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Federal Employment of Private Architects
The Schools and the New Architecture
The Architects Small House Service Bureau
How to Interview An Architect
Ethics or Expediency in the Emergency?

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THE OCTAGON

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Federal Employment of Private Architects

THE WASHINGTON SITUATION TO DATE

AT the March meeting of the Board of Directors of the Institute the Chairman of the Committee on Public Works, Mr. Louis LaBeaume, made a comprehensive report with respect to the Federal employment of private architects, and the work which his Committee has been doing to bring about that desired end. That report was reviewed in the April number of THE OCTAGON.

A Gratifying Appointment

Ever since the election in November the Institute has advocated the desirability of having the office of Assistant Secretary of the Treasury in Charge of Public Buildings filled by a man familiar with and sympathetic towards the building industry. We are gratified to know that the new appointee, Mr. L. W. Robert, Jr., of Atlanta, Georgia, has all of the qualities most desired by the designing professions.

Acknowledgment is made to The Architectural Forum for the substance of the following description of the new Assistant Secretary:

The successor of Major Heath in the Treasury Department is Lawrence Wood Robert, Jr., 43, Georgia-born and Georgia-raised. Most Atlantans know him and have an anecdote to tell about it. His father was called "Wood" so his grandfather called him "Chip" and the nickname sticks. At Georgia Tech he captained both the baseball and football teams and the editor of his class book chose *Love is Better than Fame* as the best quotation describing him. Then, as now, he was a lavish and hearty entertainer. He is married and has a son twenty-one and a daughter eighteen. The daughter, Louisa, was a member of the 1932 U. S. Olympic swimming team, at Los Angeles.

Before he went to college Mr. Robert spent a year working on railway construction for his father. After receiving his B. S. degree in 1908 (he is both a civil and an electrical engineer) he worked for Park A. Dallas, cotton mill engineer. In 1916 he formed Robert and Company, consulting engineers and architects. Since then the firm has handled \$250,000,000 worth of projects in seventy-five cities and twenty states.

Mr. Robert is a member of the Georgia State Board of Architects and of the national societies of Civil, Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. He is a director of the First National Bank of Atlanta. During the war he built a large textile mill at Columbus, Ga., for the Bibb Manufacturing Company, of Macon. It is still the largest single mill in the world. His firm handled all the cotton mills of Goodyear and Goodrich. He promoted and engineered the moving of a number of cotton mills from New England, working in conjunction with the Alabama

Power Company. He has been active in hydro-electric development. He has played a big part in Georgia Tech's affairs and has done considerable of its building work and is one of its Trustees. He is a close friend of the former Senator John Cohen, publisher of the *Atlanta Journal* and of Senator Richard B. Russell, Jr. His activities have been highly profitable and he is considered one of Atlanta's financial leaders.

Recognition of the Architect and Engineer

There have been a number of conferences between Officers of the Institute, American Engineering Council, and Mr. Robert in which there has been full and friendly discussion of the whole question of Federal employment of private architects and engineers under the jurisdiction of the Treasury Department.

Mr. Robert has volunteered the information that in the present emergency he intends to recognize the professions to the fullest extent. He frankly states that he expects services of the highest character, and that they shall be rendered most expeditiously. He further states that he expects to scrutinize the qualifications of architects, and that he is particularly concerned with their ability to render structural, electrical, and mechanical engineering service. If it is deemed desirable, he expects to appoint engineers to serve with architects in order that the buildings may be of the highest type and representative of the best efforts of the designing professions. This cooperation of the designing professions and the recognition accorded to them by the new Assistant Secretary are of great encouragement.

Announcement cannot be made at this time concerning the full program for expediting Federal building under the jurisdiction of the Treasury Department, but it should interest the profession to realize that Mr. Robert has called upon the Institute and Engineering Council to furnish him with lists of competent architects and engineers in every state in the Union. The development of such lists with respect to the architects is a task of great importance which has been taken in hand by the Chairman of the Committee on Public Works, Louis LaBeaume.

Chapter Presidents are asked to hold themselves in readiness to function promptly and efficiently upon receiving a call for cooperation from Mr. LaBeaume.

When a complete list of architects, competent for appointment to Government work, has been compiled by or on behalf of the Institute that list will be placed in the hands of the Treasury Department officials by the Committee on Public Works, for their information. Thereafter, the Department may undertake to secure more detailed information with respect to the architects on the list, either directly or through the Institute.

This call from the Assistant Secretary of the Treasury is an opportunity for the Institute to render a difficult and valuable public service.

I take this opportunity to request the best cooperation of every individual member. We must not fail to act promptly, effectively, and without regard to personal interests. By so doing we will justify the confidence which has been placed in the Institute and will render a service to the Government and to the profession.

Much has recently transpired in Washington which is of significance to the Architect and the purpose of this brief review is to bring the situation up to date.

Public Works—\$3,300,000,000

On May 19 a letter was addressed to the President of each Chapter of the Institute by Secretary Baldwin, with which was enclosed a copy of pending legislation known as the "National Industrial Recovery Act."

The intention was to let the Chapters know the substance of the bill, which has two major subdivisions—one relating to public works and construction projects, with an appropriation of \$3,300,000,000; and the other relating to industrial recovery, with provisions for codes of fair competition

and for general regulation of industry by the Federal Government.

Under the public works section there should be opportunity for the employment of private architects in Government, State, and Municipal projects of many types.

Large Scale Housing Projects

The sub-section which provides for construction under public regulation or control of low cost housing and slum clearance projects is of particular significance to the architects in many cities.

It is appropriate to say at this point that the Past-President of the Institute, Robert D. Kohn, in his capacity as Chairman of the Institute's Committee on Housing, and also as General Chairman of the Construction League of the United States, and at the invitation of members of the Cabinet engaged in drafting the bill, took an active part in that drafting.

Mr. Kohn represented the point of view of the architectural profession, and it is proper that he should have this recognition of his service. He has spent many weeks in Washington since early March and has rendered a splendid public service.

The legislation was passed by the House, and is now being considered by the Senate. Hearings were held by the Senate Committee on Finance, at which several minor amendments approved by the Institute were adopted.

Full information concerning the bill as passed, in so far as it affects the practice of Architecture, will appear in the June number of THE OCTAGON.

ERNEST JOHN RUSSELL,
President.

The Schools and the New Architecture

NOTE—The three papers which follow are a continuation of the discussion which started with the publication of an article by George Herbert Gray, Director, A.I.A., under the above title, in the February number of THE OCTAGON.

A STATEMENT BY G. H. EDGELL, A.I.A.

Dean, The School of Architecture, Harvard University

IN the February number of THE OCTAGON, there appeared an article entitled "The Schools and the New Architecture", by George Herbert Gray. It was preceded by a note in which the author said that the paper was prepared to be read at a forum on education at the New England Regional Conference, which was planned, but not held, last fall. He said that the Deans of the Schools of Architecture at Harvard, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Yale were invited to attend and present papers in rebuttal. The implica-

tion was that he would welcome rebuttal in THE OCTAGON, even though the paper was not read at the conference.

I do not know whether or not my colleagues—Dean Emerson and Dean Meeks—will feel that they should reply to Mr. Gray's article. Personally, I feel that any reply should be made independently by an individual school or the head thereof, as the problem varies in each school and is met in various ways.

In Substantial Agreement

Mr. Gray's article was so temperately and courteously written, however, that it deserves the courtesy of a reply. The author will, nevertheless, be disappointed if he imagines that a reply from me concerning Harvard will take the form of a rebuttal. With most of what Mr. Gray says, my Faculty is in complete agreement. And it seems desirable to point out the possibility that we are doing more of what he suggests than he is aware of. Certain broad ideals we can only approach and probably never can attain. We should all be glad if our men were less anxious for "points" which will complete the official course and entitle them to a degree. We should be happy if our men could get their training intermittently between the ages of fifteen and thirty, possibly supporting themselves and a wife meanwhile, though just how they can do this, before completing their training, is open to question.

The Background Required

At Harvard, we try to attain the broad basis which Mr. Gray so correctly considers desirable, by requiring the Bachelor's degree for entrance. This means that a fair majority of our men have had the courses in history and mathematics, in physics and chemistry, in economics and literature, that give a man the cultural point of view as a basis for the technical. To be sure, a fair-sized minority of our men come to us with the Bachelor's degree in Architecture from other universities. They have not the cultural background of the man who has taken his degree in arts or in science. They are, however, sometimes required—and always recommended—to take advantage of the cultural courses offered by the University, and indeed this advice is superfluous; we have found invariably that men who are ambitious enough to come from a great distance for graduate work at a university like Harvard voluntarily attend many of the cultural courses which are not required, in order to take full advantage of the opportunities offered them by the University. If the system is not perfect, at least it works and, in the case of the graduates in arts and in science, we are always assured of a broad cultural background.

Changes at Harvard

Perhaps the best proof of our general agreement with Mr. Gray's point of view is the fact that his program curiously recapitulates many of the more important changes in our curriculum which were determined by the Faculty in a series of conferences last autumn and which will be incorporated in our offering next year.

In history, we are not making the changes suggested by the author, since the Dean, who gives the Mediaeval and Modern History, is not even a technical architect and has always tended to stress

the social and historic side of architecture rather more than the formal and technical. To a certain extent, this is true of the course of Professor Conant who, although a technically trained architect, is also a doctor of philosophy in the fine arts and a practical archaeologist, as well. We are moving, therefore, in history rather in the opposite direction and projecting a course, to be given by trained designers on the history of architecture treated from the point of view of composition. Be it noted, however, that this course will be superposed upon the other courses in history and will not mean the elimination of any part of those we have.

Naturally, the most important part of Mr. Gray's paper involves the teaching of design and construction—and especially the coordination of the two. I think it is fair to say that we have always striven to avoid mere paper design, or the inculcation of any theories of art for art's sake. As a layman, I have listened to the critics in design and been struck with their point of view that sound teaching does not merely mean the art of obtaining beautiful drawings, but much more the method of attack on the problem and the teaching processes of reasoning that will bring about the best building. These factors, already stressed at present, will be further emphasized in the new curriculum for next year, when, in the most advanced design, special problems will be set with an attempt to bring about an amalgamation of ideas of design, construction, and function. To a certain extent, this meets Mr. Gray's criticism in his summary of remedies suggested (b). In these problems, the programs will be so written that a criticism from a professor of design solely would be inadequate. Throughout the problem, the work will be criticized by the professors of design and the professors of construction and even by the expert who teaches the course on heating, plumbing, ventilating, and, in general, the mechanical plant of buildings.

In a sense, this also meets the point under (d) of the remedies suggested. Fundamentally, the matter is one of a greater coordination between design and construction and between design and material. In the work in construction at Harvard, students have always been taken on trips to visit buildings—sometimes buildings completed, and often buildings under construction. This is done both in Boston and in New York. In the past, the tendency has been, on the whole, for professors of design to take students on trips to see completed buildings and for the professors of engineering to take them to see buildings in process of construction. The projected curriculum for next year will include many more trips conducted jointly by the professors of design and construction, so that the students may hear criticisms from both and be enabled to ask questions of both on the same trip and before the same monu-

ment. Nothing is truer than the author's statement that "buildings can be successfully designed only in terms of building materials and building methods". Even in the past, I think this has been understood at Harvard but, in the future, by drawing the two departments even closer together and dovetailing in the problems, as well as in the thesis, this truth can be brought home even more definitely to the student. In short, the Faculty at Harvard would be very nearly in complete agreement with the author.

Responsibility for Modern Buildings

It is true that many modern buildings are "by common consent, failures, and often prodigious failures", but it is rather a broad assumption to say that all efforts at modern architecture can be traced back to the schools of architecture in particular. At present, a large percentage of commercial buildings have been done by engineers, contractors, building speculators, and real estate operators. Hand in hand with this unsound practice of building goes the process of publicizing and advertising modern architecture, with a consequent tendency to confuse the public. Nevertheless, the schools must accept the responsibility and, if the men are trained as they should be, they will eventually get an ever more complete control of the production of building and stamp the architecture of the country with the result of their thought and their training.

There are several points which Mr. Gray might have mentioned, of which he has probably thought and which he may have omitted in the interest of brevity. One of the great difficulties at present is the result of the depression: the over-production of buildings in the time of prosperity and the consequent collapse of so many of the architectural offices in the country. The difficulty of getting a job is not only a serious matter economically for the student, but prevents his getting office experience when he should be getting it, even during his period of education. One of the effects of the attitude that the author considers so desirable will be so to train men that they can compete with the engineer and jerry-builder, meet the practical and the economic problem successfully, and sustain the ideal of the profession, which is to create a practical building and make it a work of art.

New Courses at Harvard

Mr. Gray justly praises the course on theory formerly given at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts as meeting

a definite need. The identical course, however, brought across the sea, would not be adequate for American conditions. The same would be true, also, of courses from the modern schools of central Europe, should they be brought to this country. In the reformed curriculum at Harvard next year, there will be added a special course on the functions of buildings. This will cover the phases of architecture heretofore not brought out in problems. The course will deal with such theories as are particular to this country. It will not only increase the number of types of buildings studied by the student, but it will also treat the phases of architecture that arise in practice and for which the American student has so far not been prepared. In general, it will have a tendency to broaden the field of the profession and the opportunities of the graduate.

Another course to be added to the curriculum will be a general one in city planning. There is, of course, a Graduate School of City Planning at Harvard and there will be no intent to make the students in architecture compete with it. The general outline course in the School of City Planning, however, will be taken by the architectural students. Often buildings have become a failure through causes beyond the control of the architects. This has happened in many instances through faulty location in their communities. It is therefore wise to give architects at least an understanding of the trends of city development, so that they may escape the pitfalls of many a too ambitious project. In other tasks, like subdivisions, housing, civic centres, etc., the architect's understanding of the city planner's point of view will be invaluable and also will make collaboration with him fruitful and amiable.

In short, let me repeat again that Harvard finds itself heartily in agreement with Mr. Gray's article. As may be seen, she has already devised a reformed curriculum which meets his suggestions for remedies in architectural education. In further breaking down the barrier between the designer and the practical man, however, Harvard will do so without surrendering any of its ideals and with the attempt never to sacrifice either aesthetic considerations or the truly practical. It is understood that there must be a well balanced share of both, that the profession may come into its own and a "well-reasoned new American architecture" appear.

A STATEMENT BY E. R. BOSSANGE, F.A.I.A.

Dean, The College of Fine Arts, New York University

THE Department of Architecture at New York University was organized and has been developed on the principle of keeping abreast with current developments in architectural educa-

tion. It has consistently attempted to develop its curricula on the basis of the requirements of today and the future, rather than those of twenty or thirty years ago, trying to correct the faults which have

become patent in outworn systems of training. In doing this, it has avoided mere fashions in radicalism and insisted on a thorough knowledge of fundamentals.

Opportunities

A new architecture is in the making. Plans for civic centers, great public improvements, housing projects, new types of buildings to fit modern conditions, and the replacement of obsolete buildings will give the architect with a creative imagination many opportunities in the future. New methods of construction and materials require new forms and motives. Moreover, increased public appreciation of form, color, texture, and ornament will demand the services of an architect in that large proportion of buildings now entrusted merely to the engineer and the contractor. The failure of many ventures that were purely utilitarian in character proves that the public insists on esthetic appeal. Hence we shall need young architects who are masters of artistic composition, construction, and materials, and who, because of their youth, have a sympathetic understanding of the modern problems.

Breadth of Training

The great importance of a broad fundamental training is insisted upon, and even in advanced work the training is kept as general as practicable. There is a very special reason for doing this at the present time. During periods of flux such as the present, certain careers are crowded, while others offer wider opportunities, and entirely new ones are created. Thus the advisability and indeed the necessity of later change should be faced and provided for in education. This is recognized in all courses. In our advanced course the student is developed in preparation for the design of buildings of many varied types, and the training is applicable in many fields. In another the whole field of interior architecture and interior design and decoration is open to him, and in a third course he is prepared to solve the important problems of housing, tenements, multiple dwellings, hotels, apartments, and garden cities. If, on the other hand, he finds he is stronger in practical courses than in design, we prepare him to enter into architectural construction and also give him the foundation to become a builder, promoter of building ventures, and producer of building materials.

Deferred Specialization

There are two major dangers in specialization; that the choice of course will be made by an immature student after inadequate consideration, and that the technical training will be too narrow. These faults are met by deferring the selection of a major

field. The first two years work, therefore, is the same for all options, and in addition, many advanced courses are taken by all students. 120 of the 152 points required are common to all options. Design is taught in the same spirit in all majors; the subject of the problems however differs. The student is given ample opportunity to compare the various fields and to test his own capabilities before limiting himself to one of them.

Form and Color

It has frequently become necessary here, and is a general custom in Europe, for the architect to supervise not only the design and construction of the building, but even the furnishing of it down to the smallest details. The creation of a course in the use of form and color gives a basis for development of artistic ability not only in architecture but also in the decorative arts and crafts in allied fields. Pencil, pen, and charcoal drawing, use of water color, oils and other color media, modeling, and, in addition, materials such as wood, metal, and glass are used in creating compositions and designs. A method of teaching by which the student is freed from inhibiting timidity and given facility in creative design has been successfully tested with a selected group of New York University students and several members of the Architectural League of New York during the current term. By giving expression to similar ideas in different media without the narrow restriction of separate classes, the student learns to choose the best method of representing a particular problem. By contact in open atelier with other students, including those following painting, sculpture, and decorative design curricula, he has the inspiration of a varied artistic atmosphere.

Even in the past, although no special effort was made to provide a broad experience in composition and design, many architects have had marked success in the other arts such as painting, decoration, scenic design, modeling, and crafts. By giving emphasis to such fundamental training, the ability to take advantage of other opportunities will be even greater and those who fail to obtain work as architects may find another outlet for their talents.

Coordination of Construction with Other Subjects

The architect today is in great danger of being divorced from his proper sphere by too much insistence upon the surface treatment of buildings, thus relegating him to the role of "building beautifier". His proper function is that of designer of complete and esthetic structures. To fill this requirement, in the future he must concentrate on the new types of construction in order to use the elements of his structure in an esthetic, intelligent, and economic

manner, and to make full use of modern improvements.

Construction is therefore purposely coordinated with other subjects more closely than is usual in architectural courses. The work in the Elements of Architecture, instead of being a survey of the orders and other isolated features, is an integrated study of architectural forms based on the major types of construction, including the modern. The development of different types of construction and their influence in producing architectural forms in the past is emphasized. For all design problems a construction critic is appointed to insure buildable projects. A number of problems including the thesis require carefully studied construction plates and the solution of mechanical details. We propose to simplify as much as possible the presentation and increase the time given to construction. In the Structural Design courses, the theoretical matter is applied to a number of buildings completely worked out from projects done by the students under the jurisdiction of a design critic. Throughout all the work, encouragement is given to the practical application of technical knowledge.

Reality in Teaching

Throughout the curricula, there is a conscious effort to give reality to architectural subjects. In the first year a course in the physical and esthetic properties of materials is given to make the beginner materials-conscious. This is not done simply by lecture but is accomplished by the observation and handling of actual products, by class room demonstration, by visits to manufacturing plants and to showrooms such as that of the Architectural Samples Corporation, and by inspection of materials in place in both exterior and interior of some of the many fine buildings near the school. This gives the student a realization of substance, indispensable to a full comprehension of later work in history, design, and construction. In the history course, the character and meaning of material is constantly stressed.

An increased use of models in many courses encourages greater appreciation of solid form, and designing in clay and plaster so as to develop a sense of the third dimension is required for many problems. Models are also frequently used to test the masses when the design has been developed.

Study of History

In the courses in architectural history, while construction and the nature of materials are stressed, the fact is never forgotten that the fulfilling of man's physical requirements does not by itself solve the problem. Building becomes architecture only when man's desire for order, balance, form, color, and

texture is aroused and satisfied and they are an integral part of the structure. Architecture may be defined as the dramatization of a system of construction. A building must first be conceived in this spirit, not for a machine but for a human being in whom ideals are vital. Then the trained artist, making use of his mastery of construction and materials and his ability to derive inspiration and suggestions from them, proceeds to express his conception. The architect has never been more free to dream than he is today, because he can count on new methods of construction and new materials to make possible the realization of his concepts.

Although in much modern work conditions force originality and creation upon us, it must be recognized that there always will be demands for works of a traditional character, for the proper design of which an understanding of periods and the evolution of forms is necessary. Such work also cannot be well done unless adaptation is carried to the point of making the work answer to modern needs, and that also requires creative ability.

The study of the great masterpieces of the past and an understanding of the spirit and conditions they expressed is the soundest method for stimulating creative imagination. The importance attached by New York University to the study of history for its cultural value, for the training of taste, and for valuable information for modern application is shown by the number of courses given in that subject. Thus history is studied not to supply models or imitation, but as a source of inspiration.

Coordination with General Courses in Art

Consistent with our policy that an artist must be prepared for his life and career as well as in the technique of his art, we offer courses which combine a general education and a historical background, broad training in the fundamentals of design, composition, form, and color, with professional training in the field chosen. After two years of general training, students are offered majors in painting, mural painting, sculpture, and decorative design, and allowed to specialize. Many of the courses are taken in the Department of Architecture by these students, such as The Physical and Esthetic Properties of Materials, Expression of Form and Color, and The History of Architecture and Allied Arts, so that the relation of those arts to each other and to architecture is stressed throughout the courses. The fact that these varied majors are given in the same building as the courses in architecture encourages their coordination and facilitates changing from architecture to one of the other arts or crafts if circumstances later make it desirable. This coordination results in establishing an inspiring and broadening background.

A STATEMENT BY CLINTON H. COWGILL, A.I.A.

Dean, Department of Architectural Engineering, Virginia Polytechnic Institute

IT is disappointing that Director Gray's article, entitled "The Schools and the New Architecture," which appeared in the February OCTAGON, did not elicit more replies from architectural educators. Since the meeting of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture, as well as the A.I.A. Convention, will not be held this year, whatever general discussion of architectural education there is must take place in the journals.

While I cannot presume to speak for the schools, it is proposed herein to discuss the matter from a viewpoint which is believed to be unpopular with most of the architectural schools and not a few architects.

Mr. Gray refers to the necessity of "an educational background of a more reasoned character" and "technical education of a sort consonant with the times." He also advises "breaking down the absurd antagonism between the 'designer' and the 'practical' man." It is my contention that the schools should look into these matters.

Since most American schools are associated with institutions of general education, the curricula have until recently given the students adequate opportunity for an educational background. In some cases this is required for entrance, as at Columbia, but is more often a part of the technical education. Attention is called to the fact that the schools have tended to reduce the proportion of general studies to technical courses. Although it is admittedly impossible to include every desirable subject in a five or six year curriculum, we should not allow our enthusiasm for fine technical training to cause us to encourage students to become narrow.

Relating Design and Construction

As to the technical training, there is a vast difference of opinion as to the proportionate attention which should be given design and construction and much variation in methods of teaching design.

Anyone will admit that architectural students should understand materials and their use as well as the simpler structural elements such as walls, piers, etc. That was perhaps sufficient fifty years ago. Today, however, the architect must use steel and concrete in a way which requires a mastery of engineering principles. If the designer is to use these materials intelligently, he must know more about them than may be found in the handbooks.

Everyone realizes that the design of many modern buildings is influenced by engineering, or should be. The planning of buildings is recognized as the starting point in their design, and economy in building

may be greatly affected by the location of columns,—which ties up the plan. Are architects going to allow engineers untrained in design to hamstring their plans by locating columns? It is becoming more and more necessary for architectural designers to thoroughly understand structural engineering. Who would attempt to design furniture without knowing how it was constructed? Even last century when engineering in architecture was comparatively unimportant, the old master, Guadet, emphasized the necessity of "mathematical calculations." He also said, "Architecture is the putting to work, to satisfy material and moral needs, the elements of construction. Without construction, no architecture. The laws of construction are the first laws of architecture and all those who, in a spirit of revolt, have tried to escape them, to violate these laws, have broken themselves to pieces."

It may be argued that the place to learn the "practical side" of architecture is in the office. It is admitted that draftsmanship, and an intimate knowledge of routine details should not be attempted to be taught in school. The principles of engineering, however, may be learned much easier and better in school than elsewhere.

It is also often stated that it is impossible for one person to master both structural engineering and architectural design, and that to attempt to do so results in mediocre accomplishments in both fields. It is not necessary, however, to master engineering to the extent of becoming an efficient structural designer. This requires much more experience than to master engineering principles sufficiently to conceive of a structural design of a building which will be suitable and economical. Architects will always require assistants to solve the details of engineering just as they do to solve other details of buildings. Many times these assistants know more about their part of the work than does the principal.

It has been suggested by Bosworth and Jones, in their thorough and intelligent report, "A Study of Architectural Schools," that more attention be paid to construction in connection with the teaching of design. Many of the schools require that all instructors in design have office experience, and encourage the maintenance of contacts with practice. Even when this is done, however, there is too much of a tendency for the design staff to think of design as a thing unrelated to construction. Instead of encouraging students to forget about structure until the design has been determined, every opportunity should be taken advantage of to impress them with

the idea that unless a building can be built reasonably and economically it cannot be good architecture.

This idea can be fostered by having design studies criticised by instructors in construction and by including the construction staff on the design juries. If students are required to make construction drawings based upon their own designs, the relationship between design and construction is made very apparent.

Design at the Expense of Construction

The principal criticism, to be hurled at the schools, it seems to me, is more fundamental than curricula and methods. It has to do with the *esprit de corps*. While the schools are to be congratulated upon the fine enthusiasm of the students, this spirit sometimes appears more childish than professional. In my opinion, the heads of the schools are very directly responsible for the situation which I believe to be far too common. I refer to the tendency of students to emphasize the study of design at the expense of other studies.

There are many influences outside the schools which encourage this. Even the A.I.A. School Medal, I believe, is awarded solely on meritorious work in design. The competitions of the Beaux Arts Institute of Design and the American Academy in Rome have helped wonderfully in many ways, but the idea that constructability is considered when the drawings are judged is not given much consideration by the students. The B.A.I.D. is to be congratulated, however, on the excellent criticisms of the design problems which have appeared in the Bulletin recently. The influence of practicing architects, which is thus brought to bear upon the schools, is of great value. If a problem in construction, or one involving the study of construction, were required each year, it would also help to keep the students balanced.

The principal influences fostering overemphasis upon design, however, lie within the schools. It takes but little influence to get many students to neglect other work for design, because they enjoy design work. Once it becomes customary, to overemphasize design, the older students influence the younger. But in some schools, I am sure, this sort of thing is encouraged by the faculty, at least by the design staff. Perhaps in some cases the critics are caught by the competitive spirit, feeling that their ability is judged by the grades won by their students in inter-school competitions.

Design teachers should realize that they are making architects of tomorrow. Whether their students win competitions is of secondary importance to their securing a well-balanced preparation for practice. Sportsmanship and absolute honesty in competitions should be expected. A student who violates the rules

of a competition should hardly be trusted as an architect.

An Absurd Antagonism

Overemphasis upon design leads to the "absurd antagonism between the *designer* and the *practical man*." This is particularly evident at some schools which have options permitting specialization in design or construction and at which only the second rate students specialize in construction.

Many educators fear the engineering point of view in architecture. This is not surprising in the light of the history of architectural education in the United States. Many of the leading heads of architectural schools today have seen their schools develop from engineering courses with architecture being added bit by bit. Architectural work has gradually crowded out engineering work as a result of successive battles with the engineers. Now that architectural schools have grown up, they are ashamed of their parentage. Architectural engineering, the name often given the construction option, to some, means nothing more than a very poor course in architecture.

Fortunately, however, some of the younger generation of educators, who have been spared the experience of their elders, are willing to appraise engineering without prejudice. Enmity between architects and engineers had almost become customary, but it is now being replaced by mutual understanding and respect.

Perhaps the time will come when there will be a less pronounced difference between the points of view of architects and engineers. Maybe what is needed is engineers with the architectural point of view and architects with an understanding of engineering. This should result in more satisfactory engineering works and more successful buildings.

If such were the situation today, the architectural schools which failed to take the study of construction (including engineering) seriously would be the exception instead of in the majority. Architects would not permit institutions preparing men to enter their profession to ignore the fundamentals of such an important part of their practice.

It is not claimed, however, that at this time all architectural schools should emphasize construction. Some of them should no doubt continue to overemphasize design. But while now fully fifty per cent of the architectural students in the country are taking work which is less suitable preparation for general practice than for design specialists, not over ten per cent of the architecturally trained men are used exclusively as designers. More of the schools should place greater emphasis upon construction and those which do so should be given more recognition by the profession and by leaders in architectural education.

The Architects' Small House Service Bureau

Note—The following report and the two letters which follow it are self explanatory. They are published for the purpose of giving complete and up-to-date information to the membership.

INTERIM REPORT ON SMALL HOUSE PROBLEM

By the Committee on Small Houses

March 9, 1933.

THE special Committee on Small Houses appointed by President Russell after the last Convention begs to submit an interim report to the Board of Directors as follows:

The Committee appointed by the President consisted of Messrs. C. V. R. Bogert, Seymour Williams, Dwight James Baum, and Robert D. Kohn, the latter as Chairman. The first two and last two members were to each select another member. Clement W. Fairweather and Frederick L. Ackerman were so selected.

The Committee reports that it has given careful study to the specific task assigned to it, namely: to recommend to the Board a method by which the "sense of the meeting" as adopted by the Convention could be put into effect. This would require working out details of a plan by which the endorsement of The Architects' Small House Service Bureau could be continued if the sale of stock plans were carried on solely through qualified architects.

The Committee has found no way of working out such a scheme and for the following reasons:

1. The task of defining what constitutes "qualified" architects appears impossible as a practical matter. Conditions vary in different localities. In many states there are many little-skilled and some unethical practitioners who hold state licenses. Registration therefore should not alone constitute proper qualification. It was developed even during the Convention discussion that membership in the Institute should not be made the sole basis of qualification. We are at a loss therefore to know how agents of the Bureau could be appointed except by direct selection. But that, too, has its disadvantages.

2. Even if it were possible to work out a method of selection whereby a comprehensive list of qualified architects could be placed at the disposal of the Bureau we do not think that the results would be worthwhile. In our opinion, only a small percentage of the architects so chosen would cooperate with the Bureau. During the years when the Bureau had the support of a majority of the Convention delegates, only a very small percentage of Institute members actually participated in the work of the Bureau. With this in mind we do not believe that the Bureau could obtain sufficient funds from the sale of plans through architects to carry on any effective operations.

3. The Committee deplores the friction which has existed in the Institute consequent upon the Institute's endorsement of the present methods of the Small House Service Bureau. It understands that the Bureau is prepared to abandon the marketing of stock plans provided you approve some other way by which architects can work together as a profession to improve small house design. It is obvious that if these two things can be brought about, the friction within the Institute on this subject will automatically cease.

4. The improvement of small house design can be best effected by the publicizing of the value of architects' services. We believe that the Institute should extend its work in this direction. While very excellent small house designs have been produced by architects, on the whole the standard of small house design, both as to plan and exterior, is not what it might be. Even the sale of the best imaginable of stock plans will never bring about such an improvement. While good plans are necessary for any work, they are not as important for the cause of better architecture as the personal service given by an architect to interpret a plan and carry through the work to completion.

5. To make possible that more of the small house work comes within the field of the architect's personal influence, we believe that each Chapter must create interest in it in its own community. Each should be asked to appoint a Committee to study the possibilities of an organization in its own district to cooperate with the Institute's Committee to develop a procedure by which these general purposes would be advanced. Special designs regional in character would be prepared by each group; to be used only for publicity purposes, to illustrate types and character. Publicity would be secured locally through these designs and, of more importance, through excellent buildings already erected by local architects. Such publicity could be designed to carry information constantly as to the value of the architect's services. A local bureau of information would be referred to in all publicity and thus through the contacts made create more work for local architects. There must be a central office to tie together these local offices, which in our opinion could be the present Small House Service Bureau.

6. For we take it for granted that the Bureau

is an organization not necessarily tied to any particular method of propaganda. It was endorsed by the Institute as a medium through which small house designs were to be improved. As a group of professional men, we ought to keep on trying to find a way to do that. We think we can find a way. If the Institute agrees, then it has it in its power to use the Small House Service Bureau nationally and where established locally as a means to carry this out. The Committee unanimously hopes that the organization of the Bureau will assist in working out the details of this plan.

7. If the Board approve this joint effort for the development of a new method of procedure, we recommend that the Institute request the Small House Service Bureau to cease the preparation, advertising, sale and promotion of Stock Plans in literature of any form and withdraw from circulation all publications and literature advertising the sale of Stock Plans. We recommend that the Bureau function for the present as doing public information work only, on the value of the individual architect's services and the publicizing of good architecture in small house design and in other fields.

8. We recommend that the Institute appoint Regional Committees, the members representing each Chapter in their district, to study their localities as relating to the small house problem and report back as to the feasibility of such promotional work at as

early a date as possible to the Institute Committee. The Institute Committee is then to analyze these findings and file their next recommendations with the Directors of the Institute.

9. The Committee unanimously recommends that the Institute should set up now a permanent central Committee to set this machinery in motion, using the existing machinery of the Small House Service Bureau, and to devote itself to the furtherance of the improvement of small house architecture, the result to be achieved by country-wide dissemination of data such as preliminary studies, the furnishing of lantern slides, lecturers and technical data distinct from working documents. We believe that such a Committee if supported by the profession in every district could work out a scheme of financing its operations locally and nationally possibly through a fee paid by architects who receive commissions as a result of the publicity and information service carried on.

DWIGHT JAMES BAUM, *Acting Chairman*
ROBERT D. KOHN
SEYMOUR WILLIAMS
CORNELIUS V. R. BOGERT
CLEMENT W. FAIRWEATHER
*FREDERICK L. ACKERMAN

*Mr. Ackerman could not be present but read the report and asked the Acting Chairman to sign for him.

A LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE INSTITUTE

May 1, 1933.

Mr. Ernest John Russell, President,
The American Institute of Architects.

Dear Mr. Russell:

We are addressing you in connection with our recent appointment to a new Committee "to make further progress . . . by giving special attention to the sense of the meeting, as expressed by the last Convention."

We respectfully call your attention to the fact that the Board's action in requesting you to appoint a new Committee was not in accordance with the "sense of the meeting" as expressed at the last Convention. The Convention authorized the Board to appoint a Committee not for the purpose of working out a scheme for continuing the endorsement of the Architects Small House Service Bureau's selling plans through qualified architects as the Board of Directors seem to think but to work out a compromise scheme "in the light of Convention discussion."

In the clarification of the motion by Mr. Hall as stated by him immediately preceding the vote the function of the Committee was clearly stated as follows: "This body of people has expressed some

views which may be of help to this Committee. Now the motion which I have proposed and which has been seconded, is to be an action of this Convention and it is to put this whole question in the hands of a Committee representing the two sides for the purpose of securing if possible an amicable solution of this problem which the convention can support." (See page 38 of the Institute Proceedings). In spite of the difficulty of the task, and it is obvious that a question which has been before the Institute for the past decade without having reached a solution was a difficult task, an "amicable solution" which we believe a Convention would gladly support was unanimously agreed upon by the Committee appointed as the result of this Convention action.

While our report would require the Institute to undertake certain work in connection with the advancement of Small House architecture we call your attention to the fact that Mr. Kohn appeared before the Executive Committee at its meeting in November, 1932, with an outline of a scheme which the Board, approved, as follows: "Resolved, that the enlarged program for improving Small House design by whatever means, as outlined by the Chair-

man of the Special Committee on Small Houses, be approved in principle, after the elimination of several indicated paragraphs. Resolved, that the Chairman of the Committee on Small Houses be requested to prepare a statement for early publication in *THE OCTAGON*, which will outline the progress made since the Convention, the enlarged scope of the Committee's activities, and the intention of the Institute to follow through to definite action."

However at the recent meeting of the Board of Directors the Board ignored the Convention action and its own Executive Committee action, in authorizing the President to appoint a new Committee to "make further progress, with respect to the question of Institute endorsement of the Architects Small House Service Bureau, by giving special attention to the sense of the meeting as expressed by the last Convention."

The original Committee, appointed by Convention action, submitted a Report which if there had been a convention this year we feel would have been received and acted upon and we call your attention to the fact that the Board of Directors is clearly out of order in authorizing the appointment of a new Committee if Convention action is to be followed;

but we have accepted membership on it due to our very great interest in the question and because of our desire to be of further service to the Institute.

You will realize that the many individuals and organizations scattered throughout the United States who have supported our opposition of the Institute's endorsement of the Bureau's present methods have remained inactive themselves for the past year awaiting the results of the Special Committee's work. We feel that the profession is entitled to information in view of the fact that the 1933 Convention has been omitted and we request that this letter and the full report of the Special Committee, as submitted to the Board, be published in the next issue of *THE OCTAGON*. If this space is not available we would be pleased to be promptly advised so that we may avail ourselves of the Architectural Press as they are anxious to give their readers information on this subject.

We are,

Very respectfully yours,

SEYMOUR WILLIAMS
CORNELIUS V. R. BOGERT
CLEMENT W. FAIRWEATHER

THE PRESIDENT'S REPLY

May 19, 1933.

Mr. Seymour Williams,
Rahway, N. J.

Dear Mr. Williams:—

When I was in Washington, early in the month, your letter of May 1st, which was also on behalf of Messrs. Bogert and Fairweather, was brought to my attention. But we were so pressed with Institute matters related directly to the subject of Federal employment of private architects that I asked that your letter be sent on to me in St. Louis.

This is the first opportunity to respond.

In view of the request contained in the last paragraph of the joint letter of May first, I have directed that a report be made to the membership, in the May number of *THE OCTAGON*, consisting of three parts, namely: (1) The report of the Special Committee on Small Houses, dated March 9, 1933; (2) The joint letter of May 1st, above mentioned; and (3) This reply to that letter.

In recent years Institute Conventions, Boards of Directors, Chapters, and Members, have been squabbling about Institute endorsement of The Architects' Small House Service Bureau. There has been considerable misunderstanding, confusion of issues, and differences of opinion—all of which is in evidence in the thirty-nine pages of transcript which report the discussions at the last Institute Convention—1932.

That Convention adopted a motion which recorded the sense of the meeting—that the endorsement of the Bureau by the Institute be continued, with the qualification that the distribution of plans shall be only to and through qualified architects.

The Convention also adopted a motion which requested the Board of Directors to appoint a committee to study the subject, to whom the sense of the Convention (as above quoted) should be referred; and to make recommendations to the Board of Directors to be carried out by the Board between Conventions.

The intent of this motion was clearly expressed by the man who made it—Emery Stanford Hall, of Chicago,—when he said:

"Now the motion which I have proposed and which has been seconded, is to be an action of this Convention and it is to put this whole question in the hands of a committee representing the two sides for the purpose of securing if possible an amicable solution of this problem which the Convention can support."

This motion was put, and carried by a vote of seventy-six to thirty-three which was then made unanimous.

Acting under Convention instructions the Board, at a meeting following the Convention, appointed a Special Committee of six members who made a report of March 9, 1933, as published herein.

The Board at its March, 1933, meeting gave full consideration to that report, and adopted four resolutions, which are quoted here:

Resolved, That the report of the Committee on Small Houses, dated March 9, be received with the thanks of the Board for the progress made towards a solution of the problems involved.

Resolved, That the review of the report of the Committee on Small Houses be accepted, and action taken as follows:

Resolved, That the Committee on Small Houses make a special effort to comply with the sense of the meeting as expressed by the last convention of the Institute, either through the existing committee or, at the discretion of the President, through a new committee.

Resolved, That the original instructions as to the objectives to be attained by the Committee on Small Houses be reiterated with emphasis.

Acting under the third resolution above, the President of the Institute—the writer of this letter—decided to appoint a new Committee and to start all over again. In so doing, he had in mind the desire of the Convention to hasten the accomplishment “of securing if possible an amicable solution of this problem.”

Therefore, the old Special Committee on Small Houses was discharged, with thanks, and a new Special Committee appointed, as follows:

A. L. Brockway, Chairman, Syracuse, N. Y.; Seymour Williams, Rahway, N. J.; Frank A. Ward, Albany, N. Y.; C. V. R. Bogert, Hackensack, N. J.; Walter H. Cassebeer, Rochester, N. Y.; Clement W. Fairweather, Metuchen, N. J.

The attention of the new Special Committee on Small Houses has been called to the fact that it is to carry out the will of the Convention; and that it may, if it so desires, report under the broader powers granted the old Committee with respect to the Small House problem in general. The Committee has been furnished with the entire Convention discussion, and the Board looks forward, at its meeting this coming November, to a constructive and final report which will settle amicably a question which has consumed too much of the time and energy of The American Institute of Architects.

If the Special Committee can find ways and means by which the machinery and good will of The Architects' Small House Service Bureau can be maintained and used for the distribution of plans “to and through qualified architects,” then perhaps the heavy investments of time and energy made in preceding years can be justified.

The solution of this problem is not easy. It will require concessions from both sides. Therefore, I count heavily upon the good judgment and the liberal views of all members of the Special Committee, and also upon their loyalty to the general welfare of the Institute. They possess these qualities to a high degree, and all of the members of the Board of Directors join me in this expression of confidence—that a real solution will be ready for action by the Board at the November meeting.

Sincerely yours,

E. J. RUSSELL,
President.

The Survey of Industrial Art

To be made by the Chairman of the Committee on Allied Arts

FOR some time past there has been discussion of the question of training in the allied and industrial arts and of the fact which appears to be fairly general that most of the leaders in these arts are foreigners or men trained in foreign schools. The question has also arisen as to the possible advisability of including in the curricula of the Schools of Architecture training in these allied arts.

The desirability of a survey of existing conditions and of the general problem of design as applied to industry, the relation of design as it is now taught in our schools to actual practice, and the reactions of men in industries to designers as they are now trained, became apparent. Mr. Ely Jacques Kahn, Chairman of the Committee on Allied Arts of The American Institute of Architects, and Director of the Department of Architecture of the Beaux-Arts Institute of Design, has been asked to make this

survey, and, after consultation with the Executive Council of the Committee on Education of the American Institute, the Carnegie Corporation has made an appropriation of \$10,000 to cover the costs of this survey and the publication of the results.

The entire survey shall be conducted under the sponsorship of the Committee on Education of the Institute, as now planned by Mr. Kahn. His travels will carry him throughout this country, visiting various industrialists, schools, and men whose relation to this problem would further the investigation. Later, in the fall, after an extended trip through Europe, covering France, Sweden, Germany, Austria, Czecho-Slovakia, Hungary, England, Denmark, and Holland, the report will be crystallized.

CHARLES BUTLER,
Chairman, Committee on Education.

How to Interview an Architect

By CLAIR W. DITCHY, A.I.A.

(Courtesy of the "Weekly Bulletin," Michigan Society of Architects)

MUCH has been written concerning the architectural profession with the idea of popularizing it with the laity, and of course, just incidentally, popularizing the laity with the profession. By that I mean that the average architect (taking, say 1926 as the norm) would feel much more kindly disposed toward the rest of the world if it paid some attention (and a little money) to him now and then. As matters now stand, the average person (based on 1932 statistics) knows there is such a thing as an architect, but the idea of ever engaging one to do anything for him never enters his head.

After a very careful and thorough study of the problem, we have come to the conclusion that something must be done about it. We have also reached another conclusion and that is that the real trouble has never been recognized before and here, for the first time in the history of architecture, this basic difficulty will be exposed and fully treated.

We all realize of course the gravity of the situation, and a mystifying and baffling situation it is—or was. The point I want to make is that in approaching a long-standing problem such as this, one must approach it with due circumspection, calmly, cautiously, and carefully considering all conditions and complexities which might color, concern, control or confuse its characteristics. It is one that because of inexcusable neglect has been allowed to assume amazing and alarming aspects, and attention to any of the multiferous ramifications of it would of course be worse than useless. One must strike at the core of our distress and if we succeed in destroying the crux of our dilemma, the horns of it will naturally drop off from sheer attrition. Do I make myself clear?

Now, having thoroughly investigated the various manifestations of misunderstanding and indifference and failure to cooperate with the architectural profession in making the world some better places to live in, we finally arrived at the basic reason for it all, and a very simple and basic reason it is. At this point, I should like to digress for just a moment.

It was one of those bright sunny days and I had been up late the night before puttering with my invention: almost everybody has an invention nowadays because inventions are going to cure the world of its headache. About ten o'clock of the morning, I heard someone enter the office, and being taken off my guard, (for no one disturbs an architect nowadays—at least not before noon), I hastened to as-

sume my professional pose, which you will admit is a bit difficult coming out of a deep sleep. Well, there stood a beautiful, young lady.

Whether to set me at ease, or to subtly apprise me of the fact that she had glimpsed me before I had as it were donned my professional armor, she smiled graciously, parting her lips slightly in the act. This of course confused me, and I stood helpless, speechless, waiting for her to say something.

After exchanging the customary courtesies and the time of day, which by the way was my first intimation that it was still morning and that I had the day ahead of me, she proceeded with the matter which she had in mind. Her name was....., representing the Co.; I refrain from revealing her identity and the nature of her occupation, not so much from a sense of chivalry as from a conviction that it would be totally irrelevant to the subject under discussion. I merely mention the incident because in the course of our very pleasant conversation, she suddenly brought me face to face with a frank recognition of the underlying cause of our unhappy situation. "Why," I asked, at a turn in the conversation which permitted my posing the query without fear of being misinterpreted, "why do people shun architects?"

For several very justifiable reasons, I cannot quote her answer verbatim, but suffice it to say that when she left the office at five o'clock that night, I had a much broader view of the matter and a consuming desire to set about at once to correct the situation. I now feel adequately prepared to release my message to a suffering profession.

Why, indeed, do people shun architects? Have they as a class committed or subscribed to anything reprehensible which should ostracise them from an outraged society? Have they by word or deed offended or transgressed, presumed or affronted, piqued, nettled or abused? Can an accusing finger be justly raised against a profession, whose banner of self-sacrifice and devotion to the uncommon cause is unparalleled in the annals of history and whose integrity is unimpeachable? No, a thousand times no.

Well, enough of that you say and I agree with you. But why do people shun architects? I'm your friend and nevertheless I will tell you. People shun architects because they have never been told not to.

Scan the list of don'ts that have played such an important part in the development of your own manly character and physique. You were told not

to play with matches or bad little boys or the ponies, etc. But were you ever by implication, allusion or device encouraged to associate with architects? How you ever got to be an architect, of course, I do not know.

And so it was that when the little girl told me that if she had known that I was an architect, she would not have dared to open my door, "Opened by mistake" said I laughing and she laughed too, although I could see she was still not quite sure of herself—or mebbe it was me. Then followed our epochal discussion in which I discovered that the real reason why people do not consult architects is because of the lack of instruction on the subject.

In every other of the amenities, or side-lines, one is by tradition, the daily newspapers, the radio, or etc., fully informed of the correct procedure. You know how to brush your teeth and see the dentist, how to call the police or fire department, how not to trump your partner's ace, how to address the ball or the president, how to avoid accidents, colds, piston-slap or tire trouble. But the only thing on architecture is how to get our book of prize-winning designs free of charge.

From this brief introduction, you will have gathered the general trend of my idea. It will be fully covered in a series of manuals which will astutely appropriate the latest developments in psychological research and will create imperceptibly in the mind of the reader an architect—urge. Once the reader has penetrated the preface, he will be overwhelmed with the necessity of finding something to build so that he may interview an architect, and as the manual progresses, it smoothes away all possible resistance by fully covering every detail of such an interview. The first of these manuals is now ready for the press. It is entitled "What A Young Woman of Say Twenty-five Ought To Know About Interviewing An Architect." Here are some random excerpts from it:

From the chapter on "Appearance,"

"If you are contemplating a cottage by the sea or on some inland lake, and are fond of boating, swimming and the like, this should be reflected in the jauntiness of your costume. Choose a bright color, leaning perhaps toward the pastel shades to suggest that there is quiet and dignity even in such a boisterous undertaking. The jacket may be of rabbit's wool with skirt of same material. A jabot plisse with frilled cuffs may be effective but you know more about that than I do. Chamois gloves, chapeau crepe Suzette, wool stockings and suede walking shoes complete the ensemble.

"Bear in mind the artistic temperament of the architect and that mood plays an important part in his ability to interpret your problem. Avoid carmine nails, although if you are contemplating

a cottage by the sea or on an inland lake, a coral shade will be appropriate, Sand lightly between coats."

From the chapter on "The Interview,"

"The interview is arranged either by telephone or card. If by telephone, it should be through a third party, who after contacting the architect, suggests that Miss or Mrs. X would appreciate the opportunity for consultation with Mr. Y regarding her contemplated building project. Sometimes a fourth party enters into the arrangements, this party being Mr. Y's secretary who reports that Mr. Y is in conference, and who sets the date and time for him.

"If a card is used the approved wording is:

Miss Wanda Bild
requests the pleasure of an
interview with
Mr. Lintel

to confer with him in his professional capacity
regarding her proposed manor.

333 Syncromesh Drive

Detroit

Telephone Chesterfield 2-4-25

(If the client is married, the telephone number may be omitted.)"

At the appointed hour, the client presents herself at the architect's office. From this point on the client is guided by an apothecary conversation which runs as follows:

"Architect: So good of you to come, Miss Bild.

Client: Oh it's perfectly adorable of you to say that, Mr. Lintel. I have been looking forward to our interview with great anticipation.

(There here may ensue a round of small talk dealing with current events, bridge losses, favorite authors, or what not. Weather and the depression are taboo. At the proper moment which will sooner or later present itself, the client seizes the thread of the conversation and opens her purse.)

C. I was a little uncertain, Mr. Lintel, regarding your retaining fee, so I have filled out the check, that is, everything except the amount, and if you will let me know the figure, we can dispense with this trivial detail at once.

(The architect probably has a set fee, but if you have made the most of your opportunities, this may be reflected in the concession he makes in your particular instance. But no matter what figure he may mention, etiquette requires that you register surprise at the modestness of the sum indicated.)

Now to proceed with the interview proper. Never say, "I want to build an eight room house" or "What I want is," etc. The proper introduction to the details is as follows:

- C. "You know*, Mr. Lintel, I have always dreamed of having a home of my own just like I have dreamed of for years. Even when I was a little girl, etc."
Or (but not both. Choice of.)

"Of all the things, Mr. Lintel, which I have always wanted, would be (1) to have a lovely, darl-

*This is the only place where the expression "you know" is proper, and never put the accent on the first syllable. Of course he knows, silly.

ing home, (2) to do something with that back bedroom (3) to remodel the boathouse, etc."

This list, running into three figures, including every major operation which an ambitious architect might conceivably undertake. Lack of space prevents the inclusion of further details, but we confidently predict that once these manuals are put in circulation, the vogue for architects will sweep the country and will far surpass the spectacular success of mah jong, badminton, jig-saw puzzles, etc. No architect can be without them. Order yours now. Write for liberal terms, trade-in allowances on used D'Espouey, Letarouilly, etc. Agents wanted, just imagine. See our booth at the Architects' Exhibit.—Advertisement.

Ethics or Expediency in the Emergency?

NOTE—The following discussion is quoted verbatim from the Minutes of the March meeting of the Pittsburgh Chapter.

THE meeting was turned over to Raymond M. Marlier, Chairman of Current Works Committee, for discussion of the topic, "Ethics or Expediency in the Emergency?" The first speaker introduced by Marlier was Weber.

He spoke on the difficulties of conducting a small office which depends on small jobs due to the encroachments of the designing contractor and the general lack of knowledge among the public of the duties of the architects. He proposed the three following remedies:

Petition council to grant building permits for work amounting to over \$2,500.00 only for plans prepared by registered architects and engineers.

Make a black list of contractors who infringe on the architect's proper field, this list to be circularized among the architects who will then omit them from private bidding lists.

Organize a campaign to educate the public on the duties and services of the architect.

The next speaker, Casimir J. Pelligrini, spoke as follows:

The chief evils have been caused by those who offer the owner the following inducements:

Free sketches with an estimate of cost at no obligation.

Cutting of fees.

These two procedures result in (1) unfairness to others in the profession, (2) a low impression of the profession in the public mind, (3) usually results in bad architecture.

He suggested as a correction of the above the establishment of a clearing house where reports could be made of such practices so that

Members of the A.I.A. could be disciplined.

Non-members could be notified of impropriety of their action by the A.I.A., this record to be held against them in case they later applied for admission.

Draftsmen could be put on record for future boycott when applying for positions in architects' offices.

Contractors who are reported as performing services of architects alone, or by use of draftsmen, or by hiring of architects at nominal rate, could be put on black list for future bidding.

Material men, equipment organizations, and all bureaus which supply free plans and service would be notified of their encroachment and they would desist rather than incur the ill will of the profession.

In conclusion he stated that he believed the above corrections could be accomplished without recourse to legal procedure if the members of the profession cooperated. He regretted that the relations of the Institute were not as effective with the schools as in the case of the Bar Association or the Medical Association. He believed that more teachers should be members of the Institute and in sympathy with its beliefs and problems so that they could persuade students of the desirability of becoming members when they were eligible.

Mr. Marlier then introduced Charles T. Ingham, whose purpose was to comment on the two speakers before him. He first criticized the wording of the title—"Ethics or Expediency in the Emergency". Ethics, if defined as "right conduct" and expediency as "self-interest" should go hand in hand in the

"emergency" or any other time instead of conflicting as indicated by title.

He pointed out that the difficulty of successfully petitioning council lay in the weakness of the present State registration act which permits other than registered engineers and architects to prepare plans provided they use their true appellation. He doubted whether the matter could be legally accomplished.

He agreed in general with Mr. Pelligrini's ideas but explained that there were circumstances when the preparation of free sketches was quite within the bounds of good ethics.

He pointed out the difficulty of disciplining members outside the profession for infringement on the code of ethics.

He disagreed with the point that the Institute was out of touch with the schools. He thought it was very sympathetic and had, through its award of medals, lectures, and other contacts, done very good work in the field. For illustration of the good relation he referred to the announcement made from C.I.T. reported in the minutes of this meeting. He did believe however that they might lend more assistance in helping those preparing for registration.

After Mr. Ingham's comments Press C. Dowler declared the meeting open for general discussion.

It was pointed out that the City building code differed from that of the State, this having been made possible by an enabling act, and therefore

the council might consider the petition before mentioned if an enabling act were first passed.

Motions Passed

That a committee be appointed to investigate the possibility of passing an ordinance requiring that only drawings prepared by registered architects and engineers might receive building permits for work over \$2,500.00, this committee to report their findings at the next meeting.

That the Builders Exchange Committee of the Chapter approach the Builders Exchange on the matter of contractors preparing plans infringing on the architect's field. The committee to report at the next meeting.

Mr. Patterson proposed that the Education Committee should arrange for contact with those about to be examined for registration so that they might be thoroughly drilled in the proper knowledge of ethics and right architectural practice, and that some suitable ceremony be instituted to welcome those to practice who have successfully passed their examinations. Mr. Ingham spoke commending this idea and urging its adoption.

Mr. Palmgreen said he believed there would be a less hazy knowledge of proper practice among the draftsmen who will be our future architects if more of the architects made an effort to unselfishly devote some time and attention to their training while under their employment.

Annual Meeting of The Producers' Council

A CORDIAL INVITATION TO ARCHITECTS

WIDESPREAD interest in the Century of Progress Exposition has been an inducement for many national organizations to select Chicago as the location for their annual meetings and conventions.

The Producers' Council, Inc., affiliated with The American Institute of Architects, will hold their Tenth Annual Meeting in Chicago, June 26th to 28th. The Blackstone Hotel has been selected as the Council headquarters and meetings will be held both at the hotel and at the Architects Club of Chicago.

It is planned to participate in the activities on Construction Industry Day, Monday, June 26th, by inspecting the Exposition and Exhibits and by attendance at the Construction Industry Banquet which will be held in the Crystal Ball Room of the Blackstone Hotel in the evening. Robert D. Kohn, Past-President of the Institute, and Chairman of the Construction League of the United States, will act as presiding officer and toastmaster and E. J. Russell, President of the Institute, will be one of the principal speakers.

The afternoon session on Tuesday, June 27th, will be of especial interest as the topics scheduled bear directly on the industry as a whole. Architects and others interested are cordially invited to attend and participate in the discussions.

William Stanley Parker, Chairman, Joint Committee on Building Practices, A.I.A., will address this session on the subject of "Bid Peddling and Price Cutting" and E. J. Mehren, President of the Portland Cement Association, will speak on "The Producers' Function in the Construction Industry."

Those architects who have had an opportunity to take part in previous Council golf matches will not fail to bring their drivers, mid-irons, niblicks and putters for a few slashes at the elusive sphere. The afternoon of Wednesday, June 28th, has been reserved for the golf tournament which will be followed by the usual golf supper and the award of prizes. The course to be played and the club where the supper will be served are to be announced at the meeting.

With the Chapters

EXTRACTS FROM CHAPTER MINUTES AND REPORTS

Chicago Chapter.

The Secretary of the Institute has made acknowledgment to the Chicago Chapter of its gift of \$320.00—one-half of the Chapter's budget item for the Convention Fund of the Chapter.

When the members of the Chapter learned that the 1933 Convention had been omitted, and that the Institute was faced with a serious financial situation, they voted to send one-half of the Convention Fund to the Institute as a gift—for use in helping to meet operating expenses. This generous action by the Chicago Chapter is most helpful, and is greatly appreciated by the Institute Board and the Treasurer. A more formal acknowledgment than this will be made to the Chapter in due course.

At a joint meeting of the Chicago Chapter and the Illinois Society of Architects—

William J. Smith, Chairman of the Program Committee, reported that the June meeting of the Chapter will be held in conjunction with the Illinois Society of Architects, The Architects Club of Chicago, The Producers' Council, The Producers' Club of Chicago, The Association of Arts and Industries of Chicago, and the Construction League of the United States. The subject of this meeting is to be "The Construction Industry," the date is Monday, June 26, and the place the Auditorium Hotel. All architects are invited.

Arthur F. Woltersdorf stated that Alfred Granger is the author of a new book, an architectural guide entitled "Chicago Welcomes You". He also announced that Irving K. Pond had recently celebrated his seventy-sixth birthday. The assemblage rose in honor of Mr. Pond, with enthusiasm and applause. Mr. Pond responded with a short talk.

A guest was introduced, Mr. Goo, a Chinese architect assisting in the design and construction of the Chinese building at the Century of Progress.

The subject of the evening's program was the "Pre-Fabricated House". The speakers were Mr. R. T. Miller of the Masonite Corporation; Mr. Howard T. Fisher, who spoke on "Aims of General Houses, Inc."; Mr. R. J. Wahl, who spoke for Mr. Frank Main on "Flexibility of Stran-Steel Construction"; Mr. Bennett Chapple, of the American Rolling Mills, who spoke on the "Frameless Armco-Ferro House". Following these speakers, a short address was made by Professor H. Vandervoort Walsh, of the School of Architecture of Columbia University, New York.

Columbus Chapter.

Call it adult education if you must, but the Columbus Chapter has been taking advantage of slack times, invitation and importuning of manufacturers, and a probable, but none-too-well defined urge for professional betterment, to improve its knowledge of building materials through a series of trips to certain centers of manufacture and supply in Central Ohio.

During the past few months inspection trips have been made to the Millersburg Quarries of the Briar Hill Company, in Holmes County; the Taylortown plant of the Claycraft Brick and Mining Company; the Columbus Coated Fabrics, manufacturers of Walltex and kindred modernistic trick products; the Ludowici Tile Company at New Lexington in the clay producing county of Perry; the Owens-Illinois Glass Company plant at South Columbus; the Miami Portland Cement plant at Fairfield-Osborn, in Montgomery County.

Of course, the fact that food, shelter and in some instances, golf, were enjoyed by the invitees may have had somewhat to do with the large enrollment in these classes in adult education, but there seems to be some evidence that both the manufacturers and the profession have benefitted by these interesting contacts.

Subjects treated in recent meetings have been "Modern Gangsters" (a discussion of the termite problem) by Kyle W. Armstrong; "A Brief History of Reinforced Concrete" by Edward Kromer; "Stained Glass" by Professor W. C. Ronan, and "Architects' Registration" by R. C. Kempton.

Of interest to the profession is the fact that Professor Charles St. John Chubb, Chairman of the Department of Architecture of Ohio State University, is acting as a member of the newly organized Emergency School for Unemployed in which over a thousand persons have been enrolled at the University. A small group from this number is interested in some phase of architecture, but because of the limited nature of the courses which may be made available, the most good is apparently being accomplished in the phase dealing with general appreciation of architecture and the significance of honest construction.

Connecticut Chapter.

The members met at the new Post Office, where T. Merrill Prentice, assisted by a member of the Post Office staff, conducted the party over the building, explaining in detail the work of the various

departments. Even the "catacombs" were braved to learn at first hand how Uncle Sam's sleuths catch the erring postal clerk! Externally, the building is executed in the spirit of the Intellectual Moderns, retaining just enough of the Classic tradition; materials are granite, limestone, and aluminum handled in a most capable and convincing manner. The simple, restrained treatment of the main lobby, with its judicious use of light, made a most favorable impression. The Federal Courtroom, on the top floor, with its bold scale and broad treatment, also received its share of admiration. All present agreed that Malmfelt, Adams, and Prentice, have done a very creditable job.

Detroit Chapter.

At the April meeting, several items of business were presented and discussed, as follows:

A plan to establish a headquarters for architects who have found it necessary to give up their offices;

The plan of the Detroit News to edit a column of questions and answers in connection with building troubles; and

The report of the Chapter's Emergency Relief Committee, under the direction of H. G. Wenzell, Chairman. Mr. Wenzell explained his plan of organization, the intention of which is to give work to many unemployed technical men, and at the same time provide a far-reaching plan for future municipal developments.

New Jersey Chapter.

Regional Director Betelle made an interesting report at a recent meeting of the Chapter with the New Jersey Society of Architects. He cited conditions in various cities which he had visited during his trip to western cities, including Chicago, Denver and Los Angeles.

Wilson C. Ely made a comprehensive report on the workings of the Chapter's Emergency Committee, and its accomplishments to date. About \$38,000 is on hand at present, employing 100 to 110 men three days each week. Most of the money has been contributed through the untiring efforts of the women who have charge of this, and they expect to get about \$100,000 before the year is over. They are also finding jobs for draftsmen outside of their particular field in the hope of permanently placing them in other vocations than architecture.

New York Chapter.

The medal of honor of the New York Chapter has been awarded to Louis Ayres, member of the firm of York and Sawyer, designers of the Department of Commerce Building, Washington, and other notable structures.

Conferred since 1904 for "distinguished work and high professional standing", the medal went to Mr. Ayres in recognition of "his prominent part in the many distinguished designs produced by his firm that have contributed to the molding of public taste and to the honor of the profession and for his faithful service to the public as a member of the National Fine Arts Commission".

The Chapter cited Julian Clarence Levi, Chairman of the Architects' Emergency Relief Committee of New York, "for outstanding service".

Northern California Chapter.

With the disposal of business at a recent Chapter meeting, the members had the pleasure of listening to a group of leading engineers and others who told of the recent damage by earthquake to buildings in the southern part of California.

Mr. Walter L. Huber presented lantern slide pictures showing in close detail the damage to different types of construction. The reasons for various failures were pointed out by Mr. Huber, to which were added other observations and his conclusion that, in most instances, careless or unscrupulous design and workmanship were responsible for the greater part of the damage.

Professor Raymond B. Davis of the University of California at Berkeley dwelt upon the various structural weaknesses responsible for the failure of so many buildings. Had the structures been properly unified in their component parts, and had good materials and workmanship been installed under careful inspection, the damage would have been negligible in his estimation.

Mr. Atholl McBean stated that it was the cheap, shoddy building which collapsed. The contrast with those which were well-built led to his hope that before the use of any specific material is condemned, facts should be thoroughly investigated to determine if the construction had been properly installed. In his opinion, security against further shocks is to be found within the State laws for the licensing of architects and engineers who are qualified to design and supervise the construction of buildings which will be safe for the public to occupy.

Mr. John B. Leonard, Superintendent of the San Francisco Bureau of Building Inspection, told of the inability of city inspection departments to adequately supervise all construction and stated his belief that certified inspection is the proper solution of public supervision to avoid conditions so recently exposed. Mr. Leonard also outlined proposals now before the Legislature to guard against further earthquake damage.

Mr. Erle L. Cope, who had just returned from Sacramento where he had worked in the interest of securing the passage of this proposed legislation, told

of the present status of the bills and explained their provision in detail.

Mr. Spencer of the Oakland Building Inspection Department endorsed Mr. Leonard's remarks in stating that inspection methods must be entirely changed.

Following these speakers, it was moved and passed that the Chapter support and endorse the earthquake legislation as recommended to the Legislature by the Southern California Chapter, A. I. A., and the Structural Engineers Association of Southern California.

Northwestern Pennsylvania Chapter.

With the thought of helping to pry loose some of that postponed work with a minimum expenditure on the part of every one concerned with the campaign, the Chapter appointed a committee to obtain cost data, interview a number of manufacturers, dealers, etc., on sharing the cost of the folder on remodeling and modernizing.

The Chairman of the Campaign on Modernizing, Clement S. Kirby, reported that the results of the survey were encouraging so it was decided to have a quantity of folders printed; to mail out a portion of them with a multigraphed letter to a selected list of property owners; the balance to be divided among the architects, manufacturers, dealers, etc.

This meant considerable work on the part of the committee, for approximately four hundred and fifty different ideas were incorporated in the fifty items listed in the pamphlet. The mailing of these pamphlets was so recent that it is too soon to tell what the results will be.

Southern Pennsylvania Chapter.

In an informal talk, the President outlined the activities of the Chapter officers and committees during the past five weeks. He told of the Chapter's part in the work done on important bills in the last Congress, mainly the one which would "take the Government out of the architectural business" and the one which would put the architects into the Government's architectural business.

He announced that the Harrisburg Building Congress, started at the last meeting of the Chapter, was now organized and functioning, and that the architects would be invited to enlist in the near future.

Henry Y. Shaub told of a project which he is forwarding in Lancaster, Pa., wherein they have taken two houses, renovated one and left the other alone in its regrettable condition for the purpose of contrast.

Virginia Chapter.

The architects in Virginia have planned a yearly award for meritorious work. Any Virginia architect is eligible to enter his projects, and the selection of the best building will be made next year. The exhibition will take place at the annual meeting of the Chapter under plans drawn up by the Committee on an Award of Merit. A jury to select the building best in design will be appointed by the Chapter, and the certificate of merit will be awarded to the architect of the building so selected. This award will be given annually. The Committee includes William C. Noland and Merrill C. Lee, both of Richmond.

Items of Interest

Gold Medal Award—Presentation Delayed.

It has been announced that if Mr. Ragnar Ostberg, architect, of Stockholm, Sweden, visited Chicago in June, the Gold Medal of the Institute, awarded to him by the Convention of 1932, would be presented on that occasion.

The Institute learns with regret that Mr. Ostberg cannot make the journey to the United States this summer. Therefore, the presentation of the Medal will be delayed until a future Convention, or other appropriate occasion.

British Architects' Conference—Cambridge

The members of The American Institute of Architects have been cordially invited to become members of the British Architects' Conference to be held in Cambridge June 21-24, 1933. Membership of the Conference is free, but members will indi-

vidually pay the cost of the items of entertainment. The prices are mentioned in the Programme which may be obtained from Ian MacAlister, Secretary, Royal Institute of British Architects, 9 Conduit Street, London, W. 1, England.

The great success which has attended the annual conferences in the past will almost certainly ensure a largely increased attendance in Cambridge, and it is the earnest hope of the British Architects that really representative contingents of architects from overseas will take this opportunity of meeting their brother architects and of enjoying the special programme which has been prepared.

University of Michigan—Summer School.

Professor Emil Lorch, Director, announces that the summer session of the College of Architecture, the University of Michigan, will open on June 23

and continue to August 18. Courses will be offered in undergraduate and graduate architectural design, in outdoor drawing and painting, and in office practice.

New York University—Scholarship.

The Department of Architecture of the College of Fine Arts, New York University, announces a competition for the selection of a student of unusual ability to pursue graduate work leading to a degree of Master of Architecture during the academic year 1933-34, on the basis of a scholarship with an income equal to the tuition fee for the year.

Full information concerning this scholarship may be obtained from the Secretary of the Department of Architecture, New York University, 250 East 43rd Street, New York City.

Legislation Affecting School Building Designs.

The Bulletin of the Northern Section, The State Association of California Architects for May, reports that the Field law, having passed the Legislature and having been signed by the Governor, is now effective. Under this State act the services of a certificated architect or a licensed structural engineer are required for the designing of, and the supervision of the construction of all school buildings in the State. The Division of Architecture in the State Department of Public Works must review and approve the drawings for the proposed school building and inspect the construction work. The act further sets forth that to disregard the provisions intended to safeguard against earthquake losses is a felony.

Informing the Public.

A model American home of simple design, reminiscent in a measure of an English cottage of the seventeenth century, is the basis for the first of a series of home designs being presented each week in the Building Section of the Washington Star—the Star working in collaboration with the Washington, D. C., Chapter of the Institute.

This closely resembles the favorable publicity given the architectural profession by the Dayton Press, to which reference was made in the March number of THE OCTAGON (page 13).

Public Information—Washington, D. C., Chapter.

The Washington, D. C., Chapter continues to make good use of its well prepared brochure—The Architect—which contains a brief description of the value of architectural services in language for the layman.

The description is under six sub-headings, namely: (1) What An Architect Is; (2) What An

Architect Does; (3) The Architect's Fee; (4) Why You Should Employ An Architect; (5) Why You Should Employ A Registered Architect; and (6) Why You Should Employ A Member of the A. I. A.

Postal cards, addressed to be returned to the Chapter Secretary, Donald S. Johnson, are sent out to each purchaser, in the transfer of real property in the District of Columbia, asking these persons if they desire (1) a list of the members of the Washington, D. C., Chapter, A. I. A., (2) to interview a member of the Washington, D. C., Chapter, A. I. A., and (3) to receive additional pamphlets of information issued by The American Institute of Architects (free of charge).

Renovize Exposition.

One of the important corollaries of the "Renovize Philadelphia Campaign" was the Renovize Exposition.

This Exposition opened during the second week of the drive for pledges and has been an important factor in acquainting the public with the material available in "renovizing" buildings and visualizes comparisons between old rooms and "renovized" rooms, showing applications of the various materials exhibited.

Harold T. Carswell and D. Knickerbacker Boyd are Chairman and Secretary, respectively, of the Committee on Exhibitions of the Renovize Campaign.

Irving K. Pond Honored.

The Royal Institute of British Architects has notified Irving K. Pond, Past-President of the A. I. A., of his election to the position of Honorary Corresponding Member of the R. I. B. A. This distinction conferred upon Mr. Pond is preceded by a like honor conferred upon him by the Central Association of Austrian Architects and again by the Bund Deutscher Architekten. (*Monthly Bulletin—Illinois Society of Architects.*)

"New Orleans"—By Nathaniel C. Curtis.

"New Orleans—Its Old Houses, Shops and Public Buildings" is a recent book by Nathaniel C. Curtis, who is not only an architect and a member of the Institute for twenty-five years, but also an old inhabitant and lover of New Orleans.

This work—"an enthusiastic, vivid picture of the growth and development of New Orleans from its founding in 1718 right up to the present day" may be obtained from J. B. Lippincott Company, Washington Square, Philadelphia, Pa., at \$3.50 per copy.

Planning School Buildings—By John J. Donovan.

"A Method of Procedure and Checking Sched-

ule for Planning School Buildings" is the title of a recent book by John J. Donovan A.I.A., and "The Parthenon," the Journal of the Incorporated Association of Architects and Surveyors of England, in its review of this work, states:

"A very useful treatise, giving school officials and the educational planners a complete outline of the content of a school building, as well as a schedule easy to check the working drawings. The author deals exhaustively with the conditions affecting the kindergarten school, academic class rooms, laboratories, gymnasiums and special rooms of all types. Much useful information is included in the schedule of equipment. The author is to be complimented on this admirable exposition of all the requirements of the modern school. This publication is likely to prove of great value to all educational planners."

This book is published by The Bruce Publishing Co., New York, \$6.50.

The Journal—March, 1924.

Irving K. Pond, Past-President of the Institute, in order to complete his set of The Journal of The American Institute of Architects, needs a copy of the March, 1924, number.

If you can supply this number of The Journal communicate with Mr. Pond, at 180 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Low Cost Housing and Slum Clearance.

The owners of existing apartment houses and the mortgage lenders who have so violently opposed some of the housing projects proposed for R. F. C. loans are wrong in their opposition from one point of view and entirely right in another. When they oppose on the ground that the competition of any new housing at this time will destroy their values, they are wrong. The number of such new model apartments would be insignificant in relation to the total number in any city. They are wrong again if they object to tax exemption on the ground that the city cannot afford it, because as land taxes are not exempted, more has been collected in the tax on the land on every project erected under the New York Housing Board than was collected before on land plus whatever building was on the land. They are right however in their opposition if they consider housing from a purely selfish point of view. There is no doubt in my mind that once such an exhibit of good housing is offered to the public, as will be presented in the best known of the projects now under consideration, the speculative builder can never again get away with his spotty developments of small areas, crowded-on-the-land buildings of the kind that has spread over miles and miles of our suburbs during the last decade. To be able to offer fireproof rooms in buildings four stories high covering only about

forty-one per cent of the land, with interior gardens and recreation spaces, and to rent the rooms at about half of the price that was asked before the depression for non-fireproof rooms in five-story buildings covering seventy per cent of the land is certainly an accomplishment that will make more difficult, if not prevent in the future, the speculative construction of poorly planned and poorly built and crowded housing which in the past has contributed so greatly to the creation of slum areas.

(From a radio address, under the auspices of the National Committee for Trade Recovery, by Stephen F. Voorhees, F.A.I.A., Past-President of New York Chapter, A.I.A., and Past-President of New York Building Congress.)

For copy of full address write the Committee for Trade Recovery, 330 W. 42nd St., New York, N. Y.)

"Technocracy and the Architect."

"From the typewriter of Raja Allen"

(In order to dispel a number of errors prevalent in the architectural profession as to just what Technocracy is, what it proves, how it operates, and what effect the application of its principles will have upon the profession, *The Bulletin* is glad to be able to present the first really authoritative discussion on this subject.)

There is nothing complicated or abstruse about Technocracy. Technocracy, or Elmer as we will call it for short, is merely an attempt to evaluate the effect of occupational obsolescence caused by a too rapid absorption of technological methods in our industrial metabolism. See?

Does everyone follow me thus far? Everybody sit down and think of a number. Think of a good number. Dial 9-8745. Hang up if a man answers. Now we will pass on to discussion of Tech—I mean Elmer as applied to architecture.

What is architecture? Come, come, let's keep this clean. In the first place, who let a contractor in here, making cracks like that? Very well, then, architecture is an Art, or Arthur, to spell it all out. So now we have Elmer and Arthur, haven't we? Do things begin to get a little clearer? I was afraid they wouldn't.

From this point on things get a little more difficult. In fact they get frankly impossible, and *The Bulletin* will therefore conclude this discussion, which can lead to nothing but dram drinking and broken homes. How long is it since you wrote to your mother? How long is it since you wrote to your father? How long is it since you wrote to the gas company?

Things like that make a man think.—(From the "Weekly Bulletin" of the Michigan Society of Architects.)

"Great Georgian Houses of America."

A survey of twenty-four of the most important Georgian style mansions in the United States, all built prior to 1830, is announced by William Lawrence Bottomley, of New York, Chairman of a special committee of the New York Chapter of The American Institute of Architects and the Architectural League of New York.

The project, which is self-liquidating—the money realized from advance subscriptions will actually recompense architectural draftsmen in the making of the measured drawings—is designed to contribute to the relief of more than 2,000 unemployed draftsmen, according to Mr. Bottomley. The study, he declared, will incorporate photographs of exteriors and interiors on a large scale in addition to exact measured drawings of the exteriors, special rooms, details, first floor plans and garden plans.

"These," he said, "are being carefully drawn up by selected draftsmen under the direction of the Architects' Emergency Committee, providing occupation and remuneration to many of those out of work at this time of distress."

The survey includes the Gardner Ladd House, Portsmouth, N. H.; the Van Rensselaer House, Albany, N. Y.; Hyde Hall, Cooperstown, N. Y.; Mount Pleasant, Fairmont Park, Philadelphia; Whitehall, Maryland; Mount Vernon, George Washington's home in Virginia; Mount Airy, Stratford, Virginia; and Drayton Hall, on the Ashley River, South Carolina.

Course in City Planning

In keeping with the following resolution passed by The American Institute of Architects at the Convention of 1930, the Department of Architecture of Massachusetts Institute of Technology announces the establishment of an option in City Planning available to candidates for the degree of Bachelor in Architecture.

The Convention resolution was as follows:

Whereas, In the development of any city or region its architecture is the dominant factor, with its streets, transportation facilities, and open spaces serving as circulation and setting;

Whereas, All constructive and fundamental city and regional planning in this country must be based upon a thorough understanding of architecture; therefore, be it

Resolved, That schools of training in city planning be urged to arrange their courses to include a basic training in architecture.

Students taking the option will be required to take a summer school course in Surveying between their third and fourth years, and will then follow a schedule somewhat different from that taken by students in the regular architectural course. City planning design will take the place of architectural design, although emphasis will be placed on problems of planning that relate to the design of buildings,

either individually or in groups. Certain courses in the fourth and fifth years relating to technical aspects of building design are replaced by courses dealing with the theory and practice of city planning in its various phases, and also with related subjects such as Landscape Architecture, Highway Engineering, Land Economics, and Sociology.

The course is intended for architectural students who desire to specialize in the broader field of design as applied to groups of buildings, sub-division layouts, housing schemes, and the comprehensive planning of towns, cities and regions.

Appraisals.

Fees quoted by a member:

I have practiced appraising for the past twenty-five years and have based my charges on the following:

For a complete appraisal of land and improvements, one dollar per thousand of the appraised value of the land plus one dollar per thousand of the replacement cost of the improvements.

For the appraisal of the land alone, one dollar per thousand of the appraised value of the land.

For the appraisal of the improvements alone, one dollar per thousand of the replacement cost of the improvements.

I have handled fire losses charging as above but most of them have been on a flat fee basis or on a per diem basis. In the larger cities one hundred dollars a day is considered fair but in the smaller cities from twenty-five to fifty dollars a day is all it is possible to charge.

For appraising entire cities or parts of cities it is customary for tax assessment purposes, to charge a flat fee although sometimes it is done on a per diem basis.

Court cases are the most lucrative but if the appraiser is not an expert they are usually his Waterloo.

Charges for such cases are usually a flat fee for the preparatory work, the amount depending on the research work necessary, and a per diem charge for the time spent in court.

Competition—Better Homes and Gardens.

Prizes totaling \$3,000, with a first prize of \$1,000, will be awarded to the 116 winners of a National Better Homes Contest sponsored by Better Homes and Gardens for the best examples of house remodeling and improvement completed during 1933. In addition to the first prize, there are four classes in which prizes are to be awarded, based upon the amount of money spent. One class consists of projects costing less than \$150, the second of projects costing less than \$500, the third for projects under \$1,000, and the fourth for projects over \$1,000.

In each class there are 29 prizes, ranging from the first prize of \$200 down to eighteen prizes of \$5 each.

Although the awards are to be made to the owners, it is suggested that architects who have residence remodeling commissions encourage their clients to enter their houses in the competition.

Photographs and a descriptive letter must be mailed to the magazine before December 31, 1933. For further information, address Better Homes Contest Editor, Better Homes and Gardens, Des Moines, Iowa.

