

THE
OCTAGON

A Journal of The American Institute of Architects



The Washington Scene
1943 Annual Meeting of The Institute—Notice
Meetings of Executive Committee and Board
Massachusetts State Association of Architects—Election
Changes in Personnel—Institute Activities
Ralph Adams Cram—An Appreciation
Albert Kahn—An Appreciation
Hubert G. Ripley—An Appreciation
The Department of Technical Services
Officers of Chapters and State Association Members

Volume 15

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Number 2

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THE OCTAGON

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The Washington Scene

New Bills in the 78th Congress

As is usual, a great number of bills and resolutions on a great variety of subjects has been introduced in the new Congress. We have checked the list and have obtained copies of those which we think might become of interest to the profession.

Members, Chapters and State Association Members should always keep in mind the fact that the introduction of a bill in either the Senate or the House does not mean that such bill should be immediately endorsed or protested.

It is not until a bill is scheduled for hearing or placed upon the calendar of the Senate or House that action with respect to it is indicated. Only a small proportion of bills introduced in Congress reach the floor of either Senate or House for consideration. It is unnecessary and unwise to trouble your Senators or Representatives, or to pass resolutions, or to enlist the support of others with respect to any proposed legislation *until and unless* that legislation has made some progress toward serious consideration.

If this is kept in mind the influence and energy of the profession will be saved for those occasions which warrant the expenditure of both.

The assurance is given that the Washington Representative follows each possibly interesting bill closely and will advise the profession and its local bodies if and when any such bill makes progress toward becoming a law.

Copies of bills may be obtained from your Senators and Representatives, or from the sponsors of bills, or from the Government Printing Office.

In the list below bills and resolutions are listed under the committees to which they are referred, by number, general subject, and sponsorship (as of February 15, 1943).

In the Senate

Committee on Military Affairs

S-29 For establishment of a fortified military post at Hawthorne, Nevada. Mr. McCarran (Nevada)

S-265 For construction, etc., of an additional military academy and an additional naval academy. Mr. McNary (Oregon)

S. 607 To establish an Office of War Mobilization. Mr. Kilgore (and others)

S-655 For the establishment of a medical academy for training commissioned officers in the medical branches of the Military and Naval Forces Mr. Thomas (Oklahoma)

S-702 To establish an Office of Scientific and Technical Mobilization. Mr. Kilgore (West Virginia)

S. Con. Res. I For a joint committee on War Problems. Mr. Maloney (Connecticut)

Committee on Naval Affairs

S-145 For establishment, etc., of preparatory schools for the U. S. Military Academy and the U. S. Naval Academy. Mr. Davis (Pennsylvania)

S-642 Authorizing the Secretary of the Navy to proceed with construction of certain public works. (See also H.R. 1692) Mr. Walsh (Massachusetts)

S. J. Res. 16 To construct and present to the people of St. Lawrence, Newfoundland, a hospital, dispensary or other memorial for heroic services to men of the U. S. Navy. Mr. Walsh (Massachusetts)

Committee on Agriculture and Forestry

- S-164** For establishment of a synthetic-rubber plant at Bismarck or Mandan, North Dakota. Mr. Langer (N. Dakota)

Committee on Banking and Currency

- S-677** Amending the National Housing Act, Section 603-A, increasing the authorization and extending it to July 1944. (See also H.R. 1726) Mr. Radcliffe (Maryland)

Committee on Commerce

- S-411** To provide in each state a State Nautical Academy, etc. Mr. Reynolds (N. Carolina)

Committee on Education and Labor

- S-524** Establishing a National Housing Agency. (Now operating under an Executive Order) Mr. McKellar (Tennessee)

- S. Res. 13** To study the work of N.H.A., to recommend a plan for the disposition of emergency housing, and to prepare a comprehensive plan for construction of housing after the war. Mr. Taft (Ohio)

- S. J. Res. 22** For a joint committee on war and post-war problems. Mr. Pepper (Florida)

Committee on Foreign Relations

- S. Res. 76** For a sub-committee on Re-occupation and Reconstruction. Mr. Pepper (Florida)

*In the House of Representatives**Committee on Military Affairs*

- H.R. 494** For construction of a National Guard Armory in Portland, Oregon. Mr. Angell (Oregon)
- H.R. 691** For the creation of medical academies. Mr. Dickstein (New York)
- H.R. 829** For an additional Military Academy in the southern district of California. Mr. Costello (California)

Committee on Naval Affairs

- H.R. 157** For an additional Naval Academy in the New Port Harbor area in California. Mr. Sheppard (California)
- H.R. 359** For an additional Naval Academy in the Puget Sound area in Washington. Mr. Magnuson (Washington)

- H.R. 787** For an additional Naval Academy in the San Francisco Bay area in California. Mr. Tolan (California)

- H.R. 1692** Authorizing the Secretary of the Navy to proceed with construction of certain public works. (See also S-642) Mr. Maas (Minnesota)

- H.R. 1764** For the construction of a Naval Hospital in Florida. (1000 beds) Mr. Green (Florida)

- H.R. 1811** For expansion of facilities for hospitalization of dependents of Naval personnel. Mr. Maas (Minnesota)

Committee on Agriculture

- H.R. 1452** For increased rubber supply (includes construction of plants) Mr. C. P. Anderson (New Mexico)

Committee on Banking and Currency

- H.R. 1726** Amending the National Housing Act, Section 603-A, increasing the authorization and extending it to July 1944. (See also S-677) Mr. Steagall (Alabama)

Committee on Foreign Affairs

- H. J. Res. 28** Creating a Post-War Planning Commission. Mr. Mundt (S. Dakota)

Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce

- H.R. 730** For training of research workers in colleges and engineering schools (including training in construction). Mr. Green (Florida)

Committee on Labor

- H. J. Res 36.** To establish a National Commission for Post-War Reconstruction. Mr. Voorhis (California)

Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries

- H.R. 723** For construction of a marine hospital in Florida (150 beds). Mr. Green (Florida)
- H.R. 724** For construction of a marine hospital at Jacksonville, Florida (500 beds). Mr. Green (Florida)
- H.R. 828** For construction of a marine hospital at or near Los Angeles, California (300 beds). Mr. Costello (California)

Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds

- H.R. 1245** For construction, etc., of a National War Memorial Auditorium. Mr. Sheppard (California)
- H.J. Res. 65** For construction of suitable living accommodations for rental to members of Congress, etc. Mr. Sabath (Illinois)

Committee on Rules

- H. Con. Res. 2** For a Joint Committee on Planning and Reconstruction. Mr. Dirksen (Illinois)

Committee on Territories

- H.R. 493** For construction, etc., of a hospital for the insane of Alaska, at Portland, Oregon. Mr. Angell (Oregon)

Committee on Ways and Means

- H.R. 892** For construction, etc., of a system of new military super-highways and airports. Mr. Wene (New Jersey)

Committee on World War Veterans Legislation

- H.R. 361** For erection of a general medical and surgical hospital, etc., in Seattle, Washington. Mr. Magnuson (Washington)
- H.R. 667** To provide additional hospital and dispensary facilities. Mrs. Rogers (Massachusetts)
- H.R. 881** For construction of Veterans' Administration facilities. Mr. Bates (Kentucky)
- H.R. 1259** For erection of a hospital in or near Gladstone, Michigan (150 beds). Mr. Bradley (Michigan)
- H.R. 1368** For construction of a hospital in Alachua County, Florida (500 beds). Mr. Price (Florida)
- H.R. 1604** For erection of a U. S. veterans hospital in the State of Rhode Island (300 beds). Mr. Forand (Rhode Island)
- H.R. 1673.** For the erection of a Veterans' Administration, general medical, and surgical hospital in eastern Pennsylvania (400 beds). Mr. Walter (Pennsylvania)
- H.R. 1754** For the enlargement of the Veterans' Administration Facilities at Newington, Conn. (to 500 beds). Mr. Miller (Connecticut)

Miscellaneous

- Of less importance, perhaps, are the following:—
- S. 37, S. 312, H.R. 647 . . .** all for various memorials to George Washington Carver.
- S. 59** For a fish culture station in Oregon.
- S. 143** For a national cemetery in Pennsylvania.
- S. 157** For the acquisition of "Temple Heights" (D.C.) as a site for a memorial building to the defenders of the Union in the Civil War.
- S. 183** For the erection of a memorial to Major General Henry Knox, at Thomaston, Maine.
- S. 564 and H.R. 1446** For additional ship repair facilities.
- S. J. Res. 13** For erection of a monument commemorating the winning of the Oregon country.
- H.R. 900** To establish a division of Fine Arts in the Office of Education.

Personal Employment

In further reference to Civil Service matters mentioned in the January OCTAGON and in Bulletin No. 18, attention is called to Civil Service Commission announcements Nos. 281 and 282 (unassembled), issued January 4, 1943.

One of the larger universities, which handles its own architectural and construction work with its own staff, has a fine position open for a competent and experienced architect, as Architectural Designer. This can be "for the duration" or permanent. Write us if interested.

Post-War Planning

We feel that it is very urgent that architects in every locality become active and take the lead in developing *local regional planning* as a base on which to found local banks of specific projects. They should also try to have local governments authorize or appropriate funds for actual preparation of (at least preliminary) drawings and specifications for projects approved by regional and local planning bodies, as is now being done in the City and State of New York. We should not rely wholly on Federal funds or direction. *Almost all State legislatures are now in session.* It is none too soon for Chapter and State Association committees and individuals to get busy—really busy, in this field.

In this connection, two recently published reports are of interest in directing such efforts; —

"State Planning; 1942" by the National Resources Planning Board, (for sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., at 30c per copy)

covering current and proposed programs of work, as of June 1942, in 42 states and the District of Columbia.

"Baltimore County: Six-year Improvement Program, 1942" by the Maryland State Planning Commission, (for sale by them, Latrobe Hall, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland, at 25c per copy). This is one of the first studies of regional planning at the county level.

Read the first and sixth articles in the February 1943 issue of "Reader's Digest," where some good, and strong, things are said in regard to our life in general, and Post-War Planning in particular.

National Housing Agency—War Production Board (Release WPB-2499)

The joint declaration of policy on war housing, which was announced in December by Donald M. Nelson, chairman of the War Production Board, and John P. Blanford, Jr., Administrator of the National Housing Agency, was implemented and made effective February 10th by the revision of housing application forms for preference rating assistance.

This action establishes a uniform construction application form to be used for all residential construction, regardless of whether the work is to be

publicly or privately financed, to replace the several forms heretofore in use. In addition, the new form, PD-105 Revised, provides for a change in the manner of reporting material lists so as to conform to schedules of the Controlled Materials Plan.

The responsibility for programming war housing is placed in NHA. NHA and WPB will make all projects conform with the latest conservation and occupancy regulations.

Only critical materials authorized by WPB may be incorporated in a war housing project. Critical materials in excess of the allowances may not be used, *regardless of how they may be obtained.*

The new materials list will report all critical materials going into housing construction in such a way that WPB may easily transfer these items into terms of raw materials to be allocated under the Controlled Materials Plan. The list must show all critical materials to be incorporated in the structure, and also all material for which priority assistance will be required.

Architects interested in housing should familiarize themselves with the details of this new order at once.

D. K. ESTE FISHER, JR.
Washington Representative, A.I.A.

Local Contacts—Civilian Projects

Much of the business of Federal Agencies is decentralized and matters relating to projects or employment should be taken up first with the local officers. See the following lists (as of January 12, 1943); see also lists for the Army and Navy in the September OCTAGON, and for other civilian agencies, in the November OCTAGON.

THE NATIONAL HOUSING AGENCY

FEDERAL HOUSING ADMINISTRATION,
ABNER H. FERGUSON, COMMISSIONER

ZONE NO. 1

Connecticut:

John F. Gaffey, State Director, Room 301, 125 Trumbull Street, Hartford, Conn.

Maine:

John H. Magee, State Director, Exchange Building, Bangor, Maine.

Massachusetts:

John F. Malley, State Director, Fifth Floor, 40 Broad Street Building, Boston, Mass.

New Hampshire:

Federal Housing Administration, Second Floor, 70 Market Street, Manchester, N. H.

New Jersey:

Warren J. Lockwood, State Director, Second Floor, Post Office Building, Newark, N. J.

Federal Housing Administration, Elks' Building, Seventh and Cooper Streets, Camden, N. J.

New York:

New York City District:

Thomas G. Grace, State Director, Room 2204, Two Park Avenue Building, New York, N. Y.

Jamaica District:

Stanley R. White, District Director, 2 Park Ave., New York, N. Y.

Albany District:

Frank Sheary, District Director, The City and County Savings Bank Bldg., 100 State Street, Albany, N. Y.

Buffalo District:

W. Grant King, District Director, Fourth Floor, Post Office Building, Buffalo, N. Y.

Pennsylvania:*Western District:*

Oakley W. Heselbarth, District Director, 25th Floor,
Henry W. Oliver Building, 535 Smithfield Street,
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Eastern District:

Leo A. Kirk, District Director, Fourth Floor, Public
Ledger Building, Philadelphia, Pa.

Rhode Island:

George F. Mackie, Office Manager, 49 Westminster
Street Building, Providence, R. I.

Vermont:

Dr. J. Holmes Jackson, State Director, Parkhill
Building, 200 Main Street, Burlington, Vt.

ZONE NO. 2**Alabama:**

Wilbur B. Nolen, State Director, Twenty-fourth
Floor, Comer Building, Birmingham, Ala.

Arkansas:

W. S. Daniel, State Director, Pyramid Building,
Second and Center Streets, Little Rock, Ark.

District of Columbia:

Walter C. Cox, Director, 1021 14th Street, N.W.,
Washington, D. C.

Florida:*Northern District:*

M. M. Parrish, State Director, Sixth Floor, Greenleaf
Building, Laura and Adams Streets, Jacksonville,
Fla.

Federal Housing Administration, Fifth Floor, Stovall
Professional Building, Tampa, Fla.

Southern District:

Donald H. Burk, C. U., District Director, Coral
Gables, City Hall, Miami, Fla.

Georgia:

R. E. Matheson, State Director, 101 Marietta Street
Building, Atlanta, Ga.

Kentucky:

Roscoe R. Dalton, State Director, American Life and
Accident Building, Fifth and Main Streets, Louis-
ville, Ky.

Louisiana:

Fred L. Bailey, State Director, Fourth Floor Union
Bldg., 837 Gravier Street, New Orleans, La.

Maryland:

E. Lester Muller, State Director, 915 Fidelity Build-
ing, Baltimore, Md.

Mississippi:

Walter T. Pate, State Director, 203A Lamar Life
Building, Jackson, Miss.

North Carolina:

Aubrey G. McCabe, State Director, Eleventh Floor,
Guilford Building, Greensboro, N. C.

Puerto Rico:

Frederick D'A. Carpenter, Territorial Director and
Chief Underwriter, P. O. Box 3592, San Juan, P. R.

South Carolina:

H. E. Bailey, State Director, Federal Land Bank
Building, Columbia, S. C.

Tennessee:

B. W. Horner, State Director, 210 Federal Building,
Memphis, Tenn.

Virginia:

C. C. Barksdale, State Director, 1005 E. Main Street,
Richmond, Va.

West Virginia:

James A. Chambers, Acting State Director, 204-210
Chamber of Commerce Building, Charleston, W. Va.

ZONE NO. 3**Illinois:**

Edward J. Kelly, Acting State Director, Merchandise
Mart Building, Chicago, Ill.
Federal Housing Administration, 605 Illinois Build-
ing, Springfield, Ill.

Indiana:

R. Earl Peters, State Director, 453-458 Post Office
and Courthouse Building, Indianapolis, Ind.
Federal Housing Administration, Second Floor, 541-
45 Broadway, Gary, Ind.

Iowa:

T. J. Nolan, State Director, Insurance Exchange
Bldg., 505 Fifth Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa.

Kansas:

Jonas W. Graber, State Director, National Bank
Building, Topeka, Kans.

Michigan:

Raymond Foley, State Director, Third Floor Penob-
scot Bldg., Detroit, Mich.
Federal Housing Administration, 516-518 Grand
Rapids National Bank Building, Grand Rapids,
Mich.

Minnesota:

D. J. Fouquette, State Director, New Post Office,
Minneapolis, Minn.

Eastern Missouri:

J. W. Kuhlman, District Director, 201-207 North
Fourth Street, St. Louis, Mo.

Western Missouri:

David H. Powell, District Director, Twelfth Floor,
Land Bank Bldg., Kansas City, Mo.

Nebraska:

Holger P. Holm, State Director, 1212-1227 Woodmen
of the World Building, Fourteenth and Farnam
Streets, Omaha, Nebr.

Ohio:*Columbus District:*

A. L. Guckert, District Director, Fourth Floor, Old Post Office Building, Columbus, Ohio.

Cleveland District:

Joe L. Wadsworth, District Director, 4213 New Post Office Building, Huron Road and West Third Street, Cleveland, Ohio.

Cincinnati District:

Thomas M. Gregory, District Director, Schmidt Building, Sixth Floor, Fifth and Main Streets, Cincinnati, Ohio.

South Dakota:

N. I. Blegen, Executive Assistant, Federal Housing Administration, Third Floor, New City Hall, Sioux Falls, S. D.

Wisconsin:

J. K. McQuillan, State Director, Wisconsin Broadway Building, 312 E. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, Wis.

ZONE NO. 4**Alaska:**

Federal Housing Administration, Federal Building, Box 381, Juneau, Alaska.

Arizona:

Federal Housing Administration, 309 Luhrs Tower, Phoenix, Ariz.

California:*Northern District:*

D. C. McGinness, District Director, 315 Montgomery Street, San Francisco, Calif.

Federal Housing Administration, 333 Federal Building, Sacramento, Calif.

Southern District:

Wilson G. Bingham, District Director, Bendix Building, 1206 Maple Street, Los Angeles, Calif.

Federal Housing Administration, Broadway Building, N. E. Corner Broadway at First Ave., San Diego, Calif.

Colorado:

M. W. Bennett, State Director, 203-211 Boston Building, Denver, Colo.

Idaho:

Harry Whittier, State Director, 410-14 Capital Securities Building, 805 Idaho Street, Boise, Idaho.

Montana:

Ben S. Hill, State Director, Federal Building, Helena, Mont.

Nevada:

Federal Housing Administration, Rooms 1, 2, 3, Lunsford Building, Reno, Nev.

New Mexico:

Federal Housing Administration, 338-340 N. Third Street, Albuquerque, N. Mex.

Oklahoma:

Don R. Nicholson, State Director, Second Floor, Cotton Exchange Building, Oklahoma City, Okla.

Oregon:

Folger Johnson, State Director, 520 Platt Bldg, Park and Washington Streets, Portland, Oregon.

Texas:*Northeastern District:*

R. E. Shepherd, District Director, Federal Housing Administration, 215 Cotton Exchange Building, St. Paul & San Jacinto Sts., Dallas, Tex.

Northwestern District:

E. T. Stearns, District Director, Federal Housing Administration, 906-913 Electric Building, Fort Worth, Tex.

Southeastern District:

A. C. Ford, District Director, Federal Housing Administration, Eighth Floor, Rusk Building, 723 Main Street, Houston, Tex.

Southwestern District:

Charles T. MacLeod, District Director, Federal Housing Administration, Fifth Floor, Alamo National Bank Building, San Antonio, Tex.

Utah:

Gordon Weggeland, State Director, 520 Dooly Building, 109 W. Second Street, So. Salt Lake City, Utah.

Washington:

Clark R. Jackson, State Director, Fourth Floor, Dexter-Horton Building, Seattle, Wash.

Wyoming:

Hosea Hantz, State Director, Post Office Building, Cheyenne, Wyo.

The Seventy-fifth Annual Meeting of The Institute

FIRST OFFICIAL NOTICE TO MEMBERS

THE 1943 annual meeting of The American Institute of Architects, which under normal conditions would be a convention, will be held in Cincinnati, Ohio, on May 26, 27 and 28, 1943—subject to contingencies.

It is essential that The Institute hold an annual meeting—to elect officers and directors, to receive and act upon the reports of officers and The Board, and to furnish leadership and example to a profession which invariably suffers great hardships in time of war.

This year the sessions will be devoted strictly to business affairs, to the status of the architectural profession in the present war effort, and to the future of the profession in the post-war era. Tours, large-scale entertainment, ceremonies, and other enjoyable but non-essential features of a normal Institute meeting will be omitted.

In order that available information may appear in a single number of THE OCTAGON and in order to meet certain time requirements, the following items are incorporated in this notice and are hereby called to the attention of all members of The American Institute of Architects:

Hotel Headquarters and Other Meetings

The official headquarters for all meetings and for members, delegates, and guests will be the Netherland Plaza hotel, Cincinnati, Ohio.

The officers and directors of The Institute hope very much that those organizations affiliated with it or having community of interests will, as heretofore, endeavor to hold their annual meetings in Cincinnati during the week beginning May 23, 1943, and on such dates as will *not* conflict with The Institute sessions on May 26, 27 and 28. The holding of these collateral meetings is of great advantage to all concerned, and it has been specified to the Netherland Plaza hotel that reservations by all persons attending any of the series of meetings shall be honored on an equal basis.

Election of Member Delegates

The attention of all chapter officers is called to the procedure for the election and accrediting of "mem-

ber delegates" to the 1943 annual meeting of The Institute, as set out in detail in the by-laws of The Institute under chapter V, article 2. (See pages 15 and 16 of the by-law number of THE OCTAGON—December, 1942.)

The number of member delegates who may represent the corporate members of The Institute in each chapter will be based on the number of those corporate members who are in good standing on April 25, 1943—thirty days in advance of the opening day of the annual meeting.

Election of State Delegates

The attention of all officers of state association members is called to the procedure for determining the number of "state delegates" who may be accredited to the 1943 annual meeting of The Institute, as set out in detail in the by-laws of The Institute under chapter V, article 2. (See pages 16 and 17 of the by-law number of THE OCTAGON—December, 1942.)

The number of state delegates who may represent the state association members of The Institute is based on the number of dues-paying members of the state association member who were in good standing therein on January 1, 1943.

Notices Concerning Numbers of Delegates and Votes

Shortly after April 1, 1943, The Secretary of The Institute will publish a preliminary notice stating respectively the number of member delegates to which the corporate members of each chapter are entitled as of April 1, 1943; and the number of state delegates to which each state association member is entitled as of January 1, 1943.

Subsequently, as of April 25, 1943, thirty days in advance of the opening of the annual meeting a final notice will be sent advising each secretary of the number of delegates who may represent his organization, with credential cards and related information. Officers of chapters and state association members are requested to keep The Institute informed of changes in personnel in their respective organizations, particularly the names and addresses of newly-elected officers.

Reduced Delegations

In view of the limitations of travel and the probability that some chapters may wish to send reduced delegations, and in order that the corporate members assigned to each chapter may exercise full voting privileges, attention is called to the following provision of the by-laws of The Institute, chapter V, article 2, section 2:

"Section 2. Member Delegates.

"(a) *Election of Member Delegates.* The corporate members of The Institute in each chapter shall elect the total number of member delegates they are entitled to have represent them at a meeting of The Institute, in the manner prescribed in the by-laws of the chapter.

"(a-1) If all of the member delegates elected by the members of a chapter are not accredited to the meeting of The Institute, then such thereof who are accredited shall be entitled to cast thereat the total number of votes which the said members are entitled to have cast for them, and each shall be accredited to cast an equal and proportionate number of said total number of votes.

"(a-2) If none of the member delegates elected by the members of a chapter can be present at the said meeting, then the said members may elect any other delegate who is qualified to vote at such meeting to represent them as their member delegate and to cast the total number of votes that they are entitled to cast at the meeting."

Under this procedure if all of the delegates elected by the corporate members of a chapter are *not* accredited to the meeting, then such thereof who are accredited shall be entitled to cast thereat the total number of votes which the said members are entitled to have cast for them, and each delegate shall be accredited to cast an equal and proportionate number of said total number of votes.

If none of the member delegates elected by the corporate members of a chapter can be present at the annual meeting, then the said members may elect any other delegate who is qualified to vote at the annual meeting to represent them as their member delegate and to cast the total number of votes that they are entitled to cast at the annual meeting.

It should be borne in mind that such "other delegate" must be formally elected by the corporate members he is to represent, and that he must bring with him certification of such election signed by the President or the Secretary of the chapter of the corporate members who elected him. Such certifica-

tion should be on one of the customary delegate cards furnished to each chapter secretary by The Institute.

Registration Fee

As heretofore, and in accord with a resolution adopted by The Board at its recent semi-annual meeting, a registration fee of \$5.00 will be charged those who register at the 1943 annual meeting, subject to such exceptions with respect to guests, speakers and others as The Secretary or the Committee on Credentials may make.

Offices and Directorships Becoming Vacant

The offices and directorships to be filled by election at the 1943 annual meeting of The Institute are as follows:

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 wherein 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 1943 annual meeting for three-year terms will represent the three districts named below:

Illinois-Wisconsin District

States: Illinois and Wisconsin

Chapters: Central Illinois, Chicago, and Wisconsin

New England District

States: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Rhode Island

Chapters: Connecticut, Maine, Boston, and Rhode Island

New York District:

States and other areas: New York, Canal Zone, Puerto Rico, and Virgin Isles

Chapters: Albany, Brooklyn, Buffalo, Central New York, Westchester, and New York

Procedure for Nominating Officers

Nominations of officers may be made by petition of corporate members, or by member delegates or qualified state delegates from the floor of the annual meeting, or by a nominating committee in the event a nomination is not made from the floor.

Nomination of Officers by Petition:

Nominating petitions for officers must be in writing and filed with The Secretary *on or before April 15, 1943*, forty days prior to the opening day of the annual meeting (May 26, 1943). Not more than one corporate member shall be nominated in any petition, and the petition shall contain only his name, the office to which he is nominated, the signatures of the nominators (who must be corporate members in good standing) and the name of the chapter to which each is assigned.

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

Nominations by petition will be reported in THE OCTAGON and presented to the annual meeting by The Secretary.

Procedure for Nominating Regional Directors

Nominations by Letter Ballot:

The chapters within a district may jointly agree on a nominee, through their representatives meeting at a regional council if there is a council established in the district, or otherwise, or they may separately select one or more nominees. In any of these events the name of each nominee shall be sent to The Secretary, at The Octagon, *on or before April 15, 1943*.

Upon receipt of the names of such nominees, The Secretary will submit each name so given him from

a district to the corporate members of the district who are in good standing, on a letter ballot, which the corporate member who wishes to vote must return to The Secretary within the time stated on the ballot.

The voter also may write in on the ballot and vote for the name of any corporate member in good standing whose name does not appear on the ballot and who is an assigned member of a chapter within the district.

The corporate member receiving the greatest number of votes, as determined by The Secretary from said letter ballots, shall be a nominee for regional director of the district, and he will be nominated for such directorship on the floor of the annual meeting by The Secretary, for voting by the delegates.

Nominations from Floor of Annual Meeting:

Any accredited member delegate from the regional district which the nominee will represent if elected may propose the name of a corporate member for the directorship, and if the said member is eligible to hold the office and his nomination is seconded by two or more accredited member delegates from the said regional district, then he will be nominated for regional director for that district.

Nominations by Nominating Committee:

In the event a nomination for any regional directorship is not made from the floor, then a nomination therefor will be made by a nominating committee from the floor of the annual meeting at the time set for making such nominations.

Future Notices

This is the first official notice of the annual meeting. Subsequent numbers of THE OCTAGON will carry other notices concerning the number of delegates which each chapter and state association may send, the tentative program, and other items on which reports cannot be made at this time.

CHARLES T. INGHAM, *Secretary*

Changes in Personnel—Institute Activities

ELECTIONS BY THE BOARD—APPOINTMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT

Resignation of Clement R. Newkirk, Regional Director

Accepted with regret by The Board at its semi-annual meeting, and effective November 17, 1942. Mr. Newkirk's term would have expired at the adjournment of the 1943 annual meeting of The Institute—in May. He resigned because his appointment in a consulting capacity in the Reconstruction Finance Corporation takes him away from the New York District.

Election of George Bain Cummings, Regional Director

The Board, at its semi-annual meeting, elected George Bain Cummings of Binghamton, New York, to serve as Regional Director of the New York District, effective November 17, 1942, to fill the unexpired term of Clement R. Newkirk.

Mr. Cummings attended the meeting of The Board in Pittsburgh on November 18 and 19, and will serve until the adjournment of the 1943 annual meeting of The Institute—in May.

The Executive Committee—Changes

At the last semi-annual meeting of The Board, Kenneth E. Wischmeyer of St. Louis, was elected a member of The Executive Committee vice Clement R. Newkirk, resigned. Mr. Wischmeyer will serve until the adjournment of the 1943 annual meeting of The Institute.

The Board also elected C. Julian Oberwarth of Frankfort, Kentucky, to serve as an alternate member of The Executive Committee in place of Mr. Wischmeyer (former alternate), until the adjournment of the 1943 annual meeting of The Institute.

Resignation of the Assistant Executive Secretary

At the semi-annual meeting of The Board, The Secretary reported the loss of the services of the Assistant Executive Secretary, Paul H. White, who had been commissioned a Captain in the Engineer Corps of the Army and is now stationed at Camp Claiborne, Louisiana.

Members of The Board expressed their appreciation of the services rendered by Mr. White since his appointment to Institute service in 1935, and

conveyed to him their best wishes for good luck and a safe return.

The Board directed that the position of Assistant Executive Secretary be discontinued, effective October 15, 1942.

The Judiciary Committee—Chairmanship

The vacancy on The Judiciary Committee caused by the resignation of Clement R. Newkirk was filled by the election of H. Daland Chandler of Boston, Regional Director of the New England District. Mr. Chandler will serve as member and as chairman of The Judiciary Committee until the adjournment of the 1943 annual meeting of The Institute.

Committee on Contract Documents

Robert Law Weed, of Miami, has resigned as a member of this committee as he is going into military service. Marshall E. Van Arman of Birmingham, Alabama, has been appointed in his place to represent the South Atlantic District on this committee until the adjournment of the annual meeting of The Institute in 1944.

Committee on Post-War Reconstruction

Horace W. Peaslee has resigned as a vice-chairman of this committee, as his position as Secretary of the Technical Board of the Office of Civilian Defense, Washington, requires all of his time. The President has appointed Albert C. Schweizer, of Washington, D. C., to fill the vacancy.

Other members added to the committee are: George Herbert Gray, of New Haven; Alfred Kastner, of Washington, D. C.; Oscar T. Lang, of Minneapolis; Hugo Leipziger, of Austin, Texas; Grosvenor Atterbury, John Taylor Boyd, Jr., and William Lescaze, all of New York.

These new appointees will serve until the adjournment of the 1943 annual meeting.

Committee on Civilian Protection

Slocum Kingsbury, of Washington, D. C., has been appointed to serve as chairman of this committee for the unexpired term of Horace W. Peaslee, who resigned on account of his full-time service with the Office of Civilian Defense.

Ralph Adams Cram

BY CHARLES D. MAGINNIS

THE artistic philosopher without the creative gift stops short of the demonstration. He can bring plausibility only to the mind, and the eye is the competent witness. But the artist, engrossed in the play of his personality, is more apt to put his trust in the sincerity of his emotions than to harness them to intellectual purpose. The art of architecture, however, has another discipline. Whether in sympathy or in protest, the architect must be in touch with his time. In this adjustment he may either subscribe to the relevance of contemporary taste or find his own conviction in a larger view of social history. The career of Ralph Adams Cram had an unaccustomed symmetry in that he was both architect and philosopher. Vivid in both capacities, it was the identification of a passionate and romantic thesis with his professional product which made him so piquant and even provocative a figure in the national life. Even when his medieval cause had won to it other talents of a competitive consequence, he was still to the American public the symbol of the Gothic idea. The measure in which this eminence rested on his individual capabilities as an architect is obscured by his partnerships. The prolific enterprise of his pen had carried him to a prominence that from the beginning shadowed the figure of the brilliant Bertram Goodhue up to their separation, when Goodhue's genius came to its own revelation. Behind these veiled identities a critical curiosity was always eager to sharpen the attributions. Cram was the planner and to him was usually credited the anatomy of the fabric and to Goodhue its engaging envelope. To whichever account we place the technical distinctions that marked the output of the Cram firm (and later he had other associates), history in the final judgment will probably withdraw little from the lay estimate of Cram's part in the Gothic movement. His was the flaming conviction and the eloquent voice.

In a day when the validity of traditional art has become a matter of vivacious controversy, we need

Ralph Adams Cram (1869-1942). Became a member of The American Institute of Architects in 1901 and a Fellow in 1902.

to recall the state of architectural thought which Cram inherited. It was science that had, long before his advent, reduced architecture to an art of reminiscence. Europe had hitherto been a rigid mosaic of static societies which, each within its own boundaries, had nurtured their individual cultures and traditions. With the quick exchange of thought and the fluid movement of humanity came a new horizon and a new consciousness. In this new vision the beauty of the great past was dramatically unfolded to us. History lost the perspective of the books. We could wander now in the aisles of great cathedrals and rub our fingers on the Parthenon marbles. To the very elbow of the architect the camera carried the rich and disturbing record of the centuries. American art, particularly, had no native conviction with which to resist this wealth of ingratitude and was compelled to an eclecticism that, naïve and even diverting as it may appear now, was then a completely rational attitude. The intelligent exercise of the principle, indeed, during the last two generations has made for much that bears the convincing stamp of national expression.

The revival of Gothic in America followed with symbolic sequence close upon Romanesque adventure. The genius of Richardson had galvanized the earlier tradition into a robustious vitality, but its exciting vogue could not survive him and vanished in the illiterate mimicry of a host of followers. He had left, however, the superb evidence of himself in many notable things including Trinity Church in Boston where Episcopalianism for a dramatic moment exchanged the flavor of Canterbury for Arles and Salamanca.

Note of sentiment

Keyed to a note of sentiment, the country was receptive to Gothic ingratiations. Unlike the Romanesque episode, which came of a single predilection, the Gothic enterprise was inspired by a contemporary movement already prospering in England under the leadership of Pugin and Street, of Ruskin and Burne-Jones. To Cram, who shared their faith in the resilience of the great medieval system, this was a cause that appealed no less to his English sym-

pathies than to his philosophic temper. He never qualified his regard of an object or an idea. A thing was either superlatively good or superlatively bad. He gave enthusiastic sanction to the Gothic primacy of the Ile-de-France, but it was an intellectual tribute to a perfection which had no capacity over his affections. The romantic English landscape was the favorite resort of his professional imagination. It is not to be supposed, of course, that his artistic sympathies completely withstood the appeal of Latin traditions, or that his occasional employment of them had any insincerity in it. Indeed, it is significant of his growing catholicity of taste and his catholicity of feeling that in his maturity he should have acclaimed Seville as the finest Gothic interior in the world. Even if the dictum involved only minor loyalties, such an avowal by a leader of artistic thought at the moment of his greatest authority was an act of high courage.

Now professionally motivated, he became aware that his sentimental program would have to encounter the more realistic mind of America, but he found an ingenuity in the contention that, before architecture could advance again it must step backward to a sound footing. Ever a critic of Renaissance pretensions, he was convinced by the Gothic system not only by the allurements of its format but by its superlative integrity. And it is to be acknowledged that, as an architect, he was ever uncompromising in his scholarly reverence for the best principles of the tradition. Cram's professional interest lay almost exclusively in the ecclesiastical field, where there was obviously less question of Gothic pertinences, and the skillful understanding with which the style was adapted by him to the American scene carried it easily into popular acceptance. Ecclesiastical art at the opening of the century was at a debility that frequently evoked his scathing superlatives. Such buildings as rose to Gothic significance were largely the work of Upjohn and Vaughan, whose designs of Episcopal churches maintained a refined level of respectability, and of Renwick, whose Cathedral of St. Patrick in New York represented at once his own best achievement and the outstanding effort of the Catholics.

The output of Cram's firm was prodigious, so that a cathedral seemed only an incident of its

normal practice. The parochial enterprise of the early years soon led to important commissions. National recognition came with the chapel and barracks at West Point and the Church of St. Thomas, Fifth Avenue, the one a work of splendid austerity, the other a blend of French and British opulences. Before the completion of St. Thomas's came the summons to enter the competition for the great Cathedral of St. John the Divine, the issue of which was the adoption of the Romanesque design of Heins and LaFarge. This momentous and seemingly irrevocable judgment must have offended Cram's philosophy more than this professional pride, and the perversity of the monumental enterprise continued heavily to occupy his mind. For immediate compensation there followed, however, many, if less vivid, satisfactions—notably the Chapel and Graduate College at Princeton, the Presbyterian Church at St. Paul, the Calvary Church at Pittsburgh, the Euclid Avenue Church in Cleveland, St. George's School Chapel at Newport, the Mellon Church at Pittsburgh, the Swedenborgian Church at Bryn-Athyn and the Sacred Heart Church at Jersey City. His authority as a Gothicism was growing with this accomplishment, so as inevitably to bring the anxious doubt as to the stylistic validity of the New York cathedral into positive challenge. Unable longer to resist the mounting criticism, the trustees, at a stage when the apse was already completed, turned over to Cram the difficult business of persuading the building to a Gothic orthodoxy. For obvious reasons, he sought to escape a responsibility presented to him under such singularly delicate circumstances, but it became finally impossible to refuse. While he did not live to see the end of this stupendous task, he had thoroughly shaped his design and seen it carried far into reality. There is a pathos and even a hint of tragedy in the incompleteness of the St. John the Divine. It is not merely that its architect was denied the final vision of his *magnum opus*. It is a more profound matter than that, nothing less indeed than that the academic concept of architecture on which it depended must now confront a new and devastating philosophy. Its rising tide has already begun to break against the unfinished walls. So far, the mechanistic theory of design has vindicated only its adequacy to the topicalities.

Whether it has the faculty to meet the invitation of a cathedral will need difficult proving. We feel all the compulsion of its biting logic but fail to detect in it a hint of eloquence. It has no language for our dreams, for those flights of the spirit that are

the proof of our eternal striving. From its formidable implications, however, it is clear that a blight is coming upon many gracious things and the Gothic architecture is not likely to escape it.

By courtesy of "The Commonweal."

Albert Kahn

BY PAUL CRET

PAINTERS, sculptors, and musicians have the rare privilege of shutting their door, pursuing their work at leisure, and leaving to fate and time the possibility of an appreciative Maecenas. Architects must build their dreams in solid materials, for projects which have not achieved concrete form cannot hope to attain renown. Hence, the architect must have, besides vision and the technique of his art, other qualifications, which belong rather in the domain of the administrator than in that of the artist. These qualifications are something more than the talent for "getting jobs," which some cynics have suggested as the architect's principal requirement. Their value varies with the nature and importance of the commission. For instance, Albert Kahn said, in one of his addresses: "Industrial architecture means far more than designing and planning. It is to be classed as 'Big Business'. . . . The writer has for years contended that it is about 90% business and 10% art or science."

These figures are open to question. For me, this underrating of himself as an artist is only another proof of Albert Kahn's innate modesty. All these fact-findings in the form of percentages are but a means to illustrate an idea; the reality is vastly more complex. Moreover, Kahn cannot be called an industrial-architect; he was an architect, without hyphen, and a great one. In a career covering a half century, practically every program—residences, clubs, university buildings, churches, banks, office buildings, department stores—was the object of his practice and to many he gave notable solutions. When he opened his office in Detroit, he could not have foreseen the phenomenal growth of the automobile industry which was to become for him such

a magnificent field. This conjunction of the young practitioner and a budding industry will be called "luck" by those for whom any success won by others is "a fortuitous combination of circumstances." However, when a man has had vast interests entrusted to him year after year—by the Packard Company for 35 years, by Henry Ford for 30 years—and has built 127 buildings for General Motors, he must be the possessor of more tangible assets than "luck." In the past three years, the United States Government alone had two hundred million dollars worth of construction designed by his office; the way he managed this tremendous task is already architectural history and therefore unnecessary to extol here. I do not deny that luck is a factor in any life; as a boy, Kahn might have been taken elsewhere than to Detroit; he might also have succeeded in some other profession or trade. He would probably have been successful in any, but it is our pride that he chose architecture.

For this he had a great, natural endowment. He possessed good taste and a clear judgment, as spring and balance wheel. Besides this, he understood other men, knew how to select competent and devoted assistants, maintained pleasant relations with clients and builders, was able to convince others, once he had seen the right road, and above all, kept to his last days an indefatigable activity devoted exclusively to his profession. Past seventy, he was still the same enthusiastic and unassuming young man who opened an office before the start of the 20th century.

The "log book" of his office in recent years gives a concise and vivid picture of his life: Here is the Chrysler Tank Arsenal, designed and made ready for occupancy in seven months. Seven months also sufficed for the 1,500,000 square foot plant of the Curtiss Wright Airplane Division in Buffalo, and

Albert Kahn (1869-1942). Became a member of The American Institute of Architects in 1902 and a Fellow in 1918.

for the Hudson Naval Ordnance plant. For the Glenn Martin plant in Baltimore, eleven weeks from the date of the message calling Kahn to Baltimore for the first conference, the building was turned over for occupancy! As he wrote: "Speed and more speed is the watchword of the Defense Program. Decisions to build or expand are made suddenly and complete plans are expected of the architect 'immediately if not sooner.' To meet these demands has been a superhuman task these many months. There is no time for philosophizing, waiting for inspiration, or even considering the matter of aesthetics."

Again this needs qualifying, unless we believe that such works as the Willow Run Plant can be pulled out of the ether like a rabbit out of the conjuror's hat. These last works of Kahn are by no means a mere construction "tour de force"—that is, the covering of a large area in the minimum time; they have also indisputable architectural merit. How was this achieved? Kahn himself has said: "The tempo is breath-taking. To make it possible requires considerable standardization, the result of extensive experience and practice." One thing it takes is an office which for years has accumulated all data worth having about industrial plants; where the engineers are used to working side by side with architects; where the superintendents of construction are familiar with the methods of both, and so all along the line of an organization of 500 members.

If his engineers knew what truss was best fitted for the particular project under consideration, the architects likewise had made innumerable experiments with forms in the preceding years, and to say that "one had no time to consider the matter of aesthetics" means only that there was at hand a pretty complete collection of suitable forms which had been previously tested for aesthetic merit on other jobs and were known to give this or that result without further study. The right materials were also catalogued and most details on file.

It was my good fortune to enjoy Albert Kahn's friendship for twenty years and our conversations revealed his constant preoccupation with design. Each new work in his office was an occasion for

experimenting with new materials, or with new ways to use the old ones. In the current admiration for "big plants" and for mile-long facades, we must not forget that a selection from his minor work takes rank among the best of contemporary production, and marks the stages in his constant development.

In a span of fifty years, as might be expected, there are changes in tendencies which reflect some of the influences to which he was subjected. The work of certain modern Germans, such as Ludwig Hoffman or Peter Behrens, have left their trace on some periods, while on others can be seen the orientation given to American architecture by McKim, Mead and White.

In his recent work, under the pressure of time and with fitting recognition that war projects are not the place for experiments, he gave up architectural "embellishments" and retained only the play of contrasting masses, the patterns created by solids and voids, and his sensitive general lines. But among all the war construction, this is enough to mark the work of his office with the stamp of a master's hand.

Albert Kahn was not a theorist; the "architecture of tomorrow" had little interest for one so engrossed in creating the architecture of today. He had the humility of the good craftsman who puts forth his works as naturally and freely as an apple tree produces apples. He never courted honors or publicity, and when honors came, he accepted them with the most touching modesty, as those present can testify who attended the meeting in his honor during the last convention of The American Institute of Architects.

Generous in his appreciation of other men's work, and charitable in his readiness to help younger men, he was a force in the city which had become dearer to him than his birth place.

The profession, as a group, was slow in recognizing his worth; yet he was the best answer to our critics in showing that the talent of the organizer, the clear vision of the business man on current problems, are not incompatible with the creative mind of the artist and with his persistent quest for beauty.

Hubert G. Ripley

BY LOUIS LA BEAUME

BOSTON in the nineties was still a place apart; with a background, a flavor and an atmosphere peculiar unto itself. Its air was still charged with the fragrance of its immediate past, and even a remoter past to which it was attuned in sympathy. Boston gloried in its right to be called the Athens of America, and even preened itself when outlanders referred to it as a state of mind. For it was indeed a state of mind. It was the capital city of American letters and knew no reason why it should not become the capital of American art and architecture. The nation was growing rich and strong and many influences were preparing it for a more intelligent appreciation of the value of the fine arts.

The dominating personality of Richardson had left its imprint on the local scene. Charles Eliot Norton was expounding his aesthetic credo at Harvard, and the Architectural Department of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology seemed firmly established. The town was vibrant with architectural activity and enthusiasm though there were not as yet many buildings that exceeded the spire of the Park Street Church in height, or obscured the outline of Bullfinch's gilded dome. The aspect of Beacon Hill hadn't changed much in half a century, and people walked across the Common to their work. The streets bordering the Common and the Public Gardens were straight and spacious, but other streets still followed the old cow paths blissfully unmindful of the incipient science of city planning. The automobile had not yet appeared to exert its influence on modern design, or debase the nobler uses of alcohol.

There were dozens of offices busily engaged in the designing of all sorts of projects, city and country houses, churches, libraries and town halls for the pleasant surrounding villages. Many men who had served their apprenticeship in the old Richardson atelier at Brookline were now masters of their own destiny, and others graduating from Tech or flocking in from lesser places made a sizeable and joyous group. Robert Andrews, Herbert Jaques, Arthur

Cabot, William Austin, George Shepley, Charles Coolidge and Robert Peabody were among the Richardsonian offspring. Young Bertram Goodhue, scarcely out of his 'teens, had come over from New York to join the only slightly more mature Cram in revitalizing our ecclesiastical architecture. Edmund Wheelwright, with the help of Charles Maginnis, was building lovely schools; and Clipston Sturgis, Howard Walker, William Rantoul, Arthur Little, William Emerson, and countless others were all performing at the top of their bent—that is to say, quite brilliantly. Francis Bacon, recently returned from Greece with a portfolio of beautiful sketches, was designing furniture, while his brother Henry was contributing to the growing fame of McKim, Mead & White, as was Magonigle after he had, in his turn, won the "Rotch."

It was into this stimulating environment that the youthful Ripley was plunged shortly after his graduation from the M. I. T. in 1890. Because of his phenomenal skill in draftsmanship while yet a student, he had been induced to spend some months with Charles B. Atwood, Chief of Design for the Columbian Exposition at Chicago. Here his skill was matched against such adepts as Julius Harder, Albert Randolph Ross, Louis Mullgardt, and other virtuosi. His beautiful pen and ink drawings of the White City were widely published and admired. But as a New Englander his heart was in Boston, and to Boston he returned to marry and live happily ever after. He found a congenial niche in the busy office of Peabody & Stearns where for a number of years he presided as the right hand of Mr. Peabody in design.

Though healthy rivalries were inevitable the practice of architecture in those days was animated by a comforting degree of cohesion and camaraderie. Naturally the older men, as befitted their dignity and responsibilities, grouped themselves together in the Boston Society of Architects. The youngsters pursued their discussions and their studies, their relaxations and their revelries in the Architectural Club then housed in Tremont Place back of the Granary Burying Ground. Both groups overlapped to some extent and both contained an unusual num-

Hubert G. Ripley (1869-1942). Became a member of The American Institute of Architects in 1915 and a Fellow in 1926.

ber of talented, able and scholarly men. All of them worked and played with gusto, and all looked upon life as good.

Within the Architectural Club a smaller Club known as the P. D.'s flourished. It was composed of an especially versatile group, as adept in the arts of the cuisine, the refinements of potation, and the metrical delights of poetry, as they were skillful with brush, pencil, triangle and T-square. Ripley and Tim Walsh were the leading spirits of this band, and neither ever lost their youthful zest for convivial and frolicsome companionship though both were able to assume a becoming dignity and gravity when the occasion demanded.

It was against this background and in these surroundings that the spirit of Hubert Ripley flowered, and it is as a member of this brilliant galaxy that he would like to be remembered. He was a humanist in the best sense of the word, perhaps in the old Florentine sense. He became mentor, guide, philosopher and friend to countless younger men eager to savour the richness of life and taste its fullness. He looked on the world with a kindly and understanding eye and all that he saw was grist for his mill, to be digested and translated through brush, pencil or pen, or through brick and stone into another beauty. A great reader, his life was further extended through the experiences of other men; and his own writings were ornamented by allusion, and pitted with mock quotations and whimsical footnotes slyly contrived to drive home a point or explode a fallacy. Tolerant of the opinions and generous in the praise of the accomplishments of others, his native sincerity kept him immune from the influence of callow sophistry.

He practised his art as a gentleman should, never confusing his professional ideals and obligations with commercial advantage. In this practice he was long associated with Addison LeBoutillier.

Throughout the changing years Hubert Ripley's devotion to the Muse of Architecture never faltered. His many-sided talent and his gift for friendship inspired a whole generation and the evidence of his legerdemain with pen and pencil will excite the wonder and admiration of generations to come. His sketches and drawings have been scattered through the pages of the architectural journals for the past fifty years. They are as individual and as personal as his signature or his voice.

His writings are rich in architectural and culinary lore and constitute a delightful record not only of his own personality, but of his time. Often he referred to the Latin poet Horace and the French gourmet Brillat-Savarin as his favorite authors. For to what purpose was man endowed with his five senses—of sight, touch, hearing, smell and taste—if not to use them for delight?

So to stand by while Rip prepared some delicate concoction of food or drink was like being present at a holy rite. And then to taste the delectable work of art resulting was to experience something akin to religious ecstasy. No gluttony was here involved but a respectful veneration of the ultimate possibilities of the hand, the eye, the nostril, and the palate. During the week some of us used to snatch quick lunches in Pie Alley or at Thompson's Spa on Washington Street (the waitresses were beautiful), but on Saturdays we always came together at Young's, or Ober's in Winter Place, where Rip presided over a leisurely and well ordered feast.

Throughout his long and happy life his interests and enthusiasms were shared by his wife, the former Miss Maud Alberta Mayall, and his son Hubert, now serving in the army air forces.

The last months of his life were devoted to the compilation of a history of the Boston Society of Architects among whose long line of distinguished presidents his name stands high. He served for three years as a member of The Board of Directors of The American Institute of Architects, and the dignity and prestige of his profession were matters of his deepest concern.

And now Hubert Ripley has gone. He laid down his pen and closed his eyes in quiet sleep on Tuesday, December the fifteenth. Perhaps these Horatian verses, quoted from one of the last letters he ever wrote—summing up, as they do, his aversion to cant and fol-de-rol—may serve as appropriate epitaph:

"This Persian Elegance, my lad, I hate;
Bind leaves of linden, rather, for a crown,
Nor search where blows the rosebush ultimate,
Ere it bow down.

"The simple myrtle ever suits me best,
Devoid of artifice, for you who wait
And me who drink my wine and take my rest
In simple state."

Meetings of The Executive Committee and The Board

Executive Committee—Spring Meeting

The spring meeting of The Executive Committee will be held in New York on March 17 and 18, 1943.

Communications to The Executive Committee should be sent to The Secretary at The Octagon for receipt not later than March 10, 1943.

Board of Directors—Annual Meeting

This meeting will be held on May 22, 23 and 24, 1943, in advance of the annual meeting of The Institute at the Netherland Plaza hotel, Cincinnati,

Ohio. Any communications to The Board should be sent to The Secretary at The Octagon for receipt not later than May 15, 1943.

Board of Directors—Organization Meeting

This meeting will be held on May 29 and perhaps on May 30, 1943, immediately after the adjournment of the annual meeting of The Institute, at the Netherland Plaza hotel, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Any communications to The Board should be sent to The Secretary, c/o Netherland Plaza hotel, Cincinnati, Ohio, to reach there not later than the morning of May 29, 1943.

New State Association Member—Massachusetts

The Massachusetts State Association of Architects was elected a state association member of The Institute, effective January 27, 1943.

The officers of the Association are:

President: John T. Whitmore, 50 Congress Street, Boston

Vice-President: Charles R. Hoyle, Worcester

Secretary: Wm. Bradford Sprout, Jr., 197 Clarendon Street, Boston

Treasurer: Samuel T. Dubitsky, Fall River

Directors: Clifford C. Allbright, Boston; Israel T. Almy, Fall River; George H. Burr, Boston; Robert Allen Cook, Milford; Bernhard Dirks, Greenfield; Godfrey K. Downer, Hingham; S. S. Eisenberg, Boston; Arthur Englund, Lowell; Walter H. Gaffney, Hyannis; J. Raymond Hampson, Pittsfield; William F. Sawyer, Sterling Jct.; Harry M. Seabury, Springfield; Richard J. Shaw, Boston.

The Department of Technical Services—Notes

BY THEODORE IRVING COE, TECHNICAL SECRETARY

Lessons from the Coconut Grove Night Club Fire

The report* of the Coconut Grove Night Club Fire, published by the National Fire Protection Association, deserves the thoughtful study of architects who plan buildings, those who frame the laws and regulations intended to safeguard life and property against the hazards of fire, and those whose duty it is to comply with or to enforce compliance with such laws and regulations.

The loss of approximately 500 lives in a one story and basement building, the structure of which was essentially fire-retardent and suffered little fire

damage, the occupants being awake and cognizant of the fire, serves to direct particular attention to the conditions which were reported to be primarily responsible for this regrettable loss of life.

The list of fires involving serious loss of life is all too long, but the lessons which should have been learned have not been translated, as yet, into conditions of reasonable safety which would minimize the frequent recurrence of these tragic disasters.

No exact figures are available but it would appear the occupancy of this night club at the time of the fire was approximately 1,000 persons, although it was reported the premises had an official seating capacity of something over 600.

* Copies of the above report may be obtained from the National Fire Protection Association, 60 Batterymarch Street, Boston, Massachusetts, at 25¢ per copy.

Although this fire started in a basement "Lounge," at one end of the building, it spread rapidly up the stairway to the first story and cut off the principal and familiar means of egress, immediately above the Lounge, which was equipped with a revolving door.

While the means of egress for these premises may have met the technical requirement of applicable exit regulations, a study of the plan and conditions of occupancy, particularly in the light of what occurred, clearly indicates it should not be assumed that exit facilities will be permitted to function, in an emergency, under conditions of normal and unhurried exit free from more or less panic, or that inconspicuous, inconvenient, or remote exits not customarily used as entrances to the premises will serve as means of egress comparable to their anticipated estimated capacity.

The fact that it is reported some 200 persons were trapped behind the revolving door serving as a principal street entrance and exit; and that approximately 100 of the fatalities occurred behind an in-swinging door leading to a principal street entrance more than 190 feet distance from the stairway by way of which the fire spread to the first floor, demonstrates the tendency, under emergency conditions, to seek as an exit the familiar and customarily used means of entrance.

It is reported that five doors leading to streets or, in one case, to a blind alley, were locked.

Three of these doors were reported to be in-swinging doors.

If not locked, four of these five doors were so located as to serve as exits for employees familiar with the premises, but they were not directly visible to patrons and, if included in determining the legal means of egress, were of a type and location of questionable value as means of egress to patrons of the premises not familiar with the details of arrangement.

One of the principal hazards to life in this fire, as with fires generally, was the rapid spread of smoke and the noxious gases arising from the burning of combustible materials.

According to testimony many became unconscious following a few seconds exposure to this smoke and gas, while others escaped from the building but died later as a result of lung injuries due to the heat and fire gases. Some victims were reported to have been

overcome while seated at tables.

Aside from the questions of panic, revolving, locked, or in-swinging doors, or the adequacy of the means of egress, there remains the hazard of smoke and the gases of combustion which are as deadly as the fire itself, usually spreading more rapidly and widely.

The presence of fire or smoke is not essential to the creation of panic or the use of the means of egress under emergency conditions. Such conditions may result from causes within or outside of the building.

It would be impracticable if not impossible for certain types of occupancy to so plan and protect the means of egress as to insure complete protection to human life under fire and panic conditions.

There are, however, certain fundamental factors and conditions which should receive consideration in the formulation of laws, ordinances, and regulations, applying to the fire safety of means of egress, and to the application of the same to particular types of occupancy.

1. The creation and hazards of panic increase in proportion to the number of persons subject to its influence.
2. The overcrowding, typical of certain types of occupancy, calls for the means of egress to be related to the potential occupancy accommodated by the floor areas served by such means of egress.
3. Exit facilities, designed to function adequately under normal and unhurried conditions, usually prove inadequate in the event of an emergency and "en masse" exit, especially where certain of the means of egress prove unavailable or their location and usability are unknown to those seeking egress.
4. The providing of exits inconveniently or inconspicuously located or of a character not customarily used as means of entrance to or exit from the premises may satisfy the technical requirements of exit regulations but fail to furnish the means of egress demanded by the practical requirements of actual emergency use.
5. The distance from a means of egress which would insure safety under normal and unhurried exit con-

ditions may prove hazardous due to the rapid spread of smoke and gases.

6. The installation of automatic sprinkler equipment should, if properly maintained, retard and, under most conditions, prevent the spread of fire, but it can give little or no assurance against the hazard of panic.

7. The human equation, in the failure to maintain measures taken to insure the occupants of buildings against the hazards of fire, too often contributes to unnecessary property damage and loss of life.

Fire doors and their operating devices may not be so maintained as to function properly, and such doors are frequently held or blocked open for purposes of ventilation, or for other reasons.

Sprinkler equipment is not always maintained in an operating condition through negligence, ignorance, or carelessness.

While applying, with particular force to places of crowded assembly, the lessons to be learned from the report on the Coconut Grove Night Club fire are also applicable to other types of occupancy, if reasonably adequate and safe means of egress are to be available to the occupants in the event of fire with the accompanying hazards of smoke and gases.

Fire Prevention Engineering

A publication of particular current interest and informative value is "Fire Prevention Engineering," containing the symposium of papers presented at a conference on this subject held in June, 1942 at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, under the joint sponsorship of the School of Architecture and the Department of Building Engineering and Construction of M.I.T., and the National Fire Protection Association.

The papers included were presented by well known authorities on the various phases of fire prevention and protection, as related to education, fire losses and hazards, fire fighting, construction details, city planning and zoning, insurance, hazardous occupancies, legislation, etc.

A limited, 196-page, cloth-bound edition has been published and priced at \$2.00 per copy, postage

paid, by the NFPA, 60 Batterymarch Street, Boston, Massachusetts.

The National Fire Codes

The National Fire Protection Association has prepared over 100 comprehensive standards on various phases of fire prevention and fire protection which have been issued in the form of codes, advisory standards, recommended good practice requirements, and suggested ordinances.

For convenient reference the many NFPA official standards, dealing with the various types of fire extinguishing and alarm equipment and related features of supervision, maintenance, and organization, have just been published in a single, 700-page, cloth bound volume which may be obtainable from the NFPA for \$3.00 per copy, postpaid.

The 1943 edition of the Codes for the prevention of Dust Explosions, sponsored by the NFPA and the U. S. Department of Agriculture, has been published by NFPA and copies are available for \$1.00 each, postpaid.

National Bureau of Standards Research on Building Materials and Structures

To the list of reports mentioned in previous issues of THE OCTAGON the following has been added and may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., at the price indicated (stamps not accepted):

BMS94—Water Permeability and Weathering Resistance of Stucco-faced, Gunite-faced, and "Knap Concrete-unit" Walls. 10¢

Conservation of Critical Materials

Since the issuance of "Supplement No. 1" to "A Progress Memorandum to the Construction Industry," by the Cooperating Committees of The Institute and The Producers' Council, the following additional information relating to the conservation of critical materials has been promulgated by Governmental Agencies and copies may be obtained from offices of the War Production Board:

1. List of Prohibited Items for Construction Work—revised as of 1/1/43. (This revises earlier issues on which the above Memorandum and Supplement were based.)
2. Critical Construction Materials Design Guide—issued 12/26/42 by the Conservation Division, WPA.

3. WPS form PD-200 revised—referred to in first paragraph of Item 2 above.
4. War Housing Manual—issued by WPS under date of 12/12/42 and applying conservation of critical materials specifically to both privately and publicly financed war housing. Contains a new war housing critical list superseding the Defense Housing Critical List initially issued 2/24/42. Refers to, but does not contain, the War Housing Construction Standards issued jointly by WPS and NHA.
5. War Housing Construction Standards—initially issued 10/28/42, are superseded by amended copy dated 1/21/43.

The Integration of the Construction Industry

Notwithstanding the absence of the degree of coordination which has marked the rapid advance of the automobile industry the loosely integrated elements of the many groups and segments of those concerned with construction have made a most impressive contribution to our war effort.

This intensive effort should serve to develop a closer degree of cooperation which may well lead to the long desired creation of a construction industry.

In his "Message" printed in The Producers' Council's Bulletin No. 44, President Shreve, in referring to the 21st anniversary of the affiliation between The Institute and The Council, makes this reference to an integrated industry: "Perhaps this collaboration points the way to the long-desired integration of all of the elements forming the construction industry, a possibility which, more than any other, can make the greatest contribution to the social and economic welfare of our nation in the years to come.

"With the creation of a construction industry in fact, as well as in name, would come the strength which unity alone can give, a better mutual understanding within the industry, and what is more

important, more efficient service to those whom this industry serves."

Elevator Wire-Rope Maintenance

The Executive Committee of ASA Committee A-17, for the American Standard Safety Code for Elevators, Dumbwaiters, and Escalators, has issued a circular discussing the maintenance of wire rope used for elevators with special reference to war conditions.

The suggestions cover items affecting the life of wire rope and methods of checking and correcting these particular items together with suggestions for the extension of rope life through decreased elevator service.

Copies of Circular C441—"Elevator Wire Rope Maintenance," are obtainable from Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., 5¢ each (stamps not accepted).

Conservation of Fuel

The Window Shade Institute, with the cooperation of the Office of Price Administration, has made a contribution to the problem of conserving heat losses during the winter season.

Posters are being distributed illustrating the recommendation to "Draw Shades to Sills in all Rooms Not Used in Daytime; Halfway in Rooms Used in Daytime; and to Sills in all Rooms at Night."

It is stated that the heat-loss through windows will be reduced more than one-third by observance of these recommendations.

Personal Mention

As recently appointed chairman of the committee to advise the Governor and Legislature of Massachusetts on Safety Provisions in Building and Fire Losses: William Roger Greeley, A.I.A., of the Boston Chapter.

Chapters of The American Institute of Architects

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