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Mouse Traps

THE ARCHITECT ADDRESSES THE PRODUCER

A GREAT many poor mousetraps have been made and sold since Thoreau's famous remark about that beaten path through the woods. Credulous men have purchased them, and perhaps a certain number of stupid mice have been caught in them; and while it is reassuring to believe that Thoreau's dictum about the ultimate vindication of merit is true, yet you as Producers, and we as Consumers, feel that the process is not quite automatic. You as Producers have not yet achieved that fine faith in the intelligence of your customers which would justify you in ceasing to blow your bugles or refraining from beating your drums. So, you continue to set up a sort of din, to advertise your wares. The fellow in the next booth, though prompted by no such altruistic ideals as yours, I admit, does the same thing, as does the next low fellow, and the next, and next, until the chorus becomes a babel of confusion. No wonder, then, that the buyer and the mouse are frequently caught in the wrong trap to the great chagrin of both; for even a mouse, if he has any self-respect at all, would prefer to be caught in a good trap rather than in a poor one.

The buyer of course does the best he can with his shaped head, but one or two disappointments, coupled with the fact that he hears the same sweet sounds issuing from every stall at the fair, tend to confound him, and shake his nerve. He grows wary in time, and sad, as he recalls that some cynic or dupe long ago declared that "All men are liars." This latter statement is as broad and general as Thoreau's; perhaps not even so intrinsically sound, and certainly quite as unsatisfactory for business purposes. As an Architect I resent such a flagrant expression of cynicism and as Producers, toiling and moiling in the public weal with no thought of self, you must resent it too. I know a lot of archi-

fects as honest as the day is long. They are just dumb. And you know a lot of Producers, as fine fellows as ever raked in a pot with a bob-tailed straight. They are just struggling to make a living. The Architect has generally given up all hope of doing that; he is just struggling to make a living Room (for somebody else) or an apartment house, either of the efficiency or some other type, or a skyscraper or a loft. You may say of him that often, especially nowadays, his head is in the clouds; and sometimes the clouds are in his head. He's mixed up with the clouds either way, but his heart is in the right place. He is never so happy as when dreaming some dream of the beautiful combination of all the wonderful products you Producers produce. And he is never so sad as when he can't keep the water out of the basement, or in the swimming pool, or when the roof fades, or the stone stains, or the weather stripping, or insulation, fail to make the heating plant unnecessary. He so longs to do right, I assure you ladies and gentlemen, and relies so much on you to help him.

I know you are trying to help him. That is why you have formed your Council. "The Producers' Council," a lovely and reassuring name, in its purest implications. God grant it may ever remain so. Out in St. Louis, where I come from, we have a City Council, but it is not so hot. We derive very little benefit from it. It discourages us. And not far away in the neighboring State of Iowa there is a town more dejected than ours which bears the despairing name—Council Bluffs. I tell you this in a spirit of friendship, and in order that you may never cease to feel the moral obligation that rests on your shoulders and must lie heavy on your hearts. Always remember you are mighty, and we are weak.

To our clients, the ultimate consumers, we do not always speak so frankly. They have been led to expect such omniscience from us that we have not the heart to disillusion them. We are supposed to know so much, not always; but sometimes. So we may be said to live dangerously. The happiness, the comfort, the sweet temper, of millions are in our keeping; not to speak of the discomfort, the bad temper, and the unhappiness. Realizing our limitations, is it any wonder then that we sleep fitfully? The forces of nature are marshalled against us. Rain appalls us, heat unnerves us, cold terrifies us. Lightning and tempest, fire and water, worms and dust conspire to destroy us. And all we charge is a paltry six or eight or ten per cent. But I fear I grow lugubrious. This is presumed to be a happy occasion. We have come together to take counsel. Producers Counsel, and Architects Counsel, to thwart these evil forces. You are aware, and we are aware, that shoddy and makeshift methods will not avail.

The art of fabricating natural materials for building purposes is older than written history. Ancient peoples developed a very high degree of skill in the use of wood, stone, clay and metals, which four elements remain the basic materials out of which we build today. That there was a good deal of jerry-building in the long ago is undoubtedly true, but the most enduring records of man's earlier civilization are those which may be read in the glorious monuments to his genius as builder which have survived. When we think of the handicaps under which they were wrought, of the difficulties under which these old Producers dug and quarried, and smelted and forged, and hewed and carried, and pinned together, we must bow our heads, and feel decently modest about our own achievements remarkable as we admit them to be. Man power served the world pretty well in the long centuries before we succeeded in harnessing steam and electricity and began to turn trout streams into trolley lines and trip hammers and lighting plants. Man's brain and man's sinew and man's passion for fine and sturdy workmanship set the standards long ago which we are all striving to emulate today. You may say that these old buildings weren't so complicated as our new ones, that they weren't plumbed or heated or ventilated, or lighted, or screened, or weatherstripped, but that is only superficially true. The old builders faced most of the problems we face today and conquered them pretty manfully.

They didn't hurry so much as we do, and they didn't attach the same importance to some of the things we consider important. But they were Producers on a glorious scale.

The main difference perhaps between them and you is that they didn't try to do so many different things. Perhaps they didn't need to. Clients were

fewer and further apart, and not nearly so capricious or whimsical as they are today. There was no Saturday Evening Post. So all they could do on Saturday evenings was to call it a week, and resign themselves to take what the next week offered them. And the next week was like unto the past week, as a twin is like his brother, and Time wore on as gently and monotonously as the rhythmic rune of an after dinner speech. The centuries slipped by, and man was reasonably content in the enjoyment of a few simple but satisfactory human habits. In due course, however, and as a result of man's obedience to his purely natural instincts, our earthly population increased enormously, and Production became a subject worth talking about. Clever fellows like you were quick to realize that man's continued obsession with his primary appetites and simple tastes might in time result in ennui, and that something ought to be done about it. If the race were ever to become what we, for want of a better term, call civilized, and if business were ever to become what we call really good, new appetites must be invented and new needs created.

Fortunately Science had gained some headway, and fortunately or not as you choose to look at it, the potentialities of Advertising had become apparent. The reason for this mild qualification as to the beneficence of Advertising derives from the fact that in a competitive world Advertising is as powerful a weapon in the hands of your rival as it is in your own. The time may come, if it has not already arrived, when it may seem advisable to hold a conference something like the recent Naval Conference, to consider the Reduction of Advertising or at least Parity among the Great Powers, which I take it you admit yourselves to be.

But this is a digression.

No one can deny that you have been phenomenally successful in causing the world to become conscious of needs, and hungers of which it was previously entirely innocent. Out of Pandora's Box you have let loose a flock of Cravings which darkens the Heavens, or at least they seem sometimes to darken our Architectural Heavens.

You have been so zealous in your efforts to anticipate our vaguest wants that you are always several jumps ahead of us. There is something almost eerie and uncanny about your powers of divination. We Architects are filled with wonder. It takes us so long sometimes to find out what a client really wants; in truth we are never really sure. But you know so well and you are so friendly about telling us.

But how *do* you know? How do you know so surely just what awful combination of laboratory cooked shingles will make such a compelling popular appeal? How do you know that a particularly devilish set of Tiles will ravish the soul of a devout

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Methodist; or what gruesome plaster textures, or obscenely pockmarked brick will bring peace and esthetic relief to a rich, but otherwise inhibited spinster? And what made you so sure, long before Prohibition became an experiment, that synthetic lumber, and paintless paint, I said paintless not painless, and stoneless stone would be as eagerly consumed as the real pre-war stuff? Can it be that there is a dash of bitters, just a soupcon of Cynicism mixed with your Altruism?

I can understand of course the inevitable glorification of the bath room. For I can remember the first tin tub in my father's house, and recall with what pride it was shown to visitors, particularly to our relatives from the country. And the other devices for convenience and comfort, how proud we were of them! White porcelain, symbol of purity, sent us into ecstasies in the old days, the days of our Puritan ideals. But as these ideals began to fade and we became sophisticated, you observing the phenomenon began to appeal to our truly passionate natures with all the colors of the spectrum. So these quiet shrines of another day have become as a lady chapel, and the lady of 1930 may match her mood or her complexion, or the color of her soul in her lavabo, and the other accoutrements of her toilet. All hail to you for these refinements.

It follows naturally then from what I have already said, and it becomes appropriate to say now that we who call ourselves Architects, whether Registered or Unregistered, are flattered and

touched by the privilege you have granted us to become affiliated with the great forces of Production which you represent. It will benefit us to rub elbows with you, or to crook elbows with you, if you prefer to put it that way. We may gain some advance information as to just what you are preparing to spring on a breathless and expectant world, and we may feel less discomfited when a client walks into the office and begins to discuss without any preliminary parley, a new type of furnace designed to look like an early American Highboy or a Spanish Vargueno, which would be an ornament to any Drawing Room, or some labor-saving device once suggested in a moment of madness by Rube Goldberg, but later developed, compacted, made practical and embellished in richly chased Monell or God only knows what other new metal, by one of your Council Members.

And when one of your representatives walks into our office, as he may if he chances to hear that we have anything worth walking in for, we shall welcome him as a fraternity brother, knowing that he will be quick, terse, considerate of his time and ours, and admirably disinterested so far as his own special product is concerned.

But Life is real, Life is earnest, in spite of all the jazz and syncopation of modern business; and it is a fine thing to get together like this, and discuss as I have tried to do, soberly, solemnly, and sincerely the obligation of Service which we have so reverently assumed.

Institute Business

EXCERPTS FROM REPORTS OF REGIONAL DIRECTORS

The New England Division—

Charles D. Maginnis, Director

Membership. Membership in the Boston Chapter has been increased. The total number of Boston Chapter members for last year was 199. Thirteen new members have been admitted during the year ending April 1, 1930. Allowing for loss by reason of death and for non-payment of dues and transfer, the total Chapter membership now stands at 209—a net gain of 10, which just reaches the maximum guaranteed by the Boston Chapter of The American Institute of Architects as the measure of increase to be reached prior to the Convention. During the year a number of the young men were asked to join the Associate class. All those who were approached accepted, so there is reasonable certainty that during the year a total of twenty will have been reached in this category. Of

the class known as "Chapter Members," that is, those elected by the Boston Society of Architects prior to 1916 and who have not joined the Institute, there are twenty-six, and it is planned to place at least a third of these in the regular Institute membership list during the coming year.

Publicity—Registration Law. The Boston Chapter has given much thought of late, as have the others in the division, to the questions of publicity, and a registration law. The matter of registration was made the single topic of a recent meeting at Boston. Publicity has received almost equal attention, and here the enthusiasm of the whole Chapter has been enlisted and practical steps are being taken to bring the Chapter into effective alignment with the Institute. Committees dealing with these two important matters also developed from the regional conference.

*The New York Division—
Charles Butler, Director*

Registration Law. Since the last meeting of the Board of Directors of the Institute the revised law governing the practice of architecture in New York State has become effective.

While we have had a registration law for fifteen years, it has been possible to practice architecture without being registered if you did not call yourself an architect, and there has even existed what was known as the secondary list, on which were placed the names of those who were not considered qualified for registration but who through practice prior to the passage of the law were authorized to continue to use the title "Architect."

Since January 1, 1930, however, no one may perform the services rendered by an architect, in operations costing more than ten thousand dollars, without being registered, and registration may only be granted as a result of graduation from an architectural school followed by three years of office experience, or as a result of a comprehensive examination in architecture, to which a candidate may be admitted only on proof of high school graduation and at least two years of college training.

*The Middle Atlantic Division—
Charles T. Ingham, Director*

Membership. There was no evidence of a disposition to stand still and allow Institute membership to become a greater distinction to a favored few who are Institute members, nor a disposition to require a probationary period of associateship before admission to active membership. The chief obstacles seem to be the existence in some localities of architectural societies, membership in which does not impose obligations such as Institute membership does, and a feeling that the local field of eligible architects has been covered except for the young men who are becoming eligible each year. These young men seem reluctant to assume the obligations of Institute membership until they have become established in practice. The combined Institute and Chapter dues are also cited as a deterring factor in the case of young men. However, the Chapters have been actively engaged in bringing to the attention of eligible architects the advantages of Institute membership and substantial increases are in progress in many of the Chapters.

Pennsylvania State Association. At the annual meeting of the Pennsylvania State Association of Chapters of the Institute, matters of particular interest to the architects of Pennsylvania constituted the program. Through a legislative committee a close watch is kept on legislation pertaining to the profession. Other committees make contact with state departments having jurisdiction in building

matters, including the Department of Public Instruction, which controls school building designs and construction and under which the Architects' Registration Board functions.

Visits to Chapters. The chapters visited were mostly those in the smaller communities. It was found that these chapters welcomed the opportunity afforded by the director's visit to discuss the activities of the Institute and the part the local chapter was taking or might take in these activities. They were interested in the director's report of what other chapters in the division were doing. They also took advantage of the opportunity to request the director's support in matters which they thought should be brought to the attention of the Board of Directors of the Institute.

*The South Atlantic Division—
William H. Lord, Director*

Membership. Membership in this division, for the past three years, taken from the Annuary of 1926-27 and 1929-30, shows no increase except for chapter associates, which totals fourteen additional. There has, however, been an increase in some chapters and a decrease in others, the largest increase in any one being five members and nine associates, and the greatest loss six members and two associates.

There is no reason to be discouraged because of this record. Indeed, I am surprised that so many have been able to hold their membership during this period, and additional effort should be made to ease conditions for those loyal men who are now pressed in a business way.

*The Great Lakes Division—
Frederick W. Garber, Director*

The Great Lakes Division comprises twelve chapters, eight of which I have visited. A regional conference was held in Cleveland in March.

In Ohio I have met with the officers of the state organization. This organization was formed to function only in legislative matters in Columbus.

The report of the regional conference at Cleveland has been submitted to the Secretary. Every activity of the Institute was discussed at length, which resulted in a helpful exchange of ideas.

The conference was most enthusiastic and unanimous in approving a suggestion that the Board of Directors consider chartering a boat on the Ohio River to run from Pittsburgh to Cincinnati for the 1931 Convention.

*The Central States Division—
Louis LaBeaume, Director*

Visit to St. Paul Chapter. The Director visited the St. Paul Chapter and assisted in the judgment

and allotment of honor awards. The program of the chapter was well worked out in conformity with the suggestions of the national Institute Committee on Honor Awards, and embraced buildings in about a dozen classifications. The local committee had assembled a great deal of photographic material, and the Jury, consisting of Clarence H. Johnston of St. Paul, Pierre Blouke of Chicago, and the Director, spent the greater part of the day deliberating over the photographs, and the remainder of that day and all of the next in visiting and inspecting the actual buildings. The Jury rendered its report to the chapter at a large evening meeting. At this meeting there was the usual discussion of some of the irritating problems of practice and membership, although no serious discontent was manifested.

Meeting with Kansas City Chapter. The President, First Vice-President, and Director visited the Kansas City Chapter, at the conclusion of the western trip of the Institute officers. A very pleasant luncheon meeting was arranged at which opportunity was afforded for much informal and helpful talk. In the late afternoon the visitors attended the annual meeting of the Kansas City Chapter preliminary to a large dinner to which many guests had been invited. Short addresses were made by President Hammond, Vice-President Hewlett and Mr. J. C. Nichols, an honorary member of the Institute and the distinguished citizen of Kansas City responsible for the beautiful Country Club development which has been so favorably commented on by many. The medals were awarded to the winners in the honor award competition. The attendance at this meeting was about seventy, and included, besides the full Chapter membership, many members of the Architectural League. We found the Chapter full of vigor and have reason to hope that many members of the League will shortly accept Chapter and Institute membership.

*The Gulf States Division—
Olle J. Lorehn, Director*

Visit to Tennessee Chapter. I stayed over in Memphis Tuesday, May 13, and Mr. Furbringer had arranged for a luncheon meeting at the Hotel Peabody. Fifteen of the local membership were present. The matter of advertising and publicity seemed to be a live issue, and Mr. Furbringer stated that the Chapter proposed to raise a fund of \$10,000 to be used for the purpose of advertising the profession of architecture.

Branch Chapters. In order to increase the Institute membership, I believe that the creation of branch chapters is very important, especially in states having large territories like Texas, and I would recommend that the Board go on record as favoring this movement.

Registration Law. In Texas we are going to again introduce our Registration Law when the Legislature convenes at Austin, next January, and feel hopeful that we can put it over.

*The Western Mountain Division—
Fred F. Willson, Director*

Visit of Institute Officers. The outstanding event of the year for this region was, by all odds, the visit of Mr. Hammond and Mr. Hewlett, suggested, as may be recalled, by former Director Albertson at the Memphis meeting.

The first meeting occurred with the Montana Chapter at Butte. It was strictly informal, taking the form of a round table discussion, continuous from 1 P. M., when Mr. Hammond and Mr. Hewlett arrived, until 11 P. M. The Chapter attempted to present to the visitors a picture illustrating the difficulties encountered in the practice of architecture in the wide open spaces, as met with in a state 760 miles long by 400 miles wide, with nine Chapter members and five unaffiliated architects—three of whom it is hoped may be brought into the Chapter. Under existing circumstances it is impossible to have more than one meeting per year, but I think it was shown that architectural practice is being carried on in accord with the canons laid down by the Institute, both by those affiliated and unaffiliated, as nearly as it is possible to do by pioneers, for the profession is as much in the pioneer stage as was the country when pioneered by our fathers fifty years ago.

Usurpation of the Architect's Functions. The general depressed business and building conditions throughout this division, along with the usurpation of architectural services by large corporations, structural, engineering and contracting firms throughout the division, I believe are responsible for much of the lack of interest in Institute matters and I think when they have righted themselves a change of heart will follow.

*The Sierra Nevada Division—
Myron Hunt, Director*

General Activities. The Director of the Sierra Nevada Division reports an exceedingly healthy condition in all Chapters in that division.

The programs of the meetings of the Northern California Chapter make most interesting reading and represent a wide variety of subjects, discussed under the leadership of able men from inside and outside the profession. The following are the subjects of a series of discussions for their meetings: "Building Investment," "Allied Arts," "The Application of Science to Building," "Professional

Practice," "Science of Building Design," "The Tendencies in the Arts," and three nights designated "University Night," "Craftsmen's Night," and "Jinks Night."

John C. Austin, Fellow of the Institute and past-President of the Southern California Chapter, has been elected and is serving as President of the Los

Angeles Chamber of Commerce and is doing much to bring other architects into similar civic work.

Members of the Chapter have been asked to form a committee for the purpose of drawing up the examination questions for applicants for state license to practice architecture, with results that seem to be favorably received.

Conference on Home Building and Home Ownership

APPOINTMENT OF WILLIAM STANLEY PARKER

In a recent letter, addressed to the President of the Institute, President Hoover requested the nomination of an outstanding architect to represent the Institute, and the architectural profession, on the Planning Committee of the new Presidential commission which is to be known as "The President's Conference on Home Building and Home Ownership."

Mr. Kohn nominated William Stanley Parker, of Boston, for this important position, and President Hoover has appointed Mr. Parker as a member of the Planning Committee.

It is hardly necessary to say that the Institute thoroughly understands and appreciates the opportunity for public service offered through participation in this program—which is sure to be of great significance to prospective home owners in the United States, and also to the architectural profession.

In commenting on the purposes of the Conference, President Hoover said:

The Conference will be organized by a planning committee comprised of representatives of the leading national groups interested in this field under the chairmanship of Secretary Lamont. This planning committee will in turn set up nation-wide subcommittees to determine the facts and to determine the different phases of the question.

The Conference will deal with the whole broad question of home ownership and home construction. It will embrace such questions as finance, design, equipment, city planning, transportation, and etc.

The Planning Committee will hold its first meeting during the latter part of September under the chairmanship of Secretary Lamont of the Department of Commerce. The executive secretary of the committee will be Dr. John M. Gries, Department of Commerce, Washington, D. C.

Inquiries concerning program and detail may be addressed to Dr. Gries.

Comments and suggestions which relate to the major policies and problems involved may be addressed to William Stanley Parker, 120 Boylston Street, Boston, Mass.

Cooperation with Department of Commerce

R. P. Lamont, Secretary of Commerce and Chairman of the National Committee on Wood Utilization of that Department, has just announced the appointment of N. Max Dunning, F.A.I.A., as chairman of a subcommittee which will develop a project on How to Judge a House. A similar subcommittee on How to Judge Furniture is also being organized by the National Committee on Wood Utilization, and Secretary Lamont has appointed Alexander B. Trowbridge, F.A.I.A., consulting architect of Washington, D. C., as its chairman.

The other members of these project subcommittees are recruited from the consuming field. The two projects are among the most important ever undertaken by the National Committee on Wood

Utilization, which was organized by President Hoover when he was Secretary of Commerce.

Since the building and construction industry and the furniture industry are the two largest consumers of wood in the country, the Committee is interested in furthering its program of efficient wood using practices by conducting a broad national campaign educating the consumers in regard to good construction and design of both houses and furniture. The two projects will be handled in the same manner, starting with an official publication outlining the principal points involved.

The purchase of a home and its furnishings represents the major investment which the average man makes during his lifetime. Losses amounting to millions of dollars are incurred every year on ac-

count of unwise investments in poorly constructed and designed houses and furniture. Many unsound practices in these industries create difficult competitive conditions. In the opinion of the Committee the remedy lies in bringing about a better understanding on the points which the consumer should have in mind before he makes his investment. Naturally the Committee cannot presume to teach architecture and interior decoration, but it can do its part in bringing about the proper appreciation of these arts.

The architects of the Nation are naturally interested in this effort to bring about a better appreciation of their work, whether it be in building or construction, or appropriate furnishings of the interiors. It was therefore logical that the Chairman of the National Committee on Wood Utilization should select two well qualified architects to head up this work.

The publications on these two subjects will appear during the late fall or early winter.

National Conference on Construction

ORGANIZATION MEETING

As an outgrowth of the industrial meetings held last fall in Washington, under the auspices of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States and with the full approval of President Hoover, a movement has been started for the purpose of reviewing the principal intergroup problems of the construction industry and to determine the practicability of developing a continuing organization to assist in the solution of such problems.

The American Institute of Architects was represented at the organization meeting held in Chicago on July 30, by Ernest J. Russell, First Vice-President of the Institute. Mr. Russell took an active part in the deliberations of the meeting, and has reported to the President of the Institute on the conclusions reached thereat.

Aspects of realty finance, including problems of legislation, appraisals of property, methods of home financing and credit practices, were discussed. Possible means of securing greater stabilization of the construction industry, a number of aspects of taxation, and practical methods of introducing economies in the building and financing of residences and income properties, were considered.

In due course the program of The National Conference on Construction will be announced in the public press.

In the meantime, Mr. Russell states that the purposes in mind are as follows:

(a) To review the outstanding common problems of business and other interests identified with public and private construction;

(b) To select a limited number of problems of the above type as will lend themselves step by step to constructive inter-group action;

(c) To develop the necessary factual studies of such problems;

(d) To agree upon recommendations to be made to the cooperating agencies—public and private—looking toward the solution of such problems.

F. Stuart Fitzpatrick, Chief of the Civic Development Department of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, Washington, D. C., was elected acting secretary of the Conference. Inquiries concerning program and detail may be addressed to Mr. Fitzpatrick.

Comments and suggestions which relate to the major policies and problems involved may be addressed to Ernest J. Russell, at Chemical Building, St. Louis, Missouri.

Structural Service Department

Lithopone Paint—An Answer to an Inquiry.

Lithopone is made from barium sulphide and zinc sulphate and is generally classified as a zinc pigment since it contains about twenty-eight per cent of zinc sulphide. There are ten or twelve plants in the United States manufacturing Lithopone. Most of these plants, but we understand not all of them, manufacture a product suitable for use in connection with painting.

Lithopone is a very white and very opaque pigment. The individual particles average somewhat larger in size than the particles of zinc white and considerably smaller in size than the particles of white lead. Up until five or six years ago a great deal of trouble was experienced in connection with the use of Lithopone paint, due to its tendency to darken or fog when exposed to strong sunlight. Its use in paint was practically restricted to flat

finishes for interior work. Manufacturers of Lithopone have, however, in recent years been able to overcome the tendency to darken and Lithopone paints are now being used for exterior as well as for interior work. In general, the results in recent years in connection with Lithopone paint seem to have been satisfactory, but for outside work it might be well to regard Lithopone paint as still in the experimental or development stage.

Lithopone paint for interior use is usually composed almost entirely of Lithopone, colors, linseed oil, turpentine and dryer.

For outside work, Lithopone paint usually consists of about forty per cent zinc oxide, forty per cent Lithopone, twenty per cent calcium carbonate, or inert filler, linseed oil, and a small amount of turpentine and dryer.

Class B Sprinkler Equipments.

Effective July 1, 1930, the National Board of Fire Underwriters have approved regulations for the installation of Class B Sprinkler Equipments.

These regulations define modifications of certain parts of the Regulations for the Installation of Sprinkler Equipments, edition of 1928.

Class B Standard systems shall be permitted only in buildings housing one or more of the following, or similar "light hazard" occupancies:

Apartment Houses	Hospitals
Asylums	Hotels
Club Houses	Libraries
Colleges	Museums
Churches	Office Buildings
Dormitories	Schools
Dwellings	Tenements

Small stores in first floors and/or basements of the above listed occupancies, when not over 3,000 square feet is occupied by any one store.

Approval of the use of Class B Standard systems must be secured in advance from the inspection department having jurisdiction, since this type of system may not furnish adequate protection for all buildings (or all portions of buildings) housing the listed occupancies.

Copies of these Regulations will be furnished upon request to the National Board of Fire Underwriters, 85 John Street, New York City.

Acoustics.

In a recent paper, published in "The United States Daily," Dr. Paul Heyl, Chief of the Sound Section, Bureau of Standards, Department of Commerce, Washington, D. C., reviewed the work of the Bureau during the past seven or eight years in studying the many difficulties encountered by the architect when he tackles the problem of "acoustics." Dr. Heyl's brief review of the more important of the findings reached by the Bureau of

Standards, as expressed in general terms, is as follows:

Contrary to rather general belief, it now appears as a result of these experiments that a good heat insulator is not necessarily a good sound insulator. The use of fibrous material within a wall may be actually detrimental as far as sound insulation is concerned. For walls of masonry or lath and plaster construction the best sound insulation is obtained by leaving an empty air space in the center of the wall, free from mechanical ties between the two sides. Filling materials in such a space are of doubtful value, sometimes actually increasing the sound transmission. For light partitions of sheet metal, such as are used between offices, the reverse is true. Here filling materials between two sheets of metal may be advantageous.

For homogeneous walls, it appears that the sound transmission is purely a question of weight. Measurements on a variety of materials, ranging from a single sheet of wrapping paper to an 8-inch concrete wall, show a continually decreasing transmission of sound with increasing weight per square foot.

Nor does the nature of the material seem to make any difference. A thin sheet of steel and a thicker sheet of fiber board of the same weight give equal values for the sound transmission. In other words, as far as homogeneous structures are concerned, there is no "best sound insulating material."

But an attempt to apply this law of weight in the construction of soundproof partitions soon leads to structures of prohibitive weight and cost. Much better results are obtainable by the use of composite construction. In brick walls, for example, two 4-inch walls separated by a 4-inch air space are much better than a single solid 8-inch wall.

While considerations of weight, thickness and cost probably render the construction of a completely soundproof wall impracticable, much can be done at moderate cost in the way of reducing the sound transmission of the ordinary wall. A partition built of 4-inch clay tile, plastered directly on the tile may transmit an annoying amount of sound; but if 2-inch furring strips are fastened to the tile and the plaster base nailed to these furring strips, the transmission will be greatly reduced.

The degree of sound transmission that may be tolerated in a wall depends on circumstances. Ordinary conversation in a room is sufficient to mask slight noises coming through a wall which may be quite perceptible in a quiet room.

In considering the question of sound transmission we must distinguish between sounds which are largely or entirely air-borne, such as talking, music, or street noises, and impact sounds, such as are caused by walking or moving furniture. The latter class of sounds is much more difficult to control.

The best experimental results at present have been obtained by means of a concrete floor slab with a wooden floating floor above and a suspended ceiling below.

The problem of good acoustics in auditoriums is an old one, but its solution is comparatively recent. From time immemorial it was quite generally felt that there was something mysterious about the acoustic qualities of an auditorium. Rooms built after the plan of others which were regarded as acoustically good sometimes failed to reproduce good hearing conditions. No way was known of predetermining the acoustics of a room, and no remedy was known for the correction of a faulty auditorium. True, several supposed remedies were resorted to, such as stringing wires in the room, but the results in such cases were disappointing.

About 35 years ago Harvard University erected a new building, the Fogg Art Museum, which has become a

classic in acoustical science. This building contained an auditorium which was practically unusable. The corporation of the university asked the staff of the department of physics to investigate the situation and suggest a remedy if possible, the actual work was assigned to Prof. W. C. Sabine. After some months of experimentation Prof. Sabine worked out certain principles previously unrecognized upon which are based the modern science of architectural acoustics in its relation to auditoriums.

Briefly stated, the most common disease affecting auditoriums is excessive reverberation. In such rooms a sound takes too long to die away. One syllable or note of music overlaps several of its successors; articulation is blurred and harmony interfered with. The cause of this defect is deficient sound absorption in the materials used for the interior finish of the room.

A sound wave once started is reflected back and forth in the room, between walls, ceiling and floor, losing a little of its energy by absorption at each reflection until it becomes too faint to be heard. Since the speed of sound in air is something like 1,100 feet per second, there will be many reflections taking place per second, and if there is a reasonable amount of absorption at each reflection the sound will soon die away. Unfortunately, the material most commonly used for interior finish, smooth plaster, is about as poor an absorbent of sound as can be found. A plastered wall, in fact, is a better reflector of sound than a silvered mirror of light. It is a good mirror that will reflect 95 per cent of the light incident upon it, but the absorption of a plastered wall may be as low as 1 per cent. Under such conditions the "reverberation time" of an ordinary room may be anything up to, perhaps, 20 seconds, depending on its size.

With the Chapters

Public Information.

General. The Committee on Public Information of the Institute, through James T. Grady, the Publicist, has issued a memorandum to the Committees on Public Information of the various chapters. It discusses the activity of the Boston Chapter and the cooperation rendered to the Chapter by the Boston Transcript. Mr. Grady's report to the chapter committees reads, in part, as follows:

"The Boston Chapter recently organized a Committee on Public Information, and one of its initial accomplishments was the exclusive publication in the Boston Transcript of an article, copiously illustrated, on 'Boston Going Modern.' We are sending to each Committee Chairman, a mimeographed copy of the text. Chairmen are asked to read this article carefully. It is submitted for your consideration because we believe it is suggestive of what can be done in every city in which a Chapter of the Institute exists.

"Mr. Richmond prepared the article at the request of the Chairman of the Boston Chapter Committee. The finished version, together with the photographs, was taken to the managing editor of The Transcript, by whom it was promptly accepted. Other signed articles are being planned by the Boston Chapter, for submission to Boston editors, the favorable response to Mr. Richmond's contribution having opened the way. This procedure may well be followed by other Chapters. Personal contact with editors is desirable.

"Were each Chapter Committee to bring about the publication of a series of localized commentaries on current architectural tendencies, public instruction in architecture through the press would be materially advanced. Popular interpretation of

architecture is a need that must be met. We hope for a general response to this suggestion."

Georgia Chapter. At a recent meeting of the Georgia Chapter, F. D. Burge reported on the subject of advertising. He proposed to divide the state diagonally into north Georgia and south Georgia and to spend approximately \$5,000.00 on a program, to cover a period of one year, which would include a series of advertisements for twenty-four issues of each of three papers, the twenty-four issues to be scattered throughout the year.

He proposed to divide the firms represented in the chapter into three classes according to the amount of work handled over the preceding six months, Class "A" to pay \$25.00 per month for a year, Class "B" \$20.00 per month for a year, and Class "C" \$15.00 per month for a year.

An alternative proposal was made to spend \$1,512.00 in one local paper for twenty-four weeks, which would cost Class "A" \$15.00 per month, Class "B" \$10.00 per month and Class "C" \$5.00 per month.

The adoption of a program of public information, of this type, is still under consideration by the Georgia Chapter.

Illinois Society of Architects. Most of the Chapters are familiar with the series of documents issued by the Illinois Society of Architects, the purpose of which is to inform the layman concerning the character, scope and value of architectural service. The last two documents in the series received at The Octagon are "Can You Afford to Pick an Architect on Pictures?" and "Beyond the Blueprint."

Chapters interested in this approach to the question of public information may obtain copies of the

documents by addressing E. S. Hall, Chairman of the Committee on Public Information of the Illinois Society of Architects, 175 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois.

St. Louis Chapter. At a recent meeting of the St. Louis Chapter the question of public information was discussed, and attention was called to the established program of radio broadcasting conducted by members of the Chapter over Station KWK.

The Washington Film—Pittsburgh Chapter.

The Pittsburgh Chapter, through the efforts of its President, Frederick Bigger, has made an extensive showing of the film illustrating the development of the Federal building program in Washington. At each showing a member of the Chapter offered a few words of introduction, stated that The American Institute of Architects was sponsoring the exhibition, and bespoke the interest of the audience in the development of the Nation's Capital.

The film has been shown to the Chamber of Commerce of Pittsburgh, to the Architectural Department of the Carnegie Institute of Technology, and to various high schools and other groups—a total of more than five thousand people.

Honor Awards.

Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce. The President of the Chamber of Commerce of Brooklyn, New York, has addressed a letter to the President of the Institute, which reads, in part, as follows:

"In order to encourage the erection of better and more attractive buildings in our Borough, the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce is about to establish a number of annual awards for structures completed during the previous year, notable for their design, workmanship and practicability. In approving the establishment of these awards, the Board of Directors has voted to ask the President of the The American Institute of Architects to nominate each year an architect from its membership as one of the members of the Committee who will be authorized to select the winning designs."

In accord with this request, Mr. Kohn has made nominations to the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce.

Washington Board of Trade. In continuation of its established program, the Washington Board of Trade announces honor awards to both owners and architects, for buildings of especially meritorious design in all types or classes. Awards have been made to shops and gas stations as well as to monumental structures and residences.

In addition, special awards will be made for the following subjects:

1. Signs; Artistic merit in relation to the buildings on which they are placed. A poorly placed sign may seriously damage a well designed building.

2. Setting of buildings; The design of steps, walls, copings, balustrades, and planting, in har-

mony with and appropriate to the building enframed. A good building is enhanced by a good setting; a poor building improved.

3. Pent houses; Suitable treatments in harmony with the buildings on which they occur.

4. Back yards; Rear elevations, treatment of yards, garages, etc. The development of the block interiors, the private grounds; their actual utilization for the enlargement of the living space.

The awards will be made by a jury of prominent architects, most of whom will be from cities other than Washington.

Craftsmanship Awards—North Texas Chapter.

At the June meeting of the North Texas Chapter, a report was made by Lester N. Flint on the Institute convention, and also on the craftsmanship award program of the New York Chapter and the New York Building Congress. There was extended discussion, which resulted in the appointment of a committee to investigate the merit of such awards from the viewpoint of the North Texas Chapter, to consult with other building organizations, and to report to the Chapter at a later meeting.

Building Congress—Philadelphia Chapter.

At a recent meeting of the Philadelphia Chapter, the newly elected President of the Institute, Robert D. Kohn, made an interesting talk on the value of the Building Congress movement. He stated, in answer to a question, that the New York Chapter as a whole was behind the Building Congress in New York, and that he thought the craftsmanship awards an important element of the work. Mr. Kohn stated that these awards were helpful in securing the cooperation of the banks and real estate organizations who are interested in the various building projects.

Registration Law—Kentucky Chapter.

The Chairman of the Institute Committee on Registration Laws, Arthur Peabody, reports that the state of Kentucky has passed a registration law for architects, which was signed by the Governor of Kentucky, on August 5, 1930. Ossian P. Ward, A.I.A., Louisville, Kentucky, is chairman of the State Board of Examiners and Registration.

The Kentucky law is similar to others in that the title "Architect" is reserved for persons registered as such.

Other persons making plans and specifications for buildings must sign their names, with titles, such as engineer, mechanic, or builder, as the case may require.

Corporations may not be registered, but the persons in charge of work must be registered or otherwise authorized to practice architecture.

Architectural Course at Maryland Institute—Baltimore Chapter.

At a recent meeting of the Baltimore Chapter, Lucius R. White reported an informal discussion with Mr. Morgan Marshall, acting president of Maryland Institute, in regard to the future of that school's course in architecture. He reported Mr. Marshall as welcoming the cooperation of the Baltimore Chapter in any effort to revise or improve the course, so that it would become a practical preliminary training for men anxious to enter the architectural profession. After informal discussion of various possible improvements and methods for operating the school it was directed that the Committee on Education of the chapter be instructed to confer with President Marshall and to extend the support of the chapter.

Architectural Exhibition—Philadelphia Chapter.

Announcement has been made of the Thirty-third Architectural Exhibition, to be held by the Philadelphia Chapter and the T Square Club. The Exhibition will be held in the new Architects' Building at Seventeenth and Sansom Streets. It will be opened on Tuesday, November 18, and will conclude on Saturday, November 29. Architects from other cities, who may be in or near Philadelphia during the period of this exhibition, are urged to see it.

Calendar Card—St. Louis Chapter.

Continuing its custom, the St. Louis Chapter has issued a calendar card which is of convenient vest-pocket size. On one side, it bears the engraved seal of the Institute and some quotations from Institute documents, concerning the objects of the Institute and its program. On the reverse, appears the Chapter calendar for 1930, listing the dates of regular meetings and the subjects to be discussed thereat. The names of the officers and the executive Board are also included.

Annual Meeting—Washington State Chapter.

The annual meeting of the Washington State Chapter took place on June 21 at the Tacoma Hotel. The program included visits to interesting houses and to some of the beautiful lakes in the vicinity of Tacoma. An elaborate dinner was served at the Country Club. The Secretary's office has received for the permanent files at The Octagon, a panorama photograph of this gathering of distinguished architects and their wives, and notes with understanding a reference in the June minutes of the Washington State Chapter to a quotation by O. O. McIntyre, who is reputed to have said "architects have the most beautiful wives of any profession!"

Memorial Meeting—Chicago Chapter.

The June meeting of the Chicago Chapter was devoted to the memory of distinguished architects who have passed on. Irving K. Pond, Past-President of the Institute, presided. The memory of Howard Shaw and other members of the Chicago Chapter was renewed. A bronze bust of Shaw was presented to the Chicago Chapter by Ralph Milman of the Howard Shaw Associates.

Commemorative remarks on other distinguished architects, both of the Chicago Chapter and of the Institute, concluded the meeting.

Historic Monuments.

Philadelphia Chapter. At the June meeting of the Philadelphia Chapter, a letter was read from D. Knickerbacker Boyd, suggesting that a survey of the South Philadelphia section near the river be made to discover and locate the old types of good architecture in that locality, which is now falling into bad condition and in which many old buildings may be razed for the improvement of the section. It was proposed to have university students do this work under the supervision of the Committee on Historic Monuments. The record would include photographs and drawings of the best of the old buildings. Mr. Schwacke appointed a committee of D. Knickerbacker Boyd, chairman, and Messrs. Stanton and Sellers members, to cooperate with the Committee on Historic Monuments and others interested.

Baltimore Chapter. A special meeting of the Baltimore Chapter was recently devoted to selecting an historic Maryland house to represent the state in the national series of buildings to be published by the "Chicago Tribune." After general discussion, the choice narrowed to three houses: the Brice house in Annapolis, Homewood, and Whitehall. It was the sense of the meeting that the Brice house was one of the finest architecturally, but that its location made it almost impossible to photograph it with full justice. Homewood was discussed at some length, but was finally held to be not quite "typical of Maryland" in its present setting. Whitehall was finally selected, with the proviso that the illustrations should give the greatest emphasis to its setting and individual character. In conclusion it was definitely stated that any such selection as the one made was largely a matter of expediency, and that the action of the Chapter was not intended to "rank" the historic monuments of the state. The Chapter felt that many of the fine old mansions of Maryland were of equal importance, and that fair comparisons of their charms were almost impossible.

Ecclesiastical Architecture—Chicago Chapter.

A recent meeting of the Chicago Chapter was devoted to the subject of ecclesiastical architecture.

Alfred Granger was toastmaster. The honor speaker was Ralph Adams Cram, of Boston. In connection with the meeting, an exhibition of drawings of church buildings in the middle western part of the country was shown.

Many representatives of various church denominations were guests of the Chapter.

Contemporary Architecture—New Jersey Chapter.

At a recent meeting of the New Jersey Chapter, Mr. Arthur N. Starin exhibited a series of renderings of country and suburban houses, water color and oil paintings of landscapes and still life. He made a brief address on the aesthetic side of contemporary architecture as applied to domestic work, pointing out that the modern trend in design, if it has accomplished nothing else, has removed from architectural design a lot of superfluous ornament and meaningless structural expressions.

Lecture on Stained Glass—Washington State Chapter.

At a meeting of the Washington State Chapter Mr. Anton G. Rez, a graduate of architecture at the University of Budapest and now head of the Art Glass Department of W. P. Fuller Company, spoke on the subject of "The Art of Stained Glass." He illustrated his talk with many colored plates

showing modern designs and old, stained-glass paintings, and tapestries. Mr. Rez pointed out that the modern tendency is to avoid representation in glass work, and that the trend is toward the use of contrast and primary colors, instead of secondary or tertiary colors. He also touched on the importance of the lead lines in glass-work and said that the basic strength of glass-work, that is, color, was lost after the thirteenth century as more mature drawings and perspective gained in importance.

Membership Increase—Southern California Chapter.

At a recent meeting of the Southern California Chapter, R. C. Flewelling, chairman of the Membership Committee, reported on the growth of the Chapter, attendance at meetings and related matters.

He asked that each member of the Chapter furnish the Membership Committee, during the year, with at least one name of a prospective member. He gave the assurance of his Committee that in every such instance a very complete follow-up would be made by the Membership Committee.

This suggestion is worthy of consideration by every Chapter of the Institute which wishes to hold its own in numbers and influence during the present period of building depression.

As of Interest

Twelfth International Congress of Architects.

Announcement was made in the April number of THE OCTAGON of the appointment of Frank C. Baldwin, Secretary of the Institute, as the official delegate of the Institute to the Twelfth International Congress of Architects, to be held in Budapest, Hungary, September 7 to 14. Subsequently, Mr. Baldwin was appointed by President Hoover as a delegate of the United States to the Congress.

The Detroit Chapter will be represented at the Congress by Branson V. Gamber, who is an active member of the Institute.

The Oregon Chapter will be represented at the Congress by Mrs. Mary E. Wortman, who is an honorary member of the Institute.

The Wisconsin Chapter will be represented at the Congress by Harry W. Bogner, who is an active member of the Institute.

Education.

Eight European nations are now being visited by students of the School of Architecture of the University of Southern California, who are on their annual "vagabond" summer tour. The trip is under the personal direction of Dean Arthur C.

Weatherhead and Prof. C. Raimond Johnson of the architectural faculty of the University. Six units of credit will be granted those students who pass an examination following the completion of the tour. Foreign schools to be visited are the Paris Beaux-Arts, the Fontainebleau summer school, and the American Academy in Rome.

Association of Collegiate Schools—New Members.

Two new members have been admitted to the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture, namely, the University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana; and the New York University College of Fine Arts, New York, N. Y. This makes the total number of schools in the Association twenty-eight.

Lake Forest Foundation.

President Kohn has appointed David Adler of Chicago, and William J. Smith of Chicago, to represent the Institute and the architectural profession as members of the Jury of the Foundation for Architecture and Landscape Architecture, meeting at Lake Forest, Illinois, on September 5. At that meeting two European and two American traveling Fellowships will be awarded.

Registration.

In a letter of recent date, Emery Stanford Hall, Secretary of the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards, 175 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois, writes as follows:

"May I take this occasion as I do at every opportunity to urge the Institute through its local chapters to see to it that every possible influence is exercised in each state to secure the appointment on the various state registration boards of only such architects, preferably who are members of the Institute, but at least of high educational and ethical standards.

"To accomplish this in some states it may be necessary for the chapters in those states to use some political influence, but in so doing they should clearly realize that the high standard of character of the men admitted to practice in their state is wholly dependent on the character and competency of their state registration board. If the men on this board are appointed solely on the basis of political preference they are almost certain to get men on their registration boards who will be contemptible in the eyes of the young aspirants for architectural registration.

"In addition to getting men of high character on their boards and fine educational attainment, they must secure men with sufficient spirit of self-sacrifice to give the required time and attention to the proper administration of registration laws."

Bulfinch and the Hall of Fame

The Board of Directors has addressed a letter to the electors of the Hall of Fame—of which there are one hundred and six—in which Charles Bulfinch, architect and statesman, is nominated for election to the Hall of Fame. So far, no architect

has been so honored and in the opinion of the Board Bulfinch is worthy of the distinction.

A complete memorandum concerning his life, his public service, and his architectural work, with extended list of buildings and dates of erection, was filed with each of the electors.

The Billboard War—Court Decision

The process of evolution continues to work slowly but with deadly effect against "billboard disfigurement." The newspapers of the country continue to commend or recognize The American Institute of Architects, editorially and in their news columns, for its vigorous denouncement of existing abuses in the field of outdoor advertising. The officers of the chapters of the Institute have been furnished with information concerning the position of the Institute in opposition to billboards and the reasons which led to that position.

Members in chapters who are interested as good citizens, and because opposition to billboards is a civic duty which quite properly comes within the jurisdiction of the architect, are now referred to a court decision which is most encouraging. The decision, by reference, is the General Outdoor Advertising Company v. City of Indianapolis et al.; Indiana Supreme Court, No. 25253.

The effect of this decision is to uphold the city of Indianapolis in prohibiting outdoor advertising in areas within five hundred feet of parks and boulevards.



