

THE
OCTAGON

A Journal of The American Institute of Architects



Diathesis in the Hub
Code for Architects—Progress Report
The Reasons for a Basic Construction Code
New Clients from Old Houses
Blighted Areas

Volume 5

SEPTEMBER
1933

Number 9

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Published Monthly by

The American Institute of Architects

Executive and Publication Offices, The Octagon, 1741 New York Avenue N. W., Washington, D. C.

TWENTY-FIVE CENTS THE COPY. \$1 PER YEAR. (FOREIGN \$2)

Checks or Money Orders should be made payable to The American Institute of Architects
All communications for publication should be sent to The Secretary, The A. I. A.

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Entered as second-class matter, February 9, 1929, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C.

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November 19, 1866—September 23, 1933

With deep regret announcement is made of the sudden death of
Past President John Lawrence Mauran, at Dublin, New Hampshire. An appreciation of his life and work will be published later.

Diathesis in the Hub

By HUBERT G. RIPLEY, F.A.I.A.

Being some impressions of a recent tour of inspection of certain Architectural Schools, Museums, Art Schools, and Ateliers in and around Boston. The O. E. D. defines Diathesis as, Constitutional Predisposition.

THE business of the teaching of Art in its multifarious aspects is at the present time in a flourishing condition. The constantly increasing number of students in recent years, which should be gratifying to worshippers of the Muses, has even aroused feelings of alarm lest Parnassus become too crowded. We have seen school and college athletics grow by leaps and bounds until vast stadia and gymnasias, involving expenditures of enormous sums, have been built to accommodate the tremendous crowds that clamor for the sight of lusty young gladiators. All this is most stimulating and refreshing denoting an intense public interest in what our young people are doing. May we shortly look forward to an equal degree of public interest in the realm of the arts. The seed has been sown, the plant is thriving in spite of some rank growth, possibly that may need pruning. The day may yet come when multitudes will turn out in great processions, as they do now on a football holiday, to witness masterpieces of art, carried in procession through streets packed with cheering crowds, to their resting places in the Great Temples of Art that even now await, just as in XIVth century Sienna, Duccio di Buoninsigna's Altar piece, "The Madonna in Glory", was carried with pomp and ceremony to the cathedral, while the whole town marvelled and worshipped its beauty. Let us, therefore, pause and examine the thing we are doing at the moment, the nature and possibilities of art, and how best to nourish the budding young plant so that its blooming may be a joy forever.

The Antiquity of Modernism

Dr. Lubke observes that art is the original universal language of mankind, traces of which meet us on the islands of the Southern ocean as on the shores of the Mississippi, among the old Celts and Scandinavians as among the heroes of Homer and in the interiors of Asia. It is a questionable truism that a little knowledge is a dangerous thing. In the endeavor to express the complexities of the world around him, the cultured and intellectual creative artist may be hampered by a surfeit of knowledge. The best examples of modern art are positively hoary with antiquity. The striking resemblance between recently completed planetaria, current projects for

music halls, auditoriums and the like, and such structures as the enormous stupa or tope at Manikyala (III cent.) are poignant examples. When it comes to ornament, the up-to-date modernist goes back to Chichen Itza, vessels of the Bronze Epoch, Atlantis and Lemuria.

Art a Primitive Instinct

The child instinctively plays with blocks, stones, and shells, arranging them in groups and compositions of varied form. The impulse is a primitive one, closely associated with the earliest manifestations of religion; animistic, fetichistic, anthropomorphic. In a like way the modern designer loves to play with compositions of cubes, spheres, cylinders, pyramids, and conic sections. This is called "designing with solids." May it not be profitably combined with designing with lines? A distinguished archaeologist tells most delightfully in one of her stories how Erif Der played with shells on the shores of the Euxine, weaving with them cabalistic forms when she wished to "put a gease" on someone. Erif was a lovely witch who inherited the art from her mother. Her brother, Berris, was an artist craftsman and metal worker. When he wasn't busy on swords and spears, he made models in clay and forged wild barbaric horses, men, and animals in strange strained attitudes like Piccabia and Covarubbias, or the frescoes of Font-de-Gaume and the late Aurignacian figurines. Epigethes, an effete, decadent Greek sculptor, marooned by contrary winds, as was constantly happening to the Greeks in those days, interested in, but somewhat contemptuous of Berris' efforts, gave him a lot of bad advice along academic lines, almost stifling the free untrammelled spirit seeking expression. Greek tradition was still so strong that Berris became for a while a mediocre copyist and his work deteriorated into lifeless and listless meaninglessness. It turned out later, however, that it wasn't such bad advice after all. The training along academic lines was just what Berris needed and after he had suppressed and tortured his soul trying to make anthemions and correct austere statuary, he came back, after several years' study in the Greek Universities, and made horses and men wilder than ever, vastly more stirring and convincing for the knowledge gained by his apprenticeship.

Art Education in the United States

Education in the Arts of Design in the United States (that is, what may be called popular education) began forty years ago when the World's Columbian Exposition opened. It (the Exposition) is still spoken of with bated breath. There were schools before that time (but not many) where life classes were held and boys and girls, mostly boys, wore smocks daubed with brown pink, cerulean blue, and yellow ochre. In two or three architectural schools the five orders of Architecture according to Vignola were taught, and stereotomy, a bit of graphical statics, Ferguson's History of Architecture, and Calculus (a cryptic science comparable to the Elusinian Mysteries) were studied. The trade school curriculum was limited to wall-paper designing, cotton prints, mechanical drawing, wood-working, and metal working. The creative impulse started by the Chicago Fair was like touching a spark to a heap of tinder. Schools of art of all sorts and conditions sprang up like the armed multitude that rose from the ploughed field of Colchis when Jason sowed the dragon's teeth.

The method of teaching in these schools is a matter of deep concern. The curriculum of the early ones was founded, naturally, on European models, more particularly on the French National School of Fine Arts with a dash of the British apprenticeship system, like Angostura in a Martini. Due to our preconceived notions, it was assumed as a matter of course that the teaching of the arts of design should be closely allied to and be under the strict control of the college or school of which it was a subordinate part, a concession, as it were, to a growing demand that was not exactly to be ignored, rather to be tolerated as long as the "art" students stayed in their proper place and conformed to discipline. A student might develop a high degree of esthetic ability, might show indications of becoming a Leonardo or a Wren, but unless he maintained a certain standard of scholarship in all the courses, he stood far less chance of remaining in the school than the star player on the football team. These are not the days when the winner of the pentathlon wears also the laurel wreath for epic poetry.* However, matters all tend to adjust themselves. Just as when a beaker of beer is drawn from the spigot it sputters and seethes in violent agitation, and gradually the foam rises to the top and the liquid becomes amber clear, so the scholastic flux is clearing and before long the student may quaff refreshingly limpid draughts, clear and sparkling. The font of the Hippocrene

*It may be noted in passing that Archibald MacLeish whose poem "Conquistador" was selected for the 1933 Pulitzer Prize, played on the Yale football team, score Harvard 41—Yale 0.

still flows, though the groves of Parnassus may suffer from the blight of the boll-weevil.

Instead of spending his time ticking off parts and modules from a triangular scale that measures hundredths of an inch, the nouveau in an architectural school is now taught the spiritual significance of geometric forms, solids, root five rectangles, and whirling squares. From this he goes on to the relation of opening to wall in the Massimi palace, and color values in oriental rugs. It all seems a bit obtuse and bewildering to one brought up on triglyphs and acanthus leaves. Finally in the fourth and fifth year the student comes down to brass tacks and does a tope, or an Aztec temple, or something in the manner of Felix Mendelssohn.

The best modern work in this country is now being done by those who have served their apprenticeship in academic training. Whether it is because of that experience, is as yet difficult to determine because the younger group have so far lacked opportunities. Perhaps the present day students will attain even greater heights when they arrive. Such is the sincere hope of all.

There seems to be a reciprocal courtesy existing between schools that teach design. The architectural schools give courses in drawing and sketching from life, water-color painting, and modeling; not carried very far perhaps, for time is limited and the hour for applied mechanics draws near. The Art Schools, not to be outdone, in like manner give courses in Architecture and Decoration. The technical schools include a soupçon of all these activities besides teaching something of their practical application in the use of tools and materials. Even the city night schools have a course in the "reading" of blueprints. In fact there is an appalling amount of education in the Arts of Design going on all around us. It is not an uncommon thing for a lawyer, a business man or a clergyman to frankly admit without blushing that he studied architecture or painting for a while in his salad days and feels himself a finer and better man for the experience. Contrary to expectations these people make gracious clients and patrons unlike the Philistine who regards the artist with amused tolerance and a tinge of contempt, thus showing that a little knowledge may be a lenitive.

What the Schools do not Teach

The Artist is born, not made. No school or system of training can *teach* art. Our schools might well teach good manners in architecture, the relation of buildings to their sites and the natural, significant use of materials, but the curriculum is too vast for the allotted time. This is better understood in the arts of literature and music, and was also appreciated during certain epochs

in sculpture and painting, in architecture and in industrial design. Rarely does one find, and that only in comparatively few places in the world, an intelligent appreciation of the arts of Gastronomy and Dress. These two latter are most important for they conduce to our spiritual and physical well-being, without which the other arts cannot flourish to the best advantage. It is true that some of the finest things the world has ever known have been produced by ragged, half-starved poets and artists, painfully combatting physical ills and mental suffering. This only shows the power of Divine Fire and it is not a corollary that even better work might not have been accomplished under more favoring conditions.

If architects and craftsmen could only come to grips with the materials they employ for the expression of their craft, like Callicrates, Hugh Libergiere, Michael Angelo, and countless others whose

works are immortal, we might well have high hope for the future of the Arts of Design in the United States. Shall we allow ourselves to be outdone by a people who dwelt in the Nile Valley over 3,000 years ago? Here is what Breasted says of the state of the Fine Arts in Egypt under Amenhotep IV. "The artists of his court were taught to make the chisel and the brush tell the story of what they saw. The result was a simple and beautiful realism that saw more clearly than ever any art had seen before. They caught the instantaneous postures of animal life; the coursing hound, the fleeing game, the wild bull leaping in the swamp; for all these belonged to the 'truth,' in which Ikhnaton lived. The modeling of the human figure at this time was so plastic that at the first glance one is sometimes in doubt whether he has before him a product of the Greek age. This was indeed a new chapter in the history of art, even though now lost."

Code for Architects—Progress Report

IN Washington, the week ending September 9th was a momentous one for the architectural profession, and the construction industry as a whole. Therefore, the membership should have this brief, chronological report.

On September 5th, the day following Labor Day, the Advisory Council, composed of representatives from the leading national organizations in the construction field, met in joint session with the Code Committee of the Construction League. It was the last opportunity for review and approval of the proposed Master Code of the Construction Industry.

On the evening of the 5th, the Code Committee of the Institute met at The Octagon for a final review of the Architects' Code. Likewise, Code Committees of other organizations, meeting in Washington, were engaged in similar tasks.

On September 6th, at 10:00 a. m., the Deputy Administrator of N. R. A., Mr. Malcolm Muir, opened the public hearing on the Master Code of the Construction Industry. This hearing was marked with a dramatic quality which reflected the intense interest of some four hundred or more of the assembled representatives of many groups engaged in construction activity. Deputy Administrator Muir acted as Chairman throughout the proceeding.

The presentation of the Master Code was made by the Chairman of the Code Committee of the Construction League, Stephen F. Voorhees. After his comprehensive opening statement, the proposed Code was read, section by section. Opportunity was

given after each section for the filing of amendments or objections. The entire day was devoted to the Master Code.

On the morning of September 7th, the first of the sub-codes filed was taken up—that of the General Contractors'. This Code, sponsored by the Associated General Contractors of America, was presented by Mr. A. C. Tozzer, President of the A. G. C. It was considered section by section, with opportunity given after each section for the filing of amendments or objections.

The architectural profession was represented at both of these hearings by the Code Committee of the Institute. It found no reason to file objections or modifications, with respect to any of the fundamental provisions of either the Master Code or the General Contractors' Code.

On the afternoon of September 7th, the proposed Code of Fair Competition for Architects was heard. Mr. Malcolm Pirnie, Deputy Administrator, presided. This was the second supplemental code under the Master Code, and the first which related to a professional group. The Code was ably presented in statements by William Stanley Parker, Chairman of the Code Committee, and by Ernest John Russell, President of the Institute. The formal presentation was concluded by M. H. Furbringer, Chairman of the Institute's Committee on Schedule of Charges, who clarified the subject of charges for professional services by architects. The Code was considered section by section, and opportunity given for the filing of amendments and objections. Various amendments were offered by rep-

representatives of other groups of the construction industry. However, there was no opposition, and there were no major amendments offered by any architectural society or by individual architects.

No information is available as to the probable date of final action by N. R. A. on the Architects' Code, or on the Master Code of the Construction Industry of which it is a part.

Undoubtedly, there will be changes in both form and substance in the Master Code, and in the Architects' Code—as a result of deliberations by the Administration. It is the judgment of the Officers of the Institute and of the Code Committee that it would be undesirable and misleading to publish either Code as now written, and in advance of final action by the Administration. Therefore, neither Code will be published by the Institute until approved by President Roosevelt. When such approvals are given, the final Codes—which will then be the law of the land—will be published at once in *THE OCTAGON*, and made available to all architects as a separate document.

The membership should know that the architectural profession has been represented with great diligence in Washington by the Code Committee of the Institute—during the many weeks of a very hot summer in which the various Codes have been in the making. Throughout the week of the public hearings, ending September 9th, the following members of the Institute were in Washington and devoting their time and best efforts to the Code situation: Ernest John Russell, President; Charles D. Maginnis, First Vice-President; William Stanley Parker, Chairman of Code Committee; also Frederick Mathesius, Jr., of New York; William G. Nolting, of Baltimore, and Francis P. Sullivan,

of Washington (members of the Code Committee); also Abram Garfield, of Cleveland; Charles T. Ingham, of Pittsburgh; Ralph Walker, of New York; H. Maxwell Grylls, of Detroit, and M. H. Furbringer, of Nashville.

It is understood that the National Recovery Administration wishes to make a comprehensive survey of the problems of the construction industry as covered by the Master Code, and by the eight supplemental Codes which have reached the public hearing stage, before recommending any of the Codes to the President for approval. This will take time and it may be late October before the Codes become law.

The Industrial Advisory Board recently appointed three architects to assist the Administration in acting upon the construction industry codes, as follows: Advisor on the Master Code, Sullivan W. Jones, of New York; advisor on the Architects' Code, C. Herrick Hammond, of Chicago; and Special Consultant, in the Division of Economic Research and Planning, Arthur C. Holden, of New York.

As this number of *THE OCTAGON* goes to press, we are advised that the Code Committee of the American Society of Civil Engineers has filed a Code of Fair Practice for the Professional Engineer, with request for a public hearing. It is gratifying to state that for many weeks there has been constant and valuable cooperation between the Code Committee of the American Society of Civil Engineers and the Code Committee of the Institute—in developing many provisions of mutual interest in both the Architects' Code and the Engineers' Code.

FRANK C. BALDWIN,
Secretary.

The Reasons for a Basic Construction Code

By WILLARD T. CHEVALIER, A.S.C.E.

EDITOR'S NOTE: These excerpts are quoted from a statement made by Mr. Chevalier at the public hearing on the Master Code of the Construction Industry, on September 6, 1933, in Washington.

OF all the codes already submitted or yet to be submitted to the Recovery Administration, the basic Construction Code now before it is one of the most far-reaching in its influence. It embodies an effort to restore and insure economic well-being to a far-flung group of workers and employers engaged in a great variety of interdependent occupations in many communities. It will affect scores of industries, and thousands of workers and employers whose products find their exclusive or chief markets in construction. It will touch the inter-

ests of millions of investors, savings-bank depositors and insurance policyholders whose savings provide the capital required by building and construction and whose security is dependent on the honest and efficient conduct of construction practice.

Construction is the basic capital-fixing function of our economic life; its administration must always exert a profound influence upon the conditions that have brought about our present distress and that have inspired the National Industrial Recovery Act. Unless the construction industry be in

sound health there can be no hope for general and sustained prosperity for American business as a whole.

It is an all-prevading industry. We are told that in 1929 every tenth person gainfully employed in the United States depended for his livelihood on construction. To service this industry \$7,000,000,000 was paid to some 4,500,000 persons out of a total of 48,000,000 gainfully employed. More than half of these workers, or 2,500,000, were engaged directly on construction; the remainder were employed in those professions and industries dependent for their markets on the requirements of construction.

The problem of organizing this industry under the National Industrial Recovery Act is essentially one of coordination. Although it comprises many subdivisions, the vital requirement for health in any one of its parts is the health of the whole. The success of any code or administrative agency set up by any one of its subdivisions will depend inevitably on its effective coordination with those set up by the others. To each must be preserved the utmost freedom of self-government with respect to its internal conduct but to each must be accorded the indispensable support of a unified industry organized to conserve the welfare of all.

It should be noted that the Basic Code interferes in no respect with the various codes and administrative agencies proposed for the government of the several constituent subdivisions. It is designed to supplement, not to supplant. It leaves to each group the establishment of minimum wages and maximum hours for the skilled workers that especially pertain to it; it leaves to each group the provision of an administrative agency such as may be required to govern its internal conduct. It provides for collective bargaining between representative groups on either a national, regional or local basis in the vital matter of wages and hours, so that due respect may be accorded to the conditions that obtain within the various sub-divisions and in the several regions and localities. With respect to these matters it seeks to establish only a nation-wide minimum of wages and maximum of hours for unskilled labor throughout all branches of the industry. It is, in effect, a charter of freedom to each group to handle its own affairs and a constitution for the industry that will safeguard the interests of each in conserving the welfare of all.

The architect and the engineer most nearly represent the interest of the ultimate user or consumer of construction service. They are concerned, therefore, with what is best for the entire industry, with that which will enable it to operate soundly, efficiently and constructively. Moreover these are

professional groups; they are in an impartial and judicial position with respect to the contractors, sub-contractors and producers who constitute the operating arm of the industry. They are in position to exert a modernizing influence, to reconcile conflict of outlook, to allay distrust and to cultivate mutual understanding between the several interdependent groups.

The Basic Code, comprehending as it does the adherence and the cooperation of these groups, provides the most effective agency that has ever been set up to effect and maintain the long-sought integration of the industry that is so essential to successful attack on its harassing problems.

Summary

In conclusion, may I summarize the reasons for a Basic Construction Code as follows:

It recognizes the essential unity of the several functional groups and subdivisions that comprise the construction industry.

It provides an agency representative of the entire industry through which to present the views and the needs of the industry to the government.

It provides an agency that will facilitate contact by NRA and related departments with a vast and diversified industry, every part of which is affected by much of what concerns the others.

It strengthens the industry in its handling of intra-industry problems by setting up a means to compose difficulties without recourse to outside agencies.

It brings to the service of the industry the interest and the cooperation of the architects and engineers with their professional viewpoint and influence.

It insures to each of the subdivisions of the industry full autonomy in the handling of its internal affairs while at the same time it provides for the administration of the entire industry in the best interest of all those connected with it and of the community at large.

It provides for the suppression of bid-peddling and other kindred abuses which can be reached only by an industry-wide representative agency that can exert its influence at any point in the chain of responsibility.

It provides for regional or local determination of wages and working conditions by truly representative groups and for nation-wide determination with respect to specialized labor under the several supplementary codes, while at the same time it establishes nation-wide minimum wages and maximum hours to apply where they may not have been established by such supplementary codes or local agreements.

New Clients from Old Houses

By ALEXANDER CARL GUTH, A.I.A.

THIS will not pertain to those characters of our great centers who awaken us in the early morning with their calls "old clothes for sale." It will concern itself with the part any architect can play in the changing hands of another type of old clothes, namely—old houses, the clothes of an entire family.

Opportunity for the Architect

During these waning months of the great depression and the busy years of the so to be termed "post depression period" which will follow, many an old house or homestead will change owners. So the following question seems to the point. Does the fact ever cross the minds of the rank and file of architects what an important part they might and should play in these transactions—that an architect can here do something of real benefit to all concerned and likewise put some additional shekels in his depleted coffers? Listen to a real old clothes story taken from life. Once upon a time, as all good stories start, a close friend of a certain architect became enthused over a charming house. (It was only good to look at.) The house in question had had many tenants in a very short time. This prompted the friends of the prospective buyer to warn him to go easy lest something might be radically wrong with the house.

Unmindful and unheeding he dashed right in and purchased it in short order. And did he get "stung"? That is not the word to use. During the lapse of the last two years this house has been hoisted up in the air and now it rests on a steel framework of columns and girders. It's a frame house, at that, with a brick basement. And all this because the house had been built directly over a swamp. New pier footings had to be placed nine feet below the basement floor. Now, true friend architect, had he been consulted, would not have been able to sense that swamp. It was buried too deep. But had he been called in during the time the transaction was in the making, and had he made only a casual survey of the premises, his trained eyes would no doubt have detected something radically wrong. Uneven floors, sticking doors, and out of plumb jambs are warning signals. This is no place, however, to moralize on the story. It would be if the pages of this publication were read more generally by the general public. Few laymen, relatively speaking, see it. But this is the time and the place to tell the architect that he can be of material service to the "buyer of old clothes". Apparently this sphere of activity on the part of the

architect has been entirely overlooked. There is no doubt that there are other so-called "swamp houses" of which prospective owners should be made wary.

Advice Should be Paid For

The average citizen is loath enough to come to an architect with a new building project. Education is gradually wearing down this feeling. And so, also, must be worn down the attitude that an architect can not be of material assistance to a prospective buyer when he is about to purchase "old clothes". The professional service of the experienced architect should be called upon freely by the layman. When purchasing anything as important as a home the prospective home owner would be the material gainer if he pursued this method. As a rule he makes no bones about asking his architect friend innumerable questions every time he has a chance. He buttonholes him every now and then about what may appear to him as trivial problems. Yet they are matters of real stock in trade to the architect, who has gathered them not for the purpose of hoarding them but to put them to use. They are income producing facts but the architect of today is not quite ready to admit that or if he does do so he has failed to grasp the full meaning of their value. Has any member of the profession ever stopped and figured out the amount of free advice which an architect is called upon to furnish? His counsel and advice are for the asking, and he seems almost keen on dishing it out promiscuously. Compare the loose tongue of the architect with that of his fellow professional men—the lawyer and the doctor. Many a family doctor makes the rounds of his daily calls in a high grade motor car, and is materially compensated by the fees for the many brief visits which he makes daily. A bit of advice concerning your last stomach ache and there's a bill! But the architect, great philanthropist that he is, dispenses his free advice right and left. Roof and leaky wall conditions, window or door hardware that needs replacement, the proper color for the new coat of wall paint are all the items calling for free advice in a day's program. The ability to solve these small problems correctly was gained in the hard school of personal experience, at large expense of time and money. Yet the answers are to be had for the asking!

What Should be Done

And what should be done about it? The answer is not to be found in Kidder, or Trautwine, or Vig-

nola. It is, simply, that the architect must use a little common sense, and be more discriminating in donating his stock in trade to others.

So, when casual acquaintance, friend, uncle, or Cousin Kate consult you about that door which they would like to move, about that new type of wall paper for the living room, or that water softener, or the new heater, give all the advice that is necessary

for a practical solution of the vexatious matter (if it be such) and then don't be chicken hearted—*send a bill for professional services rendered*. It must be done sometime. It is far better to break the ice now than later. Start that education of the layman today. Make him pay for what you are giving him, advice "for old clothes". It is no more than fair to all concerned and especially to the Architect.

Blighted Area Housing and Cooperation

By HENRY K. HOLSMAN, F.A.I.A.

THE National Housing Association, after many years of study, says the average American house is the poorest home in the Western world. The Hoover Housing conference of 1931, after a year's collection of data from all the available experts of the country, recounts that during the past decade, the building industry, while employing nearly one-fourth of all the wage earners in the country, built no homes within the rent rate of that two-thirds of all our families whose incomes are below \$2,000 a year. Only one-third of our families had incomes sufficient to rent or buy the homes we built.

In Philadelphia a housing association made a year's survey of the city and found that for the past ten years no housing was built in Philadelphia, that 48% of the population could afford to occupy, while 51% of all new housing was built for the 11% of the population having incomes from \$3,000 to \$4,000 a year. Consequently many low wage earners were encouraged to assume rent burdens too heavy for them to bear, with subsequent disaster to both the producers and the users. That means that half of Philadelphia's population must live in the old obsolete houses, many thousands of which are not fit for human habitation. So much for "The city of homes"—Philadelphia.

What of Chicago? The Illinois Housing Commission, in a report to the legislature, just published, estimates that Chicago has 36 square miles, or about 22,000 acres of blighted area where the ordinary municipal services for the area cost more than two and one-half times the revenue levied thereon (not necessarily paid.) Much of this blighted area has been reduced to slums. Slums are a social liability as well as an economic liability to the community. Into these blighted and slum areas sink the temporary unfortunate to become permanently delinquent. The homeless men and drifting women and vicious and resentful gangs gather there

and multiply and propagate their kind. The unsanitary, lightless, vermin infested, dilapidated buildings increase and propagate physical and mental disease. Improperly housed workers and school children are perpetually tired, inefficient, despondent, or hopeless and irritable—conditions that may be, in the aggregate, as great a menace to society as disease, vice, and crime, their offspring.

The social liabilities of all slum and blighted areas are an incalculable expense to society, but it does not stop there. City blighted areas consist of small lots and obsolete houses, mostly owned by absentee landlords who have no use for them, but often owned by residents who are kept poor by the very fact of ownership. All owners are helpless to improve their buildings because of the dilapidated neighboring properties. Tenants and owners can only hold on in vain hope that a miracle will happen and free them from the deadly bondage, free their children from the baneful and depressing effects of the decaying environment. Rehabilitating city blighted areas cannot be done by individual owners of individual lots; but the blight must be stopped and the areas rebuilt if our cities are to escape bankruptcy and the citizens freed from utter poverty and depravity.

Here then is a most fertile field for the "employment of our great productive capacity on a collective undertaking to improve the conditions of our common life." No vast schemes of public works for the employment of surplus artisans and labor can surpass the beneficence to be derived from rehabilitating our blighted areas with decent homes for families of low income. It is directly in line with the ideals and aims of the constitutional spirit of the nation; it is a test case for cooperating leadership.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The above excerpts are quoted from a radio address by Mr. Holzman, under the auspices of Armour Institute, Chicago, Illinois.

Blighted Areas in Urban Baltimore

By CHARLES DANA LOOMIS, A.I.A.

IT seems to me that the Real Estate Board of Baltimore should make it a major part of its program to institute and carry out a thoroughgoing use, financial, tax, physical, and social survey of our ruinous neighborhoods, which could be co-operated in by the Association of Commerce, the City tax authorities, the City Health authorities, the lending agencies, the Building Congress, and all the Sociological groups and bodies. This would furnish the only adequate basis for a constructive attempt to save for our city, what bids fair to be too great a loss to be borne. The facts—such as rents per room over large areas, number of people housed, tax delinquencies, relation of assessments to present fair capital value, percentages of vacancy, class of tenants, social and health conditions, and above all, relation of the share of municipal expense chargeable to the property to the present earning power, these are the grounds upon which building must be done. Now they are so fragmentary, scattered, and generally unavailable that practically we have nothing. There must be a plant inventory, a physical and economic stock taking, if Baltimore's bookkeeping is to show true relations between capital, fixed charges, operating costs, and income, on which a decent plan of operations can be set up.

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I do not think it is too much to say that, with its present "improvements" on the site, at least a quarter of the area of Baltimore is a potential slum. This is further assured by the fact that these "improvements" were nearly all built for speculation between the years 1855 and 1870, that is to say, about 70 years ago, and under the least favorable conditions for permanency or adequacy of structure.

Our city block has about 34 houses usually of three stories. Counting $2\frac{1}{2}$ rooms to a story because of the usual two-story back building, we get about eight rooms to a house. Let us call this nine rooms for 34 houses, and we get a maximum of about 300

rooms to a block. Allowing $1\frac{1}{2}$ persons to a room, we get about 450 people to a block. This block, we must remember, is about 70% covered with buildings which have only 20% of their enclosing walls exposed to light and air.

It can be, and has been, demonstrated that in two, three and four-story buildings, two rooms deep throughout, and with only 40% of the ground covered that 600 rooms can be obtained, which at $1\frac{1}{2}$ persons per room means that the block will take care of 900 people with every room well lighted with sun light and cross ventilation in every family unit, and with 45% of all enclosing walls exposed to light and air.

Let us return to the question of cooperation. To arrive at any such result, it becomes necessary that all the parties at interest within four boundary streets must become convinced that their only safety lies in acting together. All the capital interest in the present property must be pooled and a pro rata share in the project reissued to the owners and mortgagees based on an appraisal which is a use and earning appraisal and not a profit appraisal. The "loss" is now in the property and must be accepted by all parties or over capitalization of the site will stop the project right there. Only in this way can the parties save the potential earning power of their investment, or indeed any substantial part of their capital.

Until such a state of mind can be "sold" to the individual owner, only two alternatives remain, continuous and increasing depreciation and tax sales resulting in total loss to owners, or the ultimate if delayed intervention of public authority to enter in and redevelop the land in the interests of the city and the majority of the taxpayers. Either of these means sure loss to the owner of his possession of an earning property. The day that the majority of real estate experts come to this state of mind, the public will follow them.

EDITOR'S NOTE: These excerpts are quoted from an article by Mr. Loomis, in the Baltimore Real Estate News.

Election of Regional Director—New York Division

SINCE the untimely death of Albert L. Brockway, reported in the July number of THE OCTAGON, the New York Division has been without a Regional Director.

After communicating with the Chapters of the New York Division, and with the Officers and Directors of the Institute, President Russell has announced the election of Stephen F. Voorhees, F.A.I.A., of New York, to fill the Office of Regional Director for the New York Division until the Con-

vention of 1934, at which time the present term will expire.

At the Convention of 1934 this Directorship will be filled by the election of a Director for a term of three years.

Mr. Voorhees needs no introduction to the members of the Institute. His work for the New York Chapter, for the New York Building Congress, and for the Institute, nationally, has been noteworthy over a long period of years.

Building Projects—and P. W. A.

SEVERAL Chapters and State Associations have addressed letters to the Institute urging that immediate representation be made to the Public Works Administration—to the end that greater recognition be given to building projects in the various States as distinguished from engineering projects. It is stated in these letters that so far a large proportion of the projects to which funds have been allocated are of the engineering type and afford little or no re-employment relief to the building trades or to the contracting and professional groups engaged in building construction.

The Institute has done its best in this matter, and has received the assurance of Secretary Ickes that the influence of the Administration will be in favor of the employment of architects and engineers on those projects to which public funds are allocated.

But the organizations of the architectural profession should bear in mind that projects of all types originate in the States and *not* with the Public Works Administration in Washington. In other words, meritorious building projects must be sub-

mitted, in compliance with the terms of the National Recovery Act, before there can be any allocation of funds. In effect, this places the responsibility for securing a larger number of buildings projects upon the communities of the various States and their building industry groups.

It is recommended to the Chapters and the State Associations that they act jointly and quickly in presenting to the Administration in Washington, through the state boards in their localities, those building projects which are eligible for loans or grants. State Advisory Boards and State Engineers for the Public Works Administration have been appointed for all states; also Regional Advisors for the ten major districts have been appointed. Information concerning those personnels has been published generally in the press and can be had on request, together with circulars of information concerning procedure and form of application for loan, by addressing the Deputy Administrator of Public Works, Col. H. M. Waite, Department of the Interior Building, Washington, D. C.

Public Information—Chapter Responsibility

THE Publicist of the Institute, James T. Grady, has addressed a memorandum to the Chairmen of all Chapter Committees on Public Information.

In order that the entire membership may have the substance of that memorandum, and may know of the duty which it implies with respect to Chapter Committees on Public Information, during the coming winter, it is published as follows:

"Economic recovery is under way. Architecture and the building industry will share in the revival. Architects should participate in charting the Nation's course. They should keep the public continually informed of the progress and the possibilities of their profession. It is not unlikely that decentralization of industry will ensue with a resultant migration from the cities to the country, creating an enormous demand for homes. Herein, it seems, lies a promising field for the architect. Rehabilitation of the cities will provide another outlet for architectural activity. In any event, during the era of the New Deal, publicity will be a powerful instrument in winning the country to new policies and new practices, social and economic. Architects must make themselves heard. Continuing iteration of the aims of architecture is essential. Mere preaching must be curbed. The country demands constructive thought and utterance.

"With this in mind, the Publicist urges all Chapter Committees on Public Information to freshen their efforts. At the moment, public interest centers on industrial advance. Every Chapter of the

Institute should move to exercise the reporting function by preparing and issuing to the press of its territory a summary of progress in the architectural and building fields in recent months. Surely, the widening demand for steel and other raw materials, increased carloadings, and mounting electric power output, to say nothing of the Administration's plans to aid the home owner and to make bank credit more abundant, should encourage architects and builders. Indeed, authoritative reports indicate a substantial pick-up in construction.

"The Publicist has in mind an optimistic statement of local conditions in each Chapter territory. Chapters should have little difficulty in carrying out this suggestion. The method is not unlike that employed by the Chapters in preparing year-end summaries of architectural progress. Conditions in architecture should be linked with the facts of the developing economic situation which exists, and with a forecast of what the future holds both for the community and the architect.

"The suggested summary might well be written by the President of the Chapter, and embrace both local and national problems. The Publicist would be glad to receive a copy of the article prepared by each Chapter in order that he may consolidate the material as a digest of nation-wide activity in architecture.

"The Officers and Directors of the Institute are being asked to share in this cooperative publicity enterprise by preparing articles applicable nationally and regionally."

The Producers' Council

RECOGNITION of the vital necessity for cooperative effort in bringing about an early resumption of normal activity in the building industry is responsible for the current trend toward a closer relationship between the various interests involved. The American Institute of Architects has long emphasized the need for a better understanding between the professional and trade groups. This appreciation of the value of coordinated action in the establishment of more equitable practices in the industry was the inspiration for the affiliation between The Producers' Council and the Institute. For more than ten years the Institute and the Council have been working together to advance their common objectives.

The type and calibre of the organizations comprising the present membership of The Producers' Council are indicated by the following list:

- Aluminaum Company of America
- American Brass Company
- American Radiator Company
- Armstrong Cork Company
- Benjamin Electric Manufacturing Company
- Bradley Lumber Company of Arkansas
- Carrier Engineering Corporation
- Chamberlin Metal Weatherstrip Company
- Copper and Brass Research Association
- Dahlstrom Metallic Door Company
- General Electric Company
- Georgia Marble Company
- Johns-Manville Corporation
- Kawneer Company
- Masonite Corporation
- National Building Granite Quarries Association
- National Lead Company
- National Tube Company
- Otis Elevator Company
- Peelle Company
- Portland Cement Association
- Spencer Turbine Company
- The Stanley Works
- The Stedman Rubber Flooring Company
- The W. S. Tyler Company
- Universal-Atlas Cement Company
- Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company

The Producers' Council is the only organization of producers of building materials and equipment devoted to the furthering of the best interests of all branches of the industry and the building public, which is recognized by governmental agencies, the Institute and other representative groups comprising the building industry. It is composed of a selected group of manufacturers and associations recognized as leaders in their respective lines. The Council has actively supported the Institute and the architectural profession in promoting higher standards in the building industry and in the establishment of those principles on which progressive enterprise must be predicated to be successful and enduring.

The architectural profession is indebted to the Council for its aggressive support of the fight to

eliminate objectionable trade practices and for its efforts to set up fair competition of excellence in building materials, equipment and craftsmanship as opposed to cheap, inferior products which threaten the standards of building. Membership in the Council is ample evidence of a willingness to cooperate with the architectural profession in upholding the standards of building which will encourage the production and use of more dependable materials, good construction, and sound trade practices.

The need for the Council is greater today than ever before. The individual manufacturer is powerless alone. Even the specialized trade associations have found that they can accomplish more through cooperative effort with the industry as a whole than they can hope to accomplish by themselves. The same is true of the individual architect and the Institute. By joining forces the various factors in the construction industry become a real influence in national affairs and are able to command the respectful attention of those in authority.

In line with policies as set forth in the National Industrial Recovery Act, the construction industry is being regimented for self-regulation. As The Producers' Council is a national organization of many years standing, it is the natural leader of that particular group, and should have the active support of every other branch of the industry. Its membership should be expanded to include all producers of broad vision who are in sympathy with its objectives in the improvement of conditions in the building industry through the establishment and maintenance of those high standards of business integrity to which the Council and the Institute are dedicated.

With this idea in mind, the Council is desirous of increasing its membership for the purpose of reinforcing its position as the representative organization of all producing interests in the building industry, and to extend its field of usefulness to those producers who are not now members. As the membership expands to include other responsible manufacturers of quality building products, more adequate funds will be available for the work which the Council has undertaken, and its effectiveness is bound to increase proportionately. Wider scope of representation also means that the Council will be able to extend and improve its service to the building public, automatically increasing the value of the Council to its members and to the Institute.

The Structural Service Department of the Institute has been developed and jointly maintained by the Institute and the Council, and the ability of this Department to carry on its consulting and advisory service has recently been due entirely to continued Council support.

State Association Members of the Institute

THE first charter of State Association Membership to be granted by The American Institute of Architects is now being engrossed for issuance to the State Association of California Architects.

The California Association was unanimously elected the first State Association Member of the Institute at the March meeting of the Board of Directors—subject to approval of its By-laws by the Institute's Committee on State Societies. That approval has been given and the membership becomes effective as of March 1, 1933. The Officers of the California Association are:

President..... Robert H. Orr, Los Angeles
 V.-President Harris C. Allen, Berkeley
 Secretary..... Ellsworth E. Johnson, San Francisco
 Treasurer..... Harold E. Burket, Ventura

The second charter of State Association Member-

ship to be granted is being engrossed for issuance to the Michigan Society of Architects.

The Michigan Society was unanimously elected the second State Association Member of the Institute at the March meeting of the Board of Directors—subject to the approval of its By-laws by the Institute's Committee on State Societies. That approval has been given and the membership becomes effective as of July 1, 1933. The Officers of the Michigan Society of Architects are:

President..... H. Augustus O'Dell, Detroit
 1st Vice President... Richard H. Marr, Detroit
 2nd Vice President Lancelot Sukert, Detroit
 3rd Vice President.. Russell A. Allen, Detroit
 Secretary..... Frank H. Wright, Detroit
 Executive Secretary. Talmage C. Hughes, Detroit
 Treasurer..... Andrew R. Morison, Detroit

The Institute welcomes these new members, and counts heavily upon their counsel and support in these days of social and economic stress.

City Planning Course at M. I. T.

IN recognition of the growing need for long-range professional planning of towns and cities, a comprehensive course in city planning which will open this fall at the School of Architecture of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has been announced by Professor William Emerson, Dean of Architecture.

The new course represents one of the first major efforts of educators to meet the complex problems arising from haphazard municipal expansion.

At the same time, announcement was made of a new scholarship in city planning, created from funds of the Carnegie Corporation, which will entitle a graduate of the new course to a year's research study in this country or abroad. By means of an additional grant from the Corporation, a valuable program of research will be undertaken next year in the Institute's architectural department.

Such vital community problems as slum clearance, the adequate housing of industrial workers, and improved traffic circulation will be studied in the new course. In response to the growing public demand for healthier, safer and more beautiful communities, the city planner will work to effect both art and economy in public works, as well as a permanent harmony between buildings and their surroundings.

An increased general interest in the construction of moderately-priced homes is reflected in plans for special study of this important problem. Constituting another large phase of the work will be long-range planning of public parks, play-grounds, streets, and highways.

In a series of lectures by eminent members of the city planning profession, such authorities as John Nolen, Thomas Adams, Robert D. Kohn, and Clarence Stein will discuss various technical and cultural aspects of municipal development. While based primarily on a knowledge of architecture, the course will include principles of such closely allied fields as engineering, sociology, economics and law.

The course will be offered as a two-year option to students who have completed three years of architectural training, and will lead to the degree of bachelor of architecture in city planning. It has been developed with the aim of equipping graduates with a technical knowledge and breadth of outlook sufficient not only to understand the causes behind present unsatisfactory conditions of city building, but to arm them with methods of thought and work which will ensure an analytical attitude toward the problems of today and tomorrow.

The three preliminary years of architectural study will form a sound cultural and professional background for the more specialized work in city planning. The two years' time will be largely devoted to a major course in design and another in the theory and practice of city planning. The form is similar in method and content to the corresponding subject in architecture. The latter is of a comprehensive nature, including vitally essential material which, though perhaps handled earlier in a number of small courses, is believed today will assume added significance in the proposed closely knit unit.

Bidding Practice—the Baltimore Plan

By WILLIAM G. NOLTING, F.A.I.A.

THE General Contractor shall submit with his bid a sealed list of his selected sub-bidders, with their prices, for all items which he will not do or furnish.

On the award of the work, the sealed list of the low bidder will be opened and if the prices therein quoted agree with the sub-bidders bids filed with the Building Congress, the listed sub-bidders shall automatically be awarded their work, unless the architect shall, for reasons valid to himself, object, in which case another sub-bidder, lowest acceptable in that branch, shall be substituted, without increasing the General Contractor's contract price, if higher, but decreasing the contract price should the substituted bid be lower; subject to appeal to the Reference Committee of the Building Congress.

The General Contractor shall with his own force do all work for which he has not submitted a sub-bidder.

All bids received by the Building Congress shall be considered confidential and no sub-bids shall be

opened except those listed by the low General Contractor, except in the above noted case, and all other sub-bids shall be returned unopened to the bidders.

The Architect shall return unopened the sealed lists of the unsuccessful General bidders.

No sub-bid shall be used by the General bidder unless he is willing to fully endorse the sub-contractor and assume entire responsibility for the resulting work.

The sub-bidders shall deliver their bids to the General bidders at least twenty-four hours before the stated time for opening the General bids, otherwise they shall not be accepted, and each sub-bidder shall at the same time deliver a carbon copy of his bid to the office of the Baltimore Building Congress, and no sub-bidder will be considered who has not so filed his bid.

The sub-bid figures as listed will be used as the basis of the part and total payments on account of these branches of work.

With the Chapters

EXTRACTS FROM CHAPTER MINUTES AND REPORTS

Detroit

At a luncheon meeting the last week in August, Walter E. Lentz, Chairman, called attention to the estimated \$130,000,000 as Michigan's share of the public works program. He pointed out that while the bulk of the funds allotted would be spent on engineering construction, there would of necessity be certain buildings in connection with the projects. It is on these, he said, that the architects of Michigan would fit into the program, and he mentioned particularly that architects throughout the state would benefit since the work will be widespread. Major Early, Secretary of the Michigan Committee on Trade Recovery, spoke on the program, emphasizing how squarely on the architects' shoulders rests a definite part of the responsibility of putting men back to work. "By getting public work started," he said, "we will be assured of giving a stimulus to private work." Many obstacles have to be overcome, but concentrated effort and hard work will do it, he said.

A letter to the Honorable, The Common Council of Detroit, has been prepared and signed by the Presidents of the Detroit Chapter, the Michigan Society of Architects, and the Associated Technical

Societies, pointing out that the City Plan Commission, in accordance with the provision of the City Charter, should be empowered and provided with necessary funds to employ an adequate staff for the survey, research and clerical work necessary to properly prepare, assemble and coordinate all data pertinent to a comprehensive city plan, which will embrace and coordinate the present and future requirements of the various municipal departments, and which will permit of the preparation of an orderly, well-considered, economic program of civic improvements.

Announcement was made that Reed M. Dunbar, Architect of Munroe, Mich., has been named appraiser in Monroe County for the Home Owners' Loan Corporation.

Philadelphia

The Committee on Municipal Improvement reported to the Chapter, through its Chairman, Ralph B. Bencker, at the annual meeting, regarding its activities in the study of Reconstruction, Rehabilitation, Housing, and City Planning and Zoning. For this particular work the Committee adopted the name "Architects' Municipal Development Council" and in June, 1932, set up various committees to

handle the different phases of the survey. Charts and data prepared during previous years by the City's Bureau of Engineering and Surveys were reviewed; inspections were made of the old sections of the City; work of City Planning and Zoning Commission was reviewed; and an endeavor made to obtain legislation that would have met the requirements of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation to obtain funds for slum clearance. A tremendous amount of work and time was required by the various committees to carry out this study. All information has been recorded and the facts brought out at the meetings will later have a bearing on the solution of the problem.

The Council has produced a General Plan which, with continued study, can become a Master Plan of the City of Philadelphia. In its present state it answers a number of questions as to the Chapter's position regarding the old section of Philadelphia.

The Council has had prepared through the assistance of Chapter members and others, five tentative suggestions for possible development of city blocks in old sections; has made recommendations for arterial highways around the center of the City and through the old sections; has made definite recommendations as to the best manner in which the reclaiming of this area should proceed; and has accumulated data and laid the ground work for future activity connected with this problem.

While the necessary legislation to finance new construction was not obtained, it is believed the program of the Federal Government will provide

funds for slum clearance, directly under Federal control.

Utah

Although the Code of Fair Competition for Architects has not yet been approved by N.R.A., the Institute was gratified to receive a letter from John Fetzer, the Secretary of the Utah Chapter, which transmitted an endorsement of the Code by thirty-three practising architects in the State. The list includes Institute and non-Institute members.

The Regional Director for the Western Mountain Division, Raymond J. Ashton, who is located in Salt Lake City, Utah, writes: "I may say that I believe generally the western architects are receiving the Code with enthusiasm, and incidentally the position of the Institute is being strengthened. At a recent meeting practically every architect in the State was in attendance, not as Institute members but simply as architects. A most interesting thing happened—the most powerful member of the profession in the State, outside of the Institute membership, directed the attention of those assembled to the fact that if architecture had achieved anything the Institute was entitled to the credit for such achievement. He therefor moved that all men outside of the Institute resolve to apply for membership as soon as their financial affairs would make it possible, and further, that in the meantime they apply for Associate membership in the Institute, and that the Institute be recognized as an organized body of architects for the State, to speak for the profession and to work in the interests of the profession." (*The motion was carried.*)

Items of Interest

Housing Study Guild

This is a new organization recently formed to focalize the study of current problems in our national housing program, and to serve as a clearing house for information within its field of interest.

The facilities of the Guild include a reference library, a directory of sources, a program of study, discussion center, and other activities which should be of great value to those engaged directly or indirectly in housing and community planning programs.

Correspondence may be addressed to the Housing Study Guild, Allan A. Twichell, Executive Secretary, 400 Madison Avenue, New York City.

Termites and Termite Control

The report of the Termite Investigations Committee, of the University of California, is a notable example of what can be accomplished when scientists, engineers, and business men cooperate in an

effort to solve a problem involving the public good. *Termites and Termite Control* treats the termite problem more exhaustively than any scientific treatise hitherto published, yet it is written in simple, non-technical language that the layman can readily understand.

The destructive habits of the termites are faithfully described, including the habits of eleven newly discovered species in California. The question of effective means for the extermination and control of these insects is thoroughly discussed for the benefit of anyone using wood for building purposes in temperate and tropical countries. An immense amount of human experience and patience and labor has gone into the gathering of the material for this book.

Published by The University of California Press, Berkeley, California. Price \$5.00 (900 pages, 181 figures and illustrations in text).

Comments on "The Autobiography of an Idea"

From letters addressed to Ellis F. Lawrence—
By Dr. Edward O. Sisson, Head of the Department of Philosophy, Reed College, Portland, and an outstanding educator in the northwest:

I am happy to pay tribute to *The Autobiography of an Idea*, and to the A. I. A. for publishing it. My wife, no mean judge, joins fully in its praise. It stood the final test of being read aloud with never a lag in interest.

I find myself comparing it with *The Education of Henry Adams*, and that to the advantage of Sullivan: for Adams, at least according to his own insistence, did not get educated, while Louis's education stands out vividly as a humane and realistic success.

I find the book rewarding in many ways; for example: 1. It is a work of art, to be enjoyed for its own sake; 2. It is a human document of great sincerity and power for the educator and the philosopher; 3. It is a drama of genuine Americanism, keenly critical but passionately devoted—a thing always needed by every people, and most needed by us now.

I am recommending it to all: to students, to my fellow-teachers and fellow-Americans. It is far too little known; I knew nothing of it until I found Harold Rugg's tribute to it in his fine *Culture and Education in America*, less than two years ago. Why should a supposedly educated American have to find such a book by lucky chance?

By James J. Sayer, also of Portland. Mr. Sayer is Secretary of the Building Owners and Managers Association, and a keen student of affairs:

When I told you, a short time ago, that *The Autobiography of an Idea* had been recommended to me and that I was in the midst of reading it, you expressed a great deal of enthusiasm over the book. Now, that I have finished reading it, I can well appreciate the why and wherefore of your enthusiasm. As an architect, as well as an admirer of men and women who live with and for a purpose, you have complete justification for your point of view.

The reading of this book followed close upon the reading of *The Education of Henry Adams*. In a way these books parallel each other. They both aim to show how generally ineffective are the orthodox processes of our educational institutions. Yet they reach their respective goals along entirely different lines. Henry Adams always insists there is little or no education that is worth while or of value to be gotten out of the schools, and the practices of men either in business life or in politics. Sullivan, on the other hand, goes to nature, and see that in everything about him and in her processes there is an additional and worth while idea to be added to the sum total of his knowledge and experience. His central idea seems to be that Nature adapts its types to the needs of its environment and waives all other ceremony in so doing. Louis Sullivan thus shaped the course and manner of life. He examined every problem from this angle. He translated it into his architectural problems. For that reason he became a radical. He upset tradition not because it was tradition but because it seldom fitted into his needs for the time being.

I think it would be most desirable if the fourteen points, more or less, (I do not recall exactly how many there were) of Sullivan's education program for the child were set up as the cardinal educational principles for every educational institution, whether the course offered is elementary, academic, professional or technical.

Earthquake Hazard and Earthquake Protection

In response to official requests from many representative technical and civic organizations, the California Joint Technical Committee on Earthquake Protection was organized after the earthquake of March 10, 1933, to consider ways and means of minimizing loss of life and property damage in the event of another earthquake of equal or greater intensity.

The Committee now presents, in the form of a summarized report, its belief as to the seismic hazard in the Pacific coast region.

It is sincerely hoped by the Committee that the lessons of the Long Beach earthquake will not be forgotten as were the lessons which should have been fixed indelibly in the minds of all by the earthquakes of the past.

Organizations represented on the Joint Technical Committee were:

Technical Groups—

Southern California Chapter, A. I. A., (Messrs. John C. Austin, Sumner Hunt, David J. Witmer); American Society of Civil Engineers, Los Angeles Section; Structural Engineers Association of Southern California; Pacific Coast Section, American Association of Petroleum Geologists; Branner Geological Club; Seismological Society of America; Southern California Chapter, Associated General Contractors of America; Los Angeles Engineering Council of Founder Societies; Board of Fire Underwriters of the Pacific.

Non-Technical Representation—

General representation of the interests of Boards of Education, Chambers of Commerce, and other public and semi-public civic organizations.

Chairman, Dr. Robert A. Millikan, of California Institute of Technology; Vice-Chairman, Prof. R. R. Martel.

Although many months will be required to complete the detailed investigations now being carried on by these organizations, the essential conclusions as to what happened, why it happened, and what should be done to prevent loss of life and property in the future are now known. In order that this information may be available to the public in general and to governing officials, the summary has been presented in advance by the Joint Technical Committee on Earthquake Protection.

The final report of the Committee will include a general review of the detailed technical reports on the Long Beach earthquake which are to be presented by the various scientific, technical, and construction groups, and thus it will be much more detailed and more technical in its nature than the preliminary report.

Any one interested in obtaining copies of the report should write to Sumner P. Hunt, A. I. A., one of the representatives for the Southern California Chapter on the Committee, seventh floor, Laughlin Building, Los Angeles, California.

