

ILLINOIS SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS

MONTHLY BULLETIN

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THE MAY MEETING

The May meeting of the Society will be turned over to the Publication Committee who will present and discuss a number of circulars they propose to have printed for distribution by architects to their clients and others who may be interested.

The general subject matter of the series of articles which have been prepared and will be presented is "Educating the Public."

Needless to say, every member of the Society should attend this most important meeting and take part in the discussion.

THE APRIL MEETING

At the April meeting of the Illinois Society of Architects Mr. Dayton Keith, Vice-President of the Chicago Trust Company, discussed "The Financial House and the Architect" and in a most forcible way brought to the attention of the architects the proper way of approaching and presenting an application for a building loan.

Mr. H. S. Brightly, of the Indiana Limestone Association, gave a most interesting lecture illustrated with lantern slides on Indiana limestone as a medium of effective and economical rendering of architectural detail.

THE N. C. A. R. CONVENTION

Mr. E. S. Hall, the official delegate of the Illinois Society of Architects at the Ninth Annual Convention of the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards in his formal

report to the Board of Directors of the Society said in part:

"The principal points of discussion were concerning educational standards for entrance to architectural practice and what shall constitute practical experience. Mr. Myron Hunt of Los Angeles and Mr. Brockway of New York entered into a heated discussion over the question 'Shall College Graduation be a Primary Condition Precedent to Entrance upon Architectural Practice.' This discussion was participated in by Mr. Emil Lorch, chairman of the committee on education, and others. Mr. Brockway was strong in his advocacy of college education standards; Mr. Hunt was in opposition to same.

"Mr. Clarence Brazier of Chester, Pennsylvania, led the discussion on what shall constitute practical experience. Particular stress was laid in the committees' report upon the necessity of varied practical experience, emphasizing that every young architect before entering practice should have had practical experience in all of the five fundamental functions of an architect, namely, the preparation of preliminary studies, general drawings, specifications, details, taking of bids, and acting as a clerk-of-the-works in connection with the construction of the building.

"I am glad to inform you that Mr. H. B. Wheelock, one of our members was elected as first Vice-President and member of the Executive Committee of the Council."

SHELTON RESIGNS

Director A. M. Shelton of the Department of Education and Registration of the State of Illinois has resigned by request of the Governor. Director Shelton in an interview published in the Chicago Tribune on May 7 is reported to have said:

"I have been director of the department for almost seven years and during every day of that period the department has fairly reeked with corruption and graft. It has been the dumping ground of the state house; all the political offal was deposited there. In that filthy mess I have stood for seven years fighting for the sake of education in the state and for the sake of the professions in the state, trying to reestablish decency in the department.

"Now Gov. Emmerson has pushed me out, forced me to resign while the department is under fire by the dental society. He has done this despite the fact that all during the four months he has been in office I have been beseeching him to clean up the department, to discharge the men who are grafting. I have laid masses of evidence before the governor against these men who were corrupting my department. He has known it from the moment he was inaugurated. Instead of discharging the crooks and the grafters he has discharged me. I am the first to go. I have every reason to believe he intends to retain the others. His purpose towards the department seems plain to me."

Director Shelton in his interview has publicly stated what everyone at all conversant with the department has at least suspected. It would seem that if conditions have been and are as bad in the Director's own department as he has pictured them that instead of tolerating the conditions, the Director might at least have laid the facts before some grand jury.

Bad as our system of government is, occasionally a grand jury does indict those guilty of malfeasance in office, and as bad as our judicial system is known to be, there are said to be still some honest judges and occasionally a jury will render a verdict in accordance with the evidence.

It would seem that it was or should be the duty of every public official who in his oath to office agrees to support the constitution and to abide by the laws of the state, if, during the course of his official duties, discovers wrong-doings

should transmit the evidence to the proper authorities and not for seven long years be at least morally guilty of compounding a felony.

The recent disclosure of so much rottenness and corruption in so many branches of government would seem to indicate that our form of government, or at least its administration, is not the success that its founders hoped for and expected, but in the last analysis is it not true that our public officials are truly representative of those electing them to office?

The average integrity and morality of public officials will be found no higher and no less than the average honesty and integrity of our citizens, and until there is an awakened public consciousness to the evils existing and an earnest effort made to better conditions, no permanent betterment will ever be brought about. Reform must begin with the men and the women who vote and whenever the time arrives that the majority of our citizens demand honesty in public office and a fair and impartial administration of law, officials will be elected and appointed to office who will under the changed conditions just as truly reflect the public consciousness as they now reflect and mirror the public's average morality and integrity.

In connection with the professional commissions in the Department of Education and Registration, no whisper of suspicion has ever been directed against the conduct of the work of most of the professional commissions. Whenever the Director appoints men to these professional positions upon the recommendations of the organized profession, it may safely be stated that only men of the highest professional standing and men of known honesty and ability will be appointed to office, and in absolute justice to Director Shelton it must be recorded that in the appointment of the various professional commissions he has been guided by the advice and suggestion of the organized professions of the state.

If there has been and is rottenness in the Department, investigation will undoubtedly disclose that it will be found in the administrative branch of the Department and not in the advisory commissions, and if there has been and is rottenness in the Department, who has been responsible for such rottenness? The law is as follows:

Section 4 of the Act, "Each department shall have an officer at its head who shall be known as a director, and who shall, subject to the provisions of this Act, execute the powers and discharge the duties vested by law in his respective department."

Section 6 (sub-paragraph 16), "The director of each department is empowered to prescribe regulations, not inconsistent with law, for the government of his department, the conduct of its employees and clerks, the distribution and performance of its business and the custody, use and preservation of the records, papers, books, documents, and property pertaining thereto."

THE ARCHITECT AND HIS COMMUNITY

Mr. Walter Tapper, A.R.A., President of the Royal Institute of British Architects, in his second inaugural address discussed the position of the Architect in his community stating in part:

"After all, we are the people who know, or are supposed to know. Our work is not confined to the preservation of the priceless things bequeathed to us from the past, but also to the creation of the new. In the lay-out of cities, towns and villages, in the design of the buildings which will make or mar these places, we are the people to whom the community has the right to look for advice. If we cannot give it, then who can? Do we as a body sufficiently realize this responsibility? I am not so sure that we do. It is not sufficient to be ready and waiting to do this work, if it comes to us; if we confine ourselves to that only, we may have to do a great deal of waiting. I submit that it is our duty to take a lead in these matters in the place where we happen to live and practice.

"A prominent and public-spirited member of a great corporation complained to me recently that architects are rarely to be found on city and borough councils, that they are seldom found on the municipal committees which are re-

sponsible for great schemes for improvement. He said that doctors, lawyers, and, of course, business men were to be found on all these bodies, but very rarely architects. Yet they were the very people whose knowledge and advice would be of utmost value to their fellow citizens.

"I am afraid this is quite true, and I have no doubt good and adequate reasons can be given for such abstention, but it ought not to be so. There are, of course, brilliant exceptions; we all know what Sir Alfred Gelder, a Fellow of ours did in the civic life of Hull in the last generation. We have Sir Banister Fletcher today devoting untiring energy to the City Corporation; Mr. Ronald Jones on the London County Council; Mr. Rogers on the City of Oxford Council. I mention these names as typical of a small group of our members who are doing public service, and the names of others will occur to you. But my point is that, taking the country as a whole, these are only exceptions. Many and many a city and borough council has never had an architect upon it or any of its committees. I say again that this ought not to be. City and borough councils should have their little group of architect members, able and experienced men whose personality is respected by their fellow citizens, taking active part in all civic work, lending the weight of their knowledge and enthusiasm to the improvement and beautifying of our towns and cities. May I venture to say that this is a matter in which our Allied Societies might well do some pioneer work in their respective provinces and help to remove this reproach from our profession. It would, I am confident, be well worth doing, and be a means of leading to better things in architecture".

FINANCING NEW CONSTRUCTION

Another obstacle has recently arisen regarding the financing of new construction. It is well known that practically all apartment house construction is financed by mortgage loans; first, second and sometimes third.

The Illinois courts have recently ruled that "Where there was a foreclosure suit on a first mortgage to which a second mortgage or junior judgment creditor was a party defendant, followed by a foreclosure sale at which only sufficient money was bid to pay the amount due on the first mortgage, and then there was a redemption by the owner or his grantee, such owner or grantee by such redemption took the title to the property free and clear of the second mortgage or junior judgment."

This ruling would indicate that the holders of junior papers have practically no security unless they are able to buy in the first mortgage as well as their own in case of foreclosure.

THE AEROPLANE INDUSTRY

Unless the Chicago Association of Commerce and Chicago bankers take a more active interest in the matter of locating the aeroplane industry at or near Chicago, the future aeroplane industry of the United States will probably be located at Kansas City.

A representative of one of the large eastern interests identified with the industry, advised the Editor recently that he had made four unsuccessful attempts to secure an interview with officials of the Chicago Chamber of Commerce. He said that he literally went up against a stone wall. This particular industry will not be located in Chicago, but will undoubtedly be located at or near Kansas City.

Is it possible that due to the ultra-conservative attitude of the Chicago bankers and the lack of interest of the Chicago Association of Commerce that Chicago will lose the aeroplane industry in the same way that it lost the automobile industry some years ago, when as everyone knows, the banking interests and the business interests of Chicago would not do anything to aid the industry as it was just developing?

Apparently but little progress is being made to provide accessible airports in the Chicago district. That the aeroplane industry is developing most rapidly will be evident when it is remembered that during the past two years \$300,000,000.00 have been spent on airport construction in the United States.

It would seem axiomatic that the Chicago Association of Commerce and the City Plan Commission might well, indeed,

interest in this problem and call in competent architects and engineers to work out progressive plans for the airport construction that is so urgently needed in this territory; that the commercial interests of Chicago should aid in every way possible in the locating of manufacturing and assembling plants in the immediate Chicago district.

WEIXEL'S FABLES

The following fables were read by Mr. A. L. Weixel at the March meeting of the Illinois Society of Architects:

"The Spirits of the Wise who sit on the Clouds and mock us, once decreed that we Victims of the Crab Apple of Eve should have all our troubles placed in a great heap and everyone should have his choice of all the trouble of all the other mortals.

"Accordingly, a great Hegira was begun and all the Sons of Men journeyed to a Vast Desert, each one bearing upon his back all his cares and worries. All the Greatly Troubled and all the Little Troubled were there, including Radio Announcers with Adenoids and Bootleggers with Zymosis, and in joyful expectancy they awaited their chance to unload their Trouble on the Other Fellow and grab his Lesser Trouble and duck.

"Evening came and the pile of Trouble mounted to the Stars, and just as the distribution started a cloud darkened the western sun and those assembled, waiting, saw it was the Guy who took Contracts by meeting the other guy's price and he was pushing a mess of trouble toward the heap that was greater than the combined troubles of all the Sons of Men assembled there.

"And each one took back his own Trouble and went his way rejoicing, and the Guy who met the other guy's price is still wandering through the highways of men wondering why Happiness has perished from the earth."

Moral

I've Had Many Troubles In My Life, But Most of Them Never Happened.

The Parable of the Prodigal C. F. M.

"A certain ventilating system had fallen upon evil days. And the blight of its infirmity spread throughout all the building.

"The Scribes and the Pharisees of the Bureau of Ventilation wrapped the cloaks of their authority about them and gave voice to condemnation and denunciation of this sinner in the market place.

"And the Master Artisan who was the Contractor in these unregenerate days rent his garments and groveled at the wailing place.

"Ye Gods of Soldering Irons and Rivets, hear me!" he wailed. "And all ye Spirits of Tin Snips and Mandrels, succor my afflicted soul." Thereupon he rubbed the front of his skull three times in the dust of the highway, and betook himself to the hut of a necromancer, who began thusly:

"You seek the prodigal C.F.M., who has wandered far from his outlet velocity. Yea, and also has this C.F.M. journeyed far and to hellangone from the bosom of its grille. A magician I am not, nor can I waft him back to oblivion. But harken ye, thou spineless descendant of a rodent. Thou hast no more vertebra than a well-cooked sprig of spaghetti. I will tell thee how thou has lost the pride of thy contract.

"When thou didst figure this job, thou didst diminish thy fan three sizes. And then thou didst reduce the motor several billy-goat power. Then thy murderous hand slashed deep into the duct sizes. Now ye seek the prodigal C.F.M., who is not, because he never was.

"Go and make thy peace with Scribes and Pharisees, and when in the future thou dost figure a job, do not thou skin the price, but give thy client an honest figure and an honest job, and the shadow of thy C.F.M.'s will be long as they increase and multiply in thy register faces."

Moral

Straws Show Which Way the Camel's Back Breaks.

ACCEPTANCE OF BIDS

A recent court decision seems to indicate that if an Architect neglects to include in his specification the provision that "The Owner reserves the right to reject any and all proposals" that if the lowest proposal received by the Architect or Owner from the contractor invited to submit proposals is not accepted and the work is awarded to a higher bidder, that the contractor whose bid was not accepted may recover from the owner damages equal to his estimated profit on the cost of the work.

THE BUILDING SITUATION

The volume of new construction for April is the lowest reported for many years. In fact, since January 1, just as predicted in our January Bulletin, there has been a gradual and general slowing up in the building industry in general, and at the present writing it would be very difficult to discover any reason why there will be any change in the conditions affecting the industry for many months. It would appear as if the industry is facing a very pronounced slump.

USING LIEN LAWS AS A BLACKJACK

A New York contractor, writing to the Credit Association of the Building Trades of New York, cited the following instance of using the lien law as an extra club which would hardly be tolerated in any other line of business.

The contractor in this case provided in his contracts with the subs that final payments would be made after he himself had received his final retained percentage, which amounted to 15 per cent, yet three of these sub-contractors demanded their final payments before the time agreed upon and when payment was not forthcoming filed liens, thus tying up the final payment to the general contractor and incidentally messing up the schedule of payments to all subcontractors.

No doubt such instances of abuse of the lien laws can be duplicated many times over and it is no wonder that the greatest complaint in the industry has to do with lien laws. Instances have been known where material men and subcontractors have used the lien law blackjack as a threat to force payment on poor work and poor materials.

One method of avoiding such contingencies is by dealing with subcontractors and material men of known integrity and standing. Another is to scan carefully the credit standing of the subcontractor, for a sub with a good credit rating is less apt to resort to blackjack tactics, either through unwarranted fear for his payments or to force payment for poor work.

REGISTRATION REQUIREMENT

Dear Mr. Matteson: I see that you are quoted in the February issue of THE LEAFLET. It seems to me that no one should be eligible to membership in the American Institute of Architects who is not qualified for registration in his own state. That, I think, is the real proposition and I hope you do not regard it as "foolish."

The point is that the record of every applicant for membership should be reviewed to make sure that he is either registered or qualified to register and that is practicing legally. Do you not think that Institute membership should be safeguarded to that extent?

Cordially yours,

D. E. Waid,
In The Leaflet.

BIG BUSINESS IN NEW YORK

Not to be left out entirely, some of our architectural profession have waked up to the fact that while the cloak-and-suit manufacturers and the wholesale fur dealers have gone into the speculative building business with great profit to themselves, the architects and the builders have plodded along on low percentages, working for the speculative builders and never a jot for themselves.

So a bright, alert, imaginative group of architects and allied professional men pulled themselves together out of

the old family rut and formed the Beaux-Arts Development Corporation, with the purpose of skimming off a little of the cream themselves.

This aggregation of talent quietly bought up both sides of East 44th Street, adjoining and opposite to the new building of the Beaux-Arts Institute of Design, and have started to beautify the Grand Central Zone by erecting or otherwise causing to be erected, two sixteen-story studio buildings, designed for occupancy by artists (commercial or non-supporting), writers, architects, business men or, in fact, anyone who has the price of a year's rent.

The syndicate has every intention of doing something interesting, slightly, useful and profitable in these buildings and they expect to keep their group intact, after the initial plunge, and go ahead with at least one operation a year.

Kenneth Murchison in "Architecture."

COMPARATIVE MATERIAL COSTS

The Wisconsin Lime and Cement Company have recently compiled and distributed a tabulation of comparative retail prices of many building materials from the year 1916 to 1929, together with the prevailing freight rates on same.

Anyone interested in the question as to why building costs are high could easily ascertain from an inspection of this table some of the reasons.

THE ARCHITECT'S INCOME TAX

At the March 7th meeting of the Michigan Society of Architects a matter was presented concerning the Architect's income. The movement, which is being sponsored by the Hearst Newspapers throughout the country and supported by the different professional groups, is not an attempt toward exemption but rather a reduction of income tax for professional people. The appeal, which seems a reasonable one, is based on the fact that in a business one is allowed to charge off depreciation on an automobile or other similar equipment, while in a profession no allowance is made for depreciation of one's stock in trade—his training. As stated in the resolution, an Architect's years of good income are but few, and against these years must be charged his capital invested and the many years spent in training. Every job he does is so much nearer to the years of "lesser production," and every job must carry its own burden of depreciation.

The matter was thought to be of sufficient importance to warrant further consideration, and to that end the resolution is herewith submitted before final action at the next meeting the latter part of this month.

Resolutions

Proposed by the Michigan Society of Architects, March 7, 1929:

Whereas, there are hundreds of thousands of instances where earners of wages, fees or commissions often have but a few years of good incomes with substantially lesser incomes prior to and after their most productive years; and

Whereas, their period of better earnings which might give the average wage earner a chance to accumulate some capital is so heavily taxed; and

Whereas, labor is general, lawyers, doctors, Architects, clergymen, clerical workers, salesmen, dentists, engineers, journalists, accountants, actors, motion picture actors, singers, musicians and all other professional people are in the same plight in the matter of earned income as distinguished from earnings on invested capital; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Michigan Society of Architects respectfully urge that the Congress of the United States give immediate consideration to a downward revision of all taxes on earned incomes such as wages, salaries, fees or commissions for personal services. Be it further

Resolved, That these resolutions be forwarded to the Congress of the United States, the Secretary of the Treasury and the Detroit Times.

CORRESPONDENCE

March 16, 1929.

Mr. Walter McDougall,
350 N. Clark Street,
Chicago, Illinois.

Dear Mr. McDougall:

Naturally any method by which your membership can increase their incomes from the practice of their profession is of vital interest to you. Realizing this, the Architects' League of Hollywood sent a questionnaire to 8,000 architects throughout the United States, requesting the items and amount of their overhead, and also how much it cost them to produce the plans and specifications for various types of buildings.

The results of this questionnaire have been tabulated by cost accountants and the results are to be published in an article to appear in "Pencil Points," entitled "The Architect's Production Costs and Profit," which will start with the May issue.

Not only does this give all of the items of cost comprising an architect's overhead, but it shows the various methods of proportioning the overhead to the drafting room expense, thus scientifically ascertaining the actual production cost. Furthermore, this article shows how this information can be practically used to increase the fees an architect receives for his work. This is not a theory but a method which has been proven in actual practice.

A prominent architect said of our first publication embodying this information: "I have been in business for 25 years and had no idea that my overhead was as great as you proved it to be. Had I possessed this information 20 years ago, without exaggeration, I would have been worth \$150,000 more today." This is the value placed upon our first publication by a prominent architect.

We all take pride in operating our business in an efficient and capable manner. It impresses our clients with our business ability—inspires their confidence and tends to secure an increasing volume and more profitable type of work.

Will you kindly read this letter at your next meeting and call the attention of your membership to this publication in "Pencil Points." Time spent in careful reading and consideration of this series of articles will pay generous dividends, not only in money saved, but in additional money earned.

Extending to you the handclasp of good-fellowship, we are, with best wishes for your increased prosperity,

Cordially yours,

THE COST COMMITTEE OF THE ARCHITECTS' LEAGUE OF HOLLYWOOD.

Per Charles Kyson, Corresponding Secretary,
2433 Horseshoe Canyon Road, Laurel Canyon,
Hollywood, California.

DWIGHT H. PERKINS

Dwight H. Perkins and family are now located in Flintridge Hills in Southern California. In an interview published in a Southern California paper recently, Mr. Perkins stated that "many of the homes at present being erected are the so-called 'real estate' architecture, which is given away." He also praises highly the original and individualistic trend so characteristic of the finer buildings here. Though the buildings retain some Spanish, some Italian and some Mediterranean effects, Mr. Perkins believes that the best architects on the coast are achieving splendid things in individual design."

The best wishes of the Bulletin staff are extended to Mr. Perkins. May he live long to enjoy his new home.

ANOTHER SCANDAL

Another scandal of monumental proportions has recently developed in connection with "officialdom" in Chicago.

The recent meager reports in the metropolitan press regarding the closing of some of the new fireproof school buildings prompted the Editor to make some private inquiry of engineers who have been commissioned to examine and report upon the conditions discovered.

Without going into details, it may be stated that the

condition of a number of the new fireproof school buildings were actually found to be in a most appalling state and in all probability a number of these buildings will have to be condemned as absolutely unsafe.

Our readers will recall that the general structural design of the various school buildings of Chicago was changed some time ago from structural steel framing to monolithic concrete. The recent disclosures and examinations made by the engineering commission thus far does not place any responsibility for the faulty construction on faulty design. The whole trouble was in the execution of the design. It must be remembered that in the organization of the Board of Education that the Architect is only held responsible for the plans and specifications, subject, of course, to the whims and idiosyncrasies of members of the Board and of the Board's business manager.

The awarding of contracts and the actual supervision of the work is entrusted to another department and it is alleged that the men entrusted with the important work of supervising the construction of the fireproof school buildings that will house the children of Chicago were in most cases men without any technical knowledge or experience. In most cases they were men with no more experience in construction than the average truck driver. Most of the men are alleged to be petty politicians of the precinct workers class, and it is stated that even the head of the department had never heard of a slump test for concrete and knew nothing whatever about the water cement ratio. It is alleged that the reinforcing bars were placed in a most haphazard way; no attention being paid to the Architect's design—that the stirrups of concrete girders were found imbedded in the concrete near the bottom of the fire-roofing, etc. But enough of this.

This is only another very large sum of money which the taxpayers of Chicago have paid and will be compelled to pay for the utter waste and inefficiency recently found in so many branches of our municipal and state governments. Reinforced concrete is a safe building material if intelligently designed and intelligently constructed, but any branch of government or for that matter, any owner who will trust the construction of a reinforced concrete structure to utterly inexperienced and ignorant or worse inspectors will be compelled to pay the penalty.

The cheapest thing in the world and by far the cheapest thing that any owner can buy in connection with building operations is the experience and training of a skilled architect and engineer and no building of any class should be permitted to be erected without the supervision of a registered architect or engineer.

The recent disclosures in connection with the Sanitary District of Chicago and now the School Board would perhaps justify the query what branch of our municipal government will be next.

It has been alleged that the people of our metropolitan area only receive a fair return on 20 per cent of the sums collected for the maintenance of governmental agencies.

It would seem that the recent tirades of the men directly responsible against the influence of King George and the great hollabaloo created about some of our public school books was simply a smoke screen. If our elective officers were selected on the basis of ability and integrity and not their capacity to create a noise and they should then appoint able and conscientious men to appointive offices with instructions to conduct the various governmental departments in approximately the same way that any successful business man would conduct his own affairs, perhaps in time the above percentage of the taxpayers' money now wasted might be reversed, as of course it is axiomatic that no government office can be conducted with the same efficiency that a modern successful corporation conducts its affairs.

F. E. D.

THE INDIANA REGISTRATION ACT

"Rumblings have come to us that the Bulletin is getting stale, which was not a great surprise because there has been entirely too much serious stuff in it lately. Architects are human—or nearly so, and don't want to be serious all the time. Honest, the business (or profession) is serious enough at best. On the other hand, when we try to be

funny we are misunderstood. For instance April 23 the Bulletin carried a news item concerning the passage in Indiana of an Architects' Registration Act similar to our present act in Michigan as well as that of practically every other state in the union. Along with it was reprinted an editorial from the Newcastle (Ind.) Times which was as follows:

"A bill that has passed both branches of the Legislature and is up to the Governor is one requiring that Architects pass an examination and have a license from a board of Architects that the law creates. The new law demands that every person erecting a building costing \$25,000 or more employ a licensed Architect. Inasmuch as licensed Architects will be forced to charge uniform fees and those fees have been recently increased, it will impose a great burden on builders of Indiana. Indianapolis Architects are now charging 8 per cent for good houses, which means that a \$25,000 house would cost \$2,000 for Architect's fee, which is too high, to put it mildly. That bill will cost the people of Indiana many hundreds of thousands of dollars."

"The Editor of this Bulletin meant this to be funny but since our subscription list is made up of intelligent people it hardly seemed necessary to explain the joke. However, some copies of the Bulletin seem to have fallen into the hands of others who were either English or of not so much intelligence, with the result that it was used against us.

"In the first place, no law can possibly force any group to charge uniform fees, and it is not true that Architects' fees have been recently increased. If, as stated in the article, Indiana Architects are now getting 8 per cent for GOOD houses, the owner may consider himself fortunate, for one thing he is assured of is a GOOD house. In Michigan our bill does not affect the builder of homes. The idea as expressed by the 'Times' that, 'That bill will cost the people of Indiana many thousands of dollars' is pure ignorance on the part of that paper. If builders of homes can go out and sell jobs without competition, that's their good fortune, and the Architects have no fight to make. However, the owner pays the Architect's fee, whether he knows it or not. As stated before, houses of that class are not included in the registration act, only buildings of major magnitude, and if any one can explain how it is possible to eliminate the Architect on such major construction and save 'many thousands of dollars' then the Architects should take down their signs. As a matter of fact an Architect who is worthy of the name invariably saves the owner many thousands of dollars besides his own fee. This is not a vain hope but an actuality proven on every job handled by a real Architect. Many may differ with this opinion but 'ask the man who owns one.'"—From Weekly Bulletin, Michigan Society of Architects.

Editor of the Bulletin:

I had the very great pleasure of making a short talk to the members of the night school of journeymen lathers at the Palmer House at their annual banquet Tuesday night, representing at this meeting the Illinois Society of Architects. I gathered some very interesting information, which I believe the members of the Illinois Society should know about.

I had heard that the building trades were attempting to educate their men in such lines as would improve not only the skill of their men as workmen, but their general attitude as men, giving them cultural subjects as well as trade subjects in their school work, but I was astounded at the scope of their work. I had no idea that they were going into the matter so deeply. Almost all of the building trades have established day schools for their apprentices and night schools for their journeymen, having secured the full cooperation of the Board of Education in this work. These classes meet at the Washburn School under the auspices of the Board of Education, and are trained by paid expert teachers. The subjects include the usual cultural subjects, drawing, and trade work.

I met at this meeting Tuesday night, as fine a bunch of fellows as is possible to meet, and if this work is kept up it means that we will have on our jobs men who will be highly skilled to do the work that they are supposed to do

and who will do their work with a certain art coming from a feeling of confidence and happiness that the education which they are getting will give them. This new idea, which originated with the building trades themselves, deserves the full cooperation of the Architects, and I am writing you this letter simply to inform those who do not know, that this new educational movement is an established fact and actually exists. I was as ignorant of it myself, until this meeting Tuesday night, as most of the Architects in Chicago.

LEON F. URBAIN.

THUMB NAIL SKETCHES

"Thought is the measure of life."

"The fellows you'd like to recommend never seem to need a recommendation."

"The man who gets but never gives, may last for years, but he never lives."

"The people who never admit they don't know, don't—and they'll never learn."

"The proof that modern art is not great art, the proof that it is even bad art, is that the common people cannot understand it."

"If one could add to his life at fifty the time he wasted before fifty, centenarians would be as common as Fords."

Frank O. DeMoney has removed his office from the old Tacoma Building, which is being razed for a new structure, to 30 North LaSalle Street.

H. L. Palmer Back on the Job

Mr. H. L. Palmer, who in company with his wife has been spending several months abroad, is again back on the job.

The annual meeting and banquet will take place on June 28th. Put the date on your engagement calendar and make no other engagement for that evening.

Take notice that at the May meeting of the Illinois Society of Architects nominating committees will be appointed to nominate officers of the Society for the ensuing year.

"In Germany everything is forbidden that is not permitted."

"In England everything is permitted that is not forbidden."

"In France everything is permitted that is forbidden."

"Vive la France"

"Lies here the body of Mary Brown,
For her life held no terrors,
A virgin born, a virgin died,
No runs, no hits, no errors."

"Mother," said the small boy, "do they have electric plants in Heaven?"

"No, dear," replied the mother, "It requires engineers to build electric plants."

A big year of activity confronts the Illinois Society of Architects. Contemplated changes in the State Law, such as Corporation practicing architecture. Private plans, minimum cost of buildings erected without a Registered Architect and other changes will come up for action.

European Architects are very familiar with the Illinois Society of Architects and favorably comment on the work it has done. We have a world wide reputation and we should stimulate this by doing big things and live up to our reputation.

Emery Stanford Hall is Honored

At the late Washington Convention of the American Institute of Architects, our own Emery Stanford Hall was elected a Fellow of the Institute for "Distinguished Achievement in the Field of Architecture."

In Berlin the guide on a rubber neck wagon points with pride to an eight-story apartment building and says, "Highest Building in Berlin. American Style of Architecture. Has been under construction for two years," and only half completed. What would he say if he saw our skyscrapers in New York and Chicago?

In connection with the closing of some of the city's fireproof schools on the grounds that they are unsafe, is it possible that those responsible for the change in the type of design may justly be at least criticized for changing from structural steel framing to monolithic concrete, knowing as they must have known, that the execution of their designs would be turned over to those utterly inexperienced or without technical knowledge of ability?

The Architectural Traveling Scholarship competition sponsored by the Chicago Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, the Illinois Society of Architects and The Architects Club of Chicago, conducted under the auspices of the Architectural Sketch Club, has just been completed and judged. The work of the young men who entered this competition and followed through to the end was most commendable.

The winner of the competition was Albert Eiseman.

First mention was given to Alexander Bacci.

Second mention to Ralph Emerson.

The judges of the competition consisted of Francis W. Puckey, Eugene H. Klaber and Edwin H. Clark.

It is expected that the designs will be published with detailed criticism by the judges in the architectural journals. For this reason we do not give space for extended comment.

"In your Great City

I see, in jewelers' windows,

Clocks that tell the guaranteed Correct Time;

And in front of these clocks people always halted

Adjusting their watches.

But suppose there were displayed, beside the street,

Some great poem,

Telling perfect Truth of Beauty,

How many passing by

Would pause to adjust their minds?"

The Architect

I stood before the noble spires of Chartres,
And saw the triune portal offer there
A benediction to my weary heart—
Rest here awhile, and dream with me in prayer.
The cold gray stones seemed soft and smiling then,
They whispered, while I walked within their gloom,
A thousand years here have we sheltered men,
While their prayers in God's Garden burst in bloom.
There must be something God-like in the man
Who transformed here his rare soul into stone,—
The Architect whose dream was once the plan
On which he built this footstool of God's Throne.
And Dust, which through the ages made those stones,
May have been ground in Time's Mill from men's bones.

—A. L. WEIXEL.