

ILLINOIS SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS

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THE OCTOBER MEETING

The Illinois Society of Architects met on Tuesday evening, October 23, 1928, at the Architects Club of Chicago.

The speakers of the evening were Mr. L. J. Mensch, Contracting Engineer, who gave a lecture on "Twenty-five Years of Reinforced Concrete in Chicago."

Mr. F. R. McMillan, Director of Research, Portland Cement Association, spoke on "Concrete for the Architect."

Mr. Mensch's address, which is of historic value, will be found on another page of this issue.

Mr. McMillan's lecture will appear in a future issue.

THE SEPTEMBER MEETING

The entertainment feature of the September meeting was an illustrated address by Mr. Louis Bourgeois, Architect of the Bahai Temple, at Wilmette.

Mr. Bourgeois gave a very interesting talk outlining the history of the Bahai faith and organization and explained somewhat in detail how the Bahai faith and organization embraced all of the various religious faiths of the world. During his talk he presented lantern slide views showing the best known temples of each faith or religion.

Mr. Bourgeois presented lantern slides of drawings and models made for the Bahai Temple and after the illustrated talk, he exhibited scale and full size blue print drawings for the Temple, as well as many interesting full scale models.

Mr. Bourgeois' lecture was one of the most interesting presented to the Society in recent months.

CROCKER IS DEAD

On Monday afternoon, October 22, Mr. I. K. Pond received a telegram advising him of the death of Mr. W. H. Crocker, Editor-in-Chief of the American Architect. Mr. Crocker's death followed an automobile accident. At the time of going to press, the Bulletin has no further details.

Mr. Crocker was known personally to most members of the Illinois Society of Architects, as well as by the majority of the architects of the United States. During his long career as Editor-in-Chief of one of the world's leading architectural journals, the policy of his journal was to always encourage and foster everything that would tend to improve the conditions of architectural practice and to strengthen the professional organizations.

The profession of the United States in the death of Mr. Crocker has lost a friend, but the kindly influence of his personality will ever be felt wherever architects are found.

IMPROPER ADVERTISING

The attention of the Public Action Committee has been called to a number of flagrant cases of architects and engineers improperly advertising themselves.

A partnership composed of an architect and a structural engineer has been advertising itself on its stationery as "Architects and Engineers." Such a procedure is absolutely contrary to the law and the engineering member of the firm is liable to prosecution.

Anyone may call himself an engineer, but no one not registered as a structural engineer can style himself as such. The proper wording would be "Architect and Engineers" and the letterhead and business cards should designate which members of the firm are registered architects and which members of the firm style themselves as engineers.

The Committee is also investigating the legal standing of the firm name of a number of well-known offices, such as John Doe Associates, Architects, or John Doe & Associates, Architects and Engineers. In both cases every member of the association must, under the law, be registered architects, but as above noted, they may style themselves engineers, but they have no right of styling themselves structural engineers unless so registered.

The courts of the state years ago in ruling upon the Architects Registration Act upheld the wording of the law which provides that corporations as such could not practice architecture.

It is well known that quite a number of the larger architectural firms in Chicago have been incorporated under the laws of the state. If every stockholder of the corporation is a registered architect, in the absence of a specific court ruling to the contrary, it would appear obvious that such corporation was within the law, but the corporation as such cannot contract to furnish professional services. The law of the State of Illinois still recognizes professional service as personal service and thus far, no method has been found for a professional man to escape his professional obligation to society.

It is, of course, well known that an illegal partnership or an unlawful corporation has no standing in a court of record and such a firm cannot legally collect a fee for services performed.

Any member of the Society who may know of any firm of architects and engineers, or architects or engineers, incorrectly advertising themselves either on their office door, their professional cards or on their office stationery or otherwise, will perform a service to the profession as well as to the state by promptly reporting the facts to Mr. Harry B. Wheelock, Chairman of the Public Action Committee

A PUBLIC NUISANCE

The parking of automobiles along the boulevards and streets occupied by car lines has become a public nuisance. In the July issue the Editor, in speaking of the widening of Jackson Boulevard, suggested that the West Park Board should absolutely forbid any parking on this main thoroughfare at any time.

Recently, such an order was promulgated by the West Park Board and is being enforced by its police power. The West Park Board has done very much to improve traffic conditions for the great West Side and it could do more if it would extend this order for no parking to Washington Boulevard within the boundaries of the city limits, as well as Ashland Avenue, Oakley Avenue and Sacramento Boulevard.

The West Park Board has shown the South Park Board and the Lincoln Park Board how to do it. Will the other parks cooperate by enforcing a no parking order on all of the boulevards of the park systems?

The City Council could do its share in improving traffic conditions if it would pass an ordinance and have it enforced, forbidding any parking on any street where there is a street car line within a radius of at least four miles from the loop. The need of such an ordinance will be apparent by anyone observing the condition on North State, Clark and Wells Streets, between the River and Chicago Avenue, at any hour of the day or night. Traffic on these streets is absolutely restricted to the street car tracks, as both sides of the street are used for open-air garages.

The same condition will be observed on South Clark Street, State Street or Wabash Avenue, but here the conditions are not quite so serious on account of the wider streets.

With all of the loop garages looking for tenants, there appears to be no lack of adequate parking facilities within the loop, and as the demand for parking space increases, it will undoubtedly be met by the construction of more multi-storied garages.

The streets and boulevards of the city are supposed to be for the use of the traveling public. Why should they be used for dead car storage?

BEAUTY ONLY LIVES

"One would have to be as impervious to sentiment as a rhinoceros to ride through the New England hills and not find his imagination stirred by the mementos of years gone by. It is not necessary to open the old discussion about abandoned farms, but at frequent intervals there are the indubitable remains of what once were homes. Sometimes there are timbers standing; oftener there are only the stones of the cellar walls; but always there are the lusty spreading clumps of lilac bushes.

Year after year, without a human care, they thrive and spread, and with each returning May they publish to the sky and to the quiet roadway the homely but exquisite beauty of their generous blossoms. Their heavy fragrance weighs down the evening air. They tell, more intelligibly than any other language, the story of the homes that once dotted these hills and held the human ambitions of living men and women.

Those men and women opened farms, now grown up again to trees. They built roads, now obliterated in the brush. They made houses and lived in them, but the houses and barns and every other material equipment has vanished away. Last of all, as the one touch of beauty in their pioneer lives, they planted lilac bushes by the sitting room window.

And now, after a century of shift and change, nothing remains of all their effort save only that one touch of beauty in their lives. That one meager wish for a sweeter and kindlier home has outlived all the struggle for more acres of tillage and more barns for crops.

The blossoming lilacs are the last and most durable monument in commemoration of the fireside that used to be. May the reason be perhaps that they represented precisely the most essential, spiritual and eternal element in those long-forgotten homes?"

CONSTRUCTION AND LABOR COSTS

Mr. Arthur Holden in a late issue of the Atlantic Monthly gives the following figures as showing the proportionate cost of the different factors entering into the total cost of buildings. For each dollar spent in the United States for the finished home produced, the division is approximately as follows:

To labor at the job.....	\$0.26½
For material delivered at the job.....	.25
To promoters and financiers.....	.27
To land and its improvements.....	.21½

\$1.00

His division of the average costs of labor's share in the building dollar is as follows:

Carpenters	\$0.08½
Bricklayers	.05%
Plasterers and Hod-carriers.....	.04½
Plumbers	.02
Electricians	.00%

The Editors are advised that in connection with the construction of the Garden apartments financed by the Marshall Field Estate that the item for promoters and financiers was eliminated entirely, but the Field Estate has deemed it good business to not only provide for complete architectural supervision, but has retained as additional to the ordinary architectural supervision the services of a consulting architect.

When the most wealthy and shrewdest business men find it profitable to always employ the best architectural skill available, would it not prove profitable to everyone constructing any type of building to do likewise and have their buildings not only designed but the construction supervised by architects?

WHAT'S THE USE?

Notwithstanding the mandates of the Code of Practice of the A. I. A. and of the Illinois Society of Architects against any member of either society entering into an unregulated competition, yet it is known to practically all architects that unregulated competitions are the rule and not the exception.

One of the best known and most prominent members of both organizations stated to the Editor a few days ago while discussing this matter, that in his opinion if every member of the Chicago Chapter, A. I. A. was disciplined for entering an unregulated competition that there would be only a few left in the Chapter, except draftsmen.

Is the Code a recommendation rather than an obligation?

ADVERTISING

After all that has been written and said about architects advertising, yet it must be remembered that the enforcement of any regulation must be backed by public opinion or public sentiment. If some of the most prominent firms of architects find it profitable and good ethics to advertise as they are now doing, have they the right of protesting against similar actions by the less well-known and supposedly unethical firms?

**AN OPINION OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE
STATE OF ILLINOIS, PUBLISHED ON PAGES 961-963
INCLUSIVE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S
REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1919-1920**

(No. 10607—November 30, 1920)

**ARCHITECTS AND STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS,
EXEMPTION**

The exemptions specified in the Architects and in the Structural Engineers Acts are not general, but apply only to special instances as indicated in the particular statutes.

Francis W. Shepardson, Director, Department of Registration and Education:

Your letter of September 28 calls my attention to section 2 of the Illinois Structural Engineering Act, approved June 24, 1919, which defines the practice of structural engineering

and to some extent interprets that definition. You also set forth a paragraph of section 3 of said act reading as follows:

Persons registered to practice structural engineering in this State are exempt from the operation of any act in force in this State relating to the regulation of the practice of architecture.

Your question is, "whether this exemption gives to a structural engineer all of the rights and privileges granted to architects under the law of Illinois regulating the practice of architecture; or whether it gives only the rights and privileges of architects as they relate themselves to the definition of the practice of structural engineering as it is found in section 2" of the Illinois Structural Engineering Act.

Section 10 of the Illinois Architectural Act exempts architects from the provisions of the Structural Engineering Act. The language of these two exemption clauses gives to each of these two professions the same exemption. Section 2 of the Architectural Act defines a building as follows:

A building is any structure consisting of foundation, floors, walls, columns, girders, beams and roof, or a combination of any number of these parts, with or without other parts.

Section 2 of the Structural Engineering Act defines structures as follows:

Structures within the meaning of this act are all structures, having as essential features, foundations, columns, girders, trusses, arches and beams, with or without other parts, and in which safe design and construction require that load and stresses must be computed and the size and strength of parts determined by mathematical calculations based upon scientific principles and engineering data.

It is difficult for a lawyer, unschooled in either of the professions here under consideration, to make an interpretation of these definitions that he feels is wholly trustworthy. The interpretation of these definitions is more properly a matter for those having an expert knowledge of the matters with which they deal; but interpreting the words of these definitions in their ordinary meaning, as understood by laymen, I think a building, as defined in the Architectural Act, is within the definition of structures, given in the Structural Engineering Act, and vice versa. Yet, section 2 of the Structural Engineers Act follows the general definition of structures therein given with specific mention of certain structures which shall be regarded as within that definition; and concludes, "even though such structures may come within the definition of 'buildings' as defined in any act in this State relating to the regulation of the practice of architecture." This indicates that the General Assembly intended to express its recognition of a distinction between those buildings with which the architect is chiefly concerned and those structures with which structural engineers are chiefly concerned, although a literal construction of the definitions aforesaid does not seem to express such distinction.

Either the General Assembly intended, by the exemption provided in section 10 of the Architectural Act and in section 3 of the Structural Engineering Act, to confer equal privileges upon architects and structural engineers, or it intended to exempt structural engineers from the operation of the architectural law only so far as the practice of structural engineering might, without such exemption, violate the provisions of the architectural law, and to give architects the same character of exemption from the provisions of the structural engineering law. In other words, the definitions of the practice of architecture and of the practice of structural engineering seem to overlap and there is reasonable ground to assume that these exemptions are intended by the General Assembly to apply only to those matters included in the overlapping and do not extend to those matters which distinguish these professions from each other. If this be not so there is no difference under our statute between the practice of these two professions except in the name and no good reason appears for two acts regulating the practice of the same profession. Therefore, while the matter is not wholly free from difficulty, I think it clear that these exemptions are not intended to confer upon structural engineers all the rights and privileges granted to architects under the act regulating the practice of archi-

itecture, but, when construed with all the provisions of these acts, should be regarded as specifically and in terms limiting the practice of structural engineering as to buildings to the special structures named in section two of their act, and that these exemptions, so construed, do not confer upon architects all of the rights and privileges granted to structural engineers under the Structural Engineering Act, but limit the practice of architecture to buildings as defined in section 2 of the Architects Act.

WORK OF THE PUBLIC ACTION COMMITTEE

The Society this year is to be congratulated on the appointment of the Public Action Committee. Chairman Wheelock at the regular board meeting on October 9 outlined to the Board many of the matters the Committee has under consideration and the Editors confidentially predict that the work of this committee during the coming year will prove of vast interest and benefit to the profession as a whole.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF REINFORCED CONCRETE IN CHICAGO

Twenty-five years ago I had the honor to speak to you on the Hennebique System of Reinforced Concrete Construction.

I showed you pictures of really remarkable structures which in boldness of design and execution have been hardly surpassed since then in this city.

I showed you the dome of the National Museum of Egyptian Antiquities of Cairo, with a span of 50 feet, four inches thick, with large openings. Not a single one has been built here.

I showed you graceful arches used for manufacturing sheds and halls. Not much has been done here in this respect, notwithstanding the fact that I published a book twenty years ago which showed how to design such arches.

I showed you school buildings with auditoriums of 63-foot spans. There have not been many built here since.

I showed a number of applications of pre-cast concrete piles. I do not know a single instance of their use in Chicago, although they have unusual merits.

I showed you a very graceful sprinkler tank on top of a manufacturing building. Here we enclose wooden tanks, in expensive brick towers.

I showed you a large 11-story office building for the French Government in Paris, and a large number of artistic bridges and other beautiful applications.

The many pictures of important structures must have impressed upon you the fact that in Europe a new building art had arisen which had reached a high stage of perfection, and which was practically unknown in Chicago. The only architects who seemed to know about it were those who had been at the Worlds Fair in Paris in 1900, and those who had studied at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris within 10 years previously. The art of modern reinforced concrete construction was then only 10 years old. Mr. D. H. Burnham, Mr. Wm. Holabird were quite in favor of it, also Mr. James Gamble Rogers and Mr. L. G. Hallberg. The only engineer who knew anything about reinforced concrete was Mr. E. L. Heidenreich.

As a rule Chicago architects kept aloof of the new construction, had decided notions against it, and some thought it preposterous to build girders and columns of the bad stuff sidewalks were made of, and remembering this former attitude it appears to me a miracle today that reinforced concrete construction found such an extensive use in this city.

The difficulties a contractor had to contend with in the early days were very great. The steel warehouses kept bars of only 12-foot length in stock and larger rods had to be welded or united by turnbuckles; mill deliveries used to take at least two months. There did not exist any superintendents for reinforced concrete work, and the speaker had to hire French engineers who had worked for the H. Co. in Europe and train them as superintendents. The slow European methods of handling building materials did not fit in with American practice and a contractor had to design his own carts, hoisting buckets, receiving hoppers; had to do

his own bending of steel rods, and had to make complete drawings for his formwork; in fact the whole construction operation was purely an engineering performance. It is to be regretted that it did not remain an engineering business, and that architects do not insist on having concrete construction done only by contracting concerns with plenty of engineering talent and engineering superintendents.

About 25 years ago the Building Department started to organize an Architectural Engineering Department. The Assistant Building Commissioner was one of your members, Mr. Leon Stanhope, and the first engineer of the department was the late Mr. B. E. Winslow. There was no English literature on the subject and the few concerns who knew anything about concrete kept their information a secret. About that time Mr. R. Miller of the Engineering Department of the Bureau of Manhattan found a German recommendation for the design of concrete construction covering one-half page and published it as a ruling for his department. Mr. Winslow took it up for his guidance. It allowed on concrete a stress of only about 250 pounds per square inch. There was one item in this ruling which hurt concrete construction a great deal, and this was the requirement of figuring square slabs supported on four sides for a moment of $WL/24$ in two directions. French practice based on tests considered such slabs twice as strong.

This unfair ruling still exists not only here, but all over the U. S., and gave Mr. A. P. Turner, of Minneapolis, the opportunity to obtain from the building departments a much more favorable ruling on slabs supported on four corners, which we now call flat slab construction. Mr. Turner deserves credit for his efforts to promote this system, but he was not the inventor of it; it was used in a more scientific form in the East in 1902 and was a subject of patents and scientific discussions in the late nineties of the last century.

In 1904 Prof. Talbot, independently of what was done in Europe, began to make tests on columns and beams and gave the basis on which American engineers designed modern concrete construction and started a new American science.

Unfortunately American designers did not thoroughly study the results of tests, made in France, Germany, Switzerland and Italy, and even today there are a great many questions unsolved by American investigators which have been answered years ago by European tests and are only imperfectly known to local engineers, and a great many erroneous notions are still harbored by Chicago designers. The discrepancy between facts and insufficient tests showed itself in the appearance of many systems and fashions in the concrete industry, especially when a great many carpenters and mason contractors started to enter the concrete business.

The first fashion was to use wet concrete. The early reinforced concrete structures were made of concrete which had a very low water content, so that heavy tamping was necessary. It was slow work and with the best will some honeycombing always showed. A hue and cry arose about bad workmanship. Wet concrete did away with honeycombing, also with tamping. Pretty soon spouting was introduced and more water was used. The apparatus was of a formidable appearance and many contractors adopted it to impress owners and architects. The latest fashion is to consider water the most important item in the whole concrete construction problem. While it is true that too much water is a detriment to concrete, a certain surplus of water is needed for reasons of economy. It facilitates the mixing of the concrete, the discharge of the mixer, of the hoisting bucket, receiving hopper and carts. The promoters of the so-called cement water ratio are very insistent that the ideal amount of water according to their notions is used, and that architects and contractors ought to concentrate on this item. It is a fact that test cubes of dry concrete, mixed in the proportion of 1:3:5, thoroughly tamped showed a strength up to 5000 pounds per square inch after a month, but the labor to do our concrete work today with such dry concrete would cost from \$5.00 to \$10.00 per yard, while the labor on moderately wet concrete cost about \$1.50 per yard. Is it not cheaper to use a trifle more cement, and wetter concrete? All that is needed to make good concrete in this city, where the materials are excellent, is to have an ex-

perienced mixer man, produce a thick creamy mixture with the least amount of water he can, and if left alone he will produce a better concrete than the best expert of the cement water ratio. The water content has to be varied a great deal between summer and winter on account of evaporation and this item has not been solved by the laboratory experts.

The next fashion was to omit hooks in bars. Hooks are expensive, and American investigators made tests on beams without hooks, substituting long formulas for bond.

The next fashion was to omit, or use only a few heavy stirrups in beams. Tests show that beams stand up somehow without stirrups. That is true, but in a fire stirrups are very important in preventing a separation of stem and slab, and many small stirrups are much more effective than a few heavy ones.

The next fashion was to use deformed bars of many kinds, which used to cost about twice the price of plain bars. When later tests showed that we cannot dispense with hooks in deformed bars either, the price fell to that of plain bars.

Instead of the French practice of using girders between columns, and flat slabs between girders, which has a pleasing appearance, the practice sprung up to use beams of close spacing until we have today a beam spacing of 2 feet with very narrow joists, having an ugly appearance, unless an expensive false ceiling is provided, or there is used flat slab construction with large column heads which in certain buildings are inconvenient.

For a while it was the fashion to use concrete skeleton for one, two and three story buildings. It was necessary where flat slab construction was adopted on account of the thrust of the end panel. A girder construction often would have saved money by allowing wall bearing construction.

The next fashion was to decry the use of high carbon bars or rerolled bars. All tests in Europe showed an increase of strength of concrete construction of from 40% to 50% by the use of commercial high carbon bars. The omission of hooks here misled the local talent. Without rerolled steel the speaker is convinced reinforced concrete had made very little progress in this and many other cities.

Lately the fashion sprung up to use various fine materials as an admixture to cement, as hydrated lime, finely ground pumice stone, diatomic earth, etc. Tests prove they are nearly worthless, or detrimental, and the only valuable admixture is finely ground high basic slag, which is, however, not in the market in this part of the world.

A great improvement in concrete buildings was the adoption of Considere's Spiral Reinforcement for Columns. When concrete buildings of many stories were required, a few adopted steel columns, encased in concrete, and it was to my knowledge Mr. R. E. Schmidt and Mr. E. Martin who first used spiral hooping in this city.

About 16 years ago an American pioneer of reinforced concrete construction, Dr. F. Emperger of Vienna, invented a new column which consisted of a hooped column with a cast iron core, which made concrete columns nearly as small as fire-proofed steel columns. While this column has been used by the speaker on quite a number of important buildings in this city, Chicago architects have not adopted it as extensively as its merits deserve, or its superior economy over standard concrete columns ought to demand.

A great progress in concrete factory and warehouse construction was the introduction of round sheet metal column forms. They made possible a considerable saving over square columns, but have the inconvenience of not being exactly straight or round and require a good deal of expensive patching of the columns. If some mill would make a specialty of supplying octagonal or 16-sided column forms it would be a great movement.

We have made a great progress in the use of concealed beams in apartment house construction. We are making girders as shallow as the joists doing away with girders showing in the master part of the apartment.

Not much progress has been made in Chicago in the artistic treatment of reinforced concrete for the outside of buildings. The Ecole des Beaux Arts has a course of reinforced concrete architecture. Let us hope our schools will imitate this course. Last year Messrs. Fox & Fox produced

a very good effect on the Florist Building on Randolph Street near Ogden Avenue.

Concrete walls ought to be used more often for wind bracing in tall buildings in order to reduce vibrations. It is obligatory in Los Angeles and San Francisco.

We made quite some progress in the speed of concrete construction. While 25 years ago a story a week was considered good work, a speed of two to three stories a week is now quite common, and concrete buildings are erected faster than steel buildings, and cost besides four to six cents per cubic foot less than the latter.

We learned to protect concrete work in the winter by using several sets of tarpaulins and salamanders at the rate of about one for every 200 to 250 square feet of floor space, and by installing an extra boiler for heating the mixer water and by using steam pipes for heating sand and stone. Not many complaints are heard of frozen concrete nowadays. Of course this protection is expensive and cost from five to ten cents per square foot of floor, according to the severity of the weather. Salt or Calcium Chloride is sometimes used to prevent freezing especially at the foot of columns; it has to be used with caution, however.

Reinforced concrete made a great progress in foundations possible. It was easy to build shallow footings of great dimensions and build cantilever footings at comparatively small expense. The Chicago Building Code has, however, an erroneous requirement in regard to the depth of footings. About twenty years ago Prof. Talbot made tests on footings, reinforced with bars without hooks, which showed rather low strengths. Hooks are now universally used but the old rule still stands. By the use of rich concrete of 1:-1:-2, mix a great reduction of footing depth can be effected, of which very few designers take advantage.

A great deal of time and money has been saved in this city by using reinforced concrete rafts covering the whole building site.

Not much progress has been made in the art of cement finish on floors. For heavy trucking cement finish won't stand up, as it is applied nowadays in multistoried buildings. Twenty-five years ago cement finish was often made of crushed granite and imported cement and applied with much less water than now. This was expensive. Where good cement finished floors are required, crushed granite terrazzo is now sometimes used with very good success. However, a new covering is now coming to the front and this is a thin asphalt floor, which seems to stand the heaviest trucking.

The present requirement of the Chicago Code to test girders in reinforced concrete buildings is often a great nuisance. On a 2-story garage building it happened to the speaker a few years ago that 750,000 pounds of material were required for the test. It meant an expenditure of \$1,000.00 on a floor which took only two days to concrete. If instead of a test the construction had been supervised by a licensed testing bureau the expense would have been possibly \$50.00. Besides, such tests delay the completion of the building and often endanger the foundations. It is the speaker's practice to make four test beams about four inches square and six feet long of every day's pour, and to cure them on top of the floor which is being concreted. Whenever it is found necessary to remove the form work these beams are tested with a center load by a lever arrangement. These tests can be made at the demand of the architect's superintendent at any time, and show the safety of the construction both for the purpose of general strength as well as for the safety of form removal.

Very little progress has been made in Chicago in the art of reinforcing steel by concrete. The Chicago building code handicaps it by restrictive laws.

Many years ago Prof. Talbot tested steel columns reinforced by hooped concrete. The columns were much stronger than he expected and he could not break them in his 300-ton machine. He sent them to an Eastern university which had a 400-ton machine. They could not be broken, but Prof. Talbot assumed that the columns were near the point of failure. European tests to destruction showed much higher loads, and because there were not sufficient tests made here, we are not allowed to take advantage of the great increase of strength.

A great many tests have been made in England and Canada on the reinforcing of steel beams, by concrete haunches and connecting slabs, showing a great increase in strength. We are not allowed to make use of it.

In France a great deal of reinforced brick work is used. Tests show that reinforced brick girders, with longitudinal reinforcement only are nearly as strong as reinforced concrete girders, as long as the shear can be held down to about 50 pounds per square inch. Such girders used for lintels would represent a notable saving in many buildings.

Brick pilasters reinforced by vertical rods, would effect a considerable economy in high walls, for theatres and halls, supporting steel trusses, also for factory buildings.

Very little progress has been made by Chicago concrete engineers in the art of designing the structures from the contractor's point of view. Engineers are still designing square columns of even size. Lumber, however, comes in widths of $5\frac{1}{2}$ " x $7\frac{1}{2}$ " x $9\frac{1}{2}$ ", etc., and two pieces of boards $9\frac{1}{2}$ " wide make a 19-inch column side. Either the contractor gives a 19-inch column where a 20-inch column is required, or he has to go to the great expense of ripping a board to the required width. As a rule two carpenters make up a column side and while one man rips the other one is idle.

Chicago engineers have the habit of changing the sizes of the columns, often story by story. Each column change not only requires the change of four sides of the column form, but also the lengthening of the bottom and sides of the connecting girders and lintels.

By adopting Emperger columns the speaker reduces the lowest columns to a size nearly as small as a steel column, and uses the same size from bottom to the top of the building.

The same disregard of lumber sizes is found in the size of beams. When you call for a beam ten inches wide you will have a beam only $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide, and when you call for the stem of the beam to be 10 inches deep, it would be much more economical to use a 9-inch or $10\frac{3}{4}$ -inch stem. Chicago designers use too many sizes of beams in a building. If you consider that the labor item is nearly 45 per cent in reinforced concrete construction you can see that uniformity and simplicity is more important than the saving of a few yards of concrete or of a few tons of steel.

Before concluding I wish again to repeat that reinforced concrete is a French art. There, roofs of 300-foot spans have been constructed, also arched bridges of 600-foot span, and 1,000-foot spans are under contract. France has been leading in engineering skill and in the development of new cements of high strength and of quick hardening nature, also in lightweight aggregates and in the scientific adoption of reinforced concrete for every imaginable purpose.

While we are a richer nation and probably use more cement in the territory of Chicago than in the whole of France, we treat reinforced concrete as a commercial affair and do not elevate it to the level of art it occupies there.

L. J. MENSCH.

WORTH READING

"Ralph Adams Cram is always interesting and unafraid. Pencil Points (August, 1925) quotes from an address delivered by Dr. Cram at Youngstown, Ohio. 'American architecture leads the world. We have no competitors, except, strangely enough, in Belgium and small Scandinavian countries. In France the arts have utterly collapsed. French artists have broken altogether with tradition. They're building cubistic styles which are nightmares. Think of a cubistic church! Thank God we have only one in America. It's in Chicago. . . . If I had a son who wanted to go to L'Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris I'd disinherit him.'

Dr. Cram has the courage of his convictions and we all ways know where he stands. Most people do not stand.

We would qualify the statement about American architecture to read that it is about to lead the world. America does lead in construction and is now just breaking the shackles of architectural precedent. We can easily count the notable examples of American architecture but until they are quite general we must give the credit of a vital architecture to the Scandinavian countries and the Netherlands.

THE PASSING SHOW has always acclaimed the Scandinavian architecture as the best in the world. It is Scandinavian and not an echo of another architecture as is the architecture of all other countries, ours included. It is of the utmost simplicity but so sturdy and virile that one studies it to find the source of its fitness. It must be a great pleasure to be in a country that has an architecture of its own and not afflicted as others are by a reminiscitory architecture.

The French have failed architecturally and in their weakness have turned to cubism—the resort of the mediocre or lazy. Germans are emerging from a post-war cubism into a rational architecture that will become as distinctively good as the Scandinavian.

France is the home of L'Ecole des Beaux Arts and yet it is destitute of a vital modern architecture. If its school is the correct model and the only source of architectural teaching methods why should this be? All American schools cater to the Beaux Arts, import their teachers of designing and as one true American architect says—"it has been a blight on America." By its works this school should be known. Look at French architecture and think.

The chief object of our architectural schools seems to be to turn out the maxima of medal winners. Is medal winning the aim of architectural education? Architecture is today something beyond winning prizes for designing—it is the most intricate and involved profession of all. The architect who is responsible to his client for the expenditure of large sums of money has more to think about than designing and it appears that such work is delegated to the designer. Are architectural medal winners of any more importance in our national economy than football 'letter' winners? It may be time to take stock of architectural education and evaluate it in terms of professional requirements.

Our teachers of engineering, structural, mechanical and electrical, are American trained and have led the general advance to a splendid degree of scientific and practical attainment. It would appear that Americans are destitute of the ability to set up an American scheme of architectural education and to teach architectural designing. Apparently Providence allocated all such ability to the French who are the laggards in today's architecture. Except for the architectural performances that are emerging one would believe this to be true and these undeniable signs of the birth of a true American architecture indicate that its paternity is not of the Beaux Arts."

From "The Passing Show"
in September Western Architect.

"In the report of the Board of Directors of the American Institute of Architects, submitted to the last annual convention of that body, there was a criticism of the architectural profession generally, to the effect that its members were guilty of neglecting their respective communities.

We believe such a charge is quite well founded in an all too large majority of instances, and in the words of the board:

As a professional group organized or unorganized, he (the architect) seems to give little or no attention to the civic program of his own town or city. A charge of disregard of community welfare cannot be made against the doctors. They are active in their field, as it affects the health of the people. They do not hesitate to assume the leadership which is rightfully theirs. The same principle of conduct is true of the lawyers, whose control in making the laws is proverbial. But the architects seem to assume an over-modest attitude when planning zoning, and civic developments are under way or should be underway.

That indictment is certainly well founded, although, here in Detroit there has not been a complete disregard of civic matters by architectural organizations, because there has been a few of the leaders in the profession here who have driven the lazy majority membership to at least a tacit participation in the actions of the stalwarts.

There are many problems pertaining to city development and welfare which architects, by virtue of training, experience and knowledge are better fitted to find the right solution than other classes of residents, and if they would only take an active, vigorous leadership in such matters the community at large would greatly benefit.

On the other hand architects would likewise personally profit and be fully remunerated for the expenditure of time and service devoted to the interests of civic affairs, because public leadership does always bring substantial public recognition, and in the case of architects, public recognition of their true worth to a community is now conspicuous by its absence.

As a matter of actual fact architects are prone to complain that the public does not accord to their profession the respectful recognition it merits, nor to themselves the standing and honor granted members of other technical professions of no greater value to humanity.

That unfortunately is close to the truth. The architectural profession, and its individual members as a body exercise but little prestige or influence generally and find it difficult to obtain the financial remuneration their services justify.

In other words the architect and his profession is held too cheaply in the public mind, at least by comparison with that of the doctor, lawyer and engineer, and the question is—what is the basic reason for that unwarranted situation.

There can be no doubt but that in a large measure such a condition can be charged to the fact that the average architect is self-satisfied, self-centered and content to consider himself, in reality an artistic genius above the common herd and, therefore crawls into an ethical shell expecting public recognition and prestige to come to him as a matter of course.

The world now moves fast. Times and conditions have changed. Life itself and the view point of individuals are not what they were even a few short years ago. Is the architectural profession keeping step with the trend of things or is it still living in an atmosphere of reserve that might have been quite alright a hundred years ago, but scarcely sensible or profitable in this day and age?"

From August "Michigan Architect and Engineer."

"ARCHITECTURAL AGGRAVATIONS"

We are just listing a few things which cause us extraordinary disturbances where our architectural sensibilities reside. You probably won't agree with us—and we'll promise not to agree with you about much of anything. It's an architectural prerogative not to agree with anything. We criticize with the calm freedom of a high-school girl and sulk at any fair description of our own faults. And so here's a partial list of those 'Architectural Aggravations' so far as we are concerned.

* * *

1. It causes us great pain to see a flight of stairs where a roof ought to be. The stairs are certainly serving no useful purpose—no one would wish to use them if they could; and they don't go anywhere in particular—they just go nowhere. A roof was meant to shed water and horizontal surfaces don't shed water. Somehow we don't like misplaced stairs.

* * *

2. It causes us pronounced indigestion to see enlarged eggcups used as finials, where no finials were needed. Besides somehow we just can't take kindly to the idea of stone eggs—particularly when they have to be exposed to the weather for future eons of time. Eggs don't weather well.

* * *

3. Gables where there aren't any. Somehow perfectly lovely gables run up with not a thing behind them to offer as an excuse for their existence except thin, thin atmosphere—somehow such gables cause us to wonder at the difficulties of design.

* * *

4. We just can't sparkle with enthusiasm the way we would like to, when we see a perfectly lovely Spanish design, whose inspiration must certainly have been the exotic

fancies of the old Latin Country herself,—a design just dripping and gushing Mediterranean, without a daub of color in the whole thing. We just imagined that Spanish, sparkled and danced with a gaiety of colors—and we're almost sure it wasn't expressed in terms of lily white bathroom architecture.

* * *

5. It is an aggravation to eye-sight and a strain to the rear neck muscles to see an unreadable inscription across the parapet of a building, or a bit of ornament so tiny in scale as to be utterly lost, gracing the top-most reaches of a high building. It may be lovely, but we don't know it. What a severe master in the matter of design is Scale.

* * *

6. It occasions no little mental agitation for us to note a rather heavy and cumbersome stone cornice cantilevered out over the sidewalk, its center of gravity far out beyond the building line. It is particularly irritating when we know that this stone cornice is retained in place purely by the ultimate tensile strength of light steel ties. You know in time steel does corrode, and its tensile strength is in inverse ratio to the passing by of time—well we'd rather walk on the other side of the street.

* * *

7. It arouses bitter jealous criticism in our hearts when we read of our fatherly neighbor projecting a seventy-five story building to house garment workers, said building to cost some thirty-five million dollars. We just can't read that, without intense irritation, and deep furrowed green-eyed agitation. We think it's a horrible building anyway, and we're sure it will be a terrible financial failure—and just don't ever try to give us any such jobs. It's contrary to our scruples—we just would refuse to have anything to do with it.

* * *

The above is, of course, only a very few of the many nose-in-air aggravations, which infests the heart of a true brotherly love architect. There are many more. And haven't you some that you'd like to spread, and for others to read? Just send in your peevess and we'll print them.

PALLADIO."

From the September 22 issue of the official paper of the Society of Architects.

"COURT DECISION DENIES COUNCIL RIGHT TO REZONE

Upholding the constitution of the Phipps Industrial Land Trust that the action was confiscatory, Judge Harry Fisher in the Circuit Court has set aside a council ordinance rezoning a tract of 28 acres bounded by Bloomingdale, Central and Mansfield avenues and the C. M. & St. P. right-of-way from an industrial to a residential district.

As a manufacturing district, the complainant stated, the property was valued at \$4,000,000, but through reclassification for residential purposes this value was materially decreased. Judge Fisher's decision upheld the opinion of Thomas Marshall, master in chancery, to whom the case had been submitted for the taking of evidence and filing of recommendations.

The decision stated that the rights of holders of property originally zoned for specific purposes must be preserved, and that the same rights applied equally to home owners and holding concerns. If the opinion is upheld by the state supreme court it is expected to invalidate wholesale changes in restrictions which have been passed by the city council as amendments to the zoning ordinance."

"The Economist," August 4, 1928.

"THE TREND TOWARD APARTMENT LIVING

While on the subject of apartment house construction it is revealing to note the trend toward apartment house living as shown by statistics gathered by the United States Department of Labor. In 257 identical cities the housing projects built show that the individual home is being replaced by the apartment house. In 1921, 24.4 of the families that were provided homes were taken care of by multi-family apartments. In 1927 that percentage had risen to 48.3 per cent. Even the two flat building is

dropping off in importance. In 1921, 17.3 per cent of the housing provided was of this type. In 1927 this had dropped to 13.4.

That this trend is universal is further shown by data confined to the 14 cities having a population of 500,000 or more. In such communities 34 per cent of the housing provided were apartments in 1921, while in 1927 the percentage was 60.8 per cent."

"The American Contractor," July 14, 1928.

"THE TEST OF A MAN

The place to take the true measure of a man is not the forum or the field, not the market place or the amen corner, but at his own fireside. There he lays aside his mask and you may judge whether he is imp or angel, king or cur, hero or humbug. I care not what the world says of him; whether it crown him with bay, or pelt him with bad eggs; I care never a copper what his reputation or religion may be; if his babes dread his homecoming and his better half has to swallow her heart every time she has to ask him for a five dollar bill, he's a fraud of the first water, even though he prays night and morn till he's black in the face, and howls hallelujah till he shakes the eternal hills. But if his children rush to the front gate to greet him, and love's own sunshine illuminates the face of his wife when she hears his footfall, you may take it for granted that he is true gold, for his home's a heaven, and the humbug never gets that near the great white throne of God. I can forgive much in that fellow mortal who would rather make men swear than women weep; who would rather have the hate of the whole he-world than the contempt of his wife; who would rather call anger to the eyes of a king than fear to the face of a child.

—William Cowper Brann."

"AMBIGUITIES

A specification without ambiguities is indeed greatly to be desired. The major part of such faults are, of course, due to lack of care. The average specification can be improved by following these 'don'ts' which have to do chiefly with words of two or more meanings:

Don't say:

Plans when you mean drawings;
Furnish when you mean provide or supply;
Furnish all material and perform all labor when you mean provide all labor and materials;
Pitch when you mean incline;
Line when you mean plane;
Level when you mean surface or area;
Ridge when you mean apex;
Door when you mean doorway or opening;
Saddle when you mean either threshold or watershed;
Contractor when you mean subcontractor."

"The Washington State Architect," July, 1928.

CORRESPONDENCE

October 1, 1928.

Mr. Leon E. Stanhope, Editor,
55 E. Washington,
Chicago, Illinois.

Dear Mr. Stanhope:

We were interested in your editorial in your bulletin regarding advertising. Advertising of the right sort has become an absolute necessity, and without it the future of architecture is doubtful.

A suggestion of interest to your members is made in the next issue of "ARCHITECTURAL PROGRESS," copies of which will be sent to them in the future, on pages 16 and 17. In a few words our suggestion is this: that your members subscribe to five or more copies of "ARCHITECTURAL PROGRESS" and mail them to their prospective clients and that we, with your support, inaugurate and maintain national publicity in the newspapers.

The Cincinnati architects have been sending copies of this publication to their clients and prospective clients, and the

results which they have experienced encourage us to extend this privilege to all members of the profession.

The Republican nominee for governor in Ohio is a realtor. Think that over for a minute. In yesterday's paper it was announced that the realtors would write a series of articles in which they would tell the public all that there is to be known about building not only a home but larger structures. One of their topics deals with the advisability of architectural services. Shall the realtors be permitted to sit in judgment upon the profession of architecture?

Not if we can help it. That is why we have offered to maintain national publicity. The staff of "ARCHITECTURAL PROGRESS" is capable of conducting a continuous program of publicity. It is composed of two advertising men, two upper-class architectural students and the most prominent architects in Cincinnati.

Will you and your fellow architects realize that the Cincinnati architects make this offer merely because they are interested in the future of their profession, and will you give us the necessary support?

"ARCHITECTURAL PROGRESS" is published on a non-profit basis by the Cincinnati architects. All profits have been used for the improvement of the magazine and, in the future, will be used for the promotion of national publicity.

Subscriptions to "ARCHITECTURAL PROGRESS" from your members will give us an impetus sufficient to bring architecture to the fore in the building field—and we will devote every effort to cause the general public to regard the services of architecture in the right light.

We are placing you on the mailing list, and would be glad to have you do the same with us.

Read pages 16 and 17 of the October issue of "ARCHITECTURAL PROGRESS." Read and then act. As Abraham Lincoln said, "United we stand, divided we fall."

Sincerely yours,

Perry F. Hoisington, Executive Sec'y.

October 9, 1928.

Chicago, Illinois.

My dear Mr. G.:

At the meeting last Sunday regarding the financing of the church you made a statement which was in error.

In stating the value of the new church building you said that the architect's fee could not be included in that value.

Your statement implies that the work of an architect is without value. However, bond houses in creating a bond issue include the architect's fee as part of the cost. The laws of the state recognize the value of an architect's work as creating increased value in the improvement of a piece of property.

Other men not familiar with designing, financing, and constructing buildings are many times of this opinion which in this letter I seek to correct.

The new church building has been spoken of many times in terms of beautiful, magnificent, etc. The beauty and magnificence of this structure was given to it from the dreams, the soul, and the inspiration and hard work of the architects who conceived and designed this structure after many years of study. The years of study spent by the modern architect is the study of architecture from this time over the period going back three thousand years. Without the services of an architect with such training, the church building would be little more than an adobe hut. The value of an architect's work is the difference between the adobe hut and the beautiful church which it is our privilege to enjoy.

In the actual cost of the building, the architect's fee is a very minor part, usually about 6% of the building cost. I say a minor part advisedly since 45% of the building cost is paid to the contractor for over-head and profit or to people who have done no actual work on the building.

No doubt you think I am exaggerating in this statement, but if you will take any of the extra orders issued for extra work done, you will find that for labor and material amounting to \$68.90, the church is paying \$100. Why?

For instance some extra plastering is required, the amount of labor and material amounts to \$68.90. The

plastering contractor adds to this 10% or more for over-head expense and 10% for profit. In addition to the above the general contractor adds 10% or more for over-head and 10% for profit, making a total of \$100. In short, this makes a payment of \$31.10 of every \$100 expended paid to people who have not directly worked on the building.

The architect has conceived the beautiful design and supervised the construction so that his dream may come true. For this you are to pay him \$6.00 for each \$100 of building. He is the man responsible for the beautiful creation and yet you will hesitate to include in the value of the building the \$6.00 paid for this service, while including the \$31.10 out of every \$100 paid to others who did no actual work on the building.

I earnestly hope that the above information will show positively that the architect's fee has increased the value of the building far greater than the amount of money involved.

Yours very truly,

Walter A. McDougall.

MORE ARCHITECTS

Below is a list of the men who received registration in Illinois either by examination, reciprocal transfer, or restoration of license at the May 23, 24, and 25, 1928, meeting of the Illinois Architectural Commission.

JUNIOR EXAMINATION

Civkin, Victor
Gilbert, Ernest E.
Johnson, Harold T.
Kruegel, Arnold J.
Long, Chester V.
McWhorter, Jerome C.
Redderson, Edward E.
Speer, George A.
Spitznagel, Harold T.
Von Mueller, Vurt V.
Wells, Willis L.
Pfeifer, Reuben J.
Swanson, Robert C.
Voell, Richard F.
Banse, Herbert George
Roncoli, Louis P.
Conley, Walter
Eichenbaum, Edward E.
Eklund, Herman John
Kaltenbrun, James A.
MacDonald, Alexander

Smith, Paul H.
Schonne, Charles Waldemar
Carlson, Elmer Carl
Mittelbushner, Edwin
Pipher, Wesley V.
Faro, Robert Vale
Ebersson, Drew Calvin
Wiech, Peter John

SENIOR EXAMINATION

Houck, Charles Henry
Knox, Raymond Kenneth

RECIPROCAL TRANSFER

Parkinson, Albert Edward
Dockendorff, Bernhard J.
Klauder, Charles Z.
Pope, Charles Francis
Thomas, Andrew J.
Matson, Justave Mandor

RESTORATION OF LAPSED CERTIFICATE

Christensen Hans C.
Gruhl, Clarence J.

INVOLUNTARY CONFESSION

"When you are tempted to voice impulsive, derogatory criticism of others, hesitate! Judgment is confession. The only possible way for you to size up the motives actuating a man under given conditions is to decide what you would think and feel under the same conditions. What you say about him is therefore a detailed statement of the kind of person you would be if you were situated as he is. What you attribute to him is a confession of what you are. When you, without certain facts to go on, declare that a rich man is a snob, you merely proclaim that, if you had riches, you would yourself have the impulses and viewpoint of a snob.

The kindly critic is, ninety-nine times out of a hundred, a good man with possibilities for greatness. The faultfinder and 'knocker' is punishing another for the shortcomings of his own character. 'Judge not, that ye be not judged,' was a warning against exposure of one's weak points."

ANOTHER ONE

Another Architects' Monthly Bulletin has just reached our editorial desk. The Florida Chapter, A. I. A., and the Florida Association of Architects are now publishing a monthly bulletin entitled "The Round Table," Clare C. Hosmer, A. I. A., formerly director of the Illinois Society of Architects, editor.



"The popularity of some people is due to the things they don't say."

"It isn't what a man possesses that makes him happy, but what he doesn't want."

"You can't let business interfere with golf, if you expect to win the championship."

"Your sister is spoiled, isn't she?"
"No, it is just the perfume she uses."

"A beautiful woman without personality is like an electric light bulb without the current turned on."

D. H. Burnham & Company, Architects, announce the change in name to Burnham Brothers, Inc., Burnham Building, Chicago.

"If Wilbur Glenn Voliva still thinks that the earth is flat, he ought to take an automobile ride over some of Chicago's streets."

"Don't worry if your job is small
And your rewards are few:
Remember that the mighty oak
Once was a nut like you."

Wife: "Do you realize that twenty-five years ago today we became engaged?"

Absent-minded professor: "Twenty-five years! You should have reminded me before. It's certainly time we got married."

At the October meeting of the Board of Directors Norman N. Kandl, 1853 East 79th Street, Chicago, was elected a member of the Illinois Society of Architects.

Alfred Granger, President, Architects Club, of Chicago, Past President Chicago Chapter, A. I. A., and member of the Board of Directors of the Illinois Society of Architects, has been appointed director for the Western Division of the Hoover-Curtis Architects League by the Republican National Committee. The Western Division comprises the twenty-eight states west of Pennsylvania.

"I never knew till I got a car," said Bishop Everton, "that profanity was so prevalent."

"Do you hear much of it on the road?"

"Why," said the Bishop, "nearly everybody I bump into swears dreadfully."

On the Golf Course: (Lady listening to "gentleman" trying to get out of a "sand-trap")—"Oh, horrors! I never heard such swearing since I was born."

Gentleman: (looking her over carefully) replies: "Well, madam, I don't blame them for cussing when you were born."

A Belgian student was relating his experience in studying the English language. "When I discovered that if I was quick I was fast," he said, "and that if I was tied I was fast, if I spent too freely I was fast, and that not to eat was to fast, I was discouraged. But when I came across the sentence, 'The first one won one one-dollar prize,' I gave up trying to learn English."

In his inimitable way Mr. Wells, in his book, "The Six Greatest Men in History," tells why he picked these men as the greatest of all time—Jesus, Buddha, Aristotle, Asoka, Bacon, Lincoln. "Because the kings and emperors only took, these men gave, and by the Spirit of their giving they wrought permanent changes in the thought and lives of millions after them."

"He who would be greatest must win his place and hold it by rendering best and largest service."

"Permanent influence through real Service—that is Success."

The innate faculty of selective and instinctive discrimination of the stimuli of the sensori-motor apparatus to harmoniously adjust metabolic changes in physiological and psychological equilibrium in such manner as to comprehend and assimilate instruction in the attributes necessary to perform the intricate and complex operations which comprise the piloting of air craft is wonderful.

OUR VOTING POSSIBILITIES

At present there are, in round numbers, about 30,000,000 male and 29,000,000 females of voting age in the United States. This makes a possible voting population of about 59,000,000. But only about 29,000,000 actually voted at the last presidential election. Thus, out of our total population about 26 per cent actually vote.

A TOUCH OF HOME

Mrs. Shimmerpate, just back from Europe, said to Mrs. Beanbrough: "I just couldn't bear looking at the ruins in Italy. They made me homesick for my husband."

"Homesick for your husband?"

"Uh huh. You know, Henry has fallen arches."

WORK OF THE BUILDING CODE COMMITTEE

The editors of the Bulletin are advised that there have been no meetings of the Building Code Committee since early in July.

HE LEARNED SOMETHING

The real estate agent is endeavoring to interest a fair prospect in a house of her own. "Why not," says he, "purchase a home?"

"Home?" says she. "I'll say not. Why I couldn't use one. I was born in a hospital—educated in a college—courted in an automobile—married in church—we live on delicatessen out of a paper bag—spend the mornings on the golf links—the afternoons over a bridge table—the nights in a jazz palace or at the movies. And when I die I'm going to be buried from the undertaker's. Say, all I need is a garage, with maybe a bedroom above it."

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS?

Here is a carefully thought analysis of the amount of time spent at work in the year:

There are days in the year.....	365
You sleep 8 hours a day.....	122
	243
You rest 8 hours a day.....	122
	121
There are Sundays in a year.....	52
	69
Half-day on Saturday all year.....	26
	43
Legal Holidays in the year.....	12
	31
One Hour a day for lunch.....	16
	15
Two week's vacation	14
Leaves	1

The roofs of the towering buildings in large cities will, before the century closes, no longer be deserts of asphalt and concrete, but will "blossom as the rose" according to Dr. William L. Baily of the Northwestern University. As an advance in or detail of future town planning he sees skyscraper roofs bits of the country; with flower gardens, tennis courts, swimming pools, and even small—very small of course—truck farms. Of course this landscape prophet sees electricity take the place of coal and gas and the air of the urban mountain as pure as that on the hillside where pines grow and grasses wave. And then the comparative few who could find space on the roofs to enjoy them. It is however something for city planners to dream about.

ARCHITECTURAL DIVIDENDS

Facts indicating definitely that good architecture is reflected in the balance sheet of the business investing in it are not easily assembled. In the case of a store which has remodelled its building, credit for the resulting gain in patronage is frequently given to the better merchandising methods, rearrangement of departments, easier access, or one or more of a dozen accompanying changes, rather than to the architectural improvement. The following instance, therefore, is encouraging: A telephone company operating in a western city had for years shared equally with the traction company and the lighting company the available supply of skilled labor. Applications for jobs in the electrical branches came to each of the three big employers in about the same numbers. Then the telephone company erected a new building—one of the architectural landmarks of the city, if not of the whole state. Almost immediately the ratio of applications changed. The telephone company received twice as many applications as before, the other two employers dropping to half their former figures. Investigation showed that the electrician moving to the city was influenced by the new and impressive building. "This corporation," he said to himself, "is prosperous; its building gives the impression of solidity and civic pride; they evidently believe their business is here to stay and to grow. I think I'd like to work for them." And so, with double the number of workmen from which to select, the company found itself able to pick and choose; the level of efficiency rose; the labor turnover became smaller. Good architecture began paying an unexpected dividend.

—Architecture.

A LETTER FROM THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL

The attention of our members is directed to the following letter from our State Fire Marshal:

Additional copies of the folder can be secured from Marshal Legreid's office at Springfield.

August 20, 1928.

Mr. Leon E. Stanhope,
55 E. Washington St.,
Chicago.

Dear Sir:—

For some time this office has been giving special attention to fire hazards and safety in school buildings. We have found it necessary in a great many cases to order corrections which could easily have been taken care of at the time the building was erected, had the architect or builder been familiar with the department's requirements. In order to secure more uniformity in school building construction with reference to our requirements, we have published a little folder which sets forth all of our general requirements. A copy is enclosed.

My suggestion is that in new school building construction or in remodeling of school buildings you follow our ideas as closely as you can in drawing your plans, and that you submit blue prints to us for inspection before proceeding with the work.

I am anxious to build up a cooperation with the architects licensed to do business in this state, which will bring about construction which will substantially meet our ideas. I trust I may have your cooperation along the lines suggested in this letter

Very truly yours,

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE & COMMERCE.

A:G

S. L. Legreid, Fire Marshal.

A NEW HANDBOOK

The Portland Cement Association have just issued a new handbook on "Reinforced Concrete Building Design." The Association has available for free distribution a few of these handbooks, which they will be glad to distribute to the architects of Illinois upon written request. As soon as this allotment has been distributed, additional copies will be available at fifty cents per copy.

Every architect should have a copy of this handbook in his engineering library.

UGLY AND DANGEROUS

"Another of the new apartment buildings on the Lake Shore drive has been marred by the presence of steel fire escapes zigzagging up the walls. Builders and architects are apparently unmindful of the fact that to the prospective tenant such fire escapes are evidences of excessive economies in construction. They are like cheap bathroom fixtures. It may well be that the builders in this instance economized at no other point, but they have left an unmistakable impression of shoddiness.

"The cost of an inclosed fire exit would have added little to the total cost of the building. It would have added much to the appearance of the structure and to its desirability as a place of residence.

"The added measure of safety alone should recommend inclosed fire stairs to the conscientious architect and builder. The prospect of climbing down fifteen or twenty flights of exposed steel grating is not a pleasant one at best. Add to that the chance that the stairs will be covered with snow or ice and that a gale will be blowing, and the certainty that those on the stairs will be in the high state of excitement induced by fire, and the probability of serious accidents becomes great.

"Within a short time the building code will probably forbid outside fire escapes. When that day comes every tall building without an inclosed fire stair will be dated beyond all doubt. The zigzag on the wall will say as plainly as a painted sign that the structure is old-fashioned. The slight additional cost of the inclosed stairway is an investment for permanent value. It is astonishing that mortgage bankers have generally overlooked this aspect of the matter."

Editorial, Chicago Tribune, October 29.

An Invitation

The officers and members of the Illinois Society of Architects are cordially invited to attend the dedication of the new architectural building at the University of Illinois on November 8.

There will be a morning session at ten o'clock, an afternoon session at 3:00 P. M., and an evening session at 8:00 P. M. There will be a noon luncheon to which all are invited at seventy-five cents per.

It will be very helpful to those in charge to be advised as to how many will attend the luncheon. Kindly notify Professor H. L. Provine, in care of the University.

NOTICE

THIS VOLUME IS INCOMPLETE

THE FOLLOWING ISSUES ARE ON ORDER:

Vol. 13 No. 5 November 1928

