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The Architect and the Post-War World

By G. Harold Smith, President, Illinois Society of Architects

Many predictions about the post-war world, picturing the shape of things to come, have appeared in the press and periodicals. Their authors have come from all walks of life; their predictions have ranged the gamut from serious studies to flights of fancy almost poetic. But the actual shape of this post-war world must remain largely speculative. The political, economic and social forces now at work in it are so strong that the eventual results of their interplay are too uncertain for anyone to know or predict with any exactness the shape of the world that will emerge. Yet there will be building in it we know and architects will have their share in that building. So, as an architect, the writer feels somewhat justified in setting forth some of the things he believes he sees in that post-war world and the part that the architect will play in them.

Our architecture will continue to improve and to progress but it will be largely an evolutionary progress, not a succession of miracles embodying totally new methods, materials and principles. We are all largely creatures of habit; we will still have the same materials and methods as before the war, so when construction in volume is resumed we may expect that the first buildings will be a continuation of the same trends that existed in pre-war times. New materials have been found and developed and new methods and techniques devised which will be tried and tested out in actual use. Many of these will find a permanent place and, in turn, form the basis of further future developments.

May we always have with us those daring and venturesome spirits who will experiment in new and untried designs and materials and constructions. From them much may be learned of benefit to all of us, both in what to do and what not to do. The constant endeavor of the average architect to improve the quality of his work will make him examine carefully these experiments for ideas that can be used in his own work, that will make for sounder construction and give greater value to his client. Architects are probably conservatively inclined in general as they are spending the other man's money. They want to get for him full value for it. So the experiments and trials of these forward looking men are needed to leaven that conservatism.

Some of these new essays in style and design may become momentary fads, for the American people are somewhat addicted to fads and isms as a cursory survey of our social history will show. So it may be expected that some of our architecture will display its share of these foibles and that catchwords will be used in place of study and thought. Sound judgment

and good taste will be able to separate the good from the bad, the permanent from the transitory, and to incorporate the good in our architecture. We can not all be geniuses in design but the fundamental principles of good design still hold and when reinforced with taste and judgment the quality of our architecture can not other than improve.

Work for architects will be plentiful. A good part of our industrial machine needs overhauling and bringing up to date. Normal wear and tear have been greatly accelerated by the demands of war production. Obsolescence has been steadily taking its toll. Buildings and machines are wearing out and must be rehabilitated or replaced. Technical advances, the development of improved machinery and its greater use, have made many plants obsolete and costly in operation. War needs have speeded up all these factors and it should also be remembered that during the pre-war years and depression period, the maintenance and overhauling of our industrial plant was not up to normal. There should be a considerable backlog of work putting our industrial machine in order so that it may maintain its position in the competitive fields that will surely return.

That attitude and critical frame of mind with its desire for improvement has been evident for some time in that particular segment of the industrial field in which the writer has specialized. The result is that many owners now want plans worked out for the complete rehabilitation of their plants. Where priorities permit some of this work is being done now; others want plans ready so that when V-Day arrives they can be taken down from the shelf, dusted off, handed to a builder and work started. This condition must likewise be true of other segments of our industrial machine for the same circumstances regarding them no doubt prevail.

The strengthened position of labor together with public concern for the health and well-being of all our people will ultimately require changes in many of our plants to properly protect the employe during his working hours. Higher standards of sanitation, requirements of light and ventilation and working comfort will all have their effect. The increasing knowledge of the effect that proper working conditions have upon production and costs will also bring about many changes and improvements.

Housing in all its various forms from the individually owned unit to publicly financed will continue. The public conscience has become increasingly aware of the cost to society of slums and sub-standard housing and there is evident a slowly forming determination that decent living conditions must be

come available to an increasing number of our people. The mechanics of how this will be done has yet to be fully worked out but ways and methods will be devised. The ramifications of housing are so many and extensive that we doubt if anyone knows what form our future housing will take, whether it will be built in the conventional method of brick by brick or whether it will come in package form ready to be put together with a few nails and screws. Probably somewhere between the two extremes will eventuate.

Shorter working hours with consequently more leisure time will make necessary more provisions for the spending of that leisure time. We may expect more parks and playgrounds, more provisions for popular education and cultural development, to the end that some of that leisure time shall become of benefit to its possessor and to society. These things will require buildings suited to their particular needs and uses and, while most of them will doubtless be public buildings, architects will be required in their design.

All these things are but part of a broader social movement that has been slowly gathering momentum for years and which is determined that the great mass of people forming the base of our democracy shall receive some of the benefits of our expanding economy. Some of it is even found in the Populist Party platform for 1890; so its beginnings go back many years in our social thought.

Various governmental regulatory bodies such as OPA and WPB will continue with us for some time after the ending of the war. This will be done in order that some control can be exercised over building materials, regulating their orderly use and preventing a mad scramble for them when building is resumed in volume. Without some such control there would be an immediate bidding up of price to get those materials immediately available. In this connection it must be remembered that the inflation in prices was far greater after World War I than during the war period. With that experience as a guide it seems reasonable to expect that some measure of control will continue into the post-war period, at least until such time as material supplies and the demand for them are more nearly in their normal relationship. Add to this the fact that no bureau ever willingly cuts itself off the public payroll but has plenty of reasons, solid or specious, why its continued existence is necessary. So we look for a continuance of regulation in some degree.

There will be a shortage of draftsmen and this scarcity will persist for some time. The war has reduced the number of students in technical schools and colleges so there will be few men from those sources for some time. Their former students coming back from military service may return to school and complete their education; some will have lost their habits of study, others will want to secure some sort of job immediately, feeling they are too old to go back to school and pick up the broken threads. Many draftsmen who are not in the armed services have gone into other lines of work, as draftsmen and

layout men in factories, shipyards and other industries. Architectural training gives a man an adaptability that makes him capable of doing many things that bear no relation to building. He has acquired the habit of analyzing a problem, studying the relationship of its parts and their comparative importance and thus arriving at a solution.

This ability and adaptability has made him useful in many industries and when he compares the steadiness of industrial employment with the ups and downs of architecture he is apt to think twice about staying where he is rather than return to an architect's office. We may even see a revival of the old apprentice system, though in an up-to-date form. Not all young men possess the means necessary for a college education so must acquire their training in an office with such outside schooling as can be had in their leisure time. It is a hard way of learning but the knowledge gained by doing is at least solid knowledge and sticks.

If construction work resumes in its expected volume, the problem of the returning service man will be a comparatively easy one. Many men will go back to the offices they left when called up for service. Some will want to look around for a while, some will want to try other and different parts of the country, but if they do not return to their old offices there will be other offices ready to welcome them. The man who closed his office to go into service will not be in such fortunate position upon his return. His contacts and connections have been largely lost and picking them up again will be difficult. Nor does there appear to be much that other architects or the architectural societies can do for him. It would seem that he must dig in and start all over again.

Some means should be found of more closely integrating the younger unregistered men with the recognized architectural societies. This would make them feel that they were a part of the profession with an interest in its and their future welfare. Not all draftsmen can or will become registered architects and are now debarred from association with any society. They are in the profession and yet not a part of it. An interest in them and their problems might furnish just the added incentive to make them study for the examination. Then, being registered they would become regular members of the society and should take an active part in it. The society had taken an interest in their welfare and it could be expected that they would in turn be interested in the society's welfare and the further extension of its activities. There is strength in union and the larger our membership the greater the influence our Society can exert in matters affecting the Society's and the public interest. One might also look for a gradual raising and strengthening of professional standards.

The architect's position in the post-war world will, as in the past, be largely what he himself makes it. Of all professional men he should feel in the largest degree his obligations to society. He influences the future of that society by helping form the phy-

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Editor Monthly Bulletin

ARTHUR WOLTERS DORF, 520 North Michigan Ave., CHICAGO 11, ILL.

Our architectural colleagues in the Eastern States have spent much time and thought during the last months over the subject of post war monuments—monuments to commemorate our warriors as well as for men and acts other than for the war effort. The architectural press has carried essays and meetings have occurred where oratory was expended on this subject. In November the Architectural League of New York had a meeting reported in the December Pencil Points, where the character of monuments idealistic, or shall we say, emotional, in contradistinction to monuments devoted to work-a-day use, were argued against and for.

It seems that our confrères divide themselves into two camps; one, where nothing shall be considered that is purely a structure with sculpture to move mankind emotionally. This first group is represented by Joseph Hudnut, Dean of Architecture, Harvard University. He calls such commemorative monuments "trite pomposities that make our soldiers ridiculous." He says further, "Tell me: how many inches does the shaft of Trafalgar Square add to the stature of Nelson? How much more was Apomattox made glorious by the Riverside mausoleum of General Grant? How much more eloquent is Jefferson, now that you have him safely caged in his marble Pantheon?"

"Do not imagine that these things are harmless. Monuments act; they exert a force; and their malice is un pitying. General Grant gallantly overcame his enemies but he will never overcome his monument; and the renown of Jefferson will be forever imprisoned in that round appalling permanent banality.

"Certainly our monuments do what they can to make our soldiers ridiculous. Yes, and to make our architecture ridiculous, also. Among the thousands that we have built not one is beautiful: well, yes, one—and that is on a field in Flanders, where even the Parthenon would be an impertinence."

Let us concede that Dean Hudnut is a master of sarcasm. The Dean would have a green park or a

playground where children now have only the streets; a school house; a music hall; a theater; a church accessible to all faiths.

The other camp is ably represented by Paul P. Cret who is the creator of some of the most impressive American battle monuments erected after World War One. He says "it is permissible to feel that works of art are more likely to recall to our descendants the deeds of their ancestors than swimming pools, memorial trees, or recreation centers, whatever merit they have on other grounds."

The Bulletin votes aye with Architect Cret's camp. Mr. Cret speaks from large personal experience. He has created soul-moving monuments but he has also created practical, impressive modern works for use. We think of his Folger Memorial Library in Washington whose exterior is a magnificent essay of modernism, based on evolution. And turning to strictly utilitarian buildings, Mr. Cret's central heating plant for Washington, D.C. is certainly a modern essay in industrial architecture that for simple impressiveness ranks with the topmost efforts in this or any other country. Many of his battle monuments in Europe are soul-stirring. He is never revolutionary as is the international school of architecture, but always evolutionary.

Is it not inherent in human nature that a man reflect back upon his antecedents, particularly so when they have achieved creditably in their time! And is it not natural that in the development of architecture some inherent strain creep in, not as a copy of earlier ages or generations, but, in the nature of things we build on the experiences and advancing thoughts of those that went before? The Bulletin believes that all practicing architects of today want to be considered modern architects; they want to do modern architecture and most of them resent the word modernistic when applied to their work. It is the poseurs, the opportunists who look upon architecture as a means of self-advertising that can be most readily charged with creating modernistic architecture.

We have learned from Who's Who something of Dean Hudnut's architectural career. We are duly impressed with the many university degrees with which he has been honored, and his written contributions are read with avidity. We learn with interest that Mr. Hudnut practiced as an architect in New York City from 1919 through 1923. We must admit ignorance of his buildings, never having seen any in the life nor illustrated in the architectural journals. The Bulletin suggests that Pencil Points devote a number of pages in the near future to a presentation of Mr. Hudnut's architecture, together with ample text material in order to enlighten his fellow architects on modern architecture as he conceives it.

A drug store on Chicago's northwest side has a new sign above its magazine stands:

"These magazines are not on lend-lease. Please pay the cashier."

Jean Carlu, the noted French artist and poster designer, will show his work at the Institute of Design in the months of March and April. The exhibition will open March 3, 2:30 p.m. with a lecture by M. Carlu.

Illinois Society January Meeting

The January meeting of the Illinois Society of Architects was attended by 53 at dinner, supplemented by 10 more after dinner. Circumstances beyond the Society's control shifted the date from the fourth Tuesday to January 31 and the meeting place was the Chicago Room in Central Y.M.C.A., Chicago. Secretary Harris read the minutes of the November meeting which were approved. President Smith then introduced and welcomed four new members. These are W. W. DeCherrie, Edgar R. Firont, Joseph Hosek and Maxwell Glicker. Past Vice President Gilbert Johnson of Rockford, Illinois was likewise welcomed. The president announced the death of Francis A. Flaks, a loyal member since 1916 who died January 29. Mr. Flaks had served on the Society's committees and had been a director. The company stood for a few moments in silence. The president appointed a committee to draft resolutions to be forwarded to the family of the deceased. An obituary to Mr. Flaks will appear in the April 1st issue of the Bulletin.

Messrs. Fox and Harris reporting for the committee whose duty it is to facilitate procurement of permits in the building department, reported progress and B. F. Olson of that committee recommended procurement of pamphlet 61 which may be secured from the Municipal Librarian in the City Hall. Sidney C. Fink of the Postwar Planning Committee reported conferences with H. Evert Kincaid, Executive Director, Chicago Plan Commission. Mr. Kincaid had demonstrated activities in all departments of the municipal government, prompted by Mayor Kelly. These departments have formulated plans, some now in the blueprint stage, of building requirements in each department of the city government, to be carried out within the next ten years. The total expenditure, according to the estimates, is slightly below \$1,000,000,000. The Plan Commission will publish a scheduled description of each department's needs and the sums estimated and required for each.

With the routine business finished, the president introduced the speaker of the evening, Mr. Henry Penn, District Engineer, the American Institute of Steel Construction. The burden of Mr. Penn's song was an explanation why he and his Institute favored raising the fibrestress to be calculated from 18,000 lbs. to 24,000 lbs. which latter is now generally used by the Army and Navy. The speaker appeared before a meeting of building commissioners in an Iowa city where he had read a paper on this question. Since building codes generally call for an 18,000 lb. fibrestress, he thought that there should be a universality in all building codes, based on 24,000 lbs., and that the disposition in beams and girders, particularly in large spans should be the care of structural engineers of a high type.

The speaker's paper was very technical, a report of which in detail is prevented in the Bulletin for want of space. However, the speaker made the point that the upper flange of a rolled beam or built up girder with cover plates and web-stiffeners, depended very much on the design of connections, together with their bolts or rivets or welded connections, for in these details failures usually occur, not in the lower tension member, but rather in the twisting or distortion of the upper flange in compression and in the rivets or welding. Regarding welding, Mr. Penn insisted that no one but certified welders could be entrusted with the work, and that supervision should be most rigid. Questions from the floor were invited. These were meager. There were in the company a number of structural engineers. Mr. Penn's paper was long and exhaustive. He recommended that the architects write for Bulletin A57.1—1943, Structural Steel,—American Standards Association, 29 W. 39th St., New York 18, N. Y.

Henry Kaiser, versatile builder and war-time contractor, will enter the prefabricated-housing industry after the war's close. To this end Kaiser has secured the services of R. Buckminster Fuller of Dymaxion House fame.

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sical environment in which people live and work and play. He is helping give concrete shape to people's hopes and aspirations. Thus his contribution to the future world is fully as large and as far reaching as its influence as that of any other profession. By accepting his share of the responsibility in creating a better world for all of us he will help maintain his own professional integrity and standing. How well he fulfills these obligations will in a large measure determine the architect's standing in society and his future position lies much in his own hands.

Where in Florida Did Ponce de Leon Land?

The mayor of Miami said to the mayor of St. Augustine "This hurts me more than it does you, but Ponce de Leon did not land at St. Augustine. He landed at Miami and never was within 200 miles of your city. And I can prove it."

And so has started a friendly argument which probably never will be settled, unless perhaps the two mayors should grow serious over their suggestion to lead a delegation to Italy after the war to study the Freducci map in the royal archives at Florence, Italy.

David C. True, historian and Caribbean treasure hunter came upon a copy of the map in the Congressional library at Washington, and writes in Tequesta, the annual journal of the Historical Association of Southern Florida, the article that has started the argument. The Freducci map, he says, was drawn one or two years after Ponce de Leon's 1513 voyage in search of the Fountain of Youth, and indicates that the explorer landed at the Indian village of Tequesta, where Miami is now located. He says maps indicating St. Augustine as the landing place were drawn about 100 years later from sketchy information.

The question of St. Augustine's claim as the landing spot of Ponce de Leon first arose 10 years ago, when another historian sought proof. However, the mayor of St. Augustine will wait for corroboration of Historian True's claim before he follows the Miami mayor's suggestion that the Ponce de Leon plaque in St. Augustine be transferred to Miami.

Concrete Surface Protection

Soon after the Panama Canal was first put into operation, it was discovered that delicate electrical equipment was being damaged by abrasive dust getting into moving parts. Much of this equipment was in cement or concrete lined rooms or galleries. Investigation disclosed that the dust came from the cement. An American paint specialist was consulted, with the result that a protective coating, which was one of the first of numerous effective coatings and sealers for cement and concrete surfaces which have since been formulated and are generally used, was applied to the dusting surfaces and the trouble was stopped. Since that time the use of protective coatings on cement and concrete has been recognized as a sound, and in many instances, a very necessary practice as a defense against both dust and moisture.

Low Cost Housing in Guatemala City

"Colonia 25 de Junio," housing project of 128 dwelling units with paved streets, sidewalks, utilities, houses built of concrete and brick, has been carried out in Guatemala City. There are four large corner houses and twelve small ones to each of the sixteen blocks. Hence 32 large houses and 96 smaller units. The smaller type cost \$1,360 and \$1,700 per unit; large type \$2,140 and \$2,700. Monthly payments on the smaller houses are \$13.50 and \$17.00; for the larger type \$19.50 and \$30.00.

Chicago Chapter Dec. '44 and Jan. '45 Meetings

In conformity with the announcement of the entertainment committee chairman J. Howard Raftery at the season's initial meeting, the Chicago Chapter, A.I.A. held its monthly dinner meeting at Huyler's S. Michigan Avenue restaurant on December 5. The meeting was followed with a lecture by Professor Charles E. Merriam in Fullerton Hall in the "Organism and Artifact" series.

Fifteen persons sat down for dinner. These included Prof. Merriam, one lady guest, our lady member, Miss Fahringer and our youngest member Edwin Bruno. After dinner President Alfred Shaw moved the suspension of the minutes of the previous meeting, and announced that a large and interesting meeting with a program headed by several producers had been planned for January. Secretary Schlossman announced that speakers were desired to address groups on housing in connection with a committee headed by L. Morgan Yost. He also announced plans for circulating an architectural news letter to be sent to all architects and draftsmen in the war service, which enterprise Miss Furbinger volunteered to head. Addresses of architects and draftsmen not necessarily A.I.A. members are requested for the mailing list.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 P.M. for assemblage in Fullerton Hall to listen to Prof. Merriam's lecture entitled "In Search of Political Forms For The Modern Metropolis." It was the most stimulating of the series.

—Leo J. Weissenborn.

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Twenty-six members of the Chicago Chapter received a dinner of ham and raspberry sherbert from the management of Huylers on Thursday evening, January 11th. The choice of menu, being up to the management, could not have had any personal implications.

Following the dinner came the business meeting called by President Shaw. The minutes of the previous meeting were read by Secretary Schlossman and approved. Mr. Shaw made a short report for the Executive Committee. Three new members were recommended to the Octagon again this month. The Executive Committee is working steadily on the hoped for employment of a permanent secretary for the Chapter. Suggestions are welcomed by the Executive Committee.

Mr. Schlossman asked again for items for inclusion in the news bulletin which is to go to architects and draftsmen in the service and also asked for the names and addresses of servicemen who would be interested in receiving the news letter. Both items and addresses should go to Miss Catherine Fahringer, 2204 Merchandise Mart, or to Norman J. Schlossman, 333 N. Michigan Avenue.

The main subject of the business meeting, the determination of policy regarding inquiries received by the Chapter requesting recommendations as to architects, was explained by Mr. Schlossman. Several requests for the names of architects for various types of projects are received each week and that as a matter of service not only to the members of the Chapter but also by the organization to the public, the Executive Committee feels that some policy should be adopted so that such requests could be given intelligent replies. The American Medical Association, he stated, made no such recommendations of its members. The Chicago Bar Association however would supply inquirers with a list of lawyers who had indicated their fields of specialty.

A sample questionnaire which had been drafted was then distributed. The questionnaire to be sent out to and returned by all members had a check list of various classes of work for which the architect desired to be recommended, with the further recommendation that three completed commissions in each class must be listed. After a discussion led by Messrs. Stoetzel, Reed and Seron, Paul Gerhardt moved that the form be changed to allow one executed job to qualify the architect as experienced in a certain field. The motion was carried. The Secretary was directed to carry out the plan presented. The Secretary announced that Frank Lloyd Wright will talk at the February meeting of the Chapter.

At 7:50 the meeting adjourned to reassemble at the Burnham Library at the Art Institute where Meyric R. Rogers, curator of decorative arts, Miss Etheldred Abbot, librarian, Miss Hofmeister and Miss Sanderson offered the facilities of the library to the members. Mr. Rogers explained how the library had been founded by a bequest of \$50,000 from Daniel H. Burnham in 1912 at which time the Burnham Library was housed in an alcove of the Ryerson Library. In 1921 and again in 1928 its growth necessitated larger quarters, resulting in the present occupancy of a former gallery.

The library contains almost 11,000 volumes and is the second most comprehensive architectural library in the country, that at Columbia University having first place. A very fine collection of old carpenters' hand books of the 18th and 19th century is included. With exception of a few individual issues there is a complete file of all architectural periodicals ever published in this country.

Spread out on the tables for the inspection of the architects were many of the old valuable wood-engraved architectural books of the 18th century as well as some of the original drawings which Louis Sullivan had made for his book "System of Architectural Ornament" published in 1922 by the American Institute of Architects.

—L. Morgan Yost.

Who Was Architect of the Festspielhaus?

The Bulletin is asked: Who was architect of the Wagner Theater or Festspielhaus in upper Franconia, now a part of Bavaria? The house is famous for its fine acoustics, the exterior makes no claim to architectural distinction, but for seeing and hearing the auditorium is superb. The orchestra is concealed. The auditorium seats 1,650.

The answer: Gottfried Semper (1803-1879) was the architect of the Wagner Theater in Bayreuth, built 1872-6. The first performance of the Nibelungen-Ring, 1876 and the first of Parsifal, 1882, were given in the Wagner Theater.

Semper was architect of the Hoftheater in Dresden, 1838-41 and of the Synagogue, Villa Rosa, Fountain in the Post-Platz and the new museum, all in Dresden. Semper moved to London in 1848 or 49 and in 1855 was appointed head of the architectural school Polytechnicum in Zurich, Switzerland. In Zurich he planned the new buildings for the Polytechnicum in 1858, the Observatory in 1861 and later designed the Rathhaus in Winterthur. Semper wrote an architectural work, "Der Stil" which was published in Munich in 1878.

When Humans are Comfortable

Human beings can be quite comfortable under a wide range of air temperatures as long as the radiant loss from the body is lowered by providing sufficient radiant heat from the surrounding surfaces. From actual tests it has been learned that people are comfortable in air at 71°. They are equally comfortable in air at 63° if the temperature of the surrounding surfaces is raised to 79°, and they are still comfortable when the air temperature is lowered to 59° if the temperature of the surrounding surfaces is raised to 85°. Indeed, at Sun Valley, Idaho, with air temperatures so cold that snow lies on the ground, people are comfortable in bathing suits because of the radiant heat received from the sun.

In panel heating systems, an attempt is made to take advantage of the fact that it is possible to be comfortable in any room in which the temperature of the surrounding walls is warm instead of cold.

—Trane Weather Magic

L. Moholy-Nagy, President of the Institute of Design, Chicago, announces guest lecturers to be added to the regular curriculum for the new school year. They are Jean Carul, poster designer; Siegfried Giedion, author of "Space, Time and Architecture"; Frederick Kiesler, architect and industrial designer; Fernand Leger, Cubist painter; Eric Nietsche, art director of Air News and Air Tech, and others.

Placement of Sculptural Monuments

The future of sculpture in the form of monumental statuary in commemoration of historical events and persons seems as much in doubt as other phases of Art and city planning.

One thing seems certain, granted that there remains an interest in such memorials, the location on boulevards is out. The boulevards of the city plan on monumental lines developed in an era of carriages and walking, and has become in America, simply a channel of speeding automobiles. For obvious reasons no one can look at a memorial in such a location, nor is there much walking on the present day avenue.

The problem of vandalism is also a serious one. Some correspondence which I had with Robert Moses, Commissioner of Parks, New York City, shows what happened to the once famous Admiral Farragut monument in Madison Square in New York. Its present location seems positively ridiculous, especially when one remembers the immense interest in the design of the pedestal shown in the correspondence between Stanford White and St. Gaudens, at that time (September 1879) in Paris. This subject fills an entire chapter in Charles C. Baldwin's book on Stanford White (1931).

Looking at the situation in Chicago, one finds the "George Washington" on South Parkway stranded in traffic. The "Sheridan" on Sheridan Road is in slightly better circumstances. And what about the "LaSalle" on Clark Street, gazing at the impatient traffic tangle getting in and out of Lincoln Park?

It has occurred to me that the "Washington" might be removed to Grant Park and placed in the south semi-circle, balancing the present seated "Lincoln" on the north. Grant Park is growing in use very rapidly, especially by out of town visitors who probably do not visit the outer parks, not even Lincoln Park. In spite of the motor traffic through Grant Park, I think it is destined to be used for walking and recreation beyond any present conception. This can be noted now during the noon hour when many office employees go there to eat lunch, play ball and loll around.

It has always seemed to me a startling indifference that there is no suitable memorial in Chicago to Father Marquette. The three panels by Hubert MacNeill over the entrance doors to the Marquette Building are very fine, but is it likely that anyone ever looks at them? The memorial tablet at the North End of the Damen Avenue Bridge is witness to a fine devotional spirit.

Tom Tallmadge says in his book "Architecture of Old Chicago" that the Winter of 1672, which Father Marquette spent in the Chicago region at the time Louis XIV was developing Versailles, is the first date of historical significance in the story of Chicago. I can think of no new memorial (if there is to be any) more desirable in subject and as attractive a problem for the sculptor than a monumental treatment of Father Marquette which would fit well in the formal scheme of Grant Park. It might be placed on one of the spaces of the east-and-west axis between the Buckingham Fountain and the Congress Street Plaza, and should face the city. It should be tall and commanding—with a pedestal proof against vandalism.

The project of a Marquette memorial suggests that the upper shafts of the two huge pylons of the Congress Street Plaza be removed (as they were at Monroe Street) and give "Mestrovich's Horses" a chance to come into their own, which is impossible when they are subjected to the scale and characteristics of these nearby unfortunate structures. Their prototypes on the Alexander III Bridge in Paris in the 1890's, may have been expressive of the date, but what survival have they today?

To develop the center of Grant Park as a place where historical monuments could be assembled, the "Sheridan" and the "Logan" might be placed on the north-and-south axis of the Buckingham Fountain, between the approach steps from the lower level. They would not encroach on the recreation spaces which are ample for any future needs.

The most satisfactory piece of sculpture in Chicago, both

in location, is John Storrs' "Ceres" on top of the Merchants Building.

One is largely indifferent in matters of cultural development on a long term basis—consider the scrapping of the Fort Dearborn replica which was carefully studied and competently rebuilt in the Century of Progress exposition. True, the location was impossible—open to vandalism and improper use. It could have been rebuilt in the small park lying between Navy Pier and the Outer Drive. This location is and has been since the Drive was completed, very much frequented and the building could have been kept in condition and easily policed.

This park also has room to take the so-called "Widow Clark" house which could be removed from its present location out on Wabash Avenue, rebuilt and restored to its original condition. This plan would have provided examples of Chicago's earliest history as a trading post and of the period of the developing social life of the young city. It would seem that that project could well have been taken over and staffed by the Chicago Historical Society. After all, hasn't the Metropolitan Museum in New York City one of the finest departments, "The Cloisters," located at the very tip of Manhattan Island on the north—many miles from the Museum?

—George Fairbank

Pasteur Monument to be Moved

The Louis Pasteur monument (Leon Hermant 1866-1930, Sculptor) which now stands with its back to the West wall of the Chicago Museum of Natural History (Field Museum) will be moved to Convalescent Park on the axis of Honore Street facing Cook County Hospital.

The Chicago Park District Board has donated to the Medical Center Commission this monument with the understanding given above. The monument was erected in 1927, donated by a citizen's committee headed by the late Dr. Frank Billings. The Chicago Medical Center was treated in detail in the April, May 1943 Illinois Society Bulletin by Ray McCarthy, President of the Medical Center Commission. The Center comprises a 305 acre tract bounded by Congress Street, Roosevelt Road, Ashland and Oakley Boulevards. Now located within the tract are the Cook County Hospital, University of Illinois Medical and Dental Schools, Loyola University Schools and Presbyterian Hospital.

Lowden Memorial

The Memorial authorized by the 63rd General Assembly as a tribute to the late Frank O. Lowden, famous World War I Governor of Illinois, and distinguished elder statesman until his death in 1943, may take the form of a 370-acre park along the Rock River in Ogle county near Oregon, Ill., not far from the great Sinnissippi Farm established by the former chief executive. The heroic figure of Chief Black Hawk, sculptured by Lorado Taft, stands on the proposed site. The legislature appropriated \$25,000 to provide the memorial. Anticipating adoption of the park idea, citizens of Oregon and vicinity have raised an additional \$13,000 by public subscription and the Division of Parks and Memorials has allocated \$12,000 for this purpose. Final decision is vested in a committee, of which Governor Dwight H. Green is chairman, consisting of John A. Holabird, Chicago architect; State Representative James M. White, of Oregon; Gerald Poley, of Oregon and James H. Wilkerson, of Chicago.

—Illinois Public Works

A colored soldier, filling out an application, wrote "no" in answer to the question, "Have you any dependents?"

"You're married, aren't you?" asked his commanding officer.

"Yessir," the soldier replied, "but she ain't dependable."

An exhibition of Soviet architecture, selected by Cornell and Harvard Universities, will be held the 3rd and 4th weeks of February, Chicago Institute of Design.

High Court Upholds Redev. Corp. Act

On January 17 the Illinois Supreme Court handed down a decree declaring the 1941 Neighborhood Redevelopment Corporation Act constitutional and valid. This action by the state Supreme Court reverses an earlier decree by a Cook County Court which held the law unconstitutional.

The Supreme Court decision, written by Justice June C. Smith held that the legislature had properly delegated to community redevelopment corporations the power to take private property by eminent domain for public purposes. The decision was concurred in by all members except Justice Loren E. Murphy, who dissented but did not file an opinion.

According to the act the private development corporation, under the regulation of a local municipal housing board must first acquire 60% of its building site through private negotiation. The remaining 40% may then be acquired through condemnation proceedings.

Chicago Building Code Revisions

At its meeting held January 9th, the Board of Directors of the Illinois Society of Architects instructed the Secretary to secure revisions to the Municipal Code of Chicago, relating to buildings, as such revisions were adopted by the City Council, and transmit information as to revisions so that the same might be published in *The Bulletin*.

The writer has been informed by the City Librarian that the only revision made to this date, based on the published Code dated July 1, 1941, is that pertaining to Chapter 75, which was amended December 6, 1944.

I do not believe that the Board intended the entire revision to be published in the *Bulletin*, but that the *Bulletin* should carry a notice to the effect that this chapter was revised and that the revision could be obtained in the office of the City Librarian.

I will advise you of future revisions when, as and if made, and when, as and if I learn about them.

—Ralph C. Harris, Secretary, I.S.A.

Housing deficiency increased again in 1944 with construction of only 133,400 family units during first 9 months (both public and private) compared with 276,000 same period of 1943.

Labor Department estimates total housing construction in 1944 at 160,000 units—“less than one-fourth of the 1941 peak.”

Total federal war housing since 1940: 534,447 dwelling units, 165,175 dormitory units, 76,532 trailers.

All this emergency construction represents barely one-fourth our normal peacetime needs in new housing to accommodate average population increase.

National Association of Real Estate Boards and National Association of Home Builders have petitioned National Housing Agency to give all building priorities to private construction, at least until private building doubles from present rate to normal.

—*Nation's Business*

A new Board of Directors for Colonial Williamsburg in Virginia has been elected. On this Board, besides Senator Harry Byrd of Virginia and Mayor George P. Coleman of Williamsburg there were elected Vernon M. Geddy, vice president of the corporation and William G. Perry of Boston. Mr. Perry is the well known architect (Perry, Shaw and Hepburn, Architects) to whose ability and care was entrusted the reconstruction of old Williamsburg to its pristine glory.

Cathedrals in the Path of War

Both the Cathedral of Avranches and the Cathedral of Beauvais have miraculously been left standing in the midst of rubble. The Cathedral of Amiens, and the Cathedral of Rouen have been damaged, but both can be restored. At Caen, the Abbaye aux Hommes and the Abbaye aux Dames, examples of Norman-Romanesque architecture dating from the days of William the Conqueror, have been damaged, but can be repaired.

Cologne Cathedral, one of the great buildings of the world, has a nave 48 feet wide and 145 feet high. The western spires measure 512 feet and were, until the completion of the Cathedral of Ulm, the loftiest existing.

Ulm Cathedral with a splendid triple portal surmounted by a rich tower terminating in an octagon and a spire 529 feet high forms the loftiest structure of its kind. The Cathedral measures 420 by 165 feet; height of nave vault, 141 feet.

Another Plan for Grant Park

At a meeting on January 2 of the City Plan and Housing Committee of the City Club of Chicago, a plan for more development in Grant Park was proposed. The plan is the joint work of Robert Rosenbluth, Public Welfare Consultant and Henry K. Holsman (Holsman & Holsman, Architects). With maps and architectural drawings Mr. Rosenbluth showed how the plan would combine and complete two pieces of “unfinished business” in Chicago's development. 1: Creation of a suitable terminal for the Illinois Central and Michigan Central Railroads. 2: Extension of Grant Park North from Monroe to Randolph Streets by covering over the railroad tracks and parking space now occupying the area east of the tracks.

The parking area below would remain undisturbed, while the railroad would benefit by additional track rights, under the park.

In the single structure which would be located at the North end of what its originators call “Heroes Plaza” would be a memorial museum and “Hall of Peace.” Meeting rooms for recognized veterans organizations including the G.A.R. now housed in the Public Library would find space in this structure. Henry K. Holsman called attention to the unique adaptability of the site for commemorative purposes. Chicago, he said, has no large plaza comparable to those of many European cities. The proposed scheme was compared in potentialities with those of London's Trafalgar Square and the Place de L'Etoile where stands the Arch de Triomphe.

Chicago Plan Director Kincaid said the memorial plan had merit and that Grant Park development should be completed but a most important question, he thought, was one of finding the money.

Spelling is Spinach

If you are a poor speller, don't worry about it! Edward Bellamy wrote your justification, years ago, in an immortal paragraph contributed to the Springfield Union of July 22, 1875. Here it is, as recently reprinted in the monthly broadside issued by Columbia University Press:

“Chaucer couldn't spell, Shakespeare couldn't spell, Milton couldn't spell, Lord Bacon couldn't spell. Or rather, they were luxuriant spellers. They spelled their words as an apple tree blossoms. The vigor of their spiritual and intellectual life proved itself by their spelling. Happy men! There were no dictionaries in those days. People supposed that ideas were important then—and loved the notions that came by words, not the letters with which the words were made. When they were in a hurry they wrote the words short, and when they had plenty of time they wrote them long . . .”

—*Vincent Starrett in Chicago Tribune*

Louis Justement Says

"The distinction which we make between 'art' and the 'practical' phases of living is a pathetic commentary on modern civilization. It is scarcely surprising, as a result of this distinction, that so much of our so-called 'art' should be mediocre as well as misunderstood, and that our lives should be stunted and devoid of joy in spite of our vaunted standard of living.

"We have greatly increased the comforts of living as a result of the industrial revolution. For millions of workmen, however, the assembly line has resulted in monotonous tasks which afford no scope for skill or pride in workmanship. If we are to avoid becoming a nation of robots it is time that we should find a satisfactory substitute for the esthetic experience which we are rapidly losing with the disappearance of individual craftsmanship. We know that it is impossible to revive the handicraft system. William Morris' brilliant, but unsuccessful efforts showed us long ago that we could not turn back the hands of the clock. As the artistry of the individual artisan is more and more restricted, the artistic perceptiveness of the people grows dim. The artist tends to become aloof from the populace and 'art' becomes something which is displayed in a museum. But, as Santayana has said, 'We do not keep in showcases the coins current in the world. A living art does not produce curiosity to be collected, but spiritual necessities to be diffused.' How shall we revitalize and diffuse esthetic perception so that we may re-acquire a living art?"

Two Books on Midwest Buildings

Dean Rexford Newcomb of the College of Fine and Applied Arts at the University of Illinois has been awarded a Newberry fellowship to write a book on early midwest architecture. Dr. Stanley Pargellis, Newberry Library librarian, states that Dean Newcomb "sees Illinois as the area in which notions of architecture which stemmed from New England meet those which came out of Virginia, and, as he has done in similar studies of other areas, will tie architectural developments to the life and thought of the time."

It is hoped that Dean Newcomb will embrace the entire nineteenth century in Illinois architecture. His books on Kentucky and California architecture are authoritative and standard works.

A second book is to be called "Old Midwest Houses" and will be authored by John Drury of the Editorial Department of the Chicago Daily News. Mr. Drury is on a year's leave of absence from the newspaper and is devoting this time to the study and writing of these houses after having been awarded a writing fellowship by the University of Minnesota.

Dean Newcomb will treat on types of architecture, both public buildings and private houses, while Mr. Drury will confine himself to dwelling houses. Dean Newcomb will write from a strictly architectural point of view; Mr. Drury will concern himself with historical associations, historical personages, identified with these old homes. Mr. Drury will however refer to the architecture of an old house, this being one facet of the many which tell the complete story of the house.

Walt Whitman's observation: "I will accept nothing except what other men can have on an equal basis."

That appears to be good democratic philosophy, but does it mean anything? Whitman was born with an endowment that was worth the lands and jewels of a prince; he was a natural poet. Carnegie was a natural industrialist. Whitman couldn't share his unique ability to express himself, and Carnegie couldn't share his genius for creating wealth.

Professor Bogdan Pniewski, one of Poland's best known architects, was killed during the recent Polish uprising; Warsaw. Dr. Pniewski, 47 years old and one of the youngest professors in the Warsaw Polytechnic Institute, won first prize among 187 Polish architects who entered the competition for designing Warsaw's Temple of Divine Providence after the last war. The famous Bruhl Palace in Warsaw, later the seat of the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was reconstructed in accordance with Pniewski's designs. Pniewski was also the architect of the internationally known Hotel Patis in the popular mountain resort of Krynica. An advocate of classicism in architecture, he developed his own style, which may be described as one of classical simplicity adapted to modern conditions and new materials.

Benjamin Wistar Morris, distinguished architect who lent monuments to his skill in many Eastern cities, died in Doctors Hospital, New York City, December 4, 1944 after a long illness, age 74. Mr. Morris was born in Portland, Oregon, where his father was Episcopal Bishop of Oregon. After attending St. Paul's School, Concord, N.H. and Trinity College, Hartford, Conn. and receiving a Ph.B. from Columbia in 1893, he spent two years in Paris at the Ecole des Beaux Arts. Returning to New York in the late Nineties he worked with Carrere & Hastings on the successful competition drawings for the New York Public Library.

The period 1902-10 he practiced his profession independently, producing Patton Hall, Princeton, N. J.; in Hartford, Conn., Aetna Fire Insurance Company Home Office; Morgan Memorial Library; a State Armory and State Bank.

In the period 1910-15 Mr. Morris practiced in partnership with Grant La Farge in the firm of La Farge and Morris. (Grant La Farge had been in partnership with Heins and Heins and La Farge until Mr. Heins' demise. They were the first architects of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City.)

In the period 1915-30 Mr. Morris again practiced independently, producing such outstanding work as the Cunard Steamship Company building on lower Broadway, New York; the country estate and gardens for Joseph C. Baldwin, Jr. at Mt. Kisco; Westchester County Court House at White Plains; Phoenix Mutual Life and Phoenix Fire Insurance Company buildings in Hartford, Conn.; Seamen's Bank for Savings and the Bank of New York and Trust Company, New York.

Mr. Morris was on the New York City Art Commission 1923-25; the Board Chairman of the Beaux Arts Institute of Design; President, New York chapter of the Beaux Arts Society of Architects and a member of the National Commission of Fine Arts.

Mr. Morris joined the A.I.A. in 1907 and was advanced to Fellowship in 1913.

Isaac Newton Phelps Stokes, prominent New York architect died in Charleston, S.C. December 18, 1944, age 77 years. After passing through St. Paul's school at Concord and Berkeley College in New York City and Harvard University with an A.B. degree in 1891, he devoted two years to the study of banking. He then turned to architecture, studying at Columbia University in 1893-94 and at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris 1894-97.

The period 1897-1917 Mr. Stokes was in partnership with John Mead Howells as Howells and Stokes, Architects. They produced St. Paul's Chapel, Columbia University; Woodbridge Hall, Yale; Dudley Memorial Gateway and Music School, Harvard; Baltimore Stock Exchange Building; Royal Insurance Company buildings in New York and San Francisco and the First Congregational Church, Danbury, Conn.

Mr. Phelps Stokes devoted years to the study of housing and was active on many boards of social service societies.

A. L. Himelblau, architect in Chicago for thirty years died December 17, 1944 in Michael Reese Hospital, age 55 years. His practice had been in the apartment house field. He had for a time been a member of the Illinois Society of Architects.