# ARCHITECT



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

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Physical Planning Lighting Structure Heating & Ventilation Materials Questions & Answers Acoustics & Sound Insulation

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No. 2523] [VOL. 97 ARCHITECTURAL PRESS, War Address: Forty-five The Avenue, Cheam, Surrey. Phone: Vigilant 0087-9

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★ The war has both multiplied the number of Official Departments and encouraged Societies 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.

Architectural Association. 34/6, Bedford Square, W.C.1.

Army Bureau of Current Affairs. Curzon House, Curzon Street, W.1.

Mayfair 9400 (Extension 461).

Association of Building Technicians. 113, High Holborn, W.C.1. Holborn 1024-5.

Association for Planning and Regional Reconstruction. 32, Gordon AA **ABCA** ABT

APRR Square, W.C.1. Euston 2158-9. Architects' Registration Council. 68, Portland Place, W.1. ARCUK Welbeck 9738. Architectural Science Board of the Royal Institute of British Architects 66, Portland Place, W.1. ASB

Welbeck 6927. Building Centre. 23, Maddox Street, W.1.

Mayfair 2128.
British Commercial Gas Assn. 1, Grosvenor Place, S.W.1.

Mayfair 2128.
British Electrical Development Association. 2, Savoy Hill, W.C.2. Temple Bar 9434.
British Institute of Adult Education. 29, Tavistock Square, W.C.1. Euston 5385.
Building Industries National Council. 110, Bickenhall Mansions, W.1.

Welbeck 3335. **BCGA** BEDA BIAE BINC Board of Education. Belgrave Square, S.W.1.
Board of Trade. Millbank, S.W.1.
Building Research Station. Bucknalls Lane, Watford.
British Steelwork Association. 11, Tothill Street, S.W.1.
British Standards Institution. 28, Victoria Street, S.W.1. BOE Sloane 4522 BOT Whitehall 5140. BRS Garston 2246. Whitehall 5073. BSA

Council for the Encouragement of Music and the Arts. 9, Belgrave Square, S.W.1. BSI CEMA CPRE

Council for the Preservation of Rural England. 4, Hobart Place, S.W.1. Sloane 4280. CSI Chartered Surveyors' Institution. 12, Great George Street, S.W.1. Whitehall 5322. DIA Design and Industries Association. Central Institute of Art and Design, National Gallery, W.C.2. Whitehall 7618.

DOT Department of Ov seas Trade. Dolphin Square, S.W.1. Victoria 4477 FIMA English Joinery Ma ufacturers Association (Incorporated), Goring Hotel, Grosvenor Gardens, S.W.1. Victoria 9787-88. Victoria 9787-88. **FMB** Federation of Master Builders. 23, Compton Terrace, Upper Street, N.1.

Canonbury 2041. Holborn 2664. Georgian Group. 55, Great Ormond Street, W.C.1. Housing Centre. 13, Suffolk Street, Pall Mall, S.W.1. GG Whitehall 2881. HC IAAS

Incorporated Association of Architects and Surveyors. 75, Eaton Place, S.W.1.
Sloane 3158. Institution of Civil Engineers. Great George Street, S.W.1. Whitehall 4577. IEE Institution of Electrical Engineers, Savoy Place, Victoria Embankment, W.C.2.

Institution of Heating and Ventilating Engineers. 21, Tothill Street, S.W. 1. THVE

TR A Institute of Registered Architects. 47, Victoria Street, S.W.1. Abbey 6172. ISE ISPH Institution of Structural Engineers. 11, Upper Belgrave Street, S.W.1. Sloane 7128-29. Committee for the Industrial and Scientific Provision of Housing. 3, Albemarle Regent 4782-3. Street, W.1.

Lead Industries Development Council. Rex House, King William Street, E.C.4. LIDC Mansion House 2855.

Mansion House 2855.

London Master Builders' Association. 47, Bedford Square, W.C.1. Museum 3767.

Modern Architectural Research. 8, Clarges Street, W.1. Grosvenor 2652.

Ministry of Health. Whitehall, S.W.1. Whitehall 4300.

Ministry of Information. Malet Street, W.C.1. Euston 4321.

Ministry of Labour and National Service. St. James' Square, S.W.1. Whitehall 6200.

Ministry of Supply. Shell Mex House, Victoria Embankment, W.C.2.

Gerrard 6932 LMBA MARS MOH MOI MOLNS

MOS Gerrard 6933. Ministry of Transport. Berkeley Square House, Berkeley Square, W.1. Abbey 7711.

Ministry of Town and Country Planning. 32-33, St. James's Square, S.W.1.

Ministry of Works. Lambeth Bridge House, S.E.1. Reliance 7611. MOT MOTCP

MOW Ministry of Works. Lambeth Bridge House, S.E.I.

National Buildings Record. 66, Portland Place, W.1.

All Souls' College, Oxford. Oxford 48809.

National Federation of Building Trades Employers. 82, New Cavendish Street,
W.1. Langham 4041.

National Federation of Building Trades Operatives. 9, Rugby Chambers, Rugby
Street, W.C.1. Holborn 2770.

National Trust for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty. 7, Buckingham
Palace Gardens, S.W.1. Sloane 5808

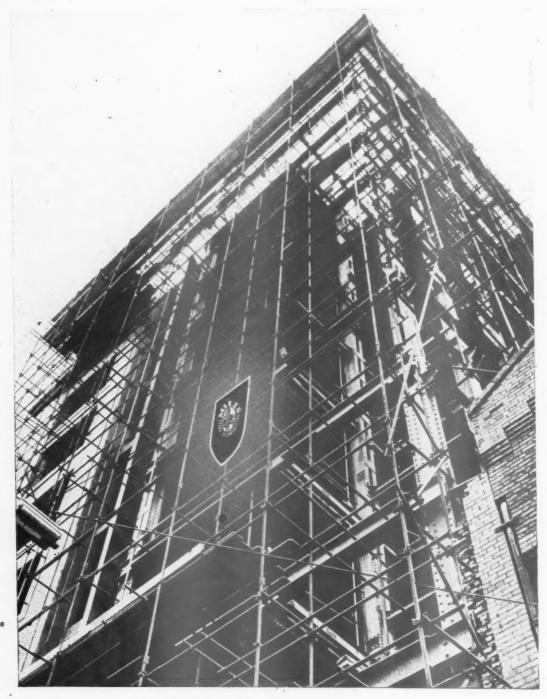
Post War Building, Directorate of. Ministry of Works, Lambeth Bridge House
S.E.I. Reliance 7611. **NBR** NFBTE

**NFBTO** NT

**PWB** Reliance 7611.

Reconstruction Committee RIBA. 66, Portland Place, W.1.
Reinforced Concrete Association. 91, Petty France, S.W.1.
Royal Society. Burlington House, Piccadilly, W.1.
Royal Society of Arts. 6, John Adam Street, W.C.2.
Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings. 55, Great Ormond Street, W.C.1. RC RCA RS RSA **SPAB** Holborn 2646.

Town and Country Planning Association. 13, Suffolk Street, S.W.1. Whitehall 2881, Timber Development Association. 75, Cannon Street, E.C.4. City 6147, Town Planning Institute. 11, Arundel Street, Strand, W.C.2. Temple Bar 4985. TCPA TDA TPI



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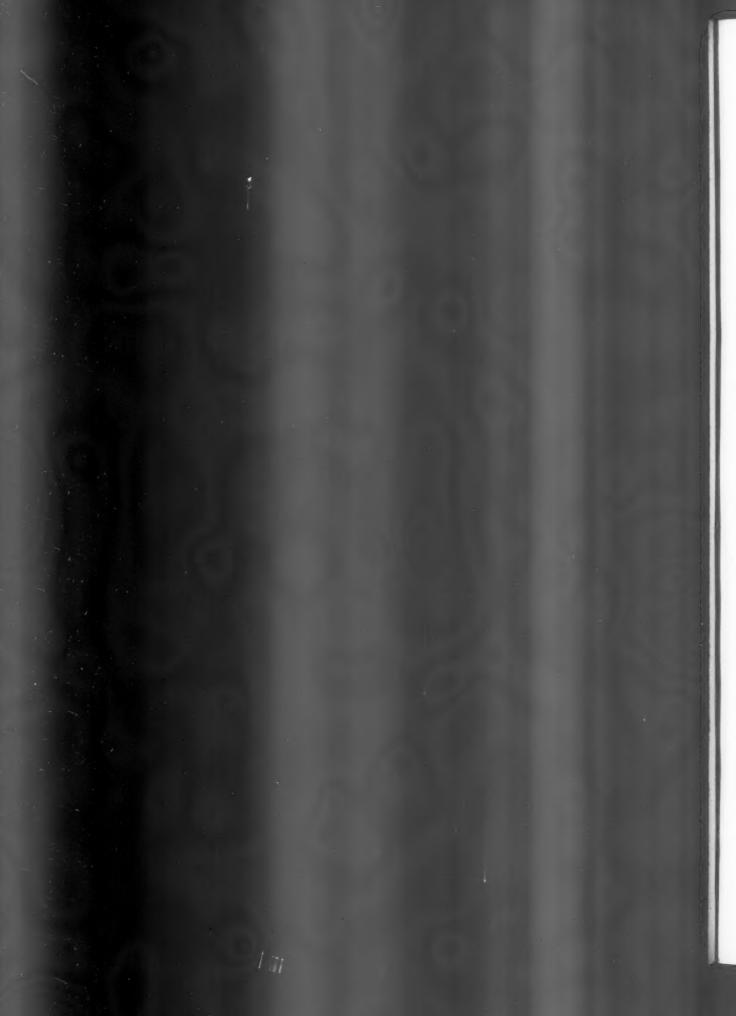
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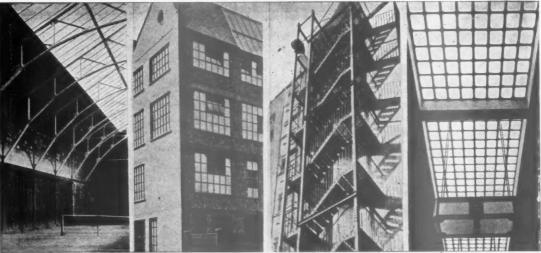
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Aberdeen, 80-82 Upper Denburn - - - Aberdeen 391

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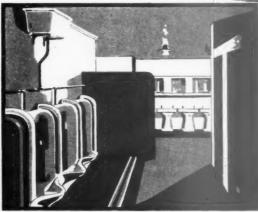


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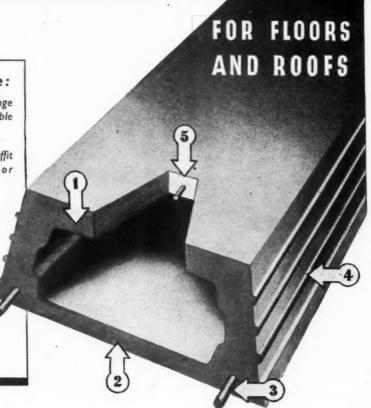
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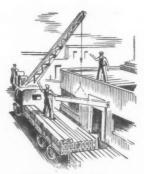
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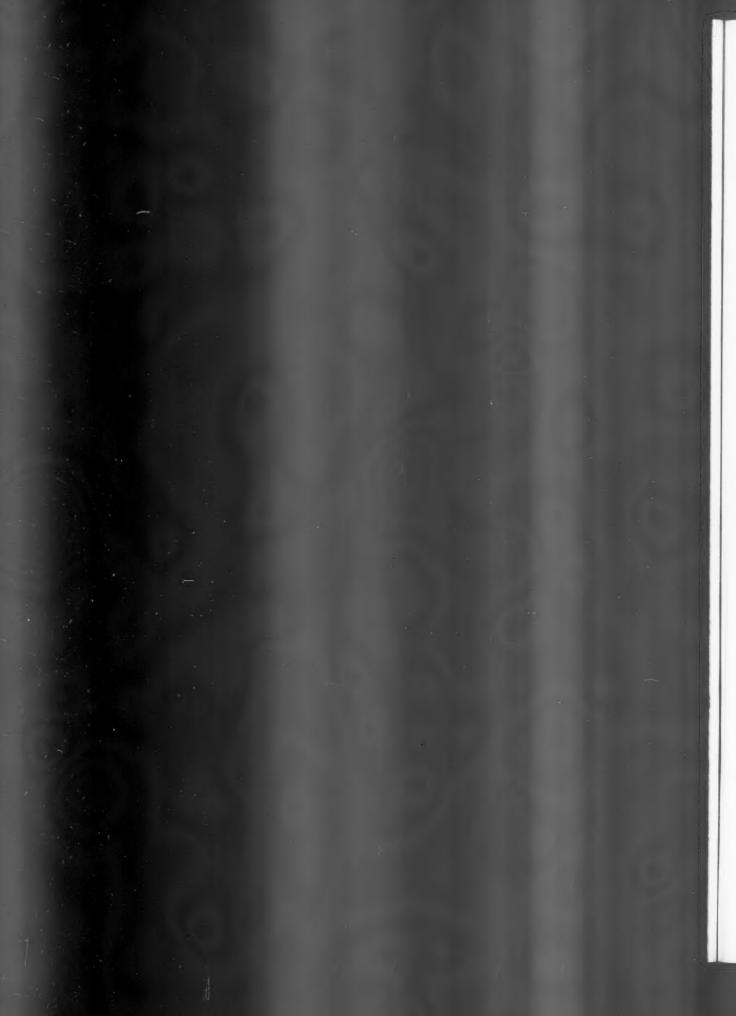
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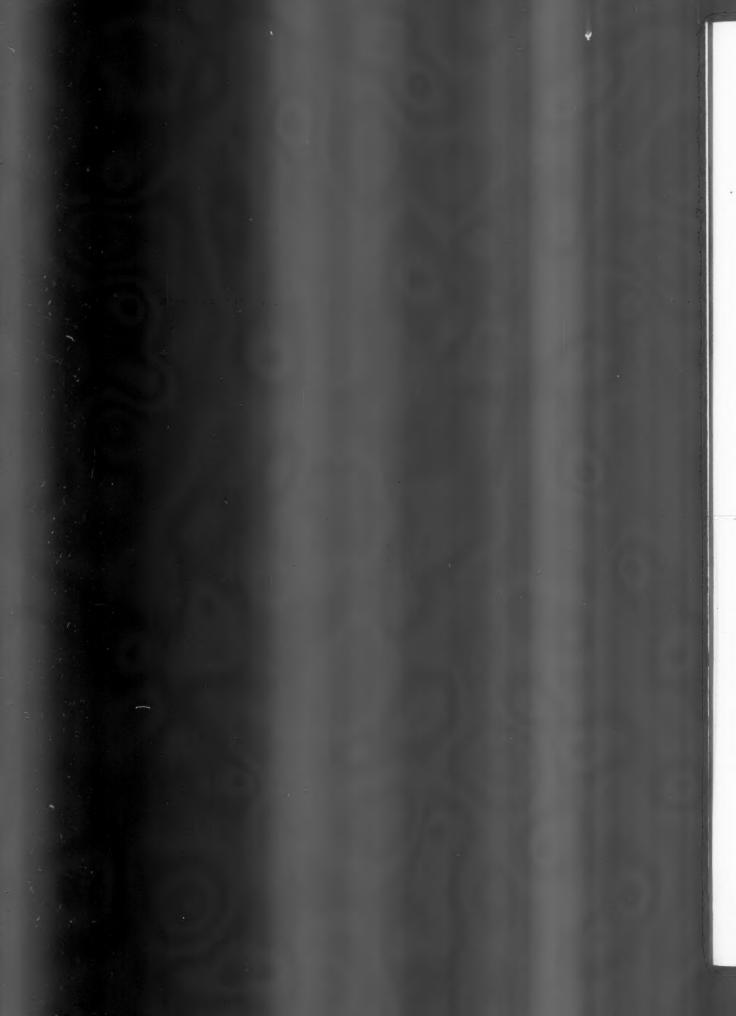
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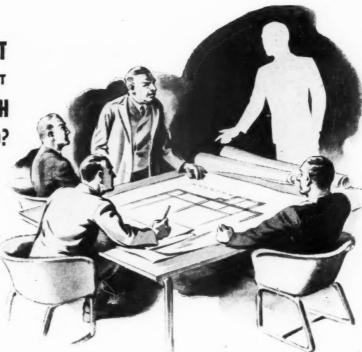
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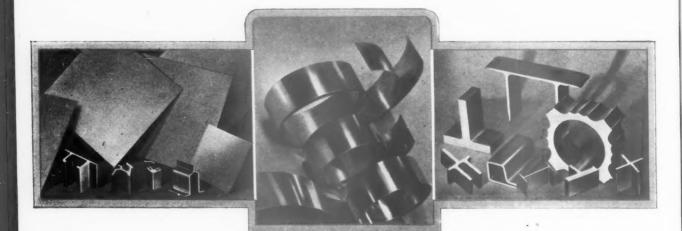




Amongst the many eulogies paid by the Ministry of Food to the humble potato, may we point out one omission, its inability to "see" things.

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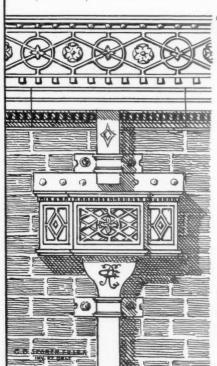
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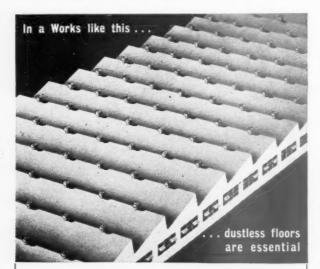
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Yep!...loves a job wot's straight and true.
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There's nuthin' wrong with Ol' Dave's sight;
'N a damn good job is Dave's delight.

Yep! Ol' Dave's got it—wot it takes,
'Is 'eart is in the bits 'e makes.
'E knows 'is metals round and thro'.
Yep! Better'n me . . . an' better'n you.
'E's wery nearly always right—
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Would say Ol' Dave has seen the light
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In common with every other periodical this Journal is rationed to a small part of its peacetime needs of paper. Thus a balance has to be struck between circulation and number of pages. We regret that unless a reader is a subscriber we cannot guarantee that he will get a copy of the Journal. Newsagents now cannot supply the Journal except to a "firm order." Subscription rates: by post in the U.K. and Canada, £1.3s. 10d. per annum; abroad, £1.8s.6d. Special combined rate for Architects' Journal and Archi-



TECTURAL REVIEW in the U.K. and Canada, £2. 6s.; abroad, £2. 10s. Single copies, 6d.; post free, 8d. Special numbers are included in subscription; single copies, 1s.; post free, 1s. 3d. Back numbers more than 12 months old (when available), double price. Volumes can be bound complete with index, in cloth cases, for 12s. 6d. each; carriage 1s. extra. Goods advertised in the JOURNAL, and made of raw materials now in short supply, are not necessarily available for export.

## DIARY FOR JUNE-JULY

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.

A BERYSTWYTH. Town and Country Planning Association Conference. 11 a.m. June 19

BRADFORD. Town and Country Planning Association Conference. 11 a.m. to June 26

CARDIFF. Ernest E. Morgan, Borough Architect, Swansea, President of the South Wales Institute of Architects. Hillside Housing Development. In the Reardon Smith Lecture Theatre, National Museum of Wales, Park Place, Cardiff. (Sponsor, Royal Sanitary Institute). 10.30 a.m. June 5

LONDON. 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.

June 3 to August 7

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 850 sq. miles, with a population consists 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 are 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 is 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.

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.)

Presentation of Howard Memorial Medal to Professor Abercrombie. At Connaught Rooms, W.C. 12.30 p.m. June 8

Raymond Evershed. The Uthwatt Report.
At 1, Grosvenor Place, S.W.1. 1.15 p.m.
(Sponsor TCPA). June 10

Anthony Blunt. Louis XIV and Versailles At 20, Portman Square, W.1. (Sponsor, Courtauld Institute of Art). 1.15 p.m.

Herbert Read. The Future of Industrial Design. In the Chair: Charles Tennyson, C.M.G. At RS, Burlington House, Piccadilly. Buffet Lunch (2/6) from 12.45 to 1.30 p.m. (Sponsor, DIA.)

Members of the Birmingham and District Branch of IHVE. Submission of technical data on Vertical Temperature Gradients in Factory Buildings Heated by Unit Heaters. At 21, Tothill Street, S.W.1. (Sponsor IHVE), 6 p.m. June 22

Professor Ernest Barker. Social Background of Town Planning. At 1, Grosvenor Place, S.W.1. 1.15 p.m. (Sponsor, TCPA). June 24 Michael Waterhouse, Hon. Secretary, RIBA. The Activities of the RIBA during the War, and the Place of the Architect in the Post-War World. At the RIBA, 6 p.m. Sponsor, RIBA.

Building Industries Congress on The Building Industries in the Reconstruction Period. BINC announces a Congress of the Building Industries on July 21 and 22 at Caxton Hall, Westminster. Chairman, F. Leslie Wallis, President of the Council. Delegates' tickets will be available shortly from the representative organizations of the building industries or direct from the Honorary Secretary to the Congress, Douglas Wood, 1, Old Burlington Street, W. 1. The Congress will be divided into sessions the subjects for which will be as follows:—

July 21. Welcome to delegates by R. Coppock, Chairman of the LCC and immediate Past-President of BINC. The Past-War Building Programme. Post-War Housing. The British Empire and Building.

July 22. Town Planning. The Availability of Labour for Building. The Future Organization of the Building Industries. July 21—22

STAFFORD. Living in Cities Exhibition. At Nelson Hall. (Sponsor BIAE). June 3 to 9

STOKE-ON-TRENT. Town and Country Planning Association Conference. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. June 5

# NEWS

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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 unstarred 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.

Mr. C. U. Peat, foint Parliamentary Secretary to MOS, said that TONS OF PAPER ARE WASTED DAILY through people throwing away cigarette cartons, bus tickets and many other odds and ends. He was opening the private scrap builds a bomber exhibition at Charing Cross Underground Station. Collections of paper have not come up to the mark, he said. Our streets are littered with presents to Hitler.

Mr. Butcher asked the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Works the COST OF COLLECTION OF SCRAPMETAL up to the last convenient date and the value of scrap so collected? Mr. Hicks: Up to March 31 last the cost of collection of scrap metal, handled directly by MOW, was £1,796,000. Its value, at controlled prices, is estimated at £1,948,000. Mr. Butcher asked the Parliamentary Secretary whether he will define his relations with MOS in connection with the collection of scrap metal? Mr. Hicks: MOW has undertaken on behalf of MOS the collection of scrap metal from sources other than those normally supplying the trade. The activities of the two Departments are co-ordinated by an inter-departmental committee.

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## from AN ARCHITECT'S Commonplace Book

USEFUL KNOWLEDGE SEVENTY YEARS OLD. [From The British Almanac of the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge, 1873]. Our hope for architecture is that the intense unreality of the system of servile copying under which we have so long suffered is beginning to be recognised. The principle for which year after year we have been contending—that a building should be designed with reference primarily to its purpose, place and time, and that, as regards style, it is the idea which influenced the old architects that has to be considered, and not their manner which is to be copied—is, at any rate, coming to be very generally admitted, if as yet it has not produced any visible results in the works erected or those in progress. We are not, it will be seen, advocating a new style. We desire to see original work, believing that all true art is original in character. But even originality will not be aimed after by the genuine artist. It will be reached, however, when the architect of true genius and sufficient resolution shall design and build with a single eye to the purpose of the structure on which he is engaged.

\*
On May 25 in the House of Commons the Committee stage was concluded and the TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING BILL READ THE THIRD TIME, without amendment. See page 369.

A gift of 20 guineas, on condition that "he makes a very careful examination of my body, including the SEVERING OF MY TEMPORAL ARTERIES and a complete testing of my nervous system," was left to Dr. Plowright by Sir Reginald Blomfield, R.A., in his will. Sir Reginald Blomfield, R.A., in his will. Sir Reginald Blomfield died on December 27, 1942, aged 86. He left £112,057 5s. 9d. gross, with net personalty of £101,226 15s. 11d.

By arrangement with the Ministry of Production, MOS has appointed Mr. R. H. Hall DIRECTOR OF WOODWORKING, and Mr. H. Freeman, Deputy Director. The Directorate will make arrangements for the allocation of capacity for the fabrication of all woodworking requirements for all Government departments, except as regards the specialized needs of certain Ministries, such as for aircraft components and ships fittings. The primary object will be to ensure the most economical use of labour, plant and premises, and the Director will be assisted by an Advisory Trade Panel. The Offices of the Directorate are Portland House, Tothill Street, London, S.W.1.

For under £5-a-week families FLATS ARE CONDEMNED as a solution of the housing problem in towns in a report of the evidence of TCPA before MOH Advisory Committee on Housing. Your neighbour's wireless and piano, his loud voice, and parties up to one o'clock in the morning, not to speak of his quarrels, are intolerable, it says. So is the continual feeling of restraint involved in taking care yourself

not to disturb your neighbour. The nursery school, to which flat children go, is described as a terrible commentary on the bankruptcy of our present way of life. It is urged that a national code of housing standards should be framed, applicable to all houses for the under-£5-a-week family (this is a pre-war figure). These houses should be suitable for families of live, with outlook, privacy, and the placing of larder and kitchen carefully considered, with rows of semi-detached houses being varied by terraces of up to ten or twelve houses. Trees—birches, acacias, mountain ash, maple, a variety of flowering trees, and possibly fruit trees—should be widely used, and where houses are built in concrete the colours of blocks should be varied. See page 372.

Mr. Richard Coppock has been ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF THE LCC in succession to the late Sir Alfred Baker.

Mr. C. W. Gibson, proposing his election, referred to Mr. Coppock's long record of public service, beginning with membership of the Manchester City Council and to his activities as Igeneral secretary of NFBTO.

The first regional trust fund to be established under the building industry's NEW NATIONAL APPRENTICE-SHIP SCHEME has been set up by the Southern Counties Federation of Building Trades Employers, with a capital of £500. A cheque for this amount was formally handed over at the headquarters of NFBTE by the chairman of the Council of the Southern Counties Federation, Mr. G. O. Swayne, to the chairman of the Trustees, Mr. S. J. Kingerlee, who is also president of the Southern Counties Federation. Mr. Leslie Wallis, president of the National Federation, presided at the ceremony. In the past apprentices have been articled to individual firms. Under the new scheme they are to be apprenticed to the industry. This means that, in addition to the employer, guardian and the boy, trustees appointed by the National Federation become partners to the indenture, and are responsible for guaranteeing continuity of employment and tuition to the apprentice. To ensure this, trust funds are to be set up throughout the country by the various sections of the National Federation.



Mr. G. O. Swayne, Chairman of the Council of the Southern Counties Federation of Building Trades Employers (right) hands a cheque of £500 to Mr. S. J. Kingerlee, Chairman of the Trustees to establish an apprenticeship scheme in the Southern Counties. In the photograph, from left to right, are John Croad, S. R. Gerdes, Norman Longley, S. J. Kingerlee, Leslie Wallis, President of BINC and NFBTE, L. A. Peyman, G. O. Swayne.





TomHarrisson

Explorer, ornithologist, author, and founder, with Charles Madge, of Mass-Observation, Tom Harrisson once spent a year in the interior of Malekula, a Pacific island where cannibalism is still practised. The only white man there, he lived among the natives as one of them and during his stay took a census of the whole population. Born thirty-one years ago in South America, the son of a general, he was educated at Harrow and Cambridge. During his last term at Harrow he went as ornithologist on the Oxford University expedition to the Arctic and from Cambridge organized an expedition of Oxford and Cambridge scientists to the Atlantic island of St. Kilda. In 1932-33 he led the Oxford University expedition to Central Borneo, where it made the first ascent of Sarawak's highest mountain, Mount Mala. Immediately he returned he went on an expedition to the New Hebrides, spending the first year with five other

scientists on the island of Santo and the following year alone with the natives of Malekula.\* He has travelled in remote places in much of the world with the support of such bodies as the Royal Geographical Society, the British Museum and the Universities. Mass-Observation was founded in 1937 to study the habits, social customs and beliefs of the British people. Its latest publications are The Pub and the People, a study of public-houses and drinking habits in a Northern town and Peoples Homes (John Murray), a survey of working-class needs. Though Mr. Harrisson is now in the Army (at an OCTU), he has found time to write a paper on *Public Taste and Public* Design, which was read by Mr. D. Behrens on May 11 last, and is printed on page 371.

<sup>\*</sup> The expedition to Borneo is described in Borneo Jungle, that to the New Hebrides in Savage Civilization, two books by Tom Harrisson.

At the Birmingham University, Edgbaston, the TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING SUMMER SCHOOL IS TO REOPEN from August 24 to 31. The school, which operates under the auspices of the TPI, discontinued its annual meetings at the outbreak of war. The programme is designed as a refresher course comprising a broad survey of some of the main problems of National survey and planning. Among the subjects to be discussed will be: the economics of world trade; the location of industry; sociology; recreation and amenities (including National parks); housing and residential requirements. The West Midland Group on Post-war Planning has agreed to participate in the work of the school and will deal particularly with survey and research. It is also proposed to introduce a series of discussion groups. The fee for membership of the school is £2 2s. 0d. for the full week or 10/6 per day. The charge for board and lodging will be 12/6 per day but owing to the catering difficulties, accommodation can only be reserved in the Hostel for those members proposing to stay the whole week. Practising planners will have the first call on such accommodation. Arrangements, however, can be made in the Birmingham hotels for members wishing to attend for a part of the time. Those interested should communicate at once with the Honorary General Secretary (W. L. Waide), 75, Westfield Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, 15, from whom booking forms may be obtained.

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Lord Latham, leader of the LCC, speaking at Hackney, said that the PLAN FOR THE COUNTY OF LONDON IS READY and will be discussed by the Council on July 13. The plan is the work of Mr. J. H. Forshaw, architect to the LCC, who was advised by Professor Patrick Abercrombie. Officially known as the provisional plan of development for the administrative County of London, it does not include the City. Lord Latham said this plan will be found to be a fine and inspiring conception of what London can be. In planning London it is not sufficient only to make certain parts of the West End beautiful; we must make the East End liveable and beautiful. The plan will offer something to set us thinking; something to bite on. It points the way to a new and finer London. Metropolitan borough councils and other statutory authorities will be given ample opportunity to express their views.

In a message to the annual meeting of the Midland Association of Building Societies at Birmingham, Mr. Eden, the Foreign Secretary, said that it is in the power of BUILDING SOCIETIES TO PLAY A GREAT PART in making good the leeway lost during the war. He looked forward to the day when there will be a real home for every family in the land. That is the aim and he was confident that the societies will rise to the occasion with readiness, boldness and public spirit.



## WHERE THERE IS NO VISION

TO what extent is the architect to play a leading role in the rebuilding of Britain after the war?

We think of what has happened to our environment between the two wars and wonder whether we shall really see a sudden wave of Parliamentary enthusiasm, backed by public opinion, advocating the compulsory employment of qualified architects on buildings generally.

Gone is the great age of enlightened patronage, although architectural imitation would still appear to revive it in some of its London reconstruction schemes. Queen Anne is dead, sociology and science have released architecture and architects from their solitary academic confinement, and we are now more alive to civic and scientific responsibilities.

In this century, whether we like or not, it is local Regional and National Government which are becoming the principal patrons of art and building. So we may say, the architects of our post-war environment are none other than the men and women who, as officials or members of Council, serve their local councils. However fully imbued with the spirit of public service they may be, we see constantly around us æsthetic blunders made and civic opportunities lost partly, we must confess, because there is no informed voice or mind to make timely suggestions which may avert these disasters, and partly, as we know, because of the conflict which exists in legislation between private and public interest.

We talk about the new consciousness that the profession has gained, which accepts the shift from a private to a public clientele, yet the fact must be faced that as a body we stand aloof from the principal vehicle of that responsibility—the local council. Throughout the country prior to the war there were less than 50 architects serving as members of their local councils—while the builders had more than 2,000 (men keenly interested in building and civic development, but interested, can we say, in the spatial, sociological and architectural framework of their environment?)

Until our voices are heard in every council chamber in the

In connection with this leading article, read Alderman William Illingworth's address on The Architect's Part in Municipal Affairs on page 364.

country, we architects will always be crying in the wilderness, hearing within the limits only of our professional journals and associations our own disapproving echoes disclaiming what is done by what we feel to be misguided authority. The Architect Councillor may be of consummate usefulness to the community, especially on the Town Planning and Housing Committees, where a few timely words may avert architectural and sociological catastrophes in the field of planning, and where constant vigilance may quietly do its leavening work and infuse new civic standards into the entire Council. For has not the architect in such a place the supreme weapon of propaganda affecting not only the Council itself, but, through it, the local and national Press? Members of the profession have been realistic about the war and given their services freely wherever duty has demanded. Shall we be equally realistic when peace comes? official architecture is still not carried out by architect officials, though the increase in the acceptance of high salaried positions by a significant number of younger men in the profession is an encouraging sign. This being so, all the more reason is there for the appearance of the Councillor Architect.

Though we cannot help seeing around us the outward opportunities that have been missed in local councils, the inner opportunities of the committee room are seldom brought to light. Then it is only too often that a well-conceived scheme proposed by an imaginative young official is wrecked by the apathy or clumsiness of those who can only see it from a mercenary angle. Such things deter men from entering local government service. Those architects who are there as officials need all the support they can get. They can succeed in doing a great public service only if they have the encouragement and backing of trained and æsthetically conscious eyes and minds on the councils they serve.

It is to the shame of nearly all the professions that they have not organised themselves in such a way that they can place service as people's representatives upon local councils high among professional duties, but have considered such service to be outside, if not beneath, their consideration. If practice were organised on group lines, at least one member of the group could be spared for this work.

We are learning that we cannot segregate ourselves from each other as architects nor from the society we would like to regenerate. We must permeate it at every level—Government, Local, Regional and National, if we believe in our cause. This campaign for the civilization in which we live depends largely upon us who are or should be responsible for our environment. To be so, we need 1,000 more architects (preferably under 40) on local councils. Such an appeal can only be made and faced with humility remembering how little we as a body have done to provide that vision without which the people perish.



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LOCAL COUNCILS AND THE ARCHITECT As constituted at present most local authorities are clearly not fitted to plan or to control design. The average local council member rarely has any knowledge of planning or architecture or, for that matter, any wide vision or trained æsthetic sense at all. Too often he has local vested interests which tend to dull any altruistic fervour he may possess. Acting for the council, the local engineer and surveyor, as correspondent Bloggs recently pointed out, continues in most cases to assume the function of town planner, while having neither the training, knowledge, nor time to prepare planning schemes.

The steps to ensure sound planning and architecture, fundamental fiscal political and financial questions apart, need to be repeated: (1) a permanent national planning commission composed of a disinterested team of the country's best experts should be set up (2) to prepare a positive national plan based on scientific research, while (3) assisting, staffing, educating, firmly controlling but inspiring regional, county and local planning authorities. (4) The commission should at the same time organize more and better schools to train the many architects, engineers, planners and other technicians who are needed, and (5) should instigate a wide national propaganda campaign to rouse public desire for good planning, building and design in general.



One of the Tennessee Valley Authority's Trailer Houses. These houses are built in two sections of light construction, which can be easily detached from one another and transported on a movable wheeled undercarriage. Astragal describes these houses below and suggests their possible use in post-war temporary housing.

(6) An Act should be passed prohibiting any plans or buildings being carried out unless designed by fully qualified experts—a recommendation I am glad to see that TCPA makes in its recent evidence to MOH's Housing Committee. In these matters a clear lead is needed.

Meanwhile, until such ideal conditions prevail, architects can help matters considerably by taking individual initiative in trying to influence and work for local authorities.

#### POETS' CORNER

COTTON-KING ARCHITECTURE
Waterhouse, porterhouse, cusp-and-three-quarter-house,

Grafton's gables are richer than rare. Snare 'em, square 'em, Rheims can spare 'em, Give 'em a dose of Manchester air.

J. & J. Jackson, Kershaw, Sidebottom: Venice in Lancashire's vale of tears. Eighteen columns on a rustic wide-bottom. Architects: Clegg and his gondoliers.

Roughly, toughly, Starkey and Cuffley! Pop goes the pediment, right on the beat. Corinthian cookery, coal-black nookery, Florentine hot-pot in Market Street.

Travis and Mangnall, eighteen fifty. Ralli's, Olivo's, Schunk-Sonchay's. Pocketing, docketing, Manchester cotton-king. Intercolumniability pays!

JOHN COOLMORE

THE TRAILER HOUSE

To those planners who believe in the need for prefabricated housing in post-war building, I commend for study an article in the February issue of the Architectural Record on The Trailer House—TVA's new approach to mobile shelter.

The Tennessee Valley Authority has produced four experimental types of movable houses to shelter its construction personnel. The houses are built in sections and can be cut, like a loaf of bread, into parallel slices, each of which can be transported complete and fully equipped merely by attaching a wheeled undercarriage hitched to a car. The slices can be coupled or uncoupled almost as quickly as railway trucks, and can be assembled by a crew of four. Floors and roof are of stressed-skin plywood panel construction, providing lightness and minimum wall thickness with great strength.

The four types of house produced by TVA contain a living room of about 10 ft. by 15 ft., a bedroom of about 8 ft. 6 in. by 10 ft. 9 in., a small kitchen and a bathroom. The average cost is \$2,000. The houses are made in two slices, but there is in principle no reason why any sized house of any number of slices cannot be built.

This type of house may have very wide applications indeed. Perhaps it is the solution to the problem of immediate post-war housing when hundreds of thousands of temporary homes will have to be provided at once. Advantages of these trailer houses are that they could be (1) mass-produced cheaply and quickly under cover in the factories vacated by war industries; (2) easily transported to any site; (3) demounted and erected elsewhere, as more permanent homes were completed area by area as part of planning schemes; (4) designed in standard units to provide varied plans, while making later additions of extra rooms possible; (5) at the same time pleasant to look at and comfortable to live in.

#### GOD'S UTHER WOT

A murmur from a facetious member of the audience overheard at a meeting of the Town and Country Planning Association:—"The Garden City is a lovesome thing, Uthwatt."

ASTRAGAL

## PLANNING NOTES

TRAINING THE ARCHITECT

In a new Board of Education pamphlet (HMSO 9d.), Mr. Martin Briggs pours official scorn on the architect as sociologist. "Young men, tired of the tyranny of the orders as preached to them by pedants, rightly refuse to accept the erroneous but common conception of the architect as the high priest of an esoteric mystery and the interpreter of historical styles. They clamour for a return to commonsense problems of everyday humanity, and for a new approach to planning and design based upon human needs. They have christened these needs, communal and private, with the word sociology. . . An architect should be a man of the world, capable of grasping the requirements of his patrons and of satisfying their material needs. He should not be primarily a draughtsman nor an archæologist. But a solicitor and a doctor are equally expected to be men of the world, though sociology finds no place in their professional training. . . . Instead of dabbling in sociology for which callow and immature minds lack the necessary background of worldly experience, students should be encouraged to direct their energies towards the more technical kind of research which is already a welcome innovation in many schools.

WASTED FERTILITY

The Food Education Society organized a conference recently for the exchange of information on organic fertilizers. Papers were read by engineers from several of the more progressive local authorities such as Leatherhead and Kingston, who manufacture valuable fertilizers from the town sewage. Recent researches have revolutionized sewerage practice and efficient disposal is likely soon to be considered as immorally wasteful as throwing away

good food.

The same subject is tackled in a lighter vein in Cleanliness and Godliness, by Reginald Reynolds (George Allen & Unwin, 12/6). He discourses with Rabelaisian gusto on the history of sanitation, including the Venerable Privies of the Sumerians, a Stuart Throne at Windsor and the Dignity of the Victorian Water Closet; analyses the position of to-day; quotes von Liebig that the sewers of Rome engulfed the prosperity of the Roman peasants and devoured the wealth of Sicily, Sardinia and the fertile lands on the coast of Africa; discusses the latest methods; quotes Combs that the Institute of Sewage Purification should become the Institute of the National Industry of Organic Fertilizers; and concludes that Composts will outlive Churchill.



## LETTERS

(R. V. Boughton, A.I.Struct.E. Thomas Sharp, M.T.P.I. E. R. Riley (Welfare Officer, John Laing & Son) Ove N. Arup Jacob Chernukhin

#### How to Ruin the Case for Planning

SIR,—The letter from Mr. John Gloag in your issue for May 13, has successfully tempted me to navigate my small craft, get into action stations and give him a well directed and well deserved broadside for his floundering attack on the lecture by Mr. Thomas Sharp on Town and Country Planning. This lecture was to me, as it must have been to many building-thinkers, one of outstanding

Mr. Gloag calls Mr. Sharp to task for using the word directed in his reference to the mobility of the population. To state that directed should not be used in a free country during peace time suggests that Mr. Gloag does not know the various meanings of this word. He has not quoted the context of that part of the lecture in which this word was used with dignity and wholesome meaning. As a Company Director I really must ask the registrar of companies to allow me, when the war is over, to call myself either a Company Watcher Leader Contain or Guard so that I Watcher, Leader, Captain or Guard, so that I may not be able to direct those who should or want to be directed. London

R. V. BOUGHTON

SIR,—I am sorry that Mr. Gloag is dismayed by my use of the word direct. The Concise by my use of the word *direct*. The *Concise*Oxford Dictionary gives these meanings to the word—' to control, govern the movements of; word—" to control, govern the movements of; tell (person) the way to; guide as adviser; order person to do; give orders." In saying that people who wish to settle in the country-side "should be directed into villages," I meant primarily that they should be shown the way there, guided there. But I also meant that, since for both the public and the private good it is desirable that the suburbanization of the countryide should ston, then there may the countryside should stop, then there may

have to be some degree of "control of movement.

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To deal fully with Mr. Gloag's challenge would mean a long philosophical argument which I cannot enter into in a short letter. I will only remind Mr. Gloag that all planning, indeed all government, must involve some control, some interference. How far that control is tolerable or intolerable depends on a number of matters like the necessities which prompt it, and the degree and the manner in which it is exercised. My own conception of a proper planning control is that it must be based broadly on a humanistic appreciation and understanding of the public and private benefits involved, and that it must not merely be negative in that it stops an individual doing something against the public good, but positive in that it offers him the widest possible range of alternatives to his contemplated course of action-alternatives which will contain private as well as public benefits.

Of course, Mr. Gloag may prefer laisser-faire to planning. His lotar may be the master-father to planning. His letter suggests that he does. If he does, then let him say so directly. If he does not, I wish he would tell us how he proposes to get his tidy, better-ordered England without exercising some degree of governmental direction.

governmental direction.

I do not know if Mr. Gloag is responsible for the heading to his letter, but it is beautifully appropriate. To rush in violently as he does, sowing extravagant suspicion and imputing evil motives to planners in general is indeed an excellent example of "How to Ruin the Case for Planning. Hampstead THOMAS SHARP

#### National Savings Drive

SIR,-Some eighteen months ago you published in your JOURNAL, to stimulate the War Savings effort, a note regarding the savings of Laing workers. The employees of John Laing & Son, Ltd., have now passed another milestone in their savings drive as they have just exceeded the figure of £200,000 subscribed to National Savings. The staff and workmen have been very pleased that on more than one occasion, Lord Kindersley, the President of the National Savings Movement, has written to congratulate the firm on the success attained.

Welfare Officer, John Laing & Son, Ltd. London

#### Planning Vocabulary Needed

SIR,—May I second Astragal's suggestion in your issue for May 13, that we are in need of a simple vocabulary of planning. Words like planning, prefabrication, standardisation, coordination, integration are very much in fashion, but they are capable of so many integrations that the state of interpretations that their indiscriminate use must lead to confusion.

It may not be possible to give a precise definition of these words. Our language is not a scientific instrument—in the theory of a scientific institution.—In the theory of science therefore words give way to signs and formulæ. The meaning of a particular word first comes to life when the word is considered together with its context—it is the whole sentence or paragraph which conveys the meaning, not the single word. If we plan to go to Switzerland next year, the meaning is clear enough. Post-war planning on the other hand

may mean anything.

This sort of trouble often arises when the public's attention is focused on a new set of ideas for which appropriate words are lacking. In our case the increased interest in planning has naturally led to a closer scrutiny of its various aspects and implications. Slowly, through public discussion, some progress is made in the understanding of the problems involved, and new words are needed to crystallize this progress and facilitate com-

munication.

Gradually a planning jargon emerges, not so much by coining new words with exact

#### meanings, but by using old words in a new sense, or in new combinations. This leads to ambiguity because these words become associated with different ideas in different people's minds, and may even be used to mean different things in one and the same article. Alternatively, they may not be associated with any ideas at all.

If people who had to use these words were more aware of their ambiguity and would take the trouble to use them in one well defined sense throughout an article or speech, other people might be able to understand what they

were driving at. A vocabulary of planning, giving an analysis of the many meanings of a few planning words, with possibly some suggestions for their more consistent use, would be a step in this direction. If done thoroughly, such an analysis would

clarify the whole problem of planning Could not the JOURNAL ask for contributions, sift them and present a report?

London.

OVE N. ARUP

### CABLEGRAM

from Russia

The following account of an interview with Valentine Golli, the Leningrad architect, has been cabled to us by Jacob Chernukhin.

Valentine Golli, Secretary of Leningrad branch of Union of Soviet Architects, has brought to Moscow 150 models and designs for Leningrad Architects' Exhibition reflecting warsting activities of Leningrad's builders.

war-time activities of Leningrad's builders.

Among works on view are several noteworthy contributions by Valentine Golli himself. One is project for reconstruction ensemble of Pestel Street in Leningrad. This Street suffered badly from Fascist bombardment. Project had won first prize at Leningrad Artists' Contest. Another work by Valentine Golli is monument to the raising of the siege. It is architect's wish to have monument erected on bank of Neva where battles for destroying enemy ring around Leningrad were fought and won by Soviet troops. For many years now Valentine Golli com-

mands attention as one of Leningrad's most outstanding builders. He is graduate of Department of Architecture in Civil Engineering Institute. He has devoted 14 years service in Leningrad's state projecting builders organisation known as *Lenproject*, first as ordinary designer on staff and later as chief architect. As head of architects' workshop he is responsible for many new buildings and blocks built in Leningrad. He has designed six large apartment houses and three schools six large apartment houses and three schools in city. Construction of two apartment houses has been stopped because of war. State Dramatic Theatre in Stalinabad and Middle School in Petrozavodsk were designed by Valentine Golli. Both are very large and imposing buildings. Theatre has two auditoriums one with seating capacity of 1,000 and other of 600. School consists of 22 bright classrooms, gymnasium, laboratories, etc. Leningrad Branch Architects' Union, of which Valentine Golli is head, has membership of almost 1,000. Valentine Golli has told your correspondent of series builders' contests which have been announced in Leningrad.

which have been announced in Leningrad.

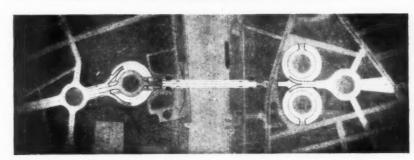
which have been announced in Leningrad. Most of contests are for rebuilding battered parts of city—particularly restoration of historically and architecturally important buildings and ensembles.

Great interest which soldiers and officers display in rebuilding plans of Leningrad's architects was stressed by Valentine Golli. 'Some time before my departure from Leningrad' Valentine Golli said 'I laws at front grad," Valentine Golli said, "I was at front where I delivered lectures on architectural treasures of Leningrad. Lecture was followed by questions which showed that many soldiers had fairly good knowledge of history of Leningrad's architecture. We Leningrad architects," Valentine Golli said in conclusion, "have stood great hardships and are ready to endure more for victory over Hitlerism.'

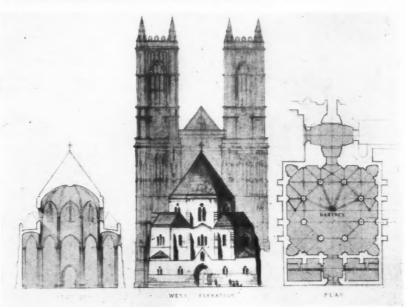
JACOB CHERNUKHIN.

#### ATTHE EXHIBITION R.A.









Top, elevation and plan of a proposed bridge at Finnieston for the Glasgow Corporation by Herbert J. Rowse. Centre, proposed rebuilding of Gray's Inn, South Square, north side, by Edward Maufe. Above, suggestion for an addition to Westminster Abbey by Sir Edwin Lutyens.

These pertinent remarks on the question of the private and official architect should be read in conjunction with this week's leading article. They are taken from a Presidential Address given recently by Alderman William Illingworth, F.R.I.B.A., at a General Meeting of the West Yorkshire Society of Architects, in which he urged architects to take a more active part in municipal affairs if they wish to have an effective influence on town planning and building after the war.



The Architect's Part in

# MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

There are two direct ways, and at least one indirect method, in which the qualified architect can play an important part in municipal affairs:—

 He can become a member of a local council, borough council or county council;

(ii) He can become an official architect.

The indirect way is by serving on a civic society or kindred body where such exists, or helping to found one where there is no such organization.

He can join in arousing interest in architectural and town planning matters by talks (to public organisations). He must also support his local allied society.

The most direct method, that of serving on the local council, is the one least likely to attract architects as a form of public service. Architects as a class have not a great record of such work. It may be argued that architects are averse to the hurly-burly of political life, but this raises the question: "Are architects as a body less public-spirited than other learned professions?" If they reply that they fear to be thought job-hunters, then the answer is that this is unfounded, and if put to the test would be quickly

dispelled. The architect's training and experience are of value to the council. His presence on a local council is a leaven of assurance against that body repeating the mistakes of the past in the development of its area.

Architects cannot afford to ignore politics either nationally or locally. This was clear at the time of the Registration Bill. The comparative indifference of political Governments to architects can only be countered from inside. The ignorance of the majority of local councils to the essentials of town planning and architecture can best be conquered by the political action of architects themselves, who should be prepared, without thought of self, and with no hope of commissions to compensate them for the time they spend, to join directly in such public work.

directly in such public work.

The second method is that of the architect working in a professional capacity for a local authority. More and more young men before the war were adopting salaried posts with both Government and local government departments. If at one time it was customary to look down on officials, the pendulum has swung so far in the opposite direction that we find Professor Reilly writing recently that the officials are the new aristocrats of the profession. Though at present the appointment of an architect to a local authority is not a statutory one, it seems inevitable that future legislation will make it incumbent upon towns of over a certain population to employ an official architect in addition to a surveyor or engineer; and it would be well if groups of smaller authorities were to combine for this purpose. There is no doubt that the best results are obtained where the official architect is the head of an independent department. There is adequate historical precedent for the employment officially of first-class men.

The practice of local authorities employing their own architectural staff was growing before the outbreak of war. Bradford has had a separate architect's department since 1900. Leeds is perhaps unusual amongst towns of its size in not having a city architect, preferring to distribute the work between the housing architect, the education architect and the city engineer, employing in addition, private architects for special commissions. That this last phase is largely due to the Council of the Society is worth noting. The method of Leeds, generally, is not without merit, but it seems to lack the co-ordination that a controlling architect at the head of affairs could exert.

The common tendency to regard private and official architects as distinct and separate classes is to be deplored, because it is unnecessary and untrue. Both types of architects, far from being hostile, are complementary. It must be taken, moreover, that the official architect has come to stay, and plans for the future of the profession must be based on this assumption.

There is no doubt that the profession suffers as a whole because both the general public, the local councils and, indeed, the Government do not understand the work of the architect, nor appreciate fully the value of his services to the community. So often the man who wishes to build thinks of a builder instead of an architect.

of an architect.

The Society's plea, made some years ago, that all plans submitted to a local Authority—except for official schemes—should be over the signature of a registered and privately practising architect, is still worth stressing in high quarters.

The duties of the official architect are worth serious consideration, particularly in view of the anticipated rebuilding and replanning work after the war. The practice of local authorities, in this respect, varies a good deal. Some put their work into the hands of the engineer. Others give it all to their independent official architect. Others make use of the services of private architects in addition to their own departments. The common way of doing this has been by competitions, either open or

limited. Before the war, and perhaps largely due to the Society's influence, big authorities like the Leeds City Council and the West Riding County Council were giving directly splendid commissions to private architects.

Too much work of the town, in my opinion, can be done by the official architect. There is apt to be a sameness, or lack of variety in the one man's schemes for each and every job that comes along. On the other hand the proposal (advanced by a private architect) that the official should confine himself to the maintenance of buildings erected by outside men is absurd. There is a happy mean, and it must surely be that the official architect's department should be composed of an adequate number of qualified men of suitable-training and experience, who are properly remunerated and who have reasonable prospect of promotion. In the event of an increase in the volume of work, recourse should not be had to the temporary employment of extra assistants. This extra work should be given to private architects of proved worth, at RIBA scale fees, and should be done in the closest possible collaboration with the official who would normally have done the work.

I believe that it should be part of the duties of a city architect to direct and control architectural design for the betterment of his town, in company with his colleague, the town planning officer. He should have the assistance of an advisory panel, drawn perhaps from his allied society, and there would be a Jury of Appeal from his veto, as laid down in the Town and Country Planning Acts. With suitable men in control, I believe that this would be a step in the right direction, particularly if he were backed up by his Council and the public generally. Town planning is more than roads and sewers, but some municipalities are unhappily not aware of this. There is beauty—too—and imagination which are implied in the legislators' word, Amenities. Reasonable control of such work might well be a duty of the official architect, and additional powers locally would clearly benecessary. National planning, however good and far-reaching, will end in local activity, and intelligent direction will be necessary at every stage of sub-division from the major plan to each unit of building. There is clearly room for considerable alteration in our present methods, if we are to mend our ways and make our cities centres of real civilization.

One of our great difficulties in the past has been the lack of interest in architecture by the general public. This may not persist, however, and there are signs already of a change. People should be encouraged to take an interest in the new building which is to be erected on either a new or a cleared site. Too often, of course, they never see designs for important new city buildings, or know their purpose. It is no use presenting people with the accomplished fact of an architectural blunder obvious even to the educated layman, which is going to last for four or five decades. The time for architectural criticism is in the rubber and not the dynamite

Even in the midst of war each and all of us should seize every opportunity of educating, the public to become interested in matters relating to town and country planning, and to improve their knowledge of good and bad' design. There is growing dissatisfaction to-day amongst thoughtful people, not only with the failure of the past adequately to clear the slums, but with the general body of our towns. More and more of those are becoming determined that their local councils shall cease to repeat the mistakes of the past and that a serious attempt shall be made after the war to clean the mess and ugliness of the urban

scene.

Whatever the political or economic nature of the future, there is little doubt of the growing desire for improvement.

It is a duty which architects can hardly escape, if they are to justify their claims for better recognition of their worth, that they should concern themselves more and more with the affairs of their municipality.



Engineering works

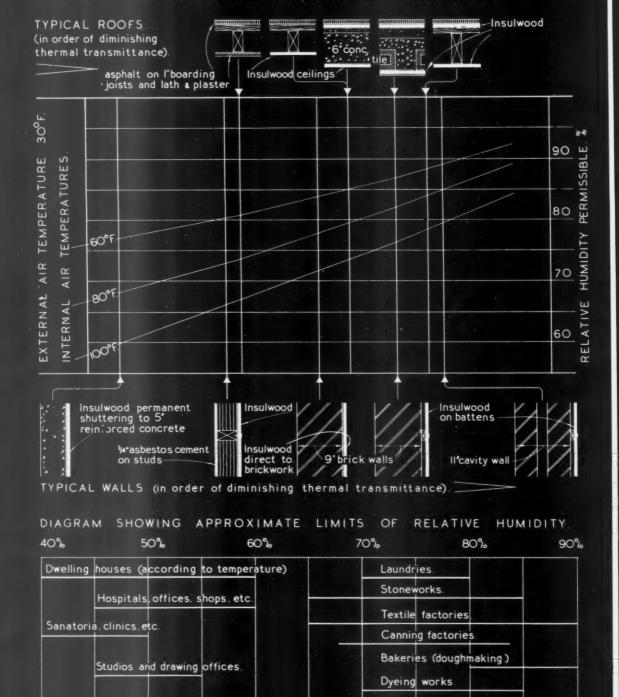
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### BUILDING BOARDS No. 4

Product: Insulwood and Sundeala Building Boards.

### General:

This Sheet deals with the prevention of condensation in buildings. Precipitation of moisture from the air is likely to occur whenever the temperature of internal wall and ceiling surfaces falls below that of the dew-point, or water-saturated condition of the atmosphere. Although the absolute humidity (dew-point) of air varies considerably with its temperature, there is a definite maximum percentage, above the actual water-content or relative humidity, at which moisture in the form of dew, commences to be given up to any cooler surface with which the air is in contact.

Hence the prevention of condensation entails either the use of dehumidification plant, i.e., lowering the humidity, or the heat insulation of the structure to ensure the raising of the temperature of the wall and ceiling surfaces above that of the saturation point of the air.

For reasons of economy, or where relatively high humidities are unavoidable, applied heat insulation is usually adopted.

### Insulwood:

This board belongs to the low-density range, and has a thermal conductivity of 0.36 B.Th.U.'s per sq. ft. per hour for I inch thickness, and for one degree F. difference in temperature. The waterproofing process undergone by the board during manufacture increases its efficiency and ensures both a dry medium and the rejection of any absorption of atmospheric moisture.

The material can be distempered, painted, enamelled, coated with plaster, paper, etc., and used as an underlay or as permanent shuttering to concrete.

### Chart :

When the maximum internal temperature is known, the maximum permissible percentage of relative humidity can be read on the right-hand column. If the tested or anticipated humidity is greater than that indicated, condensation will occur.

The diagrams of typical roof and wall construction are positioned horizontally to scale, and have from left to right a diminishing coefficient of thermal transmittance, i.e., the diagrams on the extreme right show constructions in which the internal surfaces are warmest, and therefore able to resist greater percentages of humidity.

### **Previous Sheets:**

Previous sheets of this series are Nos. 893, 895 and 896.

For Pimco systems of metal ceiling and partition fixing see Sheets Nos. 854, 858, 861, 864, 868, 872, 879, 884.

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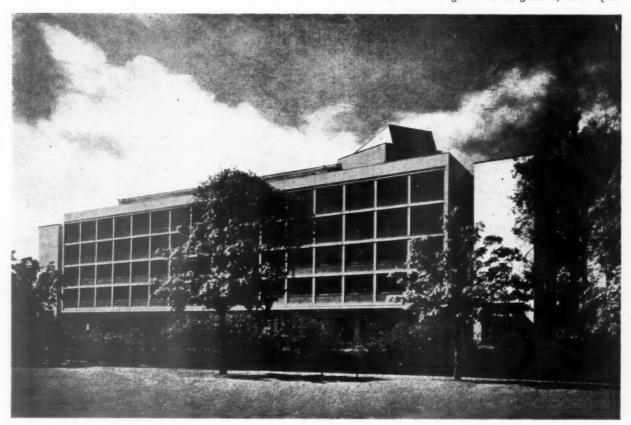
P.I.M. Board Co., Ltd.

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### TRADE SCHOOL IN SWITZERLAND

### DESIGNED BY HANS BRECHBUHLER



This vocational school in Berne was completed in 1940, and contains teaching facilities for a great number of trades and professions, including mechanics, engineers, carpenters, upholsterers, goldsmiths, carpet makers, shoemakers, tailors, hair dressers,

butchers, bakers, gardeners, dentists and artists.

The school, planned for a difficult hillside site, is contained in two buildings: the main block, illustrated here, and a single-storey machine shop for heavy operations. The main block, of reinforced concrete construction, is built on stilts supporting cantilevered beams. The ground floor thus serves as a covered lounge area for the students and protects the rooms in the main block from the noise and vibration of the machine shop. Part of the ground floor is occupied by a cafeteria with glass sides.

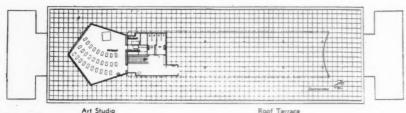
The main building contains lecture rooms, classrooms, studios and laboratories. These are not standardized but each is planned and furnished for its special purpose. The simple narrow rectangular plan and great window areas provide maximum daylight in the rooms. The two end blocks

with their solid walls, containing entrances, lavatories, staircases and lifts, make an effective contrast to the glass walls of the centre block, their separation from which insulates the classroom areas from noise.

An art studio is built on the flat roof terrace, and a canopy running down the centre of the roof forms a pleasant covered open-air classroom.

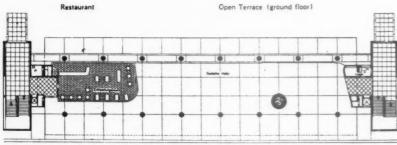
The single-storey engineering shop, not illustrated here, has a clear floor area spanned by steel trusses with double-glazed lights and large window areas in the walls.

In most of the classrooms, the natural finish of materials provides the decorative effect, concrete surfaces being left unfinished except for painting. Many lecture rooms are treated for sound with acoustic tiles; layers of felt are laid below the floor slabs throughout for sound insulation.

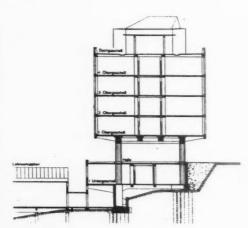


Roof Plan

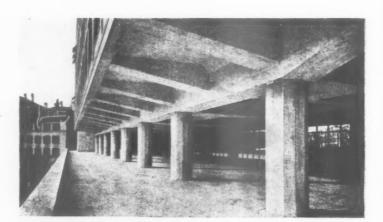
Typical Floor Plan



Ground Floor Plan



Cross Section





n ti wh pa n fi fi b d ta p

TRADE SCHOOL IN SWITZERLAND

Plans: Left, top, roof terrace of main block, with art studio and canopy; centre, a typical floor; below, the ground floor with its open lounge area and cafeteria with glazed sides. Cross section: this shows how the building stands on reinforced concrete stilts supporting cantilevered beams; part of the single-storey machine shop is on the left. Photographs: Below, a view of the ground floor of the main block; bottom, a classroom: the rear wall is faced with acoustic tiles.

varieties of flat, compressed-laminated

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.

### MATTERNALS

1152 **Plastics** 

PLASTICS IN ASSEMBLED BUILD-ING STRUCTURES. G. Fejer. Journal, (Plastics November, 1942, pp. 396-407; December, 1942, pp. 444-454; January, 1943, pp. 16-24, and February, 1943, pp. 65-70). Many illustrations and diagrams. Plastics suitable for prefabricated internal decoration: kitchens. bathrooms. Plastics for insulation. Unlikely to replace Present appliconcrete slabs. cations. Probability of very extensive development of plastics for all kinds of insulation. Substructural framing members.

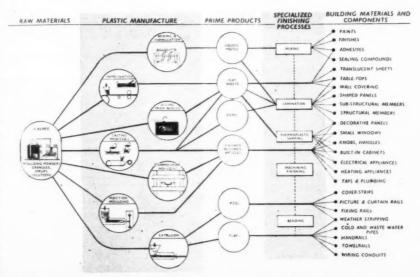
1. The Minimum Kitchen.-After the war some 3-4 million kitchens will be required in this country, a large proportion of these for small houses. Prefabrication of kitchens will then become a necessity. The supplementary use of plastics for equipment units normally made of steel, light metals, timber, asbestos, cement, glass, etc., is worth considering. Hitherto plastics have been used only for small components, such as curtain rails, knobs and fitments, refrigerator parts, utensils, resin-bonded plywood panels and so forth. Table tops may be produced from resin-impregnated wood or resinbonded plywood. Moulded trays and drawers, plate racks and grocery containers can also be manufactured from

2. Small Bathrooms.-Prefabrication of bathroom equipment seems to have a promising future, owing to its standardization of requirements. It may considerably reduce the cost of fitments and thus be made available to people with lower incomes. Plastics are indeed already being applied to certain bathroom components, and there is room for their more extensive use in the future. The manufacture of plastic tubes is already making great advances, while lavatory seats, taps and spouts for baths, are frequently made of plastics. Phenolic and urea tubes are used for handrails and towel-rails. There is scope for the use of plastics in shower-curtains; and should their manufacture be rendered economical, moulded windows will probably be

3. Insulating Walls.—The author warns against belief in the possibility of replacing concrete slabs by plastics, but reveals that plastics are already playing an important part in the construction of dry-assembled wall elements. Plastics could play a very important part in the manufacture of sheeting suitable for use as an insulating material as well as for structural elements. There are about a dozen or cast-resin sheets, used mainly for decorative purposes. Thus far, no plastic board for external use on buildings has been developed. Most of our modern synthetic resins are excellent binders, in many respects superior to the plaster or cement-type binder. For internal use laminated phenolics compare favourably with the hard boards now commonly used. The possibility of producing weather-proof plastic boards is still a question for research. Alkyd-impregnated fabric as the covering layer of large plywood panels has proved useful in prefabricated wall-sections and experiments in the exploitation of various fabrics as fillers have been quite promising. For heat and sound-insulating materials, plastics could be used, as for example the rubber cellular material Onazote (interlayer) and Isoflex, which is composed entirely of cellulose acetate material. The author believes that in 10 years' time the majority of insulating materials will be resin-bonded products.

4. Sub-structural Framing Members.— Though it is tempting to visualize the extrusion process as a suitable method of manufacturing rails, studs, joints, etc., it seems for the time being to be impracticable, partly because there are as yet no presses capable of extruding the required large sections; partly because of the inherent properties of plastics. Certain cellulose derivatives and polymer resins may have the required toughness and dimensional stability, but cannot compete in price with wood. Plastics are being applied extensively in making sub-structural elements by the use of resins as binders. Broadly speaking, the extent to which

plastics will be used in post-war buildings depends on the research and experiments which will be carried out in this direction.



Flow chart showing the correlation between prefabrication of building materials and the plastics industry (from Plastics, Feb., 1943).

### STRUCTURE

1153 Codes of Practice Report

MOW CODES OF PRACTICE COM-MITTEE FOR CIVIL ENGINEERING, PUBLIC WORKS, BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTIONAL WORK. First Report. (H.M. Stationery Office, price 4d. Reviewed in Architect's Journal, April 15, 1943, pp. 248 and 259). Review of present position of Codes of Building Practice. Outline of scheme of Codes for Building.

1154 **CCA Housing Report** 

WARTIME HOUSING. An interim Report prepared by the Cement and Concrete Association, price (Reviewed in Architect's Journal, March 18, 1943, p. 188). Collection of details in 26 wartime housing schemes with recommendations.

### 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' Questions JOURNAL, 45, The Avenue, Cheam, Surrey

### Soil Mechanics

Can you recommend a number of publications on Soil Mechanics or papers read before Societies on this subject?

The Librarian of the Royal Insti-A The Librarian of the Adjunction Authorities Architects has kindly given us the names of the following publications which may be useful to

Foundations, by W. Simpson, published by Constable & Co., 1928.

Foundations and Earth Pressures, by C. Hyde Wallaston, published by Hutchinson's Scientific and Technical Publications, 1939. Price 21s. 0d.

Soil Mechanics—Its Principles and Structural Appliances, by D. P. Kryhine, published by McGraw-Hill Book Co. Inc., 1941.

Soil Mechanics and Foundations, by F. L. Plummer and Stanley M. Dore, published by Pitmans. Price 22s. 6d.

Notes on Soil Mechanics and Foundations, by F. L. Plummer, obtainable

from H. K. Lewis of 136, Gower Street, London, W.C.1. Price 9s. 0d.

An Introduction to Soil Mechanics, by W. L. Lowe-Brown, article in The Engineer, February 5, 12, 19, 1943. (See A.J. Information Centre item No. 1107, April 1, 1943).

### 1156 Financial Aid for Students

O I read in a newspaper that the Government have formed a scheme for those whose studies have been interrupted by the war.

I am due for military service and am awaiting my papers, consequently I feel some misgivings regarding the continuation of my architectural studies after the war. I am at present serving my articles and have nearly completed two vears' studies.

Could you inform me of the necessary qualifications for consideration under the scheme and whether, after a period of military service, I would be eligible?

A statement was made in the House of Commons on March 25 last, during which it was announced that plans had been approved for providing financial assistance to enable suitably qualified men and women to undertake or continue further educational training. The aim of the scheme is to replenish the supply of persons qualified to fill responsible posts in professions and industry, and it would apply to those whose training has been prevented or interrupted by war service.

The scheme is primarily intended for persons serving in the Armed Forces or in Civil Defence, but a certain number of places will be available for persons whose training has been interrupted by employment in other work of National importance. Facilities will normally be made available on general demobilisation but some facilities will be afforded at once to persons who have been discharged on medical grounds from their war service and are not required to undertake other forms of National service.

Enquiries should be addressed as follows:

In the case of candidates normally resident in England and Wales, to the Secretary, Board of Education, Belgrave Square, London, S.W.1. In the case of candidates normally resident in Scotland, to the Secretary, Scottish Education Department, St. Andrew's House, Edinburgh.

### 1157 Magnesite Flooring

Are Magnesite composition floorings still available or has the war affected the supply, as is the case with so many materials.

Magnesite is no longer available, but some of the manufacturers are producing substitute floors.



Speeches and lectures delivered before societies, as well 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 Except where inverted commas are used, the reports are summaries and not verbatim.

### MOTCP

### First Press Conference

May 27 at the Ministry of Town and Country Planning, 32, St. James's Square, S.W.1. FIRST PRESS CONFER-ENCE held by the Minister, Mr. W. S.

W. S. Morrison: My duty has been defined by Parliament as that of "securing consistency and continuity in the framing and execution of a national policy with respect to the use and development of land throughout England and Wales." The creation of this new Ministry embodies the decision of Parliament that in future national considerations should govern more directly and more actively than hitherto the task of making the best use of our 37 million acres.

The Ministry will carry on, but will also develop, with a new initiative and a new power, work performed for many years by the Ministry of Health, and for a while by the Ministry of Works and Planning, This country is more deeply indebted than it knows to the planning activities of the Ministry of Health operating with very limited and often negative powers and making its policies effective by persuasion. The country is not less indebted to its more active and far-seeing local authorities for much good work in the past; indebted also to many private individuals for successful enterprises directed to the public good.

If planning is to be efficient there must be active collaboration between three partners active constraint between three partners—the public, the local planning authorities and the Ministry. Behind these partners stand the specialists—the planners, the surveyors, the architects and the engineers. The activities of these partners must be geared together in a

single movement.

The essential part the people have to play is sometimes overlooked. There has been talk of the danger of their being more planned against than planning. But they must help in the planning themselves. Planned use of the land can only be successful if it faithfully interprets the needs of the people for homes, working places, meeting places, holiday places and all the other purposes which go to create a rich and varied social life. These needs can only be planned for and met as people in country and village, town and city think out for themselves and make known what their true needs are.

Good planning calls for faithful interpretation of the public need, whether it be national (in the shape, for example, of countrywide communications and the better location of industries) or local (in terms of well-spaced houses, good access to schools, shops and recreations). No plan, even for the smallest village, can be successful which is conceived airily by technicians thinking only of what will look well and without painstaking study of the needs of those for whom it is designed.

Another duty of the public is to show their local planning authorities that they are interested in planning and will support the authority in wise expenditure incurred in the execution of a well-conceived plan. Nothing is more certain than that good planning pays. An important part of the Ministry's task will be to help the public to understand their part in planning the future of the country's land. Here I know I shall have the help of many voluntary organizations. Here, too, the press can give most valuable help, as I would now invite it to do.

The local authorities are the spearhead of the planning movement, and I shall always aim at doing my share of the task in the closest and friendliest co-operation with them. I hope the Ministry will be able to help in pooling among local authorities the best experience available. But there will be no question of a Ministry dictating from London on matters of purely local concern to men and women steeped in the experience of their own territories.

I recognize that decisions on certain issues of high policy—notably those raised by the Uthwatt Report—and of finance are needed, before local authorities can finally complete their schemes. But in the meantime there is no district in the country in which there is not still preparatory work independent of these decisions, to be done by the local authority. I do not wish to minimize the importance of early decisions upon certain major recommendations of the Barlow, Scott and Uthwatt Commissions. But those who are impatient for those decisions to be taken should recognize that such decisions involve not only great financial issues and difficult legal problems. They also involve social problems that demand

very careful handling by Government. The Barlow, Scott and Uthwatt Reports were at one in emphasizing the complex factors about which information must be collated before a country can be well and truly planned. "The Central Planning Authority," said the Uthwatt Report, "will base its action on organized research into the social and economic aspects of the use and development of land."

The Ministry is already hard at work on a research programme directed to prompt action. It embraces such subjects as the reconstruction of blitzed cities, national parks, the protection of the coastline, the extraction of surface minerals, the regulation of advertisement displays, the layout and seemliness of petrol stations. In studying many of these subjects, information, after being assembled, can in part conveniently be recorded on maps. Let me illustrate that background of our present work by a brief glance into our Mapping Department.

We are preparing, with the active help of the Ordnance Survey, drawing always on existing material where it is available, a series of new maps which can be imposed on a black and white base map, to show the facts about any particular claim to the use of land in England and Wales. (At this stage the Minister referred to the following maps which were displayed):

(1) A map in part a reproduction of the work of the Land Utilization Survey. This shows how the land was used before the war—before the ploughing up of the less responsive land. Unimproved land is shown in yellow and the patches of that colour gave a clue to the areas suitable for forestry or recreation—perhaps as National Parks.

(2) A map which has its sources in the Ministry of Agriculture showing the seventeen main types of farming in this country. In East Anglia, an arable area, purple patches show cash crops and market gardening areas, and other types of farming based on arable production, are shown in brown.

(3) A map of soil fertility based on material supplied by the Land Utilization Survey. The best land is shown in purple—in the Fens, on each side of London and in West Lancashire—less than 5 per cent, of the whole country.

whole country.

A map showing changes in population between 1921 and 1931. This indicates the rapid spread of urbanization, particularly the drift towards London and the surrounding counties. It also shows the decline in some industrial areas—South Wales, the North West Coast and latterly Lancashire. By comparing this map with soil fertility map, one sees how on each side of London and in West Lancashire building in the past has swallowed up some of our best land.

(5) A map showing the administrative areas of

the country.

(6) A map of the coal-fields and iron-fields distinguishing exposed coal-fields from concealed coal-fields which are being worked and from other probable concealed coal-fields. The map shows there is a tendency for the workings in the Nottinghamshire coal-field to spread east-

Maps such as these will provide vital information to the Ministry and be invaluable to local authorities and planners. The councils of blitzed cities have been asked to plan for redevelopment and improvement of their cities on bold lines. This will mean a loosening process and an "overspill" of population. The councils are therefore studying, in consultation with adjoining planning authorities, the planning of the wider areas affected. Of this co-operative process the group headed by Manchester, which includes in a Joint Planning Committee Salford, Stretford and other neighbouring authorities, is a good example. Meanwhile plans for Greater London and Merseyside are being prepared by specialists who will report to me.

To sum up, we must plan for the rebuilding—the fine rebuilding—of our war-damaged towns. We must see to it that all our towns become pleasant, healthy and convenient places in which to live and work. Not least of the lessons we have learned from this war is Britain's need of a prosperous agricultural system. For that also we must plan—plan, too, for better living conditions in rural areas, remembering there are slums in the country as well as in the towns. We must not forget that those who live and work on the land are justly entitled to enjoy, equally with the townsman, every social service which the community can provide. Finally we must recognize that healthy and rapidly growing enthusiasm of townspeople for the pleasures of the country. That will mean planning for adequate protection of natural beauty, and for provision of access to National parks, the coast and other parts of the country.

That briefly is the vision, and it will be the duty of the three partners—the public, the local authorities and the Ministry, to see that it does not remain a vision. Meanwhile there is a great amount of preparatory work to be done, many difficulties to be overcome, innumerable details to be worked into an ordered scheme and much legislation to be drafted so that when at last we turn from war to peace we may begin the building at once.

### HOUSE OF COMMONS

### Town and Country Planning Bill

On May 25 the Town and Country Planning (Interim Development) Bill was considered in Committee in the House of Commons, reported without amendment; read the third time and passed. On May 26 the Bill was read a first time in the House of Lords. Here are points from the debate\* in the House of Commons.

Mr. Bossom: (U., Maidstone). I beg to move that there shall be "set aside around all towns and cities of fifty thousand or more inhabitants a strip of land approximately five miles wide to form a green belt, and, within three months of the passing of this Act, this shall be considered as subject to planning resolution and no new development or building schemes shall be planned for future construction within this space without the consent of the Minister."

Both the Ministry of Health and the former Minister of Works and Planning have called upon local authorities to plan boldly, but it will be difficult to plan boldly until they are sure how land can be used. Local authorities must prepare plans for future housing estates, for factories and for development generally, but until the Government have given a definite lead they cannot know whether or not their proposed developments will be located in some future green belt, and if that should prove to be the case all their work will have been wasted. If plans are not ready when the war ends, the great pressure there will be for houses will make it necessary for us to go ahead under possibly ill-considered arrangements.

Lieut.-Colonel Dower: (U., Penrith). Can the hon. Member explain how he would make a green belt between Stockport and Manchester, where there are only 200 yards between the one town and the other?

Mr. Mander: (Lib., Wolverhampton, East). It would be quite impossible in a great area of the Black Country to carry out any green belt policy. It would be very desirable, but there are no green belts now in the neighbourhood of many large towns.

Mr. Lawson: (Lab., Chester-le-Street). I think it is very necessary that the Minister should give his attention to the question of ensuring that there are green belts around certain areas. It seems to suggest a limitation on the population in certain areas, a limitation of the size of towns, and I feel that in a country like ours that matter deserves serious attention. We suffer from the danger of communities growing to a size at which the communal sense is lost. That is an outstanding problem in this country and one of the great dangers which we run.

Sir Ernest Shepperson: (U., Leominster). I would give the Minister every power hedesires in order to prevent our countryside being spoiled by the monstrosities which have been built up along our highroads, but is this Amendment necessary? Has he not already the power? I should like his assurance as to whether he will have these powers already by the terms of the Bill.

Major York: (U., Ripon). I do not see how the Minister can insist upon local authorities doing the work suggested without taking upon himself some central authority. That is the point

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which is disturbing many of us, namely, the relationship between the central authority which is to be the directing force and the local authorities who are to carry out the work. We must not come to regard green belts as public parks. In those green belts are to be performed acts of cultivation which cannot be properly performed if the townspeople are continuously trespassing upon and looking about various fields of corn, and so on. We ought not to try to make concentric rings around towns because of the limitations which may be imposed by an Amendment of this sort, otherwise there would be one ring after another till the town, instead of being limited, would be extended still further.

Mr. W. S. Morrison: (Minister of Town and Country Planning, U.). I have seldom found myself so entirely in agreement with the course of a discussion as I have upon this Amendment. The Committee is unanimously in support of the spirit which prompted my hon. Friend to put his Amendment down. We are not writing on a clean slate, and to adopt the Amendment and so make statutory a proposal of this kind, would be impossible. My hon. Friend's mistake—I suggest it to him with affection—is in trying to put a plan into the Bill. We ought to concentrate upon getting the machinery for good planning right. That is properly a matter for the Bill. If you try to put into the Bill a plan for all England and Wales, you will find cases here and there to which the plan is inapplicable. The mover to which the plan is inapplicable. The mover of the Amendment suggested that the green belt should be the subject of a planning resolution. This is possible under the Bill, as are his further suggestions that no development should take place without the Minister's consent and that no development should be allowed in a planning scheme except with the Minister's consent. Under the present law the Minister's approval to a planning scheme is required, and this object can be achieved. Concerning the relationship between central and local planners, I would point out that there is an invaluable link, which I hope to strengthen and make more perfect as a matter of administration, in the regional planning officers who are in close personal touch with local planning officers and committees of local authorities who deal with this matter. I hope they will be very powerful in helping to secure consistently good planning throughout the country. There must be a lot left to local authorities, because local authorities because local authorities. know their own problems.

Sir E. Shepperson: Is it not a fact that very often the local authority are the guilty people in the production of ribbon development? They do it because they do not want the expense of making roads, and so they put their council houses on the main road. Will the Minister take power in the Bill to stop local authorities from destroying the countryside?

Mr. W. S. Morrison: Yes, Sir, I am taking that power. I am aware of some deplorable instances in which the local authorities have been bad offenders, and I will take power in the matter in future.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Douglas: (Lab., Battersea, North, moved a new clause dealing with the preservation of trees during the interim development). There is power under existing legislation to make provision for the preservation of woodlands or groups of trees, or even isolated trees in the scheme, and such provision being made in the scheme and the scheme becoming operative, then the position is safeguarded. But there is no means of securing the preservation of trees until that point is reached. This is a matter of very great importance, especially at the present time, when woods are being felled to a very large extent and therefore there is very great temptation to cut down trees which may

have some commercial value but which may at the same time have a very high degree of amenity value.

Mr. Muff: (Lab., Kingston-upon-Hull, East). I wish to support the Second Reading of this Clause. It is a reasonable Clause; it should appeal to a reasonable Minister.

Mr. W. S. Morrison: My trouble is that to accept this Clause in its present form would be outside the scope of this Bill, which deals with interim development and is framed on the Act of 1932, with words having the same meaning as they had in the Act of 1932. Development, in that Act, is concerned roughly with buildings and that sort of thing; it does not consider agriculture to be development, which I consider to be wrong. Neither does it consider woodlands and so on as development, and I am afraid that this Clause will not fit into the structure of the Bill as it is at the present time. There is a very strict control by the Ministry of Supply on the felling of trees and the disposal of them for sale, they do what they can to ensure that when there is this necessity for the felling of timber it is done in a way which is least harmful to amenities. When we can pass from the stage of this Bill, framed on the Act of 1932, and its phraseology bearing the same meaning as in that Act, where development really means building, we shall have this point very firmly in view, and when I get a chance of introducing further and more positive legislation on this subject, I will try to give effect in that legislation to the motive which inspires the movers of this new Clause. I regret that, owing to the form of this Bill, it is not possible to accept it in this Bill.

Earl Winterton: (U., Horsham and Worthing). This question is far more important than the question of what the Minister of Supply is doing or is not doing. It is not only a question of amenities, but the whole question of timber supplies in England, and how they can be increased.

Mr. W. S. Morrison: The proclause starts with the words:

"The Minister may, for securing the protection of existing amenities, make general or special interim development orders." I think, therefore, that my Noble Friend is going beyond what the movers of the Clause intended in suggesting that the Clause is concerned with something other than amenity.

Earl Winterton: The Ministry of Supply is a supply Ministry, it has nothing to do with amenities. Could he not give an assurance that he will consider, before the Bill finally leaves this House, and after consultation—I would make a very strong point of consultation—with the Chairman of the Forestry Commission, how he can deal with this most important subject? I would press for some such assurance.

Mr. Lawson: We are seeing the wholesale slaughter of clumps of trees in the part of the country from which I come. The right hon. Gentleman says that the Ministry of Supply has powers in this matter, but, if so, those powers are not very actively used. So far as I can see, the country is being cleaned up, and very few trees are being left.

Mr. Douglas: I am rather surprised that the Minister should have adopted towards this Clause a narrow, legalistic, and pedantic attitude. He declined to accept it, on the ground that it does not deal with interim development. But surely this is an incident of interim development. Is it suggested that it is not important, where steps are taken to preserve amenity by preventing wrong building from taking place, that steps should also be taken to preserve amenity by preventing trees from being sold? Surely, it is

not the function of the Ministry of Supply to determine town planning questions. The powers of the Ministry of Supply will come to an end at some stage and what would be left to fill this gap? Are we to understand that the Minister has no desire to fill it? If he intends to fill it by some other Bill which is to be introduced shortly, then it is a different matter.

Mr. W. S. Morrison. I agree that it is very desirable indeed to get machinery to enable our trees to be protected from the amenity point of view. I was trying to point out to my hon. Friend that in the way he seeks to secure it, you cannot do it by an interim development Order, using the word development in the sense that it is used in the Bill and in the 1932 Act.

Mr. Douglas: Why not?

Mr. Morrison: Because an interim development Order is limited to allow development of applications for permission to carry out development, and development is in the Act to which I have referred, in Section 53:

"Development, in relation to any land, includes any building operations or rebuilding operations, and any use of the land or any building thereon for a purpose which is different from the purpose for which the land or building was last being used:

Provided that—
The use of land for the purpose of agriculture, whether as arable, meadow, pasture ground or orchard, or for the purposes of a plantation or a wood, or for the growth of saleable underwood, and the use for any of those purposes of any building occupied together with land so used, shall not be deemed to be a development of that land or building."
That is my difficulty here.

Mr. Douglas: Suppose somebody applies for permission to develop a piece of land as a building estate and that piece of land has trees on it, and in course of development of plans he submits he is going to destroy all these trees, is that development or not?

Mr. Morrison. I should say that within the meaning of the Act the building of houses is development. But you have to look at each case on its merits, and if it meant the wholesale destruction of beautiful trees, one should look at it very carefully.

Earl Winterton: That is our whole point.

Mr. Morrison: That is the whole point. In so far as the trees would be cut down for the purposes of building houses it is quite another thing, but the Clause itself goes to the extent of preserving single groups of trees and parks and so on which would not be affected by development at all. If it were merely a question of taking into consideration the amenities of trees before land is needed, then that is something to be looked at, but the powers sought in this Clause will not fit. I am sure that we cannot do anything in this Clause, but we will see what we can do. If we cannot do it in this Bill, we shall very carefully consider what powers are necessary in future legislation to enable us to carry out this beneficent object.

Earl Winterton: We should all be grateful to hear of my right hon. Friend's willingness to agree to the suggestion that he should consult with his right hon. and gallant Friend the Chairman of the Forestry Commission, as it really is very important, for the Forestry Commission own a great deal of land within areas around London which is likely to be subject to this Bill and to interim or development Orders. It is very important that he should consult with the Chairman of the Forestry Commission and see whether something can be done.





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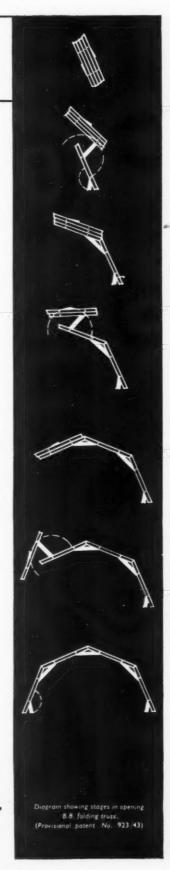
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Mr. Morrison: I have already had several close consultations with the Chairman of the Forestry Commission on the general aspect, and I shall of course continue to co-operate as closely as I can with this very important body from my point of view.

Motion and Clause, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Dugdale: (Lab., West Bromwich, on a new clause, moved by Mr. Hutchinson (U., Ilford), dealing with the preservation of buildings). The Town Planning Committee of the London County Council, with the very best will in the world was unable to preserve anything without rendering ourselves liable for payments of compensation under Section 18. I think I am correct in saying that even Westminster Abbey and St. Paul's Cathedral are not sacrosanct, that they could be destroyed, were such a thing possible, if the owners demanded compensation and said that they would destroy them unless they got it. I am not suggesting that the Ecclesiastical Commissioners are going to do this, but I do suggest that many buildings, perhaps not as important as those I have mentioned, have in fact been destroyed in recent years.

Mr. W. S. Morrison: New developments and the preservation of old buildings make very awkward bed-fellows. It is rather significant that the discussion which started with the æsthetic qualities of old buildings and the desire for their preservation should have finished on the sordid topic of money, but the two things are unmistakably intertwined. The Member for West Bromwich (Mr. J. Dugdale), who shares the same object and desires the preservation of these old buildings, has proposed a clear-cut proposition, which is to deny compensation at all for these buildings if subject to a preservation Order. That is a very great deal to inject in a Bill for controlling new development, and I would ask for a little time to consider if it could be fitted in or what we should do about it. Let me put up one of my difficulties. It raises not only the money question but the whole question of the default power of the Minister over local authorities who are not carrying out what they should do. That is a comprehensive question. I should like to consider it as part of transitional legislation dealing with that matter and not hang it on to an important but subsidiary question involving ancient buildings.

Mr. Hutchinson: (U., Ilford). Will the Minister give the Committee an assurance that when these new powers are considered, special consideration will be given to this important question of the preservation of ancient buildings?

Mr. Morrison: I will certainly give that assurance. When we get our new powers we shall review the whole question of historic and ancient buildings, and I believe that we shall make a better job of it than by proceeding with this Clause as it is now. The cost of this is vital. I cannot accept the suggestion put forward by the hon.

Member for West Bromwich that you should exclude compensation. If I took powers to force local authorities not to take certain action with regard to particular buildings, might be strong claims against me for an Exchequer contribution to pay for it. The object has my entire approval and sympathy, but I think it can be dealt with better and more comprehensively later.

Earl Winterton: The Minister's statement illustrates, not for the first time, that this Bill is but a miserable little mouse in spite of the quantitative support it has had from the legal profession throughout. One of the most urgent things the Department should have dealt with when it was first formed was the question of the preservation of ancient buildings.

Motion and Clause, by leave, withdrawn.

### DIA

### Tom Harrisson and D. Behrens

May 11, at the Royal Society, Burlington House. Lecture by Tom Harrisson and D. Behrens (of Mass-Observation) on Public Taste and Public Design, delivered by D. Behrens, under the auspices of the Design and Industries Association. Chairman: George Hicks,

D. Behrens: Tom Harrisson, who was unfortunately been prevented from attending by the unavoidable priority of his job in the army. Fortunately, however, he was able to get the script of what he intended to say to me, and as one of the chief executives of Mass-Observation, I am going to do my best to give what he says plus a certain amount of

variation from my own point of view.

The two things, the things people like and the things they actually see around them, are not necessarily one and the same. As you will probably know, Mass-Observation is an organization especially concerned with studying public opinion. At a very early stage in its work, it found a sharp distinction between public opinion and private opinion. opinion is, broadly, simply superacial, manifest, respectable presentation of people's views and attitudes. It may differ very markedly from private opinion, which is very reticent and discreet. Yet private opinion is generally of more importance, partly because it is more easily overlooked, and partly because it is deeply seated, and partly because it is from the private opinion of to-day that comes the public opinion of to-morrow.

Private opinion will not emerge up to the surface as public openly expressed opinion, unless the public expression of the opinion is sanctioned so as to appear respectable, normal, sayable. Private opinion has to be socially acceptable before ordinary people will make

it public.

Design, the pattern and appearance of material objects, is most notably affected by convention and habit, and is most obviously a direct expression of public opinion, in a par-ticular sense. It is easily swaved by fashion, which is no more than a movement of public

People have certain habits of design. There are designs which are widely publicly accepted and even liked. That does not mean that these designs are those which people deliberately choose and prefer over all others. It does not prove that they are the designs which people want—only the ones they use. Yet it is the most commonly overlooked point in the whole landscape of taste and colour. Over and over again, we find intelligent people, especially creative artists, designers and planners, assuming that the things with which our era has surrounded itself are necessarily the only things which the mass of people will tolerate and enjoy. It is commonly assumed that the sort of furniture the less educated people have in their houses, mock mahogany and phoney oak, pseudo walnut, reflect the best æsthetic of the housewife or her husband. my view, based on much study over the past six years, this is not so. The fact that many creative-minded people, always liable to be impatient with the herd and out of touch with the uneducated people and public thought, tend to such assumptions, is in itself a powerful impediment against the better development of public taste

I am wholly aware—probably better aware than most people—of the abysmal level to which apathy or ignorance in design and taste can go. But it is essential that we distinguish between tasted conscious preference, thought-out choice, on the one hand, and on the other

hand habit and opportunity, the line of least resistance and the line of social normality. The walls of England are plastered with the mediocre, indifferent and intellectually dead, in a ratio of approximately a hundred thousand to one against anything approaching a contemporary, thoughtful or lively vision. Cezanne is still too modern for most of the Midlands, which creep cautiously toward the mood of Constable.

But look at it another way. Take, as Mass-Observation has done, a series of pictures by a wide range of artists, and show them to a wide range of ordinary people in an ordinary northern town, famous if anything for its ugliness, and the fact that if you enter the dismal isolated art gallery, the attendant is so startled that he comes out and asks you what the devil you're doing. In this experiment, we made the conditions as nearly as possible laboratory. Size, colour, presentation were as nearly as possible equal with all the pictures shown. No names were given, so that no one could say they liked the picture by Landseer or Sargent just because they had heard the name before. The results under these conditions were surprising. The picture that evoked strongest and most excited reaction was one by Picasso, and in general all the most modern, imaginative, non-photographic painters aroused the greatest interest, often hostile, but often delighted and nearly always positive, whereas the more academic works (I should say Royal Academic) aroused the most negative interest, and in general none at all. But could one imagine an ordinary cotton-spinner, or even the Mayor, daring to decorate his dining room with a painting of Graham Sutherland or his front garden with a carving by Henry Moore. It is only done to have a fairy or one of the seven dwarfs in your front garden at present, and these sculptural abominations sell literally by millions.

The same sort of thing holds true about linoleums, curtains and carpets, as about Picassos and Graham Sutherlands. We did in fact specifically investigate this point in one of the working-class boroughs of London, where a series of designs were shown to housewives. The type of linoleum and wallpaper in general commercial production were mixed up with others which commercial firms would regard as too advanced, too modern too unconventional for popularity. Briefly and broadly, the latter types attracted

housewives more than the former; the same was true of chairs and sofas.

The great majority of people have to live in the sort of homes that are made for them by architects, and decorate their homes with the sort of articles as are generally on cheap prices, and-second and parallel with this-that are considered normal and respectable by the neighbours and visitors, so that it is the sort of home which, when the insurance man looks in the door, will make him feel that the inmates are very ordinary citizens, so can safely be let to have one, or even two, week's credit on back payments. There is no ordinary machinery by which ordinary people can express or move towards any new taste or choice. There is no democracy of popular design, which is fixed at a much higher level by relatively few factories and firms, who have decided, and in my experience absolutely dogmatic, views of public taste and private potentiality.

Acts of volition are relatively rare amongst the great mass of the public as regards taste and design. That most of public taste and and design. That most of public taste and design is determined by convention, habit and particularly by the habits of those who produce the designs and sell them. Because people go on paying for a thing, it doesn't at all mean that they won't pay as much—or even more—for something different, provided that it is available and, of course, respectable. Unfortunately it pays producers of our everyday designs to produce what is already familiar and, indeed, already designed. The line of least resistance is usually the line of most profit. It is generally easier to exploit simple things—to play on the known—and very certainly to exploit the lowest common

multiple, the L.C.M. of the human mind rather than the H.C.F. It is commercially safer to take no risks with experiment, exploration, invention. The wide background of childishness, under-education, is always there to be cashed in upon, where ordinary habit will not do the trick. Popular song writers cash in on it. Sunday newspaper astrologers cash in on it. Hitler cashed in on it until he nearly crashed in on civilization.

The visible life around us to-day tends to represent the lowest common multiple of taste or tastelessness, the H.C.F. is largely untapped, because it is no more profitable to tap, and indeed it may be more unprofitable. If you indeed it may be more unprofitable. If you educate up people's taste, they will want better quality, better value, more numerous designs. and a lot of other complications too. But I do not wish to suggest that producers of public designs have wholly, or even widely, been purely self-interested and selfish, for within the framework of our society they have not had any organized response, and have played the game perfectly in keeping with the rules. It has not been anyone's special business to tap the H.C.F. of public taste. Only in a few of the most obvious fields of design is it even now recognized how much could and should be done in the common interest. The same frame of mind which produced the vast topographical ugliness of negative design, the slums, is exactly equalled in the current production of honeymoon furniture suites and living-room wallpapers. Only in very few fields is there any sense of the urgent interest and response of an educated public taste. The most striking recent advance has been in the field of music. There is still a large section of the community which is petrified by the words classical and Beethoven, who make Chopin into a pun. But the radio, Walt Disney, Jack Hylton's sponsoring of orchestral concerts, CEMA and other factors, have gradually lifted the prestige of so-called good music, and there is a decided and notable drift away from the easy emotions the sensitive thought in this less tangible field of taste and design.

But all these examples, the whole tone of Mass-Observation results over the past six years, convince all of us who have worked that the potential private taste of the public is far more advanced than is supposed, or at present publicly appears. A great many people are incapable of appreciating many things not at present available to them. It is not enough, however, that these good things should be there. The modern tempo is a tempo of competition and comparison. The art gallery and the concert have to compete with the greyhound and Clark Gable. It does not mean that they should work at the same level. It does mean that they should work to make their existence realized and recognized. The fact of filling a discarded mansion in an outlying suburb with some discarded pictures from overtaxed baronets does not in itself constitute bringing art to Bolton or Barnstaple. There is one way, there is one place, around which the whole pattern of design and taste most intimately revolves. The factory or workplace is where a very large section of the most intelligent, skilled and thoughtful in our population normally spend the larger part of their waking hours. It is in these surroundings that the elevation of taste, both directly and indirectly, is likely to be most effective and most easy. Here, too, good design or the exhibition of pleasant objects is automatically sanctioned by the very fact that the factory, the employer, the boss is putting it there. To my mind the improveis putting it there. To my mind the improve-ment in the whole design and visual atmosphere in the workplace is the practical basis for the improvement of design in living. We need a vast improvement.

vast improvement.

I cannot help feeling very worried by the relative over-attention being paid by planners to formal patterns and logic, and their relative lack of attention given to the more detailed aspects of taste and æsthetic design. Dagenham housing estate is an example of the point which I wish to make. This is probably one of the best planned of modern housing estates, and yet it is not the one where the inhabitants are happiest, most satisfied. What a difference to the feelings of the inhabitants of a housing estate is made by minor points of detail, of artistic imagination, on the part of the planners. And what is true in the field of housing is true in every field in which things are appreciated not only because they are convenient, labour-saving, but also-and to an extent not always realized -because they are comfortable, not only physically but mentally.

This brings us back again to the question of people's lives containing too few acts of volition as regards matters of taste and design. more the planners neglect the æsthetic details, the more they build Dagenhams around the mind of the people, the more they inculcate the habit of receiving with hollow impassivity whatever is provided for them. This is reflected in the passive acceptance of a pact or a pattern alike, of bad news or bad design.

volition. Democracy consists of acts of Apathetic taste and the absence of choice in matters of taste show a lack of æsthetic

democracy.

To-day the factory or workplace is the most and unæsthetic place in a person's life, and I speak with the experience of having worked in some of the most ghastly-from the visual point of view-work places. big exceptions-Cadbury's comes particularly to mind, and it will almost always be found that a firm that allows for the æsthetic intelligence of its workpeople, and which provides for their eyes as well as for their pockets gains enormously in goodwill and good re-lations. A terrible lot has to be done among most employers, however. It has to be done by three people, however, really. The designer, who initiates; the employer, who instals; and the worker, who not only appreciates, but elaborates, improves and benefits, if this is to be a real process. It is all a part of a wider process, from which it cannot be separated, of which design in industry can be a spear-head. Our move towards functionalism is all right at the outset, where it is something complete, and worked out in its way; by the time it is commercially reproduced for millions of people, it is all Funk and no We do not want to copy and revive Lissom. old designs, which like the hand-loom and the stocks are of the past. We do want to We do want to remember that we should relate our material objects to everyday life, and to raise ourselves in our everyday seeing and thinking is an essential part of ordinary living, and without it ordinary living is incomplete. has basic good taste. For good taste is only being perceptive and aware, using your senses properly, as any good human should. Primitive people, such as the Malekulans in Melanesia, where I lived for quite a long time, living as cannibals, naked, sleeping on the bare floor, unable to write or read or ride a bicycle, yet concern themselves with ballad and song, music and ballet, painting and carving, natural history, knowledge, excuentent about the stars. Every self-respecting Malekula is comknowledge, excitement about the petent in all these things. Our industrial civilization has drawn us far away from such a phase, to the extreme where very few people are left with any form of art. has gone on almost unnoticed, until not only has the artist become exclusive, but the appreciation of the artist in even the simplest form has become exclusive. I absolutely deny, from all my experience and observation, that this is a natural or necessary state of affairs. In my view, it is perfectly possible to rectify this and readjust the relationship to a much higher pitch of public appreciation, quite simply and quickly. The industrial worker is still thrilled by a country lane in spring, or a daffodil, or the white edge of a wave in the sunny sea. That is all that good taste consists In our crude indoor world of mechanically working time, epitomized in the factory, the soul is inhibited. A small but vital ray of appreciation of life is cut off. People don't automatically realize it, but when opportunity is given to regain it, they are ready to take it. I am certain of this. I am certain that through

a re-orientation, to affect the worker at work is at the same time the most fortunate and natural way of achieving this.

Not only is the workplace the most convenient topographical focus for the stimulation of interest. It is the psychological nucleus of any sort of æsthetic renaissance. For this era of unprecedented ugliness in the midst of beauty is directly consequent upon and corelated to the growth of industrial units, to the development of a way of life where work and leisure become sharply differentiated topographically, economically, psychologically. The industrial revolution brought people away from home and land into crowded aggregations at places simply and solely to work, to get as much money as possible in as short a time as possible so as to get a way out, spending it, LIVING.

The whole pattern of work has become separated from the rest of living, artificially, dangerously. Dangerously, for the divorcement of work from the natural pattern has led to a whole chain of things like movies, apathetic ideologies and short term, Friday to Friday, objectives. The re-romanticizing of work may sound an absurdity, yet it is a necessity; and design one of the steps in

doing it.

### **TCPA**

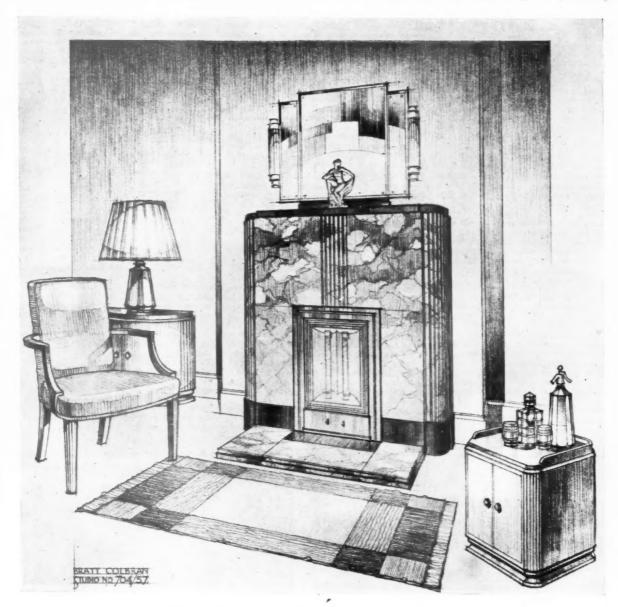
### Evidence to MOH

The following is a résumé of 14 foolscap pages of EVIDENCE BY THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ASSO-CIATION ON FUTURE HOUSING POLICY recently submitted to the Advisory Committee on Housing of MOH.

1. THE HOUSING PROBLEM.dence draws attention to the danger of considering housing in isolation without reference to the whole problem of environment. "Good living conditions," says the report, " constitute the whole aim of civilization: there is no point at all in industrial efficiency, a high standard of money wages, or any other aspect of economic advance, if the main object of human endeavour—namely, an environment conducive to a happy contented personal family life—is unobtain-

3. HOUSING IN REDEVELOPMENT.-Dealing with the three possible forms of development facing the overloaded town—
(a) central flat building, (b) suburban expansion and (c) replanning at lower densities with decentralization of the surplus displaced—the Association states that "it is impossible to over-emphasize the critical character of the decisions now about to be made. The method chosen will determine the entire basis of our national life for the next four or five genera-

tions or more."
(a) Attention is drawn not only to the unpopularity of the flat-building solution, but to the general unsuitability of flats for a full personal and family life because of noise, nearness to neighbours and lack of private garden space (for which balconies are no substitute). "The garden serves are no substitute). "The garden serves many functions. As a garden pure and simple for the cultivation of flowers, fruit and vegetables; as a place in the sun and air for the baby in its perambulator; as a playground for younger children; as an outdoor room for meals in the summer; as a place for engaging in many hobbies by both children and adults. The absence of a private garden not only deprives us of many opportunities for various constructive leisure-time occupations but involves separation of the children from their parents at all ages. The baby is taken to the creche, the younger children go off to play in the streets or communal play-ground."



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- (b) Suburban expansion, although fulfilling the need for the family home results in wasteful daily travel, the disintegration of the community and spoliation of the countryside. "To embark upon a great building programme based upon either of these two principles will mean losing an opportunity which may never recur, of creating a sure basis for the development of a happy and contented family life, which is the root of civilized existence."
- (c) Decentralisation, in order to allow enough space to make the family house the basis of planning policy, is the only fundamental solution to this dilemma of flats or suburbs—long and difficult process though it may be.
- (e) "We conclude that the absolute permissible maximum number of family houses of a minimum of say, 850 sq. ft. of internal floor space, is 18 per gross acre. When there is a proportion of smaller houses for elderly couples, 20 per gross acre may be permissible. But under no circumstances ought this latter number of dwellings to be exceeded in redevelopment. In new development, the present maximum of 12 per acre in towns, and 8 per acre in the country, should be upheld.
- 4. A NATIONAL HOUSING STANDARD.

  —The Housing Acts specify certain minimum standards of construction, lay-out, design and density of building, but the scope of their application limits their usefulness in compelling that universal standard of housing which the public is determined to ensure after the war.

  The Association therefore urges
- (a) that a National Code of Standards be framed, applicable to all housing accommodation erected for the lower income group, i.e. those below £5 a week pre-war, whether houses or flats.
- (b) that this National Code be applicable to all such housing whether erected with or without State subsidy or financial assistance.

- 6. SIZE OF DWELLINGS AND ROOMS.—Homes suited to families of five persons are recommended with a substantial proportion for larger families. For a non-parlour house the living room should not be less than 180 sq. ft. The kitchen-scullery not less than 80 ft. Many people now prefer a large kitchen-meal-room plus a fairly large living room. In this case the two rooms together should not be less than 260 sq. ft. The average floor area should not fall below 850 sq. ft. (These figures should be regarded as absolute minima). For elderly people two-storey flats could be introduced and higher blocks of flats for single people and non-family householders. But these should not be built at a greater density than 20 dwellings per acre.
- 7. LAYOUT IN HOUSE AND GARDEN DEVELOPMENT.—In siting and layout all factors such as sun incidence, appearance from the street, outlook, privacy, and placing of larder and kitchen should be carefully weighed and balanced. "Standardization of types is a factor of economy; and if the types are all good ones standardization may give maximum satisfaction. But individuality of detail is much prized; and it is by means of variety of layout and clever positioning of the houses— taking advantage of varying levels and any accidental features of the site—that this can best be obtained. From the point of view of safety, streets which are primarily residential should preferably not be through routes for fast traffic. A scheme wholly composed of detached or semi-detached houses tends to be monotonous. The best results can be achieved by a mixture of these with terraces of varying lengths, even up to 10 or 12 houses. In terrace houses good access to the back garden and door through a covered passage is recom-mended. "We are of the opinion that the We are of the opinion that the mended. popular prestige of a scheme depends more on careful attention to good planting than on almost any other factor. Nurserymen should be engaged both to plant the hedges and to weed, cut and manure them for the first three

- to five years, and to determine their height."
- 8.—EXTERIOR DESIGN.—The compulsory employment of qualified architects for all new building by local authorities, housing societies and other building owners, is urged, since the importance of skilled architectural design in all housing is paramount.
- 9. INTERNAL PLANNING.—This section advocates separate bathrooms and w.c.'s, provision for heating in bedrooms, good detailed kitchen planning and equipment and generous cupboard accommodation. Intercommunicating bedrooms or living room should be disallowed.
- 10. CONSTRUCTION OF BUILDING.— A National Standard Specification for low-cost house construction should be established and rigidly enforced, with adequate remedies for those purchasing or renting houses of faulty construction and penalties for those failing to comply with the regulations.
- 11. PERSONNEL CONCERNED IN BUILDING.—"Whether or not we get the housing we desire rests mainly upon the technical education and capabilities of those concerned in planning the layout of the houses, and the genuine will of those responsible for erecting the houses to build up to the specification." Very great importance is Very great importance is attached to securing a satisfactory co-operation between the various personnel involved in the production of a Housing Scheme. consultation should be maintained throughout the preparation of schemes in all their stages, with the local housing manager. If there is such a thing as a specialist in this very complex matter, the housing manager is that person. The housing manager lives with the schemes, has to remedy mistakes as best he can, and knows, for instance, the price of an ill-thoughtout drainage system or a badly planned kitchen. N.B.—The Report deals only with urban housing accommodation erected for the lower

income groups, i.e. those below £5 a week

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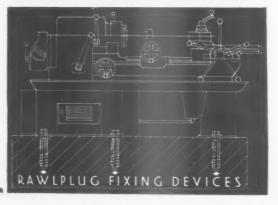
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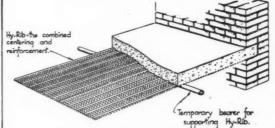


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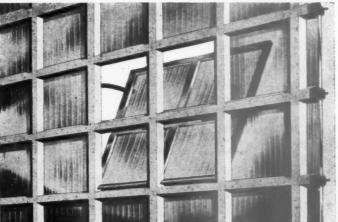
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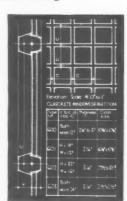
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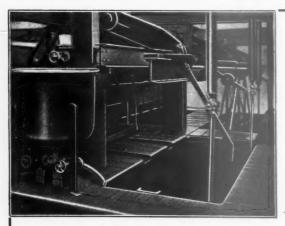
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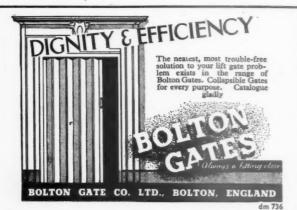
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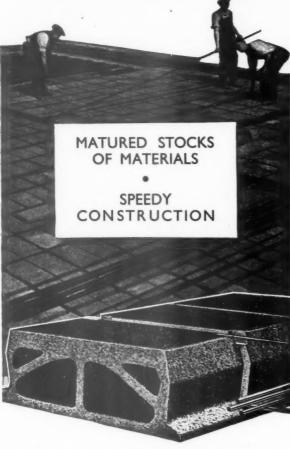


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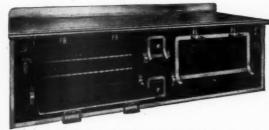


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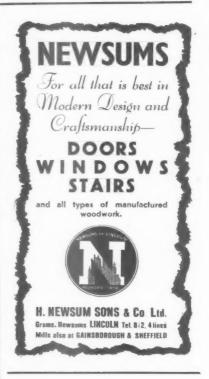
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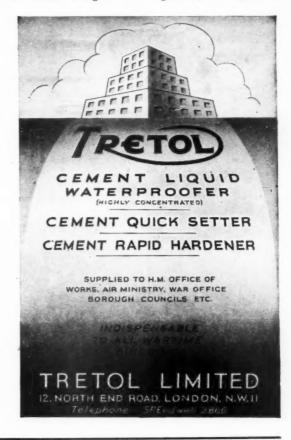
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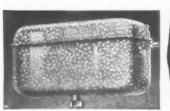
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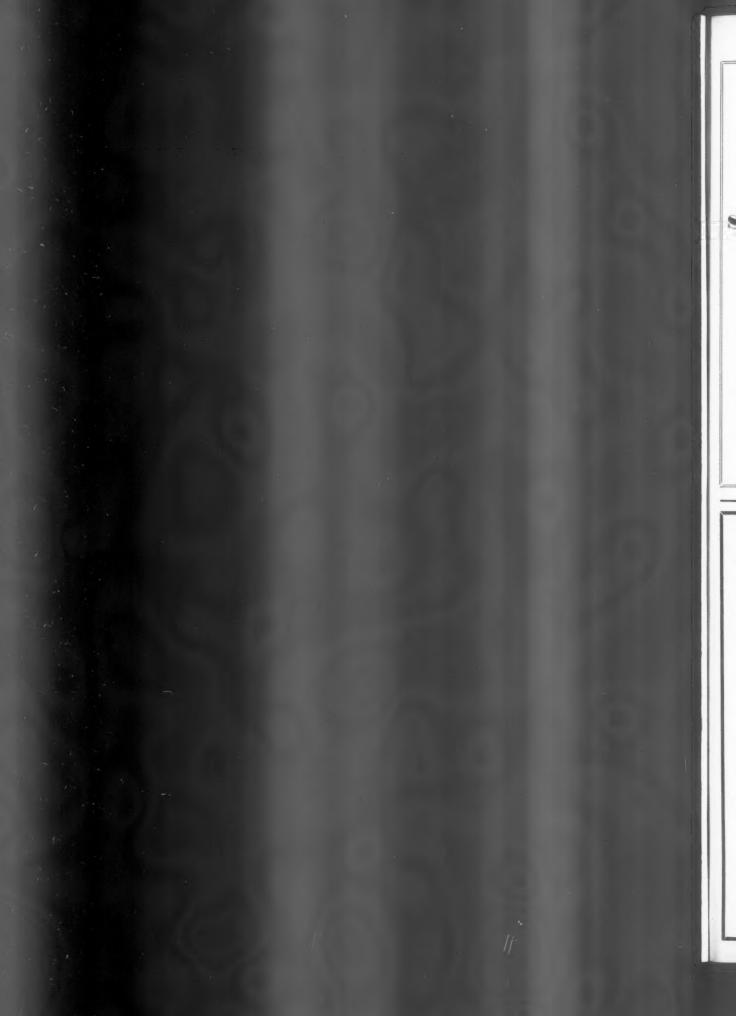
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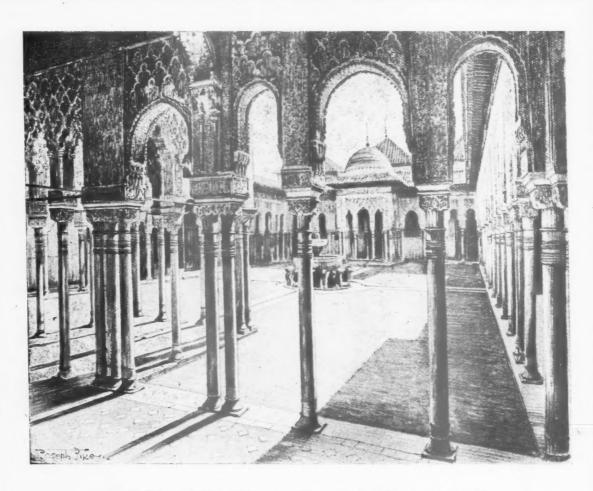
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