

THE
OCTAGON

A Journal of The American Institute of Architects



SEPTEMBER

1931

Volume 3

Number 9

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

THE OCTAGON, WASHINGTON, D. C.

OFFICERS

President.....ROBERT D. KOHN, 56 West 45th Street, New York, N. Y.
 First Vice-President.....ERNEST J. RUSSELL, Chemical Building, St. Louis, Mo.
 Second Vice-President.....HORACE W. PEASLEE, 1228 Connecticut Avenue, Washington, D. C.
 Secretary.....FRANK C. BALDWIN, The Octagon, Washington, D. C.
 Treasurer.....EDWIN BERGSTROM, Citizens National Bank Bldg., Los Angeles, Cal.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

For One Year (1931-32)
 FREDERICK W. GARDNER, 616 Walnut St., Cincinnati, Ohio (Great Lakes Div.)
 CHARLES T. INGHAM, 1211 Empire Bldg., Pittsburgh, Pa. (Middle Atl. Div.)
 FRED F. WILLSON, P. O. Box 497, Bozeman, Mont. (West. Mount. Div.)

For Two Years (1931-32)
 FRANKLIN O. ADAMS, 509 Twigg Street, Tampa, Fla. (South Atlantic Div.)
 M. H. FURBERGER, 110 Porter Bldg., Memphis, Tenn. (Gulf States Div.)
 FRED H. MEYER, 525 Market St., San Francisco, Calif. (Sierra Nevada Div.)

For Three Years (1931-34)
 ALBERT L. BROCKWAY, Clinton Sq. Bldg., Syracuse, N. Y. (New York Div.)
 GEORGE H. GRAY, 30 Whitney Avenue, New Haven, Conn. (New England Div.)
 FREDERICK M. MANN, Univ. of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minn. (Cen. Sta. Div.)

LIST OF CHAPTERS 1931

ALABAMA—*Frederic Child Biggin, Alabama Polytechnic Institute, Auburn, Ala.; †Jesse W. Green, 713 Education Bldg., Birmingham, Ala.
 ALBANY—*Norman R. Sturpis, 91 State St., Albany, N. Y.; †Harvey W. Jackson, 32 Clermont St., Albany, N. Y.
 ARKANSAS—*George H. Wittenberg, Home Insurance Bldg., Little Rock Ark.; †Lawson L. Delony, 2407 Louisiana St., Little Rock, Ark.
 BALTIMORE—*Henry S. T. White, Baltimore Life Insurance Building, Baltimore, Md.; †Charles D. Loomis, 12 East Pleasant Street, Baltimore, Md.
 BOSTON—*Wm. Stanley Parker, 120 Boylston St., Boston, Mass.; †Millard B. Gulick, 20 Newbury St., Boston, Mass.
 BROOKLYN—*Chas. C. Wagner, 32 Court St., Brooklyn, N. Y.; †George Francis Kiese, 130 E. 15th St., New York, N. Y.
 BUFFALO—*Karl G. Schmill, 1342 Prudential Bldg., Buffalo, N. Y.; †Benjamin C. Buell, 547 Franklin St., Buffalo, N. Y.
 CENTRAL ILLINOIS—*Philip R. Hooton, Peoples Bank Bldg., Bloomington, Ill.; †E. L. Stouffer, 206 Administration Bldg., University of Illinois, Urbana, Ill.
 CENTRAL NEW YORK—*Melvin L. King, 300 Denison Bldg., Syracuse, N. Y.; †Merton E. Granger, 474 So. Salina St., Syracuse, N. Y.
 CHICAGO—*Clarence W. Farrier, Administration Bldg., Burnham Park, Chicago, Ill.; †Carl E. Heimbrodt, 90 No. Wacker Drive, Chicago, Ill.
 CINCINNATI—*Ernest Pickering, 1 Interwood Place, Cincinnati, Ohio; †Russell Potter, 1305 The American Bldg., Cincinnati, Ohio.
 CLEVELAND—*Philip L. Small, Terminal Tower, Cleveland, Ohio; †James H. Duthie, Union Trust Bldg., Cleveland, Ohio.
 COLORADO—*George H. Williamson, Majestic Building, Denver, Colo.; †Roland L. Linder, Insurance Building, Denver, Colo.
 COLUMBUS—*W. C. Ronan, 1894 N. High St., Columbus, Ohio; †Ralph Chas. Kempton, Atlas Building, 8 E. Long St., Columbus, Ohio.
 CONNECTICUT—*Edward B. Caldwell, First National Bank Bldg., Bridgeport, Conn.; †Louis J. Walsh, 69 Center Street, Waterbury, Conn.
 DAYTON—*Edwin F. Simpson, 923 Reibold Bldg., Dayton, Ohio; †Elliason E. Smith, 1005 Commercial Bldg., Dayton, Ohio.
 DETROIT—*Branson V. Gamber, 3500 Union Trust Bldg., Detroit, Mich.; †Arthur K. Hyde, 904 Marquette Bldg., Detroit, Mich.
 EASTERN OHIO—*Barton E. Brooks, 821 Dollar Bank Bldg., Youngstown, Ohio; †Walter J. Canfield, 1301 City Bank Bldg., Youngstown, Ohio.
 FLORIDA CENTRAL—*Henry L. Taylor, Times Building, St. Petersburg, Fla.; †C. Sedgwick Moss, 509 J. Bruce Smith Bldg., St. Petersburg, Fla.
 FLORIDA NORTH—*Mellen C. Greeley, Fifth floor, Exchange Bldg., 218 West Adams St., Jacksonville, Fla.; †Jefferson D. Powell, Professional Building, Jacksonville, Fla.
 FLORIDA SOUTH—*Richard Kiehnel, 930 Seybold Bldg., Miami, Fla.; †Russell T. Fanoost, 1130 Lincoln Road, Miami Beach, Fla.
 GEORGIA—*Francis F. Smith, Norris Bldg., Atlanta, Ga.; †Preston S. Stevens, 101 Marietta Bldg., Atlanta, Ga.
 GRAND RAPIDS—*Harry L. Mead, 902 Michigan Trust Bldg., Grand Rapids, Mich.; †Roger Allen, 463 Houseman Bldg., Grand Rapids, Mich.
 HAWAII—*Wm. C. Fures, 507 Hawaiian Trust Bldg., Honolulu, T. H.; †Herbert Cayton, 324 S. M. Damon Bldg., Honolulu, T. H.
 INDIANA—*Arthur Bohn, 215 East 32nd St., Indianapolis, Ind.; †Warren D. Miller, 619 Ohio Street, Terre Haute, Ind.
 IOWA—*Vernon F. Tinsley, Hubbell Bldg., Des Moines, Iowa; †Edwin H. Wetherell, 517 Shops Bldg., Des Moines, Iowa.
 KANSAS CITY—*H. H. Dunham, 300 West 47th Street, Kansas City, Mo.; †Raymond L. Vockamp, 4011 Charlotte Street, Kansas City, Mo.
 KANSAS—*Charles W. Shaver, 147 1/2 South Santa Fe Street, Salina, Kansas; †George M. Beal, 305 Marvin Hall, Lawrence, Kansas.
 KENTUCKY—*Wm. G. O'Toole, 714 Louisville Trust Bldg., Louisville, Ky.; †G. M. Grimes, 1708 Heyburn Building, Louisville, Ky.
 LOUISIANA—*Richard Koch, 604 Audubon Bldg., New Orleans, La.; †Andrew M. Lockett, Jr., Balter Bldg., New Orleans, La.
 MADISON—*Frank Riley, 24 E. Millin Street, Madison, Wis.; †James R. Law, First Central Building, Madison, Wis.
 MINNESOTA—*Wilbur H. Tinsler, 104 S. 9th St., Minneapolis, Minn.; †Guy N. Crawford, 517 Essex Bldg., Minneapolis, Minn.
 MISSISSIPPI—*Emmett J. Hull, Merchants Bank Bldg., Jackson, Miss.; †Frank P. Gates, Merchants Bank Bldg., Jackson, Miss.
 MONTANA—*Chandler C. Cohagen, Box 1305, Billings, Mont. †W. R. Flew, Bozeman, Mont.
 NEBRASKA—*W. L. Younk, Capitol Commission, Lincoln, Nebr.; †Ned S. Wallace, 2561 Whitmore Ave., Omaha, Nebr.
 NEW JERSEY—*Seymour Williams, Woodruff Bldg., Rahway, N. J.; †Clement W. Fairweather, Metuchen, N. J.
 NEW YORK—*Stephen F. Voorhees, 101 Park Avenue, New York, N. Y.; †Theodore I. Coe, 101 Park Avenue, New York, N. Y.
 NORTH CAROLINA—*James B. Lynch, Southern Bldg., Wilmington, N. C.; †W. W. Dodge, Jr., 20 Woodlark Rd., Asheville, N. C.
 NORTH TEXAS—*Renee P. DeWitt, Kirby Building, Dallas, Texas; †M. C. Kleuser, 606 Construction Bldg., Dallas, Texas.
 NORTHERN CALIFORNIA—*Henry H. Gutterson, 526 Powell St., San Francisco, Cal.; †James H. Mitchell, 369 Pine St., San Francisco, Cal.
 NORTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA—*Karl E. Morrison, Marine Bank Bldg., Erie, Pa.; †Walter T. Monahan, 805 Palace Hardware Bldg., Erie, Pa.
 OKLAHOMA—*Leon B. Senter, 306 Philtower Bldg., Tulsa, Okla.; †Asbury Endacott, 625 Wright Building, Tulsa, Okla.
 OREGON—*Harold W. Doty, 697 East 46th Street, Portland, Oregon; †W. H. Crowell, 1041 Pacific Building, Portland, Oregon.
 PHILADELPHIA—*Ralph B. Bencker, 1601 Chestnut St., Philadelphia, Pa.; †M. Edmunds Dunlap, 1505 Walnut St., Philadelphia, Pa.
 PITTSBURGH—*Frederick Bigger, Westinghouse Bldg., Pittsburgh, Pa.; †Robert C. Bowers, 407 N. Craig St., Pittsburgh, Pa.
 RHODE ISLAND—*Gorham Henshaw, 57 Weybosset Street, Providence, R. I.; †John F. Hogan, 315 Grosvenor Bldg., Providence, R. I.
 SAN DIEGO—*Wm. Templeton Johnson, 1400 San Diego Trust & Savings Bldg., San Diego, Calif.; †Charles H. Mills, 1400 San Diego Trust & Savings Bldg., San Diego, Calif.
 SANTA BARBARA—*John Frederic Murphy, 707 Moreno Road, Santa Barbara, Calif.; †Henry W. Howell, 19 E. Canon Fredico, Santa Barbara, Calif.
 SCRANTON-WILKES-BARRE—*Thos. A. Foster, 909 Brooks Bldg., Wilkes-Barre, Pa.; †Donald F. Innes, 178 S. Main Street, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.
 SHREVEPORT—*Clarence W. King, Shreveport, La.; †Edward F. Neill, Shreveport, La.
 SOUTH CAROLINA—*Albert Simons, 42 Broad St., Charleston, S. C.; †Samuel Lapham, 42 Broad St., Charleston, S. C.
 SOUTH GEORGIA—*Walter P. Marshall, 1001 Savannah Bank & Trust Bldg., Savannah, Ga.; †Percy Sugden, 125 East 49th Street, Savannah, Ga.
 SOUTH TEXAS—*Alfred C. Finn, 506 Bankers Mortgage Bldg., Houston, Texas; †J. Russ Baly, 506 Bankers Mortgage Bldg., Houston, Texas.
 SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA—*Harold C. Chambers, 1107 Cal. Resorts Bldg., Los Angeles, Cal.; †H. Roy Kelley, 1102 Architects' Bldg., Los Angeles, Cal.
 SOUTHERN PENNSYLVANIA—*Henry Y. Shaub, 20 1/2 North Queen St., Lancaster, Pa.; †Harry E. Yessier, 38 Schmidt Bldg., York, Pa.
 ST. LOUIS—*Eugene S. Klein, 716 American Trust Bldg., St. Louis, Mo.; †P. John Hoener, 3605 Laclede Avenue, St. Louis, Mo.
 ST. PAUL—*Roy H. Haslund, 1212 Builders' Exchange, St. Paul, Minn.; †Edgar Buenger, 525 Minnesota Bldg., Rochester, Minn.
 TENNESSEE—*William Crutchfield, 1st Nat. Bank Bldg., Chattanooga, Tenn.; †Louis H. Bull, 1301 Volunteer Bldg., Chattanooga, Tenn.
 TOLEDO—*Leonard Gerow, Spitzer Bldg., Toledo, Ohio; †Karl B. Hoka, 1118 Madison Avenue, Toledo, Ohio.
 UTAH—*Raymond J. Ashton, Vermont Bldg., Salt Lake City, Utah; †Lorenso Young, 1455 Princeton Ave., Salt Lake City, Utah.
 VIRGINIA—*Philip N. Stern, 21 Law Building, Fredericksburg, Va.; †S. J. Collins, 230 Institute St., Staunton, Va.
 WASHINGTON, D. C.—*George Oakley Totten, Jr., 808 17th St. N. W., Washington, D. C.; †Fred E. Robbins, 909 Architects' Bldg., Washington, D. C.
 WASHINGTON STATE—*Roland E. Borhek, 918 Washington Bldg., Tacoma; †Lance E. Gowen, 307 Lumber Exchange Bldg., Seattle, Wash.
 WEST TEXAS—*Emmett T. Jackson, Builders' Exchange Bldg., San Antonio, Texas; †Robert M. Ayres, Smith-Young Tower, San Antonio, Texas.
 WEST VIRGINIA—*L. G. Tucker, Masonic Temple Bldg., Charleston, W. Va.; †Herbert S. Kyle, 1107 Union Trust Building, Charleston, W. Va.
 WISCONSIN—*Roger C. Kirchhoff, 710 N. Plankinton Avenue, Milwaukee, Wis.; †Alexander C. Guth, 1249 N. Franklin Place Milwaukee, Wis.

*Presidents. †Secretaries.

THE OCTAGON

A Journal of The American Institute of Architects

Published Monthly by

The American Institute of Architects

Executive and Publication Offices, The Octagon, 1741 New York Avenue N. W., Washington, D. C.

TWENTY-FIVE CENTS THE COPY. \$1 PER YEAR. (FOREIGN \$2)

Checks or Money Orders should be made payable to The American Institute of Architects:
All communications for publication should be sent to The Secretary, The A. I. A.

Copyright, 1930, by The American Institute of Architects

Entered as second-class matter, February 9, 1929, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C.

A League of Construction Organizations

BY ROBERT D. KOHN, F. A. I. A.

As an Architect, I am interested primarily in the beauty, the order, and the appropriateness to purpose of the structures built to shelter human activities. Why then do I spend so much time and effort over material things; over economic strife and unfair competition? I cannot help myself. I cannot produce a worth-while Art and close my eyes to the maladjustments of the world in which I live.

ON September 23rd delegates of nineteen leading national organizations of the building industry met in Washington at The Octagon as guests of the American Institute of Architects. The invitation was sent out for the Institute by its Committee on Industrial Relations with the approval of the officers of the Associated General Contractors and the Producers' Council. It stated that an effort was to be made to create a medium for coordinated action within the building industry, not another national organization and certainly not a super-organization.

The result of the conference was all that could be hoped for. The decisions were unanimous. The representatives present agreed to recommend to their several organizations that they join with the Institute of Architects in certain stated meetings at which representatives of all of the national associations in the construction industry will come together to present reports on and gain the support for worth-while work being done by any one of them; work which is important to the building industry as a whole because its purpose is to improve or make more effective the public service of the industry.

Many important organizations were omitted from the list of those summoned to this conference. Of the nineteen invited each was represented and took an active part in the meetings. It was agreed that matters of great moment to the entire building industry were actually under way, some

being promoted by the architects, others by the contractors, others again by one of the twenty or more other important professional or trade organizations of the industry. It was pointed out, however, that each of these efforts was being carried on with very little if any support from any of the other groups. The one note that was constantly sounded throughout the two days of meeting was that the industry as a whole was ready to follow the leadership of the professional men; that the various contractor and trade organizations realized the need of some professional leadership and many speakers urged the architects to show the way.

It was immediately apparent that the invitation was correct in barring the creation of another national organization. Many speakers stated that they believed that what was needed was to do nationally what had been done in many cities by the local Building Congresses, using as the medium the existing national organizations. New committees and new machinery were bound to fail, the delegates said, because the building industry was already overloaded with organizations and dues and consequent financial problems. Two organizations which had made the attempt to bring the industry together under a general super-organization reported that their associations were staggering along under a burden due in part to financial problems and in part to the difficulty of getting busy people to work together on national committees. In fact these repre-

representatives opposed the program presented by the Institute until they realized that the new plan would make use of all existing agencies in the several fields in which they were specially qualified to carry on. Indeed the meeting made considerable progress in devising means whereby not only the existing agencies could be used, gaining support for their efforts from all of the others, but ways in which this could be done without any considerable expense. For instance, it would be possible to use a Committee of the Executive Secretaries of the various national organizations as an agency through which information would be conveyed from one association to another. The whole plan of action is tentative. The one definite thing decided on was that there should be periodic conferences of the officers of twenty-five or thirty national Associations in the Construction Industry. What may develop in the future from these conferences remains to be seen.

Such meetings as those held at The Octagon in Washington on last Wednesday and Thursday are exceedingly interesting because of their potentialities. The atmosphere was "electric." It was evident from the very beginning that much valuable work was under way. The delegates discussed the Public Works policy of the Institute of Architects, and its Unification program, and heartily approved of both. They spoke of the apprenticeship work being carried on by the Building Congresses, of the work for better quality in building materials being carried on by the Producers' Council, of the excellent work of the Associated General Contractors in trying to bring about the pre-qualification of bidders, and its efforts to start up local public improvement work in order to help out in the employment emergency. Similarly there were excellent statements presented showing that reforms in procedure of importance to architects and engineers as well as being carried on by the Association of Plasterers, of the Sheet Metal Workers, of the Marble Quarrymen and Dealers, of the Painters, of the Heating and Piping Contractors, and not the least of these, by the Electrical Guild of America, with its

educational program and workers' old-age pension and unemployment insurance investigations. Altogether, in listening to these various programs, one was impressed by the fact that the plan of cooperation decided upon in Washington the other day would achieve something more than merely to advance certain desirable pieces of work being done by one or another group. It was evident that in the process of working together to help these things every one in these groups would get a better idea of what his place was in the economy of the industry. Through this new relationship, which is to use existing Associations as its members, they will be unconsciously making for a clarification of function in the building industry similar to that which developed locally in all of those cities where Building Congresses have been established.

But someone will say that such a loose organization cannot exist without actively forwarding certain definite purposes of its own. That may be true. But it has a definite purpose, a reason for being. Little by little each group will find itself depending on the others for criticism of methods and aims and for support for those of its purposes which meet with the others' approval. And to secure such approval these purposes cannot be selfish. They must be oriented towards eventual benefit to the public at large. In other words, this league or co-operative group will be the exchange in which there will be created an industrial public opinion based on real worth. The immediate problem is to get each of the twenty-five or thirty national organizations of the building industry to agree formally to join with the Institute of Architects in this experiment. All the delegates present promised to recommend it to their several organizations.

A call to the architects for leadership has now been sounded by the building industry as never before. The speakers at this meeting at The Octagon echoed it time after time. The Associations mentioned in the list of those who participated all agreed to this need. Will we Architects meet the challenge?

Officers pro tem of the Construction League of the United States

General Chairman (Two Years)

Robert D. Kohn (President, American Institute of Architects)

First Vice-Chairman (One Year)

Francis L. Stuart (President, American Society of Civil Engineers)

Second Vice-Chairman (Two Years)

A. P. Greensfelder (President, Associated General Contractors of America)

Treasurer (Two Years)

H. H. Sherman (President, The Producers' Council)

General Secretary (One Year)

P. M. Donoghue (National President, National Association of Master Plumbers of the United States)

Joint Secretariat

E. J. Harding, Managing Director, Associated General Contractors

E. C. Kemper, Executive Secretary, American Institute of Architects

L. W. Wallace, Executive Secretary, American Engineering Council

Organizations Represented at Construction League Meeting

American Engineering Council	National Association of Builders' Exchanges
American Federation of Labor, Building Department	National Association of Building Trades Employers
American Institute of Architects	National Association of Marble Dealers
American Institute of Steel Construction	National Association of Master Plumbers of the United States
Associated General Contractors of America	National Association of Ornamental Iron and Bronze Manufacturers
Contracting Plasterers' International Association	National Association of Sheet Metal Contractors
Electrical Guild of America	National Committee of Building Congresses
Heating and Piping Contractors National Association	The Producers' Council
International Cut Stone Contractor's and Quarrymen's Association	The United Association of Journeymen Plumbers and Steam Fitters
International Society of Master Painters and Decorators	

Standard Arbitration Practice

By T. E. SNOOK, F.A.I.A.

Chairman, Committee on Contracts

THE Standard Documents of The American Institute of Architects have included, since 1915, provisions for the arbitration of disputes arising between an owner and contractor, and when the standard form of contract was revised in 1925, the sub-contractor was also brought into the plan. Approval of these Standard Documents by such national trade organizations as the National Association of Builders' Exchanges, the Associated General Contractors of America, and groups of sub-contractors and building trades employers' associations, and the establishment of arbitration facilities by builders' exchanges and building congresses, have brought the economic benefits of arbitration to thousands of building construction undertakings yearly, preventing losses of time and money and good-will, damage to credit and business reputations and the unpleasant publicity that is always attendant upon the public trial of a dispute.

It is interesting to note, so consistent is the use of arbitration clauses in building contracts, that lawsuits rarely arise thereunder. While no record is available of the number of disputes settled by arbitration, the fact that approximately one hundred thousand copies of the General Conditions of the Standard Documents are distributed annually indicates that arbitration is widely used.

Changes Affecting Arbitration

Since 1925, when the last revision of the Standard Documents was made, there have been many important changes in the status of commercial arbitration. New laws have been enacted, rules of

procedure have become more comprehensive, arbitration practices have been standardized and perfected, and a national system of arbitration has been developed.

In thirteen states an arbitration clause in a contract is now legally valid, irrevocable and enforceable; in 1925 this was true of only four states, and one of them (Oregon) was later removed from the list by an amendment, but has been added again this year.

Arbitration Law States

As the list now stands, the following states have modern, comprehensive arbitration laws under which a written agreement to arbitrate a future dispute, as well as a submission to arbitration of an existing dispute, can be enforced and judgment may be entered on the award rendered: Arizona, California, Connecticut, Louisiana, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Wisconsin. The Federal Arbitration Act which became effective in 1926, makes the same provision for contracts covering interstate commerce and maritime transactions. The enactment of nearly all of these laws has been due largely to the activity of The American Arbitration Association, a national non-profit making organization devoted to the sound development of arbitration, with headquarters at 521 Fifth Avenue, New York City. Several hundred national trade organizations, including the American Institute of Architects, have cooperated with the Association in obtaining the passage of its comprehensive State Arbitration Act in these states.

Arbitration of Existing Disputes

In nearly all of the remaining states there is some form of arbitration law relating to the submission to arbitration of an *existing* dispute only. When two parties, therefore, agree in writing, in conformity with the technical requirements of the local law having jurisdiction, to submit an existing controversy to arbitration, neither party under most of these laws may revoke the agreement and must proceed with the arbitration to final award and, if necessary, to the entry of judgment thereon.

Arbitration Machinery

But these laws would be of little value without arbitration machinery to make them effective. The American Institute of Architects maintains no tribunal and no facilities for arbitrating disputes. The arbitration provisions contained in the General Conditions of the Standard Documents are legally enforceable in the thirteen states mentioned and establish the contractual understanding on the method of settling disputes that may later arise thereunder and of selecting arbitrators. But the procedure to be followed in order to safeguard the arbitration proceedings under the prevailing statutory requirements is left largely to the parties themselves and to

the arbitrators. Incidentally, the widespread development of arbitration in recent years has made some of these provisions, such as the choosing of an arbitrator under certain conditions by "the presiding officer of the Bar Association nearest to the location of the work," of doubtful value, since a national panel of arbitrators containing experts in building construction is now available under a standard, organized code of practice in complete harmony with the requirements of the arbitration laws and the judicial decisions thereunder in any one of some seventeen hundred cities in the United States.

Standard Arbitration Clause

I would suggest that architects who desire to provide for organized arbitration facilities might incorporate in their contracts the standard arbitration clause recommended by the American Arbitration Association, reading as follows:

"Any controversy or claim arising out of or relating to this contract or the breach thereof shall be settled by arbitration, in accordance with the Rules, then obtaining, of the American Arbitration Association, and judgment upon the award rendered may be entered in the highest court of the forum, state or federal, having jurisdiction."

Chapter Publicity

A PROGRESS REPORT BY WILLIAM HARMON BEERS, A.I.A.

Chairman of the Committee on Public Information

ARCHITECTURAL publicity can be developed most effectively only when local groups are active. As William T. Warren of Birmingham, Alabama, so admirably pointed out at the San Antonio convention, a new frame court house may mean more to an individual community than the finest architectural monuments of the nation. The chapters of the Institute are in a position to impart details and local flavor to news material which will quickly draw the interest of newspapers in their sections.

In order to base this report of chapter publicity on an accurate knowledge of the existing situation and of the work which many chapters are already doing, the office of the Publicist has undertaken a study of the distribution and topics of the clippings on architectural subjects which regularly reach that office.

These clippings fall naturally into three groups. With the large division representing items arising from the national publicity of the Institute, we are not primarily concerned at present. The other two groups comprise: first, items emanating from

chapter Committees on Public Information; and, second, items on a variety of architectural subjects into which the name of the Institute naturally finds its way. Although the first of these two groups is here our chief concern, the second is also suggestive of channels into which public information can profitably be directed.

Newspaper Clippings Indicate Chapter Activity

In considering our report of these clippings it is, of course, to be understood that they do not represent absolutely either the totality of chapter publicity or the exact ratio of the results obtained by the individual chapters. Nevertheless, they are sufficiently representative to be significant. It is no accident that the activities of certain chapters are consistently, week by week and day by day, being reported in the newspapers of their localities.

Our previous reports and many of the memoranda to chapter chairmen of Committees on Public Information have dwelt on the success of a number of chapters in contributing signed articles on archi-

lectual subjects to the press. This is a form of public information activity which can hardly be overstressed. In the well-rounded reporting service, however, there is a place for every type of journalistic venture—the news item, the feature story, and the interview.

Success with Special Articles

From a review of the clippings gathered during the spring and early summer it is apparent that certain chapters, particularly Columbus, Detroit, Oregon, and Tennessee, are meeting with marked success in sponsoring special articles on architectural topics.

News Stories and Interviews

In analyzing the remaining chapter clippings, constituting largely news stories and interviews, it was found that the following chapters could be credited with a considerable number of items in the period covered: Chicago, Oregon, Southern Pennsylvania, Detroit, North Texas, South Carolina, Minnesota, Philadelphia, and Cincinnati.

Other chapters in which it was evident that chapter agencies are active include: Albany, Brooklyn, Columbus, Connecticut, Dayton, Georgia, Kansas City, Kentucky, New Jersey, New York, Northern California, Northwestern Pennsylvania, St. Louis, Tennessee, Washington, D. C., Washington State, West Texas, and Wisconsin.

Institute Policy Justified

A more detailed study of the clippings demonstrates the soundness of the position the Institute has taken with regard to the function of public information. The Institute officially has maintained that public information exists always as the servant of the fundamental activities of the organization. This doctrine is amply borne out by the results. The news matter emanating from chapter Committees on Public Information attests the zeal of these chapters in the tasks stressed as desirable by the Institute as a whole.

Honor awards, meetings and conferences within the building industry, efforts in behalf of sound legislation, exhibitions, civic planning, preservation of historic monuments, and attempts at billboard control are among the topics which have given rise to cycles of chapter news.

Work of Individual Chapters

The New Jersey Chapter, for example, received newspaper notice for its architectural show and also for its work in beautifying the New Jersey roadsides. The honor awards of the Kansas City Chapter were recognized not only by news stories but by illustrations in the news and rotogravure pages of

the Kansas City *Star*. Opposition of the Minnesota Chapter to a proposed building code was reported at length in the newspapers of Minneapolis. Material sponsored by the Philadelphia Chapter ranged from accounts of the survey of "Old Philadelphia" conducted under chapter auspices to a plea for modernism voiced by a visiting speaker from Holland.

Information submitted by the Oregon Chapter embraced such matters as its biennial exhibition, criticism of a proposed housing code, and the views of prominent architects on questions of aesthetic design. Both the Oregon and the Washington State Chapters reported a joint meeting in Olympia, Washington. The Chicago Chapter publicized material on prizes, addresses, architects' fees, topics of meetings, World's Fair plans, and building needs. A notable contribution of the Detroit Chapter was an account of a survey showing that the city can profitably entrust the designing of its buildings to the private architect. Detroit honor awards and cooperation within the building industry were also featured in the press. The Texas Chapters have called the radio to their aid in educating the public along architectural lines.

The Effective Procedure

It is self-evident that in these cases the various departments of the chapters and the chapter Committees on Public Information are functioning in harmony. However creditable the stand of a chapter may be, it is effective only when the public is informed of it through the press. Chapter members may rail against billboards or unwise building laws indefinitely, but if they rail in the wilderness, their voices are unheard. If, on the other hand, the president or other spokesman of the chapter makes its position known through the newspapers in a logically formulated interview or statement, it is likely to win the respect and support of the entire community.

To do this well it is obvious that an efficient reporting system is essential. Such a system involves an agency competent to present data to the newspapers with due regard for accuracy and completeness of statement as to names, dates, and places, for English idiom, and for news values.

A typical example of successful reporting may be drawn from the work of the Southern Pennsylvania Chapter. Plans for the first exhibit of this chapter were announced in February. In March and April the announcement was followed up by articles describing the exhibit and the itinerary to be followed. During the progress of the exhibit detailed accounts of the display and lectures given in connection with it appeared.

These comments, though sketchy, indicate that many chapters are mastering the technique of the clear, accurate, and newsy presentation of items of

interest. Great variety and notable results are already apparent in chapter publicity. Our purpose now is to press the advantage gained by inspiring other chapters to develop publicity programs and by aiding chapters already active to extend the scope of their operations.

Increasing Public Appreciation of Architecture

Widespread and varied as chapter publicity already is, it has only begun to touch the surface of its possibilities. The general architectural clippings received in the office of the Publicist indicate, for instance, that the American people are awakening to a sense of architectural design and to pride in American achievement. The controversies over Radio City in New York and over "the grain elevator motif" for the Chicago exposition exemplify the fury with which architectural disputes may rage. It is clearly the function of the Institute through

its national and local committees to encourage and direct this growing feeling for architectural values.

Another field which lies open to cultivation, one reached advantageously through the medium of the special article, is home building and decoration. This is a subject in which the vast majority of readers are vitally interested. It is fundamental to architectural well being. It is, moreover, a subject in which the architect is preeminently fitted by taste and training to offer guidance. In this field the architect has not yet given of his resources to the fullest measure.

This summary does not comprehend the very striking publicity which was obtained with the cooperation of the office of the Publicist for the recent regional conferences in New York and Connecticut. Nor does it deal with the development plans of the Boston and other chapters, which will be described in detail in later progress reports from this Committee.

Competition Procedure

A STATEMENT TO THE BOSTON CHAPTER

Prepared by the Committee on Ethics and Competitions
Distributed by the Committee on Public Information

THE Committee on Public Information asks every member of the Society to read carefully the statement prepared by the Committee on Ethics and Competitions. The actions of architects in dealing with public committees are of great importance not only to themselves, but also to the standing of the entire profession. The officers of the Society believe this matter is of prime importance and desire to assist members in their relations with public committees, and urge members to reciprocate by giving prompt notice of every such committee so that the assistance of the Society may be extended.

Members Must be Consistent to be Effective

It is evident that there is some confusion in the minds of members of the Society as to what constitutes a competition and how best to deal with a building committee when competitive sketches are invited.

It is clear that the public work controlled by school building committees and other similar public authorities is of vital interest to the profession, and it is important that the actions of members of the Society should be consistent with the policies expressed in the published statements of the profession. Otherwise, only confusion can re-

sult in the minds of such committees and delay in their acceptance of sound methods for the selection of architects for public work.

When Does a Competition Exist?

"A competition exists when two or more architects prepare sketches at the same time for the same project." This quotation from the A. I. A. Code means very simply what it says. The actions of a building committee or members thereof are not controlling factors. A competitive situation is created solely by the action of the architects who, under whatever circumstances, submit sketches simultaneously for a given project. They are frequently invited by various individuals without authority. Submission under such invitation is always dangerous and likely to lead to confusion. If sketches are to be submitted they should be promptly withdrawn by all architects involved as soon as it is ascertained that more than one sketch has been submitted.

Duties of Members in Connection with Unauthorized Competitions

Even though an unauthorized competition is insisted upon by a Town Building Committee and information is obtained that certain—generally un-

named—architects intend to submit sketches, members of the Society may and should consult with the Town Committee, present their qualifications for the work, including plans and photographs of executed work, and give the Committee any general advice they see fit in regard to their problem and the procedure under which it should be studied to bring about a desirable solution.

A committee having invited the submission of sketches may be unable or unwilling to withdraw the invitations. In most cases it will be found that the members of the Society invited will have separately informed the Committee that they do not submit sketches in that manner. In most cases, also, their explanation of the Institute Competition Code finds ready acceptance by the Committee as reasonable, the submission of a sketch is left optional and the standing of the architect is not hurt, but rather improved by his refusal to submit a sketch.

*Building Committees are Usually Well Intentioned
But Unfamiliar with the Best Procedure*

The Committee on Ethics and Competitions is convinced that the members of such Building Committees are generally endowed with common sense, and while at the outset they are naturally unfamiliar with the accepted procedures of the profession, they are easily convinced of the soundness of those methods of procedure which the Society endorses and are grateful for helpful suggestions looking to the businesslike solution of their building problem.

If architects approach such Committeemen on the theory of playing a politic game and doing what they are asked to do in order to ingratiate themselves with the Committee, they will only tend to support and continue the unbusinesslike, unwise procedures so often involved in the votes of Town Meetings. If, however, architects will approach such Committees as if they were reasonably intelligent persons, capable of understanding the simple, businesslike methods for the selection of an architect that the Institute has consistently advocated, they will find that their standing is enhanced in the eyes of the Committee, that their sound advice is appreciated, and in most cases will be accepted and followed, and that they will stand a better chance of ultimate selection as architect for the work than their more expediently-inclined competitors. This statement is based upon actual experience, not mere theory.

At the outset, most committeemen may feel a natural inclination to receive a number of sketches from which to select the one they prefer. Most such committeemen will, however, admit, if faced with the blunt question, that they are really not qualified to determine which of the sketches is the best. If they do accept this idea they will inevitably agree on the desirability of the direct selection

of their architect, or, if for any reason a competition is deemed necessary, they will see the need of having it carefully administered and expertly judged.

Recent Experiences

The following are instances within the recent experience of the Committee on Ethics and Competitions:

A Town Building Committee invited several architects to submit sketches on which to base the selection of an architect. Upon receipt of a letter from the Society explaining desirable procedure, the invitation was withdrawn and the Committee proceeded to direct selection, from among the architects being considered.

In another recent case the Committee was unwilling to rescind its invitation for submission of sketches, but left it optional, and after conferring with the various architects the Committee appointed one of those who did not submit sketches.

The Direct Selection of an Architect

Some years ago a Town was preparing to hold an unregulated competition for a High School Building. Members of the Town's Finance Committee became convinced, by arguments presented by members of the Society, that the committee of laymen would have no ability to judge wisely the drawings that might be submitted, and brought about a vote by the Town, appointing a committee with a preliminary appropriation of \$1,500, with which to secure architectural service for the preparation of sketch plans and estimates on which to base a final appropriation. The direct selection of an architect with whom to work out a solution of the problem, becomes the first duty of such a committee. This procedure permits the solution to be developed in close cooperation with the school authorities, which is, of course, essential to any wise solution.

With such an appropriation the architect is reasonably remunerated for his preliminary service if the Town should then fail for any reason to make the final appropriation. In many cases, however, a Building Committee, ready to make direct selection of an architect for preliminary service, is provided with inadequate funds, or even no funds at all. In such cases an architect selected by them for this preliminary service should be willing to serve them regardless of payment, provided the Committee agrees to receive no other sketches, and pledges him their support for appointment as architect if the building is authorized, it being clearly understood, however, that the Committee generally has no power to guarantee such appointment.

There is no principle of practice that prevents an architect under such circumstances from furnishing such preliminary service without compensation or

for such nominal fee as the committee's appropriation may warrant, and the Committee on Ethics and Competitions believes it is desirable for members of the Society to help such committees to carry out the obligations put upon them by the Town vote, if selected by the Committee for this service, even if forced to do so without remuneration other than the probability of ultimate appointment when the final appropriation is voted by the Town.

The Committee on Ethics and Competitions issues this statement in a desire to make clear to members of the Society what action should be taken by them, when brought into contact with such situations, that shall be consistent with the requirements of the Competition Code and the Principles of Professional Practice as approved by the Institute.

Members Must Cooperate in Keeping the Society Informed

The Society cannot help to guide Public Committees unless it is aware of their existence. Members of the Society naturally learn of them through personal contacts, and are urged to notify the President of the Society promptly whenever they learn of such a Committee that is taking definite steps for the competitive selection of an architect, whether by sketches or otherwise. The President is always available to advise members as to desirable action.

The Committee intends to put into the hands of the members of the Society a carefully prepared statement indicating various desirable procedures for the selection of an architect, for distribution by them to public officials and others.

A Suggested Economy!

By WALTER DABNEY BLAIR, A.I.A.

THE boast of "modern architecture" is that it eliminates the unessential and considers buildings as tools devised to perform their particular functions with the least effort. The form and size of the building follow from its uses, and have no relation whatever with old forms of architecture which are associated with the historic styles. The modern steamship does not resemble the galleon or sailing craft, but is a product of its own conditions of service, use and material; likewise, the automobile is a product of its own nature, and has a distinctive form expressive of that nature. Even so must it be with buildings. They must be expressive of their uses and of their materials, and be imbued with the social qualities which mark the modern era. Of those qualities love of speed and hatred of waste are outstanding. In sport love of speed has pushed the auto to two hundred and eighty miles per hour, the airplane to three hundred and forty, and in construction so reduced the time of erection of buildings, vide the Empire State, that one can say without much exaggeration that they are finished before being begun. Hatred of waste has resulted in the elimination of useless cornices, ornament of all kinds, substitution of the machine unit for the variable unit made by hand, and has furthermore raised the question, never before studied, of how much space should be devoted to a social need.

Eliminating Space

In the past man has been careless of space as though construction were without cost. But today we know that each cubic foot of a building costs money and architects are daily busy compiling unit costs of every type of building. It was soon seen

that less space could be given to each person than formerly, and so ceiling heights of living rooms, which used to be thirteen feet in the impossible brown stone houses in which our benighted ancestors lived, were reduced to nine feet, and then to eight feet, at which the law set the limit. Widths of rooms, which once were generous, were now reduced, also areas of rooms to the minimum of seventy feet. This admirable quest for eliminating useless cubage has now reached the limit set by the law, and if the perfecting of building to the ideal of a perfect tool is to be carried farther, then a change in the law must be advocated.

Excess Space a Social Loss

It is evident that in building every cubic foot in excess of actual needs is a social loss, resulting in increased cost, rent, and an added burden to the consumer. If the sizes of buildings per person can be reduced still further, there will be gained a social increment of value from which the entire community will benefit. Can it be done? Yes, and the procedure is based on nothing more startling than that people are of different sizes. Pugilism long since made this discovery and profited from it amazingly—with fly, bantam, light, welter, heavy weight classifications of pugilists. It is evident that a large person occupies more space than a small one, and that if a room is just sufficient for a large person (modern design believes that just sufficient is always enough), it will be in excess for a small person; there will be wasted cubage, a social loss. Why should society be penalized with buildings having this wasted cubage? One might as well tolerate an empty space in a sardine can. How snug they are, the sardines in their can—

enough, but no wasted cubage! That is the ideal—as usual adumbrated, no, shown by an ordinary household article, a sardine can—no wasted cubage!

The Remedy

The remedy is, as usual, to pass a new law—a new Tenement House Law, which will grade tenements into a new classification of space requirements, fly, bantam, light, welter, heavy. Then the buildings will fit their occupants without waste. A new corps of inspectors will be added to the Tenement House Department to measure and approve the occupants, and to see that the fly weights enter the fly apartments, the welter weights the welter apartments. This inspection would have

the great benefit of employing a great number of people, and would thus reduce unemployment, and, of course, these new inspectors could be counted on to vote the regular ticket, so that their presence in the department would not be annoying to any Tenement Commissioner. By all means a new law, for the limit of reduced size has been reached under the present Tenement laws, which would remain intact for the heavy weights. Fly weights, bantam, light weights would welcome the saved cubage, and could be taught to take pride in the snugger fit between them and domicile, for in building every cubic foot saved is a social asset, of which the architectural profession is becoming, to its credit, acutely conscious.

Small House Architectural Competition

CONDUCTED BY BETTER HOMES IN AMERICA

Conditions to Govern Entries.

- (1) The competition closes on December 1, 1931.
- (2) The awards are to be made to practicing architects for the best design submitted in each of three types of house—three medals in all.
 - (a) One story house.
Storage space but no living accommodation may occur in roof space.
 - (b) Story and a half house.
Living accommodations partly in a second story which is actually a "half story."
 - (c) Two story house.
- (3) *Size of House.* The awards are aimed to discover and call attention to the best small houses actually constructed during the given period and thus to stimulate interest in overcoming the faulty design and construction of the really small house. To this end the actual cube of the house, above the level of the first floor, shall not be greater than 24,000 cu. ft. except for two story houses for which a cubage of 26,000 cu. ft. is permitted. Open porches estimated at $\frac{1}{2}$ cube.
- (4) *Documents to be submitted.* Floor plans, blueprints or otherwise, showing first floor, and second floor if it has living accommodations. Two elevations. One or two photographs of exterior, preferably two. Two photographs (but not more than two) of interior may be submitted if desired, but the award is to be based upon the design of the structure, not on its furnishings, and interior photographs if submitted should be selected with this in mind.
- (5) *Date of construction.* This award is intended as an annual award. Houses entered for the 1931 award shall be those the construction of which was finally completed between the years 1926 and 1930 inclusive. Designs of houses

which have been submitted in any given year cannot be resubmitted to the committee in later years.

- (6) *Shipment of exhibits.* Exhibits shall be shipped addressed to Better Homes in America, c/o The American Institute of Architects, 1741 New York Ave., Washington, D. C., so as to be received not later than December 1, 1931. They will be handled as carefully as possible but must be sent at the risk of the sender. If any value is placed upon them by the sender he should take such steps as he sees fit to insure against their loss.

Better Homes in America shall have the right to publish illustrations of designs awarded medals, and such other designs submitted as may be deemed desirable.

Exhibits will be returned to exhibitors at the expense of Better Homes in America.

- (7) *Jury.* The Awards will be made by a jury of five architects appointed by the President of The American Institute of Architects. The awards will be made and announced about January 1, 1932, or as soon thereafter as practicable.

The jury is not required to make any or all of the awards should there be no houses submitted which in its opinion deserve a medal. In addition to the medals, however, the committee may also grant honorable mentions to designs which are deemed worthy.

Prize winning designs will be published and designs winning honorable mentions will also be published at the discretion of Better Homes in America. Any publication of the designs which are awarded medals or honorable mention will be copyrighted and due prominence will be given to the name and address of the designer and with the statement that the design is his private property.

With the Editors

Weekly Bulletin—Michigan Society of Architects.

Building Congress.

The Detroit Building Congress under the guidance of President W. G. Malcomson, is rapidly taking shape and will undoubtedly soon take its place as a force in the building industry in Detroit.

At a meeting held at the Hotel Statler in August, the Board of Governors appointed the following committees: Plan and Scope, Research, Finance, Temporary Headquarters, Publicity, and Membership.

For the present developments are awaiting action of the Plan and Scope Committee, whose duty it is to outline a plan of action and to define the immediate work to be undertaken.

The duties of the Research Committee are to make a survey of housing conditions, the obsolescence of buildings, employment in the building industry, and present costs of building.

The Architect and Engineer.

Building Congress—Harold W. Doty, A.I.A.

The Building Congress movement is growing rapidly. Requests for information concerning the formation and workings of such an organization are received almost every week by the Oregon Building Congress from new localities interested. In almost every city in the country, each branch of the building industry is now organized in some way or other. It is possible only, however, with a Congress or similar organization, that all branches are brought together for the general improvement of the industry. The Oregon Congress is one of the pioneer organizations of this nature, and has proved to be a most valuable force in binding the various elements of the building business together.

There is a board of directors which meets each week at a luncheon meeting. These directors are representatives of each branch and trade in building, appointed by the respective groups to serve for them on the board. Once a month there is an open forum where anyone interested, whether a member or not, can attend and have his say.

Through the efforts of the Oregon Congress, an Apprentice School was formed in Portland, which has been operating for several years. This school is supported by the school district, the state, and the federal government, the work coming under provisions for vocational education. Each year a good sized class of apprentices is graduated in practically all of the building trades. When they have served their indentures, and finished their courses at the school, these young men are thoroughly trained artisans.

One of the most significant things undertaken by this Congress is the periodic awarding of certificates

of merit to mechanics, for superior craftsmanship. The Congress interests itself in anything concerning or involving the industry, and takes any necessary action thereupon. As a Building Congress continues in its work, new possibilities are constantly unfolded. The whole thing is truly a worth while enterprise.

The Constructor.

Future Shortage of New Buildings is Prophesied.

A shortage of new construction is now "in the making," according to a study published recently in a business bulletin put out by the Cleveland Trust Company. This company made a study of building conditions in fifty large cities during the depression period of 1921 to determine whether there existed a shortage of construction and drew up a diagram showing conditions each year back to 1900. This diagram has been brought up to date and it shows that, in the years preceding 1921, there was a great shortage of building construction, but in the period just preceding the present depression, no such condition existed.

In the years before the war, the diagram shows, building construction varied but slightly from normal, but, during the war and the years immediately following, the volume of building dropped to extremely low levels so that a large shortage developed, amounting in the aggregate to the equivalent of all the construction that would normally be completed in about two and a half years. The pressure to make good that shortage was one of the stimulating forces that operated to lift business and industry out of that depression, the bulletin states.

Although the depression was at its worst in 1921, the volume of construction sharply increased that year and continued to advance until, in 1925, new construction was going forward at a rate fully 50 per cent above the computed normal. It then began a decline that continued until the volume for 1929 was slightly below normal. By that time the great accumulated shortage of the war and post-war period had been made up, but no important surplus had been created. According to this showing, the present depression came at a time when our building needs had been fully met.

Now a new shortage is in the making, the bulletin points out, for the volume of new construction in the fifty cities covered by the survey, which include in their populations one-fourth of all the people of the country, was only about one-half the normal amount. The prospects for 1931 are that not over one-third of the normal amount of building will be done.

The Bulletin of Northern Section—State Association of California Architects.

The Fourth State Convention.

The fourth state convention of the California architects will be held at Mission Inn, Riverside, October 9 and 10.

Aside from the conduct of the business of the Association—which takes up but a small part of the time—interest in the convention centers in the human side. The great attraction of any gathering—and very important, too. Getting acquainted—exchanging ideas and experiences—and agreeing upon some common issues. To quote a current advertising slogan: Keeping old friends and making new ones.

This matter of getting acquainted is no small thing. President Orr tells of having been asked to attend a meeting of the architects of one of the smaller cities in his section. Arriving at the meeting, he was surprised, he reported, to find that the architects of this small city were not known to each other. And to the guest fell the task of making his hosts acquainted!

Journal of The Royal Victorian Institute of Architects.

Commercial Training for the Architect.

In the course of his presidential address, Mr. Irwin touched on the growing need for the young architect to be given a certain amount of training in the commercial side of the practice of architecture. Speaking later in the evening, Professor Payne issued a word of warning regarding the introduction of commercial subjects into an architect's university training. He felt that they did not belong to a university course. He felt that this particular training should be gained by the students in the architect's office during the course of their articles but not at the university.

With regard to this, it is interesting to note that at the recent International Congress of Architects which was held at Budapest and at which twenty-six nations were represented by official delegates, one of the subjects covered was the necessity for a reform of architectural education to meet existing conditions of practice. It was decided in view of these existing conditions of world economics and of the radical alterations of industrial conditions resulting from the Great War, that the Congress was of opinion that instruction in financial, economic and industrial problems should occupy a more important place in the education of the architect than was previously the case. The Congress considered that the acquisition of knowledge regarding these subjects should be no longer relegated to what could be acquired in private practice after the course of architectural training, but that, together with instruction in theory, it should be included in the curriculum. To achieve this the Congress formulated the following recommendations:

(1) Without altering the artistic education of the architect, instruction in the design and construction of buildings should be so given that the schemes are in accordance with actual practice, and should also be worked out and judged from an economic point of view.

(2) As architectural realities are based on a thorough knowledge of building construction a greater importance should be given to this subject, and it should be included in the curriculum from the first years of training.

(3) Practical instruction should be studied simultaneously with the theory of construction, and it is necessary that students should be made familiar with materials. This applies more particularly in the case of new materials, which should be studied in laboratories and testing stations in the presence of students.

(4) This Congress recommends that it should be prescribed that a compulsory period be spent in part on a building in course of erection, and in part in an architect's office, before the student is awarded the diploma of "architect."

We find in America that this growing need among architects for information on matters of business and finance has led to the establishment of new courses to be opened at Columbia University. One of these courses will deal with the architect's relation to the promotion of income-producing buildings. Procedure in dealing with the real estate promoter, banker, builder and owner will be included. Basic financial structure of the modern building operation and problems of financing and promotion of various types of buildings will also be dealt with.

Architectural Design and Construction—London.

The Confessions of an Architect—Feminine Sagacity.

It was my old friend Poulson who introduced her to me (or, rather, me to her). The last but one of her daughters was about to be married, so she proposed to sell her town house and build a "nice little place in the country."

Now, in the ordinary way of business I am not very keen about nice little places in the country. They are more trouble than they are worth. The amount that one gets in fees is quite disproportionate to the amount of time spent in travelling from some distant railway station and, with a lady client especially, the general fudging around that seems to be necessary. But Poulson was an old friend of mine and he was related to the lady; so, as he put it to me, it was a special case, and no doubt I would come down lightly on the fees question. I had heard all that before, but foolishly I agreed.

I forget now how many sketch designs I prepared—it must have been about half a dozen. The lady could not spend a penny more than £1,500, and

for this she wanted five bedrooms and lots more rooms besides, so I did the best I could, although the bedrooms came out rather on the small side.

But right from the beginning a little snag cropped up that was destined to crack the whole scheme. It was this: somewhere, somehow, or somewhen, the lady had seen a house, or illustration in a book, showing a large projecting porch of four pillars with a room over it. There seemed to be no particular virtue in this idea; it was the room she wanted not the porch, and the room would have been like any other room only a bit smaller. So being at that time unused to the ways of women, I thought I could easily persuade her out of it.

My first sketch design ignored it altogether as being a little joke that was not meant to be taken seriously, but she was quite serious about this room over a porch, so I tried in my second effort to work it in, and with the most astonishing results from a design point of view. I tried it in the middle, but that would not work with the very economic plan; I tried it on the left, and on the right; but in each case it looked quite silly. In a fourth scheme I tried it on a side, but she would not hear of it. In a fifth, I showed it in dotted lines as a future extension on the back; for, having demonstrated to her the impossibility of the idea, I was still confident that she would drop it. Not a bit of it!

Apparently she had been thinking about this house for years; and, in her mental picture of it, she had always imagined this room over the porch and nothing in this world would persuade her out of it. It did not matter whether the house was faced in brick or stucco, or whether the roof was of tiles or slates, so long as she had this room over the porch. At length I gave in.

But step by weary step, what with one thing and another, the estimate had moved up to £2,100, and having settled there for a bit slumped back to £1,900, for the lady suddenly remembered having told me that £1,500 was her absolute limit.

Now, seeing the sort of person I was dealing with, I had taken the precaution at the very start of sending her one of those little booklets of the R.I.B.A., showing the fees by which architects retain a slender hold upon existence. I had carefully marked the paragraphs concerned, and had sent a nicely-worded letter carefully explaining what the architect did and how he was paid. I also asked for an acknowledgment of this letter. That acknowledgment was never sent, for she did all her

correspondence by telephone. She was not to be caught by any of your professional men.

When we did eventually reach the point where almost everything was settled (except my fees) and I had started on the working drawings, I sent another letter so as to get something in writing regarding her understanding of what an architect is paid, but never a letter did I get. So hereupon I wrote again saying that unless I heard from her in writing I would be pleased to retire from the scene.

Almost by return of post she blew into my office to tell me that she had just read my interesting letter and booklet on the subject of fees (sent six weeks previously—she had been too busy to read it before) and she *was* surprised that architects' fees were so high! She had an idea—her brother had told her—that architects just charged twenty guineas for their designs. She was amazed that they charged as much as 6 per cent. Of course, it was not that they were not worth it, but she knew a young estate agent who could get out a design for a few guineas, and her brother had told her, etc., etc.

At that, as nearly as possible, I told her what I thought of her. I described in detail what the architect did, how he prepared half a dozen sketch designs, laborious working drawings, a lengthy specification, an impressive contract, and then in his own person he went and ordered the builders about on the job and stopped them from charging too much. I spoke for nearly half an hour, and when I had finished the lady went off in a huff, determined never to speak to me again. And certainly not a penny did I get for my labours.

But that is not the end of the story. Two months ago I received a telephone call from an unfamiliar voice. It was the lady. She was in dire distress. Could I possibly help her? It appeared that the young estate agent fellow had let her down; and, according to her allegations, he had been in league with the builder. She had been told that it was customary to pay the builder £400 in advance before he commenced work, and she had paid it. The job had now been going on for nine months; it was still unfinished and it had already reached the grand total of £2,500. Would I mind just running down and talking to the young estate agent and builder and several others; to get them to change their wicked ways?

And the curious thing is that somehow she made me feel as if I was the cause of all her trouble.

Items of Interest

President Kohn's message of August 6th to the United States Building and Loan League:

"The Centennial Convention of the United States Building and Loan League and the International Congress of Building Societies in their meeting in Philadelphia this coming week are celebrating a notable anniversary. Will you be so good as to tell the delegates of the sincere greetings of The American Institute of Architects which it is my privilege to convey?

"The architects of the United States have a very real interest in the work your building and loan organizations have been carrying on all these years throughout the world. Moreover, as architects they are all the more interested in this work because of the growth in the scope of its activities. While it appears to have been confined in its first activities to enabling the individual to tide over the periods of payment on his home building, it is now distinctly tending, as we understand it, towards seeing that that home is to be properly designed, erected in a protected neighborhood and likely to remain an asset to its owner and to the community.

"While congratulating you on a century of valuable work, may we express the hope that these newer and broader activities of your Association may continue to grow. It would seem as if the contribution would be invaluable which the Building and Loan Associations could make to better housing in that way.

"I send you the congratulations of The American Institute of Architects on this your Centenary of good work."

Proposed State Control over Rural Housing.

Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt of New York in a recent address before the American Country Life Conference stated that he proposes to appoint a commission to study rural housing. The substance of his remarks in this regard follows:

It seems to me evident that the time has come for public authority to assert jurisdiction over housing conditions in the country and over the character and planning of rural real estate developments. We have precedent for this in the housing and zoning regulations of cities and a beginning of zoning authority in the counties. But I think, with competent advice, we should be able to go much further than this in moving toward an adjustment of the whole problem of distribution of population and the living conditions of workers in the State, which I have been discussing.

Objectives Outlined To Direct Inquiry.

With that purpose I propose to appoint a Commission on Rural Homes, to be made up of a group of prominent citizens of the State, all of them having a record of interest in the improvement of social conditions, and to ask the heads of six departments of the State government to serve with them as ex-officio members so that advice and data on various phases of the problems to be considered may be made available to the

Commission. Those whom I have asked and who have consented to serve on this Commission include men and women with distinguished records of public service who will bring to their new task experience in dealing with housing problems, with conditions of rural life and with industrial affairs on a large scale.

The task I am placing before this Commission is, broadly, to determine to what extent and by what means the State and its subdivisions may properly stimulate the movement of city workers to rural homes if such a movement seems desirable; to determine what facilities may be furnished by public authority to assist these workers in getting the right kind of homes in the right locations, and to inquire what encouragement may be offered for the movement of industries from urban centers to rural locations or the establishment of new industries in such locations if such a movement of industry seems desirable.

While the Commission will govern the course of its own inquiry I have fixed in my own mind certain definite objectives which will serve to make the undertaking somewhat more concrete. These are:

1. That the Commission be prepared to recommend legislation for village, town and county zoning for the whole State, but on a permissive basis, and for village, town and county permanent planning commissions.

2. That the Commission explore the possibilities of the enlistment of private capital to aid in the establishment of rural homes within a reasonable distance of industry.

3. That the Commission make recommendations as to experiment by the State alone or by the State with the cooperation and assistance of private capital in establishing wholly new rural communities of homes for workers on good agricultural land within reasonable distance of which facilities shall be offered for the establishment of new industries aimed primarily to give cash wages on a cooperative basis during the nonagricultural season.

If we find that the movement of workers to rural homes ought to be encouraged, then it seems to me that we ought to find means of meeting the needs of those who wish to establish themselves in the country. Their requirements suggest themselves to me as follows:

Means of Meeting Problems Discussed.

First: Information as to the right type of home to build.

Second: Guidance and assistance in obtaining the most economical use of funds in acquisition and construction.

Third: Advice as to the right area of land to be acquired.

Fourth: Assistance in financing.

The question how best to establish agencies for providing service along this line is within the scope of the Commission's task and problem as I have outlined it. I have no doubt that many specific plans for the establishment and organization of rural communities, extending possibly even to suitable types of architecture, layouts of roads and sanitary facilities, planting schemes and methods of community cooperation, will be suggested to the Commission. These should furnish valuable data for such temporary or permanent agencies as may be set up as a result of the Commission's recommendations.

It will be borne in mind that the objective is to furnish rural homes of an inexpensive sort for unemployed workers and those of small earnings, not to provide for the needs of those who are able to invest \$10,000 to \$15,000 in a country home.

I think I scarcely need to say that this plan doesn't contemplate any coercive use of State power or any attempt to force either industry or private citizens into a fixed pattern of conduct. On the contrary, it involves merely cooperative planning for the common good.

Architectural Exhibition—Philadelphia.

The Thirty-fourth Annual Architectural Exhibition, Philadelphia, 1931, will be held by the Philadelphia Chapter and the T Square Club in the Architects' Building, 17th and Sansom Streets, on the dates given in the following schedule:

Photographs for Year Book Illustration—at once and up to October 1.

Last day for return of Entry Slips—October 15.

Reception of Exhibits—November 23 to 25 inclusive.

Opening Reception—November 30, 8 P. M.

Public Exhibition—December 1 to December 19 inclusive.

Exhibits Discharged—December 21.

Address all communications to the Executive Secretary, Joint Exhibition Board, Architects' Building, Philadelphia, Pa.

Alabama Architectural Board.

Frederic Child Biggin, President of the Alabama Chapter, advises that the bill for the registration of architects has recently passed the legislature of that state and has been signed by the governor.

Information with regard to the personnel of this newly created board follows:

Named by Gov. B. M. Miller to serve on the first state board of architecture, created by a recent legislative bill, Bem Price and Hugh Martin, Birmingham architects, announced Saturday they would accept their appointments.

Others on the committee will be Frederic Child Biggin, dean of the school of architecture at Alabama Polytechnic Institute, who will serve permanently; John Carey, Mobile, and Walter Ausfield, Montgomery.

The first appointments are for one, two, three and four-year periods, as specified in the bill. At the expiration of the initial terms, appointments will be for four years.

First meeting of the board will be held in Montgomery about August 1, when a chairman will be selected. Meetings will be held semi-annually.

No salaries are paid the board members. Per diem expenses during sessions will be paid by the state engineering department.

Like the state pharmacy, medical, dentistry, law and other professional boards, the body will examine applicants and grant licenses.

Fire Tests—Committee on Materials and Construction.

Louis A. Walsh, A. I. A. of Waterbury, Conn., has been appointed by President Kohn to represent

the Institute on the committee—Fire Tests of Materials and Construction—of the American Society for Testing Materials.

Earthquakes—Papers on Construction.

Volumes 1, 7 and 8 of the Proceedings of the World Engineering Congress, Tokyo, 1929, have just been received at The Octagon. These volumes are well-bound, in cloth, and it is believed that they contain much of interest to the American architect, particularly those practicing in earthquake zones, as many of the papers dwell on construction in those areas.

Following are the titles and numbers of some of these papers which are included in the above-mentioned volumes:

Vol. 8.—Building Construction after the Great Earthquake (No. 718), by T. Naito, KH., Prof. (Japan).

Vibrations in Structures (No. 160), by J. A. A. Pollock (Australia).

Seismic Action and Damage in Relation to Character of Building (No. 645), by T. Taniguti, KH. (Japan).

The Dynamic Behaviour of Some Simple Bents Subjected to Established Simple Harmonic Motion (No. 490), by R. R. Martel (U. S. A.).

On Earthquake and Building Construction (No. 163), by K. Mashima, KH. (Japan).

Seismological Researches carried out in the Earthquake Research Institute, Tokyo Imperial University (No. 618), by K. Suyehiro, KH., Prof. (Japan).

Effects of Systems of Reinforcement Upon the Elasticity and Strength of Concrete Slabs in Shear (No. 672), by H. Tanabe, KH., Prof. (Japan).

Earthquakes and Buildings in the Philippines (No. 817), by T. Macabulos (P. I.).

Tests of Reinforced Concrete Frames Under Repeated Horizontal Loads and Measurement of Their Periods of Free Vibration (No. 824), by M. Abe, Ph.D., KH. (Japan).

Vol. 7.—On the Vibration Curves of High-Framed Structures (No. 359), by A. Mizuhara (Japan)—a mathematical exposition.

The Proceedings of this World Congress is published in two forms, as follows:

Standard Edition: Bound in 20 books, half leather, sold by Set only. Price—Y 250 net per set.

Popular Edition: Bound in 39 books, full cloth, sold by book.

Inquiries or orders for these volumes should be addressed to the Nihon Kogakkai, Nihon Kogyo Club Building, Marunouchi, Tokyo.

Change in Structural Service Department

Mr. F. Leo Smith, member of the Columbus Chapter of The American Institute of Architects, has been selected to succeed Mr. LeRoy E. Kern, formerly Technical Secretary of the Structural Service Department of the Institute, and assumed his duties at The Octagon on October first.

Mr. Smith is a graduate of the Department of Architecture of Ohio State University and has had a wide experience in architectural practice and in the formulation of building legislation. For two years he served as Assistant Chief of the Division of Factory and Building Inspection of the Department of Industrial Relations of Ohio, having charge of the administration of the Ohio Building Code during that period.

From 1924 until 1929 he was employed by the State as Technical Secretary to the Ohio Board of Building Standards. This work required investigation of materials and methods of construction as regards safe and sanitary installations under the Ohio law, inspections and reports on buildings with reference to legal requirements, and code revision and amendment covering conditions not otherwise cared for by law.

For the past two years Mr. Smith has been employed by the Portland Cement Association as Field

Engineer in Northern Ohio. He is also a member of the Cleveland Engineering Society. He served as Secretary of the Ohio Plumbing Code Committee, since the creation of that committee in 1928, which was responsible for a complete new plumbing code for the State of Ohio. He was formerly member of the Building Officials Conference of America, and Chairman of the Columbus Building Code Committee.

The members of the Institute can feel assured that the service rendered by the Structural Service Department will be continued without interruption, and will be developed as rapidly as the new Technical Secretary can become familiar with the current details of the work.

Friends of Mr. Kern, of whom there are a great many in the Institute, and in the building industry at large, will be interested to know that he is removing to New York where his permanent home is located, and will, in due season, make known his plans for future activity. The best wishes of all will accompany Mr. Kern in his new field of activity, with a very lively and intense appreciation of the constructive service he has rendered to the profession of architecture during his long term of office as Technical Secretary of the Structural Service Department.

Unification of the Architectural Profession

By K. K. STOWELL, Editor

From The Architectural Forum

ONE step toward a plan for bettering conditions within the building industry has been taken by the A.I.A. (Perhaps forceful strides is a better characterization than one step.) The need for the unification of the architectural profession was expressed in the resolution adopted by the Convention of the A.I.A. in San Antonio last April. The Committee of the Institute, of which Edwin Bergstrom is Chairman, and the State Societies Committee, of which Robert H. Orr is Chairman, met in June to develop a tentative plan of unification. The report of this Committee has just been made known. The report does not attempt to solve all the problems of unification, but does express the fundamental ideas which will be the basis of a future definite plan to be decided upon by both the State Societies and the Institute.

This is the proper method of proceeding with any plan, for it is only on a common meeting ground of fundamental principles that unification can be

brought about. Realizing this, the Committee has taken up various phases of the problem, and invites comments and suggestions. In this way, a wide acceptance of the general scheme may be obtained, and the details will be worked out in a joint conference with full knowledge of the reactions of architects throughout the country, both in State Societies and in the Institute.

In order to exert their proper influence in the building industry, it is imperative that the architects be united in a single organization. The work of the Committee seems destined to accomplish this within a short space of time. The idea has met with the approval of practically all of the architectural organizations, and the tentative plan included in the report of the Unification Committee provides a reasonable basis for presenting a united front without interfering with the freedom of action of local or regional organizations. It is a plan of coordination through which leadership of architects in the building industry can be brought about.

Applications for Membership

September 30, 1931.

Notice to Members of the Institute:

The names of the following applicants may come before the Board of Directors or its Executive Committee for action on their admission to the Institute, and, if elected, the applicants will be assigned to the Chapters indicated:

Chicago Chapter - - - - - RICHARD F. VOELL
Cleveland Chapter - - - - - J. L. RODRICK
Colorado Chapter - - - - - HAROLD R. SMITH
Detroit Chapter - - - - - WILLIAM H. REID, JR.
Louisiana Chapter - - - - - HERBERT H. LAND, D. CURTIS SMITH
New York Chapter - - - - - LEWIS BOWMAN, FREDERICK JAMES WOODBRIDGE
North Texas Chapter - - - - - SHIRLEY SIMONS
Philadelphia Chapter - - - - - HENRY D. DAGIT, JR.
South Carolina Chapter - - - - - C. R. MACDONALD
Virginia Chapter - - - - - CLARENCE H. HINNANT
West Texas Chapter - - - - - Nat W. Hardy
West Virginia Chapter - - - - - FREDERIC FARIS

You are invited, as directed by the By-laws, to send privileged communications before October 30, 1931, on the eligibility of the candidates for the information and guidance of the members of the Board of Directors in their final ballot. No applicant will be finally passed upon should any Chapter request, within the thirty-day period, an extension of time for purpose of investigation.

FRANK C. BALDWIN, *Secretary.*

