

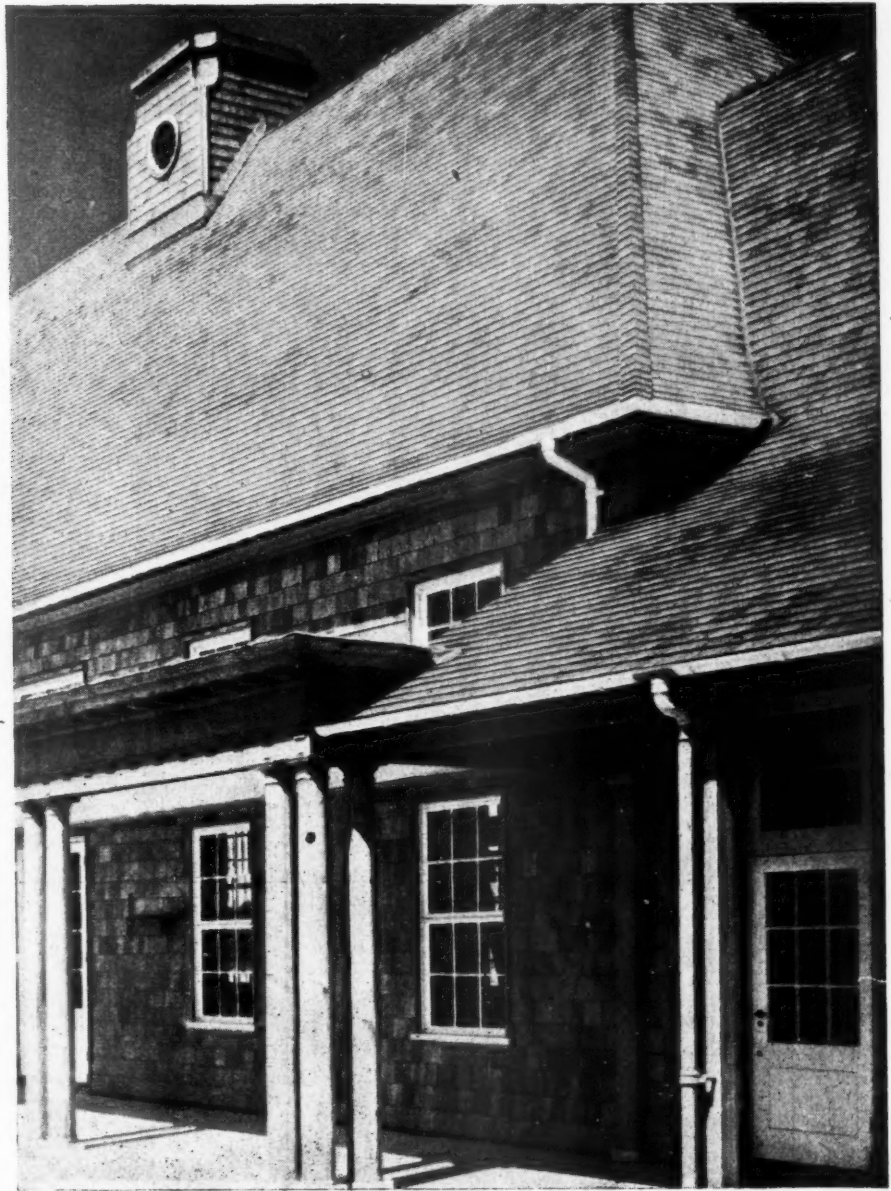
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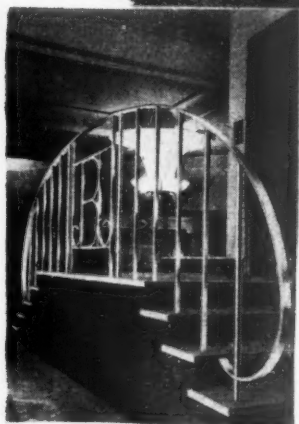


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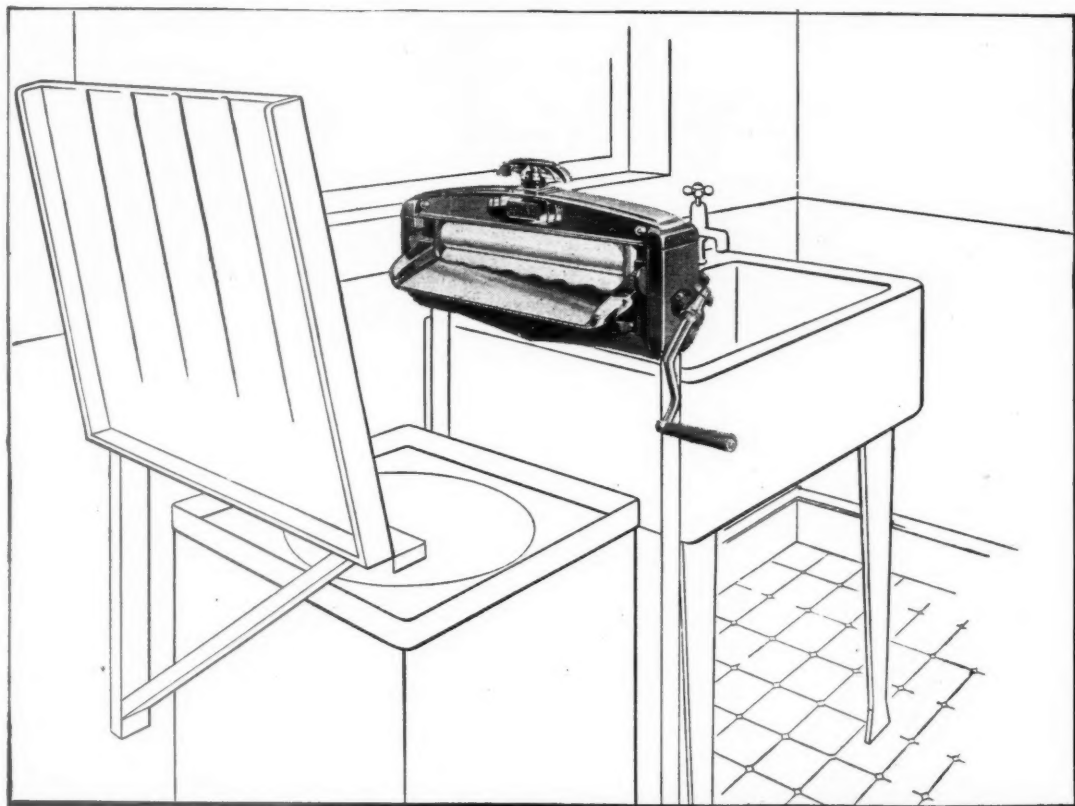
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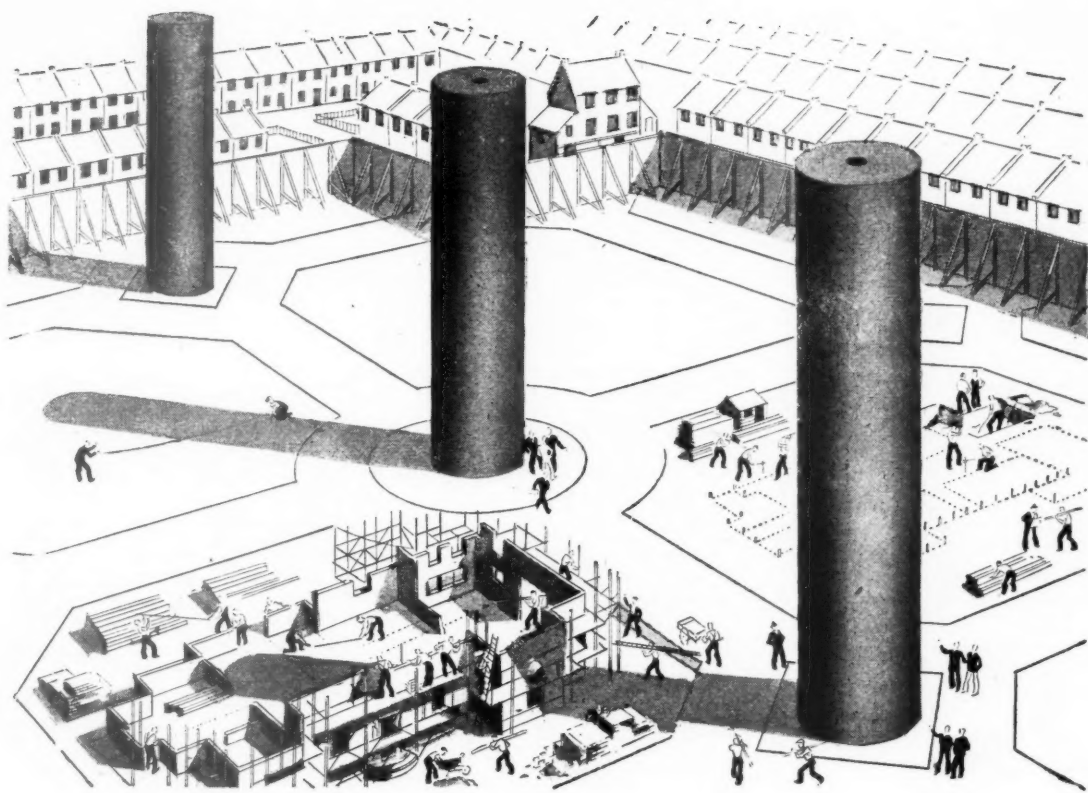
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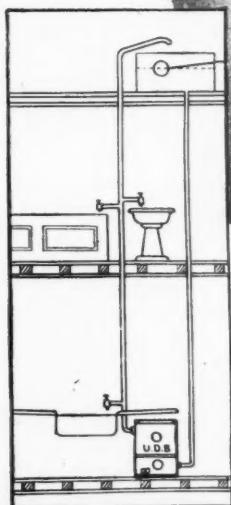
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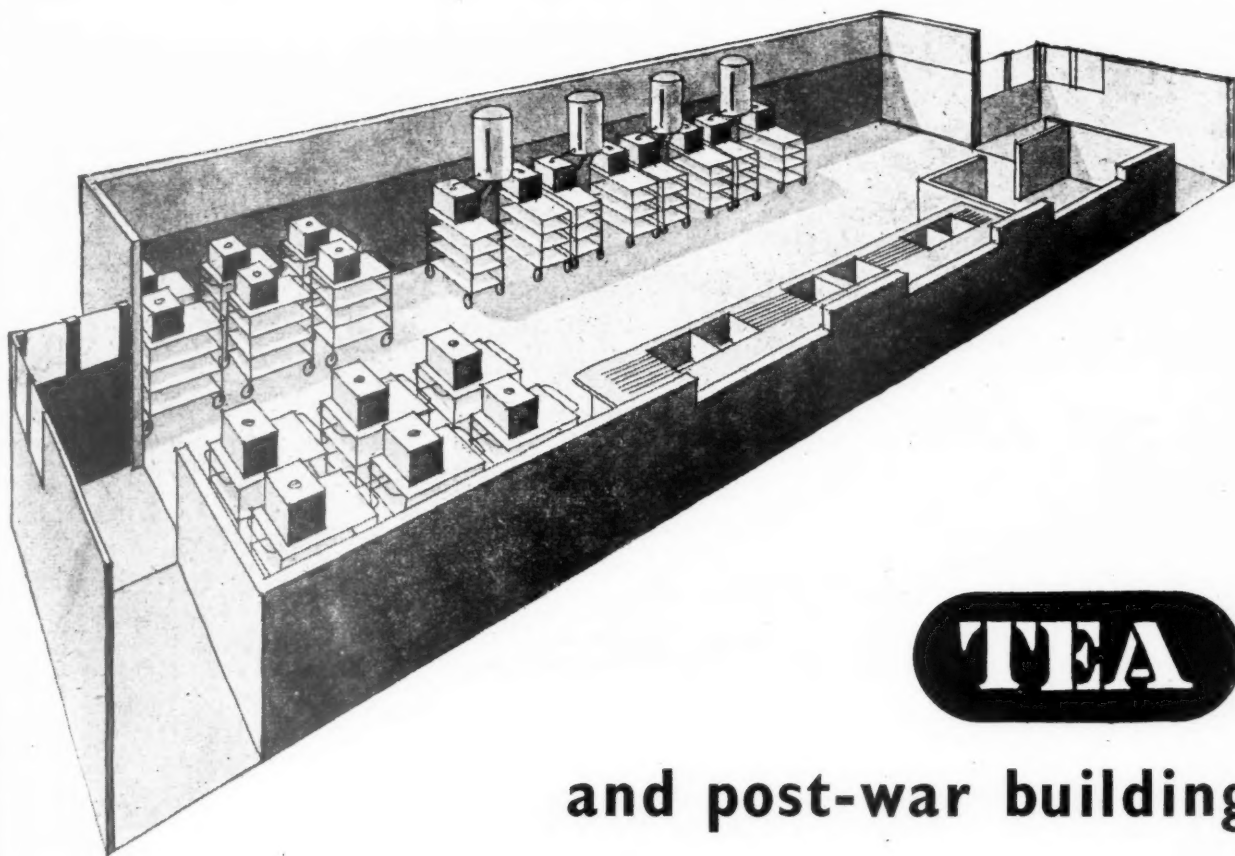
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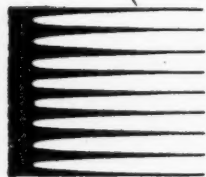
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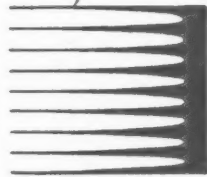
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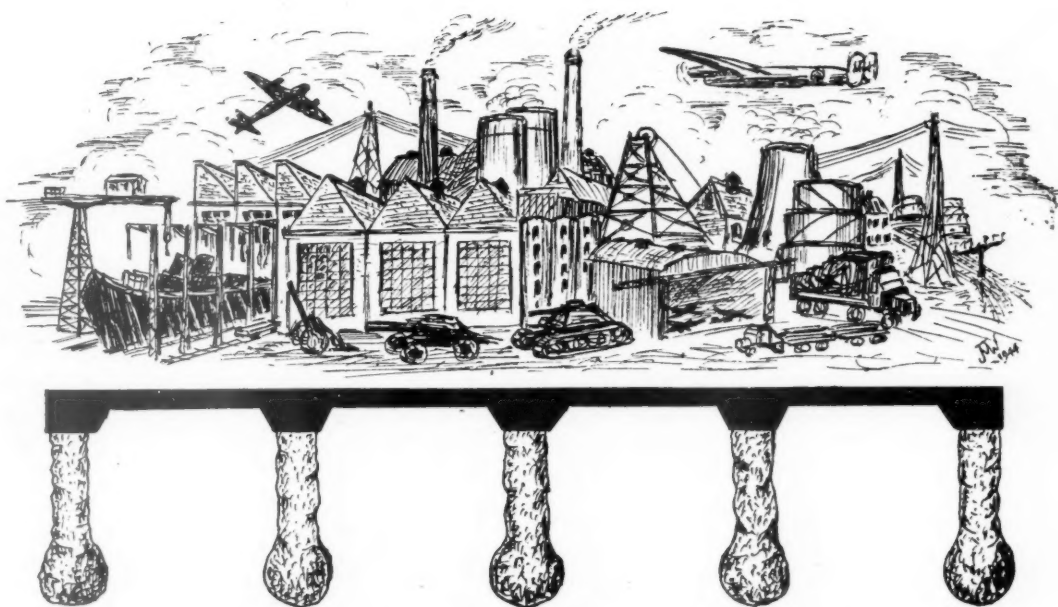
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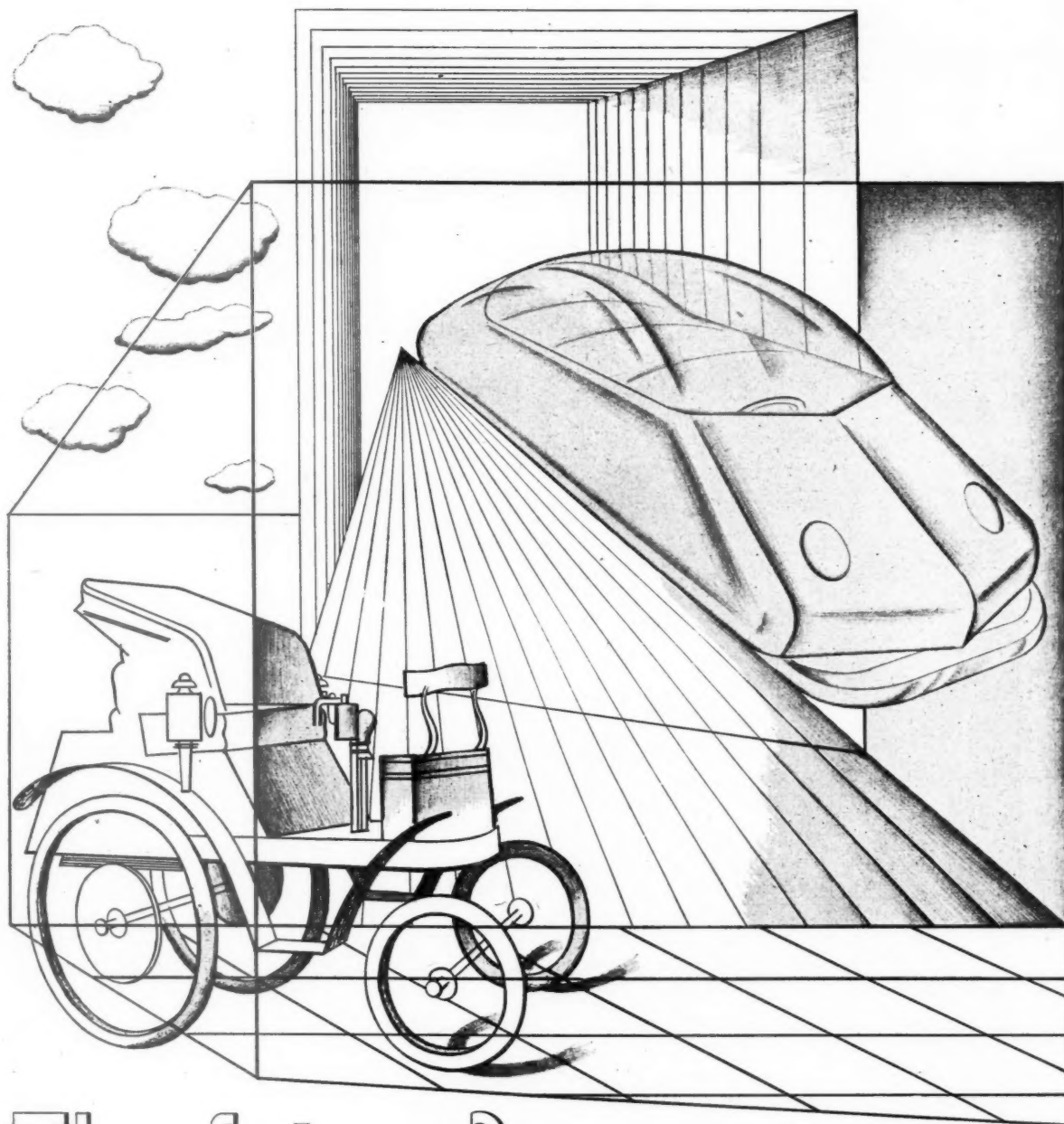
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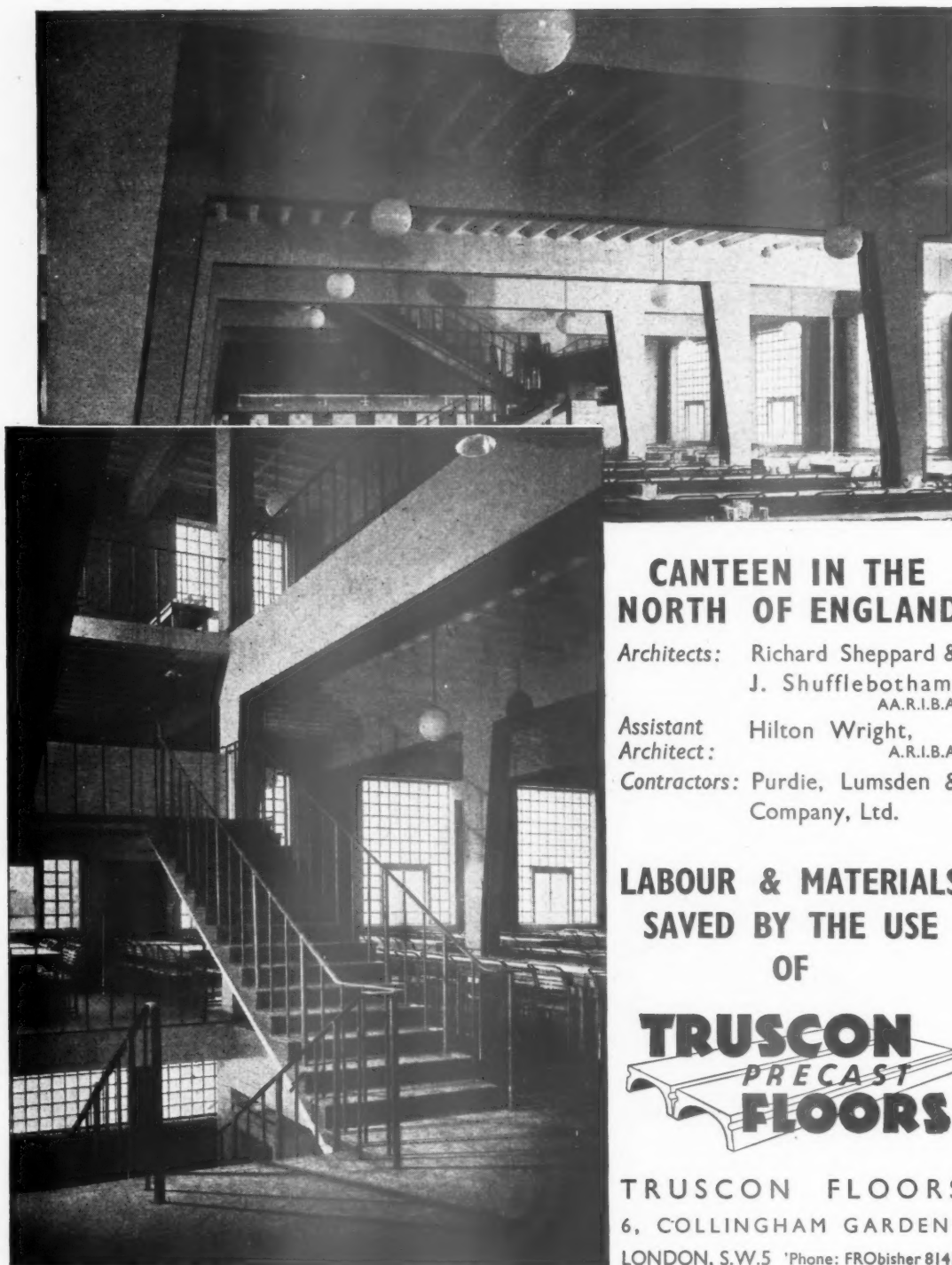
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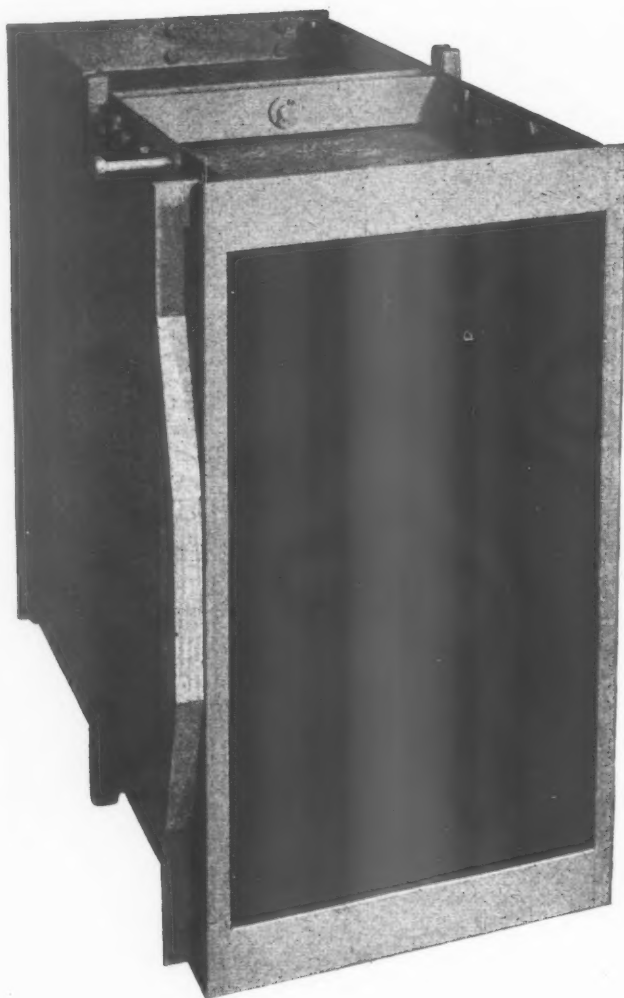
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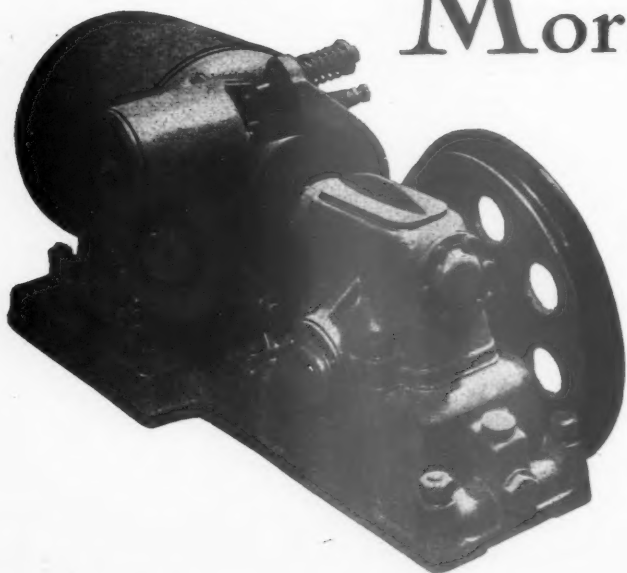


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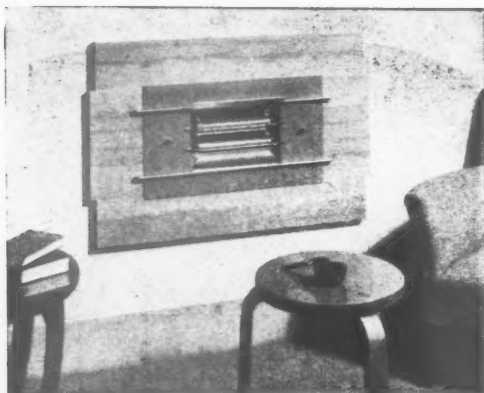
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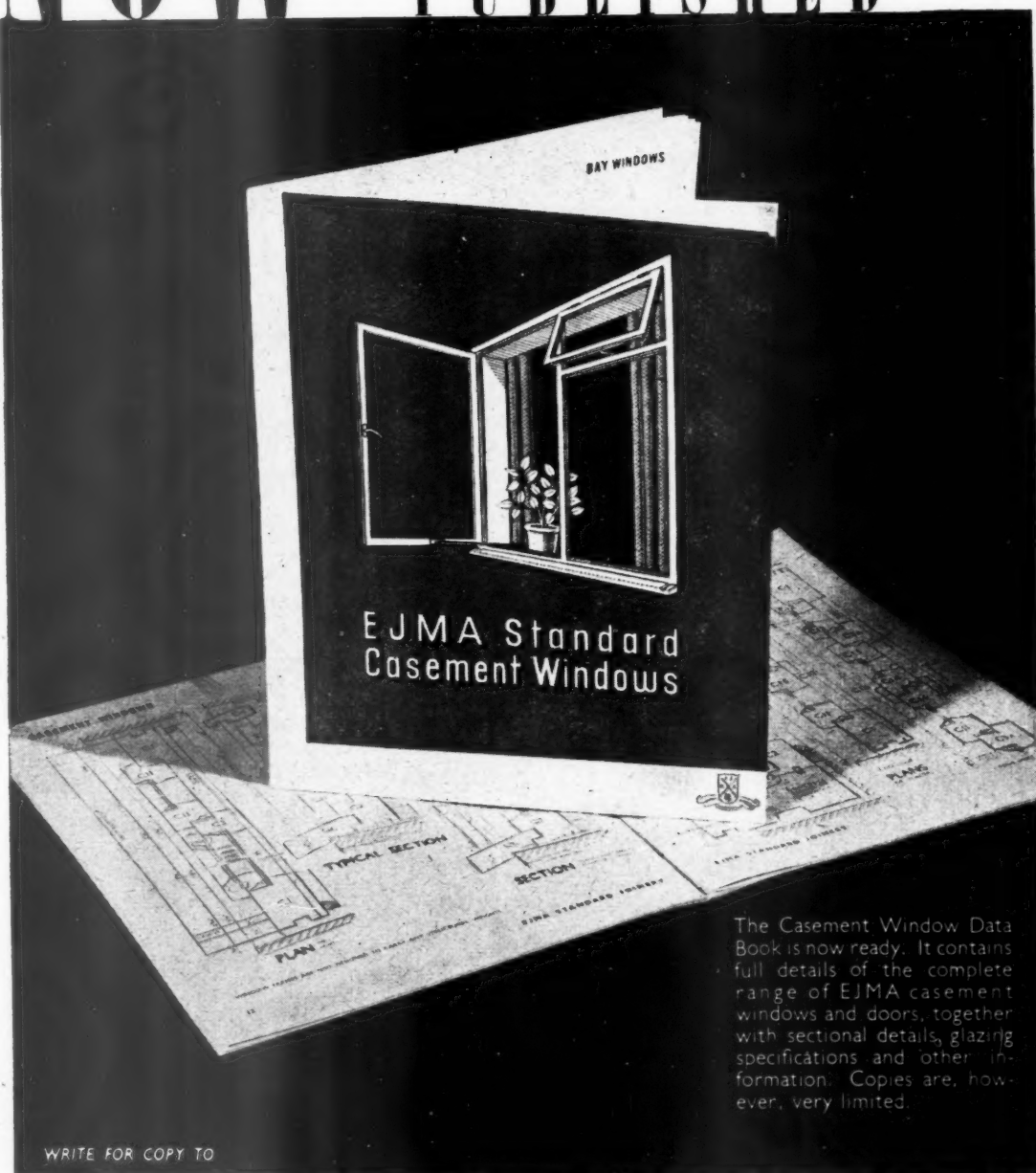
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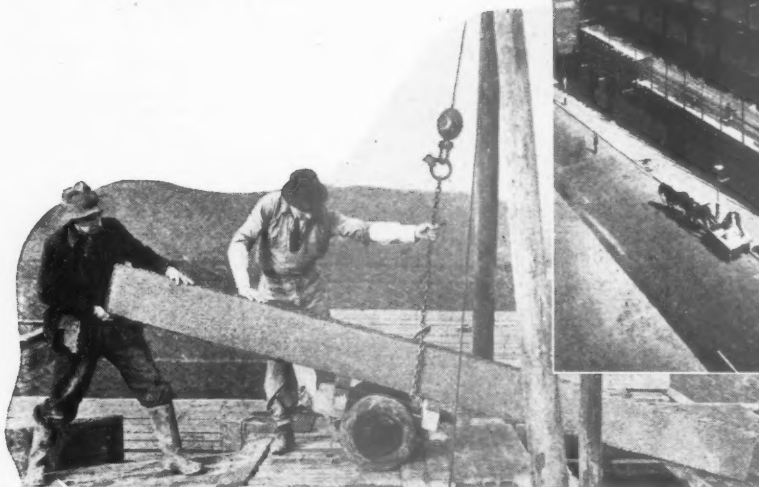
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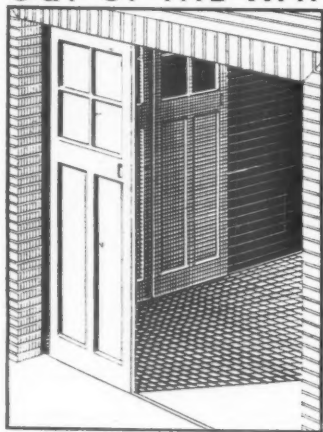
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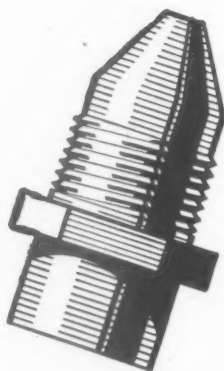
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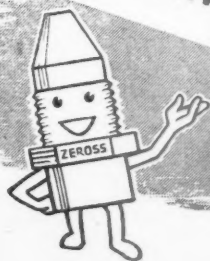
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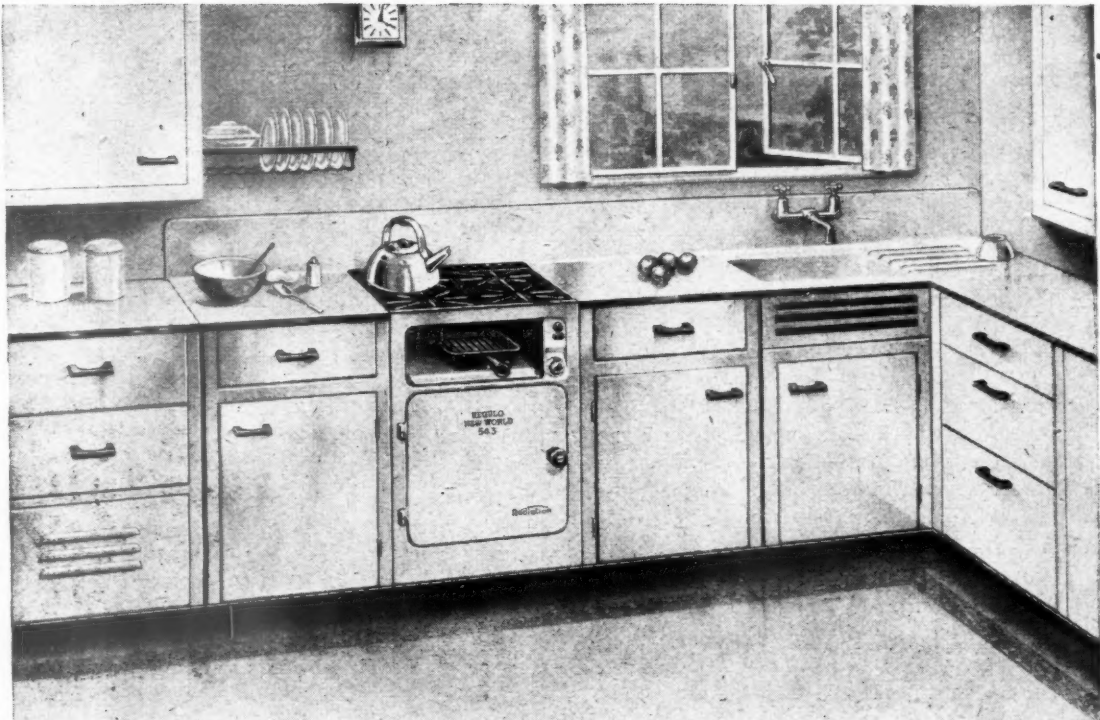
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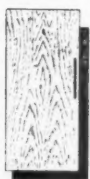
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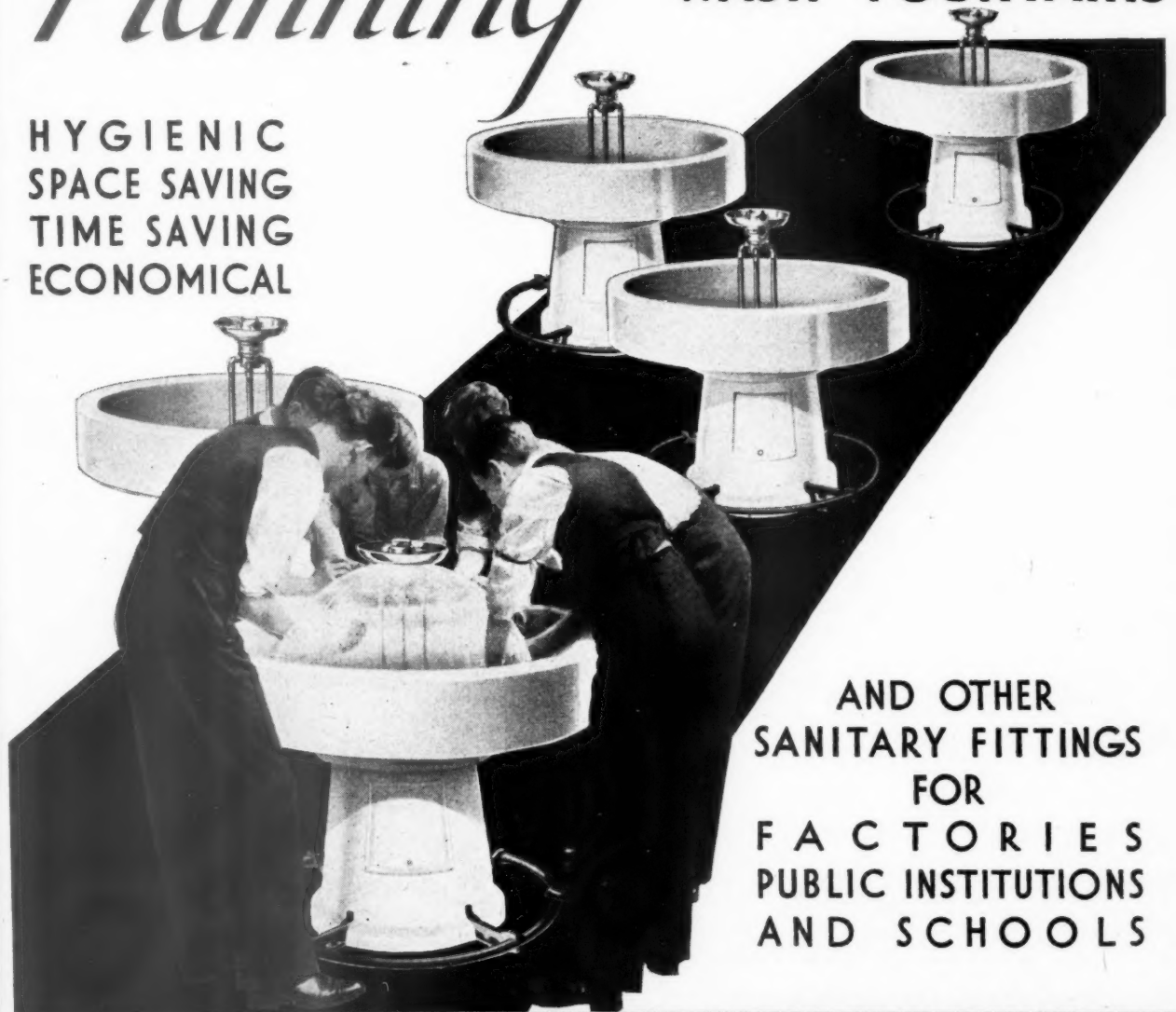
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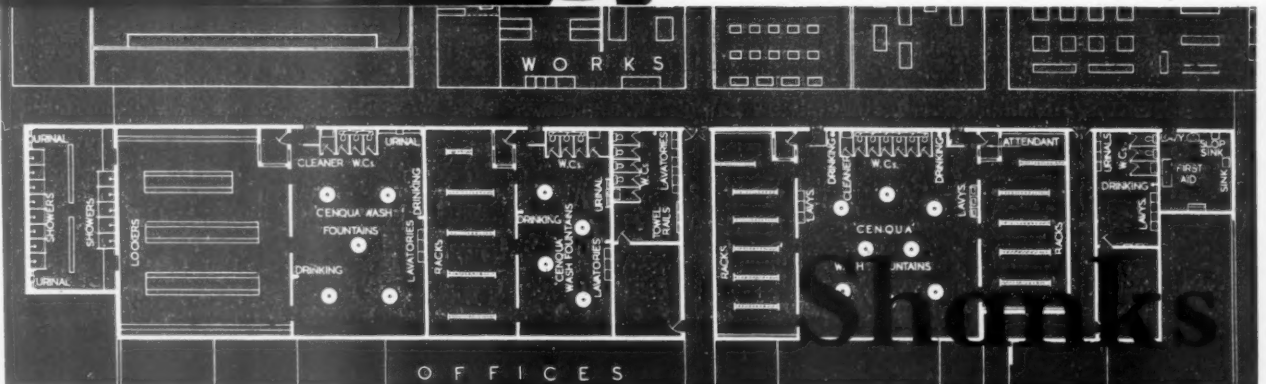
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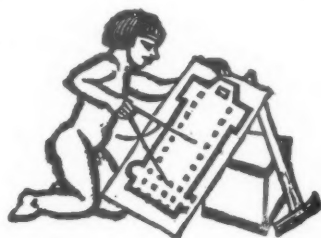
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## DIARY FOR APRIL MAY AND JUNE

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.** *The English Town: Its Continuity and Development.* At the George Dixon Grammar School, Edgbaston, Birmingham. (Sponsor, TCPA.) MAY 17-31

**BUXTON.** *The English Town: Its Continuity and Development.* Exhibition. (Sponsor, TCPA.) MAY 1-14

**CHESTERFIELD.** *When We Build Again.* Exhibition and Film. (Sponsor, TCPA, in collaboration with Messrs. Cadbury Bros.) AP. 25-MAY 19

**HASLINGDEN.** *The English Town: Its Continuity and Development.* Exhibition. (Sponsor, TCPA.) MAR. 29-AP. 7

**LONDON.** *Visual Appreciation.* Conference to be held by the Ministry of Education at the RIBA, 66, Portland Place, W.1, April 6 to 9. It is the first of its kind and will be attended by heads of elementary and secondary schools and principals of training colleges. Speakers will include experts on current architectural topics relating to planning, building, furnishing and house equipment. An exhibition of craft-work by pupils still at school has been arranged to illustrate various aspects of visual education. April 6, 10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m., F. L. Freeman, Director of Education, Southampton, *Visual Appreciation in Education*; G. A. Jellicoe, *Architectural Appreciation*. 2.0 p.m. to 4.0 p.m., R. A. Duncan, *Facing Facts*; Julian Leathart, *Design of Schools*. 4.15 p.m., E. J. Carter, *Talk about the books he is putting in exhibition*. April 7, 10.0 a.m. to 12 noon, Elizabeth Denby and D. E. E. Gibson, *Equipment of House Reconstruction*. 2.0 p.m. to 4.0 p.m., Professor Anthony Betts (Reading), John M. Holmes (Manchester), and Kenneth Holmes (Leicester). These three Principals of Art Schools will tell the Conference how they have tackled the problem in their own districts. April 8, 2.30 p.m., R. P. Bedford (Keeper, Victoria and Albert Museum), *Description of Loans to Schools*. (This meeting will be held in the Victoria and Albert Museum, South Kensington, Exhibition Road entrance.) 4.0 p.m., Oliver Bell (Director of British Film Institute), *Short illustrated talk on Educational Films*. (This meeting will be held in the Science Museum, South Kensington, Exhibition Road entrance.) April 9, 10.0 a.m. to 12 noon, E. M. O'R. Dickey, H.M.I. Staff Inspector for Art Education, Ministry of Education, *Recapitulation and Discussion*.

C. Roland-Woods. *The Work of the*

*Codes of Practice Committees.* At 66, Portland Place, W.1. (Sponsor, RIBA.) 6 p.m. AP. 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. Bossom, M.P. (Sponsor, Chadwick Trust.) 2.30 p.m. AP. 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. AP. 11

R. O. Ackley. *Factors Influencing the Design of Electric Lighting Installations for Building Interiors.* At the Institution of Electrical Engineers, Savoy Place, Victoria Embankment, W.C.2. (Sponsor, IEE.) 5.30 p.m. AP. 12

R. M. Wynne-Edwards. *Building Plant.* Architectural Science Board Lecture. At the RIBA, 66, Portland Place, W.1. (Sponsor, RIBA.) 5.30 p.m. AP. 18

Hope Bagelal. *The Noise Problem in Relation to Town and Country Planning.* At 28, King Street, Covent Garden, W.C.2. (Sponsor, TCPA.) 1.15 p.m. APR. 19

R. C. Bevan, of the Building Research Station. *Fire Grading in Building.* Architectural Science Board Lecture. At the RIBA, 66, Portland Place, W.1. (Sponsor, RIBA.) 5.30 p.m. AP. 25

Charles Wheeler, R.A., President of the Royal Society of British Sculptors. *English Sculpture: Styles and Materials.* At the Royal Society of Arts, John Adam Street, W.C.2. (Sponsor, RSA.) 1.45 p.m. AP. 25

H. Conolly. *Planning for Individuals.* At 28, King Street, Covent Garden, W.C.2. (Sponsor, TCPA.) 1.15 p.m. MAY 3

Donald Barber. *Shopping Centres and Town Planning.* At 28, King Street, Covent Garden, W.C.2. (Sponsor, TCPA.) 1.15 p.m. MAY 31

**LOUGHBOROUGH.** Royal Sanitary Institute Sessional Meeting. W. Granger, Borough Surveyor and Water Engineer. *Rural Water Supplies: Ideals and Practical Possibilities.* Visits to Loughborough College or the laboratories of the Genatossan Company. Chairman: Dr. A. Massey, C.B.E. (Member of Council). (Sponsor, RSI.) 10.30 a.m. AP. 14

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

## NEWS

THURSDAY,  
No. 2619.

APRIL 5, 1945  
VOL. 101

News .. .. .	253
Bombed Buildings Abroad—VI	254
This Week's Leading Article ..	255
Astragal's Notes and Topics ..	256
Letters from Readers ..	257
New Swiss Hospital ..	258
Physical Planning Supplement:	
Plan for Leningrad ..	259
Distribution of Industry. By	
Lord Balfour of Burleigh ..	261
Adjustable Exhibition Screens ..	263
Showroom, Berkeley St. Designed	
by Brian Peake ..	265
Information Centre ..	266
Societies and Institutions ..	268

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

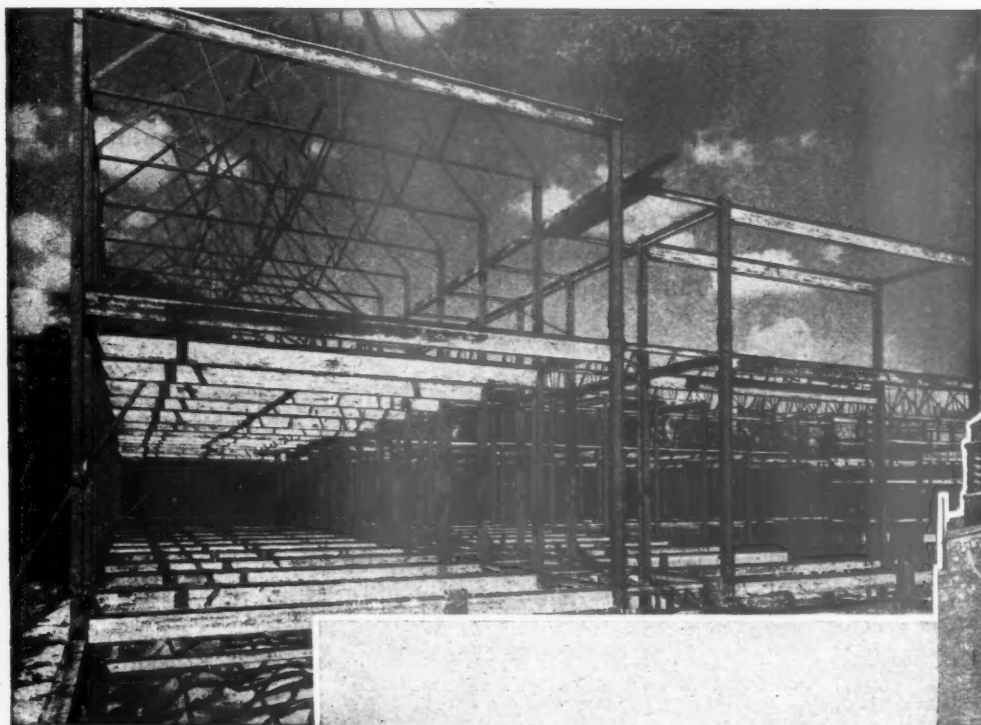
★ means spare a second for this, it will probably be worth it.

★★ means important news, for reasons which may or may not be obvious. Any feature marked with more than two stars is very big building news indeed.

★  
**Professor James Mackintosh, Dean of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, is visiting Sweden to lecture for the British Council on HOUSING AND MEDICINE, and other aspects of social medicine and health education in Britain. He will probably also visit Finland. Professor Mackintosh hopes to obtain in Sweden information for inclusion in a report on housing which he is preparing for the British Government.**

**Mr. George Langley-Taylor, the architect who is TO DESIGN THE LONDON MOSQUE, is returning to London after inspecting a number of Cairo Mosques.** He is understood to have decided in favour of the Mameluke period, of which the Mohammed Aly Mosque at the Cairo Citadel is one of the finest examples, says *The Times*. The mosque, estimated to cost £500,000, is to be built in the grounds of the Islamic Cultural Centre at Regent's Lodge, Regent's Park. The lodge and its gardens have been given by the British Government to the Moslem community in this country.

C.E.I.



Technical College  
**NORWICH**

Designed by  
Norwich City Architect



The City Hall **NORWICH**

Architects : C. H. James, A.R.A., F.R.I.B.A.  
S. Rowland Pierce, F.R.I.B.A.

Engineer : R. Travers Morgan, M.Eng.,  
R. Inst. C.E., A.M.I. Mech.E.,  
M.I. Struct. E.

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## From AN ARCHITECT'S Commonplace Book

THE VOICE OF A PROPHET. [From Three Lectures on Architecture, by Eric Mendelsohn (University of California Press).] The "merely converted" give too little credence to the prophet. They just deprive their buildings of traditional coverings, strip them naked without being able to change the body structure and its proportion. The proportion, however, is the spirit that separates the old and the new, the beautiful and the ugly—and they ought to know that to compromise is not always the result of common sense. "Newcomers," on the other hand, exaggerate their sensation of pride in their newly acquired belief in overcharging the material thus battering the construction in frittering away architectural coherence and unity, or in compelling the client to live down the extravagance of his architect. Such eccentrics of the soft pencil should never go beyond the silent provocation of an imaginative sketch because, transferred into actual building projects, they will never dissuade either officialdom or normal citizens from a most thoughtless but nevertheless disgraceful hiding of our *own* life behind the lifeless features of a past society. Lack of self-control on the part of the architect will never convince the various strata of society that architecture, as a social art, has embraced its duty with stern determination to reshape the face of our earth in accordance with the social needs of today. The fight for a future swiftly ascending to a new height of fine values implies, at the same time, a fight against the seductive over-refinement of a slowly descending civilization, as the decline of Rome to theatrical buildings, embodying the Empire's despair to reconstruct the *existent* world, was marked by the rise of the austere buildings of the early Middle Ages, embodying mankind's hope for the creation of a *new* world.

### \* **The Building and Engineering Industries are well represented among the supporters of THE MILLION POUND VICTORY (EX-SERVICES) CLUB FUND.**

The fund, launched by Field-Marshal Sir Philip Chetwode, is for the benefit of ex-Service men and women of all the Forces of the Allied Nations. The National Appeal Committee of the fund has formed a series of groups, covering the main industries and trades in the country and Sectional Committees, some of which are already functioning. Sir George M. Burt has agreed to act as President of the Building and Engineering Section, Appeal Chairmen of which include Messrs. R. R. Costain, F. Leslie Wallis, and R. L. Coppock, Sir Dudley Pryke, Mr. H. E. Comben, Sir Herbert Williams, M.P., and Messrs. Percy Thomas, F.R.I.B.A., R. H. Francis, James Barr, and R. W. Mugford. Other industries are supporting the appeal. The Victory (Ex-Service) Club, to be established on a central site, will have about 400 bedrooms, including a special wing for ex-Service women, club amenities, and an Advisory Bureau and Welfare Section.

★

### **Mr. S. F. S. Hearder, principal assistant secretary to the Ministry of Health, has been APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF BUILDING TRADES EMPLOYERS.**

He took up his new duties on April 3, though it is understood that he will continue temporarily some of his work on London bomb damage repairs. During recent months Mr. Hearder has been chief of staff to Sir Malcolm Trustram Eve, Chairman of the War Damage Commission, in connection with bomb damage repairs in London, and for three months before Sir Malcolm Trustram Eve took over the work, was in complete charge of this work. Mr. Hearder entered the Civil Service as a boy clerk in 1909, and three years later became a Second Division Clerk in the National Health Insurance Commission. In 1920 he was promoted to the First Division

as Assistant Principal, and later served as Assistant Private Secretary to the Minister and Private Secretary to the Parliamentary Secretary. In 1931 he became a Principal in the Housing Division of the Ministry. In 1934 he acted as Ministry of Health representative on the staff of the Commissioner for Special Areas, and in 1935 became Principal Private Secretary to the Minister, first the late Sir Kingsley Wood, afterwards Col. Walter Elliot. In 1939 he returned to the Housing Division as Assistant Secretary, and in 1941 became Principal Assistant Secretary in charge of Housing. In that position he was responsible for supervising the work of all committees concerned with housing, and for the administration of priorities for labour and materials for all works in which the Ministry was interested.



Mr. S. F. S. Hearder, Principal Assistant Secretary to the Ministry of Health, who has been appointed Director of the National Federation of Building Trades Employers (See News Item on this page).

★★

### **At the end of the two days debate on housing in the House of Commons, Mr. Duncan Sandys announced the reorganization of the MINISTRY OF WORKS ON BATTLE LINES.**

The purpose of the reorganization is to provide 220,000 permanent houses and 145,000 temporary houses within the next two years. Four departmental heads have been appointed: General Pile will be in charge of production, transport, and erection of temporary houses. Sir Reginald Stradling, peacetime Director of Building Research, will be in charge of research and experimental building. Sir Percival Robinson, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, will be in charge of financial arrangements and co-ordination of policy. Sir Hugh Beaver, Controller-General, will be in charge of materials and licensing priorities. These four departmental heads, with Mr. George Hicks, Parliamentary Secretary, will form a Ministry of Works Council under Mr. Sandys.

### **Seriously damaged by enemy action THE GUILDHALL of the City of London is to be enlarged and structurally improved to meet modern requirements.**

There is considerable rebuilding to be done in the City, and Guildhall is included in the list of priorities, says the *Daily Telegraph*. Plans awaiting final approval, it is understood, provide for additional office accommodation for the administrative services, and ground has been surveyed to this end. The Council Chamber and the Art Gallery have to be rebuilt, and the offices which were on the north side must be replaced. Hence the competent authority has decided to make what extensions and structural alterations are imperatively necessary for the continued efficient administration of the City. It is understood that the Council Chamber will be enlarged and that minor alterations will be made to the Art Gallery. All the gallery pictures of value were saved from destruction. An improved approach to Guildhall from King Street is among the changes contemplated.



### *Bombed Buildings Abroad—VI*

With this number of Bombed Buildings Abroad, we return to Italy. Above is the Porta Fiorentina at Viterbo, the famous city in Latium, which during the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries was the temporary seat of the Papacy.

A direct hit has destroyed one side of the Porta Fiorentina, which fared worse than most of the other famous buildings in the town, where damage has luckily not been extensive.

★ *At a meeting of the City of London Court of Common Council, Capt. Alfred Instone moved that the Improvements and Town Planning Committee be asked for an early report on the action they had taken, and proposed to take, regarding the constructive criticism and suggestions made since publication of the CITY OF LONDON PLAN.*

He said it has been reported that there has been discussions with the Royal Fine Art Commission. What has happened in the negotiations? Did the Commission approve the plan or modify it? Nobody knew. There has been an exhibition at the Royal Exchange, attended by thousands of visitors, who were invited to make suggestions. Have any suggestions been received? There has been a very large volume of comment and suggestions; some favourable, some otherwise. The City Engineer, Mr. F. J. Forty, has done a magnificent job, but the whole responsibility seems to have devolved on him. Should not Mr. Forty be fortified by a second opinion? Up to now there has been talk of security silence. But security silence is the best way of securing a feeling of insecurity. Although the LCC has been able to get its plan printed for public sale, the City has not succeeded in the same way. Mr. H. S. Syrett, a member of the Town Planning Committee, repudiated the suggestion that the Committee has been guilty of undue delay, saying, we must not make haste too quickly.

*Amersham Rural District Council's application for a compulsory order to acquire land at 16th century Botterell's Close, Chalfont St. Giles, has been TURNED DOWN BY THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH.*

The application was strongly opposed because of its historic associations—Milton was a frequent visitor to Thomas Ellwood, who lived there. The wife of William Penn also lived there, and, in more recent years, Madame Tussaud, who made some of her early wax models there.

*A conference of the City Council, and local business men has generally approved the master plan for REBUILDING BLITZED CANTERBURY.*

The master plan for Canterbury was submitted to a conference of the City Council in committee and an advisory committee, consisting largely of local business men. A special correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* writes: After the controversy over the desirability of rebuilding Burgate Street—a choice between a new attractive view of the Cathedral or an important shopping area—it was expected that the session would be stormy. But the report was generally approved. I now learn that Burgate Street will be rebuilt, and that this step is approved by the Dean and Chapter, who are owners of the land. At the conference only minor criticisms of the plan were heard.

## HOUSING: A POLICY—II

LAST week we clarified our opinions on housing as such. Now we come to the real crux of the whole problem—the relation of houses to siting and large-scale planning. In preparing for the temporary housing programme the local authorities are finding the siting particularly difficult. As Mr. Sandys stated: "Local authorities are finding very serious difficulty in providing suitable sites for the temporary bungalows without encroaching upon sites which have been prepared for permanent houses and so running the risk of compromising their long-term building programme." This is a surprising remark. One obvious solution is surely to prepare sites for permanent houses in such a way that they can also be used for the time being for temporary bungalows which can be removed in stages as permanent housing proceeds.

That is one solution. The other possibility is to build temporary houses on sites which will revert to their original use in a few years' time when the first housing crisis is over, such as low-grade agricultural land and land scheduled for future industry. The advantage of this is that future long-term planning is not prematurely conditioned. It raises the question, however, as to whether the preparation of temporary sites is practical. Services must be laid as soundly as for permanent houses, at least to a large extent. (Plumbing inside temporary houses could perhaps be of hose pipe and roads could be of cinders, but on the whole services must be as costly as if they were permanent.) In spite of this there is no physical difficulty. The war has taught us how quickly and easily sites can be prepared for airfields and military camps with the full use of modern equipment. If we can build temporarily and quickly for a crisis in war, we can do so in peace. The main difficulty here is financial. Local authorities cannot be expected to stand the expense and it is clear that temporary sites can only be prepared if Government subsidy is forthcoming.

But in the last analysis there is only one proper solution to the problem of the siting of both temporary and permanent houses. It lies in the decongestion of crowded areas and the proper distribution of population. Local authorities are now attempting to rehouse people in their original areas without any relationship to the location of industry or to the needs of the nation as a whole.

Location of industry is a case for immediate national planning and so, in the housing problem as in so many others before us to-day, we are once again faced with the need for immediate comprehensive planning on a national scale. Without it there is no adequate answer to the housing and siting question. If the population is rehoused in blitzed areas which were overcrowded before the war, these areas will again become congested and a big obstacle will be raised to long-term planning. The siting of both temporary and permanent houses is an

interrelated problem and must be considered in a national and not merely local light. There can be no proper solution until the land question is settled and large-scale planning becomes possible. Planning must not be postponed. The present time provides a great opportunity and a test case. Next week we will consider the broad aspects of national planning and its relation to housing. We shall also summarize the JOURNAL's policy on this vital matter.



*The Architects' Journal*  
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## N O T E S &

## T O P I C S

### BUILD YOUR OWN

Among the many suggestions made during the recent housing debate in the Commons: "Convert derelict houses into flats. Use the maintenance staffs of the big stores and the banks." "Detain indefinitely in this country German prisoners to make good some of the damage for which they are responsible." "Use women for some emergency building operations."

One of the most intriguing proposals came from Mr. Silkin: "Provide people with building materials and instructions, and let them build their own houses." Since the main trouble is, of course, the labour shortage, Mr. Silkin's idea should not be dismissed as a joke. Unskilled ordinary folk have taken to building their own homes in Russia during this war, and in Sweden the practice has been common for many years.

A scheme has been in operation in Stockholm since 1926 by which the City Council supplies you with all the

materials for a charming factory-made timber house. You and your family erect it yourself in your spare time. The work, which takes only a few days in good weather, is accepted as your first instalment on the house, and covers 10 per cent. of the cost of the completed house. The balance is repayable over a period of 30 years. Full instructions are supplied, and the erection job is simple enough to any normally handy man. In the case of skilled craftsmanship, such as plumbing and electrical wiring, the City Council sends along experts, free of charge, and for heavy work, such as the lifting of wall units, you can get extra labour if you need it.

All materials, parts and fittings are standardized and ready for fitting in these Build-it-Yourself houses, pipes being supplied ready threaded in exact lengths so that they can be assembled at once. Financially the scheme is self-supporting, and the owner of a house saves some 30 per cent. on the normal market price. A typical house contains four rooms, bathroom, garage, central heating unit, fully-equipped kitchen, storage space and wash-house.

This is a scheme that the authorities here should certainly consider adopting. Its popularity is certain. The average Englishman is a born—but now, alas, too often frustrated—craftsman. He loves to make things, and if the will with which he gives to the erection of a rabbit hutch or a greenhouse in his backyard is any indication, the enthusiasm which he would throw into the building of his own home would be stupendous. No need then to worry about low output and slacking on the job.

### NEW BOROUGH ARCHITECTS

It is to be hoped that local authorities throughout the country will take

notice of two significant appointments made last month—that of Mr. Thomas North as Borough Architect and Planning Officer of the go-ahead Borough of West Ham, and of Mr. P. F. Burridge as Borough Architect of Stockton-on-Tees.

It is good to hear of the formation of definite Architects' Departments in local government, for they are important indications of the increase in power of the profession. Too often the local government architect has far too low a position, being subordinate to the Borough Engineer.

The influence of local authorities on the environment is bound to increase enormously in the future. It is therefore vital that local governments should begin to realize that architecture is something more than structural adequacy and proper sanitation, and that local planning does not stop at the mere zoning of areas.

If we are ever to escape from our present dreary surroundings, the official architect and planner must be given proper status, more responsibility and, incidentally, much better pay than he has had in the past. His job should be acknowledged and respected as one of the most socially important and creative in the community to-day. West Ham and Stockton have set a valuable example.

### VISIT OF MARS

The other day MARS turned out in force (some fifty in all) to enjoy a luncheon party at the Braithwaite demonstration house.\* In the realm of experimental houses the Group can claim that its members have produced four of the best designs so far. Besides Yorke's Braithwaite house, there has been the Jicwood Bungalow by R. H. Sheppard, Gibberd's Steel Federation houses at Northolt, and now his very interesting Howard house.† It is significant how much better these, and other, closely architected houses are than the products of committee work in Government departments, where the civil servant is allowed to maul

\* Illustrated in *A.J.*, October 5, 1944.

† Soon to be illustrated in the *A.J.*



Mr. P. F. Burridge, appointed Borough Architect of Stockton-on-Tees. See Astragal's note.

the architect's work—or the Minister himself, as in the case of the Portal house.

Associated with F. R. S. Yorke for the Braithwaite house was F. A. Partridge as Engineer. The fundamental idea was to have a unit system of panels adaptable to a considerable range of plans. For this the central problem lies always at the joint between wall panels. The inexorable laws of geometry dictated that the solution should consist in the double 45-deg. chamfer to the panel edges, with no protrusion beyond this strict profile. When I remarked to Partridge that this was the same detail as Gropius is using, he claimed to have thought of it independently—as I have no doubt he did, for geometry allows no other.

These panels are open frames, really, of pressed steel, and they are the full height of the house, forming the structural frame. These are what stood up so well against the fly-bomb that reduced neighbouring brick houses to heaps of rubble. The rescue squads who said "We shan't have to dig anybody out of that one" may have learnt that brick is not the only "permanent" building material.

The frames are clad with a choice of sheeting materials, secured by a sprung-in cover bead which is very

clever. This goes a long way to refine the crudity of the cover fillet, which is the almost inevitable feature of sheeted finishes. But the chief reason why the design is so elegant, apart from the easy open planning and the comfortable proportions, is the strict adherence to the module. Everything in plan and elevation falls pat with a classical correctness which is most satisfying. This makes it such bad luck to have suffered bomb damage before even photographs of the finished job were taken, for it was not possible to get everything that was buckled quite straight again.

\*

I had two criticisms. It does seem a needless homage to tradition to have made the kitchen floor of unyielding footsore concrete—nobody swills bucketsful of water over kitchen floors to-day. The other floors are of plywood panels with a most engaging resiliency. And those little entrance porches I did not like. They are ungenerous and their design seems to have received far too little attention.

#### POETS' CORNER

##### ERUDITTY

Was it in 1553  
That Michelangelo had tea  
With Julius the Third,  
And threw the sugar at the Pontiff  
Who following a strong tiff  
Had given Mike the bird?  
The point is interesting because  
The casus belli clearly was,  
Or so Vasari says he heard,  
(See Folio Four, Line Seventeen).  
Not sugar, which our friend preferred,  
But Papal saccharin.

'Twas from this fatal turning point  
That in the Master's mighty hands  
The Renaissance acquired  
Cravings not just for sugar candy,  
But any sweet thing handy  
That could have been desired.  
The sugared appetite repressed  
Came out, in fact, with pervert zest  
(See Freud on Mrs. Beaton's dreams)  
Into a Baroque libido  
From which some twist of sex, it seems,  
Produced the Rococo.

And thence 'twas but a little step  
To strong reactions, Greek and Gothic  
And neo-Babylonian,  
Passing to ever stranger antics,  
Classic austerity romantics  
And passion bent through chromium  
To Mendelssohn, Corbusier,  
And other matters of the day  
Where origin repays research.  
An-l so you see how much we owe  
To lumps of sugar, Holy Church,  
And Michelangelo.

EDWARD LEWIS

ASTRAGAL



## LETTERS

H. A. Furness, A.M.Inst., M. & Cy.E.  
(Reg. Arch.)

G. H. Colt

C. V. Blumfield  
(Director, C. V. Blumfield, Consultants,  
Ltd.)

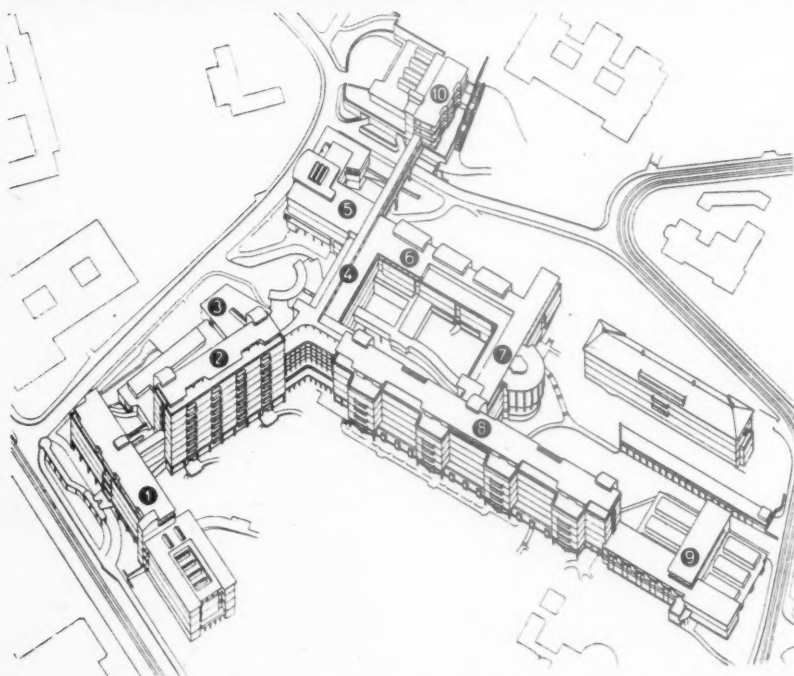
### Salaries at Home and Abroad

Sir,—This present Government seems to take a delight in doing things which will cause the maximum of annoyance to its people. This week's deliberate mistake is the advertisements now appearing in the press for technicians to serve under a control commission in occupied Germany. Among these technicians are required architects and engineers, who are offered jobs at salaries ranging from £500 to £1,000 a year, plus free board and lodging and also a foreign service allowance. Now why is it that such salaries and conditions can be offered for jobs to reconstruct Germany as compared with the meagre sums (not fit to be called salaries) that are offered for the same work to reconstruct our own country? Anyone who doubts this comparison has only to turn to the advertisement pages in the architectural newspapers and read for himself just what is the value placed upon architects and engineers in this country. We know the sort of thing—£260 a year or possibly £350 if you are lucky and, if you are very very good then the truly astronomical sum of £450 a year. Here is something quite definite upon which can be built a fool-proof case for higher salaries and better opportunities for the Cinderellas of the profession; but who is to take up the case for the architects and engineers concerned? The professional Institutions say they are not concerned with such mundane matters (until the time comes round for them to remind us annual subscriptions are due), so to whom are we to turn? This goes to show once more how urgent is the need for some central body of representation for architects and engineers so that their professional interest can be watched and fostered. The only such body which one can find seems to be the Association of Building Technicians, so may we hope that this association has its eye on this particular anomaly?

London.

H. A. FURNESS

# NEW SWISS HOSPITAL



The project for the new University Hospital at Zürich to serve the canton has, after many years of preparation, now been completed. It will replace the existing crowded and obsolete 100-year-old canton hospital, and will cost 48 million francs. The building will be carried out in four stages and will take 8 years to build. Construction of the outpatients' wing (No. 1 above), begun in 1942, is now almost complete. The structure is of steel framework faced with stone and brick. Drawings and description of this Kantonsspital Zürich have been published in book form and a model has been made. A view of the model from the north is shown above, and also an isometric view from the south. The key to this is: 1, Outpatients and Dispensary; 2, West Ward Block; 3, Surgical Outpatients; 4, Inpatients' Intake; 5, Pathology; 6, Operating; 7, Lecture Rooms; 8, East Ward Block; 9, Physio-Therapy; 10, Kitchen Block. The architects and experts concerned with the building are: Arter and Risch; Haefeli, Moser, Steiger; R. Landolt; Leuenberger and Flückiger; J. Schütz; H. Weideli; Dr. H. Fietz.

## Symmetry and the Front Door-Latch

SIR.—Why such a strong desire for a symmetrical frontage in semi-detached houses? Asymmetry is often more beautiful and surprising than symmetry. In our present house symmetry has been carried to such an extent that we have a keyhole high up on the left side of the front door. So far, during a year's residence, I have broken two leather key chains, one braces' button, and lost one special latch-key I had had made, resembling a railway key. In bad weather, in the black-out with an overcoat, a bag and an umbrella, I no longer bless our architect.

I suppose a lever arrangement inside the door, and a small hatch on the right, would get over the mechanical difficulties and preserve the symmetry. It might even constitute an invention. It would certainly preserve one's key-chain and temper.

But why go to any such trouble when the two houses are differently painted, the two front doors of different colours, and the fences, paths, hedges, trees and flowers all incorrigibly asymmetrical? Even if the house fronts were laid bare no one would notice such a slight difference in the two doors.

Symmetrical nuisances of the kind described should no longer be perpetrated, yet miles of them could easily be reeled off for ribbon development, at a price.

London

G. H. COLT

## Canteen in Essex

SIR.—In the number of your JOURNAL for March 1, you have a paragraph and an illustration in your *Information Centre* concerning a canteen building in Essex, the architect for which is Mr. E. D. Mills, A.R.I.B.A.

As the designer of the reinforced concrete work for this building, I wish to point out that while it is of thin shell design, it is not an example of Zeiss-Dywidag construction. I should be glad, therefore, if you would correct your reference to it as such.

C. V. BLUMFIELD,  
Director,

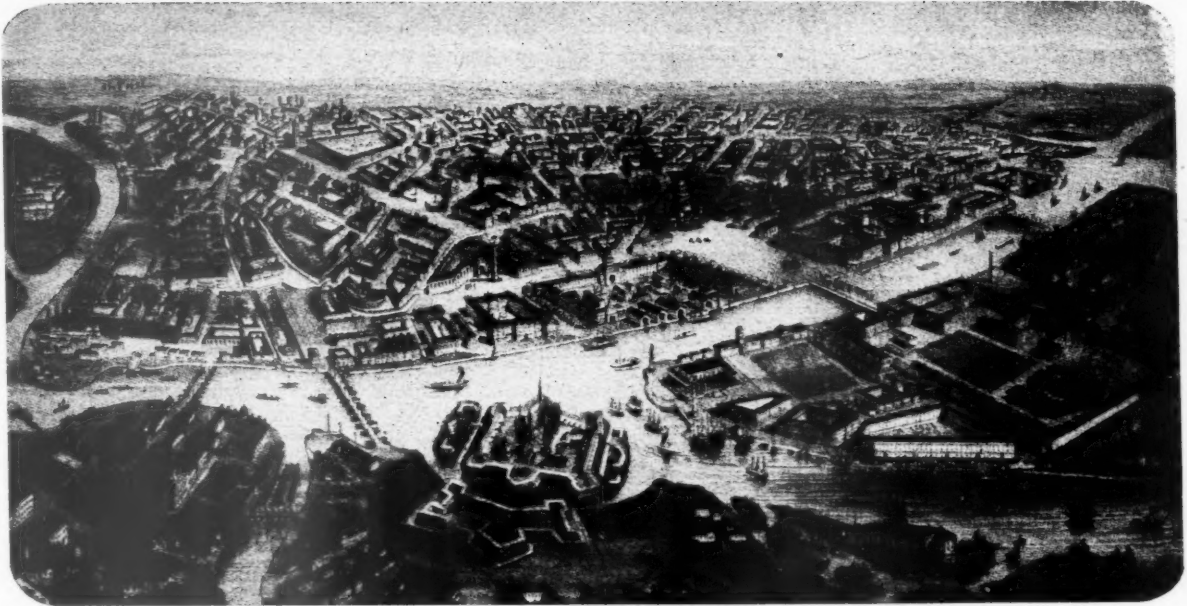
London

C. V. Blumfield, Consultants.



"In our present house we have a keyhole high up on the left side of the front door." See letter from G. H. Colt.

## PHYSICAL PLANNING SUPPLEMENT



Above is an airview of St. Petersburg in about 1800 with the Peter and Paul Fortress in the middle foreground and the wide Nevsky Prospect on the far side of the river stretching from the spire of the Admiralty building diagonally across to a group of buildings on the horizon. In the siege of Leningrad a quarter of its residential areas was destroyed, and the following article describes the plan which has been drawn up under the direction of Chief Architect Baranov for the reconstruction of the city. The illustrations and descriptions are condensed from an article by John Hersey which appeared in the *Architectural Forum*, December, 1944.

## A plan for LENINGRAD

Leningrad was not so badly damaged as Stalingrad or Voronezh (see *THE ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL* for 15:2:45, p. 133). But it sustained 150,000 artillery hits and lost about 25 per cent. of its living quarters. The aim of Leningrad's architects in drawing up a new plan is to make a positive factor of this destruction.

The city is a museum of Russian history and architecture, with the palace where Peter the Great and Catherine the Great lived, the theatre where Nijinsky danced, the square where the Decembrists revolted in 1825, and even the factory where Kalinin worked. In the Palace Square alone stand three superb examples of Russian architecture, the Winter Palace—Russian baroque, the general staff building—Russian empire, and the Admiralty—Russian classical, and in the very centre of the city, surrounded by water, is the Peter and Paul Fortress.

In 1935, a basic plan for the rebuilding of Leningrad was adopted, and work had begun before the war started. When the Germans arrived the very districts of the city where new developments were taking shape became the front lines, and while the attack was still on Leningrad's architects received orders to start planning the reconstruction.

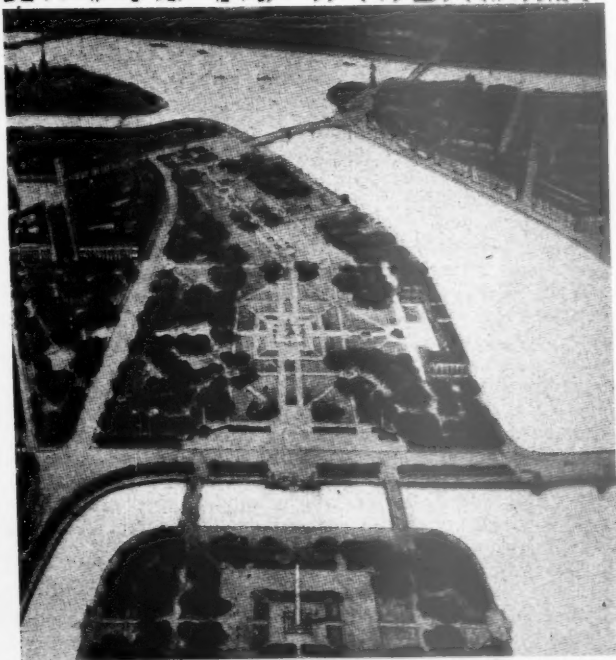
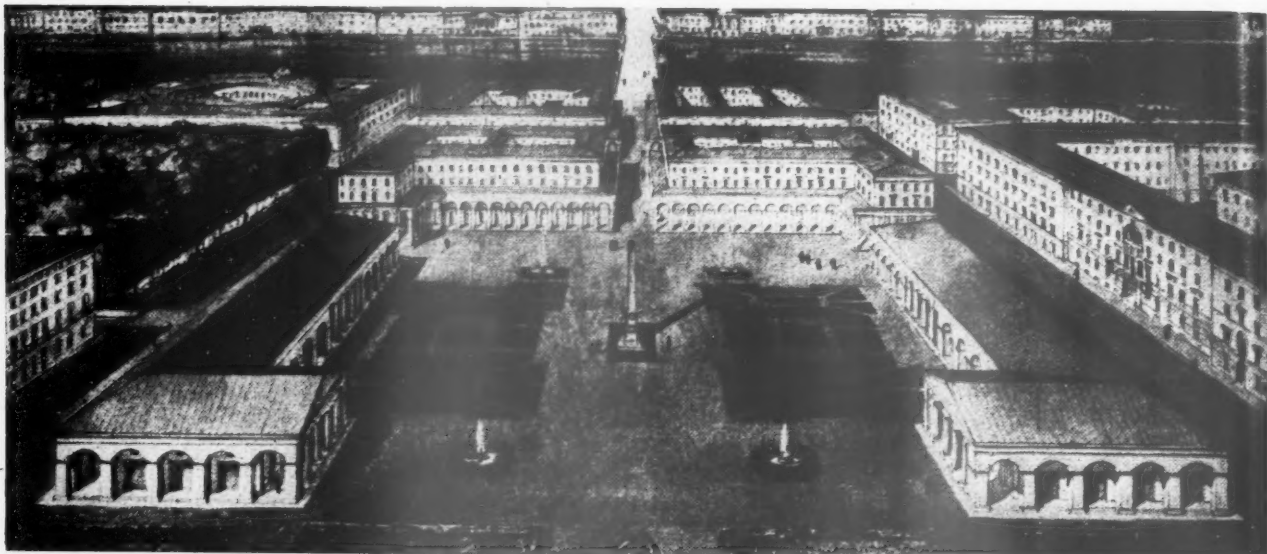
## planning

The new plan is an ambitious one. The city will be about doubled in size, although there will not be a proportionate increase in population. The pre-war population was 3,150,000 and the plan is not to allow more than 3,500,000. This gives some idea of what must have been enormously high pre-war densities. Future building will limit the density to 200 persons per acre. Several large parks will be set aside in both the new and old parts of the town. The largest, which will run along the south shore of the Gulf of Finland, will be 600 acres in extent.

The architects have adopted certain basic rules for reconstruction. They will not rebuild ruined buildings, but will tear down the remains and build anew. They will clear out buildings which stand inside city blocks to give inner air spaces. They will not rebuild large apartments running up to ten and eleven rooms, but will replace them with apartments of three and four rooms, so that in future one rather than three or four families will live in each apartment. The plan will be carried out by the Leningrad Administration for Architectural Affairs, presided over by Chief Architect Baranov. This is a large central planning office with jurisdiction over both the central plan and specific parts of it. Under it there is a "project department," which has the direction of a whole group of drafting shops. Each of these shops is run by one of the city's leading architects and each one takes charge of a single section of the city. The architect in charge of each shop handles details of the buildings.

Since the master plan calls for some arbitrary shifting of population and buildings, the chief architect has the authority to reassign the location of shops and people. These reassignments must be approved by the city soviet, but since the chief architect is a member of the city soviet executive committee, he rarely runs into much trouble on his decisions. Nor does Moscow interfere much with his and the city's plans. The central plans and really basic questions must be referred to a state council under the All Union Committee of Architectural Affairs, which amounts to a commissariat for architecture. But on the whole the city enjoys considerable autonomy.

The chief architect, Nicolai Barfolomeitch Baranov, is a remarkable man. He was appointed Chief Architect of Leningrad in 1938 when he was only 29, and worked out the city plan which was adopted in 1935. He stayed in Leningrad throughout the siege, designing the city's defence works and directing technical camouflage.



View A above shows the planned reconstruction of the Andreev Market area, a district which was severely bombed and shelled. The plan entails building a plaza and administrative centre. A new street will be constructed to connect the plaza with Lieutenant Schmidt Bridge leading to the centre of the town. This part of the city plan is the work of Boris Serebrovsky's shop. View B, below left, shows the future gardens in the Little Neva. Beyond is seen the Tuchkov Buyan section with Peter and Paul Fortress in the background. The two parks are links in a chain of green spaces which will unite various river-front sections. To build them a considerable number of burnt and damaged buildings are being torn down. The people of the city volunteered to clean away the rubble and lay out the parks. Work is being conducted under architect Oleg Guriev. The following is a key to the map on the left. 1. Andreev Market. 2. Stock Exchange. 3. Peter and Paul Fortress. 4. The Admiralty. 5. Winter Palace. 6. St. Isaac's. 7. Nevsky Prospect. 8. Dirzhinski Street.

Work on reconstruction is already well under way. A new city park is being laid out, and Suvorov Prospect is being rebuilt. One of the biggest problems is that of rehousing, and there is a large construction programme for small homes. Some houses will be built of gypsum, some with brick walls and prefabricated parts, and others of building blocks made of pressed wood. Baranov does not feel that the prefabricated type of house will fit into the spirit of Leningrad's architecture and such as are used will all be in the suburbs.

#### design

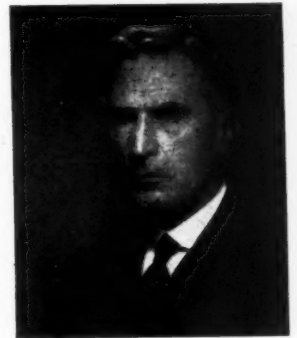
On the subject of design, Baranov is both dogmatic and interesting. Retrospectively he says that the Bauhaus group had much influence on Russian architecture in the 'thirties and he feels that the influence was harmful and bad. He calls Bauhaus an architecture without principle and he is very glad that it has been driven out of the land. Wright and Corbusier, between whom, oddly enough, he does not differentiate, utterly depersonalize architecture, he feels. If they were to dominate, then Moscow, Leningrad, Paris, Washington and New York would all look exactly alike. Those two do represent a just protest against tradition, he says, but he does not think the result lives up to the protest itself. For Eliel Saarinen he has nothing but contempt. He says: "Apparently Saarinen has forgotten that he lives in a northern country, and has gone off into some interplanetary abstraction, an attitude that even American conservatives would scarcely endorse."

Baranov admires only two cities in the world—Paris and Washington. He likes in those cities what he feels Leningrad has, an heroic effect. Leningrad's architects are not satisfied that they have yet found a worthy contemporary style. "What we must find," says Baranov, "is a style that is heroic and glorious enough to be worthy of Leningrad's heroic and glorious defence."

# DISTRIBUTION OF INDUSTRY

BY LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH

On Thursday, March 22, Mr. Dalton moved the second reading of the Government's Distribution of Industry Bill, which, he said, was designed "to abolish distressed areas, and also to make a beginning with the carrying out of the principles of the Barlow Report." As Lord Balfour points out in the following article, this is an important but limited aim. The Bill is, in fact, disappointing when viewed in the light of the whole problem of industrial relocation. And—what will cause particular concern to town planners—in a Bill which deals with important aspects of land use, MOTCP is not so much as mentioned.



Nothing is more essential, both for domestic reconstruction and for the rehabilitation of our vital export industries, than a sane measure of orderly industrial relocation. The proper housing of the people and the attainment of the highest degree of industrial efficiency alike depend on our ability to grasp the miraculous opportunity afforded by the war both through destruction wrought by the enemy and by our own new construction for war purposes. We are not sailing entirely uncharted seas. The Royal Commission on the Distribution of the Industrial Population (the Barlow Commission) unanimously agreed, *inter alia*, on the need for decongestion of urban areas, de-centralization or dispersal both of industry and population from such areas, and encouragement of a reasonable balance of industrial development throughout the various regions of Great Britain, coupled with proper diversification of industry in each region throughout the country.

## background to the bill

The President of the Board of Trade, on June 7, 1944, in the House of Commons, accepted on behalf of the Government the Barlow Report's main ideas of decongestion and dispersal, and the Minister of Reconstruction, speaking on the Third Reading of the Town and Country Planning Bill in the House of Lords, and on many other occasions, has declared the Government's acceptance of national planning. The White Paper on Employment Policy foreshadowed the measures for securing a balanced industrial development in areas formerly vulnerable to unemployment, and stated that the Government proposed to encourage new enterprises in the development areas by influencing the siting of new factories or factories transferring from one area to another by methods which included:

- (a) Prohibiting the establishment of a new factory enterprise "in a district where serious disadvantage would arise from further industrial developments"; and
- (b) "Using Government influence to steer new factory development into areas which call most urgently for further industrial diversification."

## piecemeal policy

Against this background, the Distribution of Industry Bill is a disappointment. The emphasis is far too heavily on the prevention of unemployment in certain areas, and, important as is that object, it is more likely to be achieved by a comprehensive policy directed towards the Barlow objectives and conceived in relation to industry as a whole. While the

Board of Trade is the Department primarily concerned with industry, the location of areas or zones for industrial development should surely be a matter primarily for the Ministry of Town and Country Planning after consultation with all the other Ministries concerned with specific aspects of development.

## the bill

Sections 8 and 9 of the Bill, in which are to be found general provisions as to the distribution of industry and provisions about restriction, do not appear to give the Board of Trade effective control. Three months' notice must be given for the erection of a new factory with an aggregate floor space of over 3,000 square feet, but extensions to existing factories and re-erection of war-bombed factories are excluded. Moreover, there seems nothing to prevent the erection of a factory with 2,500 square feet of floor space and the addition of further units of the same size as may be desired. The penalty for failure to give notice of intention to erect a factory is a fine not exceeding £100, which quite clearly would be unlikely to have any deterrent effect.

## MOTCP left out

The Ministry of Town and Country Planning is not so much as mentioned in the Bill. Section 5 deals with the restoration of derelict land, and the powers which are vested in the Board of Trade are limited to scheduled development areas. The land when recovered will not be devoted solely to industrial purposes, and clearly this Clause ought to apply not to development areas only, but to the country as a whole, and the powers ought to be operated not by the Board of Trade, but by the Ministry of Town and Country Planning, which is concerned with land use in general and with amenities in particular. This is in fact to establish a dual control of land use, and is an obvious infringement of the sphere of the Minister of Town and Country Planning.

If the Government means business, it is difficult to see why the Bill does not contain a schedule of areas where some restriction is desirable, beginning at least with London or parts of London, in accordance with the unanimous recommendation of the Barlow Commission. Viewed in conjunction with the failure to produce any land Bill, the Bill is an indication that the forces in the Government opposed to planning are very definitely in control of the situation. Promise in the matter of national planning does indeed outrun performance.

## PLANNER'S SCRAPBOOK

## MOSES AGAIN

The Moses controversy which was reported under the title of *The Great Planning Illusion* (A.J., 16.11.44, p. 363) is now joined by Elsa Maxwell, in her *Party Line* column in the *New York Post*. Her forthright comments are quoted in *New Tasks*, the newsletter of *Task*: a magazine for architects and planners, published in New York City. Elsa Maxwell characterizes Moses as a "brunette Lindbergh," who is "perilously approaching the prima donna stage." She joins Professor Hudnut of Harvard, in condemning Moses' smear-label "Beiunski" which applied to Saarinen, Gropius, Wright and Mendelsohn. (*Bei uns*—in our country.) Moses condemned Gropius for "hurting our architecture by advocating a philosophy which doesn't belong here." He poses as the practical man who can do, fighting the long-haired radicals who only plan. Elsa Maxwell quotes Professor Hudnut, "If the Harvard School of design has built fewer miles of concrete highway than has Mr. Moses, it may be that the School of Design was not founded with precisely that purpose." She ends: "Praising himself for his concrete achievement of 'limited objectives,' he (Moses) has left the slums and chaos of our cities in *status quo ante*. Instead of imagination and vision, he has given general confusion a little more concrete."

## PLANNING IN THE USSR

Organization for planning and reconstruction in Russia is set forth in a recent bulletin of the Architects' Committee, National Council of American-Soviet Friendship, Inc., in New York. The Committee recently addressed a questionnaire to members of the planning profession in the Soviet Union. Replies indicate that the rebuilding of cities destroyed by the enemy and the development of existing cities are determined by the economic plan developed by the State Planning Commission of the USSR and the State Planning Commissions of the Soviet republics. The State Planning Commission is developing a master plan of reconstruction for the entire country, as well as for individual areas. A Committee on Architecture, organized in 1943, is a regular government department. It maintains agencies in the republics and provinces. The local agencies direct city planning and construction under the terms of the general economic plan of the republic or region. As guides in the work the Russian Academy of Architecture has issued two publications: *Rules and Standards for the Planning of Populated Places* and *Rules and Standards for Housing Design*. There is some interesting material in the bulletin on prefabricated housing. Unanswered,

however, was the question of how building is financed and what is the ownership in housing. (From the January, 1945, Newsletter of the American Society of Planning Officials.)

## CIAM IN USA

Formation of the American Chapter for Relief and Postwar Planning of CIAM (International Congress for Modern Architecture) has been announced by Richard J. Neutra of Los Angeles, president of the group.

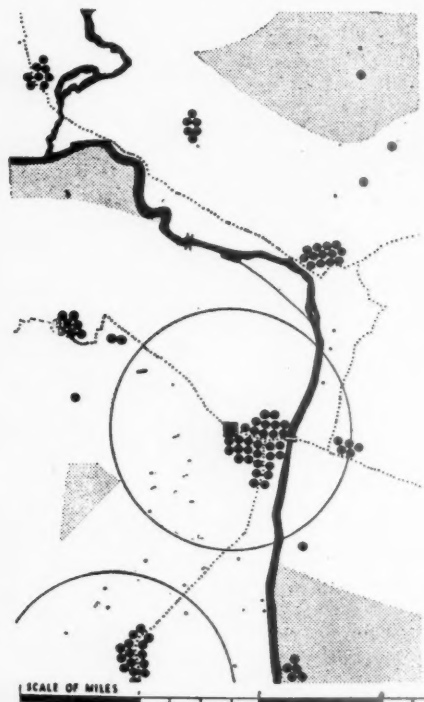
Famed architects and planners eager to encourage advanced techniques in the construction of new cities, communities, and rebuilding projects are associated in the new chapter. There are plans to co-operate with our federal agencies, in work for various governments abroad, and the chapter also will establish contacts with foreign governments and with the 18 CIAM groups already in existence abroad. All this is in the hope "that the tremendous work of world-wide reconstruction can be carried on without cessation and errors," Mr. Neutra explained.

Headquarters of the chapter are in The New School for Social Research, 66, West 12th Street, New York 11, NY, which thus becomes the American centre for co-ordination with the stimulating programme of CIAM. The international organization has operated from Switzerland since 1928.

Other officers of the chapter are: Jose Luis Sert, city planner and author of "Can Our Cities Survive?"; Paul Nelson, Director of Urban Studies for the French Government; K. Longberg Holm, Director of Research, F. W. Dodge Corporation—vice presidents; Harwell H. Harris, Los Angeles architect, secretary-treasurer; Stamo Papadaki, CIAM Greek delegate, acting secretary. (Reported in *Pencil Points*, December, 1944.)

## DISTRIBUTION OF METAPHORS

Mr. W. J. Brown (Rugby, Ind.), during the second reading of the Distribution of Industry Bill, said that the Bill failed to satisfy the essential conditions of planning, that there should be a good plan, and that the instruments for carrying it into effect should be adequate and appropriate. It was a negative measure. The Bill put the chimney on the house before the site had been bought. It was about as relevant to the situation as a plaster on a wooden leg. The Minister had talked about harmony, but it was negative harmony because there was no piano and no tune. The Bill was a veneer for a vacuum, it concealed an empty space, and it bore all the marks of its coalition origin, for it was born in a state of coma.



## PLANNER'S QUIZ

6. On the left is part of a map from a guide to a rapid method of District Survey. All the information shown can be deduced from published sources, but these sources will not be given until the next Quiz, when the key to the symbols used on the map will also be given.

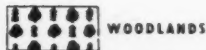
There are, therefore, two questions; what do the symbols denote in the map on the left? and from what published sources was the information taken?

Answer in the next Planner's Scrapbook.

## THE ANSWER TO THE LAST PROBLEM

5. The symbols in this map of SITES FOR PRESERVATION are shown below. The information was taken from Land Utilization Survey One Inch to One Mile Maps, with additional information on commons supplied by the Ministry of Town and Country Planning,

5



WOODLANDS



PARKLANDS

Ancient Camps etc.  
Ancient EarthworksHistoric Buildings  
Historic Bridges

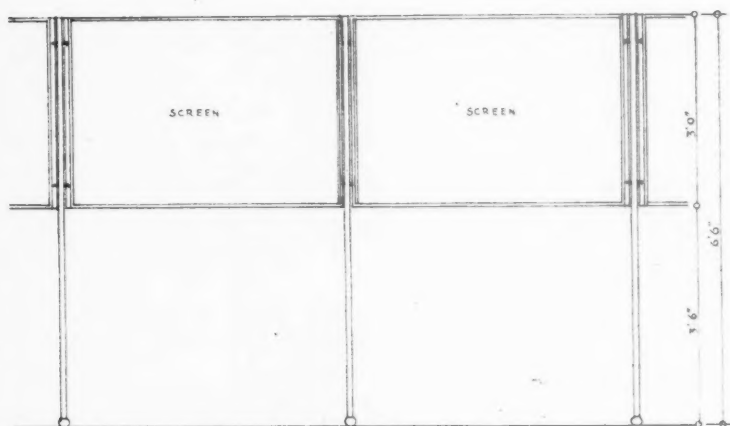


## ADJUSTABLE EXHIBITION SCREENS

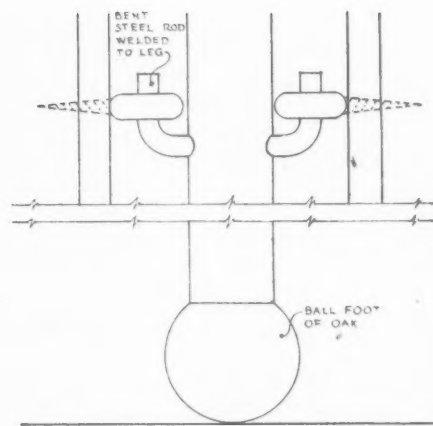
This extremely simple yet effective system of display panels was used for the exhibition, *American Housing in War and Peace*, held last year at the RIBA. The system consists of standard screens of

framed plywood supported by legs of painted steel tube, to which they are attached by lift-off hinges. These hinges allow the adjustment of a long series of screens to any shape of hall by

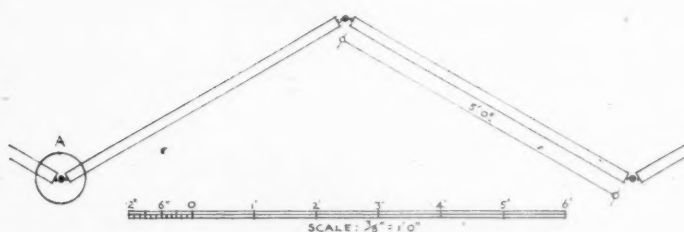
varying the angles as required. The whole forms an admirable solution to the problem of this type of mobile exhibition, for it is adjustable, and it is easily dismantled and packed for dispatch.



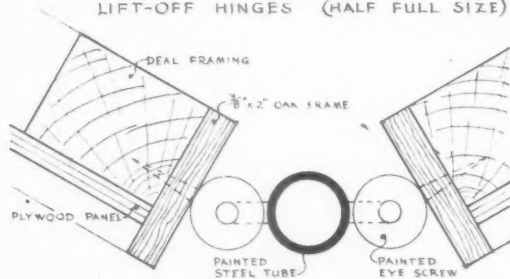
ELEVATION OF TWO SCREENS



ELEVATIONAL DETAILS OF LEG AND LIFT-OFF HINGES (HALF FULL SIZE)



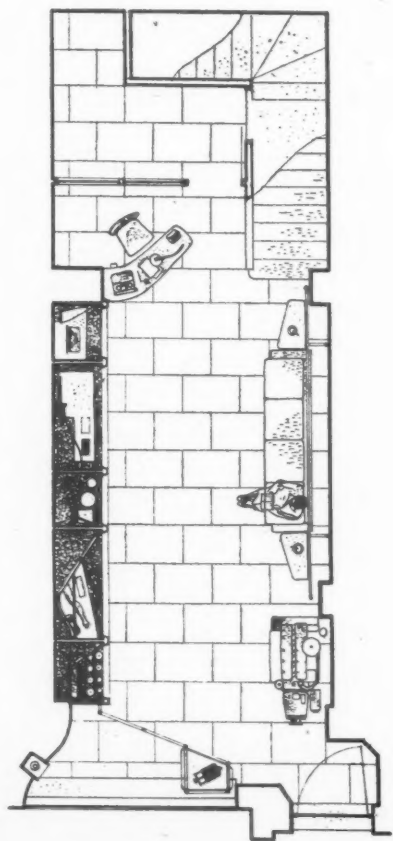
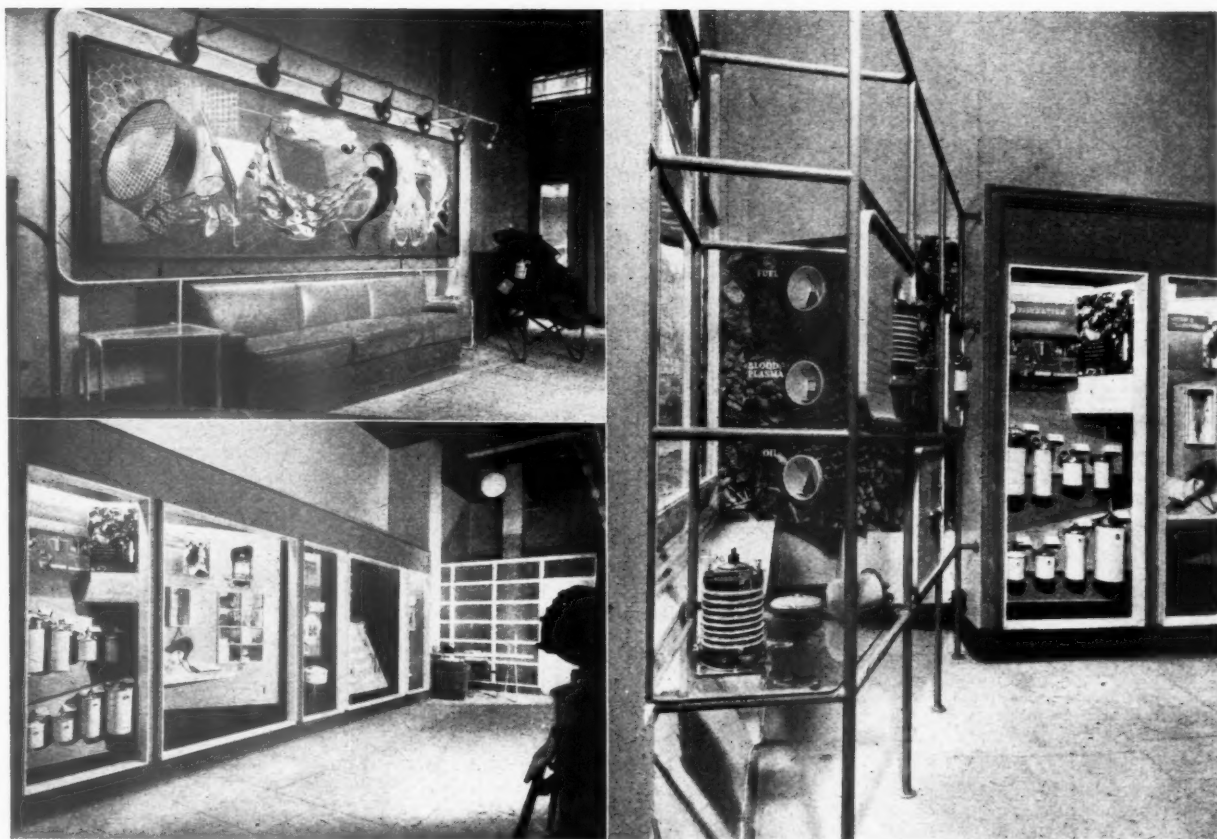
PLAN OF TWO SCREENS



PLAN DETAIL AT A (HALF FULL SIZE)



ADJUSTABLE EXHIBITION SCREENS



## SHOWROOM IN BERKELEY STREET *DESIGNED BY BRIAN PEAKE*

This showroom at 32, Berkeley Street, W.1, for British Filters, was designed as a permanent exhibition of the principles of filtration for liquids and air for a technical and semi-technical audience. Owing to present difficulties building work was reduced to a minimum, the red leather seat and the glazed screen having been previously designed by the architect for the reception room at the clients' laboratories. The five showcases illustrating the principles of oil, blood, fuel, and air filtration were formed simply by removing the doors from the exist-

ing built-in dress cupboards. The showcase fronts are painted grey, with white frames and the interiors are in grey, white, terracotta, pale blue and pale yellow against a background of deep blue. The framework round the mural and the window is of steel tubing, painted grey. The walls are painted in pale cream. The mural was designed by Reinganam.

The views above show, top left, the mural and red leather seat; bottom left, the showcases; right the window display. The plan on the left is to  $\frac{1}{4}$ -in. scale.

# INFORMATION CENTRE

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

## STRUCTURE

1859 South American Building

**SOUTH AMERICAN BUILDING IS CHALLENGING.** *Arthur J. Boase (Engineering News-Record, October 19, 1944, pp. 499-506).* Report on intensive building activity in Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay. Predominance of reinforced concrete construction. Reinforced concrete codes of practice.

The author paid a three-months' visit to South America to study methods of construction and design of reinforced concrete. Building activity is great in all cities visited in the three countries. Rio de Janeiro is experiencing a real boom. At Sao Paulo a 40-storey building, which will rise 540 ft. above street level, is now under construction. This building will supersede the Kavanagh building of Buenos Aires, rising 375 ft. above the ground and having 28 storeys, as the world's tallest reinforced concrete building.

For many years reinforced concrete has been the only material used, only some of the older buildings have structural steel frames, most of the steel having been imported from Europe. The first reason for the exclusive use of reinforced concrete is the scarcity and high price of structural steel, which is not manufactured to any extent in South America. There are, however, other reasons not so obvious. The first firms of designers and constructors in South America were Italian, French and, especially, German. These engineers had developed theories and applied them in their own countries long before the use of reinforced concrete had become general in the western hemisphere. These firms were equipped both to design and construct. A client merely stated his requirements and the constructor acted as architect, engineer, and builder. This set-up has produced very economical results. The competition forced the designers to use the best available materials under the circumstances and to adjust design practice so as to obtain the proper relation between cost of materials and cost of labour.

Reinforced concrete codes play no small part in explaining the wider use of reinforced concrete. Brazil is now operating under a national code, adopted in 1943, and applied to all reinforced concrete construction. The code has certain unusual provisions, such as the adoption of the plastic theory instead of the standard method of design, which will be discussed in a further article. In general it is based on the German code and is very satisfactory.

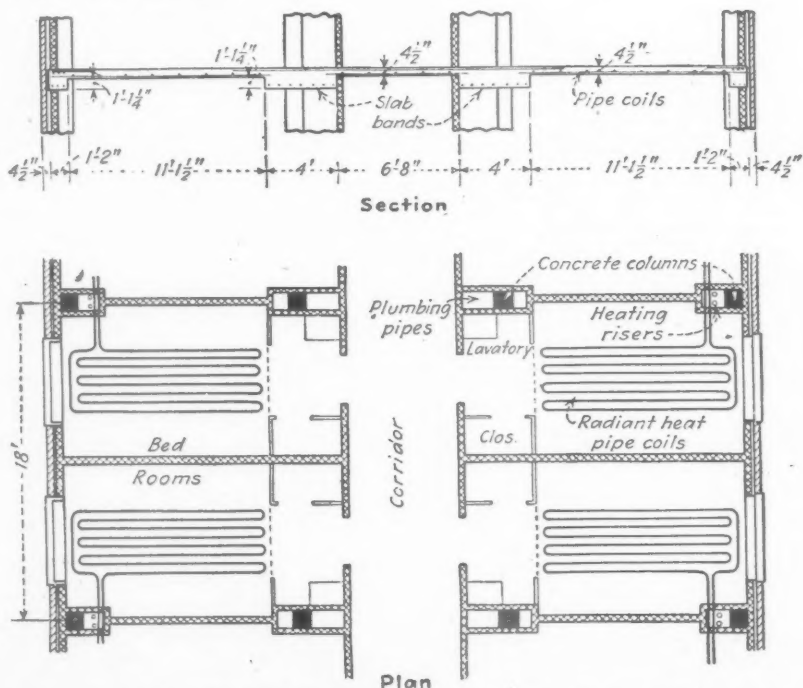
Some of the practices seem strange, e.g., the provision of air raid shelters in practically all buildings to withstand the effect of 100-lb. (!) bombs. The labour efficiency is low by our standard, but only 20 per cent. of the total cost represents labour and 80 per cent. materials. The leading de-

signers are young men with good knowledge of French and German technical literature. They consider American textbooks on reinforced concrete too elementary. The technical education is at a high standard, but the technical colleges are relatively small and few in number.

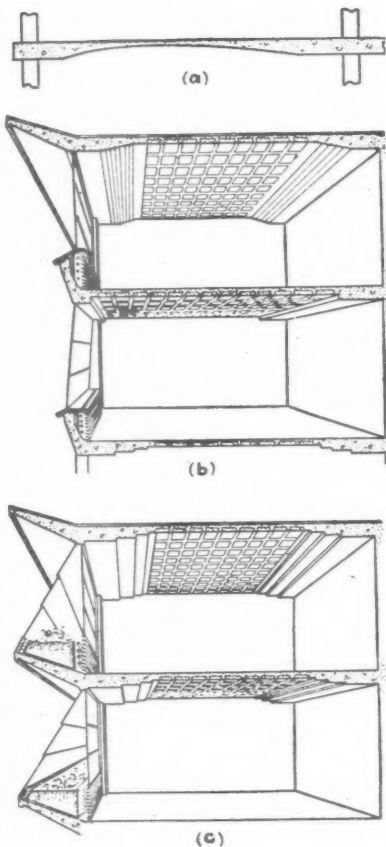
There are many examples of bold design. Shell roof construction is no novelty, and is especially common in the Argentine. Prestressing of reinforcing steel is just starting, and many engineers are of the opinion that future development of reinforced concrete will be along the line of thin shell construction and prestressing.

1860 Teamwork in Building

**EFFECTIVE TEAMWORK IN BUILDING DESIGN.** *An Architect's View: Thomas H. Creighton. An Engineer's View: Fred N. Severud. (Engineering News-Record, October 19, 1944, pp. 507-512.)* Plea for more intelligent co-operation in planning and designing buildings. Details of design for a Nurses' Home for Bellevue Hospital, New York, as example.



Some of the details of design at Bellevue Nurses Home, New York, resulting from intelligent teamwork in design. Top, slab and wall designs that arise from logical use of materials; (a) ideal slab form, (b) and (c) practical variations as well as special concrete wall designs to give effective weather protection to the concrete. Above, typical bay framing uses a slab band instead of a beam, so placed as to be inconspicuous in the room.



No great change in the decade after the war in basic materials for permanent large construction can be expected, but there are new ways of using them. In the traditional procedure of the design the architect begins with making a sketch of a proposed building and may, at this early stage, call on a structural engineer to make sure that the building can be framed. The mechanical engineer is not consulted yet—mechanical equipment can surely be fitted in somehow later. The preliminary drawings are approved and the plan is frozen. Materials are chosen because of their appearance, space is grudgingly granted to the heating and plumbing engineers, and the electrical engineer is given predetermined space to light. The Builder decides methods of building. The result is not particularly good and the building will be carried out without unity of all its structural elements.

The postwar design for a residence and school of nurses with rooms for 850 student nurses and 50 staff and faculty members, and with extensive educational, dining and recreation facilities, is a good example of what can be done by co-operation between architects, structural engineer and mechanical engineers. The design for this complex building began with the basis of the individual nurses' room of 9 x 16 ft. in plan. A reinforced concrete skeleton was designed in bays, fitting the room size. Cross beams were eliminated and the floor slab spans from wall to interior support, which is formed by a thickened band of the slab. The structure is related to, fixed by, and expresses, the plan requirements. It allows plumbing and heating pipe sleeves to be located in line with the columns, so that such facilities are built in where they should be and do not protrude into the room as though they were a last-minute thought.

No mere organizational arrangement can provide the complete answer. A new conception is required, an understanding of the unity of building design.

Improved methods of design give the structural engineer a more accurate picture of the real behaviour of his material than he has had before. By changing the proportions of framing members the distribution of stresses can be changed. Even in the design of such a simple and apparently stereotyped thing as a concrete floor slab, the combination of progressive structural and architectural thinking leads to new concepts.

## EQUIPMENT

### 1861 Gas and Coke

COMFORT WITH ECONOMY IN THE NORTHOLT DEMONSTRATION HOUSES. (*Gas Industry House*, 1, Grosvenor Place, S.W.1.) Illustrated trade pamphlet describes gas and coke equipment in two terrace houses in MOW'S demonstration houses. Fuel consumption figures.

The pamphlet describes the equipment in two terrace houses at Northolt, as provided by the gas industry on the lines they would recommend for houses of this type. The brochure is fully illustrated by photographs.

One house uses only gas; the other uses both gas and coke. It is estimated that the fuel consumptions for an average family would be:—

Gas and Coke House: 285 (335) therms; 45 cwt. coke.

Gas House: 555 (660) therms.

(The gas consumptions relate to hot water supplies of 220 gall. and 350 gall. per week respectively.) It is further estimated that the equivalent coal consumption would be only 3-4 tons a year, as against 5-6 tons a

year for the same service from coal-burning appliances.

(A somewhat curious feature of the all-gas house is the small flueless heater for warming the linen cupboard. One wonders what becomes of the water vapour produced by combustion of the gas.)

## HEATING and Ventilation

### 1862 Gas Installations

THE INTERNAL INSTALLATION IN THE POST-WAR HOME. R. N. leFevre. (*Gas Journal*, June 28, 1944, p. 831; July 5, p. 25.) Recommendations for gas installations. Meters and piping.

The author bases his recommendations on the Gas Installations Report in the Post-War Building Studies series. He advocates:

- (i) the use of standard I.G.E. gas meters,
- (ii) the use of a meter bar as a means of eliminating lead piping,
- (iii) the use of a standard meter control or valve,
- (iv) the provision of ventilated incombustible compartments to house the gas and electricity meters, and some suggestions are made,
- (v) the elimination of compo piping in favour of steel, iron or especially copper,
- (vi) concealed pipework as far as possible, with careful planning in advance to enable the gas points to be located properly.

### 1863 Gas Water Heating

POSSIBLE DEVELOPMENTS IN GAS WATER HEATING FOR THE POST-WAR PERIOD. L. Friedman. (*Gas Journal*, June 28, 1944, p. 826.) Review of present usage of gas for domestic water heating. Plan of gas and coke in post-war period.

The author quotes statistics showing that of the families with a household income less than £300 per annum, living in houses where a running hot-water supply is provided, 74 per cent. used solid fuel, 21 per cent. used gas and only 4½ per cent. used electricity.

The comparative efficiency and cost of water heating by a variety of methods is discussed, and figures are given for the amount of coal required to provide the same amount of water by the various alternatives. The author concludes that it is clear that gas and coke must have an important place in the post-war period. He estimates that the gas water-heating load may increase fourfold in ten years, that is from 134 to 509 million therms per annum. The "average" gas consumption of sink and bath heaters is given as 80 and 110 therms per annum respectively, while "full service" would require 200-250 therms per annum.

### 1864 Gas Central Heating

A CENTRAL HEATING AND HOT WATER INSTALLATION. (*Gas Journal*, August 30, 1944, p. 276.) Brief description of gas-heated installation in factory canteen.

The canteen is heated by a gas-fired, low-pressure accelerated hot water central heating system. The system is thermostatically controlled, both water temperature and room temperature being controlled. The hot water supply is decentralised, one gas boiler being provided in the kitchen and one in the lavatories.

### 1865

### Use of Fuel

THE EFFICIENT USE OF FUEL. Edited by Dr. G. E. Foxwell. (HMSO, 1944, 807 pp., 12s. 6d.) Covers whole range of fuel in industry. Heat transmission through walls. Central heating. Steam heating. Domestic heating not dealt with.

This book, prepared by a large body of experts and edited by Dr. G. E. Foxwell, is a great achievement. It covers the whole range of the use of fuel in industry; and the treatment is clear and concise. A chapter on Heat Transmission is included, which briefly deals with the various factors influencing heat transfer through walls. In the chapter on central heating, the different types of system are discussed, and factors which affect fuel consumption are examined. The use of steam for heating, including the use of waste steam from process work, is dealt with in a third chapter.

From the title, one might have expected some reference to domestic heating, for a large proportion of the coal used in this country is consumed for this purpose. The sub-title shows, however, that the book does not purport to do other than treat industrial usage of fuel.

## 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.

### 1866

### Prices

Q With reference to the feature in the ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL, headed Prices showing the percentage increase in the cost of basic materials and wages over pre-war, could you supply details of the percentage increase for August, 1941, and April, 1943, and also details of the percentage increase in the price of timber for these dates?

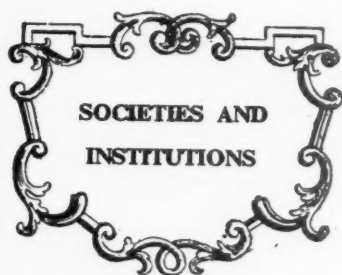
A The percentage increases compiled by Davis and Belfield and published for August, 1941, and April, 1943, are as follows: No timber prices were published because the grade of timber available was not comparable with pre-war.

### MATERIALS

	Aug. 1941. April, 1943.	
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Portland cement ...	35.37	41.46
2-in. unscreened ballast ...	60.9	88.41
Fletton brick (at station) ...	11.89	29.19
Stoneware drainpipes (British standard) (2 tons and over) ...	18.75	37.5
Roofing tiles ...	30.00	45.00
Steel joists (basic sections ex mills) ...	47.5	47.5
Lime greystone ...	33.33	43.23
Sheet lead ...	54.35	65.22
Iron rainwater goods and soil pipes ...	21.00	26.5
White lead paint ...	26.5	46.21

### RATES OF WAGES

Labourers ...	19.05	26.98
Craftsmen ...	14.29	21.43



*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

# Housing Report

The Housing Committee of the RIBA was appointed by the Conference on Housing Production at its first meeting on January 31, 1945 "to examine the question of housing production in detail," and the following members were appointed to serve:—T. C. Howitt, F.R.I.B.A., C. H. James, A.R.A., F.R.I.B.A., G. A. Jellicoe, F.R.I.B.A., M.T.P.I., A. W. Kenyon, F.R.I.B.A., M.T.P.I., R. A. H. Livett, O.B.E., A.R.I.B.A., S. C. Ramsey, F.R.I.B.A. The following is the Committee's REPORT ON HOUSING PRODUCTION.

Mr. Livett was unfortunately unable to attend any meetings of the Committee. Professor W. G. Holford, B.A.R.C.H., A.R.I.B.A., M.T.P.I., and Miss J. G. Ledeboer, A.R.I.B.A., attended in an advisory capacity. Mr. Stanley C. Ramsey was appointed Chairman of the Committee, which has met on three occasions. Much of the evidence was of a confidential nature as regards the identity of the various witnesses, but the findings on this evidence are the responsibility of the Committee.

### MATERIALS.

The Committee has received the following evidence regarding materials:—

**Timber:** The main countries supplying timber before the war were Russia, Poland, Sweden, Finland and Canada, with a certain amount from the United States. It is understood that very little timber can be expected from Canada and the United States, as they have large housing programmes of their own. Finland and Poland have been devastated by war and Russia also has a very large problem, including the official programme of building twenty-six million houses, the majority of which will be of timber. It will, therefore, be

wise to make preparations on the basis of a minimum use of timber in post-war housing.

**Bricks:** The pre-war capacity of the industry was approximately 7,500 to 8,000 million bricks per annum. The existing stock of bricks is approximately 1,000 million, and it will be necessary to clear brickyards before this stock can be increased without additional expense.

The brick industry is in three classes, each responsible before the war for approximately the same quantity of output. These are the mechanized brickworks, which it is estimated can resume production within three months of the end of the European war; large brickworks which could probably resume production within six months; and small brickworks which would require 12 months before resuming production.

As soon as labour becomes available, therefore, it is anticipated that there will be little difficulty regarding brick production. It should be noted, however, that conditions have not made it previously an attractive industry to the worker, and if a state of full employment continues, it is doubtful if it would return to normal production for some little time.

Estimates suggest that 18,000 bricks are required for the average house or 15,000 per dwelling, including flats. The existing stock would, therefore, give between 50,000 and 60,000 houses if the bricks were used for no other purpose.

With the estimated first-year production of the mechanized brickworks, a total of approximately 150,000 houses could be anticipated.

The use of clay blocks cannot be regarded as likely to assist materially, but generally speaking, it can be taken that house production in the first years after the war will not be hampered in any way by the supply of bricks.

**Cement:** No difficulty is likely to be experienced with cement or with metal for reinforcement.

**Plaster Boards:** The production of plaster boarding was just developing before the war, when the optimum production was 64 million feet per week.

Approximately 800 feet of plaster boarding is required for the ceilings of an average house.

There is much less production of other forms of boarding.

**Roofing Tiles:** No difficulty is anticipated with tiles, although clay tiles will probably take longer to get into production.

**Asphalt Roofing, Roofing Felt, and Sanitary Fittings:** No difficulty is anticipated.

**Cookers, Plumbing Units, Pipes and Taps, and Structural Steel:** No difficulty is anticipated.

**Baths and Grates:** Some difficulty is probable in the early stages. An order for 150,000 kitchen-bathroom units has been placed, but production will not commence until June, 1945.

**Windows:** It is thought that, if no timber is available and steel is not required for other housing purposes, sufficient steel windows for 100,000 houses can be produced in the first 12 months after the war.

**Linoleum:** There are no existing stocks of linoleum.

**Aluminium:** Research is now being conducted into the possibility of absorbing the aluminium industry in house production for doors, windows, etc. Little definite is known about the prospects, however, and the use of aluminium might prove expensive.

### LABOUR.

The Committee has received the following evidence regarding labour:—A total of 1,362,000 persons were employed in the building and civil engineering industries before the war—1,008,000 on building, and 354,000 on civil engineering or public works contracting.

The Committee is not able to publish the

figures of persons employed in the building industry in 1944 and the anticipated total at the end of the European war, as this information is confidential. It is understood, however, that at the end of the first year after the war the total is expected to rise to 800,000.

The work of the industry is divided into four sections:—(1) Maintenance (which represented one-third of the industry before the war); (2) war damage; (3) housing; (4) other forms of new construction.

Annual expenditure on housing maintenance before the war was £10 million a year. But if only £10 per house were spent on maintenance, this would represent a total annual expenditure of £130 million.

The percentage of traditional craftsmen employed in the different sections of work referred to above is as follows:—

	Craftsmen	Labourers
Maintenance	58%	42%
War Damage	50%	50%
Housing	52%	48%
Other forms of new construction	45%	55%

It is estimated that one craftsman with the necessary attendant labour could build one and two to three houses per year.

The Committee is informed that:—If the labour figure for maintenance is held at 350,000, it is anticipated that 100,000 houses will be built and building at the end of the first year after the war. At the end of the second year it is anticipated that 200,000 houses will be completed.

It had previously been maintained in the building industry that a period of 24 years is required to train a bricklayer. It has recently been suggested that this could be reduced to 20 months, after the first four of which the trainee would be capable of non-precision work. Country and speculative builders estimate, however, to train bricklayers in six weeks to three months.

The Committee is of opinion that:—Precision workers are not required for the building of small houses with the exception of foremen and plumbers. The prefabrication of standard and standardized units is essential. Prefabricated plumbing units are desirable. Any lack of delivery of materials on the site inevitably means delay in production and rising costs.

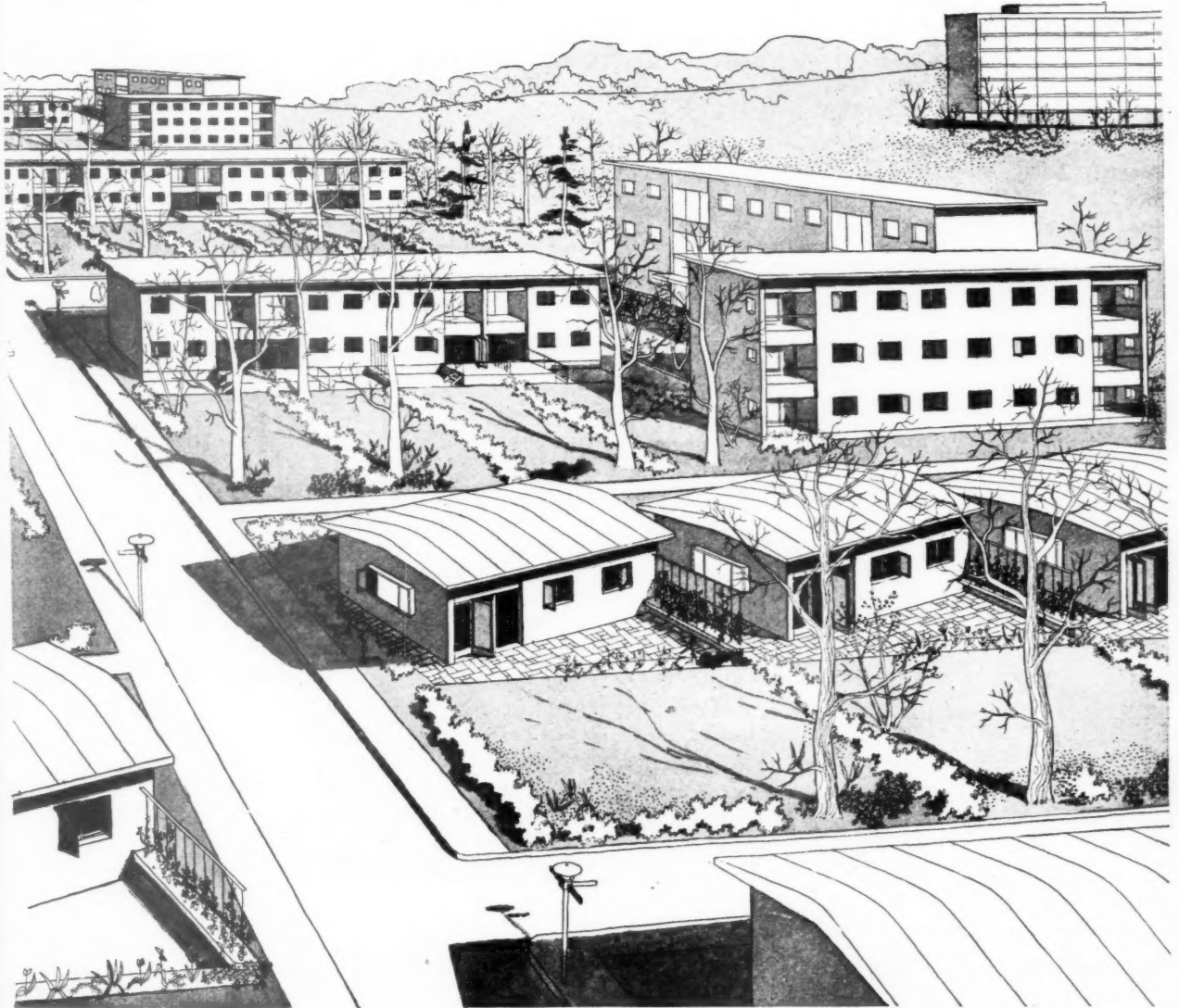
### ORGANIZATION.

The Committee is of the opinion that one of the difficulties in the way of adequate house production is the number of Ministries involved and the consequent overlapping of responsibilities. It, therefore, suggests the establishment of a Housing Council with Regional Housing Councils to cover different areas of the country.

The aim of the Council and Regional Housing Councils should be the maximum of direction and the minimum of control compatible with results. Each region should have one housing Commissioner, who should be an administrator and not a technician, with a clerical and technical staff under him. Each Regional Housing Council would consist of representatives of local and county authorities with representatives of the regional bodies of architects, builders and operatives. Their duties would be to estimate the number and disposition of the houses; the availability of labour and materials; to watch progress and to decide questions of regional policy and to decide the machinery to be employed. Their fundamental duty would be to produce the right kind of houses in the right places as quickly as possible. The Housing Commissioner would not be a member of the Council, but would attend all meetings. His job would be the executive responsibility of producing the houses under the

# BUILDING FOR DAYLIGHT

No. 5 FACTS ABOUT GLASS FOR ARCHITECTURAL STUDENTS



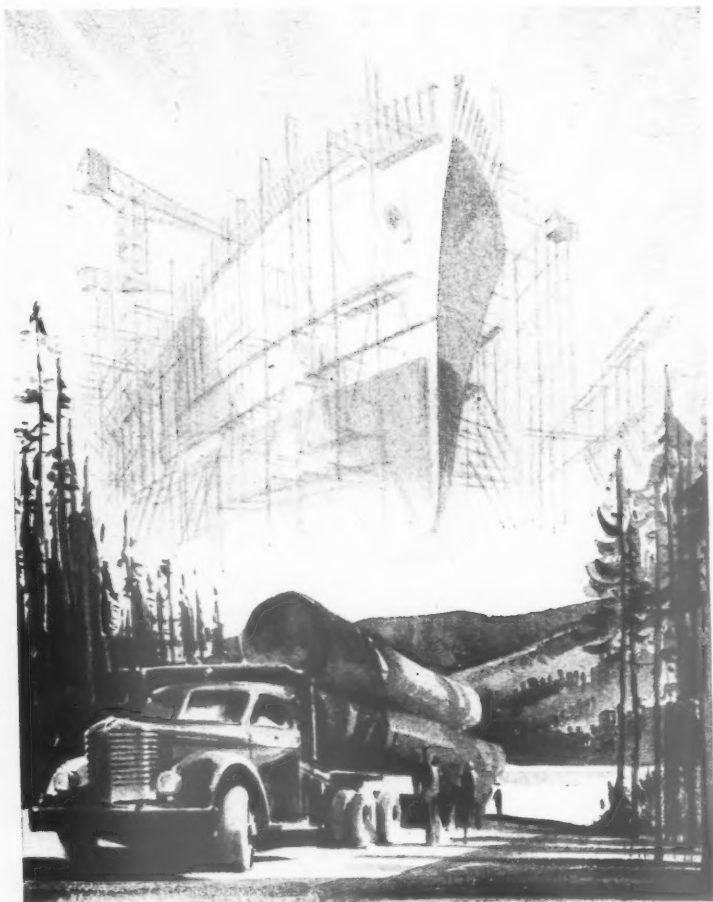
The generously proportioned windows of modern buildings and the extreme clarity of the glass that is manufactured to-day, are dependent for their functional effectiveness upon daylight. Development must be planned to make the best use of daylight. Here, for example, is an ordinary layout, comparable to the deliberately contrived formality of Georgian and Victorian streets, but lost in the early "council house" era. The Georgian and Victorian conception of the "Corridor street" has been replaced by blocks of buildings, more or less equally spaced. Each plan is oriented to suit a particular

aspect, at the same time giving the easiest access to road or path. The overshadowing of any part of the development has been avoided by the careful siting of the blocks; and buildings of one, two and three storeys are variously associated to secure the widest possible range of adequate daylighting in relation to an economic use of land. The wider spacing demanded by the three-storey apartment blocks, permits larger open spaces to surround them, but without loss of potential accommodation the windows here have every chance of doing their proper work.

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main direction of the Council, and he would have to be allowed as free a hand as possible. One of the existing Ministers should be responsible to Parliament for all housing policy and his duty would be to co-ordinate the diverse activities which are at present carried out by several Ministries. His Council would be advisory and would consist of representatives of the Ministries, the local authorities, the professions, builders and operatives and of some of the housing organizations. Such a Council would receive regular reports from the Regional Councils and would advise on the appropriate action. They would determine general standards, leaving the Councils to adapt these to local conditions. There would be a small technical and clerical staff attached to the Ministry for executive purposes as well as officers from the three Ministries seconded to him. On all questions of emergency of which he must be the judge, the Minister would have to exercise his authority. The paramount consideration in the early days must be speed, and standards must be determined with this consideration in mind; not what is ideally the best, but what is the best possible under the conditions obtaining.

The Regional Councils would not be concerned with purely financial matters such as loans, but solely with the problem of production.

The Committee is also of the opinion that in the distribution of labour and materials to the building industry there must be room for allocation to areas which, by reason of extensive war damage or special needs, were unable to function effectively without outside aid.

One of the principal difficulties in the way of proper planning is the delay caused by legal operations in the compulsory acquisition of land. Although expedited procedure is now available in the case of areas of war damage which will be of primary importance in the post-war years, the difficulties of the acquisition of land in general will remain. Additional legal powers are needed, for example, to enable local authorities and private developers and authorized associations, jointly to obtain by compulsory purchase, and subsequently to develop, housing sites outside the boundaries of the local authority concerned.

*At present it is necessary for a private builder or owner to get sanction from no less than seven Ministries. If the procedure is adopted after the war, it can only result in chaos, with disastrous effects on any building programme.*

The Committee hopes that one of the advantages to be gained by the establishment of Regional Councils will be to render it necessary for one application only to be made in connection with all new construction. In addition to the building of new houses undertaken by the local authorities and by private enterprise, it would perhaps be possible, in special cases where a large amount of shelter was required in a short time, for additional work to be undertaken by architects and builders under the aegis of the Regional Councils.

The Committee is further of the opinion that the difficulties of the provision of housing have not been explained to the public in the same way as the difficulties relating to food and clothing.

#### ECONOMICS.

If cheap housing is to be provided on an ever-increasing scale, until a stabilized annual output is assured, certain basic facts must be recognized.

The problem is not unlike that of the provision of munitions:—

1. Organization of the production centres of the necessary materials either basic or prefabricated.
2. The recruitment and training of an adequate labour supply of the particular type required for the specific problems.

If the organization of the supply of materials and labour is on the right lines, the output of traditional houses will be in an ever-increasing ratio.

But materials must always be in advance of labour.

An analysis of the rapidly spiralling prices of houses from 1919 to 1921, when the peak was reached, shows that one of the main causes of this increase (on an average from £750 to £1,000 in urban and suburban areas and from £860 to £1,250 in rural areas for similar houses which cost £350 and £360 in 1914) was the uncertain and unequal distribution of materials. The evidence before the Committee was to the effect that in many jobs men were kept idle because of the non-delivery of materials.

One consequence was that the next time a builder tendered for a local authority job he increased his price.

Another cause was the fact that most of the housing in the early years was carried out through the machinery of the local authorities, whose responsibility was limited to the amount obtained through a penny rate, the difference being found by the Government.

In effect, there was only one purchaser (or consumer) of houses and, although building firms ostensibly competed with each other, as the basic conditions were the same, there was in the result no real competition.

*Experience is part of the national wealth and experience is the commodity which all governments tend to waste.*

A case in point is the reliance on prefabricated houses as a major solution or the problem; and here a broad distinction must be drawn between the complete prefabrication of the house on factory lines, leaving the minimum of assembly of the parts on the site and the prefabrication of the component parts.

Prefabrication of component parts such as doors, windows, fireplaces, sanitary units, represented approximately 40 per cent. of the 1937-1939 house.

This process should be developed and encouraged as much as possible and with a minimum of standard types of units.

Prefabrication of the complete house should also be proceeded with as an auxiliary help to production, but it must be remembered that any system of prefabrication must stand the test of time, which is the only test which can be entirely conclusive, and a quantitative programme can only be satisfactorily built up as experience shall determine.

Out of the number of prefabricated systems that were tried during the years between the two wars, there are a small number that could be reasonably followed in principle.

After the last war there were cases where prefabricated houses were produced at a cost of £750 when the traditional house was costing £1,000. But the prefabricated house remained at £700 to £750, when the comparable type spiralled down to £600, and ultimately to £400-£450. There are some objections to this type of construction from the economic angle; the unusual construction antagonizes traditional labour, and the rigidity of the framework, or containing walls of the house, limits production, if it is to be economical, to a few prescribed types.

Costing is a very important element in production. For example, if there are ten doors to a house, and 2s. can be saved on each door, this is a saving of £1 per house, or £4,000,000 on the Government's ten-year programme. This argument applies to the design and production of all component parts. Unpopularity of type is also an expensive element in house production, as this means the rejection of types, on which experience has been gained.

Quick, and therefore economic building, depends to a large extent on the operatives gaining experience and thence speed on

definite types; but there must be reasonable variety.

An economic factor, perhaps not sufficiently recognized, is the relation of the building programme to the regional disposition of the building trade.

There are some 83,000 separate firms in this country at the present time. Many of them only consist of one man firms—chiefly engaged on repairs and decoration—and depending on any enlarged capacity of output on casual recruitment.

At the other end of the scale are a comparatively few firms normally employing 500 or more operatives.

It can be assumed that there are some 25,000 firms which can deal with house production. The regional disposition of these firms is all important in any plan for production. The reason being that as men in the building trade are released from the Forces they will gravitate for the most part to their home towns, or villages, and offer themselves to their old firms.

Generally speaking, the numbers of these men will be in proportion to the sizes of the localities in which their homes are situated. Any deviations from these conditions will require special consideration.

The most difficult problem of all for the supply of labour is the new town. Next in degree of difficulty is the town which undergoes, for various reasons, undue rapidity of growth, or the town which has suffered extensive damage through enemy action.

The problem of the supply of materials also has some relation to the regional centres of production of such materials. Where good and reasonably cheap materials are to be found regionally, they may prove more economical than those that have to be transported over long distances. With the release of army lorries and trucks on the cessation of hostilities, there should be a reasonably adequate supply, but tyres may be a difficulty.

Another extremely important factor in house-production is site organization.

Opinion differs as to the most economical unit for house production considered in terms of the number of operatives for one operation; but the evidence appears to indicate that a figure of about 200 is the generally agreed optimum.

Beyond this figure directional and overhead charges tend to increase out of proportion to the result.

Houses built in very small numbers will always be more expensive in proportion.

If private enterprise is to be utilized, and it is difficult to see how the housing problem can be solved in reasonable time without such utilization, there must be some financial bridge between the stabilized prices likely to ensure after the difficulties of the first two years have been overcome.

From the evidence submitted it would appear that as far as house production is concerned this stabilized price, which may be assumed will obtain for, say, a period of ten years with slight variations, appears to be about 50 per cent. above prices ruling in 1939.

Any difference, therefore, between this stabilized price (which should be reviewed from time to time) and the actual cost of houses in the early years of production, must be overcome by some form of subsidy.

#### FINDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE.

The Committee realizes that the supply of materials and the availability of labour and organization are so much part of economics that the report must be considered as a whole, although for the sake of convenience the various aspects have been summarized under the different headings.

The specific findings of the Committee are:—

1. (a) From the evidence given it would appear to the Committee that with proper organization and with the adequate release of labour there should be sufficient

supplies of well-ried materials, with the probable exception of timber, to meet the requirements of a building programme of approximately 200,000 completed houses in two years after the European war. This also applies to fittings and the majority of component parts.

(b) It must, however, be realized that this programme will be one of increasing output from small beginnings at the initiation to a maximum at the end of the second year.

(c) There was evidence before the Committee that there had been little or no forward buying of timber either on the part of the Government or private individuals. It may be that this is impossible and that there will be only a very small amount of timber available; but if forward buying is possible, the Committee consider it should be treated as a matter of extreme urgency.

(d) If the fact has to be accepted that very little or no timber will be available during the first two years, then the only alternative, in the opinion of the Committee, is concrete, either solid or in the form of pre-cast beams, rafters, etc.

(e) As regards the finishings, provision in the case of floors could be made in the design for the laying of wood block flooring at a later date. It would also be possible to provide alternative materials for the construction of pitched roofs, such as steel trusses.

(f) It appears to the Committee that there may be a shortage of clay tiles, both hand-made and machine-made, but from the evidence it appeared that there should be an adequate supply of cement and asbestos tiles under favourable conditions.

(g) The evidence also appeared to indicate that there might be a shortage of baths and possibly other light castings. If this is so, it might mean that for a time houses would have to be built without baths, which would have to be added afterwards.

2. (a) The Committee places considerable importance on the differentiation between precision workers and labour sufficiently trained to deal with house production under adequate supervision. In the Government scheme, in which 20 months is given as the time for the complete training of an apprentice, it is stated that he should be available for work of a less skilful character at the end of four months. In other words, the Committee draws clear distinction between labour capable of simple tasks, such as the building of small houses and what might be called precision or fully trained labour able to deal with larger and more complex buildings. This would apply to such trades as bricklaying, plastering, concreting, etc.

(b) There is one trade, however, which even in a small house is of a precision nature, viz., plumbing, and every encouragement should be given to the prefabrication of plumbing and hot-water units. Evidence from one firm of well-known heating and sanitary engineers states that they are turning out 300 such units per week and are in a position to increase this output considerably.

(c) Other questions affecting labour have been dealt with in the body of the report.

3. The Committee welcomed the Minister of Works' statement that the policy of providing temporary housing has, in the main, been abandoned and that the emphasis is to be placed on houses of a permanent character. The Committee is of the opinion that the Government would be wise to rely for the bulk of its permanent housing on those built of well-ried materials, concrete and reinforced concrete being included in this category.

4. The Committee regards prefabrication as a long-term policy which will supplement, and possibly in the course of time take the place of, well-ried methods of building. All new construction, whether of houses, ships or motor-cars, has to be

submitted to the test of time. Elements of weakness in otherwise satisfactory systems can be corrected.

5. The Committee is of the opinion that it is essential to employ both municipal and private enterprise if the solution of the housing problems is to be speedy and economical.

6. The Committee understands that there is sufficient land already cleared under town planning procedure distributed throughout the country for at least 250,000 houses; and it is of the opinion that, if properly administrated, planning could proceed *pari passu* with the speediest production of housing that is possible of attainment. It is of the opinion that, with proper direction from the Government, a reasonably high standard of architectural values is possible. From evidence submitted it would appear that, where private enterprise works with architectural advice, it will produce a higher standard of design than local authorities working without such advice.

## TDA and RIBA Housing Report

The attention of the Timber Development Association has been drawn to certain extracts relating to post-war timber supplies in the REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING PRODUCTION OF the RIBA, which, says the TDA, do not give a correct view.

The report states that it is understood that very little timber can be expected from Canada and the United States, whereas in fact it is reported that a substantial contract has been made by the Ministry of Supply with Canada for the supply of considerable quantities of timber during the next two years.

It is also common knowledge that the United States has arranged to supply under Lease-Lend a number of prefabricated wooden houses to this country; this in addition to the supplies of timber they are delivering under Lease-Lend.

Finland has not been largely devastated by the War, and in fact it is reported that a deputation from the Ministry of Supply has recently negotiated a substantial contract in that country for the supply of timber as soon as the Baltic is free from enemy shipping.

As has also been stated in the papers over the week-end a deputation led by the Timber Controller is at the present moment in Sweden to negotiate similar substantial contracts of timber.

It should be further pointed out that the supplies of softwood timbers were additionally supplemented from other countries throughout the world, i.e., Brazil, etc., and these countries are more or less unaffected by the War, and undoubtedly we will be able, as in the past, to considerably supplement supplies.

One must also not lose sight of the fact that such countries as Finland, Poland, Russia and Sweden always used considerable quantities of timber in their housing programmes, and yet were still able to supply this country and others with their requirements.

There is, of course, little doubt that some restrictions on timber will remain in force for a period after the War, but as industry swings back from war to peacetime production, supplies of timber—of all kinds—will increase very rapidly.

It would be interesting to learn from what source the RIBA obtained certain of the information on which its statements are based, as they are not in accordance with the latest facts in the possession of the Timber Development Association.

## RIBA and CSI War Damage

In view of the many letters received by the RIBA and the Chartered Surveyors' Institution, the Councils of the two bodies have made joint representations to Sir Malcolm Trustram Eve, Bt., as Chairman of the London Repairs Executive and Chairman of the War Damage Commission, on the effect which the present policy as to war damage repairs in the London area is having on the members of the two professions and the community generally. The following letter (dated January 11) and memorandum were accordingly sent to Sir Malcolm Trustram Eve.

Dear Sir,—The Royal Institute of British Architects and the Chartered Surveyors' Institution have received a great volume of letters of complaint, which go to indicate a widespread sense of dissatisfaction in connection with the present policy as to war damage repairs in the London area. At the request of our Councils, the small joint committee of representatives appointed to consider suggestions for the revision of the scale of, war damage fees have also been instructed to send you the following memorandum.

I am instructed to ask whether representatives of the Royal Institute and the Chartered Surveyors' Institution may attend upon you in order to explore the possibilities of achieving a more effective use of the services and abilities of the professions which we represent, in the hope that the interests of the community and our clients may be better served.

In regard to the following memorandum, and in particular paragraph 7 thereof, the Chartered Surveyors' Institution desires to acknowledge the efforts made by the War Damage Commission in regard to the utilisation of quantity surveying services for war damage repairs in the London Civil Defence Region. But as regards Architects and Surveyors, other than Quantity Surveyors, the position would appear to be as stated.—Yours faithfully, Michael Waterhouse (Hon. Secretary RIBA, Chairman of Special Joint Committee of the RIBA and CSI).

### WAR DAMAGE REPAIRS IN THE LONDON AREA: Joint Memorandum by the RIBA and CSI.

The regulation requiring the issue of a licence for building work costing over £10 is having a disastrous effect in preventing the employment of architects and surveyors on the work of repairing bomb damage.

Many architects and surveyors are retained by building owners in peacetime to maintain properties in sound structural condition; hitherto where such properties have been damaged by enemy action, building owners have employed their regular architects and surveyors to assess the damage, to make out claims and to effect repairs. Other property owners who do not so retain architects or surveyors have employed consultants for this work. In consequence, during the course of the war many architects and surveyors have become expert in the assessing of damage and in effecting both temporary and permanent repairs. Thus the two professions contain a considerable aggregate of technical skill in this special class of building work—a class which is the one most needed by the public at the present time. The effect of this regulation is not only to deny to the public the use of this body of expert skill, but to deprive these architects and surveyors of their main

# CAST IRON IS A BUILDING PROPOSITION



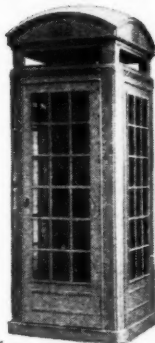
*Above :* Cast Iron Panels in the bays of the new Adelphi Building on the Embankment, London.

*Architects:* Messrs. Colcutt & Hamp, F.F.R.I.B.A.

*Contractors :* Gee Walker & Slater.

*Windows :* Crittall Manufacturing Co.

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Thousands of miles of pipes and gutters, millions of stoves and fireplaces, and such familiar everyday things as letter and telephone boxes are made of cast iron. But there are hundreds of other uses in modern building for this old, tried, but up-to-date material. One example is shown here: there are many others.

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## 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*

source of income because, other than for the Government, building work is now practically non-existent.

The complaints are as follows:—

1. Where architects and surveyors had made surveys and prepared schedules for temporary repairs, immediately prior to the issue of the regulation, the work so specified could not be proceeded with even though work was about to begin. In many cases essential repair work was delayed for weeks, during which time the autumn rains caused extensive damage to the properties affected.

2. It would seem that fees for this work are not recoverable from the War Damage Commission, unless the provisions as to fees allowable for abandoned work, as published in the RIBA Journal of September, 1943, are allowed to rank in these cases. Such work and fees may be considered in the case of large buildings. The building owner has thus become liable to pay the fees out of his own pocket.

3. Local authorities, having become responsible for temporary repairs, have proceeded to execute them in practically all cases without reference to the original schedules and frequently in direct opposition to the expressed needs of the building owners. In some other cases, however, local authorities have asked to borrow the original schedules and even asked the responsible architect or surveyor to "keep an eye" on the work, though without any proposal for remuneration.

4. The standard of repairs done by local authorities where damage is great cannot, in view of the emergency, be a high one. In many cases temporary repair work has been indifferently specified and supervised, with the result that the executed work has been shoddy. An assurance is needed that the full cost of the replacement of defective work will be borne by the War Damage Commission. Even where an architect or

surveyor is permanently retained to maintain buildings, he has no jurisdiction whatever over the labour employed and no say in the nature and quality of the work on the building for which he is responsible. In many cases also there has been serious waste of time and labour by the haphazard way in which these have been employed. Proper co-ordination and supervision by the architect or surveyor would have made for speed, efficiency and economy.

5. In many cases serious structural damage has been concealed by temporary repairs carried out by local authorities—damage for which they will probably disclaim responsibility and a claim in respect of which would almost certainly be repudiated by the War Damage Commission.

6. In some cases work beyond the first-aid stage, even up to complete reinstatement, including in some cases decorations, has been done by local authorities.

7. The denial to the public of the services of architects and surveyors who are expert in this work has thrown an unnecessary volume of work on the already overburdened staffs of local authorities with consequent delay in the execution of repairs.

The Chairman of the War Damage Commission held a meeting with representatives of the RIBA, the Chartered Surveyors' Institution, and the Auctioneers' and Estate Agents' Institute on February 9, at which he dealt with the points raised.

The following letter has been received by Michael Waterhouse (Hon. Sec., RIBA) from Sir Malcolm Trustram Eve.

DEAR MR. WATERHOUSE.—At the close of the meeting which I had here with the representatives of the professional institutions on February 9, 1945, you suggested that it would be helpful to the profession to have in writing an expression of the Commission's views on two points.

The first was the position of the owner in regard to the replacement of work being carried out by the Local Authorities in London at the present time, particularly in regard to the use of substitute materials. This is, of course, a most difficult subject on which to generalize. The Commission's liability, when the house is not a total loss, is to meet the reasonable cost of making the property as good as it was before the damage and where inferior substitutes have had to be used, which do not produce that result, these will be replaceable later at the Commission's expense. If, on the other hand, the material used, though not the same as the original, can fairly be regarded as effectively repairing the damage, the Commission would not pay again for the replacement. Obviously, however, it is impossible and, indeed, would be unfair, to attempt to lay down any general rule in advance, as so much depends upon the individual facts, and if the question is in doubt in any particular case, the Commission will be ready to consider the matter with the owner, when the time comes for replacement.

The second point was the question of fees where a specification had been prepared, but rendered nugatory by the reduction of the licensing limit to £10. That matter has been very carefully and fully considered by the Commission and they have been advised that the provisions of the War Damage Act do not permit the payment of fees in such circumstances. You will not expect me to comment further, but I may say that there are very many persons upon whom general war-time conditions have imposed loss of income or additional or nugatory expenditure for which no compensation is provided, and to endeavour to meet this particular hardship would raise very wide issues.—Yours sincerely, Malcolm Trustram Eve.

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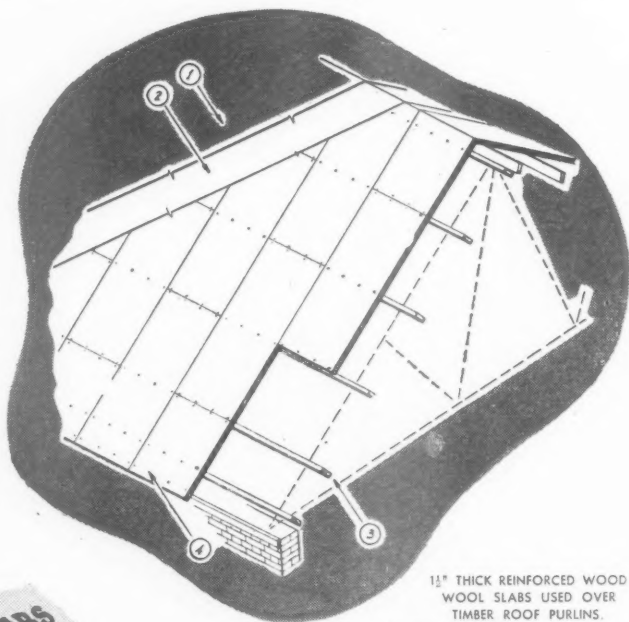
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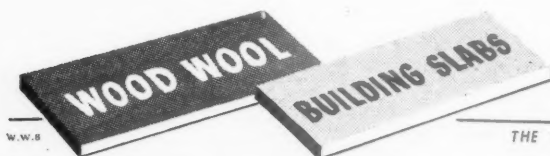
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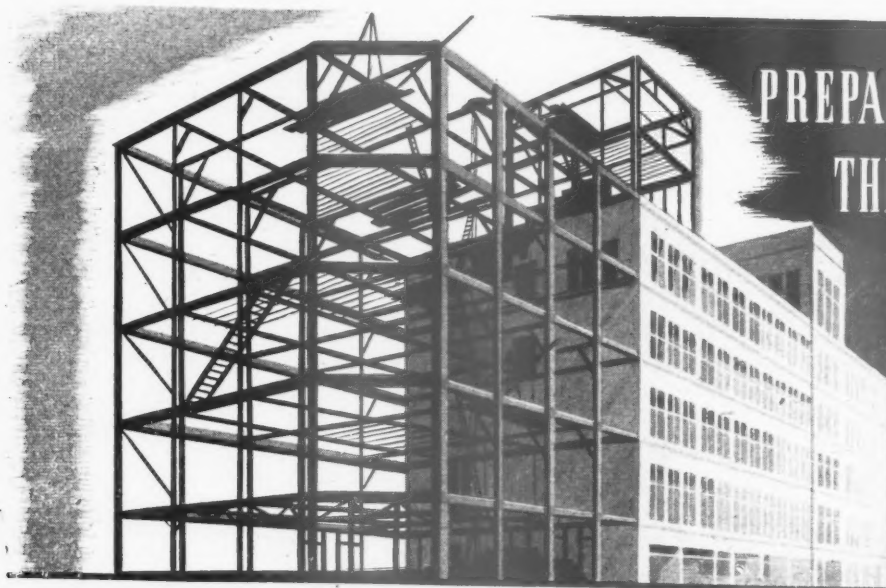


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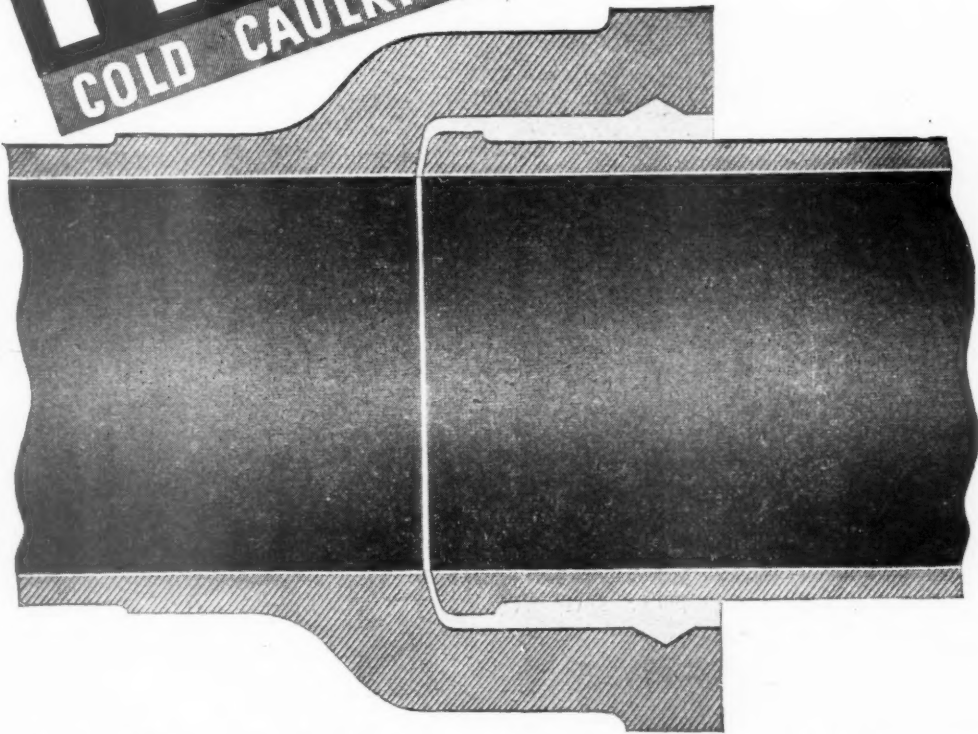
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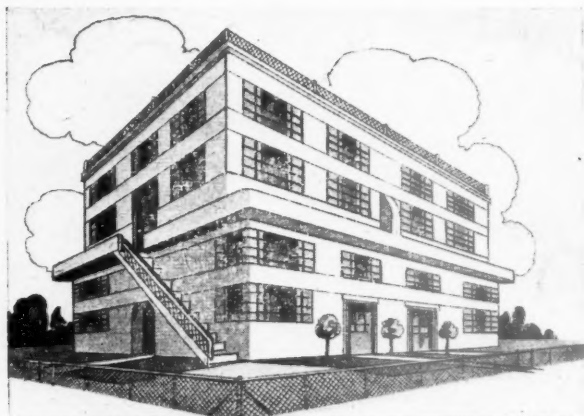
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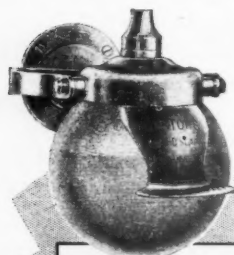
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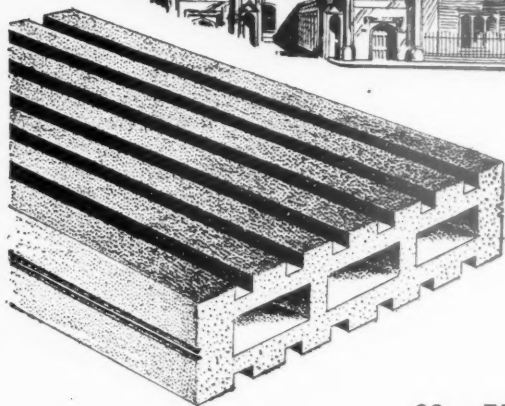
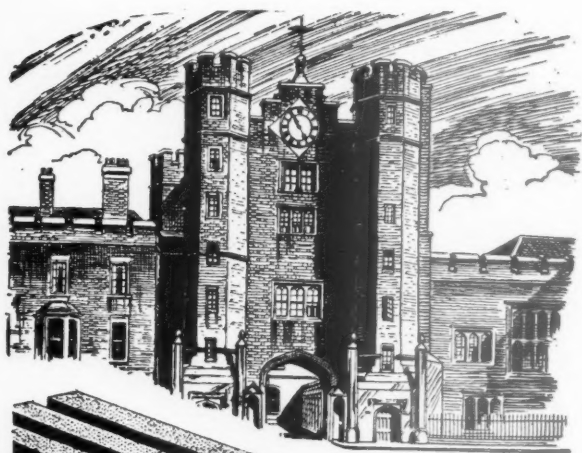
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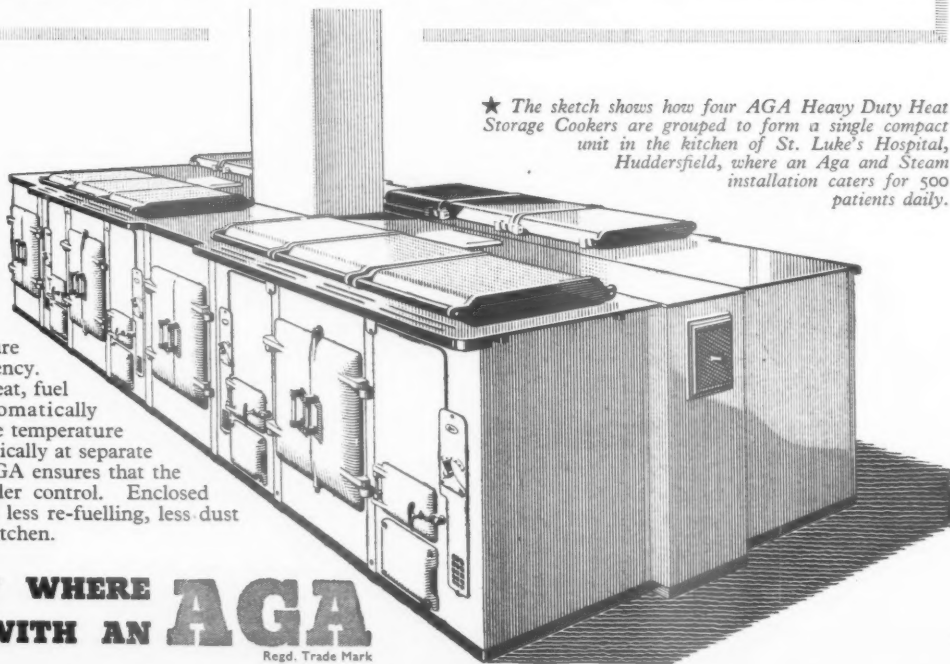
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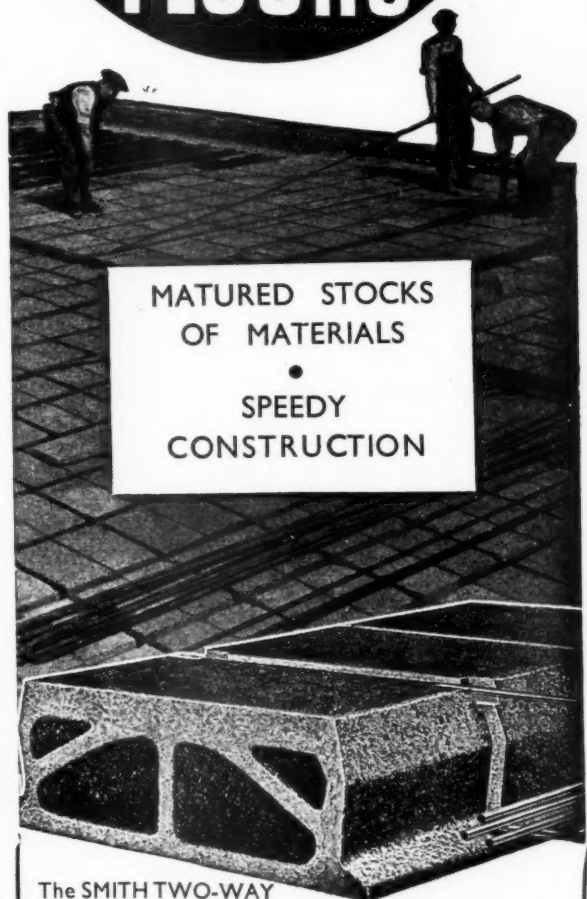
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(a) ARCHITECT (unestablished). Salary:—Man: £500 a year inclusive. Woman: £400 a year inclusive. Essential qualifications: (i) a recognised University Degree in Architecture or an equivalent academic qualification, and (ii) satisfactory practical experience in the design and construction of Hospitals.

(b) ARCHITECTURAL INSPECTOR (established). Salary scale:—Man: £400-£415-£500 a year, plus bonus. Woman: £300-£310-£400 a year, plus bonus. Essential qualifications: (i) a recognised University Degree in Architecture or an equivalent academic qualification, and (ii) satisfactory practical experience in the design, construction, and layout of Dwellings.

Age limits for both posts: 28-40 years on 1st March, 1945, with extension in certain circumstances.

Latest time for accepting completed application forms: 5.15 p.m. on the 13th April, 1945. 615

## ESSEX EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

SOUTH-WEST ESSEX TECHNICAL COLLEGE AND SCHOOL OF ART, FOREST GATE, WALTHAMSTOW, E.17.

## DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE AND BUILDING.

Applications are invited for the HEADSHIP of this Department. Candidates should have substantial qualifications of Building and related subjects, together with responsible teaching experience. Industrial experience will be a recommendation. The successful candidate will be expected to take an active interest in the corporate life of the College.

The salary scale proposed is £700, by annual increments of £25 to a maximum of £800, plus war bonus, subject to readjustment in the light of any arrangements which may finally be decided with regard to the remuneration of Heads of Departments in Technical Colleges, as from the 1st April, 1945.

Application forms and further particulars obtainable by sending stamped addressed envelope, should be returned to the undersigned by 14th April.

B. E. LAWRENCE,

Chief Education Officer.

County Offices, Chelmsford.

632

## THE SOANE MUSEUM.

Applications (Architects only) for the vacant CURATORSHIP, addressed to the President and Council of the Royal Academy, must be delivered at the Museum on or before Tuesday, 10th April, 1945. Intending applicants can obtain particulars by writing to the Curator-in-Charge at the Museum, 13, Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C., by order of the Trustees. 624

## ABERDEEN COUNTY COUNCIL.

### COUNTY ARCHITECT AND PLANNING OFFICER.

Applications are invited for the post of County Architect and Planning Officer. Applicants should be Architects, preferably with a planning qualification, and should have had practical experience in the whole-time service of a Local Authority.

Salary will be on a scale rising by £50 per annum from £1,000 to £1,200 per annum, plus J.I.C. war increase. The post is superannuable, and medical examination is essential. Further details as to the duties, terms, and conditions of appointment may be obtained from the undersigned, with whom applications, stating age, experience, and present post, should be lodged (together with one copy of not more than three testimonials) not later than 14th April, 1945.

CHAS. HORNAL,

County Clerk.

County Buildings, Aberdeen.

24th March, 1945.

625

## FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

### APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY ASSISTANT ARCHITECT.

Applications are invited for the appointment of a Temporary Assistant Architect in the County Architect's Department. The duties will include the Survey of existing Schools and the preparation of plans and estimates of work necessary to make present buildings conform to the New Education Act. Preference will be given to Chartered Architects.

Salary will be in accordance with qualifications. Applications, stating age, qualifications, and previous experience, together with copies of three recent testimonials, should reach the undersigned by not later than Monday, 16th April, 1945. Applicants should state their position in regard to Military Service.

R. G. WHITLEY, A.M.I.C.R., L.R.I.B.A.,

County Architect.

Ref. RGW/AEC.

County Buildings, Mold.

21st March, 1945.

620

## CITY OF PORTSMOUTH.

### APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY CITY ARCHITECT.

Applications are invited for the above appointment in the Department of the City Architect, at a salary of £700 per annum, rising, subject to satisfactory service, by annual increments of £50 to £850 per annum, plus cost of living bonus, at present £1 3s. per week.

Candidates should be members of the Royal Institute of British Architects, and should have wide experience in the design and carrying out of important architectural works, including housing schemes, hospitals, schools, and other municipal buildings.

The appointment will be subject to three calendar months' notice on either side, and to the provisions of the Local Government Superannuation Act, 1937. The person appointed will be required to pass a medical examination.

All increments take effect on the 1st April in each year, the first one on the above scale being payable 1st April, 1946. Appointments are subject to the Council's Sick Pay Regulations, a copy of which the successful candidate will be required to sign. By a resolution the City Council, all wartime appointments are temporary.

Applications, stating age, qualifications, previous and present appointments, present salary, full details of experience, and date when available, together with copies of three recent testimonials, should be sent to the undersigned, clearly endorsed "Deputy City Architect," not later than Thursday, the 19th April, 1945.

Canvassing will be a disqualification.

FREDERICK SPARKS,

Town Clerk.

Royal Beach Hotel, Southsea, Hants.

19th March, 1945.

614

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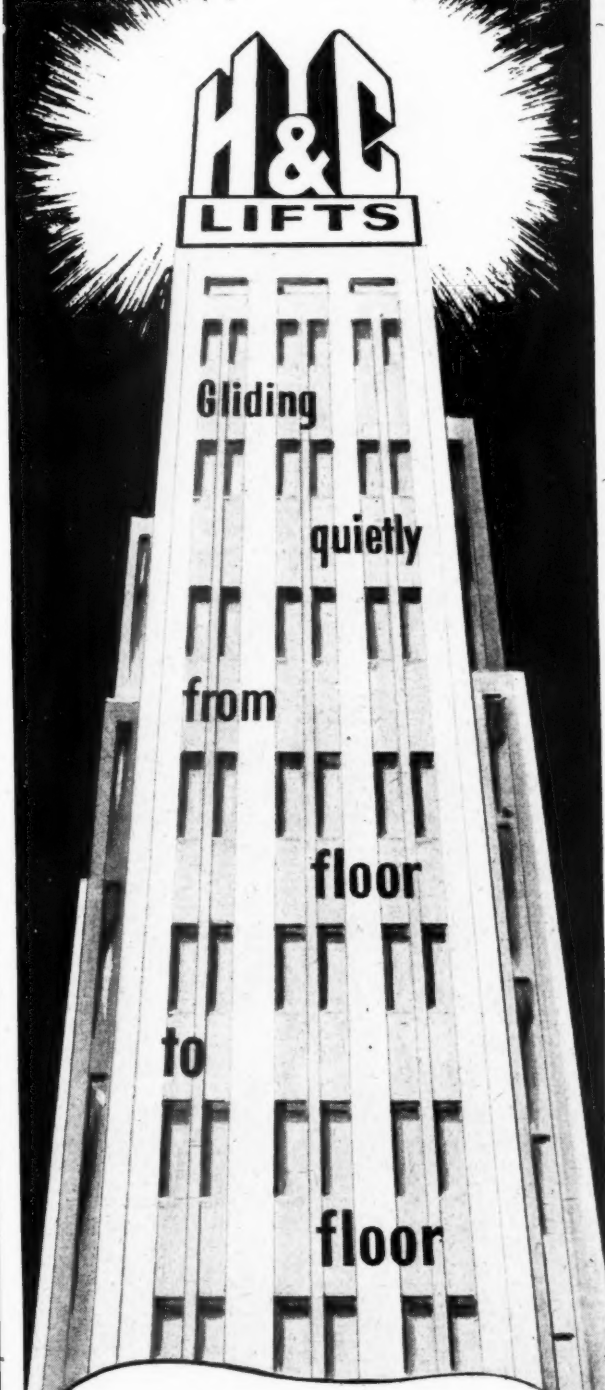
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## CITY OF PORTSMOUTH.

## CITY ARCHITECT'S DEPARTMENT.

Applications are invited for the following appointments in the Department of the City Architect:

## (a) NINE ASSISTANT ARCHITECTS.

Applicants should be Members of the Royal Institute of British Architects. Salary £350-£510 per annum, according to qualifications and experience.

## (b) THREE ASSISTANT ARCHITECTS.

Applicants should be Members of the Royal Institute of British Architects. The commencing salary is £330 per annum, rising to £375 by annual increments of £15.

## (c) FOUR ASSISTANT ARCHITECTS.

Applicants should have passed the Intermediate Examination of the Royal Institute of British Architects. The commencing salary is £255 per annum, rising to £315 by annual increments of £15.

## (d) SPECIFICATION WRITER.

Applicants should be Members of the Royal Institute of British Architects and/or the Chartered Surveyors' Institute, with considerable experience in the preparation of specifications for Civic Buildings. The commencing salary is £450 per annum, rising to £510 by annual increments of £20.

The appointments will, in every case, be subject to the provisions of the Local Government Superannuation Act, 1937, and the successful applicants will be required to pass a medical examination.

All increments take effect on the 1st April in each year, the first one on the above scales being payable 1st April, 1946. Salaries are supplemented by war bonus of £1 3s. per week. Appointments are subject to the Council's Sick Pay Regulations, a copy of which the successful candidates will be required to sign. Appointments will be terminable by one month's notice on either side. By a resolution of the City Council, all wartime appointments are temporary. Applications, stating age, qualifications, experience, and position with regard to military service, together with copies of three testimonials, must be delivered to the undersigned, clearly endorsed according to the post applied for, not later than Thursday, 19th April, 1945.

Canvassing will be a disqualification.

FREDERICK SPARKS.

Town Clerk.

Royal Beach Hotel, Southsea, Hants.  
17th March, 1945.

615

**BOROUGH OF WILLESDEN.—ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT** (temporary) required by Borough Engineer. Salary £400 per annum, plus £49 8s. per annum war bonus and overtime. 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 Refer. No. Q.R.96, should be addressed to the Ministry of Labour and National Service, Appointments Department A.3 (A), Sardinia Street, Kingsway, London, W.C.2.

628

**ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT**, temporary, required by the Borough of Havrich. Candidates must have been born before 1923, and have had experience in layout and design of modern Council housing estates; experience in reconstruction and remodelling of ancient buildings would be an advantage. Applicants must be registered architects, and preferably have town planning experience.

Salary £550 p.a., plus war bonus, at present £49 p.a.

Write, quoting EA.1056XA, to Ministry of Labour and National Service, Central (T. and S.) Register, Room 5/17, Sardinia Street, Kingsway, London, W.C.2, for application form, which must be returned completed by 10th April, 1945.

630

**PLANNING ASSISTANT**, temporary, required by the City of Winchester.

Candidates must have been born before 1923, and preferably A.M.T.P.I., having had previous experience, and be capable of generally assisting the City Engineer and Surveyor with a scheme of 51,000 acres.

Salary £375 basic, plus cost of living bonus (amounting to approx. £435 p.a.).

Applicants should write, quoting EA.1169XA, to the Ministry of Labour and National Service, Central Register, Room 5/17, Sardinia Street, Kingsway, W.C.2, for the necessary forms, which should be returned completed on or before 16th April, 1945.

618

**ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT**, permanent, required by the Borough of Chelmsford. Candidates must have been born before 1923. Preference will be given to Corporal Members of the R.I.B.A., and candidates must have had considerable experience in the design of Council houses, housing layouts, municipal buildings, etc. Salary £310 x £15 to £355, plus cost of living award (present rate 23s. per week). Appointment is terminable by one month's notice on either side.

Applicants should write, quoting EA.1351XA, 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 9th April, 1945.

627

**ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT**, permanent, required by the Corporation of Whitehaven.

Candidates must have been born before 1923, and should be A.R.I.B.A. or held equivalent qualification. Candidates should have general architectural experience, but must have had housing experience, and preference to persons with experience of preparing quantities.

Salary £320 to £350 p.a., plus war bonus, at present £59 16s. p.a.

The appointment is subject to the L.G.S. Act, 1937, and the successful candidate will be required to pass a medical examination.

Write, quoting EA.1222XA, to the Ministry of Labour and National Service, 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 10th April, 1945.

629

**ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT**, permanent, required by the Urban District of Gainsborough, Lincs.

Candidates must hold a recognised Architectural qualification, and engineering experience would be an advantage. Preference will be given to those with previous experience with a Local Authority.

Commencing salary £400 p.a., rising by £20 p.a. to £500 p.a., plus bonus, at present £59 16s. p.a.

The appointment is subject to the provisions of the L.G.S. Act, 1937, the successful candidate being requested to pass a medical examination.

Applicants should write, quoting EA.1230XA, 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 13th April, 1945.

626

## Architectural Appointments Vacant

Four lines or under, 4s.; each additional line, 1s.

Wherever possible prospective employers are urged to give in their advertisement full information about the duty and responsibilities involved, the location of the office, and the salary offered. The inclusion of the Advertiser's name in lieu of a box number is welcomed.

**WELL** qualified Architect's Assistant required in London Office for few months or longer. Box 617.

**ARCHITECT** and Quantity Surveyor's Assistant required at once. Reply, stating age and experience, to T. H. Thorpe, F.R.I.B.A., 23, St. James's Street, Derby.

613

**SENIOR ASSISTANT**, capable of taking out quantities with knowledge of building costs, and proficient draughtsman, required for office in Midlands; must be exempt from military service; permanent post for suitable man. Reply, stating salary and qualifications, to Box 606.

**PREFABRICATION.—ASSISTANT** wanted to take charge of Drawing Office dealing with Factory Production of Houses and Domestic Equipment; must have engineering as well as architectural experience. Chapman & Perry, 19, Buckingham Street, W.C.2. Tel.: Temple Bar 9096, Temple Bar 0711.

631

**ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT** required at once; good modern experience in licensed houses essential. Neat and accurate draughtsman, able to prepare sketches and all drawings. Scope for initiative in design. Write, stating age, experience, salary required, and references, also position under N.S. Acts, to J. S. Thomson, F.R.I.B.A., 68, Wimbledon Hill Road, S.W.19.

622

## Architectural Appointments Wanted

Advertisements from Architectural Assistants and Students seeking positions in Architects' offices will be printed in "The Architects' Journal" free of charge until further notice.

**ARCHITECT'S ASSISTANT** requires position in London on priority work. Box 473.

**A.R.I.B.A.** (39) offers part time services in London area; surveys, schemes and perspectives; wide experience. Box 474.

**ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT**, experienced domestic architecture and layout design, seeks spare time work. Box 472.

**ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT** (31) desires part-time or week-end work; fully experienced, survey, working drawings and perspectives; Bristol or West Country areas. Box 480.

**ARCHITECTURAL STUDENT**, studying for Inter. R.I.B.A., requires drawing experience; would do evening work for local architect in return for help with studies. Howells, 23, King Charles Road, Surbiton, Surrey.

479

**ARCHITECT'S ASSISTANT**, age 21, ex-R.A.F., seeks position with London Architect; 8 months in architect's office, and completing 2nd year course in architecture at the Polytechnic, Regent Street; free immediately. Box 476.

**ARCHITECT** (31) requires responsible position as Assistant, preferably with view to Partnership, in or near London; imaginative designer of schemes, layouts and detail; experience of up-to-date building methods. Box 471.

**ASSISTANT**, age 28, exempt N.S., neat, accurate, and essentially quick draughtsman, 5 years' school trained, 2 years' evening classes; excellent references; 6 years' professional experience, flats, housing, cinemas, breweries, conversions, surveys, details, perspectives, etc.; temporary engagement not objected; London area; salary £8 10s. per week. Edward Watkinson, 30, St. James Gardens, Holland Park, London, W.11.

477

## Other Appointments Wanted

Four lines or under, 2s. 6d.; each additional line, 6d.

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## Miscellaneous

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**R.I.B.A. and T.P. INST. EXAMS.** Private Courses of Tuition by correspondence arranged by Mr. L. Stuart Stanley, M.A., F.R.I.B.A., M.T.P.I. Tutor, 161, West Heath Road, N.W.3. Tel.: SPE. 5319.

415



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