure necessary in planning, the use of the land, must be negative to prevent further mischief being done against the public interest before we can decide what can positively be done. Right mention has been made by two or three speakers of the fact that the question of the land lies at the basis of it. Several of our colleagues hold the doctrine that land ought not to be private property but should belong entirely to the State. But, whatever happens, let us recognise that land is private property and is rightfully owned, however it has been acquired.

Mr. Charles William: (Deputy Speaker). I think we are getting rather wide of the actual Bill.

Sir F. Fremantle: The interim development Orders deal with the actual coercion of the use of private property in land, and, as has been wisely said, private property is the essence of a free people, and, if planning measures interfere with property, which is the essence of a free people, let us recognise that we have to be extremely tender towards the owners of land of one kind or another, and such speeches as the last do not show any tenderness whatever. The slowness of this procedure is really due to the fact that the development which is being interfered with and controlled has hitherto been considered the right use by owners, and we have to consider these interim measures in that sense. Therefore I do not share the criticisms made of successive Governments in the slow development of this process of planning. It seems to me that, if we are to get sound planning, we must go *pari passu* with sound public opinion. We have our eyes fixed on the Promised Land, the Kingdom of Heaven, which we want to see promoted in our generation. At the same time that is not the opinion of the great mass of the people. They take particular interest in their own objects and desires, but have no idea of general planning, and there is a severe danger from all this planning legislation if it goes ahead of public opinion too quickly.

The Bill depends largely upon the work of local authorities, and that is the proper way of trying to bridge over the gap between the enthusiasts in and out of the House, among whom I number myself, and the common people, who have the decision to make through their representatives in Parliament and otherwise. We have, therefore, to see to what extent the local authorities are really fit people to carry out these measures. The 1919 Act first of all gave power to have joint town planning committees, and it is largely, I take it, on those joint committees that the Minister really rested his case for the Bill. As an old medical officer of health, I have considerable experience of joint committees of various kinds, and I have not been impressed with their value. They bring us up against the old difficulty of serving two masters. To get a common policy and keen action from a joint committee as a whole is very much like the difficulty of getting the co-ordination of the Fighting Services in actual warfare, to which we have rightly heard such tribute to-day. It can be done and is done in the Fighting Services, and it is done in several joint committees where there are two or three strong commanding personalities who join them together. I therefore hope that we may possibly see a solution of our planning difficulties through joint town planning committees.

Of the 1,465 local authorities which are at present responsible for preparing planning schemes, 1,195 have prepared or are preparing schemes, but many of them are unable to take the larger view. That only reinforces the general view of how important it is for us in the post-war years to try to promote the credit of service in local government. Not nearly enough is done in that way. If we want to improve the service of local government, we want to educate the rising generation in its value and public opinion generally to the

great credit that is due to those who serve in local government and give up their time to it. If we can stress the great possibilities of doing national service in establishing peace after the war in several ways through local government, we shall do a great deal towards getting more efficient planning not only in this but in other directions.

I have always tried to suggest to the different bodies of which I have been a member that there are really three separate phases in planning. The difficulty arises largely from the fact that we mix up these three phases. The first is a national phase. That includes such things as national parks and coastlines, communications, highways and railways, and different aspects of national service. That is the first phase of planning, which must be laid down from the centre. The second phase can only be planned after the first phase has been established. That phase deals with the region or the area. For that we want the county councils, the county borough councils and joint committees to take part. There is great objection from local authorities to regionalisation, but it is essential for this purpose. We must not forget the third phase, because a large amount of criticism arises from our forgetting it; it is concerned with the people living on the spot who are concerned with the actual planning of their neighbourhood—houses, parks, shops and so on. That is the matter that can and should be entrusted largely to the local councils. We cannot expect them to do it on the right lines until they have had edicts on the central phase and the regional phase. These three phases are not only definite in idea but definite in time, and I hope we shall be able to improve our planning by establishing our procedure on those three lines.

Another point I should like to urge upon the House is that although one is keen on planning in the direction that one believes one should plan, let us beware of too much standardisation and of too much detailed planning for eternity. Not only do ideas change but architecture changes. An hon. Member suggested that we should commit everything to the architect, but architects change remarkably in their ideas of what is right, proper, expedient and beautiful, even in our own lifetime. They are changing now, and if we are going to fix the ideas of our plans now—and many of them will last for centuries—we must beware of making them too fixed and not sufficiently mobile. What would have happened, for instance, if we had had a plan for London definitely fixed up before the days of the railways? Towns had grown up with the idea of foot and horse traffic, foot traffic for the local needs and horse traffic for communications. Then the railways came, and they could only establish themselves at different points round what was then London. Mr. Gladstone proposed that even then there should be undertaken the big job of getting one central station for the whole of London, but it was found impracticable to do it. We are very glad that that idea did not come to fruition, because I am sure that it is more suitable to have what we now have, not only the nine railway stations in different parts of London, but the communications between them which have only become possible during the last two or three decades.

Viscount Hinchinbrooke:

(U., Dorset, Southern). On that showing it would surely be better to have a single station in the heart of London.

Sir F. Fremantle: One might say that through short-sightedness a single station in the centre—

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We are getting a little out of date in this conversation.

Sir F. Fremantle: These interim plans deal very much with the future lay-out of towns. What

would happen if we planned now, and in 10, 20 or 30 years' time most of our communications were carried on by air? Our present plans will be liable to be upset very much, especially when we live in an era when autogyros might drop down on this House and elsewhere. It is a question of going slow.

Mr. Mander: (Lib., Wolverhampton).

We all agree that this Bill is one that must pass. It is an excellent Measure so far as it goes, but it goes a disappointingly small way. There is no reason why it should not have been introduced one and a half years ago or why at the present time it should not include a number of other desirable projects.

There is agreement among Members of all parties on the lines that I have indicated, there are vested interests. Against them the Government will have to stand, and they will do so successfully if they act with courage and resolution, as recent examples have shown in this House.

I am sorry that this Measure does not include, as I think it ought to, some reference to the following matters: The first is the giving of power to local authorities to buy land. That was promised a year and a half ago, and I cannot see why it should not have been included in this Bill. Then there is the question of the location of industry—the Barlow Report—which affects everything in relation to planning. Whether that is to be under the Board of Trade or not is a matter which will have to be decided. Its main objects are to reduce density in the large towns, to build more round the small towns, to create a certain number of new towns and to avoid so far as practicable putting any buildings upon fertile land. Then there are the two problems dealt with in the Uthwatt Report, the leasing of development rights and the periodic levy in respect of increase in value. Those are absolutely vital to any progress in planning. I notice that only to-day in *The Times* the President of the Royal Institute of British Architects, Mr. Ansell, made reference to these very points and stressed the urgency of a decision on these matters. We shall not be able to do anything effective in the way of planning, in the way of preventing ribbon development or the preservation of national parks unless we take steps to deal with compensation. Compensation is at the root of the whole problem, and you cannot deal with compensation without adopting, as I think, the proposals in particular of the Uthwatt Report.

With regard to Clause 6, I imagine that the Minister is intending to make use of his regional planning officers where the particular authority concerned has no planning department. There are certain areas in which planning could not be done because there is no planning department and there are no planning officers. I imagine the Minister intends to use his own regional officers for the purpose of seeing that the work is carried out, and shall be glad to know whether that is what is contemplated. In sub-section (3) of Clause 8 an important new power is taken to set up joint planning authorities on the initiative of the Minister. That is an important and valuable point. I should like to know whether the Minister also possesses the power, of his own volition, to divide up some of the existing joint planning authorities, because in certain cases they are too large and really need to be divided into smaller areas. Can he himself do that if in any instance the local planning authorities do not seem to realise the importance of it.

Mr. W. S. Morrison: I think that is provided for in sub-section (4), which says:

"A joint committee constituted by order of the Minister under the said section four or under any enactment repealed by the principal Act may be dissolved by a subsequent order of the Minister whether or not that order provides for the constitution of any other joint committee."

Mr. MacLaren : (Lab., Burslem). We have treated this land as if it had been something to be hacked about, sold at market prices, and to get the best price you could, without due regard to what the land really means. Out of the land, the souls of men grow. From the land, people derive the spirit which makes them what they are. Man's liberty is itself determined by the land he has and the amount of access to it and freedom of use of it he has. If we had any instinct or sense of beauty we should feel like the Greeks of old, that we could burst into rebellion at the sight of something ugly; but no. For the last 100 years, this country has been desecrated.

We are in the deadly grip of war again. May hon. Members forgive me for reminding them that on two occasions in this House I have said that when the soldiers come back from the war we must resolve that the land becomes the property of the State, and do so without compunction. What does the new plan mean? New roads, new towns, new transport and new aerodromes. Can we do one tithe of all this if the land is held in the bondage of private ownership? I deny it. It is false for us to talk about replanning if our efforts are to be blocked step by step in our attempts to replan this asset of ours. Therefore I welcome the Bill, humble as it is, because it is at least the beginning of an acknowledgment of the principle, which men should never have forgotten, that the land of the community is the property of the community and that how it is used and planned is the business of those who represent the community as the executive Government of the day. That principle is now being recognised, although, God knows, it is miles away yet. There is nothing more simple in politics and economics than to cut straight through all the hypocrisy built up in one way or another, and to declare by Order in Council that the first ugly thing that appears on the land will result in the man who is responsible for it—

Major Sir Edward Cadogan : (U., Bolton). Who will decide whether the thing is ugly or not?

Mr. MacLaren : I should think the Gentleman and I would be able to do that for a start. I should have thought that we all know what ugliness is, more or less. (An Hon. Member: "No.") If we do not—well, that is how I would regard the matter. I was dealing with the complicated Act of 1932, which now necessitates another complicated Bill, small though it is, in which the Minister proposes to take power to control future development. He will prohibit any attempt at development which does not conform to certain standards and concepts of beauty. I welcome such a Bill, and I hope the Minister will have courage to drive it home. I would remind him that a lot of local authorities are represented here. There is a word I want to say to local authorities generally. I am all for democracy, but when I see the town planning committees of local authorities, I am forced to the conclusion that they have as much idea of beauty and of planning architecture as has a child unborn. Those pork butchers, grocers, and the rest of them, we shall find, if we are not careful, with pieces of land that they are packing on to the council anyhow. I would have taken that power out of the hands of those gentlemen long ago.

Mr. Marshall : (Lab., Sheffield, Brightside). On a point of Order. As a Member who has been chairman of a town planning committee, I want to resent those remarks, as a gratuitous insult.

Mr. MacLaren : I am not specifying. The hon. Member's committee may have been a perfect one. Was it in Sheffield?

Mr. Marshall : Yes.

Mr. MacLaren : Sheffield is a beautiful city.

Mr. Marshall : It is as good as yours.

Mr. MacLaren : Perhaps it is, but I am dealing with the principle of the thing. Local authorities have shown their utter incompetence to deal with these problems, and I am glad that the Minister has taken a hand. I am glad that the Minister is taking this power to disapprove of schemes advanced by local authorities. If there are local authorities who show that they have an appreciation of what is meant by proper town planning, good luck to them.

I am glad also that this Bill contains powers to examine retrospectively schemes that have already been passed. While I am approving of it in the main, I am not for a moment suggesting that it meets all that a person like myself would desire, but at least it is the beginning of something.

Major York : (U., Ripon). The hon. Member for Burslem wishes to have all the land taken right away from the private owner, but could we not use this Bill to take a different but equally large step forward, and to state the belief of a large number, at any rate a growing number, of the more progressive landowners, that to hold land is one of the greatest privileges that a citizen of this country can have, and that it must be used—and this covers my hon. Friend's point—with careful regard to the welfare of the community?

Mr. Silkin : (Lab., Peckham). I think it a pity that this Bill was introduced at all. It is a very puny child to what I hope would have been a very lusty parent. I think this Bill has been prematurely born. It would have been better if my right hon. Friend had waited until he could have introduced a Bill of considerably wider scope.

There is no reference in this Bill to the very vital question of finance. My right hon. Friend is imposing upon local authorities considerably increased responsibilities. If those authorities are to carry out those responsibilities as my right hon. Friend wishes them to do, it will involve them in considerable liabilities. Who is going to pay? Local authorities are going to ask him that question in no uncertain terms. Until they know the answer, it is natural that action should be rather slow. It is a pity that my right hon. Friend was not able in this Bill to supply the answer to that question.

If your planning is determined by the high cost of land you are not planning at all. That is not the criterion my right hon. Friend would wish to impose, and it is a matter with which he has to deal. It cannot be left in the air. If it is left entirely to local authorities, you will not get planning and open spaces where they are needed. You will not get open spaces in the East End of London, because the cost of land is too high, and local authorities are not prepared to face up to high costs, because if they did they would have to put it on the rates.

My right hon. Friend referred to his desire, and the desire of all of us, to preserve agricultural land. Agricultural land is not preserved under the Town and Country Planning Act, and he has done nothing in this Bill to preserve agricultural land. I wonder why.

My right hon. Friend referred to the need for architectural beauty in development. I agree with him. Architectural beauty should not be the one criterion, but it is an important factor in planning. He has done nothing in the Bill to strengthen control in order to enable local authorities and himself to secure appropriate and comprehensive architectural treatment, particularly in regard to buildings which are in important centres. Suppose he was desirous of redeveloping Abingdon Street and Millbank, where houses are coming down at the present time. Neither the local authority

nor the Minister himself has any power to secure the comprehensive architectural treatment of that land. It is open to each separate owner of land to come along with a scheme and as long as it complies with the town planning scheme, local authorities have no power to refuse, and they will have no power when this Bill is through. It is a pity the right hon. Gentleman did not secure powers to enable the comprehensive treatment of such an area to be insisted upon. I would have preferred the Minister to have presented to this House, even though some delay would have occurred, a complete picture of what he proposed to do.

I welcome this Bill without prejudice and on the understanding that it is only the beginning of a further Measure, or Measures, which will enable complete planning powers to be conferred upon local authorities and the Ministry, which I regard as essential and without which, in my view, all talk of post-war planning, reconstruction and re-development is pure mockery.

Mr. Hutchinson : (U., Ilford). First, there is the problem of the acquisition of land for the urgent housing programmes which will have to be undertaken immediately the war is over; and, in the second place, there is the problem of the reconstruction of the areas which have been destroyed by enemy action.

Both those problems raise the question of the cost of the acquisition of land. They do not, as I understand them, raise the question of compensation. The Uthwatt Committee, throughout their Report, make no proposal for dealing with the cost of the acquisition of land. They concern themselves with the question of compensation only in relation to undeveloped areas. But my right hon. Friend's chief problems do not arise in undeveloped areas. His chief problems arise in those areas which are now in need of redevelopment.

The right hon. Gentleman the Member for Wakefield said that the urgent question was that of land ownership. I noticed that whenever he used the expression "land ownership" he coupled it with "land control." Land ownership does not give you planning. It is control of land which gives you planning, and it is planning that is wanted.

It is quite impossible to carry out any comprehensive scheme of planning unless one has full powers to plan communications. The time has come when what the country requires is a complete scheme of new trunk roads linking up the main centres of industry and population. The Minister of Town and Country Planning is the right person to plan that aspect of the post-war world.

One of the advantages of the joint planning committee is that it enables an authority which possesses the necessary financial resources to employ the technical staff which is essential for successful planning, and which possesses the drive and energy necessary to carry the scheme into effect, to combine with an authority which is not able to provide these things for itself. It is a great advantage, and the proposal in the Bill that the Minister shall be able to form joint planning committees without a request from any of the authorities concerned represents a great step forward in constructional planning.

Mr. Price : (Lab., Forest of Dean). I congratulate my right hon. Friend on his first appearance as Minister in charge of a Bill, but I suggest to him that he will have to produce something in the future more comprehensive than the Bill before us today. I admit that he has his difficulties. He has to work on difficult material, the material of the Town and Country Planning Act of 1932. That Bill itself was the product of a compromise, a compromise between those interested in planning and those interested in holding land for speculative purposes. In consequence that Bill was a jumble of Clauses which, to any layman, were almost incomprehensible. The present Bill really continues

that process of compromise without going down to the roots of the matter.

The State must assume responsibility for acquiring the public development value of land as from a certain date. When that has been done it will not be difficult, I think, to get local authorities to go ahead wholeheartedly with planning schemes.

There must be, firstly, a national planning authority which shall supervise the work of the local authorities, and secondly there must be some means of financing compensation. The way to do that is pointed out, I think, by the Uthwatt Report—that is by acquiring the development rights in land.

Dr. Haden Guest : (Lab., Islington, North). I agree that this is a Bill which must be brought in, but I wish to ask the Government what exactly it is they want to do by planning. This Bill sets up important methods of control, which are essential, but when you come down to detailed criticisms you discover there are a good many holes to be picked in this procedure. One cannot help feeling that there are people who are hypnotized by the word "planning," and who think it has some special meaning of its own. Some people almost want to plan for planning's sake and nothing else. I really believe that just as some people of a certain political faith have Lenin corners in their rooms, these people have planning corners in their rooms, with the word "planning" in large capital letters. They do not know what it means, and I certainly do not know what it means in their minds. What is the policy? We have had a lot of talk about the architectural side of the business. I am in favour of well-designed houses, streets and cities, and it is quite clear that when you are rebuilding, you want to rebuild well, but that is not enough. The life of this country does not depend upon beautiful buildings, it will not depend in the future on beautiful buildings. It will depend on the work of its industries, on agriculture, on the life of the country, and the planning of the life of the country—I use the word without a capital "P"—must depend upon the organization of its industries and the organization of work on the land.

It is no use trying to plan your country with the assistance of a large number of architects while leaving economics as a secondary consideration. The life of this country depends upon urban industry, upon agriculture and, of course, upon international trade. We do not want a cosmetic plan of the future, we want an economic plan.

The right hon. Gentleman now has a staff, I presume, but he appears to be looking into a tangle of administrative and legislative technicalities in order to find a policy, which he cannot find except in a survey of economic and social conditions.

In the matter of the main industries of the country, take the example of coal. You cannot plan the future of this country on any large scale unless you know what is to happen to the coal industry. In the last few days there has been published a report by the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee recommending a great increase of research work in connection with the coal industry. Is anything like that to be implemented? Are we to develop great new industries on top of the ordinary coal industry by the help, as is suggested, of scientific research? If we are it will revolutionize the condition of whole areas. It might revolutionize conditions in South Wales if we create new industries—and in that way create a whole lot of new problems for the planners. I will refer to it only in passing, but the same considerations apply to the cotton and the other textile industries, and to the great new plastics industry which we all hope will develop in this country. With regard to agriculture, is anyone prepared to go back to a policy of major importation of agricultural products, supplemented by minor production of agricultural products at home; or are we to continue having the larger part of our agricultural produce produced in this country,

supplementing that by a minor quantity of imports?

Mr. McKie : (U., Galloway). Will the hon. Member be prepared to follow that to its logical conclusion, if necessary, in the post-war world?

Mr. Charles Williams : (Deputy Speaker). No, the hon. Member cannot do that now.

Dr. Haden Guest : It cannot be done in this Debate, but if the hon. Member will do me the kindness to look up earlier Debates in this House, among them a much earlier Debate on the beet sugar subsidies, he will find—

Mr. Deputy-Speaker : I must ask the hon. Member not to go back to that earlier history.

Dr. Guest : I bow to your Ruling, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, and I do not wish to go any further on that line. I would ask the Minister some questions. The right hon. Gentleman seeks new powers, in a Bill which is one of the most perfect examples I remember of legislation by reference. I think the Minister ought to have the powers, but if he gets them will he use them? When the Parliamentary Secretary replies to the Debate, I hope he will tell us whether the powers the Minister now has, are being used, and whether the powers in the hands of the Ministry of Health in regard to building are being used. On inquiry, I think he will find that they are not being used. This is a very important matter, when planning is so much in the air. I hope the Parliamentary Secretary will also tell us whether planners are trained, what schools there are for planners and what the qualifications of planners are. I believe that some people appointed as planners have had extremely little training, if any at all, and that they would benefit very much from a course in elementary economics and some business experience.

At what are the Government aiming? Until they have decided that question, it is secondary to decide what is to be the exact kind of architecture in a town or the elevation of public buildings. I confess that I should like to get rid of the word "planning," which has become an obsession with many people. I should like to get down to considerations of policy in economic and social organization. What is the policy of the Minister and the Government in regard to future economic and social development in this country? Upon the answer depend all questions of what is called planning and the relationship of industry and towns with agriculture and the countryside.

In regard to the beauty, romance and poetry of the countryside, many good words are spoken but there is also a good deal of what one might call "poppycock" talked about that kind of thing. Real beauty is the beauty of use. I do not particularly ask the Government to consider architectural designs for this and that street. That is a secondary consideration. If the economic and social foundations are right, all those considerations as to beauty will follow. Beauty follows utility, if the utility is directed to human and social ends, and not to the ends of profiteering.

Mr. Muff : (Lab., Kingston-upon-Hull, East). I am glad to have had the privilege of intervening in this Debate on this abortion of a Bill and rather prematurely born child of the Minister of Town and Country Planning, because a city which was scheduled before September 4, 1939, as a depressed area, with a rate of 20s. 6d. in the £ at the present juncture, wants something more than improvisations from the right hon. Gentleman.

Mr. Sexton : (Lab., Barnard Castle). People are beginning to suggest that this Government is one of reports, and that the results of the report are the noises of blank shot. We want no blank shot; we

want something definite. We want, first, planning, and then, as early as possible after the war, doing. No real planning and no real doing can be undertaken, by local authorities or others, until the fundamentals of the land question can be laid. I am not going to advocate land nationalisation, because I know the Government, with its present constitution, would not give it. We have been told by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Wakefield (Mr. Greenwood) that with a coalition Government a compromise is the only thing we could get on the question of the land. The country wants to know what that compromise is.

I re-emphasise that some prompt declaration by the Government as to their attitude towards these three great major Reports should be given as early as possible. Personally, I am of the opinion that if that declaration by the Government had been made, there would have been little need for this present Bill. This Bill will appeal to the countryside as a continuation of the policy of evading the tackling of this most important problem. This Bill may be of some value, but that value will be infinitesimal compared with the whole problem.

Mr. Marshall : It is curious how one can hear the different conceptions of the duties of a planning Minister. My hon. Friend the Member for North Islington (Dr. Haden Guest) sought to invest the Minister with all the functions appertaining to the Minister of Health, the Minister of Agriculture, the President of the Board of Trade, and wanted him to express his decisions about plastics, textiles, agriculture and various other things. If we invest the new Town and Country Planning Minister with powers of that kind, he will become a sort of super-Prime Minister. As I conceive his functions, they are to deal with matters of physical planning.

I now come to the most important Clause of the Bill. That is Clause 6. I think the House must agree that the Minister is taking unto himself exceedingly large powers. It is peculiar that most speakers seem to have missed this, that under these powers the Minister will virtually become an interim development authority. Under this Clause he can take that power away from local authorities for a temporary period, probably for a permanent period. In short, he can stop building of all descriptions and can say that he is doing it in the public interest. We must not be under any illusions about this Clause. It vests the Minister with great powers in regard to planning, but I want to say boldly and straight that I think the Minister ought to have these powers. I want, however, to put this qualification. There is no consideration of finance in the Bill, and local authorities will have a point of view upon this. I have already heard it whispered that they object to investing the Minister with power that will take a certain function out of their hands, that will make certain decisions and leave them liable for heavy compensation. I do not think it is the Minister's intention to use the power in that way, but certain local authorities have been backward in their planning duties, and I think it would be as well if they felt the power of the Minister in this way. But there are good local authorities, and they are rather apprehensive about it. If the Minister is to make a decision which may have the effect of taking rateable value from their areas, I think he ought to give some financial help to those areas. Otherwise, they would be suffering at both ends; they would not get their rateable value, and they would have to pay compensation for losing it.

Mr. Henry Strauss : (The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Town and Country Planning, U.). I have a difficult task in winding up a Debate which has covered so wide a range and to which so many important contributions have been made.

Numerous speakers have asked why we are not forthwith adopting the recommendations of the Scott and Uthwatt Reports. Perhaps

the simple and short answer is that in several important respects that is precisely what we are doing. The fundamental proposal in the first Clause is an emphatic recommendation both of the Scott and Uthwatt Reports; so are the provisions of Clause 6, and so are the most important provisions of Clause 2 (1). I think, therefore, our critics who say that we are not dealing with those Reports might take the trouble to read them, and also the Bill, before they make that comment. Nothing could be further from the fact. I should have thought it was obvious that there were two points in Mr. Justice Uthwatt's view which should have clear priority. The first is the setting-up of a central planning authority, and the second is to make planning immediately applicable to the whole country.

As regards the central planning authority, the Minister without Portfolio announced in December that the Government did not adopt the precise suggestion of the Scott and Uthwatt Reports but proposed to set up a Ministry of Town and Country Planning instead. That was subsequently done by legislation, to which the House assented without a division. So on the first point, though we have not adopted the precise proposals of the Reports, the Government have given the reasons why they did not. They have produced their alternative scheme, and that scheme has received the unanimous approval of the House. As for the next point, hon. Members have only to read paragraph 136 of the Uthwatt Report, on which Clause 1 of the Bill is substantially founded. The Bill does not do a whole number of things on some of which the Government have already indicated their attitude and said they will legislate, while on others the Government admittedly have not yet made up their mind. For this last I am not going to make the slightest apology. The modern idea that it is best to decide first and to think afterwards is not one that the Government propose to adopt. Nine months is not at all too long to consider all the proposals of the Uthwatt Report. I submit with some confidence that, if you forget for a moment your criticisms of the Bill for what it does not contain, you should, if you approve of the establishment of a central planning authority at all, commend every Clause that is actually in the Bill, and, if you find yourself in general agreement with every Clause that is in the Bill it is quite illogical to criticise it and its introduction now, unless you take the extraordinary view that the Bill is not long enough. I take the view that the most businesslike way of legislating on this subject—and I think there is no Member of the House who for a greater number of years has been eager to legislate than myself—is to deal with one topic at a time, and we are logically dealing with the first one first.

My right hon. Friend the Member for Wakefield (Mr. Greenwood), described this Bill as a useful and necessary Measure. I accept his decision, which presumably also represents the view of his party. He went on to say that he required further Measures later. Again I agree with him. He is going to have them.

Mr. Moelwyn Hughes : How soon?

Mr. Strauss : I do not know how soon. I am not going to give any dates. That is one of the reasons for introducing first the Bill which embodies those provisions which are urgently needed to-day, on the representation of every association of local authorities, in order that we may hold the position and prevent adverse development from taking place or being authorised and so compromising the future, whatever the decision may be on some of the undecided points. My hon. Friend the Member for Maidstone (Mr. Bossom) confused me by his attitude, which I did not fully understand. He seemed to think it a very bad Bill and, as a rather paradoxical corollary, hoped that it would be put on the Statute Book as soon as possible.

Mr. Bossom : I am afraid that my hon. Friend did not listen very effectively. I suggested that the Bill should be got through as quickly as possible, so that he and his Minister might go ahead and do the things that are vitally needed.

Mr. Strauss : I am sorry if I misunderstood my hon. Friend, but when he says that it should be got through as soon as possible, I presumed he meant putting it on the Statute Book. I cannot believe that he would advocate a Bill which is bad being put on the Statute Book in order to get later something else which is better. If he really believes that bad Bills should be put on the Statute Book, I have no further comment to make.

I must apologise for having been out of the House when my hon. Friend the Member for St. Albans (Sir F. Fremantle) was making his speech. I have had a word with him since, and I do not think he raised any matters on which he wished a specific answer, but I promise him I will study his speech.

Mr. Muff : He said, "Do not be too revolutionary."

Mr. Strauss : I am not going to argue the merits of ownership on this occasion, but I hope that Members who are sincerely interested in this great problem of planning will not think that any decision on the question of ownership would solve the very difficult and urgent problems with which we have to deal.

Mr. MacLaren : Will the hon. Gentleman allow me, for the sake of accuracy and form, to say that I think I made it quite clear that I welcomed the Bill, although holding strong views as to ownership. I welcomed the Bill because it gives control over development.

Mr. Strauss : Let me say at once that this Bill does three main things. It extends planning to the whole country, it gives increased powers to local authorities which they are very eager to have, and finally, and not least important, it gives immensely increased powers of control to the central planning authority.

The Government have already undertaken, as regards the acquisition of land, to enter into discussions with the local authorities regarding the question of financial assistance towards specific purposes forming part of the new plans. That was said by my right hon. and learned Friend the Minister without Portfolio on December 1 last. The Government further agree that, in those discussions, regard would be had to any cost falling on local authorities by reason of the exercise of powers under the Clause in so far as it would otherwise fall on the Exchequer in connection with any general restriction on the use of land which may be imposed by subsequent legislation. Many of the purposes, moreover, for which land will be reserved will be purposes which attract a Government grant or subsidy, and any cost incurred in respect of an interim decision made in connection with such a purpose can more conveniently be considered in relation to such a grant; and to the special case where the purpose is to enable a Government Department ultimately to purchase the land special consideration will be given.

The hon. Member also raised a question about architecture. I think the House is aware that the question of architecture is one which I have always had very much at heart. I agree with everything that has been said, during the Debate, about the great importance of that matter. Perhaps the House will therefore allow me to read one paragraph of the first circular issued by the Minister of Works and Planning, with which my right hon. Friend has since expressed his complete agreement. It is:

"It is necessary in all planning schemes to consider not only health and convenience, but the future appearance of town or village. Architectural advice is therefore essential."

Sir Percy Hurd : (U., Devizes). Does that statement visualise the creation of panels of architects of local standing?

Mr. Strauss : Provision is certainly made enabling the Minister, before deciding upon any interim development application, to require consultation with such authorities as he thinks fit, and no doubt that will include panels of architects. Upon some important occasions it may be the Royal Fine Art Commission. Hon. Members can, no doubt, imagine other possible controls.

The hon. Member for the Forest of Dean (Mr. Price) expressed the view that we should deal with both the Scott and Uthwatt Reports first, before bringing in this Bill. That I have already dealt with. We are dealing in this Bill with the most urgent and immediate recommendations of the Scott and Uthwatt Reports. The hon. Member for North Islington (Dr. Haden Guest), apart from a very puzzling reference to the effect that planning ought to be cosmetic, which I did not understand—

Dr. Haden Guest : I said that it ought not to be cosmetic.

Mr. Strauss : That is only a little less obscure to me. No doubt the hon. Member will have that question out with the hon. and gallant Member the Senior Burgess for Oxford University (Petty Officer A. Herbert). It may be that he will find that what he meant was cosmetic; it may be that, on reconsideration, he will find that it was not. The greater part of his speech has already been answered by the hon. Member for the Brightside Division. With many of his individual statements, I may agree, but the general purport of his speech appeared to be that you should not plan anything until you can plan everything. That seems to me to be bad doctrine. If we cannot do anything about town and country planning until we are all agreed on what is to be the balance of industry and agriculture after the war, than I am afraid that some very unfortunate things will happen to town and country planning in the meantime. Although I quite agree with him on the importance of the questions he adumbrated, I assure him that they are not a ground for the postponement of the Bill. The Bill gives the Government powers which they most urgently need.

The hon. Member for East Hull (Mr. Muff) made a vigorous and indeed violent speech under a complete misapprehension of what the Bill is about. In fact, I am under the impression that he accidentally stepped into the wrong Debate. He seemed to think that this was an interim Bill and that there were a lot of interim things about it. If he had read the Bill, he would have found that what it referred to was interim development, which is a term of art under the chief Statute, the Town and Country Planning Act, 1932.

I would say, in conclusion, that I cannot hope that the ordinary layman will find this Bill exhilarating reading. It is too difficult to follow and to understand. What is he to make of the legal verbiage?

What, he asks, has it all to do with the Berkshire Downs or Sussex; with the magic of the Northumbrian and Norfolk coasts; with Pembroke or the glory of the Yorkshire Dales? How does it concern Ludlow and Farnham and York and Salisbury, and scores of villages and towns, whose compact and intimate beauty makes them the crown jewels of England? How will it help the vigorous North, and those very different cities whose mean and overcrowded streets provide unworthy shelter for their people? Will it prevent the repetition of Peacehaven and the foul ribbons of the bypass? Are we inexorably determined to stop such follies, and to prepare a worthy reconstruction? Mr. Speaker, we are so determined, if the House will arm us for our task. This is a first urgent and necessary Measure. I commend it to the House.

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	MEDIUM HARDBOARD A QUALITY	MEDIUM HARDBOARD K QUALITY	MEDIUM HARDBOARD FLAMEPROOF	MEDIUM HARDBOARD ANTPROOF	HARDBOARD	SUPER HARDBOARD
TYPICAL APPLICATION	Facings, furniture & fittings, panels, and exterior work.	Facings, furniture & fittings, panels, and internal linings generally.	As Medium Hardboard K.	As Medium Hardboard K.	As Medium Hardboard A, and where hard wearing qualities are required.	Structural linings, equipment, exhibitions, semi-permanent construction generally. Exterior panelling.
WORKING	May be cut with fine hand saw, bevelled, etc.	May be cut with fine hand saw, bevelled, etc., but only with textured face downwards.	As Medium Hardboard K.	As Medium Hardboard K.	As Medium Hardboard K.	As Medium Hardboard K.
JOINTING	Should not be butt jointed or fixed at edges. Use $\frac{1}{4}$ " open joints, with applied cover moulds.	As Medium Hardboard A.	As Medium Hardboard A.	As Medium Hardboard K.	As Medium Hardboard A. Where used as lining to shuttering for poured concrete, with $\frac{1}{32}$ " open joints.	As Hardboard.
NAILING	Panel pins or 1" tinned oval brads, down centre only.	Panel pins or 1" tinned oval brads, down centre only, or galvanized wire nails.	As Medium Hardboard K.	As Medium Hardboard K.	Tinned oval brads, or galvanized wire nails.	Tinned oval brads, or galvanized wire nails, (down centre only.)
FINISHES	Distemper, oil paint, enamel, varnish, stains, French polish. Suitable for cellulose finish.	As Medium Hardboard A. Unsuitable for cellulose finish.	Distemper, oil paint, enamel, stains.	As Medium Hardboard K.	As Medium Hardboard A. Smooth face, suitable for cellulose, to manufacturer's instructions.	As Hardboard.
REMARKS	External or internal use. Waterproofed.	Internal use only. Waterproofed.	Internal use only. Flameproofed.	For use where termites are experienced. Waterproofed.	Specially suitable for temporary shuttering. Waterproofed.	Specially suitable for movable centering. Waterproofed.

Issued by P.I.M. Board Co Ltd.

INFORMATION SHEET FIBRE BUILDING BOARDS 3: WORKING NOTES (continued).
 Sir John Burnet Tait and Lorne Architects One Montague Place Bedford Square London WC1

THE ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL
LIBRARY OF PLANNED INFORMATION
INFORMATION SHEET
• 896 •
BUILDING BOARDS
No. 3

Product : Sundeala Building Boards.

General :

This is the third Sheet of the series dealing with fibre building boards, and sets out some of the main characteristics of Sundeala. The notes given on Working, Jointing, Finishes, etc., are typical only of the grade of board concerned, and are intended as a general guide for the selection of boards most suitable for the particular work.

Physical properties of the grade of board shown are given in the first Sheet of this series.

Composition :

Sundeala medium hardboards and hardboards, consist of homogeneous wood cellulose fibre pulp. The latter variety is toughened and is of high density.

Typical Specification :

Sundeala (all qualities) for Walls, Ceilings, and Partitions.

Unpacking : Sundeala panels should be unpacked 48 hours before use and stacked loosely on edge in the place where they are to be fixed. A fine saw should be used for cutting, with the back of the panel downwards.

Ground Battening :

Ground battens should be stout, not less than $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. by $\frac{3}{4}$ in. Positions of battens should conform with the finished design and the size of board used. Battens should be fixed to the wall with plugs, or direct to breeze blocks previously built in for this purpose. A batten should be fixed behind every joint, and also intermediately. Insert horizontal battens at positions previously decided upon. These positions generally being at the heights of skirting, dado, chair, picture or plate rails, or cornice. Batten walls as described, and place at 16 in. or 18 in. centres. Nail to centre batten using 1 in. tinned oval brads, or galvanized wire nails, spaced about every 12 in. apart.

Nailing :

It is necessary when fixing panels to have a $\frac{1}{8}$ in. or $\frac{1}{4}$ in. space between adjoining panels to allow for slight movement under very damp conditions, and the edges should

not be nailed. Use as few nails as possible. Use 1 in. to $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. tinned oval brads or galvanized wire nails only, according to the thickness of the panel. Nail down centre only and stop in the usual way. 1 lb. of 1 in. tinned oval brads is sufficient to nail approximately 80 boards, using 12 nails per board.

Concrete Walls :

Well seasoned stout battens, approximately 2 in. by 1 in., with chamfered or bevelled edges, may be built in the concrete during the process of pouring. All vertical battens should be used and placed at centres of 16 in. or 18 in. apart. Panels are then applied in the ordinary way.

Partitions :

Temporary or permanent partitions may be built of Sundeala. This material is ideal for light walls above the ground floor and can be very quickly and easily erected on ordinary stud framing. The timbers used depend on the structural strength required, and when the studs and framing have been erected the panels may be nailed to both sides. The distance apart of the studs is determined by the width of the board : say in a four feet width the studs would be 16 in. apart. Horizontal nogging should be fixed every 24 in. to 36 in. apart and principally at the levels of skirting, dado or chair rail, plate rail, cornice, etc.

Ceilings :

Space joists in accordance with Bye-laws but always so that there is a joist behind the edges of the panels for nailing. Insert nogging between the joists. Nail the panels down the centre only. Panels may be held in position whilst fixing with a wooden T slightly longer than the height of the floor to ceiling. The joints should be covered with a suitable panel mould according to a previously prepared design.

Cover Mouldings :

Cover joints with wood mouldings and securely nail or screw centrally to batten, so that the nails or screws pass between the edges of the panels, making sure the nails or screws do not penetrate the panel. Leave the panels free for movement in the same manner as a door panel.

Previous Sheets :

Previous Sheets of this series are Nos. 893 and 895, dealing with technical data and working notes.

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The function of this feature is to record all current developments in planning and building technique throughout the world as recorded in technical publications, and statements of every kind whether official, private or commercial. The **Information Centre** attempts to supply an index and a digest of scientific data, the lack of which has for too long been a handicap both to the technician and the planner. Items are written by specialists of the highest authority who are not on the permanent staff of the Journal and views expressed are disinterested and objective. The Editors welcome information on all developments from any source, including manufacturers and contractors.

Physical

PLANNING

1144 Labour's Housing Policy

HOUSING AND PLANNING AFTER THE WAR (*The Labour Party's Post-war Policy*; April, 1943, 2d.). A policy of housing and planning which executive committee will present to Party's annual conference at Whitsun.

It is to-day universally recognized that the nation cannot any longer permit—

- (a) Unplanned and uncontrolled urban development;
- (b) the further growth of extensive concentrations of population;
- (c) their counterpart—the depressed areas;
- (d) inadequate open space;
- (e) bad traffic facilities causing congestion;
- (f) ribbon development;
- (g) the spoliation of an encroachment upon the countryside and agriculture.

Not only must the bombed towns be replanned but, if we are to avoid the chaos of the past, the new plans must be in accordance with the national plan. As a result the size, design and character of the new towns may well differ radically from the old. In these circumstances owners must be prevented from rebuilding so as to prejudice the proposed redevelopment.

The provision of housing accommodation (4,000,000 dwellings in 10 years), shops, essential factories, schools, hospitals and other public services must be urgently and immediately dealt with as soon as the war is over, together with the planning and redevelopment of our towns and the preservation of agriculture and the countryside. These two programmes must not be separate and distinct. The first must be an actual instalment of the long-term programme.

Housing and essential services must come first. Our resources must not be frittered away in erecting cinemas, luxury stores or similar buildings, nor even in restoring those that have suffered war damage. Prices must be firmly controlled.

Careful thought should now be given to methods of prefabricating parts of houses away from the site in order to secure maximum speed of erection. Site preparation should be started now, and the Treasury ban prohibiting capital expenditure on housing removed. Training of professional men should be treated as a reserved occupation.

Standards must not be lowered. Such amenities as refrigeration, central heating and central hot water will have to be provided for. It is becoming of ever greater urgency to abate the smoke nuisance in our large towns, largely attributable to the burning of coal in domestic grates. The all-electric house or flat has become very popular where electric charges have rendered it economically possible.

Regional officers of the Ministry of Works should schedule contractors, allocate all building contracts for and on behalf of local authorities, and see that work is carried out up to standard. The Ministry of Works should be responsible for the provision of adequate supplies of materials in the right place.

1,350,000 building trade operatives will be required. They must be guaranteed continuity and security of employment as well as guaranteed weekly earnings.

1145

RIBA Lecture

HOLIDAY USE OF COUNTRYSIDE.

John Dower (*RIBA Lecture*; March 31, 1943, reported in JOURNAL, April 22, pp. 274 to 275). Effect of increase of leisure, of popular appreciation of natural scenery and of

mechanical transport on use of countryside.

The four most important facilities needed for holiday areas in the country are:

- (1) Better accommodation for eating, sleeping, etc.
- (2) An improved road system.
- (3) Continuous public footpaths through farmed lands.
- (4) Free access over uncultivated lands.

STRUCTURE

1146

USA Timber Building

TIMBER STRUCTURES IN USA. L. P. Keith (*Civil Engineering [USA]*, October, 1942, pp. 559 to 562. *Abstract in Civil Engineering [London]*, March 1943, pp. 50 to 51). Saving steel by using timber. Speed of construction. Prefabrication. Increased span of structures. Use of smaller sizes of timber. Glued laminated wood. Timber-concrete construction. The Connector system. Increase of working stresses. Strength of timber under temporary loading. Saving by transference of load. Grading of timber according to strength.

The widespread use of timber in the USA to-day, particularly to replace steel, has been made possible by the progress which had been achieved before "defence" construction started in developing the rational utilization of wood. The results of a great deal of research and commercial experiment were available. The depression compelled the lumber industry to initiate and sponsor new ideas and methods. Subsequent developments whose merits have come to be realized are responsible for the role timber is now playing.

Progress has been made mainly in the following directions:—

First, the speed of construction has increased considerably. New forms of design make possible such records as the completion of a framed warehouse, 100 ft. by 320 ft., with 50 ft. trusses in 34 days after the letting of the contract.

Secondly, the considerable development of prefabrication has also added to the rapidity and ease of construction and prefabricated units can be dismantled and transported across the continent. In one section of the country about 83,000 cu. ft. of timber are fabricated into trusses and columns every day.

Thirdly, there appears to be no limit to the magnitude of structures that can be built in timber to-day. In 1941 trusses of 140 ft. span (spaced at 53 ft.

centres) and later glued laminated wood arches of 152 ft. span (spaced at 10 ft. centres) attracted attention. In June, 1942, plans were prepared for a single building to be roofed with 5,000 trusses of 25 ft. span, 700 of 75 ft. span and 120 of 150 ft. span, with four monorails on the lower chord each adding a load of 5,000 lb. All this is dwarfed by plans for a timber building 1,000 ft. long, that is to have trusses with a clear span of 250 ft.

Smaller sizes of timber, which may often be locally available, can now be used in the newer forms of construction. This saves transport and increases the quantity of material available.

Glued laminated wood construction for beams, columns and arches is one of the principal recent developments. No metal is required and timber which might otherwise be useless can be employed advantageously. In the parts of the beam or arch where the stresses are slight low-grade material can be used. This type of construction has a great future because very fine architectural effects can be secured.

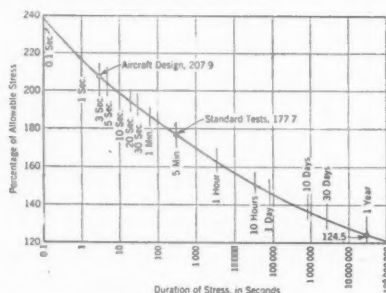
Another new type of structure is a combination of timber and concrete for floor construction. A topping of concrete is bonded to a treated timber base of the slab type by means of triangular metal plates. Several timber bridges have been provided with a concrete wearing surface by this method.

The *Connector* system is a third modern development in timber construction. It was first used in Europe after the last war when it was found to be an answer to a large rehabilitation programme coping with shortages of materials and manpower. It has since been greatly developed and some 18,000 strength tests have been made to ensure the most economical use of timber. Basically, metal ring connectors, concentric on a bolt, magnify the area available for transferring loads to many times that available from a bolt without connectors. One pound of metal so used with wood in trusses takes the place of 11 to 12 lb. of structural steel. Connections or joints of trusses are provided by lapping the pieces, which are often relatively wide in comparison with their thickness.

During the war, designs should generally be based on the use of material of lower quality, as higher stress-grade timber is now worked up for special purposes such as aircraft. In the case of steel the increased working stress now permitted in USA was mentioned in Information Centre Item No. 1030. In timber design such an increase need not reduce the factor of safety if advantage is taken of increased load bearing capacity for temporary loading. Tests show that a safe static load of one year would be only 70 per cent. of that which would cause failure, when applied for 5 minutes. In determining working stresses, a factor of $\frac{0}{10}$ is applied to the ultimate strength



Creosoted timber base of a Delaware Bridge. Triangular plates, called Shear Developers, are embedded in the concrete slab.



Test results on the relationship between duration of loading and strength of wood in bending.

values after 5 minutes loading for conversion to a value for permanent loading. Increased stresses are particularly important for the design of airplanes. On a main structural part of a plane, the duration of maximum stress such as that occurring in a sharp pull out of a dive or manoeuvre, is assumed to be 3 sec. Examples from building are temporary loads resulting from snow or wind. Thus, since the duration of the maximum wind load is considered to be 5 min., the justifiable increase of the load for timber would be 77.8 per cent., though building codes frequently limit increases for timber to those for other materials or compromise between them. This property of timber also explains why it is safe to run high-speed trains across timber bridges built before such speeds were contemplated.

QUESTIONS

and answers

THE Information Centre answers any question about architecture, building, or the professions and trades within the building industry. It does so free of charge, and its help is available to any member of the industry. Answers are sent direct to enquirers as soon as they have been prepared. The service is confidential, and in no case is the identity of an enquirer disclosed to a third party. Questions should be sent to: THE ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL, 45, The Avenue, Cheam, Surrey

1147

Pipe Corrosion

Q The kitchen in my house is fitted with a boiler for the supply of hot water. I cannot say how long this boiler has been in use, but recently the tank at the fire started leaking.

This leak was apparently mended, but shortly afterwards the boiler became almost red hot and water hissed out of the same leak, without the bulk of the water in the system becoming hot. A plumber was sent for and he stated that this was apparently due to corrosion in the pipes, and suggested that the system would need to be fitted with new pipes.

This, however, is an expensive matter, and I wondered if his diagnosis was correct; if so, is there any chemical means of removing the corrosion, which is presumably water fur.

A If the pipes are badly furred up they will certainly cause overheating in the boiler and steam will tend to escape wherever there is a weakness. It should be a simple matter to diagnose, and there is no reason to suppose that your plumber is incorrect.

Before the war, when pipes were plentiful and cheap, it was usual to discard pipes badly furred up, and we have not had personal experience of the success of other methods. However, Messrs. Boilerline, of 897, Old Kent Road, London, S.E.15, claim *Rosseline* removes fur from pipes, and we should advise you to get in touch with them. *Rosseline* is a liquid which is poured into the system and allowed to remain for a period of about nine hours while the water is kept hot but not boiling.

If the trouble is so bad that the water is hardly circulating you must, of course, exercise great care and see that the boiler does not become overheated.

1148

Site Organisation

Q Could you recommend a book or books giving details of the American practice in site organisation of building works.

I have heard it said several times that with about equal building material costs and paying twice our rate of wages American buildings compare very well in total cost to similar buildings in this country and take much less time to build.

If there are any papers, recorded lectures, etc., dealing with this subject of which you are aware I shall also be pleased to hear of those.

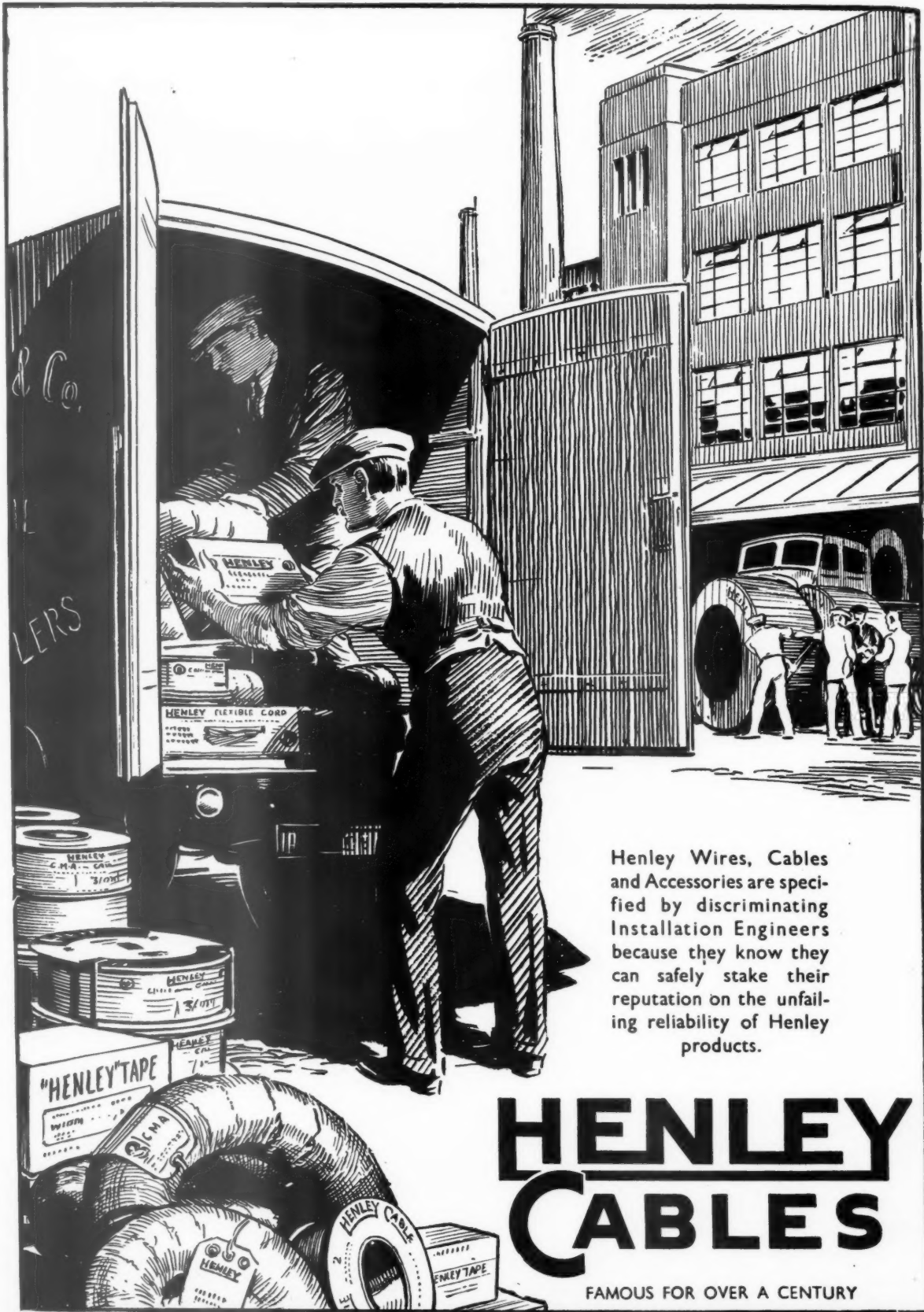
A The Librarian of the Royal Institute of British Architects has kindly given us the names of the following publications which may be useful to you:—

Article by Corbett: *The Organisation and Cost of the Building Industry in the U.S.* (RIBA Journal, 1927, p. 291).

Anonymous Article: *Building Organisation in the U.S.* (National Builder, 1930. March, April and May.)

Book by Barney: *Constructional Methods and Plant*, (published by the American Society of Civil Engineers, New York, in 1930).

Book by T. M. Clarke: *Building Superintendence*, (first published in New York).



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WARTIME ECONOMY is largely responsible for the efficiency of the **B.B. Transportable Hut**, as described in the ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL of April 29.

We set out to produce a hut that would save not only money but time, space, weight, manpower and materials. At the same time, it had to be strong enough to stand up to rough handling and severe conditions, simple enough to be erected by unskilled labour, adaptable for many purposes and different covering materials, capable of being moved from one site to another, with no small loose parts to get lost in transit . . .

We think we have succeeded. A trade catalogue is in preparation, and will be sent on request to authorised enquirers.

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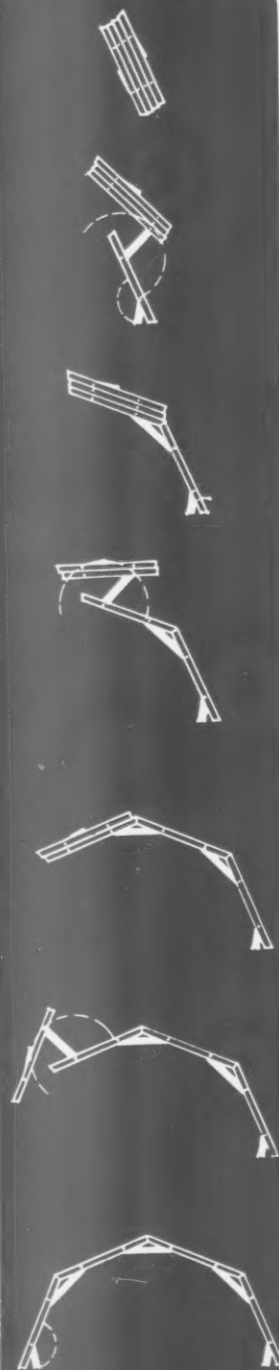


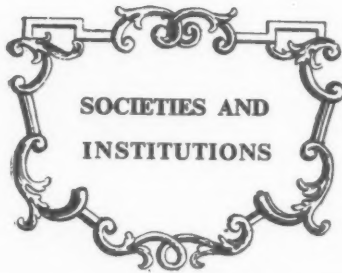
Diagram showing stages in opening
B.B. folding truss.
(Provisional patent No. 923/43)

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Speeches and lectures delivered before societies, as well as reports of their activities, are dealt with under this title, which includes trade associations, Government departments, Parliament and professional societies. To economise space the bodies concerned are represented by their initials, but a glossary of abbreviations will be found on the front cover. Except where inverted commas are used, the reports are summaries and not verbatim.

RIBA

H. V. Lanchester

April 28, at 66, Portland Place, W.1. Lecture on REGIONAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT, by H. V. Lanchester, F.R.I.B.A. Sixth and final lecture in series on *Town and Country Planning*, organized by the RIBA Committee on the Training of Architects as Town-Planners. Chairman: H. C. Bradshaw, C.B.E., F.R.I.B.A. Mr. Lanchester spoke in place of Richard Moon, P.T.P.I., who was to have lectured on *Planning Administration*.

H. V. Lanchester: The administrative arrangements for town planning are at present in a state of flux, and we may expect very definite alterations in them in the near future. The Government themselves have not yet been able to assimilate the material in the Scott, Uthwatt and Beveridge Reports, as well as much outside them. We must therefore seek a broadly generalized form of approach, and consider what is the type of civilization at which we wish to aim, suited to all the psychological variations in our kingdom.

A schedule of suitable studies for preparatory survey work on town planning was drawn up some twenty years ago by an International Conference. This schedule, though it might with advantage be re-edited in detail for present conditions, gives a useful basic view of the survey requirements. Many of the items in it are really more of an extension of a good school education than anything else, but they do go further in many ways. The items are as follows:—

- (1) General topography, geology, contours, soil, etc.
- (2) History, causes for development, archaeology.
- (3) Intercourse and traffic. That, of course, has a wide range, and an influence on all the other factors.

(4) The growth of centres, the density and character of the population, and the character of the occupations of the people.

(5) Housing and its ancillary demands, transit and accommodation for workers, schools, buildings for recreation, trade and other purposes.

(6) Open spaces for recreative purposes, cultivation and so on.

(7) The provision (which loomed very large at that time) for new towns, garden cities, garden suburbs and other suitable expansions. Those we have put a little more in the background at the moment, but we still talk a good deal about the best way of distributing the population.

(8) All the educational demands.

(9) Artistic traditions and developments.

(10) The city and its environment.

(11) Structural methods, and reasons for these.

(12) Health statistics, industrial, climatic and other influences on health, provisions for treatment, clinics, etc.

(13) Economics. Industries, and especially agriculture, as has been indicated very clearly lately. The effects of transport, personal travel, wages, seasonal trades, finance, etc.

(14) Law and custom, building and other regulations.

(15) National and local administration, including the functions of philanthropic and ethical associations.

The Scott Report is fairly definite in many ways. Dealing, for example, with the distribution of the workers, the reasons for the continuous transfer of rural workers to the cities, such as higher wages, more convenient homes, better educational facilities and various urban amenities, are noted in the report, and the results of this migration, mainly to the Midlands and the London area, are considered in the light of those facts.

As a measure for securing a balanced economy, the story of the 1932 Town Planning Act is one of high hopes and subsequent disappointments. Instead of extending planning powers to all land, whether urban or rural, it was so whittled down that it covered building development only, and agricultural values had no recognition at all. The only loophole of escape from compensation for development rates of value was one leaving to authorities the curious and paradoxical device of protecting land for agriculture by zoning it for building, at an uneconomically low density. Some local authorities have gone so far in this direction as to schedule large areas at 10 to 15 acres per house. The result has been that if practical effect were given to all these schemes they would provide for an additional population of 300,000,000. This is being rectified in the Bill now before Parliament, which does not involve using this curious way of dealing with agricultural areas.

You may also be interested in their criticism of administrative difficulties, and here the Committee did not reach complete unanimity. It is regarded as important that the movement from the country into the towns should be checked by improving the provisions for rural living.

The Scott Report brought out that the planning of main roads and railways can no longer remain divorced from the general scheme, but must be fully co-ordinated with town and country planning. The exemption of statutory undertakings is regarded as definitely wrong; it destroys the balance. In the case of statutory undertakings such as railways, moreover, the cost of improvements must fall, where it ought to fall, on the community as a whole.

When we come to the Uthwatt Report, we find more points still on which there will be criticism. This report assumes that our planning will be directed to ensuring that the best use will be made of the land, to secure its best use for the community, quite apart from the financial position; personal interests must be subordinated, and the public good must be the sole test of what is desirable or otherwise. In this report, town and country planning is

regarded not as an end in itself but as an instrument by which to secure the best use of the land in order to advance the condition of society. Planning must exist for the planned, not for the planners, and should be done unhampered by financial considerations.

So far, the Government have not committed themselves to any great extent to any of these proposals. Naturally their aim is to avoid conflicts which would be inconvenient at the present time, and they hope to reach results by compromises which will provide adequate solutions without too drastic a revolution in the social structure. This would be in accordance with British traditions and past measures of reform, but until the possible alternatives have been more closely examined it leaves the technician rather in the air.

The controls of rail, road and water have too long been regarded as independent of each other, and serious economic losses have resulted from this. They ought, of course, to be intimately linked and be considered in relation to all other communal activities, as otherwise the separate budgeting disguises the true economic position. I need hardly mention that air transport is going to make a fourth in the communication group, and this also demands co-ordination with the others. It is worth while to have at least a general idea of aerodrome requirements, and the necessary facilities for linking up the aerodromes with other modes of transport.

Again, in connection with road traffic the serious accident record demands more than a passing notice. Up to the present there has been no marked diminution in the loss of life and limb. A recent book by Alker Tripp, of the Metropolitan Police, goes closely into the question. Put briefly, he treats the main arterial roads for fast traffic in the towns and suburban areas as a network from which pedestrians are excluded. Branching from these are what are called sub-arterials, with guarded crossing places and roundabouts. The spaces in between he calls precincts, and in these precincts traffic speed is limited, and they are to be more or less self-contained as regards shopping facilities, nurseries, junior schools and so on, so that you have, as it were, a sort of enlarged village within the reticulated pattern of roads.

Another investigation into this question of accidents was carried out by the county engineer for Oxfordshire. He analysed very carefully, with plans, 148 fatal accidents which occurred in four years in his district, and he came to the rather striking conclusion that three-quarters of them were due to various defects in road planning, two-thirds of which were of a minor character and could be rectified at comparatively small expense, and only the balance demanding major revisions in road planning. That looks as though, were he in charge of the road system of the whole country, he could reduce the accident toll to one-quarter of what it is at present.

There are many other questions which might be raised, but I prefer to summarize what our Institute has been doing in formulating the essentials of a planning programme. There are eight principal sub-committees of the RIBA Reconstruction Committee sitting in London: the Public Relations Group, which was associated with the recent exhibition in the National Gallery; the Policy Group; the Professional Status and Qualifications Group; the Planning and Amenities Group, which has produced several very important reports; the Housing Group and the Building Legislation Group, both of which have been very active, and the group dealing with architects and the building industry, and the Building Technique Group. All these contribute their quota to matters of interest to the town planner.

Apart from that, there are 13 regional groups working in the provinces, within the areas into which the country has been divided by the Government for defence purposes; in each area there is a group within the Institute which is studying the problems of that area. There is also work to be done—and this, too, is

receiving attention—in connecting up the various schemes within each region with the adjacent ones. It cannot be said, therefore, that the architects are not trying to do their share in the reconstruction of the country at large. The group concerned with the London area made an early start, and has been working for more than two years, so that it has probably got further than the others; at any rate it has completed the first section of its work by an exhibition and an accompanying report (not necessarily final) which will be presented to the public at the end of next month.

RIBA

Fees for Farm Workers' Houses

The following scale of charges has been published by the Royal Institute of British Architects and is recommended for the use of members engaged on the work of the 3,000 houses to be built for agricultural workers.

It is understood that generally speaking these houses are distributed throughout the country in groups of about 10 to the area of each Local Authority and that in that area the houses will usually be in pairs on widely separated sites.

A.—FEES FOR SERVICES IN CONNECTION WITH SCHEMES OF 20 HOUSES OR LESS.

Services.

1. Preparing $\frac{1}{4}$ in. scale sketch plans.
2. Submitting to Committee—making variations to suit requirements and re-submitting.
3. Preparing $\frac{1}{4}$ in. scale working drawings.
4. Submitting plans to the Local Authority as required by building regulations.
5. Obtaining quotations for P.C. Sums.
6. Preparing specification.
7. Preparing necessary $\frac{1}{4}$ in. and full-size details.
8. Obtaining tenders from contractors—submitting to the Committee and arranging the contract.
9. General supervision of the work, but not constant superintendence.
10. Reporting to the Committee on the progress of the work.
11. Instructing Clerk of Works (if appointed).
12. Supplying drawings and instructions to the contractors as provided for in the Conditions of Contract.
13. Issuing certificates.
14. Making out report under the maintenance clause of the contract.
15. Setting out final accounts.

Fees.

No. of Houses for one Local Authority.	Fee if on one site under one contract.
2	£ 50
4	80
6	100
8	120
10	135
12	150
14	165
16	180
18	190
20	200

To the above add for every additional site £10 and for every additional contract £25.

B.—LAYOUT.

Services.

1. Conferences with Local Authorities and other officials.
2. Layout to 1/2,500 scale.
3. Detailed layout to 1/500 scale.

Fees.

When the architect is employed to do this work in conjunction with house-planning the fees are to be:—

£1 10s. 0d. per house.

Where a fully contoured plan of the site is not provided, an extra charge will be made for taking levels based on the time expended.

C.—ROADS AND SEWERS.

Services.

Preparing working drawings and specifications for roads and sewers in accordance with the layout plans prepared under Section B, advising on the same and on the preparation of contract, furnishing to the contractor one copy of the drawings and specifications, general supervision, issuing certificates, passing and certifying the accounts.

Fees.

When the architect is employed to do this work in conjunction with house-planning the fees are to be:—

£2 5s. 0d. for each house served from a new road.

D.—ADDITIONAL SERVICES.

The following services for which the architect may be employed will be charged on a quantum meruit basis:—

- Negotiations relating to the site.
- Making surveys, measurements and plans of the site or existing buildings and taking levels.
- Making drawings for and negotiations with Ground Landlords and Public Authorities not referred to in Sections A, paragraph 4.
- Making arrangements in respect of party wall, rights of light and other easements.
- Making extra drawings for the client or contractor or Clerk of Works' use.

E.—ABANDONED WORKS.

Where any of the architect's services have been rendered under Sections A—C of this scale and the whole or part of the proposed scheme is subsequently abandoned, reduced fees shall be payable in accordance with the amount of work done.

F.—EXPENSES.

The scale is exclusive of reasonable travelling and out-of-pocket expenses and printers' charges for additional copies of drawings and documents.

PWB

Study Committees

The following is the third extract from the booklet issued by the Directorate of Post-war Building of MOW containing reviews of ten of the First Draft Report and Provisional Statements of its twenty-three Study Committees. Reference should be made to the leading article and to the *Societies and Institutions* columns of the JOURNAL for April 22 and 29, and May 6.

4. COMMITTEE FOR THE ARCHITECTURAL USE OF BUILDING MATERIALS. First Draft Report.

72 pp. including 10 pp. summary, divided thus:—

Introduction. Sections I—X. Bibliography. Summary.

Introduction:

Records appointment of Committee, membership, terms of reference, acknowledgments and meetings held. Emphasises that Report is under revision, and that fully considered conclusions and recommendations will be given in Final Report.

I. Foreword:

Describes Committee's approach to its subject and deals with matter under examination in broad terms, distinct from detailed study of particular materials recorded in the following nine sections.

RECOMMENDATIONS are made concerning improvement of public taste, licensing of temporary buildings, time required for building

processes to mature, and poor standards arising from ill-considered competitive costing. Importance of weatherings is stressed. Where traditional shapes are superseded, their functional equivalent must be provided.

Considered that, so far, no new material has arisen to challenge traditional building materials.

II. In Situ Concrete:

Aesthetic disadvantages of exposed concrete; suggestions for surface treatment and weatherings and for avoidance of unsightly joint marks.

RECOMMENDED that further research be undertaken and a code laid down for *in situ* concrete.

III. Precast Concrete:

Types, advantages and disadvantages are considered, and recommendations are made concerning definitions of the various types, provision of model and B.S. Specifications and centres of manufacture and supply.

Mortar used for jointing should be hydraulic lime or lime cement mortar, not dense cement mortar.

IV. Stone and Granite:

Types of building for which stone is suitable, and districts in which the use of stone should continue are given: varieties of stone are discussed. Origin, colour, light-reflecting and other qualities, and technique of laying are described. Granites and marbles are considered.

Precautions are suggested for preventing damp penetrations, decay and discoloration. Desirability of smoke abatement is stressed.

RECOMMENDATIONS are made concerning supply of skilled masons, types of stone for use in different localities, re-awakening of interest in the use of indigenous stone in Scotland, the repair of ancient buildings and the discouragement of use of foreign marbles in churchyards.

V. Preamble to Brickwork and Roofing Materials:

Covers problems common to both brickwork and roofing materials, and recommends that texture of surface and colour be sought.

VI. Brickwork:

Deals with various types of brick, their colour and texture, mortar joints, bond and sizes. States that no process yet discovered takes the place of thorough burning.

RECOMMENDED that manufacture and use of South East England common brick, London stock type, be encouraged wherever it is native to the soil; and that the Fletton type be avoided for underground work and where exposed to saturation followed by severe frost.

RECOMMENDED that the use of hand-made bricks be encouraged; that manufacturers should make suitable proportion of three-quarter, half and closer bricks and that there be no restriction on brick sizes in normal times.

VII. Roofing Materials:

Various forms of roof and roof coverings are discussed. Recommendations concern research in connection with machine-made tiles; encouragement of hand-made tile manufacture, provision of camber, thickness and texture of slates, and revival of thatching.

VIII. Exterior Finishes:

Various types are described with notes on purpose, colour, texture, finish, advantages and disadvantages.

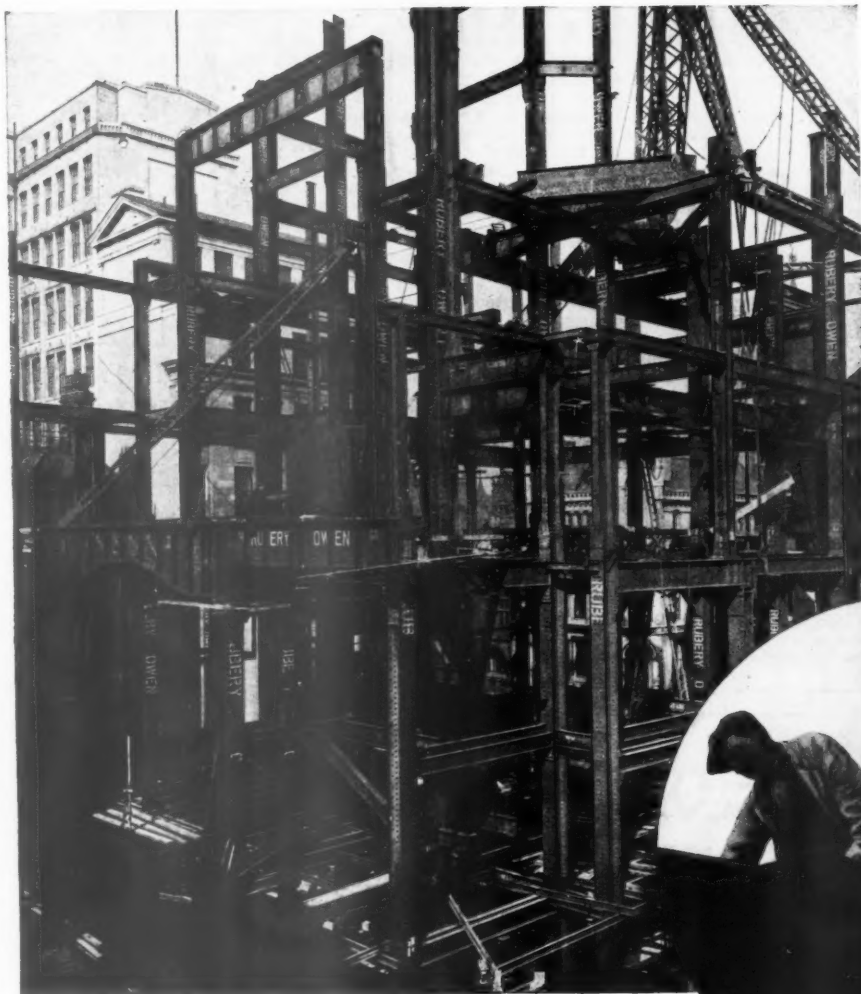
RECOMMENDED that renderings be sand-finished and exaggerated texture be avoided.

Considered that rough-cast is preferable to pebble-dash and that terra-cotta, faience and tiles are suitable for restricted areas only, not for facing whole buildings.

IX. Interior Finishes:

Emphasises that creation of aesthetically satisfying interior rests with the designer. Good and bad qualities of many materials are discussed and dangers to be avoided are noted.

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RECOMMENDED that manufacturers pay more attention to colour; that manufacturers submit materials to test and make results available; that the standard of construction and finish of sheet materials be raised, and that greater use be made of advice obtainable from B.R.S.

Suggested that when using paint on plaster, makers of both materials should be consulted regarding chemical reactions of their products.

Suggested that tiles be made in sizes which include joint width in unit measurement.

X. Temporary Buildings:

View is expressed that there is no place in future reconstruction of towns and countryside for temporary and prefabricated buildings, though necessity for such buildings in limited period after war is recognised.

RECOMMENDED that various systems be examined now, so that, after war, permanent building programme may proceed without delay.

RECOMMENDED that temporary buildings be subject to licence for fixed period, and not allowed to become permanent or semi-permanent.

Bibliography:

List of publications consulted by Committee.

Summary:

Report is summarised in ten pages.

ABS

New Council

The annual general meeting of the Architects' Benevolent Society was held on April 29 at the RIBA.

The President, Mr. W. H. Ansell, M.C., F.R.I.B.A., in moving the adoption of the Report, Statement of Accounts and Balance Sheet, said that, although the Society during

the past year had not received as many applications for help as expected, there are indications that many more are likely to be received in the next few years as the older architects' savings become exhausted. Subscriptions are not entirely discouraging, for though 60 have been lost (26 of these owing to death), the Society has gained 54 new subscribers. An addition to the number of small subscribers will be a great help; there are about 1,700 subscribers to the Society, but there are 15,000 registered architects, so there is still a great field for more to come in.

Mr. Ansell said that the Case Committee, under the leadership of Mr. J. Alan Slater, went into the cases not only on the architectural basis but also from the human side. Applicants came not only from the older men and their dependents, but also from the families of younger men, who had died before they had had an opportunity of making provision for their children. Therefore the profession as a whole should back the Society even more than it has done in the past.

In accordance with custom dating from 1885, the President of the RIBA for the time being was elected President of the Society, and a special resolution was passed that Mr. W. H. Ansell be elected a Vice-President as from the termination of his Presidency.

Other Officers and Members of the Council of the Society were elected as follows:—

Vice-Presidents—Sir Harry S. E. Vanderpant, Barrister-at-Law, Hon. A.R.I.B.A.; Sir Banister (Flight) Fletcher, F.S.A., F.S.I., F.P.R.I.B.A.; Sir Charles A. Nicholson, Bart., F.R.I.B.A.; Mr. H. Greville Montgomery, Hon. A.R.I.B.A.; Capt. H. S. Goodhart-Rendel, P.P.R.I.B.A.

Hon. Treasurer.—Captain H. S. Goodhart-Rendel, P.P.R.I.B.A.

Hon. Secretary.—Sir Charles A. Nicholson, Bart., F.R.I.B.A.

Hon. Auditors.—Sir Harry S. E. Vanderpant, Barrister-at-Law, Hon. A.R.I.B.A.; Mr. Charles Woodward, A.R.I.B.A.

Members of the Council.—W. Curtis Green

(F.); H. Austen Hall (F.); F. R. Hiorns (F.); J. A. Slater (F.); Anthony Minoprio (A.); S. H. Hamp (F.); C. H. Holden (F.); A. H. Moberly (F.); F. Winton Newman (F.); S. Tatchell (F.); Maxwell Ayrton (F.); Romilly Craze (F.); O. P. Milne (F.); Michael Waterhouse (F.); Francis Jones (F.) (Representing the Manchester Society); C. M. Hadfield (F.) (Representing the Sheffield, South Yorkshire and District Society); Ernest Bird (F.) (Representing the Hampshire Society); Arthur C. Russell (L.) (Representing the Essex, Cambridge and Hertfordshire Society); T. Taliesin Rees, F.S.I. (F.) (Representing the Liverpool Architectural Society); Cecil Burns (F.) (Representing the South-Eastern Society); J. R. Leathart (F.) (Representing the Architectural Association); Vincent Burr (L.) (Representing the Institute of Registered Architects); F. G. Sainsbury (L.) (Representing the Incorporated Association of Architects and Surveyors); E. Hadden Parkes (F.) (Representing the Mount Pleasant Artists' Rest Home); Miss B. Priestley (Representing Architectural Students).

TBMA

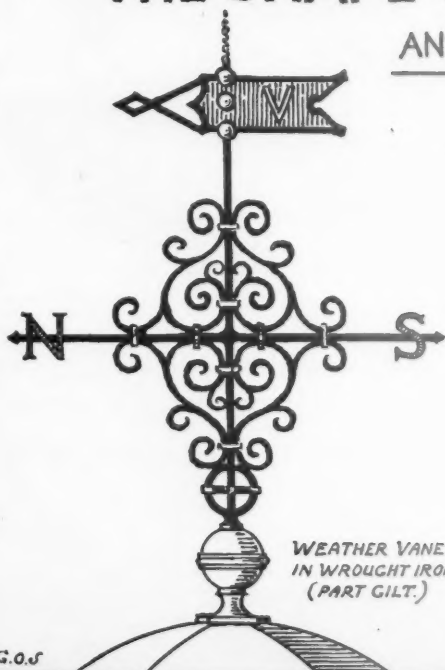
Prefabrication Film

At the invitation of the Timber Building Manufacturers' Association of Great Britain, Mr. E. H. B. Boulton, M.C., M.A., of the Timber Development Association, arranged for a showing of the film *A City Comes to Alexanders Corners* at Film House, Wardour Street, on May 5. There was a large attendance, not only of Members of the Association, but of the other Trade Associations and representatives from the Directorate of Woodworking.

Mr. G. W. Grosvenor, Chairman of TBMA, in introducing Mr. Boulton, referred to the activities of TBMA both as regards prefabrication in the past and the future.

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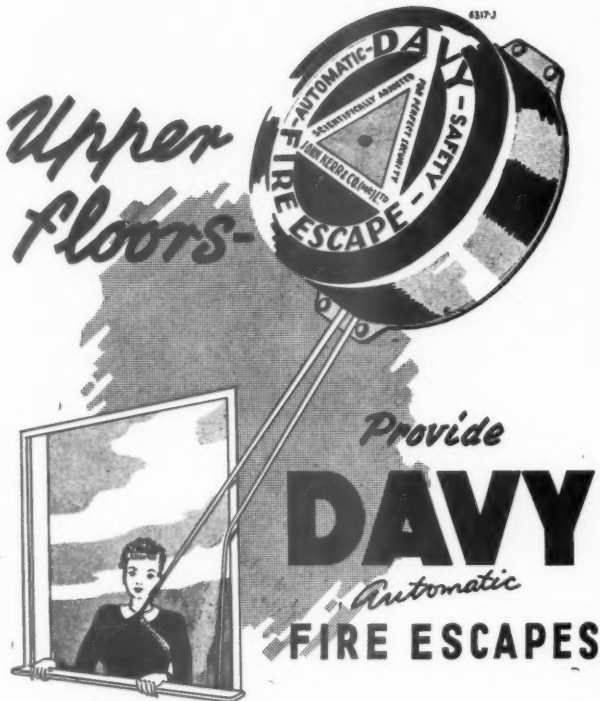
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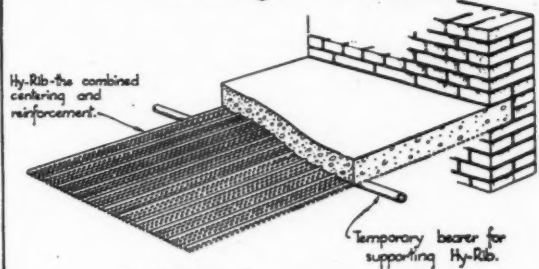
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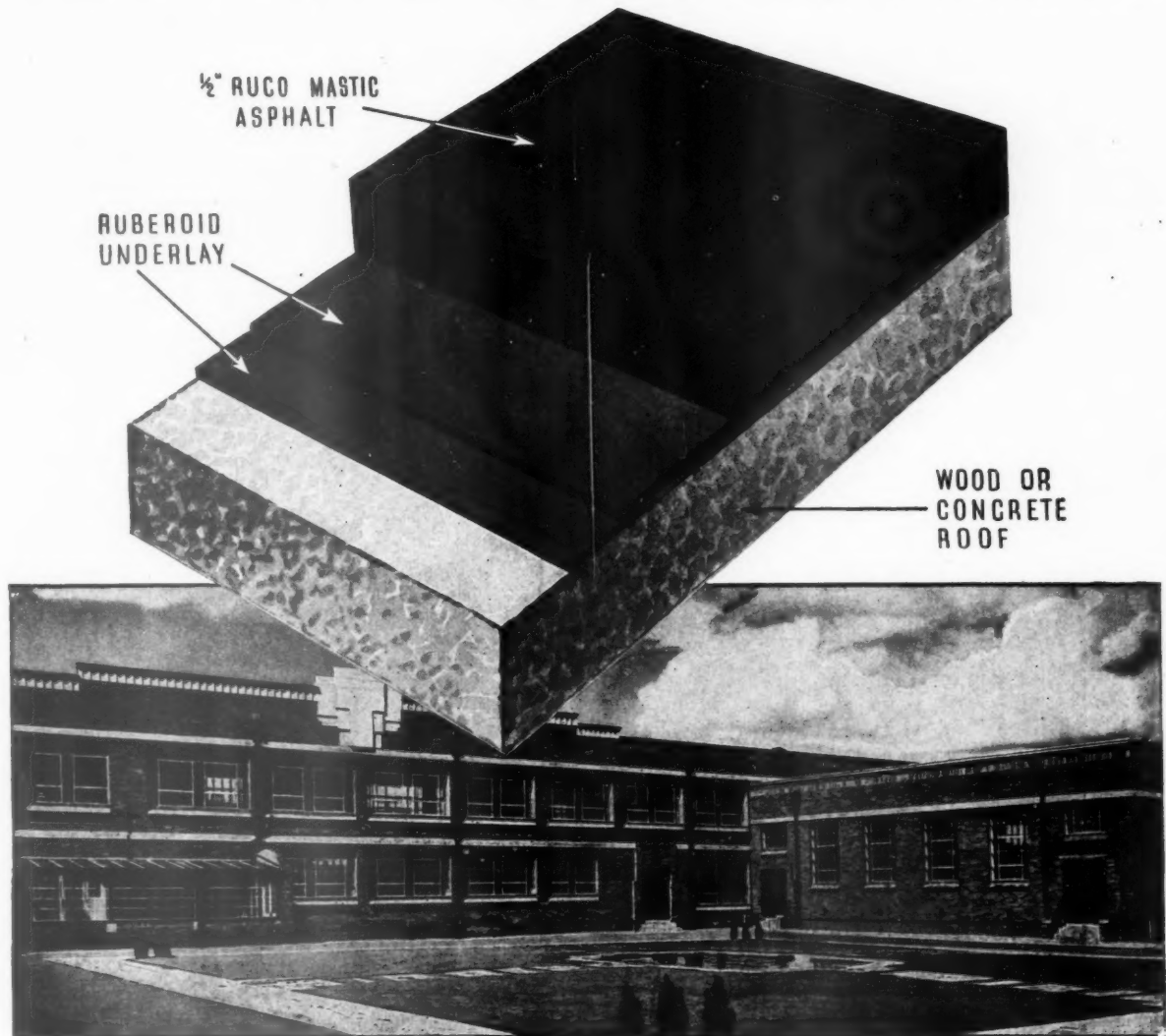
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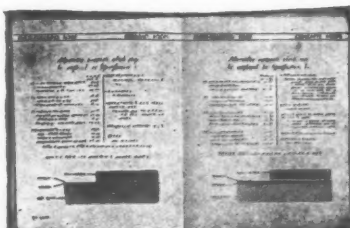


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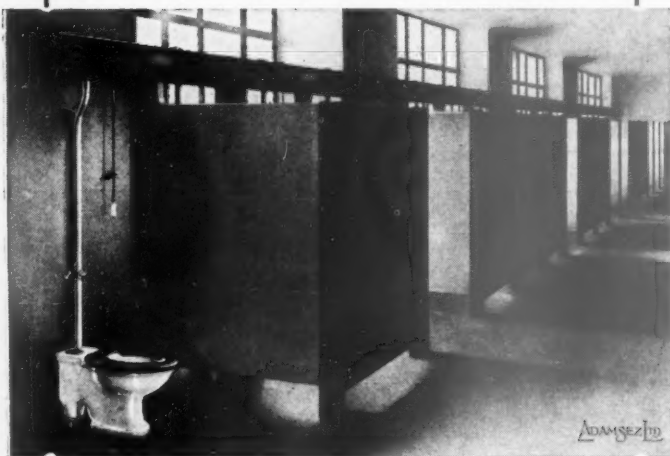
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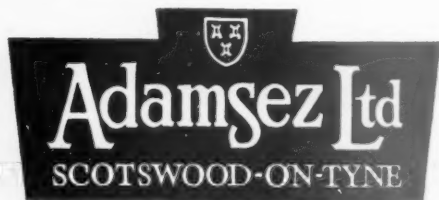
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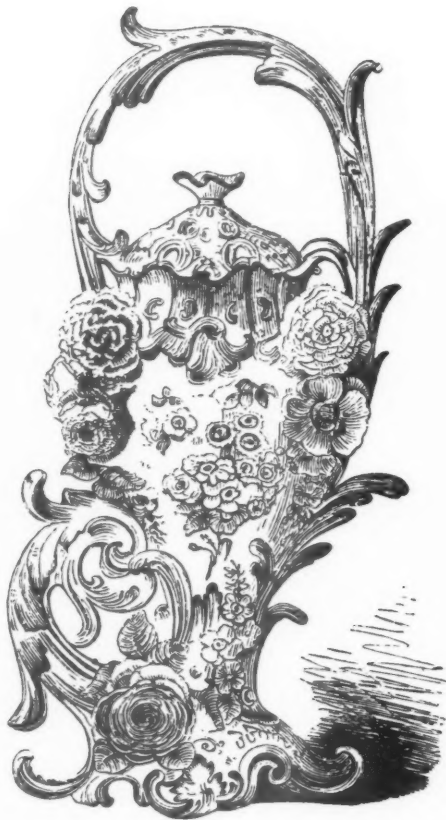
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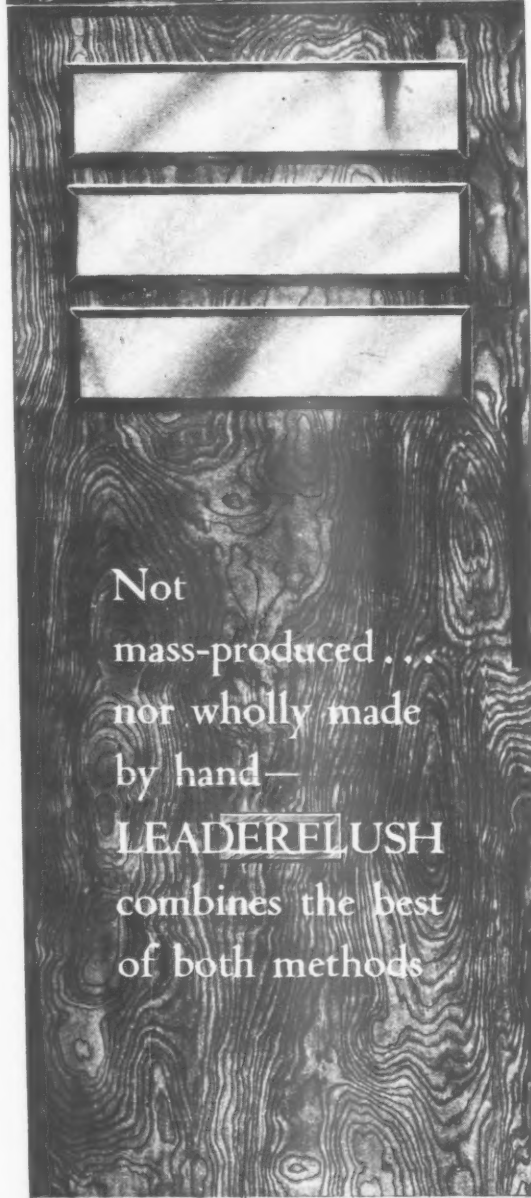
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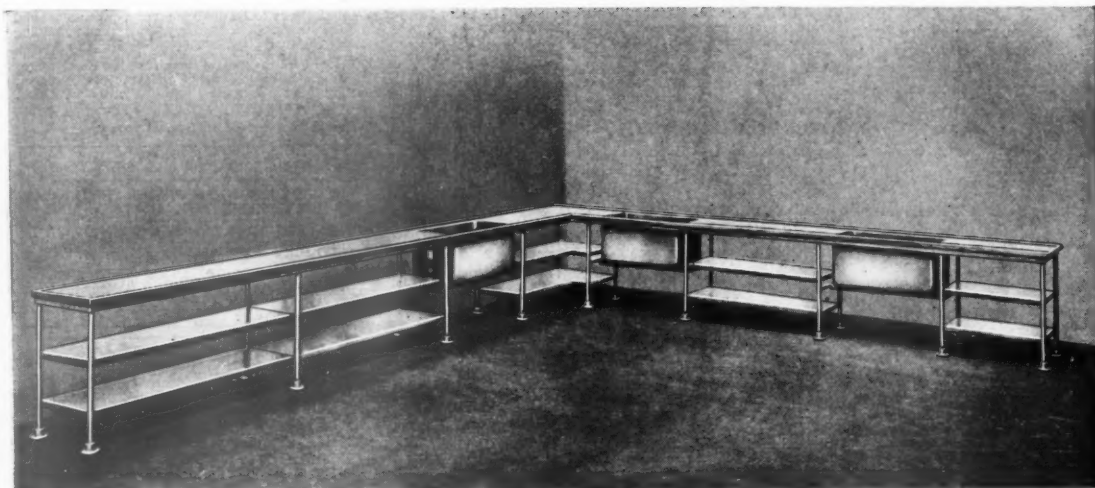


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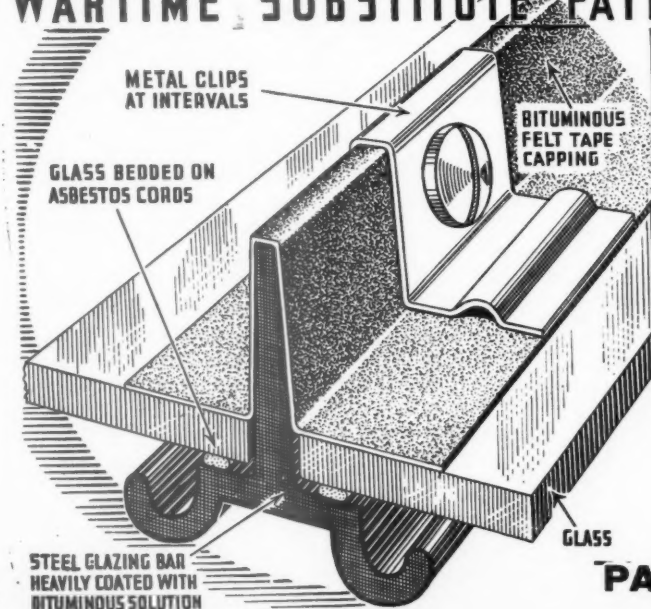
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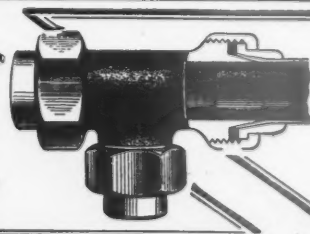
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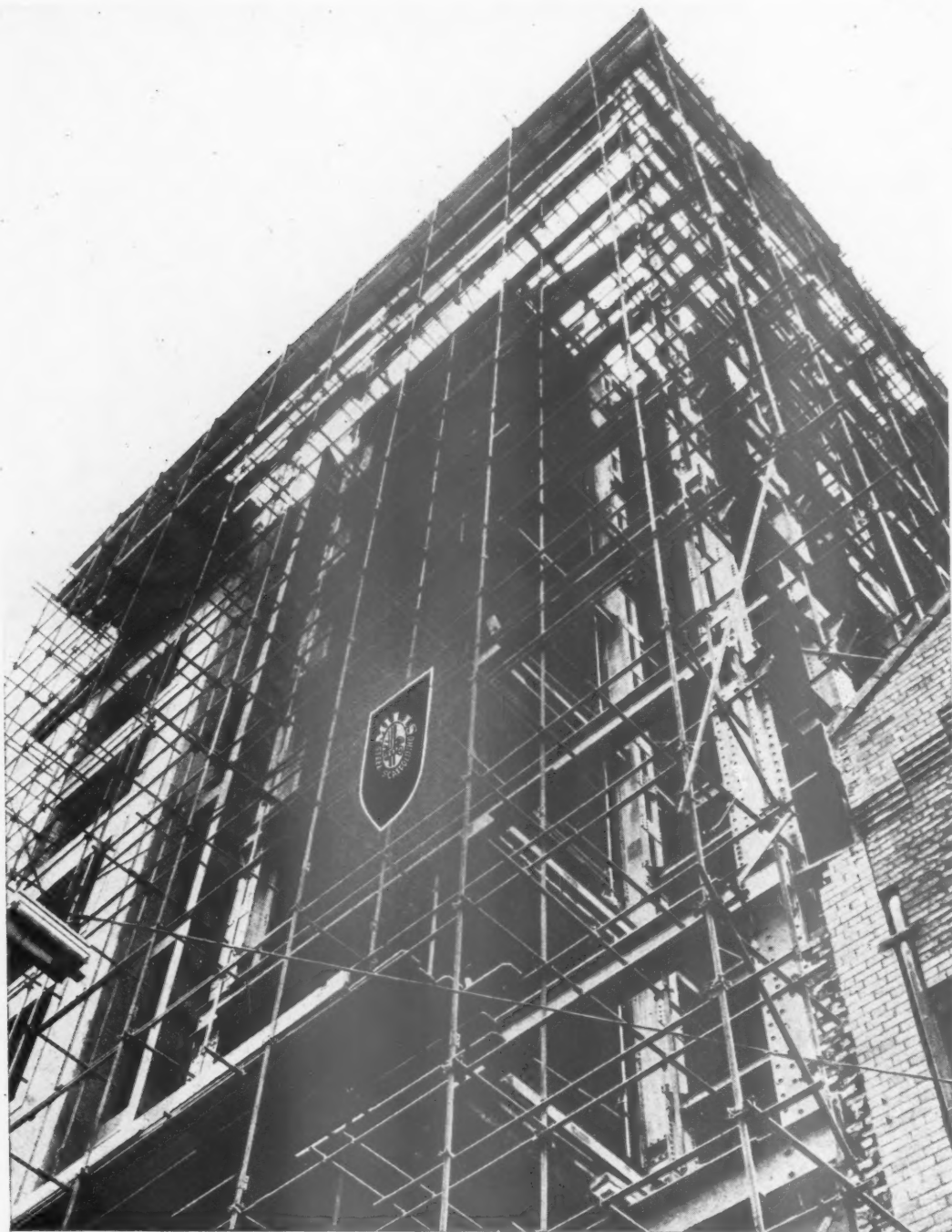
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