FEBRUARY MEETING
The annual evening of frivolity was held February 21 and an attendance of eighty-five greeted with a wild spontaneous uproar of applause the appearance of an all-star cast in the stirring five-act drama, "WHO KILLED COCK ROBIN, or THE ADMIRAL'S REVENGE," by W. H. Besselfenner-saylor.

This first play by the gifted young author shows immaturity in parts, but its ambitious social theme might well test the powers of an older and more experienced playwright. On the other hand, there are certain passages of sublime power, which held the audience spellbound. Unfortunately the best of these were inadvertently omitted due to a lack of time for the somewhat inexperienced cast fully to memorize their parts.

That grand old thespian, Harvey Wiley Corbett, with his incomparable rendition of the part of Admiral Wimples, brought tears to this reviewer's eyes, and took him back to the days of Drew and Mansfield. His powerful clear baritone rang out to full advantage in the tuneful "Admiral's Song," and his equitation in the last scene left nothing to be desired.

Walter Konrady, a new find, played extremely well the difficult part of the office boy, and brought to it a verve and enthusiasm that will long be remembered, particularly by those in the front row who were allergic to talcum powder.

Perhaps the high point of the performance was the stirring rendition of the famous telephone chorus in the second scene, written by Gerald Houdini Kaufman. Messrs. Williams, Holmes and Saylor, representing three architects, gave the song every delicate nuance and shade of meaning that the author could have wished, though perhaps Mr. Saylor's "hello" in the second line was a trifle lacking in simpatico.

Walter A. Taylor's "Milk N. Roast" was a masterpiece of sympathetic portrayal. It would almost seem that Mr. Taylor had had some actual experience himself in the rôle of taxpayer.

Space prevents our handing out all the bouquets that should be delivered.

NEXT MEETING
MARCH 21
SYMPOSIUM ON PARTIAL SERVICES
Architectural League at 6:30
The retaining of architects for partial services only has been gaining during the past few years, not only in government work, but in some private work also. How has this actually worked out so far? Has the resultant architecture been as good as it should be? Should the method be encouraged? What are the facts of the case, pro and con? What have been the actual experiences of architects who have worked in this way? What should we do about it?

BATTERING THE BATTERY
The one sight that never fails to impress transatlantic visitors to New York and Americans returning home, is the first glimpse of the City from a ship coming up the bay. New York City is unique among all cities in the world because of the skyline of the lower end of the island.

It is now proposed radically to change the appearance of the Battery by the erection of the Battery-to-Brooklyn bridge whose approach, as presently planned, would sweep across the southern and western sides of the park.

Our energetic and eloquent Park Commissioner Moses, chief proponent of the bridge scheme as opposed to a tunnel, won the first round of the battle last week when the City Planning Commission voted 4 to 2 to approve the bridge as part of the City's master plan which they are required to prepare.

This action by the Commission would seem, by their own statement, to be opportunistic: "While there are certain valid objections to a bridge at this location, the Commission is not at this time called upon to choose between a tunnel and a bridge, but rather to consider the harm that would result from an indefinite postponement of such an essential connection, and to weigh the possible disadvantage of a bridge against the positive advantages that would come from its construction in the near future."

The Chapter went on record with the following resolution which was presented to the Planning Commission:

"WHEREAS a proposal has been made to erect a structure which would materially and permanently alter the physical aspect of the lower end of Manhattan Island, namely the so-called Battery-Brooklyn Bridge; and

WHEREAS such physical alteration would involve (a) encroachment upon a public park of extremely limited area for anchorages, ramps, and elevated roadways; (b) the alterations of a considerable quantity of neighboring property values; (c) the solution, to all intents and purposes for all time, of the problem of connecting the west and east side highways around the south-
ern tip of Manhattan; and (d) the cre-
ation of a traffic stream of vast propor-
tions with its attendant effects on human
eyes and ears and the problem of its
immediate disposal; and

WHEREAS other solutions of the
problem whether by means of a tunnel
or other location of bridge terminal,
may prove to be more satisfactory; and

WHEREAS considerations of initial
cost should not weigh too heavily when
the welfare of one of the most impor-
tant sites in the greatest city of the
Western Hemisphere is in the balance;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RE-
SOLVED that the City Planning Com-
mission of the City of New York be
urged to take sufficient time to give this
matter its most serious and thoughtful
consideration before making any recom-
mandation to the Executive Authority.

Other opponents of the proposal
were: Commissioners Salmon and Sheri-
dan, Borough President Isaacs, The Re-

gional Plan Association, and the West
Side Association.

CANDIDATES

The names of the following candidates
have been presented for membership in
the Institute:

1. Frederic W. Mellor
Sponsors:
Wesley S. Besell
Maurice Gauthier
2. Laurence Scacchetti
Sponsors:
Wm. Lawrence Bottomley
L. Andrew Reinhard
3. Seth Talcott
Sponsors:
Joseph Freedlander
Lewis G. Adams

 Associates:
1. Logan Stanley Chappell
Sponsors:
Arthur Loomis Harmon
Graham Erskine
2. Robert H. McKay
Sponsors:
Richard S. McCaffery, Jr.
Maurice Gauthier
3. Arthur W. Wareham
Sponsors:
Richard S. McCaffery, Jr.
Maurice Gauthier

Pursuant to Section 6, Paragraph 3,
of the Chapter By-Laws, members are
requested to submit within ten days for
the information and guidance of the
Committee on Admissions, privileged
communications relative to the eligibil-
ty of the above-mentioned candidates.

COMPETITIONS

Many competitions originating in New
York City are on the whole usually in-
teresting mainly to draftsmen.

The Committee on Competitions of
the Institute, convinced that these com-
petitions, as well as the major and im-
portant ones which are held for actual
building enterprises, should be subject
to the approval of the Institute, have, in
close collaboration with the sub-commit-
tee for the New York Chapter and with
the representatives of important archi-
tectural magazines, established a code
for secondary competitions. The sub-
committee of the Chapter, Egerton
Swartwout, Chairman, Alfred Morton
Githens and James K. Smith, have ap-
pointed and hereby announce the com-
mittee to whom all secondary compe-
titions held in the New York district
will be referred and whose approval
will hereafter become necessary. The
following are the members of the com-
mittee:

Geoffrey Platt, Chairman
John Ambrose Thompson
Kenneth Reid
Kenneth Stowell
Henry H. Saylor
Russell Whitehead

CAPITOL EXTENSION

News has just filtered through from
Washington that the old bill for the "Ex-
tension and completion of the United
States Capitol" will be introduced again
at this session of Congress. This or simi-
lar bills have been before Congress for
many years in one form or another.

Two years ago at the American In-
stitute of Architects Convention in Bos-
ton the Institute went on record oppos-
ing this bill. Last year the New York
Chapter opposed it as did many other
chapters.

CONCRETE INSTITUTE

On Friday, March 3, the Joint Meeting
of the American Concrete Institute and
the New York Chapter of the A.I.A.
took place. Papers by Ely Jacques Kahn
and Leopold Arnaud pointed out struc-
tural and esthetic defects of concrete as
used up to the present.

S. 1265, A BILL

On February 9 Mr. Byrnes presented
to the Congress a bill to establish a
Department of Public Works. Among
other interesting provisions is the fol-
lowing: "The Secretary of Public
Works shall advise the President with
respect to the design, construction and
maintenance of public works, SHALL
DESIGN, construct and maintain pub-
lic works which ARE NOT INCI-
DENTAL TO THE NORMAL
WORK OF OTHER DEPART-
MENTS OR AGENCIES. . . ."

NULLIFICATION

Last year at the convention the Insti-
tute resolved to "increase its prestige by
so changing its form as to represent,
organize and unite in fellowship all
qualified architects. . . ." The Southern
California Chapter in June resolved:
"We urge the Institute Board and all
members who value their membership
to resist the 'unification' movement. . . ."
The Board of Directors then resolved:
"... while recognizing the value of in-
dependent thought, deplores this action
on the part of the Southern California
Chapter in an attempt to nullify or con-
traven an established policy of the In-
stitute, adopted in convention."

This resolution having been sent to
all Chapters, the following reply has
been made by the New Jersey Chapter
in a resolution:

"Whereas, the New Jersey Chapter is
quite sure that the Board of Directors of
the National Body in ordering the
resolutions sent to all Chapters, and to
others, had no thought of acting in an
arbitrary manner or of imposing its will
upon the Chapters, and that it will give
consideration to the views of the Chap-
ters upon the issues covered by the reso-
lutions, be it hereby RESOLVED, that
while the New Jersey Chapter is with-
out prejudice as to the action of the
Southern California Chapter, it feels
that the By-Laws should be clarified to
make it clear that while no Chapter
should undermine the broad general
purposes of the Institute, that the action
taken at any convention does not have
to be regarded as sacred or sacrosanct
and that any Chapter may properly or-
ganize repeal of any convention action
of which it disapproves and that the
Board be urged to consider that without
prejudice to the unification issue (on
which issue the New Jersey Chapter
takes no stand in these resolutions) this
By-Law, if enforced, would mean that
any convention action, however ill-ad-
vised, would become a permanent mat-
ter of Institute policy virtually immune
from attack (or at least subject only to
such attack as might occur spontane-
ously at succeeding conventions), and
for that reason the New Jersey Chapter
urges the Board to prepare amendments
to the By-Laws which will return to the
Chapters their right of free action and
initiative in such matters and restore
to the Chapters their right of free
speech . . . ."

JOINT LUNCH

Don't forget to attend the Chapter-
League joint lunch, Tuesday, March 14,
to discuss the proposed Brooklyn-Bat-
tery Bridge plan.