# CHITEC

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

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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. Museum 0974. Army Bureau of Current Affairs. Curzon House, Curzon Street, W.1. AA ABCA Association of Building Technicians. 113, High Holborn, W.C.1. Holborn 1024-5.

Association for Planning and Regional Reconstruction. 32, Gordon
Square, W.C.1. Euston 2158-9.

Architects' Registration Council. 68, Portland Place, W.1. Welbeck 9738. ABT APRR ARCUK Architectural Science Board of the Royal Institute of British Architects, ASB Welbeck 6927. 66, Portland Place, W.1. BC Building Centre. 23, Maddox Street, W.1. Mayfair 2128. British Commercial Gas Assn. 1, Grosvenor Place, S.W.1. Sloane 4554, 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. Sloane 4522. Whitehall 5140. ROF BOT Garston 2246. BRS British Steelwork Association. 11, Tothill Street, S.W.1.
British Standards Institution. 28, Victoria Street, S.W.1. BSA Whitehall 5073. Council for the Encouragement of Music and the Arts. 9, Belgrave Square, S.W. 1. RSI 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. Department of Overseas Trade. Dolphin Square, S.W.1. DOT **EJMA** 

Whitehall 7618. Victoria 4477 English Joinery Manufacturers 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. GG Georgian Group. 55, Great Ormond Street, W.C.1. Housing Centre. 13, Suffolk Street, Pall Mall, S.W.1. 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. Temple Bar 7676.

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

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

Street, W.I. Regent 4782-3. Lead Industries Development Council. Rex House, King William Street, E.C.4. LIDC Mansion House 2855. **LMBA** 

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

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

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

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National Buildings Record. 66, Portland Place, W.1. Welbeck 1881.

All Souls' College, Oxford. Oxford 48809.

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

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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 5611. NT PWB S.E.1.

Reliance 7611. Welbeck 6927. 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. RC RCA Whitehall 9936. Regent 3335. RS RSA Temple Bar 8274. Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings. 55, Great Ormond Street, W.C.1. SPAB Holborn 2646.

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



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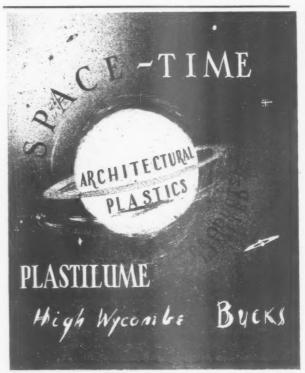
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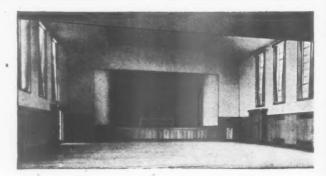
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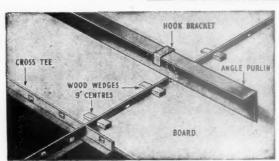


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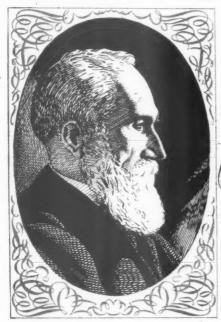
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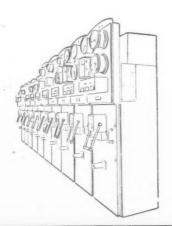
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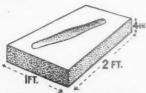
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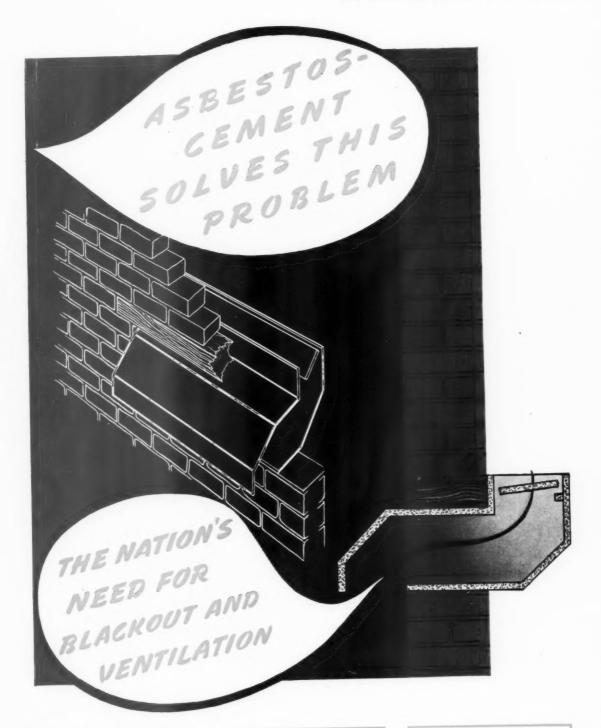
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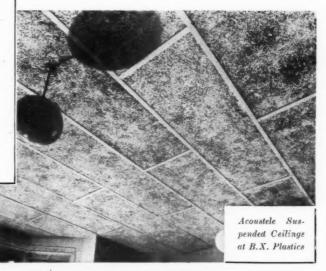
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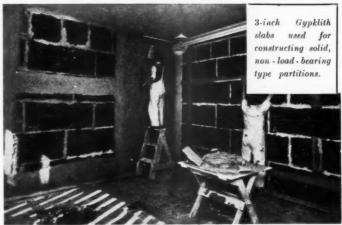
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bition. (Sponsor, BIAE.) JUNE 28-JULY 5

EPSOM. Your Inheritance Exhibition. At the School of Art. (Sponsor, HC.) June 24 to 30

GATESHEAD. Englishman Builds Exhibition. At Shipley Museum and Art Gallery. (Sponsor, BIAE) JUNE 24 to JULY 4 GIBRALTAR. Living in Cities Exhibition.

EICESTER. Homes to Live In Exhibition. At the Museum and Art Gallery. (Sponsor, BIAE). Brains Trust. June 19, 1 p.m.
June 24 to 27

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 24 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 Landon Regional Reconstruction of the RIBA. 12 members from the Institute and the AA respectively. It has been at work for nearly two years on the problems of reconstruction and post-war planning for the London Region. The latter for the purposes of the Committee's work has been defined as C.D. Region No. 5, the area of which is about 850 sq. miles, with a population of about 8,500,000. The exhibition 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 has based its proposals. A Historical Section is included in the exhibition. (See A.J., June 10). The Second Interim Report of the Committee, contains illustrations and forms a comprehensive survey of the work of the Committee and of the exhibition. June 24 to July 10

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

The March Towards Freedom from Want Exhibition. At HC, 13, Suffolk Street, S.W.1. Exhibition by the Civil Service Clerical Association to illustrate The Beveridge Plan. JUNE 24 to JULY 3 Frederick R. Hiorns. Factors in Urban Planning. At the Greater London—Towards a Master Plan Exhibition, National Gallery. Chairman: H. V. Ashley. (Sponsor, LRRC). JUNE 28

Michael Waterhouse, Hon. Secretary, RIBA. The Activities of the RIBA during the War, and the Place of the Architect in the Post-War At the RIBA, 6 p.m. (Sponsor,

L. C. White, General Secretary, Civil Service Clerical Association. At 13, Suffolk Street, S.W.1. Social Security and Democracy. (Sponsor, HC.) 12.45 p.m. June 29

Stanley Hamp. The South Side; London's Opportunity. At the Greater London—Towards a Master Plan Exhibition, National Gallery. Chairman: Arthur W. Kenyon. (Sponsor, LRRC). 5 p.m.

Lecturer to be announced. London and Air Transport. At the Greater London—Towards a Master Plan Exhibition, National Gallery. JULY 2 (Sponsor, LRRC). 5 p.m.

Town Planning and Full Employment. Two day conference at Caxton Hall, S.W.1. (Sponsor, TCPA.)

July 3 to 4

The LRRC Brains Trust.
H. V. Ashley. (Furt Question-Master: (Further details to be announced). At the Greater London—
Towards a Master Plan Exhibition, National Gallery. (Sponsor, LRRC). 5 p.m. July 5

Mrs. R. A. Butler. Part-Time Education. 13, Suffolk Street, S.W.1. (Sponsor, HC.) 12.45 p.m. JULY 6

John L. Denman. The South-East Region as a Part of a National Plan. At the Greater London—Towards a Master Plan Exhibition, National Gallery. Chairman: Arth Kenyon. (Sponsor, LRRC). 5 p.m. JULY 7

H.C. Annual General Meeting. Address by W. S. Morrison, Minister of Town and Country Planning. Civic Diagnosis, An Exhibition of the work of The Hull Regional Survey. (Sponsor, HC.) 4.30 p.m. July 14 Gordon Stephenson. Experimental Towns in the USA. At 1, Grosvenor Place, S.W.1. (Sponsor, TCPA.) 1.15 p.m. JULY 8 JULY 8

MARKET DRAYTON. Living Exhibition. (Sponsor, BIAE.) Living In Cities June 26 to July 10

R UGBY. Your Inheritance Exhibition. At the School of Art. (Sponsor, HC.)

JUNE 25 to JULY 2

WREXHAM. TCPA Conference. Guildhall. (Sponsor, TCPA.) At the 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. JULY 17

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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.

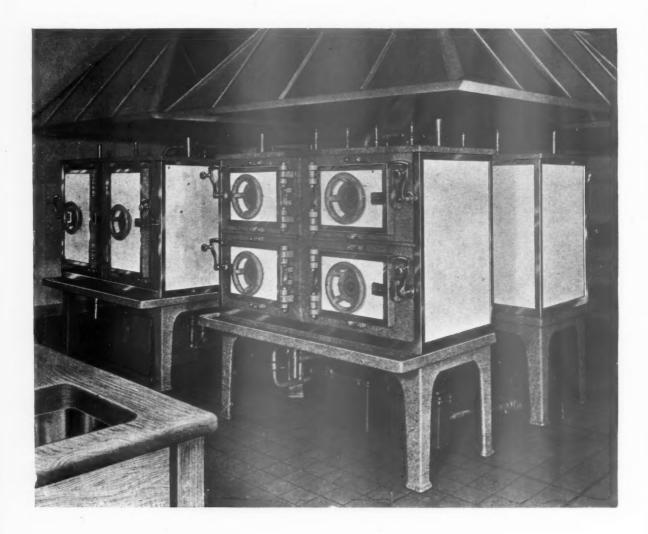
Mr. H. C. Harland, President of the LMBA, has accepted the invitation TO BECOME PRESIDENT OF THE PROVIDENT INSTITUTION of Builders for Men and Clerks of Works for 1943. He succeeds Sir George Burt.

Any plan to extend the LCC area after the war will be CONTESTED BYLOCAL AUTHORITIES in the whole of the Greater London area, represented on the Outer London Standing Joint Committee.
They have also decided to oppose any proposals made for the creation of a Greater London administrative unit.

### MOS announces NEW OFFICES FOR HOME TIMBER PRODUCTION at Bristol.

All communications should be addressed to Ministry of Supply, Home Timber Production Dept., Vassall Road, Fishponds, Bristol. Telephone: Fishponds 53201/5.

LARGE-SCALE APPARATUS FOR THE COOKING AND SERVING OF FOOD



View of part of the Principal Kitchen in a large Canteen, featuring an Installation of Steaming Ovens

The complete Kitchen planned and equipped by

R. & A. MAIN LIMITED



LONDON AND FALKIRK

### from AN ARCHITECT'S Commonplace Book

DESIRABLE RESIDENCES: ROUSSEAU'S. [From Confessions of Jean Jacques Rousseau.] Between the orangery and the piece of water, the banks of which are agreeably decorated, stands the Little Castle. It is little and simple, but elegant . . . it is open in the middle by a peristyle between the two rows of columns, by which means the air circulating throughout the whole edifice keeps it dry, notwithstanding its unfavourable situation. When the building is seen from the opposite elevation, which is a point of view, it appears absolutely surrounded with water, and we imagine we have before our eyes an enchanted island. . . . In this profound and delicious solitude, in the midst of woods, the singing of birds of every kind, and the perfume of orange flowers, I composed in a continual ecstasy, the fifth book of Emilius. . . . I amused myself in decorating the terrace, which was already shaded by two rows of linden trees. I added two others to make a cabinet of verdure, and placed in it a table and stone benches. I surrounded it with lilies, syringa and woodbines, and had a beautiful border of flowers parallel with the two rows of trees. . . . I was at that time perhaps better and more agreeably lodged than any private individual in Europe.

The Minister of Health (Mr. Ernest Brown) has held a CONFERENCE ON HOUSING PROBLEMS with representatives of the local authorities' associations and of the London County Council. The conference discussed ways in which—in the absence of new building—the present housing conditions can be improved during the next six to nine months by the better use of existing accommodation and by the further repair of houses. A sub-committee was appointed to go into points of detail and requested to report back to the conference not later than the middle of July.

According to the scheme worked out and presented to the Corporation by Mr. R. A. H. Livett, the Housing Director, OVER FIFTY THOUSAND HOUSES WILL BE BUILT IN LEEDS during the first twenty years after the war. The scheme provides for the construction for immediate post-war requirements of 25,073 dwellings in a period of eight years. That is the first part of the plan; the second stage proposes another 28,000 houses, making a total of 53,073. Mr. R. A. H. Livett, the Housing Director, says a special correspondent of The Times, states that it is not unreasonable of *The Times*, states that it is not unreasonable to suggest for Leeds a long-term plan covering a period of approximately 20 years, thus ensuring continuity of work, with each stage of development related to the major plan. It is not suggested that it is a programme for the local authority alone, but that it will probably be shared between the local authority and private enterprise. The estimated cost of the 20-year plan for buildings, streets and sewers, but excluding land and other acquisitions, is placed at £24,000,000. Concerning the characplaced at £24,000,000. Collecting the character of future house building, Mr. Livett says that all future planning and design of equipment should be with the object of saving labour, coupled with efficiency. Labour saving, when applied to equipment, is largely a matter of simplicity in design, and in this direction the closest attention should be given immediately by all those responsible not only for the planning of the dwellings themonly for the planning of the dwellings themselves, but those who design fixtures, fittings, furniture, and the many household utensils. The development of the community centre creates no real problem for the planner, providing always he has the support and full co-operation of all services, but in the past there has been no set policy on who is responsible for development, capital expenditure, management, and organization. he thinks, is due to the fact that there has been a definite line drawn between the adults, youths, and juveniles. The siting and planning of the centre should be a matter for the authority or committee responsible for the planning of the complete unit, with a clear understanding in regard to financial aid, and the management of the social centre itself should then become the responsibility of a special committee or organization set up for the purpose.

Unless a BOT licence is obtained NO ARTICLES CAN BE EXPORTED if they are over seventy-five years old said Mr. Hugh Dalton, President of BOT. He was answering a question in the House of Commons by Viscount Hinchingbrooke, who asked the President of BOT to take action to bring to an end the steady drain to the USA of the richest treasures of this country in furniture, pictures, plate and the like. Mr. Hugh Dalton said that in any particular case when his officers were in doubt whether an export was in the public interest, they consulted the museum authorities and only issued a licence with their concurrence.

Members of the LMBA who, owing to war-time conditions, have had to suspend operations, may, at the discretion of the Council, be RETAINED AS HONORARY MEMBERS for the war period at a nominal subscription. This has been decided at the suggestion of the President, Mr. H. C. Harland. We found, he said, that with the increasing difficulties of the times, some of our members are being forced out of business. They are very loath to give up their membership, the more so as they have been members all their lives, and in one case the firm had actually joined in 1873, the year of our foundation. We decided, therefore, to create a class of honorary members so that, though away from London on war service, they can keep in touch with us and we with them. They will resume full membership when they return to active business after the war.

An Advisory Committee of FIVE EXPERTS IN THE GAS IN-DUSTRY has been set up at the suggestion of the Minister of Fuel and Power. It will be available for regular and close consultations with the Ministry on all questions of importance arising from the Ministry's relations with the gas industry, and on matters concerning future policy. The appointment of the Committee is the result of representations to the Minister by the gas industry following on the disbanding of the Directorate of Gas Supply. The members of the Committee are :—Chairman: Mr. E. V. Evans, Director and General Manager, The South Metropolitan Gas Company; President of The Institution of Gas Engineers; Chairman of The Gas Research Board. Colonel W. Moncrieff Carr, Managing Director, The United Kingdom Gas Corporation, Ltd.; United Kingdom Gas Corporation, Ltd.; Member of the Association of Gas Corporations; Regional Gas Engineering Adviser, North Midland Region. Mr. Jas. Jamieson, Engineer and Manager, Edinburgh Corporation Gas Department; Chairman of the Scottish Board of Council; Vice-President of The Institution of Gas Engineers; Regional Gas Engineering Adviser, Scotland. Mr. A. W. Smith. General Manager and Secretary, The Birmingham Corporation Gas Department: Birmingham Corporation Gas Department; a Vice-Chairman of the Council of the Con-joint Conference of Public Utility Associa-tions. Mr. A. E. Sylvester, Managing Director, The Gas Light & Coke Company; Chairman of the London District Executive Board. Mr. W. J. Smith is Secretary to the Committee.

MOW has made the following appointments in the Directorate of Post-War Building: CONTROLLER OF EXPERIMENTAL BUILDING DEVELOPMENT: Mr. Frederic E. Towndrow, A.R.I.B.A. Building Costs Research Officer: Mr. D. W. Nunn.

OWING TO THE HEAVILY INCREASED COSTS CAUSED BY THE WAR THE PUBLISHERS OF THE JOURNAL HAVE BEEN FORCED TO RAISE ITS PRICE TO NINEPENCE AS FROM THE ISSUE OF JULY 1. AT THE SAME TIME THE ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATE WILL BE INCREASED TO £1/15/-



J. B. Priestley

Author, playwright, dramatist and broadcaster, J. B. Priestley published his first book in 1922, when he was twenty-eight. Since then he has written seven plays and something like forty books, including many famous works, such as Angel Pavement, English Journey and Good Comsulting with F. Knoblock, Born in the Sunday postscripts and lately a stalwart of the Overseas service, he has now returned to the home microphone. panions, which he dramatised with E. Knoblock. Born in Bradford, forty-nine years ago, the son of Jonathan Priestley, schoolmaster, he was educated at Bradford and Trinity

For many years he has been a close observer of urban life in Britain. His lecture to the AA on Urban Britain after the War appears on page 418.

#### Mr. A. F. B. Anderson, F.R.I.B.A., S.A.D.G., has been ELECTED PRESI-DENT OF THE AA.

The result of the election for the remaining officers and Council was as follows: Vicepresidents: J. R. Leathart, F.R.I.B.A., and Eric L. Bird, A.R.I.B.A. Hon. Secretary: R. E. Enthoven, F.R.I.B.A., A.A.DIPL. Hon. Treasurer: D. L. Bridgwater, F.R.I.B.A. Hon. Editor: Mrs. Anthony Cox, A.R.I.B.A., A.A.DIPL. Hon. Librarian: Ralph Tubbs, A.R.I.B.A., A.A.DIPL. Ordinary members of Council: Miss B. M. Beatty, A.R.I.B.A., A.A.DIPL., Henry Braddock, A.R.I.B.A., A.A.DIPL., G. R. Dawbarn, M.A., F.R.I.B.A., John Grey, F.R.I.B.A., A.A.DIPL., Or. Charles Holden, Hon. LITT.D., F.R.I.B.A., G. A. Jellicoe, F.R.I.B.A., A.A.DIPL., F.R.I.B.A., G. A. Jellicoe, F.R.I.B.A., A.A.DIPL., Arthur W. Kenyon, F.R.I.B.A. (past President), A. S. Knott, A.R.I.B.A., E. Brian O'Rorke, M.A., F.R.I.B.A., Gordon Stephenson, A.R.I.B.A., B.ARCH., J. N. Summerson, A.R.I.B.A.

Mr. Ernest Brown has announced MOHhas approved FIFTY-**TENDERS** FOR FOUR FARM WORKERS' COTTAGES. The lowest was £747, the highest £937. Tenders for 220 have been submitted. Mr. Ernest Brown said that local authorities have been told that if they cannot obtain satis-factory tenders MOW will arrange for the houses to be built at an appropriate figure. This scheme will come into operation in districts in which tenders are not approved by July 8.

At Lawnswood,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  miles from Leeds, NEW OFFICES FOR MOW REGIONAL STAFFS have just been completed and are now in occupation. The following departments are at this new address: emergency works and recovery, regional allocation officer, district surveyor, district engineer, estate surveyor, supplies officer, directorate of open cast coal, director of bricks. The one exception is the regional licensing officer, who, for the convenience of the public, will continue at Westwood Chambers, 93A, Albion Street, Leeds. (Telephone: 29063/4). The full address of the new Regional headquarters is: Ministry of Works, Government Buildings, Lawnswood, Leeds, 6. Telephone: Leeds 74411; Telegraphic address: Travaux, Leeds.

Professor Sir Lawrence Bragg and Professor C. G. Douglas have JOINED THE GAS RESEARCH BOARD. It will be remembered that the Select Committee on National Expenditure recommended the fullest use of the by-products of the gasmaking process, as carried out by the gas industry, to conserve the nation's coal assets. The research being carried out in the gas industry towards this end is co-ordinated by the Board. One of the latest developments is an experimental plant being set up to investigate the hydrogenation and gasification of coal under pressure. The object is to investigate the possibilities of producing town gas with maximum flexibility in the quantity of coke made, and of using a wider range of coals.

## THE FOUR MILLION

It is now held without contradiction that about 4 million new houses will be needed in Great Britain during the first decade after the war. The number which will be needed in each year of that decade to meet current demand cannot be accurately forecast, but it seems clear that gradual increase to a peak of 300,000 a year which has been mentioned by persons in authority will not be good enough. The JOURNAL'S guess is that an output for the first four years of 100,000; 500,000; 750,000; 750,000 is much nearer what will be needed.

Post-war housing is now being thought about by many people. The Minister of Health and more than one newspaper have shown that present housing conditions are such as must be relieved at the earliest possible moment. At least 100 public and private organizations and very many individual firms are now working on one or another aspect of post-war housing. The most important of these organizations is the Ministry of Works' Directorate of Post-war Building. The big problems of post-war housing are technical problems. And progress is grievously slow. The Directorate has been at work for over a year and has announced that it hopes to receive all First Draft Reports of its Study Committees by November When First Draft Reports become Final and all have been collated and approved, there will be available, we hope, a very expert view on what the quality of a post-war house (among other buildings) should be.

Yet this will mean nothing unless it is the quality not of one house or an ideal house which is described but the quality of houses for which post-war production has been arranged at the rate of 25,000 to 50,000 a month. The housing question after the war will be almost wholly one of rate of production; and unless it is arranged that it will be far easier after the war to build good quality houses than those of any other kind no good houses will be built. In default of such arrangements Parliament will be compelled to allow anyone who can build a house, however awful, to build as many as he knows how for as long as he thinks fit.

The majority of post-war housing needs could be satisfied by small houses of one or other of two kinds, which may be called Transitional and Fixed. Let us consider the Fixed kind first.

By a Fixed House is meant a 2-3-4 bedroom house of which the carcase is built of the materials commonly used before the war, though probably the constructional methods and detail would be different. Such carcases would vary in outward form and plan but would all be designed to use one of the types available in a fairly small range of National Standard Equipment—windows, doors, stairs, built-in fittings, kitchen and cooking, lighting, heating, plumbing and sanitary

One hopes that it would prove possible for the Directorate to coax all manufacturers to devote a large fraction of their capacity to the production of such equipment which would become familiar to builders, craftsmen and fitters all over the country.

A Transitional House would, it is suggested, use much of the same equipment but its carcase would be of light prefabri-

cated units capable of rapid assembly on the site.\*

The ratio between Transitional or Fixed Houses to be built in the first post-war years is for expert decision but a ratio of There will be an 50-50 would have prodigious advantages. enormous demand for heavy building materials for buildings for which light construction is unsuitable. The public will not stand a housing delay of 3 years while productive capacity is expanded and pre-war building trades are built up to a total of 11 or 11 million. Most important of all, Transitional Houses offer the possibility of an acceleration of output and peak rate of production quite beyond the capacity of pre-war house building methods; and subsequent stepping down seems certain to involve a smaller problem than the deflation of an overswollen "wet-building" industry.

Nor is this all. Rate of production is what will interest the ordinary man first and probably all the time. But the Transitional Houses would also do much to prevent physical planning falling foul of post-war housing needs and being in large measure wrecked by them. It will take a planning authority a year at least after the Uthwatt bottleneck is freed to prepare a transitional development plan and it will be five years at least before industry and population settle in semipermanent peacetime locations. Without Transitional Houses development plans will have to be strung around arbitrarily, and, it may turn out, unwisely, chosen new-housing areas. With Transitional Houses immediate housing needs can be met without this happening. Transitional Houses can be built in blitzed streets and use services already there; they can be built on sites of probable future business, industrial or civic centres and the services mains provided for them will not be wasted; they can be built in what is intended to be permanent housing areas and be replaced, removed or adjusted as later events dictate.

The JOURNAL believes that these three advantages of Transitional Houses-rapid acceleration of production, high peak rate of output and the time which their use would allow for the preparation of carefully thought out planning schemes would greatly outweigh the very obvious difficulties which would have to be overcome. And if in the coming months three-quarters of the energies of the Directorate of Post-war Building are concentrated, as they should be wholly concentrated, on the rate of production of small houses for the first four post-war years, the JOURNAL has hopes that its belief will come to be shared by an organization far more influential.



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

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THOSE HOMES FOR HEROES

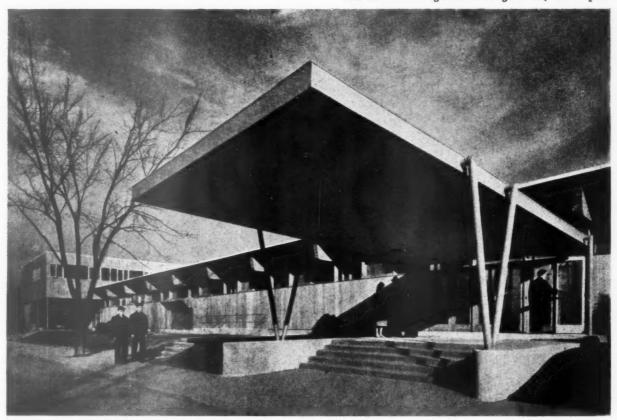
Anyone who has tried recently to rent a house in the Home Counties at under £150 a year is able to visualize-to a small extent-what the post-war housing shortage is going to be like. It is going to be terrible and will certainly be one of the biggest post-war questions.

One only has to think of the number of people who have either got married in wartime or have been compelled for one reason or another to give up a home of their own, to grasp what passions will be aroused if returning heroes and multitudes of others learn that they will have to wait three years or more before a house or flat within their means will be ready for them.

Yet this is what is going to happen if preparations for post-war housing go on as at present. Reform of byelaws, better standards of construction, improvement of kitchens, standardization of more common equipment—all these things are being thought about and all are very desirable. But recommendations made about them will be absolutely useless unless their adoption will bring about a big increase in rate of production. There is no evidence that this will be the case.

If all the recommendations of various bodies are added up it would appear that the kind of house wanted is that which would have been produced for £1,000 in 1937

<sup>\*</sup>The JOURNAL is aware how unsatisfactory a word prefabrication has become. It is used here to indicate any constructional system by which an absolute minimum of assembly work—whether of structure or equipment-has to be done on the site.



The main entrance to the Welfare Building, Naval Training Station, Great Lakes, U.S.A., described and illustrated in pages 412 to 415 and mentioned by Astragal below. The architects were Skidmore, Owings and Merrill.

by an exceptionally competent architect. It would of course be very nice if all houses could be built after the war to this standard in appropriate "local" materials by 1,001 different architects and multitudes of builders; and perhaps from a date five years after the end of the war such an aim may become practical politics. But not before.

The one way by which it now seems possible that the post-war housing problem can be tackled with reasonable success is for a large portion of the programme to be carried out by prefabrication. Innumerable objections can be raised, and doubtless will be raised, against this proposal. Yet the fact remains that only by using light prefabricated structural systems can we hope to produce well-planned and equipped small houses in anything like the numbers that will be needed.

And now let us look at some of the objections:

(1) It is said that the light materials essential for efficient prefabrication will be just those in

shortest supply after the war. All building materials will be in short supply after the war. Timber, steel, alloys, etc., must be equitably divided between heavy and light building.

(2) No one knows what is the efficient life of a prefabricated house, so it will be impossible for building societies and local authorities to arrange finance. I believe building societies and local authorities have more sense than to be put off in this manner. All prefabricated houses should be rented, and maintained in all respects by owning body or ad hoc organization under contract. If necessary, owning authority could be guaranteed 3 per cent. plus share of further profits from longer life or scrap value.

(3) British people won't live in standardized boxes. British people have been living in boxes standardized at an appallingly low level for years. Show them a box standardized at a high level and they will rush for it.

(4) Local authorities won't stand for temporary housing (a) because temporary railway coaches, etc., allowed after last war were still in use in 1939; (b) because of waste of money in building houses that will be scrapped after 10-15 years; (c) because light construction is more susceptible to damage and infestation than brick and concrete. (a) railway coaches were still in use in 1939 because inhabitants had not, even after 20 years, been offered alternative accommodation at rents they could pay; (b) the question raised here is purely one of expediency: one house to last 40 years v, 10 to last 10 years; (c) hard cases can be put either temporarily or permanently into suitable quarters. Most families are not lice-ridden or wilfully destructive.

U.S.A. TIMBER CONSTRUCTION

Whereas in England timber is now extremely scarce in the United States it is relatively plentiful. But steel there is short and has priority for engines of war. This has resulted in a remarkable development of technique in building with timber, as those who read the Journal's Centre will have Information Timber is being used realised. extensively, of course, in the war housing schemes, but perhaps the principal development is that of glued laminated construction for beams, columns and arches, by which small sized, and low grade timbers can be combined to bear great weight and span great distances. In one USA building, for instance, laminated wood arches are now being constructed to span 250 feet.

Fine character can be achieved with the new methods of timber construction as the Welfare Centre at Great Lakes, illustrated in this issue, shows. The great beams supported by the slender steel tubes are particularly impressive.

ASTRAGAL

## PLANNING NOTES

WEST HAM AND THE BLITZ

Miss Idle has written a painstaking account of West Ham through the blitz (War over West Ham, Faber & Faber, 6s.) but, although her conclusions show clearly the fundamental importance of good planning, she has only described the administrative difficulties, makeshifts and triumphs.

difficulties, makeshifts and triumphs. Hear her conclusions: "It is now possible to sum up the answers to the questions posed at the beginning of this book. . . . Unplanned development and unorganized labour provide the answer to the first question, for their results in badly built and vulnerable houses, in overcrowding and poverty, have complicated exceedingly the work of the local authority. Political and administrative enthusiasm in the past had been a driving force in the fight against sickness and destitution, but the insidious effects of the first unplanned development have lately crept over political and administrative bodies too. For by creating slums and unattractive surroundings, they have driven out and kept away those who could have worked most ably for the borough, and have left responsibility in the hands of the less able, and of those who are past their prime. The blitz laid bare this fact, and it was seen in delays, and in unsatisfactory planning and co-ordina-tion." This is one side; here is the other: "East Enders, especially the women, frequently know very little of London beyond their own immediate neighbourhood; they do not go far to shop or visit; they seek their recreation near home, and many of them spend their married lives in the same street in which they were born and lived as children. . . . Hence the strong group consciousness of East Enders; their readiness to stand by each other in distress, and also their acute psychological discomfort if, for any reason, isolation is forced upon Again: "It is not to be expected that more than a very few townsfolk will be content to stay in the country for a day longer than they can help after the war is successfully concluded. Left to their own devices, East Enders would rush immediately and joyfully back to their ill-repaired, half-habitable houses.

By as careful an analysis and account of the neighbourhood groupings, of the distribution of local loyalties and local habits, as of the factions within the town council and the work of the voluntary and civic organizations, Miss Idle could have helped us to develop plans that would express the group consciousness of the East Ender and yet be far removed from slums.



## LETTERS

H. Dalton Clifford, M.Inst.R.A.
Paul W. Abeles
Y. Rykachev

#### Architects and Prefabrication

SIR,—One of the recommendations made by the TCPA to MOH on future housing policy is that builders of houses should be compelled to employ qualified architects.

to employ qualified architects.

This recommendation indicates a lack of understanding of the function, training, and position of the architectural profession. It is clearly essential that architects, trained to plan, supervise financially and technically, and co-ordinate the work of specialists are well qualified to be responsible for all commercial and communal building.

They were, in fact, employed on 90 per cent. of buildings in these categories in the year before the war. But the fact that they were employed on only 20 per cent. of domestic building in this period indicates that they were not successful at this type of work, for otherwise their services would have been in greater demand. And if, as is desirable and inevitable, a far higher degree of standardisation, prefabrication, and mass-production on industrial lines is to be achieved in post-war building, the design of domestic housing will be still less a job for architects, and far more a job for industrial designers working in conjunction with large manufacturing concerns. Architects are no better qualified to design houses for repetition or mass-production than they are to design motor cars.

to design motor cars.

The house of the future will, I believe, be designed as motor cars are now designed. Chemists, engineers, technicians, production experts, and industrial designers will combine to produce prototype models which will be tested thoroughly for comfort and efficiency before going into production. By a process of evolution spurred on by commercial competition, national advertising and industrial research, the house of the future will, year by year, become healthier, more comfortable and labour saving, and better value for money than has hitherto been thought possible. As with motor cars appearance will be an important selling factor, and the more attractive houses will be most popular.

Many architects are fitted by their interests and experience to fill the role of designers for industry, but it is obvious that the vast majority of the profession are not qualified for this work. Let them stick to the job in which the value of their services is proved by the demand, and let the manufacturers tackle the new job of designing houses for mass-production in their own way.

Kensington.

H. DALTON CLIFFORD.

#### Pre-stressed Reinforced Concrete

SIR,—In his very instructive article on Pre-stressed Reinforced Concrete, which appeared in the JOURNAL for May 6, Dr. K. Hajnal-Kónyi refers to the behaviour of a partly pre-stressed beam, recently discussed in various technical journals. This beam, illustrated in Fig. 7 in the article, apparently relates to a proposition of my own, which the author says need not be described further, since it has not yet been adopted in practice.

May I be permitted to refer to this proposition a little more closely, since it constitutes a very simple method of saving steel, the importance of which is emphasized in the leading article of the same number of the JOURNAL.

Dr. Hajnal-Konyi described Freyssinet's method, in which after elastic deformation, shrinkage and creep of the concrete have reduced the pre-stressing stress, there is still a complete absence of tension in the concrete under maximum load. Absence of cracks is guaranteed and the beam behaves as if of a homogeneous material. Since steel of the highest possible strength is used, it appears that homogeneity was considered imperative to avoid the appearance, in a cracked section, of steel stresses which would be many times higher than now permissible. To achieve this condition, which may be called "full" pre-stressing, a great initial stretching force is required. By contrast, in "partial" prestressing, a considerably smaller stretching force is applied, with resulting economy, but absence of cracking is not guaranteed. However, as Dr. Hajnal-Kónyi says: "Except for special cases such as water tanks, barges, etc., where cracklessness is essential, cracks are of no particular disadvantage as long as their width does not exceed a certain limit."

Partial pre-stressing in general is not a new proposition, but it becomes practical only if the pre-stressing stress is sufficiently high to remain effective, and cracking does not reach dangerous proportions. According to my proposition, this is ensured by proper choice of the stretching force, which in any case is considerably reduced below that used in full pre-stressing. As in the latter method, high strength steel is used, but only certain rods or wires are stretched, the resultant saving in steel of the tensile reinforcement being about the same in both methods. Tests on beams reinforced in the ordinary way with steel of very high strength suggested that cracks of dangerous width would not occur, and tests on partly pre-stressed beams have confirmed this expectation. The appearance of high steel stresses at the cracked section is therefore of no disadvantage as long as the width of the cracks does not exceed the limit given on page 300 of your JOURNAL.

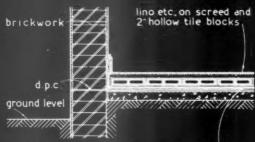
Partial pre-stressing may be applied by either pre-stretching or post-stretching of the reinforcement, and the resultant compressive stress in the concrete at release of the stretching force on the concrete is much beneath that attained in full pre-stressing, where it is greater than the compressive stress occurring at loading. The reduced stretching force can be applied without the use of "expensive equipment," mentioned in the leading article in the Journal, and the method should be particularly favourable in the production of precast beams in series, as shown in Fig. 10 in Dr. Hajnal-Kónyi's article, where the stretching would be limited to certain of the reinforcing wires only.

Such beams are, in fact, when loaded, similar in behaviour to those reinforced with mild steel in the ordinary way, as tests have proved: but they behave as if of homogeneous material when not loaded or only slightly loaded. All



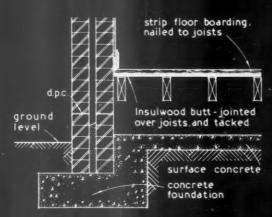
### 1078 THE ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL LIBRARY OF PLANNED INFORMATION

INSULWOOD THERMALLY INSULATED GROUND FLOOR CONSTRUCTION

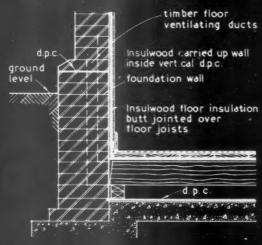


Insulwood embedded on hot asphalt dp.c.

(A) LIGHTWEIGHT VENTILATED SOLID FLOOR

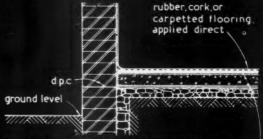


(C) TYPICAL DOMESTIC TYPE



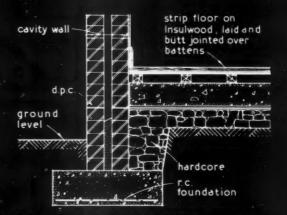
(E) BASEMENT TIMBER FLOOR AND WALL INSULATION

343

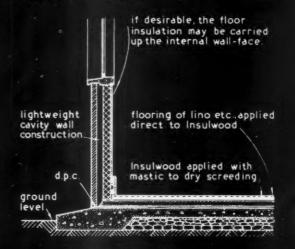


Insulwood underlay fixed with mastic to dry rc.slab

(B) COMBINED INSULATION AND FLOOR FINISH UNDERLAY



(D) INSULATION OF TYPICAL SOLID R.C. FLOOR



(F) TYPICAL HUTMENT TYPE FLOOR INSULATION.

Issued by P.I.M Board Co, Ltd

INFORMATION SHEET: FIBRE BUILDING BOARDS 5: CROUND FLOOR INSULATION Sir John Burnet Tait and Lorne Architects One Montague Place Bedford Square London WCI THE ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL LIBRARY OF PLANNED INFORMATION

# • 900 •

### BUILDING BOARDS No. 5

Subject: Thermal Insulation of Ground Floors.

### General:

This Sheet indicates typical methods of constructing insulated ground floors by means of Insulwood Building Boards.

### Thermal Transmission:

Whilst the reduction of sound transmission through a structure is dependent to some extent upon the provision of laminations, with or without air gaps, these factors do not to the same extent minimission. Few structural building materials resist heat conduction to any appreciable extent.

The basis of efficient thermal insulation may be stated as follows:—

(a) Conduction: Minimised by the provision of a thickness of material having the lowest possible thermal transmittance, e.g., dry air, a solid material having an intrinsically low thermal conductivity, or a material having many air spaces.

Since the thermal transmittance of a material is usually at a minimum when it is in a perfectly dry state, it is important to use a waterproofed material in the construction of thermal barriers.

(b) Convection: The prevention of airstream continuity minimises convection between structural cells at different temperatures, e.g., this may be obtained by sealing partitions, floors or roofs, by an impervious membrane.

(c) Radiation: Minimised by preventing one element in an insulating barrier from radiating heat across an air gap, to the other side, or by preventing the radiant heat from a source being absorbed by the barrier structure; e.g., by the use of white surfaces to minimise absorption of radiant heat, or by the use of a reflecting membrane for the same purpose.

### Insulwood:

This board belongs to the low-density range, and has a thermal conductivity of 0.36 B.Th.U. per sq. ft. per hour for I in. thickness and for each degree F. difference in air temperatures.

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 left in its natural state, or distempered, painted, enamelled, coated with plaster, paper, etc. It may be used as an underlay and a permanent shuttering to concrete.

Sheets  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. thick are used in the constructions shown. Sizes, weight and other physical properties are given in previous Sheets of this series.

### Application:

Concrete or screeded surfaces should be thoroughly clean and dry, mopped with hot asphalte or pitch, and the insulwood firmly embedded while the mopping is hot. Two or more layers of insulation may be applied in a similar manner, well brushed before laying.

Waterproof felts and built-up roofings should be applied according to makers instructions.

### **Previous Sheets:**

Previous Sheets of this series on wallboards are Nos. 893, 895, 896 and 898.

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Telephone: Sunbury-on-Thames 341.

cracks which may have occurred under working load close totally when the load is removed. When a high strength steel of about 110 tons per sq. in. ultimate strength is used, the weight of the tensile reinforcement is reduced to about one-fifth of the weight of the mild steel, and, assuming the unit rate of the high strength steel, inclusive of fixing and manipulation, is three times that of mild steel, a saving of 40 per cent. in the cost of the reinforcement is achieved.

PAUL W. ABELES

### CABLEGRAM

from Russia

The following cable describing the preparations now being made for post-war reconstruction work in the USSR has been sent us from Russia

by Y. Rykachev:
Whilst conducting titanic struggle against Hitlerite war machine which has been shaken its foundation by blows Red Army, Soviet Union is preparing for great work restoration. In particular large contingent builder architects are now being trained for restoration Soviet towns and villages barbarously destroyed by enemy on territory he for time being occupies.

Moscow Institute Architects is carrying on important work training young architects. Academician Ivan Zholtovsky, Professor of Chair of Architectural Projection, is famous Soviet architect who designed many new

Soviet architect who designed many new buildings in Moscow and other towns of Soviet Union and is brilliant connoisseur of Renaissance architecture.

In few days' time students will be graduated from Senior Six-year Course of Institute.

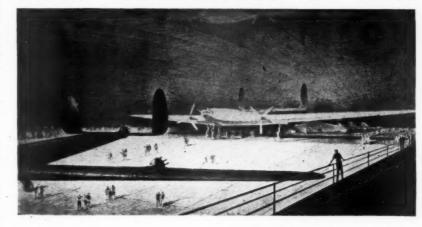
These are already architects who have completed their college education and who have only to have their Diploma projects accepted. works submitted by candidates for Diplomas this year are subordinated to news

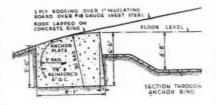
of war. One of subjects taken by students is design of new type farm houses and other buildings for villages and townships liberated from Hitlerites. In working out projects particular attention has been paid to matter of building houses out of local materials. importance this subject Academician Zholtovsky has designed whole series portable single-storey houses for small towns and villages. In addition graduates have designed hydro-electric stations, food manufacturing

plants, baths, etc., for districts freed from enemy. opened an Exhibition was Architectural Projects at Institute, including works designed students under guidance Professor and projects of Professors them-selves. Projected Hydro-electric Stations for Urals, whose industry is now flourishing as never before, projects houses, theatres, public buildings and airports are shown. Academician Zholtovsky is exhibiting his designs for one-storey houses, Academician Rylsky his measurements of proportions ancient Russian architecture, and Architect Zakharov his designs for memorials to great patriotic war which he has submitted for State competition. On opening day students of Institute met representatives all branches Soviet art painters, sculptors and writers. Guests examined projects after which extensive discussion took place in connection with general questions restoration. These are now vital questions for all Soviet architects at present time and their all soviet architects at present time and then joint discussion with representatives of kindred arts will undoubtedly bear good fruit for Soviet architects and for students of Institute.

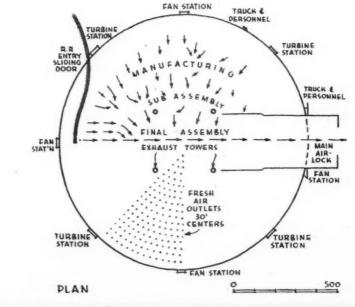
Architecture is one most powerful branches Soviet art which has become enriched by Soviet art which has become enriched by experience of great constructional work of past 25 years, during which hundreds big towns have been built all over Soviet Union. Soviet Union has large number experienced architects and number is being added to annually by graduates' Institute who spread all over country. For this reason it may be easily that despite tempendous scale restoration. said that despite tremendous scale restoration work, there will be sufficient well-trained architects to cope with it. Y. RYKACHEV

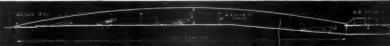
### ROOF SUPPORTED BY







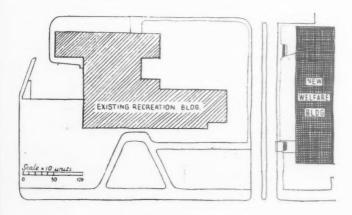




A radical principle for factory design has been proposed by an American engineer, Herbert H. Stevens. The roof is a thin steel membrane, constructed on the ground and fastened to a concrete anchor ring. It is then raised and stretched into a dome by air pressure from ordinary ventilating blowers, being maintained in position by an air pressure of one ounce per square inch, the effect of which on the occupants is negligible. The building is entirely free from structural obstructions and uses only one tenth the amount of steel ordinarily used on a structure of the same size. All doors are double, forming air-locks, excepting revolving doors for personnel and a single door where railway trains enter. The roof is of steel sheet about  $\frac{3}{64}$  inch thick, unrolled on the ground in strips. The edges are welded together electrically, and the ends are seam welded to a steel plate fastened to reinforcing rods buried in the concrete anchor ring. One-inch insulating board is laid with hot asphalt on the steel membrane and 3-ply roofing covers it.



# WELFARE



### BUILDING

NAVAL TRAINING STATION, USA:

Top, the terrace and lounge, with its all glass wall, faces a wooded ravine. Above, site plan. Three thousand visitors a day can be handled in the welfare building. The adjoining recreation hall was designed by the same architects.

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OWINGS AND MERRILL

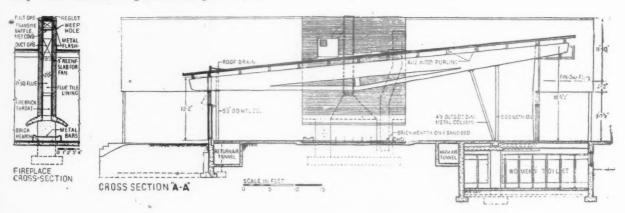
The welfare building adjoins and supplements the previously erected recreation building at the main gate of the training station. As both were designed by the same architects, the matter of harmonizing the two structures was reduced to its simplest possible terms. The main problem was to provide, on a long and narrow site, a building where service men might meet visitors, with facilities consisting of a reading and writing room, a reception room, a lounge room and terrace, offices for the public relations department, an apartment for the hostess and a number of services.

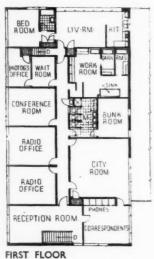
Many of these elements were grouped in a large welfare hall whose unusual structural features also provide its main decoration. This hall is one storey in height, and sufficiently long and flexible to handle as many as 3,000 visitors per day. The walls are all glass on the east front and are provided with a long, high



Above, looking along the entrance front; below, side elevation of lounge.





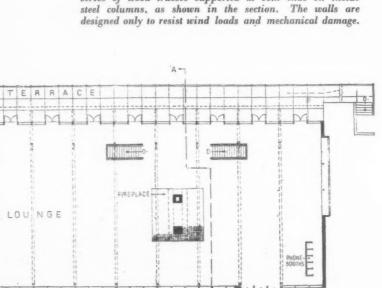


WRITING

TELEGRAPH

Plans and sections. The roof construction consists of a series of wood trusses supported at both ends on inside steel columns, as shown in the section. The walls are

UNEXCAVATE



UNEXCAVATED

UNEXCAVATED

WELFARE BUILDING, NAVAL TRAINING STATION, USA.

GROUND FLOOR







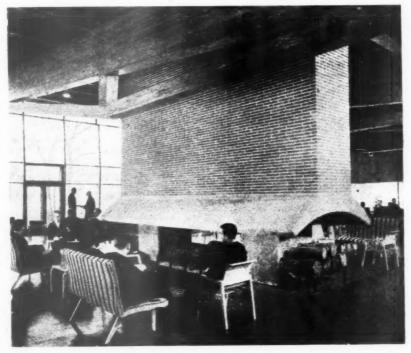
Above and right, three views in the lounge. Below, the large fireplace separates the lounge from the reception space.

ribbon on the west; the ribbon occurs on the entrance wall, while the other side of the room opens on an attractive wooded ravine. To give warmth to the large interior, wood was used extensively. Wall surfaces are of vertical fir boarding, treated with

a light oil stain and flat varnish. Exposed wood in the ceiling was similarly treated, and the laminated wood trusses were factory-finished to match. All sash and doors were painted white to accentuate the warmth of the fir walls and the red floor. Exposed columns,

piping, grilles, conduit, downspouts are grey, this colour being used whether these elements occur inside or outside. The furniture is in character with the interior as a whole and provides the only important colour accents; all of the pieces were either designed or selected by the architects. The small first-floor unit contains the public relations office and an apartment for the hostess.

A feature of the welfare building is the roof construction, a series of unusual wood trusses which are supported at both ends on inside steel columns, as shown in the section. The walls in such a system are merely curtains, designed only to resist wind loads and mechanical damage. Equally free in treatment is the large fireplace, which serves to provide a degree of separation between the reception space and the lounge. The heating of this large room is accomplished by convection. Warm air is introduced at the bottom of the all-glass east wall through continuous grilles between the door openings. The grilles are connected to an underfloor duct of concrete served by the warm air blower system. The locations of both supply and return tunnels and ducts are shown on the section. The illustrations are from The Architectural Forum.



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

### STRUCTURE

1165 Site Organization

THE SITE ORGANIZATION OF A PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACT. Scott H. Hume, M.I.Struct.E. (The Structural Engineer, May, 1943; Paper read at Meeting of Inst. of Struct. Engs., May 13, 1943). The Contractor's aspect of site organization. Staff, labour, materials, plant, office management, technical supervision, welfare.

The paper covers either a civil engineering or building job and describes an organization for a contract for about £500,000. This size is big enough to be self-contained and to operate entirely from the site with head office controlling only policy and finance. The appointment of an agent is most important and he must be given wide discretionary powers. Civil engineering

contractors customarily appoint qualified civil engineers with university training or equivalent, but building contractors have often appointed a general foreman who has risen from an operative; the latter is likely to be less successful. The agent is the channel for all communications and this rule must be carefully kept. Moreover, he is in control of a large staff and should be allowed to have a say in their appointment. He must have close contact with the resident engineer, probably including weekly meetings.

The quantity surveyor is an important individual but some work in connection with payments can well fall to the wages clerks.

Labour control of a job employing 500 men makes the appointment of a labour controller desirable and a suitable man is an experienced foreman. The paper then goes on to deal at some length with labour engagement and discipline, with particular reference to the Essential Works Order. Time-keeping and the transport of workmen are also discussed.

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Diagram showing site organization of a public works contract (from The Structural Engineer, May, 1943). See Information Centre, item No. 1165, above.

The ordering of materials, the correct and methodical records required in this connection and also in connection with plant and machinery are dealt with and detailed suggestions for office routine are outlined, including letters, filing, insurance, income tax and other matters. The agent must find time for going on to the site to see for himself what progress is being made, and a detailed organization of assistants for this purpose is needed. The types of records and progress charts required are described. Finally, welfare organization and public relations are discussed.

1166 Thermal Insulation

THERMAL INSULATION OF BUILD-INGS. Ministry of Fuel and Power; Committee on the Efficient Use of Fuel (Fuel Efficiency Bulletin, No. 12, March, 1943). Importance and advantages of thermal insulation of buildings. Insulating materials.

The publication of this Bulletin is evidence that the importance of the thermal insulation of buildings is now recognised by the MOFP. "There is probably no single factor which may contribute to a greater saving of fuel used for heating buildings than the adequate use of insulation. . . . Insulation may save more than half the fuel required to heat an uninsulated building and in the case of any new buildings which require to be provided with central heating or unit heaters, the cost of heating installation may be reduced by more than the cost of providing insulation."

Numerical examples and diagrams demonstrate this statement, and further advantages of insulation are given. "The conditions within a building depend not only on the temperature of the air but also on the temperature of the inner surfaces. . . Conditions within an insulated structure are more comfortable than in one the walls and roof of which are cold, and comfortable conditions may be maintained with a somewhat lower internal air temperature than would otherwise be necessary.

"The higher surface temperatures obtained with insulation also tend to prevent condensation, which may be a frequent source of trouble with some types of construction."

This introduction would lead one to expect an up-to-date survey of methods of providing insulation and of insulating materials. Unfortunately the *Bulletin* ignores some of the recent important technical developments.

The Cement and Concrete Association has published an *Interim Report on Wartime Housing*, which contains details of the various flooring and roofing systems used during the war. One of the deficiencies of this *Interim* 

Report is the lack of data on thermal insulation (see A.J. of March 18, 1943, p. 188). The Bulletin gives such data, but, as far as flat roofs are concerned, only about a few types of roof construction; it takes no notice of most of the systems in actual use. The list of insulating materials "intended to offer guidance in the choice of a suitable material for a given applica-

tion '' mentions:

(a) corkboard '' only available for the insulation of buildings in

exceptional cases,"

(b) fibreboards which "are combustible and some types readily assist the spread of fire,

(c) asbestos insulating slabs (asbestos is strictly controlled under Statutory Order and is in short supply),

(d) plasterboard, laminated board, hardboard, asbestos cement and asbestos millboard, all of which are controlled and require licence if used for an area exceeding 480 sq. ft. (A.J., of April 29, 1943, p. 277),

(e) wood wool cement slabs (requiring

shredded timber),

(f) loose fillings (not applicable on flat roofs),

(g) blanket insulations.

The most important material, light weight concrete, which in all its varieties, as foamed slag, breeze, clinker concrete, etc., is available all over the country in unlimited quantities, and which has been most extensively used on flat roofs in wartime housing, factories, etc., is not even mentioned in this connection. In all examples of "Typical Constructions," both in the diagrams and in the Table, giving "Fuel Saving Due to Insulation," only plasterboards, hardboard, fibre board, wood wool cement slabs and the like are assumed, as though such a material as light weight concrete does not exist.

It is to be hoped that a second issue will fill this gap, so that the Bulletin may offer real "guidance in the choice of a suitable material for a given

application.'

### LICHTING

**Electric Wiring** 

THE PLANNING OF ELECTRIC WIRING INSTALLATIONS; LOW, MEDIUM AND HIGH VOLTAGE: (War Emergency British Standard *Code of Practice B.S.*, 1062-1943. 1s. post free). Standardization of wartime design on basis of short life expectation. Departures from IEE Regulations.

A code of practice for the planning of low and medium voltage electric wiring installations was issued by BSI in July, 1940, at the request of the Codes of Practice Committee. This code, drafted by IEE, has now been revised and extended to cover highvoltage installations and to cover larger installations than those originally contemplated. The original code, only slightly amended, forms Part I of the revised document. The code is one of a series of standards dealing with wiring installations and amendment slips to some of the other numbers of the series have recently been issued and can be obtained from the BSI or IEE.

### QUESTIONS and answers

THE Information Centre answers question about architecture, 1 any building, or the professions and trades within the building industry. It does so free of charge, and its help is available to any member of the industry. Answers are sent direct to enquirers as soon as they have been prepared. The service is confidential, and in no case is the identity of an enquirer disclosed to a third party. Questions should be sent to: The Architects' JOURNAL, 45, The Avenue, Cheam, Surrey

### 1168 Roughening a Floor

At one of our factories the floor was finished off with a wood float to give it a roughened surface, and graded to falls to channels. The floor is continually covered with water and the workpeople have, of necessity, to wear gum boots. They find it difficult to maintain a foothold; indeed, several accidents recently have taken place. There is no doubt that the action of the water on the floor is making the surface smooth, and I am wondering whether you know of anything which would overcome this trouble, e.g., any method whereby the surface of the concrete could be roughened adequately? We are, of course, aware that a new paving could be laid on top but we wish to avoid the expense of this.

We do not know of any way in which the surface of the existing concrete can be roughened, except by the ordinary process of hacking, which would not, of course, be satisfactory. We consider that it will be necessary to lay a new paving on top.

### 1169 **Composition Floors**

Are there any floor finishes com-posed of sawdust and mastic which are suitable for domestic housing?

Most of the pre-war composition floorings, such as magnesite floors, had a sawdust base, and although magnesite is unobtainable, substitute floors, containing a sawdust base, are still being made by most of the composition floor manufacturers.



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

### HOUSE LORDS OF

### Town and Country Planning

On June 10, THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (INTERIM DEVELOPMENT) BILL was read a Second Time in the House of Lords. Here are points from the debate\* which preceded the reading.

The Lord Chancellor: (VISCOUNT SIMON, L.N.) My Lords, I beg to move that this Bill be read a second time. It comes to us from the House of Commons with the unanimous support of that House, and I do not doubt that your Lordships will consider it should be given a Second Reading here. The main provisions of the Bill, or at any rate three of them, are recommended in the Lithwatt Report them, are recommended in the Uthwatt Report and in the Scott Report respectively, and therefore the Bill in enacting these clauses is proceeding along the lines which are indicated in those Reports.

The change which Parliament has made, and which I think is the key to all this subsequent development, is this. It has made the big change of regarding planning as more closely connected with the Central government, with what the Uthwatt Report calls a Central

Planning Authority.
Under the new Bill we shall get the necessary control and check over interim development. I am not going to expatiate on the very wide range of topics which is opened up in the amendment which stands in the name of my noble friend Viscount Samuel. I would merely observe that really this business of the setting up of planning as a Central

\*Printed from Parliamentary Debates, House of Lords by permission of H.M. Stationery Office.

Government function is one of the most complicated, one of the most fundamental and, some people would say, one of the most revolutionary, changes that has ever been proposed in modern times. I beg to move that the Bill be read a second time.

should like in the first place to draw attention to the fact that the Resolution which stands in my name, and which I now beg to move, is in no way hostile to the Second Reading of the Bill. I sincerely trust that very speedy action will be taken under Clause 8 (dealing with joint committees), so that all over the country it shall be known who are the people to do the planning, apart from the question of precisely what the planning is to prove to be. It is not the positive provisions of this Bill to which I take exception, but rather its vast omissions and its limited scope. The Resolution which I have put upon the Paper deals in very general terms with the main omissions in the Bill. The local authorities to-day are placed in an impossible position. They cannot proceed with the making of plans and until they proceed with the making of plans of course the owners of property and architects cannot proceed with the preparation of the actual plans for building, to be put into operation immediately the war ends. Now in June, 1943, we have this very small Bill. The only results have been changes in the machinery of government, and now this small, interim, preliminary Bill.

That is the reason I consider the Government

That is the reason I consider the Government are blameworthy for what can only be called dilatoriness. I beg to move (Amendment

moved).

Lord Addison: (Lab.). Nobody listening to him (the Lord Chancellor) to-day would have thought what a little Bill this is. What it really amounts to is that the Ministers concerned, after the various inter-departmental comings and goings to and fro for two years, not being able themselves to make up their minds about any of these things, which they have described as being essential, have at last decided that at least somebody else shall be deemed to have come to a resolution. That is as far as we have got. We shall of course pass this little Bill but I am sure not one of your Lordships, having done so, will seek to persuade yourselves that you have done anything that matters.

Lord Soulbury: (U.). It is fairly obvious in view of certain war events since January, 1940, that the recommendation of the Barlow Report about location of industry must in any event be substantially modified. So I imagine the noble Viscount's main criticism would relate to the alleged period of inactivity following the publication of the Scott and Uthwatt Reports, a period of eight or nine months from September, 1942, to the present time.

Negative powers such as those in this Bill

Negative powers such as those in this Bill are necessary now, but I suggest that we should wait until the future course and character of industry is very much clearer than it is at the present moment. And, of course, the future of agriculture is intimately linked with industry. As regards the power of local authorities to acquire land, as I think has already been pointed out, the Government have already announced their intention with

regard to power to acquire land in areas needing reconstruction as a whole, for instance, war damaged areas. And, as I hope to show, the evidence of any local authority being held up for lack of measures—which the noble Viscount infers is the case—is not very strong. The noble Viscount referred to the Uthwatt

The noble Viscount referred to the Uthwatt Report and the question of compensation and betterment. This is obviously a subject which is fraught with great difficulties. It is a contentious and controversial subject, and conflicting views were expressed upon it in your Lordships' House when the matter was last debated. It was clear that the political parties had not made up their minds, and the opinions expressed in debate cut right across normal party alignments. I can well understand, I think any fair-minded man can understand, the Government taking a very considerable time in which to make up their minds on such a problem.

Again, before legislation is brought to Parliament the principles and policy must be thoroughly thought out by the Cabinet before they can possibly come to decisions.

The Lord Privy Seal: (VISCOUNT CRANBORNE, Lord Cecil, U.). The noble Viscount has castigated the Government for undue delay, for dilly-dallying and, as I understand it, almost for deliberate procrastination.

Viscount Samuel: I did not say deliberate."

Viscount Cranborne. At any rate for procrastination. I regret, if I may say so in passing, that the noble Viscount suggested that these questions were being held up by "propertied interests." I do not think that it is quite fair to introduce that element of old-fashioned Party bitterness into this question, which we ought to consider on a national basis. The problems are far more fundamental than that. What we can do, should do and are doing is to prepare the ground and construct a firm jumping-off place for further measures which will be in the future—and I hope in the near future—submitted to Parliament. It would clearly be quite impossible for the Government to accept the noble Viscount's amendment, and I do not suppose that the House would wish to accept it either.

Viscount Gage: I may be speaking parochial point of view as a member of a local authority, but I think that this is an important Bill because, as I read it, in addition to the points brought out by my noble friend the Leader of the House, the Minister is by this Bill actively associating himself with the local schemes from the earliest stages, and not confining himself to settling disputes between interested parties at the appeal stage. I certainly believe that the greatest simplicity of administration is absolutely essential to successful town planning, and I think if this Bill means what I believe it to mean, it will make for that simplicity, because we shall have one Minister to deal with instead of many.

I admit that my enthusiasm for this Bill is due more to what I think it foreshadows than to what it contains, and I agree with the noble Viscount, Lord Samuel, that we should have some further statement soon about any contemplated reforms in town-planning machinery, because so much has been said and written about the size of these impending changes that we can hardly blame the local authorities for not being very enthusiastic at the present time.

Viscount Samuel: My Lords, I should be glad if the House will allow me at this stage to withdraw my amendment. (Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.)

Viscount Bledisloe: (C.). My Lords, it must be a certain relief to us all that the noble Viscount has announced his decision to withdraw his amendment.

It seems to me that this Bill, if it does nothing else, serves a useful purpose in clearing the ground—cleaning the slate, so to speak—in such a way as to accelerate the further and more operative steps to be taken in the field of national planning. I should deprecate any attempt to jostle, as it were, the decisions of the Government in regard to the location of industry under present conditions, and of course in the light of the Barlow Report. But I am bound to say, as regards National Parks, I should indeed like to see some further and early decision reached.

Another reason for not being in too much of a hurry is that successful planning is impossible without a clear objective. I am inclined to ask, and the more so when I see my own very efficient county council successfully at work on this planning business—what is our target? What, indeed, is our national objective in trying to bring into existence a brighter, better and happier Britain? If this is not clear, let us have sufficient time, and give the Government sufficient time for what they are claiming—namely, research, diagnosis and reliable, unprejudiced investigation.

My only objection to delay is that, unfortunately, land speculation is going on apace at the present time and militating against the acquisition of land by those who can best

use it in the national interest.

I referred just now to the competence of the local authorities, particularly the lesser local authorities, to undertake this very responsible work, and I venture to hope that it may prove to be possible to make planning one of the accepted qualifications for seats on our local authorities. I am afraid that on many if not most of our local authorities the main qualification of those who seek office is the probability of their being active in keeping down the rates.

The Earl of Glasgow: The present Bill is an excellent Bill and personally I welcome it very much. May I express the hope that the Government in the United Kingdom will see that Scotland gets this Bill as soon as possible after this Bill for England has gone through Parliament?

The Lord Chancellor: I am, I believe, quite justified in saying to him and others interested that a separate Bill, almost identical in its nature, will be introduced for Scotland at an early date.

### AA

### J. B. Priestley

May 25, at 35, Bedford Square, W.C.1. Architectural Association's General Meeting. Lecture on URBAN BRITAIN AFTER THE WAR, by J. B. Priestley, M.A., LL.D., D.LITT.

J. B. Priestley: I feel that a good deal of the physical planning which is going on now is premature, because it is not yet related to any political, social and economic background. There is something in the nature of an attempt to plan physically a country which has not really come into existence yet—I mean, post-war Britain. That does not apply, I think, to Central London, but it does apply to the rest of the country. It is no use physically planning Coketown until you know what is going to happen in Coketown, and the position of



L. E. Walker, Photo.

HOUSE, STONEGATE STREET, KING'S LYNN

WHEN the late Sir Guy Dawber, R.A., was shewn this photograph he remarked that he had known this piece of plaster work since his earliest days for, as a very young boy, he had attended a "dames' school" in this building. There can be little doubt that the Renaissance buildings of King's Lynn helped to mould his architectural

inclinations and, indeed, he was the first to pay tribute to them as the source of inspiration for some of the details of his most successful buildings. There is a danger that we fail to appreciate those things which long experience has made familiar to us, and attach an undeserved importance to others which have little but their newness to recommend them.

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# TO READERS OF 'THE ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL" SERVING IN H.M. FORCES

Facilities for keeping in touch with wartime developments in building practice and technique are largely denied to those architects, engineers and students now serving in His Majesty's Forces. In the form of Data Sheets we are collating all information relating to the many structural applications of the tubular steel section. A number of these Sheets are already available, others are in course of preparation.

If members of H.M. Forces will communicate with us we shall be indeed glad to add their names to the list of those architects, engineers and others who have requested that we should supply them with all technical data and information relating to our present constructional and research activities.

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Coketown in our post-war economic and social system.

England is an urban country. Its great wealth has come from its towns, and four people out of five in this country live in towns.

There is nothing very revolutionary about those statements, and yet we never behave as though they were true. It is hardly ever acknowledged that we are a nation of townspeople and not of country-people. If we do not acknowledge this we are beginning to cheat ourselves, and it leads to that humbug which finds a place in so much of our social life.

That sort of humbug has crept into all this town and country business. And it is more serious than that. Ten years ago I wrote a book called *English Journey*. I went about the country and looked at all sorts of industrial districts and visited all kinds of towns, and at the end of it I asked myself which two cities I liked the best, and I found that the two cities which had pleased me most were Bristol and Norwich, because they seemed to me better to fulfil the function of cities and to have much more of the true atmosphere of cities than the other cities and towns that I had visited. Then I noticed a curious thing, that both these cities were pre-industrial revolution in origin, and were in fact in the eighteenth century little provincial capitals; Bristol was the little capital of the West Country, and Norwich was the little capital of East Anglia. They were little centres, little metropolises. They had their own theatres, painters, and even their own publishing houses and their own literary circles and so on. There lingered in these two cities some suggestion of the true function of an urban community, which I did not find in many of the other places.

I think that that is due to the industrial revolution, because what happened in the industrial revolution was, as you know, that cities and towns sprang up in all the industrial regions, particularly in the Midlands and the North, and grew very rapidly. Large factories were erected and round those factories long rows of dingy back-to-back houses, you still see to-day; and instead of the true city, the urban centre, the real community, we had the town as a kind of money-making machine, a factory with a dormitory around it. It was then that there began, in my view, this drifting away of interest from the town to the country. What I mean by that is that from then onwards all but the poorest classes of English people stopped being truly urban, and no one with an income of more than a few hundred pounds a year ever lived in the place where he worked. As the nineteenth century went on, this tendency became worse

and worse, and increased in the present century, with the coming of the motor саг. It is true that in the earlier days of the industrial revolution a great many members of the new manufacturing class actually lived on their mill premises, but they were as a rule of a puritanical type. They were men rule of a puritanical type. They were men who believed that life should be grim and hard, that men should think first in terms of work and of happiness a long way afterwards, if indeed they should think of happiness at all. On the other hand, there was always the influence on the other side, remote from the Liberal or Radical puritanical type, the influence of the Tory type, who were always moving away from the towns, particularly after they had made their fortunes, and purchasing large estates outside the towns, well away from the places where they had made their money, and becoming English country gentlemen. Those who could not purchase large estates and titles would at least try to get small ones, and if they could

not get small ones they would take some tiny house in the country, well away from the town. The town, in fact, had become a moneymaking machine. There are towns in the North which have changed even since I was a boy; they have become working-class dormitories. The people who moved out of them took no interest in them. There was no attempt to improve their amenities; there was no attempt to make them representative of an urban civilization; because most of the people who had the necessary education and the enterprise and the money no longer cared about town life.

about town life.

There was, of course, as a protest against that, the development which has taken place in our lifetime of garden cities, an attempt to bring the country into the town and mix it all up. There was also an enormous growth of suburbia, which is an attempt to make the best of both worlds, and in my opinion makes the worst of them.

You may say, from a commonsense point of view, that people cannot be blamed for wanting to bring up their families or to live themselves away from the dingy, smoky, dirty, dreary towns. That is perfectly true, and I agree; but the towns need not be dirty, dingy and smoky and dreary, and the reason that they are is simply because all these people have left them, and the people who remain are too helpless or weary to effect the necessary changes.

There are a great many objections to garden cities and to enormously spread-out suburbs. You probably know the physical objections to them, but there are, I think, very grave social and cultural objections to them, too, because they are not communities. I believe that a good deal of the political apathy which we had in this country before the war was due to the fact that more and more people were living entirely outside real communities. They had no communal life at all; they were merely little units tucked away in their bungalows and little houses in these new, wasteful growths of suburbia.

The situation has been made worse because so many of the young people, of the educated people, of the discerning people, have never lived in the towns, though they may have worked there, with the result that on the town councils, instead of having enterprising young, educated people you have retired shopkeepers, whose sole desire is to keep the rates down and who would never welcome any sort of attempt to improve the amenities of the town.

The whole thing, in fact, has been a vicious circle, because in the meantime the country has been turned into something which is neither country nor town. People left the towns, but they did not become real country people, but merely what the Americans call "commuters." Their heart was neither in the country nor in the town.

I hope you will agree with me in declaring that the country is good and the town is good, and that the more the country is like country the better it is, and the more a town is like a town the better it is.

I realize that to-day it may not be necessary to have such large industrial units as we needed in the days of steam, although the tendency during the war in our great factories has been rather to increase the size of the units. I am told that with electric power we can have a new kind of industrialism, with small units.

I do not know what is the ideal size of a town. My own feeling is that no city, apart from these monsters which can never be broken up properly, should be much larger than about half a million; that seems to me to be about the right size for a city. And it should be compact; of that I am absolutely certain. The country should end and then the city should begin. When you are in the city, you should be in it; there should be no nonsense about pretending that you are half in it and half out of it. The city should have definite boundaries where the city ends and the country begins, just as if it were a medieval city with a wall round it.

For the town, we probably want a population

of about 50,000, and the town too should be as compact as it can be made. With the be as compact as it can be made. With the city of 500,000 it is possible to have certain kinds of amenity, and with the town of 50,000 there will be other kinds. There is a great deal of work to be done in educating people to accept these ideas, and you will have to do it, if you agree with them. You will have noticed that a good many articles are appearing in the Press now asking people what they want after the war, and they seem to me to be entirely misleading. They are very depressing to read, because you find that what people want after the war is exactly what they had before the war; but I believe that they are entirely misleading, because the people who are asked have no idea of what they are choosing from; they speak of what they know. They do not consider other alternatives; in fact, these alternatives are carefully kept away from them, because there is now a movement, as you must have noticed in certain sections of the Press, to pretend that those who are engaged in the war effort do not want any planning at all, and that all they want to do is to get back to the Britain of 1939. That is usually a lie, and a deliberate lie. When housewives have been interviewed, however, and asked about the sort of place in which they want to live, their answers have been honestly reported, but the question has not been honestly put to them, because they have not seen the alternatives.

It is your business to put the alternatives before the public. I am a democrat, and that means that I feel that if people really want something strongly they ought to have it, even if privately I believe that it is not good for them. Doing good by force is probably the worst thing in the world. But I do believe that there is a possible line of development between thrusting all kinds of unwanted things on people and ruining this country because people are not sufficiently educated to understand what the alternatives are. If everyone lived in garden cities half the country would be taken up, and be neither a garden nor a

Compactness, of course, means that people will have to live in flats. The Town and Country Planning Association allege that people would not do so, because flats are too noisy; but architects should be able to build flats which have not that defect.

It might be well to suggest to Mr. W. S. Morrison, the new Minister of Town and Country Planning, that he should take a town and use it as a kind of laboratory in which to try out experiments which, if successful, would later be applied on a wider scale. I do not suggest building an entirely new town as a "laboratory," but rather utilizing some town the centre of which has been badly bombed and has to be rebuilt. If architects were to show the people their plans, they would probably not like them at all. A good many of them I do not like myself. Architects often tend to be a good deal too spacious in their planning. Nothing is more tiring than a city with enormous boulevards; I would like something much more compact.

As a matter of fact, people do not like anything; people have never wanted anything; it is only a few cranks who want something. People did not want fire, or the wheel, but a few cranks went on and bored them into accepting things.

Architectural changes are probably about the last things that people ever will want, which is all the more reason for pursuing them with great energy and boring people into accepting them. Architects are artists and have visions and dreams, but ordinary people have to live in their visions and dreams, and so some compromise is necessary with the tastes of ordinary people; but how deep those tastes go I do not know. Whether in fact the English people want to keep themselves to themselves, and regard privacy as all-important, I do not know, but it is the basis of all bungaloiditis.

### Conference

June 5, at Beaver Hall, E.C.4. Con-FERENCE ON HOUSING PROBLEMS, organized by the Association of Building Technicians. Chairman: Mr. Elmer, Vice-President of the NFBTO, and General Secretary of the National Builders' Labourers' Union. 287 delegates of building trade unions and other organizations were present, and 152 visitors. The underlying note of the conference was that production is for consumption; houses are built to be lived in; the object of building houses is neither to provide employment at all cost nor an opportunity for investment.

Mr. R. Coppock, General Secretary of the NFBTO and Chairman of the LCC, welcomed the setting up of the National Council of Apprenticeship and stressed the need for the guaranteed week, the need for planning building as a whole and escriptifically with page building as a whole and scientifically with new standards in relation to available labour. He touched on the question of land nationalization and pleaded for greater powers for

local authorities.

Mr. W. H. Thompson, Labour solicitor, dealt with Rent Restriction in relation to housing. The 1939 Act gave the tenant considerable powers but there were over-simple versions. "Equality before the law" of tenant and landlord had always been unreal because the complications of legal procedure worked against the tenant. Local procedure worked against the tenant. Local authorities were urged to publicise the regulations by the Ministry of Health who had sent round a poster. He reminded the Conference that furnished houses and lettings were not restricted at all, neither was the tenants' tenure secure. He asked for simplification of the Act; standardization of restricted. tion of the Act: standardization of rents and a Fair Rent Tribunal to be set up in the style of an appeal board under the EWO; protection of unfurnished tenants, the taking over of unoccupied houses, more powers to local authorities and more bureaux to tell the public their rights. He questioned the social usefulness of the landlord, payment to

whom was a first charge on all social services.
The chairman read the ABT detailed resolution (given below), and Miss Blanco White opened discussion for the ABT. They were concerned, she said, with housing as a human and social problem, affecting the needs and health of the people. During the war this meant tackling the problem of efficient support for the war effort. There were three types of area: (1) where there was accommodation and the problem was to get justice in its use; where the accommodation was below standard and enterprise was needed to get the maximum use; (3) where there was no accommodation and the need was for a coordinated policy for requisitioning and new construction. The ABT thought that if the housing problem was kept in hand in the ways suggested in the resolution it would be a step forward in the solution of post-war problems.

Five minute speeches from delegates followed.
Mr. Munday, of the National Society of
Painters, said he was engaged on unnecessary
work and called for a stricter utilization of
labour. Mr. Smith, of the Aero Householders' Association, wanted measures against building societies included in the resolution. Mr. Lansea, of NAFTA, called for minimum standards for building. Mr. Shepherd, of the Lansea, of NAF1A, called for minimum standards for building. Mr. Shepherd, of the Greenwich Labour Party, spoke against converting large old houses into workers' flats. Mr. Sofer, of the Haldane Society, stressed that too little use was made of the existing machinery of local government. As a Socialist and legal assistant in a slum berough of 6000 be had apply 10 acquiring borough of 60,000 he had only 19 enquiries

Local authorities can and, with in a year. pressure, will prosecute. When his Society had approached Sir Kingsley Wood about amending the Rent Restriction Act they had been told "There seems to be no demand." Mr. Merrison, of the London Trades' Council, derided the idea of self-help squads for minor repairs, and was suspicious of prefabrication as likely to impose lower standards for working-class houses. Mr. Kennedy, of the Amalgamated Society of Woodworkers, thought a closer examination and more positive approach to that question was necessary Alderman Goodrich, of Hackney Borough Council, warned that requisitioning property might merely enhance value for property owners, and called instead for powers to

The second part of the Conference was opened by Mr. D. E. E. Gibson, City Architect of Coventry. The technicians and operatives had really started to get together, The post-war problem was indicated by the figures of a typical Midlands town. Normal building of 4,000—5,000 houses stopped for four years, 7,000 slum houses to be dealt with, 5,000 houses bombed, a total shortage of 30,000 houses, and other difficulties of materials and maintenance. He believed new methods of building should be used though normal methods should continue. The solution he methods should continue. The solution he saw was prefabrication, using the disused aircraft factories and the large supply of nonferrous metal. The attempts at prefabrication after the last war had failed because they had not solved such problems as condensation. But building research is more developed now. Advantages of prefabricated systems were dry construction: freer planning, not dictated by weight-bearing walls; and simpler plumbing. House building had not kept pace with technique, and he looked on prefabrication as an improvement not as a makeshift. War, e.g., the lack of timber, had helped to develop technique. Prefabrication was not, however, applicable to all kinds of buildings.

Obviously these developments affected the interests of the operatives, and it was good to discuss them frankly. On his Council there was a trade union organizer. Mr. Gibson compared the present with the early stages of the Industrial Revolution. We must not "break the machines" of progressive development; it was for the trade unionists to see that they were used to advantage and to nobody's disadvantage. He spoke of the nobody's disadvantage. He spoke of the danger of private trade interests which would need to be controlled, and ended with a reference to land utilization, saying that unless the recommendations of the Uthwatt report were mostly carried out we should be

in trouble in the future.

Miss Elizabeth Denby urged a more radical policy than the resolution implied, with nationalization of building material as well as land. Mr. Michel Best, who represented the London District Committee of the Communist Party, supported the resolution and urged that working-class organizations should use their initiative in solving housing problems locally.

A delegate from the AEU spoke on the necessity for freezing rents.

Mr. Rosenfeld summed up for the ABT, and the following resolution was then put and carried with some minor amendments, and an addition empowering the ABT to organize a deputation on the subject to the Minister of

Resolution: This Conference believes that immediate housing problems have reached a stage where the authorities concerned must give increased attention to finding practical solutions, in the interests of the health, well-being and efficient output of our people working wholeheartedly to win the war.

While agreeing with the Government's policy, as stated by the Minister of Health, to "make the very best use of all available accommodation," and while recognising that the acute shortage of labour and materials makes lower strongers in the Conmakes lower standards inevitable, this Conference nevertheless puts forward the following proposals, in the belief that they are practicable

and would go far to alleviate the most serious

1. Speeding up Repairs.

(a) Urgent normal repairs to be placed on the same footing as war damage repairs, so that they may receive equal attention.

(b) Local authorities to be encouraged to make full use of the Ministry of Health sanction for self-help squads for minor

2. Mobilization of all available accommodation. (a) Extension of surveys throughout areas

where shortages exist to discover accommodation which could be put into habitable condition, and powers for local authorities to requisition such properties.

(b) Powers for local authorities to expend funds on converting empty houses now

too large for single families to occupy.

(c) Development of blocks of adjacent buildings as single schemes of repair and conversion, together with necessary facilities for meals, laundries, nursery schools, etc., and transport to factories. 3. Rent Control

(a) Strengthening and extension of the Rent Control Acts to prevent evasions and to cover furnished lettings.

(b) Freezing of rents reduced during the war to below the 1939 level, so that landlords are not allowed to exploit shortages by increases to the shortages by i 'standard' rate.

4. New Construction

In areas where these measures still leave a shortage damaging to production, the construction of new accommodation in the form of purely temporary dwellings or of dwellings of design and construction suitable for post-war conversion to accommodation of a normal type.

This Conference is aware of the vast scale housing and related problems will assume in the immediate post-war period, and of the concern felt among large sections of our people about the way they will be tackled. It welcomes the agreement reached by the Government with the operatives and employers in the building industry on the training of labour to meet the post-war demand, and at the same time urges the Government to take the following additional steps now towards meeting post-war problems:—

1. Statements of Policy

(a) A declaration that housing and essential services will be given priority in the building programme.

(b) A declaration of policy on planning the location of industry and the distribution of population, based on complete nationalization of land.

2. Legislation

(a) Finance for local authorities to acquire land for a five year housing programme, pending the nationalization of the land.

(b) Maintenance of wartime controls over

materials and prices.

3. Research (a) Planning and direction of all technical research by both official and private bodies so as to give priority to the

most urgent problems.

Provision of opportunities for technicians to bring forward sugges-tions designed to speed up building opportunities (b) Provision and improve technique.

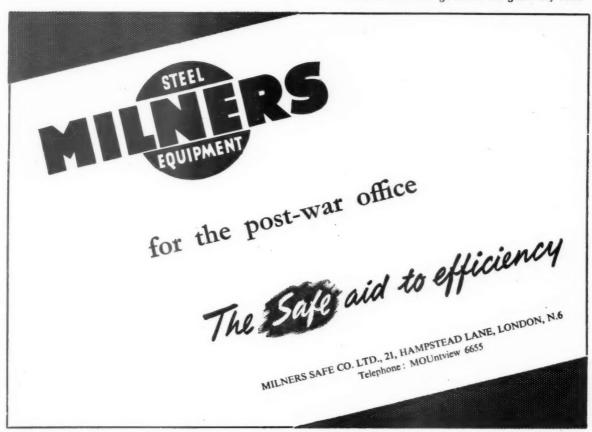
(c) Steps to ensure that all research is made readily available and is applied

to the whole industry.

This Conference asks local authorities to consider the application of these proposals to the conditions in their areas and, where necessary, to seek from the Minister of Health

an extension of their powers.

The delegates of all the organizations here represented pledge themselves to report the conclusions of the Conference to their own organizations and to encourage the calling of local conferences on the largest possible scale in order to apply these conclusions to local



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### **PWB**

### **Study Committees**

The following is the sixth extract from the booklet issued by the Directorate of Post-war Building of MOW containing reviews of ten of the First Draft Reports of its twenty-three Study Committees. See leading article for April 22, and these columns for April 22, 29, May 6, 20, 27 and June 17.

GROUP C. INSTALLATIONS
14. PLUMBING COMMITTEE. First Draft Report,
October 30, 1942. PWR/Plumbing 25. 9 pp. plus 5 pp. bibliography, divided thus: Introduction.

Part I. Definite recommendations with particular reference to low-cost housing.

Part II. Proposals for further work. Refer-

ence to matters which may offer opportunities for improvement, but on which definite recommendations have yet to be formulated. Glossary.

Bibliography.

Introduction

Investigation by Committee not yet complete, but from preliminary survey it is clear that ample opportunity exists for improvement in current plumbing practice. Investigations have been limited to (a) provision of water supply to the various washing and sanitary appliances used in buildings; (b) the removal of water and waste matter from appliances and roofs; (c) design of appliances.

Plumbing has developed on a basis of practice. An absence of quantitative data sets a limit to the advances that can be recommended. Some modern developments which make for economy and efficiency are as yet little used. Some local variations in practice cannot be justified by reference to special local conditions.

Part I. Immediate Recommendations. Plumbing in relation to water supply.

i. Frost precautions. Precautions against freezing of water pipes have often been neglected in low-cost housing. Many of these are simple and inexpensive.

RECOMMENDED precautions include (a) minimum depth below ground for service pipes;
(b) positions of stop-cocks, draw-off taps, pipes and cisterns; (c) insulation of pipes and cisterns.

ii. Standard water supply fittings.

RECOMMENDED that co-ordinated recommendations for standard water fittings, laid down by the Ministry of Health and the British Waterworks Association, be made effective throughout the country.

B. Plumbing in relation to the disposal of soil, water and rainwater.

i. Soil and waste disposal. Origins of "one-pipe" and "two-pipe" plumbing systems pipe '' explained and the two systems compared.

RECOMMENDED that the one-pipe system be employed where (a) its cost is comparable with the two-pipe system, after full consideration has been given to economical and efficient design and planning to secure close grouping of the plumbing appliances; (b) labour and supervision are such that gas-tight joints can be assured. be assured.

ii. Building drains.

RECOMMENDED that (a) for economy (and without loss of efficiency), access doors and rodding eyes could often replace manholes; (b) intercepting traps between building drains and public sewers be omitted, unless special reasons for their use exist in particular areas.

iii. Rainwater disposal. RECOMMENDED that B.S.S. for eaves, gutters, stop ends, angles and gutter outlets be pre-pared. Suggestions are made for improvements in design of gutter outlets.

C. Plumbing appliances.
A greater measure of standardization of

dimensions of plumbing appliances should facilitate the supply, installation and replacement of components.

i. Water closets.

RECOMMENDED that B.S.S. be prepared for w.c. suite for low-cost housing. features enumerated in twelve items. ii. Baths, washbasins and sinks.

RECOMMENDED that B.S.S. be prepared for baths, washbasins and sinks for low-cost housing. Essential features are: overall dimensions, inlet and outlet positions in plan and elevation, diameter of outlets. Dimensions of outlets are suggested, also height for fixing washbasins and sinks.

Part II. Proposals for further Work

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Explains terms used in the report, and includes a diagram giving standard terms for pipes and cables.

Bibliography

92 publications listed in four groups: I. 1-59 Great Britain. II. 60-78 U.S.A. III. 79-83 The Dominions. IV. 84-92 Europe.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Manchester branch of the Brush Electrical Engineering Co., Ltd., Petters Ltd., and Brush Coachwork Ltd., has moved to Yorkshire House, 45, Cross Street, Manchester 2.

Messrs. British Paints Ltd., as from June 28, will transfer their London offices previously carried on from Golders Green and Surbiton, to Royal Mail House, Leadenhall Street, London, E.C.3. Telephone: Mansion House 8874; telegraphic address: "Apexior," " Apexior," Stock, London.

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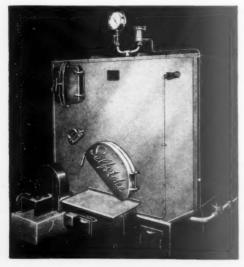
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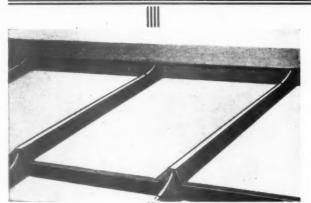
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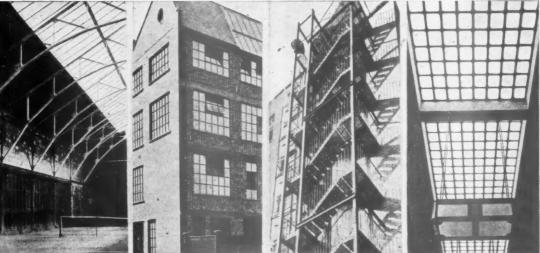
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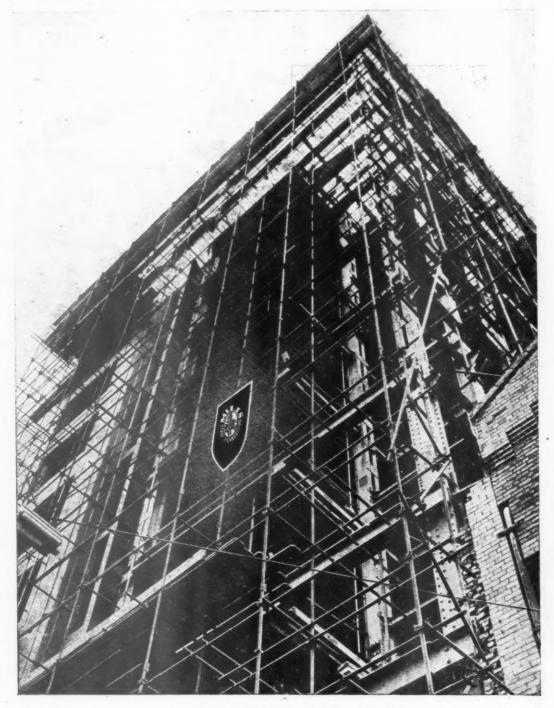
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