

Notes on a New Capital City in the Orient

By Harry T. Frost

I have just returned from one of our many drives into the country outside of Manila. The towns snap on and off as though some mystic deadline has been crossed, and you are either in the closely built towns or out in the open farm or wooded acres. They all have this characteristic and it always impresses me. It isn't going to be difficult to find one reason why this is so here, while our cities and villages sprawl. Maybe it doesn't matter, but I see that the whole subject of decentralization is being aired again and the folks at home are wondering at last whether or not this has something to do with the disintegration of cities, and if so, how to head off decentralization, the once-beloved enemy of overcrowding.

If the wowers who live in the suburbs and howl about the urban blighted areas should show a desire to move back to town after zoning has been perfected, they will have made a gesture of confidence in a persistent theory that the answer has been found. But it is my guess that decentralization will continue as long as our facilities for local transportation are so adequate and so cheap as to encourage getting out into the suburbs and country, and at the same time so ruthless as to harass those who want to, or have to, remain behind in the paths of travel. I suspect that the fellow who moves to the suburbs is getting off too cheaply. He quite naturally regards, as a right, a daily dash through city streets to and from a quiet country fireside, but doesn't like to be disturbed by Sunday drivers.

But let us get back to the Orient. Notwithstanding that Manila is a city of nearly a million people, any interest in the advantages or disadvantages (depending upon the point of view) of decentralization here is academic.

However, allowing for all the differences between highly civilized Caucasians and the little Malays, it still would be a good guess that Luzon would be a sprawling mess of subdivisions and No-Man's Lands, barbecue huts, and billboards, if the people could afford concrete roads and automobiles, while Manila, instead of being a hive of commerce and industry, with its many residence sections, and with its crowded slums, would be a decaying city, just as many of our cities are decaying.

It is, then, with humility that I approach the problem of laying out a city on the edge of Manila, which is to be the capital of the Commonwealth.

This city will not only be zoned—it will have districts designed for the uses to which they will be devoted. But Manila, which has lived since the days of the Spanish Conquistadores, through three centuries of Chinese and Moro piracy, is in for a shock. It can be cushioned, if the exodus should get under way, by slum clearance on a large scale (which we so far have been unable to accomplish) and by prevention of speculation in vacant land.

The main approach to Quezon City (that is the name of the new capital) from Manila is along the newly-widened and straight Calle España, a boulevard leading northeasterly from downtown Manila, ascending gradually to a plateau about 200 feet above the Bay, which, by comparison, is high, cool, and dry.

The plateau is rugged and rocky in spots, with creeks that flow through courses eroded into underlying volcanic rock. This adds interest to the terrane and to the planning problem. At a point on the plateau, along the extension of Calle España, a circle has been located. This circle is in the center of a square, the sides of which are two kilometers long. At the far corner of the square, where Calle España ends, is the commanding site of the Capitol. This quadrangle is the great central motif of the city. It is roughly the center of a tract about 25 square kilometers in extent. This part of Quezon City is owned by the government.

Other features of the central area of the new city are the Executive Mansion, Supreme Court, Library of Congress, City Administration Center, schools, hospital, the campus of the University of the Philippines, an hotel, and a permanent exposition. But this central section is by no means all of the new city, which has an area of about 64 square kilometers. Schools, parks, playgrounds, and markets, are being established in all sections.

The University of the Philippines, whose enrollment is 8,000 students, is at present crowded on to a few city blocks in Manila. Its new campus, just beyond the capitol site, is four square kilometers in area. Its roads are being graded, and two of the buildings are under construction.

Because of the peculiarities of traffic, which, to a large extent, consists of horse-drawn vehicles, circles are used successfully at street intersections. Called rotundas here, they are planned for important intersections in Quezon City. There will be no grade separations hereabout for many years to come; but the land for 200 meters in each direction from important intersections is being reserved, just in case, and posterity will gurgle something about far-sighted policy.

Many city-planning opportunities here present themselves, not the least of which is the projection of new streets into Manila, which Quezon City adjoins. In fact, Quezon City is a huge suburb of Manila, and will be built tightly up against it. The new capital will absorb the natural accretion to the metropolis, and will lean upon it for many facilities.

Traditionally, the architecture of the Philippines is Spanish, which has gradually been adapted to the climate. And the experienced architects and builders know all of the answers. It is always warm and humid, and buildings were designed to catch the monsoons. But it rains too,

and you will never know how wet rain is until you have experienced thirty inches in twenty-four hours. And so it is desirable to let the breezes in, at the same time keeping the rain out. Since enormous windows are required more for ventilation than for light, the need for glass brick is not pressing.

The Filipinos are strongly influenced by the Americans, and so the new private work here is taking on the general character of our better functional architecture, which would function better in Zanesville than in Zamboanga. Since the American occupation, most of the public buildings have grown out of the classic, the exceptions being the sensibly

built schools. The new City Hall of Manila might be anywhere—but it is better suited to Minneapolis than to Manila, and the recently completed house for the U. S. High Commissioner would be more livable in Topeka than on a tropical ocean front.

This country is made to order for a simple modern monolithic concrete architecture. But the Teutonic Modern which has penetrated from the rock bound coast of staid New England to Mittel Amerika will get the Filipinos if they don't watch out.

As I write (July 22), the women and children evacuees from Hong Kong are about to embark for the safer Australia.

The Pilgrimage and Conference at Cranbrook, Michigan

Amid the serene and inspiring surroundings of Cranbrook, the Second Annual Midwest Architectural Conference was held September 12 and 13. Cranbrook is a community in the Bloomfield Hills approximately twenty miles north of Detroit, sponsored by George G. Booth and developed as an art and educational center by the renowned Eliel Saarinen, consisting of elementary and high schools for girls and for boys, a science and arts museum, an academy of art for graduate study in architecture and allied arts, and other buildings spread over three hundred acres.

The purpose of this conference was to advance the aims of the profession by discussing problems of mutual interest, and to absorb the charm of an illustrious personality amid his creations.

Some fifty architects of Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Wisconsin and Illinois met on Thursday afternoon and were guided through the various evolutions of conservatively modern architecture by its author, Mr. Saarinen, who explained various details and future plans of development with a sense of droll humor which aptly gave significance to many unique details of design truly representative of his personality. At this point it should be mentioned that the numerous examples of sculpture created by Carl Milles, who is also at Cranbrook, added greatly to the focal interest everywhere. At most every turn, a new axis became evident, affording most appealing vistas, first through a narrowing cradle vault, at the end of which might be a bit of sculpture, then through a gateway, then again a fountain group or reflecting pools.

The majority of the buildings are of brick, the earlier thereof having used imported Holland brick, although recently stone has been used to some extent. There is evidence of greater freedom from traditional forms as newer groups of buildings have been erected. This freedom is explained in part by the fact that the sponsors of this educational development placed virtually no limitations on the designers, neither as to expenditures nor facilities. To these advantages are added the ability to fabricate, as well as design, samples and models of furniture and furnishings incorporated into the structures, even to the extent of weaving rug and drapery patterns. Another notable detail is that the illumination problem, both natural and artificial, has everywhere been solved most unobtrusively and to great advantage.

But to revert to the program of the conference (which

is rather difficult when distracted by the beauty and charm of Cranbrook), Friday morning, Clair W. Ditchy of Detroit, who served as Chairman, arranging the two-day program in a most admirable fashion, even to the last detail of weather, called the gathering to order. We were assembled in an open air Grecian theatre surrounded by tall and dense pine trees with a stage backed by a reflecting pool of water behind which again was a bronze by Milles. After a few well chosen words of greeting, Mr. Ditchy formally introduced Mr. Saarinen who welcomed us to Cranbrook most cordially, explaining its extent as well as its aims, closing his remarks with a hope that this conference would not indulge itself in too much talking.

Peter Brust, the A. I. A. Regional Director of Illinois and Wisconsin, was asked to preside at the morning session of round table discussions which received the active interest of the entire gathering. Leigh Hunt of Milwaukee discussed Unification, reporting that three additional State Associations had affiliated with the A. I. A. since its convention in May, calling attention to the fact that the weakness of the architectural profession was its lack of putting its efforts together for a common good. Architects continued to be individualists to their own ultimate disadvantage. Mr. Hunt went on to point out that too many architects were content to pay dues to their professional societies and thereafter expect to gain direct benefits, further stating that they must contribute part of their time and thought if their organizations are to have influence.

Thereafter, Tallmadge C. Hughes of Detroit spoke on the subject of Public Information, pointing out the necessity for constantly publicizing and humanizing the architect and his work. Mr. Hughes brought out the fact that the public is prone to think of the general contractor as responsible for the construction of a desirable building rather than recalling that it was the work of the architect.

Leo Bower, also of Detroit, next spoke on the encroachment of contracting concerns and material manufacturers upon the field of architectural and engineering services, stating the necessity to prosecute these cases. This topic brought forth considerable discussion by those in attendance. Jerrold Loeb, President of the Chicago Chapter, A. I. A., mentioned that they had employed legal counsel to ascertain whether the Illinois Architectural Act was properly enforceable and what amendments would strengthen it.

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Editor Monthly Bulletin

ARTHUR WOLTERS DORF, 520 NORTH MICHIGAN AVE., CHICAGO

About twenty-five years ago, zoning laws—as understood today—were passed for towns and cities in this country. No one had experience and in the time that has since elapsed, many faults and weaknesses have been discovered everywhere, requiring revisions of the law or new laws. The father of all these laws is a distinguished member of the New York bar, Edward M. Bassett. He is still considered the best guide and friend for such legislation. Chicago, like other communities, has learned by experience that vastly too much was zoned for business and not enough for dwellings and apartments.

Alderman Arthur G. Lindell is chairman of the Subcommittee of the Chicago Common Council on Zoning and Housing, as well as a member of the Chicago Plan Commission.

At the August 6 meeting of the Chicago Plan Commission, Chief Engineer Hugh E. Young presented his report which was further elucidated by Eugene S. Taylor, Manager. They report the work underway in 1940 is the Land Use Survey, whose purpose is to obtain factual information that will enable the Chicago Plan Commission to do an intelligent job of re-zoning; to furnish necessary citywide data for planning, housing, and rehabilitation of property; to determine the character of neighborhoods, their rating, adequacy of housing construction, and future needs, taking into consideration present decentralization. Mr. Young states that this work is 92 per cent completed. He reports on the cost, the number of persons employed on this Land Use Survey, and the principal users.

The second section of this report deals with Neighborhood and Community Park Section of the Park and Parkway Master Map. All of these improvements have received a degree of official approval but have lagged because of legal and financial difficulties.

Under "Deferred Improvements," the report takes up Congress Street super-highway, extension of Wacker Drive east from Michigan Avenue to the Outer Drive, widening of State Street on the north side, west side medical center, lake front landing field, harbor improvements, and fixed bridges.

Another division of the report is devoted to developing an official plan and a master plan of Chicago. The report here refers again to Mr. Bassett's valuable advice as given in his recent publications, "The Master Plan," published

in 1938, and his book "Zoning," which was first published in 1936, with a new and revised edition in 1940. According to Messrs. Young and Taylor's report, they are following closely the advice given in "The Master Plan," in that the Commission is advised that this is not a hard and fixed rule, but a goal to shoot at and a guide to be followed as far as practicable.

Charles Collins in the Chicago Tribune suggests Lincoln Park be renamed Detour Park; the Bulletin suggests christening the park's south end, Magic Maze. Have the Park District's engineers tackled the real problem of handling north side urban and suburban auto traffic to and from the loop by routing it all through Lincoln Park? When Traffic Engineer Jelinek addresses the Illinois Society of Architects this fall, members should come prepared to pose such questions. Parks are created to be beautiful and safe recreation grounds for dwellers in contiguous territory.

Elsewhere in this issue is printed a letter by Director Matteson which it would be well for everyone to read. It is not alone in Illinois that architects, particularly the young men, are under the impression that architects' license laws exist primarily to benefit the architect. Nothing could be farther from the truth. If passed for such benefit, the laws could readily be pronounced unconstitutional by the courts. It cannot be reiterated too often that architects' license laws all have as their function the safeguarding of life, limb, and health of the public. They are police measures.

For the benefit of the prospective small house owner and the ultimate profit of the United States Gypsum Company, this concern has recently published two impressive paper-covered books—one "How to Have the Home You Want," a book of 116 pages; the other "How to Modernize and Make it Pay," a book of 84 pages. Both of these publications are splendidly arranged, each containing a table of contents and a complete index. The former shows twenty-five subjects in its table of contents, the latter eighteen subjects.

In Home You Want on page 5 the reader is told "You Need an Architect," and the editor devotes the entire page to telling why. In the book on Modernization on page 4, the reader is told "When to Use an Architect on a Remodeling Job."

Both books are lavishly illustrated in half-tones and line drawings and should be of particular interest to the man and woman ambitious to own a small home of their own and desirous of having it well built, well lighted, ventilated, and insulated. Architects in the home design field should have these books.

The Bulletin compliments and applauds this effort in the interest of better building on the part of the U. S. Gypsum Company.

Through the many years that Financial Secretary Herman L. Palmer has maintained the office of the Illinois Society of Architects, he has given service in the matter of bringing draftsmen, superintendents, and licensed architects together with those seeking help from such talent in their practice. Engineers and general contractors have likewise applied to Mr. Palmer when they needed help. Such help has always been given cheerfully and without charge to either employer or those seeking employment.

No public recognition for this voluntary service has ever come to Mr. Palmer from the Directors of the Society. The Bulletin takes this occasion on behalf of the I. S. A. to express its sincere thanks to him for his untiring service in this regard.

Illinois Society September Meeting

On September 24 the Illinois Society of Architects held its first dinner and meeting of the coming Society year in a new place—new to the Society. At 115 East Chicago Avenue near Michigan Avenue stands a 4-story building with a Venetian facade, built some fifteen years ago for one Sturdy, prominent decorator in Chicago. This building is now leased to Old Cathay Restaurant. In the second story is a beautifully decorated room with a fine painted frieze, and here it was that the Society had its dinner and meeting. Thirty-two members attended.

President Paul Gerhardt, Jr., after dinner, formally welcomed the company, telling them of the Society's ambition to be of real service, not alone to the profession, but to the public at large during the coming year. He asked the support of every member to this end.

Secretary Fairclough presented the minutes of the June, the annual, meeting of the Society held at the Cliff Dwellers. The President, again taking the floor, spoke of zoning by both county and city and the present efforts by local public bodies. The appointment of members to fill various committees is before him and in his desire to get the most suitable men on the committees, he asked for volunteers to state their preferences.

The annual convention of the National Contract Hardware Association, covering September 24, 25, and 26, was at the Palmer House, Chicago. These hardware men had gone to much effort to have an exhibit of fine builders' hardware at the hotel during the convention. All architects of this territory had been individually invited. The President urged that members go there and learn of the advances made by manufacturers during recent years as shown in their exhibits.

Mr. Gerhardt spoke of the statewide meeting to be held in Springfield, Illinois, on October 12 and 13 and urged all Illinois architects to attend. He mentioned the program to be presented, referring to Capt. Spalding of the Navy, who is to speak on national defense, of legislative and small house problems to be discussed, and of other speakers expected.

The President regretted Landscapist Moore's inability to speak before the September meeting, owing to pressure of Chicago Park District business. He turned to the Regional Conference, which had met at Cranbrook, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, and spoke extemporaneously on that subject. He dwelt upon the charm of Cranbrook's architecture with its sculptural and landscape setting; spoke of the interesting work undertaken there with students, such as weaving, cabinet work, designing and making lighting fixtures, besides studies in the regular curriculum; of the speakers at the Conference; and finally, of A. I. A. President Bergstrom's speech on national defense. President Gerhardt's written report of this Conference, which he attended as the representative of the Illinois Society, is found elsewhere in this issue.

The program of the evening came next. This was a moving picture, with sound, of Chicago's new subway—a film made under the auspices of Commissioner of Subways Philip Harrington, bringing the work up to date. It is intended to continue the film with progress in building of the subway. The picture begins with old Chicago, downtown scenes where buildings still are of moderate height, followed by the high building era, the elevated railroads, modern street cars and busses. Total plans of the city were shown, with elevated lines marked, and the subway shown by animated white lines as now being built, and lines for future extension.

At this point actual construction of subway shafts came on, followed by pictures of the tunnel bores and the miners slicing blue clay which looked for all the world, when carried by laborers onto miniature railway cars, like sharks. Placement of the steel shell came next, lined later with poured concrete. The great steel tubes which carry the tunnel under the Chicago River were not forgotten in the picture. These tubes were shown hauled by large barges through the Calumet into the Drainage Canal and down the Chicago River (up the river since the flow was changed forty-one years ago from lakeward to Mississippiward), to State Street where they were sunk to their proper level. Isometric drawings of stations yet to be built, transportation of earth through the old freight tunnels, forty feet below street level, to the lake front where new beaches

were built with this material, and finally the new beach house in Lincoln Park, came to view.

Accompanying the talking picture was martial music, with city and Federal officials in evidence, and some complimentary remarks for the political powers under whom this \$44,000,000 (\$18,000,000 PWA and \$26,000,000 City Traction Fund) project is to be brought to completion in 1941.

To Springfield for Illinois Society Meeting

For its fifth annual statewide meeting, the Illinois Society of Architects goes to Springfield, Illinois, on Saturday, October 12, 1940. Five years ago the Society held its first statewide meeting in Springfield. That meeting brought out a large attendance, discussions at the sessions were animated, and the excursion to New Salem, then not completely restored, was pronounced a decided success. Since that meeting statewide meetings have been held in Peoria, Champaign, and Rockford.

Because of its central location with easy access from all parts of the state, because of a goodly Society membership there, because of its monumental public structures now finished and ready for inspection, and finally because of the proximity of New Salem, now completed, the Board of Directors decided in favor of Springfield for the 1940 statewide meeting.

The program committee, assisted by the local Springfield contingent, has consummated the following arrangements. St. Nicholas Hotel, Springfield, will be headquarters for the Society. The hotel has rooms available at \$2.50 for single and \$4.00 for double rooms, with bath, and up.

Immediately after luncheon on Saturday, October 12, a business meeting will be called to run from 2 to 4 P. M. After this session, a tour of the new Archives and Armory buildings has been planned. Arrangements have been made to have these buildings open on Saturday afternoon for the benefit of the architect visitors who will be guided through. At 7 P. M. dinner (\$1.25 per plate) in the St. Nicholas Hotel is planned. The special speakers so far secured are Capt. Ralph D. Spalding, C. E. C., Public Works Officer at the U. S. Naval Station, Great Lakes, Illinois; and a ranking officer of the 6th Corps Area, U. S. War Department. The theme of these naval and military officers will be "The Architect's Position in the National Defense Program." The program committee's ideas include something more which the Bulletin has been unable to get at the time of going to press.

Sunday morning, October 13, there will be a community breakfast at the hotel at 9 A. M. At 11:30 A. M. chartered busses will be at St. Nicholas Hotel to transport the architects and their ladies to New Salem Village. At New Salem Village the party will have luncheon at Wagon Wheel Inn. The Village, now completed and mellowed, will be seen to better advantage than on the occasion five years ago when the weatherman provided a bleak and wintry day.

It is thought that many members, their ladies and guests will come by auto. Others will come by train. The Chicago contingent is scheduled to go via the Alton Railroad's streamlined train, "The Ann Rutledge," leaving Union Station at 8:30 A. M., arriving at Springfield at 11:50 A. M. in time for luncheon at the St. Nicholas Hotel—the Society's headquarters. The round trip coach fare, Chicago to Springfield and return, is \$6.75. The return to Chicago is scheduled for 6:18 P. M. on Sunday evening, reaching Chicago at 9:25.

The Directors and members of the local committee, headed by Ralph Harris, are leaving no stone unturned to make this, the fifth annual statewide meeting, an instructive, interesting, and memorable one. A cordial invitation is extended to all architects of Illinois by the Illinois Society of Architects to attend this Springfield meeting.

—Leo J. Weissenborn, Chairman
Program Committee, I. S. A.

The merger of Armour Institute of Technology and Lewis Institute, both of Chicago, teaching institutions whose joint students number about 7000, was announced a year ago. The merged schools will operate under the name of Illinois Institute of Technology. The institution is organized in three departments—Armour College of Engineering, Lewis Institute of Arts and Science, and Armour Research Foundation. Henry T. Heald is president.

In the News Architectural

According to Al Chase, writing in the Chicago Tribune of September 21, Frank Lloyd Wright has designed a \$10,000,000 group of buildings for Washington, D. C., whose site is a 10-acre tract known as Temple Heights on Connecticut Avenue. The project includes a super-hotel, a large cinema, several shops and office buildings. The purpose announced is to give Washington a group of structures similar to Radio City, New York, the units to be "extremely modern in design," according to Chase.

Chase says that Wright doesn't work for less than 10 per cent of the cost and since this complex of buildings is to cost \$10,000,000, Wright's fee will be \$1,000,000. Fine job, fine fee—if it's true.

Konrad F. Wittmann, New York architect who has practiced in Europe, submits in the September "Architectural Record" his views on some specific factors involved in making factories airworthy, particularly those manufacturing munitions and other war material. The older theory to make most of the conditions of soil, sunlight, wind directions and traffic lanes, waterways, railways, and streets, he says, becomes subservient to the problem of protection against fire from the air. And this problem introduces new conditions.

Elimination of glittering water surfaces, shining roofs, bright windows, light colored parking fields, becomes important. In their places must be introduced planting for camouflage, roof alterations, and wide-spanned nets. Trees play an important part. Such factories should be away from cities, planted in woods and countryside, and colored to camouflage landscaping. Avoid buildings with enclosed courts. Decentralization into smaller units produces less damage from bombing. Round buildings have theoretically the smallest vulnerability, offering least resistance to the effect of air pressure. One story buildings are safer than multi-story because of less air pressure resistance. Decentralization of water towers, power stations, storage tanks, two separate railway stations, distortion of roofs to give irregular shadows, are further means of protection. Roofs planted with grass and small shrubs to match surroundings are advised.

Mr. Wittmann illustrates his article with many sketches. His sectional drawings of factory buildings invariably draw the windows in at the sill, rather than out, in pent houses and monitors, to avoid reflection of glass during sunlight.

Also in the September issue of "Architectural Record," Arthur C. Holden reviews a new book by John Burchard and associates, published by Albert Farwell Bemis Foundation, M. I. T., Boston, titled "A Method for Analyzing the Economic Distribution of Shelter." Mr. Burchard summarizes his material graphically on two charts. Chart A traces the percentage of families in the United States having annual incomes ranging from zero to \$7,000. Chart B reveals the percentage of families that can obtain shelter for which production cost ranges in intervals from \$1,000 to \$10,000 per family unit. There are appendices to the book. In one of these the architect can see at once, as the report points out, that if economic rent be 11.1% of the original cost, and the family budget for shelter be 20% of total income, then the factor S/R equals 1.8. It develops that \$10,000 homes can be afforded by only 3% of the families in the United States, omitting from consideration those on relief and those who live on farms, while 39% of the same group of families would be able to occupy a \$3,000 house.

A great share of the burden of present housing is due to the debt of existing mortgages which is still carried, plus the burden of economic waste in city development and administration, which is reflected in taxes. The flight from the city, which has been made possible by the automobile and by improved transit, reflects the effort to escape these burdens inherited from the past.

"It is to be regretted that the report does not place more emphasis on the economic background and do more to clarify underlying considerations that govern selection of variable factors that must be used in connection with the graphs."

Floating islands drift until stopped by anchorage. The monthly meetings of the Chicago Chapter, A. I. A. are like floating islands in

that neither time nor place are ever known to the membership until they receive notice of a particular meeting. The time is fixed by agreement between the program committee and a particular speaker on the program. Since the Chapter's charter was granted in 1869, the meetings were regularly held in the first half of the month, and in the memory of the oldest living Chapter members, on the second Tuesday of the month. This prevailed up to perhaps three years ago. Today nothing is fixed long in advance.

The Illinois Society of Architects has its fixed monthly meetings on the fourth Tuesday of the month and varies this only in the case of downstate meetings or perhaps some joint meeting with the Chapter to hear an important speaker. The place of meeting is just as fluctuating as in the Chapter since the Architects Club of Chicago, who operated the club house at 1801 Prairie Avenue, abandoned that site. During the presidency of John R. Fugard in the Illinois Society (1932-33), joint meetings of Chapter and Society were the rule, thus eliminating one meeting per month. Objection to this arrangement was made in the Illinois Society Board of Directors on the ground that each society had a business meeting to transact and that men hesitated to reveal before others what they had to say to their own membership. Since then, joint meetings occurred only on special occasions when all were invited to hear a particular speaker.

It is of importance that a regular meeting date for each society be fixed in advance, applying to all monthly meetings. The Chapter's September meeting, falling on the 30th, is too late to have a report of this meeting appear in the I. S. A. Bulletin of October 1. Should any epoch-making act or speech transpire at this meeting, the Bulletin will present a report in the December 1 issue.

Chicago Chapter September Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Chicago Chapter, A. I. A., was held in the Edgar Miller Room of the Tavern Club, 333 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, the evening of September 30. There was a buffet supper, followed by a business meeting. This was the first meeting presided over by the newly-elected officers.

A report was made of the Second Annual Mid-West Architectural Conference held at Cranbrook Academy of Art on September 12 and 13 where the states of Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Illinois, and Wisconsin were represented by delegates. A report of this Conference, written by the Illinois Society of Architects' delegate, Paul Gerhardt, Jr., is found on page 2 of this issue.

Following a discussion of the points raised at the Conference, the company sat back to enjoy a moving picture presentation of Cranbrook Academy in kodachrome. The picture was not of the Conference.

Information Required from Architects and Consulting Engineers Desiring Consideration in Design of Army Construction Projects

Submit a letter to The Quartermaster General, Washington, D. C., requesting consideration in case design contracts for various projects are awarded to civilian architects or consulting engineers on a fee basis; letter to contain the following information:

1. Full experience record indicating clients by name, location of project, type of project and money value.
2. Organization available with particular view to rapid completion of plans and specifications.
3. List of projects designed for Federal agencies.

—War Department, Office of
The Quartermaster General, Washington.

Dean MacCormack of M. I. T. School of Architecture announces that late this fall Alvar Aalto, well-known Finnish architect, will join the architectural faculty of M. I. T. as a research professor in architecture. Solution of basic problems in low-cost housing and advancing a teaching technique will be his special function.

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Branson V. Gamber, President of the Michigan Society of Architects, pointed out that his organization was sending a special message to the heads of all corporations within Michigan, citing the benefits of architectural services, further stating that all contracting builders would be forced to follow the practice of those few who are now performing architectural and engineering services if the professional men did not act quickly to stop such practice.

Mr. Saarinen joined in the discussion by commenting that our problem was also concerned with the quality of architectural services rather than wholly legal protection under registration laws. Europe has no licensing laws, he stated. We must protect the communities from form chaos; we cannot protect them against bad architecture.

At length, the Chairman had to call this discussion to a halt, announcing a buffet luncheon in the Court Yard of the Arts and Crafts Building group. The committee had arranged with a Detroit caterer to prepare a most delectable display of viands, which were a feast for the eye as well as for the palate.

Upon resuming the discussions after luncheon, John Fugard presided, introducing Branson V. Gamber, who described the Architectural Clinic now in operation as developed by the Michigan Society of Architects, whereby advice and limited services are rendered the public on an hourly or visit basis on alterations under certain maximum costs. This movement has the support and cooperation of builders, material men, and public officials.

This topic was followed by a paper prepared by Kenneth Black of Lansing, Michigan, read by Charles Cellarius, on Auto Courts and their possibilities, particularly for publicity value, after which Edward D. Pierre of Indianapolis, speaking on the subject of Small Houses, pointed out that a clearing house of economical ideas on this field, which is still the bulwark of the building industry, would be of value.

Thereafter, Peter Brust of Milwaukee described the Wisconsin State Building Code and the necessity for constant improvement thereof. As a result of his report, the conference resolved to ask the Department of Commerce to bring their reports and recommendations up to date.

The final subject of the afternoon concerned the manner in which architectural organizations could be "sold" to architects. This discussion was led by Paul Gerhardt, Jr., and brought forth expressions from a great number of those in attendance. It was the general opinion that publicity was the most valuable and most important step to be taken by professional associations to gain recognition within as well as without the profession.

Upon adjournment of the business sessions, it was voted to repeat these highly instructive and enjoyable meetings next year. Mr. Ditchy then announced that Mr. and Mrs. Saarinen had extended an invitation to the architects and their ladies for cocktails at their home before the banquet.

The final evening redounded in memorable pleasure, Mrs. Saarinen being as gracious a hostess as her husband an accomplished architect, their home reflecting their warm hospitality.

With great reluctance we crossed the Court Yard to an

adjoining hall where some sixty places were laid and a delicious dinner was served. Roger Allen, of Detroit, proved an inimitable toastmaster despite several puns. Mr. Saarinen expressed the hope that the architects had enjoyed their stay at Cranbrook, inviting them to return in December to see an exhibition of work by instructors, or in May for an exhibition of students' work, further expressing the hope that the Institute might hold its Convention mid the lilacs and roses of Cranbrook in the near future.

The speaker of the evening was then introduced, President Edwin Bergstrom of the American Institute of Architects. His stated topic was National Defense, on which he dwelt somewhat similarly to his message in the current "Octagon." These remarks were supplemented by a report that the Administration Building of the Institute was well under construction and would probably be completed close to the end of this year. It is hoped to house the College Accrediting Board, the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards and other similar allied organizations, in addition to the business offices of the A. I. A. Mr. Bergstrom went on to state that present progress in unification of the profession, though quite satisfactory, was but a short step in the right direction, the aim being a simplification and more direct membership.

The Second Annual Midwest Architectural Conference thus concluded its program, leaving those in attendance regretful for those absentees who had not been as fortunate as they in enjoying the camaraderie of their fellow architects mid the inspiring surroundings created by a master of their profession.

—Paul Gerhardt, Jr.

Water Pollution in Plumbing Connections

It was in 1933 during the Century of Progress that cases of amoebic dysentery occurred in Chicago, resulting in severe illness and death. The Sanitary Bureau of the Chicago Health Department immediately became active in an investigation to find the cause of this malady. The cause discovered lay in improper pipe connections to plumbing fixtures, such as lavatories, bathtubs, and water closets in public places. The Bureau made a thorough inspection of plumbing fixtures in public places such as hotels, apartments, and industrial plants, and ordered faucets, where the mouth occurred below the level of the overflow, to be raised higher so that no standing water could come in contact with the faucets, thus eliminating syphonage. Flush valves on water closets today must be provided with non-syphon stop and vacuum breakers.

But now comes Joliet, Illinois with a variation of the same theme. Its drinking water was strangely flavored with beer and soda water flavors. A cross-connection between city water and a private supply in two breweries and two soft drink bottling establishments was found to permit backflow into the city mains. A. R. McGonegal, Sanitary Engineer in the District of Columbia, points out that "poisonous solutions such as acid copper cleaning compounds might have been drawn into the mains by a drop in pressure just as easily as beer."

He says that U. S. Public Health Service Reports give details where similar cases occur over and over again. Thousands of physical connections exist between pipes carrying city water of controlled purity and pipes carrying water of questionable character. Frequently there is only an ancient valve to mark the line between life and death. The remedy is known. It should be applied promptly before other catastrophes occur.

The Architect Not on Parade

The accredited architect doesn't advertise. An institutional code of ethics prohibits such a promotional privilege. He must perform in silence, allowing his ability to speak for itself.

In consequence of this commercial restriction, the reputable theater designer often is disregarded, underestimated, and deliberately side-stepped by theater owners. If all showmen who set about to build or remodel theaters would think twice before approaching the traps of the "jerry building" contractor-architect or the material supplier who claims he "can save the fee," the subversive situation might be remedied more easily.

If all would remember that independent, unsubsidized architects are watchful sentries on duty in the interests of their clients, and none the less themselves, there would be less quibbling about fees and far greater satisfaction with final results.

His creative ability, his engineering thoroughness, training, and experience are secondary in importance to the fact that your architect has but one axe to grind, and that one is yours.

For protection alone the registered architect is worthy of his hire and we uphold his profession on that point as well as many others.

—Editorial in the July 20 "The Modern Theatre"

Changing Architectural Contours

Architects are wont to take pride in the logic of their designs; that is, to make the plan arrangements easily read in the exterior architectural expression, particularly when the job is a new one from the ground up. Less is said about this logic in alteration jobs.

Modern surgery is entering this field in the matter of human architecture. The Journal of the American Medical Association reports that doctors of the Mayo Clinic at Rochester, Minn. have been successful in changing the contour of the human head on persons born with receding chins, called Andy Gump chins since the constant broadcasting of the famous Andy Gump cartoons. The doctors not only graft extra bone to increase the jaw, but add plastic operations and implant false teeth in front of the patient's own to give a normal appearance to lips and mouth as well as chin. The Journal says that in most of these cases the teeth do not meet normally and chewing is interfered with, so the front row of false teeth is built in to improve mastication.

An aeroplane view of the interior of the lower jaw would suggest a topographical map of California, with its Coast Range of mountains represented by the false teeth and the Sierra Madre further inland by the original gums, if not the original teeth.

Why Veneer Blisters

Blisters may be caused by several things, but the most frequent cause is thin glue. An effort has been made to economize by using a thinner glue with mahogany veneer than was known to be required for oak, but it was made too thin and instead of effecting a saving, a considerable loss resulted.

Water is not good for veneer and a larger quantity than is necessary to the proper spreading of the glue should not be used. The lighter the spread, the quicker it will set, and if the glue sets before pressure is applied, there will not be a good union and blisters may result.

Coal-tar creosotes, especially those high in tar acids, are susceptible to oxidation under conditions prevailing in the pressure treatment of wood. Oxidation produces changes in the physical and chemical properties covered by present-day specifications, but does not seriously affect the toxicity.

In Self-Defense

The merciless blare of radio is certain to bring about a salutary revolution in the family home of the not distant future. It will consist in part of a series of soundproof, windowless, air-conditioned cell-like rooms, one for each member of the household, each room containing a radio. To his or her own particular torture chamber will retire any person on feeling the urge to indulge in self-immolation on one, two or more aerial sound racks, called programs, that are unendurable to others under the same roof. There being no windows to be opened, the neighborhood at large will be protected from the sufferings now so commonly inflicted upon large groups of writhing innocents whenever the weather is pleasant.

It may be that in some future building code this essential reform will receive attention. Regardless of that indefinite possibility, humanitarian considerations and the law of self-preservation should furnish quite enough motive power to get that lifesaving and sanity-preserving movement under way.

—Charles H. Dennis

In Active Practice at 90 +

John M. Hoskins, Chicago architect in his 91st year, is active, reporting to his office in West Madison Street every business day at 9 o'clock and remaining on duty until 5. He has been doing this since 1889 when he came here from Canada. Besides interest in his private practice, he devotes thought and effort to furthering the Chicago Plan. He proposes a new feature to this Plan which deserves serious attention. He would take the land between Washington and Warren Boulevards, beginning at Union Park and going west to Garfield Park, and convert it into a park with shade trees. He would continue it west from Garfield to Columbus Park, and from Columbus west to the Des Plaines River he would have a wooded boulevard, making connections with the forest preserve on that stream.

Since 1914 Mr. Hoskins has maintained membership in the Chicago Chapter, A. I. A.

The Ancient and the Recent Past

Plato said (c. 373 B. C.): "There are three arts which are concerned with all things: one which uses, another which makes, a third which imitates them. . . . And the excellence or beauty or truth of every structure, animate or inanimate, and of every action of man, is relative to the use for which nature or the artist has intended them. . . . The imitative art is an inferior who marries an inferior, and has inferior offspring."

Louis Sullivan said (c. 1894 A. D.): "Form follows Function."

State Building Code

Nothing will prove as helpful to make the public realize the value of the services a competent architect can render as the adoption of a State Building Code. House Bill No. 872, Illinois State Building Code, was introduced in the 61st General Assembly. Unfortunately, it was not introduced soon enough and tabled along with several hundred other bills. There is a chance to introduce the same again at the session, January 1, 1941, and if the architects will take an active interest and discuss this with their local senators and representatives, it can be passed. It will require attendance when the bill is in Committees, and real organization on the part of the down-state architects. I am confident that the adoption of such a Code will be of great benefit to the communities and to the profession as a whole.

—Leo J. Pleins, Springfield, Ill.

For the Safety of the Public

The Editor: The Illinois Society of Architects was originally organized for the purpose of securing the passage of the Architects' License Law and of affording a medium for the enforcement of that law. The publication of the Handbook, the Monthly Bulletin, minor social and public activities followed, all with the idea of improving the status of the architects of the state and their usefulness to both the public and the client.

The enforcement of the license or registration law is placed in the hands of the Public Action Committee. The annual reports of that committee are typified by that of 1937, which stated as follows:

"This committee has received a number of complaints of alleged violations of the architectural registration law, but documentary evidence of a character that would serve as a basis for suit has been lacking. The committee has no funds at its command and no means of securing evidence except that volunteered by members of the Society. Most of the complaints indicate that the interests of ethical licensed architects are being interfered with through legal evasions, but are unaccompanied by evidence that would hold in court. It should be understood that the purpose of the registration law is the protection of the public against the construction of buildings that would be a menace to life, limb, or health. It is not, and should not be construed to be, a legal means of securing a monopoly by architects in the design of buildings, although this is what seems uppermost in the minds of most of the complainants."

The Society is advised by counsel that as written the registration law is difficult to enforce. The Society plans to attempt to have the law amended in a number of particulars that will, it is hoped, put more teeth in it. Every architect in the state should be interested in this move and give his support by joining the Society.

—Victor A. Matteson, Director, I. S. A.

When Fort Sheridan Was Built

The Editor: The text accompanying a picture of the Water and Lookout Tower on the parade ground in Fort Sheridan, Illinois, which appeared in the Chicago Tribune of July 31, was inaccurate in stating that this structure was built seventy-five years ago.

In the year 1888 the United States Government secured the tract of land now occupied by Fort Sheridan. As I remember, this land was donated by citizens of the community for the purpose of building an army base.

Holabird & Roche were architects for all the buildings built at that time, including the Water Tower, Officers' Quarters, Barracks, Drill Halls, etc. Our records show that the tower was 235 feet high.

The construction of the tower was started in the spring of 1890 and completed in June, 1891. The entire project was completed in December, 1891.

—John A. Holabird

The State House at Lincoln, Nebr.

The Editor: Your August-September issue of the Bulletin is extremely interesting and stimulating.

I confess to being troubled by the O'Brien article (The Nebraska Capitol). Why even so slap-dash an *arbiter elegantiarum* should call Lee Laurie's "Sower" a "Thunderbird" is beyond me; or perhaps I have failed to get what he saw. The very apt "Editor's Note" straightens out Mr. O'Brien for his most important omission.

Mr. O'Brien's too-frequent use of the adjective "uncertain" is perhaps a reflection of his own state of mind. Nebraska can claim no monopoly on the type of "100 per-center" who has no sympathy for nor understanding of a work of inspiration and, of course, there are snobs and parvenus here just as there are anywhere. It would be interesting to take my friend George Elmslie through that building. Would he think it "organic"? I do not know.

The building is still unfinished. It has no murals worthy of it, but Hildreth Miere's mosaics are splendid.

I have about come to the conclusion that architecture should be inarticulate so far as words are concerned. If it is real architecture, it will speak the universal language of the spirit, and each sympathetic soul will make his own individual response.

—Wm. L. Steele, F. A. I. A., Omaha

On the Cure of Blight-Suffering Cities

John R. Fugard, Chicago architect, past-president of the Illinois Society and now treasurer of the American Institute of Architects, has written an address "What is Happening to Our Central Business Districts." This address was read on July 10 at the National Conference on Planning, Fairmont Hotel, San Francisco. In this address Mr. Fugard represented the American Institute of Architects and the National Association of Building Owners and Managers.

The address was printed in its entirety in the July 27 issue of "Real Estate," published in Chicago. Mr. Fugard's closing words were:

"In my opinion, based upon a study of the many factors involved, it would seem that as taxes increase, along with increasing demand for public services, and, as the tendency increases toward a more definite social security, together with a rise in median age, smaller family size, and the accompanying demand for more units of habitation of more compact and economical size, there will be a definite trend and ever-increasing shift of population back to urban areas, where economy of living, cheapness and efficiency of transportation, and proximity to employment are basic factors.

"Thus we may expect to see the dismal marginal areas of downtown districts again become producers of financial return through rehabilitation in form and function, and become properly planned residential areas where gracious and genial living conditions will maintain.

"Herein lies the challenge to planners, for it is only then that we may expect to see the permanency of downtown business areas become established and the process of decentralization halted."

Warm Walls Stay Clean Longer

The molecules of oxygen and nitrogen in the air are in constant motion, the faster the higher the temperature. When the wall is warm there is a layer of warm air next to it, and these molecules move faster than those nearer the center of the room. Thus, they keep the dirt particles away. But when the room is hotter than the wall, Dr. R. A. Nielsen, research engineer of the Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company, finds that the molecules near the cool wall are moving more slowly and the dirt particles are driven against it.

Since the laths hold heat better than the plaster, the wall over the laths is somewhat warmer than the spaces between. Thus, the majority of the dirt particles are driven against the cooler regions and a pattern of the laths is formed.

Of Argentina's 13,000,000 people, almost one-third live in Buenos Aires and suburbs.

Frank J. E. Braband, retired architect, died in his home in Chicago on July 24, aged 76 years. Mr. Braband was born in Sheboygan, Wisconsin, of German parents. All his schooling was had in Sheboygan. He started his life work as a carpenter. Naturally a student, he delved and read and thought, training himself in architecture and becoming a draftsman.

About 1889 he moved to Chicago, serving in the architects' offices of Treat and Foltz, W. L. B. Jenney, and D. H. Burnham & Company. In the latter office, or the construction office of the World's Columbian Exposition, he was given opportunities to design some World's Fair work for the exposition of 1893. Later in the 1890's he established his own office. His work was varied, and while no one work is outstanding for its monumental and aesthetic character, the work comprises frame residences, warehouses, stores, factories, steel buildings, and even steel bridges. He designed his own yacht, which at the time was a new departure in naval architecture, the boat being the largest "V" bottom boat in Chicago waters. Mr. Braband had a mathematical mind and wrote a book on mathematics which interested college professors. His hobby was experimental research. At his death he left many models of apparatus unfinished.

Mr. Braband was a member of the Illinois Society from February, 1907 until his death.