Wednesday, September 16, 1925 Vol. LXII. No. 1602.

THE ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL & Architectural Engineer

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FROM AN ARCHITECT'S NOTEBOOK.

For, round about the walls yclothèd were
With goodly arras of great majesty,
Woven with gold and silk so close and near
That the rich metal lurkèd privily,
As feigning to be hid from envious eye;
Yet here, and there, and everywhere, unawares,
It show'd itself and shone unwillingly;
Like a discolour'd snake whose hidden snares
Through the green grass his long bright tarnish'd back declares.
And in those tappets weren fashionèd
Many fair portraits, and many a fair feat.

SPENSER.
The Faery Queene.

9 Queen Anne's Gate. Westminster.

A Hanging Cabinet with Ivory Embellishments

Designed by and for Horace Walpole, 1743

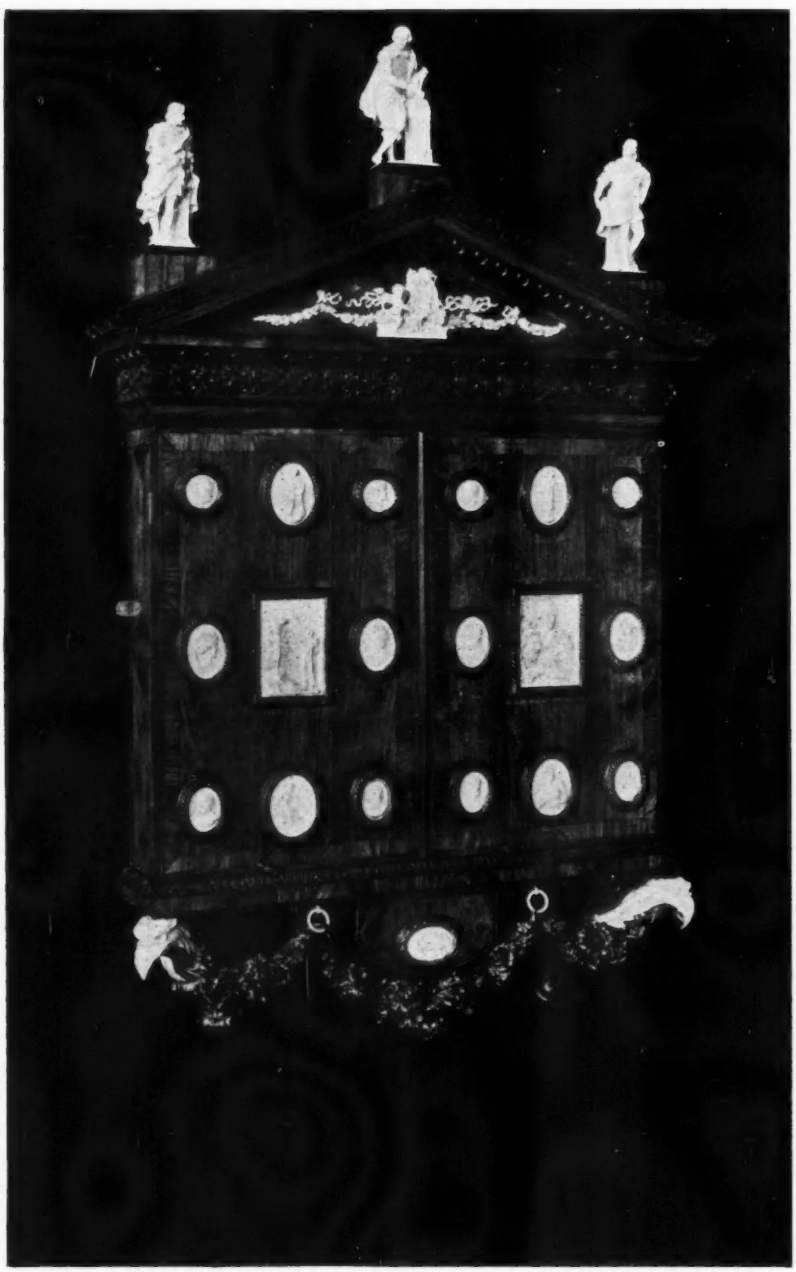

Photo: V. & A. Museum.

This remarkable cabinet, a recent acquisition for the Victoria and Albert Museum, is of kingwood. The doors are enriched with eighteen ivory plaques, and on the pediment are ivory figures of Palladio, Fiammengo, and Inigo Jones, by Verskovis, after Rysbrack.

THE

ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL

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The Americans at Athens

THE new American scheme for excavations in the most central portion of the City of Athens has aroused widespread interest. No exact information is available as to the extent and limits of the area involved, but it seems to include the district between the Acropolis and the Hermes Street from south to north, and from the Tower of the Winds to the Theseum from east to west. This region included the centre of civic life in ancient Athens—the market-place or Agora and the public buildings surrounding it: and it has long been considered most desirable, and indeed essential to our knowledge of Athenian topography, that this area should be thoroughly and systematically excavated.

A good many interesting discoveries were made when the extension of the Piræus railway from the Theseum station to the Monasteraki made a cutting right through the middle of the area. But it had always been the most densely populated part of the town in mediæval and Turkish times, and the removal of its narrow streets and crowded houses would have involved an expense beyond any resources that were then available. Before any extensive work can be done, it is necessary not only to expropriate and demolish the buildings in this quarter, but also to provide new accommodation for the evicted population—a problem similar to that with which the French excavators had to deal at Delphi, but on a much larger scale.

There will naturally be some regret at the disappearance of some of the most picturesque and characteristic bits of Turkish Athens, such as the bazaars of the leather-workers and metal-workers; but these could hardly be expected to survive in a modern civilized capital, and many of them have already disappeared. In any case, their value and interest can hardly be weighed in the balance against the discoveries that may be expected and the prospect of increased knowledge of the ancient city.

Happily we are not left to conjecture in any attempt to realize what once existed in this area. Most valuable information and help are offered in this case, as elsewhere in Greece, by the detailed description of the traveller Pausanias. He entered the city by the Dipylon Gate, which is of course well known, and proceeded along a broad road flanked by porticoes to the north-west corner of the Agora, where he begins his enumeration of its monuments. The first building which he mentions is the Stoa Basileios, or Royal Portico; some foundations discovered in this corner, backing on to the low hill on which the Theseum stands, have been identified with much probability as belonging to this stoa. But beyond this all is uncertain. Pausanias appears to proceed to the south, along the west side of the Agora. He next mentions a stoa behind the Royal Stoa, with historical paintings by Euphranor; and near this a temple of Apollo Patroos. The position of these is purely conjectural. Then comes a group of buildings close together—the temple of the Mother of the Gods, with a statue by Phidias (of which copies are known to us), the Senate House of the Five Hundred, and the Tholos, representing probably the ancient hearth of the city. This group must probably be placed on the southern side of the Agora. A number of statues are then mentioned, including those of the eponymous heroes of the Attic tribes, which must have been in a conspicuous and accessible position, since lists of citizens for active service and other purposes were affixed to them. Near these was the temple of Ares, which was probably close to the Areopagus, and has been thought to stand on the site later occupied by the church of Dionysius the Areopagite. Not far from this were the statues of the tyrannicides, Harmodius and Aristogiton; these we know from other sources to have been placed beside the ascent to the Acropolis.

So far the topographical sequence is fairly clear; but the next passage in the text of Pausanias, which mentions the spring Enneakrounos, or Nine Spouts, the Eleusinium, and other adjacent buildings, has given rise to endless controversy, and justifies the remark of the early traveller, Wheler, that "this Author is not altogether so regular in his Descriptions of Places, as it might be wished." But in any case, this group of buildings cannot be included in the area which it is now proposed to explore.

After this digression, Pausanias returns to the Agora, and mentions the temple of Hephæstus, which lay above the market-place and the Royal Stoa. The position corresponds to that of the temple now known as the Theseum, and for this reason Dörpfeld and others have proposed to identify this temple as the temple of Hephæstus; near it was the temple of Aphrodite Urania. These buildings are, in any case, outside the area with which we are concerned. But from them Pausanias proceeds, apparently across the Agora and past a gate to the Stoa Poikile, the famous painted porch, which contained the great paintings of Marathon, and other battles, by Polygnotus and his pupils, and which gave its name to the Stoic philosophers. The position of this stoa is entirely unknown; it may have lain either on the north or the east side of the Agora. Its discovery would be a great gain, both from its own interest and as affording a landmark in Athenian topography.

After this Pausanias leaves the Agora, and appears to enter the region to the east of it. Here he mentions, not far off, the gymnasium of Ptolemy, and, adjoining it, the temple of Theseus (not, of course, that now called the Theseum) and that of the Dioscuri, both of which we know to have been decorated with mythological paintings by Mikon. Above the temple of the Dioscuri was the precinct of Aglauros and the ascent by which the Persians reached the top of the Acropolis when they slew its garrison. These last two points are known, and thus we gain once more a

fixed point in our topographical sequence. Near to these was the Prytaneum, the office of the temporary presidents of the Athenian assembly, and the centre of civic hospitality. From the Prytaneum Pausanias follows two different routes to what he calls the lower part of the city, and so passes beyond the region which it is proposed to excavate.

In addition to these buildings, Pausanias mentions many statues of the highest interest, of which at least the bases, if not the statues themselves, may be found. And the harvest of inscriptions, which must have been set up in great numbers in and around the public buildings, is sure to make extensive and valuable contributions to our knowledge of the life and history of ancient Athens.

It is not likely that the execution of so vast a plan of excavation will be carried out simultaneously on a large scale. It is more probable that both the expropriation and the excavation will be undertaken in instalments, and that co-operation in various parts of the work may be invited. It does not even appear that any formal contract or conditions have been agreed upon. But the American archæologists who have initiated this splendid project will have the sympathy of the whole world of scholarship, and the results of their activity will be awaited with interest and with confidence.

ERNEST A. GARDNER.

Minor Commemorative Art

A statuette of J. B. Hobbs the cricketer has been modelled by Mr. E. H. Sheen, the artist who made a similar figurine of the Prince of Wales when H.R.H. was about to depart for South Africa. Hobbs is of course shown in flannels, and wearing his England cap. Replicas of the statuette, in ivory-finished plaster, are to be sold at half a crown each for the benefit of a hospital that is badly in need of funds. To take occasion by the hand in this way is by no means a new idea. Plaster or bronze models, made with some similar object, have been long familiar, and medals have even more frequently served the like purpose of commemoration or of cash-raising. On the mantelshelf of the room where this note is being written is a statuette of William Cobbett, copies of which were sold to relieve that turbulent gentleman's chronic impecuniosity; and the excellent medallion of Charles Edward Stuart resting beside it has the same sort of history. But the statuette of Hobbs has been made in support of an indisputably excellent cause—that of charity pure and undefiled. Could art be more worthily employed?

Architecture on the "Screen"

Mr. Charles (or Charlie) Chaplin has, through the medium of Mr. Robert Nichols, been telling the readers of "The Times" what he thinks of architecture as an element of the cinematographic art. "How little," he says, "the public will appreciate, say, a cathedral set done as Reinhardt or Bell-Geddes might do it: one pillar soaring into two dim arches, a shimmer of candles at the pillar's foot, a stretch of black-and-white tessellated pavement vanishing into the darkness—how should our public appreciate that straight off? Why, not only have they probably never seen a cathedral in real life and so through familiarity come to understand its nature, but they haven't even seen it on the stage, for our public is largely not a theatre public. When I was a kid I lived in the slums. What would I have given for a Reinhardt cathedral? The White City was more my line. So that's why we often have cathedrals like wedding cakes on the screen. And flashy effects in general. You can't jump people to things. Taste takes time to form." It does, we agree; but what is it Mr. Chaplin is worrying about? If a cathedral is necessary in a picture (which upon occasion it may, of course, be) we should have thought the "pillar soaring into two dim arches" and the "shimmer of candles" at its foot about the most universally understandable way of representing one.

Georgian and Victorian

In art, as in minor matters, fashions wax and wane. Seldom if ever do they become entirely obsolete; and in architecture they are particularly apt to recur, modes that had fallen into disfavour coming again into warm popularity after a season of cold neglect. Sir Charles Nicholson has given a pointed instance of this. He remarked, in a paper read to the British Society of Master Glass Painters, that Georgian art, now at full floodtide of popularity, was utterly despised when he was a boy. From this experience he drew the inference that Victorian art, to-day regarded contemptuously, may to-morrow supersede Georgian in popular esteem. Indeed, one sees sundry indications that Sir Charles Nicholson's surmise is not without warrant. At least the Victorian period had its purple patches. Sir Charles argues very justly that "the artists of the period were giants in their way, and a century which produced buildings like Waterloo Bridge, the Houses of Parliament, Truro Cathedral, and All Saints Margaret Street; paintings such as those of Turner, the pre-Raphaelites, and Millais; sculptures like the Wellington monument, cannot be passed over as a dull period of artistic effort." There is, however, a characteristically heavy *per contra* account, of which Sir Charles does not fail to remind us. It includes such dreary items as Wyatt "the fashionable architect" who touched nothing that he did not spoil; and Egington, who substituted enamel transparencies for thirteenth-century glass in Salisbury Cathedral, and supplied bogus heraldry for Fonthill. Such are the accidentals that dwindle and perish; but Victorian art was not entirely destitute of the principles that never die. Victorian architecture is coming again, not to supersede Georgian, but to be in amiable companionship with it.

Concerning School Equipment

Awarded a travelling scholarship, a London lady teacher is devoting it to a tour of inspection of United States schools. She is sending home by instalments an interesting account of what she sees. Being very young, she is naturally charmed with most of the objects that are new and strange to her, and perhaps she praises them unduly. Slabs built into the walls instead of easel blackboards, she seems to have first noticed in America, as she gives no sign of awareness that writing slabs on the walls are quite commonly provided in English schools of modern design. More usefully the lady extols the superior quality of the pictures seen on the walls of American schools; whereupon she must needs deliver a little homily on the importance of a beautiful environment for young and plastic minds. This is trite enough doctrine; but when will our own education authorities give heed to it?

Public Nuisances

A London magistrate the other day, in fining a hall porter ten shillings for whistling for a cab, is reported to have said that there were few greater public nuisances than cab-whistlers. This solicitude for the public's ear is curious, seeing how little the public's eye is protected. Surely the scale of values requires some readjustment, and a set of regulations which dealt more leniently with cab-whistlers (for whom there is often a reasonable excuse) and more harshly with those who continually outrage our sense of vision by spoiling our towns and desecrating our countryside with abominable advertisements, would better serve the public. Why should the ear be pampered and the claims of the eye to protection be ignored? Because we can shut our eyes and not our ears? But can we? Surely not as we cross Piccadilly Circus, although this is a remedy which those of us who are at all sensitive may be driven to attempt before long. And, after all, what is cab-whistling compared to the cacophony of a jazz band? There is something wrong somewhere. To bother about cab-whistlers and ignore giant hoardings, flashing electric signs, and similar degrading and insulting monstrosities, is reminiscent of motes and beams.

Architectural Style—II

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

The Plan

THERE is one obvious respect in which a plan, if it be not accompanied by sections and elevations, may fail to indicate the true character of a building. The relative heights of its various parts, although they may be suggested by the varying thicknesses of the walls and foundations, are not shown with exactitude. In the following groups of diagrams, therefore, I am dealing with compositions of buildings which presumably are of uniform height, for this convention will simplify the application of the principles of Number, Punctuation, and Inflection, to the design of plans. The reader will easily imagine the additional subtleties of composition which would be made possible if the different parts of the buildings also varied in height.

FIGURE XLII.

FIGURE XLIII.

Fig. XLII A shows two long blocks of buildings whose conformation at first sight suggests an unresolved duality. It must be remembered, however, that in this instance the two blocks are the boundaries of a street, and the street is a unity. If these blocks had been "in tandem," their duality would then have caused offence, because the area between them would be too unimportant to constitute a third member of a trinity. It is therefore necessary to distinguish between a composition in streets or courts, and one in which the unit is the building itself. But it generally happens that by punctuating and inflecting the buildings abutting on a street or court we also punctuate and inflect these open spaces themselves. Example XLII B shows two blocks facing each other but having different terminations. These differences, however, are in a certain measure composed, for the right-hand wing although longer than the left is inflected to take account of the extremity of the latter.

In XLIII A we have a simple architectural theme—the placing of a block between two other longer blocks which run in a direction at right angles to its own. The composition is extremely crude, for the centre block seems to be floating about; there is nothing to fix it to the lateral members, because these latter are not *inflected* to take cognizance of it. But even this design, bad as it is, would have been worse still if the middle block had impinged upon the others at their centres and thus cut the composition in two. In B the lateral members have undergone a slight inflection in that they have a projection exactly opposite the centre block, which now no longer "floats," but has a fixity of position. In C a further improvement is introduced, because the lateral members, whose length had previously been indeterminate, are now punctuated at their extremities. Moreover, the punctuation at one end differs from that of the other, thus expressing an inflection whereby the group shows its consciousness of the fact that one court differs from the other in proportion. But XLIII C still has a blemish, because the *backs* of the lateral members are unconscious of the centre block, while even the elevations towards the enclosure do not show the degree of recognition which the occasion seems to demand. It is as if a man had

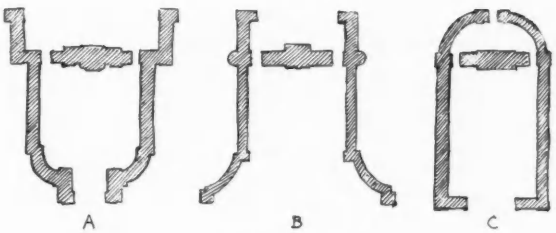


FIGURE XLIV.

greeted the home-coming of his long-lost brother with a perfunctory nod. In Fig. XLIV A the two side members of the group step back at the points where the centre block meets them, and obviously this conduct on their part does credit both to themselves and to the pivotal building, which gains in importance by the new disposition. The wings, by being thus set back, are in a measure conjugated, and the process is carried farther by the curved ramps, which tend to close in the court at the other end. It will be observed that at the entrance there are further elements of conjugation and inflection. The centre block also has, in addition to several other inflections, one which expresses the fact that it is differently disposed towards the two courts.

In XLIV B the conjugation of the wings is effected in the opposite direction, while their back elevations have apses which reflect the position of the centre block. C is yet a third solution, in which the presence of the centre block is a signal to the lateral members to curve themselves in two quarter-circles.

XLIV A, B, and C, are three out of thousands of other elaborations of the theme XLIII C. These elaborations are inspired by the Grammar of Design, and are the result of applying to a simple theme the canons of Number, Punctuation, and Inflection, which are thus seen to be a stimulus not only to criticism but to creation of the architectural programmes which could suitably find expression in the forms XLIV A, B, and C. The nature of the programme will itself determine which of the innumerable grammatical interpretations of the theme should be adopted in any given case. It is sufficient to indicate that an infinite variety of forms are contained within the limits of the grammar. The difference between XLIII C and XLIV A lies in the fact that while the former was stiff and lifeless, the latter, as a result of the moulding of its parts in accordance with the grammar, has elements of sensibility.

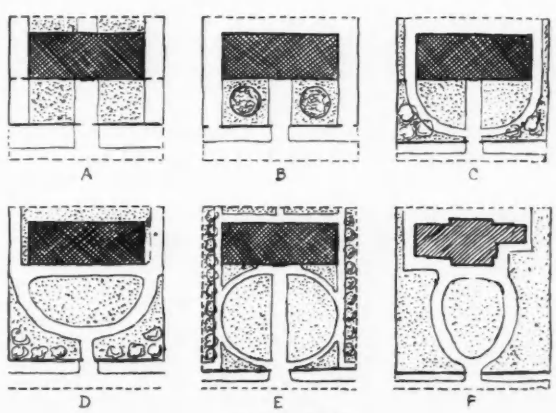


FIGURE XLV.

Fig. XLV shows a few diagrams illustrating the composition of lawns and paths in front of a house. In A the lawns obviously form an unresolved duality. B is still worse, because the separate units of lawn are further accentuated by circular flower-beds, and the lawn being square also lacks an inflection towards the house. C is more satisfactory in that the two sections of lawn are conjugated to form a pair. D is better still, the lawn being divided into one main unity supported by a pair of conjugated subordinate sections. In E the halves of the lawn are indeed conjugated, but unfortunately they lack inflection towards the house; they are symmetrical about an axis parallel to the house, and such an arrangement suggests a point of interest at the centre of each side of the front garden, and as this centre of interest is non-existent, the form belies the subject. F is the most completely formal of the six examples, for here the centre lawn, inflected towards house and entrance gate, is supported, as is D, by conjugated subordinate members, of which, however, the symmetry is compromised in order to take account of the shape of the house. But it may be assumed that the sub-unit of the façade opposite the central lawn has

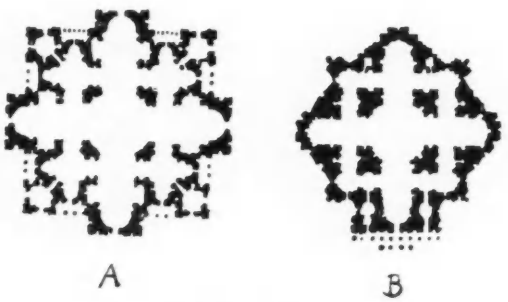


FIGURE XLVI.

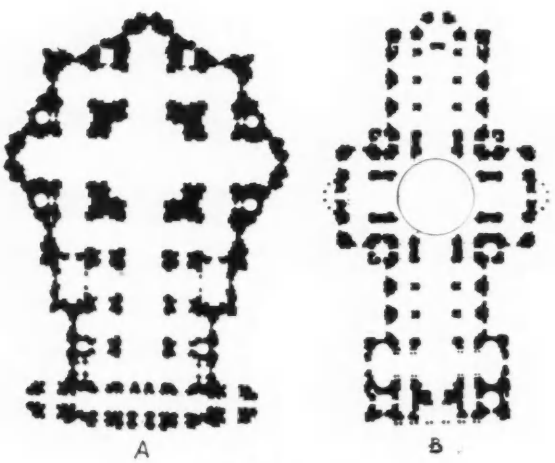


FIGURE XLVII.

symmetry. This example shows that there is not the least need to employ geometrical shapes such as circles, ellipses, or rectilinear figures, in order to give expression to the grammar of design.

XLVI A shows Bramante's plan of St. Peter's, a pattern symmetrical about both axes. It was clear that the entrance was insufficiently expressed, and in Michelangelo's design (XLVI B) this defect was remedied, and the plan in being inflected towards the entrance has an increase of vitality. It was then realized that the high altar was not sufficiently recognized as plan, and a further inflection was introduced which is shown in XLVII A. This is a far more expressive shape than either XLVI A or B, though it

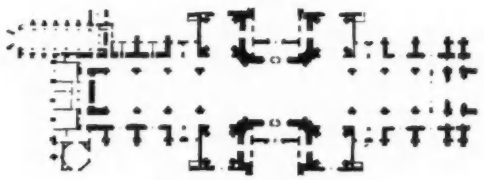


FIGURE XLVIII.

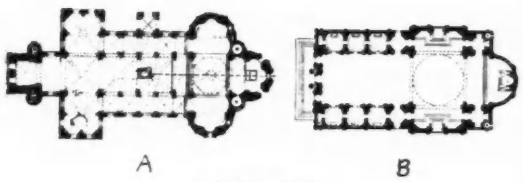


FIGURE XLIX.

suffers from the defect that the dimension of the dome is not indicated on the west front. XLVII B shows the plan of St. Paul's: not only is the dome expressed on all fronts, but the plan is inflected towards both entrance and altar. In Fig. XLVIII, on each side of the central portion there is equality in the number of bays, and this arrangement suggests that the choir and nave are of equal value. This symmetry may be formally pleasing, but there remains the question whether it adequately expresses the ceremonial usages of the cathedral itself.

In planning, it is important to avoid duplicating areas or dimensions when these have different functions or are subject to different architectural treatments. For instance, in XLIX A the two large bays on both north and south façades are of equal width, yet one is rectangular and the other apsidal on plan. But as the forms show an inflection one would naturally have expected a corresponding inflection in their principal dimension. Again, the large square vault opposite the entrance is equal and similar to that adjacent to the three apses, which differs from it both in importance and elaboration of treatment. This is clearly a case where a geometrical equality is unjustifiable. XLIX B is adequately punctuated and inflected, the width of the dome being expressed on all fronts. In Fig. L A the wings have symmetrical façades, and even if a very powerful dominant were present (which is not the case) these features would require conjugation. In B the symmetry of the right and left chambers is compromised by the entrances to the colonnades and the requisite conjugation has been achieved. In C the plan of a mansion has assumed the form of a regular pentagon. Being in the depth of the country this form has greater justification than have examples XLVI A and B, which could take little account of the surrounding lay-out, but even here the expressiveness of the plan is partly sacrificed to a geometrical whim, and the entrance is arbitrarily placed on one of the five equal sides, which has not been inflected to receive it. Such a building attempts a detachment from its surroundings, which is in practice impossible. It would emulate the regularity of form which distinguishes the earth itself, forgetting that the earth, being so happily suspended in space, is justified in its roundness.

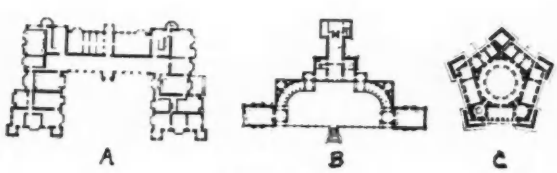


FIGURE L.

[The previous articles of this series appeared in our issues for March 18, April 1 and 22, May 20, June 17, July 15 and 29, August 19, and September 2.]

The Re-planning of "Westburn," Sunderland

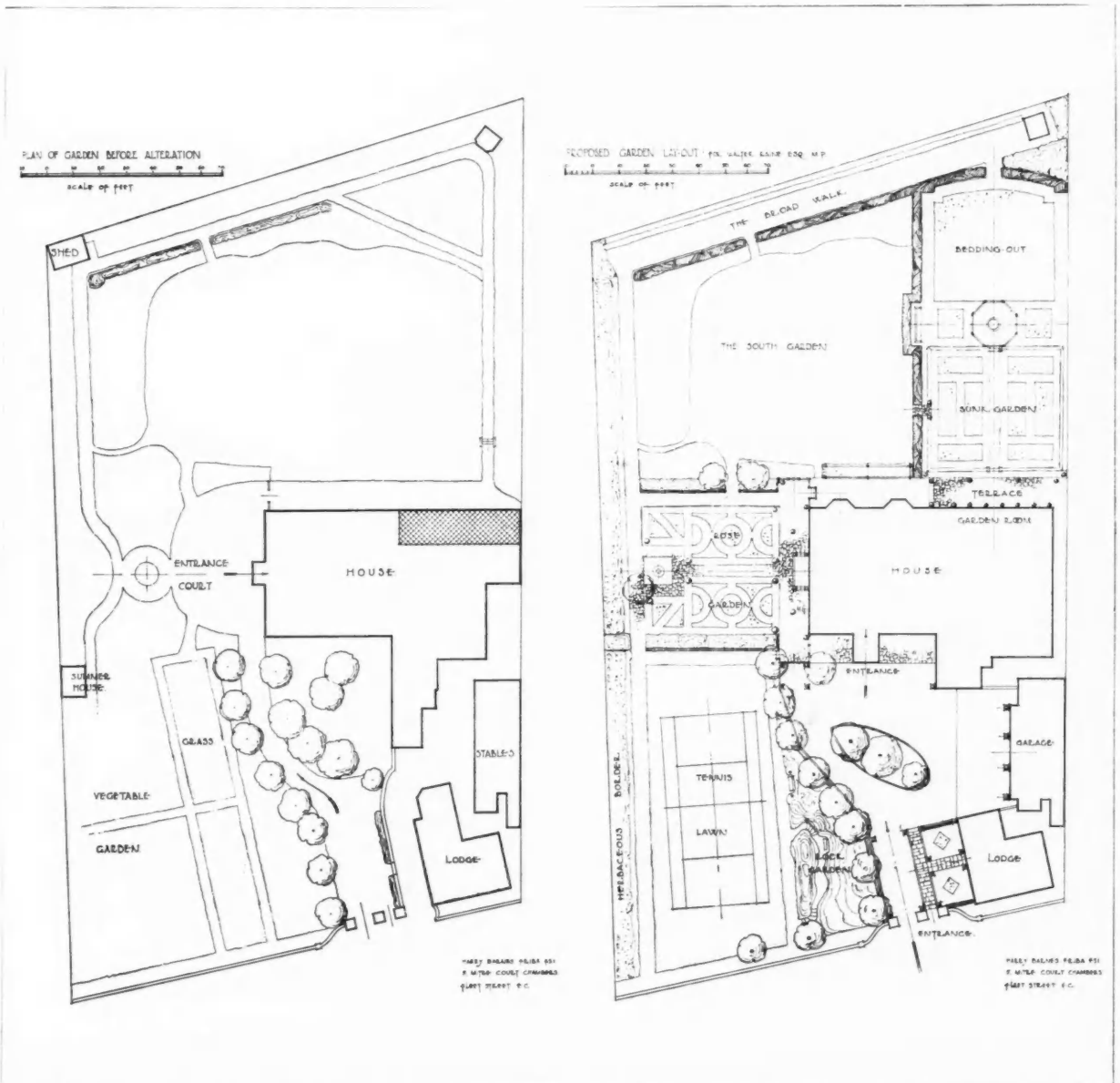
The Residence of Mr. Walter Raine, M.P.

HARRY BARNES, V.-P.R.I.B.A., F.S.I., Architect

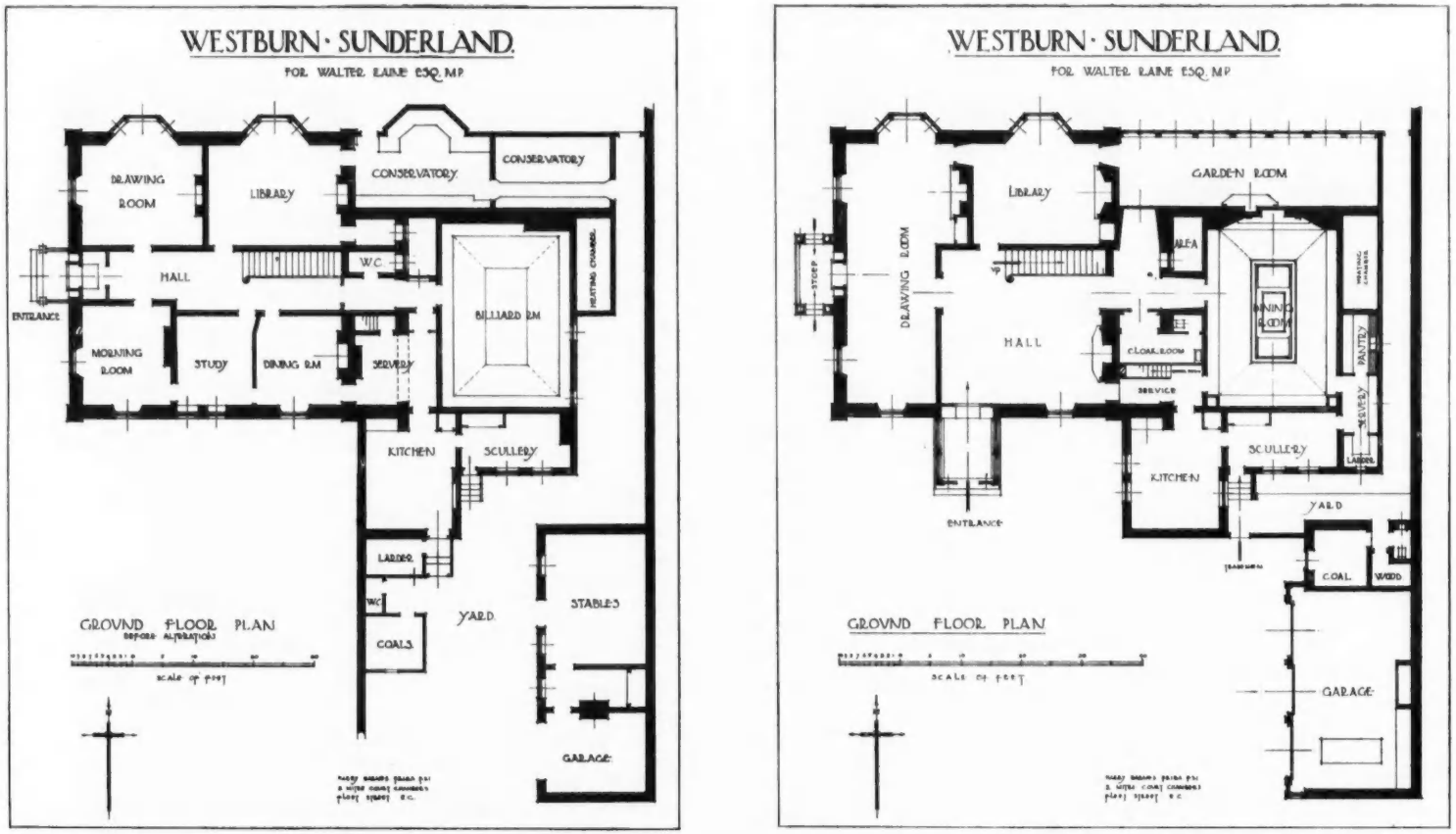
THE accompanying illustrations of "Westburn," Sunderland, the residence of Mr. Walter Raine, M.P. for that borough, show the interesting possibilities of re-planning both house and garden furnished by houses erected in the last century. The house, built some fifty years ago of good stone and roofed with a pleasing slate, is free from many of the defects of the mid-Victorian period; the elevations being simple and not unsatisfactory in appearance. The east front was disfigured some twenty or thirty years ago by a heavy granite porch, and this was removed as a part of the general re-planning which has taken place. The house itself was well placed upon the site, but the main entrance was planned on the eastern side, with the result that the carriage-drive covered some two-thirds of the site, and rendered it practically useless for any private purpose.

The keynote of the re-planning was the changing of the entrance from the eastern to the northern front, and an

(*Continued on page* 412.)



"WESTBURN," SUNDERLAND: THE GARDEN BEFORE AND AFTER RE-PLANNING.



"WESTBURN," SUNDERLAND. THE RESIDENCE OF MR. WALTER RAINE, M.P.: THE GROUND PLAN BEFORE AND AFTER RE-PLANNING.
HARRY BARNES, V.-P.R.I.B.A., F.S.I., ARCHITECT.

"Westburn," Sunderland : The Residence of Mr. Walter Raine, M.P.

Harry Barnes, V.-P.R.I.B.A., F.S.I., Architect

Front facing the Rose Garden.

It was on this front that the main entrance was situated before Major Barnes replanned the house as shown on p. 404.

"Westburn," Sunderland: The Residence of Mr. Walter Raine, M.P.

Harry Barnes, V.-P.R.I.B.A., F.S.I., Architect

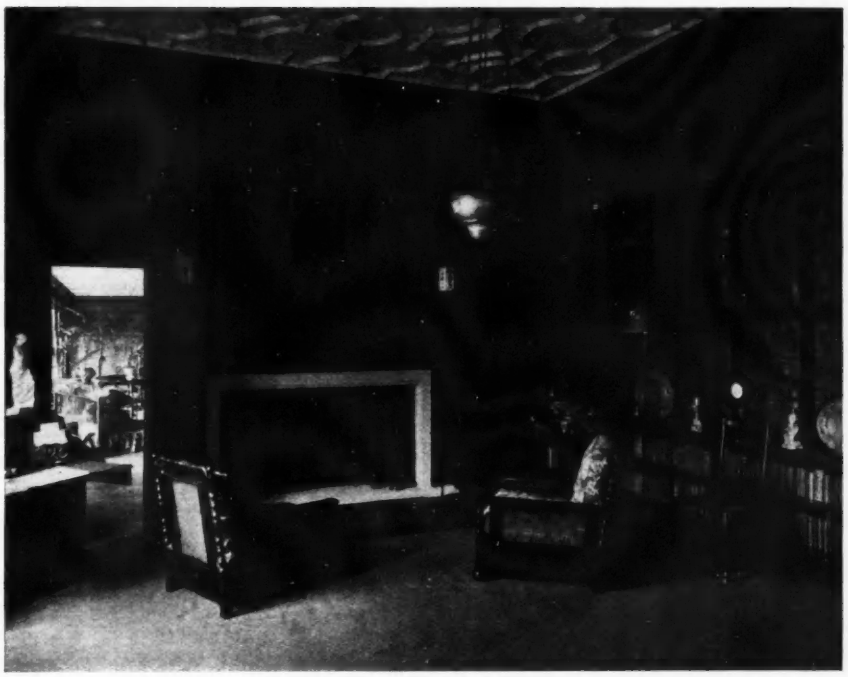
The Garden Room and Terrace

"Westburn," Sunderland: The Residence of Mr. Walter Raine, M.P.

"Westburn," Sunderland: The Residence of Mr. Walter Raine, M.P.

Harry Barnes, V.-P.R.I.B.A., F.S.I., Architect

The Hall and Staircase.



THE LIBRARY.

THE GARDEN ROOM.

"WESTBURN," SUNDERLAND, THE RESIDENCE OF MR. WALTER RAINE, M.P.
HARRY BARNES, V.-P.R.I.B.A., F.S.I., ARCHITECT.

examination of the garden plans will show that this resulted in practically doubling the space of garden ground available for the uninterrupted enjoyment of the occupiers of the house. The gardens are divided into five sections: the entrance court, the tennis lawn, the rose garden, the flower lawn, and a south garden. The sections are divided from each other by trees and hedges, and the passage of time has given the garden the advantage of a well-grown screen of trees. The wall dividing the grounds from the stable-yard was removed, and the whole space thrown into the entrance court; and the entrance gate, lodge and ground adjoining were treated as a small forecourt, with boundaries marked out by a flat kerb with tubs at intervals filled with shrubs.

On the eastern front a rose garden was formed in the space formerly occupied by the carriage entrance. It was screened by two glazed screens which link up the house and the garden. These screens also afford shelter not only to the garden but to the entrance which has taken the place of the entrance porch, enabling it to be used during months of the year when otherwise it would have been impossible. The tennis lawn is laid with silloth turf, and a bird-pool has been formed in the rose garden. On the southern front of the house an old conservatory of mid-Victorian pattern was removed and replaced by a garden-room with a flagged terrace looking out over a sunk garden.

The re-planning which has characterized the garden has been extended to the house. This will be seen by comparison of the ground-floor plans, before and after alteration, illustrated in this issue. The main object of the planning was to provide a good entrance hall and a large sitting-room in place of the usual passage and a number of smaller rooms. It will be seen that the original plan was of the ordinary type, the entrance being situated between two reception rooms, and leading directly to the normal staircase and passage with rooms on either side. The change in the position of the entrance, and the pulling down of the walls of two subordinate rooms, has given a large hall, the old staircase being retained. The removal of the entrance from the east front enabled the two reception rooms on that side to be thrown into one by clearing away the passage walls, giving a sitting-room some 43 ft. in length. The billiard room was converted into a dining-room, and being a single story with a roof-light it was possible to group the kitchen, pantry, and scullery round it so as to provide excellent service arrangements. The garden-room is accessible from both the library and the main hall, and is a marked feature of the internal arrangements of the house. The rooms have been made intercommunicating, and glazed doors have been fixed to the entrances of sitting, garden, and dining-rooms, with a view to getting vistas through the rooms, and the result has been very satisfactory. The interior of the house shows a very free and effective use of the best reproductions of the Tynecastle Company. The old fireplaces and electric-light fittings were replaced by others specially designed to suit the new surroundings. The general colour scheme is in dark brown, green and gold, the sitting-room walls being filled in with panelling containing a very charming Chinese paper.

Major Harry Barnes, V.-P.R.I.B.A., the architect responsible for the re-planning and decorating, has been fortunate in clients who have furnished the house to correspond with its design and decoration, and a glance at the illustrations will serve to show that in these days of high building costs those who are the possessors of old and roomy houses may, without going to the expense of entire reconstruction, succeed in evolving out of a somewhat unimaginative house and garden surroundings of real interest and charm.

The general contractor was Mr. Robert Stafford, of Hendon, Sunderland, and the sub-contractors were as follows:—

George Wright, Ltd. (stoves, grates and mantels); W. Harold Fairclough, Sunderland (plumbing and sanitary work); Reid Ferens & Co., Sunderland (electric wiring); F. De Jong & Co., Ltd., Camden Town (plaster work, fibrous or modelled); Jessie M. Jacob, Stroud Green, N.4 (stained-glass and leaded lights); Henry Bisseker, Ltd., and the Birmingham Guild, Ltd. (electric light fixtures); N. F. Ramsay & Co., Newcastle-on-Tyne (door furniture); The Tynecastle Company, Edinburgh, and A. Sanderson and Sons, Ltd. (wall papers and wall hangings); R. T. Vaux and Son, Sunderland (heating apparatus); John P. White and Sons, Bedford, and W. H. Gazes and Sons (garden seats, urns, fountains, sundials, etc.); R. Richardson and Son, Sunderland (shrubs and trees); Harkers, Ltd., Sunderland (furnishing); William Hartley, Sunderland (painting and decorating).

The New Cross Cinema

EDWARD A. STONE, F.S.I., Architect

THE New Cross Cinema, New Cross Road, officially opened last week by Miss Betty Balfour, supported by the Mayor of Deptford (Councillor F. J. Bryer, J.P.), occupies an important position in South London. In erecting the building the directors have aimed at providing a structure worthy of the district and suitable to the important and conspicuous position it occupies on the high road.

Externally it is both commanding and dignified, while simple in treatment. Internally it fulfils the first requirement of every theatre: a perfect view of the screen and stage from every seat in the house. To this may be added artistic and comfortable surroundings, good music, perfect heating and ventilation, and social amenities in the way of café-lounges and ballrooms. The building is fireproof throughout. The balcony is constructed of steel and reinforced concrete, and carried without the use of supporting columns. The seating capacity is for 2,300: 1,500 on the ground floor and 800 in the balcony.

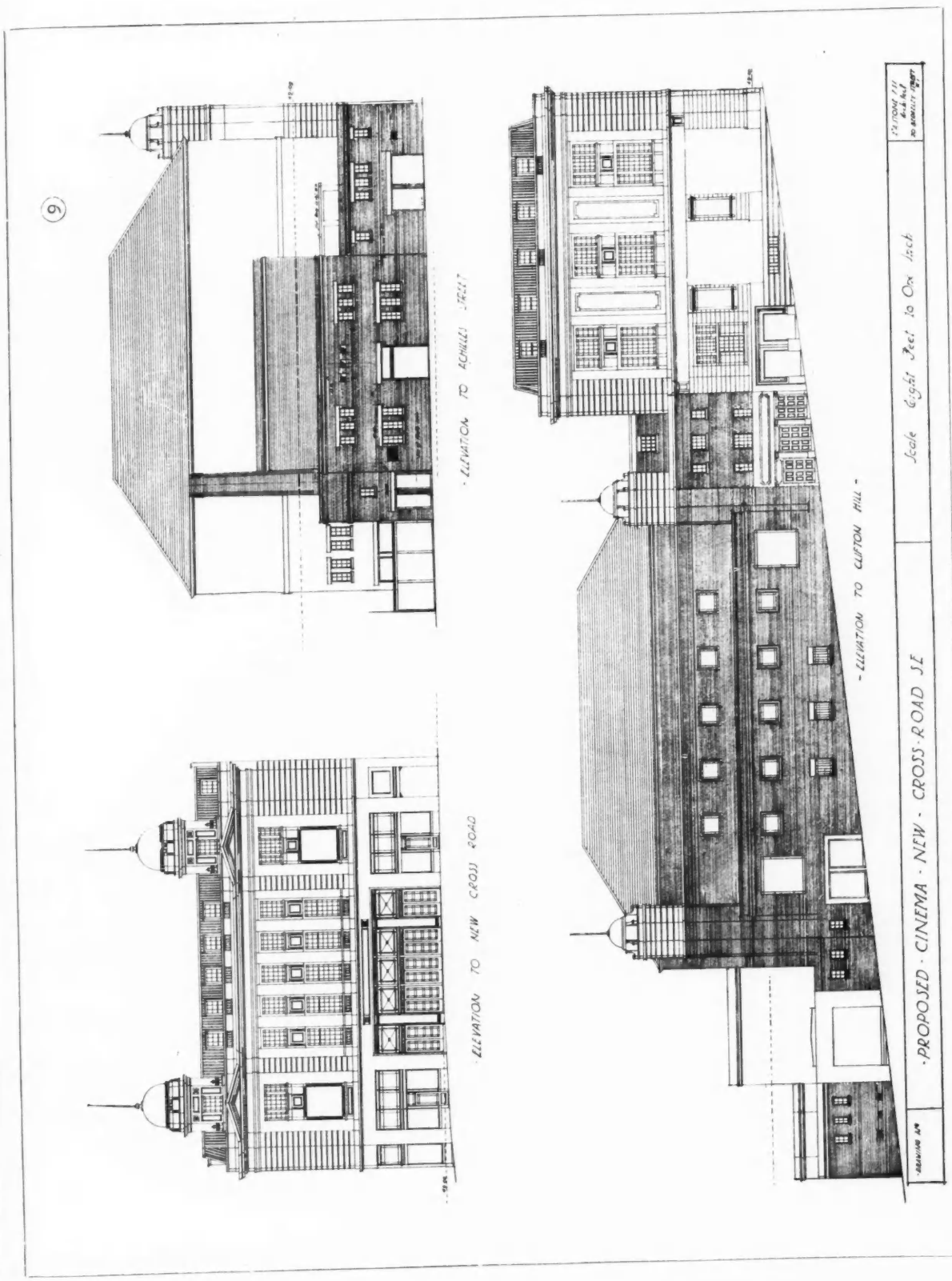
The decorative scheme is carried out in two distinct styles. In the theatre pure classic forms have been followed and treated with appropriate colouring. In the foyer and lounge a very free treatment has been adopted, and the blending and contrast of rich colouring are striking and effective. The building is lighted electrically throughout in two separate systems, and the soft colour effects are designed to harmonize with the decorations.

The heating and ventilation are carried out on the latest "plenum" system. Fresh air from the outside is filtered, washed by a fine mist of water, warmed by a battery of boilers and admitted by inlets all over the building. Vitiated air is drawn out by silent-running fans.

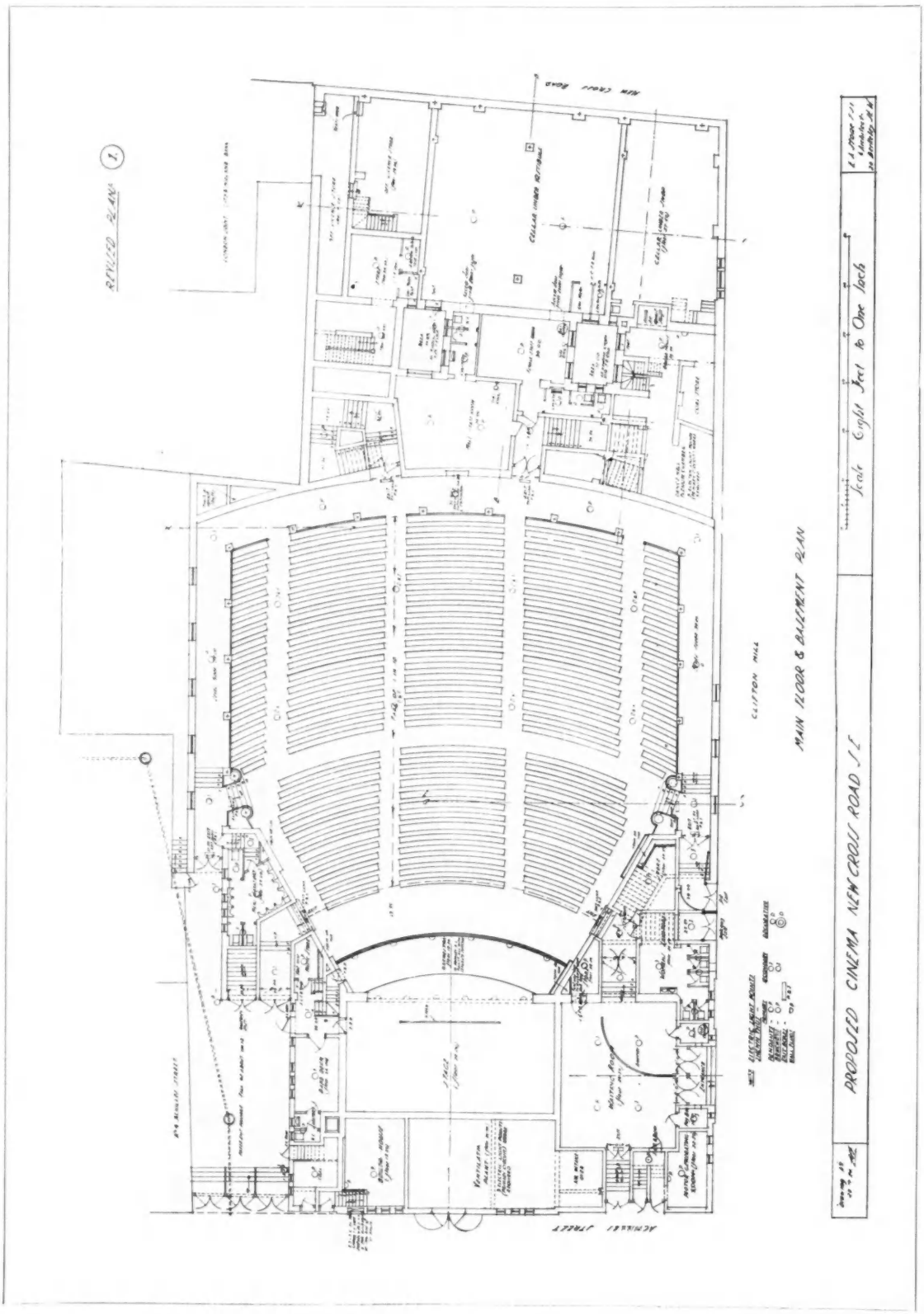
The consulting engineers were Messrs. Lewis Rugg & Co., and the supervising electrical engineer was Mr. A. Champion.

The general contractor was Mr. James Watt, of Catford, and the sub-contractors were as follows:—

Henry Hope and Sons, Ltd. (heating and ventilation); Malcolm McLeod & Co., Ltd. (marble); Crittall & Co., Ltd., and Messrs. J. L. Howard (metal casements); Samuel Wright & Co., Ltd. (fibrous plaster); Smith and Gulson, under the direction of Mr. Sayers (stage equipment); Jones and Higgins, Ltd. (drapery); James & Co., of Catford (seats); J. Frank Brockliss, Ltd. (projectors, simplex); Bulman Cinema Screen Co. (screen); H. Young & Co., Ltd. (steelwork); Doulton & Co., Ltd. (faience elevations); A. F. Goodwin & Co. (electrical work).



THE NEW CROSS CINEMA. EDWARD A. STONE, F.S.I., ARCHITECT.



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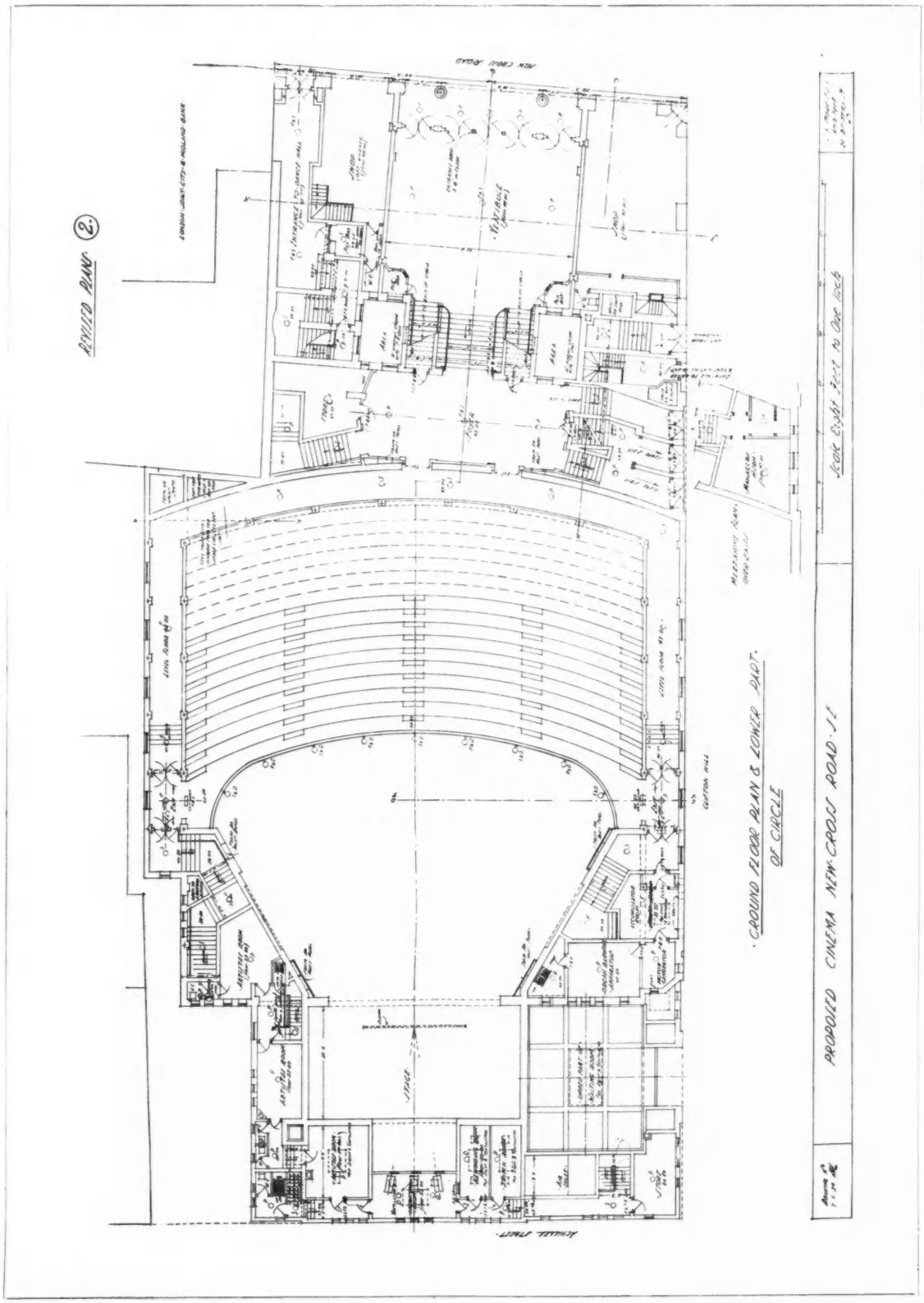

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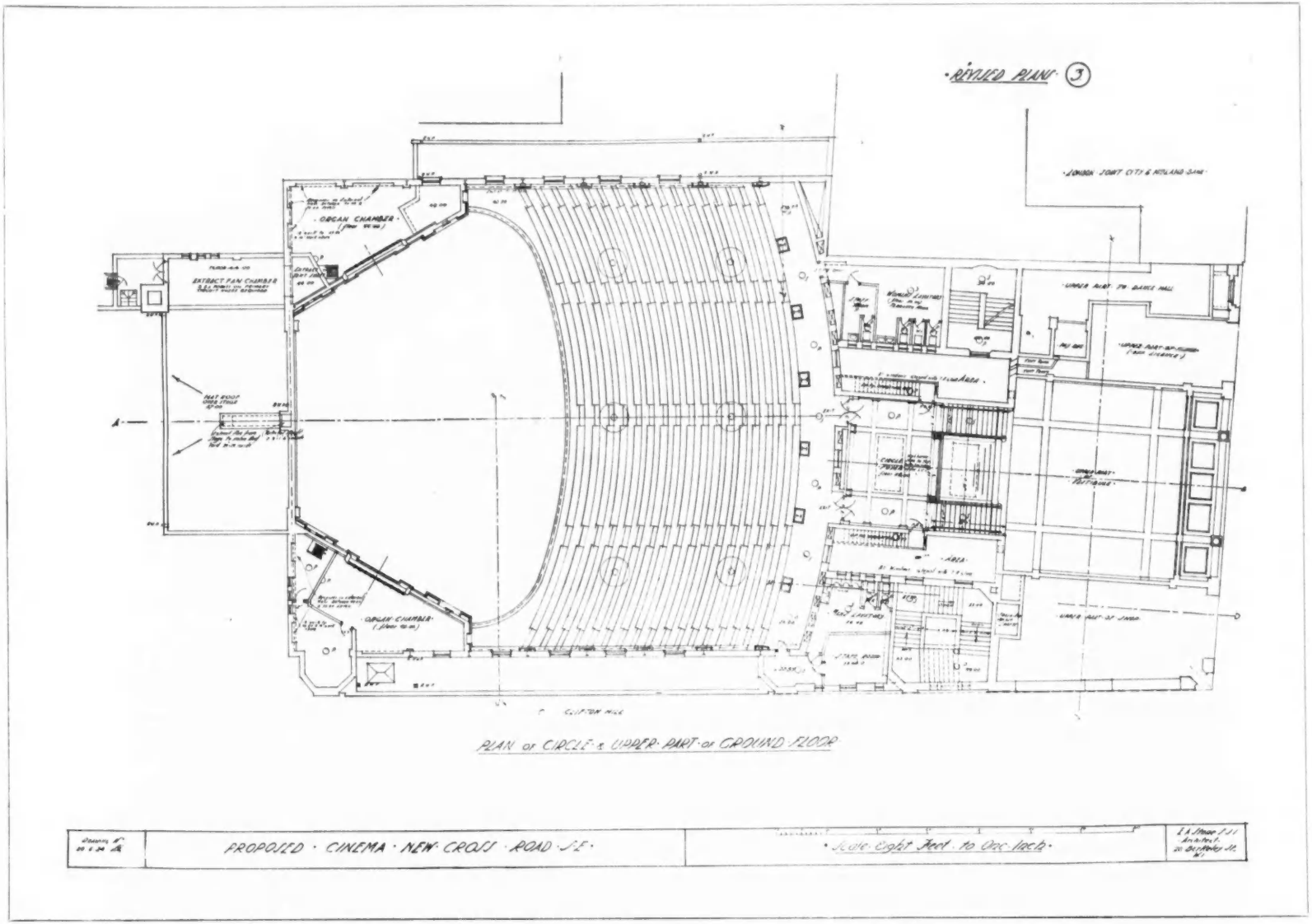

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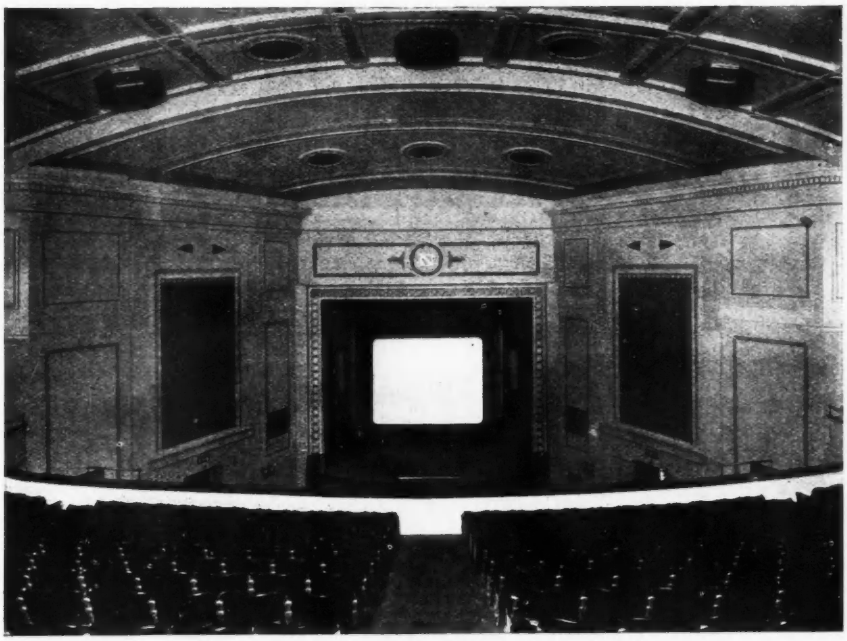
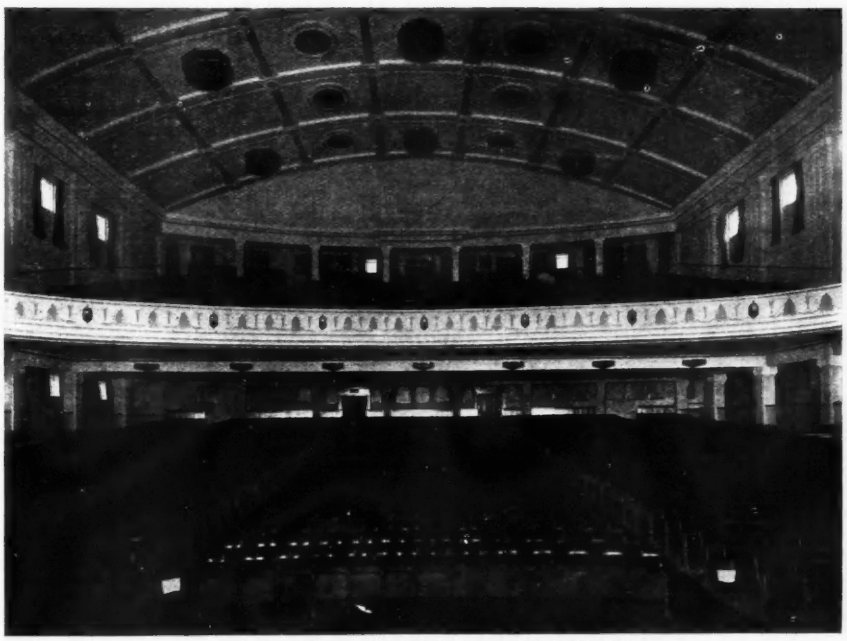


THE INTERIOR, LOOKING TOWARDS THE SCREEN.



THE INTERIOR, LOOKING FROM THE SCREEN.

THE NEW CROSS CINEMA. EDWARD A. STONE, F.S.I., ARCHITECT.

THE NEW CROSS CINEMA. EDWARD A. STONE, F.S.I., ARCHITECT

THE ENTRANCE FRONT.

A Country House at Helenenthal, near Iglau, Czecho-Slovakia

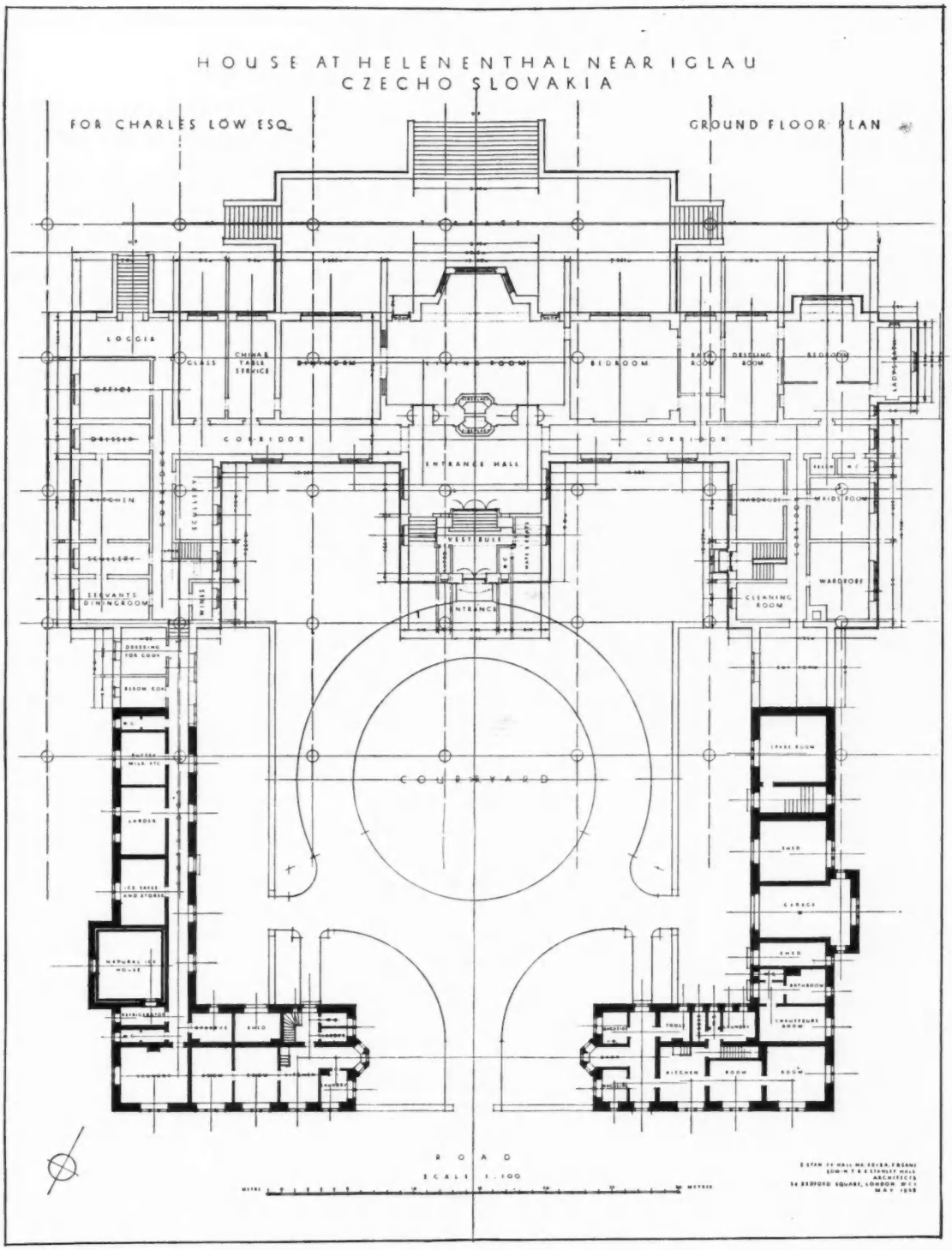
E. STANLEY HALL, M.A., F.R.I.B.A., Architect

THE design of this house was made in rather unusual circumstances. An unknown client wrote to the architect enclosing the most carefully drawn plans for a house, and stating that these were exactly as he desired the house to be, but that he was dissatisfied with the elevations he had, and a request was made for suitable elevations.

Perusal of the plans showed that they would never lend themselves to a suitable composition, besides having many obvious faults; and the architect submitted new plans, modifying the original only so far as to endeavour to get a satisfactory grouping of the building. The scheme was further tied by the fact that the low outbuildings of the courtyard had already been erected. The client had stipulated that his own bedroom suite should adjoin the living-room. The dimensions of the rooms were also given. It was stated that in winter months the household would be much smaller than in the summer.

The materials available were a rough granite, and oak shingling was desired for the roof. Plaster was not objected to; and a suggestion was made that the upper floor should be weather-boarded. The single-story buildings of the courtyard are built of rough local granite with oak shingled roofs, iron casements and leaded lights. Photographs showed that the site was nearly level, and appeared to be a clearing in a pine forest.

The entrance courtyard measures 137 ft. across from east to west, and 134 ft. from north to south. The south elevation is 200 ft. long. The living-room measures 44 ft. by 21 ft. by 19 ft. in height, and on the first-floor level is a music gallery at one end, and a cinema operator's room at the other. At the head of the main stairs is a billiard hall, and the rest of the main wing on this floor is given up to guests' bed and bath rooms. The north-east and north-west wings contain the servants' quarters. There is a basement under the greater portion of the house, where are placed the boiler house and refrigerators.



A HOUSE IN CZECHO-SLOVAKIA: GROUND-FLOOR PLAN. E. STANLEY HALL, M.A., F.R.I.B.A., ARCHITECT.

Regulated Architecture—3

Architecture and the Subsidy

By WILLIAM HARVEY

A POLICY of State aid for the cottage builder has definitely been embarked upon in England, and it is a matter of grave importance to discover whether this policy is likely to benefit the architecture of the country, whether it can be justified as a temporary measure, or whether it can be justified at all except as the vote-catching device that cynical persons have already proclaimed it to be. Some aspects of the question obviously fall within the sphere of the politician, and State aid may be blessed or banned by parties and partisans either as "something done for housing," or as "unwarrantable interference with the building trade market." But apart from the darkly mysterious laws of political economy, with which the present-day architect is hardly expected to trouble himself in his professional capacity, State aid for housing is most decidedly an affair of architectural interest.

Many unsightly and unpleasantly flimsy buildings are now being erected, and it would be well to know whether their unsatisfactory character is rightly to be attributed in whole or part to the struggle of builders or building-owners to obtain the subsidy. It must be immediately acknowledged that for a great deal of bad building and ridiculous design the subsidy is not immediately responsible. The Jerry builder, and his twin brother the hasty designer, are always with us, and many an eyesore has been, and will be, created, to the immense disgust of artistically-minded folk, but to the complete content of the person who pays for it and who has the "right" to form his home (which is the Englishman's castle) very much as he chooses—whether his neighbours like it or not. But though the policy of State aid may clear itself from some share of blame for unseemly building, it does not, unfortunately, tend towards the establishment of principles or of practices in cottage building that can be considered satisfactory from the point of view of beauty, or convenience, or of permanent constructional material.

Architecture is many-sided; a difficult and complex art that is open to criticism from several different aspects simultaneously, and the additional complexity in planning a cottage to fit in between an arbitrarily chosen maximum and minimum floor area under the Housing Act may make all the difference between the hope for a good plan and the certainty of obtaining a bad one. When, in addition, the local authority insists that the grant of a subsidy shall be conditional upon a firm tender being received that will bring the price of house and land below six hundred pounds, the problem of producing a thoroughly satisfactory work of architecture becomes almost insuperable.

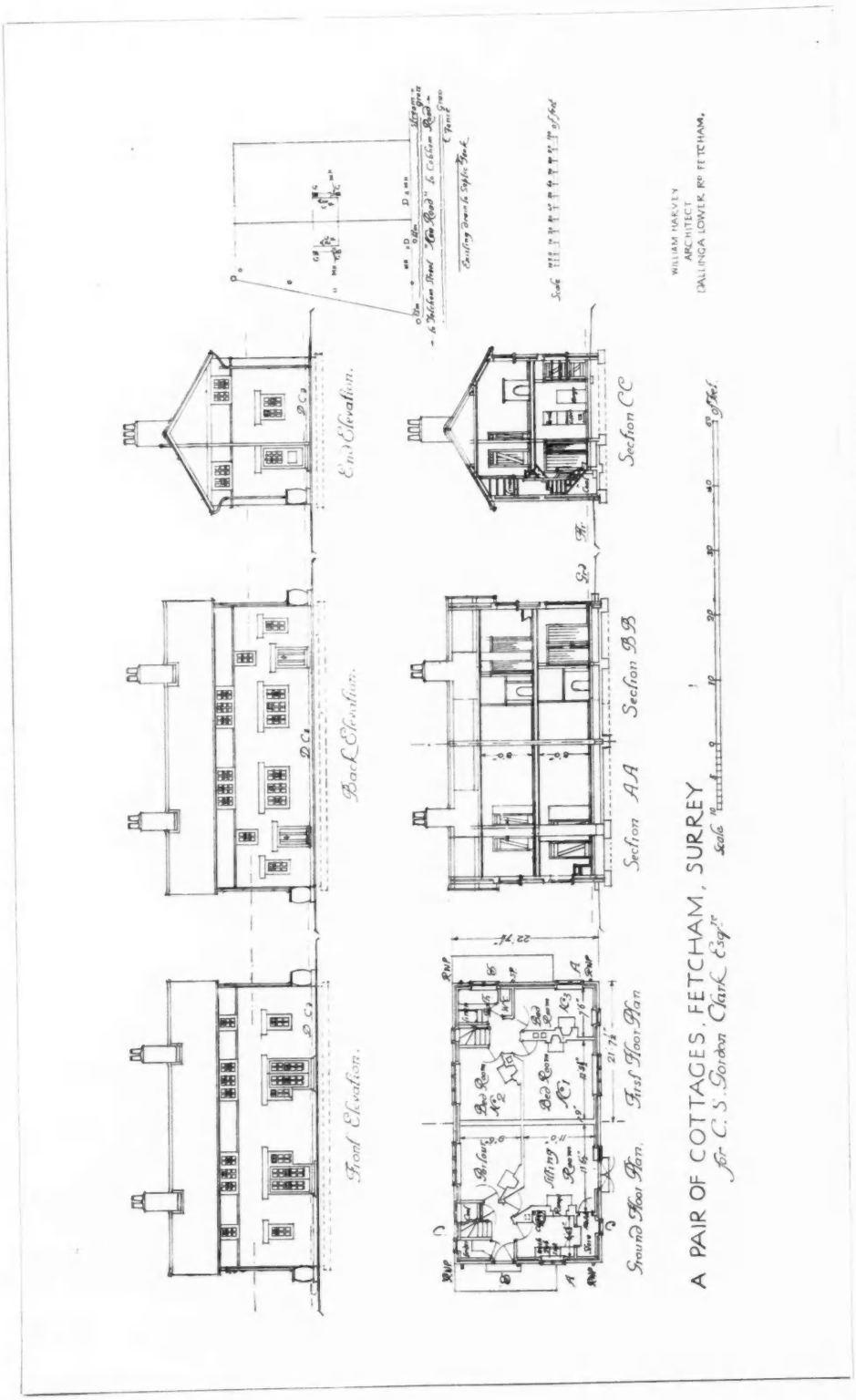
In practice a sharp division exists between two classes of State-aided cottage. The house designed as an integral part of a town-planning scheme by competent and energetic architects, who have given unlimited time and thought to knitting together the several elements of convenience, economy, appearance, and construction, contrasts favourably, as well it might, with the single house or bungalow designed and erected chiefly with a view to obtaining the subsidy.

To a very large extent the supervision exercised over applications for the grant of the subsidy fails to differentiate between good and bad planning. The district surveyor is required to certify plans as fit for the subsidy, but his criticism will probably be directed towards construction rather than convenience of planning, and a design that contains the necessary accommodation and does not disobey the conditions is likely to be approved so long as it does not violate the bye-laws, however inconvenient it will be for the cottager to live in, or however unsightly it may be in the eyes of his neighbours. Whatever the personal views of the district surveyor, he is unlikely to reject a plan because the arrangement of rooms shown thereon will necessitate the carrying of bedroom slops through living-room and scullery before the back lobby and the w.c. are reached, nor can he object that the designer is placing an intolerable burden upon the cottage woman in making her traverse the whole width of the house in gaining access from sink to larder or to fetch fuel to the range.

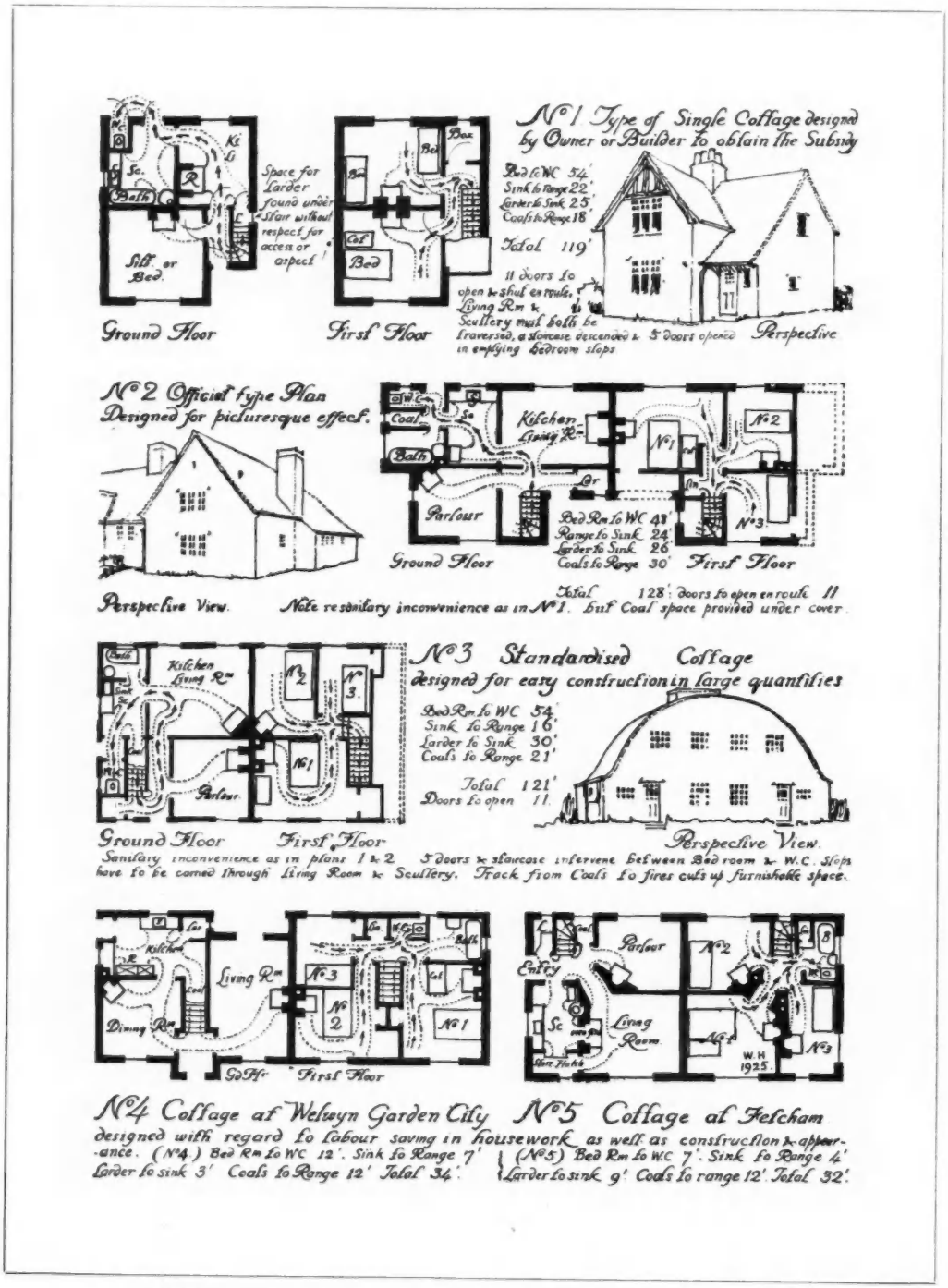
Precedent has already settled it that these peculiarities of planning may be accepted, and it is vain to look in the single subsidy cottage for reasonable positions for beds well out of the draught or any convenience for the processes of cooking and serving meals. The question of access from back door to larder, larder to sink, sink to range, range to sink and thence to hatch and the dining-table, has not yet been thought-out completely for the subsidy cottage, and in a great many plans it has obviously not been considered at all. The published plans of State-aided housing schemes show quite clearly that this has been the case, and single houses that have been approved as fitting subjects for the subsidy exhibit the most astonishing sacrifices of convenience to cheapness, and to pokiness as an aid to cheapness.

The book of "Type Plans and Elevations of Houses, designed by the Ministry of Health in connection with State-aided Housing Schemes," may be taken as representing very sincere endeavour on the part of the designers, yet one plan is so arranged that bedroom slops would have to be carried through both living-room and scullery. No fewer than thirteen plans require them to be carried through the scullery, which is in most cases fitted up for food preparation with a gas-ring or gas-stove. It may be urged in defence of these plans that a similar faulty disposition of sanitary accommodation is to be found in beautiful ancient cottages up and down the country, but this is not a sufficient defence of the practice on more congested sites and under modern conditions. Whatever the cottager may think about this subject, district nurses, doctors, and social workers who have to give a helping hand in the cottage in cases of sickness and distress, are all keenly alive to the discomfort of planning which involves passing from one room through another to reach the sanitary apparatus. The best that these professional workers will say for such planning is that it is 'very awkward," yet competitions have been won on several occasions by cottages of this objectionable type, and the subsidy is obtained for just such plans.

The inclusion of so many plans exhibiting this highly objectionable arrangement in a book purporting to be a guide to cottage design is a sufficient confession of the extreme difficulty of squeezing the accommodation within the limits of the subsidy cottage even when the work is done by salaried officials in a Government department. From the commercial point of view, the design of a single cottage for the subsidy is probably not a paying proposition to a conscientious architect who approaches the work with a sense of the effect that the building he creates will have upon the people who have to live in and with it. There is not much fun in the problem either, unless the architect himself gives up some time to providing the ornamental detail gratis with chisel and mallet, and apart from this personal, and quite unusual, method of making a building attractive, the task of bringing the cottage down to the limits of the subsidy is a sufficiently grisly business. Time



REGULATED ARCHITECTURE DIAGRAMS DRAWN BY WILLIAM HARVEY.



REGULATED ARCHITECTURE DIAGRAMS. DRAWN BY WILLIAM HARVEY.

must be spent, not for the agreeable purpose of making the building more interesting, but simply to make it smaller and cheaper without losing all the decencies and conveniencies that should belong to any dwelling in a land purporting to be civilized. To bring a single cottage down to a limit of cost is far more difficult than to produce a group of cottages at the same price on the average, for where similar units can be standardized a substantial reduction in cost is possible. It is small wonder then that the single house upon which the subsidy has been granted is often a poor thing, devoid of all architectural character as well as of all convenience.

The limitation of price is particularly troublesome, and tends directly to the substitution of cheap and flimsy for strong and permanent material of construction; for when once multiple copies of a plan and specification have been made for the purpose of obtaining competitive tenders, economies are more readily effected by substituting one material for another than by recasting the whole scheme. And if the conscientious designer finds that he is compelled to yield and to adopt cheeseparing economies that pervert a sound substantial house into a weak and temporary one, the speculating builder, untrained in design, finds in the conditions of the subsidy an authoritative excuse for many substitutions. He is not altogether to blame for this attitude. The struggle to cram convenience into the building as above-mentioned is not only beyond his powers but quite out of range of his habitual ideas.

A busy practical builder with his living to earn cannot be expected to worry overmuch whether the future inhabitants of his cottage will be incommoded by bedrooms that communicate directly with living-room or parlour, or by having to traverse several rooms to reach the sanitary accommodation. He has only a limited time to spend on planning if he is to make a legitimate profit on the job. His immediate interest in the Housing Act is limited to those aspects of size, cost and accommodation, that his rulers have thought fit to specify. He obeys the printed instructions and fairly earns the subsidy. If the learned framers of the rules could not see that they were preparing a temptation that would favour incompetent planning and severely prejudice thoughtful design, it is hardly to be expected that the person tempted will see or point out their mistake.

To design a house at all under subsidy conditions is quite sufficiently puzzling, and questions of permanent material, convenient arrangement, and artistic appearance, simply have to be jettisoned at the start as costly impracticable fads. For a trifling sum the builder might purchase the working drawings and quantities that have been prepared by the Ministry of Health, but local conditions generally interpose some valid objection to this course. And, admirable as many of these plans may be, it is extremely difficult to build a single cottage or a single pair of cottages from one or other of them without exceeding the limit of cost.

The speculating builder prefers to make his own scheme to suit the material he has in stock or which is available at a low cost, and so long as his design gains approval and the subsidy, minor graces of design go for nothing. He may even like the look of his own production! There are, of course, speculating builders with more critical faculty than this, but they are more likely to stand aloof from the whole affair, preferring "not to touch subsidy work, unless on a large scale," since it imposes a standard of design and execution so low that for their credit as craftsmen they do not wish to be associated with it. So that while the subsidy cottage which forms part of a well co-ordinated town plan may prove to be a contribution to architecture at least as valuable as any cottage that is likely to be built by a private individual at a similar cost without help from the State, the single subsidy cottage is a direct attack upon architectural standards, and upon the remains of that fine tradition of domestic work that is England's chief contribution to the world's store of good art. But, most unfortunately, not every collection of subsidized dwellings attains the level of a properly-thought-out plan. Town-planning, like other excellent things, is liable to suffer from the attacks of the unintelligent imitator, and its abundant financial and artistic success has added a new form of architectural horror in the Jerry town plan. The arrangement of ill-designed factory-made "cottage-substitutes" is likely to parody the studiously irregular grouping of the garden city.

The advertisement of one manufacturer who can boast the approval of the Ministry of Health for his designs actually shows some such arrangement. It also exhibits plans in which one bedroom opens off the living-room, and slops from all bedrooms have to traverse living-room and scullery. Between the larder and the scullery sink eight steps at least must be taken and two living-room doors opened. From best bedroom to w.c. a staircase has to be descended and seventeen yards of horizontal progress made, or rather more than double the width of the house. The two living-room doors have to be opened and the length of the living-room and scullery have both to be traversed in the excursion.

In another plan, which may be taken as a model of compact form when considered as an arrangement of economically produced factory units, no less than twenty-one yards of horizontal travel, a staircase and five doors intervene between best bedroom and the w.c. Here again living-room and scullery have both to be traversed *en route*. The design is compact in the sense that it saves the manufacturer's pocket, but it is anything rather than compact from the housewife's point of view. Designs of this curious quality have already been adapted for mass production in subsidized schemes, and even if the exterior appearance of these houses were attractive (and it need hardly be said that it is not) they would stand self-condemned to become slum property in course of time, for only the most improvident and unintellectual class of tenants will care to remain in them when once the housing shortage is made good.

To cure overcrowding in one slum area by creating a new one is not intelligent, yet that seems to be the tendency of State aid in building and of State-encouraged experiments in the use of substitute materials and mass production. Economy and speed of erection are immensely important, but the well-being of the cottager and his family is the real point that needs attention, and if this is sacrificed under State aid it seems that the housing problem might just as well have been left to adjust itself under the laws of supply and demand.

Official Town-planning Guide for Local Authorities

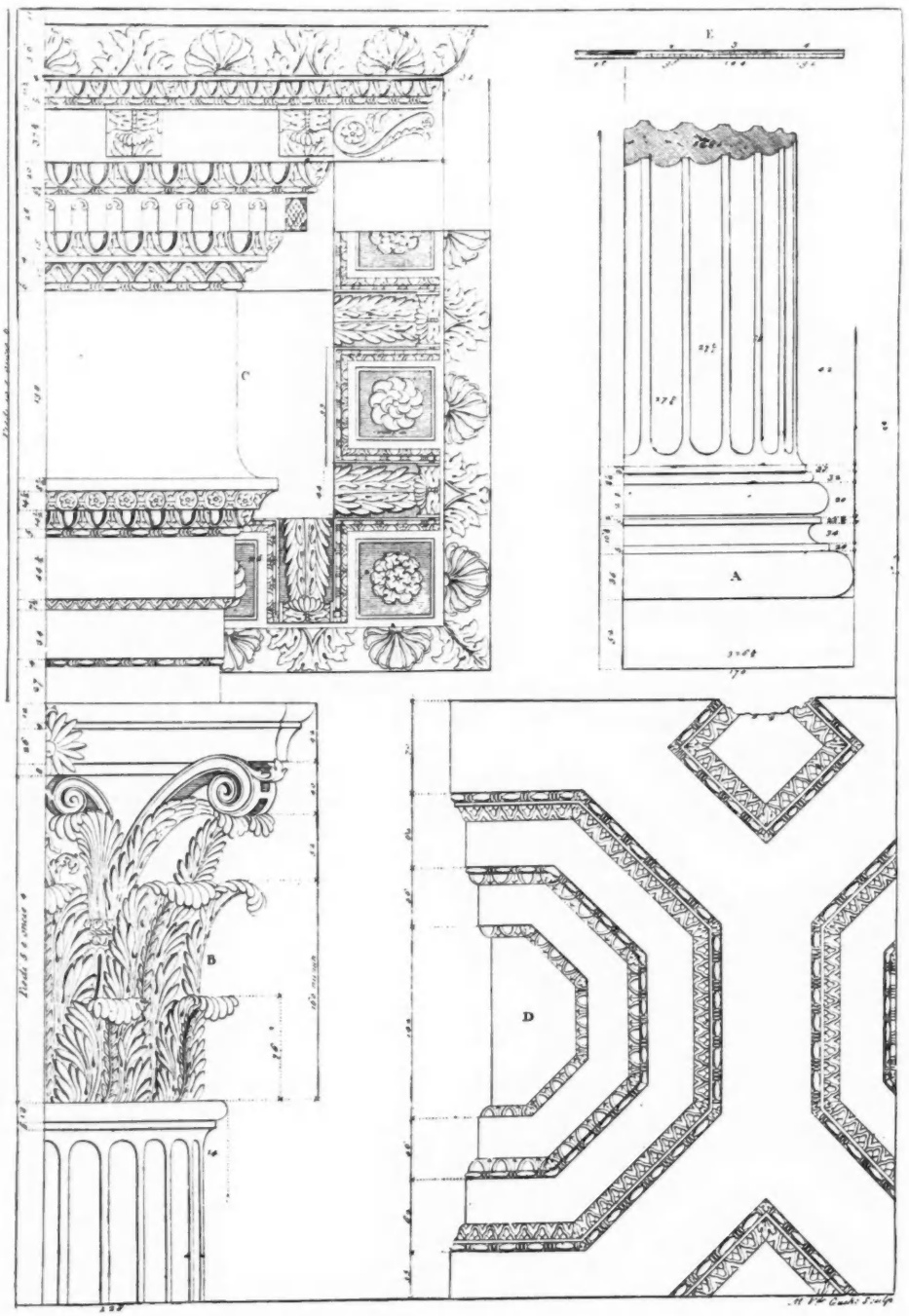
With reference to the foregoing series of articles it may be useful to notice here that in view of the general importance of town planning not only to local authorities and their officials but also to private interests concerned in the development of land, the part of the annual report of the Ministry of Health for 1924–25 which deals with this subject has been published separately.

The report contains a statement not only of the position of town-planning schemes throughout the country at the end of the year, and of the progress of regional planning, but also of the attitude of the Ministry on a number of points of general importance which have arisen in connection with town planning and with appeals relating to proposed developments.

Copies of the publication may be purchased, price 6d., direct from the Stationery Office at the following addresses, Adastral House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2; 28 Abingdon Street, London, S.W.1; York Street, Manchester; 1 St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff, or 120 George Street, Edinburgh; or through any bookseller.

The Temple of Peace, Rome: The Corinthian Cornice and other Members

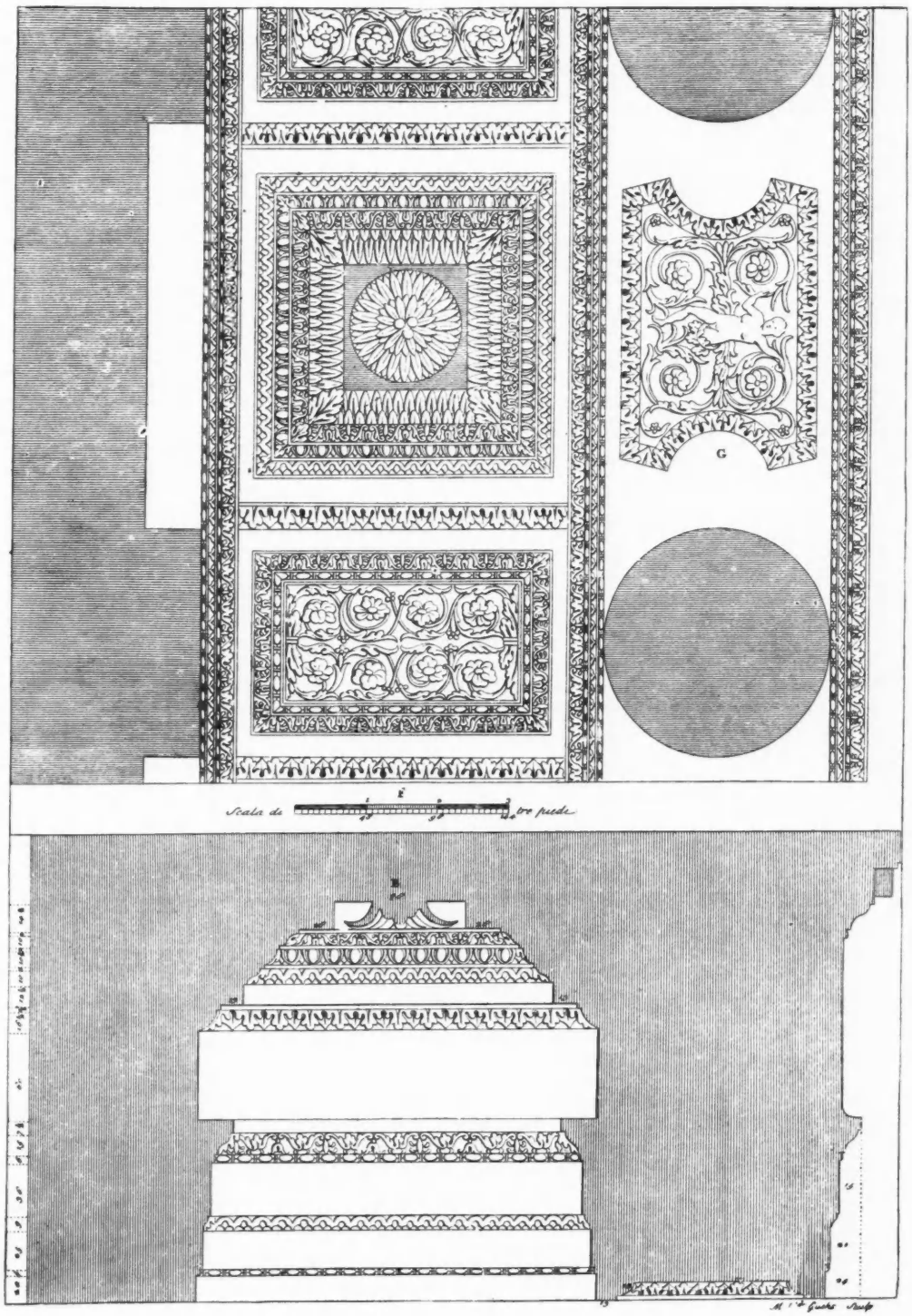
Measured by Andrea Palladio



This Temple was begun by the Emperor Claudius, and finished by Vespasian. We read that it was the greatest, the most magnificent, and the richest of the whole city.

The Temple of Neptune: The Intaglios of the Soffites of the Porticos round the Nave

Measured by Andrea Palladio



The foundations of the Temple of Neptune, according to Palladio, in his fourth book, were discovered whilst excavating for the footings of a new house. And there was also found a great store of marble stones, all excellently wrought. It is not known by whom the temple was built.

Societies and Institutions

Alternative Methods of House Construction.

Mr. John Wilson, chief architect to the Scottish Board of Health, reading a paper on "The Alternative Methods of House Construction" before the Scottish Sanitary Congress, said that the life of a house was really the life of the internal part, and in Scotland particularly how often did they find that in their slums the outer walls had remained too good for the interior? If the outer walls had been of less stable construction they would have had fewer slums to-day. The main idea must be the production of a suitable and healthy place to live in, untrammelled by any of the old conventions. With regard to the use of concrete, there was sufficient experience to show that satisfactory dwellings, pleasing in appearance, could be constructed. They required no skilled labour to prepare, and the quantity available was generally plentiful. Other methods, which he discussed in detail, were slab construction and large slab construction. With regard to timber houses, they might be divided into three classes: (1) houses of normal timber construction, built entirely of timber; (2) houses of timber framing and infilling of various other materials; and (3) houses of timber framing covered with steel sheets on outside face. So far as the first were concerned the risk of fire would tend to restrict their adoption on a big scale in industrial centres, while a large number of skilled craftsmen would be required, though it might be met by section construction at the factory. Hitherto timber houses had shown no saving in cost over normal brick houses in this country. In the third type the Weir house was the most prominent, and there was abundant evidence that houses made of steel or iron sheets on wooden framing could be considered as a reasonable method of providing immediate housing accommodation.

Town Planning a Modern Spa.

Mr. E. P. Mawson, F.R.I.B.A., M.T.P.I., gave an address on town planning and the Rotarian movement, with special reference to the creation of amenities for a modern spa, before the Harrogate Rotarians. He said it was important that the purpose of the spa should be dominantly expressed in its planning. It should look like a spa, a place which exists primarily for the benefit of those who sought health and recuperation, by pleasant social intercourse as well as by the medicinal waters. Instead of the pump-room being relegated to a comparatively minor position and mean proportions, architecturally it should dominate everything in the town. It should be so amply planned as to become the recognized social centre and the rendezvous of leisure and fashion. The spa should be a garden city in the true meaning of that much-abused term, with a well-thought-out park and boulevard system, every unit artistically designed and with ample provision for open-air concerts, sports, and classical dramatic performances.

With the advent of the motor-car had come a special need for new and improved road connections, not only between the spa and other centres of population, but also for the display of the natural beauties, the historic and other interests of the neighbourhood. The modernization and improvement of the hotel accommodation was everywhere recognized as of the utmost importance. In an inland watering-place much could be done by the municipality in that direction by judicious encouragement and suggestion, and by the allocation for the purpose of new or extended hotels of specially suited sites.

It was of the greatest importance that every spa town should be in possession of a governmentally approved zoning plan, laying down a settled policy for the elimination of slum areas; fixing sites for laundries, gas works, and so on, providing for the creation of a civic centre where necessary; fixing shopping areas and determining the character and density of residential areas; selecting sites for motor and charabanc stations; fixing sites for schools, churches, and every other feature desirable in a fully developed and up-to-date health resort; determining the maximum height allowable in the commercial buildings, and determining ample building lines everywhere. All this, as far as it applied to vacant lands or slum areas, could be done under existing legislation and, in the former case, with little expense to the municipality. Still more could be accomplished if the latter would set before themselves a high standard where constructive work came within their province and constantly maintain it.

Housing Progress

A chart has been prepared by the Garden Cities and Town Planning Association, showing the total result of the housing energy of this country in the last five and a half years. Dr. Addison's Act of 1919 had produced up to June this year 212,080 houses, the highest total production. But the quickest rate of building, according to official figures, was attained by private enterprise alone, unassisted by any form of subsidy from the taxes or rates. The number of houses rated at not more than £26 a year built since 1922 is 117,587, and above £26 rateable value 42,979, all by unassisted private enterprise at a rate of building of about 16,056 a quarter. The lowest rate of building is under Mr. Wheatley's Act at about 2,094 a quarter. The yearly totals of all classes of house building are as follow:

	Houses.
1920	15,811
1921	86,669
1922	102,298
1923	80,816
1924	121,679
1925 (6 months)	60,982
	468,255

The figures do not include houses in course of erection, and disregard the vital question of cost, and, consequently, of rent. The chart, which is based on official figures, also gives the following totals of houses actually completed under the various Acts that have been passed since the Armistice.

1919 Act by local authorities	172,794
1919 Act by private builders	39,186
Unassisted private enterprise:	
Rated under £26 a year	117,587
Rated at over £26 a year	42,979
1923 Act by assisted private enterprise ..	65,484
1923 Act by local authorities	23,943
1924 Act by local authorities	6,282
	468,255

Time Lost Through Bad Weather

The National Federation of Building Trades Operatives have formulated a scheme for the payment of time lost through inclement weather. As submitted to the employers, the proposal provided for an employers' contribution of 1s. a week for every operative, paid into a central fund called "The Inclemency Insurance and Welfare Fund," for which a special account would be opened by the Operatives' Federation, who would be responsible for its administration. The employers were to have the right to appoint an accountant periodically to inspect the books. To build up a fund it was proposed that no payment should be made until an agreed period after the initiation of the system of contributions. Payment, it was suggested, should be of a maximum sum of 50 per cent. of the actual time lost by the operatives, or such lesser amount as the fund would allow, in respect of wet weather. It was further recommended that after the scheme had been in operation for an agreed number of years, and the average calls on the fund could be properly estimated, any surplus should be utilized for the purpose of assisting welfare schemes in the interests of workmen engaged in the building trades. Mr. R. Coppock, the Secretary of the Federation, writing in "The Operative Builder," states that as the result of study of the proposals by a joint committee the employers who had opposed the idea of payment for lost time began to change their views, and it was agreed that it might be possible to reduce the contribution from 1s. to 6d. "The operatives," he adds, "quite rightly consider that this question is not merely one of profit and loss, but that the cost to the industry must be subordinated to the more vital issue of decasualizing it. In spite of the prejudices arising out of the national dispute of 1924, the question should be given careful consideration. Indeed, in view of the suggested reduction in the contribution, the scheme may be said to come well within the realm of practical politics, provided, of course, that the economic and practical side of the matter be carefully studied and fully grasped." Mr. Coppock adds that a scheme of this kind has got to be a matter of round-table negotiation in the end, and cannot rest on any but an actuarial basis. It is a matter of figures, not heroics.

Leeds City's Great New Thoroughfare

"The Challenge of Youth"

VIRTUALLY without opposition, Leeds Corporation obtained the necessary authority to construct a new trafficway between the very noble Town Hall and St. Peter's Street, and they are making haste to act on the powers they have obtained. It is intended that the new thoroughfare shall not only afford relief from traffic congestion in the busiest quarter of the city, but shall be lined with a splendid array of magnificent new buildings. Thus far everybody is entirely in agreement.

But, in newspaper language, there is a little rift within the lute, and a fluttering in the dovecotes. To speak more specifically, the Leeds and West Yorkshire Society of Architects are protesting against the appointment of a London architect, at a fee of £3,000, to direct the scheme. The Yorkshire Society do not for a moment protest against the personality of the architect appointed, for whose talent and reputation they profess, as they were bound to do, the highest admiration and regard. The gravamen of their complaint is that their society ought to have been and was not approached in the first instance instead of at the eleventh hour.

Here is the gist of their protest, as temperately expressed in a letter addressed to the president of the Yorkshire Society by a responsible member of that organization :

"The work was definitely given to Sir Reginald Blomfield, and we, as a Society, were then asked to send a deputation to meet the Improvements Committee on August 25th, this deputation to be empowered to name three architects to act in an advisory capacity with Sir Reginald Blomfield (at his desire, I believe) if so requested by the Improvements Committee.

"On this situation the following points occur to me :

"1. To be of any real service to the ratepayers, the Corporation, or Sir Reginald Blomfield, this Society should have been consulted in the initial stages of the proposed street improvement.

"2. We have no inside information as to the real intentions of the Improvements Committee, but from what we have read, and heard in common talk, we are, to put it mildly, far from certain that they are acting in the best interests of the ratepayers or the City.

"3. Being asked to come in at this, the eleventh hour, when we can obviously be of no honest service, makes me think it possible that we are desired to pledge ourselves to a course which we may later regret.

"Under these circumstances I propose to move the following resolution at the next meeting of our Council. [Duly moved.]

"'*Leeds Street Improvement, Victoria Sq. to St. Peter's Street.*

"'This Society, while appreciating the courtesy of the City of Leeds Improvements Committee in asking that a deputation should wait on them in the Council Chamber at the Leeds Town Hall at 3.30 on August 25, in connection with the proposed new street between Victoria Square and St. Peter's Street, and that this deputation should be empowered to name three architects to act in an advisory capacity with Sir Reginald Blomfield if so requested by the Improvements Committee, feel that the time has now passed when such a deputation could be of assistance to the Improvements Committee, and not having been informed of the duties, responsibilities, or qualifications required of the three advisory architects, do not feel competent to submit suitable names. Under these circumstances this Society does not feel justified in wasting the time of the Improvements Committee, and begs to be excused from the meeting on August 25. The Society would like to take this opportunity of denying the statement which has appeared in the Press that they had suggested the name of Sir Reginald Blomfield as architect for the present street improvement, but assure the Improvements Committee of their wholehearted support of this or any other scheme for enhancing the dignity, beauty, or amenities of the City consistent with a due consideration of the interests of the ratepayers.'"

This resolution was sent, with a covering letter signed by Mr. W. Alban Jones, the president of the Society, to Alderman Charles Lupton, J.P., the chairman of the Improvements Committee, who, in acknowledging the receipt of the letter, together with a copy of Barrie's "Courage," expressed regret at the Society's refusal to be officially connected with the scheme.

While for the moment we have no wish to comment on this question, we cannot refrain from expressing the hope and belief that extremist members of the Society (for there are extremist members in all societies whatsoever) will studiously hold themselves in restraint lest they unwittingly fan the smouldering embers of ancient and unprofitable rivalries—as, for instance, between age and youth, or between London and the provinces—unnecessary antagonisms which have sometimes threatened the unity that gives the organized profession its force and influence. We take leave, however, to express entire confidence that the members of the Society will handle the situation discreetly and with due regard for the architectural amenities of their fine city as well as for the dignity of their Society and profession. Our one misgiving is lest any the least appearance of departure from abroad and statesmanlike policy may be misapprehended—as indeed it has been already—by a section of the lay Press that habitually exaggerates trifles.

Recent Book

A Short History of the Building Crafts.

To co-ordinate art and craftsmanship is a work that is not often attempted, and is still more seldom satisfactorily done. Mr. Martin Shaw Briggs has unquestionable credentials for such a task. Well read, widely travelled, and an able and successful lecturer and writer on architecture, he has made good use of his ability and practical experience in the prolific production of articles and books, of which the one now before us is apparently the latest, but we trust not the last.

His statement that "though there are histories of architecture innumerable, no author has yet been bold enough to essay a history of building in English," seems to need some modification. There should be, we think, a more generous recognition of the many valuable contributions to periodical literature and to encyclopædias, as well as of the substan-

tial volumes produced in this country by Fergusson, Gwilt, and others, and in the United States the books produced by such able and industrious "writing architects" as Russell Sturgis. A crown octavo volume affords little enough of space in which to treat so large a subject, and the author might have economized it more wisely by being rather less disposed to point a moral. We think it would have been well to omit the sentences concerning a certain type of so-called architect of the eighteenth century who was "too often a toady and a pedant, the hireling of princes and peers. He published albums of his designs, introduced by a sycophantic dedication to some noble patron. He was alternately a cringing worm and a blustering cheapjack." Too true; but why recall these "old, unhappy, far-off things"? They do not greatly commend the profession to the public, who, we trust, will nevertheless buy this book with such alacrity as to send it quickly into several editions, thus giving the author ample opportunity to expunge unnecessary passages, and to make it quite clear that all architects who published albums of designs were not *ipso facto* confessed charlatans.

The blemishes we have ventured to indicate are, after all, slight and immaterial—indeed, they are only mentioned in the hope that the author will strengthen the vine and improve the fruit by judicious pruning. Building materials of all kinds—brick, masonry, concrete, mortar, plaster, iron, lead, glass, roof-coverings—their several uses and their effects on design—that is, their relationship to handicraft and architecture respectively—are dealt with in turn with patient thoroughness; while some hundreds of illustrative diagrams, selected and arranged very neatly by the author, and most of them drawn or photographed by himself, vastly increase the utility of a book for the like of which there was a clear and distinct call. In convenience of size and shape, in fulness of information, in directness and simplicity of exposition, the volume is almost an ideal class-book, yet one which the practising architect will not disdain to add to his professional library.

"A Short History of the Building Crafts." By Martin S. Briggs, F.R.I.B.A. Illustrated by the author. Pages i–xvi, 1–296; 7¼ in. by 5½ in. Oxford: At the Clarendon Press.

Obituary

Mr. Ernest Thomas Jago.

We regret to have to announce the death in the United States of the gifted young English architect Ernest Thomas Jago. Jago, whose death occurred on September 4, was born in 1872, and was educated at the Westminster Union School, where he gained a scholarship which, on passing out, assured him a livelihood during the three years of his articles with Bentley. After Bentley's death he remained in the office while the Westminster Cathedral was being completed. About this time a futile attempt was made to start an independent partnership with a friend, and Jago continued under very great difficulties until the outbreak of war. After working for some time in Canada he ultimately secured a position in the office of the late Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue, who was quick to recognize his merits as a designer of ecclesiastical work. It is generally understood that he was intimately connected with the conception and design of the reredos and chancel of St. Thomas's Church, New York, one of the most extensive pieces of ecclesiastical woodwork in the world, and a really fine example of modern design in this class.

THE LATE MR. ERNEST THOMAS JAGO

Mr. David Brass Dick.

The death has occurred at Woking of Mr. David Brass Dick, formerly a well-known Canadian architect. He was eighty years of age. He was the designer of many important Canadian buildings and several banks.

Enquiries Answered

BATH WASTE AND SOIL PIPE.

"F. G." writes: "I propose to build a cottage with a bathroom and w.c. combined on the first floor. Can you tell me whether there is any practical reason why the bath waste should not be connected to the soil pipe? Two-inch anti-siphonage pipes would be taken from the tops of the w.c. and bath traps in the usual manner."

—Running the bath waste into the soil pipe is advocated by several surveyors of rural districts, particularly where it is desirable to flush the soil drains with bath-water in cases where rainwater is dealt with by a separate system of drains. The objections are that soil and soap curds may be lodged upon the several branches and cause obstruction, and that obstruction in the anti-siphonage pipes may lead to discharge of the water seal in the traps either of the bath or of the w.c.

These objections can be met by adequate design in detail. The anti-siphonage pipes must be connected in positions where they will not be stopped up by the deposition of solids at the junctions, or they may profitably be provided with cleaning caps for use in emergency. The top of the soil pipe ventilator must be protected by means of a wire balloon or other appropriate grid, from leaves and straws that might be blown in by the wind, or deposited by nest-building birds. Plentiful flushing in use is to be recommended.

W. H.

REVERBERATION IN PUBLIC HALLS.

"H. M." writes: "(1) What is the method of calculating the probable reverberation period in a large or small public hall? For example, a town hall, 90 ft. wide and 165 ft. long, with barrel-vaulted ceiling, plastered. (2) Reverberation for council chamber, with ceiling domed to the octagon, and plastered on reinforced concrete?"

—(1) The reverberation can be accurately calculated by using Sabine's formula, $t = \frac{KV}{A}$, and employing the co-efficients of absorption derived from the Harvard experiments. A complete exposition, with list of co-efficients, is given by G. A. Sutherland in the R.I.B.A. Journal, August 18, 1923, vol. XXX, No. 18, p. 608. Reverberation for a hall of this size should be not more than 1·7 seconds. The sketch sent by correspondent (but not reproduced here) shows a large town hall with barrel-vault and gallery at end. The barrel-vault is sure to give trouble. A great deal of absorbing material will be required to reduce reverberation to the proper figure. The hall could be improved by re-designing the ceiling and placing a proscenium splay in front of the platform recess.

(2) Reverberation in this case can be calculated in the same way. From sketch the dome is wholly bad, and will cause trouble. A flat ceiling is necessary for council chambers, also a great deal of absorbing material upon the walls above a panel line. (See article on Council Chambers by H. Bagenal and R. Enthoven, ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL, March 7, 1923.)

H. B.

The Birmingham Building Exhibition

Some Notes on the Exhibits

THE Birmingham and Midland Building and Allied Trades Exhibition, organized by the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce (Incorporated), was opened at Bingley Hall last week by Sir H. Kingsley Wood, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary of the Ministry of Health. The president is the Lord Mayor of Birmingham (Alderman P. Bower, M.B.E., J.P.), and the vice-presidents include Messrs. A. E. McKewan, A.R.I.B.A. (president, Birmingham Architectural Association); William H. Penn, F.I.O.B. (president, Midland Federation of Building Trades Employers); H. H. Crump, A.I.O.B. (president, Birmingham Association of Building Trades Employers); J. E. Wilcox, M.I.C.E. (president, Institution of Civil Engineers); G. Green, M.Inst.C.E. (surveyor and housing architect, Wolverhampton); and F. H. Gibbons (surveyor and housing architect, Dudley). The exhibition is being held also under the patronage and with the support of a number of associations, including the Birmingham Architectural Association, the Midland Federation of Building Trades Employers, the Birmingham Association of Building Trades Employers, the Birmingham Civic Society, and the Institution of Civil Engineers.

The exhibition presents an exceptionally good opportunity to all interested in the building and allied trades, of displaying under the best conditions their productions to the architects, builders, and others throughout the country, and more especially to those in the huge district comprising the Midland counties. Sections are allocated to exhibits comprising amongst others, the following: Builders' materials, ironmongery, architectural and ornamental work, constructional steelwork, reinforced concrete, sanitary apparatus, paints, varnishes, stains, lacquers, etc., mechanical and hand-painting and spraying apparatus, wallpapers and coverings, illuminating and heating plant and fittings. On Thursday afternoon the Midland Federation of Building Trade Employers are holding a conference in the conference hall, and the following lectures are to be given in the lecture room: Thursday, at 3.30 p.m., "The Use of Electricity in the Home," by Mr. Victor W. Dale, of the British Electrical Development Association; Friday, at 3.30 p.m., "The Provision of Hot Water by Gas," by Mr. R. G. Marsh, fittings engineer of the Birmingham Gas Department.

Following are some brief notes on the more important exhibits :—

Walls, Floors, and Roofs

The main feature on the stand of Messrs. Bell's Poilite and Everite Co., Ltd., is the super-corrugated sheeting known as Everite Bigsix. It is a strong asbestos cement roofing. Displays are also given of Poilite straight cover-slates in the various colours available. Another product exhibited is the Poilite wall tiling. This is supplied in 2 ft. squares, and is easily fixed by nailing in the joint direct to battens or breeze. The joints are then pointed in, thus hiding the fixing, and giving an effect of tiling, with an hygienic surface. It is suitable for the back of baths, sinks, and for office dados. Everite rainwater goods and gas-flues and fittings are also shown. Address: 59½ Southwark Street, S.E.1.

The stand of the British Fibrocement Works, Ltd., has been specially designed to illustrate and is constructed with the many "Fibrent" asbestos-cement manufactures. The roof illustrates "Fibrent" slates, diagonal and straight patterns, "Fibrofive" corrugated sheeting, "Fibrotiles," with the smaller section corrugated sheeting curved in sections over the ventilator. The external treatment shows the use alternatively of "Fibrent" flat and corrugated sheets, and the interior the use of flat sheeting, and the several finishing methods that may be adopted. The end wall shows "Fibrent" panel sheets, and the method of fixing with rebated joint. "Fibrent" flat sheets, ½ in. thick, are used in the floor, fixed direct to joists. Head office and works: Erith, Kent.

The stand of the Courtrai-Du-Nord Tile Co. and Langley London, has been specially designed by Messrs. Welch and Hollis, of London, architects, to demonstrate the advantages and attractiveness of Courtrai-Du-Nord, Beauvais, and Marseilles roofing tiles. The Courtrai-Du-Nord tile has the appearance of the old-world pantile, but its interlocking system ensures an additional protection against wind and weather. The Beauvais roofing tiles are supplied in a shade of rich red and in mottled colours ranging from yellowish-brown to deep maroon. Marseilles tiles are made from the terra-cotta clay of Marseilles, in the South of France. The stand is the joint property of the sole importers and distributors, viz.: The Courtrai-Du-Nord Tile Co., Ltd., and Langley London, both of 161 Borough High Street, London, S.E.1.

The exhibit of the Expanded Metal Co., Ltd., consists of samples of the company's various products and photographs of a few representative works carried out on its systems. The exhibits include "Expamet" expanded steel reinforcement, which has been used extensively for over thirty years for concrete foundations, floors, roofs, bridges, walls, etc. R.R. 6 in. "Expamet," for the reinforcing of concrete roads, foundations, pavings, etc., and "Expamet" treble-layer reinforcement. This reinforcement is being extensively used for the reinforcing of concrete foundations and roads over bad ground. A new product is the "Ribmet" for concrete and plaster work, which is a combined reinforcement and centreing. The use of this material in flooring and roofing of small spans eliminates the use of temporary close-boarding. Address: York Mansion, Petty France, Westminster, London, S.W.1.

Messrs. Goodman & Co., a firm of general builders' merchants, show a variety of textural finishes for stucco work in Atlas White Portland cement, for which they are the local agents of The Adamite Co., Ltd., London. The exhibits include the samples of concrete floor finishes carried out in Atlas White Portland cement by Stuarts Granolithic Co., Bartholomew Street, Birmingham. On this stand is also an exhibit of "Blue Circle" cement, a British Portland cement supplied by the Cement Marketing Co., Ltd., London, and guaranteed superior to British standard specification in every respect. The exhibit consists of samples of the raw materials as quarried, showing the stages of manufacture from chalk and clay to the finished product. Samples of whiting and lime supplied by the Cement Marketing Co., Ltd., are also shown. There is also a comprehensive exhibit of sands and other aggregates suitable for concrete work.

Manu-marble, shown by the Manu-Marble Co., is a manufactured article. It is a reconstruction of the natural stone, and is claimed to comprise practically the same chemical composition as real marble. The veins in Manu-marble go right through the material, while, like the natural stone, the polish is a friction polish, so that, should the surface become chipped, it can be repolished. Manu-marble can be highly polished with either a full polish or egg-shell gloss, the latter being specially designed for building purposes, for floors, etc. This material is claimed to be suitable for new building schemes, interior decorations and floors, for cinemas, theatres, hotels, restaurants, mansions, banks, offices, lavatories, public buildings, bathrooms, etc. The proprietors of the Manu-Marble Co. are Messrs. Fielding and Platt, Ltd., of Tuffley Crescent, Gloucester.

The exhibit of Messrs. Turner Bros. Asbestos Co., Ltd., is a small pavilion built with the firm's asbestos-cement building specialities. On the roof are shown the 4 ft. by 3 ft. 8 in. Trafford tile for large roof areas and industrial buildings, the new 24 in. by 12 in. "Endurol" tile, a tile in three colours giving a pantile effect, and suitable for houses, the 15¾ in. and 11¾ in. diagonal asbestos-cement slates in grey, blue, red, and russet-brown, for application to any class of building, and the new "Serval," 24 in. by 12 in. and 15¾ in. by 7⅞ in. rough-surface English pattern slates in several colours. The walls of the pavilion illustrate wall and ceiling linings with "Ægis" asbestos-cement sheets, and roofing tiles and slates in sections to permit close inspection. Address: Rochdale.

Doors, Windows, and Partitions

The stand of Mellowes & Co., Ltd., consists of a glazed wooden structure, filled in with metal casements, steel sashes, doors, partitions, and leaded lights of varying patterns and designs. The glazing on the roof of the stand and the lean-to over doorway is known as the "Eclipse" patent glazing. This system of glazing, it is claimed, has been used with entire success for buildings of all descriptions. The casements are constructed of heavy and light sections, to suit all classes of work, while the sashes are particularly applicable to factory

work. Examples of steel doors and partitions are also shown, which, whilst being light in construction, are efficient and fireproof. A special feature of the casement exhibit is the patent cable-hinge and stay, which allows the casement to open in such a way that the outside of the glass can be cleaned from the inside of the room. The use of the patent hinge, it is claimed, also obviates the ordinary type of stay, and, further, allows the window, when open, to remain rigid in any position. Address: Corporation Street, Sheffield.

Metco Columbian pine doors and plywood form the exhibit on the stand of the Merchant Trading Co., Ltd. Metco doors are manufactured from old-growth Columbian pine, thoroughly seasoned and kiln-dried. The doors are free from knots, with rails and stiles cut from 100 per cent. vertical grained (quartered sawn) timber, all moulded on the solid. There are many attractive patterns from which the architect or buyer may choose. The doors have been approved by and have received the official endorsement of The National Federation of Building Trade Employers and The Amalgamated Society of Woodworkers of Great Britain and Ireland. The panelled walls of the stand show Metco Douglas fir plywood stained in a pleasant shade which brings out the natural beauty of the grain. Address: 34 Bishopsgate, London, E.C.2.

The Woco Door Company show a comprehensive selection of Woco and Woco Laminex doors. The Woco door is well known in this country, and is installed under numerous municipal housing schemes. The chief points claimed for the doors are style, reliability, and economy, freedom from knots or other defects so that painting is unnecessary, and the wood gives good ground for stain. The Woco Laminex door, it is claimed, is built up from thin ribbons of the finest old-growth seasoned Columbian pine, strengthened with waterproofed cement and crossed and welded together by a pressure of some 200,000 lbs. The result is a handsome effect of grained panels, and a door which will not shrink, swell, or warp, even when subjected to the most severe tests, heat, pressure, or water. Both doors are made in a variety of styles, and lend themselves to colour scheme effects by their adaptability to stain. Address, Dashwood House, London, E.C.2.

Cooking and Heating

On the stand of Jones & Attwood, Ltd., are cast-iron hot-water pipes and connections—expansion, socket and spigot, and flanged, and rain-water pipes and fittings. The "Domestikatum" open-fire boiler for domestic hot-water supply, also shown, is claimed to heat the room, do light cooking, and give a constant and plentiful supply of hot water for baths and household use. The "Batheater" apparatus for domestic hot-water supply, also exhibited, is a combined boiler and hot storage cylinder, with exceptional facilities for cleaning out deposit, every part of the boiler being accessible. Other exhibits are the "Cultivatum" boiler for greenhouse heating. An "All-night" boiler for garage heating, and cast-iron boilers for central heating and for horticultural heating. Address: Titan Works, Stourbridge.

Messrs. Parker, Winder, and Achurch, Ltd., display an extensive variety of fireplaces, combination grates and sanitary fittings suitable for housing schemes, a central heating and domestic hot-water supply, door and window fittings, "Empire" woven wire fencing and cleft chestnut paling. Empire concrete mixers for operation by hand or power, and the "Excelsior" patent steel-bladed gravel screen, as supplied to municipal authorities throughout the country. Address: Broad Street, Birmingham.

Messrs. Samuel Smith and Sons, Ltd., show, among other exhibits, the Foresight ranges. They are a variety of a combination range that is being largely used for housing schemes, and households generally, at the present time. The firm state that some thousands of them are at work throughout England and the Dominions. The Favourite and Trafalgar cooking ranges are two of Smith's noted manufactures, and the tile registers, mantel registers, interiors, and tile surrounds and wood mantels, are all of the newest modern designs, the best tiles only being used. Particular attention is called to the new Foresight Junior range. Address: Beehive Foundry, Smethwick.

Sanitation and White Lead

The Elsan Manufacturing Co., show their chemical sanitation—portable and permanent systems. They require no running water, and bring city sanitation to the most remote areas. The portable model is suitable for bungalows, huts, camps, caravans, sports clubs, dwellings; and the permanent model, which is made in single or multiple units, is for schools, factories, and works. The firm also exhibit the Milestone cooking stove. It is a wickless stove, and it is claimed to cook a complete dinner for a whole family in one operation on one burner. Address: 34–35 High Holborn, London, W.C.1.

Messrs. Locke, Blackett & Co., Ltd., are manufacturers of dry white lead, ground white lead, red lead, orange lead, flake litharge, ground litharge, sheet lead and pipe, and makers of special chemical sheet lead and pipe for chemical works, and "Chemilead." The firm, which was founded in 1797, in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, guarantee all their white lead t made by the old stack process. The firm claim that long experience in the trade enables them to produce a wh lead of uniform excellence, both as regards covering power colour. It is warranted absolutely genuine, free from admixture of foreign or chamber lead, and is entirely manufactured at their works in England. Head office and works: Newcastle-upon-Tyne. London office: 2–4 St. Mary Axe, E.C.3.

List of Competitions Open

Date of Delivery.	COMPETITION.
Oct. 1	**The Municipality of Drammen, in Norway, invites Norwegian and foreign architects and engineers to compete for the construction of a new bridge across the river of Drammen (Drammenselven) between the two neighbourhoods Bragernæs and Strömsö. Judging Committee: Professor Otto Linton, Stockholm, appointed by the Norwegian Engineers' Association; Mr. Arne Eide, architect, Oslo, appointed by the Norwegian Architects' Association; Mr. M. E. N. Saxegaard, district-chief, appointed by the Norwegian State Railways; Mr. Olaf Stang, engineer-in-chief, Oslo; Mr. U. Lied, chief physician, chairman, appointed by the Municipality of Drammen; Mr. Otto K. Römcke, wholesale merchant, Drammen; and Mr. A. Heitmann Arntsen, secretary, Drammen. Mr. Lied and Mr. Saxegaard are respectively president and vice-president of the committee. The following prizes are offered for the best designs: First prize, 10,000 Norwegian crowns; second prize, 8,000 Norwegian crowns; third prize, 6,000 Norwegian crowns. Apply Bureau of the Government Engineer (Statsingeniörkontoret) at Drammen. Deposit 40 Norwegian crowns.**
Oct. 15	Workers' homes for the Moscow Soviet of Workers, Peasants, and Red-Army Deputies. The aim of the competition is to devise types of houses with dwellings for working-class families living in individual households, under the living and climatic conditions of the province of Moscow. The types of houses required are as follows: (a) A two-storied house containing 4–8 dwellings situated on one floor, i.e. the whole of each dwelling located on one floor; (b) a house of the ordinary block type with no less than three dwellings, each located on two floors; (c) a three or four-storied fireproof house with central heating: not less than three entrances to the dwellings from the staircase-platform on each floor. For the relatively best projects the following prizes will be awarded on each type of house separately:

		(a)	(b)	(c)
First	Roubles	2,000	2,000	2,500
Second	„	1,500	1,500	2,000
Third	„	750	750	1,000
Fourth	„	500	500	750
Fifth	„	400	400	500

	It is not obligatory for contestants to cover all three types. The prize-projects shall become the property of the Moscow Soviet. The Moscow Soviet reserves the right of acquiring the unprized projects at the price of 200 roubles per project. Apply The U.S.S.R. Society of Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, 150 Southampton Row, London, W.C.1.
Nov. 9	**Proposed Fire and Police Station at Marlborough Crescent, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Premiums: £500, £300, and £100. Assessor, Mr. Percy S. Worthington, D.Litt., M.A., F.R.I.B.A Apply, with deposit of £2 2s., to Mr. A. M. Oliver, Town Clerk, Town Hall, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, by July 4.**
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.**
Jan. 1, 1926	New buildings for Liverpool College on a site at Mossley Hill. Assessor, Sir Giles Gilbert Scott, R.A. Premiums, £500, £300, and £200. Conditions and plan of site can be obtained from Mr. J. H. Lintern, secretary, Liverpool College, Sefton Park Road, Liverpool, on and after September 1, on payment of a deposit of £2 2s.
June 30, 1926.	Competitive designs are invited by the Ministry of Wakfs for the rebuilding of the Mosque of Amrou. Prizes of £2,500. £1,000, and £500 are offered for approved projects. Those wishing to submit designs should apply before June 30, 1926, to H.E. the Under-Secretary of State to the Ministry of Wakfs, Cairo (cables "Wakfs Cairo"), who will forward details, conditions, etc. The final date for acceptance of proposals is January 1, 1927.

Competition News

Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital. Proposed New Ward Block.

The promoters of the above competition having decided to revise the conditions in accordance with the R.I.B.A. Regulations, the president has appointed Mr. C. E. Bateman, F.R.I.B.A., as assessor.

Topsham Public Hall Competition.

The following notice has been issued by the R.I.B.A.: "Members of the Royal Institute of British Architects must not take part in the above competition, because the conditions are not in accordance with the published regulations of the Royal Institute for architectural competitions."

The Week's News

London Housing.

The London County Council propose to acquire a further 100 acres at Burnt Oak for housing.

Steel Houses for Dundee.

Dundee Town Council have decided to erect twenty steel houses as an experiment.

Christ's College, Finchley.

The Middlesex Education Committee are to enlarge Christ's College, Finchley, at a cost of £33,000.

Stepney's New Housing Site.

The Stepney Borough Council propose to acquire a £13,000 site in Commercial Road, E., for housing purposes.

New Shopping Centre for Gloucester.

A new £50,000 shopping centre is to be constructed at Gloucester. The scheme involves the destruction of 50 houses.

A New School for Camberwell.

Obsolete buildings at the Mary Datchelor School, Camberwell, are to be replaced by new ones costing about £40,000.

Crematorium for Bristol.

The Bristol City Council are considering the erection of a £16,500 crematorium.

Stoke Park Mansion.

The Guildford Town Council have agreed to purchase Stoke Park Mansion and 186 acres of land for £44,565.

Wigston Housing.

The Wigston Urban District Council have passed plans for 136 houses on proposed new roads off Aylestone Lane.

Halesowen Grammar School Extensions.

Halesowen, Worcs., grammar school is to be extended at a cost of £20,000.

Big Swansea Sewerage Scheme.

A drainage scheme, estimated to cost more than £1,503,000, is being considered by the Swansea Main Drainage Committee.

Brighton Garden Fencing Scheme.

The Brighton Corporation are being urged to fence the gardens of the 450 municipal houses at Moulscombe.

Building at Hove.

At Hove, plans have been approved for over thirty new dwelling-houses, in addition to a large number of garages. Many big mansions are being converted into flats.

Sea Wall and Promenade for Westbrook.

To relieve unemployment, Margate Corporation propose to construct a new sea wall and undercliff promenade at Westbrook at a cost of £36,000.

Proposed Steel-Frame Houses for York.

The York Housing Committee are recommending the Council to apply to the Minister of Health for approval of the erection of a further 300 houses of the steel-frame type.

A New Public Market for Peckham.

After being delayed for nearly two years, building operations have been begun on the site of the new public market in Rye Lane, Peckham.

The Conversion of East Sheen Lodge into Flats.

East Sheen Lodge, Richmond, formerly the residence of the Duke and Duchess of Fife, is being converted into flats for middle-class tenants.

Housing at Eastbourne.

The Eastbourne Town Council are negotiating with Lord Willingdon for the purchase of 150 acres of land on the Crumbles on which to erect houses for the working classes.

Bridlington Road Improvements.

The Bridlington Town Council have approved two schemes for the development of the sea-front roads. The cost is estimated at £100,000.

Bingley's Baths Scheme.

A Ministry of Health inquiry has been held into the application of the Bingley Urban District Council for power to borrow £27,000 for the erection of swimming baths.

Aberystwyth Housing Scheme.

The Aberystwyth Town Council have decided to adopt the town-planning scheme based on the report of Mr. T. Alwyn Lloyd.

Wider Carlisle Bridges.

Several important bridge-widening schemes are proceeding at Carlisle. These are necessitated by demands of modern traffic, and the Ministry of Transport are making substantial grants.

Proposed Extension of Glasgow's Slaughter House.

The City engineer of Glasgow has been instructed to prepare working drawings of the proposed extension of the slaughter-house on the line of the existing buildings in Hill Street. The cost is estimated at £40,000.

Fleet Street Improvement.

A number of old houses in Bride Lane and Bride Court are to be pulled down to make room for a new block of buildings which Messrs. J. Lyons & Co., Ltd., are to erect in connection with the extension of their Ludgate Circus shop.

Peterborough's £250,000 Scheme.

The provisional order for the proposed widening of Narrow Street, Peterborough, which links up the north and south part of the city, has been confirmed by Parliament. It is estimated that the scheme will cost £250,000.

Manchester's New Houses.

The Manchester Housing Committee have decided that of the 600 houses to be erected on the Moston estate, private enterprise shall be invited to build 300. The other 300 will be built by the Corporation by direct labour.

Residential Wing for Crosby Hall.

It is expected that the erection of the residential wing at the north corner of Crosby Hall, Chelsea, will be begun within the next month or two. When completed the City Hall will become the centre of a hall of residence in London for university women doing post-graduate work.

Super-Cinema for Glasgow.

The Glasgow Magistrates have passed plans for what is described as the largest cinema in Great Britain. It will accommodate nearly 5,000 persons, and the building will also contain a dance hall for 1,500 dancers, and tea-rooms, restaurants, and billiard rooms.

Billericay and a New Road.

The Billericay Urban District Council are protesting against the Ministry of Transport driving a new north orbital road through the best residential part of the district between Brentwood and Shenfield. Houses built on the line of route, it was stated, would be pulled down.

Carlisle Improvement Schemes.

Schemes passed by the Carlisle Town Council include £18,238 for the erection of buildings at the new electricity works, £11,108 for the extension of the electricity mains in the city and the immediate surrounding area, and £57,000 for the widening of St. Nicholas Bridge, one of the most important thoroughfares in the town.

Mr. W. R. Hearst Buys a Welsh Castle.

It is stated that Mr. William R. Hearst, the American newspaper proprietor, has bought St. Donat's Castle, Glamorganshire. St. Donat's Castle, which is on the coast near Llantwit, has been in the market for some time. It is a fifteenth-sixteenth-century mansion, noted for its state-rooms with carvings by Grinling Gibbons, and for a copper ceiling.

Changes of Address.

Messrs. G. Fredk. Bowman & Son, architects, have removed to more commodious premises at 18 Park Row, Leeds.

Mr. E. J. May, F.R.I.B.A., has moved to 9 New Square, Lincoln's Inn, London, W.C.2 : Telephone Holborn 4949. In our issue for August 26, Mr. May's new address was incorrectly given as in Hart Street.

Poole's Harbour Scheme.

Work has commenced on the construction of a training bank at the mouth of Poole Harbour. It forms the principal part of a £3,250,000 harbour-development scheme placed before the Harbour Commissioners five years ago by Sir James Woolf Barry and Partners, the engineers. The training bank will cost approximately £60,000.

New Sussex Hospital Extension Scheme.

Extensions are to be made to New Sussex Hospital for Women and Children at Brighton, at a cost of £25,000. It is proposed to erect a new wing which will add thirty beds to the present accommodation, and provide extra nursing quarters and sun balconies, while leaving the present building for private wards, out-patients, and administrative work.

British War Memorials in France.

The Imperial War Graves Commission have erected three more tablets in French cathedrals in honour of the One Million Dead of the British Empire. They are identical with those installed in Notre Dame, Paris; in Orleans, Rouen, and elsewhere. The three new tablets are at Nancy, Beauvais, and Nantes.

Falkirk's Housing Scheme.

At Falkirk Dean of Guild Court, plans were passed for the erection of 118 houses, representing the second portion of a scheme of 282 houses recently approved by Falkirk Town Council. The houses are to be built in blocks of two and four on the existing sites at Thornhill, Carmuirs, and Merchiston, and will vary in type from two to five apartments. The total estimated cost of the 118 houses was given at £41,000.

Redcar's Heavy Debt.

The Town Clerk of Redcar advised the Town Council at their last meeting to repay some of the loans obtained for housing schemes or it would be an obstacle to securing further borrowing when it was known that they had £500,000 on loan already. The Council had £33,000 in hand in respect of seventy-eight houses sold, and that sum is to be applied to the payment of the Lord Street houses.

Buckhaven Housing Needs.

It was reported at a meeting of the Buckhaven Town Council that the large building schemes carried out in the burgh had been altogether inadequate to meet the demand for house accommodation. The demand for houses has gone up by leaps and bounds from 600 three years ago to 1050 applicants at present. It was decided to proceed with all speed with the building programme approved of for the next two years.

The Restoration of Restormel Castle.

The ruined castle of Restormel, near Lostwithiel, Cornwall, is to be restored. Founded by Robert, the Earl of Mortain, it was owned continuously by the Earls of Cornwall, being leased to such Baronial families as the Cardinhams and Traceys. It was acquired by the Duchy on two occasions for the Black Prince to stay at. During the Civil wars it was fitted up by Parliament as a garrison, and was taken by Sir Richard Grenville in 1644. The work of restoration has already been started, and will take several years.

The Manchester Town Hall Extension.

The Manchester Improvement and Buildings Committee have approved the purchase for £120,000 of property the site of which is to be occupied by the city's future reference library and other municipal buildings. The decision is subject to the confirmation of the City Council. With this and the property previously acquired the Corporation will be in possession of 72 per cent. of the site, which lies between Lloyd Street, St. Peter's Square, Peter Street, and Mount Street.

Housing at Leeds.

The Leeds City Engineer has been asked to prepare provisional plans for the lay-out of three building sites suitable for municipal housing. One estate contains about 200 acres, and is situate between York Road and Osmondthorpe Lane. Subject to Ministry of Health approval the estate is to be purchased for £35,000. Another housing scheme is proposed on a portion of the Meanwood estate adjacent to the original housing estate recently completed. A scheme is also being considered for the erection of 500 houses upon an estate off Harehills Lane, adjoining the present housing estate—the two to form an extensive housing colony.

Proposed Period Exhibition for Manchester.

A suggestion has been made by the executive committee of the Ancient Monuments Society that an architectural exhibition illustrative of all the principal periods be housed in Platt Hall, Manchester. Platt Hall is the ancient mansion about which much protest was aroused when a suggestion that it should be demolished was made recently. The scheme of the architect to the Ancient Monuments Society is that a series of rooms should be devoted to the exhibition, not only of English, but of Greek and Roman building styles, and the Romanesque Gothic and Renaissance work of Italy, France, and the Low Countries.

Norwich Castle Moat.

A proposal to erect a new block of administration offices for the Norfolk County Council in the moat of the Norman castle at Norwich has aroused considerable opposition on the part of local archæological societies and others interested. The County Council in the main is opposed to the disfigurement of the mound upon which the castle stands by having its new offices erected in the moat, and put forward as an alternative idea the utilization of a part of the present cattle market, lying between the agricultural hall and the present shire hall. Antiquarian circles are in agreement with the cattle market site as opposed to the moat site, on the grounds that the moat should be preserved at all costs.

The Oxford Town Planning Scheme.

In connection with the Oxford town-planning scheme, the City Council have made another step forward by adopting two resolutions in connection with the regional and special area schemes and the preliminary statement of proposals for development, which were submitted at the inquiry by the Ministry of Health twelve months ago. Alderman Carter referred to the hearty goodwill and co-operation which had been shown by other local authorities, the Berkshire and Oxfordshire County Councils, and the Headington Rural District Council. This was the more appreciated, he said, when it was remembered that the Corporation had upon the committee but five representatives out of fourteen members composing it. In the main objects of the scheme the other authorities had been completely in accord with the Corporation in preserving the characteristic beauty of that ancient university and cathedral city, and in bringing their experience to bear on the problem of practical suggestions.

Excavations at Ham Hill.

The excavations on the northern spur of Ham Hill have been resumed, after an interval of two years, by the Somersetshire Archæological and Natural History Society, with the permission of the Council of the Prince of Wales (Duchy of Cornwall). As in 1923, when the Prince of Wales visited the excavations, the work in the field is being carried out under the direction of Mr. H. St. George Gray. The digging has been started on an exposed part of the hill—on the south-west of the northern spur—at a place known as "Ham Turn." The inner vallum here, which was under examination in 1923, is again receiving attention. The former work presented some interesting problems, and an endeavour is being made to establish the approximate date of construction beyond doubt. Pottery of the Roman period is being found on the top, and at lower depths late Celtic and La Tène pottery, etc., will probably come to light. Excavations are to begin in other parts of the great camp.

The Prices of Building Materials.

A report by the Chairman of the Inter-Departmental Committee appointed to survey the price of building materials has been published by the Stationery Office as a Parliamentary paper [Cmd. 2505, price 3d. net]. The Chairman, Major J. W. Hills, submits a schedule showing the price of building materials during the month of July, 1925, including for the purpose of comparison prices for April, 1914, January, 1924, and August, 1924. He remarks that, with the exception of light castings and lead, the level of prices has remained steady, and, while there has been a number of local variations, there has been no fluctuation of general applications, apart from those mentioned, to which attention need be drawn. A table of prices of materials especially bought for the London County Council's housing scheme shows that the price of sheet lead has risen from £35 a ton in January, 1924, to £38 10s. a ton. The remaining tables deal with several of the chief provincial cities, and reveal proportionate increases in the price of lead in all these centres except Leeds, where the price has decreased. Under the head of cast iron these has been a marked advance in the price of kitchen ranges in all the centres dealt with.

The Week's News—*continued.*

Big Leeds Improvement Scheme.

A further stage in the preparation of the big improvement scheme for the centre of Leeds was reached when Sir Reginald Blomfield, whom the Corporation have engaged as adviser in the matter, visited the city, inspected the site, and conferred with members of the Improvements Committee in regard to the preparation of a design of the line and elevation of the buildings. The scheme is to provide an 80 ft. road, giving an alternative east-to-west road through Leeds by the widening and improving of Park Lane, Guildford Street, Upperhead Row, and Lowerhead Row, and the construction of a new road from Vicar Lane to the circus at Mabgate.

Some London Discoveries.

Many discoveries of archæological importance have been made during excavations in the City of London. In Token-house Yard, where the new building of the Bank of London and South America is being erected, oak boards, an inch and a half thick, apparently forming an embankment of the old Wall Brook, have been discovered, and numbers of Roman articles have been found. The latter consist of fragments of pottery, bits of shoe leather, large iron nails, and other objects. Some pieces of red Roman pottery bear the names of the makers, indicating that they are of the Antonine period, about the middle of the second century. At the south-eastern end of the old Post Office site, further excavations have been made which confirm the theory that the Romans extended their rubbish pits northward, those containing the most ancient relics being in the south. The most interesting discovery is that of fragments of a large wine jar, of long and slender shape, contrasting with the short and broad shape of a later period. It is expected that some interesting discoveries will be made at the Bank of England when the excavations have reached a greater depth. The Guildhall Museum will be represented on the committee appointed by the Society of Antiquarians to watch these operations.

Trade and Craft

Heating Small Greehouses.

The current issue (No. 138) of "A Thousand and One uses for Gas," contains practical notes on the heating of small green-houses, and a wealth of interesting illustrations. It should be read by every amateur gardener who wishes to grow his own flowers for the home during the cold months. The pub-lication can be obtained free of charge on application to the secretary, The British Commercial Gas Association, 28 Gros-venor Gardens, S.W.1.

Pul-syn-etic Electric Clocks.

Many types of Pul-syn-etic electric Impulse clocks for exterior and interior use are illustrated and described in a new booklet (Book 5, section 1) just issued by Messrs. Gent & Co., Ltd., manufacturing electrical engineers. Those for exterior use include wall clocks and two-faced drum clocks. The former are claimed to be water and air-tight, steam and fume-proof; and the drum clocks are particularly suitable for tramway pillars and exterior use for shops, buildings, and for suspending over railway platforms. The latter may be suspended by an ornamental bracket or from chains or rods. One type of drum clock has been supplied to the leading railways, to Woolwich Arsenal, and to many factories, etc. Among the indoor clocks there are wall clocks made for a variety of positions and situations. These clocks when operated by any of the firm's transmitters indicate uniform and accurate time throughout the system. They require no winding or periodical attention, and they may be fixed in positions most easily discernible without regard to accessibility. There are also mantel and insertion clocks for indoor use. From an industrial point of view the reflex control is particularly interesting. By its use any of the workmen's registers can be kept to exactly the same time as the other works. The firm's clocks and other time discipline apparatus have been supplied and are to be found in a large number of ecclesiastical and public buildings, railway stations, works, and factories, ships, and observatories. A copy of the booklet can be obtained from the head office and factory, Faraday Works, Leicester.

Cathedral Glass.

In a profusely illustrated booklet on the above subject, Messrs. Pilkington Brothers, Ltd., glass manufacturers, of St. Helens and Doncaster, state that the many varieties of cathedral glass may be divided into three groups: (1) Non-formal patterns. In these the depth of the pattern is little more than an irregularity of the surface, giving to the glass a slightly modified transparency. (2) Semi-formal patterns which are less transparent than the above. By their bright-ness they considerably improve the appearance of a window or screen where greater relief is needed. (3) Formal patterns (known as figured rolled cathedral glass). These have the same illuminating effect as the semi-formal patterns, and serve the same purpose, but are more decorative and still less transparent. The increasing use of cathedral glass in public buildings is shown by illustrations in the booklet. In no direction has the development of cathedral glass had a greater effect than in its use for screen work and partitions in offices and business premises. In fact it might be justly claimed that the increased use of glazed screens is mainly due to the improvement in the manufacture of cathedral glass. Glazed screens enable the architect to design a building so that it can be subdivided without interfering with the lighting. The modern practice of designing such buildings to suit the wants of succeeding tenants has led to a greater demand for glazed partitions, which are easily and cheaply moved, and cathedral glass is especially adapted for such work. Two striking photographs in the booklet show how the most unpleasing outlook can be hidden by cathedral glass without impairing the lighting of the room in any way. Until quite recently wire screens formed the only protection for stained glass windows, but wired glass is now growing in favour for this purpose. Ordinary wire screens shut out part of the light and must be removed before the windows can be cleaned, but wired glass is free from these disadvantages, and is claimed to give, in addition to protection against breakage, the advantage of protection from fire. Illustrations are given of public and other buildings in which cathedral glass has been used, among them being the Cunard Building, New York (Benjamin Wistar Morris, M.A., F.A.I.A., architect), Walmar House, London (Walter J. Fryer, architect), Britannic House, London (Sir Edwin L. Lutyens, R.A., architect), and the London County Hall, Westminster (Ralph Knott, F.R.I.B.A., and W. E. Riley, R.B.A., F.R.I.B.A., M.I.C.E., architects). Patterns are also shown of the various varieties of cathedral glass of the colours in which they can be obtained.

"Fosalsil" (Moler) Insulating Bricks and Partition Blocks.

Messrs. J. H. Sankey & Son, Ltd., of Essex Wharf, Canning Town, London, E.16, have sent us a copy of their latest brochure dealing with "Fosalsil" (Moler) insulating bricks and partition blocks. The brochure opens with an article, illustrated by diagrams, on insulation, followed by a reprint from THE ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL, on the value of "Fosalsil" (Moler) for building and furnace construction, and contains a wealth of other information of value to the user. The word "Fosalsil" is derived from:—Fos—Fossil; Al—Alumina (the bond); and Sil—Silica (the silex). The material is manu-factured in England by British labour, and has been supplied to many of the largest housing schemes in the country. It has also been estimated that a "Fosalsil" bricklined house having walls 1½ inches thick shows a reduction in heat losses through the walls of about 30 per cent. "Fosalsil" (Moler) partition blocks are made in the following sizes:—12″×9″×2″, 12″×9″×2½″, 12″×9″×3″, 12″×9″×4″, and are claimed to be fire-resisting, sound-resisting, strong, vermin-proof, and extremely light. The flooring blocks (solid or hollow) are made to architects' and builders' own designs, but large stocks are held of various shapes. Two grades of "Fosalsil" (Moler) insulating bricks are manufactured—high porous and solid—and it depends almost entirely upon the manner in which the insulator is to be used which of the grades should be employed. The high porous brick has a higher efficiency than the solid type, and is recommended for use as an internal insulator, or as a lining to ordinary firebricks. This material, it is stated, is used, among many other purposes, for the insulation of

boilers, also boiler flues, walls, and chimneys, etc., and has been found to be highly efficient. Approximate crushing strength ¼-ton to sq. in. The solid type of brick has a greater mechanical strength than the former type, the average crushing strength being approximately ½-ton to sq. in. It has been used extensively in connection with the insulation of gas retorts, and furnaces. Many well-known gas companies and steel works have used this type of brick as an outside wall. The bricks are claimed to be particularly suitable for insulating places subjected to high temperatures and where the conservation of heat is essential. Owing to the great absorbing properties and porosity of the partition and floor blocks, the firm recommend the addition of a small quantity of the ground calcined material to the cement and sand in jointing, as this helps to retain the moisture in the cement, allowing it to set more normally and with better effect. For setting the insulating bricks the firm can either supply a cement made up for this purpose or customers can make up their own with the ground calcined material. For setting the most porous insulating bricks the ground calcined material should be used entirely by itself. It is stated that searching tests have proved that "Fosalsil" (Moler) offers "*remarkable fire-resisting and sound-resisting properties*," and that it is particularly suitable for the encasement of all steel work and for the construction of interior walls, floors, ceilings, etc., in offices, hospitals, schools, museums, public buildings, etc., for the insulation or conservation of heat or cold in refrigerating plants, cold storage, boilers, furnaces, kilns, gas retorts, electric power stations, steamships, steampipes, bakers' ovens, dwellings, wood, concrete and stone buildings, etc.; and to prevent condensation in basements, storage cellars, public conveniences, stables, and many other purposes. A copy of the brochure can be obtained from the above address.

New Inventions

Latest Patent Applications.

21121.—Clemetson, H. P.—Roof, etc., coverings. August 24.
21518.—Sperle, E.—Flooring stone. August 27.

Specifications Published.

238279.—Fenemore, A.—Protectors for fencing, walls, and other suitable surfaces.
238331.—Dickinson, A. W.—Reinforced concrete floor and ceiling constructions.
238332.—McLean, D.—Walls, and blocks therefor.

Abstract Published.

236723.—Gough, F. W., of Graphite Oils Co., Ltd., Immingham Dock, Lincolnshire.—Walls.

The above particulars are specially prepared by Messrs. Rayner & Co., registered patent agents, of 5 Chancery Lane, London, W.C.2, from whom readers of the JOURNAL may obtain all information free on matters relating to patents, trade marks, and designs. Messrs. Rayner & Co. will obtain printed copies of the published specifications and abstract only, and forward on post free for the price of 1/6 each.

The Latest Trade Marks

The following trade marks have been "accepted" by H.M. Patent Office, and unless any objection is lodged the marks will be duly registered. Opposition must be lodged within one month from date quoted. All particulars and forms for opposition will be sent free by Messrs. Rayner & Co., of 5 Chancery Lane, London.

LINAX.

455851.—Enamelled and Glazed Earthenware Bricks and Tiles.—Rownson, Drew and Clydesdale, Ltd., 225 Upper Thames Street, London, E.C.4. September 2.

ROCLINEUM.

460904.—A Composition of Mineral and other substances for forming or covering Walls, Partitions, Ceilings, Floors, and other objects for Building or Decoration. Solomon Nathan Brown, 64 Devonshire Street, Higher Broughton, Manchester. September 2.

MELANDRITE.

461016.—Manufactures from Mineral and other substances for Building or Decoration.—Spun Concrete Construction Co., Ltd., 52-53 Cheapside, London, E.C.2. September 2.