

# THE ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL



## standard contents

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

## DIARY

## NEWS

from AN ARCHITECT'S  
Commonplace Book

## ASTRAGAL

## LETTERS

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## CURRENT BUILDINGS

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## CENTRE

Physical Planning      Lighting  
Structure      Heating & Ventilation  
Materials      Questions & Answers  
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## INFORMATION SHEET

## SOCIETIES & INSTITUTIONS

## PRICES

Architectural Appointments  
Wanted and Vacant

No. 2541] [VOL. 98  
THE ARCHITECTURAL PRESS,  
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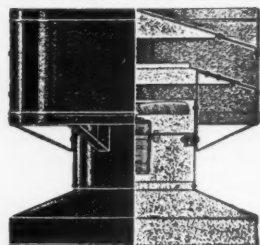
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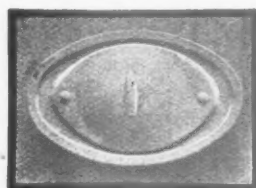
★ The war has both multiplied the number of Official Departments and encouraged Societies and Committees of all kinds to become more vocal. The result is a growing output of official and group propaganda. A glossary of abbreviations is now provided below, together with the full address and telephone number of the organizations concerned. In all cases where the town is not mentioned the word LONDON is implicit in the address.

AA	Architectural Association. 34/6, Bedford Square, W.C.1.	Museum 0974.
ABT	Association of Building Technicians. 5, Ashley Place, S.W.1.	Victoria 0447-8.
APRR	Association for Planning and Regional Reconstruction. 32, Gordon Square, W.C.1.	Euston 2158-9.
ARCUK	Architects' Registration Council. 68, Portland Place, W.1.	Welbeck 9738.
ASB	Architectural Science Board of the Royal Institute of British Architects, 66, Portland Place, W.1.	Welbeck 6927.
BC	Building Centre. 23, Maddox Street, W.1.	Mayfair 2128.
BDA	British Door Association, Shobnall Road, Burton-on-Trent.	Burton-on-Trent 3350.
BEDA	British Electrical Development Association. 2, Savoy Hill, W.C.2.	Temple Bar 9434.
BIAE	British Institute of Adult Education. 29, Tavistock Square, W.C.1.	Euston 5385.
BINC	Building Industries National Council. 110, Bickenhall Mansions, W.1.	Welbeck 3335.
BOE	Board of Education. Belgrave Square, S.W.1.	Sloane 4522.
BOT	Board of Trade. Millbank, S.W.1.	Whitehall 5140.
BRS	Building Research Station. Bucknalls Lane, Watford.	Garston 2246.
BSA	British Steelwork Association. 11, Tothill Street, S.W.1.	Whitehall 5073.
BSI	British Standards Institution. 28, Victoria Street, S.W.1.	Abbey 3333.
CEMA	Council for the Encouragement of Music and the Arts. 9, Belgrave Square, S.W.1.	Sloane 0421.
CPRE	Council for the Preservation of Rural England. 4, Hobart Place, S.W.1.	Sloane 4280.
CSI	Chartered Surveyors' Institution. 12, Great George Street, S.W.1.	Whitehall 5322.
DIA	Design and Industries Association. Central Institute of Art and Design, National Gallery, W.C.2.	Whitehall 7618.
DOT	Department of Overseas Trade. Dolphin Square, S.W.1.	Victoria 4477.
EJMA	English Joinery Manufacturers Association (Incorporated), Sackville House, 40, Piccadilly, W.1.	Regent 4448.
FMB	Federation of Master Builders. 23, Compton Terrace, Upper Street, N.1.	Canonbury 2041.
GG	Georgian Group. 55, Great Ormond Street, W.C.1.	Holborn 2664.
HC	Housing Centre. 13, Suffolk Street, Pall Mall, S.W.1.	Whitehall 2881.
IAAS	Incorporated Association of Architects and Surveyors. 75, Eaton Place, S.W.1.	Sloane 3158.
ICE	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.
IRA	Institute of Registered Architects. 47, Victoria Street, S.W.1.	Abbey 6172.
ISE	Institution of Structural Engineers. 11, Upper Belgrave Street, S.W.1.	Sloane 7128-29.
ISPH	Committee for the Industrial and Scientific Provision of Housing. 3, Albemarle Street, W.1.	Regent 4782-3.
LIDC	Lead Industries Development Council. Rex House, King William Street, E.C.4.	Mansion House 2855.
LMBA	London Master Builders' Association. 47, Bedford Square, W.C.1.	Museum 3767.
MARS	Modern Architectural Research. 8, Clarges Street, W.1.	Grosvenor 2652.
MOA	Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, 55, Whitehall, S.W.1.	Whitehall 3400.
MOH	Ministry of Health. Whitehall, S.W.1.	Whitehall 4300.
MOI	Ministry of Information. Malet Street, W.C.1.	Euston 4321.
MOLNS	Ministry of Labour and National Service. St. James' Square, S.W.1.	Whitehall 6200.
MOS	Ministry of Supply. Shell Mex House, Victoria Embankment, W.C.2.	Gerrard 6933.
MOT	Ministry of Transport. Berkeley Square House, Berkeley Square, W.1.	Abbey 7711.
MOTCP	Ministry of Town and Country Planning. 32-33, St. James's Square, S.W.1.	Reliance 7611.
MOW	Ministry of Works. Lambeth Bridge House, S.E.1.	Welbeck 1881.
NBR	National Buildings Record. 66, Portland Place, W.1.	Oxford 48809.
NFBTE	National Federation of Building Trades Employers. 82, New Cavendish Street, W.1.	Langham 4041.
NFBTO	National Federation of Building Trades Operatives. 9, Rugby Chambers, Rugby Street, W.C.1.	Holborn 2770.
NT	National Trust for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty. 7, Buckingham Palace Gardens, S.W.1.	Sloane 5808.
PEP	Political and Economic Planning. 16, Queen Anne's Gate, S.W.1.	Whitehall 7245.
PWB	Post War Building, Directorate of. Ministry of Works, Lambeth Bridge House, S.E.1.	Reliance 7611.
RC	Reconstruction Committee RIBA. 66, Portland Place, W.1.	Welbeck 6927.
RCA	Reinforced Concrete Association. 91, Petty France, S.W.1.	Whitehall 9936.
RS	Royal Society. Burlington House, Piccadilly, W.1.	Regent 3335.
RSA	Royal Society of Arts. 6, John Adam Street, W.C.2.	Temple Bar 8274.
SPAB	Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings. 55, Great Ormond Street, W.C.1.	Holborn 2646.
TCPA	Town and Country Planning Association. 13, Suffolk Street, S.W.1.	Whitehall 2881.
TDA	Timber Development Association. 75, Cannon Street, E.C.4.	City 6147.
TPI	Town Planning Institute. 11, Arundel Street, Strand, W.C.2.	Temple Bar 4985.

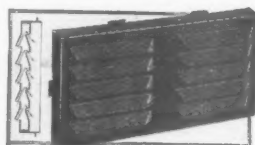
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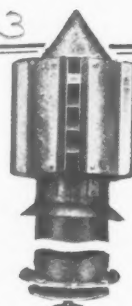
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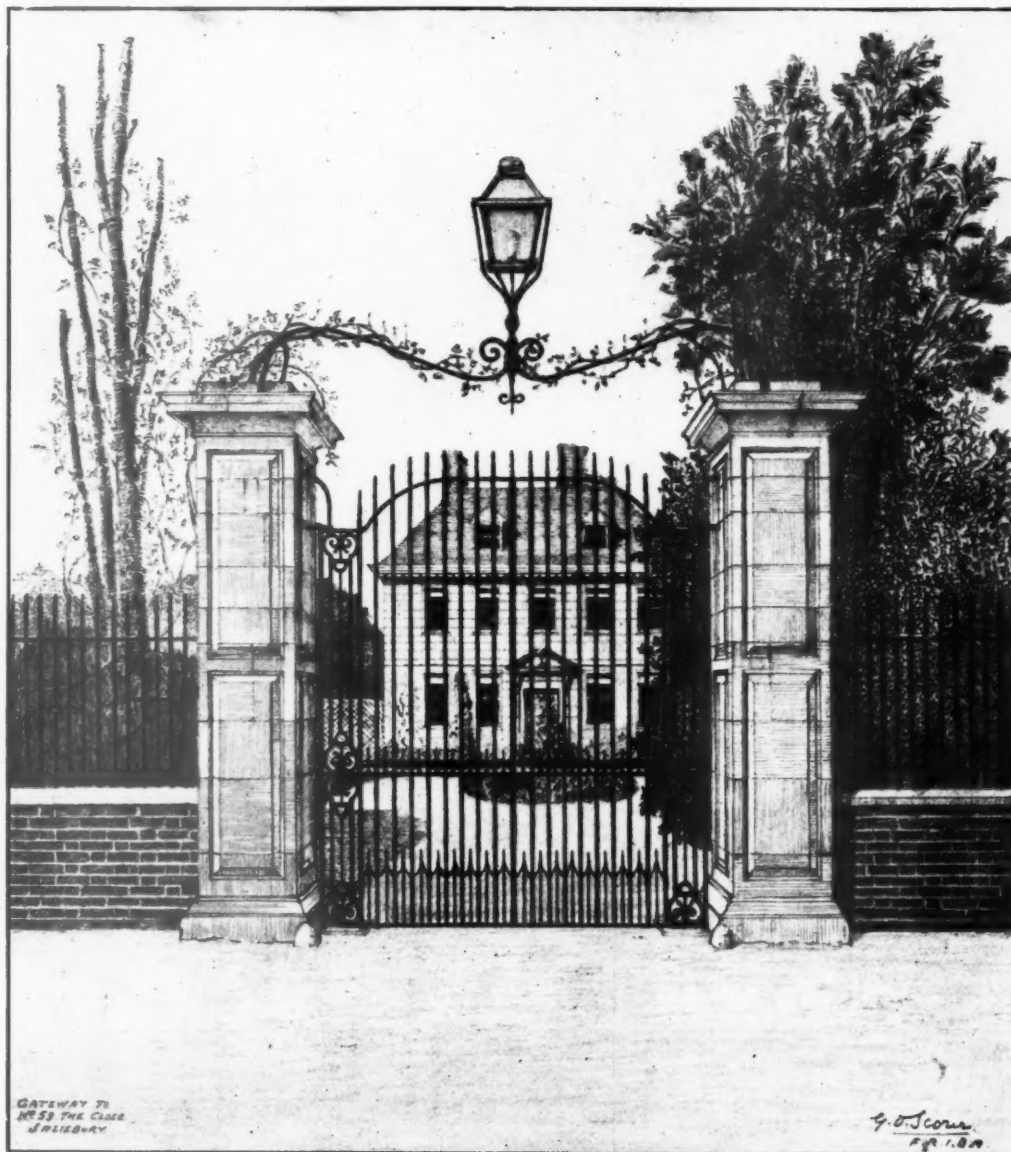






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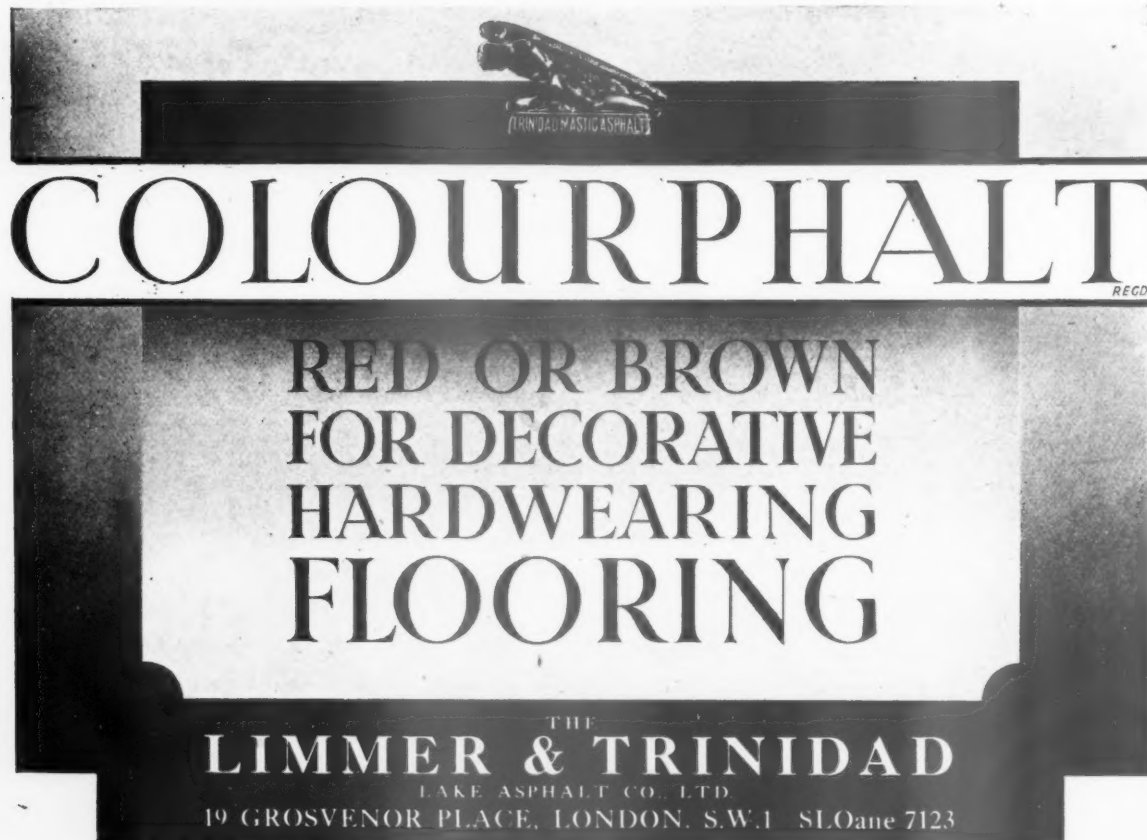
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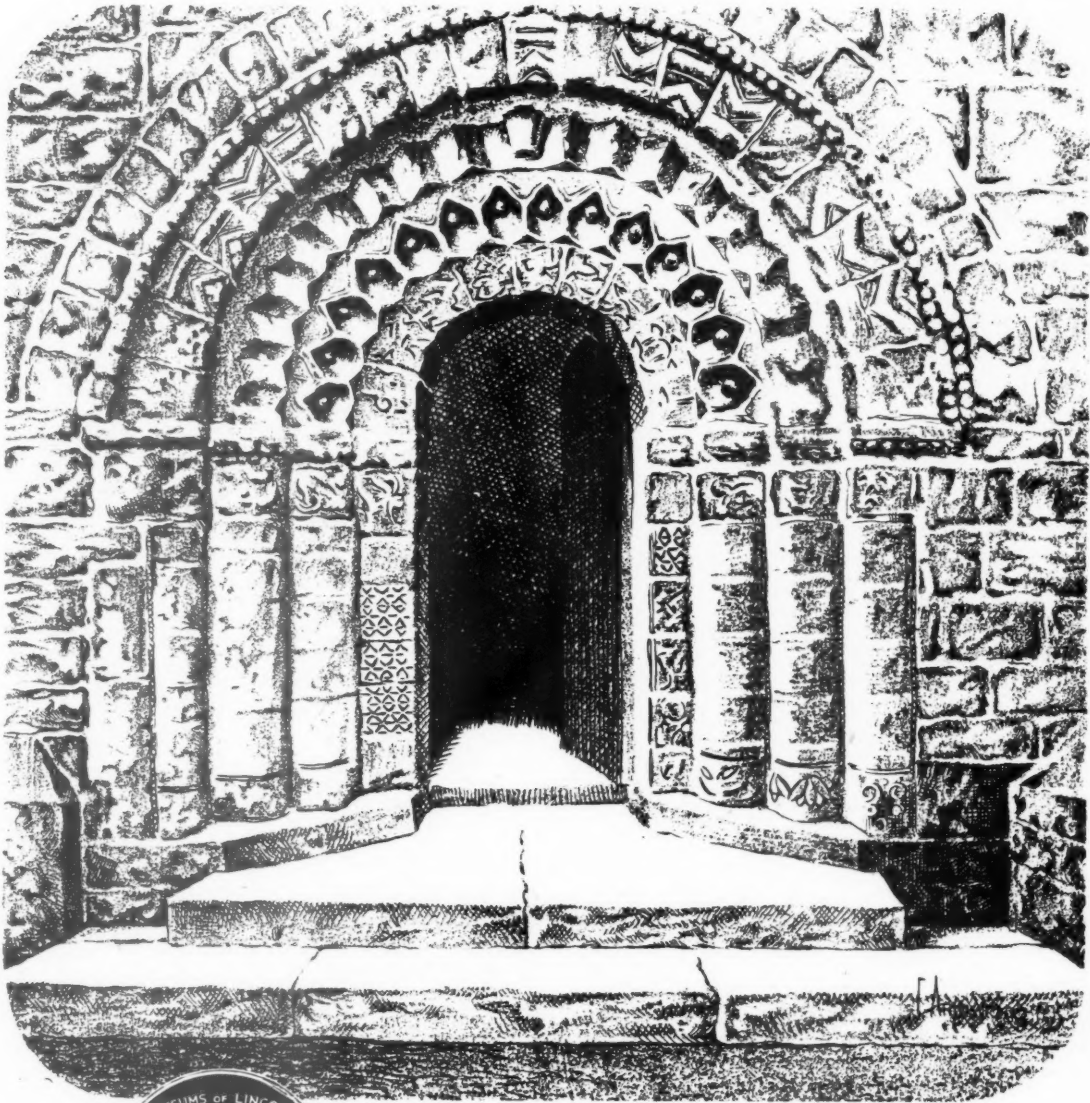


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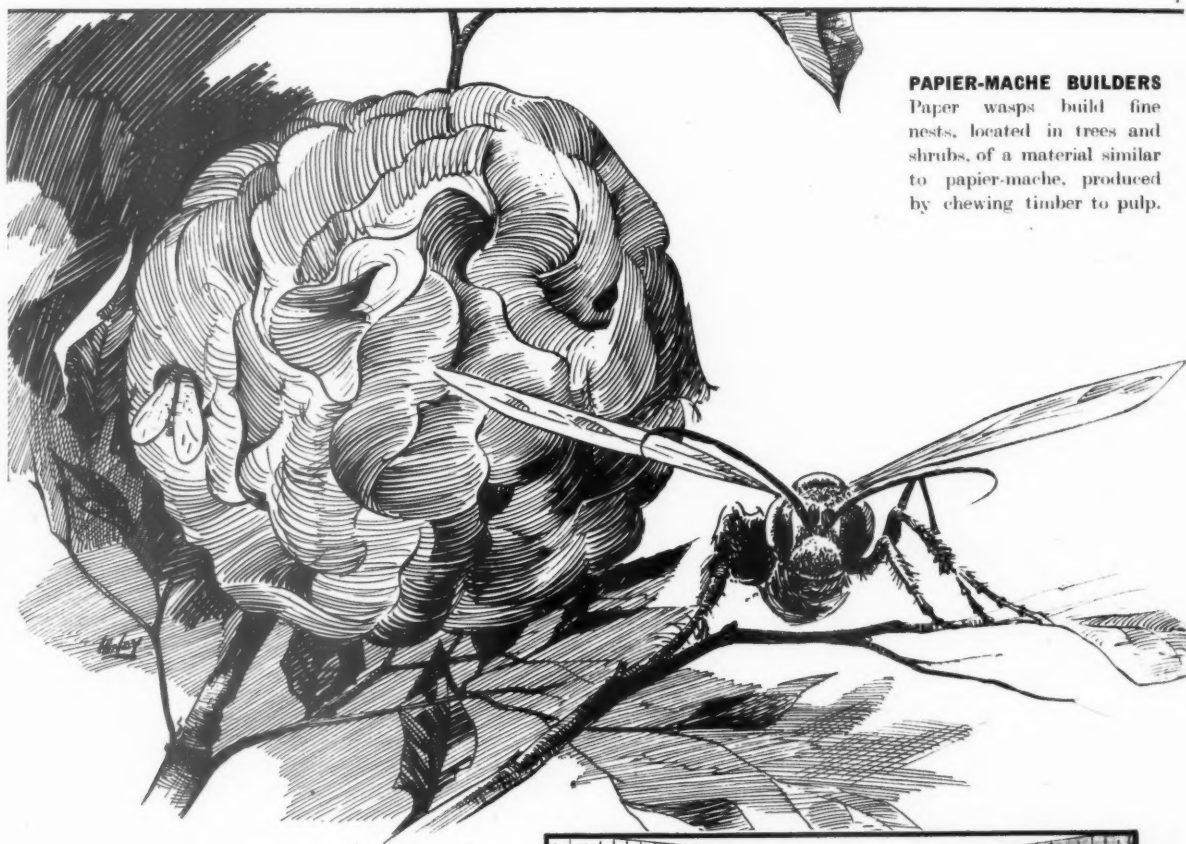
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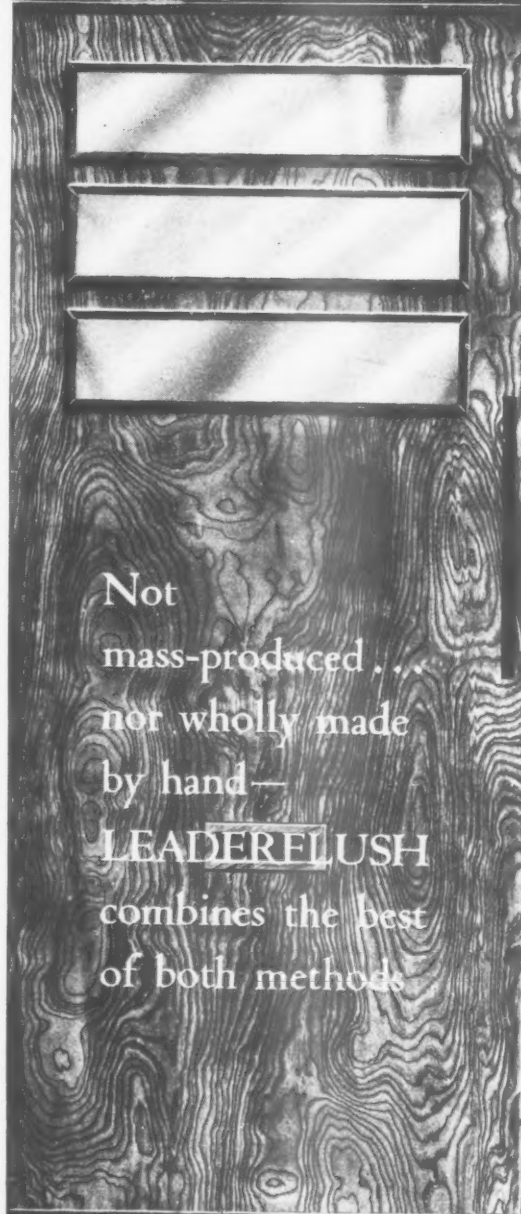
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# Mr. Ernest Bevin discussing the Post-war workers Holiday comfort!



## AN INTERVIEW WITH MR. BEVIN

Continued from Page 4

Look at the seating arrangements on most of our coast town fronts. Nobody can sit in these places without feeling a draught sometimes. If they had circular sliding glass screens sitters could keep out chilly winds from whatever quarter they came. It is a detail, but an important one.

When you have got up to the top of the enclosure, you will need imaginative planning and organisation, and freedom from the old Victorian ideas. If we want a big tourist traffic we must see that it has full opportunity for enjoyment."

### EMPLOYERS AND UNIONS

The final question to Mr. Bevin was:

Should the war-time machinery of consultation and collaboration between employers and unions be continued, and possibly developed, after the war?

He said: "I think this will be determined largely by the economic policy we follow in other respects. If you don't stop inflation, control it, and maintain

Band Stand and Enclosure, Eastbourne

207-ft. run of Esavian Screens in Teak  
Architect: L. Roseveare, M.Inst.C.E.

It seems plain that Mr. Ernest Bevin has not made holiday at Eastbourne—or is it that the Eastbourne bandstand enclosure has spoiled him for holidays elsewhere?

The Eastbourne bandstand is enclosed with the curved loggia type of Esavian folding and sliding screens as this illustration clearly shows. These screens can be moved quite easily to provide protection against wind and weather from any quarter, whilst in fair weather they can be folded completely out of the way into small compartments. Their form possesses inherent strength, enabling these folding screens to resist even abnormal wind pressure without danger of collapse. The particular doors illustrated have resisted gales which in turn have wrought considerable havoc along this coast.

Extract from Sunday Times, May 30th, 1943

O.S. 25

Head Office:

ESAVIAN HOUSE,

HIGH HOLBORN, W.C.1

# ESAVIAN

FOLDING DOORS, WINDOWS AND SCREENS



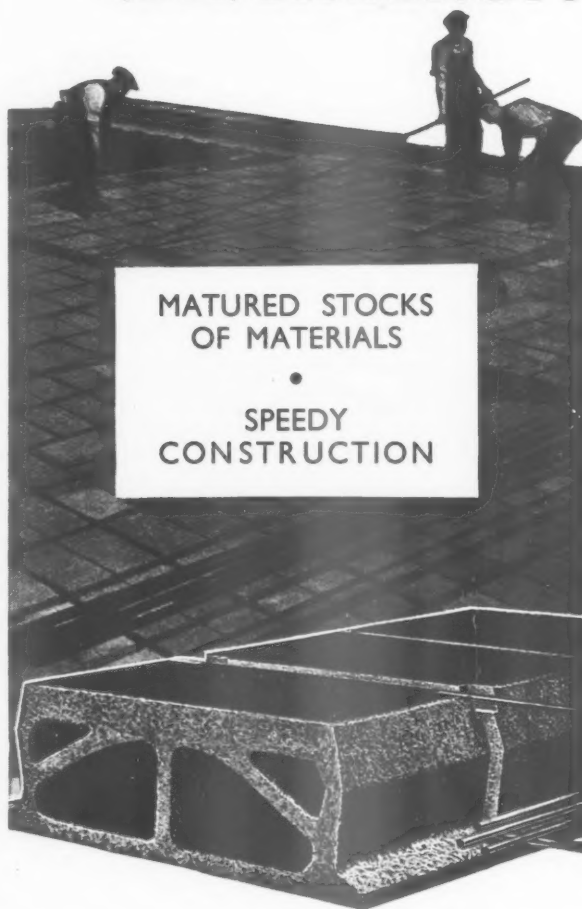
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Building fine schools will be one of the vital post-war tasks. And Rustproof Metal Windows, giving maximum utility and durability with minimum cost of upkeep, will be available—not only for schools, but also for factories, hospitals, hotels, private homes, etc.

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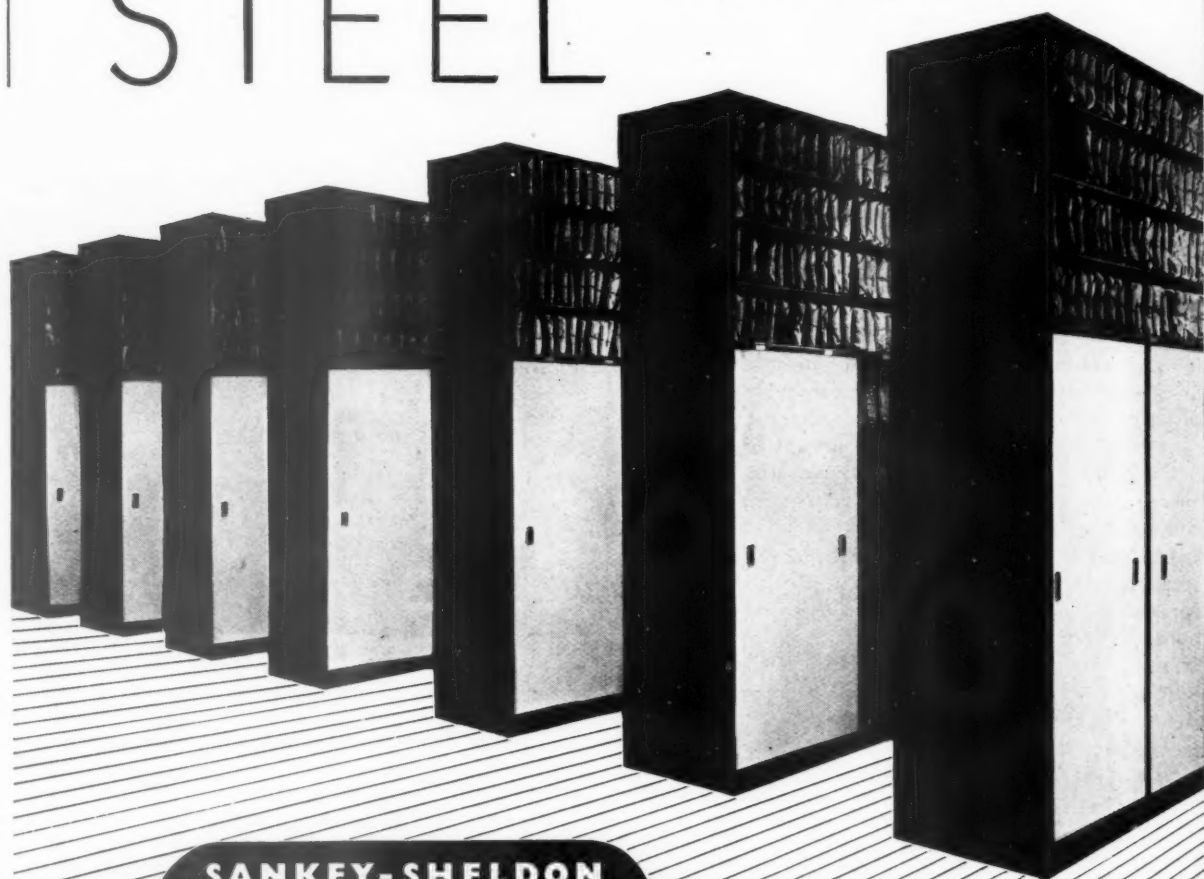
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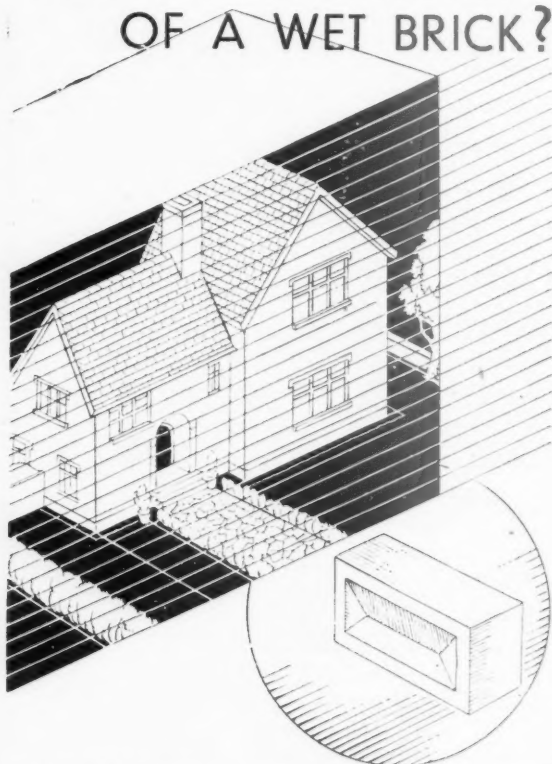
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## INSULATION



**WHERE IT'S NEEDED**



We are approaching a time when the nineteen-thirties will be remembered as a period of fuel squandering and needless noise. Thermal and sound insulation are absurdly simple, and amount practically to the lining of roofs and walls with suitable materials. The materials that will do this are now well known. Wood Wool Building Slabs are perhaps the most generally efficient, as they protect against fire, fungus and vermin while providing major insulation against heat, cold and sound. War-service is already claiming Wood Wool Building Slabs in large quantities. But what will the peace demand be!

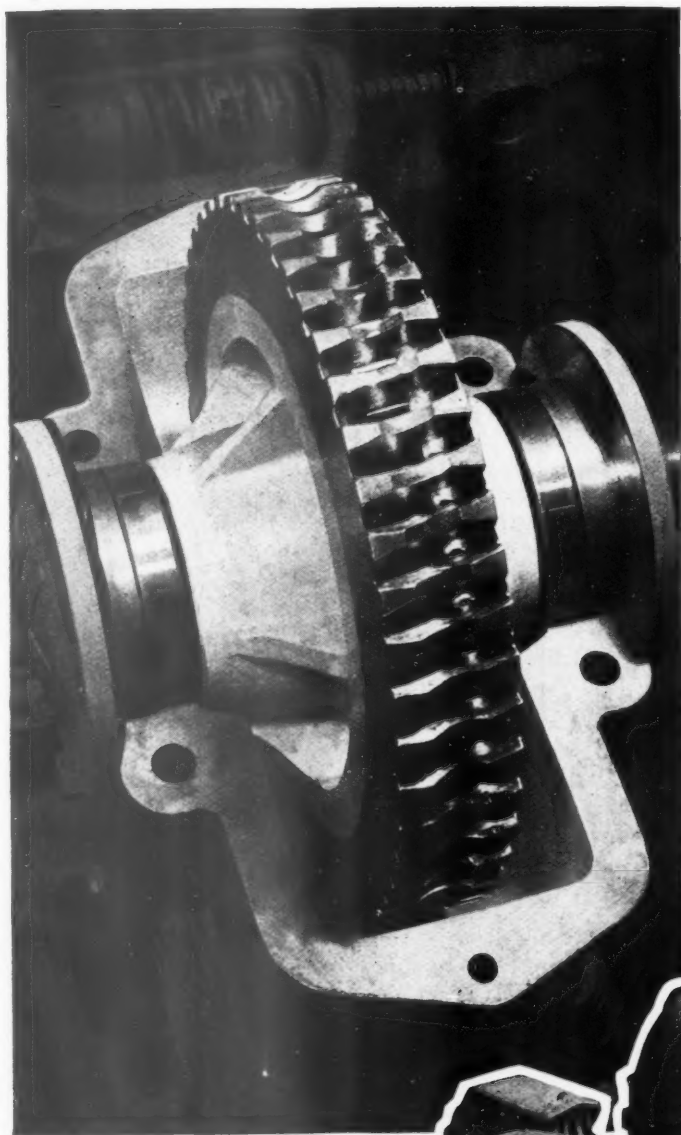
You are invited to send a penny stamp (sorry, we are not mean, but Paper Control Regulations insist) for a technical booklet containing the latest information about Wood Wool Building Slabs.

**WOOD WOOL BUILDING SLABS**

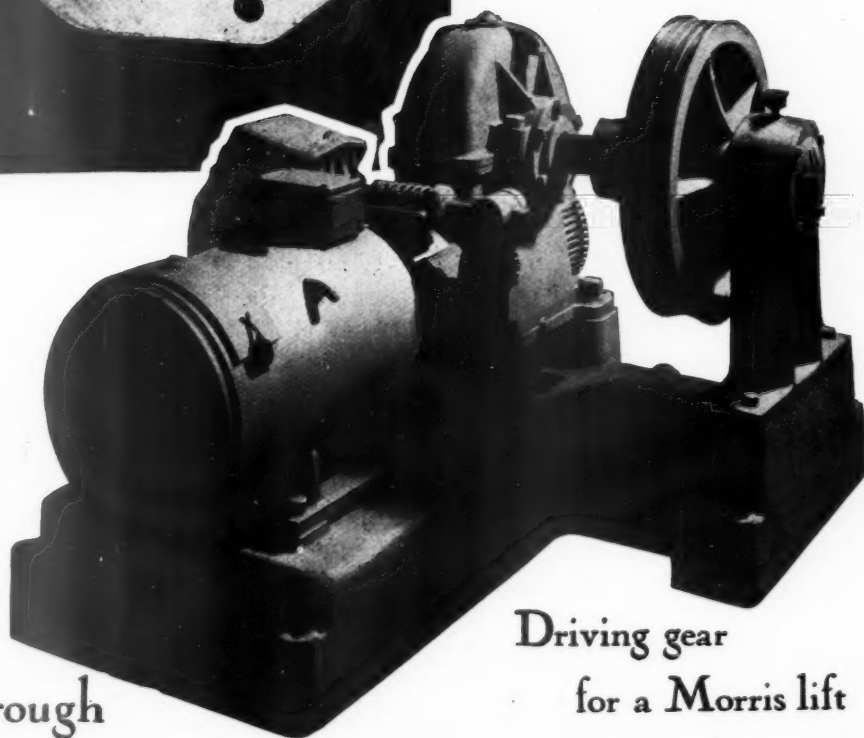
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# *Lifts by Morris*



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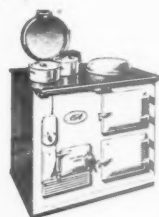


Driving gear  
for a Morris lift

*The parlourmaid was first to go,  
And then it was the nurse.  
Next the housemaid — last the cook,  
Things couldn't have been worse.  
To war-work went they one and all  
And we had no maids left at all.*

*At first my wife sat down and wept,  
Till I began to feel  
That this was not the way to get  
A hungry man a meal.  
And then I had a bright idea  
And said "All is not lost, my dear!"*

*There is within our kitchen, set  
A thing they call an*



*I know because I paid the bill...  
They spun me quite a saga  
About the food a mortal may  
Produce the simple Aga way."*

*And so we went and looked at it,  
It seemed delightfully clean.  
The kitchen, too, was neat and bright,  
The atmosphere serene.  
My wife became enthusiastic  
And what she cooked was quite fantastic!*

*And so today, when people say  
"Oh dear, we've lost our cook,"  
My wife throws me an almost smug  
Self-satisfiedish look.  
Which means "Poor things, they aren't  
like us,  
Our Aga saves us all that fuss."*

**You know where**  
**you are with an** **AGA**  
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The Aga Cooker is guaranteed not to exceed a stated annual fuel consumption; needs attention only once in 12 hours; is always ready, night and day; preserves the juices and nourishment in food.

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# Fuel Saved

## BY

# ROOF INSULATION

The Fuel Efficiency Bulletin No. 12 (Ministry of Fuel and Power) contains impressive statistics showing high percentages of fuel saving effected by insulating buildings with suitable materials. Wood wool building slabs are highly commended. Gypklith is a wood wool building slab of exceptional quality. It insulates against heat, the transmission of sound, has high absorption value, and resists fire, vermin and moisture.

Immense quantities of coal are wasted by heat loss through the roofs of buildings.



By insulating a corrugated iron roof, with 1" wood wool building slab, plastered with air space, 81% of fuel is saved.



81% saved

The same insulation applied to a roof of corrugated asbestos cement results in an 80% fuel saving.



80% saved

The same insulation applied to a 4" reinforced concrete roof results in a 55% saving.



55% saved

## GYPKLITH for Building Insulation



**H**ERE is a paint in unrestricted supply which can be applied to new or old concrete, brickwork, stone, asbestos cement sheets, lime plaster, cement rendering, etc.

It is unaffected by humidity or condensation.

It will not flake, peel or wash off and can be scrubbed repeatedly without harmful effects.

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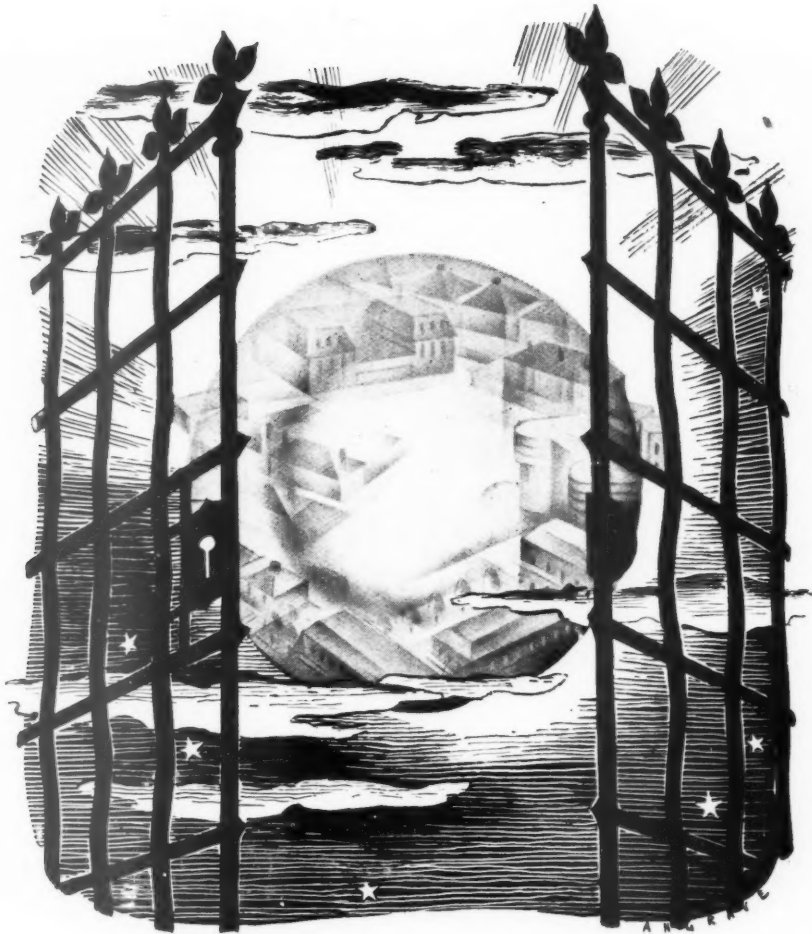
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Lady Sinclair, Wife of the Air Minister.

Lady Sinclair, opening a competition organised by the Incorporated Association of Architects and Surveyors for a design for a post-war housing estate, said "I cannot believe that it is any more expensive to have a well-designed than a badly-designed house . . . It is up to the common or garden public to see that we get what we want. If we want it badly enough we shall get it, and if we don't want what is good, that will be our own fault, and we shall be judged accordingly by future generations."

For the new age of "looking ahead," specify

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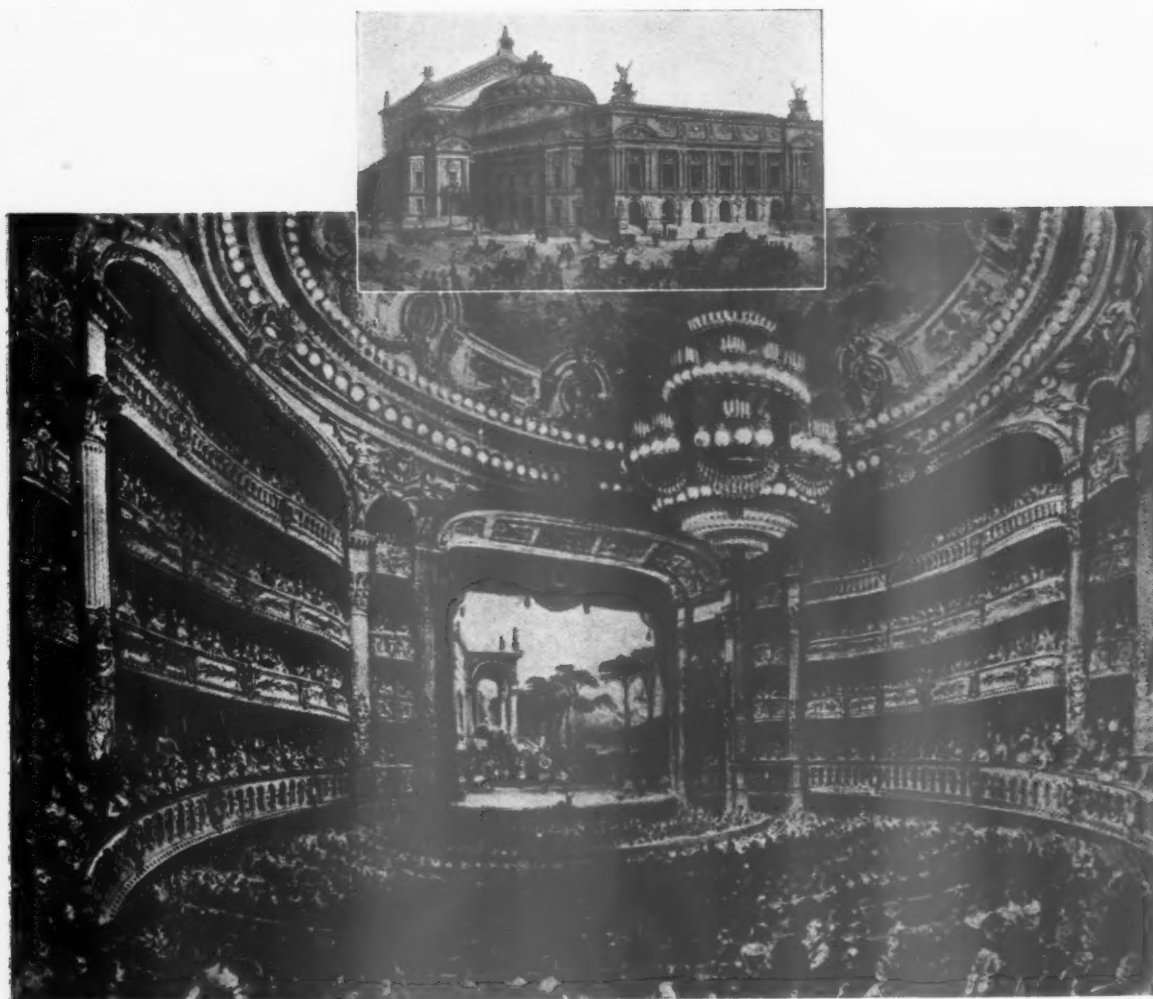
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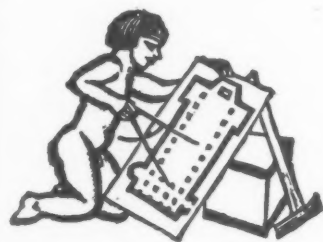
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## DIARY FOR OCTOBER NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER

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

**CARDIFF.** *Rebuilding Britain Exhibition.* (Sponsor, RIBA.) DEC. 20 to JAN. 17

**CARLISLE.** *When We Build Again Exhibition.* At Messrs. Binns Ltd. (Sponsor, TCPA.) OCT. 7-9

*TCPA Conference.* At the Town Hall. Speakers: Dr. Dudley Stamp, Percy Dalton and R. L. Reiss. OCTOBER 9

**EXETER.** *Rebuilding Britain Exhibition.* (Sponsor, RIBA.) OCT. 18 to Nov. 8

**HYDE.** *Englishman Builds Exhibition.* At Bayley Park, Hyde Park. (Sponsor, BIAE.) OCT. 7-9

**LICESTER.** *Living in the Country Exhibition.* (Sponsor, HC.) OCT. 7-12

**LONDON.** *Town Planning Joint Examination Board. Exhibition of Set Pieces submitted by Candidates in the 1943 Examination.* At 66, Portland Place, W.1. Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. OCT. 7-15

*National Housing and Town Planning Conference.* At Central Hall, Westminster, S.W.1. Speakers will include: Oct. 7, 10.15 a.m.: W. S. Morrison, Minister of Town and Country Planning. Oct. 8, 10.15 a.m.: Ernest Brown, Minister of Health. (Sponsor, National Housing and Town Planning Council.) OCT. 7-8

Sir Ernest Simon. *Planning and Building in the United States of America.* At 34-36, Bedford Square, W.C.1. 6 p.m. (Sponsor, AA.) OCTOBER 12

*AA Members' Sketches Exhibition* (including a section for photographs) completed since the outbreak of war. At 34-36, Bedford Square, W.C.1. OCTOBER 12—NOVEMBER 5

Dr. H. Boyle. *Mental Health in Planning.* At 13, Suffolk Street, S.W.1. 1.15 p.m. (Sponsor, HC.) OCT. 12

Arnold Whittick. *The Forces and Planning.* At 1, Grosvenor Place, S.W.1. (Sponsor, TCPA.) OCTOBER 14

*Stepney. To-day and To-morrow Exhibition.* At the Whitechapel Art Gallery. To be opened by Lewis Silkin, M.P., on October 13, 5 p.m. It will be open to public from October 14 to 24 between 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. every day, including Saturdays and Sundays. Exhibition is an attempt to illustrate the problems which have to be faced in building the new Stepney. OCT. 14-24

F. J. Osborn. *A National Planning Policy.* At Abercorn Rooms, Great Eastern Hotel. 12.30 p.m. (Sponsor, TCPA.) OCTOBER 19

G. T. Cotterell. *The Problem of Sewage Disposal in Rural Areas.* At 90, Buckingham

Palace Road, S.W.1. (Sponsor, Royal Sanitary Institute.) 2.30 p.m. OCT. 20

*Conference on Country Towns in a National Policy.* At Kingsway Hall, W.C.1. Speakers: Professor A. W. Ashby, George R. Bull, W. R. Davidge, Lord Harmsworth, Dr. Julian Huxley, Miss Mary Glasgow, F. J. Osborn, R. L. Reiss, G. N. C. Swift and representatives of country towns. (Sponsors, TCPA.) OCTOBER 22-23

*Practical Planning Exhibition and Conference.* At the Institution of Civil Engineers, Westminster. Exhibition includes graphic charts showing necessity for national and regional planning; models, photographs and plans illustrating development of existing towns and planning of new ones; examples of practical planning in twenty-six counties and cities; and a full-size model kitchen and a room with a second insulated floating floor. (Sponsor, Institution of Civil Engineers and Institution of Municipal and County Engineers.) 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission free.

Conferences in which several Ministers of the Crown have promised to take part are to be held in connection with the exhibition. October 13, *Development of Regional Water Supplies and Main Drainage*, chief speaker, Ernest Brown, M.C., Minister of Health; October 20, *Improved Layout and Construction of Roads and the Use of Motor-ways*, with special reference to Road Safety, chief speaker, Lord Leathers, Minister of War Transport; October 27, *Alternative Materials and Methods of Construction in Buildings*, chief speaker, Lord Portal, Minister of Works. On October 21 there will be two conferences devoted specially to questions of interest to women: in the morning, *The Planning of a Town as affecting the Home*, chairman, Miss A. M. Lupton, M.B.E., vice-chairman Housing Centre; in the afternoon, *The Planning of a Home*, Chairman, Miss Caroline Haslett, C.B.E. Special days have been set aside for visits. OCT. 7-30

**MERTHYR TYDFIL.** *Recording Britain Exhibition.* At Cyfarthfa Castle Museum. (Sponsor, CEMA.) OCT. 7-11

**PURLEY.** *When we Rebuild and Your Inheritance Exhibitions.* At the Central Library, Banstead Road. OCT. 7-18

**RHYL.** *TCPA Conference.* Speakers: Clough Williams-Ellis and W. A. Eden. 11 a.m. OCTOBER 16

**ROYAL LEAMINGTON SPA.** E. H. Doubleday, Regional Officer for M.O.C.P. *Town and Country Planning and Health.* At the Town Hall. (Sponsor, Royal Sanitary Institute.) 10.30 a.m. OCT. 15

## NEWS

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No. 2541. Vol. 98

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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.

**The NEW DUKE OF WELLINGTON, Lord Gerald Wellesley, is an architect. He succeeded to the title last week on the death, in action, of his nephew, who was a Captain of Commandos. Lord Gerald, who is 58 years of age, was elected a Fellow of the RIBA in 1929. Prior to the outbreak of war he was a partner in the firm of Lord Gerald Wellesley and Trenwith Wills. He was appointed Surveyor to His Majesty's Works of Art in 1936. At present he is serving overseas as a Major in the Grenadier Guards.**

**A proposal for an inquiry into the reorganization of local government services has been rejected by Sir William Jowitt, Minister without Portfolio, on the ground that the delays involved by the inquiry would be likely to prejudice the Government's plans for POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION.**

The proposal was made by a joint deputation from the Association of Municipal Corporations and the County Councils Association. The deputation urged that, pending such an



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FINISHED  
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# FLEXOMETAL

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## from AN ARCHITECT'S Commonplace Book

**GRAFT IN THE 18TH CENTURY.** [*From An Essay Towards a Description of Bath. Volume II. by John Wood, Architect.*] Experience had now convinced the Corporation of Bath that my Scheme for extending the City was far from being Chimerical; their Eyes were sufficiently open in Respect to the West Side of the Town, but they contemned the Design for the East Side, as there were no Ways of any Consequence to the Ground; as the Land itself naturally lay low; and as great Part of the Abbey Orchard, by old Motes and Ponds appeared little better than an unfathomable Bog: That Body of Citizens therefore applying to Parliament, the latter End of the Year 1738, for a Renewal of the Act for mending the Roads leading to the City, for paving, cleaning and lighting the Streets, and for regulating the Chairmen, they, with the Assistance of the Bathonian Monarch, got the Rates of Chairs so settled, that the Fare between the Assembly Houses and new Buildings, was double to what it was between those Houses and the Extremities of the old Part of the City; the Effect of which was, that it restrained the Progress of Building to the Westward, and encouraged it to the Eastward, to the very utmost of my Wishes.

inquiry, piecemeal alterations of local government services should not be made. The Minister's reply was given in a letter which was considered at a recent meeting of the council of the Municipal Corporations Association.

★

**Members of MOW's mission of inquiry into AMERICAN BUILDING METHODS are now at work in Washington.**

Mr. Alfred Bossom, M.P., one of the members of the Mission, stated at a press conference that Britain must build 4,000,000 to 5,000,000 homes within 10 years after the war. He said that post-war London will attempt to follow U.S. steel-frame construction. Most houses will be prefabricated and assembled, and there will probably be Government subsidies. London slums will be cleared.

After explaining that one out of every five houses in the United Kingdom has suffered bomb damage, Mr. Bossom said new commercial buildings will have permanent raid shelters.

**To-morrow in the BBC Home Programme, from 7.40 to 8 p.m., Sir Edward Appleton and Sir George Burt will discuss the Science of Building in the second of the BBC Autumn talks, entitled SCIENCE AT YOUR SERVICE.**

Sir Alfred Appleton is secretary of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research and Sir George Burt is a director of a large firm of building contractors. Other talks in the series will include: October 15: Plastics, by Sir Lawrence Bragg; December 10: The Tunnel Builders, by G. L. Groves; December 17: Science and National Life; concluding talk on the general theme of the series.

**The Port of London Authority has appointed a sub-committee of members to consider the COUNTRY OF LONDON RECONSTRUCTION PLAN.** The Rt. Hon. Thomas Wiles, Chairman of the PLA, is to act as Chairman of the Sub-Committee.

**In the film *White Cliffs*, now being made in Hollywood the AA BUILDING REPRESENTS A BLOOMSBURY HOTEL.**

In producing English exteriors for the film Alex Savill has taken a scene showing a hansom cab arriving at the entrance of 34, Bedford Square. The stone landing leading to the school entrance was bedecked with flowers for this occasion. *White Cliffs*, after the poem by Alice Duer Miller, is being made by M.G.M. Film Production.

**Sir William Jowitt told a deputation from the Social Security League last week that he was unable to give a definite date when the Government would publish a White Paper on the BEVERIDGE REPORT.**

He recalled his statement in Parliament that it was hoped to issue the White Paper within the next few months. Lady Violet Bonham Carter, one of the deputation, said that the hopes raised by the report had given way to cynicism, misgiving and mistrust.

**In promoting proposals for the expansion and improvement of Local Government services after the war, said Mr. Churchill, in the House of Commons, we shall AVOID WEAKENING THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE.**

There is, he said, a strong case for the expansion and improvement of many local government services, and that we should be ready with plans for execution at the end of the war. He was aware of the fear voiced by the Association of Local Government Bodies lest the Government, in putting forward proposals for such changes, should pay insufficient regard to their cumulative effect upon the existing local government system. It is clear that any inquiry into the general machinery of local government will occupy much time, and the result might not, in the end, find general acceptance. The delay involved would be highly prejudicial to the success of our post-war plans, and under the circumstances it is not the intention of the Government to embark upon a comprehensive inquiry into the machinery of local government at the

present time. They were, however, very much alive to the needs for avoiding any weakening of the structure of local government, and he would give an assurance that, in promoting any proposals, in relation to particular services, the Government will pay the most careful regard to this factor.

**To meet the first post-war demand the Maidstone Council proposes TO BUILD 2,000 HOUSES.**

The Council is seeking permission of the Minister of Health to enter into preliminary negotiations for the purchase of the Shephway Court Estate, to the south of the town, on which it is proposed to build the houses.

**Should Croydon airport be developed at the expense of a main road and playing field to become LONDON'S FUTURE AIRPORT?**

Croydon Council is being asked by the chairman of the reconstruction committee to consider whether the Government should be urged to extend the airport so that it becomes a first-class airfield serving continental traffic. If so, the main road, Purley Way, will have to be diverted and the Purley Way playing fields incorporated in the airport.

**Mr. Thomas Sharp has been appointed PLANNING CONSULTANT TO DURHAM CORPORATION.**

He is to prepare an outline re-development plan for the City with special reference to the City's buildings of historical and architectural interest.

★

**In the House of Lords, Lord Latham asked when the Government proposes to introduce LEGISLATION ON PHYSICAL RECONSTRUCTION.**

He said that local planning authorities and the public are scandalized at the consistent delay in promoting legislation. I utter this warning, said Lord Latham: If there are any speculators who think that they can make a profit from an examination of the County of London plan, they need to be careful. Vis-





## L P T B Architect Retires

No one can spend more than a few minutes in London without seeing some of the work of S. A. Heaps, architect to the London Passenger Transport Board, who retired at the end of last month. Forty years ago, after serving articles with a London architect and gaining subsequent experience in engineers' and quantity surveyors' offices, he became one of the first of the architectural staff of the late Mr. Yorke's original underground organization. In the next few years, during the rapid development of the underground, he played a big part, when no fewer than fifty new stations, depots and ancillary buildings, the famous Lots Road Power Station and numerous sub-stations were

in course of construction. In 1910 he was appointed architect to the Underground Electric Railways Company of London, subsequently to become the LPTB. Since 1925 he has designed many new stations, some in collaboration with Charles Holden, remodelled many existing ones, and been responsible for a great many other buildings associated with rail and road transport; the latest to be built was the Victoria bus garage. In 1940 Mr. Heaps assisted the Ministry of Aircraft Production with urgent construction of war factories. He is a member of the Council of the RIBA and serves on several committees concerned with post-war building activities.

count Astor said he refused to believe that the Government, with all the talent, experience and intelligence available, had not yet had an opportunity of making up its mind. Unless legislation is introduced soon it will be of no use. He had been in touch with lord mayors, and assured the Government that there is a strong feeling of indignation, which is rising. The Earl of Listowel said that the subject is the one field of post-war reconstruction where no progress had been made. Lord Snell, replying for the Government, said that we are called upon to enter a field of adventure in which our past experience gave us no help. There is no quick and easy solution possible. Local authorities can proceed with the preparatory work of reconstruction with full confidence that legislation will be introduced to enable them to enter into possession of such lands as must be acquired by them for recon-

struction. The major financial questions which awaited solution, of which close examination has been and is being made, formed part of the general post-war financial problem, but planning authorities can and should proceed with their work on the assumption that a fair solution will be found of their difficulties.

### Royal Engineer railway construction men are HELPING TO DEMOLISH THE TEMPORARY WATERLOO BRIDGE.

This is because the War Office has decided to take about 95 per cent. of the steelwork. The rest will be used to make shells and bombs. The bridge contains 3,000 tons of steel.

*According to the Paris Radio a number of French towns which have been partly destroyed in the war have been declared EXPERIMENTAL TOWNS, in which new methods of replanning and reconstruction will be tried out.*

### Two candidates have been selected for the BRUSH 1943 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

The scholarships are awarded by the Brush Electrical Engineering Co., of Loughborough.

Each is to the value of £75 per annum, tenable for four years. The first year is to be spent in the works at Loughborough and the remaining three years at any British University. The following candidates have been selected: William Charles Allen and David John Cockrell. William Allen, age 18, is serving an apprenticeship with the company. He was educated at Soham Grammar School. David Cockrell, age 17, was educated at the City of London School. The scholarship awards are intended to enable students of limited means to take advantage of the training afforded by the Brush College Apprentice Sandwich Course. After taking their degree, scholarship holders return to Loughborough for a final year of apprenticeship, during which they rank as second year college apprentices. In awarding the scholarships, the Company takes account of scholastic successes as well as team spirit in social activities.

***We must SAVE MORE PAPER,***  
**said Mr. G. B. Hutchings, Chief**  
**Director of Salvage, at Manchester**

If one piece of paper the size of a bus ticket is dropped each day into the twelve million dustbins in this country, he said, the paper lost is enough to make wads for 120,000,000 rounds of rifle ammunition.

***The National Committee on***  
***Cycling has expressed to Mr.***  
***Ernest Brown the hope that in***  
***the lay-out of new houses there***  
***should be included, under***  
***cover, SPACE for BICYCLES***  
***AND A PERAMBULATOR.***

Mr. Brown has replied that he hopes to see the suggestion incorporated in all future houses with which MOH is concerned. The National Committee on Cycling has 10,000,000 members. Its Constituent Bodies are: The British Manufacturers' Union, Cyclists' Touring Club, National Association of Cycle Traders, National Clarion Cycling Club and National Cyclists' Union. The President is Sir Harold Bowden, Bart, G.B.E.

***We regret to record the DEATH***  
***OF MR. J. R. ADAMSON,***  
***partner in the firm of Bradshaw***  
***Gass and Hope of Bolton.***

James Robert Adamson was educated at the Galashiels High School and George Watson's College, Edinburgh, and Glasgow School of Art. He was articled to Sir John Burnet and served in the Glasgow office. Mr. Adamson joined the staff of Bradshaw Gass and Hope in 1913 and, seven years later, became a partner in the firm. Elected a Fellow of the RIBA in 1930, he served as President of the Manchester Society of Architects for the years 1933-1935 and was, for several years, a member of the Council of the RIBA and a vice-president from 1937-1939.

***The WILL OF GEORGE***  
***GEE has been proved at***  
***£600,807 13s. gross, with***  
***net personalty £212,239 2s. 8d.***  
He was chairman and managing director of Gee, Walker and Slater, Ltd., of London and Derby, and a director of the Uxbridge Flint Brick Co., Ltd.

## NEW PLANNING MYSTERY

**L**ORD LATHAM has presented us with a new and more sinister planning mystery. He has told us that two years ago a Bill was in print which would have implemented the two main Uthwatt proposals—namely that public authorities should be enabled (i) to acquire land needed for planning on a standard of values existing in March, 1939, and (ii) to acquire as reconstruction areas, land which has either been blitzed or blighted.

“What happened to this Bill? Who jettisoned it? What were the influences which led to the abandonment of that Bill and to requiring the present Minister of Town and Country Planning to introduce the emasculated interim development proposals?” These are some of the questions Lord Latham asked during the recent debate in the House of Lords.

That this Bill was actually printed and then shelved—that it has never publicly been discussed—is a revelation. We recommend that Lord Latham's questions be put on the order paper for hearing in the House of Commons at an early date. Unless legislation to give effect to Barlow, Scott and Uthwatt, is soon introduced it will be of no use at all, for not all Local Authorities are prepared to take the strong line proposed by Lord Latham, who has already warned speculators that if they attempt to sabotage the LCC plan they will burn their fingers.

The Government spokesman, on this occasion Lord Snell, made the following enlightening remarks during the debate:

“The criticisms and the suggestions that have been made will be noted . . . . .”

“The fact is we are called upon to enter a field in which our past experience gives us no help whatever . . . . .”

“But let me see if I can find any advantage in delay . . . . .”

“Opportunity has a habit of knocking at your door once and then passing on . . . . .”

These statements speak for themselves. We must point out that the members of the Uthwatt Committee entered that same undeveloped field and came out with flying colours in half the time the Government has already taken to consider their reports. The only advantage in delay is that gained by the opponents of the proposals, so it would seem that opportunity is already passing on.

Lord Snell indeed tacitly admitted that the opponents of the proposals have gained ground, for, referring to the 1939 ceiling, he said: “Many owners of revenue earning property have had their property destroyed by enemy action and have been compelled to acquire premises elsewhere often at a high scarcity value. If these latter premises should be selected for purchase by the planning authority it might well be that to pay only the 1939 value might impose a direct loss on the owner.” Then, in contrast to this, he said later in his speech,

"After all, local authorities know that they can go ahead with their planning and that the prices which will prevail will not be above the 1939 ceiling."

Had the prepared Bill been introduced two years ago the complication would never have arisen.

So much for Uthwatt. But what about Scott? Lord Snell announced that a Government statement on the Scott Report is under immediate consideration and the Government will be ready to make a statement within two or three weeks.

We have reason to believe that the promised statement will refer to National Parks. We suggest that the Government changes the title of the planning ministry once again—this time to the Ministry of Parks and Gardens.



*The Architects' Journal*

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

### PROPERTY OWNERS VERSUS UTHWATT

Property owners are waging an active war against the proposals made by the Uthwatt Committee. They seem to be the only people who, as a class, expect the Government to honour the promissory notes of Lord Reith and Lord Portal regarding the 1939 ceiling and the compulsory powers of purchase. Now the Property Owners Protection Association Limited have issued a leaflet with the current issue of their official organ, *The Property Owners' Journal*, called *Does the Uthwatt Report Hit You Too?* A typical shot in the war.

★

By two new dodges land speculators are raising the 1939 ceiling. The first racket is to forge a builder's letter dated before March, 1939, offering a fabulous—and purely fictitious price—for the land. The

second is for the owner of the land in question to say that he himself desired to develop the land and that only the advent of the war prevented him from submitting his plan—under which, of course, he would have received a high profit. Then he contends that any proposed purchase price should take into account this loss of profit.

★

Mr. Ernest Brown has instructed local authorities to acquire now any land they need for planning schemes. Lord Snell has confused the issue by saying that the 1939 ceiling stands while on the other hand it may be varied. What are the planning authorities to believe?

★

There is no doubt about it. All supporters of the proposals put forward by Barlow, Scott and Uthwatt should lobby their M.P.'s now. Unless every effort is made those reports will stay on the shelf on which they lie to-day in St. James's Square.

★

### WHO SHALL HAVE THE CHILD?

There appears on page 249 of this issue a letter from the City Architect of Newcastle-upon-Tyne in which he disagrees with the JOURNAL's suggestions for the control of the post-war housing programme and raises several questions which, in my view, must be answered soon in a way which leaves no interested person or organization in any doubt about what will be expected of them in the execution of that programme.

★

I do not, however, accept the approach to the problem outlined in Mr. Roberts' second paragraph.

Surely the first question that should be asked is: "What will be the most important aspect of post-war housing to the ordinary citizen up and down the country?" The answer does not seem to me to be in doubt. It will be that the rate of production of reasonably suitable houses should as nearly as possible be equal to the demand. If this is true all other factors must be subordinated to it. Post-war housing measures must be emergency measures. The post-war housing shortage will almost certainly be so acute that public opinion will not tolerate anything which stands in the way of maximum production—just as they would not now tolerate "local" variations in the design of a tank.

★

The JOURNAL's articles were based on this assumption, twice stated, that production rate will dwarf all other housing questions. But Mr. Roberts reads into the articles suggestions of more sweeping changes than I do. That MOW should control all housing design does not mean that it will do the whole of the designing and everything else itself. Far from it. In my view, and the JOURNAL shares this view, the building situation for the first few post-war years will be, or should be, something like this:—

1. The largest part of the "wet building" capacity of the industry will be devoted to the repair and renewal of factories, communications, public services, shops, schools and other works which must be executed before general reconstruction can begin.

Priorities for these works and the materials needed will be settled by MOW under Cabinet direction and local authority requirements will be high on the list.

2. A small residue of this "wet building" capacity will be available for Fixed Housing—that is, housing that can be sited in the certainty that the site will prove to have been well chosen not only at the end of the post-war transitional period but for the next 25-40 years. Such housing would be constructed of materials used for the purpose before the war, and its design could take account of local needs providing that the whole of the fittings and equipment were of one of a few National Standard types to which all manufacturers would be asked to devote a substantial proportion of their production capacity.

These houses would be designed by local architects, salaried or otherwise, but under the general guidance of MOW, which would arrange materials priorities.

\* By "wet building" is meant all building and civil engineering work carried out with materials and by methods approximately the same as those used for such purposes in the inter-war years.



3. The rest of the housing programme for the first five years should, in my view, be met by production of Transitional Houses. These would use the same equipment as Fixed Houses but their carcasses would be fully prefabricated and require only clipping together on the site—even concrete slabs would be avoided.

Transitional Houses would be of, say, 3 types with 4 aspect variations each: total 12. They would be to rent only, would be fully maintained by the administering authority and designed for a life of 7-14 years. They could be placed anywhere where services existed already or would be later needed—in blitzed areas or on sites for future shops, offices or factories: and thus would not compel redevelopment plans to be rushed through at impossible speed.

No local variations could be allowed in the design of those houses but the factories would be near each big city, and the supervision of the programme would require all the initiative and power of organization shown by Mr. Livett and his staff in the adaptation of the Mopin system at Leeds.

★

Such in rough outline is my view of how it will be necessary to handle housing immediately after the war if Mr. Roberts is not to swing from a Novocastrian lamp-post while Lord Portal or Mr. Ernest Brown swing from others in Whitehall. I am willing to consider improvements. I am in no position, being one who was a private architect until the great upset, to enter deeply into the question of whether the term bureaucrat can cover those in local as well as central Government employment. But this I do say. If Mr. Roberts thinks that under the JOURNAL's

scheme his Department or his local authority would have nothing to do he is mistaken: he and a greatly increased staff will have to work harder than ever before on work of the utmost responsibility.

#### OUTPOST OF PEACE

It is unlikely that you will be able to buy a copy of the September number of the *Architectural Review* which is a special issue on *Sweden: Outpost of Peace in War*. But try to borrow, beg or steal a copy. Most of the new buildings are extremely fine. There is little left of the romantic adaptations of past styles characteristic of the late twenties and early thirties, and which found its fulfilment in the Stockholm Town Hall. All is now "funkis," but "funkis" without affectation. There is fine detailing in the simple designs of recent years. There is genuine feeling, sincerity and charm in almost all the buildings with none of that crudity of detail, which mars so much contemporary work in other countries.

★

Particularly notable of the buildings illustrated in the *Review* is the Southern Communal School in Stockholm by Paul Hedqvist. The hall at the school must be one of the most delightful rooms in existence, with its quiet simplicity and restraint.

ASTRAGAL



## LETTERS

{ R. G. Roberts, F.R.I.B.A.

{ R. Hood.

### Who shall have the Child?

SIR,—Your two leading articles dealing with the alleged dispute between two Ministries as to which of them should control post-war housing, reveal you as an advocate of bureaucracy, in that you would have a technical Ministry to control the work "to the last coat of paint" and "every detail of the design of every state-aided house."

You overlook the fact that the provision of adequate housing accommodation is primarily the responsibility of the local authorities who, being elected by the people, should still have some little say in their own affairs until we decide to declare our democracy a failure.

The same local authorities have both the experience and the technical organization needed for the job, and are quite capable in most cases of adopting and incorporating in their schemes any idea or development put at their disposal by modern thought and scientific research. If they cannot do this in housing, then what of all their other building work?

The Government has made, and is still making, far too many inroads into the province of the local authorities, and it surprises me that you see fit to support the process. It surprises me still more, however, that you should wish to prostitute so many of the architectural profession, whose interests you might be expected to uphold, to the position of lackey to a horde of bureaucrats.

R. G. ROBERTS,

Newcastle-upon-Tyne. City Architect.

[This letter is the subject of a note by Astragal on page 248. In this instance the views of Astragal coincide with those of the JOURNAL.—ED., A.J.]

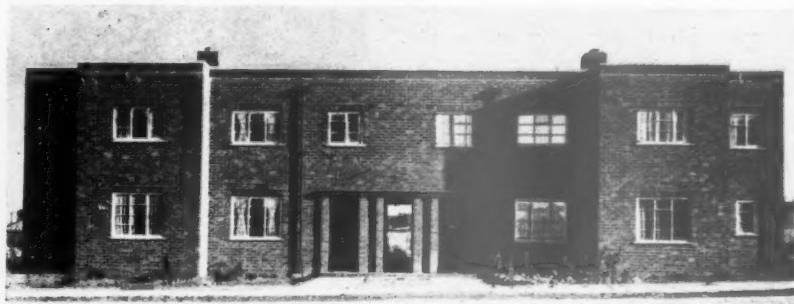
### Building Societies

SIR,—Your leader writer dealt extremely well with building societies from a point of view within the existing financial structure. Allow me to take another viewpoint from outside it.



The hall at the Southern Communal School, Stockholm, designed by Paul Hedqvist. See Astragal's note. The photo is by Mr. G. E. Kidder Smith, of New York.

# A £1,000,000 TOWNSHIP



Three views of the first portion, built since war began, of the new £1,000,000 township in the Midlands. J. Brian Cooper is the architect. Eventually the township will contain churches, schools, shops, cinema, licensed premises, an institute with a hall for concerts, theatrical performances and dances, children's clinic, doctor's house and approximately 1,000 houses; rentals will be from 13s. 7d. to 17s. 9d. per week. Air raid shelters are so planned and positioned that they can be used as post-war tool sheds. The scheme, in its preliminary stage, was described in an illustrated article in the JOURNAL for April 16, 1942. To save transport almost everything used in building and fitting up the houses was obtained within a radius of a few miles and by methods of construction on the site.

It is becoming increasingly accepted that some of the world's worst ills are due to a financial system which has never adapted itself to the new conditions inaugurated by the industrial revolution. Money is being used, or rather abused, in a manner in which the inventors of this useful means of exchange never intended it to be used, that is as a commodity. It is to the advantage of those who manipulate the credit of nations to keep this "commodity" in short supply,—a dangerous activity as we know to our cost. Like an engine starved of oil, our civilization starved of buying power has "seized up."

That people are compelled to mortgage their future incomes by hire purchase through building societies and deferred payment agencies, provides sufficient evidence of this lack of buying power. The real cost of any article is the actual real wealth consumed during its production. Therefore, once an article, whether it be a house or a warship, has been made, it has in reality been paid for. It follows that organizations like building societies, however useful under the existing artificial conditions, are, in fact, fundamentally unnecessary parasites on the body politic which can flourish only when that body is suffering from a chronic social disease.

It cannot be beyond human ingenuity to adjust the financial system, in order that sufficient buying power is available at any given moment to cover the cost of what has been produced. By such an adjustment people could always possess enough money in their pockets or banking accounts to buy outright houses or anything else that actually exists without falling into debt or being forced to defer payment. There is, incidentally, sufficient evidence to prove that a more equitable distribution of existing incomes will not of itself solve the problem to any appreciable extent.

Few would now disagree that there exists in our day, at least in peace-time, a chronic gap between buying power and prices which continually increases in proportion to the development of mechanization, thus producing that situation, so absurd yet so tragic, of poverty amidst abundance. If our civilization is not completely to disrupt, the money problem will have to be solved. The first step is for the State to regain control of the nation's credit and to institute a money mechanism by which anything that is produced can immediately be distributed without creating any debt, public or private, and without the need for any form of taxation or interest charges. Then indeed even free minimal housing for every individual at a very high standard would be possible.

Would the State financing, and therefore control of, housing exclude private ownership of property? Not necessarily so. Private ownership is not in itself to be deprecated provided that the State has the power to control the use and development of land and property for the common good under conditions which provide fair compensation and right of appeal to any individual affected.

There is one way only in which building societies should legitimately be used in reconstruction. They have built up a machine which could well be adapted to form part of a department of a national credit-control and accountancy office dealing with all accounts connected with property and land. Individuals affected financially by this adaptation should receive fair compensation from the State, as in the case of those affected by public land development.

The only difficulty in solving all such problems is purely psychological; there is no physical difficulty imposed by nature. The mass of the people, in every layer of society, have yet to grasp one patent simple fact, the realization of which would liquidate all the present cretinous and brutal conflicts between individuals, groups and nations—that there is now more than enough to go round of food, clothes, houses, luxuries, of everything—except money.

Lincoln

R. HOOD



# PHYSICAL PLANNING

## 10

## i n d e x

### The bogies

5. Freedom  
Dr. Karl Mannheim
6. Democracy  
E. M. Nicholson
7. Economics  
F. Schumacher
8. Land Ownership  
Part I. E. S. Watkins
9. Land Ownership  
Part II. E. S. Watkins
10. Summary

### Problems

11. Local Government  
Part I. Dr. W. A. Robson
12. Local Government  
Part II. Dr. W. A. Robson

*We regret that Mr. Harold Laski's contribution to the Physical Planning Supplement, billed to appear this week, has had to be postponed owing to the author's sudden and serious illness. We hope to publish something from the same pen though not necessarily on the same subject later in the series.*

Hamlet failed, it has been said, because he lacked the stimulus of narrowness. Planners are suffering from the same handicap and show signs of equally chronic indecision. Physical Planning is a vast subject. Drastic limitation of its scope would be welcomed by the most enthusiastic amateurs—who, after all, are planners because they appreciate convenience better than most people—were it not for the unfortunate fact that such limitations always turn out in the end to have placed an important cause of trouble out of bounds. The alternative to delimitation is compression. The JOURNAL therefore makes no apology for summarizing articles which have already appeared in the Physical Planning section, even though they were, from the point of the specialists who wrote them, already summaries. Summaries will be a regular feature of the Physical Planning section. And if necessary summaries of summaries will be added from time to time—at the end of each year for instance. So by a gradual process of sifting and sorting the vast mass of arguments, facts and ideas that have to be taken into account may gradually be winnowed down to a manageable size and a shorthand terminology arrived at, which will allow appreciable inroads into the subject to be made in the course of a short conversation.

New subjects tend to go through a phase when progress is excessively slow because material is diffused and no step in any argument can be taken for granted. Physical Planning is not intrinsically more conducive to neurosis than other subjects. But the time factor here is unusually important. The work of predigestion and simplification has got to be hustled up if we are to be in a position to take advantage of the situation created by the war and put forward a comprehensible policy at the end of it.

We have chosen this moment for the first of our periodic summaries because the last of the bogies conjured up by the forces of inertia and reaction was exposed for the gimcrack affair it is by Mr. E. S. Watkins in Physical Planning Supplement No. 9. That number marked the end of a section devoted to the analysis of inhibitions which have so far prevented the majority of people from going beyond a discussion of the question "Shall we have planning or not?" to consider ways, means and ends in a spirit of scientific enquiry. The way is now clear for a survey of the ground to be covered, but it was unsafe to go on without completing mopping up operations against these bogies which, like worms cut in half, possess surprising powers of recuperation.

This summary should make clear by implication, if not otherwise, that the allegation so often made by other professions—doctors for instance—that planning propaganda is simply self-advertisement by architects bitten with a crazy and dangerous ambition to organize other people's lives, is without foundation. The architect who demands planning is in the same position exactly as the doctor who agitates for a proper standard of nutrition. He asks for conditions outside his control to be changed so that his services, when called upon, may be of some use.

*Sections 1-4 of the Physical Planning Supplement summarize Planning History 1909-1946. Astragal's DIARY begins with the Housing and Town Planning Act 1909 because Government responsibility for control of development was first acknowledged by the passing of that Act. It ends in 1946 because we hope that by that time measures for full and effective control, made easier by the war, will be in sight or on the Statute book. His history of the years 1943-6 provides a time and progress schedule against which to measure present rate of advance.*

## 1

## PAST INDEFINITE, 1909-29

**1909** John Burns moved the second reading of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Bill, in which local authorities were permitted to prepare limited Town Planning schemes. The proposals were designed with care for the sanctity of private property, and included provision for full compensation with betterment shared equally between owner and local authority.

**1919** The second reading of the Housing, Town Planning Bill (1919), revealed that 70,000 houses were unfit for habitation, 300,000 more were seriously defective, and about 3 million people were overcrowded, while most of the army was still under arms. The Government was not satisfied with the use that had been made of the 1909 Town Planning powers; only one-half of one per cent. of the area of England and Wales was covered by schemes or resolutions to plan. The bill enabled local authorities, other than County Councils, to join together for planning considerable areas of land. In December the Housing (Additional Powers) Act, 1919, was passed, including a section on financial aid for local authorities to buy land for town planning and establishing garden cities.

**1921** The Government approved loans for the establishment of garden cities and other similar self-contained developments. Welwyn Garden City was founded.

**1923** The Ministry of Health issued the first model clauses to help local authorities prepare planning schemes. In the Housing Act 1923, the Minister was given powers to authorize the preparation of a planning scheme for land of any kind in order to safeguard special attributes which it possessed.

**1925** The Town Planning Act 1925; the first act to be wholly concerned with the guidance of land use, it summed up and set in order previous legislation.

**1929** The Local Government Bill was introduced in January, allowing County Councils to take part in planning.

**1932** In the Town and Country Planning Act 1932, the voluntary system was made applicable to undeveloped land. At the time the Act came into force one-quarter of England and Wales was covered by resolutions to plan, but material results were not promising.

**1939** Planning could not hope for much public attention in view of international events. The Restriction of Ribbon Development Act was passed giving the Minister of Transport power to limit access to trunk roads.

## 2

## PAST INDEFINITE, 1930-43

**1940** The Barlow report published in January recommended the creation of a new Ministry to control the location of industry and impose the pattern of a balanced economy on regional and local schemes. In October the Ministry of Works and Buildings was created with Lord Reith as first minister.

**1941** The Uthwatt committee was set up in January. In February, Lord Reith stated that he was authorized to work on the assumption that the principle of planning would be accepted as national policy. The Uthwatt Committee's Interim Report was published in July and accepted by the Government. The Scott Committee was set up in October to examine the question of post-war development in rural areas.

**1942** In February the planning powers of MOH were transferred to MOWB which was renamed the Ministry of Works and Planning. Lord Reith was replaced by Lord Portal. The Scott Committee reported in August. The Uthwatt committee's Final Report appeared in September. In December a separate Ministry of Town and Country Planning was set up to take over from MOWP all planning powers.

**1943** The Minister of Town and Country Planning Bill was passed in January, and Mr. W. S. Morrison became the first Minister in February. He moved the second reading of the Town and Country Planning (Interim Development) Bill on May 11; this bill extended planning control to the whole of England and Wales.

## 3

## FUTURE SIMPLE, 1943-44

**1943** The departments concerned with reconstruction issues were instructed to prepare accelerated working programmes. MOW

programmed post-war public works, translating requirements of departments, public utility undertakings, local authorities and firms into terms of men and material. The TPI presented a memorandum to the Government on the status of planners, including the recommendation for a school of planning.

**AUTUMN** MOTCP introduced the Land Bill, in which it was proposed that the state should be the only purchaser of land, and that it should purchase it whenever its use came to be changed, or when it was judged in the public interest that it should be acquired. The first war factories to become obsolete were turned over to make War Houses.

**WINTER** The Mineral Works Board was set up to map out in advance, and decide the priority of working in the areas of chalk, gravel and clay.

**1944** MOTCP produced a series of national maps among which were those showing climate, population, communications, industry, areas of natural beauty, accessibility and regional grouping.

**SPRING** At a conference called by MOTCP a thirty-year programme of enrolment was agreed for (a) National and Geographic planners, including economists, (b) Administrative planners, suitable for local government offices; and (c) Consultant and Executive planners in the architectural and engineering fields. These and other agreements were incorporated in the Planners Charter. The Prime Minister formed the Reconstruction Council, divided into Home, Colonial and European commands, with the Minister of Production as deputy chairman. The Association of Residential Settlements with Sir Wm. Beveridge as chairman published a report on the standard requirements of the individual and the family in any community, i.e., the facilities, services and amenities which every citizen had a right to expect from his physical and social environment.

**AUTUMN** The Great Reconstruction Exhibition was started in Hyde Park, the indoor section being completed by Christmas, and the whole exhibition in time for the Peace Celebrations the following Easter.

## 4

## FUTURE PERFECT, 1945-46

**1945** An appalling state of devastation in Europe was revealed to the public by air photographs and Wartime Surveys of European countries shown in the Great Exhibition.

**SPRING** The first session of the Peace Conference opened in London at Easter. Housing once again became the chief symbol of the reconstruction programme. Since the Building Industry was unable to become corporate enough in time to answer the call the Allied

Production Council took measures to reinforce the building resources of this country and of the occupied nations in Europe, by organising the production of house frames and equipment in vast quantities at erstwhile armament centres.

**SUMMER** The Government produced its plans for full employment.

**AUTUMN** The Urban and Industrial Development Act became law. It restricted the size of larger towns with regard to a time and distance standard from their centres to the surrounding country.

**WINTER** The First Four-Year plan inaugurated at the opening of the Great Exhibition brought the problem of the misuse of the technical civil servant into the foreground. A new association was formed which set itself to define the responsibilities of this part of the service, its conditions of work, and its right to demand that the results of its research work should be considered and not pigeonholed.

**1946** The projected 2,000 miles of double - carriage - way non-intersected roads, linking airports and avoiding large centres of population was inaugurated on New Year's Day. A further million acres for planting or conversion into National Forest Parkland was transferred to the Forestry Commissioners.

**SPRING** Development Commissions were formed on the lines of the TVA experiment for Cumberland, Durham, Lanarkshire and South Wales. Reorganisation of the transport system preceded urban reconstruction.

**SUMMER** In June, 1946, it was calculated that public works to the value of some two thousand million sterling were in hand. Unemployment was almost non-existent. When the Social Security Bill was passed it was no longer the burning issue of the day.

**AUTUMN** In September the Prime Minister dedicated the War Memorial to the RAF in the New Forest. The commemorative projects which were undertaken as a tribute to the Few included National Parks, Youth Centres, Public Gardens and Forests.

Looking back from the 60's on the early post-war years, it is possible to see that although planning has not achieved all that its most ardent protagonists hoped for, it has proved itself capable (1) of maintaining relatively full and steady employment; and (2) of preventing us from wasting our natural and human resources. The Country's production is up and by now its standard of education, of social security, and of consumption is up correspondingly.

As to housing, we are by no means through the redevelopment crisis, and have not yet caught up with our arrears of building. But at least each family has a home and it is well-built, not jerry-engineered."

# THE BOGIES

*Before the war the Anglo-Saxon way of living was based on certain assumptions—freedom, democracy, solvency and the sanctity of private property. By disregarding them Hitler proved their value beyond dispute. But though principles may have been right, something was clearly wrong with our application of them. Readjustment will be needed to turn glut into plenty and replace war by more enjoyable forms of consumption. Unfortunately reaction against Fascism encourages the growth of taboos preventing scientific research on outstanding problems. In Sections 5-9 taboos are broken, bogies debunked and time-honoured principles re-examined in the light of recent experience, to discover essentials that need to be preserved.*

## 5

### BOGIE No. 1. FREEDOM PLANNING IS HOSTILE TO FREEDOM

*By Karl Mannheim*

Democracy must adopt a positive attitude to social and economic problems if it is to survive. Social techniques are neither good or bad in themselves; everything depends on the use that is made of them. Planning can aim at uniformity, or at freedom and variety. It is open to planners deliberately to refrain from interference in the more important spheres of life, for fear of cramping development. This is quite different from the purposeless non-intervention of laissez faire. Planning need not be undemocratic. Parliament can exercise the necessary control. But as democratic government is based on consent democratic planning must work for greater social and economic justice. Differentiation cannot be allowed to develop beyond a point where it prevents co-operation between the different classes.

The move towards greater social justice—as distinct from equality—can be achieved by existing methods of reform—taxation, control of investment, public works, social services. It does not call for revolution, which would lead at once to dictatorship. Laissez faire liberalism mistook neutrality for tolerance. The new social order must be inspired by a belief. The challenge of the Nazi system has made us aware that the democracies have a set of basic values in common, inherited from classical antiquity and even more from Christianity. They must be stated and agreed upon, leaving the more complex issues open to creed, choice or free experiment, in order to save us from the evil effects of fanaticism; and we must become militant in support of them.

A number of forces are moving automatically in this direction. First there is growing discontent with the inefficiency and wastefulness of laissez faire methods. Secondly there is disappointment about fascism whose efficiency is that of the devil. Thirdly there are doubts concerning communism. How would it fare if it were introduced by revolutionary methods into western countries with their differentiated social

structure? Would the dictatorship of the proletariat ever wither away? Finally the war has created the kind of unity needed for reform. The question is, can we grasp the significance of the so-called emergency measures and see beyond the war to the threat of social and economic chaos which can only be averted by better co-ordination of the social techniques at our disposal.

## 6

### BOGIE No. 2. DEMOCRACY PLANNING IS UNDEMO- CRATIC

*By E. M. Nicholson*

It is mischievous and misleading to suggest to people that planning in itself is an answer to their problems. The planner is a man who goes out looking for trouble as opposed to the non-planner who waits for trouble to come and hit him. Planning involves finding facts and making people aware of them. A planned society needs a far larger social working capital of reliable information of trained personnel, of efficient institutions and of educated public opinion than an unplanned society. To switch from an unplanned to a planned society requires a great effort—greater than should be needed to maintain a planned society, partly because planning is only given a chance when the alternative has broken down, partly because the burden of initial surveys, etc., diverts so much energy. A vigorous and enduring use of planning can only come about when knowledge and responsibility for the plan are very widely shared. Apathy or suspicion are fatal. If democracy did not exist the far seeing planner would have had to create it in order to make planning either enduring or endurable. Some kinds of planning restrict liberty, but others greatly expand it by enabling people to choose and enjoy much that would otherwise have been closed to them. If the plan is to be brought into genuine relationship with its parent, civilization planners must define their principles and submit to the community the pros and cons underlying their various courses. For the mass of people planning is still something shapeless and remote from their daily lives.



Clear and simple statements of planning principles and problems, broadcast through effective use of pictures, charts and the spoken and written word, are essential in order to bring to an end national illiteracy in planning, and at the same time to subject planning itself to the healthy and sometimes brutal judgments of public opinion. On such a basis political parties and voluntary societies can concentrate on the various aspects and trends which they wish to promote or oppose. There is no reason why discussion of planning issues should not become at least as widespread and intelligent as the recent discussions on Beveridge. Given such informed discussion planning could emerge as a living and growing element in the national life. So far planning has had feeble contact with the life of the people. The result has been frustration for the planner and disillusionment among those who suffer from continuing waste and muddle. The disintegration of society has gone too far to be dealt with merely by a better arrangement of buildings, roads and open spaces. A great work of regeneration as well as reconstruction will have to be carried through, and in this work the planner must take his part as an equal. All that has been done so far can only be regarded as preliminary to the main task.

## 7

### BOGIE No. 3. MONEY PLANNING IS SOMETHING WE CAN'T AFFORD

By F. Schumacher

There has always been planning. Within narrow limits it is becoming increasingly popular and scientific, but over the country as a whole things are left to chance. Partly because the extreme form of mutual interdependence which characterises our age is new, partly because planning can extend no further than the power of the planner. It is illogical to denounce concentration of power in the name of liberty and demand planning. What is not illogical is to denounce concentration of irresponsible and uncontrolled power in private hands.

The most important feature of the recent great industrial migration from north to south was that the factors which induced it were mainly man made. It could have been controlled. Why control it? Because there arises an ever widening gap between the private and the social costs which such a development entails. The total capital of industry amounts to no more than about 25 per cent. of all capital. By moving to a new district, which may afford him trifling cost advantages, the industrialist compels the provision of a large number of services, the cost of which is not even proportionately borne by him, since industry is now derated by 75 per cent. In spite of this being well known, society remains at the mercy of the industrialist because there is an urgent need for jobs, and civil servants are afraid to interfere with the men who give employ-

ment. This dilemma is not inherent in planning but in a situation of economic stagnation. The lesson which must be learned by all who are interested in physical planning is that a pre-condition of success in their field is economic planning, i.e., the planning of effective demand. For a business man spending and earning are two distinct processes, and the former must be kept in line with the latter. But for the nation as a whole spending and earning are merely the two aspects of the same series of transactions. If the national income is smaller than—given the real resources—it could be, the only way to raise it is to increase the rate of national spending. It is senseless to argue, as has been argued, that Britain, for instance, could not commit herself to adopt Sir William Beveridge's social security scheme in view of the unknown magnitude of certain rival claims on her total resources, such as housing or agriculture. If old age pensioners are given more money to spend what are they going to spend it on? Precisely on houses and food. Social security payments are one of the means of calling more houses into existence.

## 8

### BOGIE No. 4. PROPERTY PLANNING WILL END PRIVATE PROPERTY. Part I

By E. S. Watkins

An interest in land may be freehold or leasehold. A freehold interest is absolute. The possibility of escheat is so small that for practical purposes it can be disregarded. A lease is an agreement allowing an individual to occupy land for a period of time. Conditions may vary as the parties wish and according to the use to which the land will be put. People may have rights over land without owning any of it, e.g., right of way. An essential difference between ownership of land and ownership of a tooth brush is that each piece of land is unique on account of its position. Restrictions on the use of land may arise from Act of Parliament (e.g., the London Building Act, the Ribbon Development Acts, the Town Planning Act), private agreement or rule of law. Private agreements usually aim to preserve amenity. They can be enforced by others having interest in land in the area. Under common law a landlord is liable to pay for damage caused to adjoining owners by things done on his land. Statutory bodies may own land for purposes for which they are established. They generally have powers of compulsory acquisition. Present procedure is unnecessarily slow (for suggested changes see Uthwatt report). Alterations in the present system suggested to secure better control in the public interest fall under three heads. (1) Nationalization. As all land "belongs" in last resort to the Crown, Nationalization means altering terms under which land is held. The creation of new estates is as simple as printing land registration

certificates on different forms. (II) Municipal Ownership. The local government machine was intended to enable inhabitants to supply themselves with essential services on a cost basis. Complicated business makes democratic control ineffective. System more likely to result in business efficiency than far seeing policy. If municipalities undertake development they become sole judge of their own plans. (III) Pooling. Places responsibility for further development in individuals who happen to constitute the directors of the company—has all the democratic appeal of the Bank of England (see Uthwatt report).

## 9

### BOGIE No. 4. PROPERTY PLANNING WILL END PRIVATE PROPERTY. Part II

By E. S. Watkins

The Uthwatt report puts forward the principle that redevelopment should only take place where the State owns or controls land to be developed. There would be two stages: (1) Preparation of plans. (II) Enforcement of plan. On machinery the report is vague. Our suggestion for the second problem is as follows: (a) Land about to be developed would be transferred by the owner to a Holding Corporation, who would pay him the value of the land. (b) The Holding Corporation would grant leases containing the details of the development scheme. (c) The developer would pay either a premium or a rent to cover cost. The Holding Corporation would be financially self supporting. A variation in the actual legal estates would leave untouched security, inheritance and continuity of possession in all land not actually being developed. We pass now to the control of land by the creation of regulations that bind the individuals who happen to own it. Positive direction is needed to ensure that the best economic and social use is made of the land, and that a proper balance is struck between the two. It is suggested that the existing Town and Country Planning Acts should be amended along the following lines. Planning should be carried out by area planning committees responsible for areas large enough to constitute a region of recognizable industrial unity. Committees should have full time salaried chairmen and consist of ten members nominated by industry (2), labour (2), the Treasury (1), and the Ministry of Planning (5 from a panel of elected councillors put forward by local authorities). Machinery would be required for control of (1) redevelopment of war damaged areas, (2) buildings erected in connection with the war, (3) resting of industry and population in accordance with the national plan. The committees would be given power to hold enquiries and make regular reports. Their expenses would be borne by local government funds. Planning finance, i.e., compensation and betterment, would be pooled. Local authorities would retain their existing functions.

## CURRENT EVENTS

### Land Tenure

Mr. T. R. Chandler, General Manager of the Woolwich Equitable Building Society, in a letter to *The Times*, September 25, referred to the General Manager of the Halifax Building Society, Mr. David Smith's "tooth and nail" opposition to the acquisition of development rights proposed in the Uthwatt Report. (Current Events, 23.9.43). He affirmed that this was not the considered view of the Building Societies' Association, and suggested that a building society's duty is to adjust its methods so as to meet the need for house building under whatever system of land tenure is ultimately decided upon by Parliament.

Mr. William McKinnell, Chairman of the Building Societies' Association, in an address to the Metropolitan Association of Building Societies, asked if it was beyond our ingenuity to devise a policy which will prevent undesirable speculation in land and at the same time provide such forms of widely acceptable land tenure as will properly protect the individual's rights and the community's interests alike.

A meeting of the National Executive of the Labour Party urged the early introduction and passage of a Bill to give effect to the recommendations of the Uthwatt report as an indispensable preliminary to the carrying forward of town and country replanning schemes, and reaffirmed traditional party policy in favour of wholesale nationalization.

### Local Government Services

The proposal, made by a joint deputation from the Association of Municipal Corporations and the County Councils Association, for an inquiry into the reorganization of local government services has been rejected by Sir William Jowitt on the ground that the delays involved by the inquiry would be likely to prejudice the Government's plans for post-war reconstruction. Sir William Jowitt stated that both he and his colleague could see no way of putting through a comprehensive inquiry into local government services under one year, and the period might well run into several. The Government had come to the conclusion that they would not be justified in deferring further consideration of the various departmental proposals affecting particular services until the whole position had been the subject of a comprehensive inquiry.

### Scott Report

Lord Snell has announced for the Government, that a statement on the Scott report will be ready within two or three weeks' time.

## NEW BOOKS

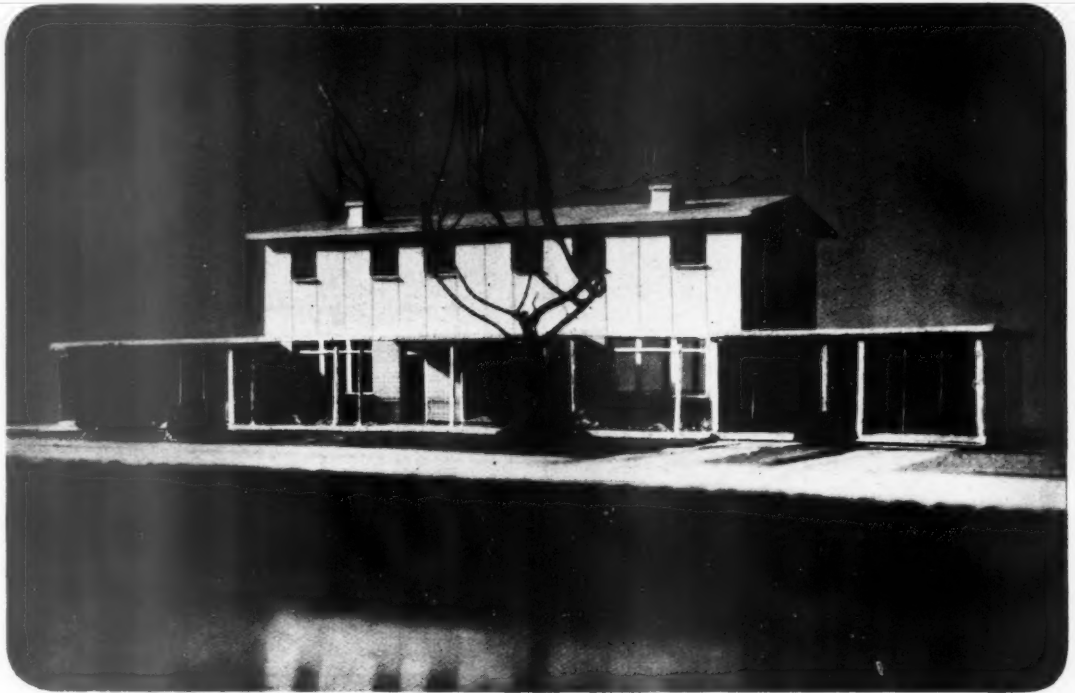
Your London has a Plan: A summary of the County of London Plan, 1943. Association of Building Technicians. 6d.

Future of Malvern: Local Problems of Post-war Reconstruction and Development. A. Farquharson. The Malvern Gazette. 6d.

Report of the Land Transfer Committee: September, 1943. HMSO. 2d.

Disposal of the Dead: Preliminary Report R.25 of the Association for Planning and Regional Reconstruction, 32, Gordon Square, W.C.1.





# EXPERIMENTAL HOUSING

DESIGNED BY THE CITY OF COVENTRY  
ARCHITECTURAL DEPARTMENT UNDER  
THE DIRECTION OF D. E. E. GIBSON

**GENERAL**—In June, 1942, the city of Coventry Housing Committee became concerned about the post-war housing situation in Coventry, for it was clear that at the end of the war Coventry would face a considerable housing shortage. The Housing Committee therefore authorised the City Architect, Mr. D. E. E. Gibson, to design and erect a pair of experimental houses.

**PLANNING**—Should the kitchen be considered as a workroom only, or should it be enlarged to provide space for family meals? Should laundry-work be done in the kitchen, or should separate provision be made in a utility room?

While accepting the utility room, the City of Coventry has decided to try out both views on the kitchen-dining-room controversy. In house A, the dining area continues from the living room; in house B, the dining area continues from the kitchen.

**STRUCTURE**—The *Main Structure* consists of a steel frame of tubular steel in one house and welded strip steel in the other. *Foundations* are of concrete strip. *Ground Floors* consist of a layer of Ho-fines concrete, blinded-off to receive an all-over D.P.C. and suitable flooring. *External Wall Cladding* consists, on the ground floor, of tile-faced concrete slabs

and on the first floor of asbestos cement sheets of natural silver-grey with a reeded surface. *Internal Wall Cladding* consists of Hitchin's mobile interlocking partition blocks, of pasterboard on dowelled and grooved wooden framing. *Windows*: experiments are proceeding with both aluminium and steel windows, and it is proposed in house B to try out double glazing in the living-room windows. The use of zinc for external window trims and general wall flashings is being investigated. Internal window trims are of steel. *Roofs, Eaves and Gutters*: roof covering is of a series of interlocking units, faced with zinc sheeting on an insulating board

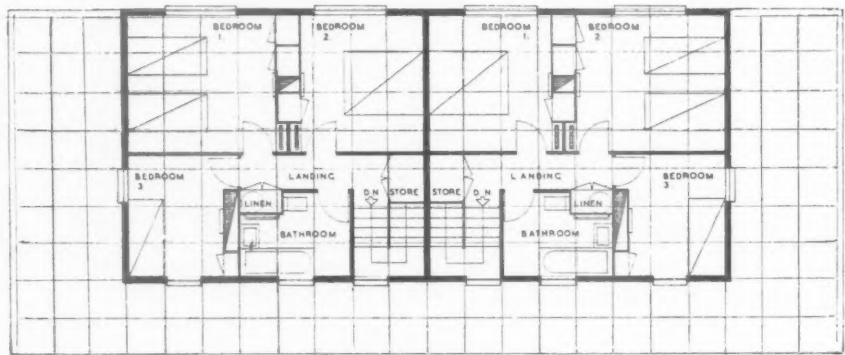
base, made up of a long plank spanning from ridge to eaves. An asbestos roof is also to be examined. *Suspended Ceilings* will be formed by an adaptation of the Hitchins block construction or by means of an asbestos wall board framed in light metal. *Suspended First Floor* consists of pre-filled metal trays mounted on rubber pads which, in turn, rest upon the tubular floor joists—an experiment to provide a high degree of sound insulation. *Staircase* is of sheet metal, treads being filled with composition. *Doors*: owing to possible post-war timber shortage, a flush door has been designed of steel frame into which rexine-covered building board or plywood is clipped. Frames are of steel.

**SERVICES**—The centralised flues together with the internal lining of external walls with insulating material, prevents much heat loss. In house A, the main source of heat is the slow combustion stove in the living-room. This stove is fitted with a back boiler for water-heating and, in addition, provides spare heating for the living-room and dining alcove. In house B, the main source is the coke-burning boiler in the kitchen, which heats the water and ensures the spare heating of kitchen and utility room. In both houses, cooking and summer water heating are carried out by gas and there is a gas-heated washing machine and a gas-heated drying cupboard in the utility room. Refrigerators are gas operated. The hot water system feeds not only the hot-water taps via a calorifier coil but also copes with radiators. In house A radiators are placed in the kitchen, entrance hall and bedrooms 1 and 2. In house B, radiators are placed in the dining-end of the kitchen, in the living-room and in the entrance hall and in bedrooms 1 and 2. For topping-up, gas fires are provided in all three bedrooms in both houses, and in house B there is a gas fire in the living-room.

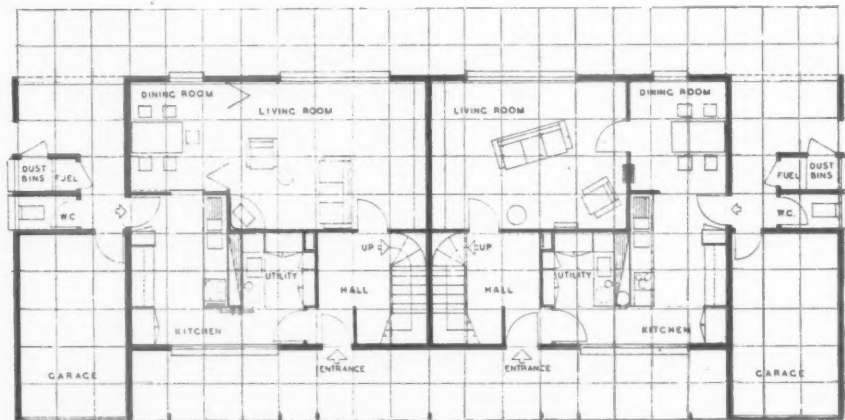
The arrangement of flues in the centre of the structure has led to the idea of centralising all the auxiliary services in a central duct including flues, all plumbing work and gas service. One advantage of this is that prefabrication is immediately possible. Another is that frozen pipes are avoided. There is, moreover, little interference with the structure of the house when connecting up.

Pipework is contained within a welded steel cagework. In the full-scale test model made, the

## EXPERIMENTAL HOUSING,



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

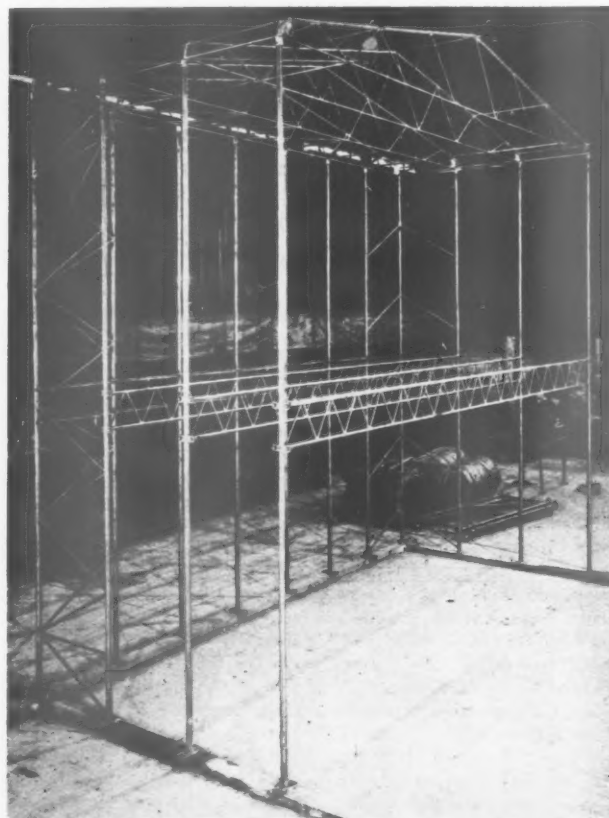


TYPE A.

GROUND FLOOR PLAN

TYPE B

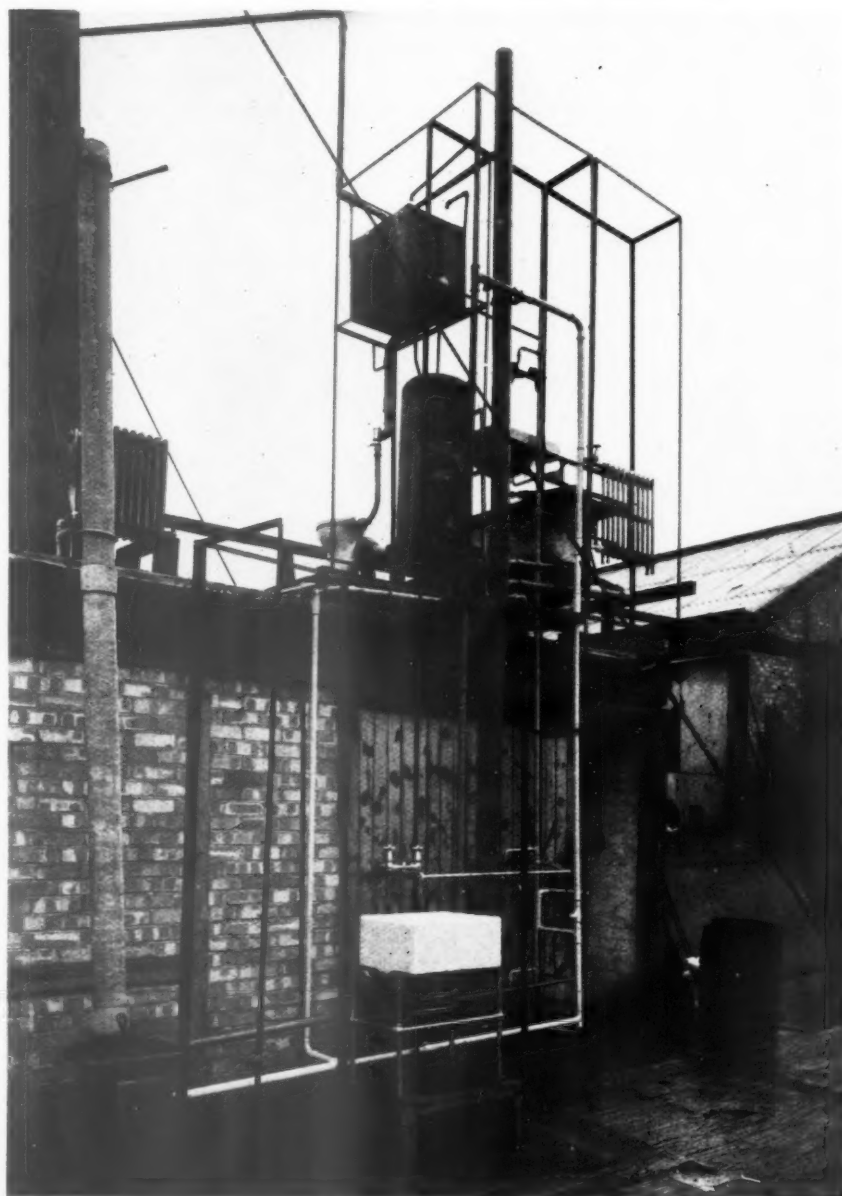
SCALE 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 FEET



Top, ground and first floor plans showing both types, A and B. In type A, the dining area shows part of the living-room, while in type B, it forms part of the kitchen. Left, a view of the tubular steel framework. Welded strip steel framework is also being tried.

# COVENTRY DESIGNED BY THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT

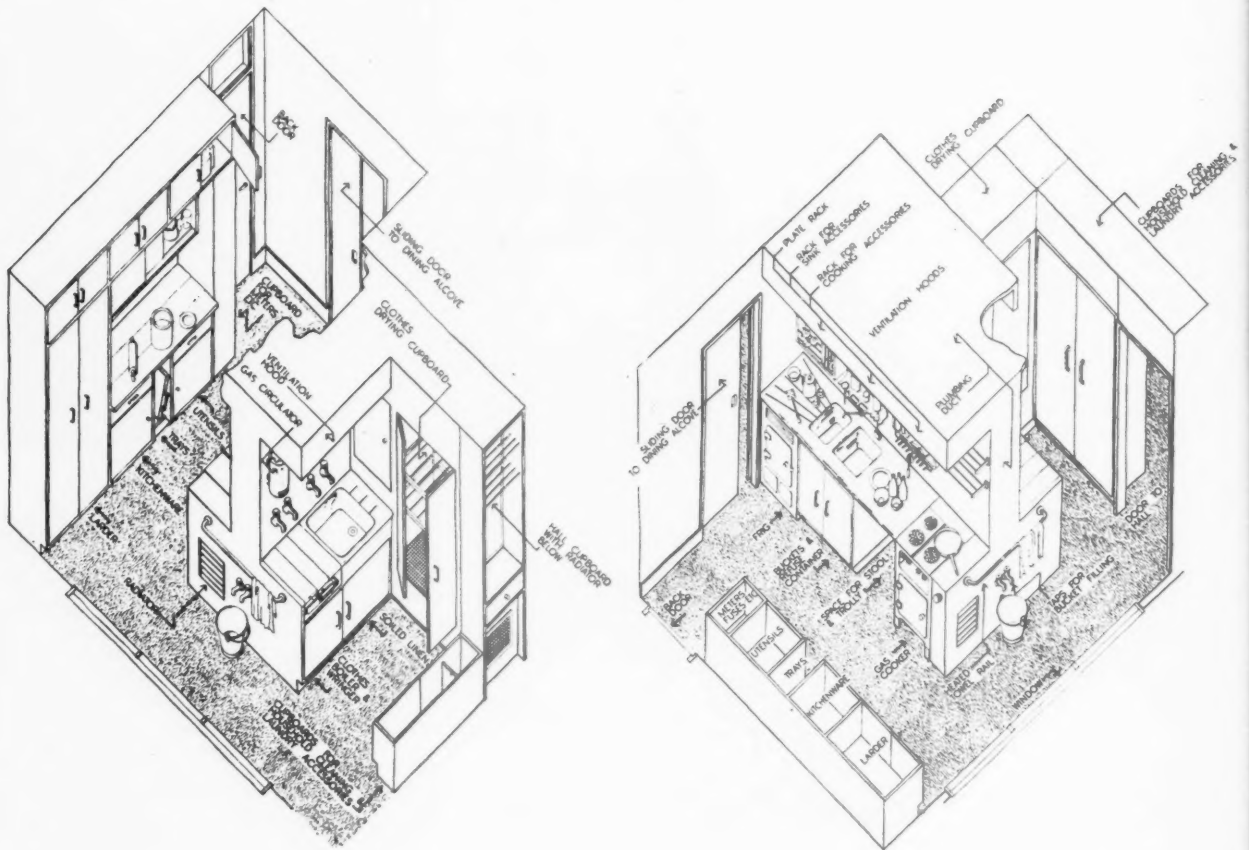
Right and below, views of the full-scale test plumbing model. All services as well as flues are contained in a central duct. The main advantage of this is that prefabrication is made possible. Pipework would be contained in a welded steel cagework.



cagework consisted of three main demountable sections. One section formed the duct from ground floor to first floor; one section formed the duct from first floor to roof, and one section contained tank, cylinder and linen cupboard. Subsequent experience has shown that only two cageworks are necessary, one for the ground floor and one for the first floor. The cagework serves the purposes of (1) housing and support for pipework, thus enabling all pipework to be factory fabricated, site work being reduced to jointing pipes at first floor level; (2) housing and support for the flue from the slow combustion fire, the flue from the gas fire in bedroom 3, the flue from cooker and clothes boiler, and the ventilation trunking from the extractor hoods in kitchen and utility room; (3) support and easy fixing for duct casing and removable access panels. The duct also acts as a screen wall between kitchen and utility room on the ground floor and as a partition between bathroom and bedroom 3.

**VENTILATION**—A great drawback has hitherto been the lack of provision for removing smells of cooking and laundering from the kitchen other than by dissipating them through the house. The provision of a central flue enables kitchen and laundry ventilation to be dealt with positively. Hoods are provided over the cooker, gas water heater, sink, refrigerator, washing machine and laundry sink, vented into the central duct, and connected to flue piping, which permits the removal of steam, etc. Baffled air inlets are provided over each door. The main fresh air inlet in the house is above the front door.

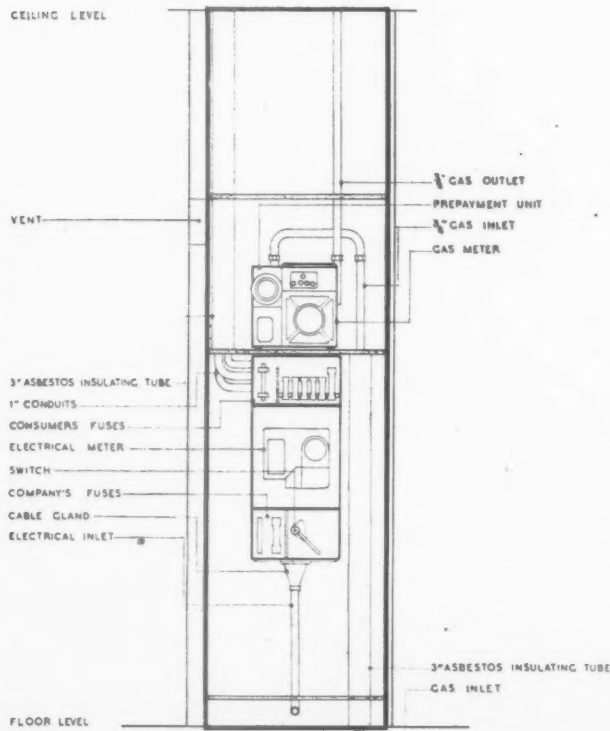
## EXPERIMENTAL HOUSING, COVENTRY



**ELECTRICITY**—The electricity supply company usually provide its own connection to main switch, fuse and water, and leaves the provision of distribution board, local fuses, etc., to the consumer. Until responsibility rests with one, rather than two parties, it will be difficult to produce a compact and economical intake unit. Since both the City of Coventry Architectural Department and the Electricity Supply Department are under the common authority of the Coventry City Council, it has been possible to design and manufacture a compact intake unit which, it is hoped, will become standard practice in post-war housing.

The socket outlets are wired on a ring circuit and the skirting forms a conduit for the wires. The skirting fascia is of plaster, and is removable, thus facilitating alterations and/or additions to socket outlets.

Door frames are of metal so designed as to incorporate switch and conduit from switch to ceiling. This entails the carrying up of the door frame to the ceiling.



Above, two axonometric views of the kitchen and utility (laundry) room. Left, layout of the electricity and gas intake unit, having an uncommonly orderly arrangement made possible by the Coventry Architectural Department and the Electricity Supply Department being under the common authority of the City Council.



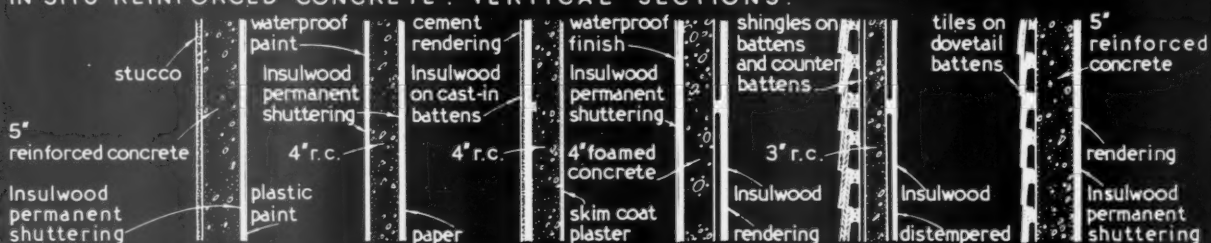
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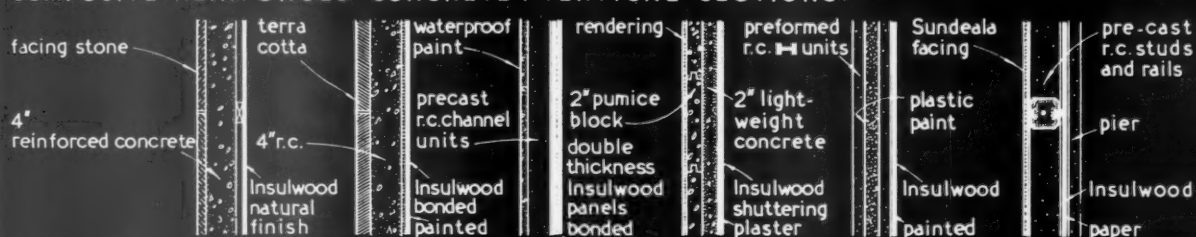
CONSTRUCTION AND COMPARATIVE EFFICIENCY OF INSULWOOD THERMALLY-INSULATED WALLING.  
(for details of fixings and finishings to Insulwood, see later Information Sheets of this series)

## IN SITU REINFORCED CONCRETE: VERTICAL SECTIONS.



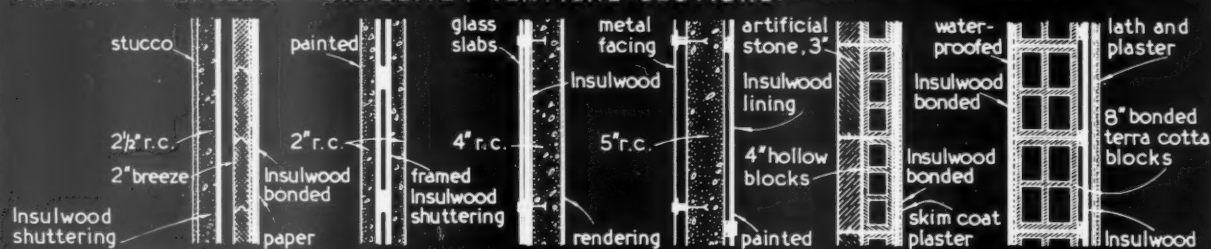
THERMAL TRANSMISSION B.Th.U./Sq. Ft.	0.38	0.26	0.38	0.16	0.22	0.35
HEAT LOSS B.Th.U. 1,000 sq. ft./hr. 30° temp. diff.	11,400	7,800	11,400	4,800	6,600	10,500

## COMPOSITE REINFORCED CONCRETE: VERTICAL SECTIONS.



THERMAL TRANSMISSION B.Th.U./Sq. Ft.	0.30	0.34	0.18	0.22	0.32	0.25
HEAT LOSS B.Th.U. 1,000 sq. ft./hr. 30° temp. diff.	9,000	10,200	5,400	6,600	9,600	7,500

## CONCRETE OR BLOCK COMPOSITE: VERTICAL SECTIONS.



THERMAL TRANSMISSION B.Th.U./Sq. Ft.	0.19	0.22	0.34	0.23	0.28	0.12
HEAT LOSS B.Th.U. 1,000 sq. ft./hr. 30° temp. diff.	5,700	6,600	10,200	6,900	8,400	3,600

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## INFORMATION SHEET

• 911 •

## BUILDING BOARDS

No. 9

**Subject:** Thermal Insulation ; Walls (C).

### General :

This Sheet is the fourth of the group giving typical comparative thermal transmission values for various forms of floor, wall and roof construction, and deals with insulated walls, using  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. Insulwood.

### Thermal Transmission Values :

The thermal transmission values shown are based on assumed coefficients which have been adhered to throughout, and include surface resistances. The figures represent the calculated thermal transmission of the structure for IB.Th.U./1 sq. ft./hr./°F., and heat loss per 1,000 sq. ft. over 1 hour, for the specified temperature difference.

In calculating values, allowances have not been made for variations in moisture content, etc., which would occur in actual practice due to aspect, climatic conditions, etc.

### 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 1 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 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 underlay for floor covering 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 :

Timber nailing strips not less than 2 in. by 1 in. should be secured to brickwork or masonry walls by means of plugs and galvanized screws, at not more than 3 ft. centres. 6 ft. Insulwood sheets require three intermediates, 4 ft. two intermediates, and 2 ft. one intermediate. Cross nailing strips should be inserted to take end nailing.

On no account should sheets be forced into position, but be cut and fitted so that they are in moderate contact only—or  $\frac{1}{8}$  in. space may be left between.

Nail first to intermediates from centre outwards in each direction, with  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in. galvanized cut clasp nails at 8 in. centres ; finally, nail edge of sheets in a similar manner with  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in. galvanized slaters nails at 4 in. centres. It is important to nail  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. from the edges of the sheets.

### Previous Sheets :

Previous Sheets of this series on wallboards are Nos. 893, 895, 896, 898, 900, 902, 904 and 909.

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

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# INFORMATION CENTRE

*The function of this feature is to supply an index and a digest of 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. Items are written by specialists of the highest authority who are not on the permanent staff of the Journal and views expressed are disinterested and objective. The Editors welcome information on all developments from any source, including manufacturers and contractors.*

## PHYSICAL PLANNING

1247 *Housing in Australia*

HOUSING THE AUSTRALIAN NATION. F. Oswald Barnett and W. O. Burt. (Published by the Research Group of the Left Book Club of Victoria). First comprehensive publication dealing with the housing and slum problem in Australia. The authors conclude with Outline of a National Housing Scheme, based on estimate of housing shortage.

The accumulated housing shortage has been figured out by means of a formula compiled by Mr. Colin Clark, Government Statistician of Queensland, "which is based on the assumption that a house or flat is required by every married woman, and by 93.5 per cent. of the unmarried women and widows over the age of 40." After adding the houses unfit for human habitations, about 46,000, the authors come to the conclusion that there existed in Australia a shortage of 250,000 houses in 1942, while each additional year of war and restrictions on private building are increasing this figure by a further 35,000. The changing structure of the population is of importance, and will further increase this figure.

"To assist in eliminating the slums, to extinguish the housing shortage and to meet current needs, will mean a building programme of approximately 1,000 dwellings per week for the next eight to ten years."

One chapter deals with the details of the suggested scheme. It proceeds on the thesis that persons to be housed can be classified as follows:—

(1) The "sub-economic" tenant whose houses should be provided from money raised by taxation.

(2) The "economic" tenant, who is anxious to own his house, whether he is able to pay a deposit or not.

(3) The "economic" tenant, who by reason of the changing nature of his employment does not desire to become a home owner.

Houses for the last two groups should be financed by a Commonwealth Housing Fund advancing money either to the individual purchaser (Group 2) or to the State Housing Commissions (Group 3), who would act as constructional and administrative authorities.

The proposals put forward are based to a large extent upon the research work of the Housing Commission of Victoria, the accomplished result of which during its comparatively short existence (about 4 years), is well known throughout Australia.

1248 *CIAM on City Planning*

CAN OUR CITIES SURVIVE? J. L. Sert. (Harvard University Press: Five dollars. Reviewed in *Architects' Journal*, Aug. 26, 1943.) Fully illustrated book by member of CIAM on history and future needs of city planning. Need for city planning for human benefit. Towns should be considered organically.

Points out essential benefit to solutions of urban problems.

There is no other way out of the chaotic state of the cities of the world but planning and planning from a human point of view. Planning on a human scale, in terms of the most elementary needs of man, can only be accomplished under one condition: that the average man becomes aware what a reduced form of life he is obliged to lead because of the present state of our cities. Public opinion will then exert the pressure necessary to set in motion the extensive machinery of administration that alone can bring about the changes necessary to an organic existence. In both text and illustration, the present work, addressed to lay-men as well as to specialists, examines those urban problems which should be known to all who would like to enjoy a better life in a healthful city. Penetrating the outward aspects of the city of to-day, it reveals how certain Utopias of yesterday have become the immediate possibilities of the present.

It has become necessary to resort to all the means of research at our disposal, both old and new, in order to know our cities thoroughly. This knowledge should not be sought in the manner of the past, ignoring the mobility, the changing structure, and the future possibilities of cities, but by considering them as living organisms, as things which are born and which develop, disintegrate and die. For cities can no longer be studied as immobile and finite units. In its academic and traditional sense, city planning has become obsolete. *In its place must be substituted urban biology, or the study of the life of cities and of the living conditions within them.*

The town planning chart analyses the four primary functions of the city: dwelling, work, recreation and transportation. It is a synthesis resulting from an analysis of the thirty-three reports, which are also divided according to the four urban functions. Revealing those ills which are common to all cities to-day, it also points the way to the most essential steps to be taken toward the solution of urban problems.

## LIGHTING

1249 *Factory Lighting*

ENGINEERING TWENTY-FOUR HOURS "DAYLIGHT." C. F. Prideaux, (Trans. Ill. Eng. Soc., U.S.A., May, 1943, p. 227). Descriptions of lighting engineering problems in factories with no natural illumination.

This paper consists mainly of descriptions of large plants where artificial lighting is used day and night. A number of early cases are described, going back as far as 1930, but the majority are new plants for war production. The very extensive experience of the author enables him to bring in many practical points of great value. For instance, he is able to generalize on the effect of the heat from the lamps on the cooling load of the building in hot weather and the comparative costs of maintain-

ance for natural and artificial lighting. There are also some interesting data on the effect on the health and efficiency of workers in one such plant; accident rate and time lost due to sickness were both steadily reduced, and were below comparative figures for the district. Production and spoilage did not vary from shift to shift, and labour found working conditions attractive. And incidentally, the fluorescent lamps in this installation were having an average life of 4,800 hours, over twice their rating, and nearly five times that of normal tungsten lamps.

In another plant the reason for elaborate artificial lighting and atmosphere control is given as the need for precision in mass production. Apparently temperature differences due to odd rays of sunshine or sky changes altered the size and shape of metal components so that they could not be worked to the desired tolerances.

Of its kind, the paper is exceptional in giving generously the benefits of wide practical experience, with a clear balance drawn between what is still experimental and what is a successful achievement.

1250 *Colour Standards*

COLOUR STANDARDS. B. Dudley. (Technology Review, January, 1943, p. 122). A short history of attempts at a standard notation for colours and a description of the new specification by the American Standards Association.

The Americans have always had a strong interest in the search for colour specifications, and now finally they have a basis agreed by industry, science and the psychologists.

The article describes the previous attempts to standardize the notation. First, naturally enough, the physicists analysed colour into its component elements, and found a way of specifying these which eventually led to the technique of spectrophotometry. This told only what was in a colour but not what the colour looked like, subjectively. Psychophysicists were more concerned with the sensation produced by the colour and were able to devise a specification in terms of the three primaries but the primaries themselves were undefined. A third approach was made by psychologists, of whom Munsell was one; they designated colours numerically in terms of hue, value and chroma, or degrees of saturation. The present achievement of the American Standards Association has been to link all three systems; the physicists have measured all the Munsell colours, and re-defined them in terms of the three primaries used by the psychophysicists. Industrial America has agreed to use the new notation so that it has been given effect at once.

1251 *Lighting in USA Factory*

FACTORY FOR FIGHTER PLANES, U.S.A. (Architectural Record, July, 1943). General notes include description of artificial lighting and colour decoration.

It is interesting to note how often American literature now refers to special care in choice of decoration for efficiency in factories. Also the high levels of illumination which are presumably provided because they are found worth while.

In this factory, offices have green finish to metal partitions and walls of cool green-yellow to relieve eye strain. Canteen walls are of terra cotta to provide a complete change and therefore relief.

Lighting in offices is entirely fluorescent and gives 50 foot-candles in draughting rooms and 35 foot candles elsewhere. In the factory a mixture of mercury lights and filament lamps in prismatic reflectors is combined with daylight to give a minimum of 40 foot candles and control is by photo-electric cells which turn on the lights when daylight falls below a given

level. Above the dado of steel grey colour everything is eggshell white which raises the efficiency of the lighting.

## 1252 Sky Illumination

ILLUMINATION FROM A NON-UNIFORM SKY. P. Moon and D. E. Spencer, *Journal of Illuminating Engineering Society of America*, December, 1942, p. 707.) Uniformly overcast sky is shown to be brighter at zenith than at horizon, rather than uniform as usually assumed for design purposes.

Essentially, this paper demonstrates that a uniformly overcast sky is about three times as bright at the zenith as at the horizon, and not approximately uniform as assumed for normal daylighting design. The authors proceed from this observation to develop curves and formulae by which it is intended to take this non-uniform brightness into account.

One cannot help feeling, as one reads here, that this is mathematics gone mad. The authors have got hold of one point, which they elaborate to the uttermost. Even if they could justify that it is worth while using this correction, they appear to have forgotten that there is another, almost equally important one to take into account—the difference between north and south, the south brightness being about twice that of the north. Daylighting is too variable in quantity and quality to justify such a refined basis of design, and the present assumption yields very good results.

## 1253 Window Calculations

WINDOW CALCULATIONS. T. Smith. (*Trans. of the Illuminating Engineering Society*, June, 1943, p. 110.) Equations are obtained for ascertaining the size of window necessary for given conditions.

The eminent head of the Department of Light at the National Physical Laboratory gives a mathematical analysis of window design and sets out alternative formulae with which to make calculations. The contribution is important theoretically, but will need some pre-digestion before many architects will assimilate its significance.

## QUESTIONS and answers

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

## 1254 Prices

Q Could you give me an approximate idea as to what percentage to add to the prices as given in the ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL during 1939.

A We regret that it is impossible to answer your enquiry as prices have not risen consistently and an overall percentage cannot be applied to all items or all Trades.

Jobs vary from civil engineering work of a comparatively simple nature with priorities

for labour and good opportunities for earning bonus to non-essential repair work for which only labour of an inferior quality is available. Prices naturally vary very considerably and there is now no simple standard such as "a medium-sized job in the London area" which means anything.

You will have noted that authoritative speakers have, with good reason, been very reticent about increased costs. The last public reference to the matter was made by Lord Portal who stated that housing costs have risen by about 105 per cent. but it is clear that building costs for all types of jobs have not risen to this extent and the reference should not be read out of its context. Further, the speaker was probably comparing a house of present-day specification with a house of pre-war specification.

Your best course is to refer to a more up-to-date schedule such as the Ministry of Works Standard Schedule of Prices, bearing in mind the purpose for which it was designed, i.e. for fair-sized jobs of a comparatively simple nature such as factories and camps. You can then make some adjustments for the factors governing the particular job, i.e. lack of suitable labour, the necessity for importing labour from other districts, the size of the job, etc., etc. Finally you can compare the prices so obtained with 1939 prices.

## 1255 Model Makers

Q We shall be obliged if you can give us names and addresses of architectural model makers, as we shall require a model made of a proposed building from plans provided by us.

A The following model makers could do the work you require:—

Fredk. H. Cork, A.I.B.D., Interior Decoration and Architectural Models, 608, Newcastle Road, Newcastle, Staffs.

J. McCutcheon, 5, Bradleys Buildings, White Lion Street, London, N.1.

Partridges Models Ltd., 21, Buckingham Street, London, W.C.2.

J. B. Thorpe, 98, Grays Inn Road, London, W.C.1.

## 1256 Books on Continuity

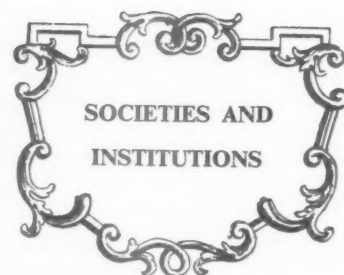
Reference back to Question 1221.

One of our readers has sent us the following letter:—

To the list of books dealing with Continuity you might well add *Theory of Modern Steel Structures* by Professor Grinter, New York (the Macmillan Company.) This book has two volumes, one dealing with determinate structures and the second with indeterminate structures.

In Volume 2 is set forth the sign convention for use in the Hardy-Cross method, which is much simpler to use than Professor Cross's normal method, especially where vertical members are to be considered as well as horizontal beams but the principal value of the book is in the way in which the theory of the column analogy is built up from first principles. This amazing method of calculation devised by Professor Hardy-Cross is much better explained than in Professor Cross's own book and even where the column analogy is only used as an auxiliary to moment distribution, it supplies much the quickest and simplest method of calculating stiffness and carry-over factors for members in which the moment of inertia varies along the length. Professor Grinter has also written a companion book on the design of steel structures which is very useful. Apart from its value for continuous structures the book is extremely good where it deals with simple types of steelwork and is one of the few concisely written books which treat of welded as well as riveted structures.

Of course, as you point out in your reproduction, the theory is common to steel and reinforced concrete structures.



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

## TCPA

## R. L. Reiss

September 11 in the City Chamber, Aberdeen. Annual conference sponsored by the Scottish Town and Country Planning Association. R. L. Reiss on NEW TOWNS.

R. L. Reiss: I think members of the conference will agree to the following proposition:

- (1) That the concentration of the larger part of the population into a limited number of overgrown cities and closely-knit networks of industrial towns has produced a number of evils, such as overcrowded slum areas, choked transport routes, lack of amenities and health for the urban population, and a sense of isolation and lack of opportunities of social intercourse and cultural development for the rural population.
- (2) That the national plan should provide *inter alia*:
  - (a) For all land being put to its best use in the interests of the community as a whole.
  - (b) For the gradual redistribution of population so as to produce a more balanced social life.
  - (c) For securing to rural as well as to urban populations the fullest opportunities of life. This means that agricultural and rural industry generally should no longer be sacrificed to urban industries.
  - (d) For reducing the density of population in the larger cities and groups of cities, so that they can be replanned on more rational lines.
- (3) That, in particular, the housing problem is not one of finding adequate shelter for all families but of securing to each a home in an environment which is not congested by the crowding of too many

# HENLEY

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separate dwellings on the land either side by side or one above the other.

The thesis I am putting forward in this paper is that the redistribution of population involves not merely decentralising from our big cities of a considerable proportion of the dwelling houses at present located there, but also a proportion of the industry. The newly-created housing areas should not be suburban extensions of the large town with the consequent loss of time, money and energy in travelling long distances to and from work, but be part of a co-ordinated plan for removing the place of residence and of work of a proportion of the existing city dwellers not on to the immediate outskirts of the city, but further afield. This policy will enable the planning authorities in the large towns to replan on rational lines instead of having to make the best of a bad job. It will also bring cultural and social opportunities to those existing more sparsely populated areas in which the new communities are to be established.

The national plan should provide, therefore, for the development of new towns planned from the start, not merely for residence or industry, but for all the requirements of civilised life. Some of these new towns may be developed out of existing small communities, others founded on land that is still purely rural. Whichever course is adopted, there are certain essential elements which should be taken into account in selecting their sites and in preparing their plan of development.

- (1) The site should have reasonably good communications. As the towns will be industrial they will require coal, raw material and also the ability to distribute their products.
- (2) The public services such as water supply and drainage must be capable of being economical and satisfactorily provided.
- (3) The site selected for the town should be sufficiently large to provide not merely for the ultimate town area but for a green belt surrounding it so as to prevent its coalescing with some other town as part of the object would be frustrated.
- (4) It is difficult to be very precise as to what should be the size of these proposed new towns. They should be large enough to provide for a full measure of social life which means that they should be capable in their final development of having their own secondary schools, technical institute, theatre and other opportunities of cultural development. On the other hand, their size should be not greater than would permit of the ordinary worker being within easy walking distance of his work and of the open country. Probably the ideal size is somewhere between 25,000 and 60,000.

How should these towns be planned? After a careful survey of the site decisions will have to be arrived at on the following main issues:

- (1) Which and how large shall be the area reserved for the town centre in which the main civic buildings would gradually be constructed, and where there will be the main shopping centre, business offices, car parks, probably also technical institute and larger community buildings?
- (2) What and how large an area should be reserved for industry?
- (3) What areas should be allocated to residences and what should be the over-all density of the residential areas and the maximum density of any particular land unit?
- (4) Whether in each of the portions of the residential area shall there be neighbourhood unit centres in which would be placed smaller shops for daily purposes and smaller community centres, licensed premises, etc., and how many sites, where and how large, should be reserved for schools and other similar purposes?
- (5) Lastly, what proportion of the whole area should be reserved as open space? What proportion of this should be on the outskirts of the town and how much should be distributed throughout the residential areas?

Having decided on these main questions and on the lines of the main communications, the plans should be reasonably flexible so that as the town grows and as new needs arise, the plan can be adapted to meet such changes. For this reason and because it has been the experience of the last 20 years that the quantity of land required for any given purpose in a town tends to increase, it will be important that in every portion of the town as it develops and particularly in the town centre, a considerable amount of land should be reserved for new requirements.

I might perhaps best illustrate the foregoing by reference to the experience we have gained in the construction of a new town. The development of this town on completely open country was commenced in 1920. The population is now about 17,000, and within the area of the present Urban District Council, the plan revised up to date now provides for an ultimate estimated population of about 30,000.

I propose to examine the Town Plan of Welwyn Garden City, as it is the most recent example of an effort to plan a new self-contained, industrial town.

Although the commencement of building this town was as recent as 1920 the changes in the requirements of living have during the last 20 years been substantial. In the light of experience and of the changing requirements for certain particular purposes it has been necessary to keep the plan flexible, so that each further advance in knowledge can be reflected in the development. For example, the size of the site which the local Education Authority thought necessary for an elementary school when the first school was built about 1923 was only 3½ acres; for sites for schools, acquired immediately after the war, the area of land required for the same number of school places had doubled. Again, during the last 20 years the development of labour-saving machinery in industry has been such as to require a substantially larger floor area of factory per 100 persons employed than was the case at the beginning.

The development has now gone sufficiently far for an approximate estimate to be given of the ultimate population within the area of the Urban District Council, and what proportion of land will be required for various purposes.

The total area of the urban district is 2,576 acres.

The estimated ultimate population within the urban district will, if the land is developed in accordance with the most recently revised plan, be about 30,000.

There is allocated to the following group of purposes:—

	Acres.
Residences, schools, community centres, main civic centre, shops and offices including minor open spaces of under one acre	1,340
Industrial, including gravel and brick works, and public utility undertakings such as sewerage, waterworks and reservoirs	466
Railways, including land at present not utilised for railway purposes but reserved for such use in future	65
Major open space, including 40 acres of railway land likely to remain as an open space and not be required for railway purposes	705
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,576</b>

It will be noted that nearly one-third of the whole of the urban district is reserved as open space. Part will be for playing fields, and the remainder for general amenities, including woods and parks. Some will continue to be used for pasture or agricultural purposes, but it is important to emphasise that in the opinion of those responsible for the plan the proportion reserved as open space is really necessary if the fullest opportunities of life are to be available for the urban population.

Ultimately, the over-all density of population within the urban district will be approximately 11 persons per acre, and the density of the residential areas about 22.

It is calculated that the area reserved for industry would be approximately the quantity required if all those inhabitants of the town as were gainfully occupied actually worked in the town. In practice, of course, already at any given time there will be a proportion of the inhabitants working elsewhere and a certain number of those working in the town who, for one reason or another, prefer to live elsewhere. Roughly speaking, it is calculated that these will approximately balance each other.

Two or three points which have emerged as the result of experience may be mentioned.

In developing the town in accordance with the plan it has been necessary for those responsible for the detailed plans to make provision for extensions to buildings, so as to avoid as far as possible difficulties arising at a later date. For this reason many of the sites for factories have been larger than would be required for that industry at its present stage of development. If later it is found that that particular industry will never in fact require as much land as was originally reserved, then the site can be divided. Similarly, the urban district council in building its council offices only required to start with a site adequate for their first building. Contiguous land has, however, been reserved, so that as the town develops and the staff necessary for local government increases the council offices can be extended and a situation not arise which has occurred in most existing big towns, where different departments of local government have had to be located in separate buildings.

Many details have had to be thought out and amendments made from time to time. What, for example, is the site desirable for a public house? This in its turn involves a consideration whether in the public interest it is better to have a considerable number of small public houses or a very limited number of larger ones. The present opinion of the planners is that each house, at any rate in this new town, should roughly serve 3,000 of the population. The approximate site for such a house, to give it adequate amenities such as a bowling green, is somewhere between 1 acre and 1½ acres. This may be compared with the sites of public houses in many of our existing towns, which are less than one-eighth of an acre.

## TUC

## Resolutions

At the Trades Union Congress, held in Southport from September 6 to 10, two resolutions submitted by the ABT were adopted by the Congress. The first concerned the Essential Works Order and the second Post-War Building.

Speaking on the Essential Works Order, the Association delegate, Mrs. E. V. Penn, Acting General Secretary, urged that the term "serious misconduct" should be more precisely defined in order to prevent its unjustifiable use. It is clear, she said, that employers often avail themselves in an entirely frivolous way of the clause allowing them to dismiss without permission of the National Service Officer in cases of serious misconduct. Employees have been dismissed merely because they were disliked. In one instance I represented at a tribunal a man dismissed under this clause when the evidence against him turned out to be not of misconduct but of inefficiency. On pointing this out the Chairman indicated that such use of the term was normal.

Other points in the resolutions were that decisions of Appeal Boards should be made known to appellants, and their unions and that the Minister of Labour should have power to enforce payment of salaries to the date on which permission for dismissal was given or the date of termination of notice, whichever was the later.

The second ABT resolution, which was passed unanimously, was as follows: "That this

Congress, believing that the building industry must be developed as a social service, and that the great problems and tasks of post-war building must be dealt with in the interests of the people and not as a source of profit for vested interests, instructs the General Council to press the Government to declare that housing, schools and essential social services will receive the major allocation of resources in the post-war building programme and to prepare legislation forthwith to implement the Barlow, Scott and Uthwatt Reports."

In preparing the resolution, Mrs. Penn said that every family should have a house or flat that is well built, of adequate floor area, at a reasonable rent, within easy reach of work, accessible to schools, shops, communal centres and nurseries, and surrounded by sufficient open space. Houses must be properly equipped so that they are no longer sweat shops for housewives, and they must be built within the framework of correct town and country planning. In the post-war period we must be alert to see that housing, schools and essential services are dealt with before luxury building is permitted. We must ensure that the interests of the community as a whole are served and that building is carried out for the people of the country and not for the profit of banks, building societies, landowners or monopolists in building materials.

Speed is essential. Our men and women in the forces, those who have been bombed out or transferred, are not going to be satisfied to wait eight, ten or fifteen years for a home. The Government should declare both a long-term and a short-term programme, dabbling in one-year plans is not good enough.

Houses are needed at rents the working class can afford. Can we tolerate the position where 20 to 30 per cent. of the income of the average working class family goes in rent? The Beveridge Report estimated that this percentage rises to 35 per cent. for the poorest families. Rents could be kept down if costs were dealt with drastically.

We can get what we want, she concluded, if costs are properly considered; if building technique is rationalised; if the land question is dealt with in a realistic way; and if local authorities are soon informed of the powers they will have to site houses and acquire land.

## IH

### D. E. E. Gibson

September 24, Mr. D. E. E. Gibson, A.R.I.B.A., City Architect, Coventry, at the Annual Conference of the Institute of Housing at Friends' House, Euston Road, N.W.

**D. E. E. Gibson:** It is a great fortune that there is such general interest in the question of houses. Yet even with such general interest it is likely that many of the faults which occurred in the past may carry on into the future, and we must therefore try to rectify anything that was wrong in the past. You will agree that this country has a marvellous heritage in good housing, good planning and good design in the past. Places like Edinburgh, the London squares, the Georgian towns of Bath, Cheltenham, the smaller market towns and villages like Bibury, are patterns of good planning which we can very well pick out, leaving the bad examples. One of the chief reasons for the good planning is that the work was done by people who thought seriously about what they were doing. The London squares, Bath and so on, are the products of intelligent people—big landowners employing good technicians to do the job for them.

Unfortunately these good examples did not provide the lead we had hoped for between the wars and we find that although there are good examples—Letchworth, Bournville, etc., where people are trying to do the job very well—a dull monotony has been achieved. Among

the bad things is ribbon development which has meant that instead of big landowners dealing with the thing in a comprehensive way, the land has been split up in small ownerships—a man trying to do the best for himself but not at all concerned with what his neighbour was doing and no one co-ordinating; such was the development that it produced bad roads, dangerous for traffic and for children.

As regards housing it is almost universal in this country now to have Queen Anne fronts and Mary Anne backs and sides, covered with plaster to hide the inferior brickwork. We do not find this so much with houses built by a Council as with the houses built by private enterprise. This is one of the things which I think we should try to overcome.

After the last war, when people were considering problems most seriously, there were attempts to use prefabrication and mass-production methods in housing, and we had the example of the Weir houses which did not succeed. I think that this was unfortunate because it set back the building industry so badly. Why did not the experiment succeed? One reason, I think—and it is a reason we are meeting again at the present time—is that in promoting that type of house we were trying to sell one commodity, and if we tried to design houses to use something, we found we were putting a particular material in places where it might not be quite suitable to use that material. That is one fallacy I feel we will have to try to guard against—the designing of houses to suit a product. The Weir house was too cold in winter and too hot in summer and it was costly in maintenance and painting.

Since that experiment, however, we have had many years of building research and the work which the Building Research Station has done in 20 years should enable designers to overcome most of the difficulties which have happened in the past. I am hopeful that we will not again fail in our task in this country. It might appear from what I say that things are very unsatisfactory in housing in general, but we have to remember that, looking at the housing programme that has been done and comparing it with what has been done in other countries, it is a very fine achievement. The points I have made are criticisms which I think are justified. We must avoid repeating the mistakes which have been made because housing could have been so much better. Why did those mistakes happen? One reason, I think, was that it was regarded chiefly from the point of view of "Will it pay?"

During the war there has been five years cessation of building which in my own city of Coventry means 4,500 houses a year—over 20,000 houses. We were already short of houses before the war. If we think of that in terms of house maintenance, of house property and other property which has been neglected, we will realise that there will be a big drain on our resources, which will be aggravated by the splitting up of the population into more families—people getting married, and so on, and at the same time as we know we need houses, we shall also need new shops and other buildings in many towns. The Government's talking of a later school-leaving age. This will mean a heavy demand for extra classrooms, new health services will mean new clinics. As well as slums, houses will be cleared which, though not technically slums, do not come up to improved housing standards. Probably after this war there will be some conflict of interest in Europe. Hamburg, Rotterdam, Warsaw will have their serious rebuilding problems, and although most of the building in this country is done with British materials, there are certain things—timber and so on and shipping space—which may affect the situation in the first year or so after the war. All these matters, multiplied together, form a really vast problem and in my opinion it is wrong to take any one line. We shall have to try them all together.

In Coventry it is useless to try to provide more houses until there are more shops. The two matters must go on together. Where are

we going to put the new houses? In many cities the total programme amounts to something like a third of the number of houses we already have, and it is obvious from the official reports that some of the cities will be faced with tremendous problems. I hope, however, they will get the proper answers.

With regard to the question: flats or houses? I think that to anyone who seriously thinks about the problem there is only one answer. We must have both for the people who need them. I believe that no family which has children should have to live in a flat. We should all have a house and a garden. I think that most married people, even if they have no children, would prefer a house and a garden, but 17 per cent. of them would like a service flat, and such service flats I would like to see built with a ground floor library, stocked with books from the city library, a common room, dining-room; upstairs they could have their own sitting-rooms, with kitchen range or gas stove and so on. With such buildings grouped together we could afford to have proper tennis courts, swimming baths and one or two shops. I do not think we should have all the houses together or all the flats together. I would like to see them mixed because it is wrong to have one type of person living in one neighbourhood. I would like to see in the same neighbourhood provision for old people in proper homes, provision for orphan children and so on.

In the matter of services we now have a chance which we never had before of employing new methods of services because our technicians have done so much in recent years.

Considering the questions of costs, I think that so far housing has generally been limited by cost, and the size of the house and the cost of the house are roughly in proportion, but by means of prefabrication the addition of one extra 3 ft. bay involves little labour, and better planned houses and bigger houses will be possible with a proportionate increase in cost. Mass-production of refrigeration, plumbing units, kitchen equipment, and so on, to some standard type, will again make possible all sorts of equipment which up to the present has been considered too expensive for normal housing.

## EJMA

### New Members

At a meeting of the Council of The English Joinery Manufacturers' Association (Incorporated), on September 16, the following firms were elected members: Alfred Lockhart, Ltd., Ferry Lane, Brentford, Middlesex; Foundry Services Ltd., incorporating W. H. Ferris & Co., 91, Waterfall Lane, Old Hill, Staffs.; Emanuel Whittaker Ltd., Rochdale Road Sawmills, Oldham; T. Sanderson & Sons, 135A, Ella Street, Hull; Hibberd Bros. (1929) Ltd., 66, Meadow Road, South Lambeth, S.W.8; Knowles & Cockerill Ltd., Hollowgate, Rotherham, Yorkshire; E. R. Evans & Bros. Ltd., 6, Gwennyth Street, Cathay's, Cardiff; Hide & Co. (Blackpool) Ltd., Stony Hill Sawmills, Squires Gate, Lytham St. Annes, Lancs.; Dunhill Bros., Bridge Works, Selby Road, Leeds, 9; Robert Hall & Co. (Kent) Ltd., Paddock Wood, Kent.

## NSAS

### Plan for Clean Air

Under this title the National Smoke Abatement Society has published an outline of the case for smoke prevention in the popular form of a "quiz" of twenty questions and answers. Starting with the questioner asking, "Is a plan really necessary?" and "How important is the problem?" the pamphlet describes the basis of smoke prevention to-day, and point by point shows the steps to be taken



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starting with the prevention of smoke from all the new buildings and houses to be built after the war. If all post-war building is smokeless, as the Society maintains is now possible, the task will then resolve itself into the progressive elimination of smoke from existing sources.

This the Society proposes should be done by first of all setting up smokeless zones for the central or other suitable areas of our towns, and then, when conditions make a start opportune, gradually extending these initial zones until, after a given period—ten years is considered appropriate—the whole town is freed from smoke. "A plan for smoke prevention," says the answer to one question, "dovetails into the fuel policy required by the nation and is a link between the three major national problems of fuel, health and town planning." Those concerned with planning are reminded that "The ceaseless fall of smoke-dirt degrades environment, robs our towns of much of the amenity they might enjoy, and is one of the principal causes of urban squalor. Reconstruction and town-planning measures that fail to take this factor into account can never fully achieve their goal."

The pamphlet may be obtained direct from the Society, at its temporary wartime address, 94, Manor Green Road, Epsom, Surrey, single copies 2d. each, post free.

## RIBA

### Probationers

The following reminder has been issued by the RIBA to its members: In accordance with the Interim Report of the RIBA Special Committee on Architectural Education, published in the JOURNAL of March, 1942, candidates who have not yet started their archi-

tectural training will not be enrolled as Probationers unless they have passed one of the specified qualifying examinations. A list of these can be obtained on application to the Secretary.

Candidates who have commenced their architectural careers will be allowed to make special applications up to the end of March, 1946. This does not mean, however, that a high standard of general education will not be insisted upon. All such candidates are required to be interviewed by one of the heads of the recognised schools of architecture, and they will not be accepted unless their general education approximates closely to the standard of the school certificate or equivalent examination.

It is most important that members should not take boys or girls into their offices unless they possess one of the qualifications laid down, but if they have done so, the pupils should be warned that it will be essential for them to obtain one of the recognised qualifications if they wish eventually to become members of the RIBA, or to be admitted to the examinations which are a qualification for admission to the Register.

## BUILDINGS ILLUSTRATED

### EXPERIMENTAL HOUSING, COVENTRY

—The City Architect would, on behalf of his Department, like to make it quite clear that much of the work on the City of Coventry experimental houses would have been of less value had it not been for the co-operation and technical assistance afforded by the following companies:—Radiation, Ltd.; Frederick Braby & Co.; Electrolux Ltd.; Enfield Cable Works & Rolling Mills; B. Finch & Co., Ltd.; Fisher & Ludlow, Ltd.; James Gibbons & Co.; Hitchins Flush Woodwork, Ltd.; Henry Hope, Ltd.; Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd.; Peerless Built-in Furniture,

Ltd.; Stewart & Lloyds, Ltd.; Troughton & Young, Ltd.; Turners Asbestos Cement Co., Ltd.; F. P. Waltho, Ltd.; and lastly, a personal acknowledgment to Mr. Edric Neel, M.A., A.R.I.B.A., A.M.T.P.I., and his associates in ARCON.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

The President in a circular to the members of Building Industry Distributors, states that Mr. S. Neve has resigned his position as joint general secretary and that his resignation has been accepted, with regret, by the Council at a special meeting. Mr. P. Foddering has now been appointed general secretary, and Mr. S. R. Stooke, assistant secretary, whilst Mr. E. A. Batchelor remains financial secretary. All correspondence should in future be addressed to the association at High Holborn House, 52-54, High Holborn, London, W.C.1. Telephone, Chancery 7772-7.

At an extraordinary general meeting of Taylor Woodrow Estates, Ltd., a resolution was passed changing the name of the company to Taylor Woodrow, Ltd. Mr. F. Taylor, the chairman, referred to the extension of the contracting and civil engineering side of the business and said that the company is now operating in several commercial spheres. It was felt, therefore, that the word Estates was a misnomer, and permission had been sought and obtained to delete the word Estates from the company's name. Further, having regard to the extended scope of the company's activities it was felt that the number of directors, at present limited to seven, should be increased, and a further resolution was adopted, substituting the following Article for Article 78 of the Articles of Association:—"Unless and until the company in general meeting shall otherwise determine, the number of directors shall be not less than three nor more than ten."



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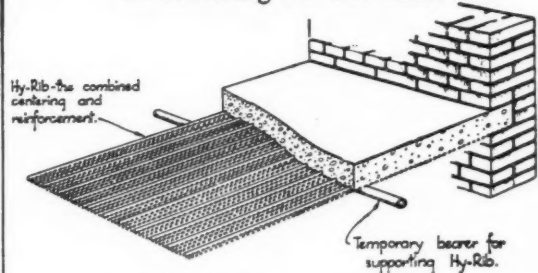
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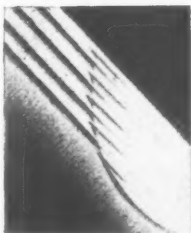
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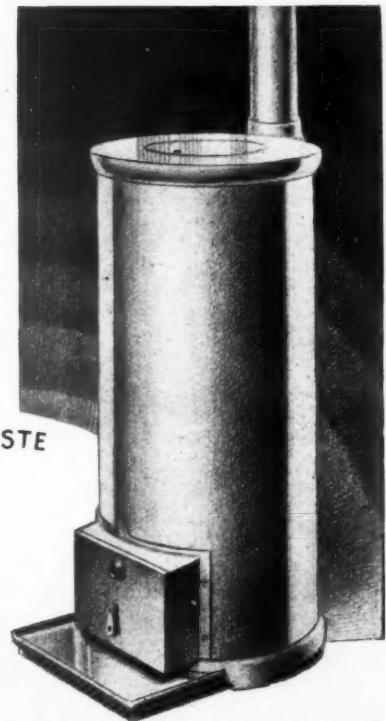
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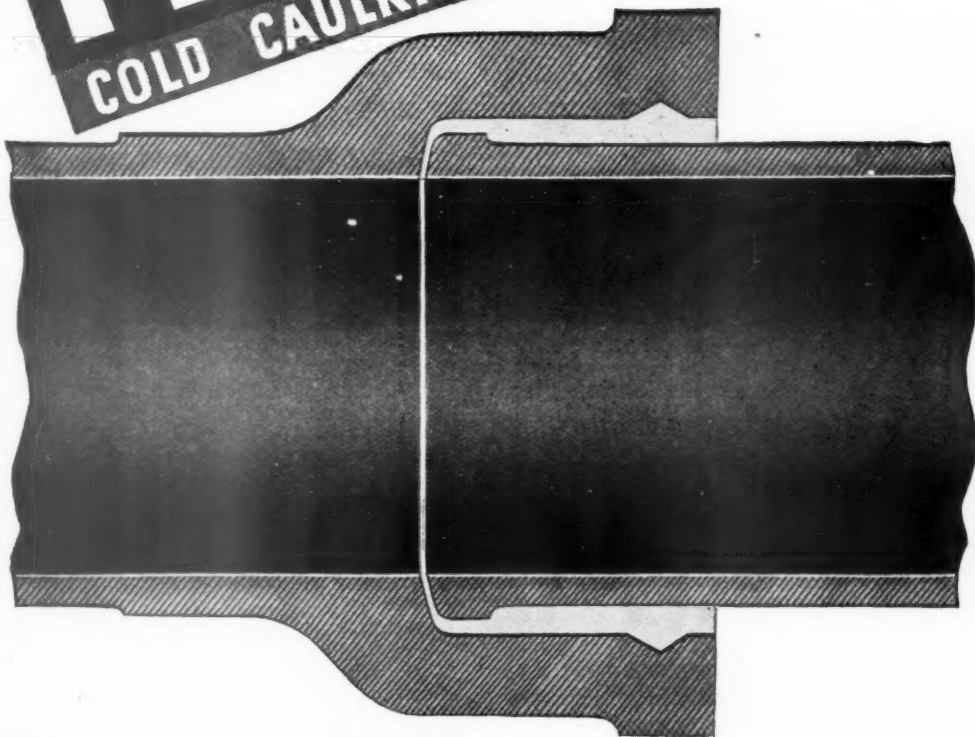
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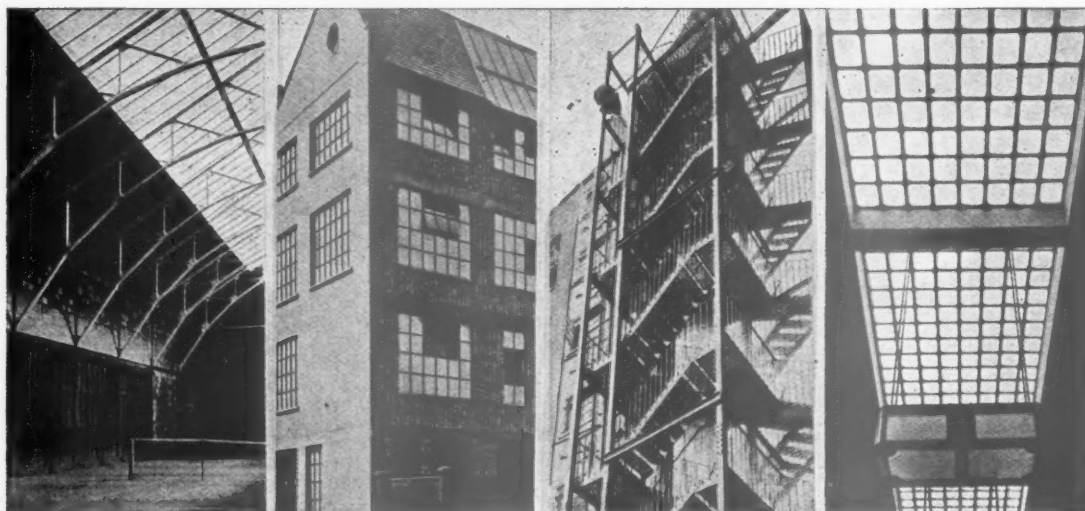
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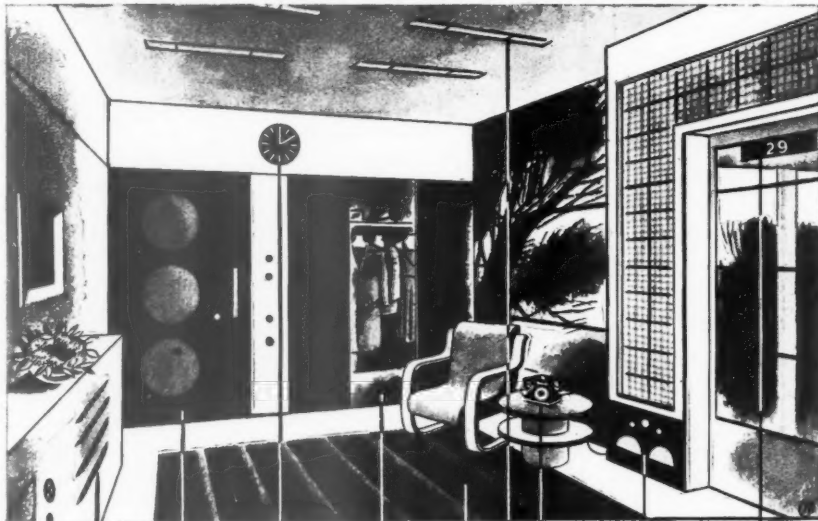
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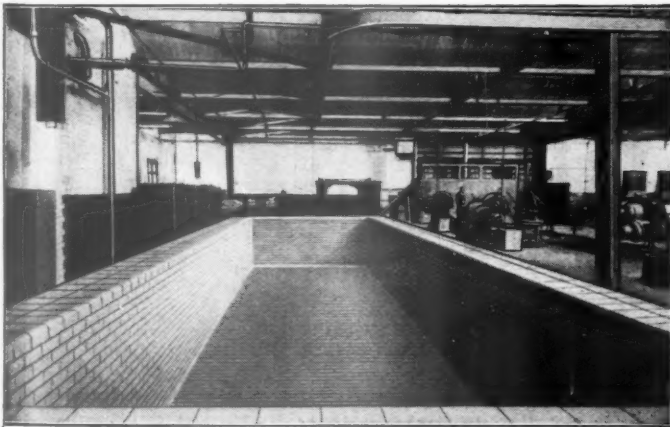
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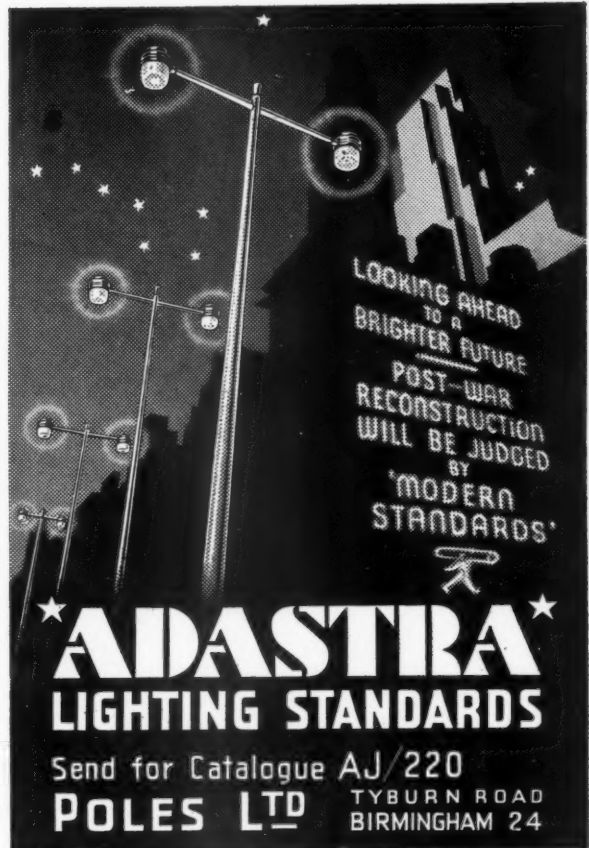
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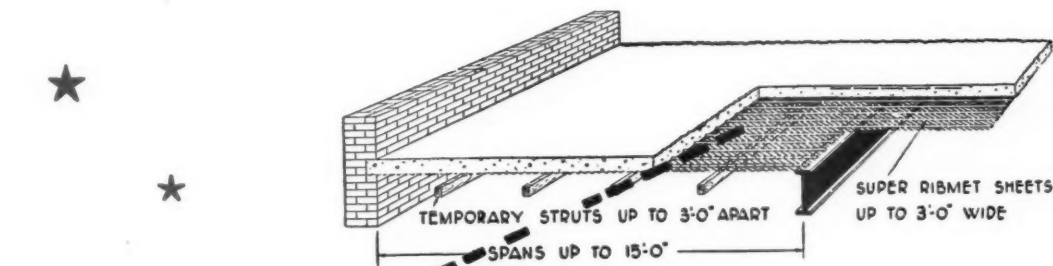
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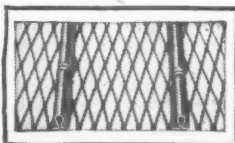
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D. J. PARRY,

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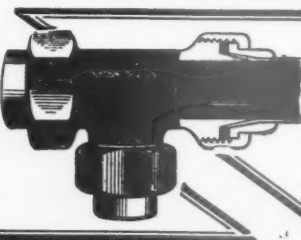
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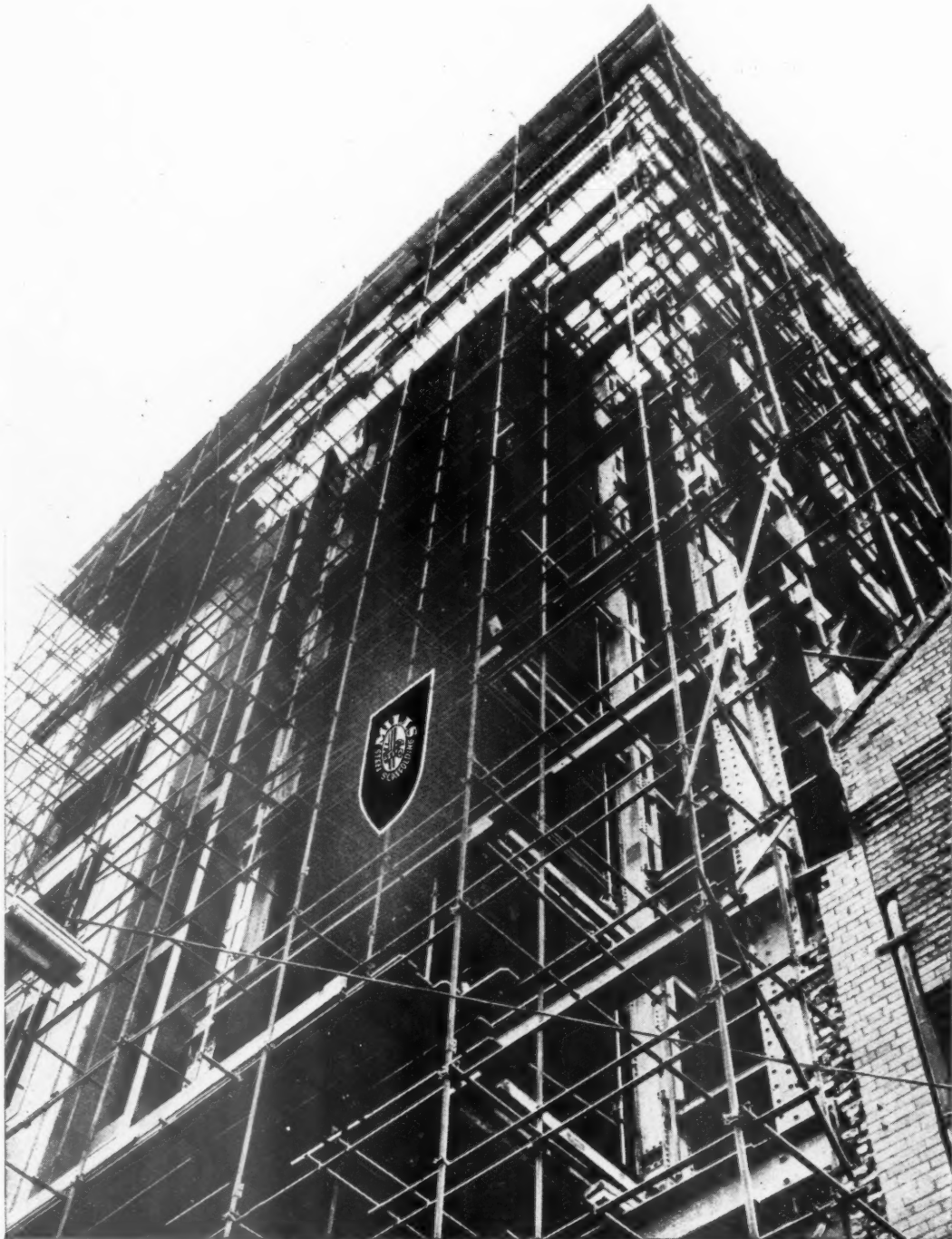


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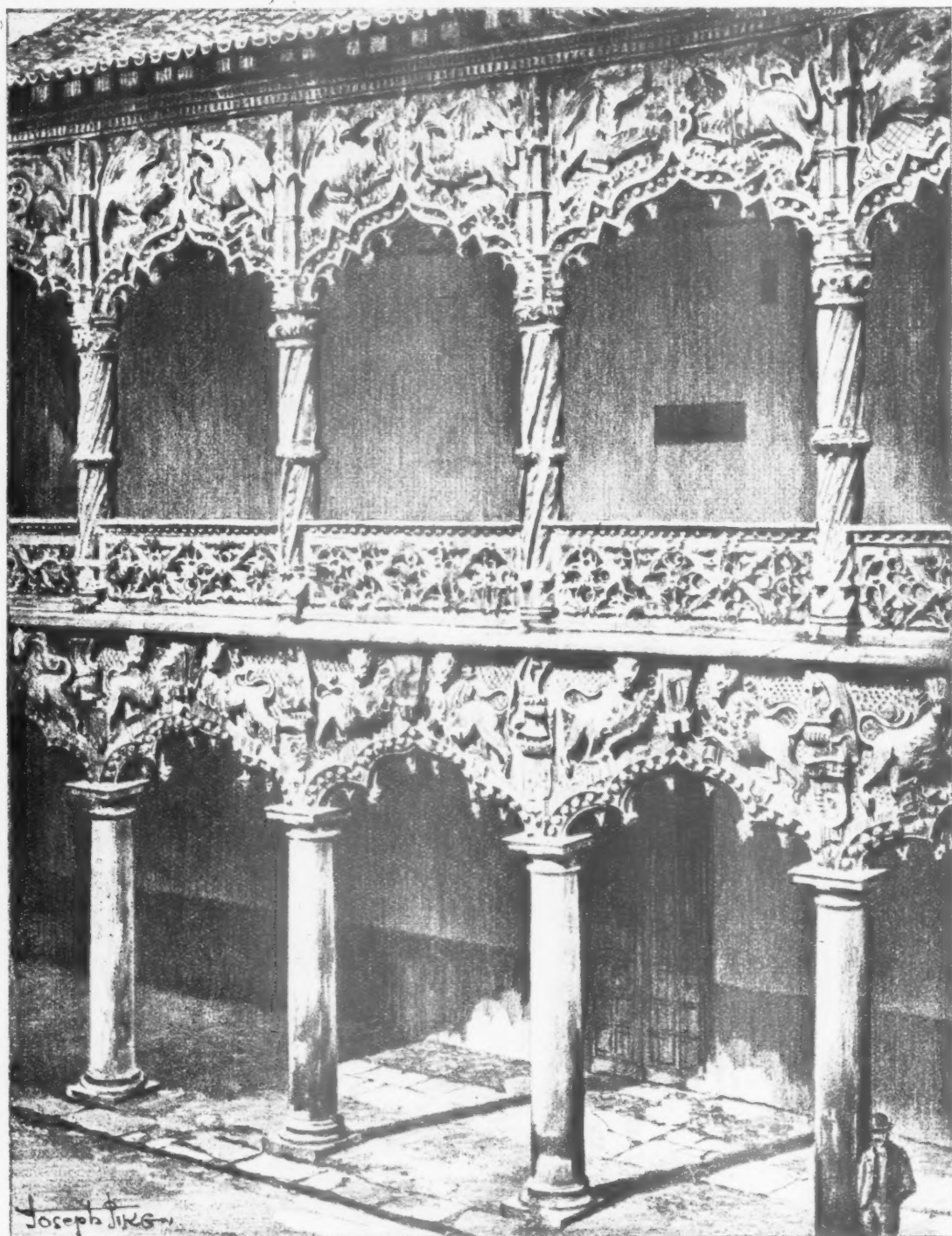
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