

THE ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL



standard contents

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

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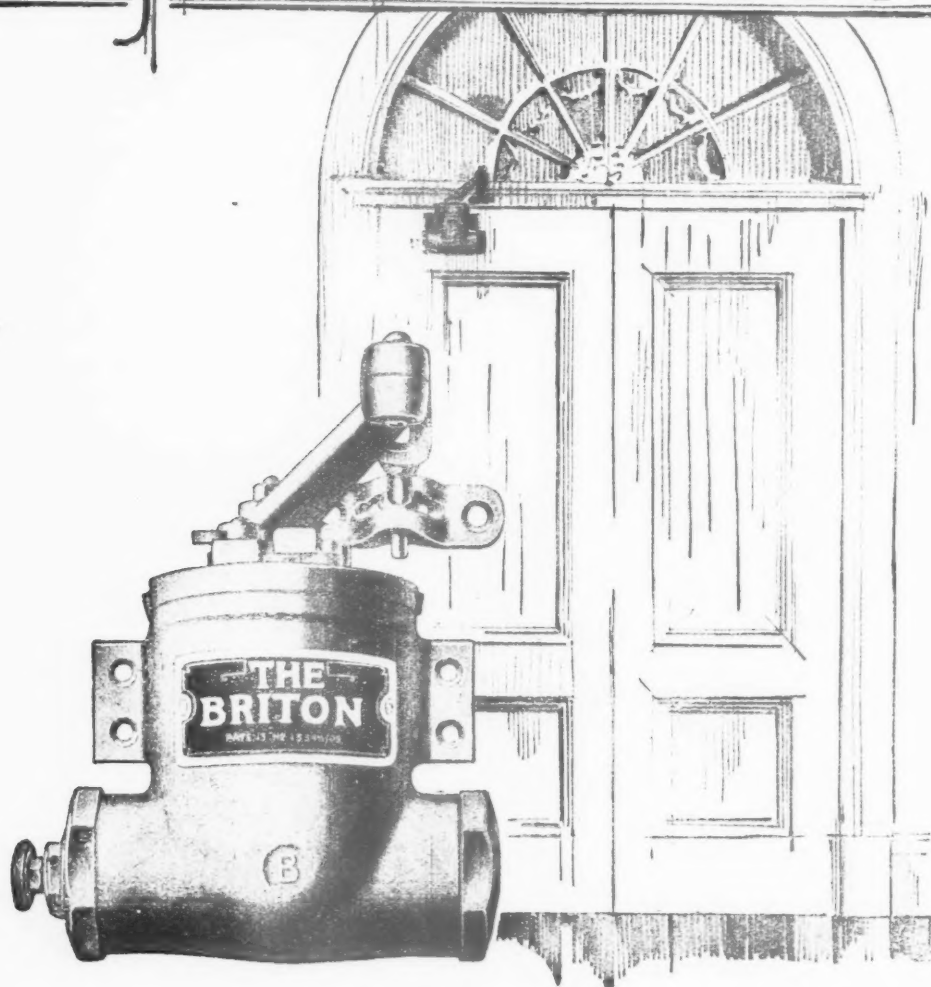
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★ The war has both multiplied the number of Official Departments and encouraged Societies and Committees of all kinds to become more vocal. The result is a growing output of official and group propaganda. A glossary of abbreviations is now provided 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.
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.
CCA	Cement and Concrete Association. 52, Grosvenor Gardens, S.W.1.	Sloane 5255.
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.	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, W.C.2.	Temple Bar 7676.
IOB	Institute of Builders. 48, Bedford Square, W.C.1.	Museum 7197.
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.1.	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.	Whitehall 8411.
MOW	Ministry of Works. Lambeth Bridge House, S.E.1.	Reliance 7611.
NBR	National Buildings Record. 66, Portland Place, W.1.	Welbeck 1881.
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.
RIBA	Royal Institute of British Architects. 66, Portland Place, W.1.	Welbeck 5721.
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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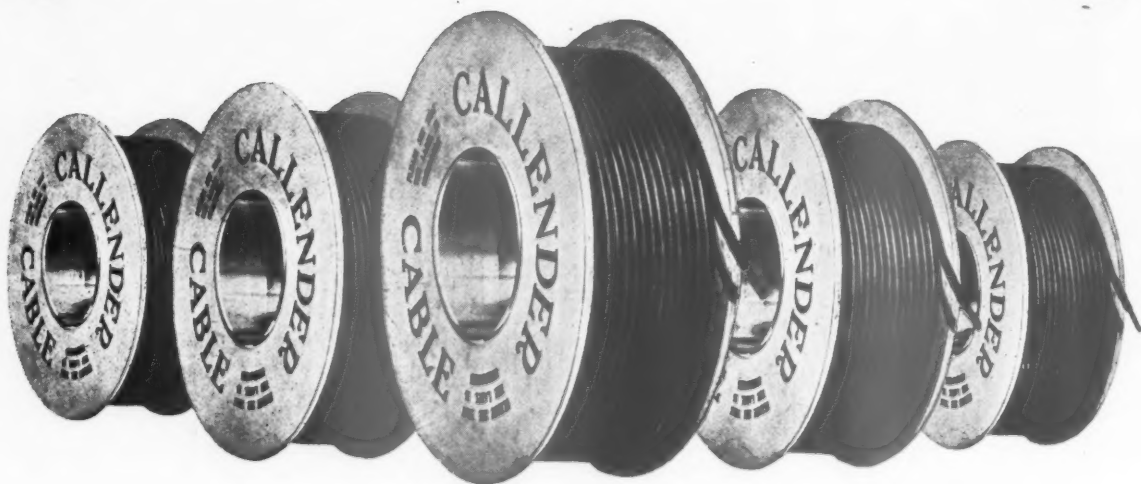
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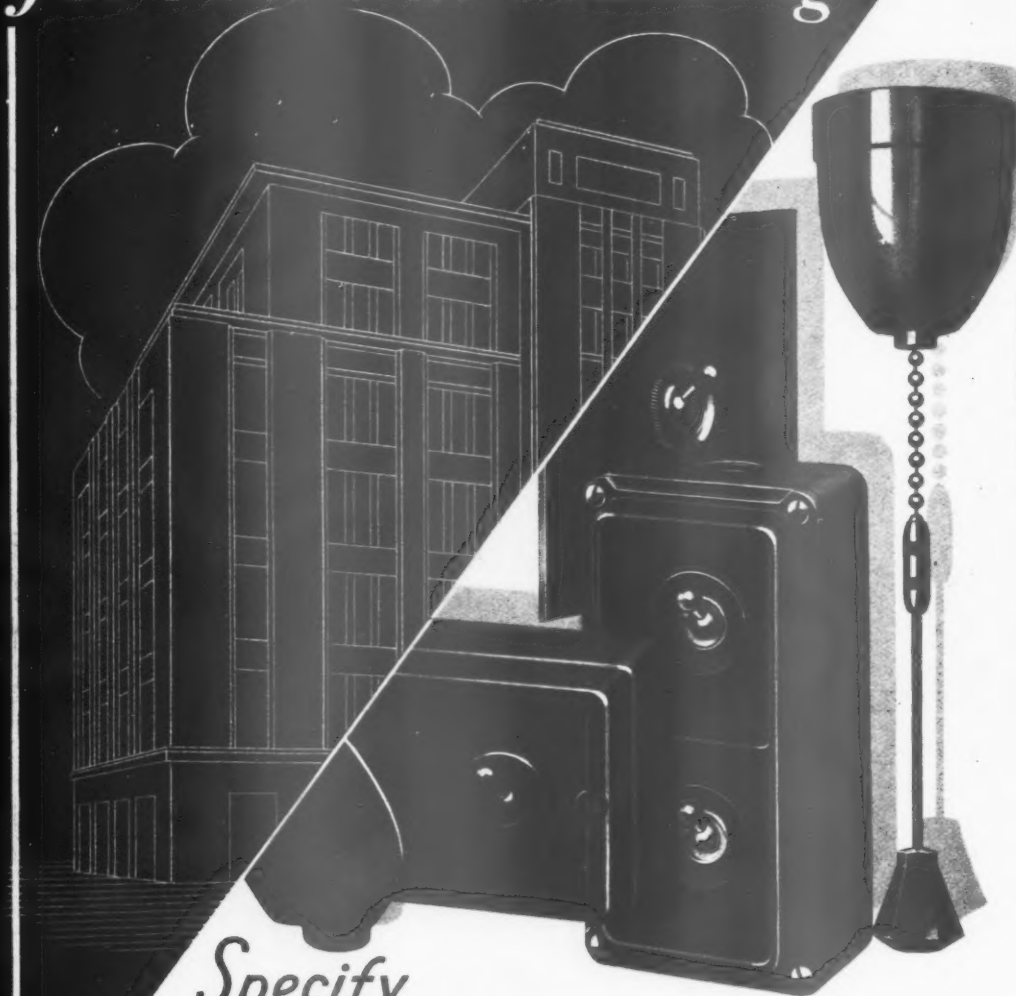
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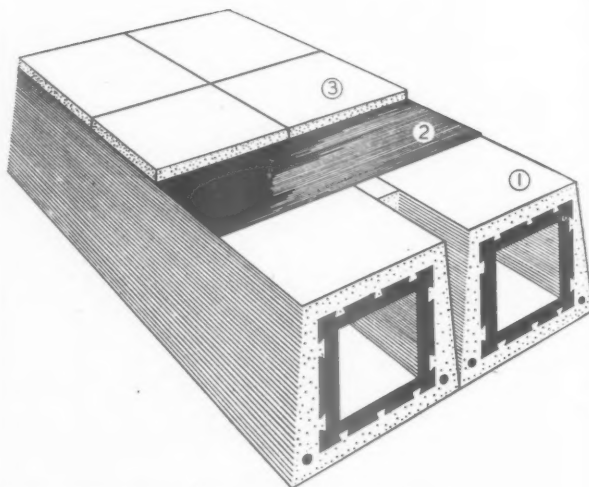
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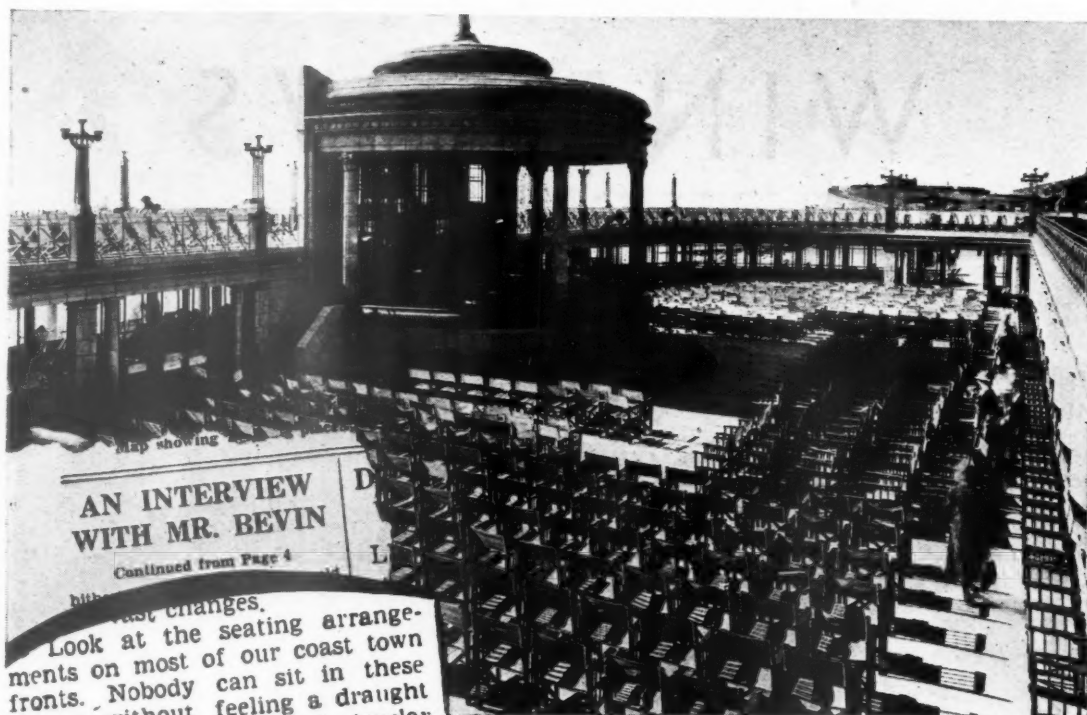
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Mr. Ernest Bevin discussing the Post-war workers Holiday comfort!



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...

I would like to see more 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...

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?

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Extract from Sunday Times, May 30th, 1943

O.S. 25

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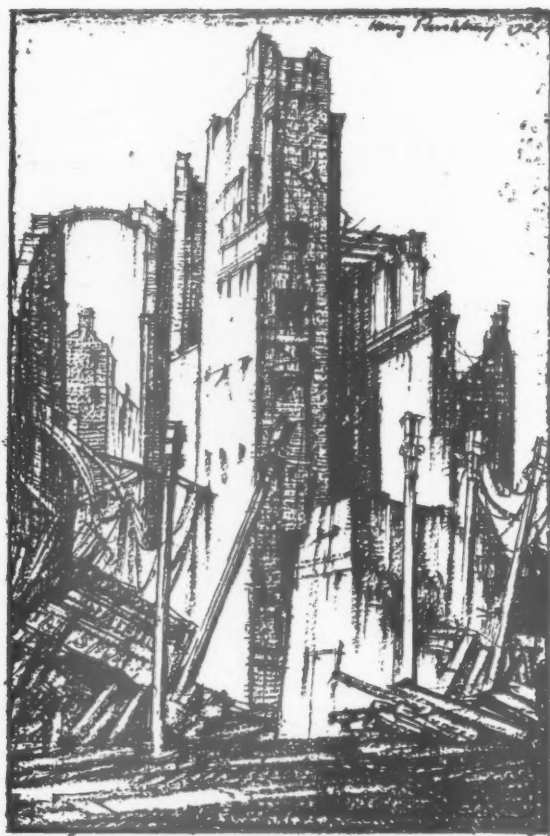
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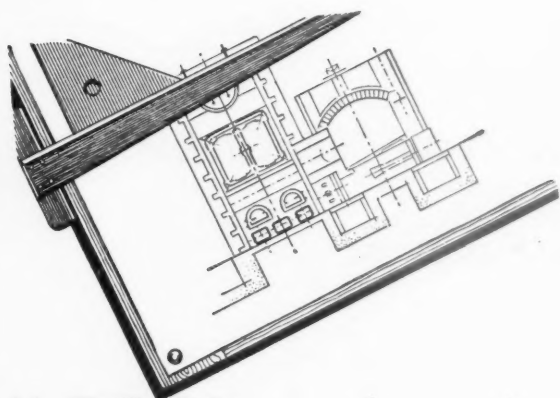
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View of interior. "COPPERAD" Unit Heaters are located behind the grilles in the walls.

Architect:
Leslie Grahame-Thomson,
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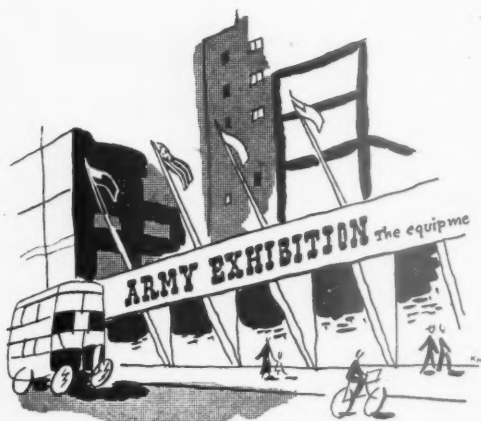
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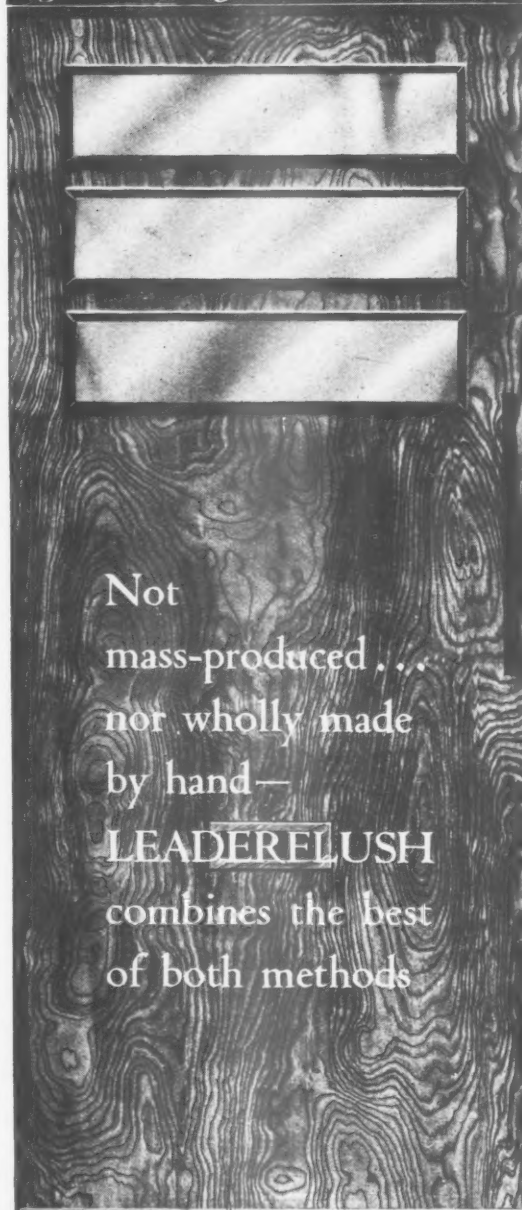
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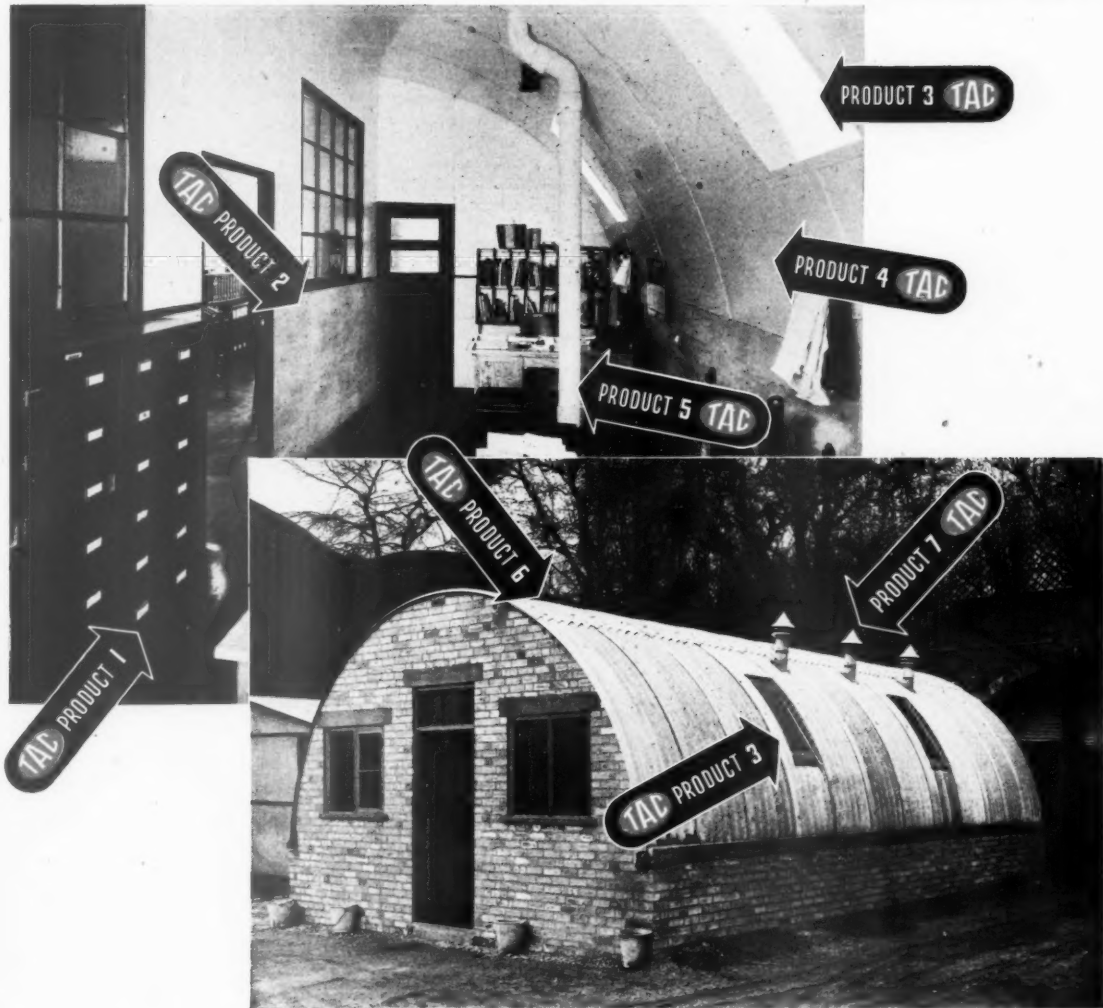
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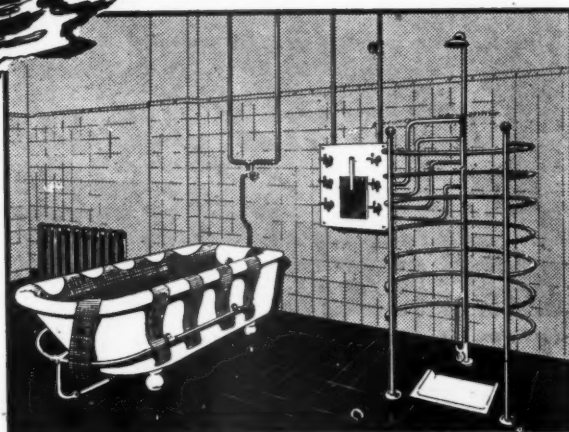
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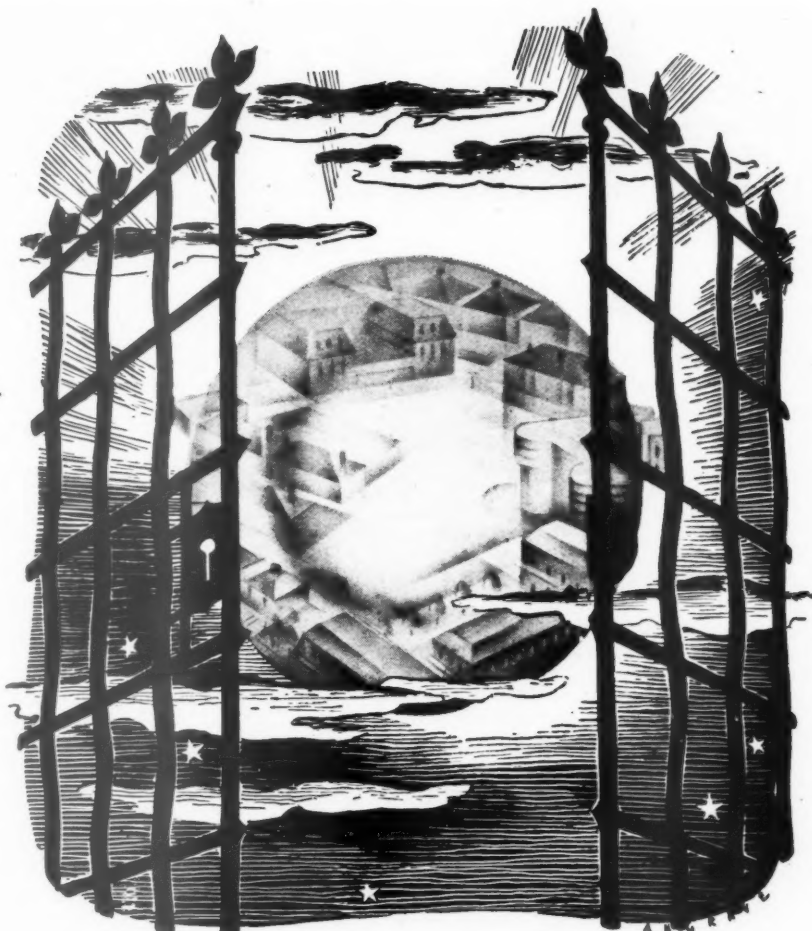
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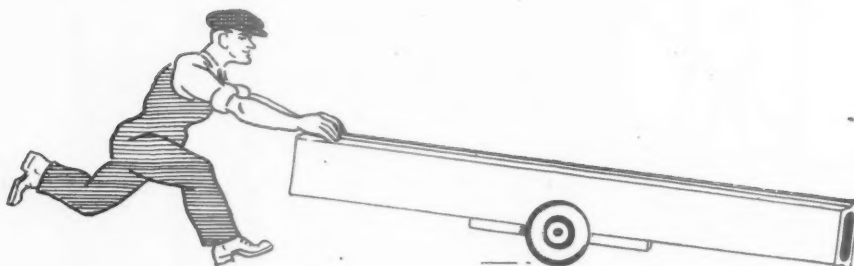
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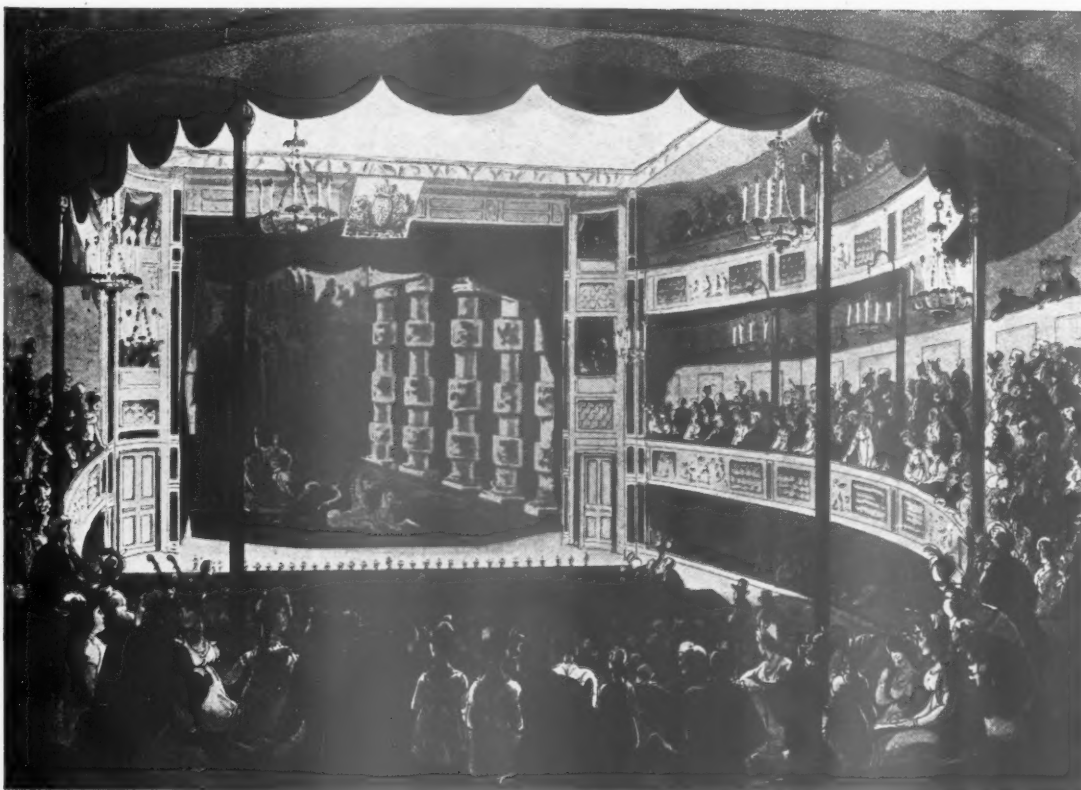


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In the year 1684, workmen digging in the grounds of Mr. Sadler at Clerkenwell discovered a well. The well was identified as that belonging to the Priory of Clerkenwell, and the water was known to have remarkable powers. Soon, hundreds of patrons came regularly to take the waters, and amusement was provided. This was the beginning. It was 80 years, however, before a real theatre was built — in 1765 to be precise, when a builder named Rosoman raised a new structure at a cost of £4,225. Portions of this theatre have been incorporated

for Steelwork in theatres of the future

in the present building which was opened in 1931. Designers introduced sensational effects in 1804 when nautical dramas were being featured. A great tank was built beneath the stage, fed by the New River which flowed nearby. Vessels floated across the stage, and it is easy to imagine the reality given to the story when a heroine could fall overboard with a genuine splash and her lover could plunge in after her and make much of the rescue scene. The "Wells", and its tank 90 feet by 24 feet by 5 feet deep, indeed became the talk of the town.

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Q This advertisement is one of a series which briefly traces, from earliest times, the structural development of the theatre and places of entertainment, according to the "fashion" and requirements of the entertainment demanded.

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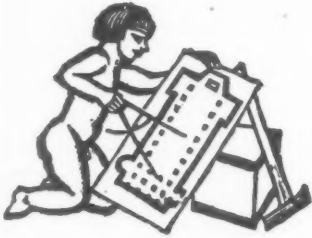
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In common with every other periodical this JOURNAL is rationed to a small part of its peacetime needs of paper. Thus a balance has to be struck between circulation and number of pages. We regret that unless a reader is a subscriber we cannot guarantee that he will get a copy of the JOURNAL. Newsagents now cannot supply the JOURNAL except to a "firm order." Subscription rates: by post in the U.K. or abroad, £1 15s. Od. per annum. Single copies, 9d.; post free, 11d. Special numbers are included in subscription; single copies, 1s. 6d.; post free, 1s. 9d. Back numbers more than 12 months old (when available), double price. Volumes can be bound complete with index, in cloth cases, for 15s. each; carriage 1s. extra. Goods advertised in the JOURNAL, and made of raw materials now in short supply, are not necessarily available for export.



DIARY FOR 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.

BATH. J. Owens. *Some Aspects of the Post-War Housing Problem.* At the Pump Room, Bath. 10.15 a.m. (Sponsor, Royal Sanitary Institute) Nov. 6

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

DUNDEE. *Rebuilding Britain Exhibition.* At the School of Architecture, Dundee College of Art. Nov. 8 to 22

EXETER. *Rebuilding Britain Exhibition.* (Sponsor, RIBA.) Nov. 4 to 8

KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES. *Exhibition of Nursery Schools and War-time Nursery Work.* At Bentall's Store. The exhibition has been organized by the Nursery School Association of Great Britain (Kingston Branch) in co-operation with Mr. Gerald C. Bentall. The aim is to give as complete a picture as possible of all forms of nursery activity. Films of nursery life will be shown, and each afternoon addresses will be given by experts on various aspects of child welfare. Photographs cover every phase of nursery activity. Nursery furniture and equipment, toys and models are also on view. Nursery material loaned by the Board of Education and the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Information has assisted on the pictorial side. Lady Astor, M.P., will open the exhibition at 3 p.m. on Nov. 4. Nov. 4 to 13

LONDON. *AA Members' Sketches Exhibition* (including a section for photographs) completed since the outbreak of war. At 34-36, Bedford Square, W.C.1. Nov. 4 to 5

East Suffolk Reconstruction Survey. Exhibition. At 13, Suffolk Street, S.W.1. (Sponsor, HC.) Nov. 4 to 6

Prefabrication and Kindred Problems. The Westminster Branch of the ABT has arranged a further series of four lectures on new building technique. The lectures will be given at 6.30 p.m. on the following dates, at the Alliance Hall, Palmer Street, Westminster, S.W.1. November 5: *Building Plant and Machinery.* November 12: *Aluminium and the Light Alloys.* November 19: *Governmental Work on New Building Techniques.* November 26: *Some Problems of Prefabrication.* Enrolment fee, 5/- for the series; 2/- for single lectures. 50 per cent. reduction for members of the ABT, and for members of trade unions affiliated to the NFBTO. In view of the limited accommodation, early application is advised, and should be made to the Branch Secretary, David Morrison, 3A, Heathway Court, Finchley Road, London, N.W.3. A series of booklets based on the first series of lectures is now in preparation. These will be

published shortly, complete with additional information, illustrations and bibliographies. Nov. 5—26

Contemporary British Water Colours and Drawings. Exhibition at Geoffrey Museum, Kingsland Road, E.2. Open daily, except Sundays and Mondays, from 10 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Nov. 4 to 13

LCC County of London Plan and Paintings by Firemen Artists. Exhibitions. At the Royal Academy, Burlington House, W.1 (Sponsor, RA.) Nov. 5—DEC. 4

Walter O. Hudson. *Architects' Registration Acts, 1931-38.* At 29, Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C.2. (Sponsor, Institute of Registered Architects.) 2.15 p.m. Nov. 20

W. A. Robertson. *Timber: The New Outlook.* At Royal Society of Arts, John Adam Street, W.C.2. 1.45 p.m. Nov. 22

H. A. Cox. *Timber, Uses New and Old.* At Royal Society of Arts, John Adam Street, W.C.2. 1.45 p.m. Nov. 29

W. A. Robertson. *Timber, the Minor Products.* At Royal Society of Arts, John Adam Street, W.C.2. 1.45 p.m. DEC. 6

Motorways for Britain Exhibition. At 22, Lower Regent Street, W.1. (Sponsor, British Road Federation.) DEC. 9-24

Marc Peter, Jnr. *Developments in American Small House Construction.* At 36, Bedford Square, W.C.1. 6 p.m. (Sponsor, AA) Nov. 9

J. H. Forshaw, Architect to the London County Council. *Town Planning and Health.* At Royal Sanitary Institute, 90, Buckingham Palace Road, S.W.1. (Sponsor, Chadwick Trust), 2.30 p.m. Nov. 11

Charles Gandy. *Town Planning and Clean Air.* At 1, Grosvenor Place, S.W.1. (Sponsor, TCPA.) Nov. 25

Film Evening. Films selected by Paul Rotha, who will give an informal talk. At 34-36, Bedford Square, W.C.1. 6 p.m. (Sponsor AA.) DEC. 14

MANCHESTER. S. Bunton. *Plastics and Housing.* At the Engineers' Club, Albert Square, Manchester. (Sponsor, North-Western Section of the Institute of the Plastics Industry.) 2 p.m. Nov. 6

SWANSEA. *Rebuilding Britain Exhibition.* (Sponsor, RIBA.) Nov. 20 to DEC. 11

WINCHESTER. *Your Inheritance Exhibition.* (Sponsor, HC.) Nov. 4 to 7

YORK. *TCPA Conference.* Speakers: The Archbishop of York and Major C. W. C. Needham. Nov. 13

NEWS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1943
No. 2545. 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 unstarring items which are often no less important.

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

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

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

★
A hint that LAND BUYERS WILL NOT UPSET PLANNING was given by Mr. W. S. Morrison, Minister of TCP at Manchester.

He said: I do not think planning will be thwarted by people buying up large plots of land on the assumption that they will rise in value after the war. I have in mind setting apart certain areas in the country as national parks, but at the moment will not say where they will be.

Two orders for the CONTROL OF BRICK PRICES have been issued by MOW.

The Bricks (Range of Prices) No. 1 Order, S.R. & O., 1943, No. 1457 (H.M.S.O., 6d.) applies to building bricks manufactured in any part of the United Kingdom except Northern Ireland and the Northern Area of England (comprising Northumberland, Durham and the northern part of the North Riding of Yorkshire). It provides for a range of prices "at works" and "delivered" for each type of common brick (stiff-plastic, wire-cut, stock, Fletton, sand-lime, etc.) in each district of manufacture. The basis of these prices is set out in two schedules to the Order. The Bricks (Range of Prices) No. 2 Order, S.R. & O. 1943, No. 1478 (H.M.S.O., 3d.) prescribes ranges of "at works" and "delivered" prices for bricks produced in the counties of Northumberland and Durham and the Northern part of the North Riding of Yorkshire, the prices being relative to individual manufacturers and not to types of bricks. The Orders came into force on November 1.

"...that Freedom shall not perish from the earth"



It is a sacred duty to give generously in remembrance of all those who fought and suffered in the last war and those who are serving their country in the present struggle for Liberty. Amongst the latter we gratefully acknowledge the courage and sacrifice of our 4,400 employees in H.M. Forces.

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from AN ARCHITECT'S Commonplace Book

APARTMENT HOUSE: 16TH CENTURY. [From The Lives, Heroic Deeds and Sayings of Gargantua and His Son, Pantagruel, by François Rabelais]. There was left onely the Monk to provide for, whom Gargantua would have made Abbot of Seville, but he refused it . . . give me leave (said he) to found an Abby after my oune minde and fancie. . . the Monk then requested Gargantua to institute his religious order contrary to all others. First then (said Gargantua) you must not build a wall about your convent, for all other Abbies are strongly walled and mured about. . . Item, for that the religious men and women did ordinarily make three Vows, to wit, those of chastity, poverty and obedience, it was therefore constituted and appointed, that in this Convent they might be honourably married, that they might be rich, and live at liberty. . . The Architecture was in a figure hexagonal, and in such a fashion, that in every one of the six corners there was built a great round tower of threescore foot in diameter, and were all of a like forme and bigness. . . The whole edifice was every where six stories high . . . and covered above with fine slates, with an endorsement of lead, carrying the antick figures of little puppets, and animals of all sorts notably well suited to one another . . . and guilt, together with the gutters which . . . reached to the very ground, where they ended into great conduit-pipes, which carried all away unto the river from under the house.

★ In the House of Commons Mr. W. S. Morrison, Minister of TCP, said he hopes to receive the GREATER LONDON PLAN IN FEBRUARY.

Substantial progress, he said, has been made in the preparation of the Plan. He added: There are two dangers. One that the plan may be unduly delayed, and the other that it may be founded upon inadequate research and work. I am informed by those conducting the survey that the work has proved heavier than was expected, and they desire to complete it so that the plan will be founded on fact.

An appeal is being launched for £10,000 to endow a SIKORSKI POST-GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP at the Liverpool School of Architecture.

The appeal is being launched by the Merseyside Anglo-Polish Society with the intention of making the scholarship a permanent memorial to the late Gen. Sikorski. The Polish School of Architecture at Liverpool, opened a year ago by Gen. Sikorski, is aiming to produce a band of young, qualified architects who can take part in the rebuilding of their country. It was established within the Liverpool School in 1942 by an agreement between the Government of Poland and the University of Liverpool, with the assistance of the British Council. The existing five-year course of the Liverpool School, together with its provisions for the study of civic design, has been accepted as the basis of the course taken by the Polish students, who are admitted to it at stages appropriate to their previous training and qualifications. Lt.-Col. L. Torun, Civil Eng., STR, is Director of the Polish School.

Three prizes for ESSAYS ON SANITARY SCIENCE and hygiene have been awarded by the Chadwick Trust.

The three prizes, £100, £50 and £25, were offered for the best three essays on architectural, engineering and administrative principles (relative to sanitation and hygiene) which should be observed in the replanning arrangements of war-devastated towns or areas. The Trustees have awarded the prizes as follows:—First Prize (£100): A. F. Russell, A.R.I.B.A., of Wilston Court, S.W.6. Second

Prize (£50): John Brierley, ASSOC.M.INST.C.E., F.G.S., Chief Engineering Assistant, Borough of Sutton and Cheam, Surrey. Third Prize (£25): John Marriott, A.M.INST.M.& C.Y.E., A.M.INST.P.C., M.R.SAN.I., Deputy Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector, Wetherby Rural District Council.

In the House of Commons Captain Strickland asked the Parliamentary Secretary to MOW when the PLANS FOR POST-WAR RING ROADS and arterial roads will be laid before Parliament.

Mr. Noel-Baker: Many plans for the improvement of existing roads and for the construction of new roads have been or are being prepared. They are in varying stages of completion; none of them can be carried out until the war is over, and their completion will, no doubt, be spread over a period of years. Before they are begun they will have to be examined in the light of other decisions about national planning which the Government will have made. It would therefore be premature to publish any general plan for highways at present. Where the sanction of Parliament is required for any given plan the necessary steps to obtain that sanction will be taken by the responsible highway authority.

A resolution passed at a conference on Country Towns in a National Planning Policy held in London, URGED AN IMMEDIATE GOVERNMENT STATEMENT on the Barlow Report.

Resolutions were adopted (1) declaring that the existing country towns present opportunities of development capable of catering for a considerable measure of decentralization of industry, business, and population from over-large towns and congested areas, and of providing better living and working conditions for many people from those areas; (2) supporting the policy outlined in a statement by the executive of the Town and Country Planning Association and urging the Government to make an immediate statement that they adopt in principle the recommendations of the Barlow Report for the decentralization of industry, business, and population from the congested urban areas; (3) nominating an advisory committee of various types of local authorities, and referring to the association's action to advance this policy. The outline of policy referred to developed in detail the proposition that decentralized industry should be grouped preferably in moderate-sized towns capable of providing adequate public services, social amenities, and community life, and that some of the new developments should take the form of additions to country towns not already too large, suitably placed and prepared to welcome further industries or businesses.



On Friday last the Lord Mayor of London, Sir Samuel Joseph (Centre) was the guest of the London Master Builders Association at a luncheon at the Savoy Hotel. On the Lord Mayor's right is Mr. A. V. Alexander, First Lord of the Admiralty, on his left, Mr. H. C. Harland, President of the Association. Other guests included Lord Portal, Mr. W. S. Morrison, Sir Hugh Beaver and Mr. George Hicks.



Newcastle's First Professor of Architecture

King's College School of Architecture, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, University of Durham, has appointed its first Professor of Architecture. He is W. B. Edwards, F.R.I.B.A., M.T.P.I., who has been at the school for the past ten years, first as Master of Architecture, when the school formed part of the Department of Fine Art, and later (1939) as Reader in Architecture, when it became an independent department. A B.Arch., with First Class Honours, of the Liverpool School (1923), he is a Rome Scholarship Finalist (1922), a Jarvis Scholar, British School at Rome (1923), and an R.I.B.A. Athens Bursar (1924). Assistant in various offices in Liverpool, Birmingham and New York, he was for ten years Senior Lecturer and Reader in Architecture at the Victoria University of Manchester and had a private

practice in Manchester and North Wales. For the past ten years he has practised in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, where he designed the new science buildings for King's College and prepared plans for the post-war development of the entire college. Diocesan Surveyor and a member of the Bishop's Advisory Committee for the Newcastle Diocese, his other completed works include churches in Manchester, North Wales and Newcastle, housing schemes in North Wales and a school at Settle, Yorks. A member of the Council of the Northern Architectural Association he is actively concerned with education both at the R.I.B.A. and the T.P.I. Including Newcastle, there are now four English schools of architecture with Professors of Architecture. The others are Liverpool, Bartlett and Manchester.



The War Damage Commission is to PAY FOR WAR DAMAGED AND DESTROYED HOUSES.

In an official statement, the Commission states: The Treasury has given to the War Damage Commission a direction of vital importance to many owners of houses which have been severely damaged, or even destroyed. The effect of the direction is that the Commission will be able to pay, if and when the work is done, the reasonable cost of restoring, or re-building, houses (a cost of works payment) in the two following classes, even where totally destroyed: (1) Any houses built after March 31, 1914. (2) Houses built before March 31, 1914, where the Commission is satisfied that immediately before the war damage the structure was practically as sound as at the date of building and that the design, layout and amenities of the houses were

reasonably equal to those of similar houses built since 1914. The direction also enables the Commission to pay for the reasonable cost of repairs in the following additional categories of houses: (1) Houses (excluding houses condemned under the Housing Acts) where the Commission considers that there was no structural damage (or only minor structural damage). (2) Houses (again excluding condemned houses) where there is some structural damage but the Commission considers it would have been reasonable to reinstate the house in the same form as before the war damage if its condition had been caused by non-war causes (except in those cases where the site value is more than three-quarters of the market value of house and site). The expression house includes flats, tenements, and any properties comprising living accommodation where only the ground floor and basement are used for other purposes, such as shops or business premises. On the other hand it does not include makeshift

buildings. The direction provides that the powers shall not be operated where that course would result in injustice to any person interested in the kind of war damage payment to be made. Owners of property coming within the classes named above who may be considering offers to buy their war-damaged or destroyed houses are advised to consider the possible effect of this direction on their eventual claim to a war-damage payment.

The direction is *not* an authority to do the work concerned, which remains subject to the need to obtain any necessary planning or other consents, and owners are reminded that they must obtain a building licence from MOW if the cost of repair, together with the cost of any other building work carried out on the property during the preceding twelve months, exceeds £100. It should be emphasized that the Commission can only pay a cost of works payment after the works to make good the war damage have actually been carried out.

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★ *Last Thursday, the House of Commons agreed to a motion by Mr. Winston Churchill that a Select Committee be appointed to consider and report upon plans for REBUILDING THE HOUSE OF COMMONS and upon such alterations as may be considered desirable while preserving all its essential features.* Putting the motion to the House of Commons, Mr. Churchill said: "The First Commissioner of Works has submitted a scheme which would enable the old House of Commons to be reconstructed with certain desirable improvements and modernizations affecting the ventilation, Press accommodation, Ladies' Gallery, and other prominent features. This scheme would take only 18 months, but it would be prudent, I think, if we were to double that period. There is no need to commit ourselves to the rate of reconstruction." (See also page 346).

Estimated to cost one and a half million pounds, a TOWN HEATING SCHEME FOR BRISTOL has been submitted to the Public Works Committee of the City Council. It is proposed that the City Council should manage and run it in connection with the electrical undertaking. According to *The Times*, the idea is that of a well-known electrical firm of heating engineers who have worked it out in minute detail. If it is adopted, householders, factories, churches, and hotels will be able to turn on heat as easily as switching on electric light. At present the plan covers only the central commercial area of the city of about 335 acres, but it is capable of extension.

Speaking to civil defence workers on the London County Plan, Lord Latham, leader of the LCC, said, PEOPLE ARE NOT MACHINE TOOLS to be taken up and moved about at will.

He said: Those who go about advocating the dismemberment of London by the removal of 1,500,000 of its people are doing a great disservice to practical planning. The advocates of rehousing Londoners in cottages with gardens are really out of touch with the people who, generally speaking, want to live in London and will not be readily willing to be uprooted and taken out into the void. People are not machine tools to be taken up and moved about at will. They are human beings and they must be treated as such. If the overcrowded areas of London are to be opened up to light and air, density reduced, and open spaces provided, then some now living under unsatisfactory conditions can only be rehoused outside London. He could not support a policy which would mean more of the people being taken out of London than is necessary for the provision of decent, healthy, and comfortable dwellings for those who remain in London. Any contrary policy will evoke strong opposition from the people. London is London. It is immense, maybe too immense, but it is here, a living, vital human fact, and any unreasonable attempt forcibly to reduce it can do incalculable harm socially and economically. It is one thing to prevent the further growth of London, it is another to cut away large sections from it.

T C P A VERSUS L C C

THE last leading article which appeared in the ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL under this title gave rise to a series of telephone calls pointing out that a misprint—or worse—had occurred, and to a letter from Mr. Osborn reprinted on page 333.

Some confusion is understandable. A few months ago Mr. Osborn set forth the policy of the TCPA as follows: "A normal family house to meet the requirements of a family of today and tomorrow, not luxuriously but with minimum decency, ought to contain not less than about 850 square feet internal floor space. . . . I am sure you cannot satisfy properly the most modest requirements for privacy, a garden and pleasant surroundings if you plan more than 18 to 20 houses on a gross acre or allow planning latitude say of 90-100 houses on a land unit of five acres. Again, I do not see how you can plan for a disappearing population. You must assume that the British people intend to survive and therefore you must assume that before the houses we are now going to build go out of use the average family will contain between four and five people as compared with the present three and a half. That means that the future density of population per acre of a city housing estate should be calculated at something round about seventy-five persons per acre." In July the LCC published their plan for London. But in the meantime the policy of the Association appears to have changed. Just how far it has changed can be seen from extracts from a speech delivered by Mr. R. L. Reiss on September 16 at 1 Grosvenor Place. Speaking on satellite towns in relation to the County of London plan he said: "Probably the *greatest evil* of the plan would be the destruction of family life . . . Councils of smaller towns develop their housing estates with a *population density* not exceeding 50 and usually more like 20 or 30. Clearly this is the policy which would be pursued by the LCC if land was available." Then after suggesting that 1½ million people and a corresponding proportion of industry should be decanted from the County of London into the outer ring, he continued. "It would be perfectly practicable to plan it so that at least four-fifths of it would remain rural and the remaining one-fifth would consist of towns from 5-50,000 population—each having an overall density of *twelve people* to the acre . . . It has been found at Welwyn Garden City that when the town is completely developed the density will be under twelve . . . The residential areas will not have a density of more than twenty . . . London County could replan for the 2½ million people which remained *not to give ideal conditions* but at any rate far better than is possible on the assumption of the London plan." It was also stated that if the population of the county were reduced to 2½ million the density for the county as a whole would be brought down to 36 people per acre.

Mr. Reiss, who is deputy chairman of Welwyn Garden City and a member of the TCPA executive, was chosen to speak at a public meeting recently held at Bethnal Green, the title of his speech on that occasion being *An Alternative Plan for London*. The TCPA were invited to organise this meeting for the purpose of promoting a better understanding and appreciation of the LCC plan. It was an occasion, if ever there was one, when the considered policy of the Association should have been put forward.

Mr. Osborn in his letter disclaims responsibility for the views expressed by Mr. Reiss and refers to the London Plan Memorandum as the considered policy of the TCPA. This he says suggests a density 70-90 persons per acre. In point of fact no density is specifically mentioned in this memorandum, which merely states that 1½ million people should be decentralised (Mr. Reiss's figure) in order to provide "good living conditions including family houses for at least 80 per cent. of the families remaining in the county."



The Architects' Journal

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

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

REBUILDING THE HOUSE

The Prime Minister's speech on the rebuilding of the House of Commons is published on another page of this issue. I commend it for your study as an exceptionally fine piece of architectural criticism.

ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF SURVEY

The current exhibition of the East Suffolk Reconstruction Survey at the Housing Centre aptly follows the exhibition of the Hull Civic Diagnosis held at the Centre some weeks ago, in that it covers the rural

complexity as opposed to the urban. The exhibition raises once again the question of a nationally organized research service.

*

There is no doubt that success in reconstruction will largely be determined by the accuracy with which planners are able to estimate the changing needs of each place. Such estimation will depend upon accurate observation of facts. But how detailed that observation should be, how research workers should be organized, and how the mass of facts should be collated and illustrated should now be carefully considered by MOTCP as the preliminary to some form of national organization. Without this organization not only will it be impossible to see the national problem clearly, but regional and local attempts at survey will produce unnecessary overlapping, and will not be co-ordinated.

*

The Suffolk survey has been carried out under Mr. T. B. Oxenbury, the County Planning Officer. His show is of great interest to the planning initiate, though it would have little appeal or meaning to the layman as it stands. However, it would obviously be possible to present the survey in a way which would make useful planning propaganda for the public. Let's hope that this will be done.

Apart from its excellent civic diagnosis, the Hull survey gave us another lesson. It was that these surveys, if simply and persuasively illustrated, are capable of arousing a local consciousness about social conditions. When the exhibition was shown in Hull, no less than 24,000 people visited it in seventeen days. This public interest is essential if planning is to be a matter of general participation and not one of mere regimentation.

POST-WAR FOREST POLICY

Primæval man found this island forest-covered, but we have since neglected the art of forestry to such an extent that less than 5 per cent. of its area now remains afforested, a lower proportion than in any other European country. The only spur to positive action in arresting this degradingolade has been during or after times of war : in 1664 and in 1800, when heart of oak ran short for the British ships of the line, again in 1919 when the Forestry Commission was set up, and now once more with the 1943 report on Post-War Forest Policy.

*

The tragedy of the Forestry Commission lies in lack of financial backing and limited terms of reference, errors of Government policy which have lasted from 1919 till to-day. Land improvement in all its aspects and in the widest sense should have been its magnificent task and not merely the production of cheap softwoods.

*

The Post-War Forest Policy report is of great interest for its technical data and for its administrative plans for the control and encouragement of forestry with an ultimate aim of raising our two million acres of woodland to five million. This is praiseworthy and valuable, no doubt, but like the Astor-Rowntree and other recent agricultural reports, the work is pervaded with the attitude of the townie to country matters, a failure to appreciate the full significance of the land not merely on an economic plane but as a vital factor in the national life itself.

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There is no mention in the report of the effects of deciduous high

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forest on land fertility, the rapid and disastrous reduction of which is the greatest long-term menace of to-day throughout the world.

The question of amenity is inadequately dealt with; and the Commissioners seem unaware that amenity and use are inseparable. A glance at a child's atlas shows that Britain does not lie within the Northern Softwood Belt; we are attractively described as a district of "broadleaved trees and meadows," and of such is our whole forest history. Why then the insistence on what Cobbett called "villainous things of the fir tribe"? It may be necessary to grow a substantial stand of conifer for war emergency, but no excuse can be made for basing the whole future peacetime policy on softwoods.

There is in the report no feeling for forestry as part of agriculture as a whole, as the basis for the encouragement of important industries, supporting vigorous and efficient communities, no reference to the forestry of other nations where silviculture is better organized, as in France and Greece. The whole has a desolating feeling of myopic commercialism.

PREPARATIONS BEGIN

The two photographs reproduced on this page have inscriptions which are more eloquent than a dozen leading articles on a subject which is familiar to all of us. The notices are of no individual importance: they are samples: they and others like them throughout Britain prove that people are spending a little time thinking and planning for reconstruction.

We are all agreed that we are in

for a wild post-war decade when it comes—a decade in which nothing will be what it was in 1939. Markets, products, factories, professions and individual firms will all have to be re-established in new forms and possibly in new places. And initiative, intelligence and resourcefulness will be needed everywhere. These two photographs show that initiative among private firms will probably be forthcoming, that people are beginning, for a small part of the day, to make ready to go ahead. It is a heartening sign.

But as one passes one of these notices, the question naturally comes to mind "Go ahead—in what way?—under 1939 rules or other rules?" Most of us believe it is possible to frame rules which, while in no way unjust to developers, could guide physical reconstruction in a way that would greatly benefit the whole community.

At present the notices are few: after Armistice Day they will appear in thousands. And it is before Armistice Day that those who we hope are making the new rules and are preparing the machinery for advice must show the initiative, which afterwards individual developers will display abundantly in their several small pieces of reconstruction's whole.

A FALSE RUMOUR

Mrs. Vilmos Mann, fined in Hungary for spreading false news, is alleged to have stated, according to an Istanbul message: "The Germans could not take Stalingrad because the Russians built houses of rubber which threw back the bombs dropped by Stukas."—(Sunday Express).

ASTRAGAL



LETTERS

F. J. Osborn

Ernst L. Freud, M.Inst.R.A.

Louis Erdi

TCPA versus LCC

SIR,—Standards for future planning are so important that technicians should discuss them with exactitude, and serious exchanges of views demand courtesy. Your article under the above heading falls short in both respects.

The heading is misleading, and still more is the accusation that the Town and Country Planning Association is "sabotaging the London Plan." The Plan is before the public. The LCC has invited criticism. The Association has responded with a carefully considered Memorandum. It cordially commends many features of the Plan. But it also has to say, because it is true, that there is a fundamental defect in the Plan as it stands; in the vital matter of the housing standard, the Plan does not fulfil the specification in its own analysis of the problem. So the Association suggests to the LCC and other authorities that they should withhold support from the Plan as it stands, and should ask for its recasting on the basis of an acceptable housing standard, with not more than one flat in five dwellings.

Then you say the TCPA is "fanatical to the verge of irresponsibility" because it does not agree with you in side-tracking the house-flat issue. But it is only possible to side-track this issue if you don't care whether people get the sort of dwelling they want or the other sort. We do care; we are in close touch with public feeling on this matter, and it is exceedingly strong. There have been no "TCPA questionnaires." The supporting evidence for the demand for houses as against flats has been collected by many agencies—government committees, local authorities, research bodies, women's organizations, Mass-Observation, and lecturers to the services—and is now so overwhelming that even a dictator could not ignore it, let alone a democracy.

Then you approve fixing a standard of density and "leaving it open to each locality" to choose flats or houses—an excellent principle if the standard fixed really permits of either. But it is a cruel mockery to tell localities they



Preparations begin. Two significant site hoardings typical of many now appearing in many of our streets. See Astragal's note. (Photographs by Peter A. Ray).



have a choice when the density fixed is 136 persons per acre. The London Plan makes the public understand—what all competent technicians knew already—that at such a density four out of five families *must* have flats.

Then you say the TCPA "favours a density of 12 persons per acre." If I adopted your editorial idiom, I would have to call this "factual recklessness to the verge of mendacity"—but it may be an innocent misprint. The density suggested in the TCPA London Plan memorandum is of the order of 20 dwellings per housing acre, including access roads but not public open space. In persons per acre the equivalent is 70 to 90, according to whether the population is fading away or reproducing itself. There may be room for argument as to what is a tolerable maximum density standard. But a "flexible maximum," which you appear to believe in, is surely a self-contradictory idea.

A word to *Astragal*. He is fair neither to me nor to the profession which reads your paper, when he labels the popular standard of decent housing the "Osborn formula." The use of my name by an architectural paper in this way puts me in serious danger of becoming a popular tribune, a sort of Hero of the Urban Masses, which would undeservedly deprive me of the obscurity and quietude I value. It also lends colour to the widespread public view that architects are callous, inhuman experts who want to put everybody into flats. Actually, of course, that is a wrong impression. I believe that, on this question of a decent housing standard, the great majority of architects are more on the side of the Association than on yours. But this is not because the Association have had "a monopoly of propaganda." That is far from true. Its policy has gained ground because it is well thought out and balanced, and above all because it shows regard for human as well as business and technical considerations.

F. J. OSBORN

Our leader writer replies:

Mr. Osborn objects to the Title, TCPA versus LCC, saying "The LCC has invited criticism. The Association has responded with a carefully considered memorandum." The usual procedure of friendly as opposed to unfriendly criticism is to begin by making it perfectly clear that the proposals as a whole are acceptable. This at any rate is the procedure adopted by the Archbishop of Canterbury in relation to the white paper on Education. The TCPA memorandum, on the other hand, suggests that the LCC and other authorities should withhold approval of the plan as it stands.

Mr. Osborn goes on to say: "It is a cruel mockery to tell localities they have a choice when the density is fixed at 136 persons per acre. The London Plan makes the public understand—what all competent technicians knew already—that at such a density, four out of five families must have flats." This statement simply is not true. Turning to the LCC report itself (page 81), a 50-acre site developed theoretically at a density of 136 persons per acre gives the following results:—

2-storey houses	31.3 per cent.
3-storey flats	7.6 "
8-storey flats	25.4 "
10-storey flats	35.7 "

31.3 per cent. two-storey houses is a proportion of approximately one house to two flats. Three-storey flats could quite clearly be three-storey houses if the people in the locality preferred. This arrangement would give 38.9 per cent. houses, which is more than one house to two flats. It would be perfectly possible to increase the number of houses still further by building 12-storey flats. In this connection the use of the word family is misleading. Bachelors and spinsters are not families. Neither are married couples whose children have grown up and left them, families in the ordinary sense of the word.

Together they constitute more than half of the total population to be housed and account for an even higher percentage of the total number of dwellings, e.g., a family of six

requires one dwelling. Six bachelors may require six separate dwellings. To say that the LCC Plan will make it necessary for four out of five families to live in flats is absolutely untrue.

As far as the density question goes, I suggest that Mr. Osborn reads the speech delivered by Mr. Reiss at No. 1, Grosvenor Place on September 16. The only conclusion to be drawn from this speech is that the speaker considers an overall density of twelve people to the acre to be desirable wherever possible. In his letter Mr. Osborn disowns this view and says "The density suggested by the London Plan memorandum is of the order of 20 dwellings per housing acre. In persons per acre this is equivalent to 70-90." Actually no density is mentioned. Councillors and others are invited to withhold approval from the plan on the basis of the statement that it is necessary to decentralize 1½ million people in order to secure "good living conditions" and "family houses for at least 80 per cent. of the families that want them." The figure of 1½ million people to be decentralized is the figure used by Mr. Reiss.

Mass Produced Houses

SIR.—When plans of houses for mass production are drawn up, the importance of each detail cannot be over-rated as every weakness of such plans will be reproduced many-fold. Because of this I wish to submit some criticisms to Experimental Housing at Coventry as published in your issue of October 7.

1. If as in these plans a generous frontage of 33 feet (or 24 feet without counting the garage) has been made available for each house, it would seem advisable to increase the depth from 21 ft. to 24 ft. This amounts to an increase in floor area of 15 per cent. but the actual living space on each floor would benefit by more than 30 per cent.
2. Once the plan has decided in favour of a working kitchen and the living-room has in this way been freed of all household activities, the provision of another room to be used as a dining-room seems unnecessary. This second room could better be utilized as a nursery or children's day room, suitably supervised from the domestic quarters.
3. A loggia adjoining this room and overlooking the garden is an excellent feature. Of course, lavatory—and dust bin—doors should not open on to it.
4. In the plans, the utility room shows a door from the hall, and the kitchen is accessible from the back entrance. Considering the various activities for which these rooms are planned, the other way round would have been preferable.
5. The best lighted part of both these rooms—the space near the window—is wasted as a passage, whereas some of the equipment is placed as far as 10 ft. away from the window under the hood and is practically in the dark.
6. In the living-room the open fire has been given up in favour of a stove of a slow-combustion type, but the failure to adjust the seating arrangements reminds one of the design of early motor cars in which a raised box carried on the tradition of the cab.
7. Heating in two bedrooms is by radiator and the additional heating for chilly autumn mornings is provided by gas fire. Wouldn't an electric power plug with portable fire be cheaper and less wasteful in valuable wall space?

It may be deduced from these remarks that a thorough analysis should be undertaken of all individual and family activities on the one hand and the household activities on the other, which are supposed to be carried out inside a home; all operations and the necessary or possible equipment and tools connected with these operations should be listed, the size and type of storage places should be determined and the most suitable location for these and the operations should be arrived at. (As far as I know this has not yet been done systemati-

cally.) Plans of houses and flats could be checked with these results before being passed as satisfactory.

The best plan is the one in which the widest scope is provided for the happy pursuit of the maximum of individual activities combined with the greatest economy in labour and material.

London

ERNST L. FREUD

Make the Dream-Home a Reality

SIR.—The news item published in your issue for September 2, stating that each of the farm-workers' cottages at Walsingham cost at least £1,500, has grave implications.

Post-war building costs are not likely to be drastically cut. On the contrary, the shortage of labour will send prices soaring up to a level never reached before. What is more, a liberal amount of equipment will be expected to be incorporated into the post-war home. An efficient heat-insulation will be a common demand and the ever-increasing popularity of central heating will also add to the expenses.

If, then, this sum should be an indication of the price of a post-war home, it is evident that only very few people will be able to afford the luxury rent, rates and taxes in the region of £3 per week, and even fewer indeed will be in the position to own their home. This leaves the largest group of the population, the £3 to £5 income group, the one for which housing has to be provided for the most urgently, with inadequate living quarters.

If, on the other hand, the State would propose to finance housing schemes for this class, it would mean that the 3 million homes to be built would entail an expenditure of 4,500 million pounds or between 2-3 million pounds per day.

Breaking down all items of a conventional building into the price of raw materials, labour and profit, the resulting figures reveal that labour represents by far the greatest proportion of the total sum. Apart from the fact, therefore, that we have no adequate labour supply and are not likely to get it for a long time to come, this is the item on which great savings may be obtained. It means only a radical re-engineering of our building constructions, methods and units and adapting industrial methods to their manufacture and assembly.

Machine-made goods are cheap, they are efficient and can be quickly produced in adequate quantities. If well designed they are also beautiful. This applies to every machine-made product, from cars and "planes down to furniture, clothing and all every-day utilities. There is no valid reason why it should not apply to buildings as well, without causing greater monotony than our Georgian rows, squares and crescents.

There is an open question therefore, whether it is not high time to form a body to take up all aspects of cheap housing. Very little encouragement came forth in the past from the Government, and it is vain to hope for a change of its policy. Though a very large section of the community may benefit by prefabrication, it still is essentially a matter of private enterprise and as such must take the lead.

By co-ordinating all individual efforts it may be possible to break down the resistance of the groups opposing the new methods and, what is more, convince everyone concerned that the aims of prefabrication are identical with those of the majority of the population.

Such a powerful body would be able to influence the authorities, educate the people, co-ordinate designs and products, carry out large-scale scientific research, form a liaison between public and finance, to mention only a few of its tasks, none of which could be performed by any individual firm alone efficiently. In fact, it is only through such a central body that the £500 dream-home could become a reality; and that dream-home is, amongst other things, exactly what the English people expect after the war.

London

LOUIS ERDI

PHYSICAL PLANNING

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Dr. W. A. Robson, the second part of whose article on Administration is published this week, is a Barrister-at-law and University Reader in Administrative Law at the London School of Economics. His writings include *Civilization and the Growth of Law*, 1935; *The Development of Local Government*, 1931, and *The Government and Misgovernment of London*, 1939, and many other works on public administration.

PROBLEM NUMBER ONE

In Physical Planning Nos. 5 to 9 the bogie skeletons were taken out of the planning cupboard and aired. In No. 10 we propped them up side by side and surveyed them together. In No. 11 we gave a synopsis of the latest planning legislation, the first blow in the demolition of the cupboards. In Nos. 12 and 13 we begin to consider the framework of an environment for flesh and blood people, in which cupboards for skeletons are not one of the requirements. The first problem that arises in building the framework for this environment is how the new legislation necessary to carry out the job should be administered. The first part of Dr. W. A. Robson's article dealt with administration at the national and regional levels; the second part considers the place of local authorities in national planning. The need is emphasized for a fundamental reorganization of the structure of local government as a pre-requisite not only of effective local planning but also of national planning, for only by such reorganization can local authorities be assigned their proper place in the national scheme.

HOW WILL THE NEW LEGISLATION BE ADMINISTERED?

Part two, local government level,
by Dr. W. A. Robson

local authorities and national planning

Local authorities have a very important part to play in town and country planning, but it is a very different one from that hitherto accorded to them. Instead of everything being left to them, regardless of their capacities and resources, they should be given only those planning functions which are truly local. Moreover, local planning powers should be conferred only on those local authorities whose size, population and rateable value are sufficiently large to give them a reasonable chance of achieving success.

two main functions

Let us first enquire into the place which local authorities should occupy in the general system of planning. Their

functions fall into two main categories. They should be required on the one hand to apply in their respective areas the principles laid down by the central and regional authorities. Thus, a particular town may be designated by one of these latter bodies as suitable for further industrial development, but it will be for the borough council to determine the location of industry within the area of the town. Again, the Ministry of Health, in conjunction with the central and regional planning authorities, may decide that a regional hospital shall be situated in a particular locality. It will be for the local authority to provide in its plans for the siting of this and similar institutions.

The other part of the local authority's two-fold task will consist of dealing with all the multitudinous aspects of planning which are not covered by the policies, plans or decisions of the central and regional

authorities. This involves the detailed planning of the whole local area, including zoning, standards of density, the disposition of streets, squares, etc., the provision of civic centres, recreation grounds, open spaces and many other features.

The volume of work falling to the local authorities will be increased rather than diminished by the addition of regional and central planning to the administrative structure. In place of the evasion, neglect and half-hearted attempts which have characterised local authorities' efforts in the past, we may hope to see a sustained tripartite effort with a proper degree of discipline from below and guidance from above. Moreover, the local authorities should be stimulated by the knowledge that they are participating in a great scheme for the making of a new and better Britain.

local authorities and regional planning

In a previous article I gave a list of the principal items which should be subject to regional planning. In order to avoid misunderstanding, I would emphasise that because a service needs to be planned on a regional basis, it does not necessarily follow that it must also be regionally administered. Thus, the location and standards of adequacy of such public institutions as markets, abattoirs, police stations, libraries, baths and wash-houses, etc., should be determined, or at least approved, regionally because only in that way can the needs of the region as a whole be kept fully in view. But the administration of such services can, in many instances, be efficiently carried out by the local authorities concerned. Certain services, such as main drainage, water supply, and major hospitals, may require regional administration as well as regional planning, but that is a question to be considered in the light of the circumstances appertaining to each service.

central, regional and local co-operation

The relationship between local, regional and central authorities required for successful planning will differ

from that obtaining in any existing sphere of public administration. There is no uniform relationship between central departments and local authorities at present. The relationship varies in each service according to its historical evolution or functional needs. But in no sphere is there the kind of closely integrated partnership which planning demands. The responsibility for providing a service falls always either on a central department or on local authorities—never on both together. In planning, however, concurrent action is needed on the part of central, regional and local authorities in their respective spheres to achieve a common end for which they are jointly responsible. This is not inconsistent, of course, with a clear demarcation of functions.

I have already pointed out that local authorities will have to carry out a vast mass of detailed work. It is, indeed, only at the local level that planning emerges in the form of completely worked out detail. Hitherto detailed local schemes have usually not been related to any larger conceptions nor have they been based on wider information than that available to local officials and councillors, or which might emerge from a local planning survey. In future, however, local authorities may reasonably expect to be supplied with wider knowledge and kept informed of the broad principles which have been adopted by the regional and central authorities. Some of these principles will be applied in the national and regional plans; others may relate only to local planning, and it will be for the local authority to work out their detailed application.

local authorities; community builders

The work of the local planning authority should be directed essentially to the fundamental task of community building. Many of the shortcomings of English local government as it now exists are due to the fact that when the various classes of local authorities were either reformed or created in the 19th century, the vision of civic life which inspired

Victorian legislators consisted largely of drains and sewage works. The late Eileen Power remarked that if genius can be defined as an infinite capacity for taking pains, English genius might be described as an infinite capacity for making drains. This, of course, was a witty exaggeration, but it is true that until the opening of the 20th century local authorities were confined to a narrow range of functions, and that even to-day they are not permitted to embark on æsthetic enterprises such as municipal theatres, pageants, concerts and festivals. The idea that the local authority should be at once the focusing point and the radiating centre of the community's life and culture has not so far penetrated the minds of legislators, local councillors or the general public. This is one of the reasons why local planning has so far yielded such poor results. Indeed, in the 20 years between the two world wars, local authorities were themselves, through their housing schemes, often guilty of the very worst offences against good planning principles. They built many housing estates, but they failed to create communities. Becontree is the supreme example of a failure of this kind. We must, therefore, insist that the object of local planning is above all else the creation of communities in the true sense of the word, in place of the mere agglomerations of ratepayers which are all too often found in boroughs, counties and county districts.

relation of services to the community

In approaching this task local authorities will have to bear in mind a number of considerations which have been neglected in the past. In the first place, although local planning tends to be more visual, nearer the realm of architecture than either national or regional planning, the question of getting the underlying social and economic factors correctly related in the plan is of paramount importance. The sequences of work, rest and play should find physical expression in terms of a convenient and harmonious relationship between the workplace, the home and the centres of recreation.

The local authorities' own services must be planned both in relation to citizens' need and in relation to each other. The siting of the Town or County Hall, municipal offices and institutions such as public libraries, baths and wash-houses, gas works, maternity and child welfare clinics, recreation grounds, etc., is often thoroughly bad. Premises are placed in inconvenient places and the interrelations of the various services often ignored. Children's libraries, for example, ought to be placed near schools, and reference libraries near technical institutes or polytechnics. Swimming baths ought to be near recreation grounds or (where possible) playing fields, while slipper baths and wash-houses should be within easy access of those parts of the area which are poorly equipped with bathing and washing facilities in the home. Gas works should not (as at Hastings and Bexhill) be placed on or near the sea front.

civic design and decentralized services

A question of unsuspected importance is whether municipal institutions should be concentrated together in civic centres or more widely diffused. From the standpoint of purely visual planning a grandiose civic centre which includes the Council Chamber and offices, and an impressive series of buildings containing the library, art gallery, museum, police station, Magistrates court, fire brigade headquarters, gas and electricity departments and as much else as possible, has much to commend it, especially in an age which is (fortunately) beginning to react against the civic drabness and bleakness of the Victorian Era. But from the standpoint of non-visual planning the public welfare may be better served by small units dispersed throughout the area. This latter conception would provide numerous branch libraries, clinics, treasurer's offices where rates can be paid, and so forth, within easy reach of the citizens' homes. The war should have taught us a lot in this respect, for the Civil Defence services are worked through smaller units than have hitherto been employed in any local government service. Dur-

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ing the blitz people felt close to these vital services because they were physically near to small local units, such as the street fire-guard party and the local warden's post. This is a normal feature of city government in the USSR, where the Soviet of a great city like Moscow or Leningrad has "sections" dealing with public health, education, etc., which ramify down to each street and even each block of flats.

There is, of course, no single solution to this problem of what is the correct unit throughout the whole field of local government. Each service must be separately considered in terms of its own special needs and its relations with other services. It will be found that some services require concentration, others diffusion. Hitherto, this matter has not been recognised as a problem of local planning, and I make no apology for raising it here.

'gold rush' development

The local authority's own services must also be considered in relation to the general plan for the district. One hopes that in future, as local authorities come to realise that their main task is the creation of true communities, they will lose that craze for size at all costs which has marked the outlook of many of them in the past. The mania for increased rateable value, larger population and more territory has led local authorities into many absurdities in the past. They have assumed that the rapid disappearance of undeveloped land in their areas and the appearance of factories, shops, petrol filling stations, villas and other buildings, was an

unadulterated good in itself, a cause for rejoicing. They have sought and welcomed all "development" no matter whether it were good, bad or indifferent, and regarded it as a sign of prosperity and a source of strength. They have made a fantastic over-provision for additional industry, housing and population in many of their planning schemes. Their mentality has been reminiscent of the Klondyke gold rush rather than of Pericles.

rational expansion

A local planning authority, as I have already pointed out, must have adequate resources in territory, population and taxable capacity if it is to do its work successfully. But this material basis should be obtained by applying suitable criteria to the choice of local planning authorities rather than by allowing small authorities to expand in an unscientific manner. The redistribution of population and industry is one of the principal aims of the town and country planning movement in Britain; but this should be accomplished on rational lines by national, regional and local planning instead of being brought about haphazard through meaningless competition between local authorities.

trained planners needed

If local authorities are to take advantage of the great opportunities for creative planning which are open to them, several reforms must be introduced. The Town and Country Planning Committees of local authorities must be strengthened by the appoint-

ment of abler and more imaginative members than have usually served on them in the past. Efforts must be made by local authorities to obtain the services of professional planners of higher calibre and a more comprehensive training. This will involve the payment of larger salaries and the offer of better prospects than are available at present. A system of grants-in-aid must be provided to enable plans to be executed and development work carried out. The acquisition of land must be facilitated. The powers of local planning authorities must be increased and the planning procedure improved.

confusion on local planning

A great deal of confusion still exists on the subject of local planning even in high quarters. The Scott Committee on Land Utilisation in Rural Areas, for example, remarked that "for the success of national planning . . . it is essential to maintain local initiative and enterprise." Local initiative is obviously necessary for local planning; but why it should be required for national planning is not clear, nor does the Committee explain. For national planning the initiative and enterprise must come from the central organs rather than from the localities.

Again, the Committee declares that "normally the primary local planning unit should be the county, or the county borough and its surrounding area, or a combination of local government units comparable in area, resources or importance with a county." What does the Committee

mean by "a county"? The counties vary enormously in area, resources and importance. Are we to take Rutlandshire as the model or the West Riding of Yorkshire, Flintshire or the County of London? County boundaries are quite irrational, and a statement of this kind, which ignores the disparities and anomalies of the county areas, serves to cloud the issue rather than to illuminate it.

reorganisation of local government

It is generally recognised that the structure of local government is obsolete and requires fundamental reorganisation. This, indeed, is almost a pre-requisite of effective local planning. Much discussion is taking place on the subject both in official and unofficial circles. Great opposition will be manifested to any thoroughgoing reform by local authorities and their Associations; and the outcome is highly uncertain. But even if the problem is tackled with courage and determination, we must not expect good results so far as planning is concerned unless local authorities are assigned their proper place at the base of the pyramid. Above them should be the regional planning organs, and, at the apex, the central planning machinery.

No one familiar with local government will underrate the difficulties to be faced in moulding the system into an efficient instrument for planning purposes. But if the difficulties can be overcome, the vista which will confront local authorities will be one of almost unlimited opportunity to make Britain a fairer and a happier land.

BOOK LIST

extracts from the National Book Council's List No. 151 on Local Government.

- The Town Councillor* : C. R. Attlee and W. A. Robson. (Williams & Norgate), 1925. 3s. and 2s.
The City To-day : A Citizen. (Fabian Society), 1938. 1s.
County Councils : Their Powers and Duties : J. J. Clarke. (Pitman), 1939. 5s.
An Introduction to the Law of Local Government and Administration : W. E. and W. O. Hart. (Butterworth & Co.), 1938. 23s.
Local Government in England : E. L. Hasluck. (Cambridge University Press), 1936. 12s. 6d.
A Century of Municipal Progress : Editor, H. J. Laski. (Allen & Unwin), 1936. 21s.
Local Government in Modern England : J. P. R. Maud. (Oxford University Press), 1932. 3s.
Local Government Law in a Nutshell : R. Milner. (Sweet and Maxwell), 1942. 6s. 6d.
Co-ordination and Planning in the Local Authority : H. R. Page. (Manchester University Press), 1936. 12s. 6d.

- The County Council : What It Is and What It Does* : H. Samuels. (Fabian Society), 1936. 3d.
The ABC of Local Government : K. C. Wright. (Evans), 1939. 4s. 6d.
The Finance of Local Government Authorities : J. H. Burton. (Griffin), 1934. 11s.
Local Government and State Aid : S. J. Chapman. (Allen and Unwin). 3s. 6d.
Principles of Public Finance : Hugh Dalton. (Routledge), 1936. 5s.
A Study in English Local Authority Finance : J. Sykes. (King & Staples), 1939. 12s. 6d.
Interim Report on the Reform of Local Government Structure : NALGO Reconstruction Committee. (National Association of Local Government Officers), 1943. 6d.
Reorganization of Local Government, Report : (Association of Municipal Corporations), 1942. Single copies free.

PLANNING REVIEW

THE UTHWATT REPORT

A leading article in *The Times*, October 14, comments on the two recent speeches by the Minister of Town and Country Planning and Lord Snell, on the Uthwatt Report. Mr. Morrison announced that the Government's findings on the Uthwatt Report were almost ready for presentation to Parliament. The findings were to include the considered application of the two pledges given by Lord Reith in July, 1941, first, that all land in the so-called reconstruction areas would be publicly acquired, and, second, that public acquisition, or public control of land involving compensation, would be at values not exceeding those obtaining at March 31, 1939. The article emphasized that these two principles adopted by the government are in themselves of outstanding importance, but that the accepted scope of both proposals must remain uncertain until the full particulars of the Government schemes become known. Neither Mr. Morrison nor Lord Snell offered an indication that the Government intend to announce their findings on the main proposal of the Uthwatt committee, to vest in the State the rights of development in all land lying outside the built-up areas on payment of fair compensation, and it is difficult to see how local authorities are to go ahead and prepare planning schemes if they are completely in the dark on this central question of land control.

There is still no solution of the old problem of how to obtain effective action, as distinct from resolutions, from joint bodies whose powers are dependent on the vitality of their constituent authorities and their willingness to plan. The excuse that the Uthwatt proposals require a long period for consideration deserves every sympathy, but it is surely to be presumed that the proposals have by now either been accepted and worked out in some detail, or have been rejected in favour of an alternative. It is to be hoped that the findings referred to by Mr. Morrison and shortly to be presented to Parliament will remove the doubts to which this official silence inevitably gives rise.

Mr. Trustram Eve in a letter to *The Times* on October 15 attributes the Government's delay in reaching a conclusion on the development rights scheme to the difficulties of the compensation proposals on the one hand, and to the problem of the extent of the prohibition of development on the other. He points out that an atmosphere of uncertainty is fatal to planning, and that uncertainty can only be removed by legislation. He believes there is a general agreement that for carrying out positive planning there must be the imposition of a prohibition against development on undeveloped land, and that the fundamental proposal

of the Uthwatt Report, which they call the acquisition of development rights, is therefore universally accepted. He points out that there is no way of avoiding paying full amounts of compensation, except (a) to pay less than the loss to the owner; (b) to tax property until it is of a lower value; (c) to pay universal compensation at the earliest date so that any increase in value of the properties should accrue to the State.

On October 19 Mr. R. Y. Radcliffe answered Mr. Trustram Eve, stating that Mr. Eve would have us believe that the proposals for the acquisition of development rights amount to a prohibition on development by the owner, and confer no positive rights on the State. So far from this being the case, the report recommends the transfer to the State of the full powers of development previously enjoyed by the owner. He points out that the delegation of such extensive powers to local authorities, who will in turn grant development leases to private individuals, will result in the continued erection of the type of cottages for which district councils and speculative builders, sometimes tactfully designated private individuals, have been previously responsible. And that the proposals are therefore received with dismay by agricultural land owners who have so far had both the will and the power to protect their property from desecration.

Mr. H. D. Edwards, General Secretary of the National Federation of Property Owners, states in a further letter that Mr. Trustram Eve possibly speaks for the professional planners when he remarks that the acquisition of development rights scheme is universally accepted. But it is certainly not accepted by those who are most vitally concerned, but who are entirely sympathetic to reasonable planning, the owners of all land. He believes that the Town Planning Acts are capable of minor amendments to meet the existing position, and that the Government could also adopt the principles of the speedy procedure of the Public Works Facilities Act, 1930, viz.: Acquire the land actually necessary for housing, etc., leaving fair compensation for future settlement.

COUNTRY TOWNS

Mr. G. W. C. Swift, in a speech at the TCPA's conference on *Country Towns in a National Planning Policy*, which took place at the Royal Empire Society on October 22 and 23, emphasised the need for a definite statement of Government policy in regard to country towns and industry.

Resolutions were adopted at the conference, and an advisory committee was nominated from various types of local authorities, referring to the Association's action to advance their policy on this matter.

NEW LITERATURE

Food and the People: Sir John Boyd Orr. Target for To-morrow, No. 3. Pilot Press; 3s. 6d.

The Industrial Reconstruction of South Wales: W. C. Devereux. Scope, Magazine for Industry. August, 1943. Creative Journals Ltd.; 2s.

Ministry of Town and Country Planning Circular No. 4: H.M.S.O.

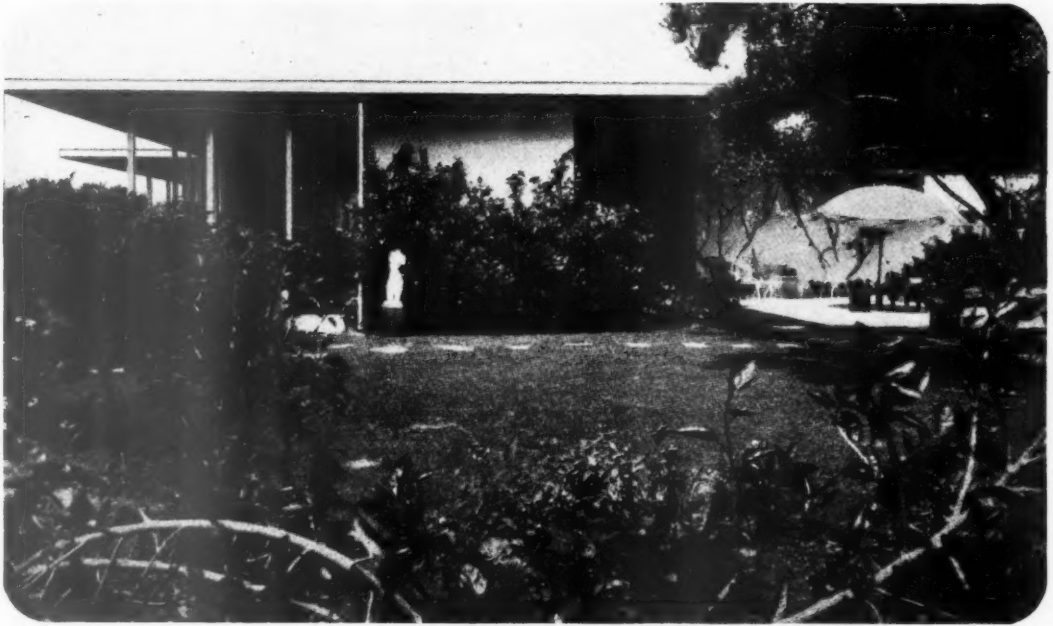
War Damage Act: Ministry of Health, 2875.

GUIDE TO THE CHIEF POWERS AND DUTIES OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES

The mark × indicates that the function is normally exercised. The mark = indicates that the service is not normally undertaken, but may be performed in the whole or part of the authority's area in special circumstances, or may be assisted. The mark + means that the function is normally exercised only in Boroughs of over 10,000 population and/or Urban Districts over 20,000.

NATURE OF SERVICE	TYPE OF AUTHORITY					
	C.C. County Council	C.B.C. County Borough Council	M.B.C. Metropolitan Borough Council	B.C. or U.D.C. Borough or Urban District Council	R.D.C. Rural District Council	P.C. Parish Council
PUBLIC HEALTH :						
Sewage		×	×	×	×	
Refuse Collection and Disposal		×	×	×	×	
Nuisances		×	×	×	×	
Infectious Diseases	=	×	×	×	×	
Hospitals, Ambulance Services	×	×		=		
Tuberculosis and Venereal Disease	×	×				
Maternity and Child Welfare	×	×	×	+	=	
Rivers Pollution ..	×	×		×	×	×
Markets and Fairs ..		×	×	×	=	×
Parks and Open Spaces		×	=	×	=	×
Disposal of the Dead		×	=	×	=	=
Public Lighting ..		×	×	×	=	=
Baths and Wash-houses		×	×	×		=
Diseases of Animals	×	×		×		
Abattoirs	×	×		×	×	
Food and Drugs ..	×	×	×	+		
MENTAL DEFICIENCY	×	×		=		
PUBLIC ASSISTANCE ..	×	×				
HOUSING	=	×	×	×	×	
TOWN PLANNING ..	×	×		×	×	
EDUCATION :						
Elementary	×	×		+		
Higher	×	×		=		
Libraries	=	×	×	×		=
HIGHWAYS :						
Main Roads	×	×	×	=	=	
District Roads ..		×	×	×	×	
Private Streets ..		×	×	×	=	
POLICE	×	×		=		
AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS	×	×	×	×	×	
AIRPORTS	=	=		=		
PUBLICITY		×	×	×		
MOTOR LICENSING ..	×	×				
WEIGHTS & MEASURES	×	×				
AGRICULTURAL :						
Small Holdings ..	×	×		×		
Allotments	=	×	×	×		×
TRADING UNDERTAKINGS :						
Water		×		×	×	
Gas		×		×		
Tramways and Omnibuses		×		+		
Electricity		×	×	+		

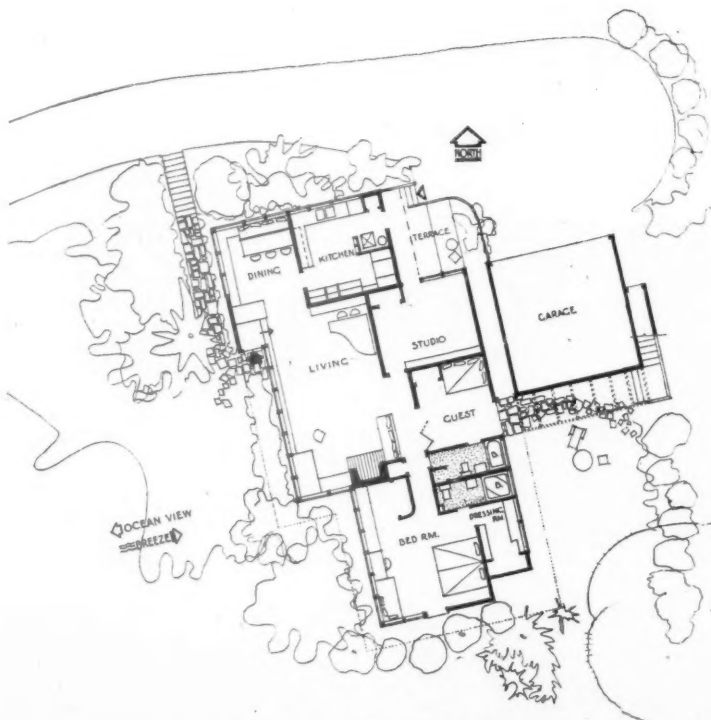
(Reproduced from *The ABC of Local Government*: K. C. Wright (Evans) 1939 4s. 6d.)



STEEL

PREFABRICATED HOUSE

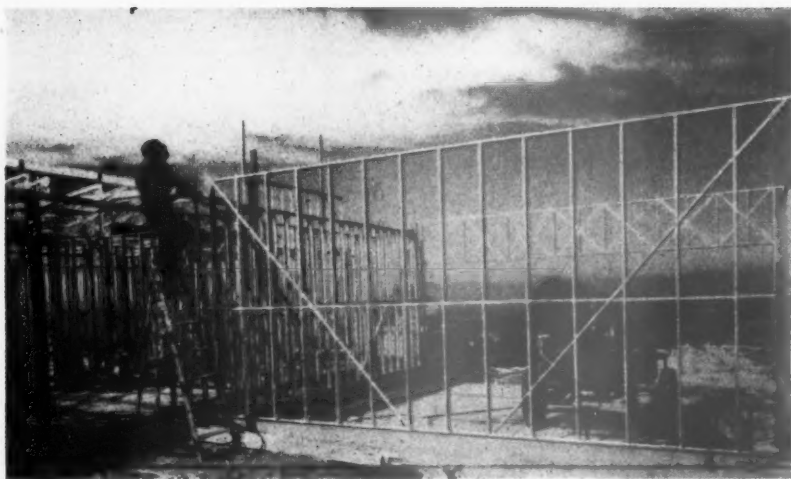
DESIGNED BY RICHARD J. NEUTRA



Top, bedroom wing; above, plan.

For the last two decades Richard Neutra has spent much energy on developing various types of light metal construction, continuously endeavouring to reduce the percentage of work to be done on the site. This house, for Dr. and Mrs. Grant Beckstrand, at Palos Verdes, near Los Angeles, California, is almost entirely prefabricated. It is situated on a gentle slope overlooking the Pacific and its frame is of prefabricated steel sections in units 24 ft. long. The units were welded together on the site. J. S. Capt and P. Pfisterer collaborated in the design. Moveable and fixed sash were incorporated into the units before delivery on to the site. To this structure insulation board and in some cases sheet metal panels were clipped to form interior surfaces. Spanning the ceilings are light metal trusses.

Of the house Neutra, writing in *New Pencil Points*, from which the accompanying illustrations are reproduced, says: "While the light metallic character of the construction is fully visible in the



PREFABRICATED STEEL HOUSE

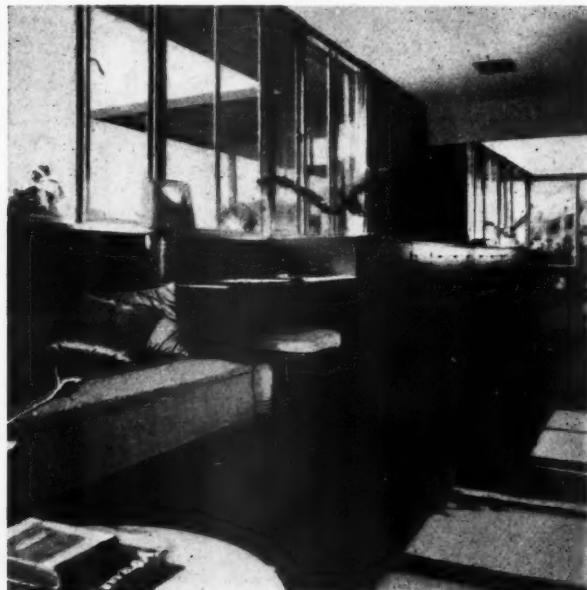


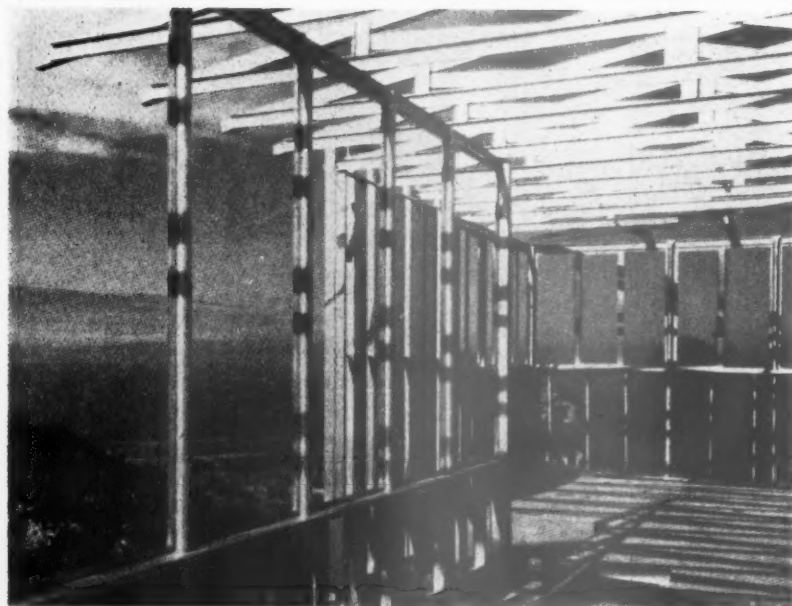
finished product, the house has, according to the owners, a heart-warming, home-like character, achieved by the careful proportioning of rooms; by their relationship and their spacious extension into each other and into the landscaped-outdoors; by the carefully placed built-in furniture and the friendly colour scheme of creams with varied tones of mouse-grey and sparing touches of Chinese red which occur on the walls, upholstery fabrics, textiles and carpets."

He views light metal frames as a logical descendant of conventional American wood framing, and as a potentially important method of construction for the post-war period, particularly since the war has so stimulated metallurgy and metal production.

In the interior of the house the furniture is simple, inexpensive and comfortable. Another feature is the inclusion of a few paintings and pieces of sculpture. But Mrs. Beckstrand is an artist who is as likely to be found at work in the studio, or painting

Top, left, assembling and, centre, welding the steel units; left, looking across the lawn from the garden entrance, and the living patio; above, entrance from private drive. Facing page, top, service and garage side; below, left, two views in the living room, right, bedroom.





in the patio, as busy with domestic duties. Environment controlled the design as much as the family's habits. Strong winds come from the Pacific, over which there is a magnificent view. For the view's sake this side of the house is nearly all fixed glass; the landward, or easterly side, contains the doors which give access and provide ventilation.

Above and left, the finished living room and the completed framing of the living room.

PREFABRICATED STEEL HOUSE

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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.

STRUCTURE

1275

By-Laws

THE BY-LAWS AND BUILDING CONSTRUCTION. George Fairweather, F.R.I.B.A. (*The Architect and Building News*, December 4, 1942, January 8, February 12, March 12, May 14, 1943). A critical survey of the Model By-laws issued by the Ministry of Health, by the Department of Health for Scotland and the By-laws of the London County Council.

The discussion of the By-laws is divided into four sections. 1. Site Preparation. 2. Foundation. 3. Walls. 4. Floors and Roofs. Each section opens with a general summary of the main principles and difficulties of the By-laws on the particular problem discussed. Next we are given a full and detailed account of the lines followed by each of the three systems of By-laws. Finally, each section ends with a summary containing the main criticisms and eminently sensible suggestions of methods by which improvements could be obtained. The author discusses the adequacy of existing legislation on each point from various angles, whether all the essential, and no superfluous, requirements are made, whether the best use of modern knowledge of materials and methods of design is made possible, whether the stipulations lead to the most economic result in structures suited to their purpose and encourage variety and originality in design, and finally whether the existing form and arrangement of By-laws is the most suitable that can be conceived. Shortcomings are discovered in all these directions, as well as points on which information in the By-laws is lacking or even misleading. All sections are extremely detailed and concise, and only a very sketchy summary of the main conclusions of each can be given here. The text is illustrated by numerous excellent diagrams.

1. BUILDING SITES

Existing legislation does not give a very clear indication of the purposes of site preparation. The LCC By-laws and the English Model By-laws lay down that the enclosed area should be effectively covered by plain concrete or reinforced concrete from 4 in. to 6 in. thickness according to circumstances. These variations do not have any sensible relationship with one another and no connection with the problems of site preparation. The conditions that have to be fulfilled in the enclosed area of a building site must not be confused with those that apply to the bearing soil of the foundation. Site preparation aims at obtaining passive conditions in the enclosed soil, and is designed to prevent all physical and organic activity that might prove harmful to the structure or unhealthful to the occupation of a building. Vegetation and water are the most likely causes of unfavourable activity in the soil. The behaviour of water and vegetation must therefore be controlled in all cases. The stability of enclosed soil under pressure of load bearing must be

considered only as a requirement determined in the design of the building structure. A surface covering of plain or reinforced concrete cannot by itself provide immunity from the dangers encountered in exceptionally damp sites, and is superfluous in normal conditions. This has been proved by experience in Scotland where surfacing concrete is rarely employed. Vegetation should be removed from all ground that is to be enclosed by a building, and where the surface level must be built up to provide a foundation for floors, hard materials must be used. Insufficient consideration is given to the value of ventilation as an element in the drying out and seasoning of all materials in the enclosed regions of a building site. A constant flow of fresh air will do more to maintain dry and healthful conditions in the enclosed soil of a normal site than a plain concrete layer. Conditions necessary for adequate ventilation should be made a subject of legislation. The By-laws should also give attention to the considerations that have to be taken into account when the weight of a floor is to be supported on the enclosed soil.

2. FOUNDATIONS

The By-laws provide reasonably comprehensive instructions regarding the conditions that have to be fulfilled in the structural component of a foundation but give little information about the conditions that have to be obtained in the bearing soil. They would be more helpful if they drew attention to the several common causes of failure in foundation soils and explained the circumstances in which each should be considered as a factor of design. Although the depth to which weather may influence different soils has been already reasonably established by research, the By-laws do not describe a minimum depth between the ground surface and the bearing level of a foundation exposed to weather.

The By-laws distinguish between building types according to their use, but underestimate the influence on the foundations of the different degrees of flexibility obtained in different systems of construction. Some systems (masonry) suffer seriously under the stresses induced by unequal settlement, whereas others (framework) are more flexible and respond to unequal settlements without suffering material damage. Attention should be paid to these differences when the problems of the foundations are being studied.

3. WALLS

Each of the By-laws under review contains a section on Walls which summarizes the requirements for the design and construction of walls generally and explains how these are to be interpreted when masonry is used for construction. The regulations governing the use of steel and reinforced concrete are detailed in separate sections, or are prescribed by reference to certain approved reports and specifications. The circumstances in which timber may be used in the walls of a building are explained, but very little guidance is given about the details and other requirements of construction. A general criticism may be directed against the manner in which requirements are set out. Ways and means of construction, dimensions, materials, etc., are determined, but little information is given about

the standards (in strength, etc.) and the effects that are to be obtained. Thus most of the provisions of the By-laws are related solely to masonry and no proper instructions are given about the requirements of design as they apply in different structural systems. In the case of the LCC By-laws regulations designed for masonry seem to be intended to apply to all walls regardless of their construction, and are generally applied in this way. A good illustration of the utility of this kind of procedure is provided by the regulations governing the arrangement of openings in external walls in the LCC By-laws (see diagram).

The LCC By-laws are actually comparatively advanced in giving rules for designing masonry according to permissible stresses, in addition to the prescribed conditions. These rules are, however, rendered ineffective; partly owing to imperfections in the prescribed conditions (the normal 11 in. cavity wall is considered to be as strong as a 9 in. solid brick wall, whereas in fact its strength is merely that of the weaker leaf). Further the rules are inadequate in that insufficient information is given about the allowances to be made for various types of restraint and the effect of openings.

The By-laws adopt a principle which the author considers capable of development when they regulate the design of steel and reinforced concrete frames by reference to approved specifications and reports. This principle, he thinks, could revolutionize building legislation. "If the existing functions of the British Standard Institution and the Building Research Station were to be extended, so that they could provide the guidance necessary for the proper control and sensible development of building technique, materials and methods of construction would cease to be an essential concern of building legislation. Such an arrangement would reduce the danger that legislation may unnecessarily restrict the use of new materials and methods."

Provisions in the By-laws for the use of timber are entirely inadequate. The Scottish By-laws do not qualify the "prescribed conditions" in any way that would admit of the use of a timber framework. The English system merely provides that reasonable strength, durability and fire-resistance should be obtained. Such obvious requirements as restraint, jointing, permissible stress and fire stopping, etc., are not specified. The LCC By-laws likewise neglect these most essential requirements, and the circumstances in which timber may be used for the construction of walls are not explained. In this, as in most other respects, it would seem that the By-laws relating to walls need drastic reconstruction before they can be said to provide an adequate guide to designs as to the standards and requirements to be achieved.

4. FLOORS AND ROOFS

The dangers arising from the use of timber for the construction of ground floors receive

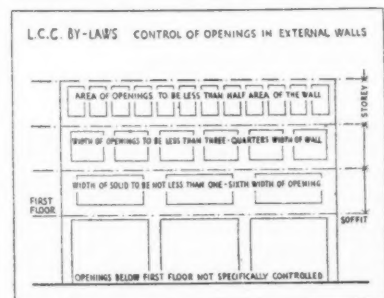


Diagram showing how the size and arrangement of openings in external walls are controlled in the LCC By-laws. These rules apply whether the building is of masonry, steel or reinforced concrete framework. Why is a distinction not made between requirements applying in different structural systems if strength is the primary concern? (From the Architect and Building News, see item 1275.)

special consideration in each of the By-laws under review. But the positions of external and dividing walls, the obstructions created by solid floors and other factors are not sufficiently taken into account, and it is doubtful whether adequate ventilation can in fact be obtained in the enclosed air-space of a timber-joisted ground floor, if the minimum requirements are respected in all details.

The problem of fire-resistance is being reviewed in the light of recent experience, and future legislation will probably take a more comprehensive view of fire danger in buildings than it has done in the past.

The provisions made for the superimposed loadings on floors vary considerably in each of the By-laws. The provisions of the English model are inadequate as superimposed loadings are taken to be equal to the effects of floor loadings on beams, pillars, piers and walls. The Scottish and LCC By-laws both provide estimates of superimposed loadings. If the Scottish regulations were to be applied in their present form to the design of high buildings they would result in grossly extravagant construction in the lower regions of the supporting columns and walls. The LCC By-laws take account of several distinctions neglected in the Model By-laws and provide a much more useful basis for design.

In regard to roofs each of the By-laws specifies materials and prescribe allowances to be made for wind-loads. The LCC By-laws are again much more specific than the others in regard to wind-loads and provide a very comprehensive basis for the calculation of roof structures.

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.

1276 Factory Partitions

Q Factory partitions. I am maintenance architect of a large aero-engine factory in this city which, for the sake of obtaining better results from a production point of view, is constantly having its internal layouts replanned and added to.

At the moment we have timber partitions throughout the factory, including both offices and service areas. We have also used a small quantity of steel partitioning.

The management have now requested me to explore the possibilities of procuring and fabricating unit partitioning without using wood at all and only the minimum of steel.

Have you dealt with any precast concrete manufacturers who would be prepared to supply me with suitable precast concrete uprights, frames and panels which would be easily assembled and/or dismantled? I have in mind 8 ft. high partitioning. The members may be bolted together and the frames could have chases cut in them to take either asbestos, glass or wire mesh panels.

A Concrete frames and rails grooved to take thin panels of asbestos or glass should not present much difficulty. The Cement and Concrete Association have kindly given us the names of four typical firms who should be able to turn out these products. If you wish for a further list, we suggest that you write to the Cement and Concrete Association, 52, Grosvenor Gardens, London, S.W.1, direct.

Girlings Ferro-Concrete, Southbank Road, Cadder, Glasgow.

The Marley Tile Co., Turkinstilloch Road, Cadder, Glasgow.

G. Stuart & Sons, Priory Avenue, Blantyre, Glasgow.

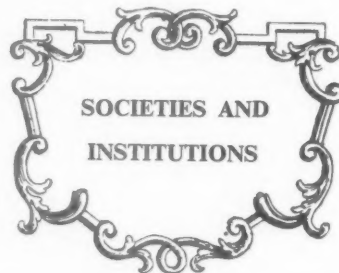
John E. Young & Co., Polton Street, Bonnyrigg, Midlothian.

1277 Stockholm Planning Reports

Q Would you please tell me where I can obtain the following:

International Housing and Town Planning Congress Reports—Stockholm, 1939.

A The International Housing and Town Planning Congress sat in the autumn of 1939 and the report was not published in this country owing to the war; it may have been published in Sweden.



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

C. H. Reilly

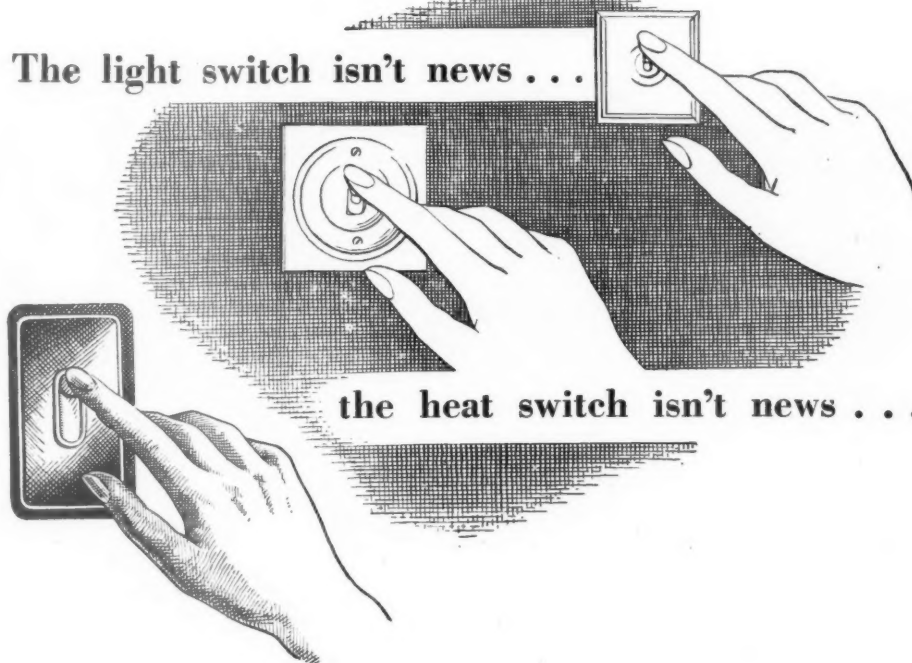
October 28, at 1, Grosvenor Place, S.W.1. Lunch-time meeting of the Town and Country Planning Association. Lecture on CITIZEN OR PEASANT? by Professor C. H. Reilly, O.B.E., LL.D., M.A. Chairman: Dr. W. A. Robson.

C. H. Reilly: "Largely through the energies of your Society, once called, let me remind you, the Garden Cities Association, and the indefatigable services to it of your secretary, Mr. Osborn, who pounces like an eagle on anyone who suggests cities have any other function than being breeding places for babies, the Garden City ideal has had to my thinking too long an unhampered run. Twenty years ago it did invaluable service in stimulating an attack on that national speciality of ours, the slums, even if in doing so it made use of a lot of sentimental nonsense. To get things done in this country a cold appeal to the intellect is not enough. Babies, potatoes roses round

the door, were all a useful addition. We are a slogan-ridden race and are often helped to good and great works thereby. Last week I met the owner of "Did you Maclean your teeth to-day" and found him a founder and endower of one of the first Air Training Corps in this country. With Mr. Osborn's insistence on little cottages everywhere as breeding pens and his attack before this Association on the LCC Plan for London because it did not in his opinion provide enough of them and, with the general destruction of the country round our towns under the specious plea of providing garden suburbs until a town like Bournemouth takes pride to itself in being one continuous garden suburb from end to end, I think the time has come to put forward another ideal and to give it too a slogan name. If we are convinced that it can usefully be done, it is clearly our duty to do it at this moment in our history for, if we are now on the wrong path, there never was a better moment at which to take a new turning. 'The girl who took the wrong turning' was the title of a favourite play in the town when I first went to Liverpool. We need the same warning to-day if with a slightly different application.

What are the main functions of the big town or city, as our American friends would call it? I have attempted definitions but have not succeeded in compiling anything half as good as this from Lewis Mumford's great classic *The Culture of Cities*. 'The elemental unit of planning, then, is no longer the house or the houseblock'—which I take to mean the block of flats—'the elemental unit is the city, because it is only in terms of this more complex social formation that any particular type of activity or building has significance. And the aim of such planning is not the efficiency of industry by itself, or the diminution of disease by itself: the aim is the adequate dramatization of communal life'—that seems to me to be the key phrase—the widening of the domain of human significance so that, ultimately, no act, no routine, no gesture will be devoid of human value, or will fail to contribute to the reciprocal support of citizen and community. When this drama is sharply focused and adequately staged, every part of life feels an uprush of social energy: eating, working, mating, sleeping are not less than they were before, but far more: life has, despite its broken moments, the poise and unity of a collective work of art. To create that background, to achieve that insight, to enliven each individual capacity through articulation in an intelligible and aesthetically stimulating whole, is the essence of the art of building cities. And less than that is not enough. Let me repeat, less than that is not enough. Now can we lay our hands on our hearts and say that the garden city ideal covers this or anything like it? Can a city three-quarters or more of which is a sprinkling of unrelated, or very loosely related, little houses provide an adequate dramatization of communal life? Walking through Welwyn Garden City a year or two before the war, in spite of the pretty closes with their imitation little Georgian houses, past the shops and civic centre, I did not feel anywhere that intensification of life, that dramatization Mumford calls it, that thrill which goes with noble building, till, strange to say, I reached one of the factories, that for the Roche Products by that fine Swiss architect, Professor Salvisberg. You may say it was the architecture of the little houses which was at fault. Perhaps partly. Reproductions in architecture, and I have been guilty of them myself like most of my generation, have the deadness of reproductions in furniture. But it was not entirely that that was wrong. The vast majority of the buildings were too small in contrast to the human figure. None stood up sheer and strong till I met Salvisberg's factory. There was no drama, no contrast, nor even much coherence in their relationships. Too many were isolated units and one felt, as in a suburb, the inhabitants would be the same. They might have, as no doubt they do, every kind of club and society for ping-pong to acting Tchekhof, but in such a setting, which has

The light switch isn't news . . .



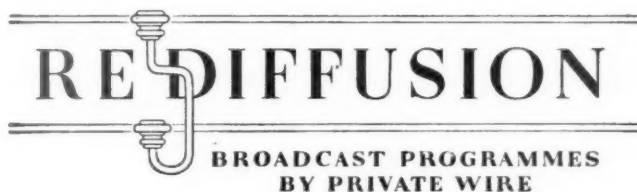
the heat switch isn't news . . .

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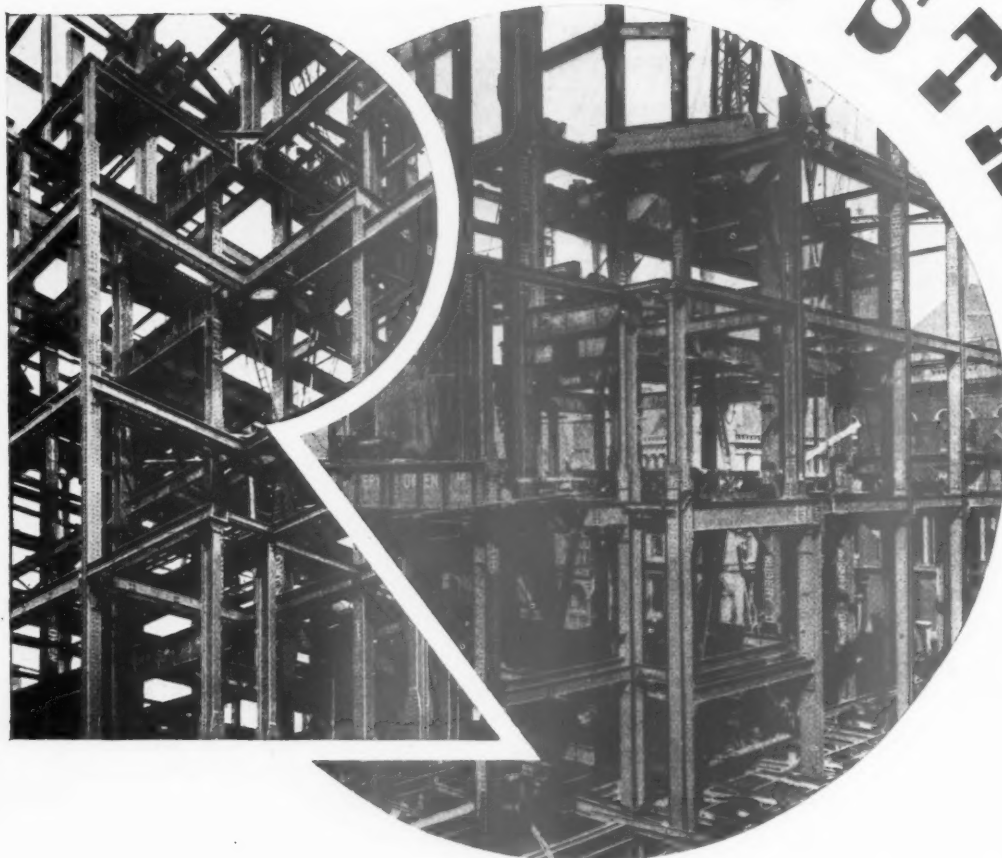
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neither the natural climax of the village clinging round the church nor the continued intensity of the town; the inhabitants must live their lives at a lower tempo. I suggest such lives must be rather like those of fishes swimming in aquarium tanks full of pretty weeds.

Perhaps I am flogging a dead donkey, and none to-day in fact wants a continuous garden suburb except the retired manufacturers from the Midlands living in Bournemouth and they need not bother us too much. Their day I feel is over in more senses than one. Yet it is true that great masses of people, perhaps even the majority when they think of the subject at all, are still under the Ebenezer Howard-cum-Osborn spell and imagine a garden city—that strange contradiction in terms—to be the ideal thing. That is why we must put forward a new ideal and if possible give it a new slogan name.

With the Forshaw-Abercrombie plan for London before us there is no need for me or for anyone to discuss at length the separate functions of the city. They have shown us the need for recovering and enhancing the individuality and character of each district and of welding the whole together by fast traffic roads running between the districts. They have gone further and shown how special areas may be devoted to special purposes such as government, learning, shopping and recreation, and that modest but radical thinker, Mr. Alker Tripp, has shown how all these areas and precincts can be made places in which it will be possible to move about in safety even on foot.

What however is the main new condition which it is sought should be introduced into and round all these areas and precincts which will make our cities of the future differ from those of the past? It is, I think, the vastly increased amount and the wider distribution of open spaces, not only the four acres to the thousand inhabitants to be brought about by moving population, but the even greater space for planning purposes to be saved by getting rid of the criss-cross grid of roads and keeping open some of the blitzed areas. The groups of buildings are to be like islands in a sea of green. One imagines even the precinct of great stores, for example, to be a series of courtyards bright with grass and flowers and fountains surrounded by steel and glass buildings twinkling with the moving figures and silk stockings of the shoppers and shop assistants. Local shopping areas one forecasts either as the restored village High Street leading to the village green with the shops condensed into a shorter length and the through traffic removed so that one can stroll from side to side as in a bazaar when something or someone catches the eye: or as an area of closely knit narrow roads, as in the Moorish centres of old Spanish towns where no one lives but where everyone meets. This latter might be developed on the lines of the Rows at Chester with shops and restaurants on two levels, the latter largely on balconies overlooking the roadways. Connecting the upper levels at every cross road might be light bridges adding immensely to the picturesqueness of the scene. All this I imagine as a fairground might be, surrounded on all sides by open spaces. The point I want to make is that even in what are ordinarily considered the congested areas the new ideas of spaciousness will be possible when the corridor streets disappear either into parkways for arterial roads for fast traffic or to shrink into mere accommodation roads.

The small percentage of lofty ten-storey blocks of flats giving a possible density of 225 to the acre (the London Plan proposes 200 as a maximum in certain places to which Mr. Osborn objects so strongly) would be thin blocks two rooms deep so oriented that each room gets direct sunlight some time of the day. These buildings of course would have lifts. Such blocks Mr. Boumphrey has demonstrated in his excellent little book *Town and Country To-morrow*, can be 250 feet apart, that is more than twice the width of Portland Place and equal to that of an

Association football field, and would allow an arc of sky to every window over the nearest block of 70'. It is clear with an open space of 250 feet wide, and the length of the block to play with, a great deal can be done in the way of planning gardens and lawns, and that even in such districts Mr. Tripp's 'precincts like the Inns of Court,' but with open quadrangles, present no difficulty, and that where they reach the river in places like Bermondsey and Stepney might well emulate the Temple.

Architecturally one imagines Mr. Osborn's breeding pens, the terraces of little houses, as foils to these taller buildings, much as the stable buildings were to the Georgian mansion: their little front gardens would I imagine be held in common as in America—one of the few things already socialized over there—and the back garden to which we are accustomed replaced by smaller ones for the perambulators, supplemented for those who really want them by allotments decently laid out with standard toolsheds and surrounded by hedges, the whole again rather like the walled vegetable garden of the mansion. One hopes that the detailed planning of each of the neighbourhood units of 8–10,000 people, into which the larger areas are to be divided, will be given each to an individual architect to design under Mr. Forshaw's very competent control—we all remember his control of 300 Miners' Welfare Centres resulting in the best chain of modern buildings in the country—so that in each a unity of composition and of materials is brought about such as we have not seen in this country since the scrambling individualism of the nineteenth century which, with its vulgar advertising spirit, destroyed the placid beauty of great areas of Georgian architecture. Certainly the new co-operative era, which we hope is ahead of us, must express itself very differently in this respect too to the immediate past.

The result of stretches of lawn everywhere between the groups of buildings will be that we shall all in time be able to live anywhere in comfort and Shoreditch may become, if it cares to be, as fashionable as Mayfair for, with Mr. Tripp's help, every part will be within ten minutes of every other. From the sky the new London, or any such replanned city, should look very much like the RIBA regional plan, but with a definite green boundary and a more even distribution of green everywhere. It would appear from high in the air a city with all its groups of buildings, not necessarily the individual ones, embowered in grass and trees, and from a lower level a city of large, tall and noble structures, set off by smaller ones. It would look quite different at every level to the garden city yet it would possess the main advantage of that, fresh air and open space. Each group of buildings would individually, and the whole together, possess not only the possibility of great architecture but that latent drama Mr. Mumford rightly feels essential to the conception of a city.

Is something like this our ideal to-day, and if so what name shall we give to it? We have seen the dangers which a well-intentioned name like 'Garden City' and worse still 'Garden Suburb' entails. Our ideal new town will have no suburbs so we need not worry about a separate name for them. Is there then any all-embracing word to express this ideal? Frank Lloyd Wright's 'Broadacre City' does not seem quite right. In that one could only visit one's nearest neighbour by stepping into a motor car or aeroplane, and I cannot see pleasant street conversations conducted by people sitting in cars and shouting at one another. Promenades are necessary. We must be able in our type of democracy to meet our acquaintances if only to curse the weather and the latest follies of the Government. 'Park City' would not be a bad name if the word 'park' had not been degraded for so many people in recent times to the recreation ground with its asphalt paths and its iron seats. 'Park-like City,' however, has different implications, the implications of stately building set on lawns among stately

trees. Instead, therefore, of talking about garden cities and planning on garden city lines, let us talk in the future of park-like cities and planning on park-like city lines. In spite of Shakespeare I maintain in this echoing age of ours there is a very great deal in a name. Indeed it may help to make or damn a whole civilization. Let us drop henceforth the word 'garden' in connection with town or city and all the pettiness of outlook, the mawkish sentimentality and Garden of Eden nonsense which attaches to it. Let the inveterate potato digger retire to the country and become openly the peasant he is at heart. Let the remainder, however, remember that the city should and can be made to be the finest work of man, until like St. Paul each can truthfully boast, —I am not so sure whether St. Paul could truthfully—that he is a citizen of no mean city."

AA

Sir Ernest Simon

October 12, at the Architectural Association, 36, Bedford Square, W.C.1. Annual general meeting and talk on **PLANNING AND BUILDING IN THE U.S.A.**, by Sir Ernest Simon, M.INST.C.E., M.I.MECH.E., Deputy Chairman of the Central Council of MOW. Chairman: A. F. B. Anderson, F.R.I.B.A., S.A.D.G., President of the AA. Sir Hugh Beaver, Director-General of MOW, proposed a vote of thanks to Sir Ernest at the end of his talk, and G. A. Jellicoe, F.R.I.B.A., seconded it. A discussion followed.

Sir E. Simon: About this time last year, my wife and I received an invitation to visit America. The Ministry of Information said they would be glad if we would go; after three years of war it seemed a good opportunity for a change, and so we went.

One difficulty in talking about America is that it is not one place; there are 48 separate States, all of which have complete power in matters of town planning and building. There are no Federal building laws. It is therefore impossible to generalize about America, beyond saying that certain habits do tend to prevail.

For instance, one thing which is appalling in many parts of the United States—it is bad enough here—is the display of posters, which seem two or three times as numerous and as big as ours, and which make quite lovely country hideous. Until quite recently, the supreme courts of most of the States have constantly held, when attempts have been made to pass a law prohibiting or restricting the use of posters, that it is unconstitutional to prevent a man making a legitimate profit by letting his land for the erection of posters, merely for aesthetic reasons, and so nothing has been done. That attitude has been changing, however, in the last few years, and a good many States have made up their minds that it is constitutional to prohibit posters for aesthetic reasons; the architects and their friends are becoming more powerful.

The first city that we visited was Washington, the only big city in the United States planned from its origin, and in some ways very finely planned. Outside Washington is a place called Green Belt, which is the American equivalent of Welwyn Garden City, and was planned from the beginning by landscape architects—a breed which is much more prolific there than here. Landscape architects are very influential and important in America, and it seems to me that one interesting result has followed, and that is in connection with gardens. Green Belt, which is about ten miles from Washington, is beautifully planned; there are good trees and fine, undulating country, and the landscape architects took

charge and planned the houses in conjunction with the ordinary architects, putting each house in its right relation to the trees and the lie of the land, planning the whole place from the point of view of external appearance with very great success. Lawns run up to the houses, and every shrub and tree is properly placed. They had no gardens, because the garden cannot be seen and tends to spoil the effect. Whether it is due to the landscape architects or not I do not know, but I went all over America looking for gardens round the smaller houses, and I could not find one until I got to the Far West.

We began after the last war, as a result of the Tudor Walters Committee, building houses at 12 to the acre with gardens fenced in, front and back, to keep out children and dogs and allow people privacy. That does not happen in America, and that is one of the rather striking contrasts between the two countries. Beginning in 1919, we built four million houses at about 12 to the acre, all with about the same size of garden, which means that about a third of our heads of families to-day are gardeners; and most people think that gardening is a healthy, pleasant and civilizing hobby, and about the only active, healthy, pleasant and civilizing hobby which has been developed in the last generation or so. It is very astonishing to find that the Americans just do not do it.

This was one of the subjects which I discussed wherever I went. The Americans to whom I talked all expressed surprise and wondered which of us was right. The American front garden is very attractive as a rule; it is almost always just a small lawn with a few flowers, and a verandah in front of the house where the occupants sit; they do not mind other people seeing them as much as we do. This means that their roads are very attractive indeed. On the other hand, the American back garden is very often a complete slum, with a garage and a garbage tin and washing hanging out, and one of the untidiest places which can be imagined. My general feeling is that the American front garden combined with the English back garden (fenced in and properly looked after) is the ideal. There are a few experiments of that kind in this country and a few in America. In New York they are building almost entirely great blocks of ten, twelve or thirteen storeys, and I did not find very much to learn. I think that their fittings in the houses are more standardized, and in some ways probably cheaper, than ours. There is a refrigerator and a washing machine in almost every house, and there is the prefabrication which we hear so much about, and which depends entirely, so far as I know, on the use of timber.

Much the most interesting thing that I saw in housing was what had been done in the case of some middle-class houses (in this country they would have cost about £800 each before the war) in Los Angeles, where a group of architects had taken over a 100-acre site and had spent several years on research (as they call it there), thinking out the best way of building the houses. They put 600 houses on this 100-acre estate. It is a rectangular estate, and all the houses are built inwards, with their backs to the outer road, while in the central part are attractive lawns, with openings for the tradesmen's carts to come in and with space for a garage, and with everything very quiet and secluded. There was a community centre, and the tenants were selected with a good deal of care.

In Detroit there are the usual skyscrapers, occupying about a square mile in the centre of the town. We arrived there on a Sunday morning and were told that we ought to have a look at the neighbourhood, and we went for a walk about 500 yards from the centre of Detroit, and there we saw our first "blighted area." That is one of the things in which Americans specialize; they do not specialize in slums, but they do have blighted areas, which are fairly recently built parts of the town which have gone downhill. Everybody in Detroit has a motor car. The place has grown

at a fantastic speed, from 200,000 people in 1900 to nearly 2,000,000 to-day, and they never had any planning until quite recently. In parts of the town quite close to the centre there are old houses and fairly new ones and old factories all lumped together, some of the factories still working and others tumbling down. There are numerous open spaces, some used for car parks and others covered in tall weeds. I have never seen such an untidy mess anywhere in England.

This problem of "blight" is one about which the American cities are very worried, and they do not quite know what to do. We have it here to some extent, but it is comparatively unimportant compared with the problem of the real, old-fashioned slum areas.

There is now in Detroit a Planning Commission. They do not hand these things over to the local authority; they do not hand anything much to the local authorities there, because the Federal Government and a good many other people do not trust them. They were at one time far and away the worst part of American democracy, but they are now improving.

Chicago has a magnificent line of skyscrapers facing the lake, and a university right in the city. Universities in America usually have up to 500 acres of campus with very fine buildings, and at Chicago the university, though right in the city, occupies a space about a mile long and 300 yards wide. The Americans have a passion for education and pour out money for it, as can be seen by the superb buildings which they put up both for universities and for schools.

The most impressive single thing in Chicago is the Lakeside Drive, 13 miles long, largely built on ground recovered from the lake, with eight traffic lanes and developed as an express parkway. A parkway has separate carriage-ways for up and down traffic with a division between them and no "grade" crossings, as they call them, other roads being crossed by bridges, and with access to it only at rare intervals and then by "cloverleaf" or other methods. Everywhere the speed is put at 35 miles an hour; it is a crime to go less and a crime to go more.

They have an amusing gadget on this Chicago parkway which must have cost untold gold. It was invented by the city engineer. It takes the form of a movable kerb. In the morning, when most of the traffic is going in to Chicago, the kerb is placed so as to provide six lines of traffic for the inward cars; for the middle of the day it provides four lanes each way, and in the evening six outgoing lanes.

The skyscraper problem exists in its most acute form in New York, and at the southern end of Manhattan there are so many skyscrapers that the traffic problem is insoluble. Further down there are isolated skyscrapers like the Rockefeller Buildings which are very convenient—as long as the liftmen do not go on strike. There is one school of thought which says that the skyscraper is wrong and should never have been built, while another school holds that a certain number of skyscrapers, such as the Rockefeller Centre, well sited and with plenty of open space, is probably the best form of general planning for a great metropolitan area.

North of New York is a county called West Chester, where the first parkways were invented in 1906. They are lovely places, and we desperately need them in this country. The contrast between the access to New York and the access to London is very startling, but it is to be hoped that the new LCC plan will do something to put that right.

There are many things in building which we do better in this country, but the Americans are very good at these big projects. The University of Manchester occupies a few acres of land in a crowded slum, but I did not see a university in America on less than a hundred acres of land; they are all spacious and dignified and beautiful, and their architects have done on the whole a very good job in planning the buildings. The further I went west the better they became.

H of C

Winston Churchill

October 28. Speech by Mr. Winston Churchill, the Prime Minister, moving in the House of Commons that a Select Committee be appointed to consider and report on plans for the rebuilding of the House of Commons and on such alterations as might be considered desirable while preserving all its essential features.

Winston Churchill: On the night of May 10, 1941—with one of the last bombs of the last serious raid—the House of Commons was destroyed by the violence of the enemy. We have now to consider whether we should build it up again, and how and when. We shape the building and afterwards our buildings shape us.

Having served for more than 40 years in the late Chamber, I naturally would like to see it restored in all essentials in its old form, and that I am sure will be the opinion of a great majority of members. It is certainly the opinion of the Government, and we propose to support this resolution to the best of our ability.

There are two main characteristics of the House of Commons which will command the approval and the support of the reflective and experienced members.

The first is that it should be oblong and not semi-circular. Here is a very potent factor in our political life. The semi-circular assembly, which appeals to political theorists, enables every individual or every group to move around the centre, adopting various shades of pink according as the weather changes. (Laughter.)

I am a convinced supporter of the party system in preference to the group system. I have seen many earnest and ardent Parliaments destroyed by the group system. The party system is much favoured by the oblong form of chamber. It is easy enough to move through these insensible gradations to the Left or Right, but the act of crossing the floor is one which requires serious consideration. (Laughter.)

I am well informed on this matter and I have accomplished that difficult process not only once but twice.

The second characteristic of a Chamber formed on the lines of the House of Commons is that it should not be big enough to contain all its members without overcrowding, and that there should be no question of every member having a separate seat reserved for him.

If the House is big enough to contain all its members, nine-tenths of its debates would be conducted in the depressing atmosphere of an almost empty or half empty Chamber. The essence of good House of Commons speaking is a conversational style with facilities for quick, informal interruption and interchanges.

Harangue from a rostrum would be a very bad substitute for our conversational style in which so much of our business is done. The conversational style requires a fairly small Chamber, and there should be on great occasions a sense of crowd and urgency.

We attach immense importance to the survival of parliamentary democracy in this country. It is one of our war aims. We did not seek to impose our ideas upon others—all the same, we hold none the less tenaciously to our own.

The vitality and the authority of the House of Commons and its hold on an electorate based on universal suffrage depends to no small extent upon its episodes and great moments—even upon its scenes and rows, which everybody will agree are better conducted at close quarters. (Laughter.)

The House is much more than a machine.

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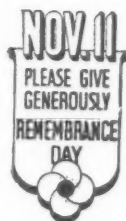
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It has captured and held through long generations the imagination and respect of the British nation. The House of Commons has lifted our affairs above the mechanical sphere into the human sphere.

It thrives on criticism—it is perfectly impervious to newspaper abuse—or taunts from almost any quarter. It is capable of digesting almost anything or almost any body of gentlemen whatever the views with which they arrive.

There is no situation to which it cannot address itself with vigour and ingenuity. It is the citadel of British liberty, the formation of our laws. Its traditions—its rules, its privileges—are as lively to-day as when it broke the arbitrary power of the Crown and substituted that constitutional monarchy under which we have enjoyed so many blessings.

In this war the House of Commons has proved itself to be a rock, and has been able to confront the most terrible emergencies. It has shown itself capable of facing the possibility of national destruction with classical composure.

It has, and can, change Government by the heat of passion—it can sustain Government through long, adverse, disappointing struggles, through many months and dark, grey years, until the sun comes out again.

I do not know how else this country can be governed except through the House of Commons playing its part in all the wide and broad freedom of British public life.

We have learned—with those so recently confirmed facts around us and before us—not to alter improvidently the physical structure which has enabled so remarkable an organism to carry on its work—to ban all personal dictatorships within this island and pursue and beat into ruin all dictators who molest us from outside. Therefore, the Government are most anxious, and indeed resolved, to ask the House to adhere firmly in principle to the

structure and characteristics of the House of Commons they have known—(cheers)—and I do not doubt that is the wish of the great majority of members in this—the second longest Parliament of our history.

If challenged, they must take issue on it by the customary Parliamentary method of debate—followed by division.

In the lobbies of the Chamber which Hitler shattered we had facilities and conveniences far exceeding those which we are able to enjoy in this lordly abode. I am therefore proposing that we decide to rebuild the House of Commons on its old foundations, which are intact, and that we should utilize as far as possible its shattered walls. (Cheers.)

It is said that we should wait until the end of the war, but we must have a plan—and have the preliminary surveying done so that at the end of the war—if not earlier—we can start without delay and build ourselves a House again. I am, however, not entirely convinced that it may not be found possible to make definite progress in this work, even during the war. (Cheers.)

The First Commissioner of Works has submitted a scheme which would enable the old House of Commons to be reconstructed with certain desirable improvements and modernizations in 18 months, but it would be prudent. I think, to double that period. The last House of Commons—the one set up after 1834—was promised in six years and took 27 to build.

Mr. J. Maxton (I.L.P., Bridgeton): There was not a bricklayer Prime Minister then. (Laughter.)

Mr. Churchill continued: When I speak of rebuilding the House in 18 months, that is of course without panelling or carving. I mean simply a Chamber for us to dwell in and conduct our business.

We must then consider very carefully the strain on our labour resources. The House

had first to make its decision on principle, he continued, and then the execution of those decisions must be a matter for the Government to carry out as and when the public interest required, and strictly within the limits of the war effort.

All the same, I must tell you that it would be a real danger if—at the end of the war—we found ourselves separated by a long period from the possibility of obtaining a restored and suitable House of Commons chamber.

We are building warships, sometimes that will not be finished for many years ahead, and various works of construction go forward for war purposes, and I am bound to say that I rank the House of Commons—the most powerful Assembly in the whole world—at least as important as a fortification or a battleship, even in time of war.

Politics may be very fierce and violent in the after-war days. We may have all the changes in personnel which will follow from a General Election.

We must have a good, well-tryed and convenient place in which to do our work. The House owes it to itself—it owes it to the nation to make sure that there is no gap in the continuity of our Parliamentary life.

He added that he was only expressing the views of the Government—and if the House set up the Committee, and the Committee—in a few months' time—gave their report, decisions could be taken on the whole matter.

We owe a great debt to the House of Lords for having placed at our disposal this spacious and splendid hall. We have already expressed our thanks to them. But we do not wish to outstay our welcome. We have been greatly inconvenienced under this gilded roof. But, sir,

"Mid pleasures and palaces though we may roam,

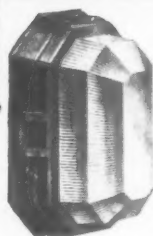
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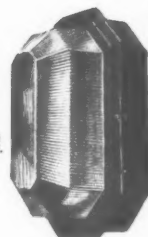


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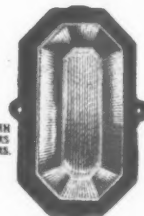
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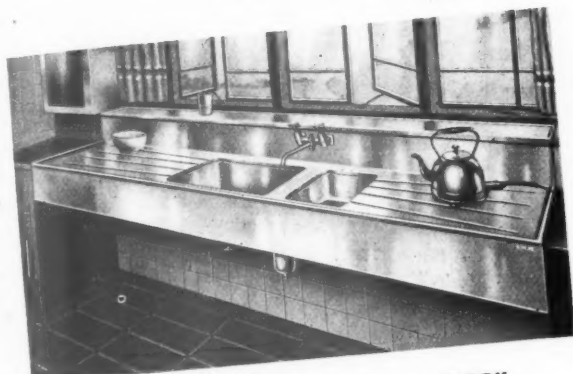
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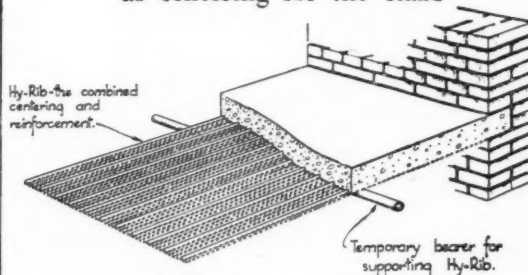
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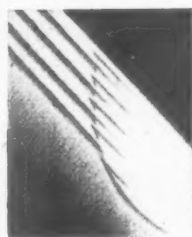
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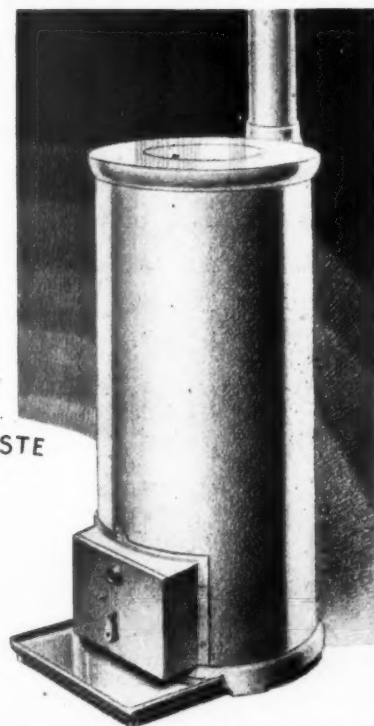
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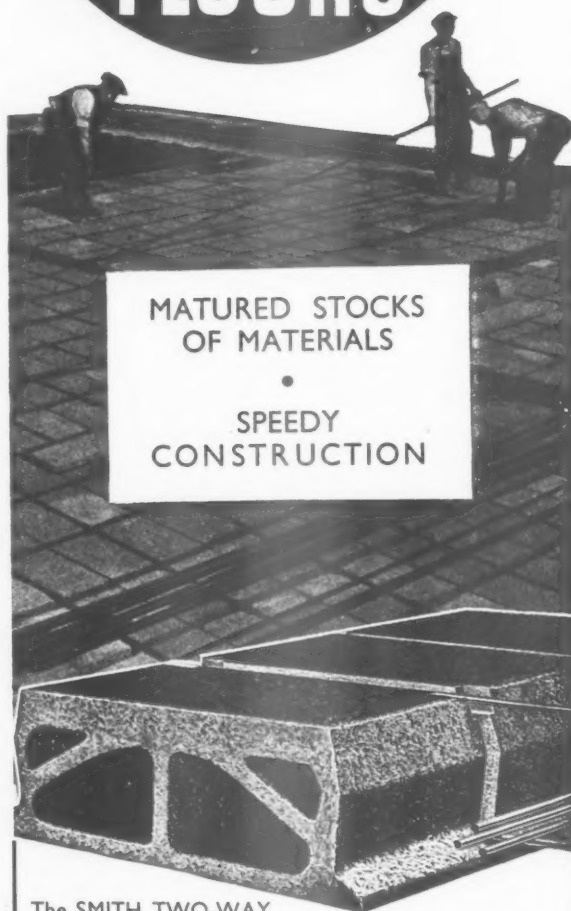
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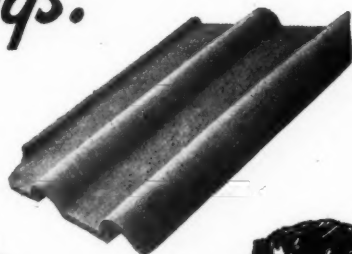
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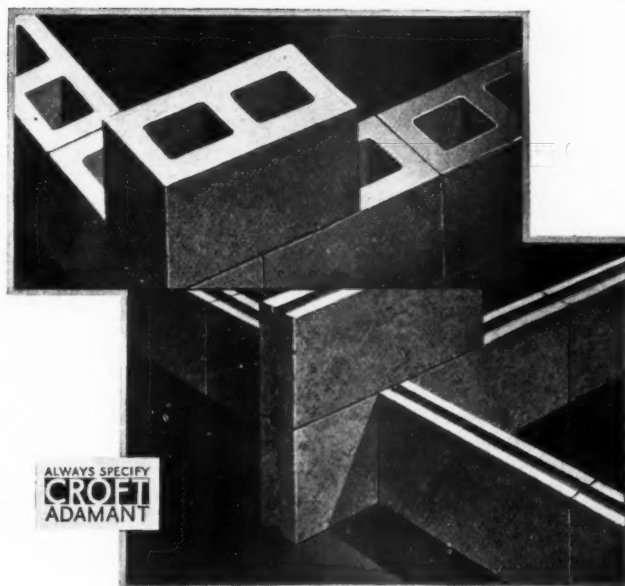
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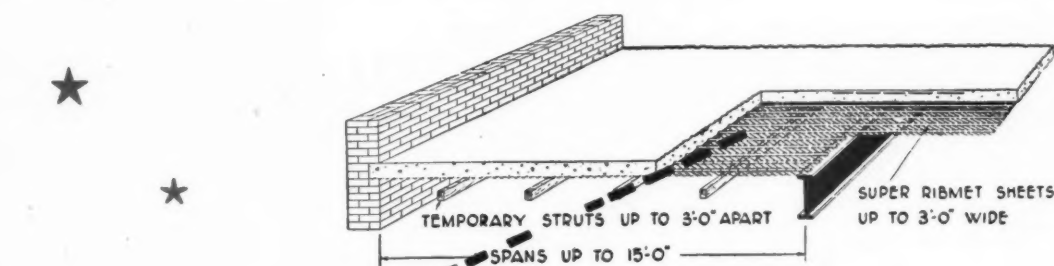
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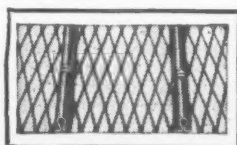
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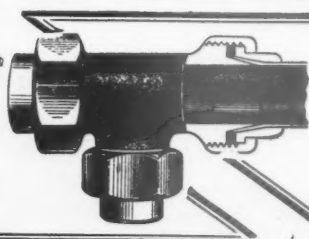
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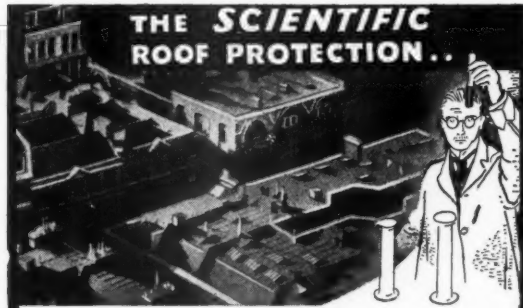
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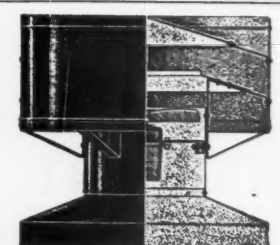

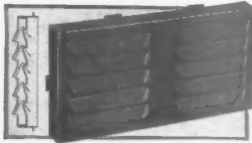
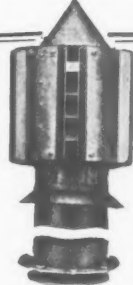
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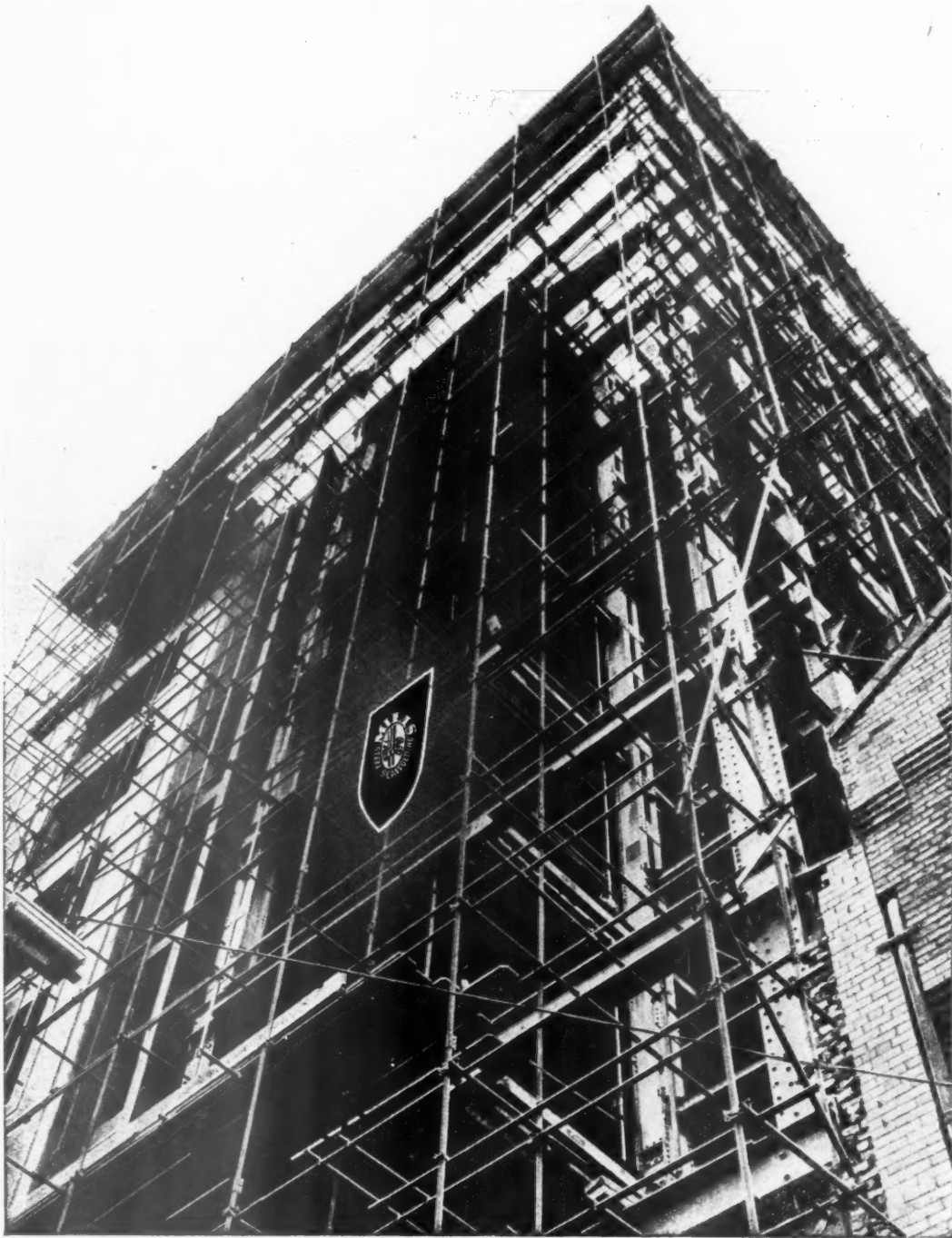
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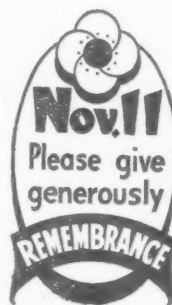
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