ARCHI



standard

contents

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

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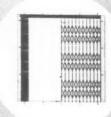
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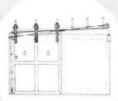
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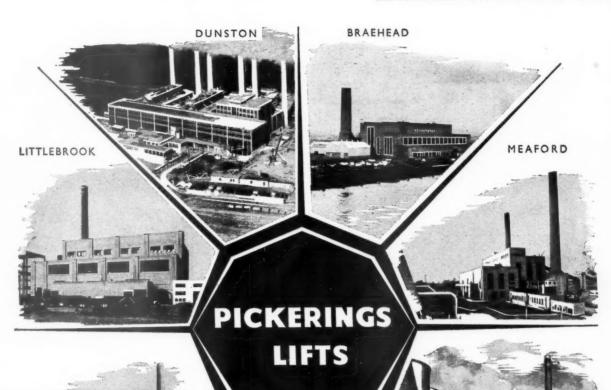
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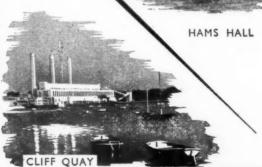


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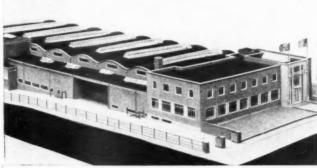
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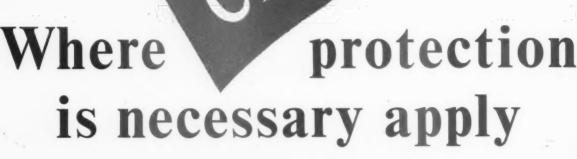
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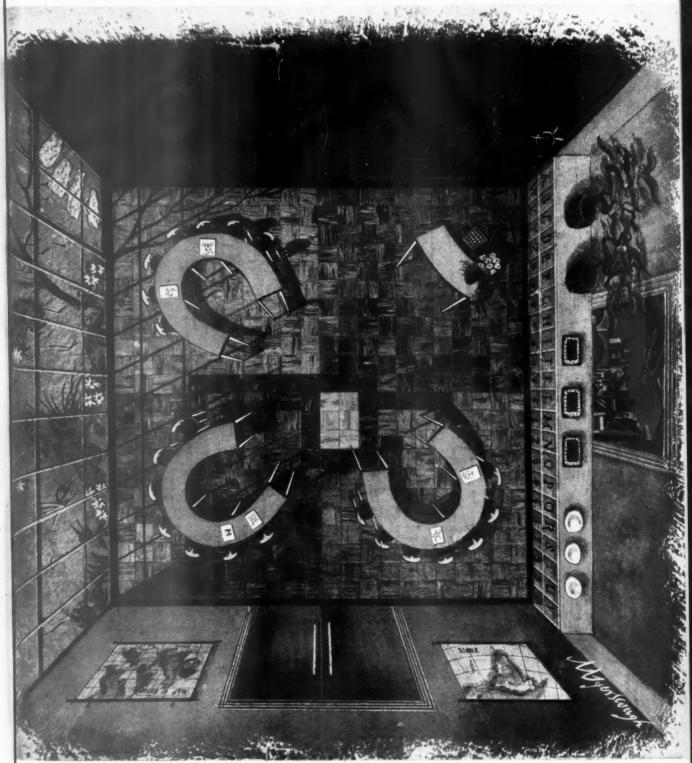
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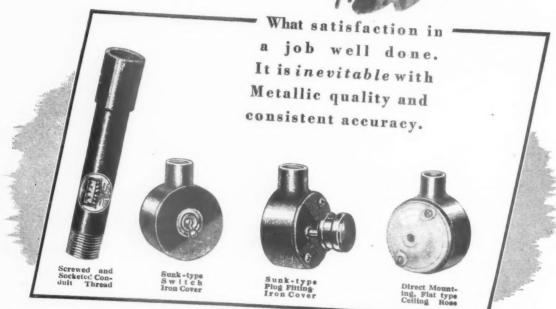
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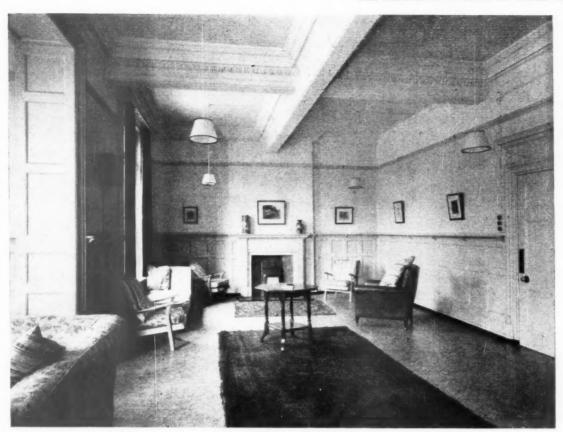
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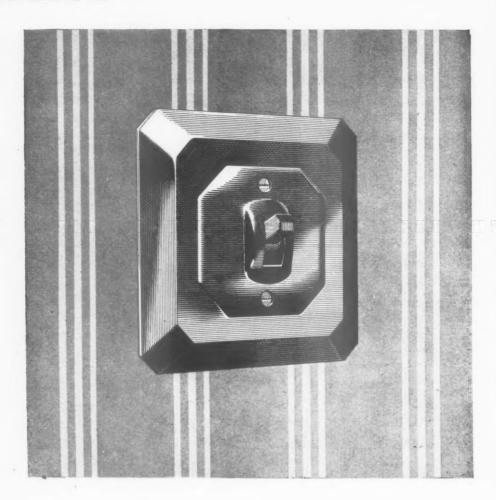
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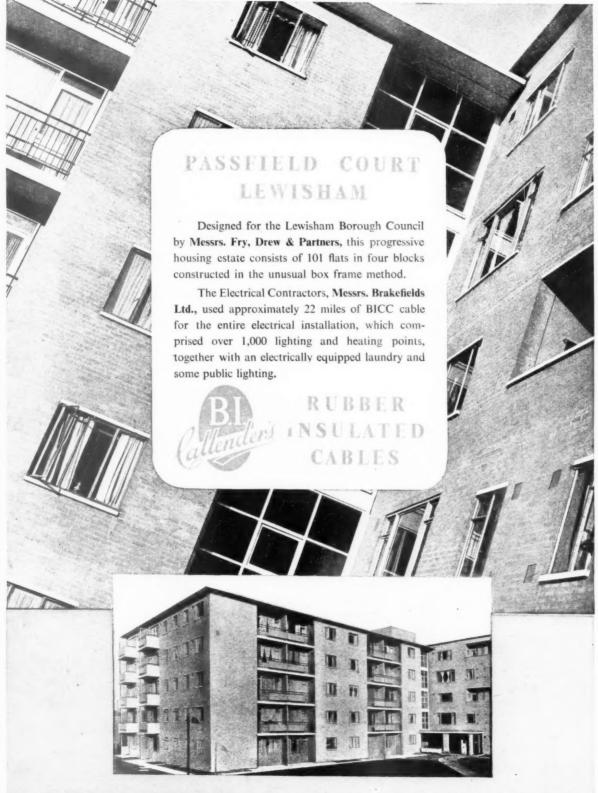
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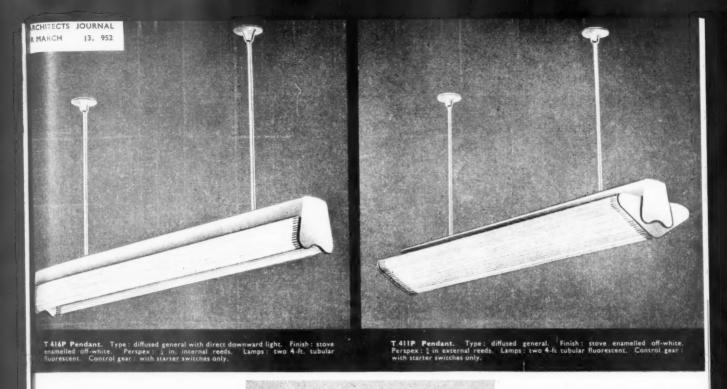
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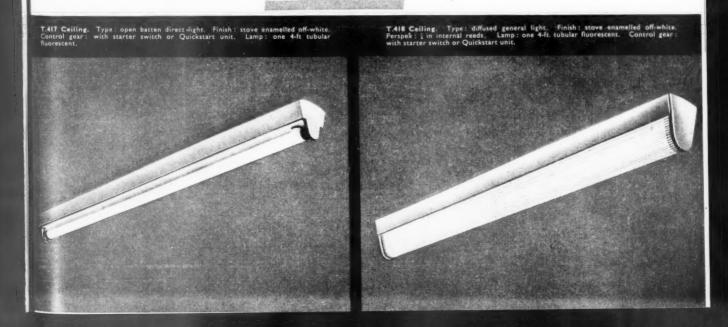
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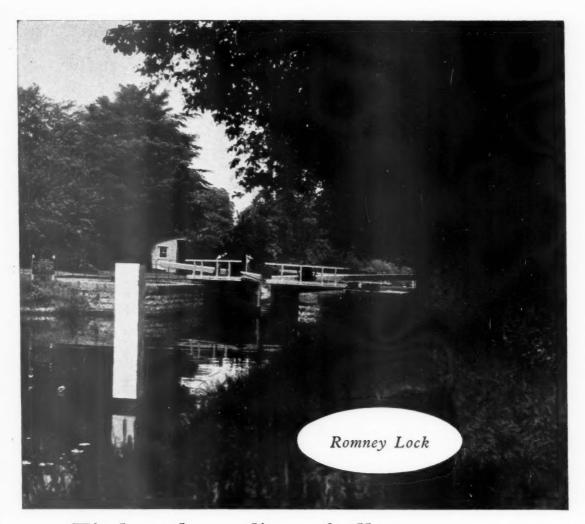
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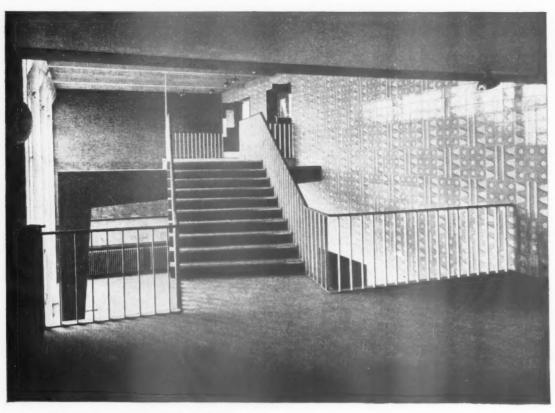


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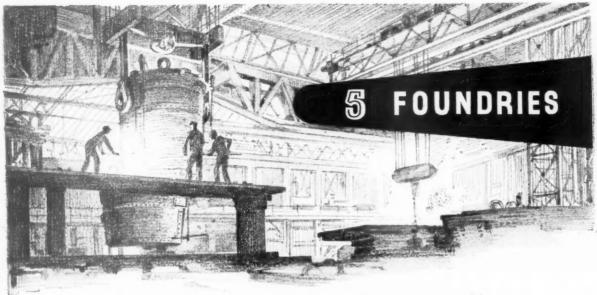
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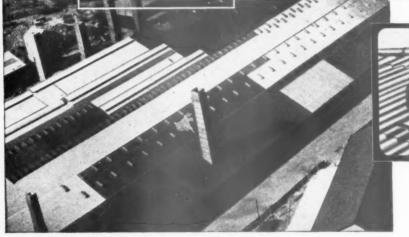
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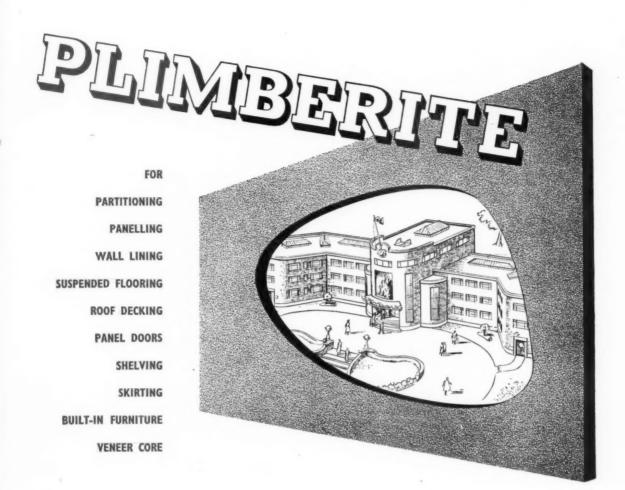
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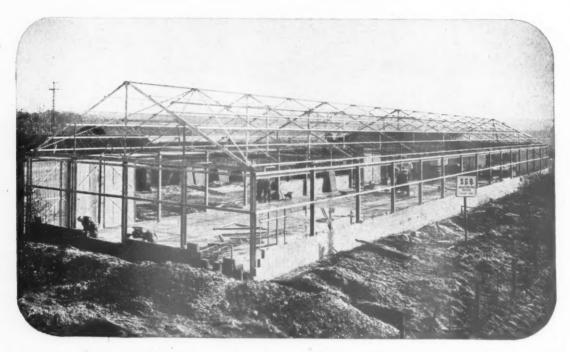
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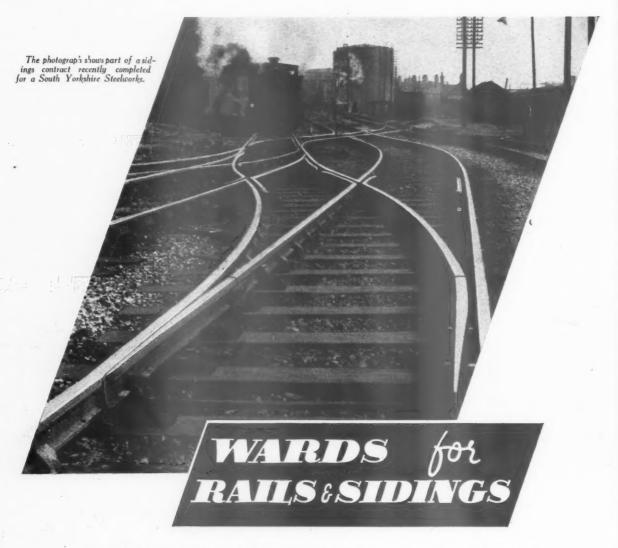
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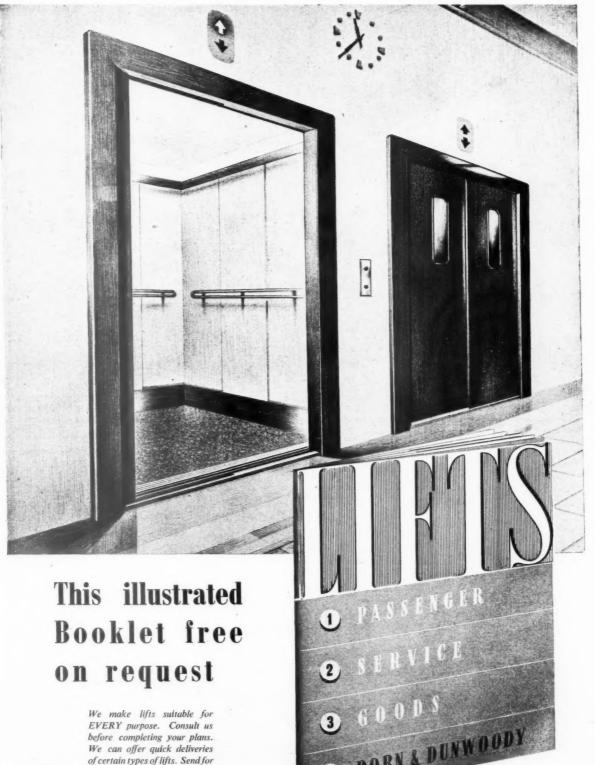
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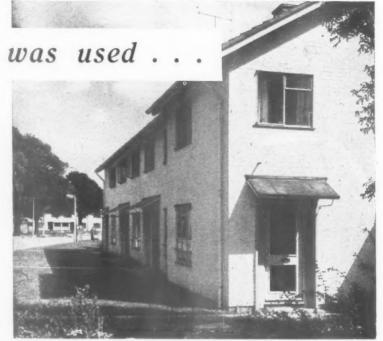
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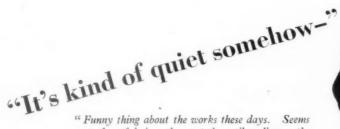
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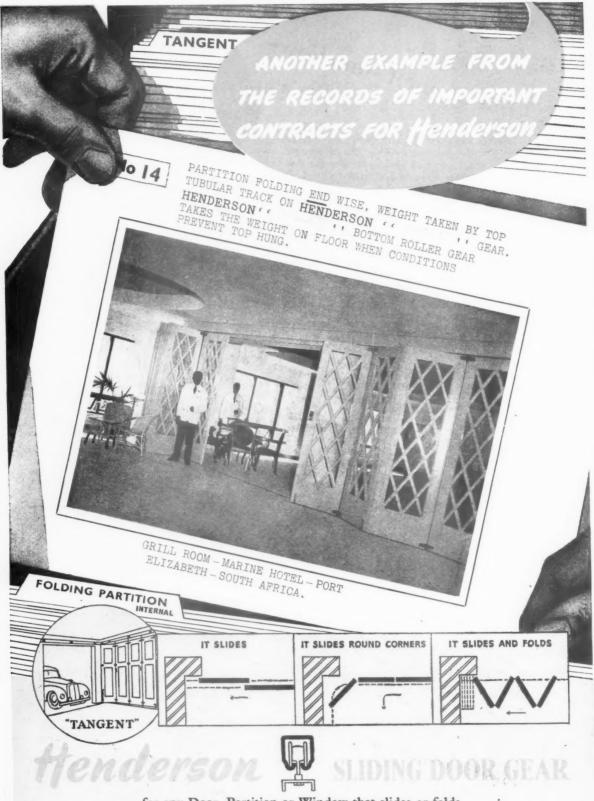


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No. 2976 MARCH 13, 1952 VOL 115



Most architects who go to the Ideal Home exhibition will probably make a bee-line in the direction of MOHLG's "Peoples Houses" and try to make up their minds whether it is really possible for a family of four to live in the 679 sq. ft. two-bedroom house. The furnishings by the Council of Industrial Design and others are much as one would expect, but it would be interesting to know what really happens when new tenants move into houses like this with family heirlooms which are too big for the rooms. One year the Daily Mail might even stage a local authority house as it is rather than as it might be.

The rest of the show is worth more than a casual glance. See the furniture by Heals, Dunns and Storeys and also

several new cookers on various stands, and spare a moment for the structure of the bandstand. A pleasant show with a reasonable degree of width in the gangways and, of course (Building Exhibition please note), grouped exhibits.

ITALIAN EXHIBITION

Now that the Building Centre is firmly installed in Store Street, we shall have at least two good places for architectural exhibitions-Store Street and Portland Place. This is a good thing. To compare the present Swedish show at the Building Centre (and, to be honest, there is nothing very new in it) with the Italian show which opens at the RIBA on March 21, will add piquancy to both. I suspect that the Italian work will be the more interesting-" interesting" being the operative word—as showing all those extraordinary contradictory qualities which are to be seen in Italy today; superb finish, great clarity of structure, very little scientific technique and vast social contradictions. It has not, I gather, been an easy exhibition to assemble, but it will almost certainly be one worth visiting. To open it will be the new Italian Ambassador's first job. A tribute must also be paid to the help which the Italian Institute has given to the RIBA. This Institute is barely a year old and has already made a place for itself in the life of London; anyone interested in the arts should take note of its activities.

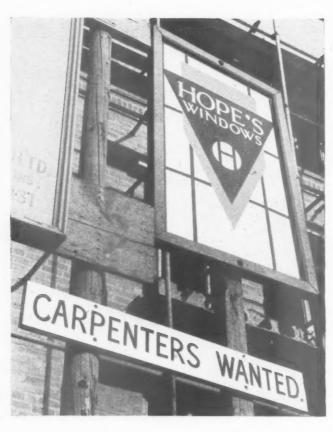
THE CRITICS

A letter from Donald Boyd of the BBC, about comments recently made in this column on the Critics' attempts to discuss architecture, is printed on page 326. ASTRAGAL welcomes his reasoned and courteous reply and,

in so far as he understands them, agrees wholeheartedly with his last paragraphs, and would be the last person to approve of anyone laying down the law in a discussion of this kind.

Mr. Boyd's definition of the purpose of the Critics' programme is admirable, but it is impossible to agree with one of the things he says. He says that it would be unfair to the profession of architecture that buildings should be judged only by the eye from outside. That would be perfectly true if a final judgment of the building were being attempted. For this purpose it would be necessary to go into its planning and functional services, the limitations the architect was faced with in the way of cost, legal restrictions, and so on. But by Mr. Boyd's own definition it is not the purpose of the BBC Critics to set up as authoritative judges. Their purpose is to help the man in the street to make up his mind about the value to him of a new production, whether in the field of art, the theatre, or literature.

Now to the man in the street the art of architecture is a visual art, and he has the right-indeed the duty-to judge it as such: that is, according to what he can see, irrespective of whatever technical or administrative facts and difficulties may lie behind. It is his city that is being changed in appearance (for better or worse) by the buildings he sees rising around him, and what architecture needs more than anything else is that he should form opinions (and express them) on the æsthetic quality of these new buildings. One always hopes that programmes like the Critics will encourage him to do so.



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BUSMAN'S HOLIDAY ?

The London public has, on the whole, considerable sympathy and affection for the untiring stop-and-start London bus driver and for his jostled, troddenon, stair-climbing conductor (although the latter's humour is not what it used to be). None, therefore, will grudge the opportunity which has been given to a selected few who sailed last week to drive three London buses across the United States and back again. (See photographs on the right.)

Two-decker buses, so commonplace to us, are, apparently, somewhat of a novelty over there, so they will be giving joy-rides at each stopping point, and, with our delightful English sense of fun, solemnly giving out "clipped" tickets. stating: "Greeting to the USA." The buses may well be a novelty to Americans in another way: they are perhaps the best designed public vehicles on the road today.

FUEL ECONOMY

"There is no such thing as a bad Aga," said a speaker at a public function the other night, "but occasionally there's something wrong with the buildings to which they are connected." High praise, perhaps, but on the whole deserved (Exception: the near-borax design of the unit shown on page 331). ASTRAGAL would like to be told, however, by some economist, at what point in a nation's economy it becomes worthwhile to indulge in high capital expenditure on solid fuel cookers and water heaters combined, for state housing, in order to achieve an eventual saving in running costs (to the user) and in the coal resources of the nation.

A SWARD RESTORED

Readers who walk often in St. James's Park may have noticed men digging up the rhododendron trees that were recently planted to form an avenue between the bridge and Birdcage Walk. They have now neatly covered each spot with grass and Nash's smooth green sward is fully restored.

Whether they noticed the operation or not, all architects will wish to join with me in congratulating the MOW.



Right, a display on the upper deck of a London bus which was one of three shipped to America last week to promote a "Come to Britain" campaign. Above, the lower deck, fitted as an information bureau. Designer: A. H. Stronell. Astragal comments below.



The park derives its beauty from the fact that it is an integrated piece of Regency landscaping, a subtle blend of uninterrupted ground surfaces and picturesquely disposed trees, surrounding the lake, dotted with islands, and can be easily spoilt by the introduction of alien types of embellishment—which the rhododendrons undoubtely were.

Their removal suggests that the Ministry does know what kind of work of art it has in its care, and leads us to look forward confidently to the other recent blemishes—like the clipping of the plane trees along the south side and the more obtrusive of the railings—being similarly dealt with.

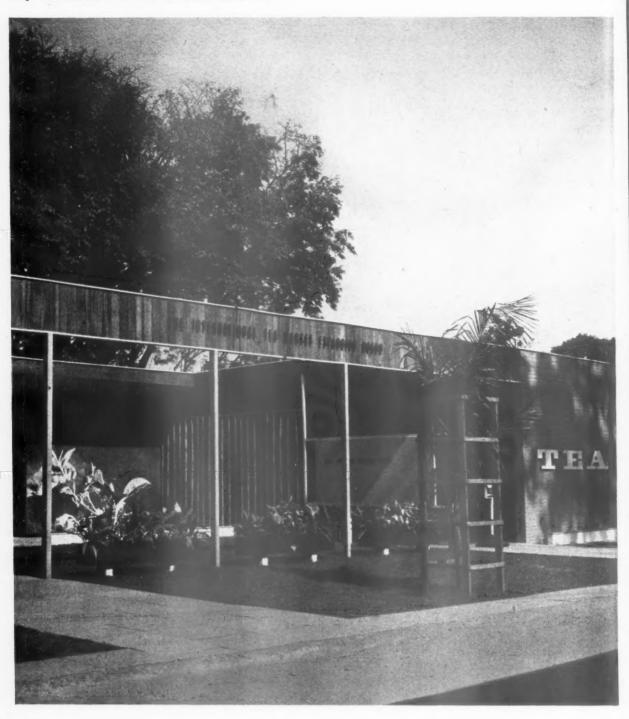
CHINOISERIE BROWN?

It is a rare nostalgic pastime to read a fully-reported debate on whether or not a new City Hall shall be the subject of a competition, yet such was the experi-

ence last week of readers of the *China Morning Post*. It is Hong Kong that wants a new hall, and the Hon. K. M. A. Barnett thinks that it should be neither Tuscan, Doric, Ionic nor Corinthian, but an example of "Hong Kong's own New Elizabethan Order."

Well, there is a good straight stylistic hint for Professor Gordon Brown, who is, apparently, to get the job. A competition was rejected since, as the Director of Public Works pointed out, the RIBA regulations are beset with difficulties for promoters who want to control the style of their own building. How right he is! He added that to give the Professor the job would have an additional advantage, since the fee would be paid to the University. The East always was inscrutable.

A further proposal by the Hon. C. E. Terry that a "panel of local architects be appointed and each entrusted with a



East Meets West at Colombo

The pavilion of the International Tea Market Expansion Board (seen in the photograph above) designed by Misha Black and John Diamond of the Design Research Unit (display, Gordon Andrews; site architects, Edwards, Reid and Begg) is by no means typical of the pavilions at the Colombo Exhibition. We seldom see examples of contemporary Asian architecture, but on page 333 are illustrated three pavilions at the Exhibition—those of Vietnam, the Maldive Islands and Laos—which give us some indication of the curious synthesis that is taking place in the architecture of the new countries of

Asia. The young architects of these countries are being reared on the architectural journals of the west, whilst their clients want to see on their buildings the folk-art symbols of their national aspirations. (Even if these have to be plaster dragons on corrugated-iron and plaster-board structures.) These pavilions reflect the general architectural problem of Asia, but there is every likelihood that the problem will eventually resolve itself into something fresher and more exciting than has yet emerged in twentieth-century Europe. (Exhibition's executive architect: T. N. Wynne-Jones; consultant, Misha Black.)

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detailed design of a part of the project "was turned down on the grounds that such a building might lack cohesion. There seems no end to the architectural wisdom of Hong Kong. Anyway, good-luck to GB with his City Hall.

REPERTORY

An interesting article in the *New Statesman* this week on the parlous state of some of the repertory theatres gives me an opportunity to say a word for a pet project of my own. In its heyday the repertory movement—which is now part of history—did pioneer work not only for the drama, but for stage design. Only the middle-aged can remember how bad West End sets were before the provincial repertory theatres set them an example.

Would it not be possible to stage a big exhibition showing the whole history, but more particularly the history of stage sets, in the repertory movement? Models exist, it is believed, of nearly all the work of that very considerable artist, Paul Shelving, who has for years done such excellent work for Barry Jackson. Similar work may be available at The Abbey in Dublin, and so on. Here is another possible exhibition for the Building Centre to lay on.

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You have one more week, I am told, to do what you intended to do last week; that is, to fill in an application form (page 347) for the annual index to the JOURNAL'S Information Centre.

This index, which gives a list and cross-references of "abstracts" that appeared in the JOURNAL in 1951, is issued free of charge. And this time you get even better value for your three-halfpenny stamp. (You need not enclose one as well, by the way.) For the first time the technical articles published during the year are also included in the index.

The last date for application was originally March 13. But now you will get your index provided you send your application form in by March 20. This, the editors tell me, is positively your last reprieve.

ASTRAGAL

POINTS FROM THIS ISSUE

Features at the **1deal Home Exhibition**.....pages 321 and 330

Colombo Exhibition: pavilions illustratedpages 324 and 333

The Guest Editors discuss "The 20th Century Patron"....page 327

MOHLG's report on "Living in Flats" reviewed...pages 325 and 334

The Editors

THE SPACE AROUND FLATS

THE new Government publication Living in Flats (reviewed on page 330 of this issue) is a stimulating report. It contains an intriguing analysis of the complex problems of layout which the housing designer has to face. These problems of designing space around flats are by no means dull, even if the designing of flats themselves is sometimes a tedious and repetitive job. Yet the standard of layout design, and the provision of social amenities, has been generally far lower than the standard of internal planning and equipment in flats. There are, in fact, very few socially comprehensive and architecturally well-worked-out schemes of general amenities on housing estates. Obviously there are economic reasons for this. Landscaping—particularly on flat, feature-less sites—play equipment and so on, cost money and require maintenance.

But there are reasons other than economic ones for the general poverty of layout. A lot depends on the relationships between architects and other local government departments. It is vital, of course, that there should be some joint work and full understanding between architects and housing managers, parks superintendents, welfare officers and others at the design stage. "Free access to all parts of the site," the arrangement of paths, "wild" play areas, sandpits, seats, provision for pets, and other ideas mentioned in the Government report require not only co-operation between these officers before designs are done, but detailed liaison in the execution of the designs. (Those "natural hillocks" of the wild play areas, for example, may well be uneconomic if carried out by normal building contract procedure.)

Although layout problems are well dealt with in *Living in Flats* it might be asked whether the sociological requirements it mentions are too complex. These requirements include allotments for flat-dwellers, private gardens for houses and maisonettes, a store for each flat, garages, laundries, clothes drying areas, high-fenced courts for older children's games and small play areas (sand and rough dig) for infants, plus, of course, grass, trees, and public open space. Economic considerations apart, the designer of urban architecture is faced

with no mean problem. The report states a set of principles well, but—at least as far as high density development is concerned—is it not crying for the moon?



H. J. Reifenberg, Dipl.Ing.Arch.

Donald Boyd, Chief Assistant, BBC Talks

C. F. Duncan, D. T. Brown, and W. T. Jack, L./A./A.R.I.B.A. of the Burgh Surveyor's Office, Perth

I. L. Holmes, B.E.(Hons.), A.M.I.C.E., A.M.I.Struct.E.

Geoffrey Salmon, Student, R.I.B.A.

Golden Lane Competition-A Criticism

-I am not a competitor in the Golden Lane Housing Competition, which may have some advantages and disadvantages when voicing an opinion.

However, it seems to me that the "village character" of the winning design (at 200 per acre!) has been achieved largely by over-concentrating in the central high block Eighty-eight bathrooms discharge smells into what to all intents is a draughty central corridor and forty-four kitchens face narrow light wells. On the lower floors these bathrooms and kitchens will hardly get any light. The concentration of kitchen noise reverberating from the opposite walls will be tremendous. Surely if there had to be a tremendous. Surely if there had to be a compromise it should have been different.

H. J. REIFENBERG.

London.

BBC's Reply to Astragal

SIR,—May I put to ASTRAGAL some suggestions prompted by his notes on a recent architectural discussion in the BBC's Critics

programme?

First: Neither puddings nor buildings should be judged only by the eye from outside. To do that would be unfair to the

noble professions of architecture and the kitchen, and to the people who have to use their products.

Second: The Voice of Authority usually sounds good to Authoritarians, but often cracked to others. We have too much authority and not enough obligation to create our own judgments.

Third: ASTRAGAL has mistaken the nature of the programme. It is not a magistracy in which one person lays down the law to persons only permitted to speak within ASTRAGAL'S limits. It is a programme in which free citizens first listen to specialists and then say what they make of the sub-jects, and why. Its object is to let listeners make up their own minds, on the evidence provided by the speakers and according to their persuasiveness.

Fourth: The I-know-what-I-like school is one stage on the way to the I-know-why-I-like-it school, and that is at least the be-ginning of wisdom.

And last, does ASTRAGAL prefer unfair play discussion, to fair play discussion? I sometimes do-when its ASTRAGAL'S.

DONALD BOYD

Salaries of Local Authority Architects

SIR,-It is time that the RIBA gave consideration to the employment and status of its members employed by local authorities. as the undersigned members have come to experience and knowledge of salaries and status, that, while they are members of a profession, the JIC salary scale must surely make them one of the lowest paid of the technical professions.

technical-professional bodies.

We desire to know what interest the RIBA have taken regarding the proposed scales as laid down by the JIC, as we consider that these scales are inadequate and surely could not have been agreed to by the RIBA. May we quote the instance of the BMA, a professional body which conducts, in committee, and stipulates minimum salaries under which their members (medical officers) can be employed by local authorities.

The present low scale of salaries general throughout the country creates the absurd situation of qualified technical assistants supervising local authority contracts, finding skilled and unskilled operatives on these contracts, by means of incentives, receiving a considerably higher weekly pay than they themselves.

When one considers the training required to reach professional status and the conto reach professional status and the continued experience necessary to hold down a situation with a local authority, it is imperative that the entire quantity perative that the entire question of professional salaries to RIBA local authority officers be reviewed without delay, as this profession is qualifying for the rôle of "Cinderella."

C. F. DUNCAN, D. T. BROWN, WM. T. JACK.

[The above is a copy of a letter sent to the RIBA.—ED.]

Must the Ill Suffer?

SIR.—Whatever the "advantages of the traditional British open ward" (Nuffield Investigation: AJ: November 15, December 13, and February 21) I wish architects would

refrain from insisting that single rooms are only for the "seriously ill or distressing

The private patient of yesterday is the public patient of today. The private room is now beyond the pocket of most of those who need it for that peace of mind and freedom from the Light Programme to which they are, in health, accustomed. The British ward sister ensures that the rule of the majority prevails in most open wards, and sooner or later that means loudspeaker radios, housey-housey and the rest. You cannot convince her that an individual desire to be free from the non-stop nature of such proletarian entertainment is any more than an anti-social attitude to be sniffed at and ignored.

Architects of the hospitals for the new

Welfare State should provide single rooms for more than just the "seriously ill or distressing cases"; and extend the label accordingly.

Incidentally, and a propos one of Mr. Aldis's questions (AJ, February 21, p. 252), why not a telephone for patients? The isolation from normal life and behaviour imposed in British hospitals is far too reminiscent of Samuel Butler's Erewhon philosophy, where the procedures in hospitals and prisons are reversed. There are many hospitals where telephoning "out" is not "permitted" until you are first given "outside leave, and can re-establish contact with the normal world from the coin box on the corner.

I. L. HOLMES.

London.

R.I.B.A.'s New Professional Practice Rule

SIR,—One aspect concerned with the new ruling on professional practice introduced by the RIBA has not had the attention it deserves

Because of the severe cuts in building in this country, the likelihood of unemployment in our profession looms large. Established architects are finding new jobs increasingly difficult to obtain and some large firms are cutting down their staff. Despite the threat to the profession by these cuts, the RIBA, so far as we know, has done nothing to solve the problems which are thereby created.

On the contrary, the new ruling may make things worse. It is likely to encourage com-petition amongst junior members of the profession, not for salary or responsibility in the normal way, but for a corner in an office if only as a hack draughtsman, so that they may fulfil the required twelve months' office experience in the shortest

months' office experience in the shortest possible time.

In July of this year approximately six hundred students will finish their courses and the competition for jobs will be more than keen. There arises the possibility of undercutting in salary scales; Smith offering to do Brown's work for less salary providing he gains the all-important practical experience. In the face of competition by qualified and more experienced architects, graduates may by enforced unemployment be obliged to wait considerably longer than twelve months for their professional practice examination and final qualification. This is an ugly prospect for ex-Service students, some of whom have been studying for over ten years, and is causing bitterness quite unhealthy in a profession as respectable as ours aspires to be.

This new ruling, therefore, has appeared at a most inopportune time when the prospect of unemployment is so great; and seems to indicate a lack of long-term policy on the part of the Board of Architectural Education

GEOFFREY SALMON.

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In their first two articles the Guest Editors outlined briefly the scope of the public architect's work as it has developed over the years. They described how the two principal clients of former times were the Crown and the Church, and how many famous architects were publicly employed by the Crown, often in a very personal way, to carry out the ideas and fancies of Royal personages. The Editors went on to recall how in the 19th Century came the development of the Social Services, and with them the growth of a new tradition of Public Architecture through the hundreds of public Local Authorities all over the country. (Most of these have had an ever-growing building programme, which looks like growing still more in the future.) They also described the setting up, since the war, of Public Corporations of various kinds to carry out the duties which followed the taking over by the State of the social and utility services, and of one basic industry (coal) and how each of these had a large national building programme, in addition to the main Government building agency, the Ministry of Works, which itself had an enormous amount of work to do. The Guest Editors are (from the left): Donald Gibson, City Architect and Planning Officer of Coventry; Robert Gardner-Medwin, Chief Architect and Planning Officer to the Department of Health for Scotland; Stirrat Johnson-Marshall, Chief Architect to the MOE; and Robert Matthew, Architect to the LCC.



The Guest Editors

THE 20th CENTURY PATRON

WE would now like to look at these various public clients, and try to discover their attitude to the architecture they commission. Let us start with the Local Authorities, and here, straight away, there is no simple client/architect relationship. The immediate client is usually a Committee, not an individual. This Committee is answerable to, and may be over-ruled by, the Council. The Council in its turn is answerable to the general electorate, on whose behalf the building programme is being executed, and to the particular users of the buildings. In the background there is the advisory Government Department, which, as we have already described, usually examines the plans and estimates before it advances the financial grants which are payable on account of most public buildings.

Now there are certain things which all Councils have in common, no matter what their size or responsibilities. The Councillors are all directly responsible to their electors, and are elected to carry out the work of providing for social needs on their behalf. No matter how convinced a Council may be on the looks of a building, it must be certain that it will function properly, be of reasonable cost, and be built without undue delay. Too many clients, from the Duke of Marlborough onwards, found to their cost that these ingredients of

architecture do not always go together. But the private client loses his own money, while the Councillors may lose public money and can be voted out as easily as they are voted in. Any Council, therefore, will expect its architects to fulfil the above "practical" conditions before they begin to take an interest in problems of "design."

THE TENDENCY TO "PLAY SAFE"

With such factors in mind, there has been an inclination to play safe to avoid criticism from any quarter, and generally to influence their architects to keep to conventional solutions. Among other considerations is the vital one of design. Owing to the fact that there is no longer an accepted architectural tradition, and because few councillors have had the opportunity of making the Grand Tour, or even one confined to this country, and that they are usually very busy men and women with full-time jobs to do in addition to Council obligations, the architect often receives insufficient appreciation from his immediate clients, and what æsthetic criticism there is is usually restricted to "We like what we know," rather than "We know why we like it."

Let us now look at the system through the eyes of the Local Authority architect. Because his public office grew up during a period

when private enterprise was the dominant motive in society, it came to be regarded as the haven for the lame duck, the quiet backwater where risk and adventure were at a discount, and security the main objective. Promotion tended to be based on length of service, and there was always a pension to look forward to at 60 or 65. Salaries were low because the job was so often regarded as an economy measure, to save professional fees, and not as a distinguished service. It was a false economy, of course, for it could hardly be expected to attract the best brains; and unfortunately low salaries and low grading are still a barrier to the production of good Public Architecture, especially in the smaller offices.

PROBLEMS OF THE LARGE OFFICE

Then there is the "pyramid," that bugbear of the large office-any large office, by the way, for it is not confined to our profession. In our first article we diagnosed the trouble as being due to the public office being modelled at its inception on the form of the small private office, i.e., an architect with a few assistants, each of them hoping soon to become a principal himself. When a very large increase of work occurs the office fails to adjust itself to the new situation, and continues to have one architect and often hundreds of assistants, who have insufficient personal responsibility for their work. The chief architect has to shoulder the blame for every minor error, and unless he is a very remarkable man, becomes a distant and shadowy figure to his staff, so submerged in administrative work that he rarely gets down to any designing himself. Also the administrative work which is essential to any technical job tends to become separated and treated as a specialist duty, which then requires an adminis-trative staff of its own. In a large office too, recruitment and staffing may sometimes become the responsibility of an administrative officer, and although these officers may do an im-

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portant and difficult job very well in most large offices, the whole system thus created requires consideration against the essential question "Does the office produce good architecture, at the right cost, and in the right time?"

LOCAL AUTHORITIES AS GREAT BUILDING OWNERS

So, from the twin points of view of the local authorities and their architects, two further questions may well be asked at this stage: Do these authorities see, and acknowledge, themselves as the great building owners—the 20th Century patrons of Architecture (they have few competitors) and so, by their policies and decisions, discharge a growing responsibility to a public immeasurably greater than the sum of their constituents? Second, do those in high architectural office measure up to the situation now before them? These are difficult questions, and the answer to the first will partly depend on the answer to the second.

The fact must be faced that the lusty growth of the local authority as building client demands architectural guidance of the surest quality: a quality that can only spring from complete conviction and the highest professional competence.

Opportunities are already vast, and

constantly enlarging. The stature of the public architect must, therefore, grow even more swiftly, and his obligations also lie as much to the future as to the present.

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT AS CLIENT

Let us turn now to the Central Government as client. Here the immediate client is not an elected Council or Committee, but a permanent administrative Civil Servant. In the case of the advisory departments, such as the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, the tradition is that the technical men give technical advice to administrators, who are responsible for advising the Minister on policy matters, including technical When one considers that the Minister has only one other elected person (the Parliamentary Secretary) to help him, one realizes that nearly all except the most important decisions are made by the permanent Senior Civil Servants, who often proffer the advice of architect or planner secondhand to their Minister. We are glad to say that this somewhat unreliable system is not always the rule, as we will show later on.

Many Civil Service administrators are able, and sometimes outstanding men of judgment, but again the tendency is to play safe, for the eagle eye

of the Treasury hovers over their outtrays, and questions in Parliament are always unpopular.

There is a serious difficulty about most controlling central departments which we will discuss later and only briefly mention here.

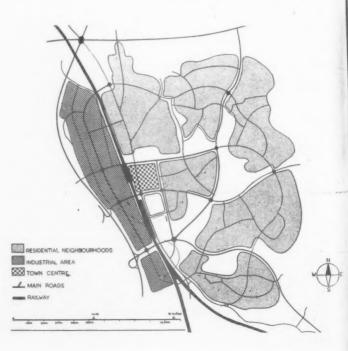
A group of architects whose job is limited to "advice" and "scrutiny" always runs the risk of losing the confidence of architects on the job in Local Authority offices and in private practice. It will keep alive and progressive to the extent to which it is allowed to undertake, as the very basis of its policy on principles and standards, a continuing programme of research and experiment in collaboration with the local authorities and with specialist agencies of Government. Architectural advice inevitably carries more weight with this foundation.

"NON-CONTROVERSIAL" WORK

departments by whom the building responsibilities is in much the same The most important clients of the Ministry of Works, for instance, are the Senior Civil Servants of the departments by whom the building work is commissioned, and "non-controversial" is the keynote of interdepartmental activity. As a minor but significant example, who knows how many acres of official walls have been covered with the "standard' colour scheme. The new Corporations in charge of the nationally-run social and utility services are in a rather different position. They sometimes consist of Committees of public men, who, albeit remote from the electorate, are often enthusiastic about having a progressive building programme, willing to experiment, and therefore ready to employ good architects and give them

Right, the master plan of Stevenage New Town prepared by a central government agency, the then Ministry of Town and Country Planning. A pioneer example of central government research and development in town planning. Below, an example of public architecture in the Dominions; a block of flats in Wellington, designed by the Department of Housing Construction of the New Zealand Government. One of the few multiunit flat buildings in the country, this building was awarded a gold medal by the New Zealand Institute of Architects in 1947.





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plenty of scope-though this, unfortunately, is not the golden rule.

And so, as with Local Authorities, the Central Government clients have to rely a great deal on the quality of their architects. Granted that the Civil Service has sometimes stifled technical initiative and responsibility, and that fear of complete failure militates against outstanding success, yet we consider that there is today a sufficient variety of Central Government clients to give great opportunities for fine architecture providing there are architects capable of creating and organiz-

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The architects employed by Government Departments and Corporations have suffered from conditions similar to those which we have described in Local Government. However, in some of the new offices which have been started since the war, the theoretical basis of office organization has received careful attention. The New Towns are a well-known example of this, and on this account alone their progress needs to be watched carefully. A comparatively mundane but nevertheless important defect among public architects is the tendency to vegetate in one office. Steps have recently been taken to enable pension funds to carry over from Local to Central Government employment, and vice versa, and we hope this kind of flexibility will extend to include teaching posts in the schools of architecture as well, as they are the training grounds of the public offices of the future. In fact, we would like to see a comprehensive scheme



Government building in the Colonies: a house for the principal of a training college for schoolteachers in Barbados. This house, and the training college, were built by direct labour under the direction of the Government's Architect and Planning Officer.

which would enable a much higher degree of interchangeability than exists today.

In ensuing articles we shall endeavour to go into some of the most important requirements which we think must be met if great Public Architecture is to be produced. One of the problems which we must discuss is the widespread belief that the large office automatically tends to produce bad architecture. This question of size appears to be a very controversial aspect of public offices, and we propose, therefore, to put it first on our list for next time.



Contemporary Furniture not Acceptable in Scotland

*Contemporary type" furnture is less acceptable in Scotland than in the south, according to Professor A. D. Russell, one of the judges of a competition for low-cost furniture design organized by the COID Scottish Committee. It was for this reason, he said, that the competition had been held.



The LCC's Westville Primary School, Hammersmith, which was the subject, during its erection, of a discussion between the architect, Erno Goldfinger and the Editors, (see AJ June 14, 1951) was opened on February 28 by Dame Sybil Thorndike, shown right, talking to the architect. Above, the opening ceremony taking place in the Assembly Hall. The "brise soleil" effect of the asymmetric concrete frame can be seen on the left.



But although the proposition of taking the best of contemporary work and giving it more robustness was very attractive, this issue had not been faced by the competitors, and the results were disappointing. The standard of even the best designs sub-

The standard of even the best designs submitted was not sufficiently high for the judges to make the full awards of £50 which had been offered for the competition.

ludges to make the full awards of £30 which had been offered for the competition.

Two awards of £20 and one of £10 have been made. The £20 awards went to Peter Melville, of Edinburgh, and to James B. Armstrong, of Dunfermline, and A. G. Giffen, of Edinburgh (a joint entry). The £10 award was made to T. R. L. Robertson, of Kirkcaldy.

RIBA

Italian Exhibition

An exhibition of Italian contemporary architecture, which will be shown at 66. Portland Place, W.I, from March 24 to April 10 and from April 16 to April 30, is being sponsored by the Italian Institute and the RIBA. It is the first exhibition of Italian modern architecture to be shown in London and has been prepared by the CIAM group of architects in Milan. It will be on view Mondays to Fridays 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturdays 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

RIAI

Competition Not For All

On February 28 the Journal gave details of a competition for a memorial to aviators organized by the RIAI and the Architectural Association of Ireland. These details had been sent to the Journal by mistake and the RIAI have asked that it should be made clear that the competition is open only to its members.

PAINT

Co-ordinated Range of Colours to be Compiled

The paint industry, acting through the Paint Manufacturers' Co-operative Committee, has established the Paint Industry Colour Ranges Committee, which is now compiling a co-ordinated range of colours. The new committee is compiling this range in consultation with the British Standards Institution, the British Colour Council and the Paint Research Association.

RICS

Simplification of Standard Methods of Measurement

The Standing Joint Committee for the Standard Method of Measurement of Building Works receive from time to time requests for reconsideration or clarification of specific items in the Standard Method of Measurement; in addition they have before them the recommendation of the Anglo-American Productivity Team's Report which reads "Consideration should be given to the simplification of the Standard Method of Measurement."

To enable the Committee to give the fullest possible consideration to these matters and to the principles involved, detailed suggestions would be welcomed from those interested.

These should be sent by May 31 next to: The Registrar, SMMC, The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, 12, Great George Street, Westminster, London, S.W.1. IDEAL HOME EXHIBITION, 1952:



The housing section of this year's DAILY MAIL Ideal Home Exhibition takes the form of a village centre, designed by Trevor Smith and Norah Glover (see JOURNAL for January 24, p. 117, for photograph of model). The photograph above shows part of this. In the left foreground are two "People's Houses," exhibited by MOHLG (see p. 332 for interior of one of them). Background, centre: a "Regency-style" house by E. & L. Berg, Ltd., designed in conjunction with W. M. Carter. Below, the end



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HOUSES, FURNITURE AND SOME WELL-DESIGNED STANDS





of the main concourse of the exhibition, with its "suspended" bandstand and gay decor designed by co-ordinating designer James Gardner. On this page are illustrated parts of five stands at the exhibition. Top left, on the stand of Story & Co., Ltd., two items from their new non-utility "Norfolk" group of furniture-a cocktail cabinet and a coffee table in Lebanon cedar and Australian walnut-and a settee and chair from their "Club" range-a utility range including sectional units. (Stand designed by the Story Design Group.) Top right, on the stand of Heal & Son Ltd., part of a new utility bedroom suite designed by H. E. Long especially for the exhibition, in European cherry and abura. (Stand designed by A. J. Milne and Mrs. Nan Fryer Russell.) Centre left, a view of the stand of Arthur Sanderson & Son, Ltd., taken from the main concourse. (Designed by their own staff.) Centre right, the stand of Aga Heat, Ltd., with the freestanding model of their " Agamatic" boiler in the foreground. (Stand designed by Arthur Braven, in collaboration with Mather & Crowther, Ltd.) Bottom, one of the best stands at the exhibition: Nestle's stand on the National Hall gallery, designed by V. Rotter. See page 321 for brief comment by ASTRAGAL.

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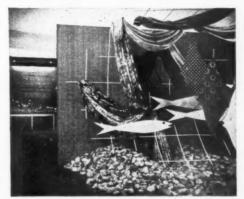
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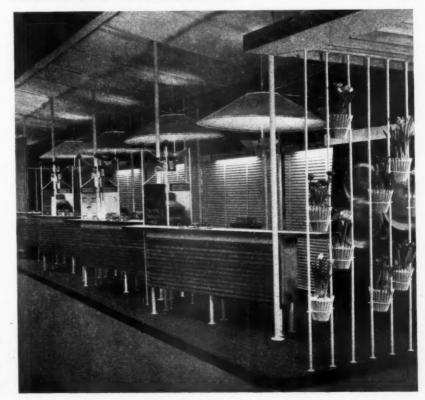
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IDEAL HOME EXHIBITION: "PEOPLE'S HOUSE" . . .

Right and below, two views of the living room of the two-bedroom "People's House," exhibited by MOHLG and built by John Laing & Son, Ltd.

Interior planned by Mrs. Marjorie Holford for COID, in consultation with the National Union of Townswomen's Guilds. Furniture: Heal & Son, Ltd. The dining suite (utility) is of paldao and stained beech; drawers and cupboard fronts, elm.





American Commercial Buildings. Atkinson. BBC Third Programme. Fello MARCH 13 p.m.

Exhibition of Golden Lane Competition Drawings. At the Guildhall, E.C.2. 10 a.m. UNTIL MARCH 15 to 5 p.m.

Development Plan Exhibition. ition. At Guild-UNTIL MARCH 15 hall, Northampton.

Some Scientific Aspects of the Design of The Royal Festival Hall. J. L. Martin. At The Royal Festival Hall. J. L. Martin. At 66, Portland Place, W.1. (Sponsor: RIBA.) 6 p.m. March 18

Annual RIBA Dinner. At Grosvenor House, Park Lane, W.1. 6.45 p.m. MARCH 20

Brains Trust. At Lighting Service Bureau, 2, Savoy Hill, W.C.2. (Sponsor: IES.) 6 p.m. MARCH 26

London: The Next Twenty Years. Exhibition explaining the 1951 County of London Plan. At County Hall, Westminster. (Sponsor: LCC.) 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. (except Sundays). Saturdays: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
UNTIL MARCH 28

Modern Swedish Architecture. At the Building Centre, Store Street, Tottenham Court Road. (Sponsors: Swedish Society of Architects and the Swedish Institute.) 9.30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays: 9.30 a.m. to UNTIL MARCH 29 1 p.m.

Ideal Home Exhibition. At Olympia. Monday to Saturday. 9.30 a.m. to 9.30 p.m. UNTIL MARCH 29

Presentation of Royal Gold Medal. To G. Grey Wornum. At RIBA, 66, Portland Place, W.1. 6 p.m. APRIL 1

Exhibition of Italian Contemporary Architecture. At 66, Portland Place, W.1. (Sponsor: RIBA.) Closed from April 11 to 15 inclusive. Mondays to Fridays: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturdays: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. UNTIL APRIL 30

AN UNUSUAL TYPE OF GAS COOKER

The most unusual feature about the new "Cannon" domestic gas cooker (A 125), on view at the Ideal Home Exhibition, is the grilling unit. The pictures below show how this unit, which is provided in a position (at the top of the cooker) where food being grilled can be easily seen, can be used as a shelf when the grill is not in use. As the grill is in a different position from usual it has been possible to lift the oven to a better working height. In this







oven, which has a single back-burner and a door that drops down, the thermostat is situated at the back in the bottom part of the flue. By placing it here the manufacturers have been able to produce an oven in which, with the use of a baffle plate, or "adjustable oven dome," the size, of the cooking area can be adjusted without any loss of thermostatic control. It is claimed that this feature saves gas consumption. When the baffle plate is in position the area below it becomes the cooking part of the oven, while the area above can be used as a warming chamber. Below the oven is a storage or warming drawer. The four burners, controlled by "audible click" taps, are ignited by a push-button device.

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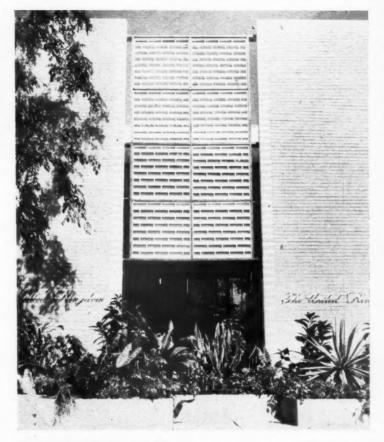
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COLOMBO EXHIBITION: A MEETING OF EAST AND WEST



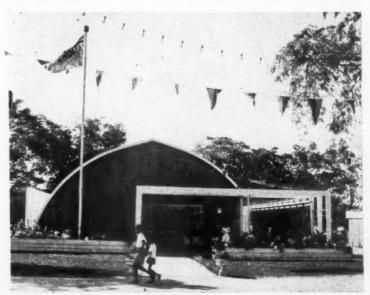
The Colombo exhibition covers 40 acres, including a large section devoted to the work of the Ceylon Government ministries, a commercial section, an amusement park, and an open-air theatre for displays of traditional Sinhalese dancing and film shows. The night photograph above shows the Royal Avenue, for dancing and parades. Right, the UK pavilion, designed by Misha Black, Kenneth Bayes and Ellis Miles of the Design Research Unit (site architects: Edwards, Reid and Begg). The photograph shows the screen wall of the main frontage. The brickwork is light blue. Centre, left, the Maldive Islands pavilion, constructed of timber and painted two shades of green; right, the Vietnam pavilion, with two plaster dragons fixed to a plaster facade concealing a corrugated-iron shed. Below, the Laos pavilion; traditional forms applied to a structure faced with building board. Bottom right, the Canadian pavilion, prefabricated in Canada.











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LIVING IN FLATS

Comments on Ministry's

Report

Living in Flats* is an excellent report, writes a correspondent. It gives invaluable reading, and reference, for all engaged on the design and layout of blocks of flats. The terms of reference of the investigating committee were to examine the social needs and problems of families living in blocks of flats on high-density estates. The conclusions, which are neatly tabulated in thirty-four short paragraphs, concern the value of houses and maisonettes as opposed to flats, and the possibility of providing these types of accommodation in high-density schemes; the treatment of the space around flats; design points having regard to types of access, sound insulation, storage and other problems; and the relationship between management and design.

It is astonishing that since the war fifteen out of twenty-eight Metro-politan Borough Councils have built nothing but flats. Even the LCC, within the county area, has, so far, built only 81 houses as compared with 12,012 flats. The report examines a number of reasons why—given all practicable measures to meet social needs-a flat is an unsuitable environment for families with several children. It concludes that, even in central areas, it is desirable and possible to provide a good proportion of accommodation in houses and maisonettes. A proportion of up to 44 per cent. houses, for example, is considered practicable in an area with an average overall density of 120 rooms (persons) per acre. No layout plans or diagrams are given to support this contention, but an appendix is added of suggested densities for two- and three-storey houses in high-density areas, based on the conclusions of a new handbook, "Density of Residential Areas," about to be published by MOHLG. Until this handbook is received it is perhaps wise to reserve judgment on this part of the report.

Interesting figures, furnished by the LCC, are given in an appendix (from which the following is extracted) on the costs of balcony and staircase-access blocks.

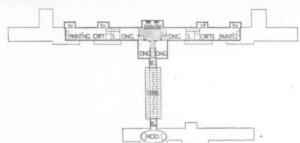
SPECIAL COSTS (PER FLAT) ENTAILED BY EACH TYPE

	Balcony Access	Staircase Access
Cost of staircases	38.55	164.84
form	3.77	_
access balconies	63 - 20	_
,, ,, carcases to lifts	18 - 43	64 - 58
Miscellaneous additional	71.84	230 - 20
items	-	35.00
Total	195 - 79	494 - 62

Living in Flats (HMSO, Feb., 1952, price 1s. 6d.).
 A report by a sub-committee—Chairman, Henry Brooke—of the Central Housing Advisory Committee of the MOHLG.

PROPOSED COMPREHENSIVE HIGH





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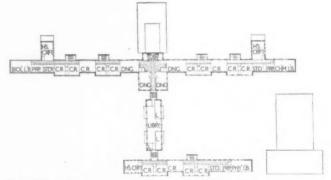
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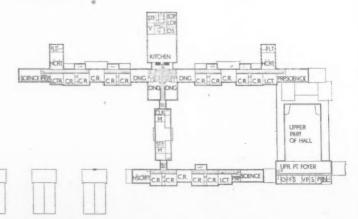
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Third floor plan

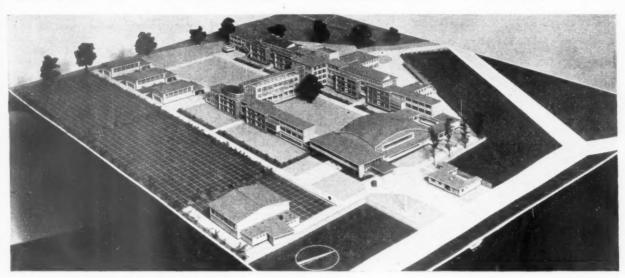


Second floor plan



First floor plan

SCHOOL AT KIDBROOKE, BLACKHEATH, LONDON, S.E.3



The Kidbrooke Comprehensive High School, which has been designed by Slater, Moberly, Uren and Pike, for the LCC, is now under construction and will accommodate 2,210 girl pupils. The consulting structural engineers are Ove Arup and Partners. The site of nearly 10 acres has a fall from north to south of about 20 ft., and there are two entrances, one in the north-west corner of the site, about 50 ft. wide, and one on the east, about 100 ft. wide. A building consisting of ground, first and second floors was designed with a small proportion of accommodation only on the third floor, so that lifts could be omitted for economy. Other conditions for reducing cost are: small circulation space, low room height without impairing light

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factors, and the dual use of certain rooms. Teaching accommodation will be split up into three blocks, which are almost self-contained, and each section will contain a proportionate number of each type of teaching space. The principle of planning is corridor access at ground level, with staircase access to short lengths of corridor on the upper floors. Suitable large classrooms will be used as links, so that, in an emergency, movement can be made from one staircase to the rest. These classrooms will obtain light on two sides and a floor to floor height of 10 ft.

3 in. will be possible. Separate dining accommodation will be omitted and four 800-sq. ft. classrooms grouped round the circulation space at the intersection of the north blocks will

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CHAPTER

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be used for this purpose, with the kitchen at first floor level. These classrooms will have slidingfolding screens to enable them to be opened up into one large space at meal times, and there will be room for one-third of the pupils at each sitting. The construction will be a RC frame and the large hall is to have a shell concrete roof about 3 in. thick. Facing materials will include yellow brick, wood The shingles and tiles. model is seen from the south-west in the photo

PROPOSED HIGH SCHOOL (Continued)



on page 334, from south-east on page 335, and below, on this page, and from the north-east in the photograph above. The general contractors are Gee, Walker & Slater, Ltd. For sub-contractors, see page 350.



SIDE GALLERY

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TYPING

TYPING

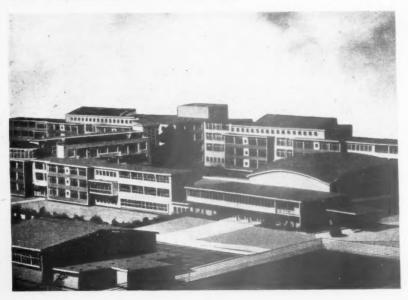
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SIDE GALLERY

TYPING

TYPING

Ground floor plan of assembly hall [Scale: $\frac{1}{4\pi}$ " = 1° 0']



"These figures," says the report, "which are taken from similar but not identical four-storey blocks, indicate a difference of some £300 per flat. For higher blocks the excess cost of staircase access would work out at less."

The main advantage of staircaseaccess is privacy, and this is said to be so important that were it not for costs, balcony-access blocks would have disappeared altogether. While they endure it is suggested that living-rooms and bedrooms should not be placed next to access balconies, that balconies should be recessed (for shelter), that entrance doors to flats should not be side by side, that balcony-access blocks should be short in length (say 4 flats in all), and that further experiments should be encouraged in using maisonettes in lieu of flats (one accessbalcony to two storeys only) and in designing Y- or T-shaped blocks, with the stairs at the centre, and with short

On layout the report is good. There are a number of points which deserve study—most of them already adopted by the better authorities, but still ignored by others. Separate playgrounds should be provided for older and younger children—simple equipment for the younger (sand and loose "dig," platforms with steps, low bars, water troughs) and high-fenced ball games areas for the elder. Covered play spaces and roof playgrounds have proved almost universally unpopular in practice—but, where possible, natural wild areas for imagination games should be retained or provided. Roof gardens are recommended.

As far as possible a small patch of ground should be provided for any tenant who wants a garden or allotment, and much stress is laid on the need for individual garden spaces.

The breaking down of large estates into smaller areas distinct in character is recommended as a way of avoiding the impersonal and the inhuman. For the same reasons the Committee is against too long or too continuous high blocks, and the repetition of identical blocks. Blocks connected at right-angles often appear bulky, block light from each other and destroy privacy by overlooking between adjacent rooms.

Amongst many other points of interest discussed in the report are laundries and drying grounds, lifts to take prams, workrooms and playrooms, lock-up stores (every flat should have one), fuel stores (minimum 5 cwt. coke), garages (usually inadequate provision), mortuaries (never used) and pets (give the tenant a chance).

There are valuable words of advice on management and finding the right kind of caretaker (sorry, superintendent)—and the very good point that architects and managers should really get together before design problems are settled for good and all.

WORKING DETAIL

FURNITURE AND FITTINGS: 15

DISPLAY PANELS, DEPARTMENT OF CIVIC DESIGN, UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL

Gordon Stephenson, architect; Norman Kingham, assistant architect



The panels, which are for the exhibition of students' drawings, are hinged to fold back against the wall: a small pivoted wheel supports the free end of the panel.

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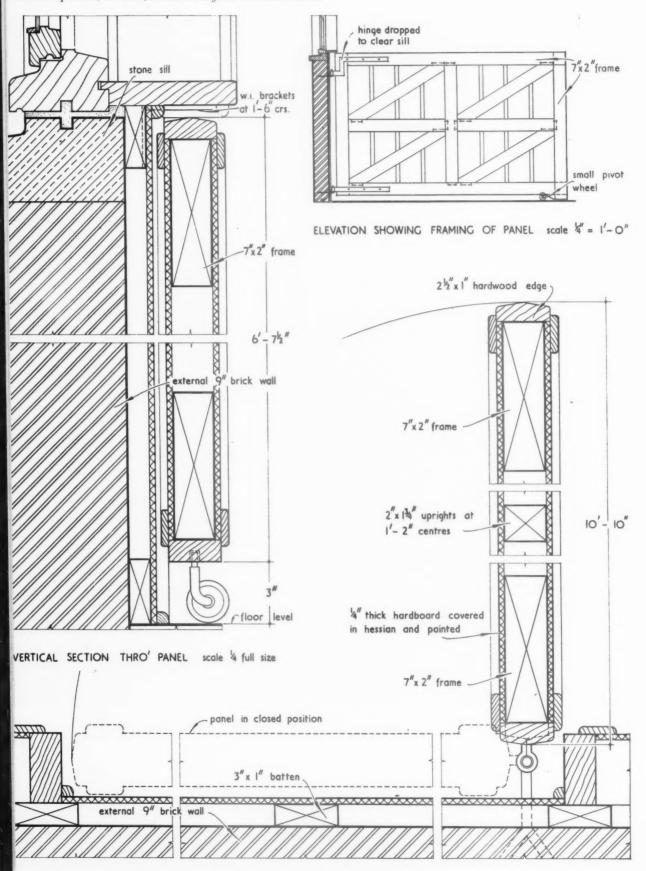
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DISPLAY PANELS, DEPARTMENT OF CIVIC DESIGN, UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL

Gordon Stephenson, architect; Norman Kingham assistant architect



WORKING DETAIL

WINDOW WALL: HOUSE AT PLEASANTVILLE, NEW YORK

Gibbons and Heidtmann, architects



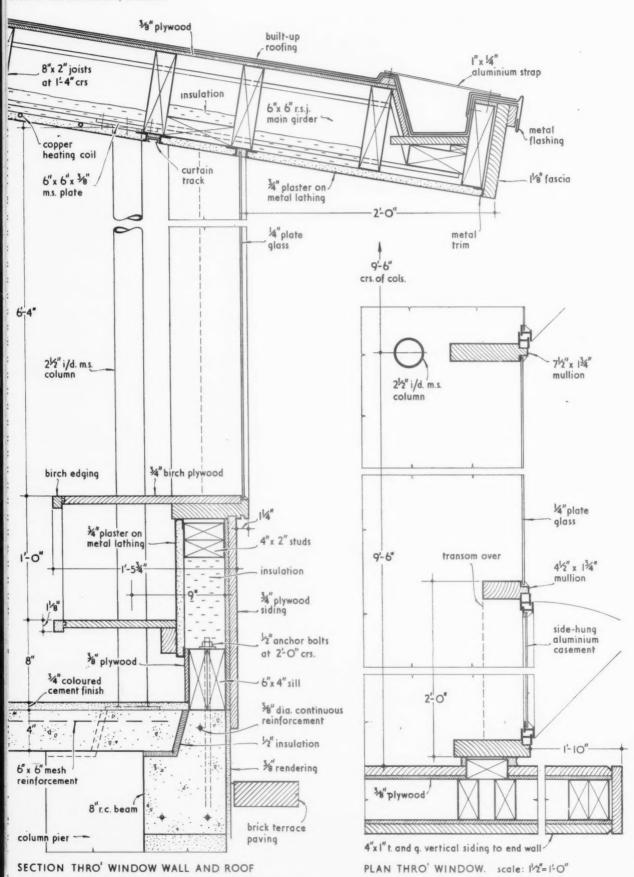
The roof above the windows is supported by steel columns which are free-standing except where they pierce the bookshelf below sill level.

Photograph: Richard Averill Smith

WORKING DETAIL

WINDOW WALL: HOUSE AT PLEASANTVILLE, NEW YORK

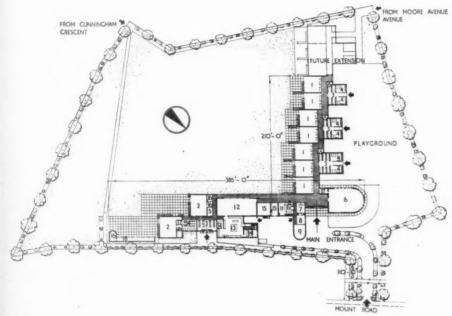
Gibbons and Heidtmann, architects





SOUTH KINSON INFANTS' SCHOOL, BOURNEMOUTH, HANTS





Plan

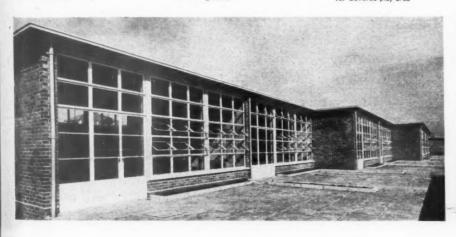
KEY

- I. Infants' classrooms
- 2. Nursery classrooms
- 3. Cloakrooms
- 4. Lavatories
- 5. Drying rooms
- 6. Assembly hall

- 7. Secretary
- 8. Headmistress
- 9. Staff room
- 10. Staff cloakroom and lavatories
- 11. Medical room
- 12. Dining room

- 13. Kitchen
- 14. Kitchen office, larders, etc.
- 15. Heating chambers
- 16. Stores
- 17. Caretaker, meters, etc.
- 18. Covered play area

The South Kinson Infants' School in Mount Road, Bournemouth, designed by Ronald A. Phillips and Partners, accommodates 280 infants in seven classrooms and two nursery classrooms to hold 80, and three additional classrooms for a further 120 infants are being constructed. The photograph, left, is a view of the model looking south; below, left, is the infants' classroom wing looking north-east and below is a typical infants' classroom interior. The school was erected in 20 months at a cost of approximately £,72,000 (about £169 per place). Work had been begun before the revisions of the MOE's building regulations came into effect in 1950. The site is 125 ft. above sea level and has distant views to the north over the Dorset countryside. All classrooms face south-east and the infants' classrooms are planned in three groups, each having its own cloakrooms, lavatories and separate entrance from the playground. The building has loadbearing brick walls faced with local hand-made facing bricks. All windows are purpose-made metal casements. The general contractors are George Shears and Sons, Ltd. For sub-contractors see page 350.





BANK

at 80, GRACECHURCH STREET, LONDON, E.C.3 designed by WESTWOOD, SONS and HARRISON assistant architect-in-charge JAMES A. CRABTREE



Above, the banking hall before alterations.

The Chief Foreign Branch of Martins Bank, Ltd., together with several departments of the Bank's London City Office and a new branch bank, are now accommodated by the adaptation of an existing banking hall and offices. Most of the furniture was designed by the architects, who also selected the remainder as well as carpets, curtains and other equipment. The site is next to Leadenhall Market.

General view of the banking hall.

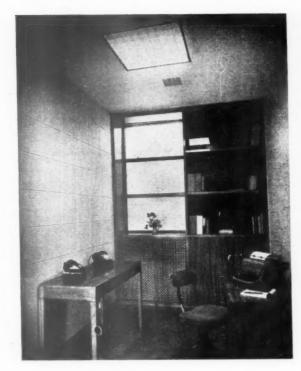


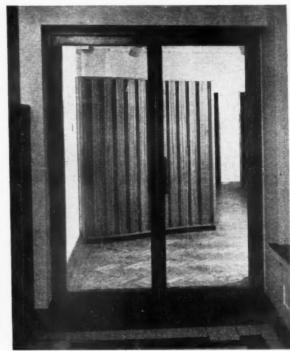
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PLAN.-The banking hall, which now accommodates the main section of the Foreign Branch and the branch bank, originally occupied almost the whole of the available site, but 20 ft. has now been cut off to form management offices at the north end. Suspended ceilings have been constructed for these offices. The mezzanine floor provides clerks' accommodation for the branch bank and a visitors' room off the main staircase for the use of foreign bankers. The first and second floors have been teplanned and large floor areas opened up by the removal of old partitions. On the second floor is a staff tea room and kitchen with direct access from the main and staff staircases. Staff cloakrooms in the basement provide for 250 people.

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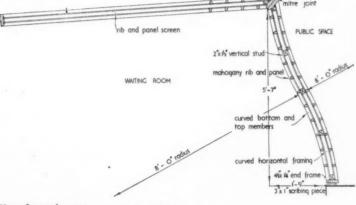
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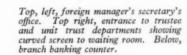
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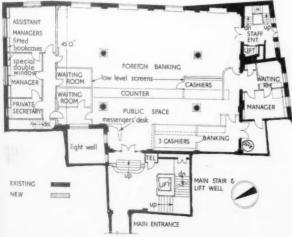
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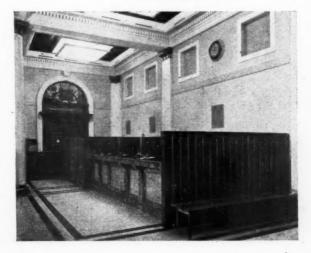


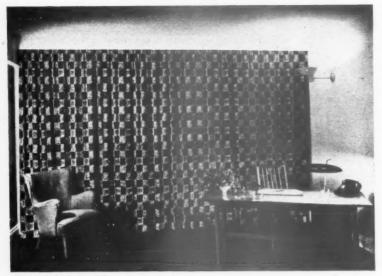
Plan of curved screen [Scale: 3"=1' 0"]



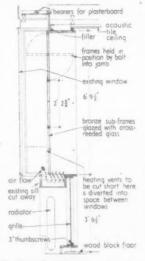


Ground floor plan [Scale: # = 1' 0']





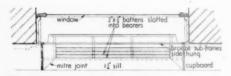
Above and above right, two views of the visitors' room. Right, manager's office, showing low internal window of reeded glass.



Section of window [Scale: 4"= 1'0"]

BANK

at 80 GRACECHURCH STREET, LONDON, E.C.3 designed by WESTWOOD, SONS and HARRISON



Plan of sill, manager's office window

Below, the tea room on the second floor. The chairs can

second floor. The chairs can be stacked and are of Danish

design.

FINISHES.—In the banking hall all the old screening and fittings have been removed with the exception of the marble fronted counters which have somewhat governed the replanning. The ceiling is







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painted indigo blue, and beams, columns and pilasters are white, with burnished bronze capitals and bases. Walls are painted a warm grey and window architraves are white. Screens are of natural polished mahogany with vertical ribs and panels. In the management offices, walls are plastered and painted in two shades of grey or acoustic tiles are used. New inner windows of fluted glass have been made. The visitors' room has inner walls painted light grey and window walls mustard yellow with full length curtains in yellow, black and white. In the tea room the walls are also painted yellow or grey and the floor is of linoleum tiles in the same colours.

SERVICES.—The existing heating system has been modified to give a temperature of 65° F. in offices, 60° in the banking hall and 55° in corridors.

The general contractors were Mullen & Lumsden, Ltd. For sub-contractors see page 350.

CHURCH

in ENNIS ROAD, LIMERICK, IRELAND designed by CORR and MCCORMICK consulting engineer STEPHEN MCGLOUGHLIN

The Church of Our Lady of the Rosary in the parish of St. Munchins, Limerick, has been built in a residential district which has grown in a quarter of a century from 60 households to over 600. Before the completion of the new church most of the inhabitants of the southern part of the parish crossed the River Shannon to attend Mass in other parishes. It was decided to erect a structure that could be built quickly and, if necessary, dismantled and re-erected elsewhere to fit in with the shape of the growth of population in the parish.

View looking towards the altar at the west-end.



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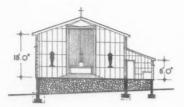
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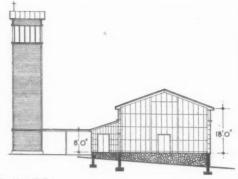
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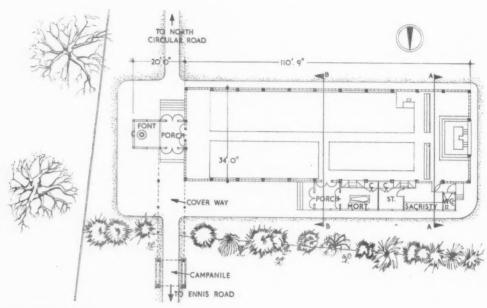
One of the Stations of the Cross carvings by Oberammergau craftsmen.



Section A-A



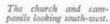
Section B-B



Plan [Scale: 1 " = 1'0"]

CHURCH

in ENNIS ROAD, LIMERICK, IRELAND designed by CORR AND MCCORMICK





SITE.—The area of the site is $r_{\frac{1}{2}}$ acres and is screened from Ennis Road on the north by a line of young trees. The main approach to the church, which is marked by the campanile, is also from the north.

PLAN.—The nave and sanctuary together are 110 ft. long by 34 ft. wide and the height to the apex of the roof is 22 ft. There is also a baptistery, mortuary, two confessionals and accommodation for a congregation of 600. The worshippers are able to see the altar from all parts of the church. No pulpit was needed,

CONSTRUCTION.—The frame of the building is of light steel, clad externally with weather boarding.

The steel-framed inclined lattice girder roof is

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Above, the west wall of the sacristy with the campanile in the background, looking east.

unusual in design. It spans from gable to gable instead of between side walls. The complete roof framework was assembled and welded on the ground, hoisted up to a few inches above its ultimate position, left there swinging until the framework of the walls was in position, then lowered into place, after which work could progress under cover. Another advantage of this form of roof construction is that it gives a pitched ceiling, which adds to the height of the interior.

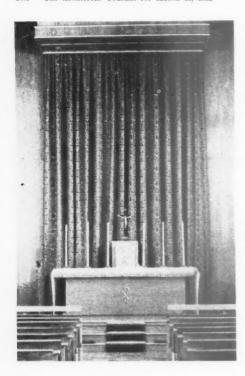
FINISHES.—The low-pitched roof has a light covering of green mineral grit felt on tongued and grooved boarding. In the sanctuary side walls, gable and ceiling are in polished oak plywood; elsewhere the ceiling and steelwork are painted pale blue and walls biscuit colour. The sanctuary floor is covered with polished plywood tiles and seating is of moulded plywood. The external weatherboarding is creosoted under pressure and lined internally with hardboard. The campanile was

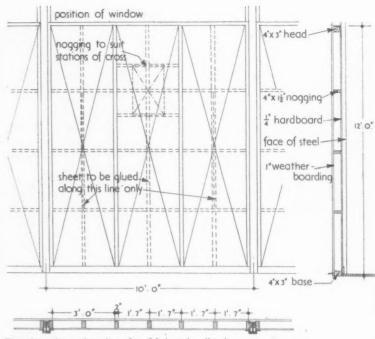
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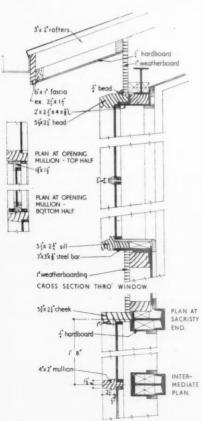




Elevation, plan and section of prefabricated wall unit [Scale: \frac{1}{2}" = 1'0"]

CHURCH

in ENNIS ROAD, LIMERICK, IRELAND designed by CORR AND MCCORMICK



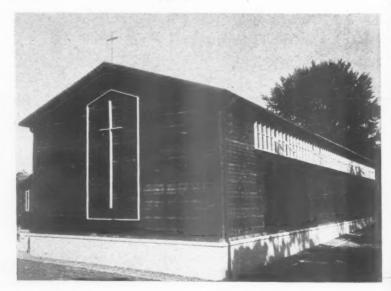
Detail, section and plans of window

Above left, the altar at the west end of the church, showing dorsal and tester. Below, the west and south facades.

built in the same way, but the internal lining was omitted. The altar is of timber, faced with polished plywood matching the sanctuary walls, and in contrast to the general simplicity of the building there is a large dorsal in rich folds of maroon and gold hanging from a tester at ceiling level. Stations of the Cross in lightly painted wood were carved by Oberammergau craftsmen; the life-size statue in white teak on the campanile, the gilded plaques on the font, the low baptistery gates and altar silverware were designed by Oisin Kelly.

The cost of the church and campanile was approximately £11,000. The general contractors were P. Malloy & Sons, Ltd. For sub-contractors, see page 350.

H.





Saxone Shoe Store at 297, Oxford Street, London, W.1, is equipped with a balanced system of warmed fresh air ventilation and radiator heating. The incoming air is warmed and filtered before being distributed into the showrooms and offices through ornamental grilles, and the vitiated air is extracted and discharged above

the roof level. The heater batteries and convector type radiators are served by a 'Rex' 3/8 Gas-fired boiler, rated at 1,000,000 B.Th.U per hour. Hot water for the shops and offices over is supplied by an 'Empire' No. 3 boiler, rated at 45,000 B.Th.U per hour.

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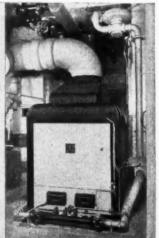
H. W. Dutton & Co. Ltd., 25 Victoria Street, London, S.W.1
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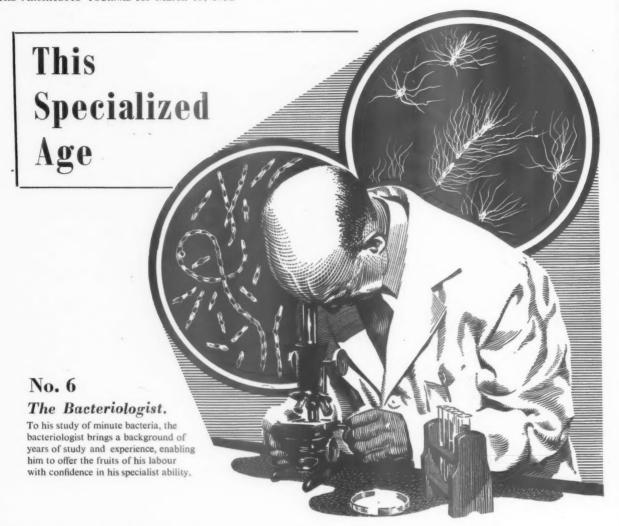
Potterton Gas-Fired Boilers



(GAS GROUP)

Imperial House, 84/86 Regent Street, London, W.1. Northern Area: 4 Albert Square, Manchester, 2. Midlands Area: Portobello Works, Warwick.





This is the age of specialization. With the advance of modern knowledge, no one man is able to excel in everything and in the field of human endeavour the final product is inevitably the result of co-operation by specialists. So it is with architectural planning. Working under the captaincy of the architect, the team of specialists all play their part and take responsibility for different sections of the project.

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TECHNICAL SECTION

In this week's special article, J. E. Cooke comments on the application of discounts to the accounts of sub-contractors. This is only one of the differences between general contractors' and sub-contractors' tenders. important difference is that, although most architects insist that general contractors' tenders should be strictly competitive, being based on the architect's drawings and specification and his quantity surveyor's bill of quantities, when they obtain estimates from specialists they allow the specialists to prepare the specification (such as it is), measure the work, and, sometimes, prepare the drawings.

The architect, of course, takes the differences (and, presumably, the reputations of the firms) into account when he considers the estimates. But the question arises: If strictly-comparable tenders are essential for the general work, why, when specialist work often accounts for 50 per cent, or more of a contract, are they not essential for sub-contractors' work? Or, conversely, if they are not essential for sub-contractors' work, why are they needed at all?

R. FITZMAURICE

This week's special article

7. PRACTICE: TENDERS sub-contractors' and suppliers' discounts

The number preceding the week's special article or survey indicates the appropriate subject heading of the Information Centre to which the article or survey belongs. The complete list of these headings is printed from time-to-time. To each survey is appended a list of recently-published and relevant Information Centre items. Further and earlier information can be found by referring to the index published free each year.

The following controversial article by 7. E. Cooke exposes some of the anomalies arising out of the application of discounts to the accounts of sub-contractors and nominated suppliers. The present situation hampers the efficiency of the accepted methods of competitive tendering. Readers opinions on this subject will be welcome.

This study is based on the RIBA conditions of contract but it should be borne in mind that the points raised are relevant to any form of contract which makes provision for the contractor to expect, and retain, cash discounts.

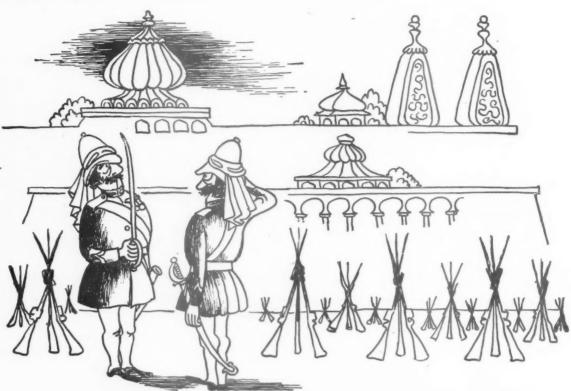
"NETT" TERMS

First, it should be understood clearly what is meant by the word "nett." According to my dictionary, it means "Clear of all charges or deductions; lowest; subject to no deductions; not subject to discount." Accepting this definition, my use of the word can be understood to mean the lowest figure | their customer a percentage discount off

after all discounts, whether for cash or otherwise, have been deducted and I shall try to avoid such ambiguities as, "... the nett cost, subject only to $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. discount."

CASH DISCOUNTS

Cash discounts should not be confused with trade discounts, which are merely discounts allowing concessions to a person within the trade, or percentage adjustments to published list prices dealing with fluctuations in the market price of goods or materials. A cash discount is an offer by a firm to give to



Hesitation can mean disaster

Whether it's Mutiny or Heavy Duty Cooking

On May 12th, 1857, the rebels captured Delhi and there was a great Ball in Lahore. Quite an eventful day: the local troops were planning to revolt as well. Next morning, they were summoned to a general parade. Taken completely unawares, four Regiments obediently piled their arms and marched safely away. So it was—simply, heroically, and at the eleventh hour—that the entire Punjab was saved from Mutiny.

Just as procrastination in those days would have been a thief of Empire, so in our own time it can be a thief of money. For instance, if you order Falkirk cooking equipment *now*, you will get it now—and at a very competitive price. If you delay, the opportunity won't wait for you.

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their quoted price if the customer pays his bill by cash on receipt of the goods or makes payment within a specified time. It is an inducement held out by vendors to persuade their customers to pay their bills promptly. Vendors apparently consider that prompt payment is worth a certain percentage of the money owed to them.

Generally speaking, the cash discount does not depend on the type of goods invoiced but is applied solely to the *amount* of the monthly statement. It is related only to the financial aspect of the transaction and is applied by the vendors mainly for their own benefit.

It is important to remember this fact, for often, nowadays, the discount is looked upon as a prerogative of the builder instead of something which should be initiated by the sub-contractors or suppliers, with subsequent benefit to them rather than to the builder.

Another point to bear in mind is that cash discounts are usually applied only to those accounts rendered by merchants who supply goods or materials; not by firms which undertake specialist activities. For instance, whereas a builder may expect a cash discount on all ironmongery purchased from his usual ironmonger, he would not be so likely to expect it from the firm to which he may regularly sub-let his plumbing work.

NOMINATED SUB-CONTRACTORS

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Because the RIBA conditions say that all prime costs or provisional sums in respect of nominated sub-contractors work shall be deemed to include 2½ per cent. cash discount and because the general contractor can object to having to employ a sub-contractor who will not allow such discount, it is incumbent on the architect, when making his inquiries, to request that this discount shall be included in the quoted price.

Most nominated sub-contractors employed on building works are specialist firms of one kind or another; they supply materials and execute works on the site in just the same way as the general contractor and, like him, they are paid a certain percentage of the value of their work as it proceeds. This fact, together with the sub-contract or other form of agreement, creates a relationship between the general contractor and the sub-contractor similar to that existing between the employer and the general contractor under the terms of the main contract. But, whereas the general contractor makes an offer and is paid accordingly (no mention having been made in his tender of "nett" or of any sort of discount), the specialist firms have to include something in their prices to allow for a $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. discount. In other words, a sub-contractor has to give a discount of 2½ per cent. for having the general contractor do no

more than fulfil his obligations under the sub-contract or other agreement.

I have refrained from calling this a cash discount for the simple reason that I doubt whether it can truly be called one. As we have already seen, a cash discount is applied because the firm who offer it feel that to do so is to their financial advantage. It is doubtful whether in the case of subcontractors this is so, for if they were to gain any benefit it would not be necessary to request sub-contractors to include for it in their tenders. Indeed, unless such a request is made, tenders are usually submitted as nett figures, which seems to indicate that the offer of the discount is not made freely by these firms and cannot, therefore, be of much value to them.

Moreover, if there was any advantage in its application under present conditions, then it would be reasonable to assume that the general contractorwhose relationship to the employer is much the same as that of the sub-contractor with himself-would be offering freely a similar discount to the employer when payments were made promptly against the architects' certificates. (Though I should be the last to suggest that this may be the solution to the delay in settlement of final accounts.) However, the general contractor, who, as a rule, is very quick to take advantage of any financial opportunities which may suggest themselves to him, evidently does not think it worth his while to offer any such inducement to the employer.

CASH DISCOUNTS ON SPECIALISTS' QUOTA-

Before dealing with nominated suppliers, it will be as well to consider the effect of requesting specialist firms to include for the cash discount in their quotations, for, as I have already mentioned, there is some evidence to show that, unless specifically instructed otherwise, they will usually quote a nett figure. The result of asking a firm to include for the discount is to have them increase what would have been their nett price by 21 per cent.; in other words, whereas, in the first place, they were prepared to carry out the work for say, £975 nett, with reasonable conditions of payment, their price is now £1,000 less 2½ per cent. cash discount, with conditions of payment which are, in fact, no different from those which would have applied on a nett quotation.

This makes it clear that the immediate effect of applying the discount is to increase the cost of most specialists' work to the employer by the amount of the discount required.

NOMINATED SUPPLIERS

The contractor buys goods or materials from nominated suppliers in just the same way as he makes his other purchases from merchants of his own choice; so, naturally, he expects to get

the same trading advantages. In recognition of this fact, the RIBA conditions permit him to retain any cash discount allowed (up to 5 per cent.) and say at the same time that he shall not be obliged to place an order with any nominated supplier who will not allow such discount for cash.

When a nominated sub-contractor is employed the main contract requires the general contractor to produce proof of payment when valuations are being made for interim certificates. But the contract makes no such requirement in respect of nominated suppliers. Consequently, it can be said that the nominated supplier is not so well protected under the terms of the main contract as is the nominated sub-contractor and, therefore, the operation of the cash discount does help him to obtain prompter payment from the general contractor.

However, it is more usual these days for merchants to allow, if anything, only a 2½ per cent. discount for monthly settlement, so that, if a supplier is asked to quote for supplying goods and is told to include in his estimate for a 5 per cent. discount, he will, naturally, increase his price by the amount by which this 5 per cent. discount exceeds the discount, if any, which he normally allows. Hence, the employer has to bear another increase in cost due to the application of a discount.

THE CASH DISCOUNT AND THE CONTRACT SUM

The proportion of the contract sum represented by prime costs and provisional sums varies considerably according to the type and nature of the contract, ranging from perhaps as little as 5 per cent. on housing to as much as 75 per cent. on some industrial work. An average figure is about 42 per cent. of the contract sum, while the value of goods supplied by nominated suppliers is usually about 6 per cent. The discounts on the provisional sums (at 21 per cent.) amount to 1.05 per cent. of the contract sum. Similarly, the 5 per cent. cash discounts included in the prime cost items amount to 0.30 per cent. of the contract sum. Setting these percentage values against contracts ranging from £10,000 to £500,000 we have a scale as shown in the following table:

Contract sum	Value of 2½% discounts	Value of 5% discounts	Total value of 2½% and 5% discounts
£	£	£	£
10,000	105 210	30 60	135 270
20,000 50,000	525	150	675
100,000	1,050	300	1,350
250,000	2,625	750	3,375
500,000	5,250	1,500	6,750



were used in these blocks of flats on the L.C.C. Argyle Estate-Wimbledon, Park Side

The part of the L.C.C. Argyle Estate at present under construction comprises 291 dwellings in 3 to 6-storey flats, maisonettes and cottages. Pictured above is a typical 4-storey block.

In these London County Council flats both systems of Bison floors were used—normal Reinforced Concrete for the shorter spans and Prestressed for the larger ones. Because both systems were used, maximum efficiency and economy were obtained because each system was utilised to the best advantage. The combination also enabled the slab depth to be the same for both spans.

All Bison units are of box section and when grouted together they form a constructionally complete floor.

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Plans by the Architects to the London County Council MINIMUM DEPTH — 5in. Prestressed will span up to 16ft.

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These are large sums of money, and any employer is justified in asking why he has to pay out so much in this manner and what he gets in return for doing so.

THE CONTRACTOR AND THE DISCOUNTS

The extent to which the discounts become a burden on the employer depends on the extent to which the general contractor takes them into consideration when preparing his tender. On very large contracts, where the discounts represent large sums of money, it is fairly certain that, if the tendering is keen, they are taken into consideration, but on medium-sized contracts a lot depends on the type of contractors who are tendering. For instance, firms who adopt unit rates based on builders' price books are more than likely to regard the cash discount as an insurance against errors in their pricing system, rather than as a discount for prompt payment of their accounts.

CONCLUSIONS

Two things can be done with cash discounts. Firstly, the money can be regarded by the general contractor as part of his profit; secondly, it can be considered genuinely as a cash discount.

In the first case, one can ask fairly: why is it necessary to give the contractor part of his profit by means of a

discount, with all its attendant complications, when other clear opportunities are provided for this purpose? In the second case, the immediate result is, as I have shown, to increase the cost of the works to the employer by anything up to about 1.35 per cent. of the contract sum.

So long as the slightest doubt remains as to whether or not the contractor passes on to the employer any benefit he may gain from the present procedure, the employer is not getting the full benefit of competitive tendering. This doubt could be removed if specialist firms and suppliers were required to submit nett quotations based on conditions of payment laid down in the main contract; the main contract, at the same time, should define prime cost and provisional sums as nett and not subject to any sort of discount. These nett figures could then be included in the bills of quantities, and the contractor, knowing exactly what he would have to pay in respect of these sums, could add a completely competitive amount for his profit and charges for administering the sums. This might remove the present anomalies caused by the application of cash discounts.

* This article was based on a thesis, entitled "The Application of Cash Discounts to Nominated Sub-Contractors' and Suppliers' Accounts under Building Contracts," prepared recently for the RICS.

INFORMATION CENTRE INDEX FOR 1951

An alphabetical index covering Information Centre items and special articles published in the Technical Section during the twelve months ended December 31, 1951, is being prepared. Readers who wish to have a copy—it is free of charge—should complete the form below and post it to the Technical Editor, The Architects' Journal, not later than March 21, 1952.

Please send me the Information Centre Index for 1951:

Name (Block letters)

Address (Block letters)

A.J. 13.3.52

Readers requiring up-to-date information on building products and services may complete and post this form to The Architects' Journal, 9, 11 and 13, Queen Anne's Gate, S.W.1

ENQUIRY FORM

I am interested in the following advertisement appearing in this issue of "The Architects' Journal." (BLOCK LETTERS, and list in alphabetical order of manufacturers names please).

Please ask manufacturers to send further particulars to:—

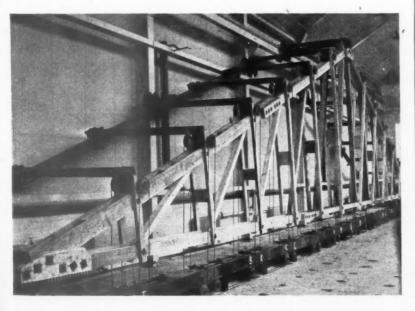
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PROFESSION or TRADE

ADDRESS

TDA INDUSTRIAL TRUSS TESTED

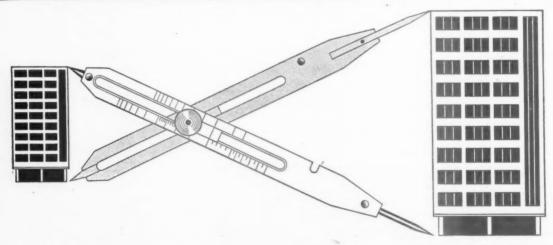
A TDA standard timber industrial truss was tested recently at the Forest Products Research Laboratory, Princes Risborough. The photograph below shows the 57-ft. 4-in. span truss standing up to twice the design load. It did not fail until the load was $3\frac{1}{2}$ times what the truss is expected to carry, which was considered a thoroughly satisfactory result.



AJ.13.3.52



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THE INDUSTRY

Brian Grant reports on a new factory for glass tubing for fluorescent lamps and four items of news from the electrical industry.

GLASS TUBES FOR FLUORESCENT LAMPS

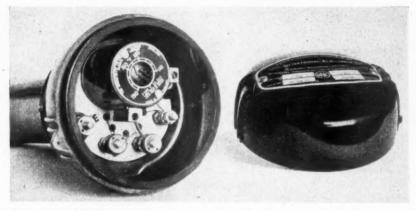
Up to now the glass tubes from which fluorescent lamps are made have not been produced in large enough quantities in this country, and supplies have had to be imported, mainly from America. Chance Bros., however, have recently completed a new factory at Firhill, near Glasgow, where they have developed the "Vello" tube-drawing process so that they will now be able to supply all the tubing needed in this country and also have a surplus available for export.

The glass is made in a furnace capable of producing 250 tons a week. The special advantages of the "Vello" process over other methods of drawing tubes of glass are the greater speed of reduction and the closer tolerances that can be achieved. The plant is capable of producing one tube every second, equivalent to about 3½ miles of tubing per hour. (Chance Brothers, Ltd., 28, St. James's Square, London, S.W.1.)

SMALL LIGHTING PLANTS

A useful addition to the range of domestic and industrial electric lighting plants by A. C. Morrison (Engineers) Ltd. uses an aircooled "Petter" diesel engine, which develops 4·5 BHP; the electrical output being 2·5 kW. Four alternative controls are standard, the most popular being the fully-automatic type which gives the same facilities as the mains supply in that the generating plant starts up when any light or power switch is depressed, and stops when the last lamp or other electrical appliance is switched off. The alternatives are: remote control at any convenient place, a press button on the switch board, and hand starting of the plant.

The current is supplied at standard A.C.



One of British National Electrics new immersion heaters, with its plastic cover removed.

mains voltage so that premises already wired for mains supply will find such wiring suitable for the "Morrison" set. Delivery of the sets is quite good. (A. C. Morrison (Engineers) Ltd., Rectory Place, Loughborough.)

COOKERS FOR THE BLIND

A small, simple mechanism, invented by a G.E.C. service engineer, allows a standard electric cooker to be modified so that the blind can successfully cook quite an elaborate meal.

The device consists of two complementary units; one indicates, by a trip mechanism, various temperature settings on the "Simmerswitch" and thermostatic controls, the other is an electrical relay in series with the thermostat which pushes out an indicator button through the switch panel on the cooker front and, at the same time, rings a low-tone bell to indicate that the cooker is switched on. When the temperature set on the thermostat is reached, a high-tone bell rings and the button recedes into the cooker. The blind person has then merely to set the Braille process timer before putting whatever is to be cooked into the oven. Thus, two means of checking the oven temperature are given so that the blind housewife can carry on with her work in another part of the kitchen or house without continually having to come back and see if the oven is up to

temperature. The company will supply these supplementary controls free of charge with any new cookers supplied to blind users.

This company has also recently announced that all its electric fires will in future be fitted with safety guards so that even small children should be incapable of burning themselves. This is a matter about which various authorities have become increasingly worried in recent years, and it is an excellent thing that a large firm should have modified all its products accordingly. (The General Electric Co., Ltd., Magnet House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2.)

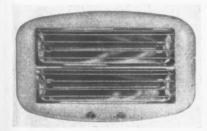
EMMERSION HEATERS

Leaflet H.D 23 from British National Electrics describes a new range of immersion heaters and circulators. They all conform to BS 1556, and the leaflet has some useful notes on the precautions to be taken to avoid heat losses in their installation. Thermostats can be withdrawn without breaking any watertight joints and are quickly adjustable to give water temperatures up to 190° F. The photograph shows how easy it is to adjust the thermostat when the plastic cover is removed, and, as can be seen, there is plenty of space for wiring. (British National Electrics Ltd., Newarthill, Motherwell. Scotland.)

BRIAN GRANT

Below, new "Creda" 2-kw. flat-back electric fire for wall mounting; no recess is necessary. Dimensions: 11\frac{3}{4} in. by 18\frac{1}{2} in. by 4\frac{1}{4} in. (Simplex Electric Co., Ltd., Broadwell, Oldbury, Birmingham.)

Right, in Chance Brothers' "Vello" tubing plant, Glasgow: tubes being assembled in a jig for packing.





Announcements

Small & Parkes Limited, Southampton, announce that they have moved to 5-9 Payne's Road, Freemantle. (Tel.: 71276.) All stock, plant, etc., from the old address at 69 Stafford Road has been transferred to this new depot, additional equipment also being installed to facilitate service to the trade.

Fordham Pressings Ltd. has appointed to its board of directors Mr. Leonard William Moritz in place of the late Mr. Charles Henry Parker, who died at Bournemouth some weeks ago. Mr. Moritz, at present a partner of the accountancy firm of Cape & Dalgeish, 71 Moorgate, London, E.C.2, will act as financial controller and adviser and also as chairman to the board of Directors.

Buildings Illustrated

Proposed Comprehensive High School at Kidbrooke, Blackheath, London S.E.3, for the LCC. (Pages 334-335.) Architects: Slater, Moberly, Uren and Pike F/F/A/A.R.I.B.A.; partner-in-charge: Charles Pike, A.R.I.B.A.; assistant architects: H. C. Wilson, A.R.I.B.A. and G. E. Rothen, B.A., A.R.I.B.A. Consulting engineers: (structural) Ove Arup & Partners, (mechanical & electrical) Edward A. Peace & Partners. Quantity surveyors: Selby & Sanders. General contractors: Gee, Walker & Slater Ltd. Sub-contractors: foundation, J. Garrett & Son Ltd.

South Kinson Infants' School, Bournemouth, Hampshire. (Page 337.) Architects; Ronald A. Phillips & Partners, F/A/A.R.I.B.A. Quantity surveyor: Irving Todd, F.R.I.C.S. General contractors: George Shears & Sons Ltd. Sub-contractors: Structural steelwork, Bourne Steel Construction Co.; reinforced concrete floors & roofs, Bristol Stone & Concrete Co. Ltd.; metal windows, Morris-Singer Co. Ltd.; heating, plumbing, water, gas & ventilation services, Mumford Bailey & Preston Ltd.; electrical installation, Electrical Services (Shears) Ltd.; roof covering, Ruberoid Co. Ltd.; pre-cast stonework, Bristol Stone & Concrete Co. Ltd., Blokcrete Co. Ltd.; roof lights, Baster Ltd.; asphalte work, Limmer & Trinidad Asphalte Co. Ltd.; patent suspended ceilings, Jenkins & Sons Ltd.; glazing, James Clark & Eaton Ltd.; wall & floor tiling, Carter & Co. (London) Ltd.; sanitary ware, Kennedy's (Bournemouth) Ltd.; patent flooring, Horsley Smith & Co. (Hayes) Ltd.; "Granwood "flooring, Granwood Flooring Co. Ltd.; locks & ironmongery, Alfred Brown & Co., Kennedy's (Bournemouth) Ltd.; cloakroom fittings, Alfred Brown & Co. (Birmingham); W.C. partitions, Flexo Plywood Industries Ltd.; gates, J. Caslake Ltd.; Venetian blinds. J. Avery & Co. Ltd. (Bournemouth).

Conversion of the Foreign Branch of the Martins Bank Ltd., at 80, Gracechurch Street, E.C.3. (Pages 338-340) Architect: Westwood, Sons & Harrison F/F.R.I.B.A. Assistant-in-charge: J. A. Crabtree, A.R.I.B.A. Electrical consultants: A. F. Myers & Partners. General contractors: Mullen & Lumsden Ltd. General foreman: E. J. Clark, Sub-contractors: Concrete blocks, Broad & Co. Ltd.; bricks, London Brick Co. Ltd.; bricks, London Brick Co. Ltd.; Pilkington Bros. Ltd.; woodblock flooring, The Acme Flooring & Paving Co. (1904) Ltd.; patent flooring, Semtex Ltd.; central heating, ventilation, gas fittings,

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Church at St. Munchins, Limerick, Ireland. (Pages 341-344.) Architects: F. M. Corr, B.ARCH., A.R.I.B.A., A.M.T.P.I., W. H. D. McCormick, DIP.ARCH., A.R.I.B.A., M.R.I.A.I. Quantity surveyor: Dermod J. O'Brien, A.R.I.C.S., F.F.S. General contractors: P. Molloy & Sons Ltd. Stained glass window, designed by Evie Hone; external figure, silverware on altar, plaques to tabernacles font and baptistry gates, designed by Oisin Kelly; Stations of the Cross, Craftsmen of Oberammergau; dossal curtain, Old Bleach Linen Co.; landscaping, Messrs. Watson; steelframing, J. & G. McGloughlin Ltd.; seating, Barney Heron; electrical installation, G. Clancy; font, T. Quinn; painting, Daly & Sons; electric light fittings, Merchant Adventurers Ltd.; rubber flooring to aisles, porches, etc., Irish Dunlop Co.



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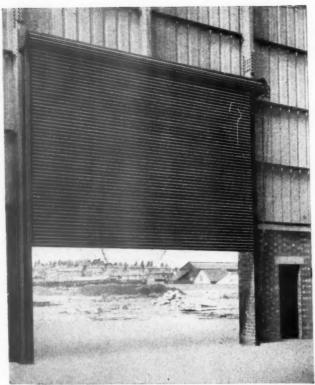
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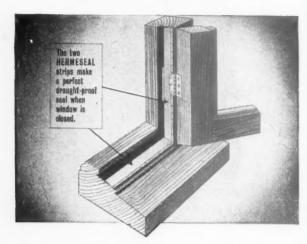
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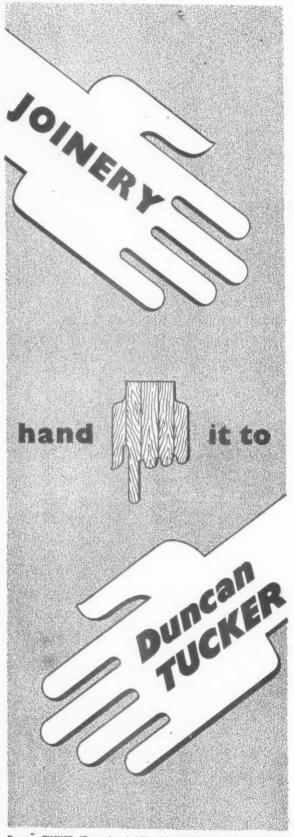
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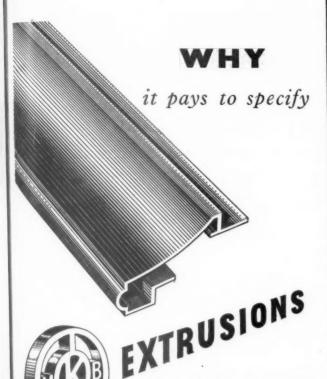
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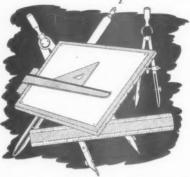
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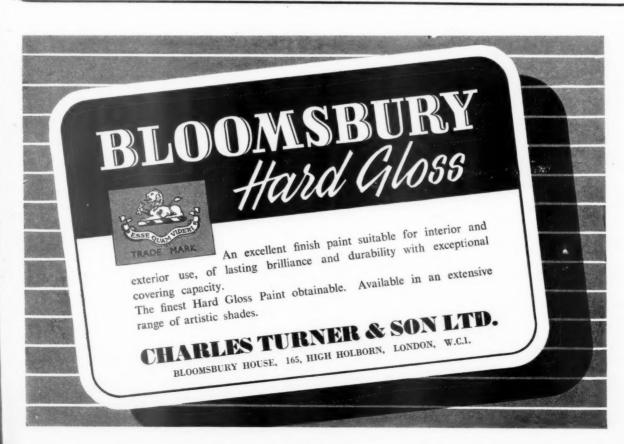
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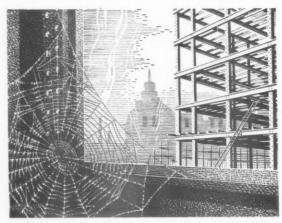
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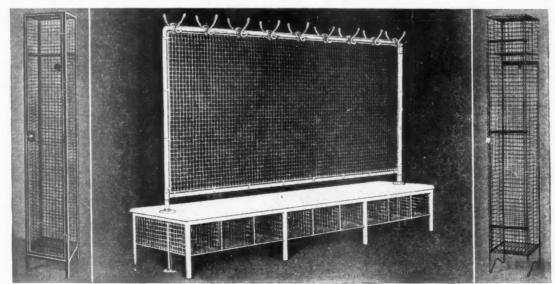
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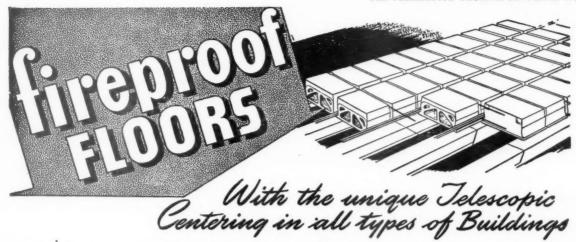
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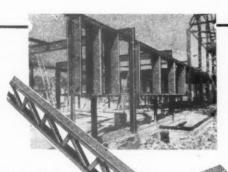
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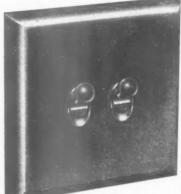
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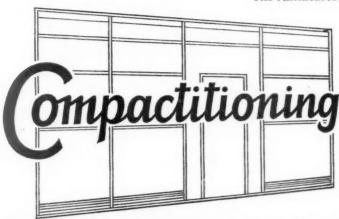


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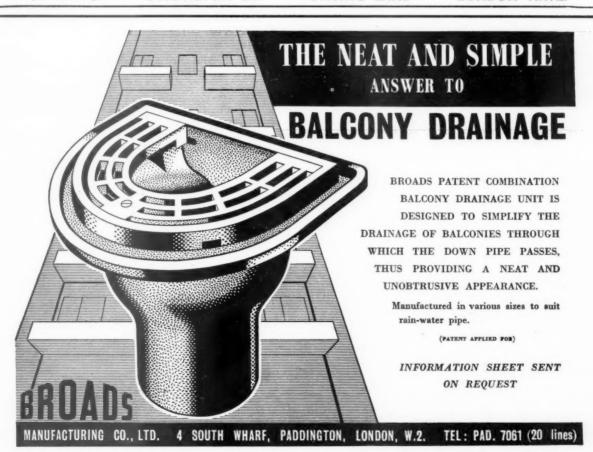
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- · Solid or glazed partitions
- Designed for easy dismantling and re-erection
- To suit high or low buildings

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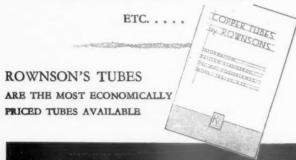
THE ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL for March 13, 1952

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Hall's are renowned for their timber buildings not only as manufacturers but as prime designers and pioneers. Your needs receive the personal attention of those responsible for the high Hall standard and any building purchased is backed by the reputation, skill, and integrity of Halls of Paddock Wood. Building for Industry, Education, Sport, Municipal or Constructional needs. Site offices and Contractors' Huts also supplied. NO MATERIAL LICENCES NEEDED.

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Chubb have designed and constructed locks for most types of property including houses, flats, garages, shops, offices and warehouses.

Should you require complete details of the full Chubb range, we will gladly send further particulars on hearing from you. Write of telephone: Chubb & Son's Lock and Safe Co. Ltd., 40-42 Oxford Street, London, W.I. Telephone MUSeum 5822.

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Standlake, near Witney, Oxon. 'Phone: Standlake 284

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Batley Buildings can be erected at a fraction of the cost of brick structures by saving time, labour and material costs. Assembled from standardised tongued and grooved concrete units they are permanent, portable, weatherproof and fireproof. Windows and doors can usually be located according to requirements. Once erected Batley Buildings require no maintenance. Used extensively by leading Industrial and Municipal bodies.

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These three volumes contain the experience and skill of craftsmen and experts-men who learned from years of practical work the best way to do a job. Whether you have been in the Industry for many years or have only recently taken it up you will find these books invaluable.

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CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

Advertisements should be addressed to the Advt. Manager, "The Architects' Journal," 9, 11 and 13, Queen Anne's Gate, Westminster, S.W.1, and should reach there by first post on Friday morning for inclusion in the following Thursday's

paper.
Replies to Box Numbers should be addressed care of "The Architects' Journal," at the address given above.

Public and Official Announcements

25s. per inch; each additional line, 2s.

25s. per wich; each additional line. 2s.

The engagement of persons answering these advertisements must be made through a Local Office of the Ministry of Labour or a Scheduled Employment Agency if the applicant is a man aged 18-64 inclusive or a woman aged 18-59 inclusive unless he or she, or the employment, is excepted from the provisions of the Notification of Vacancies Order, 1952.

AIR MINISTRY WORKS DEPT.
ARCHITECTURAL DESIGNER/DRAUGHTS-MEN required in Designs Branch by Air Ministry Works Department. Applicants should have had several years' experience in the preparation of working drawings, details and layouts for permanent and semi-permanent buildings. Vacancies are mainly in London, but there are some in the provinces. Salaries are on ranges up to £675 per annum, with starting pay dependent upon age, qualifications and experience. Applications, stating age, qualifications, previous appointments (with dates), should be sent to the nearest local Employment Exchange.

NEWCASTLE REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD.

custing age, quainfeations, previous appointments (with dates), should be sent to the nearest local Employment Exchange.

NEWCASTLE REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD.

ARCHITECT'S DEPARTMENT.

Applications are invited for the appointment of a GENERAL ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT (Grade A.P.T. III, 4850 to 2495 per annum), on the permanent Headquarters Staff of the Board's Architect in Newcastle. It is expected that the salary scales of architectural staff of Regional Hospital Boards will shortly be regraded on an improved National basis.

The appointment relates to the section of the staff which is concerned with practical architectural work throughout the Region. To Architectural Assistants who wish to gain experience of hospital practice the post ofters an excellent opportunity for doing good-class work full of interest and variety and good-class work full of interest and variety and good-class of the Internediate Examination of the Royal Institute of British Architects. Some practical experience in an architect's office is sesential.

The appointment will be subject to the provisions of the National Health Service (Superannuation) Regulations, 1947. Successful candidates will be required to pass a medical examination.

tion.

Applicants should state: (1) Name and full address; (2) age and whether married; (3) professional qualifications; (4) experience; (5) present appointment and salary (6) war service; (7) date available if appointed, and (8) names and addresses of three referees.

Applications are to be received by the undersigned not later than the 21st March, 1952.

E. B. JENKINS.

Secretary

E. B. JENKINS.

Secretary.

Secretary.

26th February. 1952.

THE NORTH-WESTERN ELECTRICITY
BOARD.
NO. 6 SUB-AREA.

APPOINTMENT OF THIRD ASSISTANT
ENGINEER.

SUB-AREA TECHNICAL ENGINEER'S
DEPARTMENT. KENDAL.

Applicants should have had experience as Clerk
of Works, with thorough knowledge of all sections
of the building trade, be capable of setting out,
giving levels, measuring up, keeping all necessary
site records and rendering reports. Maintenance
and repair of Board's property will be included in
duties.

Salary scale: £621-£648 p.a. Grade H.10. N.J.B.

Salary scale: £621-£648 p.a. Grade H.10. N.J.B.

Cakeland) Sub-Area Manager, No. 6(Lakeland) Sub-Area, The North-Western Electricity Board, Castle Green, Kendal, by 22nd March, 1952.

tricity Board, Castle Green, Kendal, by 22nd March, 1952.

BRADFIELD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ASSISTANT IN THE HOUSING
DEPARTMENT.

Applications are invited for the above appointment at a salary according to Grade I of the A.P.T. Division, commencing at £440 per annum, increasing annually by £15 to £485.

The appointment is superannuable, and the successful applicant will be required to pass a medical examination.

Applications, giving full personal particulars with details of present appointment and experience, must be delivered to the undersigned not later than Tuesday, 25th March, 1952. Applicants should state the names of not more than two referees as to character and ability.

Canvassing in any form. either directly or indirectly, will be a disqualification.

H. A. CHAMP,

Clerk of the Council.

Council Offices, 26, Bath Road, Reading. 6498

BOROUGH OF BRENTFORD AND CHISWICK.
JUNIOR ARCHITECTURAL DRAUGHTSMAN
(TEMPORARY).
BOROUGH ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR'S
DEPARTMENT.
Applications are invited for this appointment
at a salary according to the Miscellaneous
Division, Grade III (£355 to £415 per annum, plus
London weighting). A two-bedroom flat can be
provided for the successful applicant.
Applicants should be well experienced in the
tracing and colouring of architectural and engineering drawings, a working knowledge of building
construction and Municipal engineering being an
advantage.

advantage.

Written applications detailing experience, etc., with copies of two testimonials, to undersigned not later than 28th March, 1952.

This advertisement is published subject to the provisions of the Notification of Vacancies Order, 1952.

W. F. J. Church, Town Clerk.

Town Hall, Chiswick, W.4.

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL.

COUNTY ARCHITECT'S DEPARTMENT.
Applications are invited for the appointment of ASSISTANT QUANTITY SURVEYOR, Grade VI.
at a commencing salary of £645 per annum, rising by annual increments of £20/£25 to a maximum of £710 per annum according to age.

Preference will be given to applicants who are Members of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (Quantities Sub-Division), and who have adequate experience in the preparation of Bills of Quantities, site measuring, and in settlement of final accounts.

The appointment will be subject to the provisions of the Local Government Act, 1937, and the successful applicant will be required to pass a medical examination.
Applications, stating age, qualifications and experience and accompanied by copies of three recent testimonials, should be sent to The County Architect, Surrey County Council, County Hall, Kingston-upon-Thames, not later than the 28th March, 1952.
Canvassing, either directly or indirectly, will disqualify a candidate from

Kingston-upon-Thames, not later than the March, 1952.
March, 1952. canvassing, either directly or indirectly, will disqualify a candidate from consideration. The Council will be unable to provide any housing accommodation, and the successful applicant will be expected to make his own arrangements in this direction.

T. W. W. GOODERIDGE.

T. W. W. GOODERIDGE.

County Hall. Kingston-upon-Thames. 6496

County Hall. Kingston-upon-Thames. 6496

BRANDON AND BYSHOTTLES URBAN
DISTRICT COUNCIL.
ARCHITECT'S DEPARTMENT.
ARCHITECTIRAL ASSISTANT OR
DRAUGHTSMAN.
Applications are invited for the appointment of
an Architectural Assistant or Draughtsman
(either sex) in the Architect's Department of the
above Authority, at a salary commensurate with
qualifications and experience, in the A.P.T. Grade
of the Scale of Salaries of the National Joint
Council for Local Authorities' Administrative, etc.,
Services.

Council for Local Authorities' Administrative, etc., Services.
The appointment is temporary, will be terminable by one month's notice on either side, and will be subject to the provisions of the Local Government Superannuation Act. 1937, if the successful applicant has had two years' Local Government service.
Form of application can be obtained from the undermentioned address. Closing date for receipt of applications is Saturday, the 22nd March, 1952.

A. A. LUXMOORE.
Browney House. Browney Colliery, Durham.
5th March, 1952.

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL.

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL.
COUNTY ARCHITECT'S DEPARTMENT.
Applications are invited for the following appointment:

ASSISTANT MAINTENANCE SURVEYOR, Grade YI, at a commencing salary of £645 per annum, rising by annual increments of £20/£25 to a maximum of £710 per annum, plus London allowance of £30 per annum.

Applicants should possess approved qualifications and experience, and preference will be given to those who are Members of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (Building Sub-Division).

They should be capable of drafting specifications in all trades, preparing schedules of dilapidations, the preparation of detailed estimates for general maintenance works, and surveys of properties.

Full details of past and present appointments.

general maintenance works, and surveys of properties.

Full details of past and present appointments should be given.

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

Applications, stating age, qualifications and experience, and accompanied by copies of three recent testimonials, should be sent to the County Architect, Surrey County Council, County Hall, Kingston-upon-Thames, not later than 22nd March, 1932.

Canvassing, either directly or indirectly, will disqualify a candidate from consideration.

The Council will be unable to provide any housing accommodation, and the successful applicant will be expected to make his own arrangements in this direction.

T. W. W. GOODERIDGE.

Clerk of the Council.

County Hall, Kingston-upon-Thames.

6471

ARCHITECTS and SURVEYORS required for building control work. Salaries up to £696, according to experience. A.B.I.B.A. or A.B.I.C.S. essential. Appointment forms from Architect. County Hall, S.E.1, quoting AB/EK/BR/3.

County Hall, S.E.1, quoting AR/EK/BR/3. (210)
6153
CITY AND COUNTY OF NEWCASTLE-UPONTYNE.
CITY ARCHITECT'S DEPARTMENT.
The City Architect will be pleased to hear from
Architects possessing a contemporary outlook and
considerable aptitude in matters of architectural
design and construction in connection with the
following vacancies in the Housing Section of the
Department, which is sub-divided into sections
dealing with normal housing and flats:—
ONE SENIOR ASSISTANT ARCHITECT.
A.P.T., Grade VII (£735-£310).
ONE SENIOR ASSISTANT
A.P.T., Grade VII (£685-£760).
The Grade VII (£945-£710).
The Grade VIII appointment is for normal
housing, and the appointments for the other posts
may be either for normal housing or for flats.
All candidates should be Associate Members
of the R.I.B.A., and training at a recognised
School of Architecture is desirable but not
essential.
The appointments will be subject to the

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essential.

The appointments will be subject to the National Conditions of Service as adopted by the City Council; to the provisions of the Local Government Superannuation Act, 1937, and to one month's notice on either side.

The superannuation of the condidates will be required to pass a medical examination.

Government and the following candidates will be required to pass a memoral candidate for particulars of training, qualifications, experience, present and past appointments, together with copies of two recent testimonials or the names and addresses of two persons to whom reference may be made, should be addressed to George Kenyon, A.R.I.B.A., A.M.T.P.I., City Architect, 18, Cloth Market, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 1, not later than the 29th March, 1952.

JOHN ATKINSON, Town Clerk.

Town Hall, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 1.

29th February, 1952.

BOROUGH OF TWICKENHAM.
ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT.
Applications are invited for the position of architectural Assistant, in the Borough Engineer's Department, at a salary in accordance with Grade K-V (£530-£620, plus London weighting).
The applicants must have passed the Intermediate Examination of the R.I.B.A., and experience with a Local Authority will be an advantage.
Applications, endorsed "Architectural Assistant, stating age, qualifications, present and previous appointments and giving the deciple of two testimonials, and delivered to Mr. A. S. Knolles, B.Sc., M.I.C.E., York House, Twickenham, Middlesex, not later than Saturday, 22nd March. 1952.

Anones, B.S.C., M.R.C.E., 107K House, I wind-ham, Middlesex, not later than Saturday, 22nd March, 1952.

The successful applicant will be required to pass a medical examination, and the appointment will be subject to the Local Government Superannua-tion Act, 1937, and to one month's notice on either

de. Canvassing, directly or indirectly, will dis-ualify, and applicants must state whether they re related to any member of the Corporation r senior officer.

W. H. JONES. Town Clerk.

Municipal Offices, Twickenham.

28th February, 1952.

HOLLAND COUNTY COUNCIL.
COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT.
Applications are invited for the following appointments in the Boston office of the Department:

appointments in the Bosoli oline of the Bosoli oline oline

Applicants for post (b) should have had good experience in planning survey and research work under current legislation, and should have passed the Intermediate Examination of the Town Planning Institute; further qualifications will be

Planning Institute; further qualifications will be an advantage.

The appointments are subject to the provisions of the Local Government Superannuation Act. 1937, and the successful applicants will be required to pass a medical examination. For post (a) the successful applicant will be required and maintain a motor car. for which allowance will be paid in accordance with the County Council's scale.

Applications, stating age, education, qualifications and experience, accompanied by two recent testimonials and the name of one person to whom reference may be made, should be sent to the undersigned, to arrive not later than 14 days after the publication of this notice. Canvassingeither directly or indirectly, will be a disqualification.

H. C. MARRIS.

Clerk of the County Council.

1st March, 1952.

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ARCHITECTS, MAINTENANCE SURVEYORS, AND QUANTITY SURVEYORS.
THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSIONERS invite applications for permanent appointments to the basic grades given above, in a number of Departments in England. The vacancies for Architects are in the War Office. Applications will be accepted at any time up to and including Jist March, 1952. Selected candidates will be interviewed as soon as possible after the receipt of their application forms. Successful candidates may expect early appointments. Candidates are advised to apply as early as possible.
All candidates must be at least 25 and under 35 years of age on 1st January, 1951, with extension for regular service in H.M. Forces, and up to two years for permanent Civil Servants. All candidates must have the appropriate professional qualifications and experience.
The salary on appointment will be fixed according to age, up to 34. The London salary for men aged 25 is 2628, rising by seven increments to 2912, then by four further increments to 2970. 21.220; Senior Grade, £1,331-£1,536.
Salaries for women and for officers appointed to the provinces will be somewhat lower.
Further particulars and application forms from Civil Service Commission. Scientific Branch, Trinidad House, Old Burlington Street, London, W.1, quoting No. 3495. Completed application forms should be returned as soon as possible. 6520

COUNTY BOROUGH OF WEST HAM.
BOROUGH ARCHITECT AND PLANNING
OFFICER'S DEPARTMENT.
Applications are invited for the following posts on the permanent establishment, in connection with the reconstruction programme of the County

with the reconstruction programme of the County
Borough: 1.
BOROUG

least three years' practical experience in an Architect's office, and preference will be given to candidates who have passed the Intermediate Examination of the R.I.B.A.

Applicants for post (d) should be A.M.T.P.I., preferably with one other qualification, and should have administrative ability and good all round experience.

have administrative ability and good all round experience.

Applications for post (e) should be A.M.T.P.I., with administrative ability and experience in development control.

Application forms (returnable by 31st March, 1952) to be obtained from the Borough Architect and Planning Officer, Thomas E. North, F.R.I.B.A., 70, West Ham Lane, Stratford, E.I.S.

G. E. SMITH,

Town Clerk.

West Ham Town Hall, Stratford, E.15. 6521

HERNE BAY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT.

Applications are invited for this appointment at a salary in Grade Va (£600-£660). Applicants must be Registered Architects and have had sound experience in architectural work.

The appointment will be subject to the National Scheme of Conditions of Service; to the provisions of the Local Government Superannuation Act, 1937; to the successful passing of a medical examination; and to one month's notice on either side.

amination; and to one month's nouce on enther side.

Housing accommodation, if required, will be provided for the successful applicant as soon as possible.

Forms of application may be obtained from the undersigned, to whom applications should be delivered not later than Jist March, 1952. Canvassing will disqualify.

A. C. BRADBURY, Clerk of the Council.

Council Offices, Herne Bay Kent.

**TOWN MARKAGE PRECUESTE have a

Council Offices, Herne Bay. Kent. 6492

THE ROAD HAULAGE EXECUTIVE have a vacancy for a MAINTENANCE SUPERINTENDENT in the Surveying Department of their South-Eastern Division, who will be required to supervise a maintenance staff of approximately fifty, working in the London area. Applicants should have wide experience of all classes of building work, especially that of an industrial character, be good organisers, and possess sound knowledge of estimating, measuring and builders' accounts. Salary scale: £670-£730 per annum. Applications, in duplicate, giving date of birth, qualifications, experience, present post and salary, should reach the Chief Staff and Welfare Officer (S.294), Road Haulage Executive, 222 Marylebone Road, London, N.W.1. within seven days of the will be required, if eligible, to join a contributory appearance of this notice. The selected candidate superannuation scheme.

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL.

Vacancies for PLANNING ASSISTANTS (salaries up to £837 10s.). Professional qualifications: A.R.I.B.A., A.R.I.C.S. and/or A.M.T.P.I. required. Particulars and application form from Architect, County Hall, S.E.I., enclosing s.a.e., and quoting AR/EK/P/4. (219)

COUNTY BOROUGH OF BOURNEMOUTH.
BOROUGH ARCHITECT'S DEPARTMENT.
Applications are invited for the appointment of a CHIEF ASSISTANT ARCHITECT. Established post. Salary Grade A.P.T., VIII (£735-£810 p.a.).
Applicants must be Registered Architects Members of the R.I.B.A., and have a comprehensive knowledge of all architectural works required by Local Authorities.
The appointment will be terminable by one month's notice, in writing, on either side, and subject to the provisions of the Local Government Superannuation Act, 1937, also to the conditions of service in accordance with the National Scheme.
The successful candidate will be required to pass a medical examination, and will be appointed at his present salary if such salary is within the incremental scale of the position.
Applications, on forms obtainable from the Borough Architect, Town Hall, Bournemouth, must be received by the undersigned, in not later than 10 a.m., Saturday, 29th March, 1952.

A. LINDSAY CLEGG.

Town Clerk.

GOVERNMENT OF NORTHERN IRELAND.

Applications are invited for the permanent and pensionable post of Senior Architect in the Ministry of Education.

Salary scale: £1,300×£50—£1,500, with an addition of approximately £80 at minimum and £100 at maximum. Commencing salary on this scale will be related to qualifications and experience. Qualifications: Candidates must be Registered Architects by examination. They must have had extensive experience in modern School design and layout, and should be conversant with the use of non-traditional forms of construction. Administrative experience will be an advantage. Preference will be given to candidates who served with H.M. Forces during wartime, provided the Civil Service Commissioners are satisfied that such candidates can, or within a reasonable time will be able to, discharge the duties efficiently. Application forms may be obtained from the Secretary, Civil Service Commission, Stormont, Belfast, to whom they should be returned, with copies of two recent testimonials, so as to reach him not later than 20th March, 1952.

now ready

FOUNDATIONS

FOR HOUSES AND OTHER SMALL STRUCTURES

> by W. H. Elgar, MA, MEng, AMICE, FRICS. Forewords by Noel Dean, MA and James Macgregor, FSA How to arrive at an adequate, safe foundation design whatever the soil and subsoil; how to avoid needless waste of money below ground level; how to test the behaviour and physical properties of subsoils. The book contains 92 pages with 52 line illustrations.

Price 12s. 6d. net, postage 5d.

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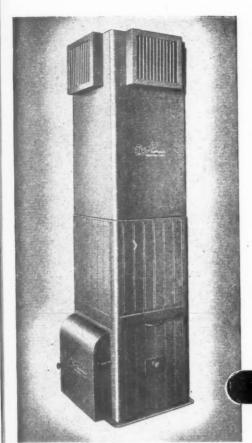
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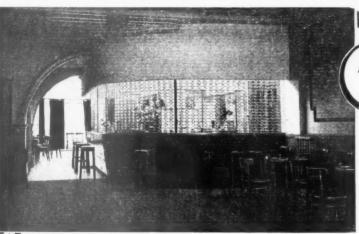
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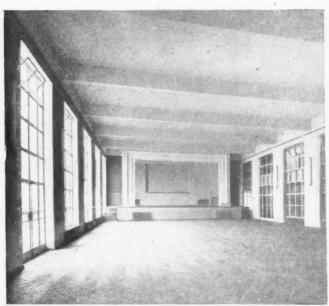
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ASSEMBLY HALL



MAIN ENTRANCE HALL

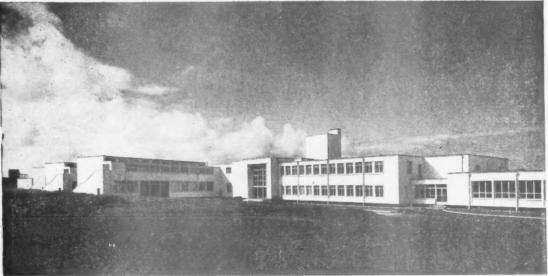
KELLS SECONDARY SCHOOL, WHITEHAVEN

County Architect: John H. Haughan, F.R.I.B.A.

This school, the largest in Cumberland, has been designed to suit the contours of the site and stands on a headland 270 feet above sea level in the town of Whitehaven.

John Laing and Son Limited, Building and Civil Engineering Contractors, London NW7, Carlisle, Johannesburg and Lusaka Established in 1848





FRONT ELEVATION

