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THE ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL & Architectural Engineer

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FROM AN ARCHITECT'S NOTEBOOK.

. . . For small erections may be finished by their first architects; grand ones, true ones, ever leave the copestone to posterity. God keep me from ever completing anything.

HERMAN MELVILLE.
"Moby Dick."

9 Queen Anne's Gate. Westminster.

"In Sussex"

(From a photograph by Basil Ionides.)

THE

ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL

9 Queen Anne's Gate, Westminster.

Wednesday, March 18, 1925. Volume LXI. No. 1576

The Training of the Craftsman of To-day

THE great modifications due to the changed conditions of our social and political life, and especially of those that touch labour and its organization, have still left us face to face with the problem of how to reconcile the claims of the artisan and craftsman with those of the community. Close corporations, be they the old craft guilds or the modern trade unions, inevitably confine their aims and activities to their own narrowed point of view, and, as a consequence, there is always a rivalry between them and the public good.

At the present day, as in Elizabethan times or earlier, efforts are made to limit the number of those entering a trade or craft, by controlling the means through which the lad or young man can be efficiently trained to qualify for admission to the body practising that craft. This craft education is so important a factor in the economy of guild or trade union that it may, indeed, be called the foundation upon which these associations are built, and one may say that, given a perfect system of training, the rest is easy.

Elizabeth's Act of 1562, prohibiting any person from exercising any "trade or mystery" unless he had served a seven years' apprenticeship, was repealed in 1814, and the way to freedom of admission to the ranks of labour is no longer bound by statute. But, while apprenticeship is not now legally enforced or obligatory, such admission is still almost universally through that avenue, although under conditions largely differing from those of earlier times. The trade unions, however, while admitting apprenticeship as their principle, have, as a matter of fact, failed to maintain its good features of the past, nor have they, with all their great power behind them, striven to develop it to fit the needs of modern days. They have made little or no effort to provide and maintain such a system of technical training as would be a proper equipment for the craft to be followed. To-day, we owe—not to associated labour but—to the governing bodies of our great cities, and to other agencies outside the unions, the recognition of the fact that the present conditions of labour are all but impossible of reconciliation with the old system of workshop-training and apprenticeship, and hence they have attempted to devise such a modification of this as shall adapt it to the circumstances of to-day.

The great and compelling force that had brought about an alteration, primarily in the workshop, and thence, as a necessary following, in the training of the apprentice was, beyond doubt, the lessening of hand-work due to its gradual supersession by machinery so contrived as to take its place. More and more has there been a tendency to substitute for the inventive thought or imagination of the craftsman such narrow memory on his part as is necessary for mere attention to the cranks or handles of a machine. And even when the hand is still relied on for work beyond the power of a machine, there has grown up a disposition to restrict its scope to one particular portion of the object worked on, and to make such a subdivision of the labour entailed as shall leave each worker confined to the monotonous repetition of one detail of it only, and shall withhold from him the craftsman's satisfaction of dealing with that object as a whole.

The development of machinery as the dominating condition in the workshop is, however, only one factor that has helped to bring about a change in the exercise of the crafts. For, although the activity of the unions has been more particularly in the material direction of increase of pay and limitation of output, they have also dealt with the apprenticeship system in one important respect. One of their actions, far-reaching in its effects, is that of the very stringent regulation most of them have established as to the percentage of apprentices to be allowed in proportion to the number of mature artisans or craftsmen. Thanks, however, to conditions largely brought about by the crying needs of the housing question, there is now a tendency to relax the extreme rigour of this rule. Originally confining the number of apprentices as compared with journeymen to a proportion of one to seven, the rule in its original form was found to be manifestly unworkable, as bearing hardly on the would-be apprentice as well as on the workman himself. In the case, for instance, of a small builder with a staff of only five or six men, this proportion of course prevented his employing even a single apprentice. In view of the difficulties following a compliance with the regulation as first framed, a tentative arrangement has been effected, according to which one apprentice may be taken to three workmen, and it is to be hoped that this or some such reasonable proportion may obtain in the future.

The changed position of apprenticeship and the diminution of the number of young artisans trained by means of that system are more manifest in London and our important provincial cities than in the country, where it is subject to the impossibility of supplementing the education given in the workshop by the educational facilities offered in the large centres. This is a fact that bears against the opinion expressed the other day at the R.I.B.A. when considering how far the shortage of craftsmen in the building industry was connected with the altered conditions of the system of training. It was very plainly suggested that "the time for apprenticeship has gone by," and that "we must look to the technical colleges to train the men who will be employed in the building trades." Such a method of education, it is clear, would be quite out of the power of the would-be beginner in the village or small town. Distance alone would prevent his profiting by the advantages of those who live in, or close to, London or a large provincial town.

In the case of the latter the experience of the last quarter of a century has shown the value of a training in a technical institution, supplemented by workshop practice and instruction. The difficulty, however, of agreement as to the proportion in which these two parallel forms of education are to stand to one another has been the subject of much

debate on the part of those representing the various interests involved. A scheme, just put into effect in Liverpool after considerable discussion, seems to offer a working solution as regards this point. According to this, the young craftsman undergoes a two years' course of instruction at classes in his particular craft. These he attends one whole day in the week, being released by his employer for this purpose without any loss of wages. This preliminary institute training will be supplemented by his undergoing a further course of more advanced evening lectures and the like during a further two years.

Such an agreed arrangement brings together the learner, his master, and the trade union, and may be hopefully looked on as showing on the part of the last a disposition to reconsider decisions to a degree that allows even the public at large to participate in the advantages. The word craft is one of wide meaning, and has been so from the time when Chaucer could say "Of his crafte he was a carpenter." He and his contemporaries, like ourselves, looked upon the word as including all ranks of industrial workers, from the bricklayer, and the carpenter, and the others whom we are apt to call "artisans," to workers employed where more artistic faculties are demanded, those, for example, engaged on decorative work such as stained glass, carving, ornamental metal, and ceramics. All these crafts alike are deeply affected by the certain fact that the old-fashioned system of indentured apprenticeship has palpably broken down, and all are interested in the consideration of the principle which we are in the process of shaping to take its place. Upon the value and success of this the life and future of all the crafts depend. For there is no doubt that the strength of an association of workmen is measured by the method through which its members are recruited, and particularly by its adoption of means through which the youths proposing to join the body are given the opportunity of such training as will fit them for its ranks. Here the trade unions can help, and, making use of the immense power they are able to wield, can—in concert with the employers and the public at whose instance educational institutions have been set on foot—make it one of their principles that the apprentice has a thorough education in his craft. As Mr. Clynes said the other day, "Many workers are now shut out of reasonable opportunities for advance because custom or selfishness prevents men in many instances giving fair opportunity either to natural ability or to individual endeavour." The trade unions should take this admonition to heart in many ways, not least as regards supplying such training to the young worker as shall end in his giving good work in return for good wages.

C. HARRISON TOWNSEND.

A Challenge to the Engineers

Mr. R. C. Norman has cleared away any misunderstanding that may have existed concerning the official attitude towards Waterloo Bridge. Sir Frank Dicksee had written to "The Times" to say that "so far as the question is one of engineering it seems to be generally admitted that by one method or another the bridge can be saved in its present form." Commenting upon this observation in a letter to "The Times," Mr. Norman says: "Those who have taken the trouble to follow this controversy and, more particularly, to read the report of the Bridge Committee on which the Council's resolution was founded, will be aware that the statement quoted above is wholly inaccurate." This is an admission that it is beyond the power of the engineers to save the bridge. Can it be that British engineering is baffled by the comparatively simple problem of underpinning a sinking pier? We should not like to accuse it of such incompetence. Yet Mr. Norman does not hesitate to do so. Will not the engineers rise up in their wrath and refute the aspersion? We shall see. If they admit that the underpinning of this pier is beyond their power then we must call in the Americans.

Scent and Sensibility

Whatever the shortcomings of Regent Street from the point of view of architectural unity, there is no lack of distinction in its parts. Some of the new shop fronts, for instance, are delightful; they would do credit to the finest city in the world. Messrs. Morny's scent-shop, which we illustrate in this issue, is in architectural attractiveness fully equal to the earlier Grande Parfumerie by the same architects, though in a different manner. If it has much of Parisian richness about it, so much the better for Regent Street, where the note of opulence is, or should be, the keynote. Oddly enough, Morny's, though entirely different in architectural character, is just as unmistakably a scent-shop as is La Grande Parfumerie, Atkinsons in Bond Street, or Parfums d'Orsay in the Rue de la Paix. Can it be that in some subtle imperceptible way scent communicates itself to the architecture? "'Twere to consider too curiously to consider so," perhaps; yet is imagination or association of ideas entirely responsible for the sensed rhythmics of the Albert Hall, the legal atmosphere of the Temple, or the frigid and calculated quality of the Stock Exchange?

The Dean on St. Paul's

Though displaying on the subject of the Empire's future much of his customary pessimism, Dr. Inge, in a speech delivered last week, was quite optimistic about the future of St. Paul's. "He hoped," he said, "that his audience were sufficiently intelligent to appraise at its proper value what had been nothing but a newspaper stunt." Dr. Inge forgets that but for the alarming interim report of the Commission, which resulted in the opening of "The Times" emergency fund, the Press would never have printed a line about St. Paul's. To turn upon the Press for supporting the appeal of the Commission is surely the unkindest cut of all. As to whether there is any justification for the Dean's optimism, only the future can show.

The Architecture of Road Bridges

The Minister of Transport has done well in calling the attention of local authorities to "the great importance of securing at the outset reliable expert advice upon the design of road bridges." The reminder might well have been made earlier, for many of the bridges which have been lately erected on new arterial roads and elsewhere are unworthy of the money spent upon them. Not yet is it sufficiently realized that good appearance does not mean increase of cost. As Col. Ashley points out, "past experience shows that bridges are more frequently criticized for undue elaboration than for well-proportioned simplicity." As assistance from the Road Fund is in future to be made conditional upon the observance of an æsthetic standard, we ought soon to see a great improvement in these bridges.

The Labourer and his Hire

We have encountered at different times some odd ideas relating to the value of architectural services, but for sheer naïveté the following advertisement from "The Merthyr Express" must be awarded the palm:—

TO ARCHITECTS.

The trustees of Bethel English Baptist Church, Pontlottyn, intend rebuilding their premises. Architects are invited to submit plans and suggestions for the work to J. R. Mathias, Rose Villa, Pontlottyn, from whom all particulars may be obtained.

£5 will be paid for the best plan.

Unification—un fait accompli

As we go to Press, we learn that the Royal Sanction has been given to the Unification of the Royal Institute of British Architects and the Society of Architects. The machinery for the admission of members of the Society of Architects to the R.I.B.A. is now in operation, and the transfers are now taking place.

Architectural Style—I

A Comparison Between Style and Language

By A. TRYSTAN EDWARDS, M.A., A.R.I.B.A.

Introduction

IT may be asked: "Wherein does architectural style consist?" And the simplest answer to this question would be that it implies a certain disciplinary code. A style, whether it be of architecture or anything else, implies that there are certain things which the person or object exemplifying the style is not allowed to do. If he does those prohibited things he is going to lose a certain distinction, and the form of the object or the action of the person acquires a laxity, one might call it a "sloppiness," which immediately puts it outside the pale of style. Now, a code may be expressed in two ways, either by a set of admonitions or by a set of prohibitions; and although at first sight it may seem paradoxical to say so, a code which consists entirely of prohibitions gives far more freedom to the individual than does a code consisting of positive admonitions. The reason of this is that if one is forbidden to do, say, a hundred things,there are still many thousands of things which one may do, but if one is told to make a practice of performing even ten definite actions, that kind of injunction may easily place a far greater burden on the individual than would the series of prohibitions. The classic instance of a social code being established by a series of "Thou shalt nots" is, of course, the Decalogue, and I shall seek to show in the following pages that the social art of architecture depends for its well-being that there should also be established within the scope of building a set of prohibitions which would be as necessary for our æsthetic liberties as the Ten Commandments are necessary for the social liberties of the individual.

What is the difference between "architectural style" in general and the architectural styles which have been the subject of such acrimonious dispute ever since men began to argue about the forms of building? It is clear that the relation of one to the other is of a quite different nature to that which the singular number bears to the plural. Must there always remain with us several distinct styles, self-sufficient and immortal, or is some great universal super-style destined to push aside the others? And how, in the first instance, are we to define the word style? I shall attempt not only to answer these questions, but to answer them precisely. The character of the present topic, however, precludes a procedure in which definitions precede dialectic. In mathematics and the other exact sciences definitions come first and ratiocination follows therefrom. In subjects such as philosophy and art a definition is less often a mere premise than a summary and crystallization of a prolonged argument, and it may more properly come at the end of a discourse than at its beginning. For the time being it will be sufficient if we use the word style in a manner which is authorized by common parlance, and if throughout the argument we can but give this term a consistent meaning, we shall gradually be preparing ourselves for the fastidious intellectual act of definition.

It is a common practice to compare style with language, and it might be assumed that a cosmopolitan or universal style would be in some measure comparable to Esperanto. If that comparison were just it would, in the opinion of many people, kill whatever enthusiasm they might have had for the establishment of a universal style in architecture. Esperanto may have certain uses, and its advocates advance many claims on its behalf, but the fact remains, nevertheless, that it is extremely improbable that any great work of literature will be composed in the Esperanto language. Yet the comparison between architectural style and language is a valuable one, for just as there is a science of language called philology, which enables one to compare the characteristics of the separate languages, there ought also to be a science of style which will enable us to compare the qualities of the known historical styles of architecture. Architectural philology might be a useful term in which to describe this particular science. Like language, architecture has its vocabulary and its grammar, and while it has several distinct vocabularies all covering the same field of expression, *it has only one grammar*. Let us compare with the English language the greatest of the architectural styles, which is commonly known as the Classic style. The English language has acquired an extremely rich vocabulary, and has become a vehicle for thought which, for finesse and precision, is, perhaps, unsurpassed. The language owes much of its virtue to the fact that it has borrowed foreign terms with the utmost freedom, and it might be said that English in doing so was trying to become a cosmopolitan language. It took from the Greek and Latin countless words which have made English a true inheritor of these ancient tongues, and but for the intervention of printing, which has had the effect of stereotyping language, English might have developed very much faster during the last three hundred years than it has in fact done. Now, the feature of the Classic style, which distinguishes it from all others, is what is known as the Classic Order, that system of column and entablature which has had such a remarkable artistic vitality. The great opportunity for the spread of the Classic style arose through the civilizing influence of the Romans, who established for many centuries a great peace over most of what is now known as Europe. They took from the Greeks the Classic Order and combined it with the arch in a truly harmonious fashion. The Classic style, therefore, starting with the synthetic union of column and beam, took within its own boundaries the arch, and later it also embraced the dome, a feature which was Byzantine in its origin; and still later, in the seventeenth century, in England, the Classic style successfully incorporated a feature which had up to then belonged exclusively to the mediæval Gothic. I refer to the spire. In the Renaissance spires of Sir Christopher Wren, for instance, the Classic style is seen to beat the Gothic in its own field, and there appears to be no reason why this style should not go on and on until every main form known to manners of building throughout the world has been embraced within its scope.

Before considering the question of style further, it may be well at this point to make an important distinction, that between character and style. The character of building depends upon its capacity to express a certain function and status, and it is quite clear that in what are known as the historical styles of architecture the same function and status can be expressed with almost equal success. For instance, let us take a prominent architectural feature, such as the spire. A Gothic spire expresses the idea of a church, and so does a Renaissance spire, and yet the styles are different. Therefore, if we ask ourselves how can we best express the idea of a church, it is a quite illogical procedure to begin at once to argue as to what particular style is suitable for the church. The character of the church is not dependent upon its style or even the style of buildings in its vicinity. On what does its character depend then? The answer is that we must consider the township as a whole and the relation of the spire to the township, before we can apprehend the true significance of this feature. If we see a town composed of comparatively low buildings, and one pre-eminent spire set in its midst, it is clear that this building, if its formal pre-eminence is to have any meaning at all, must be pre-eminent socially also, and, furthermore, if the important building is rather small in area this formal pre-eminence can only be expressed by

great height. A church spire or tower was originally intended to be a symbol of social importance. It only becomes so, however, provided that we make a very clear rule that no comparatively unimportant building shall be allowed to have a spire. So if we assume that by general agreement the spire form has been assigned to a church the character of the spire cannot be established unless there is a definite interdiction preventing all other buildings from having a spire. No matter what the ornament on the spire may be, or the general characteristics which might make one affirm that it belonged to any particular historical tradition, its character as the symbol of a church is entirely dependent upon the social act on the part of the community at large, which will preserve for the church a particular privilege. If we are to choose between a community of buildings which violates the dictates of character and one which shows a very great and even confusing diversity of styles, the latter is far preferable. In a town like Oxford, for instance, we see cheek by jowl, Renaissance colleges, such as Queens, mediæval ones, such as All Souls and Brasenose, and many others, but as all these buildings very truthfully affirm the collegiate spirit, that is to say, they are low, quadrangular in shape, and express a certain orderly domesticity, they harmonize with each other far better than would a group of buildings even of homogeneous style, if these latter were guilty of an infringement of the conventions which relate to character. Therefore, it is exceedingly necessary in discussing the question of style to make it clear that style is subordinate to character. We must get the character right first, and having done this, it will be time enough to establish the proper qualities which appertain to style. In current American literature we have very long discussions as to whether the Gothic style is more suitable to the skyscraper than is that derived from Classic sources, and the disputants who wrangle thus imagine that their arguments embrace the whole subject. It may well be contended, however, that from the civic point of view a commercial skyscraper which, by its size and prominence, arrogantly overbears churches and town halls and other important public buildings, is equally unbearable whether its style be in the Classic, Gothic, Renaissance, Egyptian, or Byzantine, or even in the Jewish style, if such there be. In fact, there is a very great danger that the heated arguments concerning style will obscure the more fundamental problems which relate to character. The important distinction is this: that where the style of a building is a matter which the individual artist is able either rightly or wrongly to choose for himself, the character of a building is partly dependent upon a certain architectural code being observed by others.

Whatever element in architecture depends for its expression upon a certain measure of agreement concerning its use becomes to this extent *symbolic*. But while in language the whole of the vocabulary is symbolic—that is to say, a word means nothing to us until we have learnt what significance attaches to it through the general consensus of those who speak the language, in architecture by far the greater part of the vocabulary is expressional, the elements and features of building proclaiming their use or purpose to anybody who chooses to look at them with intelligent eyes. The expression of *use*, however, though necessary and desirable, is not the whole of architectural design, and quite apart from the formal element, the grammar, which will be the main theme of the following discussion, there is an important symbolic character exhibited in the "luxury" features of architecture, those imaginative and powerful shapes, which proclaim a purpose beyond the utilitarian. One of the greatest faults in modern architectural design is due to a failure to recognize this symbolic aspect of architecture. The symbol, however, is most likely to be upheld if, in the first instance, it is based upon the idea of expression. Let us glance once more at the church spire. This feature has a peculiar fitness for the design of a church, because it is a means of making the church building very conspicuous in the general pattern of a city, and if we decree that only churches are allowed to have spires, by degrees the spire acquires a religious significance. It cannot be said, however, that a spire in itself expresses any religious idea because prominence over its neighbours is a quality which might belong to structures of a quite different kind. In an entirely lawless community a chemist's shop or a bank or a cinema or any other building could be decorated with a spire, and there is nothing at all to prevent such a development, except a common policy enforced either by public opinion or by a definite legal enactment that only churches are allowed to have spires. But if we were to say that the distinguishing mark of a church was that it should be covered with pink glazed tiles, and if no other building were allowed to have this privilege, by degrees pink glazed tiles would come to be associated with churches, and they would gradually acquire sacred significance. In this case, however, the symbol would be a very foolish and inadequate one because it would not, in the first instance, be founded upon the idea of expression. Pink glazed tiles do not express any quality of a church, whereas a spire does at least express this, namely, that the church is conceived to be a specially prominent building.

The quality of "aspiration" which is sometimes predicated of the steeple, and not only of the steeple, but of the pointed arch, in point of fact, is not there present. It is true that a steeple makes us look upwards, but so do the tall chimney stacks of our factories. The Eiffel Tower has not a religious character by virtue of its great height. Long ago, when people thought the earth was flat and heaven above the sky, it was the custom for religious devotees to cast their eyes upwards in supplication. We now know that it would be just as logical to cast our eyes downwards, towards the right or left, or towards any other quarter of the universe. So the idea that the spire or pointed arch by leading our glance upwards is in any way performing a spiritual function and aiding our devotions is quite untenable. If, on the other hand, both these features were by common agreement reserved for churches, they would by this very means become religious *symbols*. In ear-marking the spire form for this particular purpose the choice of styles is still left open, but to appropriate the pointed arch to such restricted usage would be tantamount to the banishment of the Gothic style from secular architecture, and would unwarrantably diminish the range and meaning of a very definite architectural dialect. The *style* should not be determined by the function of the building in which the style is to be exemplified. Otherwise one might equally well say that if we wished to talk about one subject German was the proper language, and if we wished to deal with another subject we should talk French, and so on. Yet a similar absurdity is often gravely advanced in architectural criticism. People tell us, for instance, that for secular buildings the Classic style is suitable, while for religious nothing but the Gothic could give the appropriate form. The peculiarly sacred character of Gothic architecture is quite a late invention, and those who presume to call other methods of building "Pagan" and irreligious have little knowledge of history. The earliest Christian basilicas had flat roofs, and we are not informed that these buildings were unfitted for worship.

A style, if it is to be worthy of the name, must be capable of expressing every social purpose. When the several styles of architecture had their greatest vitality this was the case. In mediæval times it was considered right and proper that the Gothic style should be adapted to all kinds of building, and in the Classic and Renaissance periods it was likewise found that there was no difficulty whatsoever in adopting the prevalent style to every possible kind of building. The subject of architecture, however, cannot adequately be expressed unless the formal grammar that gives coherence and intelligibility to all the styles has first been apprehended. When this grammar is once analysed we shall, perhaps, be enabled to determine which of the various languages of architecture, either in its present state or modified, is likely to be most useful to us.

(*To be continued.*)

Morny's Scent-Shop in Regent Street

MEWÈS and DAVIS, Architects

HE who wends his way down Regent Street—not leisurely, as in the days of the old Regent Street of the last century, but rather wends and *winds* his way down Regent Street jostled by the crowds of shoppers—is at the corner of Conduit Street overtaken by "such a snare of perfume, that is flung into the air," as to induce him to linger a little within the magic circle of the fragrance, and the centre of the circle will be found to be the shop of Messrs. Morny Frères, the well-known Parisian "parfumeurs." For many years established in London in Regent Street, their old shop has been re-built in the general rebuilding of the street. Here is one of the most handsome shops in all Regent Street—a fine design, interpreted in rich materials.

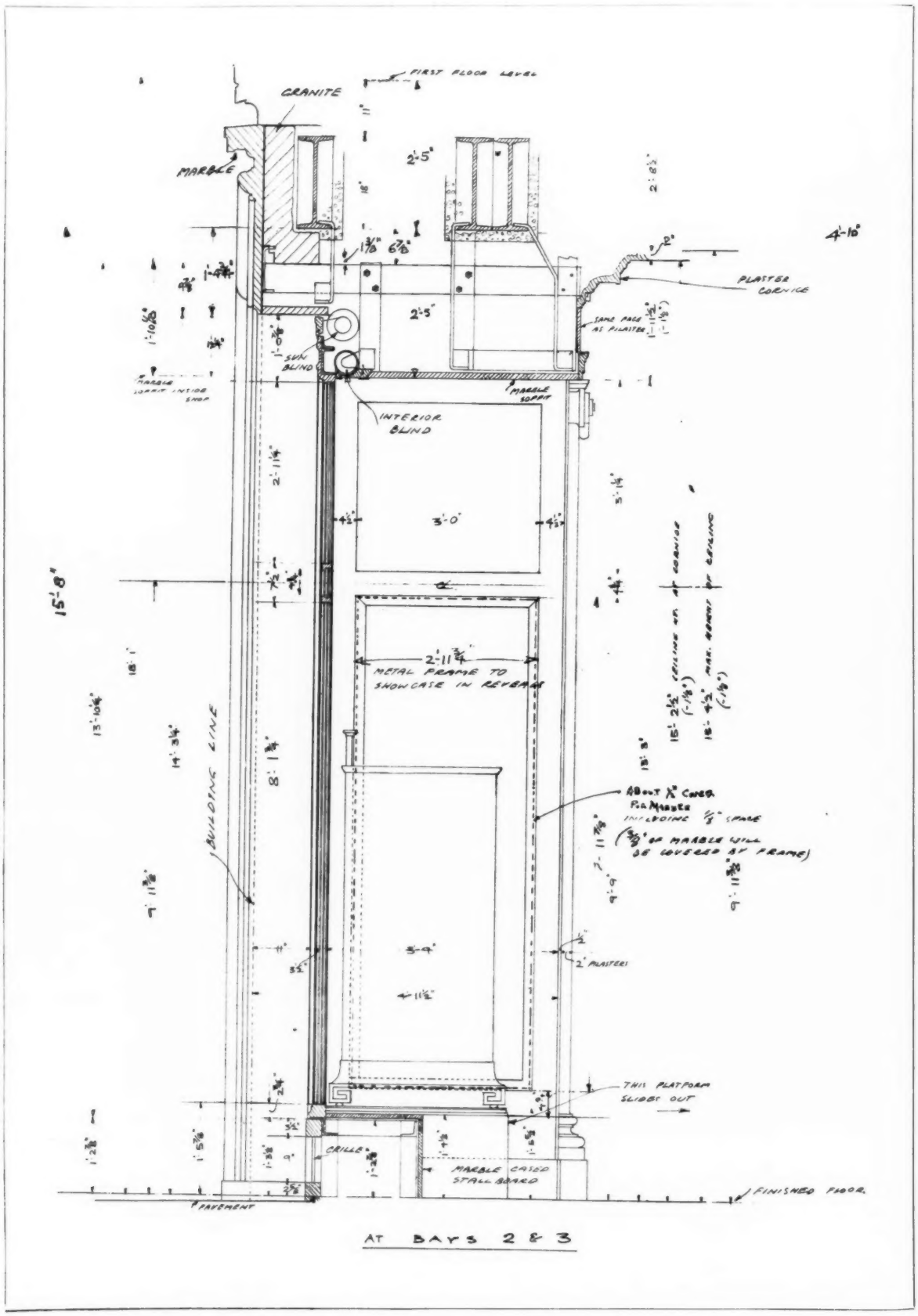
For the exterior of the shop, and around the window fronts, Campan Mélange is used on a background of Cornish granite. The actual shop fronts are of drawn bronze toned to an antique colour, and filled with ¼ in. polished glass.

The interior of the shop is decorated entirely with marble—the marble used being light Siena and dark Siena for the pilasters, bases, and architraves, Arabescato, quartered, for the panelling, and Travertine for the floor.

In the basement are the stores and clerical departments, lighted by pavement lights. The floor of the basement is finished with special granolithic, with a dust-proof surface.

Adjoining are the staff lavatories, where the walls are covered with white glazed tiles, and in certain cases patent marble mosaic, which gives a jointless surface and coved

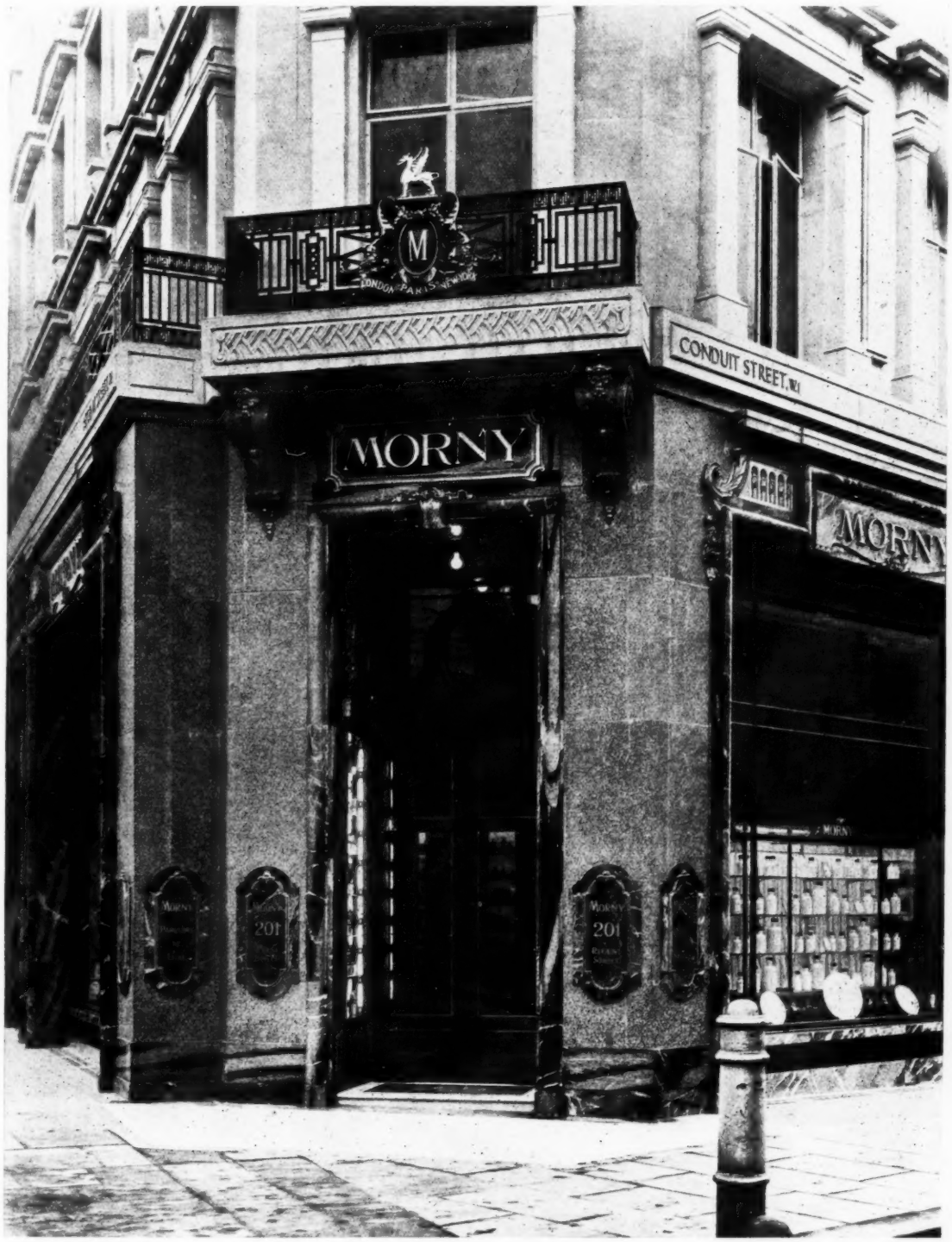
NOS. 199–201 REGENT STREET.
YATES, COOK, AND DARBYSHIRE, ARCHITECTS FOR THE GENERAL ELEVATIONS.



MORNY'S SCENT-SHOP, REGENT STREET: VERTICAL SECTION THROUGH SHOP WINDOWS.
MEWES AND DAVIS, ARCHITECTS.

Shop Fronts. 19.—Morny's Scent-Shop, Regent Street, London

Mewès and Davis, Architects



The new Regent Street, unlike the old, provides many angle entrances to shops, Morny's being a case in point. The shop elevations are of Cornish granite, the door and window surrounds being of Campan Mélange. The stories above are in Portland stone.

Shop Fronts. 20.—Morny's Scent-Shop, Regent Street, London

20.—Morny's Scent-Shop, Regent Street, London

Mewès and Davis, Architects

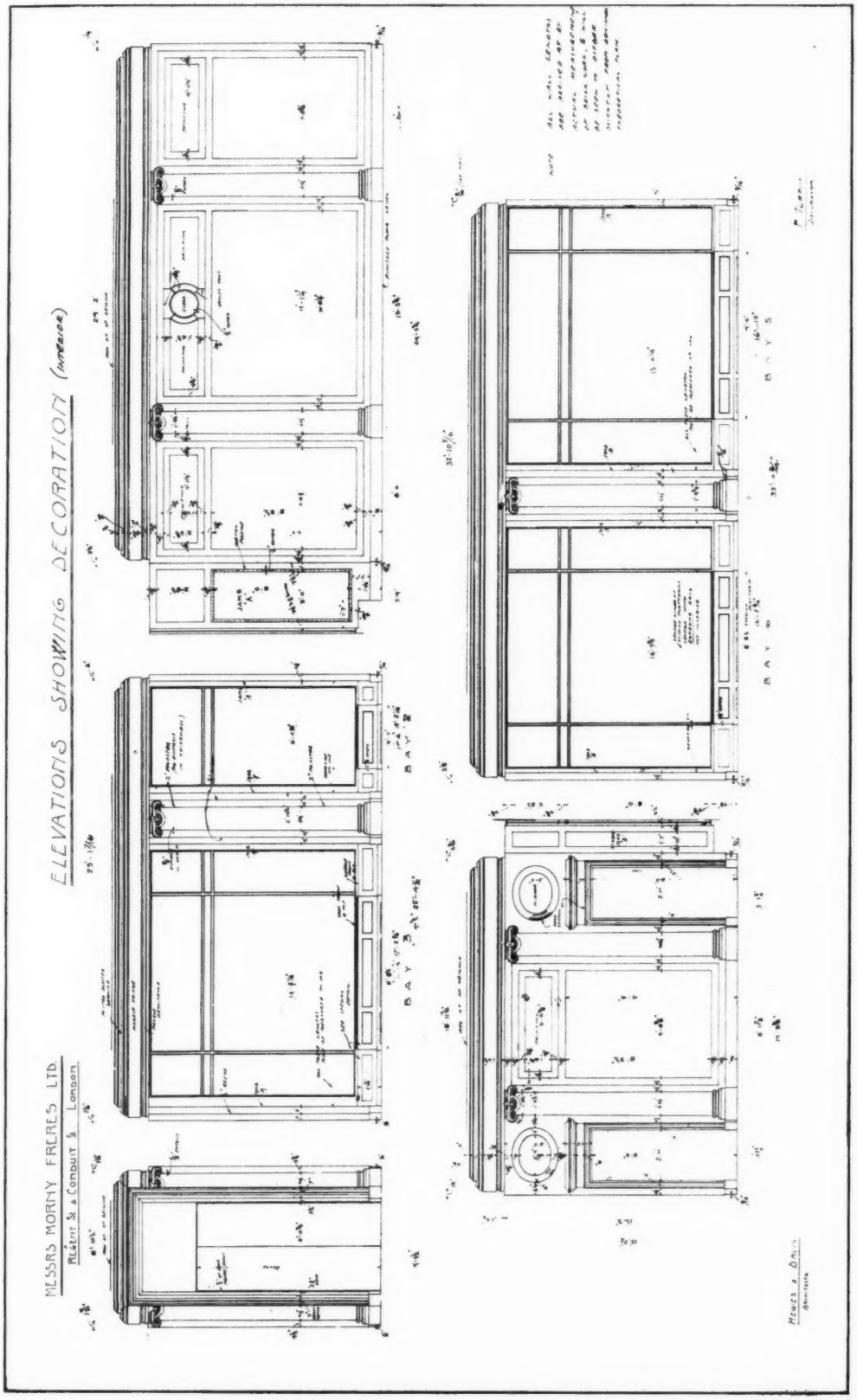
For the window surrounds, Campan Mélange is used, on a background of Cornish granite. The metalwork of the fronts is drawn bronze, toned to an antique colour, and filled with ¼-in. polished glass.

Shop Fronts. 21.—Morny's Scent-Shop, Regent Street, London

Shop Fronts. 21.—Morny's Scent-Shop, Regent Street, London

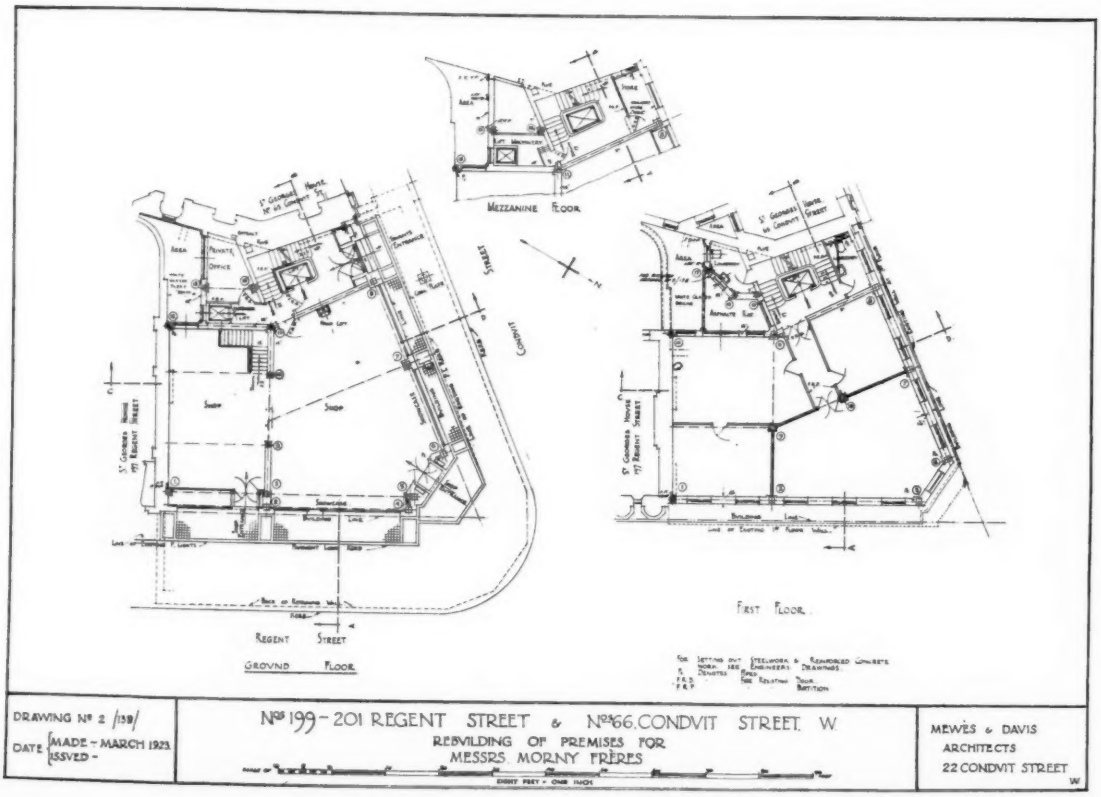
Mewès and Davis, Architects

The interior of the shop is decorated entirely with marble—light Siena and dark Siena for the pilasters, bases, and architraves, Arabescato, quartered, for the panelling, and Travertine for the floor.



MORNY'S SCENT-SHOP, REGENT STREET: ELEVATIONAL DRAWING SHOWING INTERIOR DECORATION.
MEWES AND DAVIS, ARCHITECTS.

A VIEW OF THE INTERIOR.



MORNY'S SCENT-SHOP, REGENT STREET.

angles. Under a portion of the basement is a sub-basement, giving accommodation for the lift-machinery, low-pressure hot-water heating, etc., for the entire building.

The main building was designed by Messrs. Yates, Cook, and Darbyshire, Messrs. Mewès and Davis being responsible for only that part occupied by Messrs. Morny Frères. The main building is faced with Portland stone.

The general contractors were Messrs. Bovis, Ltd., and the sub-contractors were as follows :—Willment Brothers (excavations and pulling down); Diespeker & Co., Ltd. (terrazzo partitions and wall lining, fireproof floors and roofs); The Expanded Metal Co. (suspended ceilings); P. Turpin (marble pavement surrounds); The Plaster Decoration Co., Ltd. (stone carving and models); F. Whitehead and Sons (granite, pilasters, etc.,); J. Whitehead and Sons (marble floor and wall lining, and Travertine marble steps to staircase); Ernest Mathews & Co. (slating); J. M. Pirie & Co. (ironmongery); Haywards, Limited (pavement lights, iron escape, and stairs); W. H. Furze & Co., Ltd. (lightning conductor); The British Luxfer Company (iron lantern lights, steel casements and frames, electro copper fire-resisting glazing); J. Blaikie & Co. (plumbing, heating and hot water, iron doors and frames, cast lead ornamental finials); The Kingsmill Art Metal and Electrical Co. (wrought-iron balconies and ornamental wrought-iron lift enclosures); Redpath, Brown & Co. (constructional steelwork); Drake and Gorham, Ltd. (electric light installation power mains); C. H. Mabey (models for cast lead work); The Sturtevant Engineering Co., Ltd. (vacuum cleaning plant); Lawford & Co. (asphalt); Martin Van Straaten & Co. (wall tiling); The Patent Impervious Stone Co. (granolithic artificial stonework); C. W. Courtenay (Portland stone work); Waygood-Otis, Ltd. (electric lifts and gates); The Concrete Stone Co., Ltd. (plastering); The Central Aircraft Co. (joinery); T. and W. Farmiloe (glazing); John Edgington & Co., Ltd. (flagstaff); The Bromsgrove Guild, Ltd. (bronze windows and entrances). Drake and Gorham, Ltd., carried out all the wiring. A special feature is the semi-indirect system of lighting for showcases, and in the vetrines (portable showcases) a special system of reflected light was installed.

Architecture and Politics

By CLOUGH WILLIAMS-ELLIS

I SUPPOSE all architects who are not completely disillusioned and pessimistic, want to popularize architecture. We believe, that is, that just as good architecture will help a suffering and melancholy world, so bad architecture is a definite evil, and an ugly, stupid, and commonplace building a definite addition to the Empire of Beelzebub. So a good many of us besides fighting Beelzebub in the direct and principal way (by trying to put up good buildings ourselves) do something more or less disinterestedly, to help forward architecture—with a big "A."

Thus, the architects who are members of the Architecture Club, are definitely committed to an attempt to create an architectural public opinion through the Press. When a notable new building is put up, they try to persuade newspaper reporters that the building was designed by someone, and that that someone is at least as worthy of mention as the mayor who declared it open, the building contractors, and the caterers who provide the inauguratory lunch.

Then there are other ways in which architects try to do something towards the creation of a wider architectural public. We go and badger schoolmasters, and tell them their boys are going to live in cities, and that if they do not know anything about the buildings of which these cities are composed, they will be losing a great deal, and will go about with their faculties as much unemployed as would a man who lived in the country and who knew and cared nothing about agriculture, landscape, or natural history. We make speeches, we write books, we write articles, but I want to suggest another sort of activity. Why shouldn't we pull wires?

I have no very specific politics, but I have relations, and I daresay many architects are in the same position. If, then, any of the readers of this Journal helped any candidate of whatever party in the late General Election, he will remember some curious letters that came to the candidate's committee rooms. There were temperance societies who asked the candidate would he vote for temperance measures? There were societies of brewers, who began by saying that they were an influential body in the constituency, with a large membership, and that frankly, the danger of prohibition was what kept them awake at night.

And then the more recondite people whose letters began :

"SIR,—In the event of voting on Prayer Book revision, will you or will you not countenance the use of the Chasuble?"

Now, is there nothing to be learnt from these people? Some of them may be cranks, but I fancy there is something to be said for their methods. I was always brought up to believe that the laws of this country, besides deterring wrong doers and directing our conduct in a variety of ways, also to some extent set a standard of morality. Suppose there were two wicked acts, "torts," or whatever they are called; for doing the one you were fined 5s., for doing the other you were fined £1. There would grow up in the mind of the public a very distinct idea that it must be exactly four times as wicked to commit the second crime as to commit the first.

I think that just as from the questions that come up at elections our legislators, both local and imperial, form an idea of what matters to the country, so the country to some extent, forms an idea of what is important, from the place given to various subjects in politics. I think, therefore, that if we could make architecture, or rather amenity generally, an election question, though we should not perhaps manage to get very much directly on to the statute book, we should considerably influence public opinion by getting a notion of seemliness into the field of these two reflecting mirrors. I think, moreover, that the time is very suitable for some such activity.

None of the three parties are really very sure of themselves and would be glad to win over any sort of a vote, any sort of a public. Mr. Baldwin, for instance, is a person with distinct architectural sympathies, and there are a good many of his close allies who care a great deal for one or another of the visual arts. There would be no lack of sympathy to overcome; only inertia.

In the Labour Party the position is much the same. "But," my readers will object, "there are no architectural safeguards whatever in the Wheatley housing scheme." This fact, however, is far from going unmarked in the Labour Party, by an influential section of which it was considered disastrous. Mr. Macdonald has of course publicly demonstrated his interest in architecture, and he has a son who is an architect. But besides all this, there is quite a body of opinion in the Labour Party which holds that their party must emphasize its assertion that it stands for civilization and a better world, by giving a due place in its programme to the arts.

As to the Liberals, Mr. Lloyd George, earlier in his career, did at Criccieth that which was architecturally evil. But lately he reformed, and he entrusted his new house in Surrey to an architect of real ability. Æsthetics, too, are in the tradition of the Liberal Party, and moreover the Liberal Party has its arms open to any possible band of supporters who have energy.

After all, a great deal of building in the country is in some

way or another under the control either of Parliament or of the municipalities. Why cannot architects, whether their views be Conservative, Liberal, or Labour, go to their respective candidates, either for Parliament or for the County Council, and offer to work politically for them, if in their turn they will promise not to vote without protest for architectural atrocities? They must promise, for instance, that when they get on the County Council, and a new school or a hospital is to be built, they will endeavour to see that a proper competition is instituted, or that some competent architectural authority is consulted. Or, again, they could see that some little word shall be slipped into this or that public regulation, which would make for beauty instead of for ugliness.

To your candidate, this will probably be a matter of entire indifference, and in exchange for your help, he will probably willingly promise to act in a matter in which, alas, feeling can hardly be said to run high.

And at all this, I can hear my readers snort with indignation. They will say: "Will you lower the greatest of the arts to struggle in the political arena? Will you allow the 'Mistress Art' to cover herself with the dust of conflict, and descend to party politics?" To which I reply: "Yes, most certainly."

Architecture has cut herself aloof far too long. In the great epochs of architecture, when people really knew about it, and talked about it and practised it, when the Louvre was rising in Paris, or great palaces springing up just for the visit of some Cardinal all up and down Italy, or our more modest St. Paul's or Chelsea Hospital were flowering in London; then the "Mistress Art" frequented not only the party arena but the back stairs, and did not disdain the protection of Nell Gwynne. But that is the trouble with architecture. Architects have lately skied themselves like Nelson on his column. The muse of Architecture is kept mewed up in the drawing-room, like the "Godly Matron" of the Victorians.

Architects cannot even write frank and bitter criticisms of each other as authors can and do, greatly to the invigoration of the public and their art. They cannot meddle with politics; they will not sully themselves with this, that, or the other.

Look back; such fastidiousness was never the hall-mark of the great period of any art.

Golf Cottage, St. John's, Woking

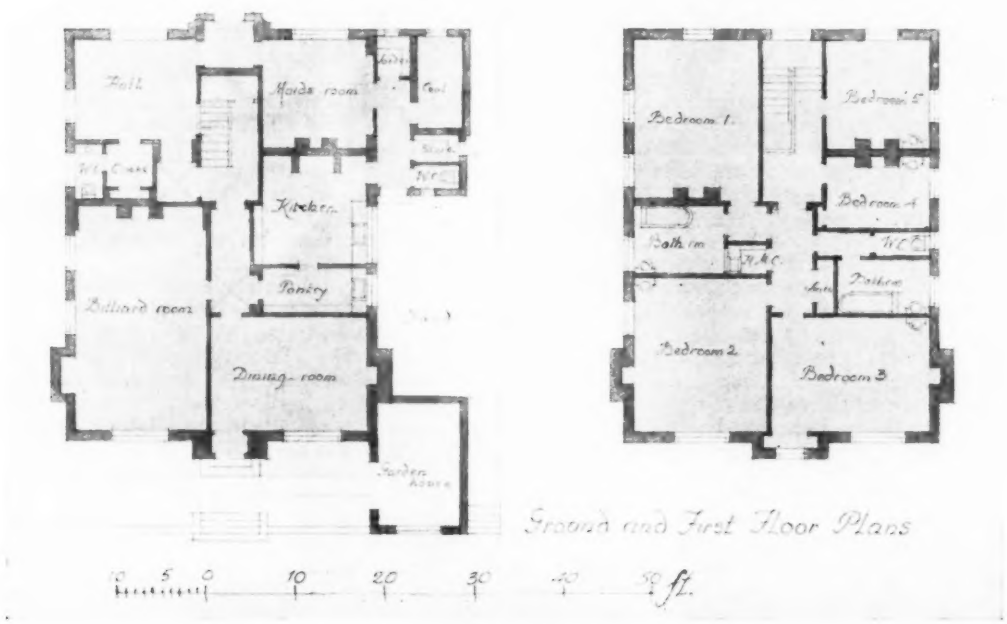
HORACE FIELD, F.R.I.B.A., Architect

THIS house has been erected at St. John's, near Woking, Surrey. The subsoil is of a sandy nature, and the aspect of the cottage is south-east and south-west. It is built on the site of a small cottage, and the plan of the new building had to conform to and fit in with the lines of an existing garden without encroaching on the lawn on the south, and a flower-garden on the south-west. The low wall and the narrow terrace are new. The line of the terrace wall was also fixed from the beginning. These lines had to be adhered to, and they presented the only problem in dealing with the lay-out.

On the ground floor the accommodation includes a hall, with cloak-room, and w.c. attached, billiard-room, dining-room, and the servants' quarters, which consist of a maids' room, kitchen, pantry, etc. Two entrances are provided for the members, one leading into the hall, and the other, on the opposite side of the building, into the dining-room. Adjoining the house near the dining-room entrance is a garden house. A separate entrance is provided for the use of the servants.

On the first floor there are five bedrooms, two bath-rooms, and lavatory accommodation.

The interior contains many interesting architectural features. Among the more noteworthy are the marble mantels and surrounds to the fireplaces, the stained glass



PLANS.

Modern Domestic Architecture. 114.—Golf Cottage, St. John's, near Woking, Surrey

Horace Field, F.R.I.B.A., Architect

The governing condition in the design of this house was that it should fit in with the lines of an existing garden. The low wall and narrow terrace are new. On the ground floor the accommodation consists of hall, billiard-room, dining-room, kitchen, maids' room, and usual offices, while there are five bedrooms on the upper floor.

GOLF COTTAGE, ST. JOHN'S, NEAR WOKING, SURREY: BACK ENTRANCE
HORACE FIELD, F.R.I.B.A., ARCHITECT

THE BILLIARD ROOM.

THE HALL.

GOLF COTTAGE, ST. JOHN'S, NEAR WOKING, SURREY. HORACE FIELD, F.R.I.B.A., ARCHITECT.

and leaded lights, and the panelling in the hall. The walls are of brick, with stone facings, and the roofs are covered with tiles.

The general contractors were Messrs. Mardon Ball & Co., of Farnham, Surrey, who also carried out the special woodwork. The sub-contractors were as follow: Martin Van Straaten & Co. (tile dadoes, etc.); Thos. Mitchell and Sons, Guildford (tiles); McDowell, Stevens & Co., Ltd. (stoves, grates, and mantels, and sanitary ware and fittings); Woking Electric Supply Co. (electric wiring); Wm. Morris & Co., Westminster (stained glass and leaded lights); Gillham and Jones (electric light fixtures); Yannedis & Co. (door furniture); M. and R. Moore, Ltd. (marble mantel and surrounds); Comyn Ching & Co., Ltd. (heating apparatus); R. Anderson & Co. (lightning conductors).

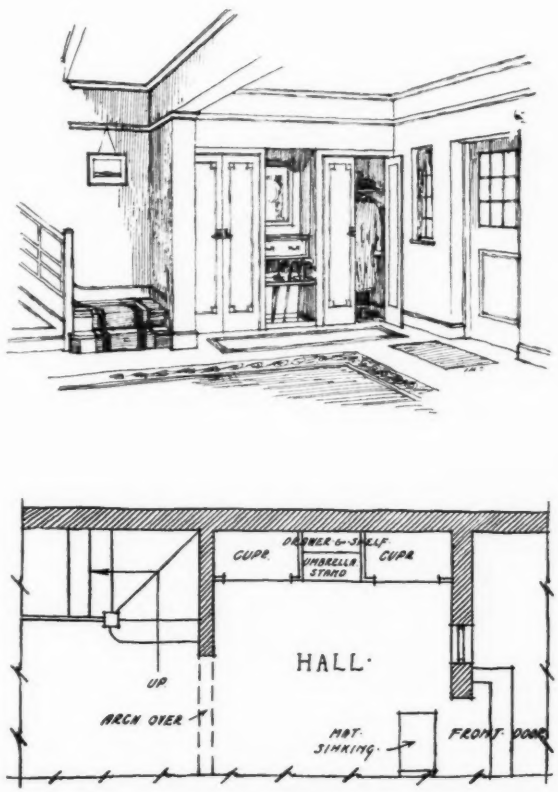
Messrs. Aumonier and Son, Charlotte Street, W.1, executed the carving of the brackets and key-blocks to the two external doorways. The stock bricks and facings were obtained from Knaphill.

Built-in Fitments.—2

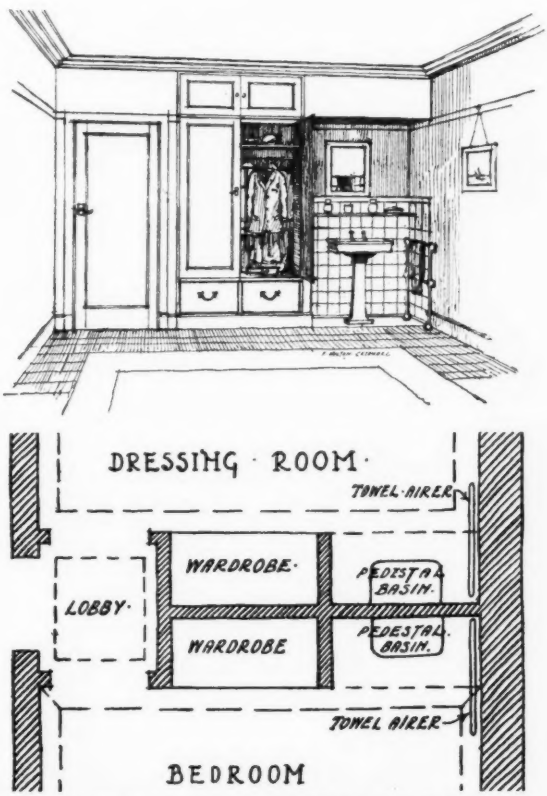
By H. J. BIRNSTINGL

NEXT to the kitchen, perhaps the least controversial place in the house for a built-in fitment is the hall. The old-fashioned hat-coat-and-umbrella-stand is fortunately falling into rapid desuetude. It was always an unsatisfactory affair: ugly and dust collecting. The most satisfactory alternatives are a special cloak-room, or a coat cupboard or cupboards. Of the latter, sketches are reproduced. Immediately to the side of the front door is a pair of cupboards, and between them is a drawer for gloves, dog-leashes, and such-like oddments which so often bestrew a hall; beneath the drawer is a stick and umbrella rack, with a removable zinc tray. Above the drawer is a mirror, not hung, but fixed to the wall; a hung mirror requires to be taken down from time to time to be dusted at the back, for, in addition to the dust which accumulates, the space between the wall and the frame is a favourite breeding-place for spiders. The cupboards have double flush-panelled doors, and are sufficiently deep to accommodate coat-hangers. A shelf is provided for hats; a far more satisfactory arrangement than hooks, as with the latter, the hats are very liable to be knocked down in taking down the coats. The space above the coat cupboards should be blocked out, or a further range of cupboards can be formed for the storage of articles not frequently in use, such as skates, top hats, small portmanteaux, bags, travelling rugs, hold-alls, umbrella straps, and the like. A fitment such as this would almost invariably be regarded as an asset in any house, and would do much to maintain cleanliness, tidiness, and to save labour.

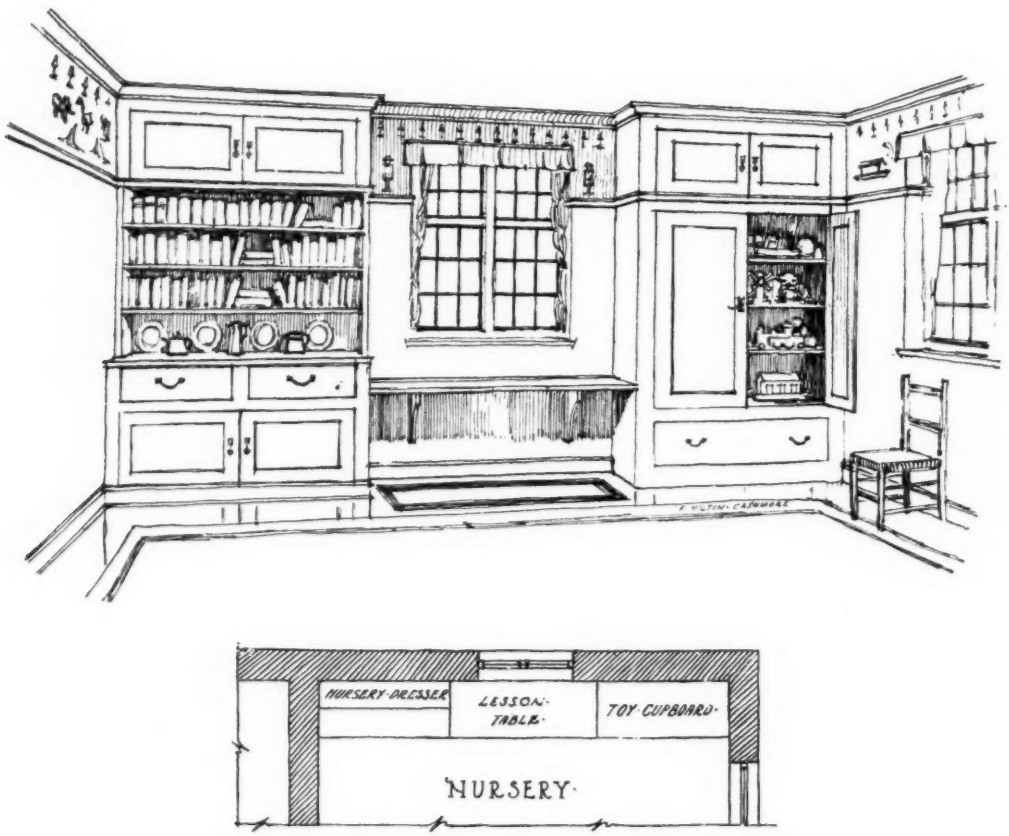
One of the favourite rooms for built-in fitments is the bedroom, but here, for the reasons stated in the last article, elaborate fitments should be avoided, unless the house is being built without any likelihood of future sale or of the changing about of the purpose for which the various rooms are used. The most useful fitment to build in is generally some sort of wardrobe cupboard. The plan shows a bedroom and dressing-room suite with a joint lobby and two similar fitments on either side. These combine a wardrobe with a pair of doors, containing a shelf, below which is a brass rail for coat-hangers, and drawers beneath. The space above contains a cupboard for the storing of articles of apparel and oddments not frequently in use. The recess at the side of the wardrobe



HALL FITMENTS.



DRESSING-ROOM AND BEDROOM FITMENTS.



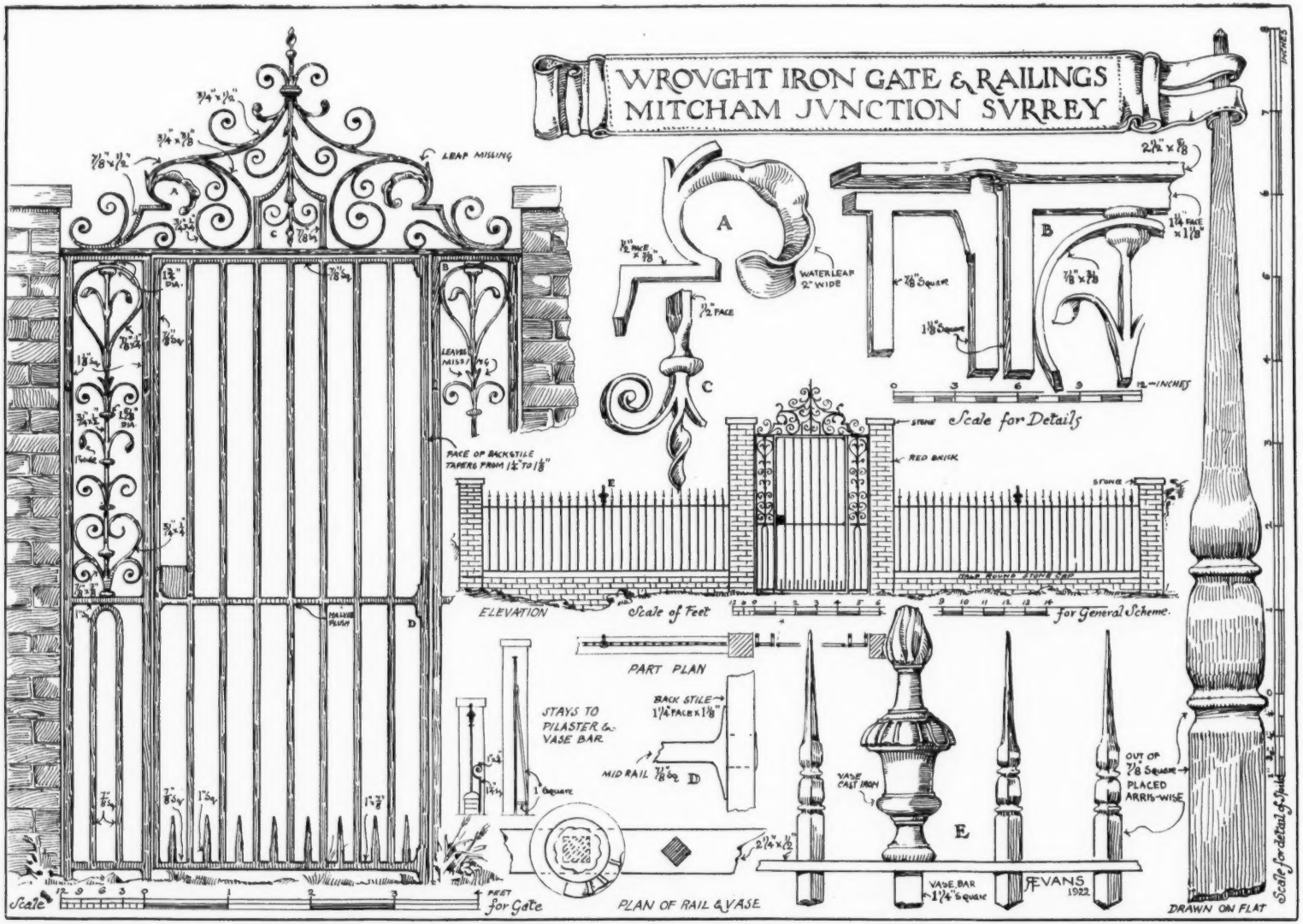
NURSERY FITMENTS.

is tiled for a height of about 4 ft., and contains a wash-basin, plate-glass shelf, fixed mirror, and hot towel airer. The basins standing back to back discharge together through the wall. A bedroom fitting offers scope for a far more elaborate arrangement than that shown, of course, with a place for every kind of garment. Ingenuity, however, can the carried too far, and the desire to make a "place for everything" may end in there being no place for anything; but a useful variant from, or addition to, the hanging wardrobe is a wardrobe comprising drawers up to a height of about 2 ft. 6 in., and a cupboard above containing sliding trays.

A room in the house to which more attention is being given to-day in its equipment than was usual formerly is the nursery; this is in conformity with the zest which is shown for child welfare. If a room is definitely set aside as a nursery, and is likely to remain as such for some time, there is scope for useful fitments of various kinds. The illustrations show one wall of the nursery having a central window, completely devoted to fitments of various kinds. In the centre, under the window, is a "lesson table," which is nothing more than a hinged table-top supported on hinged brackets. The value of having a special table for lessons will be appreciated by anyone who has attempted to give nursery instruction; a definite purpose, which it is difficult to engender if the lessons are carried on in any part of the room, perhaps amidst toys and other distractions, becomes associated with the table, so that the child knows that when it is seated there it is expected to devote serious attention to the matter in hand. By placing the table under the window the best light is obtained; moreover, the child has its back to any possible distraction which may be going on in the room while the lessons are in progress. The object of having the table hinged is to enable the nursery occupants to look out of the window without climbing on to the table, a procedure which would certainly be adopted were the table a fixture, during the hours when lessons are not in progress.

On the right of the table is shown a toy cupboard comprising simply a deep cupboard with shelves and a deep drawer beneath. On the left of the table is a nursery dresser. The upper shelves are used for books, below are drawers for tablecloth, nursery cutlery, etc., and cupboards for nursery crockery, jam, and non-perishables. It will be noticed that above both these fittings are further comparatively inaccessible cupboards. Various purposes will suggest themselves for these—among the more obvious are an accident cupboard, containing ointments and bandages to deal with the inevitable nursery cuts and bruises, a place for storing, amidst camphor, clothes that have become too small for the elder, and are still too big for the younger children. They are places that will be welcomed by the mother of a growing family, for whom the alternative is so often to put the garments into trunks and stow them in a damp box-room. Another fitment which is useful in a nursery is a ventilated cupboard in which food can be kept, but, for the most part, if such accommodation is required, it were better if it were planned with an outside approach from a landing rather than in the nursery itself.

[The earlier article of this series appeared in our issue for March 4.]



MEASURED AND DRAWN BY R. EVANS.

This gate and its railings, like much of the graceful eighteenth-century ironwork, were probably wrought by a local smith. Notable features of the gate, in addition to the scrollwork, are the forged heels to the crossrails, and the spiked dog bars. In the centre of the side railings is a cast-iron vase. The piers were probably rebuilt at a later date.

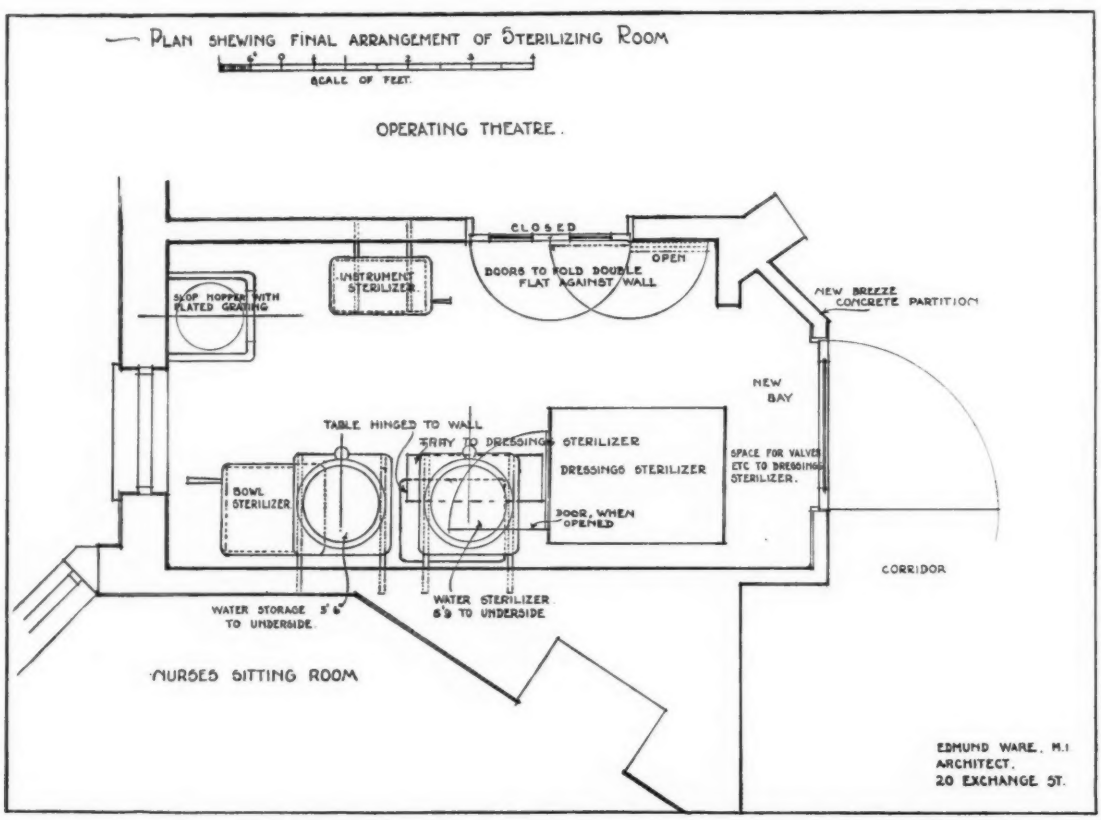
Cottage Hospitals: Some Points in Planning and Equipment

NO building requires more skill in planning or more ingenuity in the arrangement of its equipment than the hospital. Not only must special care be taken to meet the exacting and ever-changing demands of the medical staff, but the building must be economically planned to secure ample working space, without waste, and to enable the work of the nursing and administrative services to be done quickly and quietly, with the highest degree of efficiency, and the smallest amount of labour. Special attention must also be paid to the aspect and accessibility of the several departments, and to such important matters as sunlight, air, ventilation, and sanitation. To counterbalance the impression of severe efficiency thus produced the architectural character of the building should create a feeling of confidence and, if possible, even cheerfulness in the patient.

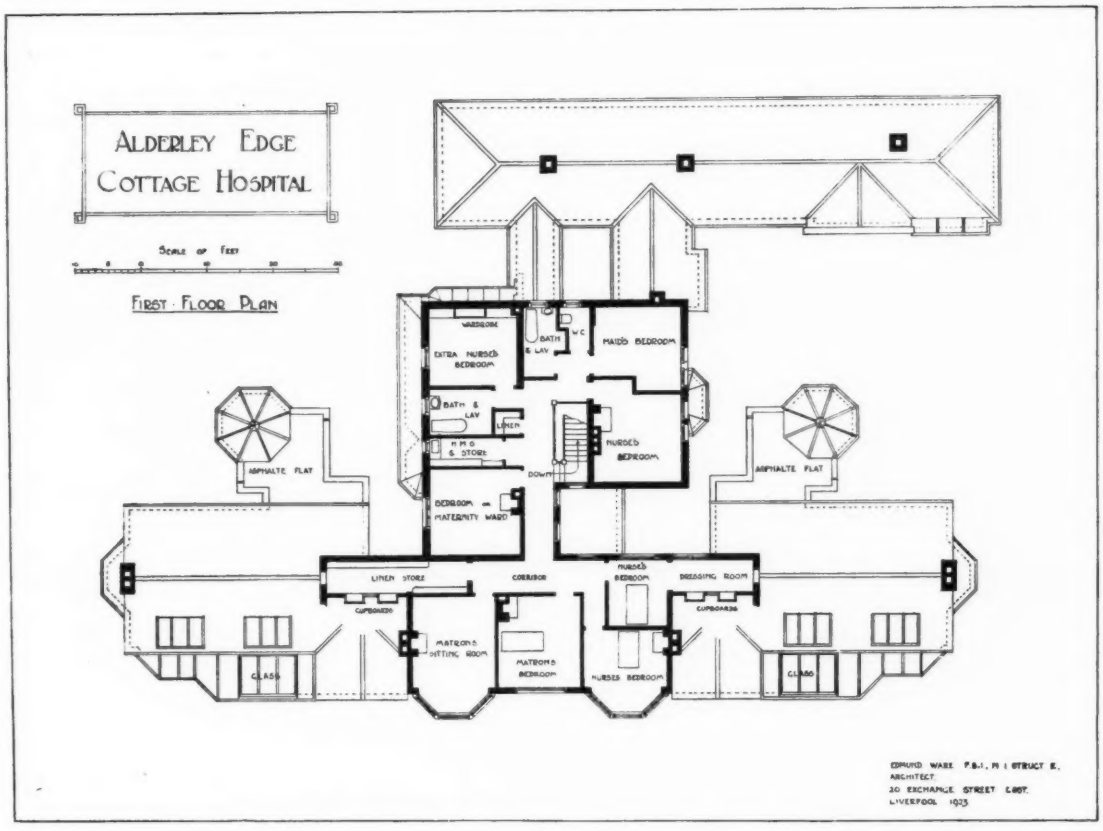
The character of modern cottage hospital planning is illustrated in the Hoylake and West Kirby and the Alderley Edge cottage hospitals, plans and views of which accompany this article.

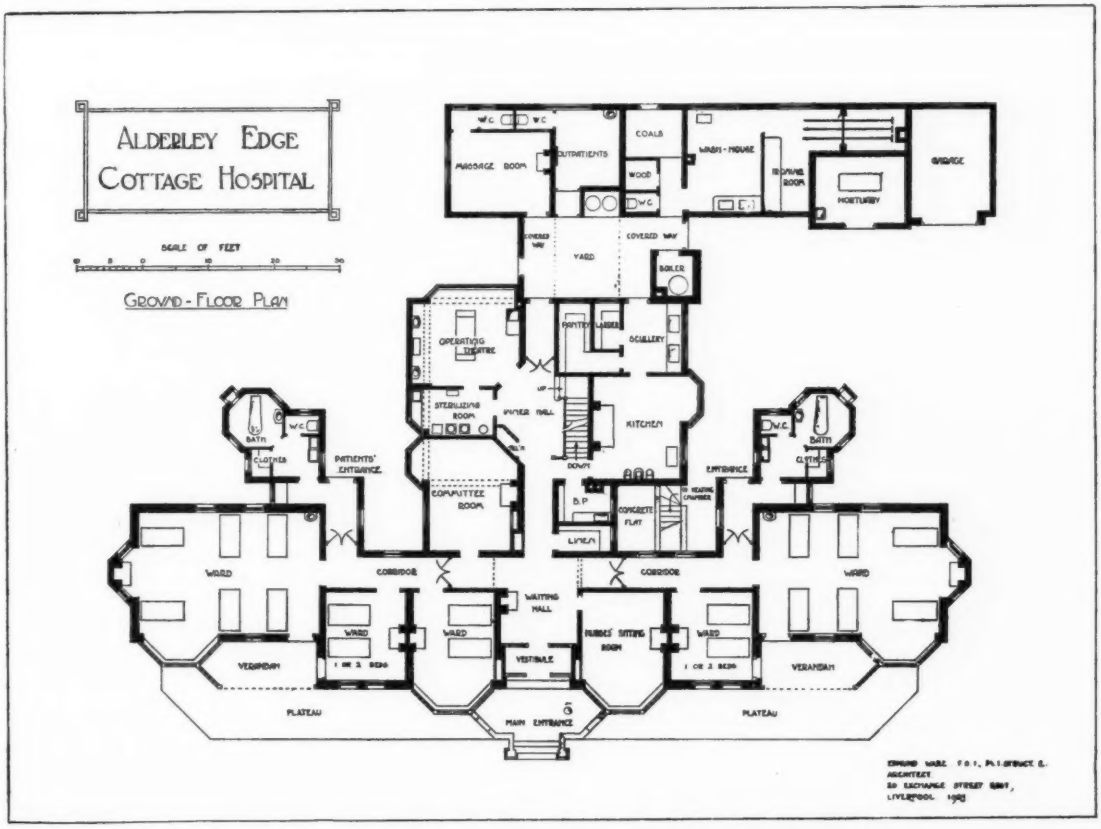
The plan of the sterilizing room at the Hoylake and West Kirby Cottage Hospital conveys some impression of the narrow confines of the room into which it was necessary to fit a complete set of water, bowl, instrument and dressing sterilizers. Although the room measured only 5 ft. 3 in. by 8 ft. 6 in., it was found possible, with the addition of only a small bay, to fit in all this equipment with ample working space, and to include as well a hinged wooden table under the higher of the two water sterilizers, and a slop hopper. The dressings sterilizer, which stands in front of the door, is of the horizontal type, and is the only fitting in the room which is not supported on cantilever brackets. Overhead are the water sterilizers. Double folding doors communicate with the operating theatre, which was fitted up with more modern apparatus at the same time as the alterations to the sterilizing room were carried out. The sterilizers are of the steam-heated type, worked off the domestic steam-boiler, and were fitted up under the superintendence of the architect. As sterilizing rooms are apt to become filled with steam, a 12 in. Blackman electric extraction fan was installed in the outside wall, in a box with automatic louvres. This was put in on the advice of the architect, and it has been found to serve its purpose admirably.

After inspecting a number of cottage hospitals, the trustees of the new Cottage Hospital at Alderley Edge decided that the Hoylake and West Kirby Cottage Hospital was the most suitable pattern for their requirements, and they commissioned Mr. Edmund Ware, the architect, to draw up plans of a similar scheme. The hospital, upon completion, was formally opened by Lord Sheffield. It is completely equipped in every surgical and medical detail, including modern operating theatre, a complete set of steam sterilizing apparatus in a separate



THE STERILIZING ROOM, HOYLAKE AND WEST KIRBY COTTAGE HOSPITAL.
EDMUND WARE, F.S.I., ARCHITECT





GROUND- AND FIRST-FLOOR PLANS OF ALDERLEY EDGE COTTAGE HOSPITAL.
EDMUND WARE, F.S.I., ARCHITECT.

sterilizing room, steam cooking fittings, and a well-equipped laundry.

The hospital has five wards on the ground floor, two having six beds each, and three two beds each, providing accommodation for eighteen patients; while on the first floor there is a room that can be used as a maternity ward. The planning is simple, direct, and efficient, and a special point is that all departments of the hospital are contained in a single block.

The walls are of solid brick, pebbledashed with cream "spar" on a white cement ground, and the roof is covered with "Rosemary" tiles. The walls of the interior are finished in white plaster, and all the interior woodwork is unstained pitch-pine, varnished, and rubbed down to a very fine surface, the whole architectural effect being one of cleanliness and simplicity. The floors of the wards and the corridors are of "Terradura" composition. Where pitch-pine is used for the floors this is nailed to breeze concrete, which is laid on top of the reinforced slab.

The operating theatre, an illustration of which is reproduced, has a northern aspect. The surgeon's lavatory basins, to be seen on the east wall, are fitted with the latest pattern hot and cold elbow lever-action taps, and knee-action waste fittings. On the west side of the theatre is a large combination sink supported like all the other fittings —including even the heating radiator—on cantilever brackets. The floor is of Terrazzo, and the wall plaster is of Portland cement and Keene's left unpainted. A channel in the floor receives the waste direct from the lavatory basins, and it is double trapped and ventilated before reaching the gully outside. The opening lights of the window are centrally pivoted, top and bottom, and the lower half of the glass is acid obscured. This window supplies ample light and ventilation, the latter having had special attention from the architect. While designing the operating theatre the architect was in close consultation with the honorary surgeons of the hospital.

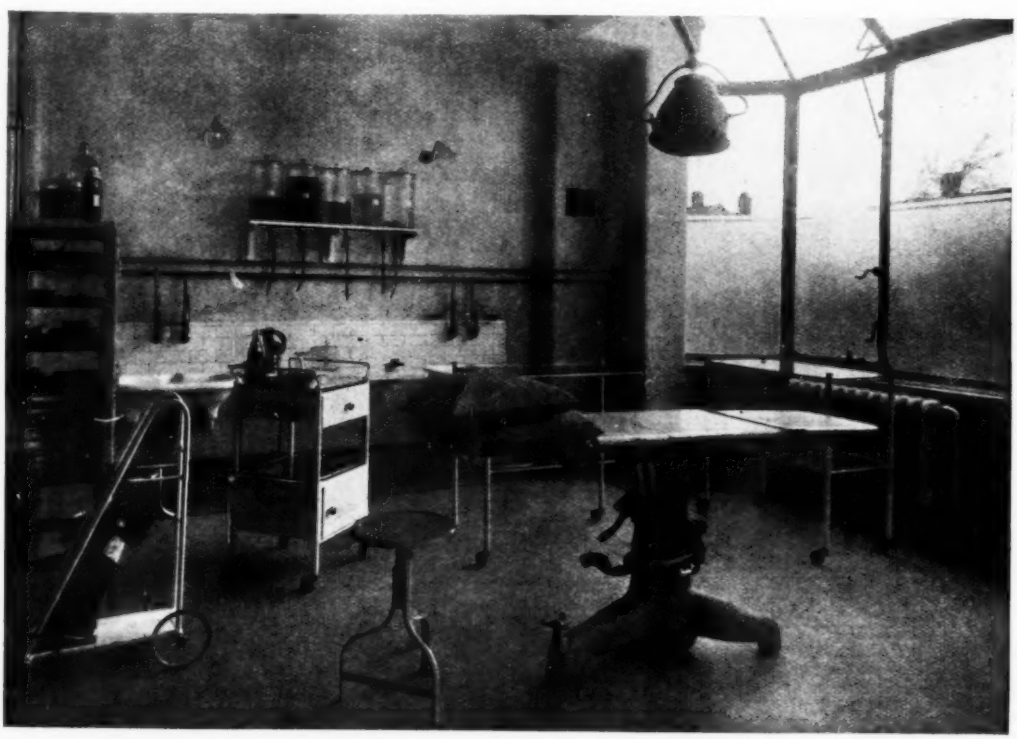
On the extreme left of the view of the sterilizing room is the dressings sterilizer, which is of the vertical type; next to this is the bowl sterilizer, and in the centre are the water sterilizers. The necessity for buckets or other vessels for

THE STERILIZING ROOM, ALDERLEY EDGE COTTAGE HOSPITAL

emptying the bowl and instrument sterilizers has been eliminated by connecting direct to the cock of each sterilizer a pipe which empties into the channel on the floor. All the sterilizers, excepting the dressings sterilizer, are supported on white enamelled cantilever brackets, thus leaving the floor quite clear. The floor and walls are treated in the same manner as those of the operating theatre. The equipment also includes a sink with a porcelain enamelled drainer.

The general contractors for the Alderley Edge Cottage Hospital were Messrs. L. Brown and Sons, Ltd., of Wilmslow, Cheshire, and the sub-contractors were as follows: William Gamon & Co., of Chester (steel operating theatre window); Conway & Co., Manchester (Terrazzo floors); Musgraves (Liverpool), Ltd. (sanitary goods).

The sterilizers at the Hoylake and West Kirby Cottage Hospital were all manufactured by Messrs. Manlove, Alliott & Co., and are, with the exception of the dressings sterilizer, identical with those in use at the cottage hospital at Alderley Edge. The arrangements for draining the sterilizers are the same.



THE OPERATING THEATRE, ALDERLEY EDGE COTTAGE HOSPITAL.

Enquiries Answered

Enquiries from readers on points of architectural, constructional, and legal interest, etc., are cordially invited. They will be dealt with by a staff of experts, whose services are specially retained for this purpose. If desired, answers will be sent direct through the post. In no case is any charge made for this service. Whenever diagrams accompany an enquiry, they should be clearly drawn and lettered and inked in.

HEIGHT OF ROOMS.

"W. M." writes: "With regard to your expert's reply to my inquiry re heights of rooms, published in your issue for January 28, in the event of the Council persisting in their refusal to pass the plan I should be glad to have advice as to the correct procedure to adopt to compel them to approve it."

—Should the local sanitary authority refuse to pass plans for new streets or buildings, which plans are nevertheless in accordance with their by-laws, they may be compelled to do so upon application to the High Court, whose action in such a matter is of a summary nature. The procedure is for the aggrieved person to apply through his solicitor for a mandamus calling upon the Council to show cause for their action in refusing to pass the plans. In all probability a letter addressed to the Clerk to the Council by a solicitor apprising them of the proposed action will produce a reasonable attitude without further trouble.

F. S. I.

RIGHT OF SUPPORT OF BUILDING BY ADJOINING BUILDING.

"Reader" writes: "Two owners, A and B, have adjoining properties situated back to back. During alterations by B to his property it was necessary to pull down the building adjoining A's property. On pulling down it was discovered by B that a cavity of about 3 in. to 4 in. existed between the two properties; the walls never having been built close up to each other. Furthermore, it was discovered that a portion of A's wall was defective, due to a faulty arch in his wall, which had dropped at some time, causing the brickwork above to become loose and lean over the cavity against B's wall. On B pointing this out to A, and requesting him to have it made secure, A refused, claiming a 'right of support' for it from B's wall, which B had pulled down; A claimed that B's wall had prevented his defective wall from falling any further. Can A claim a right of support, seeing that the two properties did not touch, by the amount of the cavity, i.e., 3 in. to 4 in., A's property only having previously touched B's at the point where A's wall was defective? The time at which A's wall became defective is unknown."

—A right of support of one building by an adjoining building can be acquired both by Common Law as well as by the "Prescription Act, 1832"; if such support be claimed under the Act, it must be shown that the easement has been enjoyed without interruption for twenty years past. In the circumstances described the fact that the walls only touch in certain places (and not all over) probably is of little or no importance; the fact remains that had B not pulled down his property A's wall would have continued to stand. I am of opinion that B must make reasonably good any part of A's wall which has failed through the withdrawal of its ancient support; whether A shall pay any part of the expense is entirely at A's discretion.

F. S. I.

SIZES OF ROOF MEMBERS.

"J. H." writes: "Please describe the usual method of calculating the members and joints of a 60 ft. steel roof truss. One worked example will be quite sufficient, if the other members, etc., are taken the same way. Is there any book that deals with this subject in detail?"

—The principal rafters are usually taken as fixed one end and pivoted at the other by the Rankine-Gordon formula

$$P = \frac{fA}{1 + \left(\frac{1}{ac}\right)\frac{l^2}{r^2}}$$

where P = ultimate load in compression in lb., f = about ultimate compressive stress in lb. sq. in., say 40,000 for mild steel, A = area of cross section in sq. in., a = fixing constant = 4 for strut with fixed ends, or 2¼ with one end pivoted, c = constant for material = 9000 for mild steel, l = unsupported length in inches, r = least radius of gyration of cross section. A factor of safety of 4 is usually adopted. Taking the maximum thrust in the principal rafter as 13 tons, the purlins being over the supports, we assume a section and then test its strength. Say we try two $4 \times 3 \times \frac{3}{8}$ angles back to back, then

$$P = \frac{40{,}000 \times 4{\cdot}96}{1 + \frac{1}{2{\cdot}5 \times 9000}\left(\frac{11 \times 12}{1{\cdot}25}\right)^2} = \frac{198{,}400}{1 + \frac{1}{22{,}500} \times 11{,}151}$$

$$= 133{,}154 \text{ lb.}$$

$\frac{133{,}154}{4 \times 2240} = 14{\cdot}86$ tons. This is rather more than enough. Try two $3\frac{1}{2} \times 3\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{3}{8}$. Note that the sectional area remains the same as the combined widths now equal.

$$P = \frac{40{,}000 \times 4{\cdot}96}{1 + \frac{1}{2{\cdot}5 \times 9000}\left(\frac{11 \times 12}{1{\cdot}06}\right)^2} = 117{,}396 \text{ lb.}$$

$\frac{117{,}396}{4 \times 2240} = 13{\cdot}1$ tons which will just do. The tension members are simple as the length does not come into question, and taking a working stress of 7 tons per sq. in. a section may be selected from the tables deducting one rivet hole from the tabular area. The joints must have a sufficient number of rivets to resist the shear stress at, say, 5 tons per sq. in. of their sectional area. A useful book is "Structural Design in Theory and Practice." (Constable, 10s. 6d. net.)

HENRY ADAMS.

LEGAL RISKS IN QUANTITY SURVEYING.

"Reader" writes: "Please tell me the extent of the legal risks involved in quantity surveying."

—We assume honesty in the quantity surveyor; also, that he has an expert knowledge of the mode of measurement of superficial, cubical, and linear dimensions, and items of various trades and other artificers' work employed in the erection and completion of buildings, together with the monetary value thereof, and that he has an expert knowledge of building construction, and that he attends to his task of preparing bills of quantities with ordinary diligence. Subject to these important provisos he incurs no legal risk whatever.

J. S.

APPROXIMATE COST OF BRICKWORK.

"H." writes: "Please give me the approximate cost of the following work:—A wall 400 yds. (approx.) long, 9 in. thick, 4 ft. 6 in. high. The footings will begin 1 ft. below ground line without any concrete under, except in the case of the front wall, 100 yds. (approximate), which has concrete foundations, 2 ft. 6 in. wide and 12 in. thick; piers, 14 in. by 4½ in., are to be formed at intervals of 10 ft. in the length of the wall. The wall is to be built with Fletton bricks in English bond, and finished with Lincoln red copings set in cement. Both sides of the wall will be pointed. The two piers, 22½ by 22½ in., to be formed in the front wall will be about 6 ft. 6 in. high and finished with concrete caps. The mortar will be composed of one part lime and three of sand, and the concrete six parts of broken brick or gravel, one of sand, and one of cement. What would be the cost of the materials delivered on a site in the country about five miles from a railway station? The gravel and sand could be obtained from pits about eight or nine miles away. Should I be compelled to place a damp-course in the above wall?"

—I would place the cost of the work indicated at £1,130. A damp-course is not compulsory in what I take to be a boundary wall, but it is desirable. One formed of tar and sand would be quite effective in this case, would add only £30 to the cost, and prolong the life of the wall. The concrete foundation appears unnecessarily wide, and might be cut down to 1 ft. 6 in. in width, thus saving £24.

The quantities of material required are as follows: 11,000 bricks, say, 68s. per 1,000; 12 tons lime, say, 53s. per ton; 37 tons gravel, say, 17s. per ton; 50 tons sand, say, 18s. 6d. per ton. These prices are, of course, quite approximate, but should not be far out if the site is moderately accessible and motor transport is available. The cost of brickwork on this basis would be £35 per rod approximately.

E. C. I.

Law Reports

The Use of A.R.I.B.A.

The R.I.B.A. v. *Hindle.*

Chancery Division. Before Mr. Justice Tomlin.

A motion by the Royal Institute of British Architects against J. W. Hindle came before Mr. Justice Tomlin in default of defence.

Mr. Whinny, for the plaintiff, said he asked his lordship to make perpetual the order he obtained on motion, which was that the defendant be restrained from using, in connection with his business of architectural draughtsman or surveyor, the description or letters "A.R.I.B.A.," or representing that he was in any way connected with the Institute.

His lordship made the order asked for.

Quarry Blasting

Steer and Others v. *Devon County Council.*

Chancery Division. Before Mr. Justice Tomlin.

This was an action by the Rev. W. H. Hornby Steer, Mr. L. M. Reed, and Mr. P. W. Steer, suing as owners, and Mr. A. Sinaridge, sen., Mr. A. Sinaridge, jun., and Mr. J. Sinaridge, suing as tenants, against the Devon Council for an injunction to prevent the Council blasting stone on the plaintiffs' farm at Buckland-tout-Saints, and allowing their man to trespass on the farm to collect stones, and to restrain them from breaking down hedges.

His lordship, in giving judgment, said the Council took up the position, and their evidence was that it was impossible, since they had introduced pneumatic drills and air compressors, that stone could be thrown on plaintiffs' land, but his lordship found that it had been thrown up to and since the issue of the writ. This was a kind of litigation which ought never to have occurred, and he supposed was due to one side regarding a public authority as something to be attacked, and the other thinking the private individual something to be treated with impunity. He granted the injunction with regard to the quarry, and the defendants must pay the costs except in respect of a certain water right which plaintiffs set up and had not established. There would be an inquiry to ascertain damages, if any, above the £5 paid into court by the Council.

Party Wall—Question of Support

Sack v. *Jones.*

Chancery Division. Before Mr. Justice Astbury.

In this matter the plaintiff, of 89 Torbay Road, Kilburn, brought an action against defendant, an adjoining owner, for a declaration that defendant was bound to afford proper lateral support to the party wall between the two houses.

Plaintiff alleged that owing to defects or want of repair and settlement in the defendant's house it was falling over, or had become so much out of the perpendicular that it had pulled over the party wall, with the result that cracks and other damage had been caused to plaintiff's house, the roof of which was in danger of collapsing. It was said that the flank wall of defendant's house was falling over and was pulling on the party wall.

For the plaintiff, evidence was given by Mr. A. G. Cross, surveyor, Mr. L. E. Nunn, builder and sanitary engineer, and Mr. Geo. Alexander Sexton, architect and surveyor.

Evidence on behalf of defendant, who alleged that the damage to the plaintiff's house was due to the subsidence of the party wall in the London clay foundations, was given by Mr. Charles H. Brightiff, architect, Mr. Wm. L. T. Brown, architect and surveyor, and Mr. A. G. Leighton, architect.

His lordship, giving judgment, said the action was unique in this respect, that it was founded on an alleged dragging by the house at No. 91, on plaintiff's party wall, thus deflecting it and causing the damage to the plaintiff's house. Whether such a form of action was known to the law it was unnecessary to discuss, the first question he had to decide being whether there was any drag on the party wall which had caused the damage. The two houses were very small, and they were of the class known as jerry-built premises. There was no question that fractures and cracks had appeared in the plaintiff's premises, but in his opinion it was hopelessly impossible to arrive at any true cause of this damage. There was not sufficient capacity in the front and back walls of the premises for any such pull as must have been exerted to cause the condition of the party wall to exist. It was impossible to come to any definite conclusion as to the cause of the condition of the party wall and of the signs of damage to the plaintiff's premises. In his judgment it was perfectly consistent with the subsidence of the party wall itself. At all events, the onus was on the plaintiff to establish that it was something in connection with No. 91 which had pulled over the party wall, and in his opinion that onus had certainly not been discharged. Assuming the facts were as alleged, there was no justification in law for maintaining such an action, as the defendant had merely continued to reside, through her tenant, in her house which was in good repair. The action would be dismissed with costs.

The Design of Housing Schemes

The first report of the Technical Committee set up to consider and report on "the standards of design and construction of houses, the use of new methods of construction, the supply of building labour, the production of building materials, and the regional distribution of the houses to be built under the 1923 and 1924 Housing Acts" has been adopted by the General Committee of the National Housing and Town Planning Council. The Technical Committee consists of house technicians, including architects, surveyors, building trade employers and operatives, members and officers of local authorities, and house reformers generally.

With regard to the standards of design and construction of houses the Technical Committee urge local authorities to take steps to secure that the best available architectural skill shall be employed in order to ensure that not only in regard to the internal planning of houses—including the provision of labour-saving devices—but also in regard to the external arrangement and design, the best results are obtained. This, the committee state, can be done without additional cost, especially if advantage is taken of the possibility of suitably grouping houses and varying the lay-out to suit particular sites and to avoid monotony.

The committee emphasize the value of the provision of section 7 (*a*) of the 1924 Housing Act, under which it is provided that it shall be the duty of a local authority in submitting proposals for the provision of houses for the purposes of this Act to satisfy the Minister that they have taken into account the requirements of any town-planning scheme likely to be made in respect of, or in the neighbourhood of, the area for which the houses are to be provided.

The committee welcome the declaration thus made that all substantial housing schemes should form part of a town-planning scheme.

They make the following recommendations in this regard :—

(*a*) A substantial proportion of the area of a housing scheme —at least 10 per cent. is suggested—should be devoted to recreation grounds, playgrounds for children and open spaces.

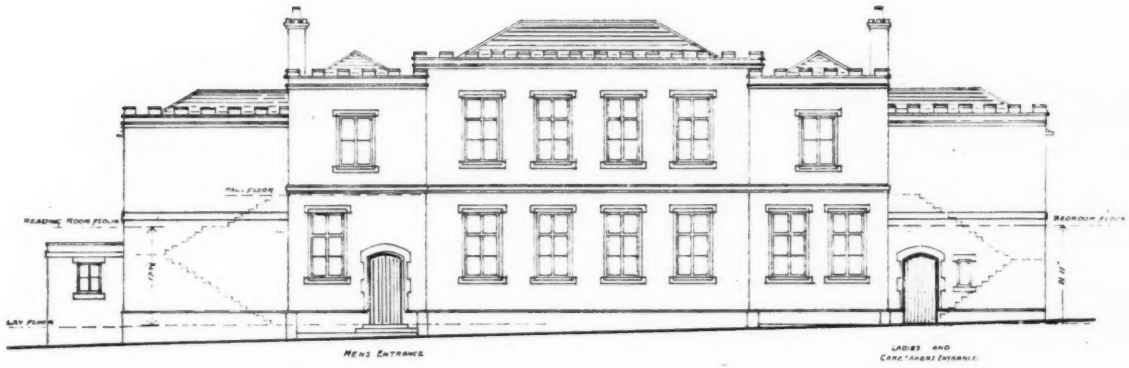
(*b*) Attention should be given to the planning of arterial roads, so that expenditure on future road improvements will be avoided.

(*c*) By-laws and customary provisions relative to the width and construction of the streets should be relaxed under conditions of open planning. Provided that ample space is given between houses on opposite sides of residential streets (so planned as to be, in effect, non-traffic streets), it is in the interests of the public to diminish the width of the road to be made and maintained and—to quote the dictum of the Speaker of the House of Commons (Mr. J. H. Whitley), devote the space thus made available to the "green of useful gardens" instead of the "grey of useless road surface."

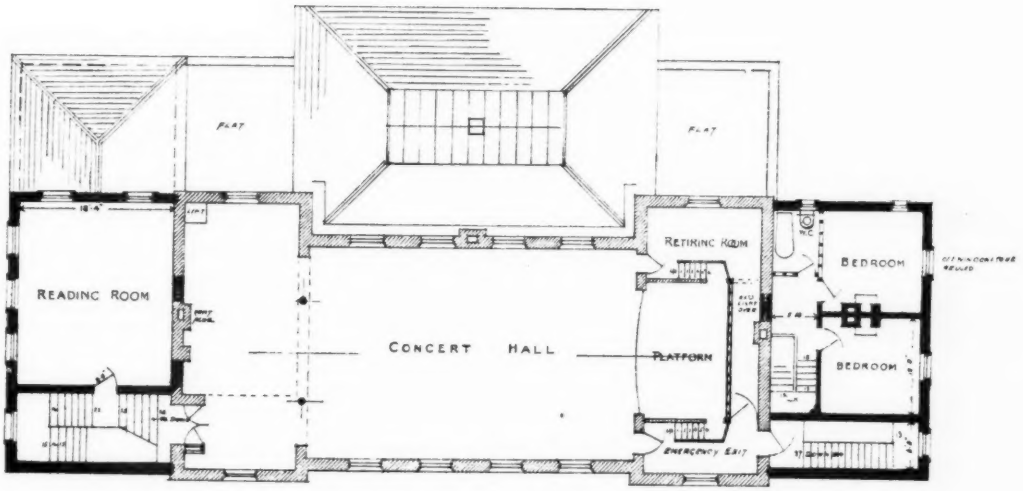
(*d*) Building lines should be fixed to secure ample set-back to houses. The committee desire to endorse the recommendation made by the Tudor Walters Committee to the effect that a distance of 70 ft. between facing rows of houses should be regarded as the minimum spacing.

The committee suggest that in most cases a spacing of 80 ft. is necessary to allow of sunlight entering the lower rooms of houses during the darker periods of the year. This is the more necessary for houses in areas north of the Trent.

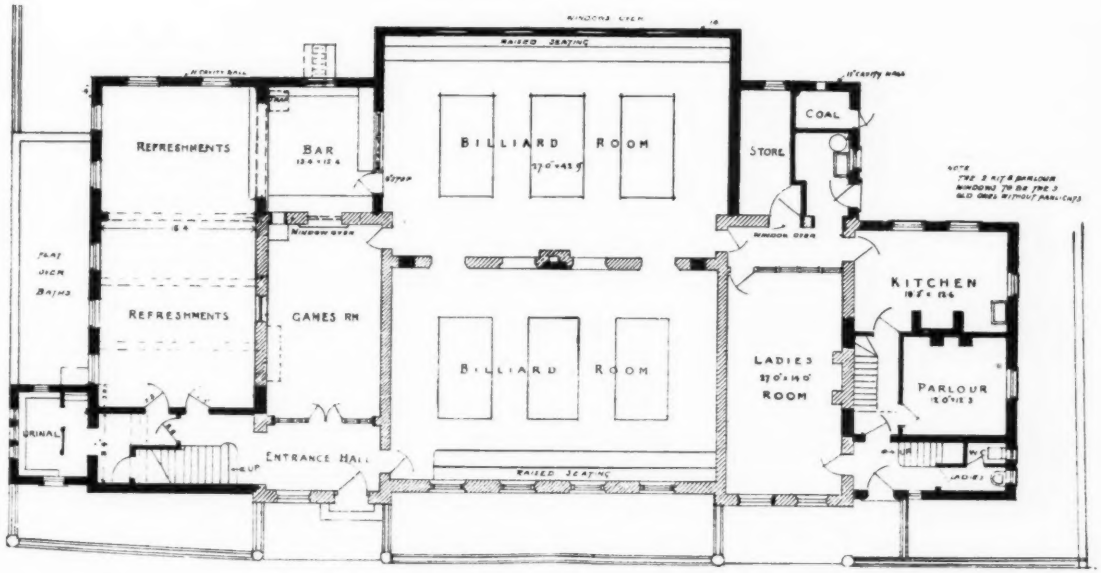
The committee further urge that a proper lay-out scheme should be prepared in every case, and, where houses are built bordering on roads already constructed, ample garden space should be provided between the house and the road in order to secure that if, in the future, substantial widenings are made in these roads the houses shall be adequately protected from the noise, dust, and vibration of passing traffic.



FRONT ELEVATION



FIRST FLOOR PLAN



GROUND FLOOR PLAN

BARROW HILL (CHESTERFIELD) MEMORIAL CLUB COMPETITION: THE WINNING DESIGN.
W. THORNTON, ARCHITECT

The London Society

The annual report and balance sheet of the London Society shows the ever-increasing scope of the Society's activities and a steady extension of membership. The number of members added during the past year was 249, an increase remarkably near to that of 1923 (248), which means, if it can be maintained, that 1,000 members will be added every four years. "But this, the Council feel, "is far too small a number when we remember that the Metropolis has seven million inhabitants. Our task is to awaken in Londoners 'a concern for the beauty of the Capital City.' Some citizens care only for its antiquarian aspects, or its art, architecture, commerce, etc. The London Society seeks to arouse all Londoners to take a real interest in London, for our noble City could be nobler still if we could secure closer co-operation amongst its citizens and its authorities. This can only be done by the power of public opinion, and, having 'no axe to grind.' the London Society seeks to influence public opinion in all matters affecting the welfare of London." During the year the Society took prominent action in many matters concerning London, among the most important being the Thames bridges, St. Paul's Cathedral, the London City Churches, and open spaces.

R.I.B.A. Council Meeting

Following are notes from the minutes of the last meeting of the Council of the R.I.B.A. :—

Architects' and Builders' Joint Board.—As a result of informal negotiations with representatives of the National Federation of Building Trades Employers, proposals have been formulated for the establishment of an Architects' and Builders' Joint Board. These proposals have been approved by the Council of the R.I.B.A., and the first meeting of the Board will take place on March 11.

The Bristol School of Architecture.—A grant of £50 for the year 1925 was made in aid of the funds of the Bristol School of Architecture.

Prize Students.—The proposed tours of the following prize students were approved: The Owen Jones Student, 1925; the Pugin Student, 1925; the Godwin Bursar, 1925; the Alfred Bossom Travelling Student, 1925.

The R.I.B.A. Diploma in Town Planning.—It was decided that a modified examination be arranged to meet the case of approved candidates from the Dominions until it is possible to make arrangements to hold the usual examination overseas.

The British Non-Ferrous Metals Research Association.—The usual annual grant of £15 was made in aid of the funds of the Association.

The Intermediate Examination.—Mr. Donald Cameron was appointed as an additional examiner for subject B. (Calculations of Simple Structures).

Fellowship Examiners.—The following members of the Council have been appointed to conduct the Fellowship Examination for Licentiates: Messrs. Walter Cave, H. S. Goodhart-Rendel, J. Alan Slater.

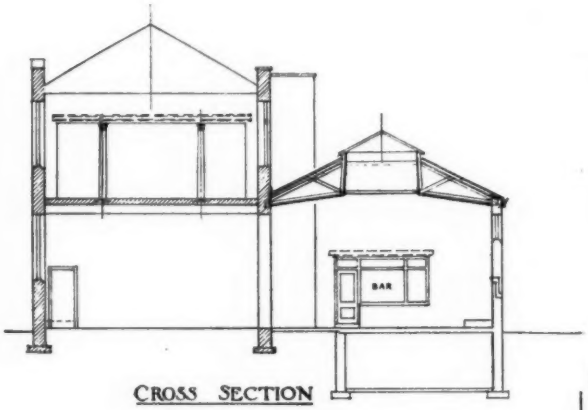
The Ancient Monuments Board (England).—Sir Reginald Blomfield, R.A., has been nominated as the representative of the R.I.B.A. on the Board for a further period of five years from March 31.

The Professional Classes Aid Council.—Sir A. Brumwell Thomas was appointed to represent the R.I.B.A. on the Professional Classes Aid Council. A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. George Hubbard on the termination of his period of service in this capacity.

Reinstatement.—Mr. Arthur Wakerley was reinstated as a Fellow.

Barrow Hill Memorial Club Competition

On this and the preceding page we illustrate the design of Mr. W. Thornton, which has been placed first in the Barrow Hill (Chesterfield) Memorial Club Competition. The main object of the architect was to provide the necessary additional accommodation with little disturbance to the present building, and for reasons of economy to plan as much as possible of the accommodation in the rear of the premises to save undue extension of a costly and somewhat out-of-date castellated façade. This object has been achieved by building two wings and a back addition, into which the club can move whilst the interior of the old portion is remodelled. The whole of the upper floor will be converted into a concert hall, with a small stage in the old steward's house, one bedroom of which will form a convenient retiring room. The old first-floor level, which is 15 ft. high, has simplified the lighting question. The club virtually belongs to the Staveley Coal and Iron Company, who will supply the club with a forced circulation of hot water from their pit engines through a copper main, so that hot baths may be obtained at all hours.



CROSS SECTION

LONG. SECTION

BARROW HILL (CHESTERFIELD) MEMORIAL CLUB COMPETITION: THE WINNING DESIGN.
W. THORNTON, ARCHITECT.

Parliamentary Notes

BY OUR SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE.

Mr. N. Chamberlain, in answer to Sir G. Collins, stated that the number of houses authorized by the Ministry of Health up to the end of January for England and Wales was as follows :—

Under the Housing, etc., Act, 1923, 180,154.

Under the Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1924, 26,269.

The present capital values of the Exchequer subsidies which would be payable on the numbers stated were estimated at £13,857,218 and £4,216,118 respectively.

Sir J. Gilmour, Secretary for Scotland, informed Dr. Shiels that on January 31, 1925, the position of progress with building under the various State-assisted housing schemes in Scotland was as follows :—

	No. of Houses completed.	No. of Houses under construction.
Housing, Town Planning, etc. (Scotland) Act, 1919	23,601	1,858
Subsidy to private builders under Housing (Additional Powers) Act, 1919	2,324	—
Schemes for the improvement of insanitary areas	962	2,571
Housing, etc., Act, 1923 :—		
(*a*) Houses erected by local authorities	209	2,068
(*b*) Houses erected by private enterprise	1,403	3,422
Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1924 :—		
Houses erected by local authorities	—	690
Totals	28,499	10,609

Sir K. Wood informed Mr. H. Williams that the total estimated increase in the population of England and Wales from the armistice up to December, 1924, was 1,402,000. In connection with State-assisted schemes 263,396 houses had been completed during that period. During the two years ended September 30 last some 126,000 houses were built by private enterprise without State aid.

Sir K. Wood informed Sir H. Brittain that it was not the intention of the Minister of Health to erect demonstration houses at Wembley, but the British Empire Exhibition authorities were arranging for a display of various new methods of house construction. The whole of the arrangements were in the hands of the exhibition authorities.

Sir K. Wood, in reply to Mr. T. Williams, said that at the end of January the number of houses under construction in connection with State-assisted schemes was 54,006—23,641 by local authorities, and 30,365 by private enterprise. Included in these figures were 4,674 houses, which were being constructed under the 1924 Act.

Sir K. Wood informed Major Sheler that local authorities had been informed that the Ministry of Health would be prepared, in suitable circumstances, to entertain applications in respect of wooden houses, and the authorities would be prepared to authorize the payment of subsidy under the Housing Acts for such proposals as were of a satisfactory type.

Captain Elliot informed Mr. Westwood that the Scottish Board of Health at February 14, 1925, had approved of schemes under the 1924 Act submitted by twenty-one local authorities for 3,431 houses.

Answering Mr. Oliver, Mr. N. Chamberlain said that, apart from the "Wild" type of house of which there were some hundreds in course of erection in the north of England, no sufficient number of tenders for houses of the so-called "steel" type had yet been accepted by local authorities to enable any comparison of cost as against the cost of brick houses to be made. As regards the "Wild" type, in some cases the cost was below that of comparable brick houses in the same locality and in other cases above.

Replying to further questions, Mr. N. Chamberlain said that he was inviting the L.C.C. to erect demonstration pairs of houses of each of the types recommended by the committee on New Methods of House Construction. He had not yet received any applications from local authorities for approval to the erection of Weir houses, but he understood that at present some authorities were considering the matter.

Mr. N. Chamberlain informed Mr. Paling that the figures for January, 1925, as compared with January, 1924, showed an increase in the cost of building amounting in the case of non-parlour houses to £53, and parlour houses to £66. The increase in the cost of materials might be taken as amounting, on the average, to not more than £15 for the non-parlour, or £17 for the parlour houses.

Mr. N. Chamberlain informed Captain Garro-Jones that it was not his intention to introduce legislation to prohibit "luxury" building.

Mr. N. Chamberlain, in reply to Mr. Westwood, stated that schemes under the 1924 Act had been approved, and were being undertaken by 293 local authorities in different parts of the country. The total number of houses for which these approved schemes provided was 29,257.

Sir J. Gilmour informed Dr. Shiels that so far the following Scottish local authorities had included Weir houses in their housing schemes : Glasgow, Edinburgh, Newton Stewart, and Stranraer Burghs, and the Middle Ward district of Lanarkshire. He understood a start would be made with these houses shortly, and the prices ranged between £375 and £402 per house, exclusive of the cost of services, fencing, roads, and sewers. They included, however, transport within ten miles of the factory in Glasgow.

Sir P. Cunliffe-Lister informed Mr. Hannon that the following table showed the importation of granite into this country during 1924 :—

Description.	Total Imports in 1924 from All Countries.	Imports in 1924 consigned from British Possessions.	
	Quantity.	Quantity.	Proportion of Total Imports.
	Tons.	Tons.	Per cent.
Stones and slates :—			
Granite, other than setts and pavement kerbs and monumental and architectural objects	605,971	372,806	61·5
Granite :—			
Setts and pavement kerbs	232,718	12,047	5·2
Monumental and architectural	3,593	70	1·9
	Declared Value.	Declared Value.	Proportion of Total Imports.
	£	£	Per cent.
Stones and slates :—			
Granite, other than setts and pavement kerbs and monumental and architectural objects	583,403	326,836	56·0
Granite :—			
Setts and pavement kerbs	613,710	33,824	5·5
Monumental and architectural	81,020	1,512	1·9

Lord H. Cavendish-Bentinck asked the Minister of Transport if his attention had been drawn to the proposed entire demolition of Waterloo Bridge, and whether, in view of the great artistic and monumental value of the bridge, he would intervene with a view to its repair and preservation ?

Col. Ashley replied that he was in close and constant touch with the London County Council, and was confident that any decision at which the Council might arrive would be based on the highest possible expert advice and after fully weighing all the considerations set out in the question.

Mr. N. Chamberlain, the Minister of Health, informed Mr. Hannon that the expenditure of local authorities on housing for the financial year 1922–23 was £1,083,000 defrayed from current rates, and £29,500,000 from loans. The payments by the Exchequer in respect of annual housing subsidies had been £7,226,327 in 1922–23; £7,856,122 in 1923–24; and £5,775,467 to date in 1925. The payments by the Exchequer under the provisions of section 1 of the Housing (Additional Powers) Act, 1919, were £2,422,746 in 1922–23, and £1,433 in 1923–24.

Mr. Chamberlain informed Mr. Barker that schemes under the Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1924, had been approved and were being undertaken by 303 local authorities in England and Wales. The total number of houses for which approved schemes provided was 30,037. The number of houses transferred from schemes under the Housing Act, 1923, to the Act of 1924 was 11,479.

Mr. Chamberlain informed Mr. J. Baker that it was estimated that the average production of bricks for the three years prior to the war was 2,805 millions per annum, and that at present it was at the rate of about 5,000 millions per annum. The number of men engaged in the building industry was approximately : 1911, 741,856; 1920, 585,474; 1921, 687,180; 1922, 696,070; 1923, 632,010; 1924, 642,010. The net increase in the number of houses in England and Wales had been : 1910–11, 29,532; 1911–12, 87,778; 1912–13, 57,039; 1913–14, 59,312; 1914–15, 67,577. The number of houses built by State-aided schemes had been : 1920, 15,711; 1921, 86,669; 1922, 89,001; 1923, 19,185; 1924, 52,730. The following houses had been built by private enterprise without subsidy : 1923, 52,749; 1924, 73,032.

Societies and Institutions

Northamptonshire Association of Architects.

At the annual meeting the following officers were elected for the coming session: President, Mr. J. W. Fisher, F.R.I.B.A. (Wellingborough); Vice-President, Mr. F. W. Dorman, A.R.I.B.A. (Northampton); Council, Messrs. John Brown, D.S.O., A.R.I.B.A. (Northampton), J. Alfred Gotch, P.R.I.B.A. (Kettering), S. F. Harris, F.R.I.B.A. (Northampton), H. Norman, Licentiate R.I.B.A. (Northampton), R. J. Williams, F.R.I.B.A. (Kettering); Hon. Sec., Mr. C. Croft, F.S.I. (Northampton); Hon. Auditor, Mr. F. H. Allen, A.R.I.B.A. (Northampton).

The Incorporated Clerk of Works' Association.

A company of nearly 500 attended the forty-second annual dinner of the Incorporated Clerks of Works' Association at the Holborn Restaurant. Mr. J. Alfred Gotch, P.R.I.B.A., occupied the chair. Major Harry Barnes, Vice-president R.I.B.A., responding to the toast of "The Architects," described the clerks of works as the "tuning forks of the building industry who keep it up to concert pitch," and recalled that the first of the great English poets, Geoffrey Chaucer, was a clerk of works.

Among those present were Messrs. F. W. Troup, F.R.I.B.A.; Hugh Watkins, F.S.I.; Fred Thorne (President, London Master Builders' Association); Wm. Woodward, F.R.I.B.A.; E. Wigglesworth, F.R.I.B.A.; Hubert Lidbetter, F.R.I.B.A.; T. P. Bennett, F.R.I.B.A.; and Alderman Wm. Peet.

South Wales Institute of Architects: Central Branch.

The annual meeting of the South Wales Institute of Architects (Central Branch) was held at the Institute rooms, Cardiff. The honorary secretary's report, which was adopted, indicated a useful year's work, including the giving of an excellent series of lectures in conjunction with the South Wales Branch of the Institute of Builders, and the holding of a number of joint conferences with the building trades employers on the proposed new building by-laws for the City of Cardiff and the local district councils in the area. These conferences have resulted in the adoption by the authorities of a considerable number of the Institute's suggestions. Useful action has also been taken by the branch in connection with the Welsh National War Memorial and the designing of local secondary schools.

The meeting intimated its high appreciation of the excellent work carried out by the Students' Club in the organization of a series of excellent lectures given by their own members.

The following officers and members of the Executive Committee were duly elected for the ensuing year: Chairman, Mr. A. G. Edwards, M.S.A.; Honorary Treasurer, Mr. H. Teather, F.R.I.B.A.; Honorary Secretary, Mr. W. S. Purchon, M.A., A.R.I.B.A.; Members: Messrs. T. Alwyn Lloyd, F.R.I.B.A.; Percy Thomas, O.B.E., F.R.I.B.A.; Ivor P. Jones, A.R.I.B.A.; J. Williamson, A.R.I.B.A.; J. B. Wride; R. E. H. Coombes (Associate); and B. Thomas (student).

The following were elected as members of the Council of the South Wales Institute of Architects: Messrs. A. G. Edwards, M.S.A.; W. S. Purchon, M.A., A.R.I.B.A.; T. Alwyn Lloyd, F.R.I.B.A.; J. Williamson, A.R.I.B.A.; J. B. Wride; F. H. Heaven, A.R.I.B.A.; G. H. Griffiths; R. H. Winder, M.A., A.R.I.B.A.; J. A. Hallam; T. E. Llewellyn (Associate); and R. E. H. Coombes (Associate).

Sir Banister Fletcher's Lectures.

At the Central School of Arts and Crafts, London, Sir Banister Fletcher, F.R.I.B.A., outlined the history of the Tower of London, and the part it has played in national life. There were evidences, he said, that a Celtic fort, a Roman fortress, and a Saxon stronghold successively occupied the site on which William the Conqueror began the building of the Norman keep. Thus Celt, Roman, Saxon, and Norman all agreed as to the strong, strategic value of this position on Thames-side, where the castle of the Conqueror rose foursquare and sheer from the rising ground, to control the river traffic, to oppose any hostile fleet, and also to overawe the citizens of his newly-acquired capital. Here, too, the old Roman city wall, which was senior to the Norman castle by some 800 years, ran down to the river, and the thrifty Norman builders used this wall on the east as part of the castle fortifications. The old tower had served many purposes. It had been a fortress, palace, and prison; it had housed the royal mint, State records, ancient armour, and crown jewels; it had been a military storehouse, an army clothing depot, an arsenal, and a barracks—always up to date, and always in active service.

The domestic side of English mediæval architecture occupied the attention of Sir Banister in a later lecture. He said it was very fascinating to follow the natural sequence in which the modern comfortable home had been derived from the stern Norman keep of feudal days. The castle, he said, was the child of the feudal system; the keep was the kernel of the castle, and the great hall was the chief feature of the keep. Originally this hall was shared by the noble lord with his family and the retainers. Then a room was added for his special use, called the solar, and kitchens with buttery and pantry at the other end of the hall behind the "screens." Afterwards the growth of the house evolved a quadrangular plan, several examples of which Sir Banister Fletcher illustrated with slides.

The Bartlett School of Architecture

The Director's report on the Bartlett School of Architecture, University of London, for the session 1923–24, has just been issued. The report shows that the school is settling down under the new conditions adopted two years ago, namely, that a five years' course could be prescribed for the diploma and the university degree in architecture, and that steady progress is being made. The total number of students in the school last session was 120, of whom eighteen were post-graduate students doing work in the atelier, and taking part in the important competitions. In these the school has already obtained considerable success: the Jarvis Scholarship awarded by the British School at Rome was won by Mr. H. A. Sisson; the Victory Scholarship, open to students of all schools of architecture in Great Britain, was won by Mr. C. H. Short, and Mr. W. F. Scarlett has been selected for the Prix de Rome for 1925. The report mentions a new innovation begun in the school last session: the constant exhibition of students' work in the museum. In this way an opportunity is afforded to the students for comparison and criticism, and practising architects visit the school for the purpose of discussing the drawings thus placed on view.

London Prints

No such exhibition of old topographical prints has been seen in London for a long time as that just opened at Walker's Galleries. The collection of eighteen colour prints by T. S. Boys is remarkable for the brilliancy of its colour and condition, and many others are only less notable. Next in interest are the series by T. Malton, and besides the London subjects, the English counties are well represented, the artists including Havell, Paul Sandby, W. Collins, Calvert, and Turner.

KINETON PARKES.

THE QUEEN'S PALACE, 1800.

(From a Print by Thomas Malton.)

The Week's News

Big Housing Programme for Dudley.

The Dudley Town Council are to endeavour during the next two years to erect 1,000 houses.

Brighton Aquarium.

A new £80,000 scheme for remodelling Brighton Aquarium is being considered by the Corporation.

A New Housing Site for Penmaenmawr.

The Urban District Council have decided to purchase a site from Major J. Cemlyn Jones. Sixty houses will be built.

Housing at Reading.

The Reading Corporation are to build 526 houses in the west end of the town.

New Schools for Surrey.

The Surrey Education Committee propose to spend £229,000 on building new schools.

£13,000 for Bradford Infirmary.

Messrs. Woolcombers, Limited, have decided to give £13,000 to the new building fund of Bradford Royal Infirmary.

Walsall Isolation Hospital Scheme.

There is every prospect of the Walsall Town Council proceeding with a scheme to provide a new isolation hospital.

Public Abattoirs Proposed for Sheffield.

The Sheffield Corporation have prepared a scheme for erecting public abattoirs at a cost of £250,000.

Eastbourne Infirmary Extension.

The Eastbourne Board of Guardians have decided to extend the union infirmary at a cost of £19,885.

Road Widening at Catford.

The London County Council have prepared a scheme for widening Southend Lane, Catford, at a cost of £94,000.

Housing in Peterborough Rural District.

During the next two years the Peterborough Rural District Council propose to build 154 houses.

Main Drainage Scheme for Bexhill.

The Bexhill Town Council have adopted a main drainage scheme which will cost £80,000.

New Municipal Buildings for Westminster.

The Westminster City Council are to buy a Drury Lane site for a rate collector's offices and a works department.

A New Wharf for Scarborough.

A sum of £45,000 is to be spent by the Scarborough Harbour Commissioners on a new wharf and on deepening a large area of the old harbour.

More Houses for Loughborough.

The Loughborough Town Council are to apply to the Ministry of Health for approval to a scheme for the construction of 100 houses by private enterprise.

Housing at Rawdon.

The Ministry of Health have granted permission to the Rawdon Urban District Council to erect a further twenty-five houses under the Housing Act, 1923.

More Houses for Bournemouth.

The Ministry of Health have sanctioned the borrowing of £24,560 for the erection of forty-two houses on the Southill estate, and £5,000 for the payment of subsidies.

Newcastle's Building Programme.

The Newcastle Corporation Housing Committee, along with private enterprise, hope to erect 2,880 houses by October 1, 1926, in addition to those which have already been built.

Halesowen Scheme for Sixty Houses.

The Halesowen Rural District Council have decided to proceed with the erection of sixty houses on the 5½ acres of land recently purchased at Hawne Lane.

A New Nurses' Home for Highgate.

At a cost of £29,661, a new home to accommodate eighty nurses, is to be provided by the Islington Board of Guardians at their Highgate Hill Infirmary.

The Improvement of Victoria Street.

It is understood that the Westminster City Council propose to spend about £20,000 on relaying the road surface of Victoria Street.

Nurses' Home for Dudley.

Mr. E. J. Thompson, director of the Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries, will provide a nurses' home at the Guest Hospital, Dudley, costing £7,000.

A New Council School for Ellesmere Port.

Plans of a proposed new Council School in Heathfield Road, Ellesmere Port, are being prepared by the Cheshire County architect.

Woodhouse Grove School Memorial.

The governors of the Woodhouse Grove School, Apperley Bridge, Rawdon, propose to erect a memorial building adjoining the existing school.

New Skyscraper for New York.

Mr. Albert Lefcourt, a New York house property owner, has purchased 16,500 sq. ft. of land upon which he will erect a thirty-story skyscraper to cost £2,000,000.

Manchester's Big Housing Programme.

The Manchester City Council are planning to build 10,000 houses within the next five years, the total cost working out at 5¾ millions on the present cost of building.

Glasgow to Build by Direct Labour.

The Glasgow Corporation Housing Committee have decided to build by direct labour engaged by the housing director 400 houses a year.

A New School for Jersey.

The Jersey States Education Committee have accepted Sir Jesse Boot's offer to build a modern school in La Motte Street, on a site formerly occupied by slum dwellings. Plans have been approved.

Big Water Scheme for Manchester.

The Manchester City Council have approved the scheme for the conversion of Haweswater into a reservoir feeding Manchester and numerous communities scattered about the track of the pipe-line. The first expenditure is £5,000,000.

A Children's Home for Portsmouth.

The Ministry of Health have approved a site for the new children's home on Portsdown Hill. The Guardians are now proceeding with the scheme for the erection of six semi-detached cottages, to accommodate about 200 children.

Torquay Improvements.

Extensive sea-front improvements are to be carried out at once at Torquay. They include the re-surfacing of the Haldon Pier, the extension of the bathing platform at Torre Abbey, and the redecking of the Princess Pier. The scheme will involve an expenditure of nearly £30,000.

The Royal Gold Medal for Architecture.

Intimation has just been received that His Majesty the King has approved the award of the Royal Gold Medal to Sir Giles Gilbert Scott, R.A., F.R.I.B.A., in recognition of the merit of his executed work. The medal will be presented to Sir Giles Gilbert Scott on Monday, June 22.

£4,000,000 Tunnel Roadway.

The Merseyside Municipal Committee have decided to promote a Bill in Parliament for constructing a tunnel roadway between Liverpool and Birkenhead, to the exclusion of trams, and a branch to Wallasey. The tunnel, without the Wallasey branch, is estimated to cost £4,750,000.

Birmingham University Extensions.

The Council of the University of Birmingham have decided to erect further buildings at Edgbaston to accommodate the three biological departments—botany, zoology, and brewing, with the fermentation industries. The approximate estimate of the cost is £100,000.

Housing: the Supply of Labour.

The Scottish Board of Health have issued a circular to local authorities calling their attention to the new scheme for the augmentation of skilled labour in the building trades. Copies of the Board's circular may be obtained from H.M. Stationery Office, 120 George Street, Edinburgh. Price 3d. (or 3½d. postage free).

The Chairmanship of the Prices of Building Materials Committee.

Sir William Acworth, who had accepted the chairmanship of the committee appointed by the President of the Board of Trade and the Minister of Health, to survey the prices of building materials, having found himself unable to act in that capacity, Major J. W. Hills, D.S.O., has accepted the invitation of the Ministers to take his place.

Housing at South Shields.

The Housing Committee of the South Shields Corporation have prepared a scheme for the erection of 362 houses at Cleadon Park. It is also proposed to erect a further 204 houses in two years, making a total of 566. The Corporation Health Committee have decided to proceed with a modified scheme for the erection of additional hospital accommodation at Cleadon Park.

Gift of Land to Armstrong College.

At the annual meeting of the Council of Armstrong College, Newcastle, it was reported that a member of the Council who wished to remain anonymous, had offered to purchase and present to the college three acres of land adjoining Cochrane Park. At present the land forms part of the Benton Park golf course. The offer was accepted, and the site will probably be utilized for the erection of hostels and professional houses.

A Highway Bridge over Copenhagen Harbour.

The commercial secretary at Copenhagen (Mr. R. M. Turner, O.B.E.) reports that the municipality of Copenhagen have announced a competition for a highway bridge over Copenhagen Harbour. Interested United Kingdom firms can obtain further particulars regarding this competition on application to the Department of Overseas Trade, 35 Old Queen Street, London, S.W.1, quoting reference A.X.1822.

More Demonstration Houses for Scotland.

The Scottish Board of Health have obtained the sanction of the Lords Commissioners of H.M. Treasury to a special grant to aid in the erection in Scotland of a number of houses demonstrating new methods of construction. For the present the Board will sanction for demonstration purposes only houses specially recommended by the committee appointed by the Minister of Health on New Methods of Construction (the Moir Committee). Demonstration houses have already been erected in Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Dundee, and sixteen other local authorities have now been offered one house each by the Board.

Road Developments in Prague.

The British Vice-Consul at Prague (Mr. J. W. Taylor) reports that in view of the development of heavy motor-lorry and steam wagon transport a great deal of work will probably require to be done on the roads in the course of the next few years, and there would appear to be an opening for a British firm specializing in tar macadamization and concrete road making which would be prepared to establish a branch in that country. United Kingdom firms can obtain further particulars regarding this possible opening for British materials on application to the Department of Overseas Trade, 35 Old Queen Street, London, S.W.1, quoting reference A.X.1785.

Housing Guarantees to Building Societies

An arrangement has been recently concluded between the Ministry of Health and the Building Societies' Association with regard to the guarantees which may be given by local authorities to building societies under section 5 (1) (b) of the Housing, etc., Act, 1923, as amended by the second schedule to the Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1924, and applied to county councils by section 12 of the last-named Act. Many persons desiring to build houses for their own occupation are unable to find the difference between the cost of building and the loan which a building society will normally advance under its rules, and the object of the guarantee is to enable the building society to make an additional advance, and so help to bridge the gap. Such guarantees may be given both for houses for the working-classes which would qualify for subsidy assistance, and also for houses of a larger type, provided that the local authority's valuation of the mortgagor's interest in the property does not exceed £1,500. The houses for which guarantees may be given are new houses to be built either within or without the district of the local authority. The construction of the houses must not have been commenced before April 25, 1923.

List of Competitions Open

Date of Delivery.	COMPETITION.
1925 Mar. 28	Competitive designs are invited from qualified architects, being British subjects, for proposed New Railway Offices to be erected in Nairobi, Kenya Colony. Assessor, Mr. William Dunn, F.R.I.B.A. Premiums £200 and £100. Designs must be received at the Offices of the General Manager, Uganda Railway, Nairobi, Kenya Colony, not later than March 28, 1925.
*Mar. 31	Bethune War Memorial. Assessor, Sir Aston Webb, P.R.A.
April 7	Swimming Baths, &c., Stockbridge. To be erected at a cost not exceeding £8,000. Premiums, £25, £15, and £10. Sending-in day, April 7.
*May 1	The United Grand Lodge of England invite designs for rebuilding the Freemasons' Hall in Great Queen Street, Kingsway, London.
*May 15	Technical College for the Middlesbrough Education Committee, Assessor, Mr. Percy Thomas, F.R.I.B.A. Premiums £200, £100, and £50.
May 31	The best and most economical system of shuttering or equivalent suitable for use in connection with poured or *in situ* cottages. First prize £250; £250 may be awarded in additional prizes. Methods which are already in use or for which patent rights had been applied for before January 1 will not be considered. Apply Mr. H. H. George, Ministry of Health, Whitehall, S.W.1, not later than May 24.
*June 30	Lay-out of open spaces and fortifications between Valletta and Floriana and those encircling Floriana. Premiums £1,000 and £500. An indemnity of £100 will be awarded to three other designs showing conspicuous merit. Assessors, Mr. E. P. Warren, F.S.A., and Professor Patrick Abercrombie, A.R.I.B.A.
Sept. 1	High bridge over Copenhagen Harbour. Three prizes to the value of Kroner 35,000. Apply City Engineer's Office, Town Hall, Copenhagen. Deposit of Kroner 100 (returnable).
Dec. 31	The Argentine Government offer prizes of 10,000, 5,000, 4,000, 3,000, and 2,000 Argentine gold pesos for the best architectural designs for a National Institute for the Blind. Apply Enquiry Room, Department of Overseas Trade, 35 Old Queen Street, Westminster, S.W.1.
No date	New Secondary School in Perth Road, Dundee. For the Education Authority. The Competition is limited to architects in practice in Scotland and carrying on business on their own account. Copies of the conditions of the competition and instructions to competing architects, along with a plan of the site, may be obtained on application to Mr. John E. Williams, Executive Officer, Education Offices, Dundee, on payment of a deposit of £1 1s. All questions in regard to the conditions of the competition should be addressed to the above not later than February 18. Mr. J. A. Carfrae, Licentiate R.I.B.A., is the Assessor.
No date	An extension building adjacent to the Shirehouse, Norwich, for the Norfolk County Council. Premiums £150, £100, and £50. Assessor, Mr. Godfrey Pinkerton, F.R.I.B.A., on the whole of the designs submitted, and to make the award. Apply Mr. H. C. Davies, Clerk of the Council, The Shirehouse, Norwich.
No date	Proposed Presbyterian church at Cheam, Surrey. In the first instance rough sketches only will be required and therefrom the committee will select the architects to be paid for the preparation of more finished drawings. Apply Mr. George Tweddle, Jr., Secretary to the Building Committee, "Southdown," Burdon Road, Cheam, Surrey.

* Date of application passed.

Competition News

Dewsbury Nurses' Home Competition Result.

The design of Mr. Thomas William Sharpe, of Ravensthorpe, has been awarded first place in the Dewsbury Nurses' Home Competition. Messrs. William Thornton and Sons of Bond Street, Dewsbury, won a premium of thirty guineas.

Obituary

Mr. W. T. Rogers.

We regret to record the death of Mr. William Thomas Rogers, of Southsea, architect, at the age of fifty-four. He was responsible for the designs of many local cinemas, including the Majestic, the Scala, and the Arcade. He also did the architectural work in connection with the reconstruction of the Shaftesbury, while he prepared designs for picture houses at Sandown and Petersfield. More recently he had been engaged in drawings in connection with the proposed Portsmouth Masonic Temple.

Mr. H. Gill.

We regret to record the death of Mr. Harry Gill, of Nottingham, architect. His knowledge of the ancient churches of Notts, Derbyshire, Lincolnshire, and Leicestershire, and, indeed, of a much wider area, being almost unique. Mr. Gill, who was born in 1858, was articled to Mr. Henry Sulley, the architect, and since commencing business on his own account had been responsible for a good deal of ecclesiastical and domestic architecture, and war memorials. For five years he was president of the Nottingham and Derby Architectural Society, and was also a fellow, corresponding local secretary, and a member of the Council of the Society of Architects.