

THROUGHOUT THE WAR AND INTO PEACE

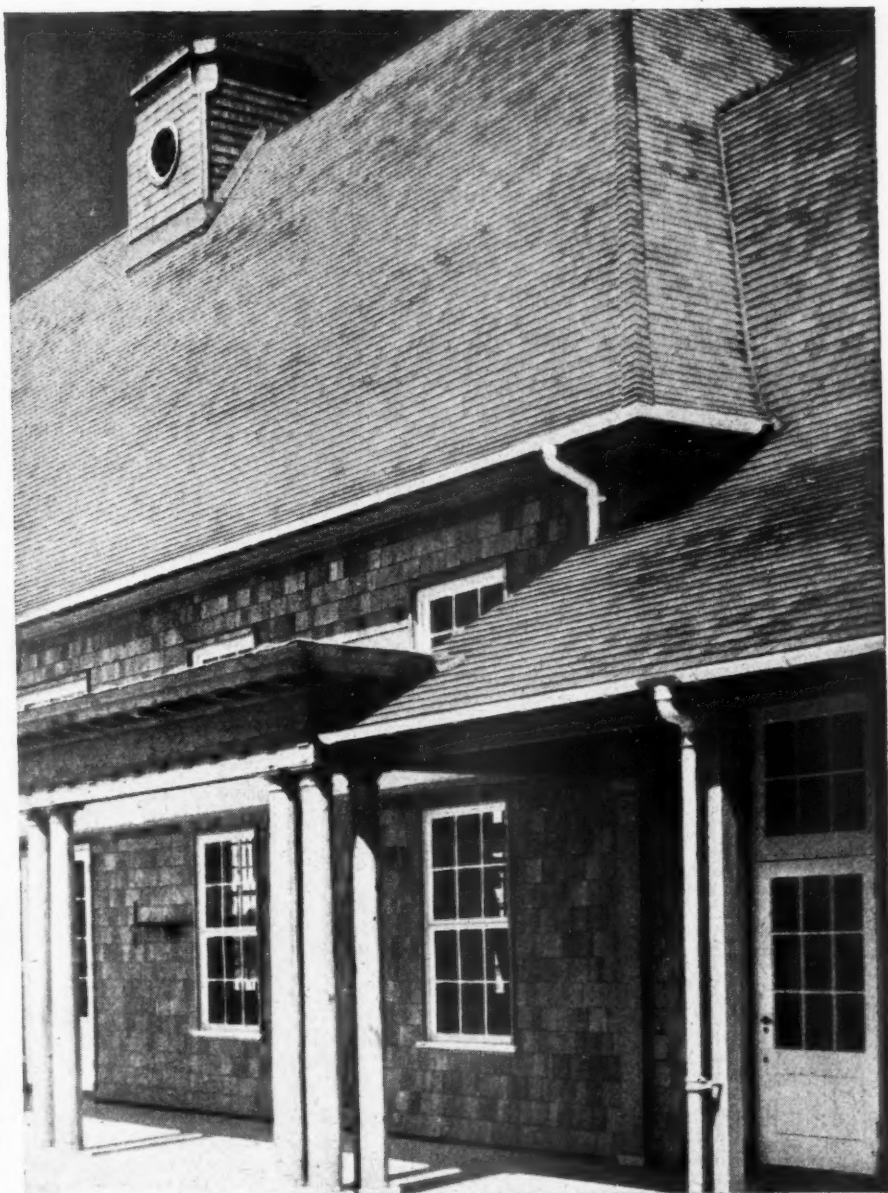
THROUGHOUT the War, Colt's have maintained uninterruptedly a continuous supply and fixing service of Colt Shingles on War Department, Air Ministry and other

Government and essential buildings. Limited stocks are still available, and our Technical Department is at the service of all Architects.

Colt Shingles have proved themselves superior to every other roofing material in their remarkable resistance to blast, more than justifying our claims for the security of a Colt Shingle roof.

In Peace, Colt Shingles will be specified more widely than ever for their beauty, long life, high insulation value and weather-proof qualities.

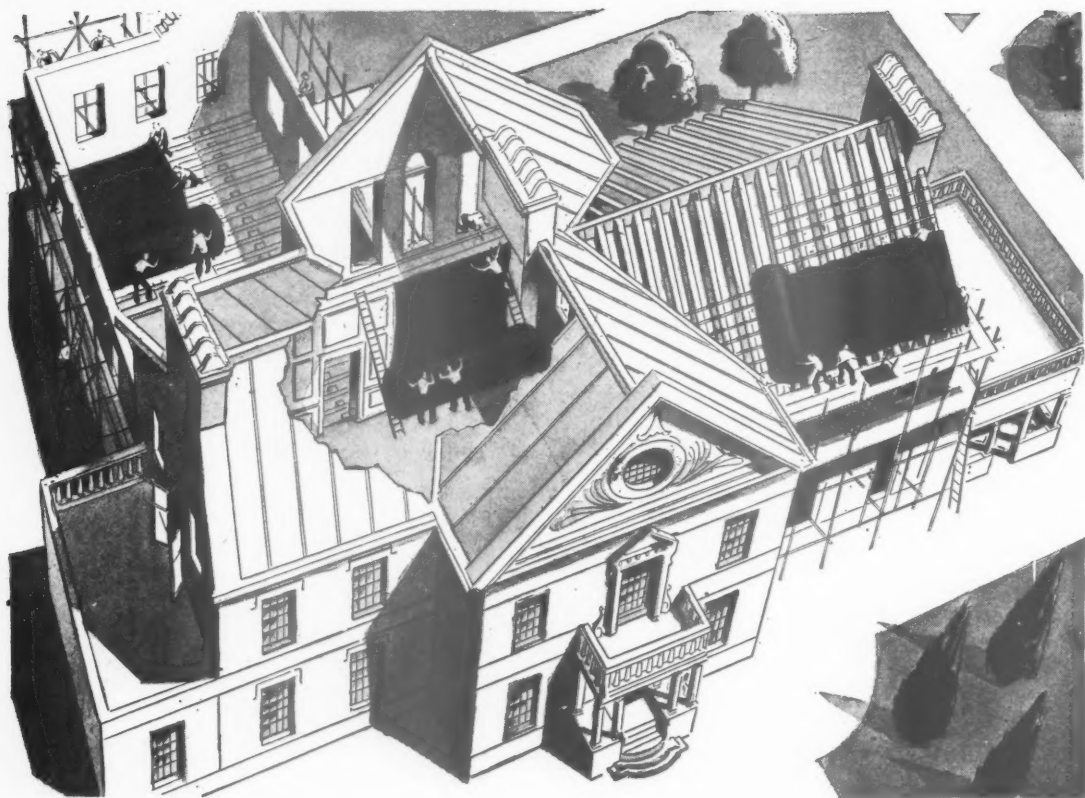
Copies of our Shingle Handbook containing 110 photographs, and full technical information, price 6d. on request. Write to W. H. Colt, (London) Ltd., Surbiton, Surrey.



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Flaking ceilings . . . warping floors . . . rain and wind whistling in the loft . . . these and other evils of damp, dirt, and draught . . . a heritage from the age of unenlightenment. What of the future: will post-war builders repeat the mistakes of the past? Impossible if the specification includes Sisalkraft.

For wherever damp, dirt, and draught are likely to launch their assault, there Sisalkraft will present an impenetrable barrier. Under roofs as sarking . . . liners for panelled walls and linings under floors . . . as tarpaulins for work in progress and perishable materials on the site . . . Sisalkraft will be needed for many constructional uses . . . and where

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Sisalkraft is not an emulsion impregnated sheet of brown paper. It is an unusually strong material (practically untearable), a fusion of pure bitumen and two sheets of extra-tough Kraft paper reinforced with crossed Sisal fibres; that is why Sisalkraft is consistently used by Government Departments, Municipal Authorities, and Public Works Contractors . . . and why Sisalkraft Standard Grade for post-war use will play such an important part in future reconstruction plans.

Write to-day (enclosing 1d. stamp) for full technical details.

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for essential work.

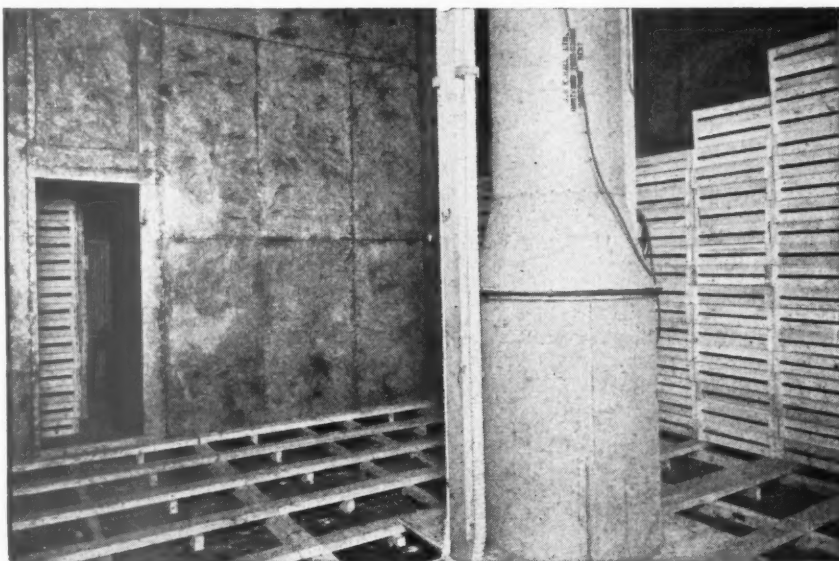
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The innumerable applications of
REFRIGERATION

in Department Stores, Retail Shops, Factories, Office Buildings, Hospitals, Laboratories, Schools, Restaurants, Cafés, Theatres, Cinemas, Hotels, Dairies, Breweries, &c., often present Architects with unfamiliar problems of a highly technical nature, which are best solved by obtaining the expert assistance and co-operation of

J. & E. HALL

L I M I T E D

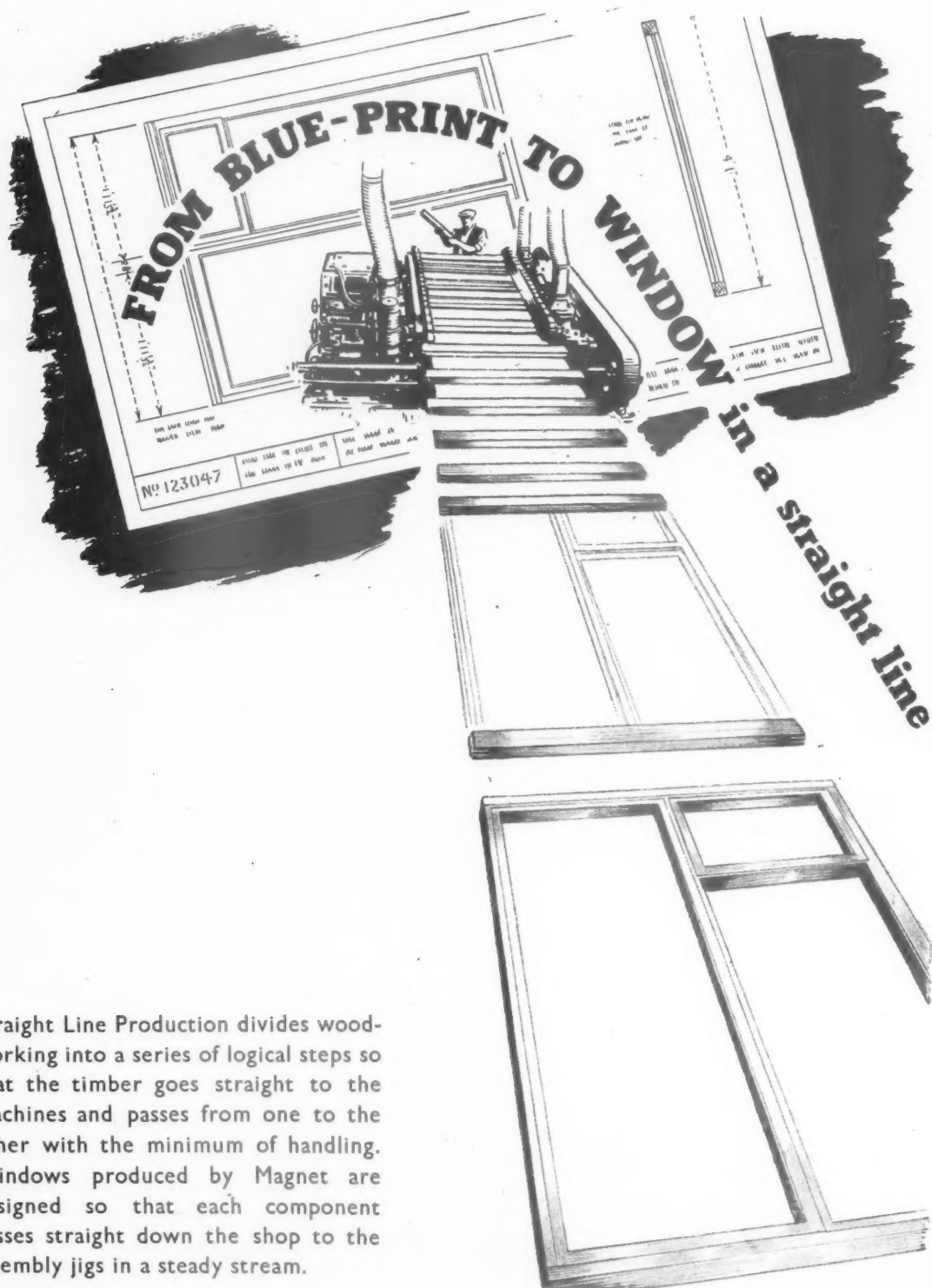
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DARTFORD IRONWORKS, DARTFORD, KENT

Established 1785

Leaders in refrigeration for over sixty years, makers of

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Straight Line Production divides wood-working into a series of logical steps so that the timber goes straight to the machines and passes from one to the other with the minimum of handling. Windows produced by Magnet are designed so that each component passes straight down the shop to the assembly jigs in a steady stream.

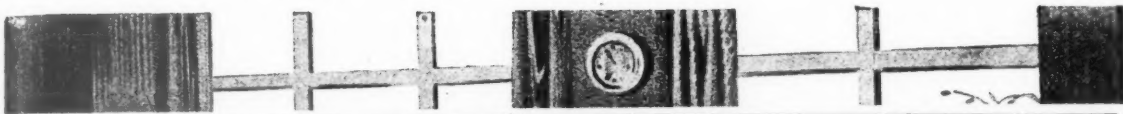
MAGNET JOINERY

WHITLEY STREET, BINGLEY, YORKS

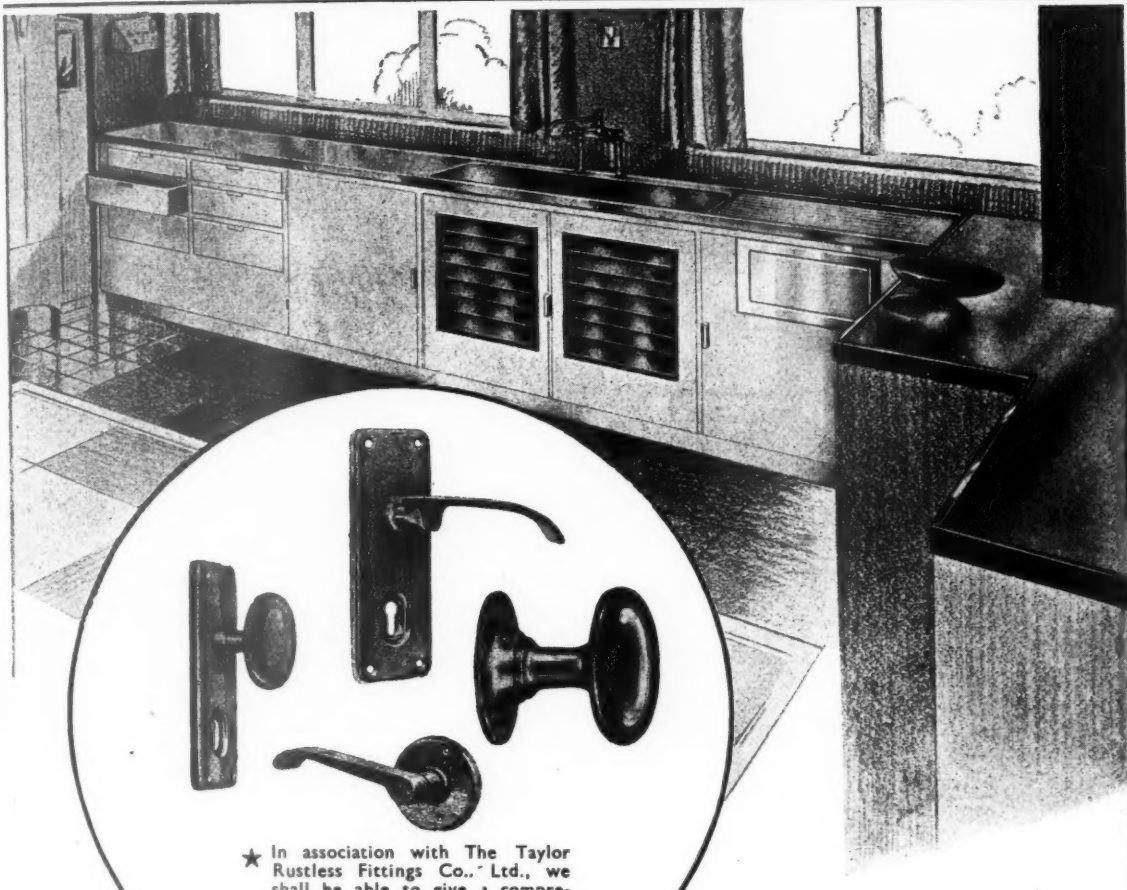
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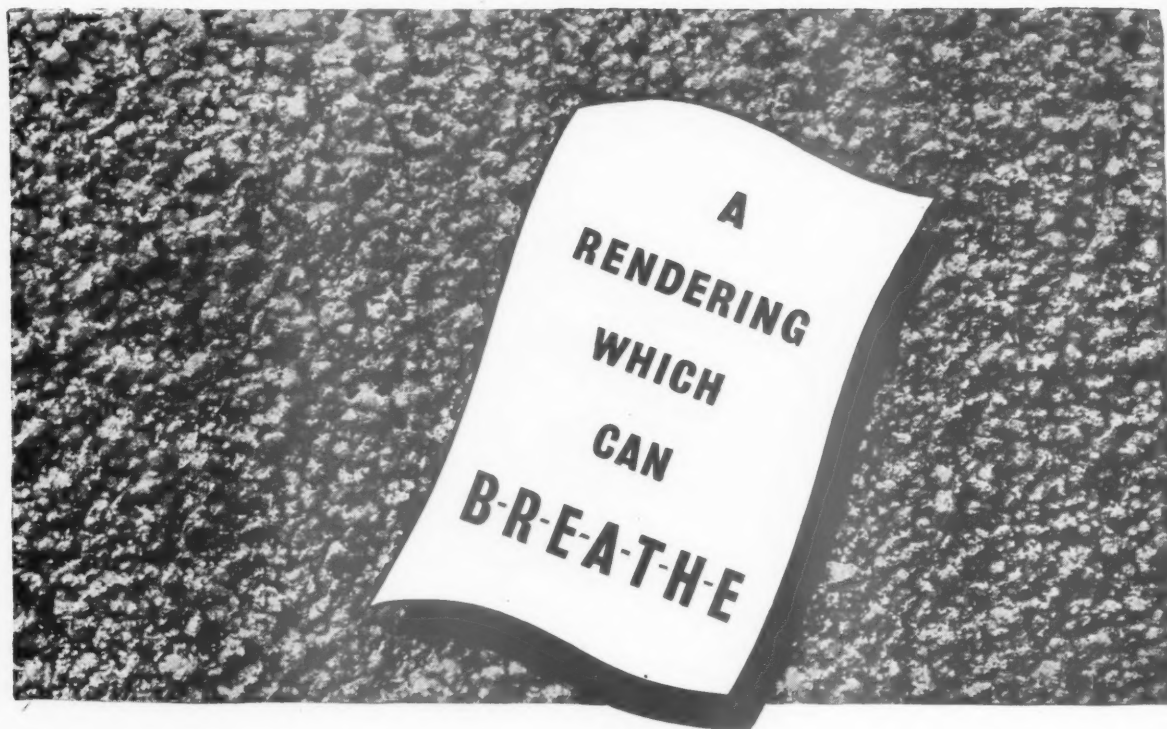
★ In association with The Taylor Rustless Fittings Co., Ltd., we shall be able to give a comprehensive range of stainless steel architectural fittings for doors, staircases, bank grilles, display stands, hospital equipment, etc., etc.

What will you be building ? . . . modern homes, luxury flats, schools, hospitals, hotels . . . Pland Stainless Steel Sinks present the modern way of introducing beauty plus hygiene, and will admirably play a major rôle in your plans. Germ-free, rustless, always clean, designed if necessary to your own specification . . . without doubt the choice of the connoisseur.

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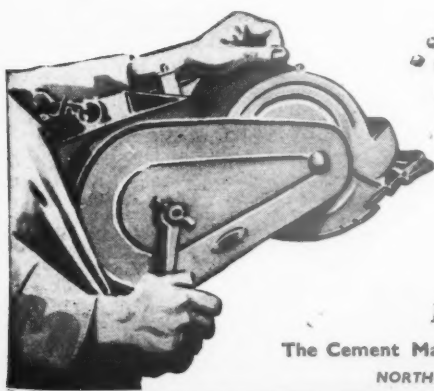
THIS is one of the important features of the Tyrolean Finish—the texture for exteriors for post-war building.

Moisture will travel and accumulate when cracks occur in a hard, dense rendering. With the Tyrolean Finish moisture is absorbed evenly over the whole area and subsequently dries out by evaporation.

A facing is produced which is uniform

in colour, has no joint marks and weathers evenly.

This finish is produced by applying to an absorbent backing a facing of Tyrolean 'Cullamix.' The mixture is flicked on with a machine which builds up a facing of open texture which can breathe, thus preventing the penetration and accumulation of damp.



TYROLEAN FINISH

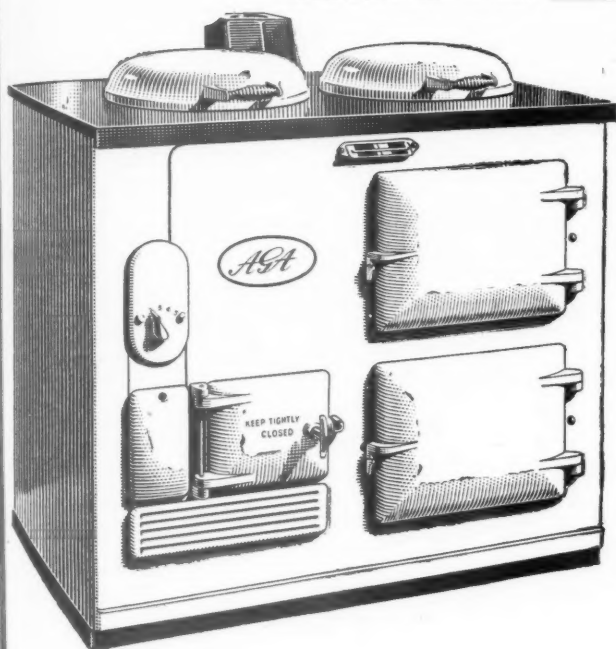
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The Cement Marketing Company Ltd., The Club House, Coombe Hill, Kingston-on-Thames
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HEAT STORAGE COOKING

EXAMPLE

THE AGA COOKER

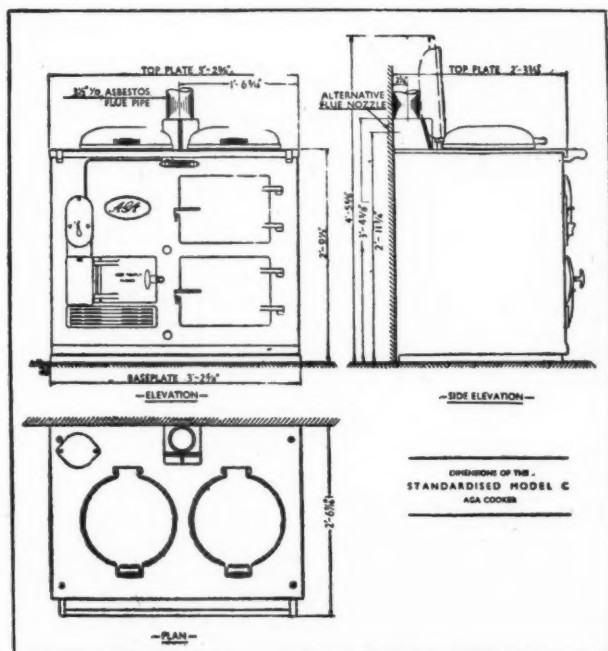


WEIGHT: Approximately 10½ cwt.

INSTALLATION: It fits right back against the wall: the flue pipe can be taken either straight up to the chimney or else a different flue chamber can be fitted and the stub taken to a built-in flue. It is recommended that the AGA Cooker should stand on a sheet of asbestos cement or asbestos millboard (in the case of a wooden floor): or it may be raised on a brick or cement dais flush with the front plate of the cooker. It is important that the hearth or base upon which the cooker stands should be perfectly level.

SPECIFICATION FOR MODEL C:

The dimensions of this model are given in the drawings below, which show front and side elevations and plan. It is recommended for average conditions in a medium-sized house. It provides a fast boiling plate and a separate simmering plate, and two ovens, one for roasting and one for simmering and plate-warming. It is guaranteed not to consume more than an annual maximum of 2½ tons of fuel.



ONE OF THE MANY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE POST-WAR HOME THAT WILL BE MADE BY

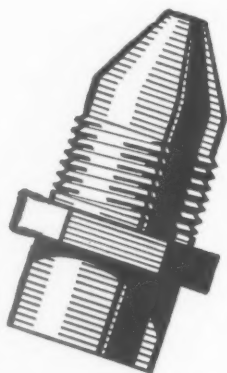
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REGD. PAT. No. 544481

Here is a remarkably simple, yet 100% efficient device for the prevention of bursts in water installations due to freezing.

Zeross is a metal valve so designed that when ice begins to form in a water system, the resulting increased pressure set up thereby is relieved by the automatic operation of the valve, which discharges the total excess volume of water due to expansion.

The valve reseats itself immediately this pressure has been relieved and before the thaw has taken place.

Zeross has undergone the most severe and rigid tests and may be specified with complete confidence.

Zeross technicians will gladly give advice and assistance on all your freezing problems.

➔ A CERTAIN AND AUTOMATIC SAFEGUARD AGAINST BURST PIPES DUE TO FROST.

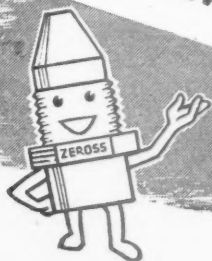
➔ WHEN CORRECTLY INSTALLED GIVES 100% EFFICIENCY.

➔ CANNOT CORRODE. NO ESSENTIAL PARTS IN CONTACT WITH WATER.

➔ MADE IN A RANGE OF TYPES AND SIZES TO SUIT ALL DOMESTIC AND INDUSTRIAL WATER INSTALLATIONS.

➔ CAN BE FITTED INTO IRON, LEAD OR COPPER SYSTEMS WITH EQUAL EASE AND EFFICIENCY.

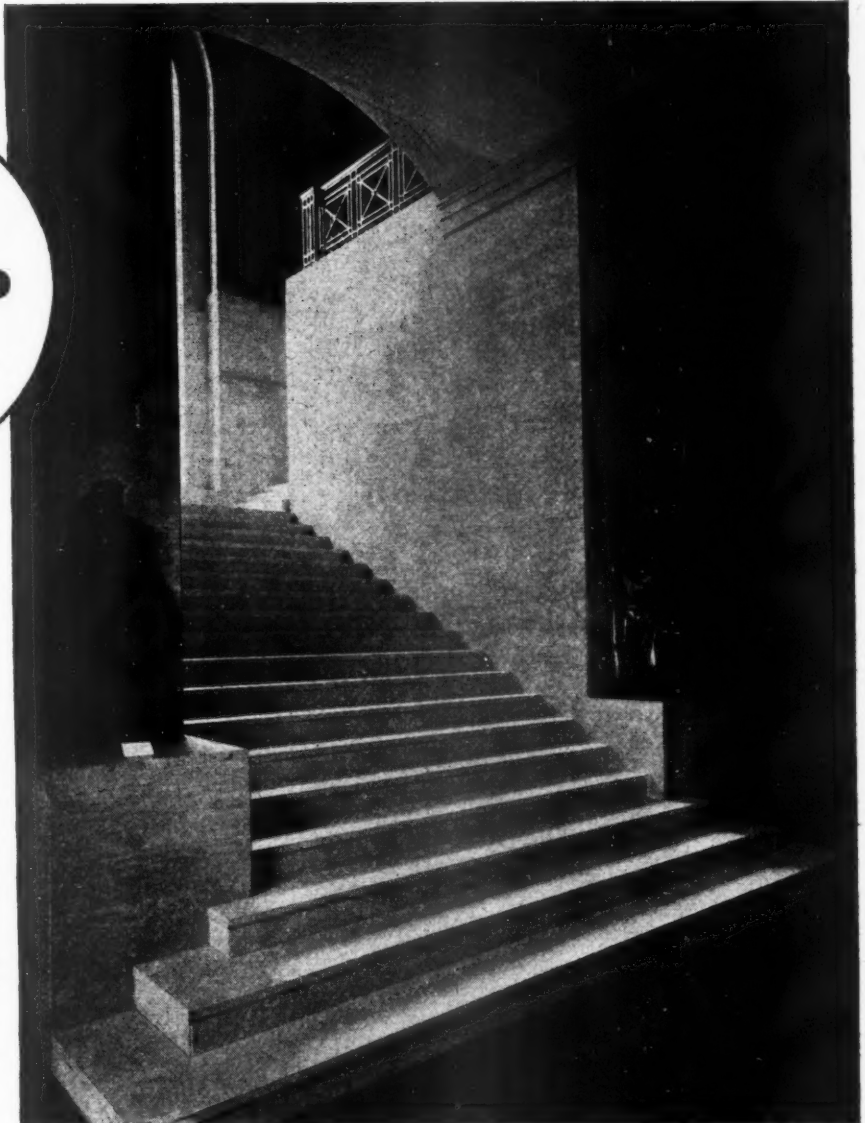
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Architects:
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are pleasant windows

It's good to look through a pleasant window, and pleasant windows are good to look at from the outside—and they can do so much to help the appearance of any housing scheme. That is why the joinery trade paid as much attention to looks as it did to quality when designing the new Standard Wood Casement. Good wooden windows are always attractive.

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RANGE OF SUPPLEMENTARY
LIGHTING UNITS**

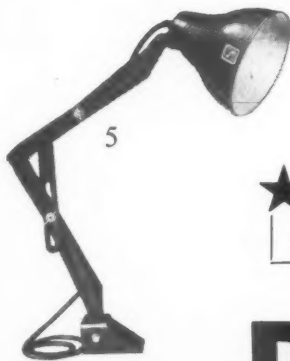
1



3



7



5



2



4



6

Supplementary lighting can be applied from near or from a distance according to the circumstances. There are local lighting reflectors, either Extensive (1), or Intensive (2) to be mounted on pendants, or there are 45° (3), or 90° types (4) to be mounted in positions where they will not cause glare in the eyes of others. Local reflectors are fitted on adjustable brackets (5) which can be rigidly locked in any desired position.

From a distance the Intensolux (6) throws a fairly narrow beam of light. It can often be placed high up out of the way. The miniature Intensolux (7) used with low voltage auto lamps gives a small circle of light from a shorter range.

The illustrations are of filament reflectors, fluorescent tubular lighting often requires the use of supplementary units also.



This is sheet No. 12. If you have not seen the others in the series, write for them

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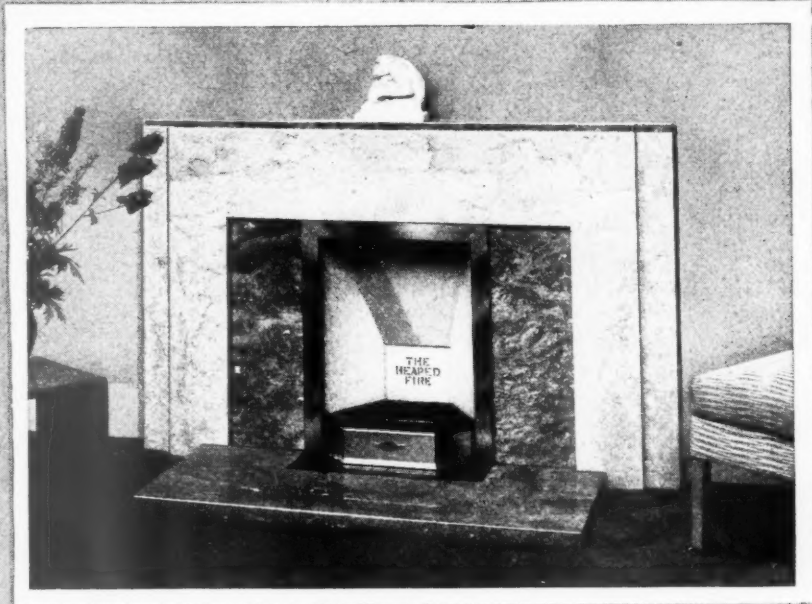
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Bratt Colbran fireplaces have always been distinguished by fine design and wise handling of good materials, closely associated with advanced technical efficiency. Present research promises great progress in technique after the war which will be developed with customary skill and taste.

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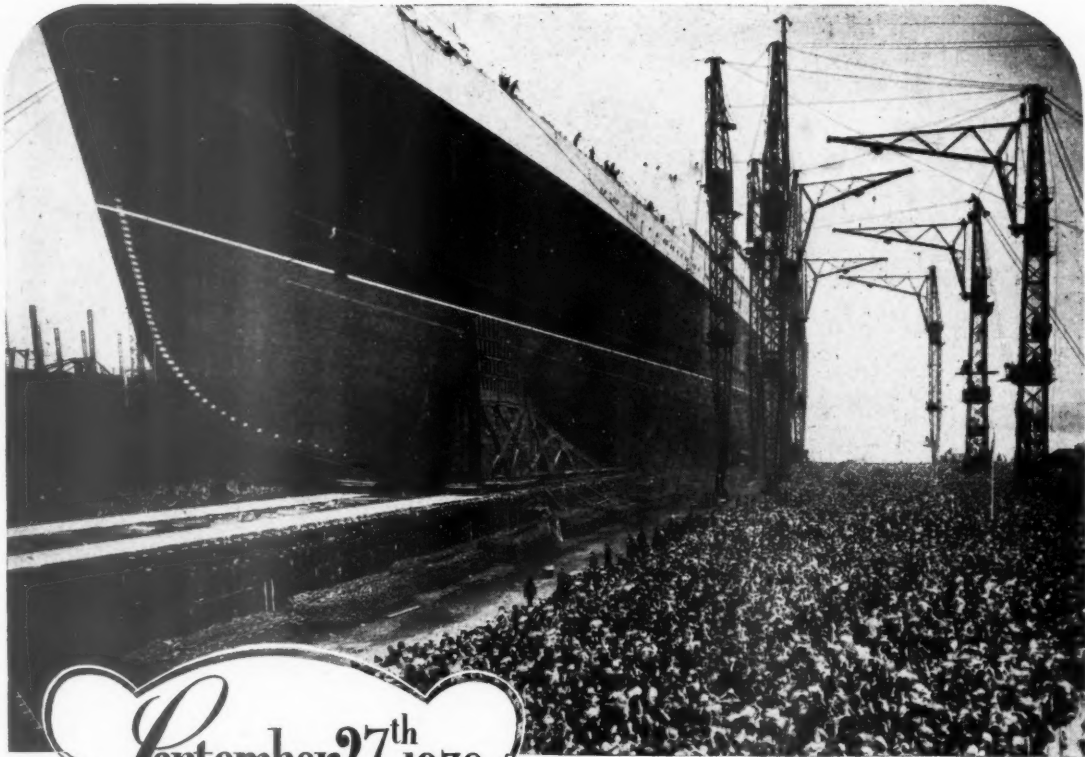


The oak in the photograph is at least 800 years old! This sturdy disregard for time and the elements is a feature of good woodwork too; and modern science has done much to add to wood's natural resistance to wear and tear.

The
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Company Ltd

MELTON MOWBRAY

Craftsmen in Domestic Joinery



September 27th 1938

The launching of the Queen Elizabeth, the world's largest liner, by H.M. the Queen at Clydebank, was witnessed by what must have been the greatest crowd ever assembled for such an event.

At that time we were building the L.C.C. New County Hall, warehouses for the Port of London Authority at Royal Victoria Docks, large extensions to the Shredded Wheat Factory at Welwyn Garden City, to Broadcasting House and to Fulham Power Station. We were also engaged on extending the works of Daimler, B.S.A., De Havilland and Rotol Airscrews. We were building a new town house for the Rt. Hon. J. A. de Rothschild and enlarging the Clapton Greyhound Stadium. All these, in addition to numerous smaller contracts covering almost every conceivable type of building.

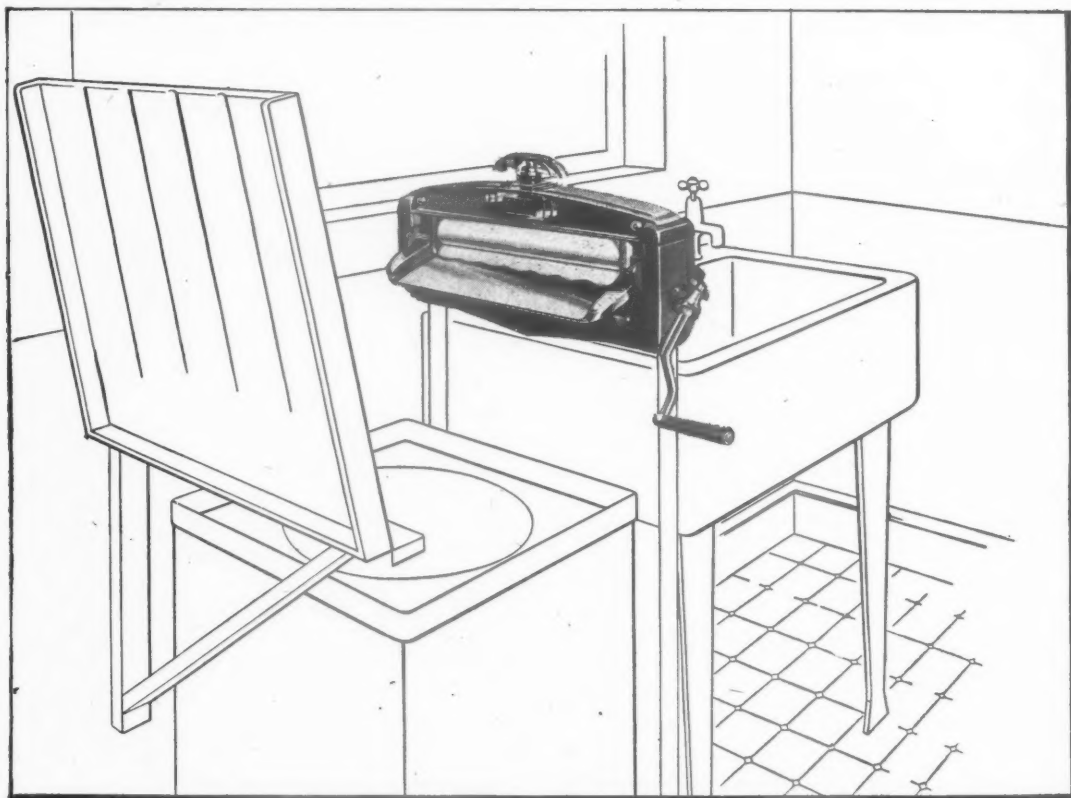
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LEEDS
ST. PAUL'S STREET



She dreamed

and in her dream time turned back thirty years. She was a housewife, busy with the weekly wash. With aching back and heated weary face she toiled between a sink she had to bend herself in two to reach, a copper boiling over a roaring roasting fire, and a monstrous mangle she barely had the strength to turn.

She woke

and there she was — a housewife, but of the pattern of today and tomorrow. With the weekly wash before her, nothing but the normal work of a normal day. With her pleasant kitchen, her just-right sink, her easy to use wash-boiler and her rubber roller wringer. What need had she to fear a back that ached, or a skin shrivelled by heat and exhaustion?

Modern woman demands a civilised standard for the kitchen where the biggest part of her work is performed. A survey undertaken to ensure that her standards are met has laid down what are the minimum requirements—the size and

height of sink, the type of draining-board, the presence of wash-boiler. And always—room for a rubber roller wringer. The housewife herself will tell you *which* wringer—the Acme 55—the BEST.

To plan a modern house without a modern kitchen would be like building a ship without an engine room. To fix the kitchen without equipment for the home laundry would be leaving the engine room bare of engines.

Ministries and local authorities have accepted and approved surveys which regard conditions for the home laundry as vital. Which emphasises that room should always be made in the sink-unit for a rubber roller wringer, which halves a woman's work and takes the nightmare quality out of wash-day.

If your work brings you any problem in connection with the fixing of wringers, please get in touch with us for advice or assistance. We will have much pleasure in helping you.

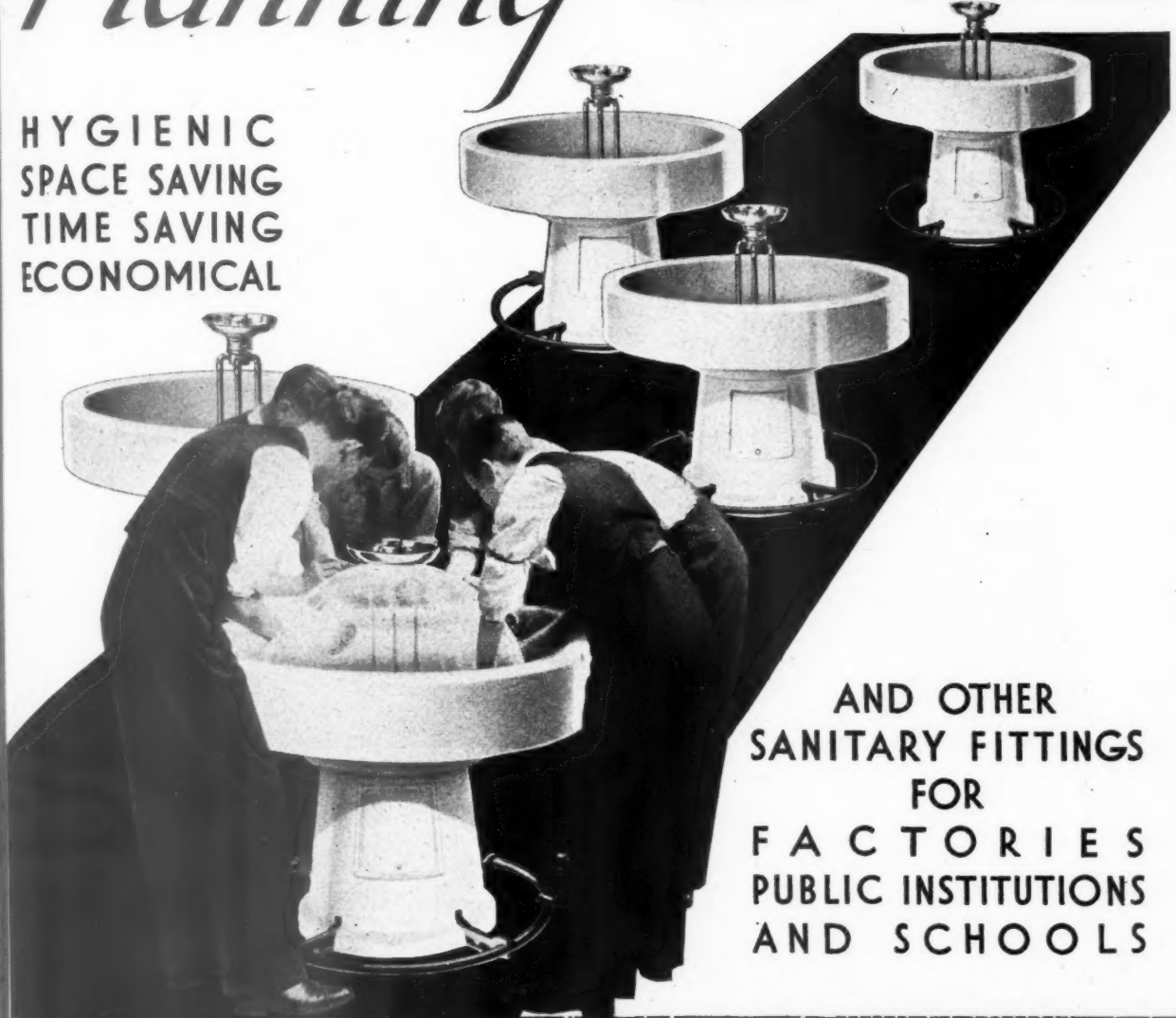
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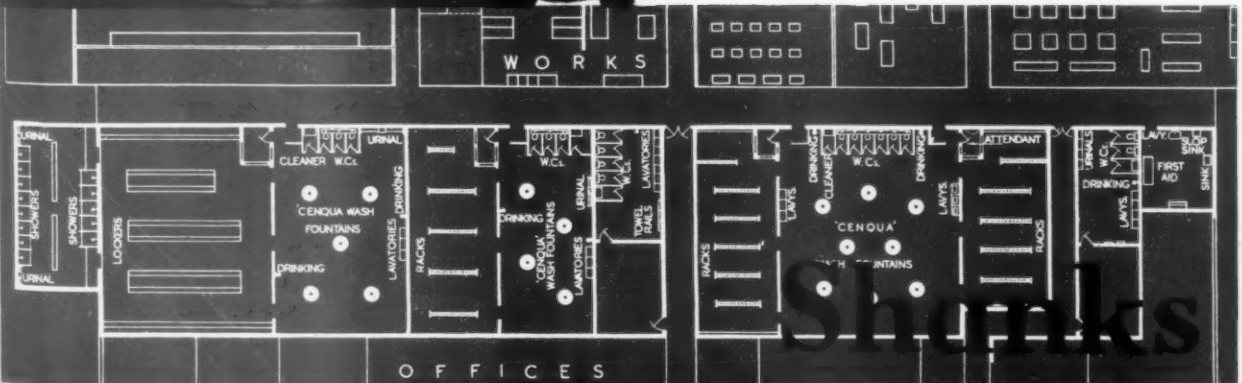
POST WAR *Planning*

HYGIENIC
SPACE SAVING
TIME SAVING
ECONOMICAL

“THE CENQUA”
WASH FOUNTAINS

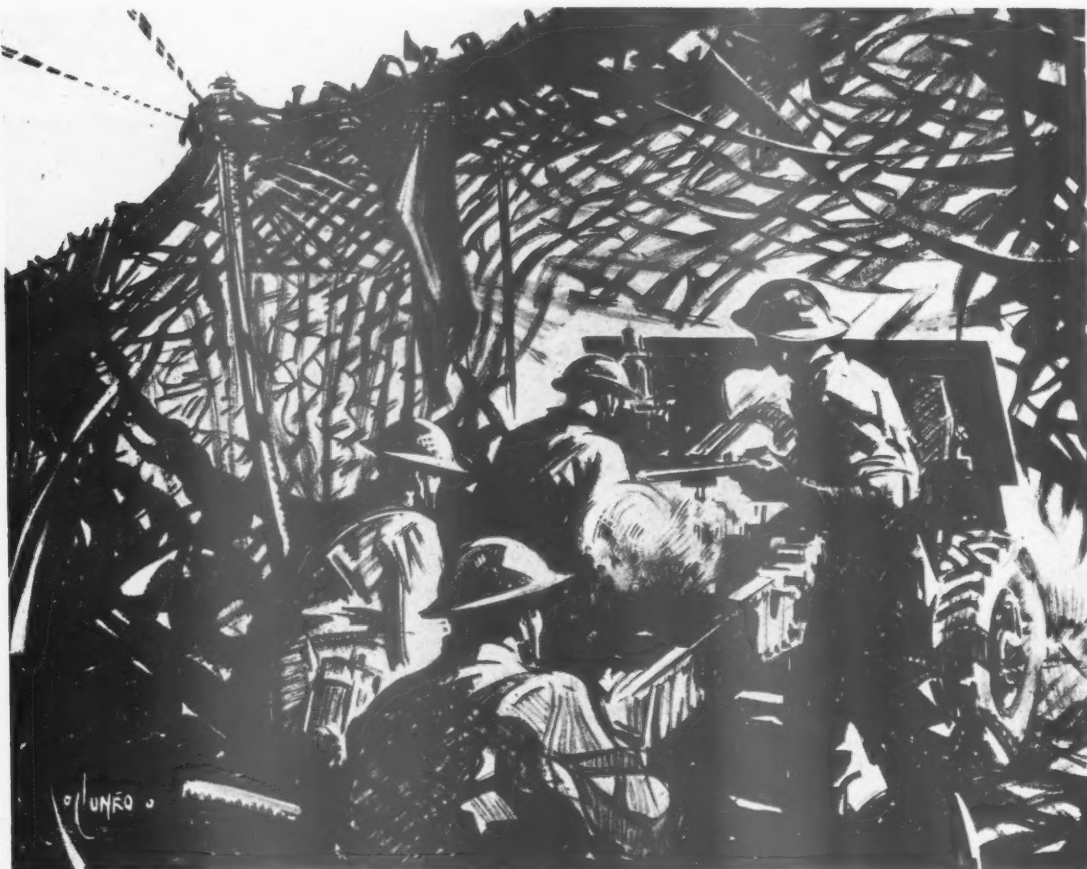


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More than meets the eye



Skill in applying the right colours in the right place must be matched by the durability of the coatings and of the material. Camouflage, in short, must baffle not only the enemy but also the elements. I.C.I. have studied the problem thoroughly—and successfully, too—for since 1939 they have coated and supplied hundreds of thousands of yards of camouflage material. Because of this two-fold victory of design and durability, I.C.I. will in time be able to reveal the result of their wartime research in the form of peacetime excellence. Mural “Rexine” and Mural “Vynide” panelling cloths will be available in the widest choice of attractive designs, colours and effects for all forms of interior decoration.



IMPERIAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES LTD., LONDON, S.W. 1

THE ARCHITECT and the POST-WAR HOME

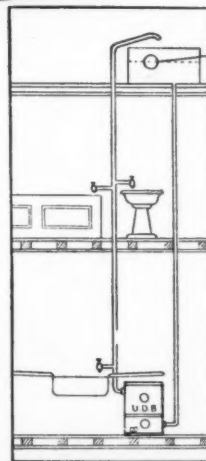


The Architect's interest in a house begins with the planning of the first blue-print. The Housewife's begins when the removal contractor's van draws up at the front gate.

Sadia, thinking ahead, have produced an Electric Water Heater to satisfy the requirements both of the Architect whose calculations are in terms of pipe work, flues, ventilation, and constructional costs, and of the Housewife who thinks in terms of efficiency, economy and convenience.

The SADIA TYPE U.D.B. (UNDER DRAINING BOARD) will work entirely alone and provides a complete hot water installation while occupying the smallest possible space. As efficient as it is compact, as cheap to run as it is easy to fit, the SADIA U.D.B. ensures a constant hot water supply in bathroom and kitchen and wherever else it may be required. When used in conjunction with a solid fuel hot water installation it ensures a constant hot water supply throughout the year and a cool house in the summer.

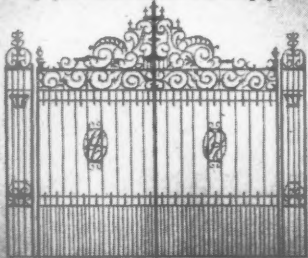
Further particulars on request.



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will demand specialist designs in gates, railings, etc



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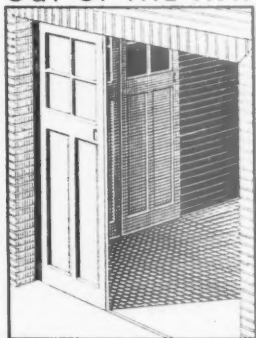
4-567

TO SWING OR NOT TO SWING



THAT IS THE QUESTION and when it comes to planning doors it is an important one—important because there are few things more precious than space when you are working in confined quarters. A door that's hinged is a door that needs a lot of room; but with a sliding door it's different. If it's fitted with King Door Gear a touch of the hand takes it out of the way, gliding easily and quickly to nestle snugly against the wall, completely and unobtrusively out of the way.

OUT OF THE WAY



It is true to say that in post-war building every inch of space will be of the utmost value; take advantage of every scrap of it—when you can, and how you can. This is where King Door Gear comes in—or to be more precise slides along. Doors that slide mean doorways that allow free passage all around them.

For ante rooms, cloak rooms, garages, lifts, etc., and places where space is limited or traffic congestion is likely to occur, sliding doors are the perfect application.

As specialists for over a quarter of a century we claim to satisfy the most exacting requirements for any type of sliding door gear. Write for fully illustrated booklet.

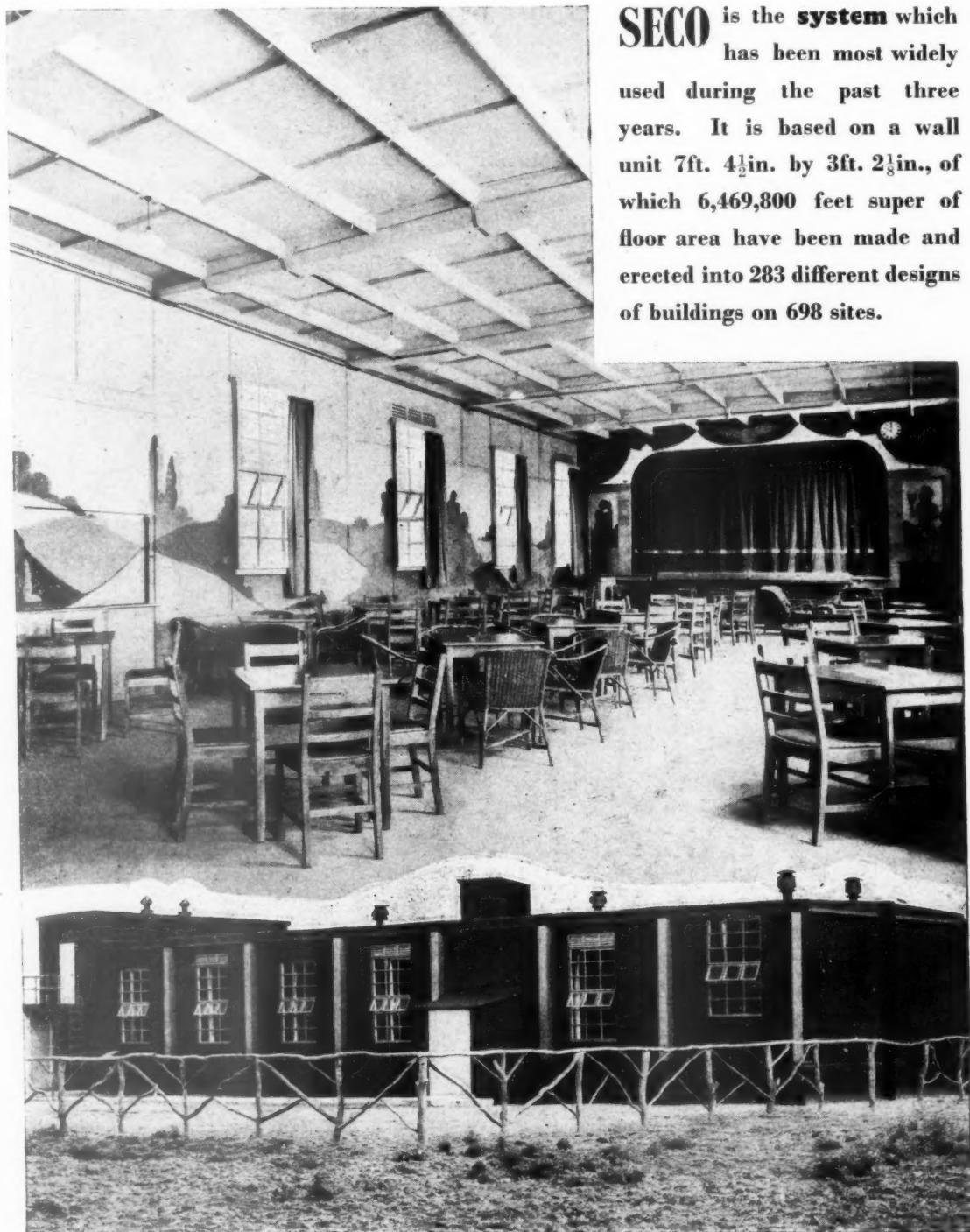
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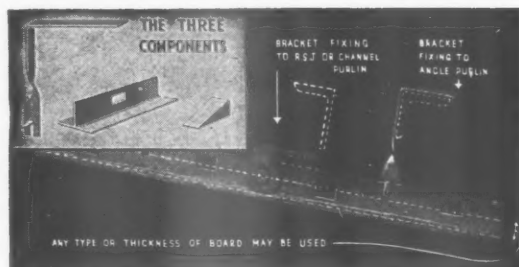
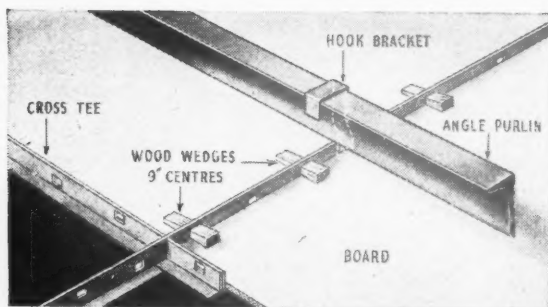
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The Wallboard is secured to sherardised, pressed steel, slotted T-section by wedges. Below are shown the methods of attaching the support to various forms of purlin.



Escalator Tunnel of St. John's Wood Underground Station. Architect: S. A. Heaps.



8 POINTS TO BE NOTED

1. Fixed to **UNDERSIDE** of purlins—steel or wood—covering unsightly hook bolts, clips, etc.
2. Assures the insulating value of air-space between roof and underside of purlins. No dust or dirt.
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4. No unsightly nail heads showing.
5. Can be applied to new or old buildings of any construction independently of the roofing contractor,
6. who proceeds with his work ahead of the AnD Wedge Method.
7. Any thickness of board can be used, from $\frac{1}{8}$ " to $\frac{5}{8}$ ".
8. This method can be used for applying linings to exterior walls.
9. The simplicity of application is such that any contractor can apply the AnD Wedge Method, and the materials making up this method can be purchased by the contractor.

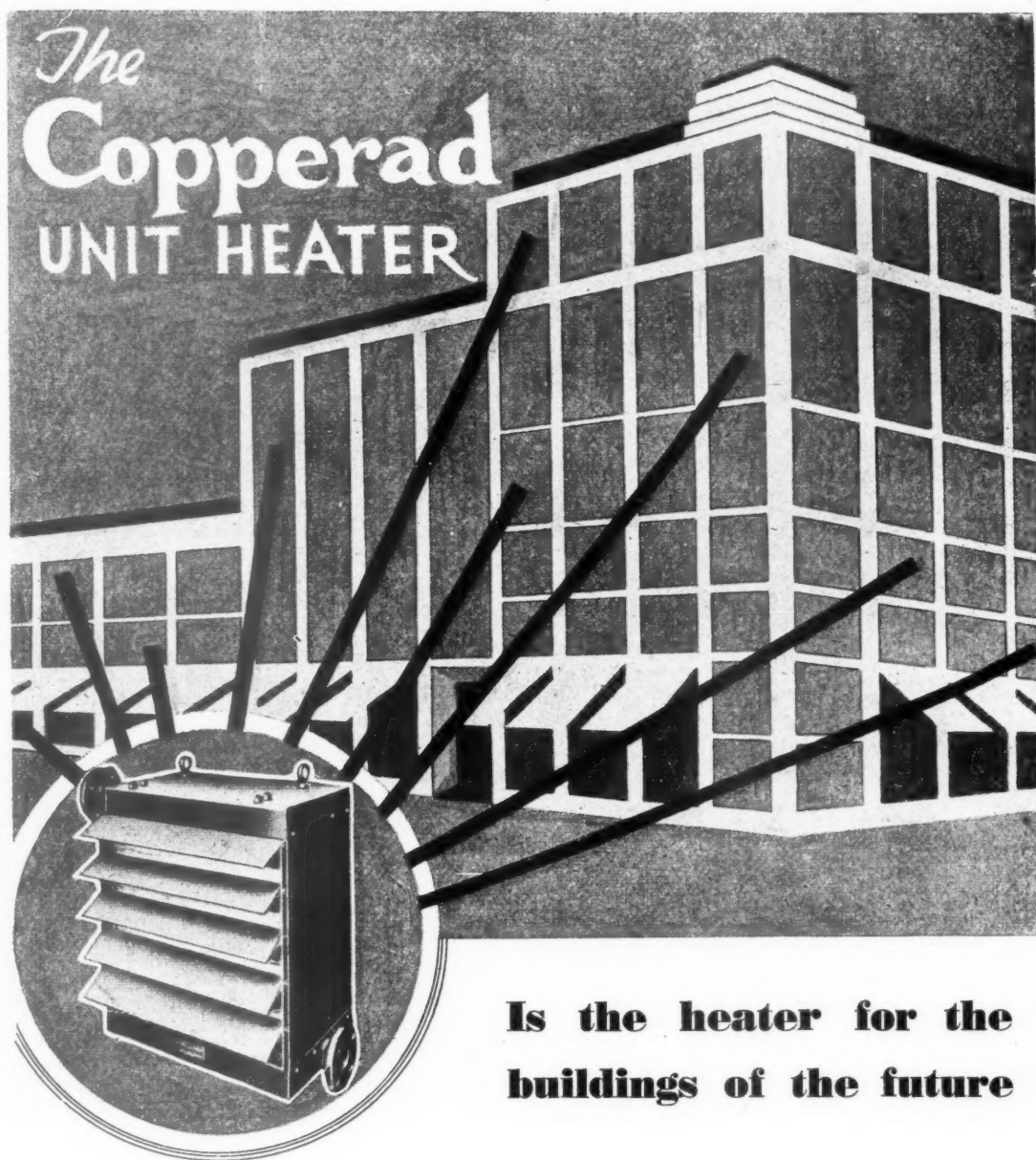
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The illustration features a modern building with a prominent grid of windows. In the foreground, a circular inset shows a detailed view of a Copperad unit heater, which is a rectangular device with multiple horizontal louvers. Several thick, dark diagonal lines radiate from the heater towards the building, suggesting heat distribution or a connection between the two.

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Photograph: By courtesy City of Liverpool, Architectural and Housing Department.

Cast Iron Proposition for Post-War Building Priorities

Schools



Millions of new houses will be needed; millions of children will be staying longer at school, and school buildings everywhere must be enlarged and new schools built. For all these buildings thousands of miles of pipes and

gutters, millions of stoves, fireplaces, and so forth will be made of cast iron. But there are many other uses in building for this old, tried, but up-to-date material. Cast iron is a building proposition: it is worth looking into.

Issued by The British Ironfounders' Association, 145 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow, C.2.

Facts about the Building Uses of Cast Iron *The British Cast Iron Research Association has a Building Uses Department which is available for dealing with enquiries from architects and builders about cast iron. Mr. Derek L. Bridgwater, F.R.I.B.A., is Consultant to the Department.*

Enquiries should be addressed to:

**The Building Uses Department, British Cast Iron Research Association,
Alvechurch, Birmingham**

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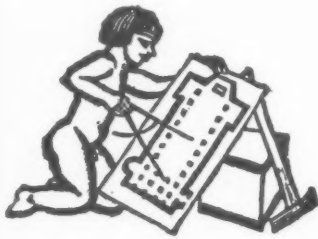
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In common with every other periodical this JOURNAL is rationed to a small part of its peacetime needs of paper. Thus a balance has to be struck between circulation and number of pages. We regret that unless a reader is a subscriber we cannot guarantee that he will get a copy of the JOURNAL. Newsagents now cannot supply the JOURNAL except to a "firm order."

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DIARY FOR MARCH APRIL AND MAY

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.

BIRMINGHAM. L. A. Jordon, Director of the Research Association of British Paint, Colour and Varnish Manufacturers. *Paint and Applied Finishes: Wartime Developments and Their Application to Design.* At the Royal Birmingham Society of Artists, New Street, Birmingham, 2. (Sponsor, DIA, Birmingham Branch.) 5.30 p.m. MAR. 26

BRIDGWATER. Sir William Savage and A. J. Allen. *Water Supply Problems in Rural Districts.* At Westover Senior School, Wembdon Road, Bridgwater. (Sponsor, Royal Sanitary Institute.) 10.30 a.m. MAR. 10

CHESHUNT. *When We Build Again.* Exhibition. (Sponsor, TCPA.) MAR. 8-10

GLASGOW. *Exhibition of Timber House Designs.* At the Scottish Building Centre, 425, Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow. C.2. The exhibition consists of photographs, drawings and some models of designs submitted for the Timber House Competition held by the Timber Development Association. There are about thirty-five sets of plans, etc., including the three prize-winning designs, six commended and a number of other interesting entries. The object of the competition was to put forward designs for a pair of semi-detached houses, 900 sq. ft., for a family of two adults and three children; three bedrooms to be provided. Competitors were invited to submit their own ideas as to type of construction to be used, and their attention was drawn to the following aspects:—(a) Ease, speed and economy of production and erection. (b) Efficiency in the use of timber and other materials which might be used. (c) Low maintenance cost. MAR. 8 to 10. The exhibition will then be shown in the National Gallery of Scotland, Princes Street, Edinburgh, from MAR. 16 to 25. MAR. 8-25

HASLINGDEN. *The English Town: Its Continuity and Development.* Exhibition. (Sponsor, TCPA). Town and Country Planning Association Conference, MAR. 24. Speakers, R. L. Reiss and W. Dobson Chapman, Vice-President TCPA. MAR. 22-APR. 7

LEICESTER. Gordon Stephenson. *Community Centre Buildings.* At the Leicester School of Architecture. (Sponsor, Leicester and Leicestershire Society of Architects in association with the Leicester School of Architecture.) 6.30 p.m. MAR. 20

LONDON. *Devastation and Reconstruction.* Exhibition of French prefabricated houses. At the RIBA, 66, Portland Place, W.1. The exhibition has been brought over from France under the auspices of the French Ministry of Information and is the first exhibition to be produced since the liberation of Paris. It was prepared in France during the German occupation under enormous difficulties and in spite of political direction on the policy of reconstruction which tended to ignore all but effete and obsolete methods of construction. Open daily (Sundays excepted) from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. MAR. 8-15

Lord Westwood. *Industrial Relations.* (Amulree Memorial Lecture). At the Royal Society of Arts, John Adam Street, Adelphi, W.C.2. (Sponsor, RSA). 1.45 p.m. MAR. 14
J. A. Steers. *Coastal Preservation and Planning.* At 28, King Street, Covent Garden, W.C.2. Chairman, Miss E. E. Halton. (Sponsor, TCPA.) 1.15 p.m. MAR. 22

Thomas Sharp. *Planning a Cathedral City.* At 28, King Street, Covent Garden, W.C.2. Chairman, H. G. Strauss, M.P. (Sponsor, TCPA.) 1.15 p.m. APR. 5

F. J. Osborn. *The Garden City Idea in 1945.* At Caxton Hall, Caxton Street, Westminster, S.W.1. (Sponsor, TPI.) 6 p.m. APR. 5

C. Roland-Woods. *The Work of the Codes of Practice Committees.* At 66, Portland Place, W.1. (Sponsor, RIBA). 6 p.m. APR. 10

A. Trystan Edwards. *Sunlight and Sanitation in Relation to the Planning of Building.* At the Royal Sanitary Institute, 90, Buckingham Palace Road, S.W.1. Chairman, A. C. Bosson, M.P. (Sponsor, Chadwick Trust.) 2.30 p.m. APR. 10

F. A. Mercer, Editor of "Art and Industry." *The Industrial Design Consultant.* At the Royal Society of Arts, John Adam Street, W.C.2. (Sponsor, RSA.) 1.45 p.m. APR. 11

MALVERN. *When We Build Again.* Exhibition and Film. (Sponsor, TCPA, in collaboration with Messrs. Cadbury Bros.). *The English Town: Its Continuity and Development.* Exhibition. (Sponsor, TCPA). Town and Country Planning Association Conference, MAR. 17. MAR. 10-19

WALLASEY. *The English Town: Its Continuity and Development.* Exhibition. At the Education Department, Wallasey, Cheshire. (Sponsor, TCPA.) APR. 14-28

NEWS

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

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

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

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

★★

The Town Clerk of Wareham: Some local authorities feel the Government's next White Paper should be on THE REFORM OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH.

Mr. H. Kirk, Town Clerk of Wareham, Dorset, in a letter in *The Times*, writes: Sir,—The Minister of Health told the Urban District Councils to proceed merrily with the acquisition of the further land required for housing. The following timetable may be of assistance to those about to embark on this journey:—

February, 1943.—Site selected by local authority.

April to October, 1943.—War agricultural executive committee, rural land utilization officer, town planning authority, etc., approve site, but district valuer cannot agree terms with owner.

December, 1943.—Compulsory purchase order made by authority.

March 22, 1944.—Owner withdraws his objection to the order and asks, What price?

April 13, 1944.—Papers sent to Ministry for confirmation.

May to September, 1944.—No news.

October, 1944.—Owner revives his objection.

November 30, 1944.—Ministry holds inquiry.

January, 20, 1945.—No decisions yet.

Some local authorities feel the Government's next White Paper should be on the reform of the Ministry of Health before, during, and after the period of reconstruction.—Yours faithfully, H. Kirk, Town Clerk, Wareham, Dorset.

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From AN ARCHITECT'S Commonplace Book

CITIES IN DELIRIUM. [From *The Unquiet Grave*, by *Palinurus (Horizon)*.] Happiness lies in the fulfilment of the spirit through the body. Thus humanity has already evolved from an animal life to one more civilized. There can be no complete return to nature, to nudism, desert-islandry: city life is the subtlest ingredient in the human climate. But we have gone wrong over the size of our cities and over the kind of life we lead in them; in the past the clods were the peasants, now the brute mass of ignorance is urban. The village idiot walks in Leicester Square. To live according to nature we should pass a considerable time in cities, for they are the glory of human nature, but they should never contain more than two hundred thousand inhabitants; it is our artificial enslavement to the large city, too sprawling to leave, too enormous for human dignity, which is responsible for half our sickness and misery. Slums may well be breeding-grounds of crime, but middle-class suburbs are incubators of apathy and delirium. No city should be too large for a man to walk out of in a morning. Surrealism is a typical city-delirium movement, a violent explosion of urban claustrophobia; one cannot imagine the Surrealists except in vast cities, "paysans de Paris" and New York.

★
As a result of negotiations between industrial associations allied with the building industry and the National Federation of House-Builders, a joint organization has been established to be known as the HOUSE-BUILDING INDUSTRIES' STANDING COMMITTEE.

The purpose of this Committee is to bring about closer co-operation between builders registered under the National House-Builders' Registration Council (who automatically engage to abide by the Council's standard specification, and to issue a quality guarantee with each house they build) and the allied industries. The first work of the Committee will be to simplify the distribution of information concerning new scientific developments in building methods and materials, so that all registered builders may be aware of them, and to consider and test methods whereby the building of permanent houses may be expedited and yet accord with the best features of traditional building and the high standard to which registered builders pledge themselves. The House-Building Industries' Standing Committee invites all manufacturers who have new contributions (in methods, materials or equipment) to make to post-war building, to communicate with their appropriate industrial association, and so ensure that the Committee, whose address is 82, New Cavendish Street, London, W.1, is advised of their latest contribution to the solution of the housing problem.

Local Authorities can obtain HARDCORE FOR HOUSING SITES from the London Region if they are no further away than one hundred miles.

In a circular addressed to "certain Housing Authorities in Regions 4, 5 and 12" the Ministry of Health states: There are considerable stocks of hardcore in the London Region which can be supplied to local authorities of districts within one hundred miles of London who are in need of such material for their housing sites and cannot obtain it locally. The Debris Clearance Organization of the London Region is prepared to supply, load and deliver hardcore free to sites which are within a road distance of say 25 miles from Charing Cross. For sites beyond this distance the organisation would deliver free to the London railhead and would arrange transport with the railway companies wherever this

is practicable; rail charges, off loading and delivery arrangements at the reception end would, however, be the responsibility of the local authority. Any local authority who proposes to obtain hardcore under these arrangements should communicate direct with the Regional Salvage Officer, London Civil Defence Region, 59/61, Princes Gate, S.W.7, Tel: KEN 3431, Extension 424. A weekly return will be submitted by the Regional Salvage Officer to the Ministry of Health giving particulars of the amount of hardcore despatched to each local authority under these arrangements. Local authorities who provide hardcore in this way for sites which are being prepared by contractors will doubtless bear in mind that an adjustment of their financial arrangements with the contractor may be required.

★
The London Master Builders' Association alleges that green-grocers, BILLIARD-ROOM ATTENDANTS AND FRIED FISH MEN are being registered by the Government as builders.

The Association has sent a protest to the National Federation of Building Trades Employers urging that immediate representations be made to the Ministry of Works to stop "what is rapidly becoming a scandal which is bringing the industry into serious discredit." Mr. G. H. A. Hughes, Director of the Association, said: Defence Regulation 56 A.B. should be redrafted. It is being used as a screen for new registrations on a vast scale and for a black market in certificates. We have no desire to close the building industry to the small man with real qualifications, in particular the ex-Serviceman, but we do want to stop this artificial increase, particularly at a time when there are not enough men in the industry to keep existing firms at work.

The Lord President of the Council has appointed Professor F. Y. Henderson, D.Sc., D.I.C. to be DIRECTOR OF FOREST PRODUCTS RESEARCH in the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research.

The appointment is made on the forthcoming retirement of Mr. W. A. Robertson, who has been Director since 1933. Professor Henderson is at present Reader in Timber Technology in the University of

London and Assistant Professor in Timber Technology in the Imperial College of Science and Technology. He will take up his new post on April 1, 1945.

Timber Control wants to know what special timbers are available for the reconstruction and REPAIR OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS.

In connection with the need which may arise after the war for special timbers for the reconstruction and repair of historic buildings and national monuments, the Timber Control is anxious to ascertain in greater detail what stocks of prime dry English oak, suitable for interior construction and decoration, are available. Merchants are requested to advise the Control of any stocks of prime English oak which they hold, cut prior to September, 1939, stating the approximate quantity of each thickness, whether cut through and through, quartered or wainscot cut, and the number of years cut and stacked. Merchants should state if they are prepared to sell any or all of such stocks to the Timber Control on terms to be arranged or, as an alternative, whether they are prepared to hold any suitable material and give the first offer of it when required to the Government or to firm(s) entrusted with the execution of work of that character. All communications should be sent to the Ministry of Supply, Timber Control, Department 111/6, Clifton Down Hotel, Bristol, 8.

Coed-y-Bwnydd, between Abergavenny and Usk has been GIVEN TO THE NATIONAL TRUST.

Captain Crawshaw, of Abergavenny, has acquired, endowed and presented to the National Trust for permanent preservation the hilltop Coed-y-Bwnydd (also known as Coed Bonnet), between Abergavenny and Usk, some six miles from Abergavenny. The property consists of 25 acres of woodland, commanding wide views, and the gift is made in memory of the late Sergeant Arthur Owen, RAF, son of Mr. James Owen, head master of Llanfair Cilgeddin Church School. Sergeant Owen was killed in a flying accident in Britain two years after he joined the RAF. Captain Crawshaw had known him all his life, and regarded him more as a son than a friend. After the war the National Trust will erect a tablet on the hilltop in memory of Sergeant Owen.



Free France Exhibits

A view of the exhibition of French prefabricated houses, which formed part of the Salon d'Automne shown in the Palais de Chaillot last October. This exhibition, which has been sent to England and is now on view at the RIBA,

is illustrated in this issue of the JOURNAL. It shows the work of a group of French architects carried out during the occupation without official sanction but under the patronage of OTUA, the French steel federation.

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In London, A Central Joint Committee is TO SPEED UP BOMB DAMAGE REPAIRS.

Following the establishment of Progress Committees in the various London boroughs damaged by air attack, a Central Progress Committee has been set up at the request of the Ministry of Works to receive reports and suggestions from the borough Progress Committees. The Chairman is Mr. George Hicks. The National Federation of Building Trades Employers has nominated Messrs. H. B. Kerr and Philip Smallwood to act on behalf of the London Master Builders' Association, and Messrs. F. S. Kennewell of Nottingham and T. H. Huxley Turner of Cardiff to represent the provincial firms now working in London. The National Federation of Building Trades Operatives has nominated Messrs. S. H. Bryan, G. E. Elmer, V. T. Sulston and A. H. Telling to represent the operatives from London and the provinces. Major F. A. Wallis, as chairman of the Committee of WBEO, and Mr. G. H. A. Hughes, Director of the LMBA, are also on the Committee, with representatives of the Ministries of Labour, Health and Works and the War Damage Commission.

To speed up the placing of building trade apprentices in the London area, the London Master Builders' Association has opened an APPRENTICESHIP EMPLOYMENT REGISTER.

The register shows, first, the names of members who are in a position to employ apprentices in the various trades covered by the building industry, and, secondly, the names and addresses and trades of applicants for apprenticeship for which the members approached have no immediate vacancies. At the present time most of the work being done in London is unsuitable for the training of apprentices, and the purpose of the Register is to ensure that what work is available is used to the best advantage. Under the industry's national apprenticeship scheme, endorsed by employers and operatives two years ago, apprentices are indentured to the building industry as a whole, and are not dependent on the fortunes of the individual firms with which they may happen to start. All members of the Association have been circularized urging them to take on the maximum number of apprentices and to send in immediately the names of applicants for apprenticeship they are unable to take on.

During the quarter ending December 31, LOANS SANCTIONED by the Ministry of Health, to Local Authorities in England and Wales totalled £2,304,944.

The loans sanctioned were: Housing, £1,603,734; Municipal Services (including clinics, sanatoria and mental hospitals), £147,293; Swimming Pools, playing fields, recreation grounds, open spaces, etc., £20,105; Water Supply, £110,371; Disposal of waste products (sewerage and sewage disposal and refuse destruction), £270,209; Education Services (including libraries and museums), £28,839; Air Raid Precautions, £7,755; Roads and Bridges (including private street works), £16,395; Other Services (including loans to defray contributions, etc., under War Damage Act, 1943), £100,243.

REQUISITIONED LAND

THE Chancellor of the Exchequer must consider himself fortunate in having obtained an unopposed second reading of his Requisitioned Land and War Works Bill. Murmurs against it had sounded in a variety of corners and, whilst the axiom that any Bill to which everyone objects must be a good one is comforting, it cannot inspire complete certainty. The strongest argument that Sir John Anderson has was the fact that a Bill of some kind on this subject is a necessity.

Mr. Turton, MP for Thirsk and Malton, who moved the deferment of the second reading, gave, perhaps, the best outline of the essential elements that such a Bill must contain. The Bill should, he said, first provide that land for defence be easily secured or retained. Next, the Bill must provide for the peace-time use of such war factories as have been built on requisitioned land. Finally, the Bill must restore to the country as a whole the land that has been ravaged or damaged by the war.

There can be very little argument about the first requirement. It is on the second element that considerable, and justifiable, criticism appeared. The Government has built many factories. Their capital cost was estimated by the Chancellor at something like £60,000,000. The Treasury, on behalf of the country, wishes to recover as much of that sum as it can and, for that purpose, to sell off the buildings and the land on which they stand. As a buffer between naked Government action and the individual owner of land the Government proposes to set up a Commission that can hear objections to the Government's plans and in certain cases prevent a sale. But, with regard to factories, the Commission cannot prevent a sale if the Board of Trade certifies that the land must be sold forthwith as part of the national plans for transition to peace conditions.

It is at this point that one of the major failings of the Bill becomes apparent. The Bill seems to have been drafted by someone who was unaware, that not only have we a Ministry of Town and Country Planning—that, on the Ministry's record, might be excused—but also that there are such things as planning Acts already on the Statute Book. The Chancellor specifically declined to give any assurance that land and buildings sold by the Government under the powers to be given them by this Bill would remain subject to local planning schemes. What had the Minister of Town and Country Planning to say to this when it was discussed in the Cabinet? A protest or a murmured too bad?

The Minister of Town and Country Planning was not one of the backers of the Bill. There is nothing to show that he has even read it. He is not specifically represented on this Commission. He may come in later as one of the people, like the Commons Preservation Society, who can make representations to the Commission for their consideration, under Clause 11. It is not only an unhappy state of affairs. It is a

farcical state of affairs. It seems that the Government is not merely indifferent to planning as such. It must positively detest it.

What the Government fails to realize is that the factory is not only a brick and steel structure, having a certain commercial value, it is also the focal point of the lives of hundreds of people who, in the future, will work there. If it is important to restore the individual requisitioned house to its former owner, it is equally important to look after the interests of those whose future homes will surround the factories that are sold.

The Bill has now gone forward to Committee and those who desire to amend it will have their opportunities there. It is evident that the Government has an uneasy conscience over the Bill as it stood. That should provide the best atmosphere in which to change the Bill into a more far-sighted piece of legislation.



The Architects' Journal

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A FARM THAT PAID

No-one remotely interested in the future of British agriculture, whether economically, architecturally, or simply as the bones bearing the living flesh of a human landscape, can afford to overlook *The Farming Ladder*, by George Henderson (Faber, 8s. 6d.).

*

Just to say that it is the story of a Cotswold farm might be misleading. This is no nostalgic green-and-pleasant-

land book written in some carefully embalmed country cottage with real oak beams. Nor is it the record of a townsman gone native for the duration with the blessings of a stomach-conscious public, and with almost fool-proof wartime prices to boot.

*

Twenty-one years ago Mr. George Henderson and his younger brother, both town-bred and scarcely more than lads, set out with four years' experience and £150 of capital to become farmers. They took a semi-derelict farm on 85 acres of thin stony soil, and owned it outright in 10 years. In 20 years they had increased their output thirteen times, and their capital a hundredfold. They had built new farm buildings (of which plans are reproduced in the book), and a small factory employing local labour in the manufacture of cornbins. They had built a tarmac road 660 yards long on a thousand tons of quarried, carted, and broken stone. They had built a house, too. (The author does not dwell at any great length on the results of accepting the lowest of tenders ranging between £950 and £1,420.)

*

For an architect, the significance of this book is that even in the bad years between the wars, efficient farming could provide a margin adequate to cover the cost of economic new buildings. For the social and economic

planner, Mr. Henderson states a most convincing case for the small unit of production properly worked. Moreover, he issues a challenge. Any large scale farmer who can show a better output per acre per man can have £100 for his favourite war charity. For the visual or landscape planner you have here a demonstrably practical and successful farmer defending hedgerows and trees on the score, amongst other things, that they encourage the bird life so essential to maintain the balance of nature. The argument is familiar enough, but coming from such a quarter, it carries real weight.

*

But most significant of all, perhaps, is the story of the young employee who wanted to leave after two years. Asked his reason, he said he liked the work, was very fond of the animals, could not better his wage, *but the other village boys laughed at him for working on a farm.*

*

The author contends that any man can make a success of farming so long as he is ready to get up at 4.30 in the morning and work till sundown, avoiding meanwhile what he calls the three "S's"—Smoking, Swearing, Standing about. But in any trade the man who forswears these vicious tricks and works from 4.30 to sundown, is going to make a fortune.

*

Like all fanatics, Mr. Henderson sees no reason why the average guy who sometimes lights a cigarette and leans over a gate should have any sort of place in the scheme of things. But schemes of things are made for the average man. As a matter of fact, the average small farmer works harder and longer than any other class of average man. For less pay. He is doing very well if he makes £6 a week, working from 13 to 17 hours a day, most of seven days a week. What industrial worker in the country would stand for that?

POET'S CORNER

SOCIAL COLUMN

Who is that handsome man, mama,
Who 'midst the Lords and Ladies browses?
Is he a star of stage or screen?
No dear! That's Viscount Steelhouses.

With what intrepid deeds, mama,
Were all his glittering honours earned?
Did he explore some avenue,
In which no stone was left unturned?

No, darling, he's a great inventor,
Whose genius will bless the nation;
His priceless gift to humankind
Is Purpose Made Prefabrication.

EDWARD LEWIS

THE FRENCH EXHIBITION

The exhibition of French methods of prefabrication at the RIBA is in contrast to our own ideas on the subject. The French appear to be thinking of the prefabrication of multi-storey buildings rather than of one and two storey houses. Nearly all the schemes exhibited are for large blocks of flats which are to be erected, regardless, it seems, of material shortages. There must be far more steel available in France than we have in this country, and the standard of construction which is proposed is all most elaborate.

Walls are faced with metal and backed with a thickness of precast concrete or plaster slabs each separated with air space. Floors and roof are similarly complex. When the exiguous standards which we propose both in floor areas and construction are considered, the French proposals seem rather unreal. Whatever shortcomings our own proposals have, in these

matters at least, the standard has some relation to the contracted limits of the building industry.

We have not the materials and labour for a vast programme or for a tremendous rise in standards immediately after the war. Apparently the French have or perhaps they have not got so far in assessing their resources as we have. As an occupied country France was probably unable to plan standards; even without active German intervention we ourselves are not exactly inspiring.

Architecturally with the exception of the Beaudouin and Lods scheme, none of them are particularly good. Beaudouin and Lods, with the superb *Maison du Peuple* as their guide, have produced a series of very interesting constructional proposals. One feels that it would be a good idea if some of our steel companies or housing associations were to go along and look at these schemes to see whether they could not arrange a competition for designers in this country with a similar programme to that displayed in this exhibition. Incidentally I seem to remember a competition in France in 1939 for a steel frame prefabricated block of flats.

ASTRAGAL



LETTERS

Gilbert Fraser,
M.C., F.R.I.B.A.

A. H. Ratcliffe and A. E. Slim

Geoffrey L. Price, A.R.I.B.A.,
Capt. R.E.

R. L. Everest
(Davis, Belfield and Everest)

Temporary Housing

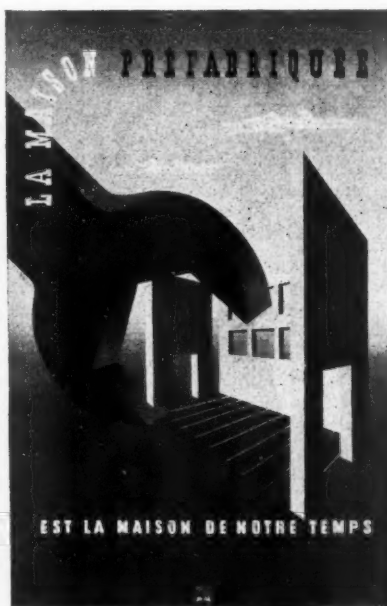
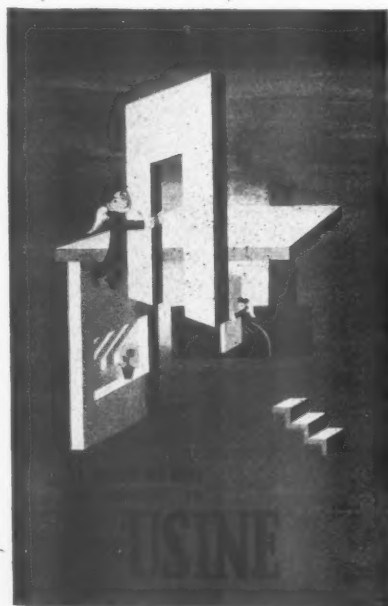
SIR,—The thanks are due to you from the greater minds of the Architectural Profession for providing so much entertainment through these last winter months studying the very assorted precast and prefabricated type of houses suggested by the various authors as serious contributions to the post-war temporary housing of those unfortunate people who find themselves without a roof to their heads.

No crossword puzzle ever included in our enterprising press has given such amusement and opportunity for the exercise of ideas.

After a careful survey of the plans you have taken so much trouble to place before your readers, I am influenced to suggest that the prize or cake should be awarded to the British Cast Concrete Federation for providing concrete units that can be used for the emergency factory-made Housing Programme and also adapted for permanent post-war construction.

This company, not altogether satisfied that your published plan should properly illustrate their scheme, engage an eminent perspective artist to produce a picture showing how the precast bungalow will look to the lay mind. However, your delightful JOURNAL does not cater for the lay mind, and the professional expert notes the want of liaison between the author of the plan and the eminent perspective artist.

The bathroom has a small single-light window separated from the small single-light window allocated to the draining board and refrigerator, by a blank wall. The eminent perspective artist is having none of this spoiling his picture, so he introduces a double-light window and ignores the blank wall.



Two of the posters designed to advertise the exhibition of French prefabricated flats and houses when shown in Paris last autumn. The exhibition, now on view at the RIBA, is illustrated in this issue. Astragal comments on it above.

THREAT TO REGENCY HOVE



In his plan for reconstruction the surveyor of Hove (Mr. T. R. Humble) advocates scheduling the area which practically includes the whole of Regency Hove, including the celebrated Brunswick Square and Terrace, Adelaide Crescent, and other famous features. In their place, if the plan is carried out, there will arise blocks of flats. The surveyor expects strong criticism, and told the special correspondent of *The Times* if one is to replan the area to meet the needs of present and future generations in such things as clean air, green open spaces, the domestic help problem, dwellings less costly to run, more cheerful, better equipped, and centrally placed, very little can be achieved by the continued use or adaptation of the existing buildings. Sooner or later, he adds, all these buildings must decay, become obsolete, and ultimately have to be removed, and if rebuilding is to follow the present pattern of streets, building lines, and restricted open spaces no real and satisfactory improvement of the town will ever materialize. So the surveyor

suggests the erection of blocks of flats. He believes thousands of people will prefer flats to houses, especially if the flats are centrally sited and in desirable surroundings. He claims that the existing square, remodelled, would form perfect settings for buildings of some height. The only alternative would be the redevelopment on a basis of detached or semi-detached two-storey or three-storey houses at 8, 10, or 12 to the acre. The distinctive character of this part of the town would in that case be entirely lost, and the area become just another suburban district. The General Purposes Committee has recommended approval of the plan. The chairman pointed out that it was a scheme in principle only, and that the council would not be bound by adopting the report. The scheme might not operate for 50 or 60 years. In the meantime, public opinion is being organized, and the Georgian Group is watching the matter closely. The photographs show: left, a corner of Brunswick Square and the beginning of Brunswick Place; right, Brunswick Terrace.

Better still, the author of the plan places his beds in Bedrooms No. 1 and No. 2 against a blank wall. This does not please the eminent artist at all; he is having no blank walls and three windows are introduced at the head of the beds.

Your liberal display of this subject has all been a great joy to your readers, and this latest effort raises the question, "Are two heads better than one?"

GILBERT FRASER

Liverpool

Non-Staggered Holiday for Birmingham Builders

SIR.—The Birmingham Local Joint Committee for the Building Industry has decided, after consultation with the employers' and operatives' organizations, to introduce a fixed week for the holiday to be taken in 1945 under the Holidays with Pay Scheme drawn up in 1942 for the Building and Civil Engineering Industries.

Experience of the first year's working of the Scheme showed the advantages likely to accrue from such an arrangement, as different holiday periods were taken by the various operatives, especially where several sub-contractors were concerned with a particular job.

The week selected for the current year is the normal working week commencing Monday, June 18, and terminating Saturday,

June 23, both dates inclusive. The area covered by the Committee includes the whole of the area of the City of Birmingham and a five miles' radius from Stephenson Place (excluding any portion of the Borough of West Bromwich), the County Borough of Smethwick, the Municipal Borough of Oldbury, portions of the Municipal Borough of Halesowen, portions of the Municipal Borough of Rowley Regis and the whole of the Urban District of Solihull.

Press announcements giving these details will appear in local newspapers at dates well in advance of the agreed week and also in selected national daily papers, so that firms who may be working in Birmingham in the period affected may make their arrangements accordingly and in order that non-federated employers or operatives may be conversant with this decision.

A. H. RATCLIFFE,
Employers' Secretary

A. E. SLIM,
Operatives' Secretary

Birmingham

The Module

SIR.—A month or more ago I read your article on The Module. Having served abroad for several years (mostly in Egypt) I would suggest that the obvious answer to this question is the metric system. At first I found some difficulty in thinking in terms of centimetre and not inches, but

having once got used to it I found it a far more convenient means of measuring, and I feel sure that many other architects and engineers abroad have had a like experience.

I would suggest that the British Empire and the United States should both go the whole hog and adopt the metric system for everything. Agreed such a proposal is somewhat revolutionary to us die-hard Brits, I feel that such action would be enormously appreciated all over the rest of the world wherever the metric system is at present in use, and I believe it is comparatively universal. It would be interesting to see what kind of a reception such a proposal would receive from your readers both at home and abroad.

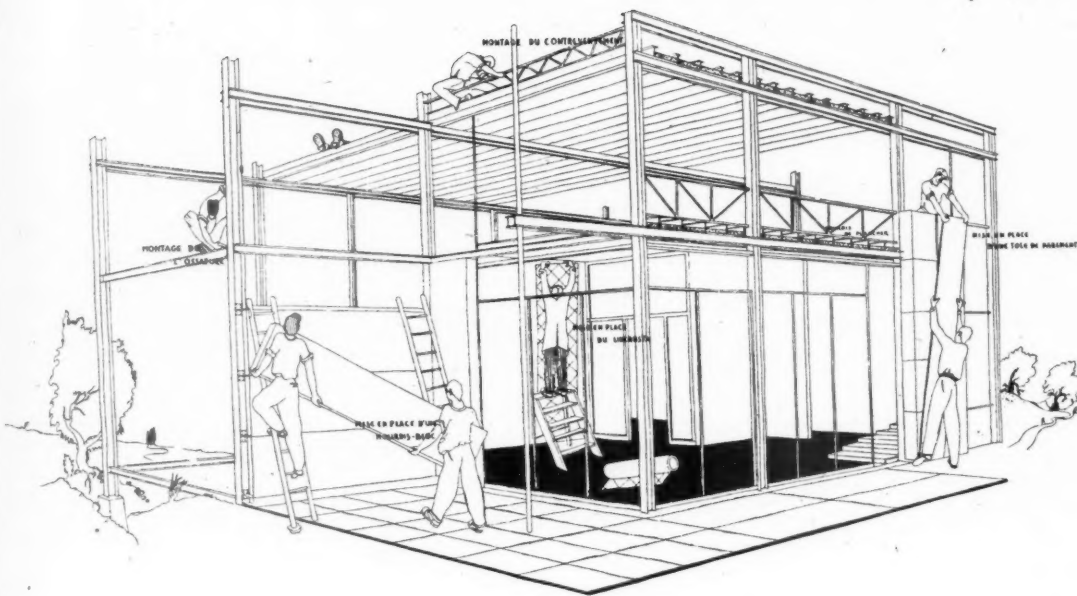
GEOFFREY L. PRICE, A.R.I.B.A.
Capt. R.E.

Prices

SIR.—Rates of wages for labourers, increased on February 1, now stand at 1s. 9½d. within the 12 miles radius of the London District and 1s. 9d. from 12-15 miles. The corresponding rates under the various grade classifications are now 80 per cent. of the craftsmen's rates.

These new rates of wages should be substituted for those published in *Architects' Journal Prices* on February 15, which were only up to the end of 1944.

R. L. EVEREST
London For Davis, Belfield and Everest



EXHIBITION OF FRENCH PREFABRICATION



Top, site erection of a house in a system of prefabricated steel-frame units and pre-cast lightweight concrete slabs, by Lionel Mirabaud. Above, one of the photographs of destruction, bridge at Beaugency.

On this page and those following are illustrated some of the designs for flats and houses and for systems of construction in prefabricated steel-frame units shown at the exhibition of French prefabricated houses, *Devastation and Destruction*, now on view at the RIBA. The exhibition, under the auspices of the French Ministry of Information, has been brought over from Paris, and comprises a collection of photographs and technical drawings giving a pic-

ture of the scale of the devastation wrought in France and of the studies which a group of French architects and engineers made during the occupation, under the patronage of OTUA—the Office Technique d'Utilisation de l'Acier, which is the French equivalent of our British Iron and Steel Federation. The exhibition was prepared under great difficulties and in opposition to official and reactionary direction.

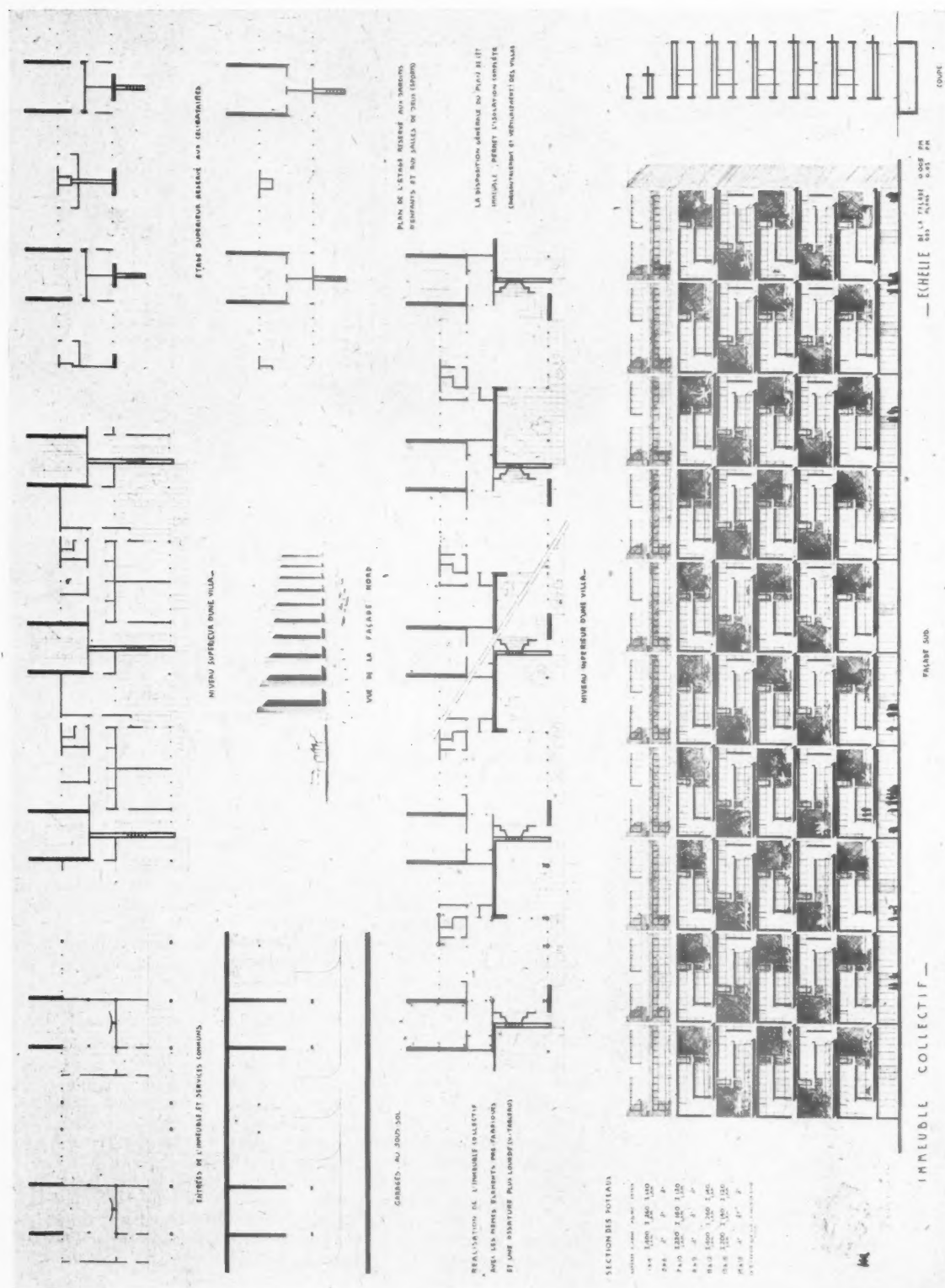
New systems of steel construction have been examined rather than complete house types—systems which can be standardized and factory-produced for dry construction for use not only in small dwellings, but also in flats and large commercial buildings. Possible designs of houses and flats based on these systems are shown and also suggestions for town layouts.

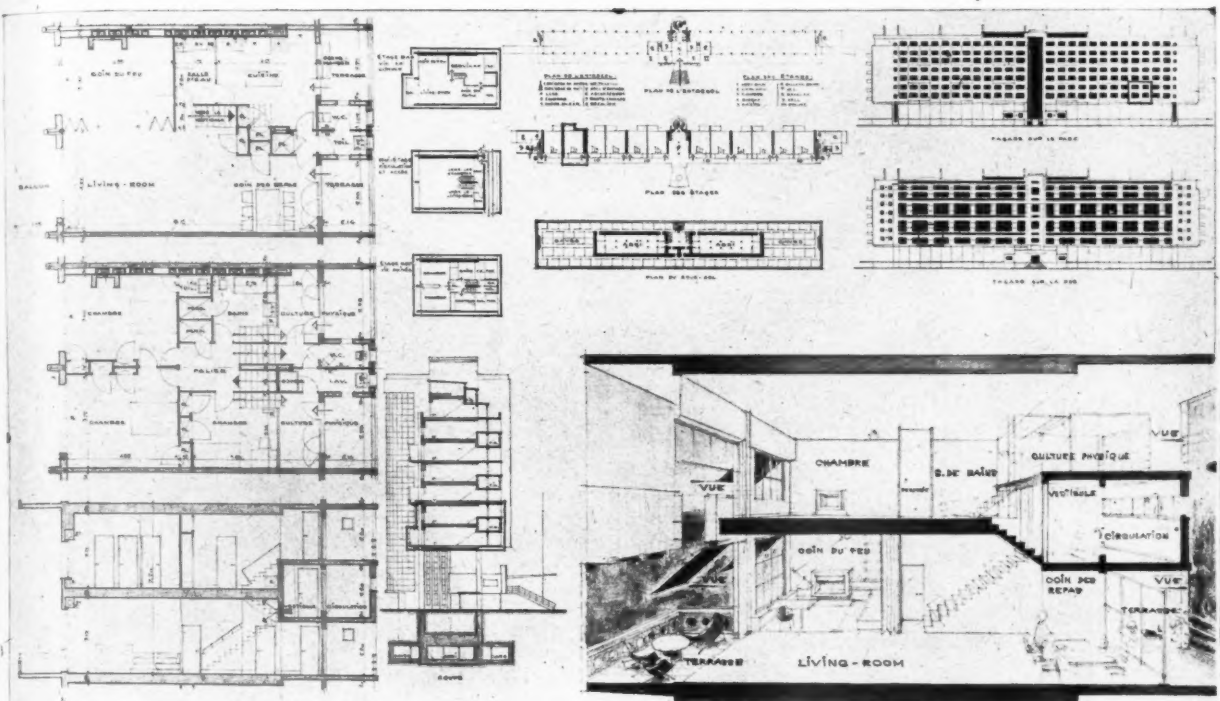
After the last war, France employed about 2,000,000 workers in the building industry, a large number of whom were foreigners, in the reconstruction of liberated areas. After this war, it is estimated that there will be no more than 700,000 men available. It will therefore be essential for the

building industry in France, as in England, to evolve new and speedier types of construction and organization. The exhibition contains suggestions on how this might be done. Though steel is the main framing material, a number of other materials for insulation and cladding are proposed, such as glass wool, aluminium sheets, lightweight concrete and polished stone.

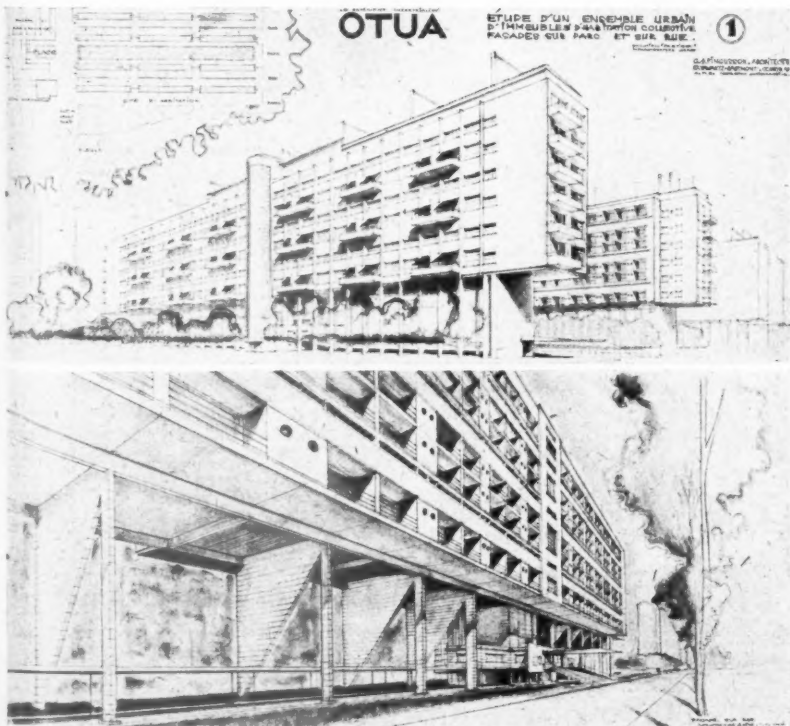
Many of the systems appear to be rather complicated and clumsy, and they are not adequately explained to the English public. It is a pity, too, that systems based on materials other than steel have not also been shown. However, many features are interesting, especially in flat planning, and the exhibition has three important lessons to teach: (1) that prefabrication is a method of building which is not merely applicable to temporary dwellings; (2) that flexible systems of construction should be developed rather than inflexible type houses; (3) that prefabrication is applicable not only to small houses but to all types of building including flats.

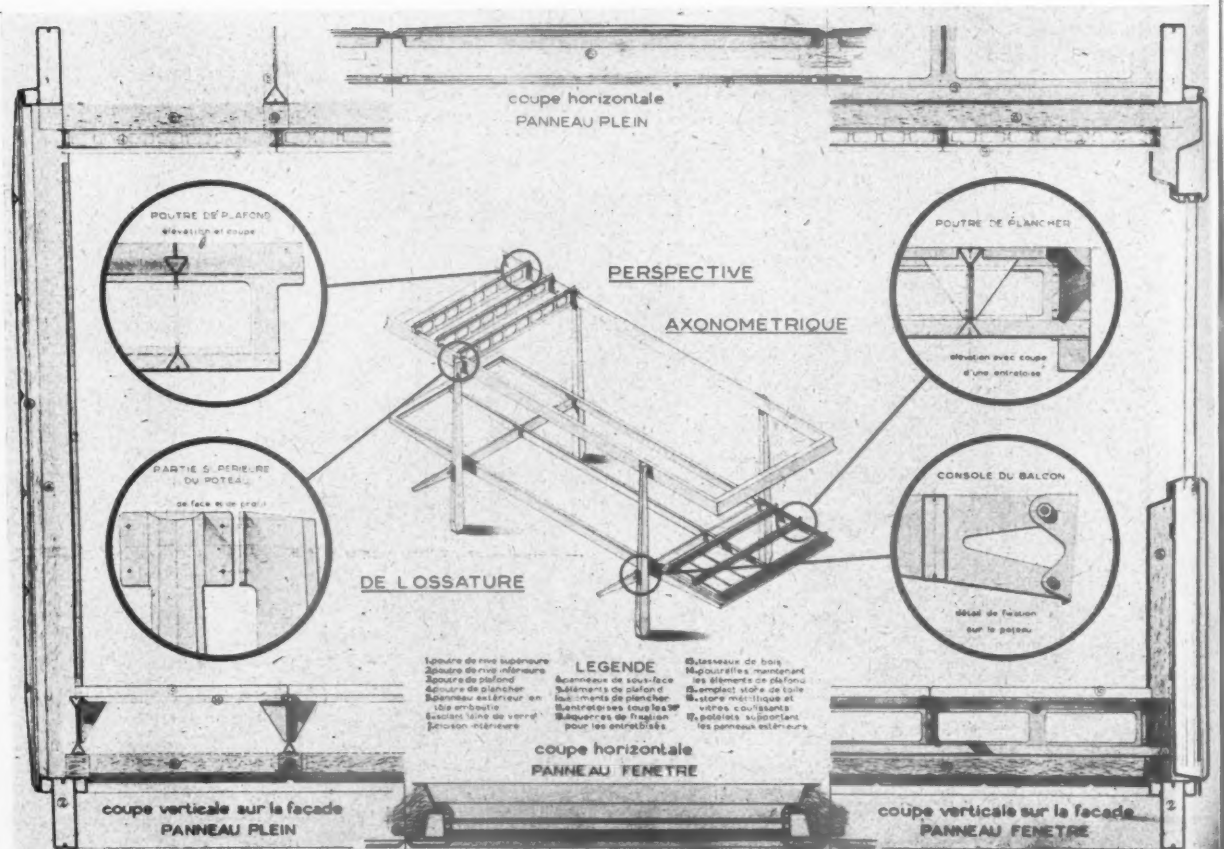
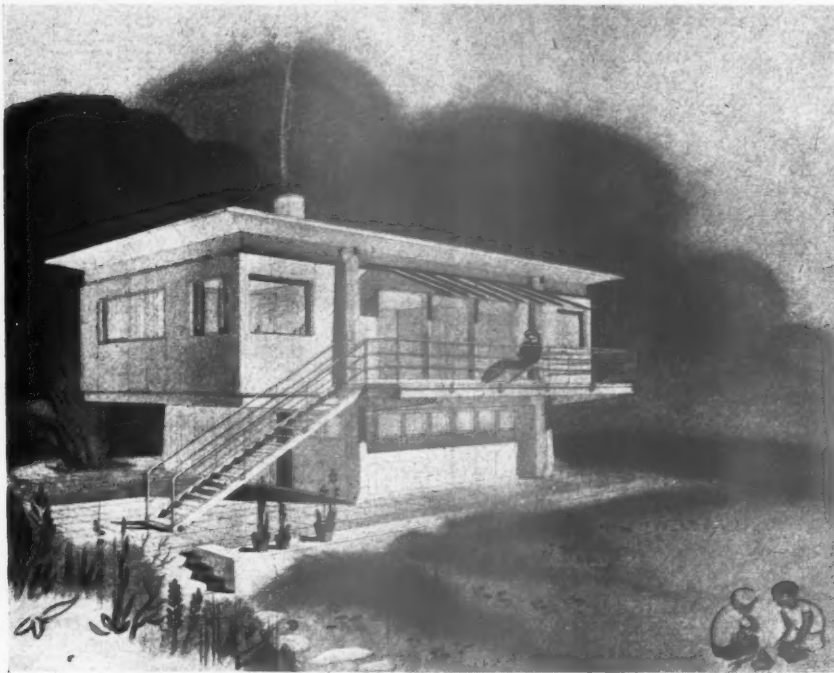
The exhibition closes on March 15



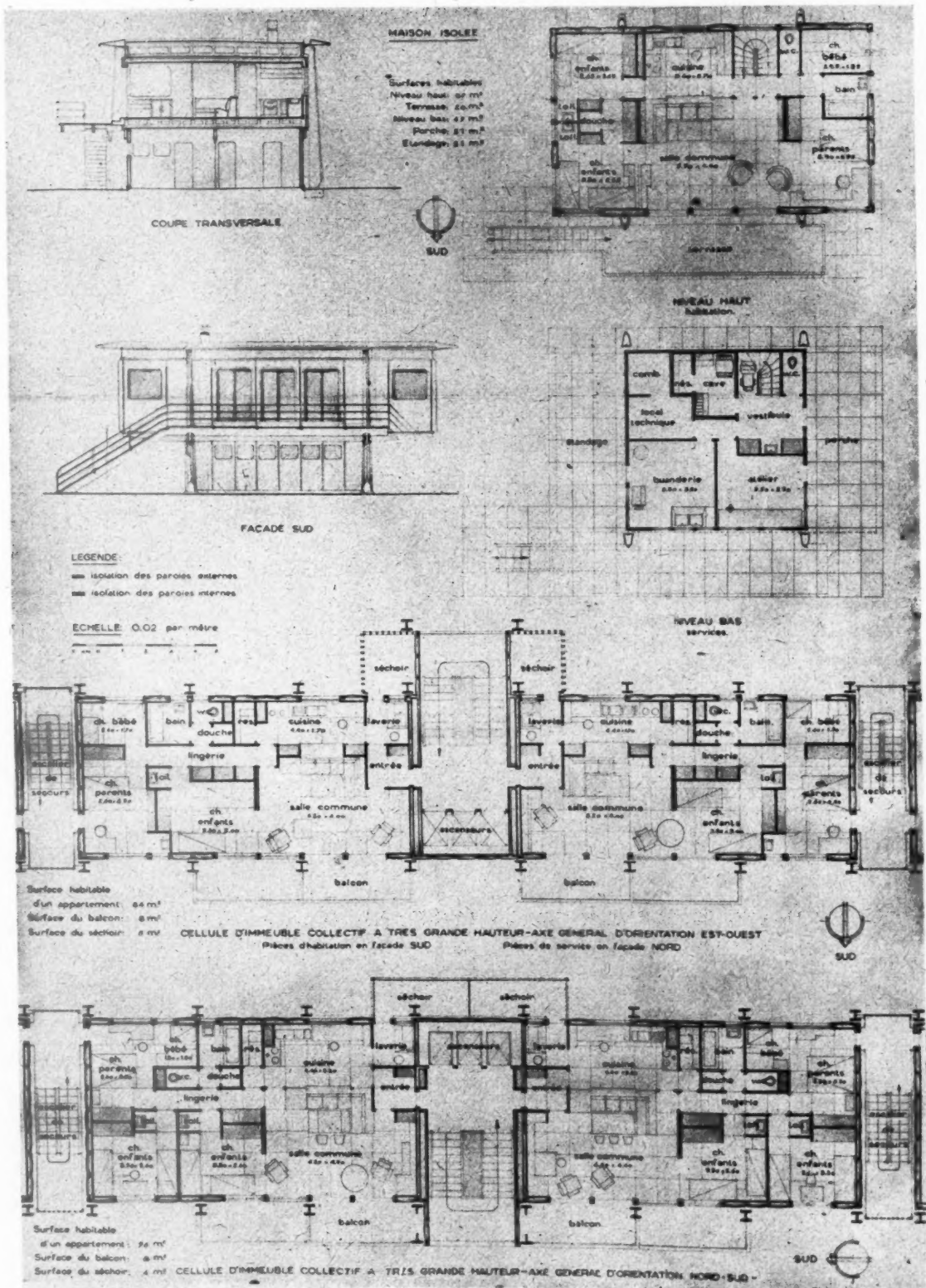


On this page, standard type of flats by G. H. Pingusson. They are of the duplex two-floor type with public circulation and flat vestibules contained in mezzanine floors. The block is intended for a linear lay-out, one side facing the road and the other side the garden, the width of the street being 40 metres and the width of the garden 65 metres. The orientation is east and west, and 25 per cent. of the ground area only is covered with building. The buildings are raised 10 metres on stilts, thus raising the flats above street noises and fumes, and giving ventilation to the ground level of the district as well as open vistas and covered ways. Above, general scheme. Below, garden elevation and street elevation.

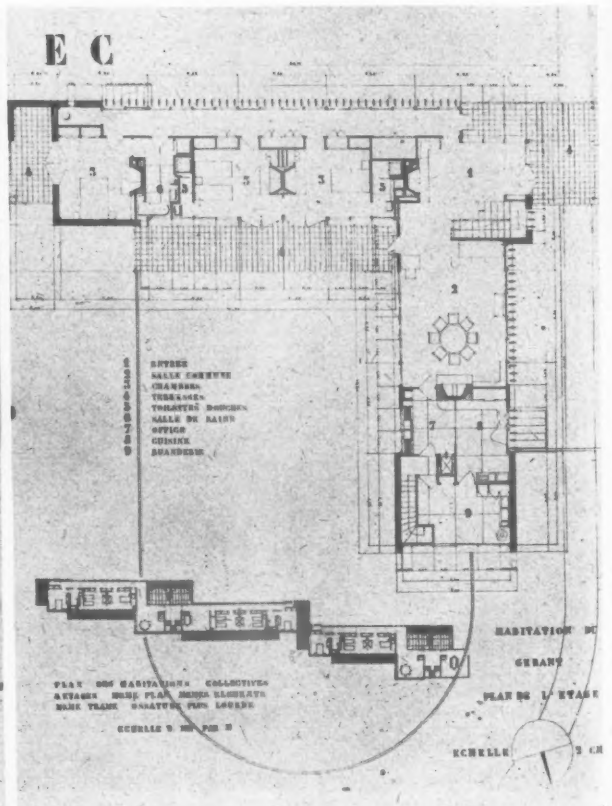
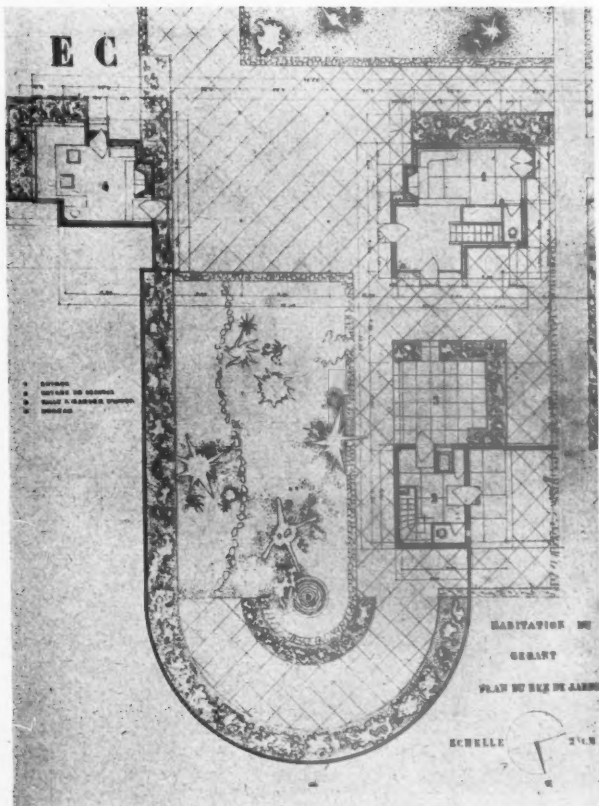
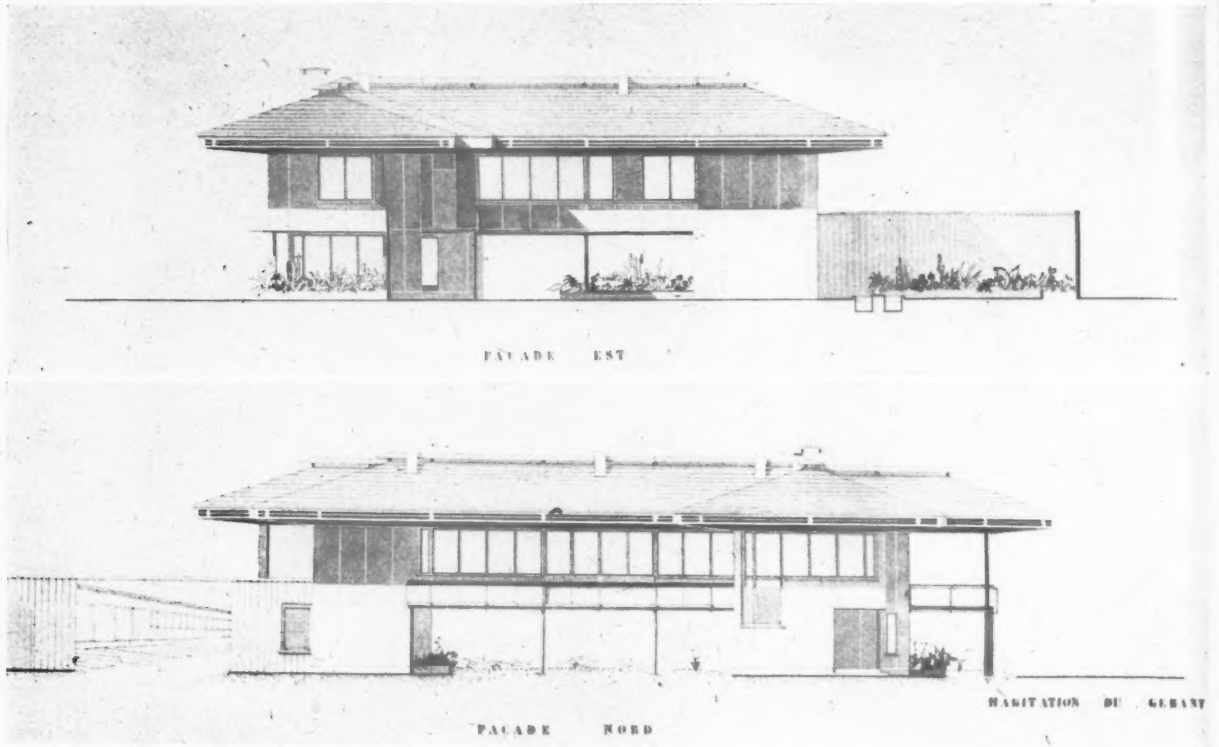




EXHIBITION OF FRENCH PREFABRICATION



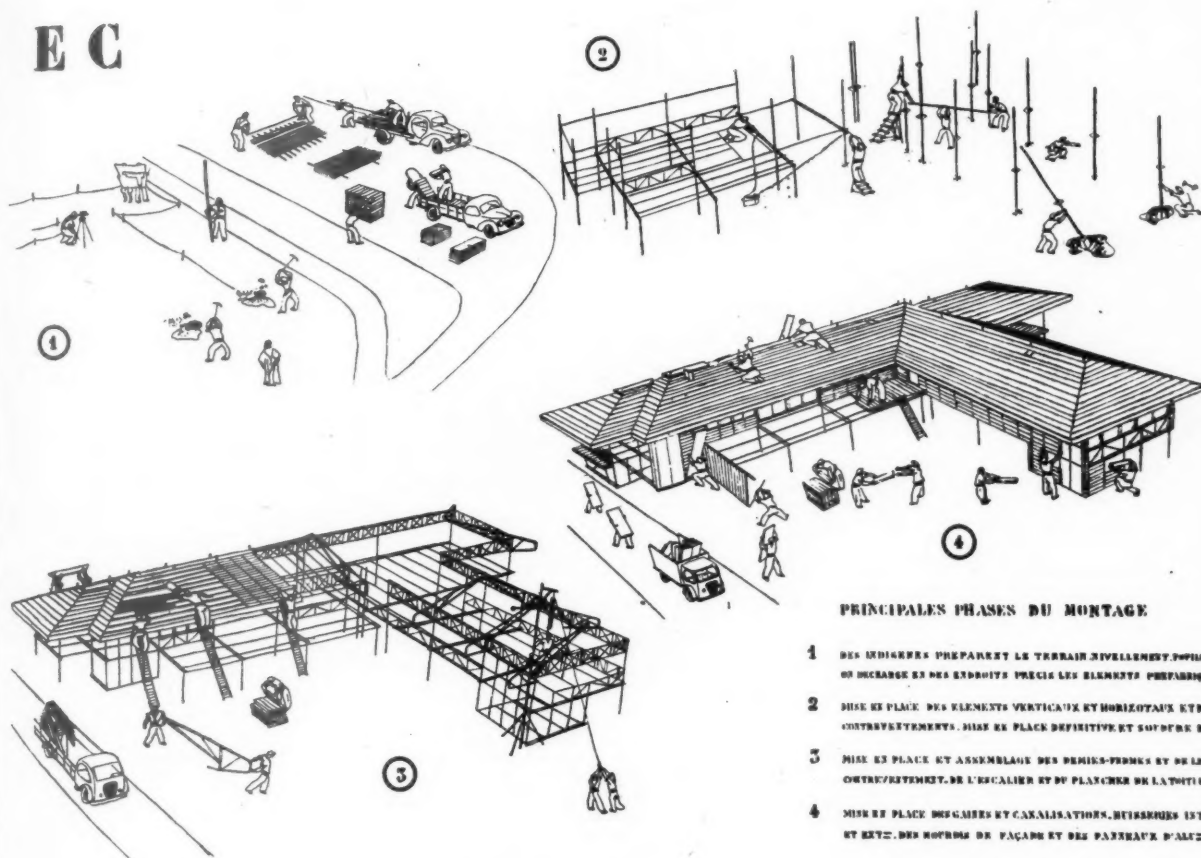
On this and facing page, a system for houses and flats by Lods, of steel frame and panel construction. Thermal insulation is of glass wool. Facing page top, sketch of a house in this system. Facing page bottom, details of construction of the house. Above, plans and elevations of the house shown on the facing page and of a proposed flat building in the same system of construction.



EXHIBITION OF FRENCH PREFABRICATION

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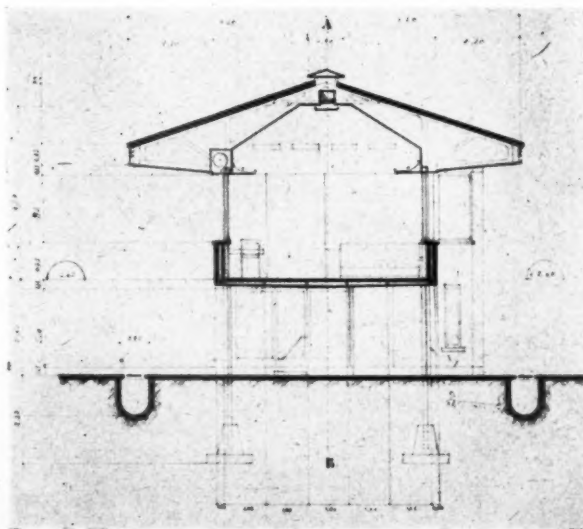
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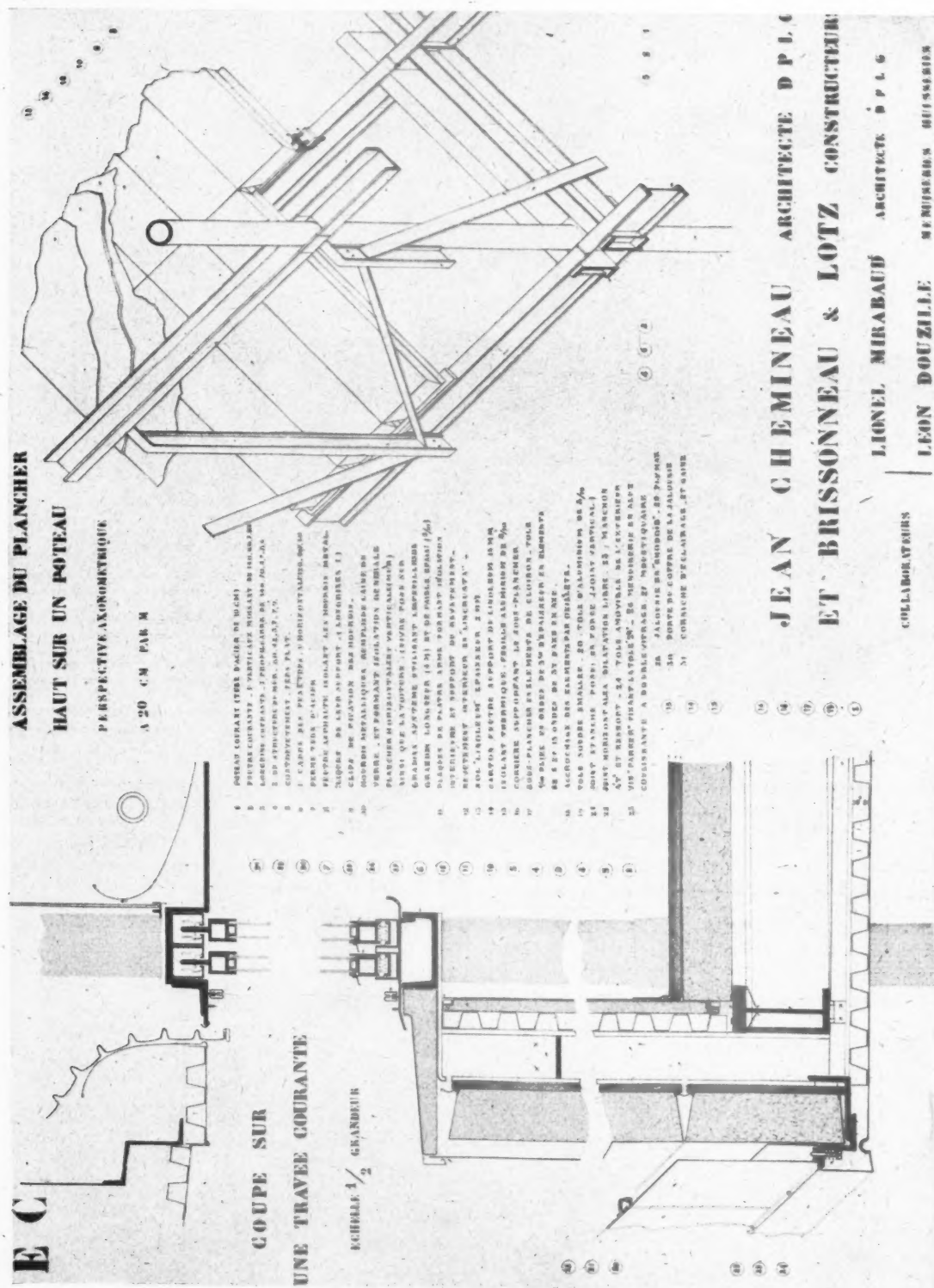


PRINCIPALES PHASES DU MONTAGE

- 1 DES INDIGENES PREPARENT LE TERRAIN, NIVELLEMENT, PLOMBERIE DE DRAINAGE ET DES ENDROITS PRECIS LES ELEMENTS PREFABRIQUES
- 2 MISE EN PLACE DES ELEMENTS VERTICAUX ET HORIZONTAUX ET DES CONTRAFORTS. MISE EN PLACE DEFINITIVE ET SOUTÈNE DE
- 3 MISE EN PLACE ET ASSEMBLAGE DES PERIMETRES ET DE LEURS CONTRAFORTS. DE L'EGALISER ET DU PLANCHER DE LA TOITURE
- 4 MISE EN PLACE DES CAILLES ET CAILLASSATIONS, HUISSIERES (ET) ET EXT. DES MONTRES DE FACADE ET DES PANEUX D'ALUMINUM

A system for houses and flats for use in the tropics, such as South Morocco, by Jean Chemineau. Facing page, plans and elevations of a house for a manager. Key to plans:—Ground floor (left): 1, main entrance; 2, service entrance; 3, winter dining room; 4, office. The garden is enclosed with a fence. First floor (right): 1, landing; 2, living room; 3, bedrooms; 4, terraces; 5, lavatories with shower baths; 6, bathroom; 7, pantry; 8, kitchen; 9, utility room. The small plan shows flats with the same plan adapted. On this page above, sketches showing the stages of construction of the house which is of steel frame in prefabricated units faced externally with aluminium panels. Constructional details are shown on the following page. The system is mainly concerned to overcome tropical heat by (1) wide eaves projecting 2 metres, (2) a ventilated roof, (3) double windows, (4) adjustable brise-soleil in windows on south and west, (5) very thorough wall insulation of polished aluminium external surface reflecting 80 per cent. of the heat rays, and air spaces and thick panels of glass wool within the walls. Below, section through the house showing the roof construction.





Details of construction of the colonial house shown on the previous two pages. Left, section through wall with sliding double windows. Right, axonometric of the steel framing. Exterior panelling is of polished aluminium; then follows, in turn, an air space, insulation of glass wool in metal containers, steel stanchion, units of cloison-tôle corrugated, and finally plaster-board interior finish covered with Lincrusta.

INFORMATION CENTRE

The function of this feature is to supply an index and a digest of all current developments in planning and building technique throughout the world as recorded in technical publications, and statements of every kind whether official, private or commercial. Items are written by specialists of the highest authority who are not on the permanent staff of the Journal and views expressed are disinterested and objective. The Editors welcome information on all developments from any source, including manufacturers and contractors.

PHYSICAL PLANNING

1830

Outdoor Recreation

FACILITIES FOR PHYSICAL RECREATION. (Central Council of Physical Recreation, 1944, 6d.) Pamphlet on siting, maintenance and equipment of ground and buildings for indoor and outdoor activities. Bibliography, list of sports associations and publications.

Some points made are:

1. The importance of quality and upkeep of sports grounds.
2. Chalk and gravel sub-soils are good; clay and sand should be avoided.
3. Rectangular sites are best.
4. One groundsman is required per 12 acres (sufficient for 2,000 population).
5. Games played by women require different sizes of pitch, marking and equipment.
6. A pavilion is essential. It should contain showers, wash basins, foot baths, lavatories, changing rooms, clothing lockers, canteen, storage for equipment.
7. Charges for hiring pitches should be low.
8. No part of a town should be more than $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from a recreation ground and $\frac{1}{4}$ mile from a small children's playground.
9. A population in a crowded area requires more playground space than (a) a population in houses with private gardens, (b) a population likely to join private sports clubs.
10. There is a great need for more public gymnasias for winter and wet weather activities: badminton, basket ball, boxing, fencing, dancing, gymnastics, physical training, tenikoit, etc.

1831

Country Towns

COUNTRY TOWNS IN THE FUTURE ENGLAND. (Faber & Faber, 1944, 8s. 6d.) Report of conference held in autumn, 1943, under auspices of the Town and Country Planning Association, at which representatives of some 10 per cent. of smaller towns of England were told how to plan to get more industry and better amenities into their boroughs.

The five towns represented were: a health resort (Malvern), a garrison town (Richmond, Yorks), an agricultural centre (Wisbech), a one industry weaving town (Haslingden) and a moribund ancient borough (Brackley). All advocated new light industries as solution for very different problems.

Professor Ashby said that the primary requirements of a country town of about 10,000 people were:—

1. Suitable facilities for marketing agricultural produce.

2. Adequate transport arrangements for goods and passengers.
3. A full range of supply services in agricultural requirements.
4. A choice of banking services.
5. A full range of supply of retail shopping facilities.
6. A choice of good repair and maintenance garages.
7. An adequate supply of cafés and restaurants.
8. An adequate supply of hotels, as well as of public houses.
9. At least one good cinema.
10. Provision for technical education.

Mr. Reiss said that the way to attract industry was:—

1. To group factories to spread costs of public utility services.
2. To provide good road communications.
3. To provide building sites at least 200 feet deep and 100 feet wide, the building line set back 25 feet from a 50 foot road.
4. To provide railway sidings for a few larger factories, whose sites must be at least 700 feet deep.
5. To provide single-storey factories built to rent with a 40 foot frontage and depths varying from 65-100 feet.
6. To restrict building to cover only 20 per cent. of the total area of the industrial estate when fully developed.

Miss Glasgow described the desirable amenity equipment of towns:—

1. Places of about 30,000 population should be able to support a theatre, seating 700-800, a concert hall, a library, an exhibition gallery and several cinemas.
2. In places of 20,000 the theatre would probably also have to serve as a concert hall and public meeting place and might well have an exhibition gallery as an annex.
3. Places with under 10,000 people could only support a community centre; this should not consist of one elaborately equipped hall but of a group of smallish rooms, include a library, an art room, a little theatre and a music room.

LIGHTING

1832

MOW Building Study

THE LIGHTING OF BUILDINGS. *The Ministry of Works Post-war Building Studies, No. 12.* The Lighting of Buildings Committee of the Building Research Board. (HMSO, 2s. 6d.) Fundamental principles of vision. Methods of measurement and principles of design for daylight, artificial light, and sunlight. Lighting in dwellings. Lighting in schools. Education of designer and public. Recommendations for research. Recommended standards. Appendices on daylight illumination intensities. Methods of analysis for

daylighting and sunlighting. Influence of window shape. Light and site planning. Two surveys, one on daylighting in flats, the other on lighting in dwellings generally. Report has implications for legislators, lighting engineers, architects, sociologists, town planners and manufacturers.

Many of the principles and conclusions contained in this Report will be generally unfamiliar to the profession, and some of them are the results of special researches undertaken for the Committee. Parts of the Report are based on a survey of the conditions of lighting in dwellings throughout the country. The broad interpretation of the subject is notable, and the Report has wide implications; legislators, lighting engineers, architects, sociologists, town planners, and manufacturers will all find that it makes contributions to their work. Recommendations are precise and practical.

It is axiomatic to say that natural and artificial lighting are important considerations in the design of buildings; but like so many others, such as sanitation or heating and ventilation, the development of which marks to some extent the material progress of building design, lighting has generally followed traditions which have yielded, in modern circumstances, some very haphazard results. In this Report a quantitative analysis of lighting has been related to the behaviour of the eye, and now, for the first time to some standards of design for human requirements. The analysis is presented as a postulate for design, and provides another established link between science and aesthetics, along lines which assist also the true appraisal of the principles underlying good traditional form. This line of thought runs through much of the early part of the Report, and comes to the surface occasionally in such passages as this, which relates to Georgian and Mediaeval design.

"... An important factor ... is the design of the windows, often tall and rather narrow with deep reveals. The height results in good distribution of light, while the deep reveals, in conjunction with the limited width, cut off glare from the eye. Freedom from glare or from the strong contrast of sky seen through a window in a dark wall enables the eyes to adjust themselves to higher levels of efficiency, so that moderate illuminations (which are often associated with buildings of these periods) may not only appear adequate, but in fact very comfortable."

In this part of the Report the Committee is obviously at pains to establish the general balance between quantity and quality of lighting, though even here some useful specific recommendations occur, such for instance, as that "a combination of direct and indirect lighting should generally be the aim," and the point is emphasized by reference to the good qualities of the British Standard Study Lamp which embodies this principle. It is unfortunate that the lamp is not more fully described, though an illustration is provided.

The main body of the Report deals with the specific problems of dwellings and schools, each section including an analysis of daylight, sunlight and artificial light. The Committee states that it wished to take other types of building within its purview, but that it was found impracticable in the time at its disposal.

The two surveys which form appendices to the Report provide the Committee with a firm foundation for its development of lighting in dwellings, though it supplemented the surveys by practical trials of its final recommendations. The surveys were carried out by the Wartime Social Survey, and the use in this way of the trained sociologist is a welcome departure and exemplary precedent for architects. If the complementary functions of the two

professions develop along such lines as these, the results should be of wide practical benefit.

The larger of the two surveys took in a national sample distributed regionally in proportion to the population. Among the many interesting findings may be noted the significant decreases in lighting intensities in all income groups in proportion to increases in the cost of electricity. It is apparent that in this respect the sales policy of supply companies should be re-examined to see that it does not conflict with proved human needs, though the Committee curiously does not emphasise this apparently important point.

The section dealing with dwellings begins with a review with diagrams of the lighting characteristics of windows of various shapes under various conditions of obstruction. One wonders why this has not been done previously; it should be most useful to designers. Another and more significant development is the tabulation of window performance which the Committee recommended should be made and which has in fact already been published by H.M. Stationery Office.

An account of the methods and principles of design for artificial light follows. Definitions of the units of measurement and explanations of the behaviour of fittings serve as an introduction to the methods and principles of design.

Then occurs a detailed analysis of the requirements of lighting in dwellings. Many of the recommendations are based to some extent on the survey of the lighting in dwellings. Some empirical rules illustrated by diagrams show how to decide window sizes under special conditions.

The significance of this section lies in the establishment of standards of both natural and artificial lighting, and in the recommendation that for artificial lighting some assurance of a minimum standard should be given by the compulsory "installation at the time of erection, of a sufficient number of outlets, properly placed, together with suitable fittings, complete with lamps and mantles. The performance of such fittings should be covered by a British Standard." This form of control—which is directed towards houses built for sale or to let—is intended to protect the occupier against inadequate lighting, and seems commendable, though the Committee also emphasises that any regulation which may be made should not be so framed as to exclude new methods of lighting.

It seems curious that so little reference is made to the development of fluorescent lighting in connection with the design of fittings and the establishment of standards, in view of the Committee's statement that "these lamps will exercise a big influence on post-war lighting practice . . ."

A section on the lighting of schools follows. Those who are interested would do best to read the Report: it is sufficient to note here that the Committee has provided

a very fair analysis of the needs of lighting for children, and to welcome the Committee's attention to detail in making reference to such matters as decoration, the colour of chalk-boards, the size of print, and so forth.

Although the Committee does not go into detail about any other building types, in fact its analysis of site planning is as important as any section of the Report and impinges on all urban building types. Some of the recommendations for daylighting and sunlighting give rise to conflicts, where the architect would have to make a decision based on relative advantages in one or other respect. Nevertheless it is abundantly clear that here, as in other spheres of planning, indecision about legislation on land ownership is likely to interfere seriously with the application of valuable new knowledge. A paragraph from the Report is worth quoting in this connection.

"The typical 'hollow square' arrangement of buildings around the periphery of a block of land is often related to the fact that the land is held by many separate owners developing their property independently. A cruciform arrangement or any other open plan form would not be possible unless one could visualise the comprehensive redevelopment of larger land units at one time. We therefore urge upon those responsible for the broad foundation of planning the serious consideration of this factor . . ."

Also worth quoting is this passage. " . . . If we continue, in this country, to emphasise the generally horizontal development which has characterised our town design up till now, we cannot hope for good daylighting in urban buildings . . . but if those of our city buildings which merit good daylighting can be given the characteristics which have been outlined here, densities of the present order, and indeed, considerably higher densities, can be accommodated with good natural illumination . . ."

These are important things.

There are some attractive illustrations of sunlight studies of urban building types, which are reproduced here. However, the photographs generally do not contribute appreciably to the Report, and it must be regretted that the Committee has been unable to use its opportunity for imaginative illustration of the principles of vision and lighting.

There are several useful appendices, including an account of the theory and methods of daylight analysis which were reviewed by the Committee, and also methods of sunlight analysis, the influence of window shape, an estimate of increased costs due to the recommendations for artificial lighting and a method of measuring insolation. Generally speaking the Committee is to be congratulated on its achievement in producing within the limits of time terms of reference, an imaginative, lucid and important document.

PLUMBING and Sanitation

1833

Kitchen-Bathroom Unit

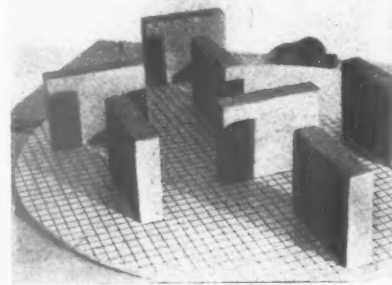
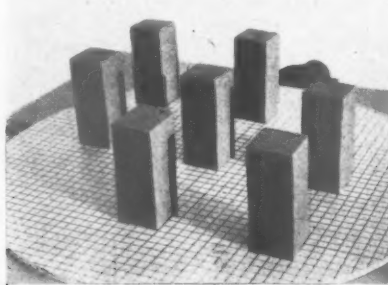
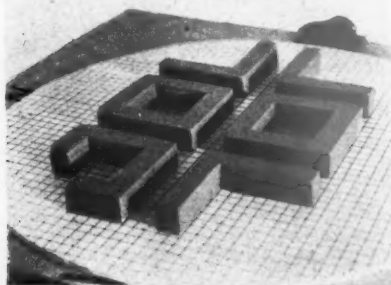
MOW KITCHEN AND BATHROOM PLUMBING UNIT. (*Memorandum and illustration issued by the Ministry of Works, published here in full.*) List of essential requirements which were tabulated before the unit (incorporated in Portal temporary houses and Northolt flatted dwellings) was designed. (See A.J., May 11, 1944, pp. 349-357; October 12, 1944, p. 270; January 18, 1945, pp. 59-60.)

One of the main problems facing the architect when designing a prefabricated house is to plan the provision of the essential services so that a minimum of site man hours is required for installation. The unit illustrated was designed by the Ministry of Works and has been incorporated both in the Portal series of temporary houses and in the flatted dwellings shown on the Northolt Grange Estate.

Before the unit was designed a list of the essential requirements was tabulated. These, with an explanation of the solutions found, are given below:—

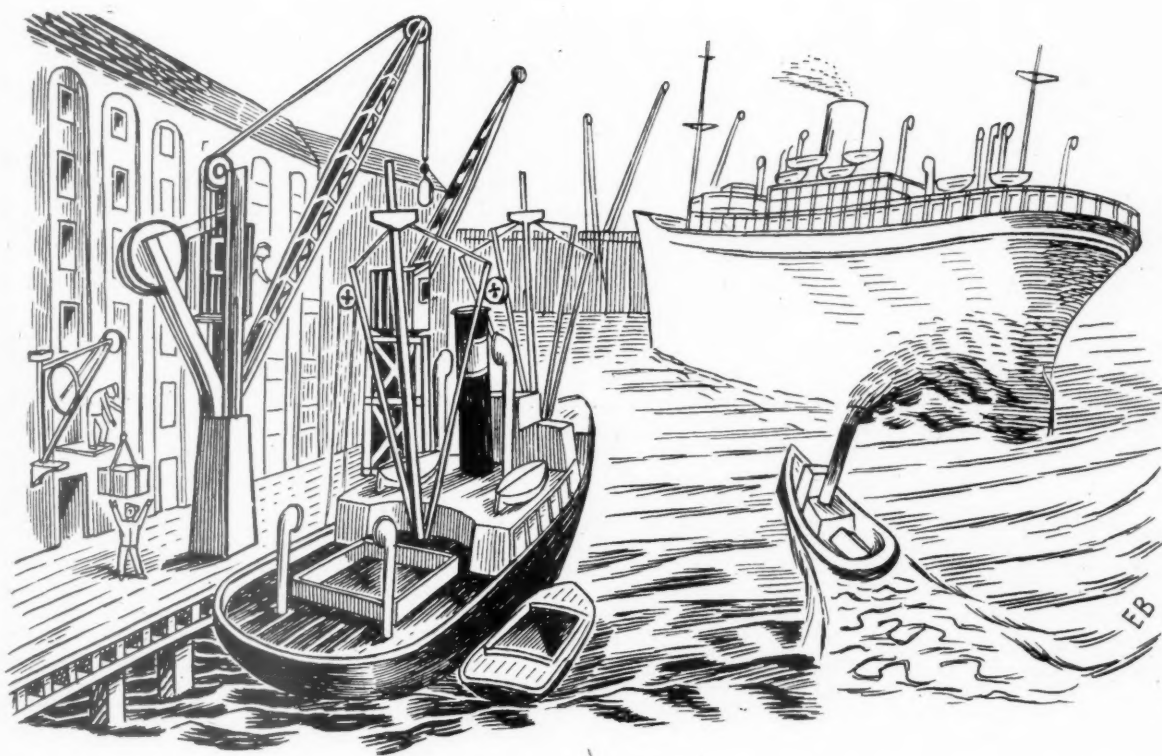
1. *Standardization of kitchen and bathroom so that all pipes are on internal wall, enabling short pipe connections, effecting economy in running costs, conserving metal and providing easy accessibility to any part of the plumbing, gas and electrical installation in the event of replacements.*

The location of the kitchen adjacent to the bathroom and w.c. has been standardized on plan, to enable the various sanitary fittings and cooking appliances to be in close proximity. This enables the majority of the pipes serving the bath, lavatory basin, kitchen sink, water waste preventer, cooker, wash boiler, and refrigerator to be carried in a horizontal angle iron frame within the wall dividing the kitchen from the bathroom. The angle iron frame is in two sections, the horizontal section mentioned above, and the vertical section which is immediately behind the boiler. The vertical section carries the copper hot-water cylinder and the cold-water cistern and ball valve, together with their requisite pipe connections. The hot-water cylinder warms the airing cupboard, which is removable for access to the vertical plumbing unit. The stop cocks on the cold-water down services can be operated through a sliding panel in the back of the linen cupboard. In the unit illustrated, the whole of the pipe work has been carried out in light gauge copper tube with compression and capillary types of fittings. The unit embodies chromium-plated easy clean bib taps, heated chromium-plated towel rail in bathroom,



Illustrations from The Lighting of Buildings, MOW Post-war Building Study, No. 12, showing the effect of different ways of site planning on the lighting of buildings. Left, winter sunlight on typical hollow-square building blocks. Centre, winter sunlight on an alternative type of structure of the same overall density giving free insolation of ground and buildings. Right, winter sunlight on an arrangement which was found good for daylighting, broken skyline allowing insolation of the lower storeys. See No. 1832.

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Along the docksides there will be a good deal of leeway to be made up in building — when the last convoy of the war is safely berthed. Simultaneously the programme of national reconstruction will be launched. From warehouses to dwelling-houses, the various building schemes will involve immense tasks for archi-

itects and builders. What contribution can be expected from Zinc? Its lightness, long life and low cost suggest that it will make a valuable contribution. Zinc is as suitable for the traditional building as the modern, the site-built as the pre-fabricated. Zinc, with its almost infinite adaptability, is a metal to keep in mind.

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The A

electric wiring, control panel and connection boxes for alternative electric or gas cooker, wash boiler and refrigerator. Hot water is also obtainable by means of a thermostatically controlled electric immersion heater, when the living room fire is not being used. The metal panel over the bath is removable for access to the piping, and the main gas cock and cold-water stop cock can be, if necessary, turned off immediately in a cupboard in the kitchen unit.

2. Conserving fuel consumption by the use of a combined convector stove with boiler. The provision of only one open fire per house and utilising warm air from same for heating the two bedrooms.

The design of the combined convector stove with boiler provides background warm air heating to bedrooms and is also the heating medium for the domestic hot-water supply system. An air inlet conveys fresh air to the back of the convector stove, and this air is brought into contact with the external stove surfaces. This warm air is then conveyed by means of a sheet-metal trunking to a warm air grille over each of the bedroom doors. It will be appreciated that this convector boiler, which also provides an openable fire in the living room, has many advantages including economy in

running and comfort conditions, yet saving in labour as only one fire per house has to be maintained.

3. Prevention of damage by frost.

All the pipe runs have been designed with gradients enabling the assembly to be completely drained of water during severe weather or during the absence of the occupants of the house.

4. Design of unit for speedy production in factories.

This unit has been designed to enable the various firms now manufacturing to fabricate on a production line with modern jig and tool methods, with semi-skilled and unskilled labour, and assemble at the quickest possible speed. Each unit will be inspected and tested at the works before delivery.

5. Easy erection, utilizing unskilled labour.

The work on the site entails coupling the horizontal and vertical sections, connecting the incoming cold-water main to the stop cock, and the provision of the gas meter and its connection to the incoming gas supply. The vertical section is then coupled to the boiler and the sheet-metal trunking placed in position. The cooker, wash boiler and refrigerator are then coupled either to the electric boxes or gas connec-

tions provided on the assembly. Each part of the unit when it leaves the factory is complete in itself: i.e., the horizontal section and piping, the vertical section, cistern, cylinder and pipe connections, and the trunking. Assembly time on site is expected to average approximately 60 minutes per unit.

6. Method of transport and storage problems.

The angle iron framing on both horizontal and vertical sections encloses all piping with a view to preventing damage in transit. This protection also covers connections to branch services, which can be unscrewed at couplings and swivelled inside framing during transit. The Ministry of Works have arranged for main and sub-storage depots throughout the country for the various components necessary for temporary housing, and it will be possible for this unit to be stocked economically ready for site transit when required.

7. Preparing itemised spares schedule to accelerate quick replacements.

On this unit each component part is numbered so that in the event of loss or damage in transit, it will not affect the unit as a whole, and spares can be readily despatched on instructions.

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.

1834

Joins in Brickwork

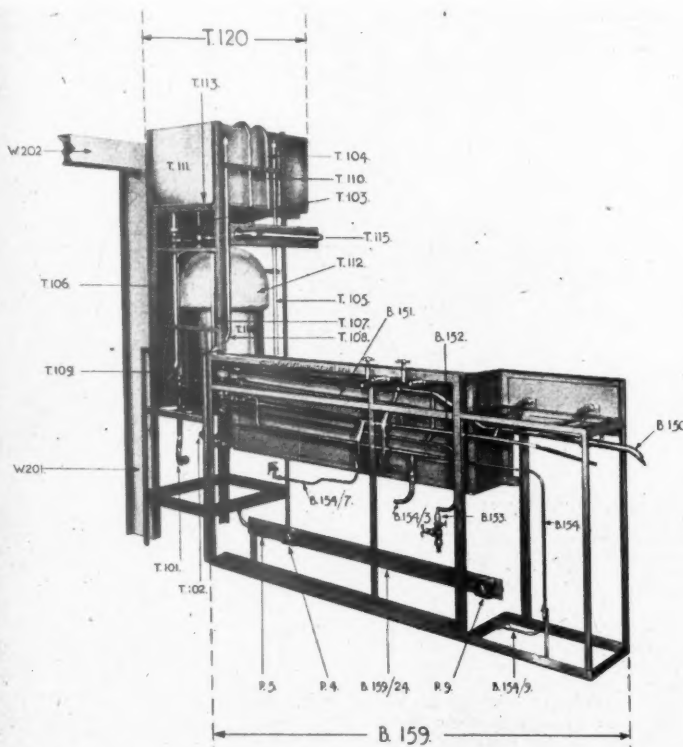
Q A brick house was built some time ago in lime mortar with joints rubbed off hard and flush, unpointed. At several exposed places near the ground the joints show signs of crumbling. Would you advise me to take out and point these parts in cement mortar?

A There is a great danger in re-pointing old brickwork with a dense mortar. Frequently old walls were built in lime mortar without a damp course and as a result soluble salts from the soil were drawn up into the brickwork. As the mortar was of lime, evaporation occurred more readily from the joints than from the bricks and the salts concentrated and crystallized at the surface of the joints. This was most satisfactory as the disruptive effect was confined to the pointing and the bricks remained undamaged.

When such brickwork is re-pointed with a dense mortar, the moisture can evaporate more freely from the brick than from the joints, with the result that the disruptive effect is confined to the bricks themselves. There are many instances of bricks which have remained satisfactory for years, but disintegrated rapidly after being re-pointed in dense mortar.

Whilst we appreciate that the building in question is not necessarily very old and that it probably has a damp course, we would advise you to use a lime mortar only lightly gauged with Portland cement, or a mortar in which a moderately hydraulic lime is used as the cementitious ingredient of the mortar.

It should be remembered that a cement-



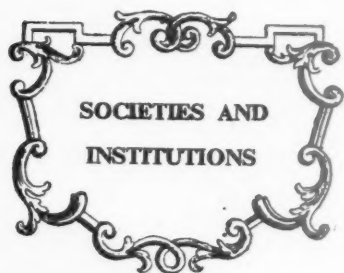
PREFABRICATED PLUMBING UNIT. [KITCHEN SIDE]

T.120. ANGLE IRON TOWER UNIT.
T.101. PRIMARY RETURN CYLINDER TO BOILER.
T.102. PRIMARY FLOW FROM BOILER.
T.103. COLD WATER FEED TO CYLINDER.
T.104. VENT TO PRIMARY FLOW.
T.105. MAINS COLD WATER SUPPLY TO CISTERN.
T.106. COLD WATER DRAW-OFF.
T.107. HOT WATER DRAW-OFF.
T.108. OVERFLOW.
T.109. RETURN FROM TOWEL RAIL.
T.110. HOT WATER SUPPLY VENT.
T.111. COLD WATER CISTERN.
T.112. GLASS INSULATED MATTRESS.
T.113. CORK MATTRESS.
T.114. COPPER HOT WATER CYLINDER.
T.115. CHROMIUM PLATED TOWEL RAIL.

B.159. ANGLE IRON BASIN UNIT.
B.150. OVERFLOW.
B.151. HOT WATER DRAW-OFF.
B.152. COLD WATER DRAW-OFF.
B.153. MAINS COLD WATER SUPPLY TO CISTERN.
B.154. GAS SERVICE.
B.154/5. UNION TO GAS METER.
B.154/7. UNION TO WASH BOILER.
B.154/3. UNION TO GAS REFRIGERATOR.
B.150. REMOVABLE ACCESS PANEL OVER BATH.
B.154. METAL CHANNEL TO CARRY ELECTRIC CABLE.
W.201. WARM AIR SHROUD FOR STOVE.
W.202. WARM AIR DUCTING.
P.4. PYROTEX CABLE CONNECTION FOR WASH BOILER.
P.5. PYROTEX CABLE TERMINAL BOX FOR COOKER.
P.5. PYROTEX CABLE CONNECTION FOR REFRIGERATOR.

The Ministry of Works prefabricated plumbing unit now in production. See No. 1833.

gauged lime mortar should be treated as a cement mortar, i.e., only batches of a size which can be used in about an hour should be mixed.



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 economize space the bodies concerned are represented by their initials, but a glossary of abbreviations will be found on the front cover. Except where inverted commas are used, the reports are summaries, and not verbatim.

RIBA

French Exhibition

February 15, at 66, Portland Place, W.1. Opening of the exhibition of French prefabricated houses, DEVASTATION AND DESTRUCTION, by the French Ambassador, Mr. Massagli. Mr. Brendan Bracken, Minister of Information, and Mr. Duncan Sandys, Minister of Works, also spoke. Some of the drawings from the exhibition are illustrated on pages 187-194.

Mr. Massagli: The word reconstruction is a word now very familiar to British ears. I think it is a good thing that the French conception of this word be made known to the British public. It is possible that the plans presented in this Exhibition may surprise you by their magnitude. There is a general tendency to associate the words prefabricated house with the idea of constructions of small dimensions and of all more or less provisional character. It is true that you will see here small houses which can be put together in an unbelievably short time and yet offer, even so, a very real comfort and remarkable proof against cold, dampness and noise. The various designs make it possible, with the standard prefabricated elements, to obtain a surprising diversity of appearance and of interior arrangement. This idea has now become familiar, but it will perhaps surprise many people to find presented here, side by side with those of small houses, plans for ten or twelve storeyed buildings. This, I believe, will show that the principle of prefabricated houses amounts, in the field of reconstruction,

to a genuine revolution, the importance of which has perhaps not yet been fully appreciated. The public does not always realize that with the same elements used in the building of a cottage, one can erect blocks of flats or office buildings, Ministries, or large commercial concerns, as impressive as those we already see in every big city. But the method of construction of these buildings will be vastly different and, I think, revolutionary is not too strong a word to describe the biggest change in the principles of construction since man first learnt to build a house.

We may see a revolution in the profession of the architect. It will become necessary for him to curb his artistic sense, to adapt himself to industrial methods and yet to remain an artist. It could be a temptation for him to become an engineer, to create a well-planned house, and to reproduce thousands of identical habitations, which would result in a depressing monotony. This is a drawback unacceptable to the individualistic Frenchman and to the artist in general. You will see that the plans exhibited here allow for innumerable combinations. The artistic sense of the architect will be disciplined, but not repressed. I trust that these projects will enable the public in general, and particularly the technicians, to appreciate that in this sphere, as in others, Frenchmen under the occupation (for the greater part of these plans were elaborated during the last four years) have maintained their courage to work and an open mind towards the possibilities of the future.

It appears to me that they were justified when they chose as the motto of their Exhibition this sentence of Descartes: "When one is too curious of the things of the past, one usually remains in ignorance of the things of the present."

RSA

Percy D. Smith

February 7, at John Adam Street, W.C.2. Paper read before the Royal Society of Arts on BEAUTY IN SIGNS AND CIVIC LETTERING, by Percy Delf Smith, R.D.I. Chairman: Professor A. E. Richardson, R.A.

P. D. Smith: Control of some kind and for some purposes is clearly needed. In the last resort, however, an informed and ever-widening interest is as powerful a factor as any; for interest develops into that intangible but irresistible force we call public opinion. Hence equal in importance with appropriate control is, I suggest, the stimulation of interest. Interest is necessary to mellow and as it were to lubricate control.

All must use lettering. But the community is very much engaged in many other affairs. For interest of the force and kind to produce results in time to protect the coming reconstruction, much depends on that which is shown by the various planning committees, by advisory architects, by heads of great concerns which control extensive buildings, and especially by city, borough and county authorities, often in the person of their architect or surveyor. I hope it will be agreed that it is one of the functions of this Society, and of the Faculty of the Royal Designers for Industry, to stimulate that interest.

Assuming the existence of that interest necessary to give control creative rather than merely restrictive force, what machinery can be suggested? There are various possibilities, I venture to put forward one.

In the civic planning now in progress, it seems desirable that in each committee or responsible planning body, there should be

someone of understanding and imagination equal in status to the engineer and the architect, who is given responsibility for all the many items apart from architecture as such, which may be considered as the furniture of the new roads and townships. The items such an official would have to bring under review and co-ordinate would include trees, especially flowering trees, fountains, statuary, flower-beds, tubs for plants, standards for lights, bus-stops, colour and (perhaps the most likely to be ignored, owing to the apparent, but only apparent, clash of interests between the rights of the individual and of the community), the lettering, signs and advertisements presented to the view of the public. By their absence or by their presence, many of these items are to-day some discredit to our standards of civic amenities. Without the due ordering of these details, is it not clear that nobly planned schemes may be, indeed will be, in a very few years blighted and almost hidden under accumulated surface disorder? Let us remember what Shaftesbury Avenue has become: and it might have been a noble memorial to a noble man. With guidance and direction, to use the official word, instead of commonplaceness—instead of a chaos of litter, ever threatening to submerge our new buildings and roads—there would be some hope of acceptable character growing with the years as a sort of patina. And very necessary things become litter as they increase (a) in number, and (b) in the degree in which they are unorganized; and this, quite apart from the point as to whether they are in themselves well- or ill-designed. Public opinion was indeed making itself felt on this point prior to 1939. For example, in connection with large blocks of offices, it was increasingly the custom to enforce on the tenants an approximate uniformity of style of lettering. In another sphere, railway companies and land-owners were beginning to take note of public feeling against the display of giant posters on verges or in beauty spots.

Therefore it seems there is a major need for order, arrangement, grouping, with all its implications. For example, there must be places where signs and posters cannot be put and places where they can. And if happy combination be achieved in these latter places, the posters themselves stand to gain. I visualize proper framework and suitable background. Better and formal settings may well tempt more and more good designers to design posters.

A protest is needed against the putting of letters, sometimes of great size, across buildings regardless of their architectural lines and proportions. Against that, at least, it is to be hoped our planners will guard their and our new buildings; as also against the litter of bronze and other plates around and in the new entrance halls: then, by example, these evils may tend to diminish elsewhere. But ample and fully efficient announcements are a necessity, and the more it is desired to give these an interest, dignity and grace in keeping with what we hope will be a good environment, the more it is very necessary for architects and planners to allocate fully adequate places. And so far as neon lighting remains part of modern life, it also requires consideration and proper provision.

A definition very important for our subject is that by J. F. Millet, the French painter, which has been translated, "Beauty is the fit, the appropriate, the serviceable character well rendered." How much more efficient, to mention no other quality, our street name-plates and house numbers would be if they could stand up to Millet's test, applied clause by clause; in placing, in easy legibility, in the rendering of the letters, and perhaps the first step towards expressing this true idea of beauty, would be to attain approximate uniformity of placing, calculated in feet from the ground, so that drivers knew where to

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look, and could see them from a closed car.

Some of the newest street name-plates of Hampstead, in most respects among the best I know, pass all the tests except that of the last highly important clause. The letters are painted on tiles and fired, thus having great durability. The tiles are assembled in wooden frames which are usually placed in excellent positions, not too high for easy sighting from a closed car. The letters are of about the right size and very legible, but the rendering of their forms shows a lack of knowledge and they have no style. This seems a great pity, and a good chance missed to set the almost perfect example. And one other point. The letters are dark on light (black on near white), hence the panels usually show as clear-cut oblong spots on darkish grounds. As the result of some experiment and observation, my view is that light letters on a dark ground are by a little the more legible, especially in dim light. Also a dark background has the advantage that it more or less harmonizes with the average darkish background of towns. A detached spot, rarely pleasant, is thus avoided.

Civic lettering needs to be done as clearly as possible, and clarity appears to be best obtained by the use of forms which are classic and somewhat impersonal, rather than romantic and very personal. Freak forms are inappropriate and pay the price of unsuitability by soon looking slightly foolish and out of date. And the more relatively permanent the material is, the more does this hold good.

The question of colour forces itself upon us. Like ornament, colour is a need of human nature. Although the innate beauty we most need grows with its roots deep-based in order and co-ordination, its flowering may be either austere and reserved or

gay and colourful. As a matter of fact, most people need more colour and need it very urgently. I imagine its only enemy is dirt and smoke. And as smoke abatement progresses we may hope to see more of our signs and civic lettering approaching that "feast for the eyes," taking on that colourful quality, which Delacroix ascribed to good pictures. And this use of colour applies to the normal signs of the town and countryside, even to traffic signs with their need for stark clarity, and very fully to pictorial signs.

CERA Luncheon

February 21, at the Connaught Rooms, W.C.2. Second annual luncheon of the Commercial Electric Refrigeration Association. Guest of honour, Rt. Hon. A. V. Alexander, First Lord of the Admiralty. Independent chairman, E. G. Batt.

E. G. Batt : We now have a total membership of 248 firms representing machinery manufacturers, insulation contractors, distributors and service engineers. Each of these sections of the industry is responsible for the conduct of its own affairs under the general direction of the Council.

Among other matters, the Council has requested the British Standards Institution to establish a Standard Specification for Condensing Units, whilst the insulation contractors forming Section B are investigating the possibility of fixing standard dimensions for service cabinets and small coldrooms

normally supplied with commercial refrigeration installations.

If all our hopes for the future are to be fulfilled in the best and most economical way, then I believe that this can best be done by the operation of strong and active trade organizations. By this I mean, not organizations of the monopolistic kind, but those whose genuine object is to provide the consumer at home and abroad with the best possible article at the lowest economical price. Obviously, this can best be achieved by co-operative action, research and standardization on the part of the producers.

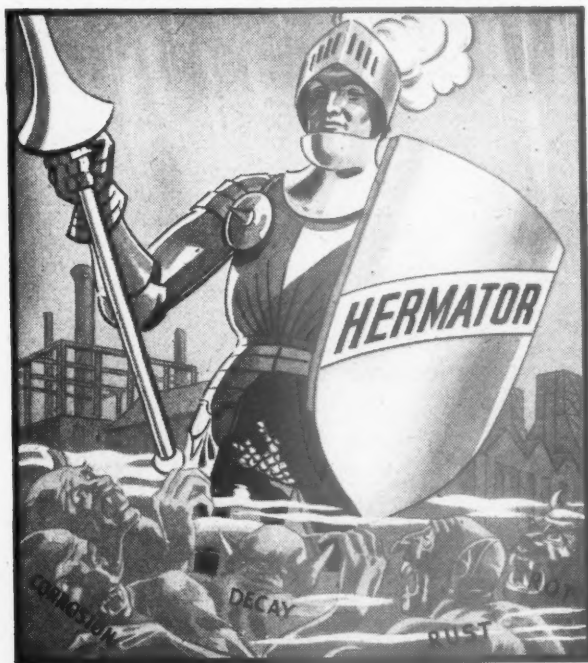
Hitherto the domestic market has been dealt with by the Domestic Electric Refrigeration Association (DERA), whilst CERA has limited itself to the medium size commercial plants. In pursuance of the idea of having one great Association which can speak with one voice for all sections of the refrigeration industry, I am very pleased to be able to announce to-day that it has now been decided to absorb CERA and DERA, together with the interests of the larger plants, in one Association which will be known as the British Refrigeration Association (BRA).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Duncan McCulloch, L.R.I.B.A., has acquired the practice of Allan Stevenson & Cassels, chartered architects and surveyors, 56, Sandgate, Ayr, and is now in practice at that address.

Mr. W. T. Quayle, P.A.S.I., A.I.A.A., chartered surveyor, registered and incorporated architect, has been invalided out of the Royal Air Force, and has resumed practice at his former address, 29, Athol Street, Douglas, Isle-of-Man (telephone, Douglas 1396), at which address he will be pleased to receive trade literature.

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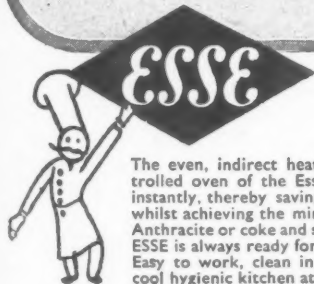


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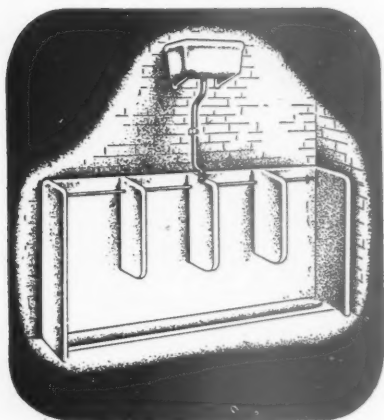
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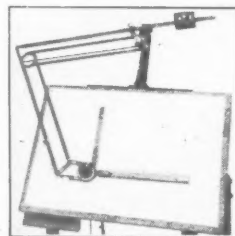
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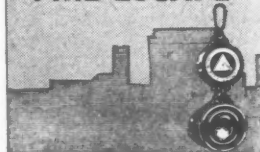
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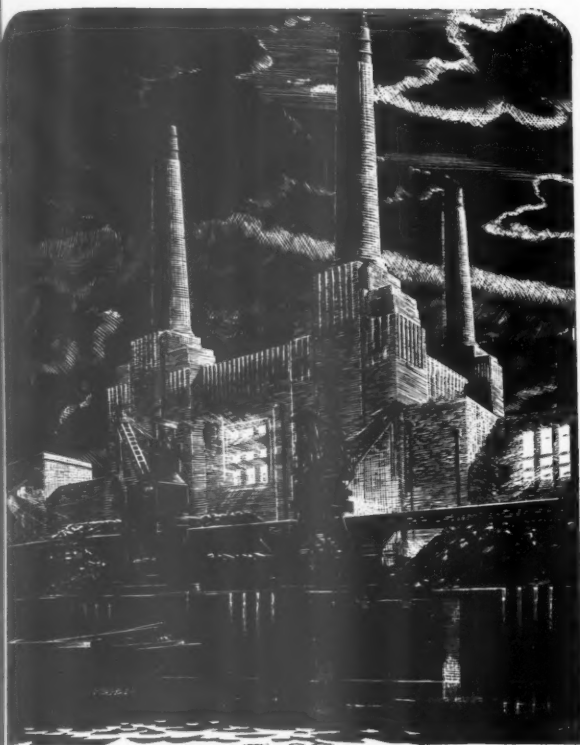


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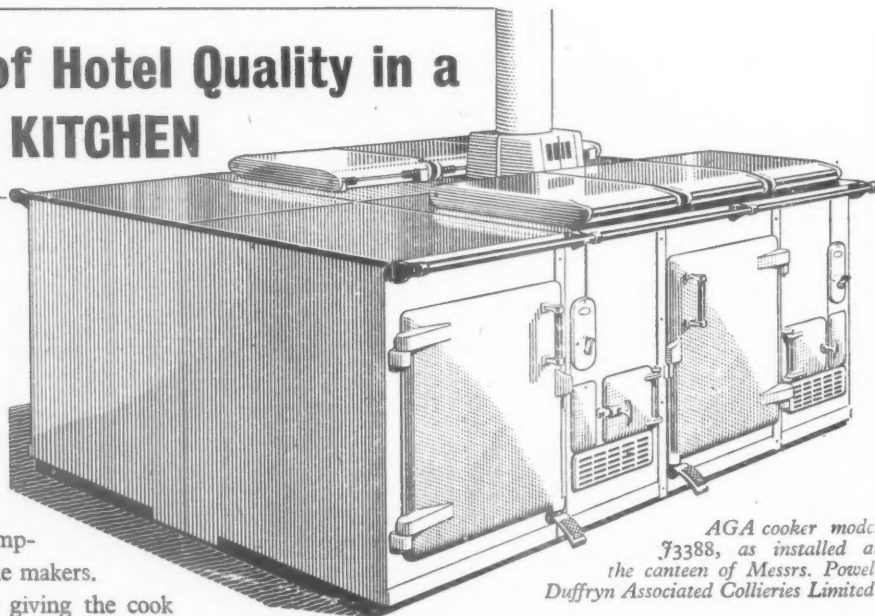
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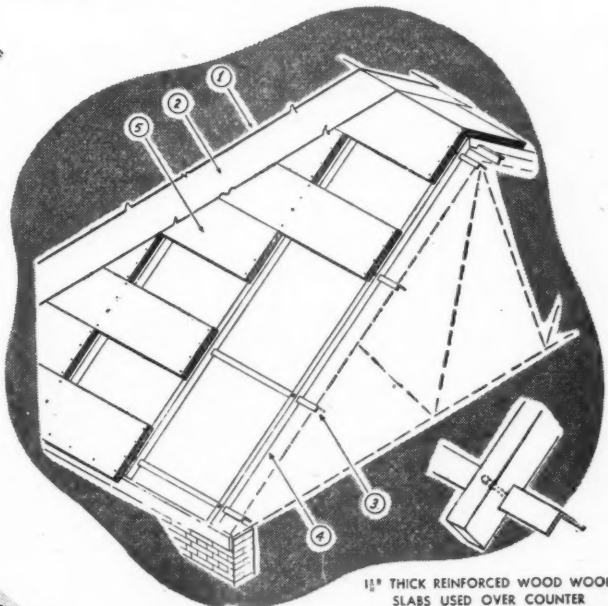
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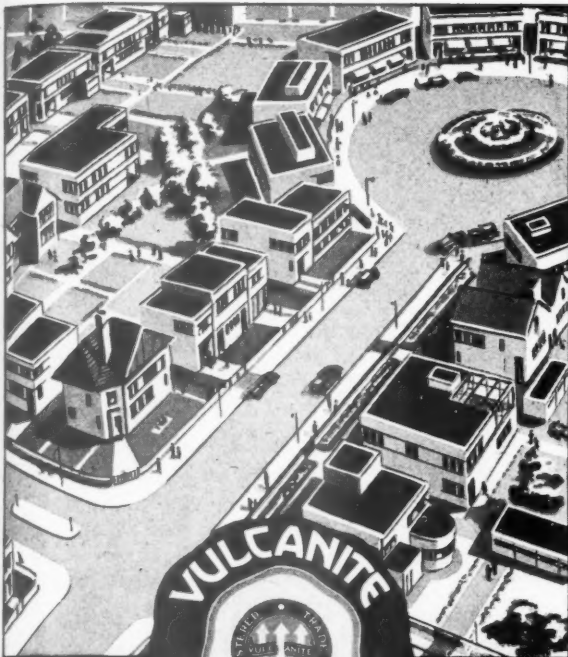
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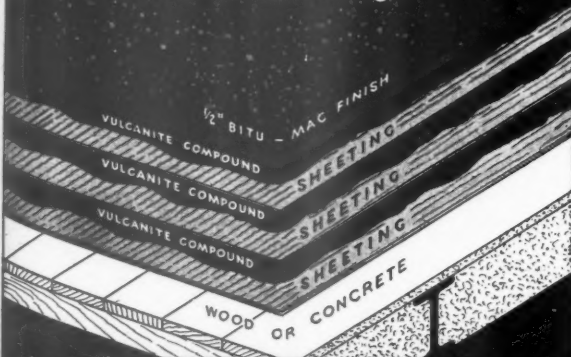
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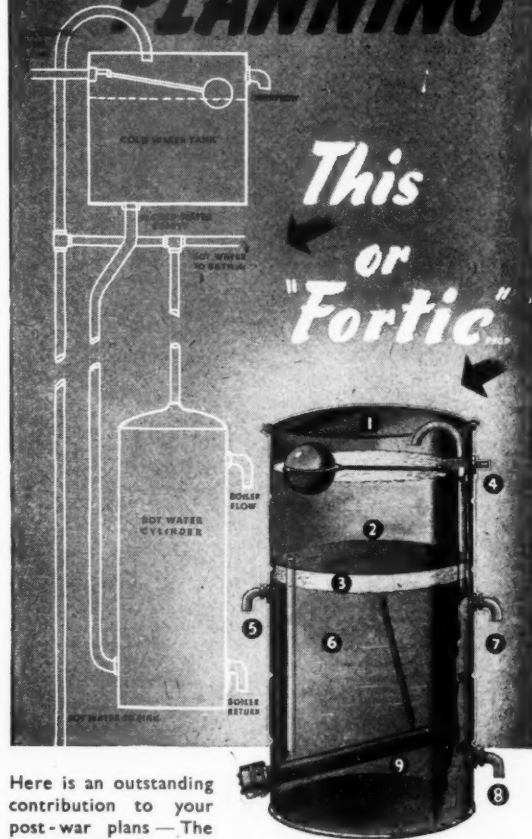


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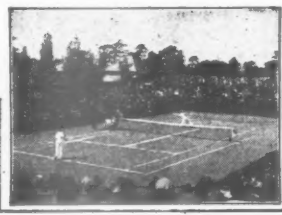
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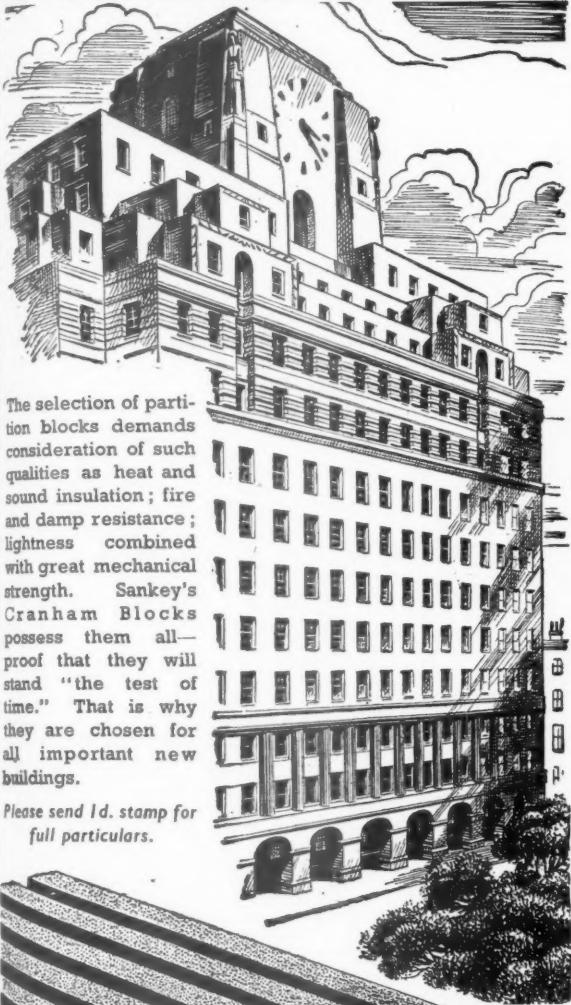
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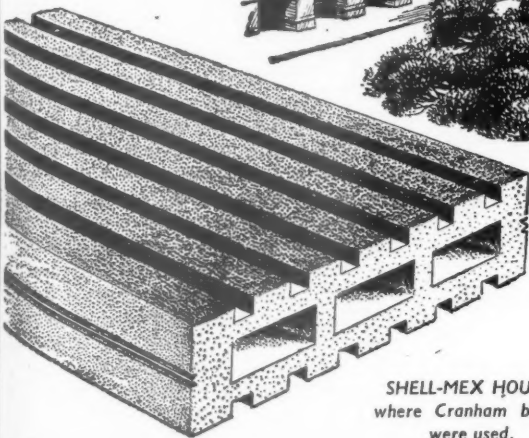
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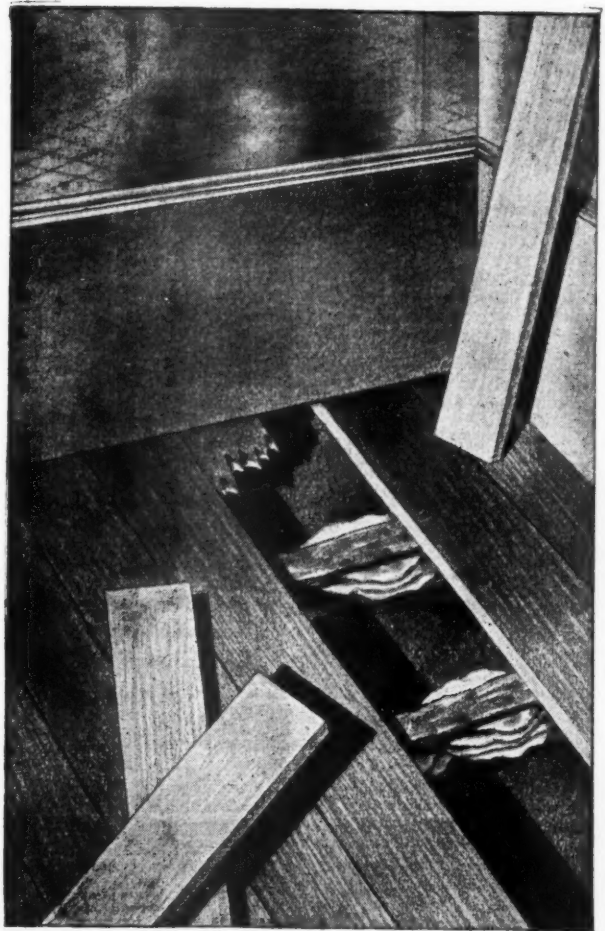
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Replies to Box Numbers should be addressed care of "The Architects' Journal," War Address: 45 The Avenue, Cheam, Surrey.

Public and Official Announcements

Size lines or under, 8s.; each additional line, 1s. The Incorporated Association of Architects and Surveyors maintains a register of qualified architects and surveyors (including assistants) requiring posts and invites applications from public authorities and private practitioners having staff vacancies. ADDRESS: 75 EATON PLACE, LONDON, S.W.1. TEL.: SLOANE 5615 991

ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANTS, temporary, required by the Metropolitan Borough of Bethnal Green, in the Borough Engineer and Surveyor's Department, for work in connection with Post-War Housing. Candidates must have had wide experience in the preparation of Designs, Working Drawings, Specifications, Bills of Quantities, and Estimates. Should be fully conversant with the principal Building Acts and Regulations. A.R.I.B.A. preferred. Salary £400 per annum, plus 19s. per week cost of living bonus.

Applications in writing (no interviews), stating date of birth, full details of qualifications and experience (including a list in chronological order of posts held), and quoting reference No. Q.R. 387, should be addressed to the Ministry of Labour and National Service, Appointments Department (A.3.A.), Sardinia Street, Kingsway, London, W.C.2. 557

ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT, permanent, required by the Urban District of Farnborough, Hants.

Candidates must have been born before 1923, and have had previous experience in the design of working class houses, preference being given to those who hold a recognised Architectural qualification.

Salary £330 p.a., rising to £375 p.a., plus war bonus, at present £49 8s. p.a.

Applicants should write, quoting EA. 1152XA, to the Ministry of Labour and National Service, Appointments Department, Central (T. and S.) Register, Room 5/17, Sardinia Street, Kingsway, London, W.C.2, for the necessary forms, which should be returned completed on or before 16th March, 1945. 556

TECHNICAL ASSISTANTS, temporary, required by the Borough of Chelmsford. Candidates must have been born before 1923, unless medically unfit for military service.

(a) Engineering Assistant, preferably A.M.I.C.E. or A.M.I.M. & Cy.E., with previous experience in municipal engineering and surveying, including roads, sewerage, housing layouts, etc. Reference E. 1427XA.

(b) Architectural Assistant, preferably A.R.I.B.A., with previous experience in designs for Council houses, etc. Reference EA. 1304XA. Salaries from between £350 to £400 per annum, plus cost of living award (present rate 19s. per week), according to experience and qualifications. Appointments are terminable by one month's notice on either side.

Applicants should write, quoting the appropriate reference, to the Ministry of Labour and National Service, Appointments Department, Central (T. and S.) Register, Room 5/17, Sardinia Street, Kingsway, London, W.C.2, for the necessary forms, which should be returned completed on or before 14th March, 1945. 552

ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT, temporary, required by the Borough of Glossop, Derbyshire. Candidates should be A.R.I.B.A., or hold an equivalent qualification, and experience of housing schemes, will be an advantage. Salary £350 p.a., plus cost of living bonus, £49 8s. p.a.

Applicants should write, quoting EA. 1300XA, to the Ministry of Labour and National Service, Appointments Department, Central (T. and S.) Register, Room 5/17, Sardinia Street, Kingsway, London, W.C.2, for the necessary forms, which should be returned completed on or before 12th March, 1945. 551

Two TEMPORARY ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANTS required by the Southgate Borough Council.

One Assistant will be required for work in connection with post-war housing, and the other engaged on the repair of war damaged properties. Candidates should have been born before 1923.

Preference will be given to those holding recognised Architectural qualifications.

Salary £375 per annum, plus cost of living bonus, at present 23s. per week.

Applicants should write, quoting EA. 1241XA, to the Ministry of Labour and National Service, Appointments Department, Central (T. and S.) Register, Room 5/17, Sardinia Street, Kingsway, London, W.C.2, for the necessary forms, which should be returned completed on or before 20th March, 1945. 570

WAR DAMAGE COMMISSION.

Vacancies exist for **ARCHITECTS** and **SURVEYORS** with the War Damage Commission in Glasgow.

Salaries up to £600 p.a., plus war bonus, or up to £50 per month, according to terms of engagement.

Applicants should write, quoting EA. 995A, to the Ministry of Labour and National Service, Appointments Department, Central (T. and S.) Register, Room 5/17, Sardinia Street, Kingsway, London, W.C.2, for the necessary forms, which should be returned completed on or before 21st March, 1945. 569

WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

COUNTY ARCHITECT.

The Warwickshire County Council invite applications for the post of County Architect.

The salary will be £1,400 per annum, rising, subject to satisfactory service, by annual increments of £50 to £1,600. In addition, a cost-of-living bonus and payment for "war-over-time" in accordance with the scale approved from time to time by the Council will be paid. The appointment will be terminable by three months' notice on either side.

Candidates should be Members of the Royal Institute of British Architects, and preference will be given to candidates having had experience under large public authorities.

The appointment will be subject to the provisions of the Local Government Superannuation Act, 1937, and the successful candidate will be required to pass a medical examination.

Applications must be made on forms obtainable from the undersigned, and state the names and addresses of not more than three persons who have knowledge of the applicant's experience and work and to whom reference can be made, and should be addressed to the Clerk of the Council, Shire Hall, Warwick, in a sealed envelope marked "County Architect," and reach me not later than first post on Monday, the 12th March, 1945. Canvassing members or officers, either directly or indirectly, is strictly prohibited, and will be considered a disqualification.

L. EDGAR STEPHENS,
Clerk of the Council.

Shire Hall, Warwick.
14th February, 1945. 541

ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT, permanent, required by the County Borough of Tynemouth.

Candidates must have been born before 1923 and be A.R.I.B.A., or hold an equivalent qualification, and have had practical experience in general municipal works.

Salary £420 p.a., plus cost of living bonus, at present £49 8s.

The appointment is subject to the provisions of the Local Government Superannuation Act, 1937, the successful candidate being required to pass a medical examination.

Applicants should write, quoting EA. 866XA, to the Ministry of Labour and National Service, Appointments Department, Central (T. and S.) Register, Room 5/17, Sardinia Street, Kingsway, London, W.C.2, for the necessary forms, which should be returned completed on or before 16th March, 1945. 558

EAST ELLOE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

APPOINTMENT OF ARCHITECT.

Applications are invited from duly qualified persons for the appointment of Architect to the Council, at a salary of £600 per annum.

The person appointed will not be allowed to engage in private practice, and will be required to provide and maintain a car for the purpose of his duties, and the Council will be prepared to consider the payment of travelling allowances.

Applicants must be qualified to advise the Council on their Post-War Housing programme, and to prepare all plans, quantities, specifications, etc., and to supervise construction and undertake other architectural work as required.

The appointment will be subject to the provisions of the Local Government Superannuation Act, 1937, and to one month's notice on either side.

Applications, endorsed "Architect," stating age, qualifications, details of experience, position regarding Military Service, together with copies of three testimonials, to be sent to the undersigned by not later than 19th March, 1945.

Canvassing will be a disqualification.

J. C. PYWELL,
Clerk to the Council.

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Applications are invited for the post of **TEACHER OF ARCHITECTURE**. Applicants should be Fellows or Associates of the Royal Institute of British Architects, and should preferably have been trained in a Recognised School. Burnham Scale salary. Further particulars and forms of application, which should be returned not later than 22nd March, 1945, will be forwarded on receipt of a stamped, addressed foolscap envelope.

R. H. CURREL,
Clerk.
553

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL.**BRIXTON SCHOOL OF BUILDING, FERNDALE ROAD, S.W.4.**

LECTURER IN QUANTITY SURVEYING required after Easter for six hours weekly in the Senior Day School to prepare students for the intermediate examination of the Chartered Surveyor's Institution. Times can be arranged to suit lecturer. Preference given to practising Quantity Surveyors who are members of the Institution. Rate of pay, 33s. per 3-hour session. Apply by letter to Principal, enclosing stamped addressed envelope, and stating age, qualifications, and experience, by 12th March, 1945. 554

CUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL.**ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANTS.**

Applications are invited for two appointments of Temporary Architectural Assistants in the County Architect's Department.

The salary of each appointment will be in accordance with Grade C of the Whitley Council Scale, commencing at £320 per annum, rising, subject to satisfactory service, to £350 per annum, plus Whitley Council war bonus.

Each appointment will be subject to the Local Government Superannuation Act, 1937, and will be terminable by one month's notice on either side.

Forms of application may be obtained from the County Architect, 4, Alfred Street North, Carlisle, and should be completed and returned to him, accompanied by copies of three testimonials, not later than Monday, 26th March, 1945.

G. ANDREW WHEATLEY,
Clerk of the County Council.
The Courts, Carlisle.
23rd February, 1945. 562

ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANTS, permanent, required by the Urban District Council of Harrow, Middlesex.

Candidates must have been born before 1923, and possess the necessary qualifications and experience.

CHIEF ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT. Must be Associate or Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects, and have had considerable experience in all branches of municipal architectural work.

Salary £600 per annum, plus war bonus, at present 19s. per week. Reference EA.1308XA.

ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT. Should have general architectural experience; preference being given to those possessing a recognised architectural qualification.

Salary £330 p.a. by £15 p.a. to £375 p.a., plus war bonus, at present 19s. per week. Reference EA.1309XA.

The appointments are subject to the provisions of the L.G.S. Act, 1937, the successful candidates being required to pass a medical examination.

Applicants should write, quoting appropriate reference, to the Ministry of Labour and National Service, Appointments Department, Central (T. and S.) Register, Room 5/17, Sardinia Street, Kingsway, London, W.C.2, for the necessary forms, which should be returned completed on or before 19th March, 1945. 573

BOROUGH OF WALTHAMSTOW.**APPOINTMENT OF BOROUGH ARCHITECT.**

Applications are invited from Fellows or Associate Members of the Royal Institute of British Architects for the post of Borough Architect, at a salary of £900, rising by annual increments of £50, to a maximum of £1,100 per annum. A cost-of-living bonus (at present £59 16s. per annum) is also payable. The appointment will be subject to the provisions of the Local Government Superannuation Act, 1937, the Council's Sick Pay Scheme, and the successful applicant will be required to pass a medical examination.

The person appointed will be required to carry out all architectural duties that may be assigned to him from time to time by the Council, and the duties of War Damage Officer in the survey and repairs to properties damaged by enemy action. He will also be associated in the preparation of planning and redevelopment schemes under the Town and Country Planning Acts, 1932 to 1944.

Applications, giving full particulars of the candidate's age and experience, accompanied by three copies of recent testimonials, should be submitted to the undersigned not later than Wednesday, the 14th March, 1945.

G. A. BLAKELEY,
Town Clerk.
Town Hall, Walthamstow, E.17.
7th March, 1945. 559

REIGATE BOROUGH COUNCIL.

ARCHITECTURAL and SURVEYING ASSISTANT required in Borough Surveyor's Department. Good experience essential in design and construction of buildings, layout of housing estates and preparation of quantities, specifications and estimates. Holders of Int. or Final qualifications of A.R.I.B.A. or Chartered Surveyors' Institution preferred. Temporary appointment for not less than 2 years, and subject to Local Government Superannuation Act, 1937. Salary £400 per annum—plus £49 11s. 2d. per annum cost of living bonus.

Applications in writing (no interviews), stating date of birth, full details of qualifications and experience (including a list in chronological order of posts held), and quoting reference No. Q.R.422, should be addressed to the Ministry of Labour and National Service, Appointments Department (A.S.A.), Sardinia Street, Kingsway, London, W.C.2. 574

TECHNICAL ASSISTANTS required by St. Helens County Borough. Candidates must have been born before 1923, and must be properly trained and suitably experienced.

(a) **JUNIOR ENGINEERING ASSISTANT**. Permanent. Experience in Municipal Engineering preferred. Salary £230 x £15—£275 per annum, plus war bonus of £49 8s. per annum at present. Ref. E.1432XA.

(b) **ENGINEERING ASSISTANT (Grade B)**. Permanent. Preference given to applicants who have passed whole or part of qualifying examination of Institution of Civil Engineers or Institution of Municipal and County Engineers having experience in Municipal Engineering. Salary £285 x £15—£315 per annum, plus war bonus of £49 8s. per annum at present. Ref. E.1433XA.

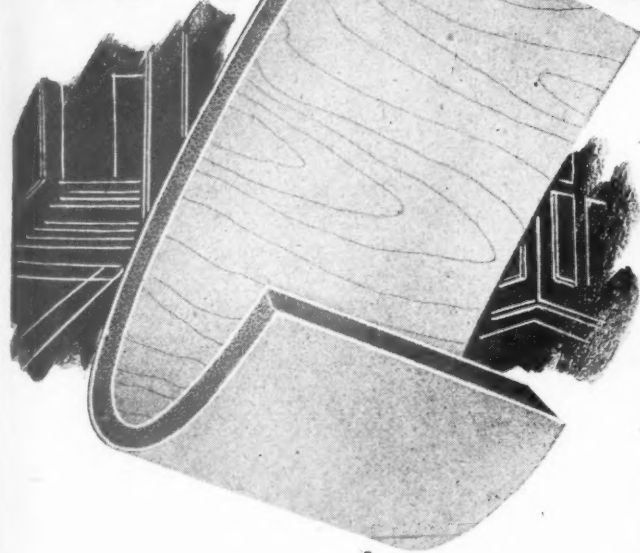
The above appointments are subject to the Provisions of the L.G.S. Act, 1937, and to the appointed persons passing the necessary medical examination.

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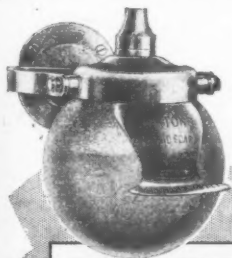
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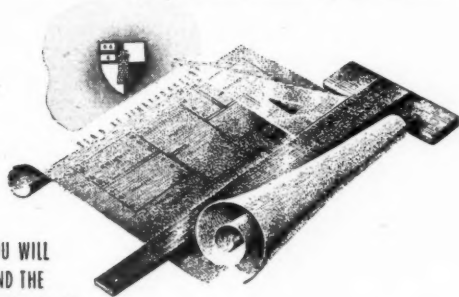
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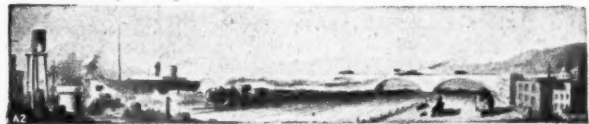
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