

THE
OCTAGON

A Journal of The American Institute of Architects



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THE OCTAGON

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Salutation

ON THE brink of the New Year there is the temptation to prophecy which I shall resist in the persuasion that, unlike so many, I have not the gift of it. Instead, I salute the members of The Institute with a prayer that the Recession is only a passing cloud and that the sun will shine soon again and gracious things rise up to invite its shadows. It is always timely for The President, however, to speak of The Institute, with which he has grown familiar in the months since June. It is still a vague institution to most of us. To some, The Institute would appear to summon to the imagination a body of grave gentlemen who are sitting in The Octagon in a sort of mephitic vapor, unconscious of the realistic world outside and of the complaining storms which beat against the walls. From the point at which I am just now privileged to regard it, I receive a vastly different impression.

The Octagon itself has been for years an office of rare efficiency where a few clerks and a dynamic Executive Secretary dispose of a multitude of business matters. In this picturesque centre is registered the daily pulse of The Institute. From it lines of communication, constantly humming, radiate to The President in Boston, The Secretary in Pittsburgh, The Treasurer in Los Angeles, to the members of The Board, the chairmen of committees, and to the chapters. Mr. Kemper does not permit The President to forget for long the responsibilities of his position, whatever the claims of his occasional clients, to whom devotion to The Institute does not always appear the superior obligation.

The Secretaryship, with its fine tradition of service, carries its own assurance of complete adequacy and the implication of heavy and important duty

in close cooperation with The Octagon.

As the office is now constituted, The Treasurer may fairly be said to be himself one of the treasures of The Institute and his contribution imposes upon the entire membership a high obligation of gratitude not only in the loyalty of its spirit, but in its exceptional and versatile quality.

As to The Board I could wish that the critics of The Institute (and for its good I hope it may always have them) might witness its functioning at one of its typical sessions, where, in miniature convention, important issues, familiar to some already, are submitted to fresh and exhaustive consideration, and new matters constantly await critical and constructive thought. These deliberations, which draw representative opinion from the geographical centres, extend over three or four days and often terminate at midnight.

Then there is the long list of committees, some with large personnel, which are engaged in putting into effect the general policies of The Institute and the decisions of the last convention. When well done this is a very arduous and valuable service which should be remembered. At the moment, for example, the Committee on Housing, under very able leadership, is addressing itself to a task of formidable proportions in the purpose to relate our profession responsibly to a great social purpose.

Finally there are the chapters, each of which is in thought and policy an Institute *in petto*, on the health and efficiency of which depend the fortunes of the organization. Subject only to the authority of the convention, the chapters have jurisdiction in their own neighborhoods and a free scope for enterprise to the general good. Many of them are ex-

ceedingly efficient, and are a vivid and beneficent influence in their communities. In the midst of the everyday drama it is the chapters which first encounter complaint of The Institute. Here, too, it may be often satisfied. Complaint takes many forms, and no organization, I believe, is free of it. One hears, for instance, that The Institute is not sufficiently realistic, that it cannot compel commissions from an unwilling Government, that its ethics are too exacting or are not uniformly exacting, that it is not interested in the younger men. How far these indictments are valid is reasonable matter for

chapter opinion. The Institute obviously can be no more militant, no more conservative, no more enterprising, no more anything whatsoever than its chapters in formal judgment ordain. As it is the function of the yearly convention to give validity to such judgments, chapters should be at pains to reach conviction on controversial subjects in advance of that occasion, so as to shape the final expression of The Institute will.

A prosperous New Year to all and a happy and harmonious Institute!

CHARLES D. MAGINNIS

West Coast Prospects

IT has been generally conceded that the building industry, rather than agriculture, is the real barometer of business and that we know definitely the periods of great activity in the building industry and its effect on business conditions.

It has been said that during the last hundred years more covered area has been built within the United States than in the rest of the world in all history, and that during this time there have been certain peak periods when the building industry was very prosperous.

From the mass of information which has been compiled by the many statisticians who prove conclusively any assumption as to the future that their optimism dictates, I have culled some information which I think is fairly accurate.

Within my own experience I went through the building boom of 1910, the slump in 1918, the peak of 1926, and the great slump of 1932 and 1933.

Continuing backward, statisticians seem to agree that the peaks of great building activity occurred in the following years: 1890, 1870, and 1852, which indicates an average interval of 18 years, and that if this general cycle continues the building industry is now on the upgrade and will reach the peak sometime in 1944, and lucky indeed is the architect or contractor starting in business at this time, on an ascending, rather than a descending wave. From information gathered, it is evident that in the first part of revival there was great activity in home construction; factories and manufacturing buildings

would follow school building construction to care for the average needs, and not until the peak had been passed would come the construction of office buildings, public utilities, and buildings of similar nature, undertaken usually as a result of prosperity, when corporations were looking for an outlet in which to invest.

The West seemingly enjoyed better business conditions even during the depths of the depression than prevailed in most of the United States. Perhaps its very isolation by the high mountains separating it from the desert country, and its temperate climate, have been the reasons for a great migration of people from the East to the West, particularly during the unusual conditions that existed in the central part of the United States.

This influx of people, many of them without means, made the housing problem very acute in all of the cities and towns of the West, to say nothing of the added social problems and the acute urgency for the care of the sick and needy.

While the construction industry in most of these communities valiantly attempted to meet the demand, they found it was impossible to keep pace, through no fault of their own, because of the impossibility for the average builder to exercise any influence upon the public buyer demand for housing, or to control the rise in price of building materials and labor. Recovery and prosperity were not old enough to build up new financial reserves, for the homeseeker and the newcomer usually were with-

out funds.

It is of interest that the period of 1924-26 shows a greater activity in single family home building than in succeeding years, and that the lowest period of home construction extended from 1929 to 1935. Quoting figures from records of the City of Oakland, located in the San Francisco Bay metropolitan area, in 1925 there were 4,637 single family homes built as compared with 147 in 1934. During the first half of 1937, 1,100 single family homes were built, showing the upswing of the curve toward building prosperity.

Vacancies, on the other hand, showed a steady increase from 1927 to 1933 and even in the height of prosperity of 1929 showed over 5.5%, reaching a peak in 1933 of 6.7%, and declining until in 1937 vacancies are now at the very low point of 1.5%. It is apparent, with further influx of new settlers, improved income for the average family

and a curtailed homebuilding program, that the effect will be a lowering of the number of vacant dwellings until the demand for space cannot be ignored and homes will be built in spite of high cost and rent.

Here again we have conclusive proof of the need for housing and that the cycle of building prosperity will continue on up toward the expected peak in 1944.

Let us hope, in order to insure against a temporary recession, that the architects and contractors will actively oppose the present march toward high costs, rather than patiently wait for economic conditions to make the change, and that they will vigorously support any program which will lead toward a sensible, reasonable growth in the price structure of labor and material.

FREDERICK H. MEYER

Nineteen Hundred and Thirty-Eight

THE Treasurer sends his greetings and best wishes to each of you at the opening of this new year. This is the time for good cheer and happy expectations, and in the glorious sunshine of this New Year's day in California one can scarcely conceive it could be otherwise. Yet we all know that darkening clouds have suddenly closed about us and made us fearful again. What has happened?

"A raconter ses maux souvent o- les soulage."

Early in 1937 it was apparent that the opportunities of architects to secure commissions were declining. The reports of the conditions in their districts made by the directors at the May meeting of The Board showed a decline had begun and was widespread. Six months later, when The Board again met, the members reported that the declination had become serious (except in one district where it seemed to have just begun) and that the slowing-up had proceeded to a point where just about all jobs of any importance in process in the architects' offices were stopped.

The discussion of the reports sought the reasons for the decline.

In housing, it was clear the cost of building had advanced quite beyond the ability of the renter to pay a rent that would be a reasonable return on the

investment, and beyond the ability of the buyer to undertake the obligation of making adequate installment payments. And it was clear, too, that the lender of building money was not convinced his would-be borrower had either the stabilized wage or job to make him a good risk. It was also evident that as the building of homes had rapidly expanded under Federal encouragement, the architect's participation had become less and less and the speculative builder's had become increasingly predominant. As always before when building prices became so great he could not pass them on to the renter or the buyer, the speculative builder reduced the quality of his building construction to keep its cost within a salable price, and the reports plainly stated that, in several districts, this process had proceeded so far that never before had such shoddy building been imposed upon the customer. When even the shoddy could not be sold, the building of houses immediately and rapidly declined. History repeatedly has warned that would be so.

Whatever the Federal government may do to induce its citizens to buy houses, it will hardly increase the architect's commissions in 1938, whatever it may do thereafter.

In commercial work, it seems to be plain that

those who are not compelled to build on account of increased volume of business or leasehold agreements will not do so, because such building might create precarious investments for them. Their new buildings would be in direct competition with structures that had been bought in at prices far less than the cost of the new buildings, through bankruptcy or reorganization processes, thereby wiping out the interests of the original investors. It seems sound that commercial building in any volume must wait for demands made by new businesses or by expansions of old businesses—and many an old business already has too much plant. There are few cities that do not have office space and sales space amply in excess of the present demands, and until those spaces are taken, it would seem unwise to build new structures that could not compete in price or as investments with those that now exist.

None the less, many new commercial structures have been discussed between client and architect in 1937, but the architect need not be surprised if most of those projects fail of consummation in 1938.

There is public work; schools and hospitals come oftenest to the architect's table. For money for such construction, most local communities have looked to Washington, and so long as they continue to do so, the attitude of Washington is of primary importance. What that attitude will be to the individual jobs and to such jobs collectively, no one can predict; but it is as certain as anything can be, that Federal buildings under control of the Treasury Department will not be given to architects in private practice until Congress specifies that they shall be or at least, may be. The architects in many, many communities have permitted their local governments to set up bureaus to perform architectural services

for local governmental buildings and, without effectual protests, have permitted banks, chain stores and other large establishments to set up bureaus to perform such services. The bulk of the Federal building work, a great proportion of the state and municipal building work, and a considerable amount of the private building work has been taken from the architects in private practice, but so gradually that they have not, as a unit, been aware of the extent of the invasion, and so have not protected against it.

There is no doubt that the architect in private practice can recover much of this large volume of work if he will unite and work with his fellows to that end, and they will stay united. Immediate and effective organization work by the chapters in their communities and by the state associations within their territories to stop further rifling of the architect's business by these powerful interests is essential. If the architects in private practice will secure their local governmental work, they will get the Federal work; the Federal law maker is only a local politician after all, with much less time in Washington to be convinced than in his own home town. The recovery of governmental work must be from the bottom up—not from the top down. These are matters to which the architects could well give their complete attention in 1938.

The architect "should trim his sails to meet the business weather" of the new year.

Thus I greet you this new year, not quite as I would like to nor "as the world sends greetings, but with profound esteem and with the prayer for you, now and forever, the day breaks and the shadows flee away."

EDWIN BERGSTROM

The Edward Langley Scholarships For 1938

MEMBERS of The Institute, and the profession as a whole are reminded of the Edward Langley Scholarships for 1938.

Full information about procedure for proposing Langley scholars appeared on page 12 of the November, 1937, number of THE OCTAGON.

Reprints of that notice and forms of proposal are available upon request.

It should be noted that all proposals must be filed *not later than* March 1, 1938, and that the form of proposal prepared by the Investment Committee of The Institute must be used in every case.

Looking at 1937

EXCERPTS FROM A REVIEW BY LOUIS LABEAUME, F. A. I. A.

Reprinted by courtesy of *The American Year Book*, William M. Schuyler, Editor, New York City

THE hope expressed in last year's summary that the year 1937 might develop a marked increase in building activity, has not been justified. Owing, therefore, to continued depression in the building field, it is difficult to evaluate progress in either architectural design or technical methods of construction. Some further liquidation of existing projects would seem to be necessary before investors may feel encouraged to proceed with renewed activity on an extensive scale.

That there are many obsolescent structures in all of our large cities, is generally admitted, but occupants and owners are making shift with what they have as best they can. New capital has not yet been attracted to any great degree toward rebuilding or additional building.

The tendency of the Federal Government throughout the year 1937, has been to restrict, rather than to expand, its assistance to states and municipalities contemplating public works. The Federal Building Program appears also to have shown signs of decreasing volume. As the national program, begun under the Hoover administration and continued through the ensuing administration, has attained completion, few new projects have been proposed and the temporary stimulation resulting from the expenditure of public funds would seem to have almost reached an end.

Housing.

The subject of mass housing continues one of great interest, and new approaches to its solution are being made by the Federal Government, Municipalities, Social Agencies and the Architectural Profession. The Wagner-Steagall Housing Bill (United States Housing Act of 1937), provides for a public housing program different in character and larger in scope than the recent P. W. A. Housing Program. This Bill creates a new United States Housing Authority under the direction of an Administrator. Such states and municipalities as have duly authorized local Housing Authorities may initiate projects in their areas. The United States Housing Authority will act as banker, and the Bill provides for loans to these local housing

agencies up to a total of \$500,000,000.00, capital grants to a total of \$30,000,000.00, and annual contributions up to a total of \$20,000,000.00 a year. Funds for loans, grants and annual contributions are to be made available gradually over a three year period. It has been estimated that the full use of these funds, during the next three years, could conceivably produce 140,000 new family units. Under the old Housing Division of the Federal Administration of Public Works, 21,700 units have been produced over a period of four years. The major projects comprising these units which have been carried to practical completion, vary in size and character according to locality. They have been carefully designed and economically and substantially built, and are interesting as exhibits of what can or cannot be done to solve the housing problem of smaller income groups. About 54 projects have been approved by the former P. W. A. Housing Division, and await funds and local aid.

The Federal Housing Administration, another governmental agency, continues its policy of guaranteeing building loans. It was hoped by the Administrator, in last year's survey, that the sum total of 460,000 new dwellings might be financed through the cooperation of this agency. The results, however, have fallen short of this expectation. From the most trustworthy statistics available, the best estimate of the total new home construction in the United States for the year 1937 would probably not exceed 280,000. Of these new dwellings 180,000 are urban, and 100,000 are rural.

The Home Owners' Loan Corporation continues to be helpful in the financing of repairs, remodeling and the rehabilitation of existing structures in the domestic field. The American Institute of Architects continues to devote its best thought to the subject of mass housing, as well as to the small, low-priced, individual home.

The Small House.

Groups of architects in many centers are attempting to serve the small house owner by preparing typical plans to meet varying family requirements. The use of such plans would naturally tend toward

a certain standardization, with the resulting economies which standardization might make possible. Not only has the architectural profession given much thought to the possible advantages of standardization, but it is constantly investigating new methods of construction which will tend to lower building costs. Likewise, manufacturers of building materials are experimenting along many lines, with the same ends in view.

City Planning.

Although many Universities have introduced courses in City Planning into their curricula, and are stressing the importance of planning large areas, and of considering the interrelation between the many elements which go to make up the normal city, not a great deal of real progress can be noted in the field of practical city planning. It is generally admitted that all of our cities and towns represent a conglomeration of unrelated and conflicting units, with a consequent loss not only of beauty, but of efficiency, economy and utility as well. It is hoped that increasing recognition of the need for improvement by municipal authorities and by the public, may, in time, justify the efforts which the architectural profession and the architectural schools are making to bring some order out of chaos. Many communities have long established City Planning Commissions, and much data has been accumulated which should be helpful in solving problems of circulation and traffic, and proper land use. Zoning laws already have shown some effect with regard to the limitation of height and of the lot area to be covered. But the well considered and efficiently carried out city plan remains an ideal and a goal to be attained sometime in the future.

Architectural Design.

Although it might appear, from the foregoing, that any discussion of architectural design must be regarded, for the time being, as academic, a change of orientation is undoubtedly taking place with regard to architectural practice. Many architects are approaching such concrete problems as are presented to them, from a new point of view. The public itself is divided between the adherents of the familiar and orthodox, and the proponents of experimentation. It seems, however, that the field of

eclecticism is being narrowed year by year, in spite of our ingrained conservatism. We may be approaching the period when the public will no longer demand, or even tolerate, the accurate reproduction of old forms, at least in the degree to which we have hitherto been accustomed. Thus we may look forward to, and we are even now witnessing, a gradual evolution which, whether based on romantic or classical tradition, will modify the architectural scene.

Modernism.

The term "modernism" is an unsatisfactory one, but it is used here to identify those more revolutionary approaches to architectural design which are manifesting themselves both in this country and in Europe. Experimentation in the use of new materials, and in the new treatment of old materials, has proceeded in Europe for many years, and has had a profound effect on the younger generation of American architects. It should be immediately understood, however, that modernism does not concern itself solely with the novel use of materials. Its apostles are attempting to formulate what they term a new philosophy of design based not only on function, but reaching toward the manipulation, control and mastery of space. This philosophy, as expressed in their writings, seems to invade the field of metaphysics, and is sometimes difficult for the layman, or even the architect, to evaluate. New types of plan, based on what is called the interflow or interpenetration of space, result from this philosophy. The elevations are considered the envelope in which these spaces are confined, and are designed as nearly as possible to express not only the spaces themselves, but their interaction.

Education.

The architectural schools in our universities and colleges have not been able to escape the implications of this philosophy. In order to prepare their students for an approach to their problems from this new point of view, they have modified, or are modifying, their methods of instruction.

Dr. Walter Gropius, one of the leading European exponents of this new philosophy of design, is now a member of the faculty in the Department of Architecture at Harvard University. Dr. Gropius was formerly Director of the New Bauhaus at Dessau.

Under his Directorship, the work of the Bauhaus gained wide attention. Not only were the principles of Gropius applied to designing architecture; they were extended to embrace the productions of the machine in the whole industrial field. To this influence may be largely attributed the impetus which has been transmitted to industrial designers in this country. So strong has interest in this new movement become, that in September of this year (1937) the establishment of a new Bauhaus in Chicago was announced. This new school will be under the direction of Professor Laszlo Moholy-Nagy, a close associate of Dr. Gropius at Weimar, and later at Dessau. As announced by the Directors, "Because of Dr. Gropius' confidence that Professor Moholy-Nagy will continue the best Bauhaus tradition he granted permission that this School of Design be called the New Bauhaus." For the first year, according to announcements, it is planned to offer instruction in the "Basic Design Workshop", in "Analytical and Constructive Drawing" and in "Scientific Subjects". The student will be taught to handle wood, paper, plastics, rubber, cork, plywood, leather, textiles, metal, glass, clay, plasticine, plaster and stone. He will study geometry, physics, chemistry, mathematics, economics, anatomy and the comparative history of art; he will also study biotechnique (the system of conscious invention), psycho-technique (ability testing), biology, psychology, philosophy, literature, music, printing, light. Thus it may be inferred that the established principles of design, as exemplified by the traditions and teachings of the *École des Beaux Arts*, are being definitely challenged. These principles have long been followed in practically all the architectural schools in America, under the able direction of French and American graduates of the *École*. There are now, however, in the United States, five of the internationally minded men who have taught a modern "Architectonic Art, all embracing in its scope, at the original Bauhaus".

Public Interest.

Such tendencies as have been noted may signify the degree of public interest in our architectural development, although it cannot be said that a large section of the lay public is prepared to understand, or accept, the new philosophy of design. Conservative minds are still apt to judge the appearance of

new buildings by old standards, while, at the same time, responding eagerly to any improvements in the elements of comfort, convenience and durability.

Architectural discussion, however, becomes more and more a matter of general popular interest. Widely publicised achievements, such as the Rockefeller Center group in New York and the Williamsburg Restoration, have been widely admired and discussed. Controversial questions are seized upon by the press as matters of public interest, even where technical issues are involved. A case in point which may be cited is the recently proposed Jefferson Memorial in Washington. Warm debates took place, not only as to the site involved, but as to the propriety of the classical style proposed. While much confusion will always result from public discussions of this character, the net result may be considered wholesome in that they focus attention on architectural values.

It would seem that large sections of the public respond appreciatively to the more conservative essays in modern design, such as the Folger Shakespearean Library in Washington, the new Federal Reserve Board Building in the same city, and the Rockefeller Center Group in New York.

Expositions.

Expositions have long been recognized as affording an opportunity for architectural and structural experimentation. Aside from their other purposes, they have come to be regarded, by architects and engineers, as testing laboratories. Their transitory nature affords an opportunity for experiment in the use of new forms and materials not always present in the routine of every day building. The International Exposition in Paris this summer undoubtedly will have repercussions in the architectural field all over the world. Two important expositions are now under way in the United States—one in New York, the other in San Francisco. Both will be widely publicised. From preliminary information, that in New York may be assumed to be iconoclastic in the sense that novel effects are being sought in plan, elevation, color, materials and lighting. The preparations for the San Francisco Exhibition seem to be proceeding along more conservative and traditional lines. Both, however, should be stimulating, not only to the architectural profession, but to the general public.

Record of 1937 - Prospects for 1938

BY THOMAS S. HOLDEN, VICE PRESIDENT F. W. DODGE CORPORATION

THE fourth year of construction industry recovery closed in the middle of a moderate recession, but with a definite gain over the preceding year, according to Thomas S. Holden, vice president in charge of Statistics & Research of F. W. Dodge Corporation. Recovery gains over 1936 were as follows: an increase of 15 per cent in dollar volume of residential building; a dollar increase of 21 per cent in non-residential building; an increase of 40 per cent in public utilities construction; and a decrease of 20 per cent in public works construction.

From the point of view of ownership and financing, the program of the year 1937 showed a 34 per cent increase over 1936 in dollar volume of private building and engineering work, partially offset by a 15 per cent decline in public work of all kinds, resulting in a general construction volume increase of about 10 per cent. The final 1937 total for construction contracts awarded in the 37 Eastern States will be \$2,900,000,000 or a little over, compared with \$2,675,000,000 in 1936. Each month of 1937 through August gained over the corresponding month of 1936. Declines after August were very moderate: September contracts dropped 12 per cent below the preceding September; October contracts were 11 per cent under the preceding October; November contracts were 5 per cent under November 1936; advance figures for December 1937 indicate a contract volume equal to or slightly greater than the December 1936 volume.

The recession in construction has not, up to the present time, shown any indications of a depression

of a major character. It has brought, however, a realization of the fact that rosy expectations of a rapidly rising speculative boom in the real estate and residential building had no foundation, and of the equally pertinent fact that the great potential market for residential building is in low-priced housing. The home-building industry, to realize fully its potential market, must gradually and progressively solve its major problem of cutting the cost of the finished product.

While pending housing legislation promises further progress in reducing the cost of financing new housing, the construction industry looks more hopefully to those economic and political factors that will stimulate general business confidence to produce an early revival of the interrupted recovery. Resumption of expansion programs of electric utilities and industrial corporations would not only produce construction of those specialized classes, but also spread purchasing power for new homes.

The duration of the current minor recession is problematical, and the new year promises to be one of stabilization of recovery rather than one of large volume increases. Chances are good for a quite moderate increase in residential building during the next twelve months, probably accompanied by moderate declines in non-residential building and public works; advancement of the expansion program of the utilities is an open question at the moment. As the year opens the prospect seems to be for a total 1938 construction equal to a slightly less total than that of the year 1937.

F. H. A. Small House Conferences—Revised Schedule

THE location and dates of the Small House Planning Conferences, under the auspices of the Federal Housing Administration, were announced in the October, 1937, OCTAGON. Certain changes in dates were found necessary, and the revised schedule is as follows:

| <i>City</i> | <i>Week of Meeting</i> |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Hartford, Conn..... | Jan. 30 |
| Philadelphia, Pa..... | Feb. 6 |

| <i>City</i> | <i>Week of Meeting</i> |
|---|------------------------|
| Miami, Fla..... | Feb. 20 |
| Jacksonville, Fla..... | Feb. 27 |
| Atlanta, Ga..... | Mar. 6 |
| Birmingham, Ala..... | Mar. 13 |
| Louisville, Ky. and Covington, Ky..... | Mar. 27 |
| Memphis, Tenn..... | Apr. 3 |
| Nashville, Tenn..... | Apr. 10 |
| Jackson, Miss. and New Orleans, La..... | Apr. 17 |

The Seventieth Convention

OFFICIAL NOTICE TO MEMBERS

TIME AND PLACE

THE Seventieth Convention of The American Institute of Architects will be held in New Orleans, Louisiana, on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, April 19, 20, 21 and 22, 1938—as announced in December.

The dates of the convention are earlier than usual. They were selected with due regard to the probability of enjoyable weather, and to the certainty of adequate hotel accommodations.

In deciding to have a four-day convention The Board has continued a precedent established a few years ago which has been found to be advantageous.

The development of the program of the convention—both formal and informal—was left by The Board with The President, The Secretary, Director Goldstein and the Convention Committee.

Following a meeting of this group in late January it may be possible to outline the program in the February number of THE OCTAGON. Otherwise, it will appear in full in the March number.

Information concerning hotel headquarters, reservations and similar details will appear in February.

EARLY ELECTION OF DELEGATES

Special attention is called to the notice on page 14, hereof, concerning the number of delegates to be accredited to the convention. It is important that the members of each chapter elect their delegates well in advance and that the state association members do the same so that all delegates who come to New Orleans will be prepared to reflect the views of those whom they represent in acting on the matters to be considered and voted upon by the convention.

Chapter and state association presidents are charged with an important duty in this respect. They should see to it that delegates are elected in strict accordance with the By-laws of The Institute and the by-laws of their respective organizations.

PROCEDURE FOR ELECTION OF DELEGATES

The By-laws of The Institute, Chapter VI, Articles 1, 2, and 3, state in full the requirements for corporate meetings of The Institute. They set forth

the authority and power of delegates; the procedure for (a) fixing the number of delegates entitled to be elected and the number of votes that may be accredited from each chapter, and (b) accrediting and registering such delegates to the meeting.

The number of state delegates to which state association members are entitled, their qualifications, and voting privileges are set forth in Chapter II, Article 2, Sections 5 and 8 of The By-laws of The Institute and the procedure for accrediting state delegates is set forth in Chapter VI, Article 3.

All chapters and state association members are advised that these requirements are mandatory and will be strictly enforced.

Every member delegate must be in *good standing* in The Institute.

Under the definition of *good standing*, Chapter XVI, Article 1, Section 2, paragraph (d) of the By-laws of The Institute, a corporate member is *not* in good standing in The Institute or in any of its chapters or state association members if he is in default to The Institute or any of its chapters or is under suspension.

CHAPTER MEETINGS ON CONVENTION BUSINESS

It is recommended that all chapters hold pre-convention meetings in March or early April for the discussion of Institute affairs and those problems of the architectural profession which are to come before the delegates to the Seventieth Convention.

Here, also, an important duty rests upon the president of the chapter.

PROCEDURE FOR NOMINATING OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS BY PETITION

The Secretary hereby advises the members of their privilege of nominating by petition officers and directors, and regional directors, under the provisions of Chapter VI, Article 4, Section 1, paragraphs (a) and (c) of the By-laws of The Institute.

Nominating petitions will *not* be valid as nominations of officers and directors, or of regional directors, unless they meet with the following requirements:

The petitions must be in writing and be filed with The Secretary of The Institute on or before

forty days prior to the opening day of the convention or meeting whereat the elections are to take place. (This makes March 9, 1938, the last day for filing nominations at The Octagon.)

Not more than one member shall be nominated in any petition, and the petition shall contain only his name, the office or directorship to which he is nominated, the signatures of the nominators, and the name of the chapter to which each belongs.

Each such petition must contain the signatures of five or more members, and a petition or petitions containing the signatures of *not less than fifteen corporate members*, comprising not less than five members of one chapter, not less than five members of a second chapter, and not less than five members of a third chapter must be filed with The Secretary before the candidate named by the said members is nominated.

An additional requirement, for petitions nominating regional directors, is that all signers thereof must be members of chapters of the regional district whereof the term of office of the regional director is about to expire.

It is mandatory that each signer of a petition be in *good standing*, which means that he is not in default to The Institute, or his chapter, and that he is not under suspension.

OFFICES AND DIRECTORSHIPS BECOMING VACANT

The offices and directorships to be filled by election at the Seventieth Convention are indicated by the following list:

Offices (One-Year Terms):

President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Regional Directorships (Three-Year Terms):

Candidates for regional directorships shall be selected from the members of the regional districts where the vacancies are about to occur. Retiring regional directors are not eligible for immediate reelection unless serving an unexpired term.

The three regional directors to be elected at the coming convention for the three-year terms will represent the three districts named as follows:

Western Mountain District

States: Colorado, Washington, Montana, Oregon, Idaho, Wyoming, Utah, New Mexico, Alaska.

Chapters: Colorado, Montana, Oregon, Utah, Washington State.

Great Lakes District

States: Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, Michigan.

Chapters: Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton, Toledo, Eastern Ohio, Detroit, Grand Rapids, Indiana, Kentucky.

Middle Atlantic District

States: Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia, District of Columbia.

Chapters: Baltimore, Delaware, New Jersey, Northwestern Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Scranton-Wilkes-Barre, Southern Pennsylvania, Washington, D. C., West Virginia.

A CORDIAL INVITATION

The last convention of The Institute held in New Orleans was in 1913—twenty-five years ago. Our return in 1938 reflects the desire of The Board and the membership to have a convention in a southern city, and to meet the architects of the southern states.

For this reason the officers and The Board urge upon the members of the chapters in the South Atlantic and Gulf States Districts to send not only their full quotas of delegates, but just as many non-delegate members as can make the trip.

It cannot be emphasized too strongly that all members of The Institute, their families, and their guests are cordially invited and urged to attend the Seventieth Convention.

Every member will have the privilege of the floor and the right to participate in the convention discussions, though he may not be a delegate.

The officers and the directors of The Institute add their own invitation to the spirit of hospitality so well expressed in and between the lines of "Apéritif," by Director Goldstein of the Gulf States District, which follows.

CHARLES T. INGHAM
Secretary.

Apéritif

NEW Orleans, la Nouvelle Orléans the old city was called, delights in taking into its embrace such congenial guests as The American Institute of Architects whose visit in April is now anticipated with unusual pleasure.

It was a quarter of a century ago that The Institute convened here, when Clip Sturgis presided with keen and amiable humor while Frank Miles Day and D. Knickerbacker Boyd held the floor, eloquent in behalf of their causes, and Medary, Kohn, Zantlinger, Magonigle, Burt Fenner, Favrot and others conducted proceedings from the side lines. Glenn Brown was saying adieux. Striding down the Vieux Carré, Kohn in tweeds, arm in arm with Butler and Levi, all the world like Du Maurier's Taffy, the Laird and Little Billie, were living again their Paris days. Donn Barber stood enraptured before the iron monograms of Baroness Pontalba's balconies. Paul Cret fell captive to the bold lines of the old Arsenal nestling against the Cabildo. And now again the city founded by Bienville, the Vieux Carré—the ancient city within the confines of what was once a buttressed wall, almost unchanged since the Spanish domination in 1784, stands aquiver to charm the architects.

Here you will find without number courtyards shaded by magnolia and palm, spots of color seen through recess of darkened *porte-cochère*; balconies and galleries of wrought and cast iron before walls that have the grace of age, and grilled openings with delicately muntined windows. There is a quaint flavor to an architecture that is part French and part Spanish, of the bone and sinew of both nations with flesh of its own—a style truly Creole. There is much discussion whether the wrought iron was imported from Seville or whether it was wrought by slaves under local artisans. Some of the brick were made on the spot and some of smaller dimensions were undoubtedly imported.

Latrobe, as he approached the city in 1819 from the Mississippi River, his boat piercing the early mist, writes of the "amazing beauty" of the Cathedral and the Place d'Armes. The Cathedral is really not so beautiful as it is simple in form and is not much larger than a parish church. It stands between the fine old Cabildo and the Pres-

bytère, and with the two long rows of Pontalba Buildings flanking the square, is the central motif in the first satisfactory civic group of grand dimensions to be found in this country.

Frederick Law Olmsted, the elder, in his Memoirs of the Slave States describes his arrival in 1853 at the shore of Lake Pontchartrain, and being rumbled into the city on a little steam train, finding foreign signs and a foreign language and courtyards that made him feel as though he were in the old world. George Cable and Lafcadio Hearn have translated the beauty of the old Quarter into their fascinating tales with legend that has clung and become part and parcel of such old buildings as Madame John's Legacy, Sieur George's House and the house of Madame Delicieuse.

New Orleans has radiated gradually from the city laid out by Bienville's engineers to include much terrain all the way to the border of Lake Pontchartrain and for several miles upstream and down the curving Mississippi. It was above and outside the original limits of the ancient wall and where the Jesuit plantation stood, that during the Eighteen Forties and Fifties mansions of the important families were built, with the enrichment of cast iron making an easy transition from house to luxuriant garden. The architects will be shown these homes in the Garden District as well as those in the lower part of the city and toward the Lake where the few remaining lovely and simple plantation homes with their stuccoed columns and sweep of roofs are reflected in the old Bayou St. John.

It was on the banks of this Bayou that Bienville beached his canoe in 1718 in search of a new capital for his colony left stranded in Biloxi on the Mexican Gulf. This explorer made a portage of not more than four or five miles across a tropical stretch of palmetto and cypress when he unexpectedly came to the Mississippi and like the good monk who tasted the grape of Orvieto exclaimed, "*Est! Est! Est! !*" Exuberantly he let the current carry his light craft down to the Gulf on his way to report the good news to his waiting colony, but at a sharp turn of the Mississippi he came across an English brig whose captain was on a similar mission of setting up a colony near the mouth of the river for his king,

George I. Bienville with fine French diplomacy convinced this man that he was too late and that the French had already established a colony there from which he was now returning; whereupon the English turned at a point on the river now called English Turn. One is intrigued by the thought of what might have happened and what might have been the garb and nature of these buildings in the Vieux Carré had the English not been misled by Bienville's white lie, or rather—diplomacy.

From Convention meetings the members will find refreshment of one sort or another in wandering again and again through the Vieux Carré, a stone's throw from the hotels. Throughout the Quarter there are amazing antique shops—all sorts of bookstores—a French Library—the Place d'Armes—the French Market, recently restored—restaurants, pastry shops and boutiques. The scene is a lively one.

In the early hours of the morning may be heard the inimitable cries of vendors of fruit and vegetables—the chimney sweep with his "Ramanay!"—the sylvan flute of the scissors-grinder. Towards dusk there will be in the air the scent of camellia blossoms and roses; occasionally your nostrils may even dilate and titillate to the rich aroma of a

Sazerac cocktail or the minty sweetness of a Planter's Punch. The essence of the Ojen or Gin Fizz is too delicate and elusive to penetrate long distances; you must cross the threshold to the very bar to inhale this fragrance.

You will see here the Café Maspero, and rendezvous of Jean Lafitte the pirate and the smugglers from Barataria, and you will find famous restaurants and modest ones in the like of which Johnson described the tavern chair as a throne of human felicity where discourse may be had over food prepared by a master.

These and other distractions we trust will not interfere with the sessions and serious business of the Convention. We feel almost contrite in the thought that we may seem to be luring you to play vagrant. What has been sketched here so rapidly are merely the *apéritifs* or at most the *hors-d'oeuvres* to be managed and enjoyed between discussions on education, housing, competitions, structural service, etc., and are by no means to be considered the *plat-du-resistance*. *Ma foi!* we had almost overlooked mentioning the unexcelled fishing in the bays and open waters so close that it is a mere matter of minutes to reach them from your hotel.

MOISE H. GOLDSTEIN

Notice of Number of Delegates to 1938 Convention

THE Secretary hereby gives notice to the members of each chapter (listed in Column 1 of the Table that follows) of the number of member delegates (set forth in Column 3 of said Table) they are entitled to have represent them, and the total number of votes (set forth in Column 4 of said Table) they are entitled to have cast for them, at the 1938 annual convention of The American Institute of Architects to be held in New Orleans, Louisiana, on April 19, 1938; and gives notice to each state association member (listed in Column 1 of said Table) of the number of state delegates (set forth in Column 3 of said Table) it is entitled to have represent it, and the total number of votes (set forth in Column 4 of said Table) each of the state association members is entitled to have cast for it, at the said Convention. The number of delegates

and the total number of votes in each case is based on the number of members of the chapter (set forth in Column 2 of said Table) who are in good standing, according to the records in the office of The Secretary on January 1, 1938. The number of member delegates that may finally be accredited to the Convention and the total number of their votes that may be cast thereat may vary from the number fixed herein if, on *March 19, 1938*, the number of members in good standing in a chapter is more or less than the number set forth in this notice. The number of state delegates is determined by the number of voting members in each state association member as of January 1, 1938.

CHARLES T. INGHAM

Secretary.

Notice of Number of Delegates to 1938 Convention (Continued)

TABLE

| NAME OF CHAPTER | COLUMN 1 | COLUMN 2 | COLUMN 3 | COLUMN 4 |
|------------------------------------|---|--|---|----------|
| | Number of Assigned MEMBERS of each Chapter named in Column 1 of this Table who are in good standing, so far as Secretary's records show, on January 1, 1938 | Number of MEMBER DELEGATES to be elected by the members of each Chapter named in Column 1, based on the number of members set forth in Column 2, of this Table | Total Number of VOTES that may be cast by the delegates representing the members of each Chapter named in Column 1, based on the number of members set forth in Column 3, of this Table | |
| 1. Alabama..... | 25 | 3 | 3 | |
| 2. Albany..... | 21 | 3 | 3 | |
| 3. Arizona..... | 8 | 1 | 1 | |
| 4. Arkansas..... | 12 | 2 | 2 | |
| 5. Baltimore..... | 36 | 4 | 4 | |
| 6. Boston..... | 183 | 11 | 11 | |
| 7. Brooklyn..... | 47 | 5 | 5 | |
| 8. Buffalo..... | 29 | 3 | 3 | |
| 9. Central Illinois..... | 25 | 3 | 3 | |
| 10. Central New York..... | 54 | 6 | 6 | |
| 11. Chicago..... | 175 | 11 | 11 | |
| 12. Cincinnati..... | 45 | 5 | 5 | |
| 13. Cleveland..... | 60 | 6 | 6 | |
| 14. Colorado..... | 25 | 3 | 3 | |
| 15. Columbus..... | 17 | 2 | 2 | |
| 16. Connecticut..... | 39 | 4 | 4 | |
| 17. Dayton..... | 9 | 1 | 1 | |
| 18. Delaware..... | 25 | 3 | 3 | |
| 19. Detroit..... | 66 | 6 | 6 | |
| 20. Eastern Ohio..... | 8 | 1 | 1 | |
| 21. Florida Central..... | 14 | 2 | 2 | |
| 22. Florida North..... | 18 | 2 | 2 | |
| 23. Florida South..... | 23 | 3 | 3 | |
| 24. Georgia..... | 28 | 3 | 3 | |
| 25. Grand Rapids..... | 13 | 2 | 2 | |
| 26. Hawaii..... | 10 | 1 | 1 | |
| 27. Indiana..... | 23 | 3 | 3 | |
| 28. Iowa..... | 24 | 3 | 3 | |
| 29. Kansas..... | 17 | 2 | 2 | |
| 30. Kansas City..... | 32 | 4 | 4 | |
| 31. Kentucky..... | 18 | 2 | 2 | |
| 32. Louisiana..... | 24 | 3 | 3 | |
| 33. Madison..... | 9 | 1 | 1 | |
| 34. Maine..... | 8 | 1 | 1 | |
| 35. Minnesota..... | 36 | 4 | 4 | |
| 36. Mississippi..... | 8 | 1 | 1 | |
| 37. Montana..... | 10 | 1 | 1 | |
| 38. Nebraska..... | 20 | 2 | 2 | |
| 39. New Jersey..... | 92 | 8 | 8 | |
| 40. New York..... | 373 | 19 | 19 | |
| 41. North Carolina..... | 21 | 3 | 3 | |
| 42. North Louisiana..... | 5 | 1 | 1 | |
| 43. North Texas..... | 22 | 3 | 3 | |
| 44. Northern California..... | 86 | 7 | 7 | |
| 45. Northwestern Pennsylvania..... | 7 | 1 | 1 | |
| 46. Oklahoma..... | 28 | 3 | 3 | |
| 47. Oregon..... | 33 | 4 | 4 | |
| 48. Philadelphia..... | 149 | 10 | 10 | |
| 49. Pittsburgh..... | 55 | 6 | 6 | |
| 50. Rhode Island..... | 26 | 3 | 3 | |
| 51. San Diego..... | 17 | 2 | 2 | |
| 52. Santa Barbara..... | 13 | 2 | 2 | |
| 53. Scranton Wilkes-Barre..... | 13 | 2 | 2 | |
| 54. South Carolina..... | 18 | 2 | 2 | |
| 55. South Georgia..... | 5 | 1 | 1 | |
| 56. South Texas..... | 39 | 4 | 4 | |
| 57. Southern California..... | 97 | 8 | 8 | |
| 58. Southern Pennsylvania..... | 24 | 3 | 3 | |
| 59. St. Louis..... | 51 | 6 | 6 | |
| 60. St. Paul..... | 12 | 2 | 2 | |
| 61. Tennessee..... | 39 | 4 | 4 | |
| 62. Toledo..... | 21 | 3 | 3 | |
| 63. Utah..... | 11 | 2 | 2 | |
| 64. Virginia..... | 34 | 4 | 4 | |
| 65. Washington, D. C..... | 77 | 7 | 7 | |
| 66. Washington State..... | 42 | 5 | 5 | |
| 67. West Texas..... | 28 | 3 | 3 | |
| 68. West Virginia..... | 8 | 1 | 1 | |
| 69. Westchester..... | 14 | 2 | 2 | |
| 70. Wisconsin..... | 47 | 5 | 5 | |
| | *2,751 | 259 | 259 | |

| NAME OF STATE ASSOCIATION MEMBER | COLUMN 1 | COLUMN 2 | COLUMN 3 | COLUMN 4 |
|---|--|--|--|----------|
| | Number of VOTING MEMBERS in each state association member named in Column 1 of this Table, so far as The Secretary's records show on January 1, 1938 | Number of STATE DELEGATES to be elected by each state association member named in Column 1, based on the number of Voting Members set forth in Column 2, of this Table | Total Number of VOTES that may be cast as delegates representing each state association member named in Column 1, based on the number of Voting Members set forth in Column 3, of this Table | |
| 1. State Assn. of California Architects..... | 274 | 1 | 1 | |
| 2. Michigan Society of Architects..... | 233 | 1 | 1 | |
| 3. The State Association of Wisconsin Architects..... | 93 | 1 | 1 | |
| 4. Architects Society of Ohio..... | 183 | 1 | 1 | |
| | | 4 | 4 | |

January 1, 1938.

CHARLES T. INGHAM,
Secretary.

* Does not include 5 unassigned members.

November Meeting of The Board

THE semi-annual meeting of The Board of Directors was held at The Octagon, Washington, D. C., on November 15, 16 and 17, 1937.

The Board received and acted upon the reports of the Regional Directors, the preliminary reports of The Board and Administrative Committees, and reports of the Officers.

Committee Chairmen and others who met with The Board for conferences on their reports and work were:

William Emerson, Chairman, the Committee on Education.

C. C. Zantzing, George Oakley Totten, Jr., Harvey Wiley Corbett and William Emerson, with reference to the Fifteenth International Congress of Architects.

Alfred Shaw, Chairman, and Edgar I. Williams,

Vice Chairman, the Committee on Membership.

Francis P. Sullivan, Chairman, the Committee on Public Works and Chairman, the Committee on National Capital.

John R. Fugard, Chairman, Tirrell J. Ferrenz, Richmond H. Shreve and Thomas Pym Cope, the Committee on State Organization.

N. Max Dunning, Chairman, the Structural Service Committee.

The sessions of The Board extended through three days and two evenings.

Under the established procedure of The Institute the work of the officers and The Board, and their recommendations to The Institute will be covered in full in The Board's report to the Seventieth Convention.

The 1937 Holder of the Delano and Aldrich Scholarship

HENRI MADELAIN born April 14, 1905, at Angers (Touraine); admitted to the École Nationale des Beaux Arts in March, 1925, studied architecture in the atelier of MM. Umbdenstock and Tournon, and afterwards pupil of MM. Defrasse and Madeline. He obtained several medals at the School. In 1931, logiste of the "Grand Prix de Rome." He obtained from the Institut de France the 1st Roux Prize in 1933. In 1934 he received the diplomé of the French Government.

In 1935 and 1936, M. Madelain spent a year travelling in Spain and Morocco as Scholar of the Institut de France at the Casa Velasquez in Madrid.

In 1936 he received the Gold Medal of the Salon des Artistes français for a study on Spanish

cities.

He worked for the Exposition of 1937 in Paris and contributed to the interior decoration of the Grand Palace.

He obtained in 1937 the Delano-Aldrich Traveling Scholarship and is now travelling with his wife, Claire Madelain de Felice, who is a graduate in law and from the School of Political Science. They are still in New York for several days and are going to visit New Haven, Boston, Chicago, St. Louis, Kansas City, Denver, Taos, Santa Fe, Los Angeles, San Francisco, San Diego, El Paso, San Antonio, New Orleans, Charleston, Washington, Philadelphia, and will be back in New York in the middle of January.

Highlights of a Housing Tour of Northern Europe

PART I of this valuable and timely paper by George H. Gray, A. I. A., appeared in the December number of THE OCTAGON.

Part II will appear in the February, 1938 number. After the publication of Part II reprints of the entire article will be available.

Architects on Local Housing Authorities

IN spite of the difficulties in the way of any considerable accomplishment in the housing field at the moment, there can be no doubt that the profession is facing an opportunity the scope of which is not yet fully realized. Meanwhile there are certain obvious things to be done which have a direct bearing on the architects' effective participation in a future program. There is an increasing realization on the part of housing authorities of the value of architectural advice during the development work.

Consequently the Committee on Housing suggests that in the creation of local housing authori-

ties, chapters recommend that an architect be appointed as a member of the authority.

The Housing Committee has already recommended to the United States Housing Authority that the technical staff of each local authority include a consulting architect.

While the acceptance of these positions by architects would disqualify them from acting as architects of any of the projects, it would be a sacrifice worth undertaking for the good of the profession and of housing.

WALTER R. MCCORNACK
Chairman, Committee on Housing

Housing Committee - Additional Appointments

The personnel of the Committee on Housing of The Institute appeared in the November number of THE OCTAGON.

Since then President Maginnis, on the recommendation of the Chairman, Walter R. McCornack, has made additional appointments to the Committee as follows:

To the Executive Committee

JOHN GRAHAM, JR. Philadelphia

To the Sub Committee on the Small House Problem

ANDREW R. MORISON Detroit

C. JULIAN OBERWARTH Kentucky

RICHARD W. MECASKEY Philadelphia

CARL E. HEIMBRODT Chicago

HERBERT FOLTZ Indiana

LEE SOREY Oklahoma

To the Sub-committee on Study of Basic Principles for National Housing Movement

HENRY CHURCHILL New York

WALTER H. THOMAS Philadelphia

CLAIR W. DITCHY Detroit

To the Sub-committee on Proposed Investigation of Completed Projects

OSSIAN P. WARD Kentucky

ROBERT SEELY DE GOLYER Chicago

MERRITT HARRISON Indiana

Meetings of the Committee on State Organization

JOHAN R. FUGARD, Chairman of The Committee on State Organization, has selected January 26 as the date of the Middle West Conference, first of several proposed regional conferences of representatives of state organizations of architects, to be held at the Tavern Club, 333 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago.

This important meeting, of vital interest to the entire profession, will include a morning session, a

luncheon meeting, an afternoon session, and will be concluded by a dinner in the evening. Problems concerning state organization will be put before members of The Committee for full discussion, in order to formulate policies to be introduced before the Seventieth Convention in New Orleans in April.

The second regional meeting will be known as the Eastern Conference, and will be held in Philadelphia on February 9.

Structural Service Department

BY THEODORE I. COE, TECHNICAL SECRETARY, STRUCTURAL SERVICE DEPT.

Research Program on Building Materials and Structures Is Making Progress.

In the October issue of THE OCTAGON reference was made to the announcement of the National Bureau of Standards of the Department of Commerce concerning the Research Program on Building Materials and Structures for which an appropriation of approximately \$200,000 had been made available for the purpose of research to determine the properties and suitability of building materials with particular reference to their use in low-cost housing.

An interesting and instructive Report of Progress was made at a well attended meeting, held at the Bureau of Standards, Wednesday afternoon, December 8, at which Dr. Lyman W. Briggs, Director of the Bureau, members of the Bureau staff and representatives of the Forest Products Laboratory reported on various phases of the research work which is now actively under way with a staff of sixty.

Widespread interest is being shown in this Research Program, and about twenty sponsors have already agreed to submit specimens of constructions of walls, partitions, floors and roofs advocated for low-cost housing for testing purposes.

Numerous trade organizations are sponsoring construction for test purposes and the Bureau has indicated its appreciation of the tender of cooperation of The Institute through the Structural Service Department. In this connection it is considered probable that the Bureau will seek information concerning the performance of certain materials in actual use through the reports of architects and others as based on actual experience. In this event the opportunity will be afforded members of The Institute to cooperate in a very helpful way in connection with this most important Research Program.

The Research Bulletin.

At the request of The Producers' Council the Structural Service Department recently conducted a questionnaire survey to obtain a cross section of opinion from Institute members regarding certain questions of policy concerning The Council's "Re-

search Bulletin" with constructive suggestions to render the Bulletin of greater interest and value to architects.

The Chapter Representatives of the Structural Service Committee cooperated in this survey with the most gratifying results.

The Producers' Council is very desirous of making the "Research Bulletin" both useful and interesting to members of The Institute and comments, criticisms and suggestions to this end will be welcomed at any time.

Leaky Walls.

In view of the emphasis which is being placed on the expansion of construction in the residential field, the following, which is quoted from the comment of the editor, Mr. Henry Saylor, in a recent issue of "The American Architect and Architecture," deserves the thoughtful consideration of every architect:

"I wrote, a short time ago, a number of letters to architects widely scattered geographically, asking what gives the most trouble after completion of a building—wall tightness, heating, air conditioning, floors, windows, or what? Strange to report, with air conditioning, for example, in the childhood period of technique, and with electric wiring being elaborated daily, the architects report that the main difficulty still is keeping the water out. Roofing, flashing, wall tightness still rank first as trouble makers. Curious, that with all our experimenting indoors, the shell still remains the main source of trouble."

Air Conditioning.

The rapid development of air conditioning and the increasing demand for its installation in buildings for various types of occupancy has led to the use of the term "Air Conditioning" to describe many forms and degrees of air treatment with consequent misunderstanding and, in many cases, disappointment when it was found that so-called "Air Conditioning" equipment failed to provide the lower summer temperature popularly associated with this all-inclusive designation.

The situation ultimately attracted the active attention of the Air Conditioning Manufacturers Association, the U. S. Federal Trade Commission and the National Better Business Bureau, Inc., with the result that the following classifications and minimum requirements of air conditioners have been generally adopted by the trade, scientific authorities and the National Better Business Bureau:

Summer Air Conditioning should perform, as a minimum, the following functions:

- (1) cool the air.
- (2) dehumidify the air.
- (3) circulate the air.

Winter Air Conditioning should perform, as a minimum, the following functions:

- (1) heat the air.
- (2) humidify the air.
- (3) circulate the air.

Year-Round Air Conditioning should perform, as a minimum, the following functions:

- (1) cool and dehumidify the air in summer.
- (2) heat and humidify the air in winter.
- (3) circulate the air.

A. S. T. M. Standards.

The increasing use of Standard Specifications sponsored by the American Society for Testing Materials is indicated by the inclusion of reference

to thirty-one of these Specifications in the recently adopted Building Code for New York City.

The Building Code of the City of Miami also includes many references to ASTM Specifications.

New Standards on Construction Materials.

Many of the Specifications and Tests adopted in 1937 as Standards by the American Society of Testing Materials and a number of the proposed Standards approved for publication as "Tentative" cover numerous construction materials of interest to architects.

A complete list of the Standards and Tentative Standards issued by the ASTM may be obtained by writing to the office of the Society at 260 South Broad Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

National Electrical Code.

Following a considerable number of changes in technical provisions for the installation and use of electric wiring and apparatus in buildings and a complete revision in editorial form and arrangement, the "National Electrical Code," sponsored by the National Fire Protection Association, has been approved by the American Standards Association as an American Standard.

The Code is distributed by its publisher, the National Board of Fire Underwriters, 85 John Street, New York City, New York.

The Producers' Council, Inc.

THE Producer's Council, Inc., announces the removal of its office to Room 1120, Chanin Building, 122 E. 42nd Street, New York City. Telephone—Murray Hill 3-6308.

The following well-known producers have recently become members of The Council:

Anthracite Industries, Inc.

Benjamin Moore and Company

National Lumber Manufacturers Association

Research Bulletin No. 25 has been issued by The Council. Members of The Institute are requested to notify the office of The Council if they fail to receive copies of the Bulletin, or of a change in address.

Annual Meeting—American Society of Heating and Ventilating Engineers

THE Forty-fourth Annual Meeting of the American Society of Heating and Ventilating Engineers will be held at the Biltmore Hotel, New York City, January 24-28, 1938, simultaneously with the Fifth International Heating and Ventilating Exposition at the Grand Central Palace.

The Society has extended a cordial invitation to members of The Institute to attend the sessions of the Society and to participate in the discussion of the papers which will be presented on various phases of heating, ventilating, air conditioning and kindred subjects.

With The Chapters

EXCERPTS FROM MINUTES, BULLETINS AND REPORTS

Baltimore.

At a luncheon meeting of the Baltimore Chapter held on December 15, Edward H. Glidden spoke on the subject of the Out Door Life show and possible exhibition for the Chapter at the Show.

James R. Edmunds, Jr., President, read the report of William M. Ellicott summarizing the progress of the Baltimore Washington Parkway, which was found particularly interesting at this time.

Central New York.

The principal topic of discussion at a recent meeting of the Chapter, held at the Hotel Syracuse in Syracuse, was the question of competitions. A letter from the secretary of the New York Chapter in regard to competitions for Federal projects in New York State and a letter to the Secretary of the Treasury requesting that such competitions be held, to be signed by all the Chapters in New York State, were read. It was moved by Conway L. Todd and seconded by George B. Cummings that the action of the New York Chapter be endorsed and the approval of the Executive Committee be wired to the secretary of the New York Chapter.

Professor Dillenbeck, in discussing the Recommended Provisions for Registration Laws recently issued by The Institute, stated that in his opinion, the requirement for three years experience as a prerequisite to registration would, in some respects, be disadvantageous to recent graduates of architectural schools. Professor Dillenbeck was requested to bring up this topic for discussion at the next meeting.

Chicago.

Charles D. Maginnis, President of The Institute, was the guest of honor at a dinner meeting of the Chapter held at the Tavern Club in Chicago. Sixty-eight members and guests assembled to welcome Mr. Maginnis and other distinguished members of The Institute, including former President Irving K. Pond; former President C. Herrick Hammond; Richard Phillip, President of the Wisconsin Chapter; Roger Kirchhoff, former President of the Wisconsin Chapter; Elmer C. Jensen, Presi-

dent of the Illinois Society of Architects; Gerrit J. deGelleke, former Regional Director of the Illinois Wisconsin District, and others.

This meeting was conceded by the Chicago Chapter to have been one of the most successful held in recent months.

Eastern Ohio.

New Chapter Officers elected to serve during the ensuing year were:

President CHARLES E. FIRESTONE
 Vice-President WALTER J. CANFIELD
 Secretary and Treasurer CHARLES F. OWSLEY

Members of the Executive Committee are:

MORRIS SCHEIBEL, WILLIAM H. COOK AND J. DAVIS WILSON

A good part of the meeting was devoted to a discussion of reported abuses of the Registration Laws, inspired by a letter from Ralph C. Kempton, Secretary of the Ohio State Board of Examiners of Architects.

Florida South.

The Chapter recently acted as hosts to members of the Colegio Nacional de Arquitectos de Cuba. The Cuban visitors, fifty-three in number, upon their arrival at Miami, were received by the Cuban Consul, the Miami Chamber of Commerce, the Cuban Chamber of Commerce, and by a committee of the Chapter, consisting of President Vladimir E. Virrick, Vice-President August Geiger, Secretary-Treasurer George H. Spohn, and former President Richard Kiehnel.

Several days were devoted to tours of Miami and environs, Cocomanut Grove, Coral Gables, the Pan-American Airways base, and the picturesque Indian Village. In appreciation of the hospitality extended by the Chapter, the Colegio Nacional de Arquitectos conferred corresponding memberships in their organization upon Vladimir E. Virrick, August Geiger, Richard Kiehnel and George H. Spohn.

Kentucky.

Walter R. McCornack, Regional Director of the Great Lakes District, and Chairman of The Institute's Committee on Housing, was the guest

speaker at a meeting of the Chapter held on December 2.

The Executive Committee of the Chapter felt that the opportunity of hearing Mr. McCornack should not be restricted to members of the Chapter. Consequently, the meeting was thrown open to non-member architects and guests.

The meeting was especially well attended and it is gratifying to note that many of the architects traveled long distances to be present to hear Mr. McCornack's address.

New York.

Fifty members were present at the December meeting of the Chapter. Edgar I. Williams gave a report on the outcome of his trip to Washington as a special delegate of the Chapter, and presented a draft of the proposed letter to the Secretary of the Treasury outlining a method of selection of architects for six New York State public work projects. William H. Gompert gave a resumé of recent legislation in New York inimical to the architectural profession. He mentioned in particular the McNaboe Bill, which was finally vetoed by the Governor, whose message on the bill was read. Mr. Gompert also read a letter of the architectural societies under the leadership of the Chapter to the Governor on the subject of the New York State War Memorial, and the Governor's reply.

State Senator Thomas C. Desmond, the guest of honor at this meeting, made some very timely comments on the current situation between architects and the attempted Government control of building. In his speech, the Senator stated that he is convinced that quantity production of public architecture under Government control is not only against the interests of the private architect, but against the interests of the general public as well, since it is his belief that architectural work is not susceptible of mass production. Several resolutions of timely importance were passed and a vote of thanks was tendered the guests of honor.

Philadelphia.

At a recent meeting of the Chapter, President Walter T. Karcher introduced Mr. Louis A. Simon, Supervising Architect of the Procurement Division, who described the work of that agency. One of the interesting subjects touched on by Mr. Simon was

the survey of housing needs of the Government made in 1930, which resulted in a list of 1,600 projects, the distribution of which was made on a definite program. In 1937 about 300 projects will have been undertaken.

Several members of the Chapter then spoke on the connections each had had with the Procurement Division.

Southern California.

President Ralph C. Flewelling has appointed a committee to study the problem of providing a small house plan service. George J. Adams is chairman, and will be assisted by Howard G. Elwell, Edgar Bissantz, Breo Freeman, and W. L. Risley.

Additional study is to be given to fees recommended by the Chapter for architectural practice in Southern California by a special committee to be appointed soon.

With the adoption of the new By-Laws, the Junior Associate classification will soon become effective, and members are again requested to consider the nomination of likely material for this classification.

At the December Meeting, the following officers were elected to serve for the coming year:

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|------------------------------|---------------------|
| <i>President</i> | EUGENE WESTON, JR. |
| <i>Vice-President</i> | SAMUEL E. LUNDEN |
| <i>Secretary</i> | EDGAR BISSANTZ |
| <i>Treasurer</i> | EARL T. HEITSCHMIDT |
| <i>Director 2 Yrs.</i> | GEORGE J. ADAMS |
| <i>Director 3 Yrs.</i> | A. C. ZIMMERMAN |

Tennessee.

The Annual Meeting of the Chapter was held at the Rod and Gun Club in Chattanooga, and was attended by nearly every member of the Chapter, and several guests.

Many items of vital interest to the Chapter were discussed, including revision of Chapter By-Laws, housing, and architectural fees. It was decided that hereafter the Annual Meetings of the Chapter be held approximately one month before The Institute's Convention. This ruling is to take effect immediately, with the result that the next Annual Meeting will be held in Memphis in the early spring.

The Memphis Small House Plan was discussed in detail by Richard J. Regan. J. Frazer Smith

presented copies of the brochure developed by the Memphis architects, which received most favorable comment. Many members expressed the hope that during the coming year a similar plan would be started in their respective communities. Mr. Regan was appointed to keep in touch with those architects interested, and to give them every assistance possible in the development of a plan similar to that adopted by the Memphis architects.

Toledo.

Clair W. Ditchy, prominent member of the Detroit Chapter, was the guest speaker at the December meeting.

Mr. Ditchy delivered a most interesting address covering the many problems confronting the Chapters at the present time, and especially with regard to proper cooperation of the Chapters with The Institute.

After Mr. Ditchy's address the meeting was thrown open for general discussion and questions, particularly with reference to the small house problem.

Mr. William Matthews, Artist, of New York, gave a highly entertaining talk regarding his work in mural painting in Toledo and in other parts of the country. Chapter President Richards expressed to the speakers the Chapter's appreciation for a very enjoyable and instructive meeting.

Utah.

Dr. Wayne B. Hales of Brigham Young University delivered a most interesting illustrated lecture on "Duration and Recurring Cold Spells in Utah" before a recent meeting of the Chapter. Mr. Joseph Nelson, Consulting Architect with the Procurement Division in Washington recounted his experiences with that organization.

At an earlier meeting, Edward O. Anderson spoke on termite control and presented to Chapter Members copies of Minimum Standards for Control of Termites, as required by the Federal Housing Administration.

Washington State.

Mr. Ralph B. Potts, attorney, was guest speaker at a recent meeting of the Chapter held in the Engineers Club in Seattle. Mr. Potts' address was on the subject of the Seattle-Northwest Centennial Exposition, proposed for the year 1942. Carl F. Gould suggested that the preliminary planning of the Exposition project be under the direction of architects who would advise as to the selection of the theme and general character of the Exposition.

Of particular interest was the report of the Membership Committee, composed of Victor N. J. Jones and LaMonte Shorrett, stressing the importance of the attendance at Chapter meetings of members who had lost contact with the Chapter.

Wisconsin.

The Sixth Annual Convention of the State Association of Wisconsin Architects was held in November. Leigh Hunt and Herbert W. Tullgren, members of the Wisconsin Chapter of The Institute were elected President and Vice-President respectively of the State Association for the year 1938. Both Mr. Hunt and Mr. Tullgren were also elected to serve on the Executive Board.

After the preliminaries of the December meeting of the Wisconsin Chapter, held at the Plankinton Hotel, there was a general discussion by all members of subjects previously taken up in committee meetings, with particular stress on the question of the advisability of recommending a State Code for residential building.

As of Interest

Commercial Standards and Simplified Practice Recommendations.

The United States Department of Commerce, through the National Bureau of Standards, has promulgated the following Recommended Commercial Standards and Simplified Practice Recommendations, copies of which may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., at the prices indicated:

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| Colors for Kitchen Accessories, Commercial Standard CS62-38 | 5 cents |
| Colors for Bathroom Accessories, Commercial Standard CS63-38..... | 5 cents |
| Code for Protection Against Lightning, Parts 1, 2 and 3 (Supersedes M92 and H17) National Bureau of Standards Handbook H21 | 15 cents |

Members Elected from October 16, 1937 to January 15, 1938

- Alabama Chapter* *FRED W. CLARKE, FRANK MARION ORR, KEITH GRAHAM REEVE, DON B. SCHUYLER
- Arkansas Chapter* RALPH O. MOTT
- Brooklyn Chapter* CALVIN L. BEDELL, OLIVE TJADEN
- Central New York Chapter* . . WILLIAM GEORGE DISTIN
- Chicago Chapter* LEO SAUL HIRSCHFELD, MAURICE B. RISSMAN
- Cleveland Chapter* CHARLES MERRILL BARBER
- Delaware Chapter* THEODORE FLETCHER, RALPH AUBREY JEFFERS, JOSEPH HOLTON JONES
- Detroit Chapter* FREDERICK CHARLES O'DELL
- Florida South Chapter* *MARION I. MANLEY, *L. R. PATTERSON, *JOHN LLEWELLYN SKINNER
- Louisiana Chapter* DOUGLASS VINCENT FRERET
- Minnesota Chapter* ROBERT GEORGE CERNY
- New Jersey Chapter* FRANK WILLIAM COLE, JAMES MORRISON
- New York Chapter* MAX ABRAMOVITZ, ARTHUR OLIVER ANGILLY, LEOPOLD ARNAUD, STUART FRANKLIN EDSON, DONALD ATKINSON FLETCHER, DON E. HATCH, *CHARLES S. KEEFE, HARRY M. PRINCE, KENNETH REID, *OSCAR VATET
- North Carolina Chapter* HOWARD RAYMOND WEEKS
- Rhode Island Chapter* SAMUEL MILTON MORINO
- Southern California Chapter* . . *CHARLES A. HUNTER
- Virginia Chapter* JOSEPH COATES CARTER, FREDERICK CHARLES DISQUE, JOSEPH E. FAUBER, JR., CLARENCE WRIGHT HUFF, JR., HARRISON T. POSTON
- Washington State Chapter* . . . MILTON WILLIAM MELZIAN
- West Virginia Chapter* *J. C. BURCHINAL
- Wisconsin Chapter* FRANK JOSEPH HOFFMAN, RALPH KLOPPENBURG, ROBERT PHINEAS POTTER, GEORGE F. SPINTI, III

* Reinstatements.

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