

# JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

Vol. I

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# JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

Vol. I

JULY, 1913

No. 7

## THE VOYAGE OF THE "ATHENA." 1912\*

By ROBERT S. PEABODY, F.A.I.A.

THE journey organized by the American Institute of Architects carried a very happy party on the good yacht "Athena."

We spent the first week in Sicily where we visited the Norman remains and many Greek temples. We then touched at various famous places in Greece; spent a few days in Athens; cruised among the wonderful deserted islands of the Ægean, which are strewn with the ruins of Imperial Greece; and thence went up the coast of Asia Minor to Stamboul. Finally, returning by way of the Corinthian Canal, we visited the ports of Dalmatia and, with the greatest reluctance, parted from the yacht and each other at Venice.

Through all this pleasant journey we breathed the fresh sea-air by night and, from our comfortable berths, looked out on the

starred heavens and heard the swish of the waves as the vessel cleaved her way from port to port. Each morning a new scene greeted us as we found ourselves anchored off a mountainous and desert island, or in a harbor to which the surrounding minarets and domes and the strange foliage and shipping gave the look of the drop-curtain of a theater.

There were but a dozen of us in the party when twice as many had been expected and were indeed necessary to insure any profit to the Bureau of University Travel. In spite, however, of its being a losing venture we were treated with the utmost consideration and the contract was carried out in a most generous manner.

Though it may seem strange in describing a trip in Grecian countries, I have very little to say about architecture. In a general way

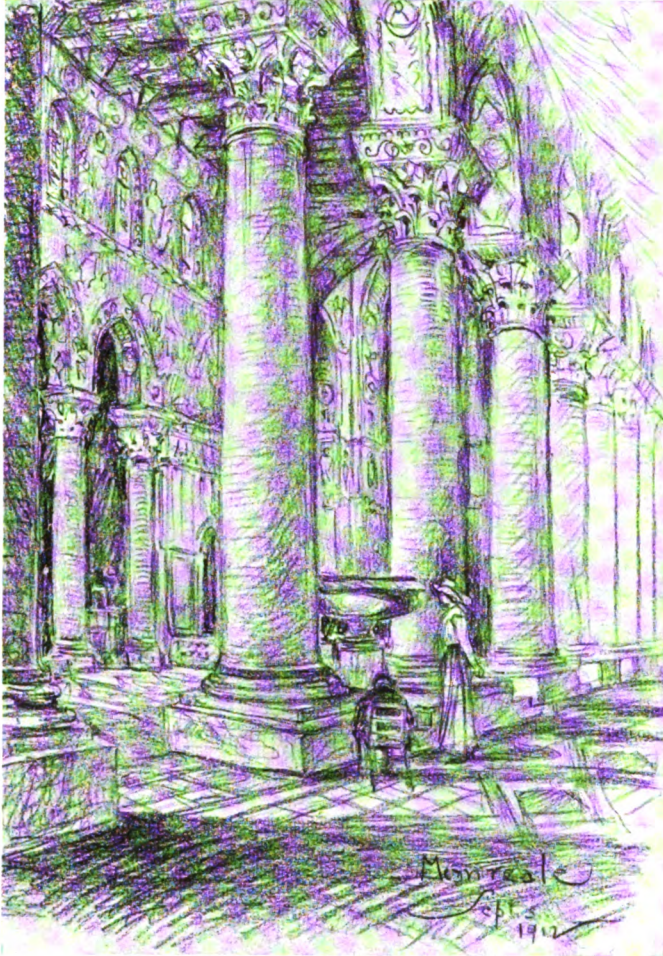


\*A paper read at the annual meeting of the American Institute of Architects

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one temple resembles another; one is early and heavy, one is late and slender; one is rich, the other plain. These variations and the subtle refinements of entasis and curve and intercolumniation are almost better studied in a library than on a hasty visit when much has to be

you can not do so because of the curve of the step. That seems like idiotic inquisitiveness when those splendid columns all orange and gold and ivory stand before you clear against the deep blue sky. It is not the details of architecture that touch you but the whole general impression, the majesty of the buildings, the history they suggest, the color and atmosphere that surround them. This was true at the temples of Sicily, at those of Girgenti and Pæstum and Segesta, as well as at the more ruined ones scattered throughout Greece, as at Olympia, Corinth, Ægina and Sunium. Finally and transcendently it was so at the Parthenon.



done in a morning, and when a thirst of knowledge combats with a more prosaic hunger and bodily fatigue.

On the spot it seems almost childish to be interested in the fact that if you place your hat at one end of the Parthenon step and try to see it from the other end

isolated fig trees, shadows the lines of which were lengthened by the shepherd and his sheep gathered there for coolness. The wide pastoral scene seemed to us like the largo of a symphony; the scherzo was represented by the ring of mountains which surrounded us, their crests violet in the

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morning light. As we climbed among the savage rocks of the mountain-side, the *mæstoso* movement began. The archæologist, whose mind was fixed on the tombs which Mr. Schliemann had rifled, and which were the ultimate goal of our expedition, first became depressed, then was overcome with sleep, and then left the carriage; but to most of us the works of God in this wonderful country easily took precedence of the works of prehistoric or any other man.

Therefore you see why it is that I cannot give you an essay on Greek architecture; but perhaps I can make you share in the joy of the trip. That must be done by describing—not details and not architecture—but what I suppose gave the soul to it all; the sky and the savage brown mountains; the hills covered with broken sharp stones; the yellow thistles with their spiky leaves; the blue mint that alone grew in that rugged soil, where no man was, and where of actual architecture there was little but broken columns and ruined walls,—the remains of an ancient civilization.

When we grew tired of listening to those of our good friends who knew all about the past and what now represents it, and who wanted to tell about these dead things, we climbed the rocks and cliffs and looked off over the turquoise sea in an exalted condi-

tion that left us indifferent as to the exact plan of Delos or the precise details of Sunium or Ægina, or as to the remarkable wisdom that made Mr. Schliemann's discoveries possible.

Nor did the works of nature alone distract us from the study of architecture pure and simple. I am fond of a boat, as indeed should be every architect; for as a beautiful object, whose beauty has come from its adaptation to the stress of storm and calm, it is a wonderful example of what is appropriate also in architectural design. At Gibraltar we met one of the first boats with butterfly lateen sails. They kept us company all through the Mediterranean. At Syracuse the wise and inquiring landed to inspect the ancient Greek fortifications, but the harbor was full of boats decorated with colored patterns and devices, and their wide-spread wings were too inviting for some of us. We hailed the gayest craft. We sketched it; and then we sailed all over the Syracuse harbor as if it had been that of Marblehead. The others came back very know-





ing as to fortifications of B. C. 400. I can sail a butterfly-winged Syracuse boat.

After that day we encountered strange craft on those seas all the time, and this marine show culminated at Constantinople. There, every morning, a fleet of the

most extraordinary vessels passed us, hailing from distant ports of the Black Sea; most wonderful structures, with high poops and jaunty-looking hulls, and with the most curious canvas and rig.

I may next mention how we were struck by the diminutive size of the ancient classic Athens as compared with its vast empire. Our journey around Sicily, where we saw so many great temples and theaters, indicated a highly developed Greek civilization. In Greece itself, Corinth, Olympia, Delphi, Epidaurus, brought it before us more vividly, and Delos, Didyma, Knidos, and the other towns of Asia Minor suggested a wider empire still. But when we came to Athens we found all the historical monuments and whatever remains of the ancient city clustered into a very narrow compass. It seemed in size a little like colonial Boston, Copp's Hill and a trifle of the North End added.

A somewhat similar surprise awaits the traveler at such places as Corinth. You climb, in a long cavalcade, the rugged heights of the Acro-Corinthus amid beau-





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tiful mountain scenery. On the summit is a long and wandering fortification. What is this, you wonder; and the answer is, a Venetian fortress. On the heights above Nauplia, you find similar Venetian fortifications; at Cos and Crete and throughout those seas the Venetian lion is as prominent as on both sides of the Adriatic. Venice in its turn, much as Greece had done before it, held empire over all this vast domain, and again showed how a small city with spirit, courage, and wealth can rule an empire.

Another thing which impressed us, as architects, was the absence of that symmetry which we moderns expect in classical design. Nor in towns of more recent origin is that symmetry much sought. Modern Syracuse and Palermo in Sicily; Ragusa, Cattaro, Traü, those lovely towns on the Dalmatian coast, all resemble the ancient Greek towns in that they seek no symmetry. This striking fact enforces the arguments of those modern German designers who advocate a picturesque rather than an axial town. The truth is that the idea of an axial town, far from being classic, seems never to have occurred to people until about the time of Louis XIV in France, or at the same period in Italy. It really was not of the classical period at all, but it is somewhat a surprise when this fact is forced upon one at Olympia and Delphi and other strongholds of ancient Greek art.

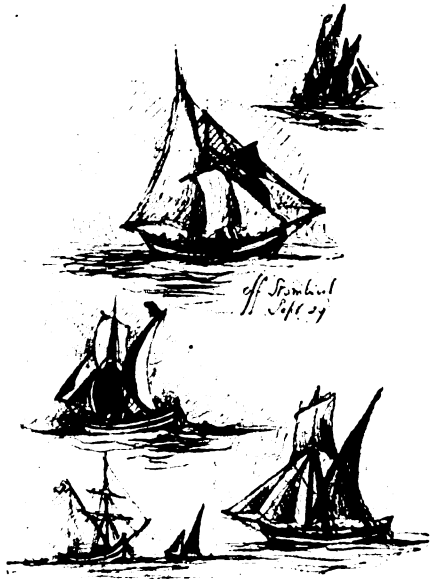
Temples and theaters are about all that now remain of ancient Greek architecture, and the place where architectural art can now be studied is less in these structures themselves than in the lovely museums, which exist wherever these remains are preserved. In the museums you see with delight richly decorated Doric orders such as that of the Tholos at Epidaurus, and you wonder at the sculpture found amid

the ruins. In these cool and refreshing retreats marble assumes a new and beautiful value, and it is here that one feels closest to the delicacy of Greek Art.

Of all of these museums, that at Athens is the most rich, the most interesting, the most uplifting. Here what strikes one is the universal refinement. The remarkable series of sepulchral stones, as well as the Tanagra and other figurines, give a good suggestion of the work, customs, fashions, and thought of classical Greece. But, were all the people of Athens

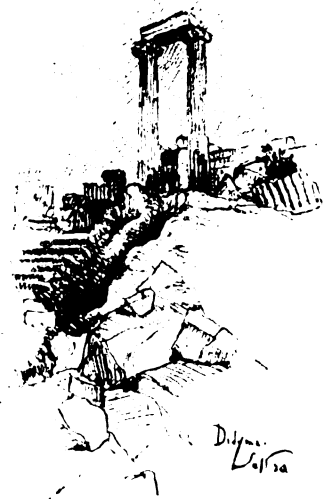
graceful, gentle people? Were they all gentlemen and ladies? We look around almost in vain for rude figures. We know perhaps a little of Greek literature and accordingly know from the Greek plays that this people had their coarse

moments. When they touched clay or marble, however, they seem to have been constantly refined, polished, and lovely. The spirit also that animates their grave-stones is very beautiful. Sometimes the reliefs treat of past life, sometimes of death, and sometimes of the future life. As to the future, they suggest a pleasant attitude of mind, a confidence on the part of those interested that, as they had been cared for in this world, they would be in another. There is none of that obsession as to the terrors of death which characterizes the sepulchral art of the Middle Ages. On the



way home I visited the Luxembourg Gallery and passed through its vestibule, filled, as you know, with modern French marble nudités. I thought of the modest refinements of the Museum of Athens, and could not but feel that self-respect is lowered in such company.

As we passed one after another of the great temples in Sicily and Greece, we were more and more conscious of the tremendous import they must have had to those who built them, and we wondered what these temples and theaters, which are practically all that is left of their monuments, meant to this wise and intelligent people. Evidently, when, in common with other frail humanity, they turned their attention in wonder toward the inscrutable powers that are behind the universe and that govern the works of nature, they saw in them the reverse of the view presented in the Bible. Instead of thinking of man as made in God's image, they pictured their gods in man's image. Among these omnipotent men, Zeus represented the sky and Demeter the earth; Athene, wisdom; Poseidon, the sea; Aphrodite, the passion of love; Ares, the lust for war; Apollo, music and the arts. Besides this,



an ideal world of Nereids, Oreads, and Dryads peopled sea, wood, and mountain. It was not a religion that concerned itself with morality or dogma or sin or repentance, but it was concerned with man's relations to the powers that rule the world.



These relations, gradually expressed in pomp and ritual and sculpture and architecture, became the most serious part of the national thought and life. Therefore, it is not wonderful that the temples and theaters, which were a close part of this religious pomp, are still almost the only structures that remain to bear witness today to the greatness of Greece.

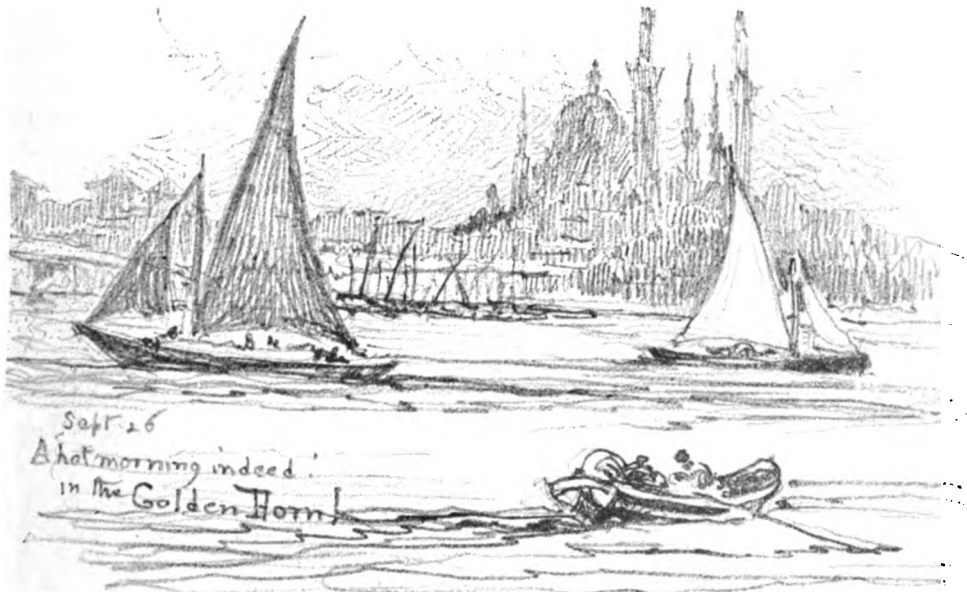
How stately and serious they are—scattered lonely and majestic on the flat plain of Pæstum, at the head of the wild gorge of Segesta, crowning the rolling hills at Girgenti, or prone and ruined at Selinunte. How splendid are the sites, too, where both theaters and temples are placed. The audience at Epidaurus or Delphi looked forth on mountain and vale. At Segesta the theater is actually on a mountain-peak. At Ægina, above the soft green pine groves, the temple overlooks much of historic Greece. The white columns on the rocky heights of Sunium are a beacon to the mariner from afar and all the story of Greece centers about the heights of the Acropolis, and the orange-and-rose columns of the Parthenon.

## THE VOYAGE OF THE "ATHENA"

Perhaps the most interesting impression we brought from the East was caused by the close view we had of several great religions—very different from each other—but all expressing similar emotions of the human heart. They moved us as one is moved on seeing an elm-shaded New England village green, surrounded by the churches of various denominations, all maintained by one underlying motive—the desire for some united and outward expression of religious feeling. I have spoken of the religion that created the Greek temples and theaters. We saw also the Greek Church of today in active power, guiding the faith of many people; its strangely garbed priests frequent in the streets; its churches still rich with Byzantine masonry and mosaic and color. We never assisted at a Greek service, but several Roman Catholic celebrations of the Mass left an indelible impression. One could scarcely forget a service in the Palatine Chapel at Palermo, or at San Marco in Venice, where gold and color and brilliant marble and rich vestments make the ritual most noble. Then, as a contrast, I recall a Sunday morning Mass

in the Cathedral at Taormina. A church full of bright-kerchiefed women awaits the hour of service. As the bell tolls the men troop in, barefooted fishermen, but with clean-cut aristocratic features as of ancient Roman senators. These people not only make a picture to the eye; they join heartily and devoutly in the service. The organ wheezes and groans, the singers' voices are coarse. A peasant serves the priest at the altar. All is simple and unaffected; but the priest is dignity itself and when the Host is raised, and deep quiet falls on this rude and devout congregation, it seems a very solemn act of religion on the part of these simple peasant people.

Then again, one day we entered the Cathedral at Cattaro. It was full of Austrian soldiers, the officers filling the nave. Great swells were they, in gay uniforms, with waving plumes in their helmets and many medals. In the balcony a military band played during the service, and when all was over and everyone respectfully stood, the deep brass instruments filled the church with the Austrian national hymn in a way to move the sternest soul.



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But, besides the ancient Greek temples and the modern Greek Church and the Roman Catholic services, there remained still another and a strange expression of religious feeling for us to encounter.

One day the minarets and domes of Stamboul rose before us, pale and gray out of the morning mists. We traversed its streets as through a wonderland. Misery and poverty walk abroad in them. Dirt is everywhere and evil smells. Black-veiled women glide by mysteriously. Loaded donkeys jostle the wayfarer. Shops are piled high with bright melons and brighter clothing. Smiths are beating out iron and copper. Here is a neglected tomb; there a fountain spouts cooling streams. Hawkers sell refreshing drinks or sweetmeats, and all the air is full of noise and cries and bustle.

We step aside from this riot of wretchedness and dirt and color, and pass beneath an arch. A great quiet court, surrounded by many lofty cloister arches, opens before us. Here is silence and a dignified repose. An aged and giant tree covers with its protecting shadow the great fountain where the pious prepare for prayer. Flocks of doves feed in the shade or glance through the sunlit spaces. The long-robed and turbaned devout wander up and down

talking of high things. Here, too, are youths offering hospitality to a band of pilgrims on their way to Mecca. These aged men have strange and serious faces, and are quaint of garb as they



offer hands and feet to the welcome water. Far above the cloister and its ancient tree rises the taper-pointed minaret, white and slender. From its balcony the muezzin's call to prayer comes down to us. Now pass through the noble vestibule and push back the timeworn curtains of the ancient mosque. The dark vaults above the side aisles glow with mosaic and color. The walls are rich with marble which shines polished where countless multitudes have worn against it. Then look between the bronze-bound columns of polished granite. Bright and glistening, the great nave shines with color and gold and jewels. It seems a vision of the New Jerusalem of Scripture. The air vibrates with the soft murmurs of those who recite the Koran, or the solemn chant of those who pray with heads prostrate on the ground. Indeed, this seems a true house of worship.

What human spirit could fail to be moved by these various different expressions of religious feeling which I have thus endeavored to describe? They were indeed

## THE VOYAGE OF THE "ATHENA"

the manifestation of one and the same thing—the aspiration of the human soul toward something higher than itself—and golf as a modern substitute for Sunday worship seemed for the moment a trifle thin.

After the romance which surrounded the scenery of Greece, and the wild rugged beauty of the deserted, mountainous islands of the Ægean, and the unaccustomed life of Stamboul, the finished landscape of Corfu seemed to us almost an anticlimax. We sensed the neighborhood of modern life. Civilization, in the form of evening dress, began to make itself manifest. In comparison with the Bosphorus, the Adriatic seemed almost unromantic. But there is one incident of the trip in these regions that I want to mention, although it bears as little relation to architecture as much that I have described hitherto.

One morning we left Cattaro and climbed for four hours the zig-zag carriage road up the very steep mountain-side that borders the fiord. Soon after reaching the upland plateau we were in Montenegro, and it was the day when every man in that little country between the ages of sixteen and sixty was called into the ranks. The great square of the town of Niegus was full of them—young men in khaki—their elders in their native gala costumes—long white coats, brilliant vests and fezes, pistols and daggers in their belts. Wives and sweethearts were saying good-by, and the donkey train was laden with baggage ready to march. After the roll-call the lines were broken, and, clasping each others' shoulders, the men circled in a wierd dance to the sound of a sad refrain. Primitive looking soldiers were these fine mountaineers to send against machine guns and the modern engines of war. It all recalled that scene in Sir Walter Scott's

"Waverly," when the clans gathered near Edinburgh before the battle of Preston Pans. As an army this was hardly more modern, although as individuals one would rather have these fine fellows as friends than as enemies. In the following weeks we often thought of what had been the fate of these spirited men, going to a hard campaign in this simple fashion.

Our trip ended with short visits to several ports on the Dalmatian coast. These towns were replete with picturesque effects. Everywhere the buildings composed as if they had been studied for stage scenery. We could not but think how much the delight in stage effects must be denied to those who are used to it in their daily life. A square at Cattaro, a street in Traü, would adorn any theater. To those familiar with those places, perhaps they seem as little artistic as would a bit of the Bowery to a New Yorker, or Dock Square to a Bostonian.

At length one lovely morning the towers of Venice rose above the horizon, and we bade goodby to the yacht "Athena."



Waiting for the  
Customs officer  
off Venice  
Oct 9, 1912

## RURAL AND SUBURBAN HOUSING\*

By ELMER S. FORBER

IT IS very unfortunate that in the public mind housing reform has been identified with tenement-house reform. Because of this, if one begins to talk almost anywhere today about better housing, one will soon be met with the statement, "Yes, but there is very little interest here in that subject, for there are practically no tenement houses in this city, or in this town."

A few months ago a gentleman was showing me over the beautiful residential district in an attractive small city of the farther middle West. After an hour or two of this I said, "Now let me see how the other half lives." "The other half?" he replied, and smiled genially. "Why, there isn't any to speak of; I don't believe we have a tenement house in this whole town." I have no doubt he was right, but for all that, in ten minutes we were in a quarter of the city which, in some respects, was as wretched and miserable as the heart of the tenement-house district in New York or Boston.

We stood in front of a row of five small, low, two-story wooden buildings, neatly painted a bright yellow and altogether not a bad-looking collection of dwellings; but going behind them there was a different scene. These five houses held about forty people. The only water-supply for them all was a single hydrant in the yard; the only convenience for the disposal of waste was beside the hydrant, and naturally the yard was swimming with slops and dish-water; the only toilets were two or three open

privies, also in the yard. In fact, the ordinary requirements for decent living were all in the yard, and, as nearly always happens in such cases, the conditions were indescribably filthy. Here was a well-developed housing problem but no tenement houses.

The truth is that, except in New England and in some of the larger cities like New York and Philadelphia and Chicago, tenement houses are few and far between, and the problems which have their origin in the multiple dwelling do not exist; but there is a housing problem wherever there are houses, as appeared in this western city, whether they are occupied by one family or more, and housing reform is a nation-wide necessity.

What has just been said applies with especial force to the subject of housing reform in the country and in suburban towns. It should be clearly understood that, for the most part, the tenement-house problem does not enter into this question at all. In New England it does, and I shall have something to say about conditions there in a minute; but outside of New England, so far as my own observation goes, the tenement<sup>†</sup> house in country and suburban districts is practically a negligible quantity.

More or less, bad housing is to be found in the country all over the United States; but, in some respects, it is not so bad, nor does it have the same causes, as in the cities. The dwellings in question may be either fairly well built or be miserable

\*Read at the Housing Conference. Although this article has already been published as a part of the proceedings of the National Housing Association, it is reprinted here because of its interest to architects.

†NOTE.—In many parts of New England the word "tenement" is used to describe any rentable dwelling, even though it be a detached one-family house.

## RURAL AND SUBURBAN HOUSING

shacks or anything between the two; dirt usually reigns supreme within doors. They may be crowded to the limit, water is apt to be scarce, and sanitary conditions will probably be unspeakably vile. On the other hand, there is plenty of space and fresh air and sunlight, at least outside; there is neither block nor lot overcrowding, and rooms without windows are not common. The essentials of decent living are within reach, and if the house and the life that goes on within it are wretched, it is not often the fault of the speculative builder or of the grasping landlord. Neither does the high value of land nor an excessive ground rent account for it, for you find these slum spots where the land is almost worthless.

Personally I believe the explanation of the country slum is to be sought not so much in unfavorable economic conditions as in the physical and mental and moral deficiencies of the occupants. I cannot sustain this contention by the exact figures of extensive investigations, but I am convinced that a very large proportion of country slum-dwellers are defective in one or more of these three ways. Among them you find drunkards, criminals, paupers, degenerates, the ignorant, the idle, and the vicious of both sexes. There is a housing problem, of course, and we can and should enact a housing law for the country which will meet these conditions; we can declare that people shall not live in a way that would disgrace the beasts, and we can order the building inspector and the board of health to enforce the law. But behind the housing problem is a larger human problem, and until this is settled not much can be done for the other.

There is work here for the police and the courts, for the society for the prevention of cruelty to children, for the

agent of the associated charities and the friendly visitors, the instructive sanitary inspector, the school nurse and the health officer, for every influence which can be brought to bear upon the problem of family rehabilitation. And when all is done, there will still remain in the country slum a residuum of human debris that has too little physical stamina, is too feeble in will and too depraved morally, to make it safe ever to relieve it of close and continual supervision. These wrecks of humanity should be gathered together by the state, and so restrained of their liberty that they can neither prey upon society nor propagate their kind, and at the same time be employed usefully and enabled to enjoy the reasonable comfort to which they are entitled. This would be a drastic and an expensive measure, but I believe it would be economy in the end.

It may seem, perhaps, that we have wandered rather far from the housing question, but we are still within hail, and it only proves that no one social problem can be considered by itself alone. To sum up the rural situation, then, we may say that bad housing in the country, barring certain sanitary conditions which are not difficult to remedy, is fairly closely confined to the isolated slum or the small slum district; that even then the problem is not so much one of housing as it is of defective or deficient humanity; that it must be reformed not only by the application of sound housing law and the vigilance of the board of health, but by the coöperation of all constructive social agencies, and by invoking the power of the state to segregate and control the humanity which cannot be handled in any other way. Speaking generally, it seems to me that the bad housing of the open country is less a problem for the housing reformer

than it is for the social experts of other names.

When we turn to the suburban towns and the small cities of fifty thousand population or less, we face a different proposition. Here we are dealing not alone nor principally with the shack occupied by the decadent family, but with the housing accommodations of every class of society, and here we run the gamut of housing abominations. As has been said, except in New England there are almost no tenement houses in these towns, but some of the worst living conditions it has ever been my misfortune to see have been in the small, one-family houses in several western communities. Hundreds of these dwellings may be found crowded together in the most undesirable locations and devoid of everything which makes decent living possible. At the moment I can think of one spot which can be duplicated over and over again, where half a dozen of these miserable dwellings, no one of them more than ten feet high, stand grouped about a little open space. The one well, which supplies them all with water, stands at one side in close proximity to four open, reeking privies, one of which was but nine feet from the well, and one filthy hen-yard. Nothing but the fact that the inhabitants of this district have been rendered immune to the attacks of disease could prevent them from being swept away by an epidemic of typhoid fever or something else equally deadly. Such conditions emphasize the universal need for housing law.

The same thing is indicated by conditions in suburban New England. Here we have a form of tenement house, the wooden three-family flat, of which I wish to speak because it is spreading like the cholera or yellow fever, and will surely make its appearance in other parts of the

country unless measures are taken to prevent it. It was first built because, as it does not fall within the local definition of a tenement house, it is not subject to any of the requirements of the tenement-house law. Its rooms may be practically closets; they may be without windows to the outer air if the builder does not choose to put them in; the plumbing may be reduced to the lowest terms, and the toilets may be the dangerous yard privy, and, unless there are local fire regulations, it is possible to build them with only one means of exit and without fire-escapes. This type of dwelling is the joint production of the land shark, the shyster architect, and the jerry-builder, and nothing in the way of a tenement house could be worse, except one of the same sort but higher. It is usually of the flimsiest construction, and, after a few years, the owner is likely to ask for an abatement of taxes because of its depreciation in value. It is a dangerous fire hazard, dreaded alike by the fire department and the owners of neighboring property. It is terribly destructive of real-estate values, and the coming of one such building into a residence district will cut in two the selling price of the nearby properties. Within a month a building company appeared in one of the large suburban towns in the vicinity of Boston and announced that it proposed to put up fifty of these three-deckers. The people, rich and poor alike, could almost hear the crashing of property values, and at once took steps to ward off the impending danger and to protect themselves against similar attacks in the future.

These two examples, one from the West and the other from the East, show to what length unregulated greed will go in its predatory raids upon the welfare of the community. We should all agree that the



## RURAL AND SUBURBAN HOUSING

exploitation of the tenant is a greater injustice than the destruction of property values, but there is no reason why either of these things should be permitted. Both are common in our suburban towns. We have heard much about the injury to the tenant but not so much of the other side of the question. One of the serious results of the lack of building regulations is that no property owner, be he large or small, knows what is going to happen to him. The daily newspaper supplies illustrations of this: "A citizen built a beautiful house within an area of 50,000 square feet of land, and presently found himself confronted by a garage." "A gentleman expended \$17,000 on his place, as he called it, and by and by a fellow-citizen built a row of seven one-story shacks on the opposite side of the street." "A third citizen, whose property cost him \$50,000, awakened one morning to discover a Chinese laundry in the basement adjoining his own, and the selling price of his estate automatically reduced by that master-stroke of Fate, and an unscrupulous neighbor, to \$13,000."

A policeman in a country town which I know well, built himself a comfortable house on a generous lot and adorned it with trees and shrubs to suit his taste. Along came a speculator who planted a flimsy firetrap of a three-decker within three feet of his lot line, cutting off his sunlight and robbing him of half the savings of his lifetime. These are the tragedies of the suburban towns, and they are certainly worthy of the attention of the National Housing Association.

They do things better than this in Germany, as we all know. There you are not allowed to go on your way with no regard whatever for your neighbor. You may not kill him with an unsanitary and

unhealthy house if by chance he does not own his own house and has to rent one from you, or if he is so fortunate as to own his own place you cannot rob him of his property by building some unsightly or undesirable structure in his immediate vicinity. Why should these things be permitted in America? They need not and ought not to be. At the same time that the protection of the law is thrown around the tenant, securing him against oppression and wrong on the part of the owner of his dwelling, something should be done to preserve the beauty and attractiveness of our towns and cities and to afford a reasonable safeguard for the property values of the homes of their citizens.

As was suggested, between the miserable one-story dwellings of the western river bottoms and the objectionable cheap wooden three-deckers of New England every form of housing iniquity is to be found. Wet and sodden yards, filthy privies, damp and decaying cellars, dark halls and rooms, dilapidation, dirt, squalor, and overcrowding, all are in evidence. The only difference between the evil housing conditions of the small village of a few hundred people and those of the city of as many thousand population is in degree, not in kind. In the village there will be only one-family or, at the most, two-family houses, and in the city there will be hundreds of thousands of multiple tenements, but the same wretched conditions will be found in them all. There is only one problem in both village and city.

It was perfectly natural when we woke up to the evils of bad housing that we should at first direct attention to the tenement houses of the large cities. The evils were concentrated there; we could see the outrages practised upon tenants and the dangers which threatened the

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rest of the community, and we said these iniquities must go. But now a clearer and fuller knowledge has shown us that bad housing is quite as much a matter of the single- and the two-family house as it is of the dwelling which shelters a much larger number of families, and reform is just as necessary in the one case as in the other.

It makes no difference what kind of house a man lives in; he has a moral right to fresh air and sunlight, to proper sanitary conveniences, to privacy, to protection against fire, and to freedom from overcrowding, because these things are necessary for health and decent living. If the speculative builder will not recognize this fundamental right, or if an owner is so ignorant that he does not know enough to satisfy these moderate requirements, then they should be enforced by law, and this whether the dwelling in question be assigned for one family or two or twenty.

I have said it before at another time and place, and I repeat it here, that I am convinced that the only way in which owners,

occupants, and community can be assured of adequate protection against bad living conditions is by bringing every kind of dwelling within the scope of the law, and this is the one point which I wish to make.

A tenement-house law is good as a step towards something better, but the general situation demands not a tenement-house but a housing law. Under such a law it will probably be necessary to classify dwelling houses according to the number of families occupying them, but this offers no great difficulty. The great achievement will be the wiping out of the troublesome distinction between tenement houses and private residences, and the bringing of them all under one general housing law. The city of Columbus has already done this. A group of men in one of the towns of Massachusetts is at work upon a similar law. It is bound to come; nothing can stop it, because it is in the interests of the health, morals, and happiness of all the people.

# NOTES FROM THE ANNUAL CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION OF THE ARCHITECTURAL LEAGUE OF THE PACIFIC COAST

HELD AT PORTLAND, OREGON, JUNE 9, 10 AND 11

Reversing the usual procedure and ignoring, for the moment, all time-honored precedents, the Journal has to say that the Convention was brought to a close by a dinner, which developed into an evening such as falls, all too rarely, to the lot of tired delegates on the last day of a convention. It was an evening such as the chronicler of the event will remember with a pleasure that shall only become finer as the days speed away and the tireless engine drags him back beside the eastern ocean.

And yet the fellowship of that evening,—the fine spirit with which every speaker fitted into the occasion, the simple expressions of hope and faith in better things with which the very atmosphere seemed to be charged, were only the delightful culminations of a convention which none will soon forget.

The day devoted to pleasure was as full of fine things as one day could well be. Mount Hood, rising in all the grandeur of its snow-white majesty, the living symbol of purity, mounting skyward from its fir-clad base—the gorge of the Columbia stretching away for miles, and insisting that Turner must have used it as a source of inspiration when he began to draw “Crossing the Brook” upon the canvas—a sail back to town at eventide, by fields and flowers and towering heights of velvety blackness—and a fellowship to be remembered—always.

A more generous hospitality, a more thoughtful and kindly courtesy were never more simply and unassumingly offered than by the architects of Portland. One humble easterner took away an ineffaceable impression.

## EXTRACTS FROM THE ADDRESS OF THE RETIRING PRESIDENT, ELLIS F. LAWRENCE, A. I. A.

Mr. Lawrence began his address by quoting from that portion of the Constitution of the League entitled “Name and Object,” which says:

“SEC. 2. Its object shall be the advancement of the architectural profession.

“SEC. 3. The means of attaining this object shall be principally:

“(1) By affiliating the architectural associations now existing and by the formation of similar organizations in cities where none now exist.

“(2) By a circuit of annual architectural exhibitions.

“(3) By an annual convention of architects.

“(4) By the promotion of professional education.”

The League has, therefore, a definite work to accomplish and I do not hesitate to assert in the strongest language that it has already justified its existence many times over—even though but now starting in its active and useful service in the uplifting of a noble profession.

To my knowledge there is no architectural association now existing in the territory covered by the activities of the League that is not now either a regular member or has not an application for membership under consideration.

During the last year there have been admitted to full membership the San Diego Architectural Association, the University of Southern California

and the Oregon Chapter of the A. I. A. The Beaux Arts Society of San Francisco and the Tacoma, Spokane and Oakland associations have their affiliation with the League under consideration, as have also the Alberta Association of Architects, and the Vancouver and Victoria Chapters of the British Columbia Society of Architects.

Partially offsetting the gain of three new members is the discontinuance of the Los Angeles Architectural Club, which is, for the time being, out of existence. We have the assurance of Los Angeles members, however, that a reorganization will take place and their interest in the League continued.

The membership of the League at this time is as follows:

### *Chapters of the American Institute of Architects:*

The Southern California Chapter,  
The San Francisco Chapter,  
The Washington State Chapter,  
The Oregon State Chapter.

### *City and State Architectural Clubs:*

San Diego Architectural Association,  
San Francisco Architectural Club,  
Seattle Architectural Club,  
Utah Association of Architects,  
Portland Architectural Club.

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## *Colleges and Universities:*

University of Southern California,  
University of California.

This makes a total of eleven regular members, whose combined enrollment would, I venture to say, exceed 750.

The President's recommendations, properly classified under this section of the Constitution relating to membership, are:

A readjustment of the financial condition of the League by increasing the number of regular members; the establishing of dues for associate members in order to bring students and architects in cities and states, where no regular members of the League are enrolled, into close touch with the League work; the systematizing of League exhibits and publications in order that all regular members may profit financially as well as the League itself.

A publicity campaign educating the profession in the advantages of the League.

A continued effort to establish friendly relationship with our Canadian brothers in Alberta and British Columbia.

The recognition of the League by the American Institute of Architects, as an organization endeavoring to uphold its principles and to increase its membership by new chapters.

Some method, to be determined after due consideration, devised to honor meritorious work in professional endeavor, whether it be the award of medals or of Fellowship rank in the Institute.

The closer and more definite affiliation with the Beaux Arts Society and its jury, with definite rules governing judgments and participation for the League scholarship prize.

A circuit of annual exhibits.

The appointing of a special Committee on City Planning whose special function should be to make the League a clearing house for information on this subject.

An annual convention of architects.

The promotion of professional education.

There has been a healthy growth in our student enrollment which, in itself, justifies the existence of the League. About two hundred students are working in our various ateliers, the number having increased from 141 in 1912.

The annual prize has been awarded to Chandler I. Harrison, S.F.A.C., with the following mentions:

7. John Bauman, Portland Architectural Club. Mention.
8. C. F. Strothoff, S. F. A. C. Mention.
9. Fred Kramer, S. F. A. C. Mention.
6. F. U. Mayo, U. C. First mention.
10. Wm. G. Garren, San Francisco. Mention.
11. T. L. Pflueger, San Francisco. First mention.
3. Carl I. Warnecke, San Francisco A. C. Placed third; first medal.

2. S. L. Sory, U. C. Placed second; first medal.
12. A. I. Rouda, S. F. A. C. Mention.
4. Ernest Weine, S. F. A. C. Placed fourth; first mention.
5. Thomas J. Kent, S. F. A. C. First mention.
13. Leo. F. Stark, S. F. A. C. Mention.

The esquisses and rendus have more than doubled in number while the number of "mentions" has nearly trebled over those of last year.

There are now fifteen recognized patrons conducting this work in addition to those men conducting, in architectural clubs, classes in Structure, History, and Freehand.

The \$1,000 prize subscription is assured. Portland has already raised over \$200 as her share and the other cities are following under the direction of the Finance Committee.

Unfortunately nothing has been done toward the permanent endowment which sooner or later will have to be faced.

The suggestion made at last year's convention that fifty architects be secured to guarantee \$20 each year for three years, during which period the permanent endowment might be secured, is worthy of endorsement.

Many of the League's students have done most creditable work in service for the Exposition and in the East. As an example may be mentioned the fact that three of the Portland Atelier boys—Brooks, Hall and Rosenberg—won first, second and third prizes in the Boston Architectural Society Prize Competition at the Institute of Technology in Boston.

A continuation of this splendid educational work is urged through the establishment of courses where possible in clubs, public schools, Y. M. C. A's., colleges and universities to the end that the work in design may be strengthened by giving the students a good foundation in elementals.

It is urged that scholarship rules be more strongly defined, showing clearly the obligations of both the League and the student, especially in the expending of the prize money.

The work of the League is a noble work, for it is altruistic in its essence, dealing as it does primarily with the formative period in the lives of these young men destined, within the next decade, to enter the profession as practitioners. How much better will their lot be then if they are grounded right in their relations one with another—in their "Quest for the Architectural Spirit" of which Mr. Willcox is going to tell us. This is the keynote of all activities of the League. Surely we should give freely and generously of our time and our money for such a cause.

We are told that the West is ten years behind the East ethically if not esthetically. So let us endeavor to bridge the great distances by these

## ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE ARCHITECTURAL LEAGUE

rare meetings where good fellowship inspires and honest creative criticism upbuilds—where man to man we discuss our weaknesses and strive to weed out mediocrity, hypocrisy and jealousy. Let us forge ahead, out of the mire of commercialism into the pure air, where we count real success not in bulk of work but in bigness of inspiration and in purity of design.

Then and only then may we expect our clientele to awaken to an appreciation of architectural achievement. Then and only then may we find our profession honored as it should be in the counsels of our commonwealths. Then and only then will the "predestined vital architecture" be evolved on these western slopes—an "architecture existing in itself and not in seeming a something it is not."

Many of the President's recommendations brought forth some most interesting discussions. In reference to the continuation of the educational work and in particular relation to the suggestion as to the establishment of courses in clubs, public schools, and in the instruction departments of the Y. M. C. A., the opinion was offered by Mr. Coté that this matter should be given the most serious consideration.

The subject is indeed a deep one and the point taken by Mr. Coté, that it would be wiser to have fewer schools of architecture and thus give a more thorough training to a smaller number rather than a mere smattering to a larger number is one well worthy of consideration.

Is not the whole subject very closely related to the present-day activities in vocational training as a vital adjunct to public-school education, under which we may perhaps hope to have better-trained men in all walks of life? Indeed, the whole problem of education is receiving the most searching inquiry and investigation and more and more people are coming to realize that the mere teaching of bald and unrelated facts is far from being the ideal education upon which the average citizen has looked with such pride, as a thing to be given to his children.

And this truth is most pertinent when one considers the study of architecture—for in its practice there is no place for the unrelated—no place for him whose imagination has not been stirred to the very depths by a realization of the relation of architecture to life.

And it is in the failure to teach the true relation of work to life that our whole educational system has shown its fatal and discouraging weakness. It is this failure which leads architects to the conclusion that they must educate the public—a burden which would seem too onerous for any one profession to assume, unless it were to be aided in the task by a different system of what we are now pleased to call "public education."

Vocational education may or may not be a potent factor in changing conditions; at present there are many opinions, diversely shared by experienced educators. Yet the whole question is of exceeding interest to architects and merits their most careful study and reflection.

## THE TEACHING OF ARCHITECTURE ON THE PACIFIC COAST

From the address by WARREN PERRY

Instructor in Architecture, University of California

First—a purely selfish observation—he who teaches learns ten times as much as does he who is taught; therefore, let us one and all start "ateliers." I think that this is more true of architecture than of almost any other subject, for it invites to a sublime degree not only the study of the "Five Orders according to Vignola"—God forbid!—but of humanity—of as many individualists as one has disciples—each one a living bundle of enthusiastic tendencies, good, bad and indifferent.

If architecture be not the study of humanity, whatever is it? It means the being prepared (for a stated period each day in my case) to face a thousand searching questions on the history, theory and practice of this vast subject, which are being constantly concocted by an interactive group of unfettered and exceedingly restless imaginations. Happy is he who has left a row of conveniently disposed loopholes along the pedagogic path, through

which he may slip, on occasion, with small loss of dignity; and, I may add, thorny is the way of him who has been wont to say with firmness, "Never do this!" "Always do that!" for he will be tripped headlong over his own foolish phrases, again and again. Also this: A class may forget the name of the architect of the Parthenon, or the principles of Gothic construction, but never will it fail to call to mind a famous building which flaunts itself in the face of one of your "don'ts" or "always's," however obscure that one may have been.

It is my intention to set down the three systems that prevail for the teaching of architecture, briefly and comparatively, and then to draw conclusions therefrom. These are, namely, the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris, the Educational work of the American Society of Beaux Arts Architects, and the School of Architecture at the University of California,—with all of which I have been somewhat familiar.

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The Beaux Arts in Paris, where I was a student for two years and a half, is, as we all know, the distinguished prototype of many schools in America, and is, I think, the most efficient and, at the same time, the most elastic system in practice. But I wish to make myself clear here upon one point. I refer to the organization of the school, not to the "projets" produced therein, and while I am loyal to l'Ecole to the point of sentimentalism, I am fully aware that it is the outgrowth of very different conditions, a different people, and a different culture than ours.

There is nothing, you will agree, more exasperating than to have some one say, upon hearing that you have worked in Paris—"O, you do nice Frenchy things!" or "horrid Frenchy things," as the case may be. I remember, on the eve of my departure from California, a certain "near-lover" of the arts, who rode on a street-car two miles beyond his street in a vain endeavor to convince me that I was headed straight for architectural damnation in going abroad to study.

The school in the Rue Bonaparte in Paris is, as most of you know, only a rendezvous, and represents the theoretical part of the work. The actual study of design is carried on in a number of "ateliers," situated variously in that part of Paris lying between the Boulevard Montparnasse and the river, and presided over by the most distinguished practising architects of France.

The keynote of this situation is to me wholly logical, being based upon the covering of certain work rather than a number of years' residence. One passes entrance exams. (if he be lucky); these come every six months and are competitive, admitting some sixty men each time out of six hundred applicants. This sets a high standard of excellence at the very beginning, making membership therein, alone, of a distinctive value. It furthermore insures a degree of proficiency in fundamental subjects, principally—and I do not hesitate in so saying—descriptive geometry.

O Descrip! What sins are committed in thy name! How many of those ardent ones who indulge themselves in the design of buildings, really feel the bones of their creation, really know clearly and sharply in every chink and corner how they will look in execution. How many "cartouches" alas! cover surfaces that come together along strange and uncouth lines? I am sure that no one who has been patted on the back by that fine old apostle of "Geometric Description," M. Pillet, can ever be aught but a firm believer in its importance.

Success in the entrance exams of l'Ecole places one in the "second class" where, if he wish, he may do "second-class projets" up to his fateful thirtieth birthday—on which date he must leave, whatever

his status. He need render but one "projet" a year to remain on the rolls, that is all. If, however, as is usually the case, he desires to advance, there are approximately two years of drawing, perspective, stereotomy, higher mathematics, and construction, besides six values in architecture between him and the coveted "first class" from which, in the course of time, after gaining ten values in architecture, he is privileged to do his "diplôme" or thesis.

But see what freedom this leaves the man! He may work in an office, earning thereby the money to continue four months more at school—he may travel, if commanding the means, almost whenever the mood takes him. He is at complete liberty to establish his own scheme of life; he is upon his own responsibility from the very first, for, saving perhaps in the atelier, the school is the most impersonal organization in the world. There is no mollycoddling there, anyway, and in my recollection there were certain crises which came pretty near to counterfeiting the stern realities of life. A great school, deeper seated than in the personnel of its staff, its sound organization has brought it down to us from the days of Louis the Fourteenth, majestically surviving all the fads and caprices that every few years seem to change the standard aspect of its work. It is a mighty institution. If you do not believe it look at the last thirty years of American architecture.

The next system I mentioned for discussion is that of the American Society of Beaux Arts Architects, which is based on the Paris school, with this great difference, that we, on the Pacific Coast, are as far again from New York as New York is from Paris. Imagine men in New York rendering problems in Paris! You who have worked in the Ecole des Beaux Arts remember the few sets of drawings, which represent the schools at Lille, Marseilles and Lyons, and how "out of things" they seemed, developed, as they are, only a day's journey from the center, and that despite the fact that their "patrons" are Paris men. Which brings me naturally to the thing that I feel most deeply in all this educational work—that teaching must be personal; that the teacher must give of himself to the men under him; it cannot be conducted at arm's length or, what is worse, at continent's breadth.

We make use, at the University of California, of as many of the Beaux Arts Society programs as we can fit into our calendar, but during the last year, especially, many of them have been rather poor—ambiguous in language, and replete with such easily foreseen faults as requiring drawings at scales too large for the paper demanded. All this could have been averted, or at least readily corrected had the headquarters been in San Francisco instead of New York.

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I do not mean to attack the Beaux Arts Society—its work is excellent, and it will continue, I hope, to prosper, but it benefits most the region immediately around New York, which, of course, was the original intention. I maintain that it is for us a little too much of a “correspondence school,” and with profuse apologies where due, I insist that whatever may be true of other lines of work, art and architecture in particular cannot be taught through the mails!

Finally, to sum up the situation at the University of California, we have a collegiate school of architecture, which has been built in the course of a decade from out of rather hostile material, a flourishing and enthusiastic body of some fifty-odd students, housed in an interesting building, that is at once their workshop and their club. It is a close corporation, too, with its own laws and customs, fasts and feast-days, eyed with curiosity by the rest of the University, as being of strange and somewhat foreign character, but approached, hat in hand, as partaking of something vaguely artistic. And, Heaven be praised! it has already built up, around a nucleus of strong and clever young men, and I must add women! an atmosphere and ideals of its own. I do not need to tell you what *that* means!

In regard to the scheme of work, which I believe to be about the same as in most university schools, it may be stated that students do not begin work actively in architecture until their third college year, it being deemed necessary for them to become firmly established on a collegiate basis first, both in general subjects and in those which serve directly as a foundation for their future work in architecture.

Once in “The Ark” as it is called, they are required to do a given number of projets per year, usually five, with interpolated esquisses, carrying on simultaneously their work in other departments of the University, such as engineering and language. They are given grades upon their projets, which are also exhibited in order of excellence, and, as in other University work, these grades are averaged each term, this being necessary to put the work in architecture upon a common basis with other University work.

It occurs to me to jot down here an idea on collegiate schools in architecture. I think, and our experience will somewhat bear me out, that art schools, where established in connection with academic institutions, should be put upon an independent basis *from the very first*. That is, not made to conform to the same unit as Letters, Social Science, Commerce and what not, but free to grow in their own fashion. There is something so radically different in the nature and atmosphere of the two that it is cruelty to impose rules and hours. Academic work is inherently regular; art work, essen-

tially spasmodic—the laity can never understand this quality and call it the result of chronic procrastination; but I notice that “charettes” will happen in the best regulated schools.

If, then, a school of architecture is to be set up in a university, let it be upon broad and independent lines from the beginning.

I think, incidentally, that everyone who can should teach. I think that no one should teach who is not doing active work too. Now a college course is well enough for men who are able to devote four or five or six years' entire time, save the summer, to their education, but it is not feasible for those who must needs earn their way from day to day as is the case with most office men.

So much for the three types. Now, if you will permit me, I should like to outline a plan which is possibly not original with me, either wholly or in part, but which appeals to me as one which may be made to keep pace with coast development, insure the unified interest that forms the chief reason for the being of the Architectural League, and at the same time would bring about a closer bond between patron and student.

Why not establish at, say, four points, Seattle, Portland, San Francisco and Los Angeles, four architectural schools, these being separately maintained institutions, financially and otherwise,—these four schools forming collectively the Architectural League of the Pacific Coast, educationally speaking?

Why not have each one of these schools composed of the ateliers in the immediate vicinity of each of the cities mentioned, with power to award recompenses to projets, which same might be issued simultaneously in each of the four—this power (of judging) to be safeguarded by a governing committee, chosen, like the present one, from the territory under consideration—the members of which committee, for instance, would write the programs?

At stated periods, twice or four times a year, there could be held in different cities in rotation, general exhibitions of all work, and certainly general competitions, open to the whole coast, as, for example, the one which we have just had the pleasure of judging.

I should have each school housed in its own district and separate rooms or building, common alike to all the ateliers of the school, with suitable provisions for leaving drawings on exhibition after judgment, and, as soon as possible, short courses of lectures with examinations and records of them. I should like to see, for instance, examinations in our old friend, “descriptive geometry,” history and mathematics, standing between the “analytiques” and the regular “Class B projets.” You know as well as I do what a jump it is for a lad to start his

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first complete building with nothing but fragments and orders in his head,—and I should like to see a comprehensive course in construction between the work corresponding to that of “Class B” and that of “Class A,” with efficient examinations attached.

The Architectural Club, in San Francisco, maintains, by means of lectures, a course in construction, but this is, I believe, without examinations and is kept distinct from the design. Also, while the judgments and exhibitions of the Beaux Arts Society are held in its rooms, it is, primarily, a private and social club, and I believe that I am not alone in the feeling that it would be better to have a common meeting ground for the scholastic part.

Now all this must needs come slowly, doubtless all the four schools would not be started at once, and I should think not before the need becomes apparent; but, being a system of units, this would not impair the whole design.

To sum up: (1) I would suggest that we write our own programs on the coast, as well as judge our own problems. (2) Let there be in each center a common headquarters. (3) Let us have the delightfully green fields of architectural design marked off by stern walls of descriptive geometry and construction,—it makes them all the sweeter when they are finally attained.

It seems logical. I should like to see it tried. It is, after all, only a particularizing of the idea of the Architectural League as imagined by its founders, with the substitution of larger units for smaller ones, to the betterment of those concerned.

If it be the tendency of collegiate schools of architecture to become pedantic and archæological—to get away from the live conditions of actual problems—it is equally, I think, the tendency of ateliers composed of men who too often have had no chance to lay out the broad lines of a general educator to become addicted to “paper architecture” and rely upon brilliancy alone, rather than upon the significance and beauty of the forms employed.

Why not aim, at least, at the best in both?

Lastly, in regard to that smallest unit of all, the “atelier,” I do not need to remark that this is really the most vitally important of all; whatever the scheme of the whole, strong ateliers, built up of enthusiastic lads, and sane, interested and interesting patrons, are the bone and sinew of the great school of art. They must be personal—man to man—my old theme, you see.

I have heard it quoted, as a belief of one of the most widely known men of the faculty at Berkeley, that the freshmen in college should be intrusted to the highest paid and most distinguished professors—that, at the precarious period of initiation into a line of thought and work the novice should be in

the most expert hands; later, when his own pinions gain strength, he may be safely left to the companionship rather than the guidance of younger men. I agree heartily with this myself. This scheme does not prevail, however, needless to say, for at present it is I who have the proud privilege, each year, of ushering a new class into the wondrous domain of Architecture!

Did I say Architecture? I should have said, more broadly, “Art;” for it is far from rare to find men who insist that the design of buildings is merely applied civil engineering. It has, in fact, been my experience that the first six months of the Junior year, nominally, with us, devoted to a study of the Orders, must really become a period of getting acquainted.

I can’t pretend to teach anything to one whom I do not know, or, what is worse, who does not know and trust *me*—I find I must often hobnob with him for days or weeks even over any subject but architecture, before I can get him to show me what poetry there is in him. American lads are slow to lay bare that side of themselves. I must overcome a hundred little college sophistries—I must meet a chap considerably more than half-way, *and on ground familiar to himself*.

I have caught a boy’s interest by his ambition to produce water-colors, or his interest in “mission style” furniture, or even such things as his love for horses or baseball.

I am quite sure that my choice of architecture as a profession was directly due to the construction, one summer, just ten years ago, of a massive oak table, after a design by one Will Bradley, which I found among the chaste pages of the “Ladies Home Journal!”

It is such a vast subject, in all its phases, that one of a thousand different aspects may have attracted one into picking it for his life work.

Now, it surely is the business of him who is said to be teaching this mighty affair, to do his best. To single *that* point of view, and through *it* to reach the artistic being within to the best of his ability,—rather than try to foist a uniform and ready-made doctrine on a terrified neophyte.

Give of yourself to your students—unbosom yourself before them, and they will not be slow to do the same before you. That is the thing that animates the dry bones of teaching into a living thing of flesh and blood; three years ago I, myself, was a *student*, and that is too recent for me to forget the pains and pleasures and vague dreams of the future. As long as it falls to my lot to be called a *teacher*, I pray that I may never be unmindful of these and, humanistically speaking, always stay at the age, like Peter Pan, of those with whom I am playing.

Of the experiences which have befallen me, I



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have never met with two more exquisite, than that of surprising a fellow into an admission of his love for the beautiful and that of watching his pride in its growth after the confession; it is a more than ample reward.

As may be suspected, Mr. Perry's paper developed an unusually interesting discussion, the outcome of which was a resolution to the effect that the League continue the present system of teaching with certain modifications.

It was further resolved that the Architectural League of the Pacific Coast continue its relations with the American Society of Beaux Arts Architects:

"Because the standards of this Society are perhaps the highest in America, as attested by the fact that many of the leading institutions or schools of architecture in this country are encouraging their students to take the problems given out by this Society:

'Because the higher the ideals of an institution and the higher its standard of work, the more lofty will be the aspirations of the student:

'Because this Society encourages the best efforts of the student by throwing him in competition with men from North, East, South and West and further places a prize premium on excellency:

'Because, though the East and West are remote geographically they are closely knit through language, railroad and telegraph, so that the problems of the one place are much the same as for the other. There is then no considerable advantage to the League of the Pacific Coast working on its own problems or projects. To employ the problem of the American Society of Beaux Arts Architects does not necessarily place limitations on individual interpretation:

"Because the success of a student in the work of this Society is a distinct commercial asset."

It was further resolved: That the Architectural League of the Pacific Coast continue its judgments at San Francisco as heretofore but that all mention

and prize drawings, immediately following such judgment, be sent in rotation to the various ateliers or societies composing this League, namely, Los Angeles, Portland, Tacoma, Seattle, Spokane, and other places, a definite allotment of time being made to each place. Further, that the Jury of Awards send a statement of the main considerations in their awards to all the ateliers.

This resolution was offered because it is believed that such a system will permit all the students to see the best of this work and will help to give them an idea of the faults or excellency of their own work, as well as to create interest and stimulate activity, thereby increasing the influence of the Pacific Coast League.

Another interesting resolution passed by the League was the following:

*Whereas*, The City of Portland has had prepared most excellent plans for its future growth,

*Be It Resolved*, That the Architectural League of the Pacific Coast, now in session, urges that the city authorities foster the ideas of these plans and bring about their realization as far as possible, in the erection of municipal and state buildings and that the city attempt to have corporations and even individuals, erecting permanent buildings along the main lines of proposed development, conform in spirit and intent with these plans.

Further, this League urges the appointment of an Art Commission such as exists in Los Angeles, New York, Washington, and other cities for the purpose of advising in the artistic and esthetic development of the city, and that the city eventually looks toward making this Commission a Charter Commission.

Seattle was chosen as the next meeting-place of the convention and the officers for the ensuing year were elected, as follows:

President, CARL F. GOULD, Seattle.  
Vice-President, MYRON HUNT, Los Angeles.  
Secretary, J. S. COTE, Seattle.  
Treasurer, WILLIAM C. HAYES, San Francisco.

## THE EXHIBITION

If the visitor carry away with him only one impression on leaving the Fifth Exhibition of the Architectural League of the Pacific Coast this year, it will be that the coast cities have come into their own; that, independently of the eastern centers of architecture, sufficient work of the current year can be concentrated in a collection to furnish an exhibition extremely interesting both to the layman and to the architect.

That these exhibitions are of immense educational influence is evidenced in the ever-increasing

attendance each year, and by the public demand for work of a higher standard than obtained a few years ago. We must concede that the architects are meeting this demand when we contemplate the present exhibition in Portland. Improvement in the use of materials is to be noted, and the appreciation of the necessity of conforming both material and design to the demands of the various climatic conditions on the coast has all but eliminated the well known hybrid compositions so familiar in the past.

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Again, one cannot but be impressed with the great improvement in draughtsmanship evidenced in the work shown. Only a few years ago the number of well-presented drawings was scarcely appreciable, while now, poor presentations are an exception. This arises not from any broadening in our artistic perceptions, but simply because draughtsmanship, as a craft, is being considered as a fundamental in education, and the coming man is made to feel that a proper presentation is not an indulgence in grace of draughtsmanship, but is the proper, most forceful, and truthful expression of his design.

For a great deal of this improvement we are indebted to the Society of Beaux Arts Architects, for the enthusiasm it creates and sustains in its pupils, and for the very valuable results obtained by its system of study. The student work shown in the exhibition is a most delightful and encouraging evidence that the future of our architecture will be in good hands when these embryo architects emerge from the chrysalis, and are called upon to solve the problems of the next generation.

The work shown is largely confined to the coast country, and covers a geographical scope extending from Vancouver, B. C., to southern California, with all the diversity of styles suggested by such a climatic range.

By far the most important drawings are those for the improvement of Portland, by Mr. Bennett, of Chicago, and rendered by Mr. Jules Guerin. Although these have been given publicity before, they still make a vital appeal to all interested in this civic activity.

The Washington State Capitol, at Olympia, is very well shown by the architects, Messrs. Wilder & White, of New York.

Messrs. Bakewell & Brown, and the city of San Francisco as well, are to be congratulated on the winning design for the San Francisco City Hall, which is an evidence of rare ability in planning and design.

In the exhibited work of Bliss & Faville there is an adherence to the high standard always maintained by this firm. All of their work, whether it be in the Renaissance of the Farnese Palace, or the Gothic of the Bargello, is in the very best traditions of the styles, and is most appropriate and welcome.

Messrs. Doyle, Patterson & Beach show a very

large collection of work in Portland and vicinity, of a high order of merit. Their Public Library is a strongly conceived design, of delightful scale and excellent color composition. Their drawings for Reed College show a picturesque, though orderly, group of buildings, conceived in the spirit of the best scholastic precedent.

Messrs. Whitehouse & Fouilhoux are ably represented by the Lincoln High School, the Davis Street Apartments, and, besides other important work, are to be credited with three charming club buildings, the Multnomah, the University, and the Waverly Country Club, all of marked excellence. The last, with its beautiful situation on the river bank, shows a fine intuitive feeling for composition in the design and setting.

Careful study and originality are shown by Mr. Ellis F. Lawrence in his Masonic Temple at Salem, his Bell Court apartment house, Portland, the Westminster Church, and the Albina Branch Carnegie Library. This latter is a remarkably successful departure from the usual type, original in design, and refreshing in detail.

The Multnomah County Courthouse, by Messrs. Whidden & Lewis, is worthy of note as being a distinct addition to Portland's civic architecture.

The exhibition, as usual, shows a large amount of residential work. In this class mention should be made of Messrs. Cutter & Malmgren's charming houses in Spokane, Tacoma, Seattle, and vicinity.

Mr. Carl Gould, of Seattle, shows some delightful residential work, carefully studied in plan and detail, and in every case most happily situated on the site.

Messrs. Wilcox & Sayward, of Seattle, exhibit a particularly imposing house at the Seattle Golf and Country Club.

This article would not be complete without mention of Mr. Elmer Grey, of California, whose widely known work is well represented at this exhibition, and which needs no further comment.

The whole work shown is most creditable, especially when we consider that the association under whose auspices this exhibition was held is an infant in years. The members of the Portland Architectural Club, who so ably contributed to the organization and success of the exhibition, are to be warmly complimented on the result which they have obtained.

W. MARBURY SOMERVELL, A.I.A.

## NOTES FROM THE ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF ARTS

From the preliminary report of the proceedings and speeches at the Fourth Annual Convention of the American Federation of Arts, in Washington, May 15 and 16 last, it is learned that the value and interest of the convention exceeded the expectation even of those who believed most in its success. The attendance of delegates was larger than at any previous convention.

The report of the secretary, Miss Mechlin, states that sixty-five Chapters were added to the Federation in the course of the year, and five Chapters had withdrawn, making the total number of Chapters now in the Federation one hundred and eighty-two. Thirty of the sixty-five new Chapters were constituent societies of the National League of Handicraft Societies, which were merged in the Federation when the League went out of existence in November, 1912. The secretary further reported that there had been twenty-two traveling exhibitions, which had been shown in ninety-five places during the past year, and there had also been seven lectures in circulation. The magazine, "Art and Progress," has nearly reached the point where it is self-supporting. In addition to the publication of "Art and Progress," the Federation has taken over the publication of the "American Art Annual" and "Who's Who in Art." The most gratifying feature of the report, as an indication that the Federation is rapidly increasing in strength and efficiency, was the announcement that the deficit for the past year was only one-fourth of that for the previous year. This deficit was met by private subscriptions.

Mr. de Forest, as President, urged the value of concentrating the work of the Federation and developing and perfecting its present activities, the traveling exhibits, the lectures and the magazine, "Art and Progress," before enlarging the scope of work. He also hoped that the Federation could so perfect its present organization as to become still more valuable as a clearing house for information on all matters relating to art throughout the country.

Mr. H. W. Kent, Assistant Secretary of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, gave a most interesting historical retrospect of the origin and development of the modern small museum, and described the important part museums have played in the industrial development of European countries, and how museums may be encouraged in the United States.

Mrs. Stevens, the Assistant Director of the Toledo Museum of Art, gave a short history of the Toledo Museum, which was remarkable as showing

how easily the small city museum may become a powerful and important force in the community, by following the trend and adapting itself to the needs of the people first, rather than seeking to make the community adapt itself to the museum first.

The Toledo Museum was founded and has grown without legacies and without municipal support. It started with quarters in an office-building, then purchased a private residence, and finally built its present home. Toward this building some thirty thousand people contributed to the fund of half a million dollars. The museum is today free of debt, has seventeen hundred members who maintain it, without any endowment, and 73 per cent of the city's population have visited the institution in one year.

Mr. Raymond Wyrer, Director of the Hackley Art Gallery of Muskegon, Michigan, spoke of the importance of the museum as an adjunct to the educational system of a community in inculcating appreciation of the right kind of art. Mr. Thomas W. Stevens, of Chicago, spoke particularly of the need of simplifying the administration of our tariff laws in the interest of American artists abroad.

On the subject of industrial art, Mr. Ralph Adams Cram's interesting paper, "The Craftsman and the Architect," was read by Mr. C. Howard Walker at Mr. Cram's request. The paper made a plea for the revival of the artistic spirit of the middle ages, and emphasized the great importance to the future of American art and civilization in teaching the designer and industrial artist to be industrial laborers as well; to engage in the actual production of the things they design.

Mr. Walker read his own paper on the relation of industrial art to education, in which he emphasized the value and importance of instructing children in elementary principles of design and artistic treatment while they are young, so that these principles will be instinctive to them when, later on, at an age when impressions and habits of thought come less easily, the prospective handicraftsman will not lose time in learning the rudiments of his profession. Such an early training will be more likely to produce handicraftsmen who are artists rather than merely successful artisans. Mr. Walker also laid stress on the importance of giving this early instruction in periods of long duration, even though they come far apart, rather than in several periods of very short duration each week, as is the present practice in our schools.

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To illustrate Mr. Walker's talk, an excellent and instructive exhibit of industrial art was brought together through the efforts of Mr. C. L. Boone, of the State Normal Schools of New Jersey. It comprised several hundred pieces, the actual work of Americans, made in America, from American designs. Exhibits were sent from as far west as San Francisco and as far south as New Orleans.

Professor Miller, of Philadelphia, expressed the opinion that the salvation of American industry lies in art education properly conducted and applied in an industrial way; in the association of the teaching of pure design with industrial training so that the one will supplement the other.

A number of resolutions were also adopted, the more important of which were one declaring the Federation in favor of the creation of state art commissions; one authorizing the President to appoint a committee to investigate the question of recommending to Congress the creation of a department of art in the government.

A motion was presented to appoint a committee to report on the selection of a sculptor for the statue of Lincoln, which it is proposed to place in the Lincoln Memorial in Washington. The motion was subsequently reported on adversely from the Committee on Resolutions and voted down on the ground that it would be unwise for the Federation to take such action at this time.

The Convention was closed by a final address by Dr. Edward Robinson, Director of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, who briefly reviewed the more valuable suggestions presented during the discussions in the Convention, more especially the suggestions which pointed the way in which the Federation can be of valuable assistance to the country in the encouragement of small museums and the teaching of industrial art. He dwelt particularly on the importance of encouraging small museums to adapt themselves to the needs of the industrial communities in which they are situated.

## BOOK REVIEWS

### BOOKS RECEIVED DURING APRIL, 1913.

- The San Francisco Architectural Club, San Francisco, Cal. Year Book, 1913.
- The Century Association, New York, N. Y. Reports, Constitution, By-Laws and List of Members, 1912.
- The New York Chapter, A. I. A., New York, N. Y. Year Book, 1913.

### SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED DURING APRIL, 1913.

- The Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Boston, Mass. Bulletin, Vol. XLVIII, No. 2. January, 1913.
- The Society of Arts and Crafts, Boston, Mass. Sixteenth Annual Report and List of Members, 1913.
- The Western Society of Engineers, Chicago, Ill. Constitution, List of Members and Officers, 1913.
- Devon and Exeter Architectural Society, London, England. Proceedings.
- The Royal Society of Arts, London, England. Journal, Vol. LXI, No. 3149. March 28, 1913 to Vol. LXI, No. 3152. April 18, 1913.

- The Royal Institute of British Architects, London, England. Journal. Vol. XX, No. 8, Third Series. 22 February, 1913 and Vol. XX, No. 9, Third Series. 8 March, 1913.
- The Society of Architects, London, England. Journal, Vol. VI, No. 66. April, 1913.
- The Architectural Association, London, England. Journal, Vol. XXVIII, No. 314. April, 1913.
- The Royal Sanitary Institute, London, England. Journal, Vol. XXXIV, No. 3, April, 1913.
- The Royal Victorian Institute of Architects, Melbourne, Australia. Journal, Vol. XI, No. 1. March, 1913.
- Société Centrale des Architectes Français, Paris, France. L'Architecture, 26e Année. Nos. 12 to 16, 22 Mars to 19 Avril, 1913.
- Société degli Ingegneri e degli Architetti, Rome, Italy. Annali. Anno XXVIII, Nos. 7 and 8. 1 and 16 Aprile, 1913.
- A Magyar Mernok-es Epitesz-Egylet, Budapest, Hungary. Kozlonye, XLVII kotet. 13 and 14 Szam. Marcius 30 and Aprilis 6, 1913.
- The Institute of Japanese Architects, Tokyo, Japan. Journal, Vol. XXVII, No. 315. March 25, 1913.

## LONDON LETTER

London, June 1, 1913.

Some remarks on style that occurred in Mr. Hastings' paper, read to the Royal Institute of British Architects the other day, have served as the basis of an editorial in the "Times." It is called "An American View of Style in Architecture," and the writer attempts to suggest a way by which the architect of today might arrive at a style which would be modern and beautiful,—in other words, vital and comely. It is pointed out that no style has been recognized as such by the men who created it; that it is the unconscious result of many minds working along the same general lines toward the solution of a common problem. The "Times" then goes on to say that if the modern architect would do "what he has to do as simply and exactly as possible" we would have our style and, even if we did not recognize it, future generations would see the unity of thought and intention in our work and would realize it as a style.

This is too simple. Not only do we lack one predominant problem of architecture which would do for us what the cathedral did for the Gothic builders and the temple for the Greeks, that is, focus the minds of architects on one problem, which, solved, would give the key to the style of the lesser buildings; we can do anything too easily. The development of methods and machinery has made it possible for us to perpetrate all kinds of ugliness. No art is so difficult to practise with success as the art which permits of the use of every means, the art without limitations. The old method of wood-cutting with a knife on the side of a board has an inherent dignity which is denied to oil painting in spite of the greater possibilities of the latter. The limitations of the old architects were a Godsend. They kept them in the straight and narrow path and when they tried to overstep them we see what happened, as in some late Gothic work.

The man building in stone in the ancient manner is faced with quite a

different situation from that which presents itself to a modern architect with steel and iron construction at his disposal, to say nothing of imitation marble, machine carving, stamped cornices and the like. It is not that many of these present possibilities may not have their use, but the difficulties are enormously increased. The result of the use of



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these expedients, so often forced on the architect by the man who pays, is almost always unsatisfactory. The church, which of all buildings should be the most sincere, is an utter failure generally, and the storage-warehouse, the power-house and the factory are perhaps most likely to remain as our really great architectural achievements.

Undoubtedly, if all architects were to bend all their energies to the task of expressing the needs and requirements of the particular problem in hand, always in the terms of the materials used and recognizing their characteristic qualities, much would be done toward creating a modern style; but, so long as their clients demand the most display with the least possible expenditure, and demand that display in terms of the old stock signs of architectural importance, columns and pilasters for an example, the task will be herculean.

Another point untouched by the "Times" is the vital effect on architecture of the decay of craftsmanship accompanying the rise of machinery and the replacing of the guilds of skilled workers by the trades-unions with the concomitant loss to art. Perhaps it has never been sufficiently clearly set forth what a natural forcing-ground for artists was afforded by the old associations of skilled craftsmen and scarcely less important, what a body of opinion they became, really fit to pass judgment on the work of those that rose from their midst to be the great creative architects, sculptors and painters.

In a former letter I promised to say something

about St. Paul's. According to the clergyman who conducted a service the other night, only the Divine Grace saved the church from the bomb of a suffragette. The hands of the clock which controlled the infernal machine were found to be going backward! Cracked without and assailed within, the state of St. Paul's might well give anxiety to the shade of Wren.

Many reports have been made but little has yet been done. Cement under pressure is now being forced into the piers which are filled with rubble and seem to drink an immeasurable quantity. Without going into all the details of the report it is possible to state quite simply what has happened. The foundations rest on a rather thin bed of "pot-earth" and under this is loose sand and gravel until thirty feet below the crypt floor is the London clay. Excavations in the neighborhood, the stoppage of percolation of water by the building operations in the vicinity and alterations in the waterside which have affected the flow of the water in the lower strata have all had their effect on the loose sand and gravel; in consequence there has been settling of the piers. One of those which support the vast weight of the dome has gone down bodily six inches. Just how this is to be remedied has not yet been determined but the public will probably be appealed to for funds, and an attempt will be made to fill in solidly with concrete the space between the foundations and the hard clay.

HENRY WINSLOW.

### THE PROPOSED FORMATION OF THE NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION, A. I. A.

The four Chapters in the State of New York are agreed upon the pressing necessity of the formation of the New York State Association.

Each of the Chapters has appointed three

delegates to attend a preliminary meeting at Coopers-town, N. Y., on July 11 and 12 next.

A. L. Brockway, President of the Central New York Chapter, will act as temporary chairman.

## INSTITUTE BUSINESS

### A MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

HELD AT THE CENTURY CLUB, NEW YORK, N. Y., JUNE 16, 1913

The date of the next Convention was fixed for December 2, 3, 4, 1913, to be held in New Orleans, Louisiana.

The secretary was directed to notify the Chapters that the Executive Committee determined that the principal topic for consideration at the next Convention should be a discussion of some law, by which the government may secure men of the greatest ability in the architectural work of the United States.

The repeal of the Tarsney Act by the last Congress makes action on this question an important public service.

The meeting was called to order at 10 A.M., by the President, Walter Cook.

Present: Messrs. Cook, Brown, Medary, Sturgis, and Pond, members of the Executive Committee and, by invitation of the President, the following Directors were present: Messrs. Crane, Fenner, Baldwin, Magonigle, and LaFarge.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

The following applicants were elected to membership in the Institute: William H. Brainerd, Edwin H. Brown, Herbert W. C. Browne, William B. Billmeyer, Joseph Everett Chandler, James Driver, Philip Richardson, Thomas A. Fox, Eugene C. Gardner, Harry W. Gardner, George F. Gimmill, William Ward Watkin, Edward H. Hoyt, Samuel Grant Johnston, Charles W. Killam, J. Lovell Little, Jr., Henry Killam Murphy, James Purdon, George C. Shattuck, Harry L. Shupe, Philip N. Stern, Carl F. White.

The question of advancement to fellowship was then discussed, and the secretary was instructed to notify each Chapter that the question would be considered about the middle of July, and any name recommended by Chapters should be sent in before that time.

The budget, as submitted by the Finance Committee was accepted as the budget for the year July, 1913, to July, 1914.

The report from the Committee on Publications, showing the amount expended on the Journal, and the estimated income from the Journal, was read and accepted by the board.

Communications were read from Mr. F. L. Ellingwood and Mr. H. E. Prindle, who are living in Canada, showing that they had applied for member-

ship in the New York Chapter as residents of New York. It was moved by Mr. Sturgis that, if the city of New York was the last place in the United States where Mr. Ellingwood and Mr. Prindle practised, the board considered that they were eligible for membership in the New York Chapter.

The schedule of fees printed by the Wisconsin Chapter in which they added a list of rates lower than the schedule of rates of the Institute was presented to the committee. It was moved, seconded, and carried that,

*Whereas*, The individual has a right to fix any rate he wishes, provided he be not in a competition, that a Chapter as an integral part of the Institute has no right to publish a rate lower than the minimum schedule rate.

A letter was received from the Committee on Education requesting each Chapter to give a medal of the Institute for meritorious student work. It was suggested that the President acknowledge receipt of the letter, stating that the Executive Committee thinks it a very good idea, and, providing it can be carried out without expense to the Institute, whose finances are already greatly strained, that it will meet with approval.

The question of the payment of the competitors in a limited competition being thought obligatory under the Code was brought to the attention of the committee by Mr. Medary, chairman of the Committee on Competitions, and it was determined by the Executive Committee that, while the payment of unsuccessful competitors is classed with other things that are desirable, it is not mandatory.

The report of the Committee on Practice on the following cases was read and approved:

The Committee on Practice of the A.I.A. re-

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spectfully submits the following report on cases brought to its attention, in which it was decided that there was not sufficient evidence to refer the cases to the Judiciary Committee:

*Advertising in the International Hospital Record.*—We find that Messrs. Kendall Taylor & Co., Mr. Edward F. Stevens, and Mr. Richard E. Schmidt know of the advertisements referred to, but in view of their statements that the advertisements had been inserted without expense according to the Code of Ethics of the Boston Chapter, or previous to the adoption, by the Institute, of the regulation in the Code of Ethics prohibiting advertising, we recommend that you notify Messrs. Kendall Taylor & Co. and Mr. Edward F. Stevens that they have done all that is necessary in ordering their advertisements discontinued, and that you notify Mr. Richard E. Schmidt to have his advertisement discontinued so as to comply with the present Code of Ethics.

*Santa Ana School, California.*—We find no definite proof of Mr. A. Burnside Sturgis' claims. The Chapter should use every effort to have the law requiring an architect to give bond repealed; but until then, we consider the Committee on Competitions has the option of approving programs requiring bonds. We recommend your notifying Mr. Sturgis of our findings.

*Alameda County Infirmary Hospital, California.*—We find that the question of the bond is again one of the points raised, and we refer to our statement on the Santa Ana School. The question of additional information being issued by the Advisor without approval by the Committee on Competitions is a vital one. We recommend that this matter should be taken up and settled at the next Convention.

*School Competition, Southampton, N. Y.*—We find that Mr. Charles Butler's claims are not sufficiently proved. We feel that any disagreements between the Committees on Competitions of the various Chapters should be referred to the Com-

mittee on Competitions of the A.I.A., and settled by it. We recommend your advising Mr. Butler of our findings.

*High School of Commerce, Springfield, Mass.*—We find that Mr. George C. Gardner did not submit plans. Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) WAINWRIGHT PARISH,  
Chairman, Committee on Practice.

Mr. Pond suggested the names of P. J. Weber, George W. Maher, and W. K. Fellows, for advancement to fellowship from the Illinois Chapter.

## COLUMBUS CHAPTER

The Columbus, Ohio, Chapter was organized and, by authority of the Executive Committee, a charter was issued to it on May 21, 1913, upon its constitution having been approved, an incorporation having been duly effected under the law of the state of Ohio, and the following officers having been elected: George H. Bulford, President; F. L. Packard, Vice-President; J. W. Thomas, Jr., Secretary.

Members of the Institute in the new Chapter are as follows: Frank L. Packard, J. E. McCarty, George H. Bulford, Fred W. Elliott, Charles L. Inscho, and James Wm. Thomas, Jr.

The following territory in the state of Ohio was assigned to the new Chapter: Counties of Van Wert, Allen, Hardin, Wyandotte, Crawford, Richland, Knox, Morrom, Marion, Logan, Auglaize, Mercer, Darke, Shelby, Miami, Champaign, Clark, Madison, Franklin, Delaware, Licking, Coshocton, Muskingum, Perry, Fairfield, Pickaway, and Hocking.

## A CORRECTION

The official list of delegates to the last convention of the Institute failed to mention the fact that the Atlanta Chapter was represented by Mr. John Robert Dillon, and his name, for this reason, was not printed in the Proceedings.



## CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

Please note the request for ideas and suggestions under the title of  
Competitions, Philadelphia Chapter

### BUILDING LAWS

#### *New York Chapter.*

Voted: That the Chapter approve the ordinance proposed by the Superintendent of Buildings, compelling the owners of buildings erected adjacent to and higher than existing buildings to carry up the chimneys of the lower buildings.

#### *San Francisco Chapter.*

The chairman of the Legislative Committee reported that the substitute for the Law of 1872 was in the hands of the governor, and that the new act empowered county boards to employ architects. The revised tenement-house law was also in the hands of the governor.

#### *Southern California Chapter.*

A great deal of difference of opinion has prevailed as to the merit of some of the amendments to the tenement-house law, as proposed by the Chapter. An agreement was practically reached on everything excepting the section of the law governing the installation and construction of air intakes to vent-shafts.

The Chapter voted to recommend the elimination of such air intakes on account of the increased fire hazard, but the San Francisco Housing Association contended that such air intakes were necessary to a circulation of air in the vent-shaft and would not consent to their elimination.

A compromise was effected whereby the size of

the intake was reduced from four square feet to three, to be placed at or near the bottom of the shaft, and permitting the division of the intake into not more than three sections. This will afford a chance, in many cases, to locate such a divided intake between the joists, thus avoiding an unsightly projection into any room that may be below the bottom of the shaft.

The bill has passed both houses of the legislature practically in the amended form suggested by the Chapters in California.

#### *Cleveland Chapter.*

Report of the Building Code Committee states that in order to obviate the difficulty of the State Code, the suggestion had been made that a clause be inserted in the same to the effect that all cities operating under their own charter be allowed to operate under their own building code.

Voted: That the Joint Committee of the Chapter, the Builders' Exchange and Engineering Society, request the defeat of the state building code in its present form.

#### *Colorado Chapter.*

Mr. Walter Rice, Building Inspector, city and county of Denver, requested that a committee be appointed from the Chapter to act in a capacity to help frame the new building laws. Voted: that the President appoint a committee of three to act in this capacity.

### FIRE PREVENTION

#### *New York City.*

Robert D. Kohn, F.A.I.A., President of the New York Chapter, was elected to the presidency of the National Fire Protection Association at its annual convention held in New York City in May.

Rudolph P. Miller, Superintendent of Buildings in Manhattan, was elected to the Executive Board, as a representative of the American Institute of Consulting Engineers.

The Institute was well represented by its three delegates appointed to attend this Convention, and

the Chairman of the Committee on Public Information delivered an address on coöperation between architects and the National Fire Protection Association in the matter of diffusing public information.

According to a notice which appeared in the "Insurance Press," this is the first time since the organization of the National Fire Protection Association in 1896, that it has chosen a president who was not identified with the fire insurance business.

The same notice points out that the architect is at present "an undeveloped force," in the movement for fire protection, which is probably more

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or less true. Yet the recent tour of Mr. Wentworth among the Chapters of the Institute has given an impetus to development on the part of the architect which it is firmly believed will leave no room for

criticism, as time goes on. The hearty good will of the Institute will surely go with President Kohn; its full and active coöperation should be given him as well.

## HEIGHT OF BUILDINGS

*Oregon Chapter.* (A correction.)

The item under this title, which appeared in the June issue, should have been credited to the Oregon Chapter instead of to the Washington State Chapter, and the Journal regrets the error.

*Brooklyn Chapter.* (A correction.)

In the June issue, under the above title, Mr. J. M. Hewlett of the Brooklyn Chapter was accredited to the New York Chapter, an error for which the Journal tenders its apologies.

## PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

*Wisconsin Chapter.*

A letter from President Cook, criticising the Wisconsin Chapter for the adoption and publication of a Schedule of Charges\*, called forth the following sentiment: "That the charge of 5 per cent for loft buildings and 4 per cent for factory buildings was a fair and reasonable one, and so far as could be ascertained, was in keeping with actual practice here and elsewhere."

The Committee on Professional Charges was asked to state more fully the basis upon which this part of the schedule was formulated, and make a full report at the next meeting.

*Southern California Chapter.*

The question as to whether the Chapter should pass a resolution allowing its members to display signs, bearing their names, on buildings for which they are architects, during the process of erection, was laid on the table for general discussion at the June meeting.

At that meeting, a motion was made and seconded that it be the sense of the meeting that the placing of signs on buildings during course of erection be optional with the members of this Chapter. Attention was then called to the Chapter's endorsement and adoption of the Institute's Code of Ethics, some two years ago, in which it was set forth that at that time the act of using signs on buildings during process of erection by architects was condemned by the Institute as unprofessional. Further discussions ensued, with suggestions for reconsideration of the Chapter's adoption of the ethics of the Institute. An amendment to the original motion moved to register the names of all members voting for or against this measure, and to forward the names to the Institute. During the

\*See under "Professional Practice," Wisconsin Chapter, June.

discussion following, it was suggested that the motion be passed by the Chapter without giving the names. A substitute motion to have the secretary send out letter ballots to all Chapter members, requesting their vote on the question, the ballots to be duly opened by the Board of Directors of the Chapter, was finally carried.

*New York Chapter.*

For the Committee on City Contracts, Mr. Brainard reported that the agreement with the city authorities whereby the city should pay an extra commission of 2½ per cent to architects when it calls upon them to employ specialists was the most that he had been able to accomplish. This, however, represents a very material progress toward the recognition of the fact that expert services should be paid for by the owners.

*Philadelphia Chapter.*

The Committee on Chapter Schedule, reported that the Committee had simply acted as a clerk in carrying out the decisions of the Chapter, as determined upon at a previous meeting, but had attempted to arrange the schedule more intelligibly than that of the Institute. It was not proposed to make the schedule mandatory.

It was suggested that, if the Chapter schedule is to take the place of that of the Institute, it should also embody certain clauses from the Institute Code of Ethics, relative to the position of architect and owner, and that these should be placed first. The chairman of the committee considered it inadvisable to so begin the schedule, but thought that if the schedule were in the form of a folder, the relations of architect and owner might be placed upon the second page.

It was then proposed that, if the first suggestion be accepted, a blank contract form for architect and owner be also included.

## CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

Further discussion then occurred as to whether the schedule would be mandatory, particularly to those voting for it, but it was further stated by the President and the chairman of the committee that it would be adopted only as the Chapter's opinion, and could not be construed as mandatory, except when members were, so to speak, competing against one another.

In reply to a question, it was stated that the schedule was not intended to be a deviation from that of the Institute Schedule, but merely an amplification of the same.

A motion to adopt the schedule as read being

lost, it was determined to adopt it article by article. Under the asterisk of Article I, it was also stated that the definition of cost, as stated in the asterisk to Article I, might readily be interpreted by the client as the net cost, and it was requested that this be clarified.

Article VI was amended to read "and for landscape work," instead of "and landscape architecture."

Voted: That the amendment to be drawn up to Article XIII be referred to the Executive Committee for final approval, and that with this and the other changes as noted the schedule be approved.

## CONTRACTS

*Cleveland Chapter.*

Voted: That it is the sense of the Chapter meeting of June 5 that all principal contracts be

made direct between the owner and the contractor, but that it is not in the power of the architect to demand this; that the contractors must insist on contracts being let direct.

## OFFICIAL ARCHITECTS

*New York Chapter.*

Mr. Lewis F. Pilcher, who is a member of the Chapter at large of the Institute, and a member of the firm of Pilcher & Tachau, of New York City, has been appointed by Governor Sulzer State Architect of New York. Owing to the fact that Mr. Pilcher's name is not on the membership list of any New York State Chapter he was not considered by the committee, which had forwarded to Governor Sulzer a list of persons whom it considered eligible for this office. The members of the Institute who were prominent in the investigation of the architect's office during January have, however, welcomed Mr. Pilcher's appointment, and are at the present time in conference with him on sundry matters connected with his office. Mr. Pilcher has

expressed the desire to have all possible assistance from the New York State Chapters, and the Chapters have in turn, through their various committees, offered to do what they can to further certain reforms in the State Architect's office and improvements in the administration of the State Architect's work.

*San Francisco Chapter.*

Regarding the Architectural Commission bill, the chairman of the Legislative Committee stated that another bill had been passed, consolidating various boards and that the architectural work would still be under the direction of the State Engineer. He considered it would require the assistance of Chapter members to bring influence to bear so that the state work would be placed in competent hands.

## REGISTRATION OR LICENSING OF ARCHITECTS

*New York Chapter.*

Reported that the bill for the registration of architects had failed to pass, not through any fault

in the bill or any definite opposition, but because of peculiar conditions existing in the state senate at the close of the session.

## COMPETITIONS

*Philadelphia Chapter.*

At a meeting of the Chapter devoted to a discussion of Professional Practice and Competitions, Mr. Medary, chairman of the Committee on Compe-

titions of the Institute, stated that the committee is desirous of obtaining suggestions from all sections of the country, to the end that they may be aided in making programs still more satisfactory.

He states that there still seems to be misunder-

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standing on the part of advisor, jury and competitor as to how far they are bound beyond the absolute mandatory requirements, as to just what are these requirements.

He added his belief that the jury should have no facts that competitors do not have, although such a requirement is not a part of the present code.

Dr. Laird discussed the desirability of having the mandatory requirements clear, and Mr. Day stated that he did not consider that anything not clearly stated as mandatory should be binding, and suggested that all mandatory articles be printed in bold face type or in italics. Dr. Laird asked why the mandatory requirements could not be segregated, but Mr. Day replied that this interfered with the orderly statement of the program. The difficulty of meeting the changing point of view of the owner was discussed. Considering the best method of selecting competitors, Mr. Day stated that he now believed the two-stage competition was the best.

## *Southern California Chapter.*

A very serious opposition developed in Los Angeles to the bill repealing the law of 1872. The county board of supervisors and the city board of education both sent representatives to the meeting of the southern California delegation of legislators, protesting strongly against the bill. The President and other members of the Chapter appeared at the same time, and stated the reasons why the Chapter desired the passage of the bill, pointing out the objectionable features of the law of 1872.

In spite of all the effort put forth by both the Chapters of California the bill failed of passage.

## *St. Louis Chapter.*

The Committee on Competitions reports that the invitation to architects and program for the Kenrick Seminary, St. Louis, dated July 19, 1912, do not conform to the requirements of the Circular of Advice of the American Institute of Architects, and therefore, in the opinion of the committee, participation in the competition by members of the Chapter would constitute a breach of the regulation governing the Institute and also the St. Louis Chapter.

The names of firms taking part in this competition were presented by the committee.

## *Wisconsin Chapter.*

The Competition Committee reported a conference with a building committee at Oshkosh, where a competition for an insurance building was being conducted contrary to the rules of the Institute. The audience accorded the committee of the Chapter was not very encouraging, but the committee feels assured that a better understanding was effected, which doubtless will benefit the profession in future competitions in that particular locality.

## *Colorado Chapter.*

The secretary was authorized to write a letter to the Chapter members, warning said members of an effort on the part of the Lakewood Country Club to hold a competition for the proposed new clubhouse, without regard to the rules on competition as adopted by the A.I.A.

## MUNICIPAL AND STATE COÖPERATION

### *Louisiana Chapter.*

The Committee on Public Information has addressed the following letter to the Mayor of New Orleans:

"We have noted with interest that you have under consideration an ordinance for the regulation of signboards, and have made a special trip over the city to inspect them.

"Up to a year ago New Orleans did not suffer from signboards in the residential districts to the extent that prevails in most other cities of the country, but the past twelve months has seen such rapid growth that the damage done is now difficult to repair. Whole blocks have been built up with these boards, whose size, scale, and color are ruinous to architecture and the landscape. The interference with the free circulation of air, the danger in the

concealed spaces back of the boards, the obscuring of the view to residents of side streets are so evident that we have confined our objections wholly to those phases of the subject which, as architects, appeal most directly to us.

"Many American cities are engaged in plans to improve their streets and surroundings, and visitors to New Orleans view with envy our splendid, wide residential streets. These streets are rapidly being ruined by billboards.

"While we recognize the advertising value which the users of these billboards find in them, and the employment they give to a number of people, we feel strongly that not only the rights of the citizens who must live side by side with the signboards, but the rights of the public in general and the city as a whole, have been seriously affected.

"Under the old City Charter a number of ordi-

## CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

nances were passed preventing the use of property on several streets for business purposes. When we see billboards now so evident where property values are highest, it looks as though we have entirely overlooked the necessity of making restrictions there.

"Just what can be done to correct the damage done is difficult to say, but the further spread of the evil should, in our opinion, be prevented, and some of the provisions for taxation tried by other cities might be invoked.

"We realize that the problem is many sided and difficult to deal with, but we think the rights of the city as a whole have been trespassed upon, and that the rights of the city should be paramount.

"We assure you of our desire to be helpful in not only this instance but in all matters relating to the city's welfare and attractiveness."

[EDITORIAL NOTE.—*It is evident that the restrained and dignified character of this communication does not fully set forth the feeling of indignation which every architect feels, as he looks abroad upon the hideous disfigurements which have fastened themselves, like*

*greedy parasites, upon our buildings and our landscape. They are one of the horrors of life. They are one of the evils which militate most strongly against any broad architectural development, for they lower the self-respect of every community. The Journal proposes to devote considerable space to this question, in one of its early issues of the future. In the meantime it congratulates the Louisiana Chapter upon the action which has been taken.]*

*Cincinnati Chapter.*

Mr. Bert Baldwin, Superintendent of the Cincinnati Water-works, spoke on the subject of the proposed high-pressure water-service for Cincinnati. His address was followed by a discussion which was participated in by Capt. J. J. Conway, chief of the Cincinnati Salvage Corps, and a number of the Chapter members. Voted: to have a committee of three appointed by the chair to work in connection with other local committees in furtherance of the "high-pressure water-system" for the down-town district of Cincinnati.

## COÖPERATION WITH ALLIED INTERESTS

*Kansas City Chapter.*

A committee of five has been appointed to meet with like committees from other organizations for the purpose of forming a federation of all civic organizations in the city.

*San Francisco Chapter.*

The chairman of the Committee on Commercial Bodies reported that the committee had had a meeting with the Specialty Contractors' Protective Association, for the purpose of considering the remedying of certain abuses which had crept into the methods of figuring on drawings and specifications.

*Southern California Chapter.*

A committee of three has been appointed to confer with the Los Angeles Master Builders' Association for the purpose of adjusting certain questions affecting the practice of building, estimating, and the general relations existing between architects and contractors.

*Cleveland Chapter.*

A report on the activity of the Municipal Art and Architecture Committee with the Chamber of Commerce states that drawings of passenger boat piers had been examined, and that the committee made recommendations regarding the elimination of grade crossing from the scheme.

## DRY ROT IN SOLID-JOIST CONSTRUCTION

(See under Wood Construction, Washington State Chapter.)

## INSTITUTE AND CHAPTER RELATIONS

*Iowa Chapter.*

Among the standing committees prescribed by the by-laws of the Iowa Chapter is one known as the Committee on Institute Affairs, which "shall consist of the delegates to the Institute Convention; and it shall be the duty of this committee thoroughly

to acquaint itself with the affairs of the Institute, and especially the actions taken at the Convention to which its members were delegates, culling, digesting, and reporting for Chapter consideration all such matters as especially bear upon the needs of the Iowa Chapter. It shall make a report to the secretary within thirty days after the Institute

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Convention, and, when the Executive Committee deems it advisable to do so, the secretary shall edit this report and distribute it to all members in such form as the Executive Committee may think best."

*It is not known whether other Chapters have a similar committee, but its usefulness ought to be beyond question.*

*Why not go farther?*

*Why not use the columns of the Journal as the*

*best means of acquainting all members of the Institute with the needs of all Chapters?*

*Such questions as would arise could then be more intelligently discussed on the floor of the Convention.*

*Now is the time—well in advance—when Chapters should present their views, when individuals should aid, fully and freely, in constructive criticism.*

*The columns of the Journal belong to all the Institute, to serve architecture as best they may.*

## WOOD CONSTRUCTION NOTES

*Washington State Chapter.*

In Seattle in a floor-construction of solid 2 x 6's laid on edge, spiked together, covered with a layer of asbestos paper, and with two-ply P. & B. waterproof paper and edged flooring, dry rot was discovered to have set in. A letter from Prof. Benson, of the University of Washington, explained the nature of the fungous growth and the means of remedying conditions in this or similar cases. The

experiences of several members in similar construction were reported, and the desirability of the use of asbestos paper on floors, as a fire preventive was discussed.

The Building Department of Seattle has sent notices to all architects of buildings in which this form of construction has been used, asking them to make an examination and report such results as might be found. Further investigation will be made before any action is taken by the Chapter.

## MEMBERSHIP

*Iowa Chapter. (A correction.)*

Under this same heading, in the May issue of the Journal, it was stated that "various directories give the names of architects in towns of not less than 4,500 inhabitants (Iowa). It is easily apparent that an extra cipher crept into the statement, for it was intended to point out that towns as small as 450 could hardly be expected to support an architect who was really worthy of the name.

*Kansas City Chapter.*

Voted: To amend Section 1, Article III, of the Constitution to read:

"The membership of this Chapter shall consist of Honorary, Institute, Chapter, and Junior Members."

Amend Section 2, Article IV, of the Constitution to read:

"The conditions of membership shall be: Honorable service in the profession and the willingness to abide by the Code of Ethics and other mandatory and advisory codes of the American Institute of Architects."

Amend Section 3, Article I of the By-Laws to read:

"This Chapter may include four classes of membership: First, Honorary membership, which may

be conferred upon any person, not necessarily a member of this Chapter or of the profession, for long service in the profession, meritorious conduct in the profession, or for other reasons deemed of sufficient merit by this Chapter to justify such distinction.

"Second, Chapter membership, which shall consist of architects in good professional standing in the community and in the regular practice of the profession, or draftsmen over twenty-one years of age and with at least six years' experience in the profession and of good standing in the community.

"Third, Fellows or Members of the American Institute of Architects to be known as 'Institute Members.'

"Fourth, students and draftsmen unable to qualify for Chapter membership, to be known as 'Junior Members.' Junior Members shall have no vote and shall not be qualified to hold office, but may serve on committees. Chapter members, upon joining the American Institute of Architects, become Institute members without action of the Chapter.

"Chapter Members are to be considered probationary members of the American Institute of Architects, and are to abide by the Code of Ethics and other mandatory and advisory codes prescribed by the American Institute of Architects."

Add to Section 5, Article I of the By-Laws:

## CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

“Nominations for honorary membership shall be made in writing at least one month previous to the time such nomination is voted on, and shall be signed by at least two members of the Chapter, and shall require the unanimous vote of all members present at any stated meeting to elect such member.”

## EXHIBITIONS, MEETINGS AND REUNIONS

*Oregon Chapter.* (A correction.)

Through an error in compilation in the June issue of the Journal, it was made to appear that the Annual Convention of the Architectural League of the Pacific Coast was to be held under the auspices of the Washington State Chapter, and to that Chapter the Journal extended its congratulations.

The Journal takes this occasion to apologize to the architects of Portland, who planned and carried

out the convention in a most admirable manner, and to offer to them its most sincere congratulations. Notes from the convention will be found elsewhere in this issue.

*Brooklyn Chapter.*

Voted: That the annual outing take place on board the S. S. Atlantic, sometime during the week of June 14 to 21. Further details to be taken care of by the Committee on Current Work.

## TWO THINGS OF IMPORTANCE

Under Chapter Activities, attention has already been called to the request for ideas and suggestions in relation to changes in the Competition Code.

A brief account of a discussion which took place in the Philadelphia Chapter will be found under that title and the reference thereto in the Journal is to be considered as a special request to members and to Chapters.

Under Institute and Chapter Relations, Iowa Chapter, will be found an account of a Committee on Institute Affairs, maintained by that Chapter. There will also be found some suggestions as to the desirability of such a Committee in every Chapter, with still further suggestions as to certain very useful activities in which it might engage.

These things are of importance in themselves. They are of especial importance at the moment in view of the announcement of the date and place of the next convention. The Journal exists for the purpose of diffusing information and it is believed that such ideas and suggestions as are presented in its columns will receive a far more intelligent consideration at the convention than will those ideas which are there launched for the first time.

*Verbum sat sapienti.*

## NEWS NOTES

### French Society to Award Honor to Borough President

"George McAneny, President of the Borough of Manhattan, is to receive a medal in recognition of his services as a layman in the cause of architectural advancement. The medal comes from the French Société des Architectes Diplômés par le Gouvernement Français, a society composed of graduates of the Ecole des Beaux Arts, in Paris.

"Mr. Aneny received today a letter from J. H. Freedlander, president of the American group, in which he said:

"The Société des Architectes Diplômés par le Gouvernement, the leading architectural society of France, has forwarded to its fellow alumni, associated under the name of the American group (composed of American architects who have received the French Government diploma at the Ecole des Beaux Arts), a medal to be awarded as a token of appreciation to a layman who has rendered conspicuous service to the cause of architectural advancement in America.

"At a recent meeting of the American group it was unanimously decided to present this medal to you in recognition of the splendid results obtained by you in securing for our profession a wider appreciation throughout the country, as well as your work in conjunction with the erection of the Civic Center, the limitation of the height of buildings, and your efforts in upholding on every occasion the high standard of architecture in this country.

"The American group is desirous of presenting this medal to you at a dinner to be given in your honor at the University Club on Tuesday, May 27, at 8 P.M., and it is my great privilege to ask you to be our guest on that occasion."

"A gold medal from the leading architectural society in France bestowed upon a New York City official for his services to architecture! The thing seems incredible if one stops to consider the long list of crimes committed in the joint name of architecture and New York City. But even in France it seems they have heard of George McAneny and what he has been doing for Manhattan, and so the gold medal of the society of architects holding Government degrees is to be officially bestowed upon the Borough President. This is as delightful a bit of international courtesy as it is merited; and it ought to bring fresh assurance to Mr. McAneny and our other enlightened officials that faithful services, even in apparently inconspicuous lines, do bring the recognition they deserve. It is because of Mr.

McAneny's work for the new civic center and his efforts to regulate the height of our skyscrapers that this medal is awarded, as well as for his general insistence that good architecture, good art, and good government go hand in hand."—*From the Evening Post, New York City.*

### Infested Architecture

"Three distinct parasites fasten on our city buildings, confusing their scale, cluttering their base lines, masking their decorations, disheartening in advance to the conscientious architect.

"The first is the lettered signboard, made not merely to be seen, but to catch and hold the glance. In some form the sign is a necessary evil. But could it not be reckoned with more boldly by the architects both in designing elevations and in advising clients after occupation? Some day merchants will come to see that beauty in the wares for sale, and in the window schemes for their display, calls also for a framing beauty in the whole store front.

"The second parasite is the creeping vine. Some buildings deserve it; season by season they need the close mantle of rippling green or the clinging veil of netted runner and tendril. The coarser and heavier the building, the greater its need for some such figured covering. But other buildings, clean cut and pleasantly proportioned, telling a structural story in lines well carried through, or taking the eye with finely wrought texture and detail—these have no need for a kindly covering of blemish and defect; they have a right to be seen bare and in their full design.

"The last of the three parasites is neither a necessary evil nor an occasionally pleasing mask; it is an abuse, tolerated only for a trifling convenience and for the dollars it brings in. It is the vendor's booth, lodged in any available nook or corner of any building that the crowd passes. The stands of these petty traffickers in post-cards, peanuts, and penny candies no more regard the walls they huddle up against than the nests of the plastering mudwasps regard the carvings on the temples of old Egypt.

"European cities have made visitors familiar with the so-called 'freeing' of cathedrals and other public buildings. In the days when a city's walls were not for romance but for service, the same pressure that kept streets narrow and houses overhanging, finally forced shops and dwellings against the very sides of the noblest buildings. In these later days, with the old walls razed for 'ring parks' or left standing far down town as documents of



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early history, the cities have been clearing their important buildings of all that has marred their beauty or concealed their merit of design.

"Cannot we Americans take the hint?"—*From the Boston Herald.*

### The Revised Plan for the New Federal Capital of Australia

"The story of the competition for the Federal Capitol of Australia pursues its melancholy course. Readers will remember, that when the conditions were issued, the Royal Institute of British Architects and the American Institute of Architects promptly protested against the clause dealing with the assessors, and on no attention being paid to them, both Institutes formally requested their members to refrain from competing. Here, then, was a most regrettable beginning; the commonwealth of Australia promoting a competition for its capitol, and the two countries whose architects were most likely to understand her needs practically forbidden to compete. If an Australian did not win, who more fitting than an Englishman, who would probably settle there and add the value of his personality to the younger country?

"Again, the Americans are admittedly ahead of us in the study of monumental town planning, and no one could have felt anything but satisfaction if one of her many brilliant city planners had succeeded, so similar in many respects are the United States to Australia. We pass over the more narrow imperial side of the question, as our sympathies in architecture are entirely cosmopolitan, and it matters little to us whether the author of the plan for one of our colonial capitols be of French, German, or of English-speaking race, provided the plan be a fine one; but we do regret that the ill-advised stubbornness of Australia should deny itself the best brains of the latter.

"In point of fact an American did win the competition, the second and third premiums going to a Finn and a Frenchman. The winning design by Mr. Walter Burley Griffin, of Chicago, produced singularly little critical analysis from the English press, with one notable exception, in which the critic, considering the design on a high plane, found fault with two points—the direction of its main axis and the formation of a chain of lakes in the center of the city. Still, it was evident that the author, particularly in the direction of monumental grouping, had considerable powers, and being a young man it was generally hoped that he might make a study of more recent city-planning development than his design showed acquaintance with, and eventually create for Australia a tolerably fine capitol. In a word, the competition had been

mismanaged; but there was a prospect of the final result turning out better than was expected, and the assessors had stumbled on a design which, though full of faults, was the work of a young man of ability.

"The latest development of this strange, eventful history dispels any such prospect. The Australian authorities having become possessed by means of the premiums of the first designs, and having purchased another by a local architect, considered that it was only necessary to hand them over to a departmental board, with full powers to do what they liked with them. The departmental board has produced a report, a plan, and a perspective view, after 'having settled certain governing principles' and pursued 'its deliberations at the site of the seat of government, where the designs which won the first, second, and third prizes, and the design purchased by the minister, received consideration, having regard to the requirements of the city and the configuration of the site, together with local and general conditions.'

"Looking at these three productions we are at a loss to say which astonishes us most—the naïveté of the report, the badness of the plan, or the pitiful conception of what a capitol should be, as evidenced by the perspective. We need only quote one paragraph from the report: 'The board was unable to recommend the adoption of any one of the designs. The board advises the approval of the plan for the layout of the city as prepared by itself. This plan incorporates such features from the premiated and purchased designs as, in the opinion of the board, are warranted.'

"Before criticising the plan, it may be well to comment on the professional aspect of the board's recommendations. Broadly speaking, there are two methods of obtaining a town plan for the extension of an existing city, or the creation of a new one, when the problem to be solved is greater than can be dealt with by the permanent officials; one method we call the American, the other the German. The former, which has many points in its favor, consists in the appointment of a small commission of well-known experts representing, probably, different aspects of the problem. This method has been adopted with great success for Washington and many other American cities, and we are trying it for Delhi. The German method works by way of competition, and is conducted on lines very similar to architectural competitions. Berlin and Dusseldorf are recent examples.

"But when the premiums are paid, a town-planning competition presents a more irregular procedure than an architectural one; instead of a building which is to be carried out at once, we have a town which is developing gradually. Again, a

town being so much more complicated than a building, the best competition design will need remodeling in all but its basic elements. In fact, the prime object of a town-planning competition may be said to be the discovery of the man rather than the plan. Having got the man, the way he is to be used must vary in different cases; sometimes, as at Vienna, he may be put in permanent charge of a bureau in order to carry out the plan by degrees, at others he may be employed in a consulting capacity in order to give advice from time to time on any modification that may be necessary; and lastly he may be engaged as an architect to carry out the work at a percentage on the cost. The last is, of course, the ideal arrangement, but in practice it is more difficult to apply than in architecture. The Australian authorities have taken another course—they have thrown over the man and handed over his plan and those of his premiated colleagues to the tender mercies of a departmental board, with orders to crib morsels from them here and there and botch them together into a patchwork curiosity.

“The result, in the plan which has been finally decided upon, is only what might have been expected. To paraphrase the criticism of Sir Fretful Plagiary’s tragedy, ‘even the finest pieces that they have stolen are of no service to them; for the poverty of their own invention prevents their assimilating; so that they lie on the surface like lumps of marl on a barren moor, encumbering what is not in their power to fertilize!’

“The direction of the main axis and the chain of lakes (the two features adversely criticised) they have lifted from Mr. Griffin’s design, but in doing so they have traduced his water treatment and lost whatever qualities his features possessed. The plan appears to acknowledge but one principle of town design, that of dotting every rising point of ground with a building, but without any thought of logical grouping. Thus the cathedral jostles the capitol, a police barracks shadows a school, and an orphanage is associated with the mint. Around the railway station, whose wrong axis has to be laboriously corrected, are grouped a library, post-office, opera house, bank, and museum. Our readers can judge for themselves the effect of the backs of a training college and technical school as seen from the capitol, and the astonishing shapes which a never-failing ingenuity has been able to devise for sites. The road plotting is too grotesque for serious criticism, and appears to be largely the result of an office boy’s amusing himself with a pair of bow-compasses.

“And this is the descendant of Pergamos, Rome, Paris, Washington, and Vienna!”—*From the Architects’ and Builders’ Journal, London.*

### A Successfully Conducted Competition for the Detroit Public Library

This competition was most satisfactory. The program was drawn by Frank Miles Day, who was employed by the trustees of the Library as professional adviser.

The competition was in two stages: First, for local Detroit architects. The winners of first and second place, Messrs. Malcolmson & Higginbotham (first) and William B. Stratton (second) were permitted to enter the second competition, to which were invited Cass Gilbert, H. Van Buren Magonigle, McKim, Mead & White, and Carrere & Hastings.

The program was a model. The drawings were judged by a jury, consisting of Paul Cret, Herbert Putnam, and J. Lawrence Mauran. Upon selection of the plan by the jury, the trustees immediately confirmed the appointment of Mr. Gilbert as architect. Mr. Gilbert’s drawings have been on public exhibition in Detroit, where they have met with hearty approval and admiration, not only by the citizens who visited the exhibition, but by the press of Detroit as well.

### An Engineer’s Code Suggested.

“Sir: I wish to express my approval of your criticism in ‘Engineering News’ of May 29, 1913, p. 1134, of the manner in which the competitive plans for the proposed bridge and viaduct approaches for Richmond, Virginia, have been conducted.

“Seeing notice that competitive plans would be received until April 15, I wrote to the city engineer in the early part of February for information and profile of location. I received within a few days blueprint of profile and requirements of the administrative board governing the filing of designs and plans. I immediately went to work on a design, giving considerable thought to whether it would be best to submit a design with the cost of construction as low as possible, or something ornamental.

“After I had plans worked out and almost ready to submit I had occasion to talk with a prominent engineer, who had entered such competitions before, and he gave such good reasons for not entering the competition that I dropped the matter without further work.

“I believe a code, possibly similar to the one formulated by the American Institute of Architects, would be of much good if it is necessary to have competitive designs. I am somewhat doubtful of any real good being derived from such designs, or at least I cannot see where it justifies so large an expenditure. If it costs the engineering profession 4 per cent of the estimated cost of a structure to get up competitive designs, and it receives only

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0.4 per cent compensation, who pays the difference? If it is advantageous to have competitive designs on one structure, why not on all?—JOHN R. BAYLIS, Birmingham, Alabama, May 31, 1913."—*From Engineering News.*

### The Controversy Over the New County Courthouse in New York City

The Journal prints below two articles, which have recently appeared in the New York City press.

It takes this occasion to remark that, whereas a number of prominent architects have openly expressed their approval of Mr. Lowell's project, other architects, who have taken occasion to criticise the plan adversely, and who are cited in the press as being also prominent, appear to have steadily refused to reveal their identity.

This action seems to the Journal to be unfair and undignified. It is manifestly improper, under the circumstances, for the Journal to express any opinion as to the merits or the demerits of the plan; but the columns of the Journal are open to a frank and fearless discussion of the subject—by men who are not afraid to sign their names.

#### "LIGHT INSISTED UPON IN NEW COURTHOUSE

"The chief objection of the Supreme Court justices to the circular design for a Courthouse, it was learned yesterday, lies in the impossibility of providing a building of such a shape with rooms with windows on more than one side. Guy Lowell, the architect, quoted to the justices authorities of the highest standing, from both the professional and the scientific point of view, in favor of his design, but the justices also consulted experts and say they came to their decision from their personal experience of courtrooms and their necessities.

"The Courthouse Board quoted as its authorities for the approval of the Lowell design three architects of eminence not connected with this city. R. S. Peabody is at the head of his profession in Boston. A former student of the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris, he has been President of the American Institute of Architects and of the Boston Society of Architects. He also is a member of the National Institute of Arts and Letters. J. L. Mauran is an architect equally well known in St. Louis, and Frank Miles Day is a fellow and past President of the American Institute of Architects, and has been Acting President of the American Academy in Rome and a lecturer on architectural design at Harvard.

"Walter S. Cook, the consulting architect of the Courthouse Board, who also approved Mr. Lowell's design, is a graduate of the Ecole des Beaux Arts.

He is President of the American Institute of Architects, an associate of the National Academy of Design, and also has served as President of the New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, and of the Society des Beaux Arts, and has been on the Municipal Art Commission.

"In relation to the ventilation of the Courthouse by means of the much-criticised annular court, the Courthouse Board had the opinion of eminent engineering authorities, who said that under all conditions there would be no lack of air in the courtrooms.

*"The justices also consulted authorities, but they are not prepared to make public their names. Some of them, it is understood, took part in the competition for the Courthouse design, but whatever bias their rivalry with Mr. Lowell may have imparted to their advice was allowed for in considering it, it was said yesterday. The justices, in fact, were quite ready to object to M. Lowell's circular plan in the light of their own experience. (Italics our own.)"*

"Bad as the old Tweed Courthouse is, it still possesses a few good rooms. In the wing which was built as an addition immediately facing the back door of the City Hall, in particular, it has been possible to provide courtrooms with windows on three sides, and so light and airy is one of the rooms that, with its arched roof, it suggests a summer garden rather than a courtroom. There are also in the old Courthouse a number of courtrooms on the corners with windows on two sides.

"It is reckoned that only about half the courtrooms are lighted from one side only, and the justices know that every one of them prefers to get a room with the light coming in from more than one side. Mr. Lowell quoted to them the law for the construction of schoolhouses as laid down in France, in which, as a result of scientific study, it is provided that as long as the windows are large enough and bear a certain proportion to the area of the rooms, no classroom is to be lighted from more than one side.

"But the justices held that they were not in any way concerned with what the French legislators might say. Their daily experience was, in their opinion, of more importance than the theories of scientists, and they complained that here was a monumental building to be erected without any possibility of its containing a single room with two sides provided with windows. So, from the first, they were opposed to the circular idea.

"How far the modifications now suggested by Mr. Lowell will meet this objection, no one was able to say yesterday. It is probable that when the Courthouse Board meets on next Tuesday some arrangements will be made by which the Justices and the Courthouse Board can get together and discuss

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these objections. Mr. Lowell believes that he can provide light on the inner sides of his courtrooms by comparatively small windows opening out near the ceiling on the interior court, and he may be able to show the justices that this will meet all their desires.

"The justices recognize that there are many great merits in Mr. Lowell's plan, but they also have some criticisms which they did not embody in their report. This was drawn up by the committee of justices after a discussion with Mr. Lowell, Mr. Cook, Borough President McAneny, and their own experts, after the justices had gone as fully as they could into the plan submitted to them. One of them said yesterday that it was a somewhat remarkable thing that when the roll of the justices was called, independent as they are always supposed to be in their thought and action, every one of the twenty-four present refused to indorse the Courthouse Board's plan."—*From the New York Times.*

### "FOR ROUND COURTHOUSE. ARCHITECTS STAND BY GUY LOWELL, WHOSE PLAN WAS REJECTED

"Many of the leading lights of the New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects believe in Guy Lowell's plans for a round courthouse. The rejection by the justices of the Supreme Court, they say, was most unfortunate. Donn Barber, the designer of the new Department of Justice building in Washington, who was one of the preliminary contestants for the appointment won by Mr. Lowell, said yesterday that the Boston architect's circular plan was 'a stroke of genius.' Mr. Barber said New York ought to give Mr. Lowell a chance to work out his plan, if it takes a year.

"The plan is extraordinarily promising,' said Mr. Barber to a reporter in his office. 'All the criticisms I have read about it so far are the result of prejudice against the form, because it has been said that it has no precedent. They are not criticisms based on a sane, intelligent study of modern needs.

"The 'parti,' or keynote, of the requirements which Mr. Lowell had to meet was economy of circulation, or corridor space, and a maximum service. He seized upon the circular form with radiating courtrooms and found the maximum service

with the minimum circulation. I consider it a stroke of genius to have done what Mr. Lowell has done. The whole profession ought to stand back of him and urge that his idea be retained up to the time that he fails to work it out.

"If the plan is rejected for the 'rectangle' it will be unfair to the final contestants. It took thirteen years to perfect the Paris Opera House, and the New York Public Library plan was twelve years in the making. The Pennsylvania and Grand Central Railroad terminals were not perfected in a year. Mr. Lowell is a young man. Give the courthouse a chance to breathe. It must stand for a generation. Why not take time to have it right? Above all, do not dispose of it because it is revolutionary. I cannot see any reason why Mr. Lowell cannot meet every one of the objections raised by the justices. He is an able architect.'

"Mr. Barber thought the most unfortunate prejudice against the circular courthouse grew out of its having been connected up with the Coliseum, which he said, was 'oval' and otherwise bore no likeness whatever to Mr. Lowell's courthouse. Much of the confusion that prevails, Mr. Barber thought, resulted from the publishing of the competitive plans. He said some plan ought to be found which would prevent their publication and at the same time do away with the appearances of unfairness that result from the custom of the federal government, which some time ago put a stop to publication of its competitive drawings."—*From the New York Tribune.*

On the eve of going to press the following brief item appeared in the *New York Evening Post.*

### "LOWELL SUGGESTS CHANGES

"At a meeting of the Courthouse Board and a committee of the justices of the Supreme Court, Guy Lowell, the architect for the new courthouse, presented modified plans to meet the objections brought forward by the justices.

"Then the meeting went into executive session to consider the matter. It was the opinion of Controller Prendergast and others present that the proposed changes would not be adopted."