

THE
OCTAGON

A Journal of The American Institute of Architects



Thomas Rogers Kimball

This Profession of Ours

Survey of Institute Affairs

Self Preservation

With The Chapters and State Associations

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OBJECTS

The objects of this Institute shall be: To organize and unite in fellowship the Architects of the United States of America, to combine their efforts so as to promote the aesthetic, scientific, and practical efficiency of the profession, and to make the profession of ever-increasing service to society.

PARTICIPATION

FROM ADDRESS OF PRESIDENT CHARLES FOLLEN MCKIM TO THE 37TH CONVENTION

"Looking back over the past two busy years I realize more and more fully how very much the welfare of the profession is bound up in the welfare of the Institute in the work we are called upon to share, how much each member is strengthened by becoming a participator in the work for all.

"As a proof of gratitude for all that I owe the Institute I shall endeavor by every means in my power to further the principles and aims which make it deservedly the National Body."

THE OCTAGON

A Journal of The American Institute of Architects

Thomas Rogers Kimball

Past President of The American Institute of Architects

1862—1934

An Appreciation

THOMAS R. KIMBALL, or "Tom" as he was known to all of us, deserved well of The American Institute of Architects, for to it he devoted many of the best years of his life, and to its best interests gave freely of his most mature thought, his personal time, and, when money was needed, he spent unstintingly. The story of the Press of The A. I. A., if it ever is fully told, will be a chronicle of Tom Kimball's unselfish leadership, and his generous and loyal support of those whom he trusted and in whom he believed.

He was born in Cincinnati, but came with his parents to Omaha while still a boy. He studied in the public schools, the University of Nebraska, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the Cowles Art School in Boston. He then went abroad, and studied in Paris under various tutors, notably the great painter Harpignies. His active career began with a brief association with the publishing firm of Bates and Guild, Boston, for whom, among other books, he prepared and edited a special edition of Vignola. In Boston he met and married Miss Annie McPhail, herself an artist and musician of unusual ability.

An early acquaintance with C. Howard Walker ripened into friendship, and the architectural firm of Walker, Kimball and Best was organized, with Mr. Kimball in active charge of a "branch office" in Omaha. As "Walker and Kimball" the firm continued until 1899, and the architectural success of the Trans-Mississippi Exposition in 1898 was due to the ability and talent of these two men. Mr. Kimball was architect-in-chief for the project; and the facts that the buildings were built within the time allotted, that their cost was less than his estimate, and that the exposition paid out in full were practical bits of history in which he took some "pardonable pride."

In 1899 the partnership with Howard Walker was dissolved by mutual consent, and Mr. Kimball practiced alone from that time until 1928, when the firm of Kimball, Steele and Sandham was

organized. Mr. Kimball joined The American Institute of Architects in 1900, was elected a Fellow in 1901, and served as its President during the years 1918-1920. His Post-War Committee undertook a great and much needed work in preparing the membership for the great changes that were in store. Is it too much to suggest that seeds of loyalty to professional ideals were sown by the calm self-appraisals that then were made and which have been bearing fruit ever since?

Mr. Kimball's conception of the meaning of the term "professional" was lofty and idealistic. In his zeal for the preservation of the professional spirit in the face of the rising tide of materialistic commercialism he was a prime mover in the founding of the Inter-Professional Club, now the Inter-Professional Institute. He was this organization's first President.

Mr. Kimball was an able architect, and among his contemporaries, one of the comparatively few who always practiced architecture in three dimensions. He saw his buildings from their first inception, not as flat drawings but as actual structures. He was well grounded in fundamentals and abhorred sham and pretense. He made distinctions always in favor of the truly organic and functional as against the bizarre and merely experimental. His original and active mind was well disciplined, and so he produced buildings of correct architectural grammar and syntax that were always functionally adequate, interesting in form and often beautiful. He was versatile, and had a command of the artist's media of expression (pencil, charcoal, pen-and-ink, water-color) that is rarely surpassed. He loved activity and was busy with his various "hobbies" up to the time of his last illness.

Time and space are lacking for even a bare list of Mr. Kimball's accomplishments, but the picture would not be a just one were it forgotten what a true friend he was. Much as he loved to draw and paint, deeply as he revelled in outdoor life, keenly as he delighted in debate, his greatest joy was doing some friend a service. No one will ever

know, unless by a Last Judgment revelation, all the sacrifices, the kindnesses, the thoughtfulnesses that his friends enjoyed at his hands. He was

above all his other gifts, a wise and kindly man whose ambition was wholeheartedly bound up with those whom he loved.

WILLIAM L. STEELE.

A Personal Tribute

A GREAT spirit—one of the greatest in our profession—has passed on. Our loss, through his passing, is atoned for in a measure, however, by the rich heritage of rugged, honest courage which he has left to us. I loved "T. R.," as we called him and I shall cherish the memory of him always as one of the sweetest memories I can hope to have. I know that he got "mad" at me sometimes; such an individual as "T. R." could never find everything that anybody did altogether to his liking. But he was one of those rare grand men of whom it might be said that "it is an honor to have him mad at you." There are precious few of us who can say when we go on—as Tom Kimball certainly could say—"I

have never wavered one hair's breadth from the straight and honest path of fearless idealism." For he had the highest ideals, both human and professional, and he held to them through thick and thin. What a thrill it was to sit beside him at Institute Conventions and to see—and hear—him "boil" when some of his fine ideals were being trodden in the dust of materialistic propaganda by one or another of those to whose eyes our cherished professional ideals show but dimly. It was a rare experience to know "T. R."; it was an even rarer privilege, and a great inspiration too, to love him. I knew him and loved him and I shall cherish his memory always.

HARRY F. CUNNINGHAM.

Survey of Institute Affairs

THE following analyses have been printed in THE OCTAGON.

In July, "What is an Architect"; "The Architects and The Institute"; and "The Architects Can Take It."

In August, "The Schools and The Students"; "The Question of Fees"; and "The Rules of The Game."

In September, "A Need for Making Friends"; "Institute Documents"; and "Where to Meet."

In this number appear analyses with respect to

"THE OCTAGON as Others See It"; "What Kind of an Institute?" and "The Future of This Profession of Ours."

This completes the publication of the returns on those subjects which are suitable for publication.

If you are interested in this cross-section of Institute opinion it is suggested that you glance over the series, and consider the desirability of discussing at a chapter meeting some of the evidence which has been submitted with respect to the practice of architecture, and the architectural profession.

THE OCTAGON AS OTHERS SEE IT

THIS ANALYSIS BY DIRECTOR DAVID J. WITMER

The Octagon

The synopsis read: "THE OCTAGON" is intended to be an official bulletin from the Institute to its members. It goes to all Members, Associates, Juniors, Honorary and Honorary corresponding Members, and an exchange list—a total of 4200 copies each month. In 1933 it cost the Institute \$4,520.80, of which \$3,523.47 was for printing and mailing, and \$997.33 for overhead at The Octagon. Since the discontinuance of the *Annuaire*, and *Proceedings*, "THE OCTAGON" is the only direct contact between the Institute and its members—except the bills for dues.

Of the 300 questioned, the numbers responding on this subject, in whole or in part, was 226

Question: (a) What do you think of THE OCTAGON as an organization bulletin?

Returns: 75 said excellent or very good.
126 said satisfactory or good.
8 said unsatisfactory.
2 said poor, or worse.

Question: (b) Is it interesting or uninteresting?

Returns: 199 said interesting.
14 said uninteresting.

Question: (c) Does it serve the purpose for which it is intended?

Returns: 192 said it serves the purpose intended.
5 said it does not serve the purpose intended.

Question: (d) What should be done to improve it?

Returns: (1) I hope something can be accomplished toward the humanizing, the practicalizing and, therefore, the popularizing of the Institute. Change THE OCTAGON from a professional journal to a house organ.

(2) I think THE OCTAGON is about right now; but I believe that we should be always trying to make it brief by eliminating all unnecessary words and material. If it is brief it will be read—if it is wordy and profuse it will not.

(3) More direct information which is valuable to all members, such as we have been receiving lately. When it was large there was too much "blah."

(4) More architectural "news."

(5) More papers of general interest to architects. Social planning helps the architect understand the merits and faults of the civilization he lives in. Less Chapter notes of trivial items.

(6) You might omit articles of a general nature and thereby save expense. It is Institute news that I am after when I read THE OCTAGON.

(7) More Chapter activity reports.

(8) Begin to give the state societies a place with the chapters.

(9) Give the editor more time and more money to work on the publication.

(10) Publish convention talks and addresses in THE OCTAGON.

(11) THE OCTAGON could be used as a mouth-piece to accomplish the following objects for the profession:

Make the Institute a national business organization.

Quit holding conventions in the East and hold many Regional conferences.

Make the organization 100% representative of the profession. Take in the violators. Stress the necessity for comradery. You don't do a dirty trick to someone you know as Bill or Jack.

Work up an easy method of cost accounting so that smaller offices can carry it out and stress

its use. Then you can let the matter of minimum fee take care of itself. Encourage discussions of costs.

Set up the requirements for a complete set of plans and specifications and complete supervision. Make the members toe the line. Tell the public what they should expect.

Teach the profession how to estimate the cost of a job before going into working drawing stage, so that final bids do not overstep the expected cost.

Drop the high sounding word of documents. Keep trying to help the architect and let him know that you are. Younger men need help and advice.

Bring the Handbook of Practice up-to-date—print it as cheaply as possible and distribute it at bare cost of printing.

Enter on a campaign of understandable practical publicity and let the architect know he is being publicized.

Question: (e) Should THE OCTAGON be continued or discontinued?

Returns: 212 said it should be continued.

4 said it should be discontinued.

Question: (f) Do you read it?

Returns: 21 read it "cover to cover."

172 read it as a general rule

29 read part only.

2 do not read it.

The deductions which Mr. Witmer drew from all the returns were:

As indicated by the very great preponderance of opinion registered, the membership considers THE OCTAGON satisfactory, interesting, serving the purpose intended; that it is generally read, and that by all means it should be continued.

Among the suggestions offered for the improvement of the publication and appearing most commonly was a request for more Chapter reports of activities, and Institute news—all in condensed form.

There were other suggestions for improvement and some of these have been listed. They are frequently contradictory.

WHAT KIND OF AN INSTITUTE

THIS ANALYSIS BY DIRECTOR FREDERICK M. MANN

Increase of Membership

The synopsis read: The Instructions to the Architects' Code Committee were that it function on behalf of the entire profession, not for Institute-members only. The code and other developments raise a question as to the representative character of the Institute. Should it be a broadly democratic or an academic society? If the latter, it may face the possibility of competing with some newly organized democratic organizations of architects, which will arise from some combination of the registration groups in the various states.

(Returns on next page)

(Increase of Membership—Continued)

Of the 300 questioned the number responding on this subject, in whole or in part was 209

Question: (a) Is the membership of the Institute fully representative of the architectural profession?

Returns: 77 said the membership is fully representative.

101 said it is *not*.

31 qualified their answers.

Question: (b) Should efforts be made to get new members under present conditions?

Returns: 95 said "Yes."

51 said "No."

42 qualified their answers.

Question: (c) Should the Institute be an "Academy" or a broadly representative national society?

Returns: 28 said the Institute should be an "Academy."

91 said it should be a broadly representative society.

68 qualified their answers.

Question: (d) If there are 10,000 architects in the U. S. worthy of the title, what percentage of them should belong to the Institute—under normal conditions?

Returns: 89 said 75% or more.

27 said 60% or more.

42 said 50% or more.

11 said less than 50%.

19 qualified their answers.

Outstanding comments were as follows:

"The Institute should be an academy restricted in membership, high in standard, perfect in ethics and long on ideals."

"Every action taken by the Institute during the later years particularly has been a compromise between the professional and the business attitude, and it has become increasingly apparent that as an organization the Institute is not wholly satisfactory to those members to whom professional idealism appeals the more strongly nor to those who see their profession from the more materialistic business standpoint. As long as the Institute continues its compromising course between these two attitudes, it can never satisfy those who would have it an academy nor those who would have it an organization active in promoting the business affairs of the architect."

"I believe there must be some organization to

perpetuate in those who practice our profession the ideals and traditions that for so long have been inherent in it; otherwise that idealism may disappear."

"I can visualize such an academic body, of restricted membership, and self perpetuating, being built out of present Fellows of the Institute, and renewing itself to preserve its character from Fellows created from time to time by the Institute, or otherwise, as may be fitting. Such a body should always be inseparable from the larger organization in its councils and service for the profession."

"In my opinion a large membership means nothing. I believe that I have met more than three thousand architects. They need the leadership of such men as are active in the Institute, but I would not advise many of them to join if they could. In my opinion membership in the Institute should be a goal that every architect should seek and not a promiscuous mixture of the efficient and inefficient."

"The solution is to promote 'good architecture,' not selfish propaganda for the architect."

"I am very dubious about affiliating ourselves with state societies. We would thereby confer on them the benefits of membership and yet we would have far less control (if any) over their behavior than we now have over our own members—and that is none too much."

"Remove everything from the Institute format which jeopardizes its major purposes of advancing the cause of good architecture."

"Surrender to State Societies of Architects' business organizations, all matters of discipline, codes of ethics and competition—schedule of charges, etc."

"All the architects, without exception, ought to be organized and put into a union type of association by states so that they can mix with the construction industry and build themselves up so that they can deliver numbers and votes. The building industry is the second largest industry in the country and it ought to be able to deliver the votes if the politicians want the votes. It is very evident that organization has some advantages and that numbers are necessary. The Illinois State Association is a good example."

"If it intends accomplishing unification, and therefore, becoming truly representative, then it must cease to be a class organization. On the other hand, if it chooses to remain a class organization, operated for the privileged few, then it cannot be truly representative, and it should put nothing in the path of the formation of a representative national architectural organization. Indeed, it should go about fostering it."

"Make the organization one hundred per cent representative of the profession. Take in all of the best known violators, you can do more with them in your midst than if they are on the outside. Stress the necessity for comradeship among the architects. A man may knife a competitor with impunity only if that competitor isn't a real close friend of his. You don't do a dirty trick to someone you know as Bill or Jack."

"I believe that the architect needs and will demand a national organization devoted principally and aggressively to forwarding his business practices and interests."

"I hope the new laws loosen up the Institute a little. It is pompous, it struts."

"It seems to me the success of the Institute of the future lies in making it a body with a single personality, whether that be a trade organization or an academically professional body."

"It must now either become truly representative or else become an academic, cultural, honorary body, and leave the profession open to the formation of another national organization."

The deductions which Mr. Mann drew from all of the returns on this subject were:

(a) No consensus of opinion can be drawn from statistics; Qualified answers were of the nature of "Yes, of the better element;" "No, not numerically;" "Very much so." Of those who did not qualify, doubtless some meant representative in

numbers and some representative of the more competent.

(b) Qualified answers state: "Not by a campaign;" "Standards should not be lowered;" "Believe we have nearly reached limited of qualified men;" "Yes, if dues are lowered."

(c) Qualified answers in many cases gave the answer "both;" others were of the nature of "representative without lowering standards;" a few indicated "as is." A considerable number suggested that—Fellows be elected more generously and become the Academy while the membership be made broadly representative; also many suggested that affiliated State Associations together with Institute membership as now constituted should constitute the broadly representative body.

(d) Qualified answers questioned the meaning of the phrase "worthy of the title;" many assumed it to mean worthy according to present Institute standards; others assumed the meaning to be qualified by state registration. Therefore, many stated the number of 10,000 worthy architects to be impossible and made their own estimates varying from 1000 to 5000. Many qualified answers were to the effect that all "worthy architects" should be members of the Institute.

EDITORIAL NOTE: The action of the Board with respect to increase of Institute membership and unification of the architectural profession is contained in Section 14 of the Board's Report to the Convention, page 21 of the May number of *THE OCTAGON*.

The Convention adopted two resolutions on this subject which appear on page 30 of the May number.

In accordance with the last resolution, President Russell appointed a committee of three to carry out the program decided upon. That Committee is as follows: Edwin Bergstrom, Los Angeles, Chairman; Franklin O. Adams, Tampa; John R. Fugard, Chicago; Ralph W. Gray, Boston; and Ralph T. Walker, New York; members.

The Committee is now at work. Its tentative report will be in shape by the end of September, and its final report will be submitted to the Board at the December meeting.

THE FUTURE OF THIS PROFESSION OF OURS

THIS ANALYSIS BY PRESIDENT E. J. RUSSELL

Present and Future Status of the Architect

The synopsis read: There are two schools of thought—The pessimists say the architect will be of decreasing importance under the new political and economic order. The optimists say that the architect will be of even greater importance in the immediate future, and that the profession is secure although temporarily faced with limited opportunity on account of limited private construction.

Of the 300 questioned the number responding on this subject, in whole or in part, was 216.

(The Future of the Profession—Continued)

Question: (a) To which school do you belong?

Returns: 171 were optimists.

24 were pessimists.

21 were neutral.

Question: (b) Should the Institute encourage or discourage young men to study architecture?

Returns: 143 said the Institute should encourage.

32 said discourage.

21 said neither; or that the Institute should keep out.

Question: (c) What are your comments?

Returns: Eleven outstanding comments, were:

(1) "(b) It (the Institute) should encourage a more selective plan. It is unfair to encourage some men to continue in architecture, which the schools are doing, if it is evident they have not talent and at best can never become more than low grade draftsmen. In order to keep the schools full this criminal practice is going on."

"(c) The Committee on Education, if they have courage, can do a great deal to improve the professional practitioner and discourage the dumping onto the market of worthless draftsmen. It will take courage and force but should be a sacred duty of the A. I. A."

(2) "Discourage organization of any new schools of architecture. Try to terminate smaller schools where distant from centers of culture. Perhaps also combine schools of architecture where they are contiguous, e. g., Harvard and M. I. T."

"My general comment is that the schools of architecture are acting under false pretense in taking in all applicants who can pass ordinary examinations. I believe architecture will be the last social function to feel the result of any general recovery. Speaking for my firm, if we can ever take in more men, they would certainly be those who have been with us for a long time and who have perforce been laid off. I can see no reason to suppose that even under the best conditions we should ever have an opportunity to take in new men fresh from school, certainly not until our old men have been re-engaged, and I believe most architects would take the same position.

"If the schools continue to take in students ad lib., they ought to be told that they would probably never have a chance to be employed as architectural draftsmen, but if they want to study architecture as a cultural measure, well and good."

(3) "One of the principal reasons, in my opinion, that the public has not as high an opinion of

the profession as it should have is traceable to many incompetent Architects.

"This is particularly caused by lack of qualifications prior to the passage of registration laws, but is also due to the inadequate training in matters of practical importance to students of architecture.

"I do not believe in encouraging so many men to go into the practice of architecture and especially allowing them to have the opinion that architecture is a very pleasant, easy profession, and to disregard their very important relation to the public and to the profession.

"There are too many architectural schools turning out too many students without proper qualifications who are able in many cases to practice without a thorough grounding in office work.

"I know from actual experience and conversation with many bankers, real estate operators and business men that they do not regard the members of the profession very highly and their main grievance is, of course, lack of practical knowledge. I appreciate that architectural schools cannot give a student a thorough training in practical work, but I believe that the length of the course should be extended and that students should not get their degrees until they had completed at least three years of work in an office. This would put them on much the same basis as doctors after graduating from medical school, requiring them to serve their internship before being allowed to practice.

"I think such a system would automatically cut out those who were going into the practice of architecture as an easy existence and would finally turn out men who were willing to work, go through the training necessary before becoming practitioners.

"This would be a combination of academic training and apprentice system."

(4) "If the policy of a shorter work week becomes permanent, the increased leisure should result in a more general appreciation of all the arts, including architecture.

"It seems to me to be fundamental to the security of the profession that architects broaden the scope of their education and practice to include those sociological, economic and business functions that will increase the value of their services to the public.

"If I were to venture a prophecy, it would be that the architect whose smug complacency segregates him from his co-workers in this dynamic age is in danger of becoming as extinct as the 'dodo'."

(5) "I am profoundly discouraged over the prospects of a revival of private construction, at least I would be if I thought that private construction should be revived. Sober reflection about the haphazard idiotic way in which the real estate

people and financial institutions have directed private construction and the growth of our cities in the past lead me to believe that it is perhaps a blessing in disguise that, in the midst of somewhat improving business situation, the capital goods industry obstinately refuses to show any signs of improvement. If this situation should force the governments (Federal, State and Municipal) to step in and really build our cities as they should be built, then I believe our struggle through the wilderness will have been worth while. But if we finally wind up with the real estate operator doing business at the same old stand, we might as well fold up."

(6) "It is obvious that at the present moment it is cruel to keep on turning out graduates into a profession that is struggling for existence. I should like to see a five-year plan tried—closing the schools for five years but giving the professors leave of absence on retirement pay with encouragement to travel, study and perfect themselves for the task of teaching. With such a vacation some of the teachers would return with very valuable ideas on what to offer and how to teach."

(7) "My position has always been to advise against the selection of architecture as a profession unless there is almost an irresistible urge to do so: one that will not be discouraged by hardships and lack of appreciation or a probable inadequate financial return. If one's interest in material success is of secondary importance, one's love for the work paramount, and one's desire to be of service in the world is of at least average intensity, then no other vocation can compare with it in interest, environment, and agreeable companionship and association, and general satisfaction: also may be expected a modest but sufficient livelihood, increasing to opulence with the highest endowment of talent."

(8) "Architecture is the oldest profession (save one). It has always adapted itself to changing conditions and will continue to do so."

(9) "Said the Governor of N. C., to the Governor of S. C."

(10) "(a) The answer to this depends entirely on the day of the week, the hour of the day, and the state of the digestion. Sometimes in one day I am absolutely convinced that the architect is not of 'decreasing importance,' but of absolutely no importance, and then again, I see hope of a great future.

"(b) I think the Institute should discourage young men in the study of architecture unless they are convinced in their own minds, beyond the shadow of a doubt, that the practice of this profession is the one thing they want more than anything else in life, and that they are willing to serve a long apprenticeship, with very little remuneration, before entering a profession in which there is absolutely no hope of adequate remuneration. I feel that the school courses should be lengthened, the standards made higher, the requirements for registration more severe, so that only the best men will be able to take up the profession."

(11) "Architecture is a great profession, but the architect has not yet been accepted by the public in general on the professional basis of the doctor or the lawyer. However, progress is being made. The final outcome rests with the profession itself. Individually it must measure up to the standards set forth by the Institute in order to gain the confidence of the public.

"I believe that an architectural education is a most valuable background for anyone connected with the building industry, in all its ramifications."

The deductions drawn from these returns, by Mr. Russell were:

Replies to (a) substantiate statements made from time to time that the architect possesses courage to a marked degree.

There was a general unanimity of feeling that only those who indicated real ability should be encouraged in their architectural education.

A number expressed the opinion that this is not a part of the Institute's business, and a part also were of the opinion that there were too many schools of architecture. Many felt that the schools of the profession have not been perfectly frank with students so far as the trials and tribulations of the practicing architect were concerned. Nor were the students given much of an indication of the conditions under which architects practiced.

Consensus of opinion was that the students should have their eyes thoroughly opened to conditions of practice, and that if, in spite of this, they persisted in continuing their education they should then be encouraged to the utmost by the schools and by practicing architects.

Self Preservation

Chapters and members are familiar with abuses which arose in some localities last winter under the C. W. A. program. Briefly, some State Administrators of C. W. A. used architects and architectural draftsmen on relief rolls, at \$1.20 an hour, more or less, to perform major architectural services in connection with public or quasi-public projects. This put architects on relief rolls into direct competition with architects *not* on such rolls, and deprived the latter of employment which they had a right to expect.

The Institute, in Washington, vigorously protested to the Civil Works Administration against these abuses. It did not condemn the employment of architects and architectural draftsmen on relief work. Quite the contrary. It did condemn the use of these men in direct competition with their brother professionals *not* on the relief rolls. It was pointed out that those remaining in practice could not hope to compete with relief workers, and should not be required to do so.

The Institute was assured verbally that such practices were local, that they would be discon-

tinued, and that they were not approved by the Civil Works Administration.

Another winter will soon be at hand. The problem of unemployment in the professional groups in the building industry may be as acute as it was last year. The Institute is endeavoring to protect the architectural profession against a repetition of local abuses which arose under C. W. A. President Russell's letter of September 12th to the Administrator of the Federal Employment Relief Administration appears below.

The Pittsburgh Chapter of the A. I. A. and the Pennsylvania State Association of Architects have likewise placed themselves on record with the National Administration, and with the state organization. Their letters, printed herein, speak for themselves.

Right now is the time for every Chapter of the Institute and every practicing architect to prepare to act quickly and forcefully if local developments again threaten the very existence of private architectural practice.

A Question of National Policy

Mr. Russell's Letter

September 12, 1934.

MR. HARRY L. HOPKINS, *Administrator,*
Federal Emergency Relief Administration,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Hopkins:

Last year there were many architects and engineers on C. W. A. relief rolls. In various cities these men were set to work performing major professional services. In some cases they were used to displace architects and engineers already engaged to render such services. The net result was further disintegration of the two professional groups involved.

All of this, with supporting data, was laid before Deputy Administrator Baker, and Chief Engineer Carmody.

The American Institute of Architects was assured that there was no intention by C. W. A. to use architects and engineers on relief rolls, at nominal wages, to compete with and put out of business architects and engineers *not* on relief rolls. It was assured that architects and engineers receiving relief money would be used on non-competitive work—of which there was and is plenty. In some cases these assurances were acted upon in the states, and in others they were not.

The approach of another winter, the continued prostration of the building industry, and the continued scarcity of work of any kind for architects and engineers lead us again to lay before you the fundamental principle here involved: That architects and engineers on relief rolls should not be used to *perform major planning and designing services* and thereby destroy the livelihood of their brother professionals who are *not* on such rolls.

Last winter the effect of the procedure here complained of was to force architects and engineers to abandon their efforts at self-support and to apply for relief employment.

We do not believe your Administration, or the National Administration, desires to bring about further disintegration in the architectural and engineering groups, or to force a large majority of them to seek relief employment as a matter of self-protection.

We therefore respectfully ask a statement of your position in this matter; and we stand willing to cooperate and confer with you or your deputies at any time.

Very truly yours,

(S) E. J. RUSSELL,
President.

The reply to the preceding letter follows: . . . Presumably the two organizations mentioned in the last paragraph thereof are speaking for those normally employed by the architectural profession, and as most of them are in dire need their request for relief is a perfectly natural one. The Institute is speaking in behalf of the architects who have managed to keep their offices open, who must find work this winter in order to continue. This would

enable them to take men off the relief rolls by furnishing employment at adequate salaries. Therefore, the attitude of the two organizations named in the F. E. R. A. letter has nothing to do with the fundamental issue which affects the practicing architect.

The reader may draw his own conclusions as to the validity and directness of this response from F. E. R. A."

Reply of F. E. R. A.

September 20, 1934.

MR. ERNEST JOHN RUSSELL, *President*,
The American Institute of Architects.

Dear Mr. Russell:

Mr. Hopkins has asked me to reply to your letter of September 12th, concerning our program to provide relief for needy Professional and Non-Manual Workers during the approaching winter.

It is the intention of this program to give employment to Professional and Non-Manual workers who are on relief or who are in need of relief. It is also the intention of the program to develop projects whereon these people may be used in their professional capacities.

Relief projects may be undertaken by public bodies. In the preparation, construction, and superintendence of such projects, relief labor may be used.

This work is not in competition with private practice since it is outside of the normal budgetary program of state and governmental units. The Relief Administration is restricted to the employ-

ment of its personnel and may not contract for services whether professional or skilled labor. The employment of personnel or relief projects is covered by the regulations of the Relief Administration which require that they shall be selected on a basis of need and that when given employment an attempt be made to provide that employment as far as possible within the normal fields of activity.

It may be of interest to know that we are in receipt of two letters, one from the Architectural Guild of America, 101 Park Avenue, New York, the other from the Federation of Architects, Engineers, Chemists and Technicians, 1206 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, both of which were also written on September 12, and both of which state a point of view exactly opposite yours. Each of these letters state a decided preference for a return to conditions similar to those in effect last winter under C. W. A.

Very sincerely yours,

(S) ARTHUR GOLDSCHMIDT,

Acting Director of Professional Projects.

A Question of State Policy

Pittsburgh Letter to Washington

August 31, 1934.

MR. HARRY HOPKINS, *Director*,
Federal Emergency Relief Administration,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hopkins:

In reference to the proposed Professional and Non-Manual Relief Program, as outlined in a memorandum issued August 9, 1934, by the State Emergency Relief Board, Works Division, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, we note that provision has been made for work projects involving "drawings, specifications, blueprints, etc., for proposed public construction, surveying and mapping for proposed public construction, and planning better water supply, sewage disposal, etc."

The officers of the Pennsylvania State Association of Architects join with the Pittsburgh Chapter, American Institute of Architects in their serious objection to Relief Works Projects as outlined above, which would be in direct competition with professionals in their present and anticipated private practice. The result of such competition is disastrous both by reason of the elimination of projects from the realm of private practice, and by the precedent which such a policy establishes.

We realize that architects and other professionals must be continued on relief, and that it is desirable that they be engaged as far as possible in their normal fields of activity. We note, however, that many types of Professional and Non-

Manual projects have been listed, to which there is no objection on our part, and, which would be advantageous to both the professions and the public.

We, therefore, request that you direct the disapproval of all projects involving drawings, specifications, surveying, mapping, etc., for public construction by reason of their being obviously improper as relief projects, and a serious obstruction to the recovery program.

Trusting that you will give this matter your

serious and immediate attention, we are,

Very truly yours,

(S) HARVEY A. SCHWAB,
President,
Pittsburgh Chapter, A. I. A.,

(S) C. J. PALMGREEN,
President,
Pennsylvania State Association,

(S) RAYMOND M. MARLIER,
Secretary,

Pittsburgh Chapter, A. I. A. and
Pennsylvania State Association.

Pittsburgh Letter to State Administrator

August 31, 1934.

MR. JAMES L. STUART,
Emergency Relief Administration,
Allegheny County,
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Dear Mr. Stuart:

In the Bulletin recently issued by the State Emergency Relief Board concerning Professional and Non-Manual Relief Work Projects, we note that "planning better water supply, sewage disposal, etc.—drawings, specifications, blueprints, etc., for proposed public construction—surveying and mapping for proposed public construction," are suggested activities for the new Relief Works Program. We have registered our objections to the above policy in a letter to Mr. Harry Hopkins, Federal Emergency Relief Administrator, a copy of which letter is enclosed.

We also note that provision has been made for the appointment, in certain counties, of a local

supervisor of local professional and non-manual projects.

In the appointment of such a local supervisor for Allegheny county, we urgently request that you select for this position a qualified and outstanding representative of the professions involved, by reason of the fact the activities of such a supervisor will have great effect upon their present and future practice.

A committee of the Pittsburgh Chapter, American Institute of Architects would welcome an opportunity to confer with you on this matter.

Yours very truly,

(S) HARVEY A. SCHWAB,
President,
Pittsburgh Chapter, A. I. A.,

(S) C. J. PALMGREEN,
President,
Pennsylvania State Association,

(S) RAYMOND M. MARLIER,
Secretary,
Pittsburgh Chapter, A. I. A. and
Pennsylvania State Association.

Architectural Forum—Remodeling and Repair Number

THE September number of the Forum, devoted to remodeling and repair, is commended to every architect who is interested in the subject.

The opening editorial, entitled "The Forgotten Cost" contains sound arguments which the private architect can use in the business of getting business. They should be convincing to the private owner and to a Federal agency. Incidentally, the suggestion of this editorial—concerning an architectural advisory board—has been urged and is being urged in Washington by the Institute. In principle some such

procedure is being observed, both by F. H. A. and H. O. L. C. The desired formal recognition may come later on through the appointment of architectural advisory boards.

Under the headings, "Recovery Through Remodeling," "Clinics for Clients," "Remodeling by Budget," "Repair, Replan, Rebuild," and others, the September Forum presents to the architect definite information and general suggestions which should be of great practical value to any repair or remodeling project, regardless of size.

This Profession of Ours

An Enquiry Into the Employment, Remuneration and Status of Architects

By FREDERIC E. TOWNDROW, A.R.I.B.A.

Editor's Note: This completes the series of papers by Frederic E. Towndrow, A.R.I.B.A.

In August there appeared "The Earning Power of Architects and Assistants"; and "The Amount of Work Available and Who Gets It."

In September—"The Architect in the Balance"; and "Egoism versus Cooperation."

In this October number—"Corporate Propaganda"; and "Architectural Education."

It is recommended that Chairmen of Institute committees charged with subjects which have been discussed give special consideration thereto; that Chapter Presidents consider the desirability of having an open forum discussion, at Chapter meetings, to consider one or more of the fundamental questions which have been raised; and that the architect, in his personal capacity as a member of the profession, apply to his own practice the criticisms and the constructive proposals which have been offered.

Some very favorable comments have been made on these papers. In some respects they have an almost startling application to present conditions of practice in the United States. Other comments have been critical. Members are invited to express their personal views in letters addressed to the Secretary, at The Octagon. If enough letters of merit are received they will be published. Your terms may be general or specific, in approval or disapproval. Be as dogmatic as you like. No proof is required!

CORPORATE PROPAGANDA

PROPAGANDA IN PRINCIPLE

IT MIGHT be argued by some that propaganda in any form—even corporate propaganda—is inconsistent with professional dignity, and I would like to deal first with this point of view. Now in this question we must consider what is our objective as architects. Is it to uphold a certain dignity for itself alone? Or is there something beyond that? It will be seen immediately that we cannot uphold a dignity for itself alone. A race of dignified architects who did not build anything would be an absurdity, for they would not, in fact, be architects. Whichever way we put it, whether we say we wish to increase the public interest in architecture, or wish to increase the prestige of architects or our art, it comes to the same thing; our real objective is: more work; for if we do not work, we do not exist as architects; consequently, dignity, prestige and the very art of architecture also fail to exist. We are only concerned for our prestige in so far as it *assists* the public confidence in our work; so the vital test is not the quantity of prestige which the public gives us, but the quantity of work it gives us; *for the latter necessarily includes the former, and it includes it to the right and effective degree.* It follows, therefore, that if we actually obtain a larger amount of work—*by any methods satisfactory to the public*—we do, *ipso facto*, obtain a larger amount of prestige, for the giving of work,

without any doubt, implies confidence. The actual commission is the vital test of confidence; thus we should concentrate to that end, and subordinate everything else in proportion to it. Let us get our minds clear on this point.

HUMBUG AND APOLOGETICS

Of course, there are many architects who strangely pretend that they do not need work, that they are oblivious of all remuneration, that they live on air and art and only descend to work at the urgent request of a client. This sort of humbug is very curious and very prevalent. Yet, apart from those who carry this affectation of treating architecture as a gentlemanly pastime, there is within many of us an apologetic streak which causes us to be backward and retiring; a little ashamed of our work; as if it were not a normal and necessary activity carried on for an honest livelihood. In certain cases this may be just modesty or an inferiority complex, but the root cause, as I believe, lies in the fact that we are dealing for the most with a public that has no knowledge of what we are or what we do, there being no professional propaganda to support us by overcoming their ignorance or prejudice. And this ignorance does not apply to unlearned or poor people, but to all classes of British society, including the wealthy and the educated. They simply do not know; and who is to tell them? If we do not do it, no one else will. So *we* must do it, and do it

properly, through some co-ordinated scheme of corporate propaganda.

ADVERTISING IN THE PRESS

Let us first consider advertising in the newspapers. Under their professional code, members of the R.I.B.A. may not privately advertise in the Press. This is as it should be, for newspaper advertisement is very costly and very uncertain in its results, unless undertaken on a fairly large scale over a long period. In this it is obvious that the well-to-do architect would be able to "splash it" in half columns for the whole of the year, while the poor struggling practitioner would be lucky if he could afford half an inch now and again.

But this does not apply to corporate advertising, either for the profession as a whole or for local sections of it. Why should not the R.I.B.A. for instance keep well-worded, seemly announcements running in our best newspapers, pointing out what the R.I.B.A. is, what it stands for and what constitute the qualifications of its members? The Stock Exchange does this in the public Press, and so does The American Institute of Architects. Doctors and lawyers would do the same if they were not so handsomely protected. And with us this has become acutely necessary, as few people recognize that the affix of the R.I.B.A. after a man's name is any different from a dozen other affixes which may be had by merely paying a subscription. In fact, I have known cases where hard-headed committees of experienced business men have chosen an architect merely on the number of letters he puts after his name, when not even one of those groups of letters was worth tuppence.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST NEWSPAPER ADVERTISING

The arguments against collective newspaper advertising are (a) its cost; (b) the competition it would arouse in rival organizations and speculative builders; (c) its loss of dignity.

I will deal with these. (a) Admittedly the cost of anything like an extensive newspaper campaign would be prohibitive. But there is a certain degree in these things, and a total sum of say, £2,000 per annum spent wisely on all the activities of propaganda (including exhibitions) would not be disproportionate under modern conditions and would, I think, bring considerable benefits to the profession. And as to point (b), obviously the newspaper advertising should be of a kind that simply draws attention in a seemly fashion to the very existence of the R.I.B.A. with the qualified architect as distinct from the unqualified one. This would not arouse competitive action on the part of unqualified architects, for in the first place they have no organization or standards of examination, and in the second place many of them advertise as it is. Nor

would it arouse any competition on the part of speculative builders, *because they already advertise up to the hilt*. They could not advertise much more, owing to the limits of their own pockets or, in fact, the limits of the newspapers. We have nothing to fear from them, for already they are anxious to claim that their houses are designed by "architects," and what would happen is that as soon as they saw that the R.I.B.A. qualification was beginning to be appreciated they would employ or consult a *qualified* R.I.B.A. member (as the more enlightened of them do already). The speculative builder is not opposed to the architect. He will be only too willing to use his services whenever he sees that the purchasers of ready-built houses are beginning to demand decent design. As to point (c): there would be no loss of dignity, rather an enhancement of it, because the busy world is accustomed to being told what it ought to know through the public Press. One does not think any less of an organization for saying clearly what it stands for. In fact, one admires it for being so open about it. The only thing that one really despises is professional mystery and humbug. In any case, any announcement that we would make would appear quite gentle and refined as compared with the ordinary noisy guns of advertising. *It would be almost impossible, whatever we did, to shock the public; they take a good deal of shocking; and if we offended one or two of the "old stagers" in the profession that would not matter, for it is the public we want to get at, not the "old stagers."*

OTHER FORMS OF PROPAGANDA

Obviously newspaper advertising is only one aspect of the activity. There are other methods already existing or already within our reach. Some of these I have given in a previous article, but they need to be further developed, and they are so various that some central permanent organization is necessary to extend and co-ordinate them; for at the moment they depend too much upon sporadic action of diverse committees and the occasional enthusiasm of individuals. Thus, what we need is (A) a permanent Committee of Propaganda at Headquarters, and (B) working with this committee a paid official, either whole or part-time, who would devote himself to the executive side of the work.

The activities which this Propaganda Committee should take over or implement are the following:

(a) *Exhibitions*.—(1) Exhibitions in London; (2) local exhibitions in the provinces in co-operation with the Allied Societies; (3) traveling exhibitions sent out from London; (4) representative shows of contemporary architecture at any public exhibition related to the activity of building, such as the Building Exhibition, the Ideal Homes Exhibition and any exhibition of art and industry; (5) space

to be allotted occasionally at the Victoria and Albert Museum for an exhibition of contemporary architecture.

(b) *Public Press*.—Matters of architectural interest to be inaugurated and followed up in the public Press by letters or articles written in some cases by the Propaganda Secretary, and in others by specialist architectural authors (a panel of which would be kept at Headquarters).

(c) *Press Matter*.—The Propaganda Secretary to keep the Press supplied with "copy" relating to architectural events, exhibitions or matters of interest to the public.

(d) *Lectures*.—The whole matter of architectural lectures given to the public and schools to be carefully watched, co-ordinated and, wherever possible, deliberately extended.

(e) *Advertisements*.—(1) Properly worded advertisements to be put into the leading papers pointing out what the R.I.B.A. stands for. These, though small, should bear the badge of the Institute. (2) The dates and particulars of the qualifying examinations of the R.I.B.A. should be announced, setting out the subjects in which proficiency is required in order to become a member.

(f) *Further Activities*.—All the other activities having a propaganda value would be watched by the Propaganda Secretary: (1) The awarding of medals for buildings of good design. (2) The signing of buildings. (3) The display of the architects' names on a building in course of erection. And in these latter respects a more definite lead is required from the Institute to encourage architects to sign their work; while for buildings in course of erection there should be a standard type

of device displaying the R.I.B.A. badge and the architect's name and affix.

ARCHITECTURAL CRITICISM

One of the most potent means of enlivening the public interest in an art is criticism. Think of the state literature would be in without literary criticism! Where would the theatres be without dramatic criticism? Yet little or nothing has been done in architecture. Only three English papers (two dailies and one Sunday paper) retain the services of an architectural critic! This is not the fault of the newspapers, for some of them would be quite willing to provide criticism of buildings if called upon to do so by the architects concerned. In any case, they can see that the architects' own professional Press has done little in this direction. The fault lies with architects. Many of them are afraid of criticism and would rather be left in obscurity than take the risk of unfavorable opinions. This is a selfish point of view, for the public has a *right* to know more about the buildings that line its streets, and incidentally it will never take an interest in those buildings or in the work of architects until it can have opinions about those buildings. It cannot think any the less of a man because his work is criticized, for at the moment it does not think about him at all. If even a criticism were most unfavorable, the public can always in the end judge for itself once its interest has been aroused. Thus the good men have nothing to fear from criticism, and, when their names come before the public, those names are remembered and a prestige becomes attached to them by the very fact of being remembered. Thus architects will find that "it is better to be damned than mentioned not at all."

ARCHITECTURAL EDUCATION

PUPILAGE OR SCHOOL

ARCHITECTURAL education in Great Britain is still very young. The pupilage system, or, rather, lack of system, dies very hard in this country. From an R.I.B.A. report of 1927 on "Overcrowding of the Architectural Profession," it was estimated that there were 900 pupils and learners (of which about 100 were taking part-time courses in recognized schools of architecture) as against 400 students being trained in schools providing wholtime courses. Thus the number of recruits in 1927 *via* office pupilage, was more than twice that of the number *via* the schools; though these numbers have changed a little since 1927 in favor of schools. There would, of course, be a large proportion of would-be architects who could not afford the wholtime training. Yet, in spite of this, there are many who would not have it if

it were offered to them free (as it is almost in certain of the schools), and both on the part of parents and practising architects there still remains a mistrust of the school system of training. Let us therefore consider the arguments for and against the schools.

ADVANTAGES OF THE SCHOOL SYSTEM

The chief advantage of the school—especially the large one—is that it provides an atmosphere in which the student may learn and familiarize himself with current ideas in design and practice. In this he will, (a) have the competition with his fellow students, so that he will get to know something of his own abilities in relation to those of others; and (b) he will gain confidence and ease by working on common problems with others. The next great advantage of the school is that it gives the architect at the outset of his career a cultural point of view

in relation to architecture as an art. It does not pretend to make him an efficient money making architect in three or five years—for those aspects of his work, in any case, will be forced upon him later—but it does pretend to provide him with the right foundation upon which he can build if he wishes. The third advantage is the obvious one of a school's superior equipment in studios, laboratories, libraries and instruction by experts. In the school there is a discipline and system in the training, whereas in an office the pupil very often has no sort of control, no library or equipment, no system in his training and very little time allowed for it.

THE VITAL TEST

Yet the only real test of any system of preparation is what it produces. Thus with architectural education it is no use producing the most remarkable and brilliant students if, in the end, at the close of their lives, it is found that they have built little or nothing. Architecture does not begin to exist until it is built. In architecture the greatest potential genius who ever breathed becomes a negligible nonentity when he does not build (that is, supposing he does not write or teach). The vital test is: What do we find along our streets? It is no use our saying that this is not the work of "well-trained" architects if the "well-trained" architects have little or nothing to show for that training.

Thus when we look around and see those youngish men in their "thirties" and early "forties" who are now doing most of the work, somehow the fact remains that many of them are *not* school trained (except perhaps for evening instruction at a polytechnic). And if we take the chief competition winners of the last six years, or those younger architects who seem to be most progressive in their ideas, again it will be found that the larger part of them were not wholtime school trained. The honors might be about equally divided between the school and non-school men; yet the wonder of it is, how the non-school man ever manages to rise at all. Therefore we are driven to the conclusion that there must be either something imperfect in the school system, in spite of its manifest virtues, or something rather vital and permanent in the old pupilage system in spite of its manifest faults.

ADVANTAGES OF PUPILAGE

The most obvious advantage of the pupilage system is that it gives the would-be young architect, right from the start, a sense of reality in relation to his future work. He begins at once to know what is required of an architect; he can actually see around him the work going on. He may not understand it, and he may pick it up clumsily, but there it is the whole time. He does not have to waste his time and his mental energy on a number

of things that will never be required of him, nor is he allowed to begin at the wrong end of the stick by designing buildings before he knows how they are constructed. He learns upon what is actually being built, not upon what *might* upon the rarest occasions be built by somebody else. And, what is most important, he learns how work is done, for that is the first and most vital step in the creation of a good building. I hope my readers will forgive me if I remind them that all great architecture depends upon the getting of jobs. After that first step the rest is comparatively easy, and it is in this first step (which makes possible all the others) that the office trained man is generally more efficient than the school trained man. The former from the start is dealing with building as it really is, good or bad, and as it really is produced well or poorly, while the latter is dealing with a dream architecture in an ideal state. The one type of man generally gets the jobs, while the other type knows best how they should be designed. So we are at a sort of deadlock where good architecture can only thrive by accident, or by a pernicious system of ghosting. This is what is actually happening. Manifestly we must fuse the advantages of both systems together so that properly trained men get all the jobs.

THE BAD POINTS OF THE SCHOOL SYSTEM

Taking the long view we may assume that the school system is the better of the two, for the more active man can rise above its faults more easily than he can above the faults of the normal pupilage. But there are many holes in the present methods of architectural education. First and foremost the student is taught little or nothing of the business side of architecture. In other words, how to get jobs and how to deal with them efficiently in all their financial and business implications. It may be argued that this is strong meat for babes, but young men between eighteen and twenty-three years of age are no longer babes; in a business you cannot begin too young in learning how the business is run, for that surely becomes the basis of your existence. It might also be argued that with the weight of other subjects, no room can be found in the schools' curricula for such business training. To which I reply that space *must* be found by pushing out something else.

Too much time is devoted in the schools to the study of subjects which, though valuable in themselves, have no value in the average contemporary practice.

HISTORY AND DESIGN

The study of history, for instance, should be reduced in proportion to its value in an average office. The architect is like a doctor, he has to deal with contemporary problems in a modern way.

In any case the student with a bent for history would make a more particular study of the subject by travelling and reading in his senior and post-graduate years. Archæology has little to do with architecture, and the sooner we learn that the better. It is purely of cultural interest.

Similarly the preparing of design subjects in the grand-manner has been grossly overdone in the schools. We are fortunately getting over the influence of the Ecole de Beaux-Arts, but now, even worse, we are suffering from the influence of R.I.B.A. design prizes and travelling scholarships. These need to be drastically revised in their conditions. The unreal design subjects given in our schools seem to be keyed up to the Tite, the Soane, the Rome Prizes and various others. Only one architect in a thousand is ever likely to be called upon to design such buildings as are given in these competitions. And the irony of it is that though the system is trying desperately to produce one or two men who might design royal palaces, railway termini, and huge office blocks, the great mass of so-called trained architects are lucky if they can get a house or two, while the royal palaces are dealt with by H.M. Office of Works, railway stations by railway engineers, and the huge office blocks by the City firms who have a keen nose for business.

THE SCIENTIFIC ARCHITECT

There is yet one further aspect of the subject. The young architect has now to consider the future, not only the immediate future, but the future of twenty or thirty years hence—when he should be a successful man at his prime. Now the greatest changes are taking place in the very nature of architecture. It is becoming less a matter of taste or individual ability and more a matter of science. There will be a strong tendency towards the engineering concept, where all that goes to make a building will be calculated, rather than designed empirically or aesthetically.

How is the young architect prepared for this? Already his province is being invaded by the structural engineer and by various specialists. In fact, conscious of his own ignorance in these directions, the architect has been obliged to call in these other people to help him out, and naturally the average client wonders why he should have to pay for various specialists, such as structural engineers, in addition to the architect. Thus it is now necessary for the architect to recapture his lost provinces. Years ago, under the old pupilage system, the architect did all his own calculations (and often his own quantities), so why not now under the school system? There is coming a time when clients will refuse to pay extra specialists to help the architect; or else, with the growth of functionalist ideas in

design, they will go straight to the structural engineer. And what will the architect do then, poor thing? It seems evident that young architects should be trained more scientifically. *They should, in fact, be so trained as to be able to teach engineers and business men their jobs.* This should not be difficult.

CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTIONS

And now to sum up. The changes needed in our education in the schools are as follows:

- (a) A fair amount of time should be devoted to the consideration of architectural practice from the business point of view, *i.e.*, the preparation of building schemes, finance and the raising of money, costing, methods of obtaining work, dealing with clients, local authorities and officials, carrying out of work, accounts, etc.
- (b) Design subjects should be related to the kinds of jobs actually carried out in offices, while the subjects should be worked out in the same way in which they are worked out in offices, *viz.*, eighth scale *working* drawings, half-inch details, full sizes, and specifications. Proper working drawings, and certainly specifications, seem to be ignored by our schools, though a "speci" is just the thing that a young draughtsman is often put on to when he joins an office.
- (c) Planning and structure must be taught more scientifically: (1) Every student should be thoroughly grounded in structural engineering, whether he likes it or not (though certain students should be encouraged to specialize in engineering). (2) The teaching of Building Science should be extended and intensified, so that the student has a thorough knowledge of the properties of materials. (3) Theoretical research into modern methods of construction and modern materials should be encouraged. (4) The student should be induced to study the relative costs of materials and methods of construction. In this respect, the design subjects should state clearly the limits of costs, to which the student must keep or be disqualified.

IN CONCLUSION

Generally, and as a final word to this series of articles, one would like to emphasize that the business, occupation, or art of architecture should be approached from the scientific point of view, wherein it is continually being weighed up and adjusted according to *contemporary* needs. For insofar as it fails to satisfy contemporary needs both architects and architecture will starve.

With The Chapters and State Associations

Buffalo

This meeting was given up to discussion of a proposed renovising campaign. John J. Wade and Harry F. Hudson outlined the proposal and showed what might be done to fit it in with the national housing campaign. It was agreed that the Buffalo Chapter, A.I.A., should put on a renovising campaign for 1934, early fall, or such time as it will best fit in with the national housing campaign; and that the present Relations Committee of the Buffalo Chapter be empowered to set up the necessary machinery to start.

State Association of California Architects

School Fees—Resolutions have been passed by the Northern and Southern Executive Boards and by all California A.I.A. Chapters, setting 8% as a reasonable minimum fee for complete architectural services on new school work. Copies of these resolutions will be sent to any school district on request. Their adoption helped materially in securing a higher fee for San Francisco schools than was proposed by the city authorities.

Central Illinois

Richard S. Gregg reported for the Membership Committee. He also spoke in favor of the chapter obtaining publicity thru a series of radio broadcasts. This matter was by proper motion, second and vote referred to the Publicity and Educational Committees.

Herbert Hewitt explained the "Internship" method of preparing men for architectural practice and licensing as proposed by the N. C. A. R. B.

Mention was made of the fact that five new members had been received during the calendar year to date, with prospects that one to three more men would be received before the end of the year.

Chicago

The September meeting of the Chicago Chapter was devoted to a discussion of the problems incident to preparation for architectural practice.

The purpose of the meeting was to cooperate in carrying out the resolution adopted by the 1934 Convention of the Institute—as published in the May number of THE OCTAGON.

Dinner was served to eighty-five members and a large number of guests.

After the transaction of a small amount of routine business a short statement was made by Emery Stanford Hall, President of the Chapter, who then introduced the speakers of the evening, as follows:

Professor Emil Lorch—"The Mentor System",

Earl H. Reed, Jr., being absent; Charles G. Beersman presented a short talk on "Theory and Design"; Professor L. H. Provine followed on "Fundamentals of Construction." Mr. Hall then called on Professor Teeburg, an associate of Professor Lorch, of the University of Michigan, who made some general comments relative to the program. Rudolph Nedved spoke on "Practice and Design." Wm. Hooper, "Construction Design in Practice," Wilford Davies spoke on "How It Feels During the Process." Gilmer V. Black spoke on "The Hurdle Passed." Herbert E. Hewitt, a member of the Illinois State Examining Board, spoke on "The Bogeyman."

Following the above speakers, Mr. Hall then called on several members of the profession to give short talks on subjects which he named. Melville C. Chatten, "The Lure of Architecture," Richard E. Schmidt, "Would You Have Chosen Another Path"; John O. Merrill, "The Human Side of Architecture"; George C. Nimmons, "How It Feels After Forty Years Before the Mast"; John C. Bollenbacher, "Diplomacy in Administration of Construction"; Arthur Woltersdorf, "Cite Some Humorous Instances in the Practice of Architecture"; Robert J. Ostergren, "How to Get the Most Out of Craftsmen."

Following the above testimonials, Mr. Hall then called on Tirrell J. Ferrenz to give a resume of the various talks of the evening.

Connecticut

The business meeting opened immediately following dinner; the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting was dispensed with and T. M. Prentice introduced Kenneth K. Stowell, whose general subject covered the various new forms of competition with which we are faced. Among these were mentioned commercial designers, government agencies, integrated building organizations, large manufacturers, and unqualified architects and engineers. The speaker discounted the feeling that certain trade reports organizations were going over the architects' heads to owners and expressed the view that such organizations invariably advised the retention of an architect. Mr. Stowell took occasion to comment favorably upon the so-called "Pittsburgh Chapter Plan" where much has been accomplished by the elimination of state and municipal architectural bureaus. He reiterated the necessity of good publicity setting forth what the architect can save the owner and urged that architects qualify themselves to give the owner sound financial advice.

Georgia

Unfinished Business—F. P. Smith, Chairman of the Public Works Committee, reported that his committee, as instructed at the August meeting, had contacted the Arts Commission on the matter of the proposed Uncle Remus Memorial. The commission expressed themselves as willing to handle the matter if requested by the Harris family. Mr. Julian Harris agreed to so request the commission. However, it is now reported that the original, somewhat unorthodox, movement for a monument had collapsed and it is considered advisable to let the matter rest.

New Business—Hal Hentz reported that he had attended a meeting of the Engineering Council at which there had been a radio program from Washington on the Housing Act and the H. O. L. C. Renovising Campaign. He stated that the Chamber, with Federal backing, is preparing to launch a campaign similar to the one which the Chapter attempted to instigate last year and is calling upon the Professional Societies and Trade Associations interested in the building industry to make contributions toward the campaign fund and to volunteer for work in canvassing the city.

It was moved and carried that the Chapter subscribe \$100 to the Renovising Campaign Fund, and that \$50.00 of this amount be paid from the Chapter Treasury, with the remaining \$50.00 to be made up by voluntary contributions from the members.

Southern Pennsylvania

The annual summer outing of the Chapter was held at the York Country Club, York, Pa., through the initiative of President Frederick G. Dempwolf, who also doubled as host for the affair. A fair sized group of the members disported themselves on the spacious golf links, while others assembled in the locker room.

Along about dinner time the visiting architects formed what is known technically as a motorcade and thus advanced to the country estate of S. Forry Loucks, a resident of the town of York. Here a bit of hospitality was dispensed, and here it was hinted that Mr. Loucks had built somewhat of a dairy barn which we were to inspect. So, nothing daunted, the entire group set forth down the road in the wake of the host, and discovered upon arrival, that, far from being just a model dairy barn, this was the Model Dairy Barn to end all Modern Model Dairy Barns. A cold super was served in the restaurant, the business meeting was held in the manager's office, and the bovine aristocracy was visited (you don't inspect cows like those, you visit them).

The meeting was called to order at about 8:00 o'clock.

President Frederick G. Dempwolf read a list of committee appointments for the ensuing year. Treasurer James W. Minick reported on the status of the treasury.

M. I. Kast reported for the legislative committee and the State Board of Examiners of Architects that several licenses had been suspended recently for infraction of the license law.

The matter of the reorganization of the State Association was presented for discussion. Authority for decisions and action was referred to the executive committee.

Speeches and discussion were had at this point on the dire distress of the architectural profession. James W. Minick moved that a committee be appointed to prepare communications to Harold L. Ickes, Administrator, The Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works, Washington, D. C., and to Eric Biddle, State Administrator, The Federal Emergency Relief Administration, Harrisburg, Pa., urging upon both these men the consideration of the private architect as such in connection with construction work which will issue from their offices in the future, and asking that they refrain from forcing bona-fide practitioners out of their offices and into the ranks of draftsmen; further that questionnaires be sent to all political candidates asking for a statement on their stand in regard to the relation of the architect to government building. M. Edwin Green seconded the motion and it was passed.

Rinehart Dempwolf made a very fine speech and presented to Miller I. Kast a certificate of Fellowship, to which he was elected by the Jury of Fellows of the Institute. Mr. Kast replied appropriately and expressed his appreciation.

Wisconsin

The President announced that this meeting was not only to go down in the annals of the Chapter as the annual one, but that it was also a testimonial in honor of Gerritt J. DeGelleke, who had been elected Regional Director of the Central States Division.

After listening to many tributes, Mr. DeGelleke was called upon to speak. His first words were to honor Thomas Leslie Rose, who was the recipient of the honor of Fellowship at the last Institute Convention. Mr. DeGelleke presented Mr. Rose with an engrossed certificate of Fellowship in the Institute. Mr. Rose responded briefly and appropriately.

The evening would not have been complete without word from his honor, the Mayor of Madison. When called to his feet he made a well-timed plea for greater interest on the part

of the average Wisconsin citizen and more especially the architects for the preservation of the beauties of Madison and environs.

The meeting was then adjourned to permit the Executive Committee to meet and elect the officers for the ensuing year.

Final leave taking was then in order but not until the members had expressed themselves in the belief that this 1934 gathering was by far one

of the most successful of the great array of outstanding meetings that the Chapter has held in the last few years. They emphasized the fact also that the Chapter was on the threshold of the biggest year in its history—one that would prove beyond all doubt to the Institute membership at large that the Wisconsin Chapter, like the great state in which it is located, is right to the front and on its toes all the time.

R. I. B. A. CENTENARY CELEBRATION

In the September number of THE OCTAGON—page 18, attention was called to the Centenary Celebration Conference of the Royal Institute of British Architects, to be held in London from November 21 to November 24, 1934.

President Russell requests that he be advised of any member of The Institute who may be in England on the dates mentioned.

The R. I. B. A. has extended a cordial invitation to The American Institute of Architects to send a delegate. It will not be possible to do so unless some fortunate member of The Institute

happens to be in England in the latter part of November. If so, he—or someone who knows about his anticipated visit to England—should notify the Secretary at The Octagon with a view to an early formal appointment to represent the A. I. A. on this occasion. The celebration will be a most interesting one, for which an elaborate program has been arranged. The new building of the R. I. B. A. is rapidly approaching completion and will be opened by his Majesty, the King, prior to the Centenary Celebration.

Applications For Membership

October 10, 1934

NOTICE TO MEMBERS OF THE INSTITUTE:

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

<i>Baltimore Chapter</i>	LUCIEN ERNEST DAMIEN GAUDREAU
<i>Central Illinois Chapter</i>	ELBERT I. HARRISON, WALTER GUY JAMESON
<i>Chicago Chapter</i>	W. LINDSAY SUTER
<i>Detroit Chapter</i>	FRANCIS SKILLMAN ONDERDONK
<i>Florida North Chapter</i>	PHILIP FRANCIS KENNARD
<i>Florida South Chapter</i>	DAVID T. ELLIS
<i>Georgia Chapter</i>	JOSEPH WALTER COOPER, JR., ROBERT BROWN LOGAN
<i>Hawaii</i>	RAYMOND L. MORRIS
<i>Indiana Chapter</i>	HARRY INGE JOHNSTONE
<i>New York Chapter</i>	WILLIAM F. R. BALLARD, ANTHONY F. INSERRO, CHARLES E. O'HARA, JR., GEOFFREY PLATT, JAMES DAVIDSON STEPHEN, BURNETT COBURN TURNER

You are invited, as directed by the By-laws, to send privileged communications before November 10, 1934, on the eligibility of the candidates for the information and guidance of the members of the Board of Directors on their final ballot. No applicant will be finally passed upon should any Chapter request, within the thirty-day period, an extension of time for purpose of investigation

FRANK C. BALDWIN, *Secretary*.

