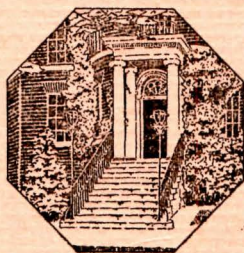


Journal of The American Institute of
ARCHITECTS



January, 1947

The Library of Tomorrow—I—Burchard

Public Law 725—Stone

Let the Architect Beware!

Richmond H. Shreve—1877-1946

Chapter Officers' Organization

Out of the Darkness—La Beume

The Architectural Profession—Hébrard

35c

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UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
SMALL HOMES COUNCIL
MUMFORD HOUSE

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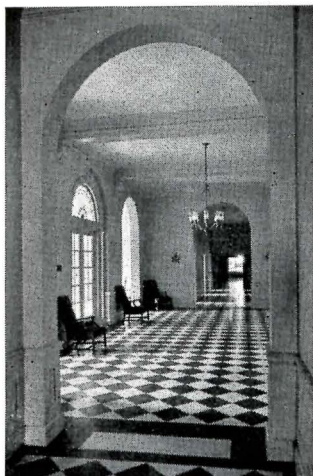
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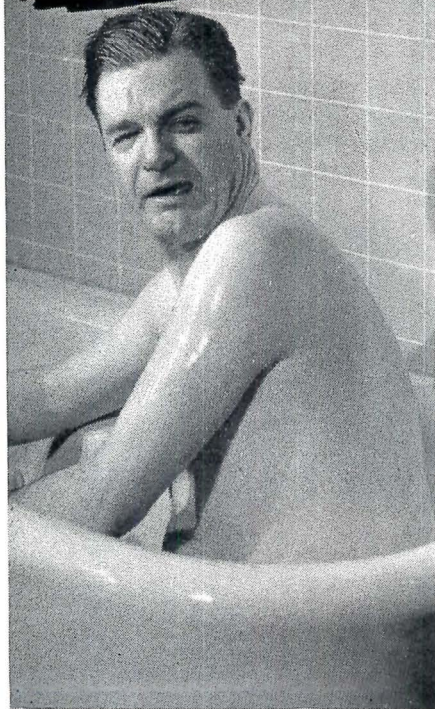


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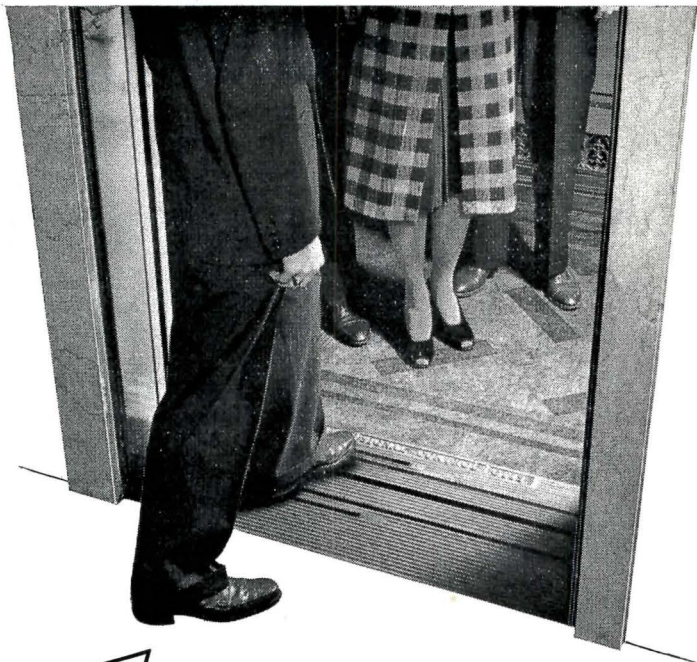
Don't blame Father for his ignorance of proper water pipe diameters. He has to be shown why he should pay a little more for adequate-size pipe when he builds that new house or modernizes the old one. He will see the advantage of providing for all those extra fixtures and extra outlets.

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High School Gym, New Ulm, Minn.

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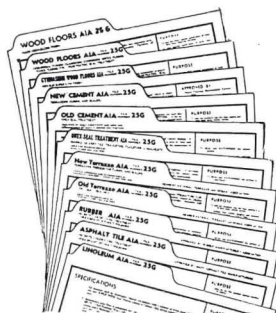
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The Library of Tomorrow—I

By John E. Burchard

Reprinted, with some excisions, from the November, 1946 *Technology Review*, edited at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The essay appeared under the title "The Wreck of Matter and the Crush of Worlds," with a subtitle, "Cultural Scholarship, through More Effective Ways of Utilizing the World's Knowledge, Is the Philosophic Basis for the Charles Hayden Memorial Library."

“. . . Scarcely had I opened the fatal box than some blue cards escaped from it, and, slipping through my fingers, began to rain down. Almost immediately, acting in sympathy, the neighboring boxes opened, and there flowed streams of pink, green, and white cards, and by degrees, from all the boxes, differently colored cards were poured out, murmuring like a water-fall on a mountain-side in April. . . . Issuing from their inexhaustible reservoirs with a roar that continually grew in force, each second increased the vehemence of their torrential fall. . . . Over-

whelmed, desperate, pitiable, his velvet smoking-cap and his gold-mounted spectacles having fallen from him, he vainly opposed his short arms to the flood which had now mounted to his arm-pits. Suddenly a terrible spurt of cards arose and enveloped him in a gigantic whirlpool. During the space of a second I could see in the gulf the shining skull and little fat hands of the scholar; then it closed up and the deluge kept pouring over what was silence and immobility.” Preface to "Penguin Island"—Anatole France (Evans translation).

POOOR FULGENCE TAPIR, the penguin scholar, drowned in his own cards, may have been, and most likely was, the victim not of volume but of sloppy mechanical arrangements. He had stored his cards too high and too precariously. He had a great many cards for his day, enough to drown him,

in sooth. But now there are enough references to drown everyone. Indeed a change of our title from "worlds" to "words" will provide appropriate expression of the fear, enunciated with increasing frequency, that the human race may "suffocate from its own intellectual excreta."

At least three theses have been advanced as solutions to this dilemma. One comes from an experienced librarian, one has recently been restated by a young biologist, the third is the proposal of a nationally famous scientist, administrator, and engineer.

Dr. Fremont Rider, Librarian of Wesleyan University, says that scholarly libraries have, on the whole, doubled their holdings each 16 years of late, and if, as he believes, this rate will persist indefinitely, Harvard University will have 8,000,000 volumes in 1962; 16,000,000 in 1978; 32,000,000 in 1994. Holdings of other institutions will grow proportionately, some perhaps even faster. "Where are all these books to be put?" asks Rider.

Looking merely at the storage problem, he proposes the reduction of the contents of a volume to a single printed card by microphotographic processes which are currently possible (or almost so and which are certainly conceivable) coupled with appropriate magnifying equipment for the reader. By such a process a book of 250 pages might be stored on a 3"x5" library card and filed, if you will, in the card catalogue itself. Evidently some 250 books could be kept

where one now rests. With such a system in operation Harvard University, which now can store 4,000,000 volumes with not too much difficulty, could take care of 1,000,000,000; even if the geometric accretion were to persist at the present rate.

The fault with Rider's proposal is not that the inexorable laws of the geometric progression will finally catch up with it. The real difficulty is that it takes no account of the basic problem of librarianship which is never storage but always use. The problem of library institutions is not to see to it that between them they have in store every piece of recorded information. By the way, we miss this objective by a large margin, even in the opulent United States. The real problem is to make what is in these records quickly available to the scholar, and certainly in his lifetime. Information which never gets out of the printed document and into the mind of a man is useless.

One can contest Rider's extrapolation. But even if it be accepted, it is as plain as a pikestaff that a solution of the mere storage problem will do almost no good; that the present library reference methods will be inadequate for

such a mass of material as is sure to be produced even if they are better than most people appreciate. The trouble with the Rider proposal, then, is that it faces only part of the difficulty — and the lesser part at that.

If Rider's is only a partial solution, one occasionally proposed by natural scientists is no solution at all. The most recent statement of this position is that by Dr. Garrett Hardin in the September, 1946, issue of *The Scientific Monthly*. In a satire, which makes it a little difficult to tell where the author is kidding and where he isn't, and approaching the problem from the unilateral position of the natural scientists, Hardin offers a solution which is simplicity itself. The librarian has simply to be ruthless. He must throw away library material and do this much more rapidly than he accumulates it.

It is possibly true that scientific literature has a way of purging itself. A Mendel may come along and his little paper may make obsolete and useless to the scientist the thousands of pages published by the precedent Slawkenbergiuses. From the point of view of a practicing scientist perhaps all this antecedent

material could then be burned. Since science has, from time to time, changed its mind about some important matter and back-tracked to the concepts of some earlier and possibly "obsolete" individual, the practice of this theory might entail some risk even for science. There is question whether the scientific thinker would be quite so enthusiastic about such a program as the scientific tradesman might be.

But it is none the less true that a very large percentage of the material which the scientist wants in his daily life will be contained in such summary landmarks, especially when combined with a periodical literature (usually of the last decade) which advances from such a milestone. From time to time the current literature can be totted up again and a new milestone placed. Thus, for science alone, there may be some merit in such a proposal and Hardin may not have been fooling when he made it.

The weakness of such a proposal, of course, lies in the fact that scientific literature is a very small part of all literature. In spite of the present awesome position of science, its writings are by no means the most important of re-

corded thought. The really frightening thing about the atomic bomb is not that scientific literature has helped us to know too much about nuclear fission, but that other literature has helped us too little to know human relations. Parenthetically, it is discouraging to note that though scientific education was capable of producing the genie of the atomic bomb, it failed to provide a background which would have warned that the world would be too small for evil purposes even if the whole atomic bomb complex were nothing but a bad dream.

No, for all literature the task is clearly not one of throwing away. No one is wise enough or fair enough to undertake such a clean-up task. One can let the case rest on human mental limitations and not adduce the catastrophe which would occur if the task were undertaken by men of prejudice (as are all men) or men of ill-will (as are many men). Hitler, for example, simplified the problem of librarianship for Germany but did not add either to the intellectual stature of his country or to its contributions to human progress and welfare.

If the Western world comes to debacle it will not be because we

know too much about atomic bombs but because we do not know enough about the human animal. On this greater problem man's mind has been working since the beginning of time and has been rather fully recording its work since the zenith of Greece. The minds which have worked on it have been no less profound than those which spawned the atomic bomb. They have had to wrestle—and still have to wrestle—with imponderables; imponderables, at least, in any existing scales, and possibly forever imponderables. They have contradicted each other completely and no one has arisen, and perhaps no one will ever arise, to be their Mendel. Not alone the scholar but also the simple thoughtful common man has to work through a great deal of material in such a field to arrive at conclusions which finally are somewhat personal. He cannot arrive at them by contemplation of the periodical literature of the past decade or the past century.

Indeed, if he relies on Lippmann, Pearson and Pegler, rather than on the literature which has stood the test, he will almost certainly come out with a magnificent lack of proportion; on the other hand, for everything Pegler sug-

gests he can find a more thoughtful and rational exposition in some literature of the past.

It is, of course, true that it does not require 4,000,000 volumes to yield this sense of proportion. The serried pedestrian rows of the history and record of Clavering St. Mary will not in themselves throw any light; indeed they may obscure it. It is also true that there is more food for thought in the hundred volumes of Dr. Stringfellow Barr than any one mind can digest; it is certain that a list of 5,000 titles could be compiled which would embrace all important thought. It is mathematically demonstrable that, given nothing else to do, no one man could peruse and digest even this fragment of human literary endeavor—this eighth of one per cent of the holdings of Harvard University—in fifty years of steady reading.

The rationalization by which universities continue to accession these gigantic collections is that they serve the scholar. On that rationale it is possible to defend the volume which lies on the shelves in the dust for fifty years, if on the fifty-first someone finds it, dusts it off, digs into it, and draws some conclusion from its contents—useful or not.

One has to look at the word “scholarship” pretty hard. Most of the time it seems to be represented by the trivial production by the candidate for a degree of D. Litt. or Ph.D. Forced to be original, whether he is or not, and in a world where a lot of scholarship has preceded him, he rummages in the dust of the library, digs up some little-used material, and produces an essay of incredibly small import. This type of scholarship is out of date and will, it is to be hoped, ultimately disappear from the university.

When it does, it will have to be admitted that there are not enough true scholars on any one campus to justify the maintenance of these Gargantuan holdings, and that there is no particular reason, save that of pride, why a university should force an extramural scholar to come to its particular campus to carry on his work. It will then be possible to think about the sort of university library, coupled with some further extra-university system, that would best serve the undergraduate, the graduate student, then the faculty, and finally the outside scholar wherever he may be.

None of these, it may be clear, will be well served by an applica-

tion of Rider's proposal without something more; and all of them will be hurt by an application of Hardin's. For something which will yield more promise we have to turn to the third thinker, Dr. Vannevar Bush, and his article on the Memex in *The Atlantic Monthly* for July, 1945.

Dr. Bush is a thoughtful man and he knows at first hand the possibilities implicit in present-day machinery and especially in rapid selectors and calculators. Leaving out the part which deals with providing a private desk drawer of information for the individual scholar, the Bush proposal amounts to supplying a proper diagram of all knowledge, so coded that by application of any one of a number of existent, or easily conjectured, rapid-scanning devices, the references which the scholar seeks can be picked out from multitudinous references in a very short space of time. On the mechanistic side this is entirely feasible almost at once.

Even on the intellectual side, it is immediately applicable to matters where only factual data are sought. The weight of an isotope, the height of a tower, the alkyl compounds with specific common properties, all sorts of readily classifiable things could, by some labor,

be suitably coded. For much of scientific reference work this simple scheme might be useful; in addition, it might even be sufficient.

When one passes beyond fact to the area of conjecture or discussion the problem becomes less simple. None the less, Dr. Bush has provided a stimulus which could lead to a grandeur of library service never before seen. To bring it about will require a concatenation of several forces, some very difficult to stimulate, human nature being what it is. Of these factors the mechanical ones are the nearest to being ready for application. As in so many other fields the potentials of apparatus have far outstripped the capacity of human cooperation.



Still, it is not entirely out of the question that these forces might be brought into action; it is, in any event, not idle to hypothesize about them and from the hypothesis to construct the picture of a Wellsian library system, even if with less imagination than Wells would have brought to the conjecture.

Let us imagine, then, that the Brobdingnagian collections have been transferred to two repositories: one, primary and active; the other, duplicate and inert and

existing as insurance. On a national basis these can be as large as they need to be and micro-cards for compactness can be adopted or not, as is desirable. After these two major collections have been established perhaps a good deal of the residue throughout the country may be destroyed, although dead storage might be better, since disasters have occurred to book accumulations.

The central depository cannot, of course, be anything like a warehouse. It may have to be supplied with a new form of cataloguing having nothing to do with present subject methods but used solely to make it possible for page boy or machine to find a specific volume unerringly and at once. When found the work may be set before a televisor and viewed by a distant scholar over wire or by radio, in the institution from whence the request came. The process of intercommunication by which the scholar will be at the screen at the appropriate time is well within the capacity of modern technology.

That is easy enough but how will the scholar know what to ask for? This is a knotty problem but its solution is not outside of possibility. To solve it requires in the first instance a complete cod-

ing of what is in all the stored works and a duplication of this code in every scholarly library or center of scholarship. Here all the coded references will be screened for the scholar, along lines he has predetermined, by rapid selector devices capable of scanning thousands of references per minute. Provided with a quantity of references (of which a good many may still represent false trails) and without destroying the utility of the system, the scholar will then read on these card clues, abstracts and critical comment which give him a hint as to whether he wants to see the source. When he does, the proper punching of buttons will put into action the televising process previously described. Such a system will in no way prevent photo-reproduction of source material where the scholar prefers such examination to that made possible by a television screen. Such a system can be operated as a cooperative venture of many large libraries without the alienation of titles needed for the national center, albeit with somewhat more confusion, and considerably more cost. It cannot operate in a system which circulates library material for it is critical that all the source material shall be immediately

available for televising to any scholar anywhere.

It can be argued that the annual budgets of most libraries—if diverted from acquiring, maintaining, cataloguing, storing, circulating and keeping track of 1,000,000 or more books—could easily encompass the purchase and maintenance of the new library machinery and in addition leave something over for research. Each library would, of course, retain a collection of the most important works at such a scale (say the 200,000 volumes of the new undergraduate library of Harvard) that not all readers would be condemned to the mechanistic process which would be reserved largely for the convenience of the scholar. Each library would also maintain a certain amount of current and not as yet coded material, to be discarded when the coding was completed.

The crux of such a system would, of course, lie in the coding. For the billions of words already written and stored only a slow progress might be possible. It is possible to install a coding process for everything published after a given day and, in a not too distant future. This would comprise a coding of a large part of the past literature.

But, even then, the job of coding, the intellectual skill required, the time consumed, the self-sacrifice required of the coders is almost inestimable. These coders would have to possess the best minds; they could not be mere clerks. To get all these best minds to contribute the codification of even a few volumes a year per man would require a cooperation never yet approached by the company of scholars. The scholar is at least as selfish as the ordinary man; probably he is more so. Unless the scholars as a body would enter into such a project it would be predoomed to failure; it might fail even if they did join such a crusade.

Against such a pooling of resources and talents would be raised the ambitions of librarians asked to give up their treasures which are sometimes the only way the importance of their libraries can be measured. Against such a program would be raised the pride of trustees, college presidents, collectors of rare and even of uncut books, donors of oak and marble, and most of all the pride of the alumni. There would be fear of over-centralization, fear of mechanism. Finally we might expect the apathy of scholars presented to a proposal which called upon each to do a

volume of work for the good of all which would in no way enhance his individual prestige. How far away do all these imaginable adverse forces place the library millennium?

I put this question with no tongue in cheek. At this very moment I have the task of planning for a new library building in our own institution. Shall this library building be less forward looking than the apparatus for testing the

flight characteristics of planes, for measuring radio-activity, for exploring the nucleus? Shall it fail to take advantage of the knowledge in our own institution of rapid selectors, radio, and television? What are we to do?

In the next issue Mr. Burchard continues with his conclusions as to what form the Hayden Memorial Library will take, at least in its first stage.



Honors

EDWARD CRAWFORD KEMPER, Hon. A.I.A., Executive Director of The Institute, has accepted nomination as an Honorary Associate of the Royal Institute of British Architects.

CARLOS CONTRERAS of Mexico has accepted nomination as an Honorary Corresponding Member of the R.I.B.A.

GILMORE D. CLARK, Hon. A.I.A., has been elected to the American Academy of Arts and Letters. He is one of three men thus honored in 1946, the other two being Charles A. Beard, his-

torian-author, and Archibald MacLeish, poet. New members are chosen always from the membership of the National Institute of Arts and Letters.

CARL E. HEIMBRODT of Chicago, recently a lieutenant colonel in the Ordnance Department, A.U.S., adds new laurels to the architectural profession in having been cited for the Legion of Merit for his services in saving money for the Government. He was also given a Certificate of Commendation signed by his post commander and by the Army's Chief of Ordnance.

An Architect Reviews Public Law 725

By Douglas Dacre Stone

THE Hospital Survey and Construction Act, or Public Law 725, is one that should be welcomed by the entire architectural profession and especially those architects who are vitally interested in hospital construction. Briefly it provides the following for the profession:

1. A master plan over the entire state for its hospital needs.
2. A simple, direct and logical method of financing.
3. Excellent requirements for minimum standards of construction and planning which should materially assist the architect, whether a hospital specialist or not.
4. Acts as a questionnaire to the client, thereby greatly aiding the architect in crystalizing a program.
5. Forces the client to think; not only as to location, bed capacity, type of hospital, construction classification, equipment (fixed, expendable and consumable), but also to analyze the operations after construction, relative to the staff, costs, services, personnel, income and other items so often ignored or for-

gotten in the enthusiasm of acquiring a new structure.

All competent architects realize the importance of master planning, whether it be for country, state, county, city or an individual project, and the lack of this master planning in the past has caused the confusion and lack of coordination so apparent in all the physical developments of this nation. The unraveling of this present condition presents a mammoth problem to the planners of the future. Fortunately for the hospital field, few have been built in the last two decades, which fact is particularly true in the West. Consequently, the master planning of the West for hospital needs at this time will act as a definite guide of construction needs for many years to come. It will act as a control to stabilize the enthusiasm to overbuild, which is now becoming apparent as a reaction to our present underbuilt conditions.

The architect, in conferring with his hospital client, will have all of this valuable information of master planning at hand and will not be required to take local "guesses" as to needs, which has

been the practice too much in the past.

One of the biggest problems confronting hospital construction has been financing. Public Law 725, while it only makes grants up to 33 1/3% of the cost of the project, will give a psychological impetus to the successful voting of bonds, or other methods of voluntary financing. This fact has been proven many times in recent years.

In the past, construction and planning requirements mainly have been left up to either the Board of Trustees, the Board of Supervisors, or the local administrator, with results in many cases, particularly in rural communities, of poorly planned hospitals both in design and construction. This is no criticism of the owners, but only reflects the fact that while these clients may be very genuine and sincere in their efforts, their experience is not broad enough to have comprehensive knowledge of all the complicated elements which go into a good working hospital.

With the minimum standards as a guide, an architect is in a position to steer the client on the correct path, and the results will be greatly improved over the past. These requirements will not only be a great aid to the hospital architects,

but will be invaluable to the architect with no hospital experience and, if followed carefully, will make it possible for any competent architect to do a good hospital.

One of the most difficult jobs for an architect is to get a program from the owners. By following the requirements of the Act, the sponsors must analyze and lay out their own program in line, of course, with the master plan as to beds, in terms of sickness, personnel and services. This will save the architect months of time and will give him a definite program so that the resulting plans can be turned out much more rapidly and much more successfully. The client and the architect have a definite recognized goal and this written program is the guide to this goal.

One of the great tragedies of the hospital field is to see a hospital completed, as far as structure is concerned, and then find it cannot be used for lack of staff, personnel, adequate financing to equip, supply and meet the inevitable deficit of the first year or so. All of us who have built hospitals are cognizant of this condition and the stigma it puts on a fine structure, and even upon the architect, though he be blameless in this matter.

Fortunately Public Law 725 provides that the above condition cannot occur, and obligates the sponsor to guarantee that the lacking factors are definitely available so that the hospital, when completed, can function successfully for the use of the people whom it was intended to serve.

In the next ten years a great number of hospitals, federal, state, county and private, will be built if we are properly to care for the needs of our citizens. The architects who are entrusted with the designing of new hospitals and additions to existing units must take this program very seriously. It is of national importance, and presents a challenge to the profession that must be answered correctly, expediently and properly. The profession can revitalize itself in the eyes of the public and can perform a great national service in this way if we will devote ourselves to solving this problem. This means

the architect must not only be a designer and a construction man, but must also be a competent counselor and guide as to financing, equipping, recommendations of personnel and operations after the buildings are erected. We should make every effort to have the project not only an architectural success, but also financially sound, and above all, one that will properly serve the public.

Public Law 725 should be carefully studied by all architects interested in hospital construction, and the basic ideal behind this bill carefully considered. Let us all be grateful for this handbook which can help us reap such a rich harvest for all concerned. It is easy sometimes to start a project, but no project is good or sound unless the result over the years to come justifies the inception. Let us architects all unite to improve the physical plants that are to house our sick and unfortunate.

Let the Architect Beware!

A note of recapitulation with news of recent developments and prospects under the Hospital Survey and Construction Act, by the Editor

Public Law 725 has thrown wide open the gates to a new and thrilling vista. Not the health authorities alone, not the medical profession alone, not the hospital administrators alone, not the architects and building industry alone, but all who would like to see this

country made up of a healthier, sturdier citizenry will appreciate this vista.

For the first time in this country's history, here is integrated planning for hospitals on the State and community level, just as we have for many years planned our public health, public roads and public education. For the first time in many years, here, in a billion dollar building program, Washington has sought, through the Surgeon General, the counsel of the architectural profession in its national organization as to how best the private practitioner could function in making these hospitals and health centers a successful reality. Decentralization to the State level is the answer, with the U. S. Public Health Service formulating—again with the collaboration of The American Institute of Architects—a code of minimum requirements and guidance. On the groundwork of this code the States will base their individual regulations, taking into account, it is hoped, the local and regional characteristics of hospitals, not only in administration but also in architectural design, and thus avoiding the unfitness of a nation-wide type imposed from above.

It should be unnecessary to point

out that the carrying out of this program, together with the parallel activity of the Veterans Administration in building its own new hospitals, should, if successful, establish a definite pattern for the execution of widely distributed public works. Those two words, "if successful," are of the essence, and the responsibility for success rests very largely upon the shoulders of the architectural profession. Nor is it merely a problem of producing here and there a good hospital; there must be from the start a new degree of collaboration between those charged with carrying out the provisions of Public Law 725 and the architectural profession itself. This collaboration has been achieved at the national level between the Surgeon General and The American Institute of Architects; from this point on the collaboration must be attained at the State level—between the Chapters and State Organizations of The Institute and the State Health Department or State Hospital Agency.

Two things are right now of the utmost importance. One is that, as provided in the Act, each State Advisory Council shall include a representative of "construc-

tion," who must obviously be an architect. To date, entirely too many States are without an architect on their Councils. This lack is a job for the Chapters and State Organizations of The Institute. The second matter of paramount importance is the review of drawings and specifications, but before discussing that, a word about standards.

The Hospital Survey and Construction Act requires that standards of construction and equipment be established by the Surgeon General, U. S. Public Health Service. These standards will apply to all projects to be built with Federal assistance under this legislation. Such standards have recently been drafted by the Office of Technical Services, Division of Hospital Facilities, U. S. Public Health Service, of which Marshall Shaffer, Sen. Eng. (R), A.I.A. is chief. The Committee on Hospitalization and Public Health of The A.I.A. reviewed and approved the standards and submitted them to a special technical committee on architectural standards appointed by the Federal Hospital Council.

This committee, which met in Washington November 12-13, includes in its membership: James R. Edmunds, Jr., President of The

American Institute of Architects, chairman; William A. Riley, A.I.A., architect, Boston; Adrian N. Langius, A.I.A., Director, Building and Construction Division, State Administration Board, Michigan; Dr. Warren P. Morrill, Director of Research, American Hospital Association; Dr. Ralph Horton, Committee on Sanitarium Planning, American Trudeau Society, Nat'l Tuberculosis Assn. and Director, Homer Folks Tuberculosis Hospital, Oneonta, N. Y.; Dr. Frank F. Tallman, American Psychiatric Assn., Commissioner of Mental Hygiene, Dep't of Public Welfare, Ohio; and Dr. Claude Munger, hospital consultant and Director, St. Luke's Hospital, New York.

After review and approval by this committee, the standards were accepted by the Federal Hospital Council. These standards will be incorporated in the Rules and Regulations of the Hospital Facilities Division. The Federal Security Administrator is required to approve the Rules and Regulations before they are published and made available to all persons interested in this program. Copies may be obtained from your State Hospital Agency or State Health Department.

Now here is that second matter of importance:

Under the provisions of this Act a qualified authority for each State will have to pass upon any project intended for that State, including approval or rejection of the architect's drawings and specifications in so far as they conform to, or conflict with, the standards mentioned above and those to be established by the State itself.

Where there is a State Architect or similar authority, as for example in Michigan, New York or Illinois, the machinery for passing intelligently upon the design of a new hospital or health center is at hand. Where no such architectural authority exists, the profession should see to it that it is created. That takes time. In the lack of such an authority, this problem of review might well be farmed out to a competent and impartial architectural office. Otherwise the profession is likely to find that its work under this Act is subject to the review of some official who lacks the qualifications specifically required by your State architectural registration or licensing laws of those who have responsibility for the public safety. Remember that the reviewing authority, in addition to passing upon the archi-

tectural design, will have to pass upon the structural, mechanical and electrical engineering and the contract documents as a whole. This authority will also have to certify to the progress of the construction for periodic payments thereon. It is a job for your peers.

Once again the JOURNAL urges, with all the emphasis it can summon, that architectural representation on a State Hospital Advisory Council under this Act be made the first order of business in the Chapters and State Organizations. The vast program contemplated cannot be expected to move forward in proper balance without the benefit of the architects' continuing advice and counsel. If, in the development of this program your State authorities show a lack of understanding as to what architectural service is and how it should equitably be recompensed, your State Organization and Chapters will have no one to blame but themselves.

One other point: Many a watchful eye in the various Government bureaus is directed upon the two distinct efforts on the part of the Veterans Administration and the Surgeon General to entrust the design of hospitals and health

centers to private practitioners. If the results are not outstanding we may find our profession set back a generation, and the Government bureaus convinced that to get a job done well they must design it themselves. The private practitioner is on trial as never before. It may be thought that it will suffice that every architect entrusted with a commission should do his best, but that may not be enough; he has got to outdo himself. He must prove incontestably that the

local architect is best fitted to serve the local community needs in building. An equal, or perhaps even greater, responsibility rests on the architects' professional groups—the Chapters and State Organizations of The Institute—to achieve a new high level of collaboration with, and guidance of, the authorities directing their State and local community projects. Individual brilliance in design will not win this case; whole-hearted professional collaboration may.



Richmond H. Shreve F.A.I.A. 1877-1946

RICHMOND H. SHREVE lived and worked in New York through most of the first half of the twentieth century. The time and the place offered the challenge of great problems. He met the challenge, gallantly, with great achievement. The time, the place and the man were in complete accord.

It was in these years that mechanization became a dominant factor in life. New political and economic philosophies were being worked out. Capital and labor

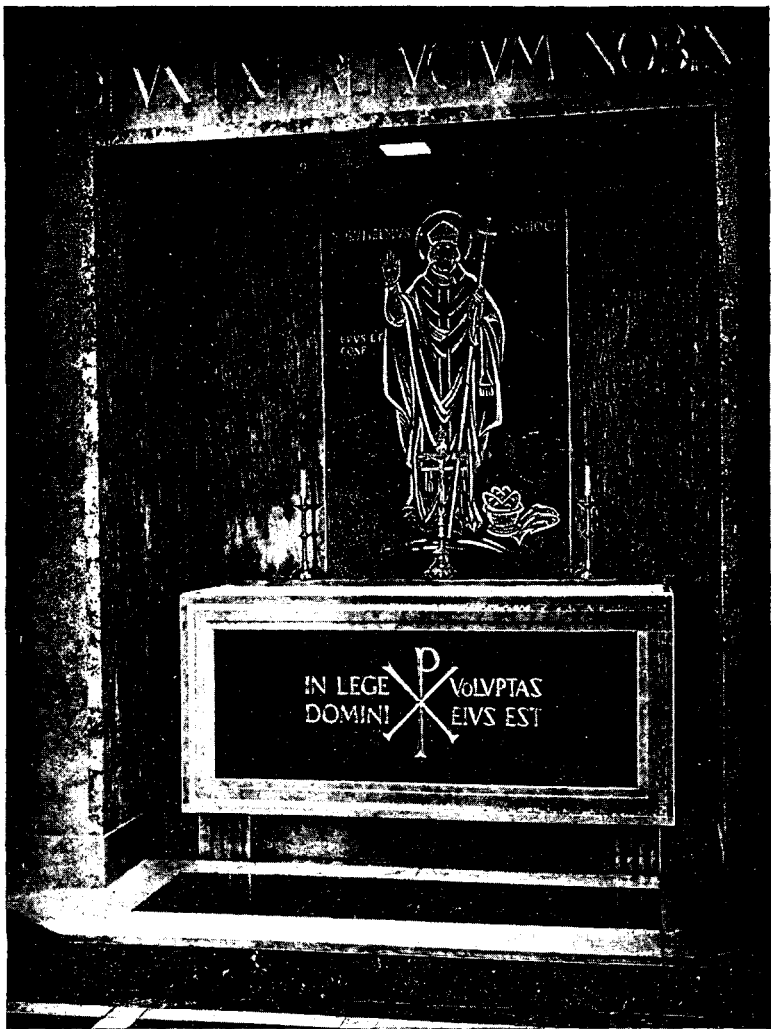
were at grips. Science was opening up new possibilities and breeding specialists. The Ivory Tower in which Architecture had been reposing was no longer tenable.

The operations characteristic of the time and place were large and complex. Team-work was a necessity. The new technologies that were constantly developing could be applied only by specialists. But team-work and specialization demand a stable center around which they can operate effectively.

Shreve could see all this while



RICHMOND HAROLD SHREVE, F.A.I.A.
1877-1946



A SIDE ALTAR IN ST. JOHN'S SEMINARY, BOSTON, MASS.
MAGINNIS & WALSH, ARCHITECTS

The figure is incised in the marble and the incisions gilded. The new crucifix and candlesticks have not yet replaced the temporary ones.

it was happening. His talents marched with his times. So the central position became his, not through deliberate seeking, but through the remorseless logic of events. Opportunity and responsibility sought him out as naturally as water runs down-hill.

He brought to his work a broad point of view, a razor-keen mind and a genial, kindly and tolerant personality. To each problem of each day he gave careful, undivided attention. It was like adding brick to carefully laid brick. The bricks grew into a pattern and finally into a towering wall.

From the beginning his interests were broad. He had the eager, inquisitive sort of mind that must explore. At Cornell, as undergraduate and later as instructor, his performance was distinguished in every department, from calculus to design; from life class to structures. Thirty years later he could chortle at finding one of his life drawings still preserved in the college as a model. In another department his exercise sheets in *Shades and Shadows* were still giving day-to-day service.

This all-around basis served him throughout the years. He saw Architecture, not as an art nor a science nor as a business. It was

an indivisible whole. He could understand anything that another could explain. He would really listen to what was said to him. He could brush aside non-essentials and find the core of a problem, swiftly and surely. He was unafraid of decision.

Qualities such as these spell leadership of a high order. Specialists can work with, rather than under it: and in time will listen. So his own contributions were accepted in every field. In such diverse matters as the quality of brickwork at Parkchester and the proportions of the great columns that carry the Empire State tower, his own well-considered studies are incorporated.

While Shreve understood his problems he also understood people. He liked them. So they liked him and turned to him. Perhaps the greatest factor in setting up this sort of relationship was his capacity for turning his complete attention to the matter and the person at hand. The problems of a junior draftsman received exactly the same sort of consideration as the set-up for a World's Fair. It was not his way to impose a pre-conceived idea. He was always searching for the best one.

When the Empire State project

Out of the Darkness

By *Louis La Beaume*, F.A.I.A.

Mr. La Beaume spoke before a group of fellow architects at Davenport several months ago. When asked for permission to print his words he protested that the talk was "badly designed, ill-shaped, too discursive and never intended for publication without drastic editing." Nevertheless the talk seems to have given its hearers so much pleasure that we are passing the major part of it on to a wider audience. Personally we think the author's objections are unfounded, irrelevant and contrary to fact. The case goes to the jury.—EDITOR

OUR MUSE has brought forth many wayward sons. Most of us may as well confess (for we would be found out anyway) that we have erred and strayed from her ways like lost sheep. But, like all good mothers, she has been forbearing, at times even indulgent. Many of our own shortcomings have been compensated for by the behavior of our more loyal and brilliant brothers. So perhaps she does not despair utterly, as she reflects that the majority of her progeny would like to be good boys even though they may not be very bright.

Having sounded this note of humility, we may proceed to discuss, calmly in the bosom of the family, some of our sins of omission and commission.

From its crudest beginnings the art or science of building evolved slowly. Coming out from the cave, men sought other and more con-

venient forms of shelter. They built of materials most readily available. These were the stuff supplied by nature—stone, tree trunks, clay and grasses. Man's early shelter was rude indeed, but sufficient for his immediate purpose, and in that sense purely Functional—though undoubtedly the word was invented long after the hutches were built, long after they had collapsed or had been swept away.

Gradually certain forms were accepted as convenient and these types were repeated and painstakingly improved. Different tribes, different races, evolved different types as dictated by climatic and other conditions, the availability of materials and the development of their native cultures.

The term culture implies some tribal or racial accumulation of habits, beliefs, superstitions, or aspirations. Different cultures or

mores demanded different terms of expression, not only in building, but in dress, in utensils, tools and weapons. So Art was born. And art, or the desire for the expression of man's ideal, began to influence his way of building and all his other ways. He soon discovered that art need not, in any degree, circumscribe or diminish the essential utility of the objects on which he lavished it, but might even enrich their usefulness, convenience and practicability. He found a new delight and satisfaction in a quality which he called Beauty. Often he sensed this quality without being able to define or analyze it. He only knew that it satisfied a kind of inner yearning, and conveyed a promise of mankind's ultimate triumph over his grosser instincts.

Empirical science, the simple methods of trial and error, had early taught man the fundamental principles of structure. He had learned to lay stone upon stone, to stretch poles from wall to wall, and interlace them with branches and thatch. He discovered the principle of the post and lintel, how to span space with beams and girders. He even became aware of that weird device now known as the cantilever, and much vaunted as a modern discovery. Later some toil-

ing ancestor worked out the principle of the arch. These few structural elements are about all we have to conjure with today. By their judicious employment we may build rationally, functionally, logically, and securely. We may achieve Commodity and Firmness. But what of that other element in Sir Thomas Wooten's definition of Architecture. How may we achieve the element of Delight?

Or do we really care to do so? Business, we say, comes before pleasure.

Apparently there are many among us, and they argue quite plausibly, to whom this element of Delight is a positive offense. The apostles of Efficiency, like the Puritans of old, would seem to consider comeliness a mortal sin, and as for beauty—well beauty is a harlot; we must not be beguiled; too often in the past the pursuit of beauty has led us astray; safer not to heed her Siren call.

Let us examine the implications of this philosophy as it has been expounded by the leaders of the Vanguard. They say quite pompously that our buildings must be Functional, that they must serve the purpose for which they are intended. They then wait a moment for the applause which comes in

deafening volume, as befits the explosion of an atom of truth. We think of the temples of the Greeks, the aqueducts of the Romans, the cathedrals of France, and realize that we were not wrong in admiring these, for were they not all supreme examples of the Functional? Then the pontif proceeds to point out the error in our thinking. He glibly strips the temples bare of the figures in the pediment, of their mutules and triglyphs, their cheneaux, the tessalated pattern of their pavements—showing how vain these ornaments really are, how useless from the point of view of stark efficiency. Again he pauses and favors us with his denticillid smile which draws forth another salvo of applause, scarcely less violent, for there is nothing an audience, especially an American audience so loves to hear as an insult to its intelligence. Encouraged thus he goes on to rip off the pinnacles, tear down the spires, chop away the carving and smash the painted glass of any one of our loved cathedrals. He lowers the roof and flattens it, and proudly points to his destructive handiwork with the bland assurance that he has done the fabric no harm, that it is just as useful as it ever was.

Like a bull in a china-shop he

charges down the ages, toppling over masterpieces, snorting fire and brimstone, and leaving only a trail of wreckage and Efficiency in his wake.

He demonstrates the utter uselessness of the capital of whatever form—Egyptian, Classic, Roman, Gothic, Chinese or Hindu; he scorns the abacus, the base, and proves those ancient artists fools for wasting time in these futile attempts to improve the simple post or add any meaning to the function of the supporting shaft or honest old lally column. He ridicules, with a humor that is quite infectious to many of our youth, all form and manner of decoration or embellishment, and calls for a new Architecture, starting from scratch and free from all of the impediments of the past. This battle cry of freedom is intoxicating indeed. Who would not cast this weary flesh aside, and naked on the winds of Heaven ride? But how attain this state of bliss?

The recipe is simple. All that is necessary is to forget everything and look out upon the world wide-eyed like a little child. We perceive that the universe is full of space. What we will call Architecture from now on is nothing but the arbitrary segregation and en-

closure of fragments of this space. Our task is merely to shape these fragments of space satisfactorily. There is plenty of loose space floating around just waiting to be cabined, cribbed and confined. The shape of the space desired dictates the form, and consequently, the appearance of the enclosure. You are thinking of a balloon, for example. You discover that it is one of the characteristics of space to extend itself in all directions equally and impartially, so, quite naturally the balloon will assume a spherical form. Slight variations from this form need not disturb us too much for we realize that these variations may be caused by some perverse foreign matter acting argumentatively with pure space, as in the case of the orange, the apple, or the egg. One can, of course, pour space into an already prepared receptacle like a bladder, and secure a piece of space which looks like a large sausage. But square balloons, or square sausages, wouldn't be really Functional, and square eggs would certainly cause unnecessary pain.

It is of the utmost importance, however, that the space, or the several segments of space, which have been captured for building purposes should be properly or—

if the word does not convey any esthetic implication—harmoniously interrelated. They should be arranged so as to permit the free interplay or interflow of one space with another, for space has a natural affinity for and with itself. To confine space too rigidly does something to it which it does not like.

That is why so many current planners seek to avoid corridors and interior partitions and prefer to define spaces by means of chalk marks or lettering, such as Living Area, Work Area, Play Area, Administration, Service, etc. Where privacy, or semi-privacy is demanded screens are suggested, or partial partitions, or rolling curtains. It will readily be seen that by this method greater flexibility of plan may be secured. Any part of the building may slop over into any other part without embarrassment to the designer, however annoying to the occupant. In most cases, the occupant is not supposed to know any better.

But this manipulation of space is by no means all that we need to learn. We need to unlearn some other things. The older fellows knew something about space and contrived some very effective space

shapes under the airy dome of Sancta Sofia for example, in their barrel-vaulted basilicas, in lofty naves, and in exquisitely proportioned parallelograms large and small. So far, so good, but their fault lay in not being content with the beauty of the shape itself. They erred in over-elaboration and enrichment of the confining casket. They just couldn't forbear gilding the lily. Not content with a plain wooden box made to fit, they took untold pains and lavished much skillful craftsmanship in bedeviling a sarcophagus. Everyone realizes that the beautiful binding of a book adds nothing to the value of the content, though it may be regarded as evidence that the designer appreciated, even venerated, that content. In their efforts of appreciation men have often gone haywire: through incompetence, vainglory or innate vulgarity. Some who had talents abused them; few made the most of them.



But the new prophets say what's the use of rehashing this old stuff, we've heard it all before. We live in an industrial age, an age of steel and glass and plastic. Royalty is out; the common man is in. We don't want to waste any more time

on sarcophagi. Quite right. The Industrial Age *has* radically changed our attitude toward architecture. Perhaps the invention of the skeleton steel frame has had more to do with this changed attitude than any other single factor, though the more recent progress in the use of armored, or reinforced concrete, is scarcely less revolutionary. Until nearly the end of the nineteenth century most durable building had been conceived in age-old terms of masonry. Basic principles of construction had undergone very little change for centuries despite geographical and social variations in form and detail.

The steel frame posed a new challenge and this challenge found many men of the just-past generation, and some of our own, literally hanging in the air. Inherited predilection for masonry forms resulted in much confusion. Nobody knew quite what to do, and it must be frankly admitted that much of the doing was tentative, illogical and absurd. The steel structure was often hidden by a kind of drapery of stone, brick or terra cotta. Not being self supporting, this drapery was called, honestly enough, a curtain wall. But this was the only honest thing about it. It aped old forms and

motives. These were not integrally woven into the fabric, but hung and tied to it. The results were as false as the beard of Santa Claus, as deceptive and inscrutable as the smile of Mona Lisa or Joseph Stalin. People pretended that the thing looked real enough, but everybody knew it was a fake.

Even so, no really satisfactory treatment of the skeleton frame has yet been found, and probably won't be until the divorce from masonry is complete. Its bones seem to ache for a skin of some kindred substance, some metal or metallic alloy, at least for an integument light, tough and tenacious. So if masonry is on the way out in tall buildings, it may gradually disappear from others.

Certainly the illustrations of few ultra-modern designs suggest masonry. The walls might be anything from plywood to plaster-board, or any kind of sheeted fabric. They give the observer scarcely more clue to what is behind them than the old masonry skins. We only know that they must be hung to something, and that they are probably very light. The absence of reveals or shadows tells us that they are thin. This thinness prevents molding or carving, and thus far the only relief from monotony

is attained by alternating areas of glass with areas of apparently solid wall, recalling the pattern of the old Dolly Varden layer-cake—dark chocolate, white vanilla, pink strawberry—with which our grandmothers used to delight us when we were children.

Admitting that we of the past generation abused and misused our rich vocabulary, that we were often verbose and incoherent; that vagrant styles were allowed to roam from the Doric porch to the Gothic dome; that Elizabethan minarets punctuated our parapets, it must be granted that the contemporary idiom is somewhat thin and dry and therefore without the means of eloquence, emotional expression, or definition of character. Its limited phrases may be adequate to convey the idea that here is a structure contrived to serve a utilitarian purpose, but when these same few phrases are employed over and over again in buildings of different purposes, it is difficult to know whether we are seeing a factory, a school-house, a court house, a hospital, a church, or a mortician's dream. They all look back at us with the same bland and imperturbable stare of rectilinear composure. The little ones seem just like the pups of the

big ones. There is a strong family resemblance between the filling station and the village library. Except for the gasoline pumps in one instance, or for the blinking electric signs, we should be utterly confounded. You ask a passerby which of those two buildings is the City Hall and which the new Chrysler plant. He replies, "I don't know mister, I'm a stranger here myself."

The invention of a new language is a tedious and difficult enterprise. Noting how slowly our own speech forms have evolved, realizing that their roots lie far back in the past and how much they owe to the borrowing and grafting of alien sounds and meanings, we ought to be very patient. We must lisp and stutter for a long time, and add to this new language a word or two when we can. Eventually it may become fluent, flexible and copious, full of nuances, delicacies and shading.

At the moment, however, it seems inadequate to express many

of the emotions which cause the heart to beat faster. It lacks warmth, graciousness, exuberance, gusto. It must expand its lexicon to include some terms at least suggestive of passion, grandeur, reverence, enthusiasm, blood or sweat or tears. We can confine our G.I.s in functional barracks under military regulations, but when they get out of bounds they will make a beeline for the flesh-pots. They will want to experience some of the color and adventure of life.

We should not attempt to confine the Muse of Architecture either within the framework of old patterns, or the framework of new prejudices. The freer she is allowed to be the more helpful we shall find her.

She loves probity but delights in grace. She is shy of dogma and abhors intolerance. She can be grave or gay, animated or pensive. But she would hate to be considered a sour puss.

Revision of the Elevator Safety Code

THE American Standard Safety Code for elevators, dumbwaiters, and escalators, sponsored jointly by The A.I.A., the National Bureau of Standards, and

The American Society of Mechanical Engineers, is now being revised. As a result of the better code requirements in the American Standard Elevator Code and the

testing and certifying of these safety devices, the number of elevator accidents throughout the United States has shown a steady decrease during the past 20 years, although the number of elevators in use has increased materially.

The usual periodic revision scheduled for 1943 was held in abeyance due to the pressure of war work. The 1947 edition is expected to be clearer in intent and fuller in coverage than previous editions, and will be arranged to require the minimum number of cross references.

At present ten subcommittees are at work on particular phases of this revision. Suggested rearrangements, modification of exist-

ing rules, or proposals for additional material will be welcome and will be referred to appropriate subcommittees for consideration. All communications should be addressed to The American Society of Mechanical Engineers, 29 West 39th Street, New York 18, New York, attention of C. B. LePage, Technical Secretary; The A.I.A., attention of Theodore I. Coe, Technical Secretary, 1741 New York Avenue, N.W., Washington 6, D. C.; or to the National Bureau of Standards, Washington 25, D. C., attention of J. A. Dickinson, Secretary of the Sectional Committee. The work follows the procedure of the American Standards Association.

Chapter Officers' Organization

MIAMI BEACH saw the birth of a new organization last May—the Chapter Officers. Quite specifically and by formal resolution the new body is independent of The Institute's officers and directors. It has its own chairman—Clair Ditchy of Detroit; vice chairman—Charles O. Matcham of Los Angeles; secretary—John D. Bolles of Ross, Calif., each elected for one year. Its purpose is to

provide a time and place for the informal exchange of ideas which would strengthen the chapters and their officers in carrying out their functions.

Committees were to be appointed by the chairman to study the various problems submitted by the chapters, these committees to submit reports to all chapters as soon as feasible. Meanwhile, in the two meetings held in Miami Beach,

representatives of several chapters outlined activities that were in effect and apparently productive of satisfactory results. These suggestions are taken from the minutes of the Chapter Officers' meetings recently sent out to the presidents of all chapters.

WILLIS A. VOGEL of the **TOLEDO CHAPTER:**

1. The Chapter maintains a "Flying Squadron" of five younger men to check on attendance.
2. Producers are invited to exhibit new materials at each meeting.
3. The Chapter retains a news reporter for reporting meetings to the Press.
4. The Chapter maintains a Speakers Committee to provide speakers for outside groups.
5. The Chapter holds joint meetings with material suppliers.
6. The Chapter sponsored a series of drawings on proposed city planning in Toledo.
7. The Chapter makes a point of depending upon and encouraging the younger men to participate actively in all Chapter activities.
8. The Chapter is a member of the Toledo Technical Council. This is composed of delegates

from all national technical organizations.

ANDREW T. HASS of the **NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER:**

1. The Chapter conducts joint meetings with various groups, such as the Producers' Council and the Engineering Societies.
2. The Chapter is a member of the Building Industry Conference Board of San Francisco, and is represented by delegates to this group which is composed of representatives from the Producers' Council, the Architects, Civil Engineering Societies and the two local Associated General Contractors chapters.
3. The Chapter makes an effort to sponsor and place men on civic committees.
4. The Chapter encourages a group known as the Women's Architectural League, which is composed of the wives of architects, and aided them in a series of lectures entitled "The House I Want."
5. The Chapter conducts a meeting at the School of Architecture of the University of California for the purpose of acquainting the students and architects with one another.

6. The Chapter holds an "Historical Monument" meeting once a year, at which time an afternoon and an evening are taken for a trip by bus and car to some point of interest in the area.
7. The Chapter has found that the best attendance is noted at meetings where the subjects are non-technical. The average attendance at meetings is 35% of the Chapter membership.
8. The Chapter maintains a Chapter Bulletin of outstanding character and typography.

CLAIR DITCHY of the DETROIT CHAPTER:

1. The Chapter promotes exhibits of works of architecture.
2. Makes Honor Awards, with a medal being given to the Owner and a certificate to the Architect and the Contractor.
3. An interesting lecturer is obtained for each meeting.
4. The Chapter has sponsored lectures at the Detroit Museum of Art.
5. The Chapter is an integral part of an inter-professional society representing the fields of education, medicine, law, accounting, dentistry, engineer-

ing and architecture, with the groups representing over 25,000 people; and consequently it is a potent factor in legislative and promotional work.

6. The Chapter is a member of the building industry group, but may withdraw since the building group is not, at this time, entirely sympathetic to the architectural viewpoint.
7. The Chapter conducts a Chapter Improvement Meeting at which members express their opinions regarding the activities of the Chapter and offer suggestions for improvements.
8. The Chapter maintains a Professional Guidance Committee which cooperates with other professions in advising high-school students who seek vocational counsel.
9. The Chapter is a member of the Affiliate Council set up under the Detroit Engineering Society.
10. Plays have been given by members of the group at Chapter meetings.
11. Slide talks and travelogues are given at meetings by members.
12. The Chapter makes a point of having representatives of Governmental agencies and units

in attendance when it has lecturers who speak on pertinent subjects.

13. The Chapter maintains a draftsmen's employment agency.
14. The Chapter maintains a weekly bulletin.
15. The Chapter invites members of the Press to each meeting.

CHARLES O. MATCHAM, of the SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER:

1. At the first of each year the Chapter adopts a policy and program which is maintained throughout the period. This year the established program is entitled "Leadership." Under this year's program the Chapter is endeavoring to show its membership the need for the establishment of leadership by the individual and the profession in civic and governmental activities.
2. At each meeting subjects are assigned for spontaneous dis-

ussion by the membership. These subjects are of the moment and are known only to the Program Chairman prior to their announcement before the meeting. By this method the members are encouraged to talk and discuss problems of interest to themselves and to the Chapter.

OSCAR G. WOODY, formerly of the IOWA CHAPTER, now of the COLORADO CHAPTER:

1. The Board of Directors of the Chapter requires committees to report at least three times a year.
2. The Chapter has established a Veterans' Training Program.
3. The Chapter participates with other Chapters in the area in a regional meeting.
4. The Chapter is setting up a new program for broadening the membership base to include students. The Chapter feels that the young men stimulate the Chapter meetings.

I S O

HOWARD COONLEY, chairman of the Executive Committee of the American Standards Asso-

ciation has been elected president of the new International Organization for Standardization, the for-

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mation of which has just been completed by delegates from 25 nations meeting in London.

Gustave L. Gerard, staff president of the Belgian Standards Association will be vice president of the new international organization which is expected to be known informally as ISO. Headquarters will be set up shortly in Geneva, Switzerland, which was chosen in a close final ballot of 12 to 11 over Montreal, Canada.

Formation of the new ISO consolidates into a single organization the work of the old International Federation of National Standardizing Associations (ISA) and that of the war-born United Nations Standards Coordinating Committee. The International Electrotechnical Commission, a third important standardizing agency, is expected to affiliate with ISO shortly as its electrical division.

The members of ISO will be the national standards bodies. Its work will be carried out through technical committees upon which any country may be represented if it so desires.

The governing body of ISO will be a council containing representatives from 11 countries. Five of these seats are assigned for a period of five years to China,

France, Great Britain, U.S.A. and U.S.S.R. Others represented initially on the council are Australia, Belgium, Brazil, India, Norway and Switzerland.

Following long discussions, which started at preliminary meetings in New York in 1945 and in Paris in this year, the ISO finally agreed to use three official languages: English, French and Russian. The Russian delegation has pressed vigorously for official recognition of the Russian language.

Technically the new ISO organization is "provisional," and it will be formally completed when its constitution is ratified by 15 national standards bodies. Actually it is starting active work immediately by reviewing the projects and reports of the two predecessor organizations and considering a number of new proposals. The United Nations Standards Coordinating Committee will continue in existence and maintain its office in London until the ISO headquarters in Geneva is established.

The 25 nations represented in the formation of ISO were: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, France, Italy, India, Mexico, Netherlands, New

Zealand, Norway, Palestine, Poland, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom,

United States of America, Union of Socialist Soviet Republics, Yugoslavia.

News of the Chapters

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER is still running a temperature by reason of the first annual convention of the California Council of Architects in Coronado last October. It was a three-day affair and drew an attendance of 385—architects, wives and guests, including President Edmunds, Vice-President Lunden and Regional Director Heitschmidt. Vincent Palmer is said to have set a new high mark in smooth-running convention procedure.



NEW YORK CHAPTER is replacing its Year Book with a Register of Chapter Members. In addition to its distribution among the members, the Register will be sold to the public at \$2. It will have three parts. Part I will list firms or individuals prepared to accept commissions. Part II will list all corporate members, fellows and chapter associates, with cross-reference to firms and individuals in Part I. Part III will list honor-

ary members. An appendix will list chapter officers and will provide an Index of Types of Architectural Work, listing by serial numbers the firms and individuals who have performed such work. Cost of the initial publication (estimated at \$1,950) is to be borne by those listed in Part I. The hope is that annual sales will cover the cost of annual re-publication.



DETROIT CHAPTER has elected Dean Wells I. Bennett as its president, succeeding Clair W. Ditchy, F.A.I.A., who has served two terms. Other officers elected were: David H. Williams, Jr., vice president; Charles B. McGraw, secretary; Cornelius L. T. Gabler, treasurer; Talmage C. Hughes, F.A.I.A., executive secretary; and Andrew R. Morison, director.



WASHINGTON STATE CHAPTER held a November meeting at Timberline Lodge, Mt. Hood, Ore.,



PRIVATE GALLERY OF EDWARD G. ROBINSON, BEVERLY HILLS, CALIF.

SAMUEL A. MARX, F.A.I.A., ARCHITECT

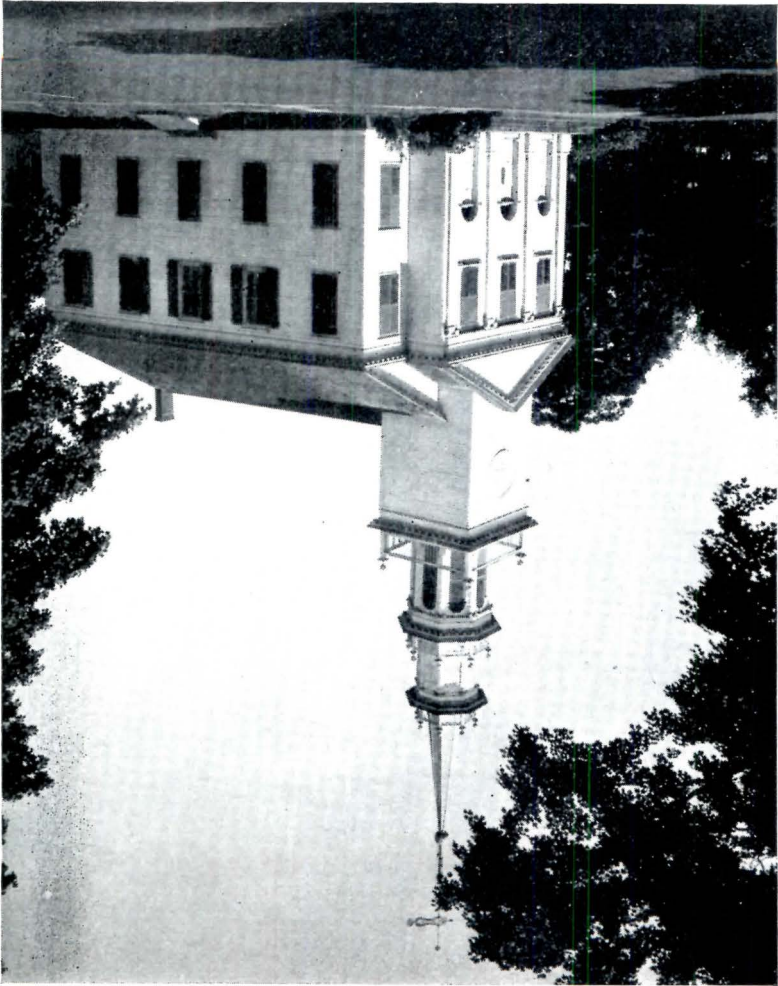
NOEL L. FLINT, C. W. SCHONNE, ASSOCIATES

Photograph by Maynard L. Parker

*Journal
The AIA*

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH (1819)

EAST AVON, CONN.

*From Pictorial Archives
of Early American Architecture**Do you know this building?*

in conjunction with the Oregon Chapter. Details of the party are not yet in, but advance information was that 125 applications for accommodations had been received, as against the Lodge's ability to sleep only 95 persons comfortably. The question arises: Is sleep necessary at conventions?

WASHINGTON STATE CHAPTER has joined the nation-wide effort to find practicable ways of bringing architectural services to the homebuilder operating on a low budget. As a start towards a

Small House Plans Bureau, a competition is under way, sponsored by the Seattle Trust and Savings Bank, calling for the design of a house of 900 sq. ft. floor area, for an inside 50-ft. lot. Contestants whose designs are approved by the jury are to prepare working drawings and specifications. A set of six copies of blueprints and specifications will be available for \$50, of which a minimum of 50% is to go to the designer, with the balance retained for the Bureau's working capital.

News from the Educational Field

QUEENS COLLEGE, Long Island, has joined the spreading effort to educate prospective home builders in the best methods of building the homes they want, within their budgets. Queens College's contribution takes the form of a series of fifteen lectures on "The Family House."

THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS, through its new Small Homes Research Center, is building the first of a series of houses on the University campus—this unit for the purpose of studying warm air heating. The new house is a 5½-room one, and it is interesting to note that it

replaces an 11-room house which has been used for 22 years in warm air heating research, thus marking the nation-wide trend toward smaller dwellings.

RUDARD A. JONES, recently an assistant professor in engineering and architecture at Kansas State College, has been appointed a research associate professor in the University of Illinois to carry on a three-year study of the use of coal in house heating.

The new project at Illinois will deal with subjects such as coal storage and handling, ash handling, furnace or boiler location, and the

having garden-terraces reminiscent of the Babylonian hanging gardens, and finally falls on the magnificent Avenue des Champs-Elysees leading to the triumphal arch dedicated to Napoleon. Being greatly disturbed by the rush and noise of automobiles moving without interruption, and while wondering how he could go across the wide open square he is, to his surprise, greeted by an architect who has recognized him. The latter is on his way to a meeting of his architectural association. He attends it sometime later having, at his side, the king as guest of honor.

King Gudea was eager to learn something about a profession of which, in his country, he was the leader, and here are some of the questions he asked, with their answers, as they are recorded in the minutes of this imaginary meeting that is supposed to have taken place around 1920:

Q. "How is the architectural profession organized in France?"

A. "Very much the same as it was in Babylonia, in Greece and in Imperial Rome. We have two distinct bodies of architects. One of them, which includes the Government architects, has its own hierarchy, its traditions and its appropriate training—in fact, a highly

privileged body. The other includes architects who, on the basis of their previous training, belong to various architectural associations. Our profession has no legal status. Whoever is willing to pay the fiscal dues called *patente* is allowed to use the title of architect without any other qualifications. That brings among us some very undesirable people. However, the situation is not as bad as the one described by the venerable Vitruvius, a government architect of the Roman Empire, when he said that the profession was over-crowded with the uneducated and the unskillful, men who scorned to take up shoemaking, dyeing, or other useful occupations, and rushed into architecture without even the knowledge of the carpenter's trade."

Q. "Have there been, in the past, other types of organization?"

A. "Only one, during the period known as the Middle Ages. The unit of organization was the corporation, and there were as many of them as territorial districts in the kingdom. A special privilege was granted to them by the king. They had strict rules of professional practice, a fine feeling of solidarity between their members, in which were included the master

builders, the journeymen and the apprentices; and there was a stimulating spirit of competition between the various corporations. Notre Dame of Paris, our cathedral, is a typical example of perfect integration between the structural and esthetic elements in architecture, and you should visit it to have an idea of the daring skill of the medieval master builders. The corporations flourished during three centuries, then gradually lost their predominance, due mostly to the increasing centralization of power in the hands of the king, and the growing influence of the king's architects. They finally were abolished, as was every other trade corporation, at the time of the French Revolution."

Q. "What are the architect's responsibilities?"

A. "It is a singular coincidence that there are only two known codes of law in which the architect's responsibility is specifically written: the Babylonian code and the French one. The code of Hammurabi deals with the penal responsibility, which is expressed in these threatening words: 'If an architect builds a house, if the house collapses and the owner is killed, the architect shall be put to death.' The code of Napoleon is

much less drastic, and the civil responsibility of the architect is defined as follows: 'If a building collapses, in whole or in part, within a period of ten years after its completion, as the result of a serious fault of construction, the architect and the contractor are held responsible to their client.' With the increased complexity of our problems, the great variety of new materials of construction and new types of equipment, our work of superintendence cannot be done as in the past, and we think that the law, which was enacted in 1810, is unfair to us."

Q. "What, in your opinion, should be done to improve the present situation?"

A. "Legalization and unification of the profession, and suppression of the ten-year legal responsibility." (Unanimous cheers).

"Invited by the chairman to make some comments, the honorable guest started by saying that he had no apology to make for the code of Hammurabi, since it was promulgated 500 years after his reign. He added that, after what he had seen during the few hours spent in the metropolis and what he had just heard, that which struck him most was the survival value of the noble art of architecture

tories for the workers, but also where the facilities of a library, a health center, a swimming-pool and an adult playground would be accessible to the people living in the same neighborhood. Such is their conception of the social function of the architect in the community of which he is a member.

When, before the War, they were asked whether they had read Ruskin's "Seven Lamps of Architecture," the answer was generally yes, though frankly admitting that they were bored with it. They should now read "Fors Clavigera." It contains a letter in which their own ideal is expressed in the most touching language. Here is the letter in an abbreviated form:

"While I was on my way to Oxford University, to give a lecture on the Fine Arts in Florence, I saw a nice little girl whipping a

top on the pavement, but who was much hampered in her juvenile activity because she had on a large and dilapidated pair of women's shoes. At the lecture there were some worthy people and I think my lecture was one of my best. It gave some really trustworthy information about the art of Florence six hundred years ago. But all the time I was speaking I knew that anything spoken about art, either by myself or other people, could be of the least use to anybody there. For their primary business, and mine, was with art in Oxford, now, and not with art in Florence, then; and art in Oxford now was absolutely dependent on our power of solving the question, which I knew that my audience would not even allow to be proposed for solution: *Why have our little girls large shoes.*"

*About \$1,200,000, a very large amount of money at that time, when the average salary of the architect working for the city, in charge of an architectural department, was about two hundred dollars a year. However, higher salaries were given to architects of exceptional talent and reputation.



"We live in a world of fabulous resources and many and varied skills; yet we still maintain scarcity economies in capitalistic and communist worlds alike. But we have mass-produced in great abundance the ugliest cities in the world's history."—RALPH WALKER, F.A.I.A.



Architects Read and Write

Letters from readers—discussion, argumentative, corrective, even vituperative.



THE HANDWRITING ON THE WALLS

BY M. P. HALPERIN, Cleveland, O.

SEE the handwriting on the walls! There it is, brazen in neon lights, "*Mene mene tekel upharsin.*" The era of Jig-saw Glass is here.

We all remember the era of jig-saw wood. Many buildings of that era are still to be seen on the avenues of our cities. Bad architecture? Perhaps; but they do possess the charm of naive exuberance, there is an interesting human quality to their design.

This human quality is totally lacking in buildings of our era of Jig-saw Glass. Austere, blank walls, wide yawning gapes of needless glass, puerile glass-block panels, hastily erected overhangs left unfinished, with imprisoned wooden joists looking down on plants below which are hemmed in by brick walls; these are the signs of our era, the handwriting on our new walls.

It is often said, there is no modern or traditional architecture; there are just two kinds of architecture, good and bad. But the great majority of our buildings, the numberless houses, shops and churches are not particularly good, nor are they bad—they are simply mediocre.

It is largely these mediocre houses which are seen by our chil-

dren going to and from school; it is these many average stores which leave their impression on the mothers doing their shopping; and it is these numerous mediocre churches which the motorists see silhouetted against the sky while driving their cars. These are the symbols of our civilization, and these in turn help mold the esthetic standards of our people, will it or not.

It is not given to every architect to become a Saarinen or a Wright. The greatest number of architects are just fair—mediocre. Given the convenient prop of precedent they can and did design buildings, which if not good are at least mediocre and harmless.

In this coming era of Jig-saw Glass, however, these many buildings designed by the average architect cease to be mediocre and harmless. Divorced from accepted forms, devoid of precedent, the average architect, in a sophomoric attempt to be "modern and progressive," creates bizarre and ungainly forms, ugly walls clearly labeled "Jig-saw Glass."

We have come to an era in our mass architecture, the worst in our history. Heralds of that era are already here. Glass-blocked saloons, tricky and circus-like store fronts, packing-box houses—who has not

seen these on the avenues of our cities, on the streets of our suburbs?

It is time we reconsider our approach to the physical frame of our civilization. We may well ask ourselves: Can we superimpose an architecture based on the Ruskinian Lamp of Truth and Honesty on our present civilization of Veneer? Should we disregard the colloquial, understood by the many and ingrained in our lives, for an Esperanto, rootless and queer?

It is time we attune our ears to the message of the existing buildings which speak the language of the land. Never mind the grammar—observe the inflection. Read the handwriting on the old walls. Red brick with high arched windows, American Gothic, Jig-saw Wood. Vernacular and human. Ornate, but easily read!

Easily read and understood, because these walls are of a kind with our clothes, ladies' hats and men's buttons and ties. They are of the same genre as our popular books, comic pages and movies. They are ours!

Our architecture must first of all express our civilization. Only by giving expression in a medium understood by the many are we enabled to help mold that civilization. We cannot enlarge man's horizon by giving him merely an expanse of glass in his home. We cannot establish a standard of values in esthetics at variance with the accepted standards in our other human endeavors. We cannot help mold our civilization by the medium of Esperanto Architecture, even if we do illuminate the message in neon lights on a background of Jig-saw Glass!

AS TO LOUIS SULLIVAN

BY JOHN ALBURY BRYAN, St. Louis, Mo.

IN THE November issue of the JOURNAL I read the remarks concerning Louis Sullivan which Mr. Maginnis and Mr. Wurster made at the dedication of the tablet in Boston. And in *The Architectural Forum*, for October, I read what Frank Lloyd Wright had to say about those who placed and dedicated the tablet: "Monuments are made by those who, voluntarily or not, never did anything but betray the thing the great man loved most."

Of course some such outburst

should have been expected from Wright, but I think it high time that the JOURNAL set the public straight about the story of Sullivan. Twenty-five years ago, when Sullivan was ill and in need, wasn't it The American Institute of Architects who financed the publication of his "Autobiography of An Idea" and thus helped him over those last, rough days? Or was it his patron Frank Lloyd Wright?

I have always admired some of Sullivan's work—the Wainwright

Building and Wainwright Tomb in my own city and the Guaranty-Prudential Building in Buffalo. However, there is one question that I've never found answered in any of the recent books that seem to regard Sullivan as almost divine: Why, after he had solved the problem of skyscraper design in the ten-story Wainwright Building, did he build a fifteen-story office building the following year and in

the same city without following in any way the dictum that he says guided him in designing the first project?

Thirty years ago it was *lese majesté* to question anything done by McKim, Mead & White. Today the same silly attitude seems to prevail in some quarters regarding the work of Sullivan and Wright.

THREE FINGERS OF SCOTCH

BY WILLIAM GRAY PURCELL, Pasadena, Calif.

RE-READING that letter of mine which you published [Nov. '46 JOURNAL] I find it packed so tight that in mercy to your customers it should either be expanded to a palatable dish or epitomized as canape to your cocktail.

Since no necessity presses at the moment for further nourishment from these ideas, perhaps your less hardy and more practical readers

will find some nip in three fingers of Scotch canny.

Architecture is the Evidence of the Living Building in Action.

Architecture is not the Making-a-Thing-Work; that is Engineering.

Architecture is the Making-a-Thing-Say what its working means.

A GREEK ARCHITECT NEEDS TOOLS

BY ANDREW STAVROUDIS

Poste Restante, Sefretagne Place, Athens, Greece

I AM Greek student of architecture, in the Greek College of Architecture in Athens. I am now 19 years old and I have no sisters and no brothers. My father was in Crete during the occupation of our country by the Germans and he has been executed by them in 1943.

I am working in a British organization here while I am going

to college. In this organization my salary is 41 dollars for a month. Of course you can understand that these money are not enough for my living for my studies and for my mother who is living with me. So if you could possibly be so kind and send me some books on architecture or any drawing instruments, it would be such a relief for me as they are so expensive! The

other day I went to buy a book and they asked me 16 dollars. But of course I couldn't afford it.

I am living with the highest economy I possibly can. I'm not going to the movies or to any other amusement places and also, my

uncle who is not very rich gives me his old suits and shoes.

Please let me know if you would like me to send you anything from Greece.

P. S. I speak English and French.



The Old Order Changeth

Said Christopher Wren to Inigo Jones,
With sorrowful mien and mournful tones,
As they sat in their club in Paradise,
And talked of the world with its woes and vice,
That men were not what they used to be.
"For where," he asked, "can a person see
A finial, crocket, a delicate spire"—
And here he fumed with nostalgic ire—
"A barrel vault, a mighty dome,
A church that's a church, a house that's a home,
A pediment noble, a column Ionic.
And this," he said, "is the most ironic:
To see instead V-poles and such.
Really," said Christopher, "it is too much!"

Said Inigo Jones to Christopher Wren:
"Alas, I mourn for the kind of men,
Who used to build upon the earth,
And to noble works gave birth.
Alberti, Bernini, Bramante, Le Vau—
They're all up here; there're none below
To carry on in the grand old way,
As you did, or I, in our heyday.
There's no one to build as the masters do,
As Bramante, Sangallo, and John Vanbrugh.

JANUARY, 1947

I think of the solid old building stones,
The old oak beams, and then," cried Jones,
"I think of their plastics, and concrete, and steel,
And if this wasn't Heaven like Hades I'd feel."

But as they continued to talk and to grumble,
With holy flame and sweet soft rumble,
A courier posthaste from Peter came,
To give them a morsel of news hot as flame.
Straight from Heaven's reception office,
He came to tell of one, a novice
To Heaven's ways and saintly pleasure—
But before they could guess the newcomer's measure,
Who should appear, in a flash of light,
Unannounced by the butler, but Frank Lloyd Wright!
"Greetings, Sir Christopher, hello there, Jones.
Just stay in your chairs, don't disturb your old bones.
I heard what you said, but please do not panic,
For I guess that up here, why, we're ALL inorganic."

G. HERBERT, in
The South African Architectural Record
for May, 1946.

Books & Bulletins

CITY AND REGIONAL PLANNING PAPERS. By Alfred Bettman. Edited by Arthur C. Comey. No. 13 in the Harvard City Planning Studies. 314 pp. 6¾" x 9½". Cambridge: 1946: Harvard University Press. \$4.50.

One of the most widely known of city planning pioneers, the late Alfred Bettman, never wrote a book, although, as Mr. Comey points out, every paper or speech dealt with an immediate need on

the broad subject and, now assembled, they are as timely as when released. The book is in three parts: I, 24 of Bettman's most cogent papers; II, his most important law briefs; III, his contributions of model drafts for statutes; and IV, a bibliography.

THE MANSIONS OF VIRGINIA, 1706-1776. By Thomas Tiletton Waterman. 456 pp. 6¾" x 10". Chapel Hill: 1945: The

JOURNAL OF THE A. I. A.

University of North Carolina Press. \$10.

A scholarly and sympathetic study of 45 of Virginia's pre-Revolutionary mansions. The architectural details are analyzed with the knowledge and skill that have come to be expected of the director of the Historic American Buildings Survey, and the illustrations are plentiful and technically superb. New facts of authorship are brought to light, based on the author's familiarity with the structures and his keen appraisal of evidence in old documents and "family" resemblances.

SCHOOL SOUND SYSTEMS. Basic Standards Developed by the U. S. Office of Education and the Radio Manufacturers Association Joint Committee on Standards for School Audio Equipment. 32 pp. 8½" x 11". Washington, D. C.: 1946: The Radio Mfrs. Assn., 1317 F St., N.W.

CORRECTION: In our review of HOSPITAL PLANNING, by Butler and Erdman, in the October JOURNAL, the price was incorrectly given; the price of the book is \$15.

The Editor's Asides

WE HAVE a rather disturbing feeling that we may be becoming psychic. Shortly after we had placed on the table all the cards picturing the Wyatt program, Mr. Wyatt resigned. Shortly *before* the Atlanta hotel fire we printed the article "What is Fireproof?" with its analysis of hotel holocausts. Shortly after we printed Lewis Mumford's vision of the U.N. home being carved out of a great city instead of being made a suburban retreat, Mr. Rockefeller stepped forward with his magnificent offer that made possible at least a start on Mumford's mind-stretching proposal. Perhaps we have been psychic; perhaps, on the

other hand, we have been receiving an unusually overflowing portion of the breaks.



LEON KEACH, in the *Bay State Architect*, lays bare a disturbing incident of contemporary history:

"Until there should be space for him at Harvard, a GI sought a year's job in a Boston office. Sagely pondering the more desirable berths from the faculty viewpoint, he engaged the services of several architectural minds to hazard a guess. They were stumped, and came up with an awful feeling that perhaps all the offices capable of absorbing an untrained man would

be esteemed reactionary cesspools of architectural iniquity."

DOWN IN NEW ORLEANS, where the Board of Directors recently held its semi-annual meeting, the Vieux Carré still gives the city a personality that is unique on this side of the Atlantic. On Canal Street the honky-tonk is given full sway, but a step to the east off that Great White Way of the South brings one into the Old Square of French origin, where time has stood still for these many years. Just how the people of New Orleans prevent the adulteration of that old-world flavor, I do not know. Probably the architects have had a lot to do with the restrictions, written in the laws or tacitly approved and obeyed. Whatever the means, New Orleans is treasuring what seems to many visitors her greatest asset. While it endures it will keep calling to many of us, "Lover, come back to me."

THE FRUITS of a clipping bureau make a stimulating sort of grab-bag. One never knows what the shears will bring forth when searching for news pertaining to The A.I.A. Here, for instance, I find an intriguing three-column

illustration from the *Houston Post*. The caption reads: "MODELS IN CROWDED QUARTERS—Just before Sawokitz Bros. style show for wives of members of the Texas Chapter of The American Institute of Architects. Adjusting earrings, buckling shoes, vying for space at the mirror, the prize beauties make at least three changes for each show."

THERE MAY BE some subtle significance in the news that the offices in New York's Empire State Building formerly occupied by OPA have been relinquished to the Atomic Bomb Control.

DRIVING NORTH along the River Road that hides under the Mississippi River levee, the plantation country is, as it long has been, a panorama fascinating to the architect. The corrugated metal roof intrudes in force, but even its blatant reflections cannot hide the charm of the moderately steep-pitched, cap-like roof forms. Almost never, in the early houses, whether for planter or slave, is the porch or gallery roofed as a separate entity. Porches, whether two-story or one-story, are recessed under the unbroken rectangle of the eaves.

And, as befits a site on flat ground where rains are abundant and the imprisoned River nearby constitutes an ever-present threat, the plantation house is usually built on stilts, so to speak. Its basement enclosure, though entirely above grade, was of secondary importance. And the steps that led from the ground to the main floor were also often recessed under the eaves line, usually mounting sideways under, and to the front of, the main gallery.

Buford Pickens, now heading Tulane's architectural school, propounded a theory explaining H. H. Richardson's love of the recessed porch or lobby: subconscious impressions from boyhood of the convincing fitness of these Louisiana mass forms. One might, I suppose, characterize the Crane Library at Quincy as "by Freud out of Richardson."

SOME INGENIOUS ENGINEER has developed a heating plant for the dwelling the size of a suitcase. It should be made clear that the size refers to the heating plant, not necessarily to the dwelling of today.

BACK IN THE DAYS when Charles T. Ingham was Secretary of The Institute, he sent out to

each Chapter secretary a sheaf of printed forms requesting news items for publication in *The Octagon*. At the top of the sheet, in small print the appeal:

"In every Chapter, in every calendar month, there is at least one event; or one Chapter activity, one accomplishment by the Chapter or by its members, one favorable or unfavorable expression of public opinion affecting the architect, one effort by the profession to influence public thinking, one battle started, won, or lost; or some other development which would have significance and value to all the Chapters of The Institute if they knew about it. . . ."

"In other words, send us the architectural high point of the month in your community as you see it. . . ."

Below this printed request was a large blank space for the reply.

One of these forms reached us on July 22, 1946:

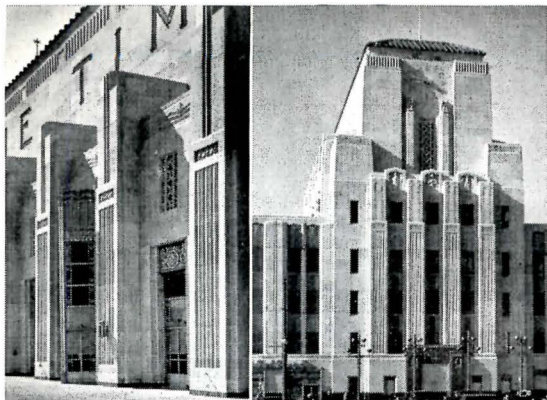
"NAME OF CHAPTER — North Carolina. RETURN FOR THE MONTH OF—June, 1946

"Summer Meeting held at Morehead Bay, N. C., June 14 and 15,

"Meeting very well attended.

"Archie Royal Davis, *Secretary*"

Often it takes years for a good idea to bear fruit.



← Los Angeles Times

CHICAGO DAILY NEWS
Holabird & Root, Architects

CHICAGO TRIBUNE
Howells & Hood, Architects

**CHRISTIAN SCIENCE
MONITOR**
Boston, Chester Lindsay
Churchill, Architect

CINCINNATI TIMES-STAR
Samuel Hannaford & Sons,
Architects

DETROIT FREE PRESS
Albert Kahn, Inc., Architect

DETROIT NEWS
Albert Kahn, Inc., Architect

DETROIT TIMES
Albert Kahn, Inc., Architect

LOS ANGELES TIMES
Gordon B. Kaufman, Architect

**LOUISVILLE COURIER-
JOURNAL**
Lockwood & Greene Engineers,
Inc., Architects (under
construction)

LOUISVILLE TIMES
Lockwood & Greene Engineers
Inc., Architects (under
construction)

NEW YORK DAILY NEWS
Harrison & Abramovitz,
Architects

NEW YORK TIMES
Shreve, Lamb & Harmon,
Architects

**SAN ANTONIO EVENING
NEWS**
Herbert S. Greene, Architect

SAN ANTONIO EXPRESS
Herbert S. Greene, Architect

TORONTO DAILY STAR
Chapman & Oxley, Architects

Gentlemen of the Press choose modern dress . . .

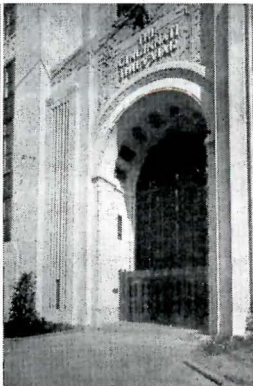
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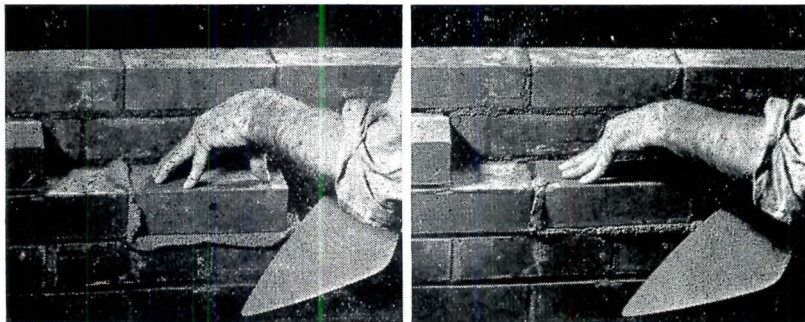
You are invited to forward plans and specifications to the Institute for competitive cost estimates by our member companies



← Cincinnati Times-Star

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To compare the plasticity of any two mortars, try shoving a brick into place, with a full head joint. The more plastic the mortar, the easier the work. Try this with Brixment mortar!

And Good Plasticity Is the First Requirement of Good Mortar

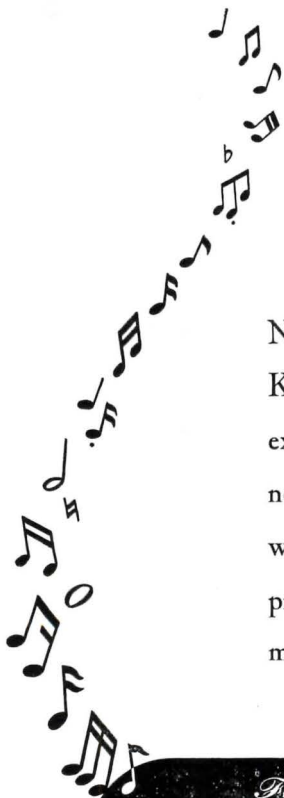
One of the most important characteristics any mortar can possess is *plasticity*. Within certain limits, plasticity is the greatest single factor not only in the *economy* of brickwork, but also in its strength, its neatness, and its resistance to the passage of water.

One of the outstanding characteristics of Brixment mortar is its unusual plasticity. For twenty-five years, bricklayers all over the United States

have agreed that the workability of Brixment is comparable to that of straight lime putty. This exceptional plasticity makes it easy for the bricklayer to secure neat, economical brickwork, with the brick properly bedded, and the joints well filled. And because of this unusual plasticity, a bag of Brixment will carry three full cubic feet of sand and still make an ideally workable mortar.

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CEMENT MANUFACTURERS SINCE 1830

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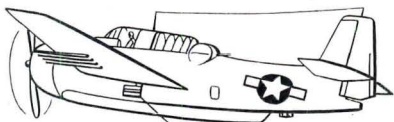
No, brother, you don't rip up a Kentile floor when you want to expand. All you do is add the necessary squares. . . . Any wonder we're proud of this handsome product of ours which has, for so many years led the field!

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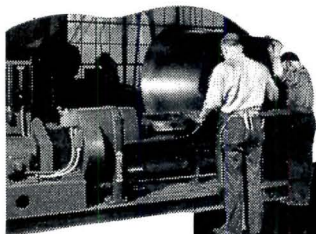
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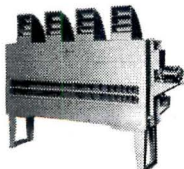
EXPLORE UNDERGROUND BY AIR - -



But... proper heating and ventilating may be vastly more important to your clients



Herman Nelson
Propeller-Fan Type
Unit Heaters



Herman Nelson
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