

THE ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL & *Architectural Engineer*

With which is incorporated "The Builders' Journal."



FROM AN ARCHITECT'S NOTEBOOK.

ST. PETER'S.

I don't like to say the façade of the church is ugly and obtrusive. As long as the dome overawes, that façade is supportable. You advance towards it through, oh, such a noble court! with fountains flashing up to meet the sunbeams; and right and left of you two sweeping half-crescents of great columns; but you pass by the courtiers and up to the steps of the throne, and the dome seems to disappear behind it. It is as if the throne were upset, and the king had toppled over.

W. M. THACKERAY: "THE NEWCOMES."

9 Queen Anne's Gate. Westminster.

A Wrought-Bronze Gateway in Liverpool Cathedral

Sir Giles Gilbert Scott, R.A., Architect



Such details as this wrought-bronze gateway add a distinctive charm to a noble interior.

THE ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL

9 Queen Anne's Gate, Westminster.

Wednesday, October 21, 1925.

Volume LXII. No. 1607.

Hyde Park Corner

HYDE PARK CORNER is to London what the Place de la Concorde is to Paris, and the Pariser-platz to Berlin. It is a forecourt to the West End. As such it was conceived by Decimus Burton, who in 1825, at the invitation of the Government, was commissioned to design the approaches and entrances to Hyde Park and Constitution Hill. This was at a time when the attention of architects was directed to the revival of pure classic ideals, when the famous Elgin marbles had but recently been acquired, when Regent Street, Smirke's British Museum, and Wilkins's National Gallery, were in contemplation.

No period can show us quite the same refinement in its architecture, nor the same elegance in its dress, and Hyde Park Corner as Burton conceived it was the embodiment of this: it was a setting for the pageantry of fashion, the equipage of royalty, carriages with footmen, and riders with grooms.

Trafalgar Square being named after a great naval victory and associated with the Napoleonic Wars, it may be said also of Hyde Park Corner that it has associations with the victories of the Iron Duke. A moment's reflection, however, will show that this association is due more to the fact that the residence of the Duke of Wellington (Apsley House) happens to face Hyde Park Corner, than to any conversion of the place into a monument in honour of Wellington or his success.

Burton's entrances to Hyde Park and Constitution Hill express, perhaps better than any other architectural monument in London, the delicacy and refinement of the period in which they were erected, and, with Apsley House, gave a note of rare beauty to this fashionable centre of early nineteenth-century gentility and grace. It was unfortunate that the arch to Constitution Hill was, through lack of funds, not fully decorated with the sculpture originally intended for it in accordance with drawings now in the library of the Royal Institute of British Architects; moreover, it is a sad story, too well known to need repeating, how, after its completion, Viscount Canning, in 1846, wrote from the Office of Woods and Forests to the Duke of Rutland (chairman of the Committee of Subscribers to the Wellington Memorial) remonstrating in vain against the monstrous proposal to crown it with a gigantic equestrian statue, placed sideways on, of the great Duke. The newspaper controversy that followed was perhaps one of the fiercest that was ever waged around a monument in the public Press. But opposition proved hopeless, and the arch was converted into a pedestal for Matthew Cotes Wyatt's monstrous aggrandizement of the Duke.

Burton was heartbroken, and it is said made financial provision for its removal at such time as "an enlightened public should be empowered to restore it to the purpose of

an arch." His generosity was not, however, taken advantage of, and in 1885 this colossal statue of Wellington was removed to Aldershot at the public expense, and instead we got Boehm's equestrian statue which to-day stands on an island in the centre.

But the vicissitudes through which the arch has passed had not yet ended. It was considered to be unfinished, and we must leave our readers to decide as to whether Captain Adrian Jones's dashing quadriga is in better taste than the smaller-scale figures and decoration shown in Burton's design.

So much for the tragedy of the arch, and the tampering with what is still one of the finest monuments in London of pure classic design.

Let us consider the place itself, and the general design of this great nineteenth-century endeavour. Schematically it was once an open court to Hyde Park, and a halting-place along the great west entrance into London to receive a confluence of carriages from Belgravia and Grosvenor Place, and occasionally a royal carriage emerging from Constitution Hill. It is a great crossing of ways, a meeting-place where London's promenaders assemble before entering Hyde Park. It has none of the balanced symmetry of Gabriel's Place de la Concorde, nor has it that singleness of purpose which we see in Schinkel's Pariserplatz. It has similar advantages as regards its situation, and might have equalled them in symmetry had it been carried out in strict accordance with Burton's original idea, but ever since the time when the two entrances were first erected it has suffered continual mutilation.

As Burton originally designed it, the Constitution Hill arch was set exactly opposite the entrance to Hyde Park, and Constitution Hill as an approach from the palace was curved. Finally, however, it was decided to place it in its present position in a direct axis with Constitution Hill. The space at Hyde Park Corner was thereby increased in size, but made awkward in shape. Worse damage was done towards the end of last century, when on two different occasions Piccadilly was widened opposite Hamilton Place by spoke-shaving pieces off the Green Park. This enlarging of the trumpet mouth into Piccadilly has in reality been most unfortunate, for not only has it resulted in a hopeless terminal to the shape of the park, but the effect on traffic conditions has been to prevent all possibility of proper control. When released at Hamilton Place, cabs, cars, and buses pass and re-pass like the players in a football field.

The slithering shape of this place and of its islands is the result of continual change—no doubt with the best intentions; but with that kind of zeal for the universal acceptance of an idea which is characteristic of so many who wish well but know not good from bad, the islands were

planted with trees. What could be more absurd! A great open space surrounded by a bank of magnificent foliage set behind Burton's splendid arch and screen; a space for the assemblage of a vast concourse of carriages and people, a space that can enable the surrounding buildings—Apsley House, St. George's Hospital, Hyde Park entrance, and the arch to Constitution Hill—to be taken in at one panoramic glance. But no; this tree-planting society sees in Hyde Park Place an open space, and one that could be filled with trees. Truly it may be said that one cannot see the wood for the trees!

There, however, remains opposite Hyde Park Corner, if not an open space, at any rate a widening of Piccadilly, and for this we must be thankful. From here one may still enjoy that uninterrupted view of carriages and people as they pass in and out of Hyde Park, with peeps of Rotten Row and the Achilles statue as they should be seen.

Turning to the west and south, we are less fortunate, or, perhaps, more so. By selecting our point of view, we can examine the Constitution Hill arch with the dashing quadriga hidden in the leaves. As to those other monuments which have been more recently scattered over the islands, let us be thankful that a tree-planting society has provided us with a fitting screen, for, however excellent the sculpture, a war memorial that can only commemorate the brutality of war has no place here, and is best hidden in the trees.

Art in Industry

Mr. A. Warne Browne, general secretary of the National Federation of the Furniture Trades, thinks that the public should be awakened to the need for art in industry. "If any considerable proportion of them were to demand novel designs in furniture, the retailer would then feel secure in asking the manufacturer to produce them. But one can hardly expect the large furniture stores to adventure in this matter." We are not at all impressed by this argument. It is too reminiscent of:

Lord Chatham, with his sabre drawn,
Was waiting for Sir Richard Strachan.
Sir Richard, longing to be at 'em,
Was waiting for the Earl of Chatham,

or of the rival physicians whose patient perished from lack of attention while they were wrangling about the means of curing him. To throw the blame on the public is really futile. Let the wholesalers and the retailers agree to produce the goods; the public will rise to the right type of bait. Is the lady consulted by her milliner and dressmaker for suggestions as to design? Or does the tailor await his clients' suggestions as to style in masculine attire? No; the movement is in the other direction; the public are shown the goods, and buy them if they like them or know that other people like them—that they are in fashion. Who sets the fashion? The producer. Until the furniture producer sets the fashionable goods before his clients, it is idle to expect the public to instruct the retailer how to stock his shop. Mr. Browne is axiomatic in saying that "Personal taste in artistic productions is a difficult factor to control." But furniture designers are not asked to control it. They are asked to attract it to the right objects, and the complaint—notably by Sir Lawrence Weaver—is that this is not being done. There are obvious reasons why the movement in furniture and house furnishings is slower than that in garments, but that is neither an excuse for, nor an explanation of, the neglect of British traders to inform themselves of what their continental rivals are exhibiting.

American Spadework in Palestine

American explorers in Palestine are having rare good fortune. The Philadelphia Museum expedition excavating at Beisan have discovered beneath the Temple of Ashtaroth another and earlier temple. Since the Temple of Ashtaroth is believed to be of about the time of Rameses II, the earlier temple must be ancient indeed; and it is a quaint

reflection that it should have fallen to the representatives of the last phase of modernity to unearth evidences of one of the most ancient civilizations. It is stated that this second temple has in it a large altar approached by steps. No doubt we shall soon hear more about these interesting relics of early building construction; for our American cousins are not only keen and capable archaeologists, but are always as eager as able to impart the results of their magnificent spade-work. Also, as they are so fortunate as to belong to what is now the richest country in the world, we may anticipate sumptuously-produced books recording with pen and camera their remarkably successful excavations in Palestine. We shall then be able to judge whether these most recent of finds are as interesting architecturally as they seem to be archaeologically, and whether the ancient world has yielded up some more long-buried secrets for the further enlightenment of the new. In any case, Philadelphia is to be a good deal congratulated and not a little envied.

Loud Speakers in Parliament

It used to be a favourite ironic taunt addressed from the theatre gallery to the inaudible actor, "Whisper, and I shall hear." In buildings where the acoustics are at fault—notably in St. Paul's Cathedral—we may yet see the methods of the House of Lords adopted. Into that august assembly it is proposed to introduce microphones and earpieces; experiments with those devices having been reported to be successful. If that report is confirmed in practice, the faithful Commons, London's County Hall, and the Law Courts in the Strand will not be slow to follow the illustrious example of the Peers. This gives a new, but not wholly unexpected, turn to the science of acoustics and the pastime of "listening in." It also suggests suppression of a cynical interpretation of the expression with respect to adjourned cases in the Law Courts—"part heard."

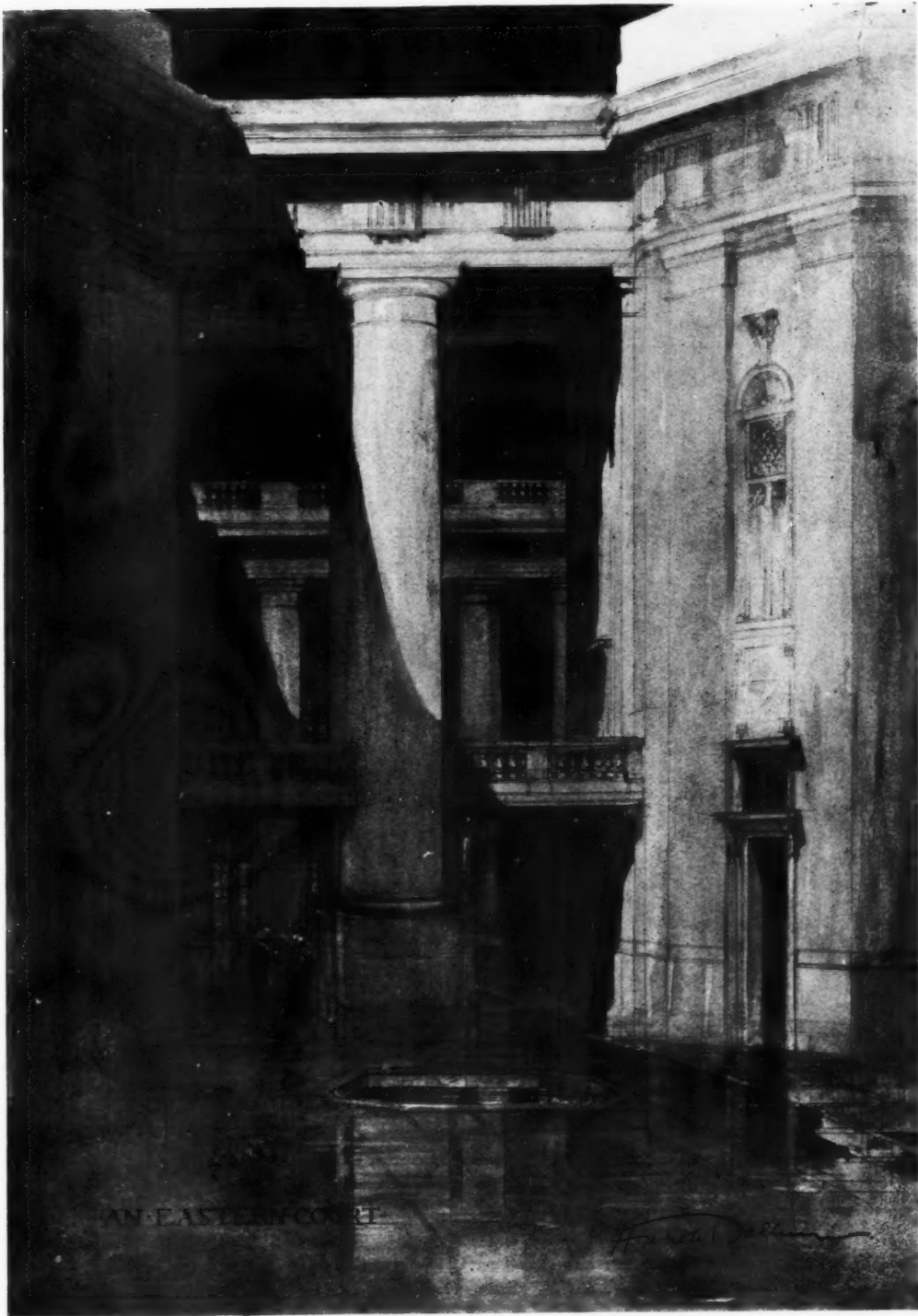
The Fate of Waterloo Bridge

It will doubtless be some time yet before Sir Edwin Lutyens's report on Waterloo Bridge is given to the public, but some suggestion as to its contents is conveyed by the County Council's decision to examine into alternative schemes for new bridges. It would seem that one of the questions put to Sir Edwin was how separate footpaths might best be corbelled out from the sides of the bridge. It is impossible to imagine that anyone with the terrible example of London Bridge, and the ominous weakness of Waterloo itself, before him, could possibly return an encouraging answer to such a question as this. Now that the County Council are about to pay serious attention to the Charing Cross project and to Mr. H. V. Lanchester's bridge below St. Clement Danes, the prospect for Waterloo appears brighter than it has done for some time.

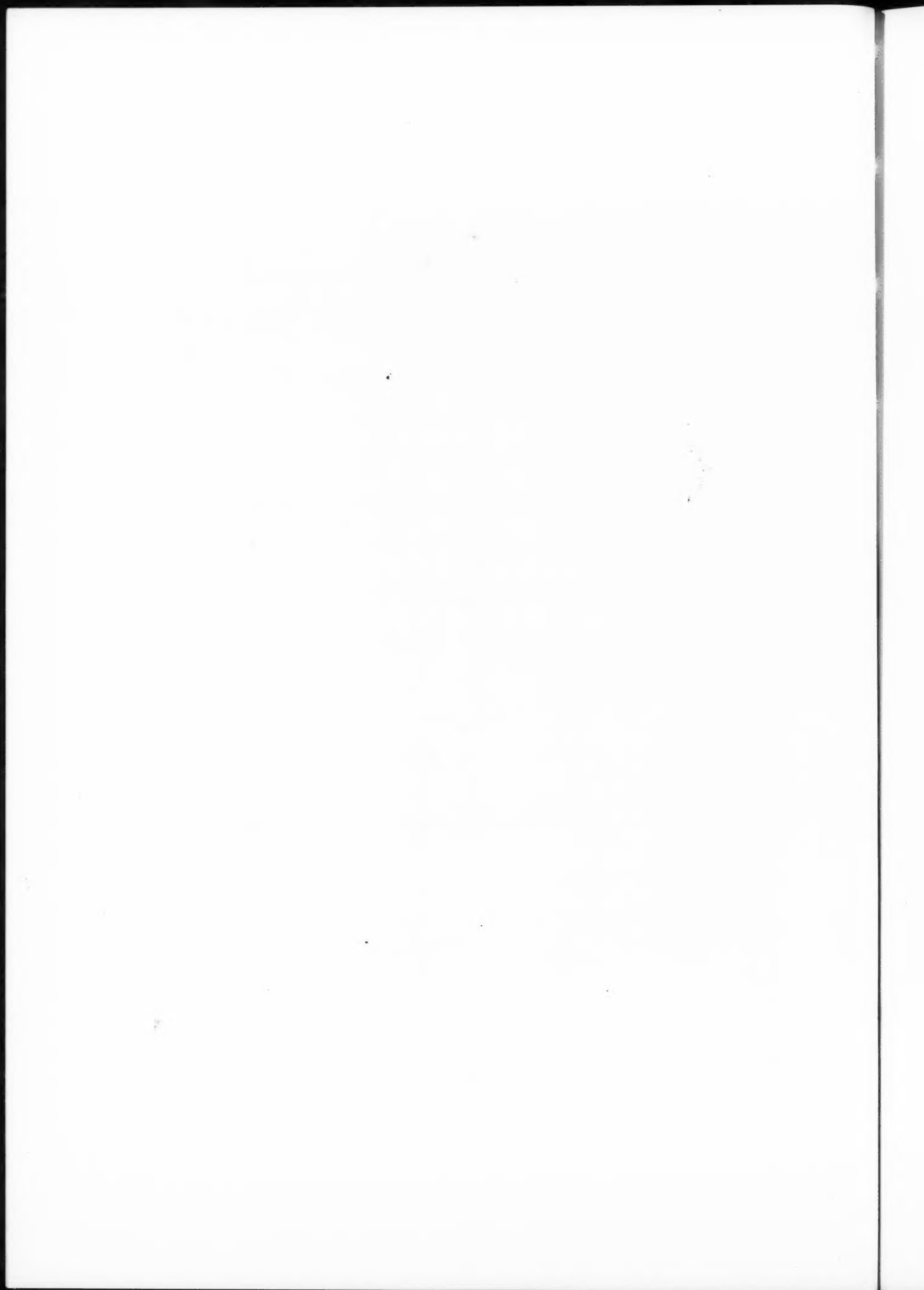
Important Notice

Next week's number of this JOURNAL, dated October 28, will be an enlarged Special Issue, price one shilling to ordinary purchasers, but supplied without extra charge to regular subscribers. The number will deal comprehensively with the planning and equipment of hospitals, and will contain, besides many illustrations, several valuable contributions by eminent architectural, medical, and specialist experts in various aspects—e.g. such as lighting and heating—of hospital planning and equipment. There will be included an account by an eminent British architect of his personal investigations into the details of organization and equipment of modern American hospitals, which in many respects are far in advance of those in other countries, and whose methods are therefore likely soon to prevail on this side of the Atlantic. Our recent hospital issue having run out of print immediately, our publishers advise that orders for next week's issue should be placed without delay.

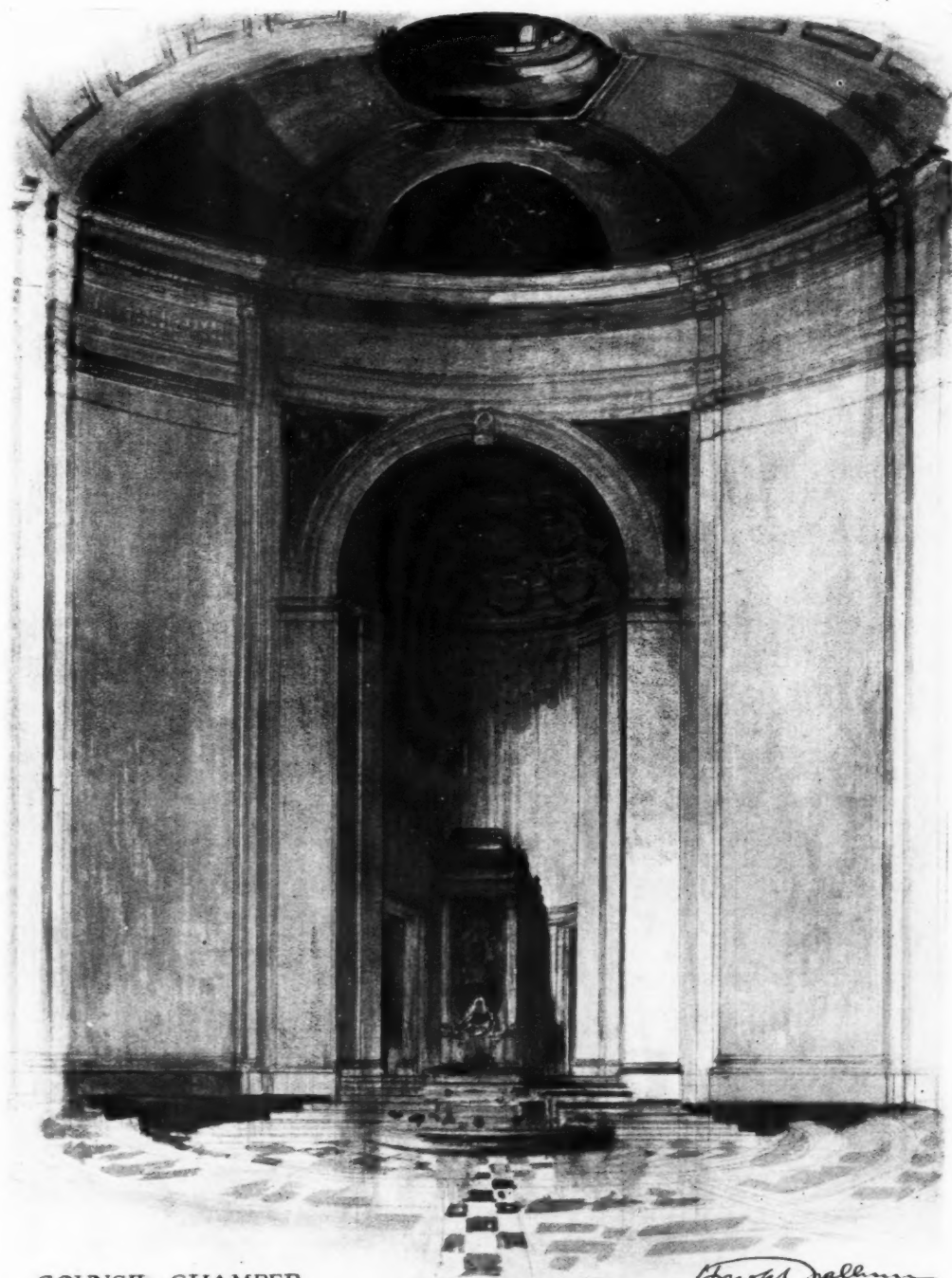
Design for an Eastern Court



(From a Water-colour Drawing by Harold Falkner.)



Design for a Council Chamber for an Eastern Presidency



COUNCIL CHAMBER
FOR AN
EASTERN PRESIDENCY

(From a Water-colour Drawing by Harold Falkner.)

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Window Curtains in Relation to Architecture

By BASIL IONIDES

ARCHITECTS frequently grumble about clients spoiling a design by additions that mask it. This annoyance could often be avoided. Better provision should be made for what, it should be foreseen, is sure to be put into a house.

It is an absolute certainty that curtains will be hung against ninety-nine out of every hundred windows, and the process spoils about fifty per cent. of them, because the architect has made no provision for the rods, and often not only made no provision, but caused difficulty in placing them. Really the rods for the curtains should be as much part of the window as the catches and bolts. Also the architect who really cares for his work should try to persuade his client to let him help to choose the curtains and direct the way that they should be made. If the curtains do not suit the window, the window will be made to appear less good than it really is.

To-day nearly all curtains are fitted with pelmets or valances; for these allowances must be made, and the character of the rooms should determine the necessary allowance. Early types of rooms will need no pelmets nor brass rods. They should have iron rods, black or tinned, with supports of wrought iron to hold them up. With this type it is possibly best to sew the rings, which should be small, on to the top edge of the curtain, allowing not too much fullness. It will be more in character thus. As to length, the curtain should usually descend to the sill or to the top of the window-seat; though if the window is large and high, the curtains may reach to the ground. One is tempted to suggest the rule that a window longer than its height should have short curtains, while one that is taller than its width should have long curtains reaching to the ground or to the window-seat. While there are innumerable exceptions to it, this rule holds fairly good in most instances.

For these large windows, the nature of the material is important. Glazed chintz would almost always look out of place. Late Jacobean windows, where they are approaching the Classic sash window in size, but are divided into four by a wooden mullion and transome, will easily carry a simple pelmet or valance, which is then best straight across and not shaped. The curtains to these windows are usually best long and well lined.

It is with the real Classic work of the eighteenth century, and with modern copies of it, that one is chiefly concerned to-day, and one sees in it many windows spoilt, and many cornices cut into an ugly way. Very often the cornice comes low over the window, leaving no room for the pelmet and rod. This fault can easily be avoided, when designing a room, by bringing the cornice forward and leaving a box behind it in which the rod is placed. This makes a most excellent finish, and a pelmet may be fastened to the bottom member of the cornice, thus making a more definite feature of the window. If a window is thus designed by the architect, the chance of indiscretions on the part of the client is much lessened and the room is greatly assisted aesthetically. There is no reason why this should not be done in the simplest of work.

A new problem arises where there is a large space above the window and below the cornice. Here one may have a wooden or gilt "cornice" holding the rod as shown in Fig. 1; or one may have a draped affair as in Fig. 2. If the draped work above the curtain be high, it is well to bring it to a point where it touches the room cornice, as this treatment leads the eye upwards and makes a complete feature, which, though it touches the cornice, does not conflict with it. Were the top of a pelmet straight, and touching or near the cornice, one would get unfortunate lines that would mar the proportion. A straight-topped

pelmet should only be placed where there is a good space above it, and where it cannot compete in line with the cornice.

The depth of a pelmet is another point that the architect should dictate, and he can do this by providing and fixing the framework to hold it. Fig. 3 shows deep pelmets that greatly improve and emphasize the height of the windows in the room. The windows appear far higher for having this extension. Also it provides room for the pelmet without screening any of the light.

A problem that does not very often arise, but one that is difficult to solve, is that of hanging curtains on windows having shaped tops. The rod may be placed above them, creating a square-topped setting in which the circular-topped window loses some of its value in the day and all of it at night, but I find that the most effective way is to put the rod across the window at the spring level. Then occurs another problem. The top of the curtains, when made in the usual manner, forms an ugly line across. This difficulty, however, may be got over. The line may be softened in this way. The fringe-makers will have to be called in to make an open-work heading to match the material. The rings to be sewn to the top, and material to bottom.

Frequently a client's whims can be met by a happy solution of a difficulty. Occasionally the interior view of a window has to receive a certain disguise to suit the character of the room, while the outside view must suit the elevation of the house. Window curtains and their pelmets can often reconcile these differences. Fig. 4 shows a room decorated in a very free and sylvan manner, which the lines of the window did not suit. These lines have been completely transformed by the paraphernalia of pelmet, blinds, and curtains, so as to conform to the character of the rooms, which the hard, uncompromising window would not have done. Even the smallest and most insignificant window in a house may acquire an interest from its curtains, which should suit it and should enhance its character; but this interest should be given by the architect, who knows what he intended when he designed it, and not by some other brain which is perhaps out of sympathy with it. Clients are sometimes obdurate in these matters, but when it is insisted that the curtains are really components of a consistent whole, obduracy yields to reason.

The following notes refer to the illustrations on pages 578 and 579:—

1. Having a high space above the windows a curtain cornice with a straight top is well used in this Regency room, as the lowest line of the room cornice and the top of the curtain cornice do not clash. These should be fitted by the architect to suit the room.

2. These festooned pelmets over the windows do not detract from the cornice, as the main lines of them do not in any way run in the same direction. One can frequently cut across a feature without interfering with it, whereas if one ran parallel one raises comparison.

3. Pelmet frames supplied by the architect and built to emphasize the height in proportion to the width will often be very useful if a certain austerity is desired. The simple lines of these are mostly perpendicular, and carry one's eye upwards without a break. Having designed tall windows, they might easily have been made to look out of proportion by too wide pelmets and too spreading curtains.

4. Every room demands a special window treatment. This room being decorated in an exaggerated sylvan manner called for an unusual treatment to suggest an outdoor effect. The tent-like pelmet over the curtains eliminates the square-topped window that was quite out of keeping with the free treatment of the walls.



FIGURE 2.



FIGURE 1.

WINDOW CURTAINS IN RELATION TO ARCHITECTURE

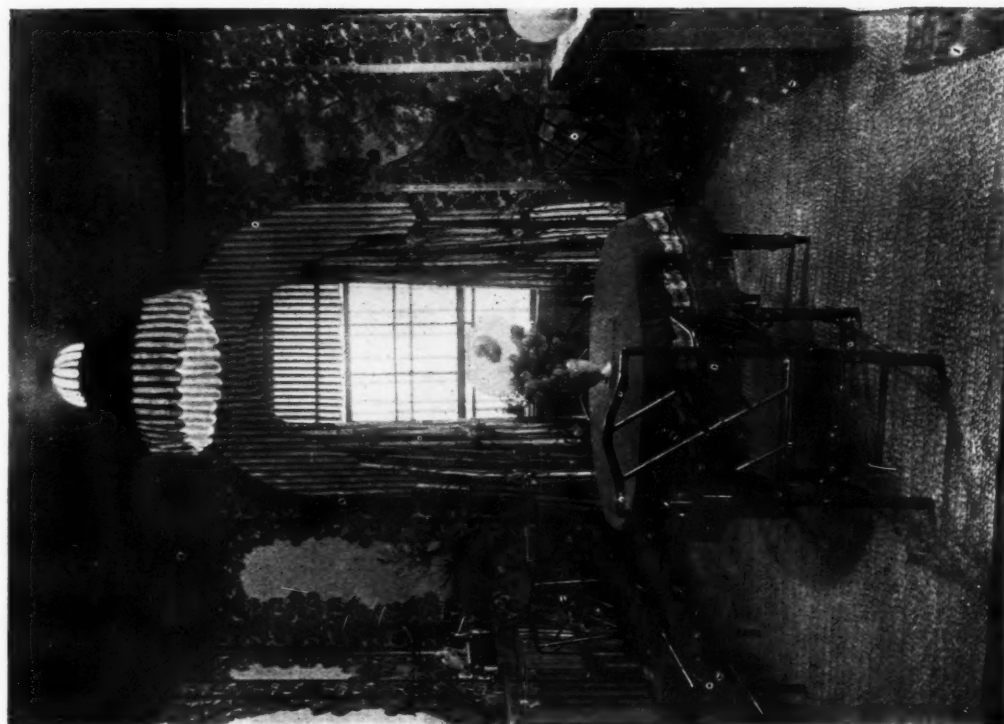


FIGURE 4.



FIGURE 3.

WINDOW CURTAINS IN RELATION TO ARCHITECTURE



THE ENTRANCE GATES FROM THE ROAD.

Elton Hall, Stockton-on-Tees

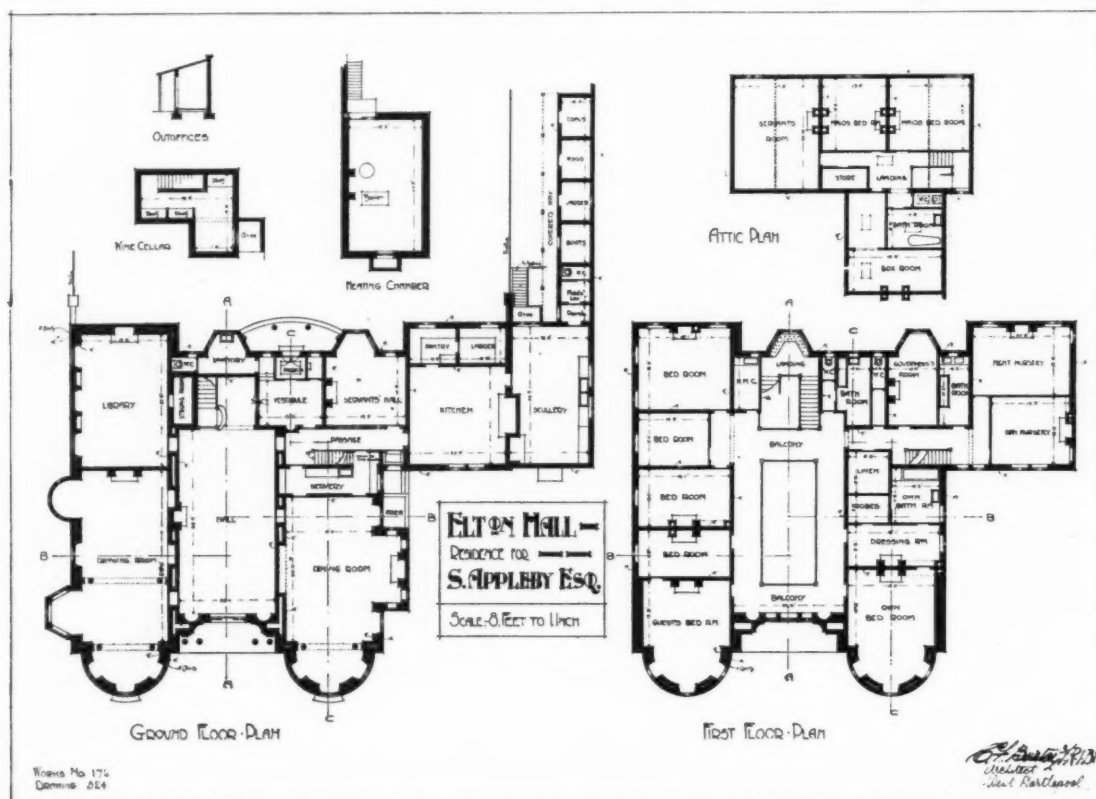
C. F. BURTON, F.R.I.B.A., Architect

ELTON HALL has been built for Mr. Stanley Appleby, J.P. It stands in its own grounds, where there are large gardens of every description. The garden or front elevation faces south-west, looking on to a large natural park. The old hall was demolished, and the new hall was built on a different part of the estate. It is built of brick, rough-cast, and has stone dressings.

The garage and power-house, with the boundary walls and the rest-house, was built before the hall, and was a separate

contract. The hall is equipped with all the latest improvements, and has its own electric power and vacuum cleaner installation, a spring dance floor in the hall, and its own sewerage plant three-quarters of a mile from the hall. The gardens were laid out, and the interior panelling, the electric fittings, and the hardware were designed, by the architect. The sculpture work in the gardens is the work of Mr. Francis Doyle Jones.

Particulars of the contracts carried out are given on page 601.



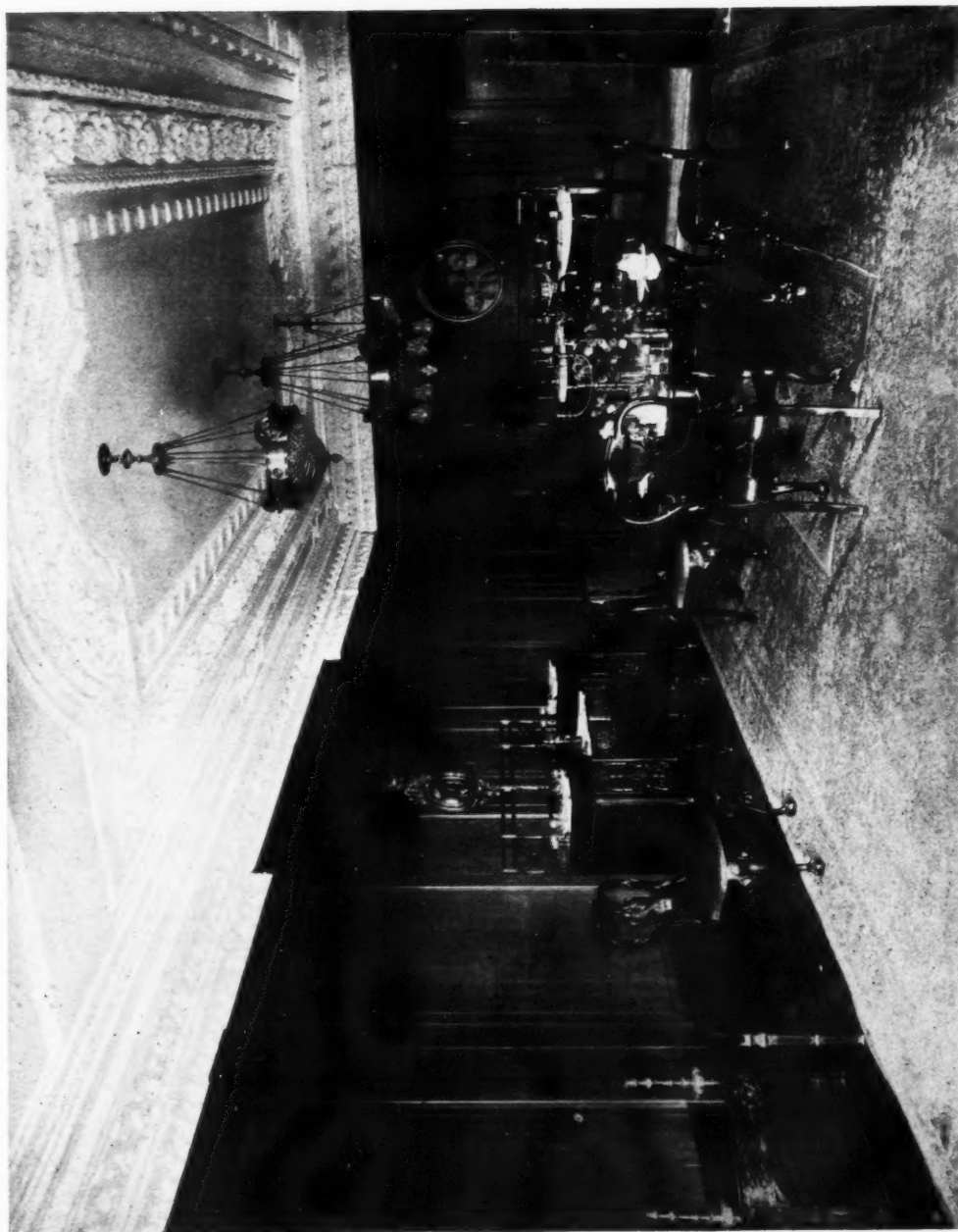
Elton Hall, Stockton-on-Tees

C. F. Burton, F.R.I.B.A., Architect

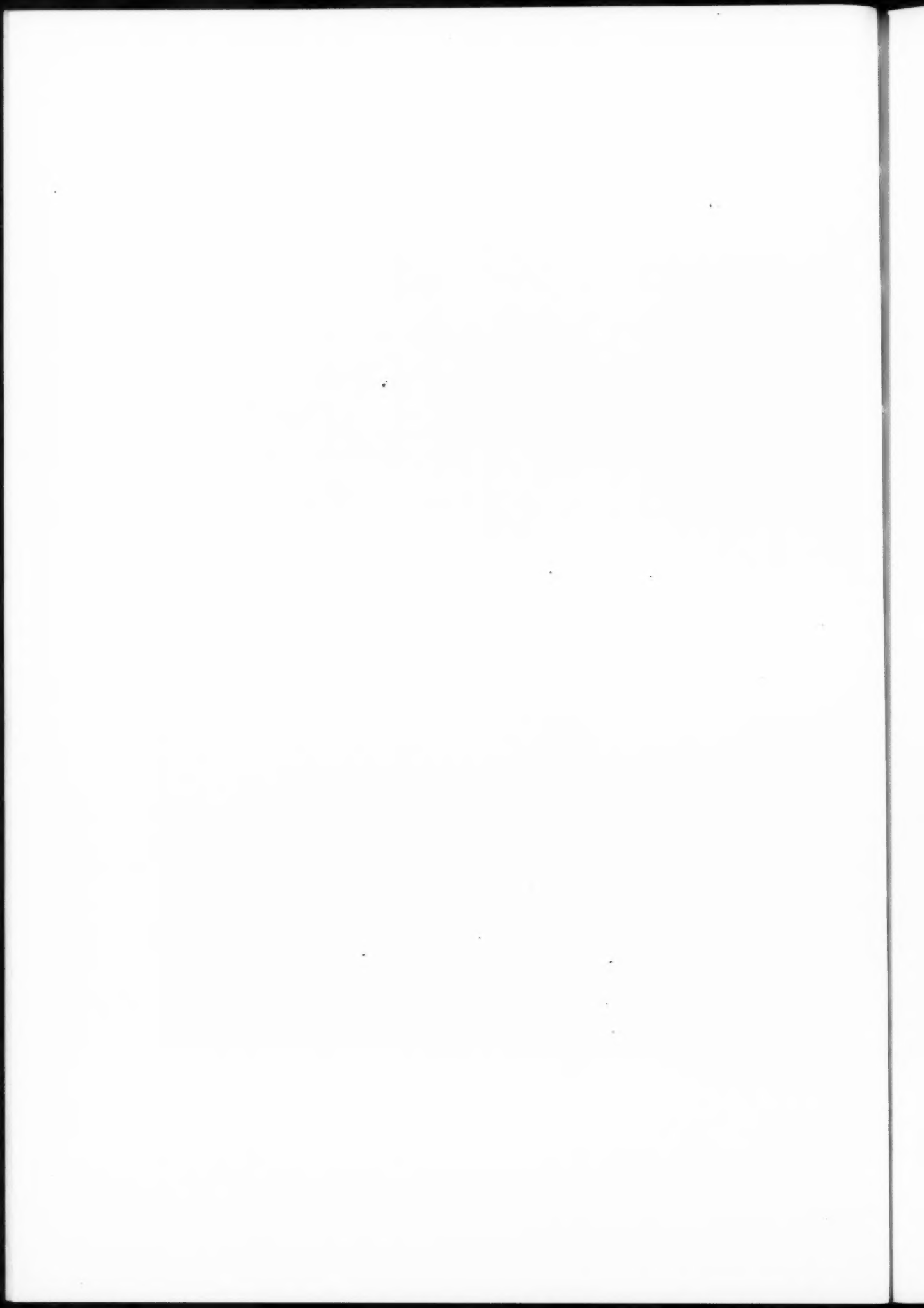


The South or Garden Front.

Elton Hall, Stockton-on-Tees
C. F. Burton, F.R.I.B.A., Architect



The Georgian Dining-room, looking North.





VIEW LOOKING EAST FROM THE MAIN TERRACE, SHOWING THE LONG WALK AND HERBACEOUS GARDENS IN THE DISTANCE.



EAST FRONT, SHOWING THE "BREAKFAST HOUSE."

ELTON HALL, STOCKTON-ON-TEES. C. F. BURTON, F.R.I.B.A., ARCHITECT.

Electricity Demonstration Halls at Hackney

J. A. BOWDEN, F.R.I.B.A., Architect

SHOWROOMS for the promotion of business interests of electricity suppliers and contractors are numerous, and they vary greatly in size and appearance. In recent years they have shown a tendency to expand in scope and take a larger view of their function, moving progressively away from the mere display of articles for sale towards the ideal of maintaining continuous contact between the public and the supplier and serving as a pool for information on electricity and the manner of its use. These principles have been kept in mind in the lay-out of the new demonstration halls and offices in Lower Clapton Road, Hackney. The scheme has been arranged so as to secure prompt and efficient working by the staff, and to link up all the electrical needs of the consumers in such a way that they will not feel the establishment exists only with the object of selling to them, but that it is maintained by the Council for better service to all classes.

The elevation consists of a centre section rising to a height of 55 ft., with three large circular-headed windows starting from the loggia and ending under heavy cornice caps, surmounted with a top name-panel and a wireless and flag mast. The loggia extends the full length of the centre section, covering the two main show windows and the centrally placed main entrance. The exterior illumination, consisting of primary white, green, yellow, red, and blended colours, is obtained from concealed flood-light projectors.

The accommodation provided on the ground floor is shown on the accompanying plan. Entering under the covered loggia, on either side is a show window, glazed back and front to enable the interior showrooms to be seen from outside if and when desired. A doorway, centrally

placed, leads into a vestibule hall, to the right and left of which are two spacious showrooms. The demonstration hall, 40 ft. by 22 ft., is capable of seating 100 persons. It is surrounded by showcases, and at the farther end have been arranged a platform and all the impedimenta for lecture and cinematograph displays in connection with electrical development. Recognizing that actual demonstration of domestic electric service and electrical appliances in their normal surroundings is the only practical way of spreading electrical development and knowledge in the borough, a suite of model rooms has been set up. These rooms are alongside the demonstration hall: on one side is a sitting-room, provided with all the latest home comforts—electric and otherwise—complete with window and garden scene. Adjoining is a similar room furnished and electrically fitted as a bedroom. Beyond this, most important of all, is a model electric kitchen, and at the end an equipped bathroom.

On the first floor are the general offices, the mailing and record-filing departments, offices for the deputy chief engineer and the chief clerk, and a waiting-room and library. On this floor also are the committee room, the chief engineer's office, the typists' offices, a telephone exchange, the meter repairs and testing department, men's mess rooms, public lighting local stores, test battery, motor generating rooms, and stationery stores. On the second floor are the drawing office, the mains and meter departments, a ladies' room, a staff dining-room capable of seating thirty people, and an electric demonstration kitchen.

Particulars of the contracts carried out are given on page 601.



THE VESTIBULE HALL, FROM THE DEMONSTRATION HALL.

Hackney Electricity Undertaking : Demonstration Halls and Offices

J. A. Bowden, F.R.I.B.A., Architect

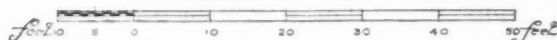


The Elevation to Lower Clapton Road.

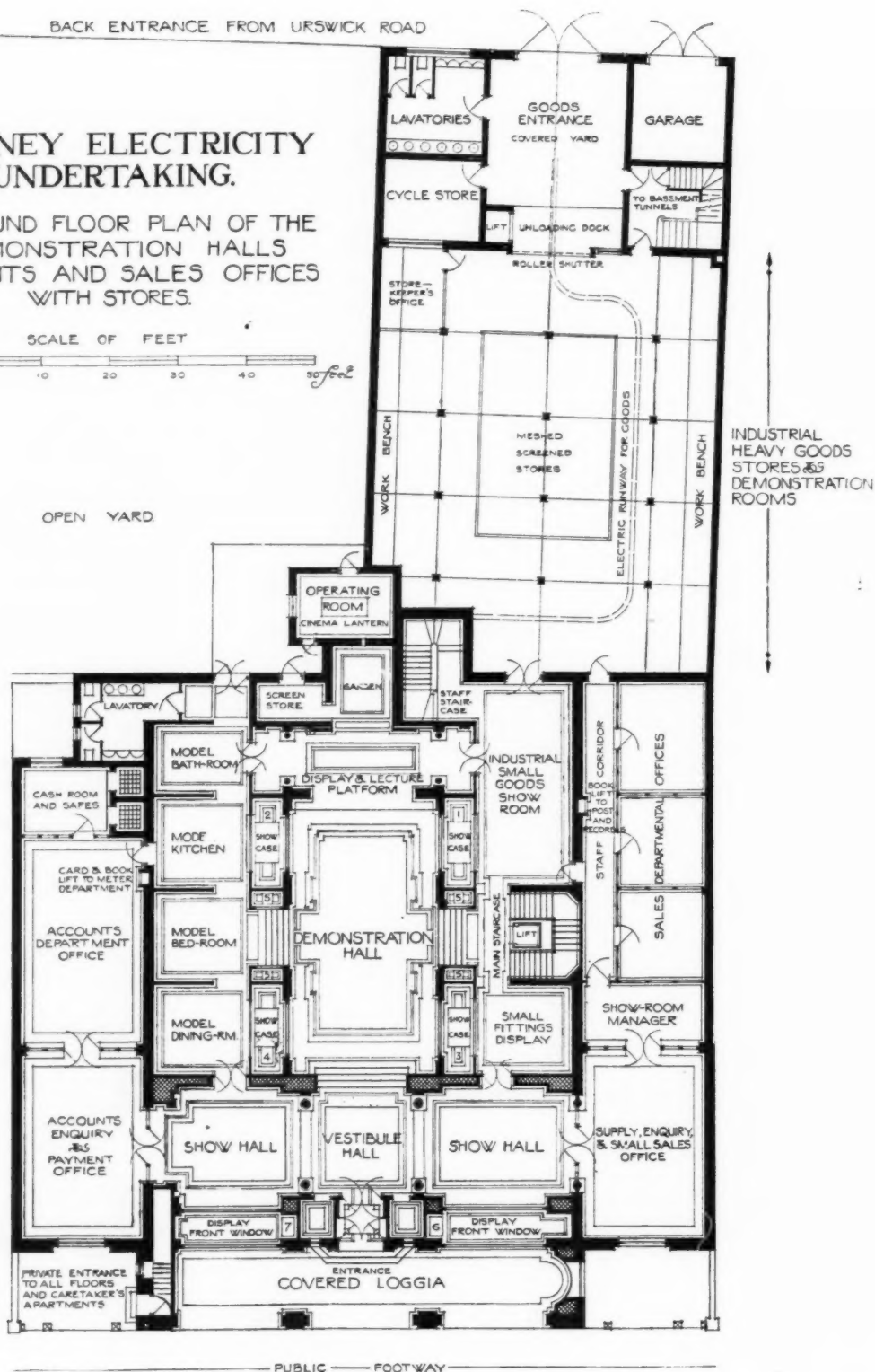
HACKNEY ELECTRICITY UNDERTAKING.

A GROUND FLOOR PLAN OF THE
DEMONSTRATION HALLS
ACCOUNTS AND SALES OFFICES
WITH STORES.

SCALE OF FEET



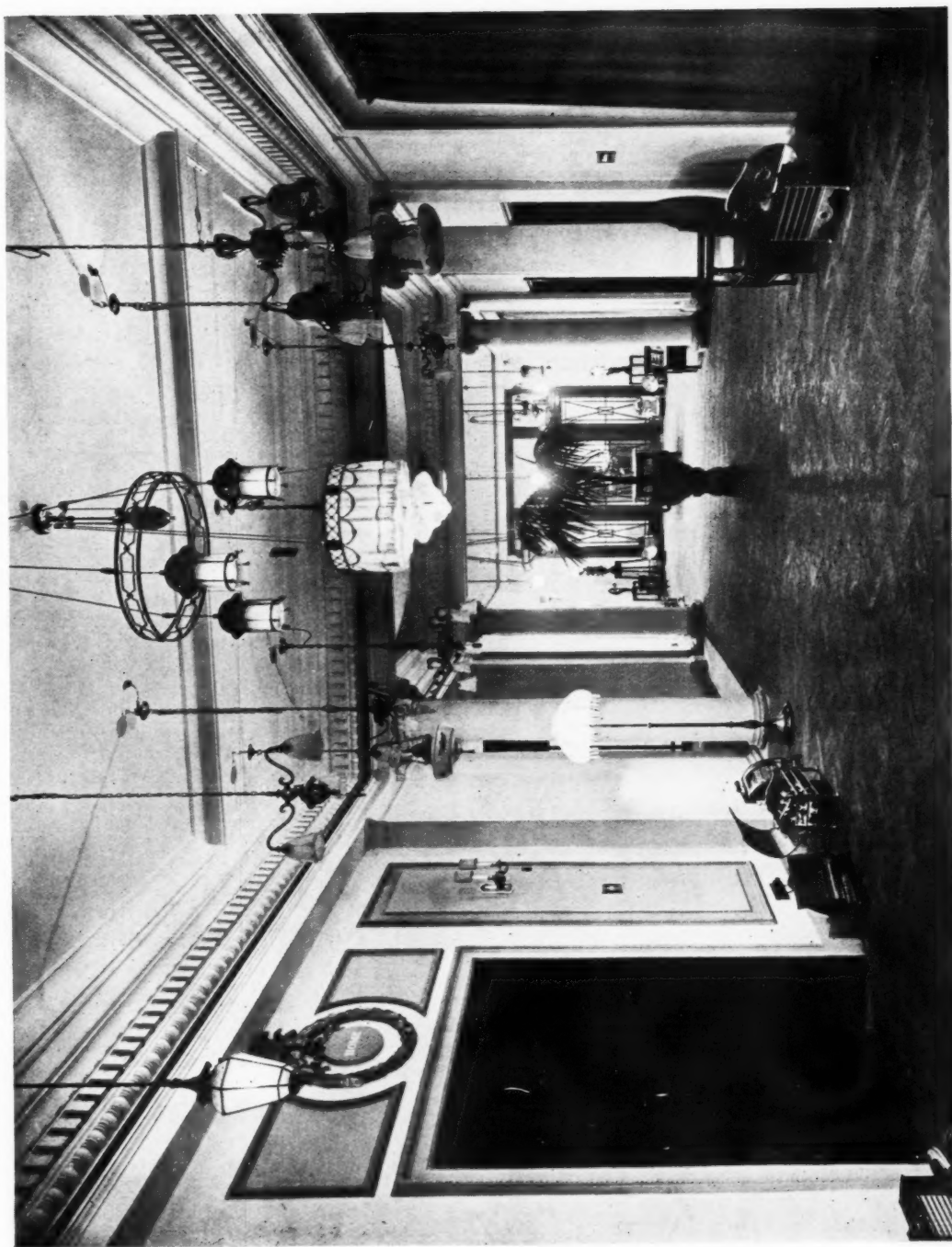
OPEN YARD



THE LOWER CLAPTON ROAD

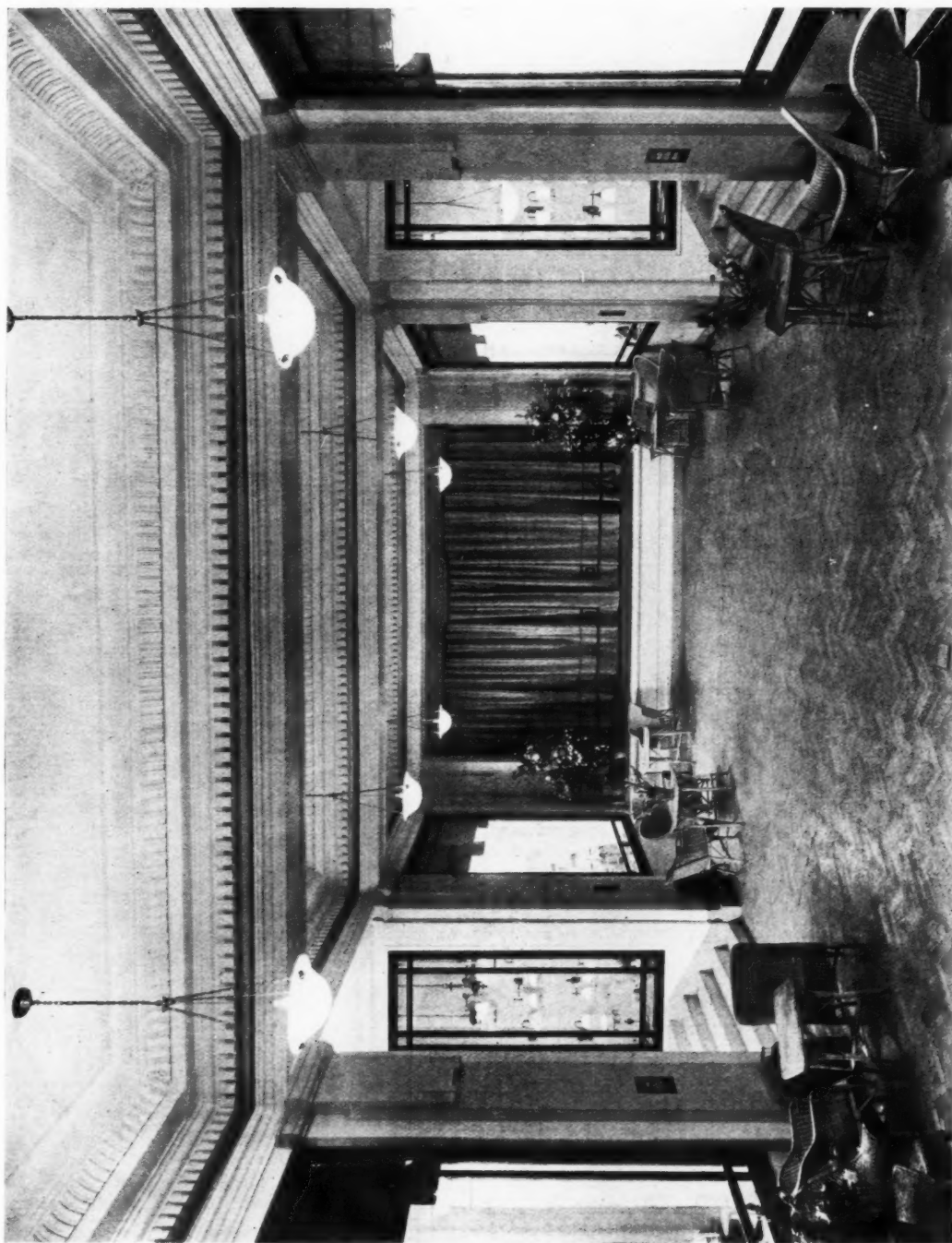
J A BOWDEN FRISA
ARCHITECT

Hackney Electricity Undertaking : Demonstration Halls and Offices
J. A. Bowden, F.R.I.B.A., Architect



The Show Hall.

Hackney Electricity Undertaking : Demonstration Hall and Offices
J. A. Bowden, F.R.I.B.A., Architect



The Demonstration Hall.

War Memorial Panel in the Church of the Holy Trinity, Coventry

Leslie T. Moore, M.C., F.R.I.B.A., Architect



A decorative treatment coeval in character with the period of the church was adopted in this design. The three panels bearing the names of the fallen, incised in Hopton Wood stone, are richly decorated in gold and colour. The badges of the regiments represented, together with the Service medals, are incorporated in the framework. Some badges worn in action are here preserved. The arms of St. George, the Diocese, Church, and City are emblazoned above,

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Combined Drainage

Some Laws and By-Laws

By W. TAYLOR ALLEN

THE question of combined house drains is of the greatest possible importance to all concerned in building operations in provincial and metropolitan districts owing to the conflicting definitions of drains and sewers.

In none of the enactments dealing with this subject does the parliamentary draughtsman appear to have had an acquaintance with the actual practical details of the matter; and the consequence is, that in applying the statutory provisions to actual facts, considerable difficulty is experienced and the aid of the court has to be invoked to interpret the vague general expressions of the legislature.

By the Public Health Act, 1875, "Drain" means "any drain of and used for the drainage of one building only," or "*premises within the same curtilage*." "Curtilage" is the word that proves the stumbling block in this Act, hence the definition itself seems to be the root of the trouble, since the majority of cases quoted from time to time are hinged on this word; another aspect is that this definition promotes the difficulty owners and builders meet with in complying with their local by-laws, based mainly on this Act, which applies more particularly to provincial districts, which are much more affected by the decisions of the courts on this knotty point than are metropolitan vestries, who are (as will be seen) somewhat better protected by an earlier Act.

The courts have almost unanimously decided that the term "curtilage" must be interpreted as belonging to one messuage only—"premises within the same curtilage" must be considered as including only the *one* dwelling and its outbuildings, and until "curtilage" can be so interpreted as to apply to the boundary containing *more* than one house, the stumbling block will exist.

By the Public Health (Amendment) Act, 1890, Sec. 19, "Drain" means a drain used for the drainage of two or more houses belonging to "*different*" owners. This Act, under Part I of the above section, offers ways and means of contracting out of liability in respect of combined house drainage when found to be a nuisance, and was apparently intended to secure the combination of several house drains belonging to different owners from being converted into a "sewer." But the absurdity lies in the fact that if a drain is used by two or more houses *belonging to the same owner* it is still considered a sewer. Until the passing of this Act there was no such legal term as a single private drain receiving the drainage of two or more houses, for a drain of this description was termed a "sewer."

By the Metropolis Management Act, 1855, "Drain" includes a drain for draining any group or block of houses by a combined system under the order of the Vestry or District Board. Thus, provision is made in this Act to prevent combined house drains becoming "sewers." But it may be implied from this Act that if a builder or owner manages to construct a combined drain without the order of the Vestry, it is no longer a drain, but a sewer; but if he first obtains the order of the Vestry it is "only a drain," and in the matter of old drainage considerable difficulty must be experienced in showing whether or not an order was previously obtained from the Vestry.

Curiously, the Public Health Act, 1891, fails to give a definition of "Drain."

The West Ham Corporation, Edmonton, and Buxton, are among the authorities who have obtained a remedy for the anomalies created by the decisions of the court, by obtaining a Private Bill dealing with this matter.

The following is a by-law relating to combined house drains, which has been officially sanctioned:

Provided always that where not more than one watercloset is provided in connection with any new building which forms part of a block of not more than eight buildings, and such watercloset shall be constructed so as not to have any internal

communication with any building and the main or other drains of the several buildings composing such block of buildings shall be connected with the sewer or other means of drainage by one common drain not exceeding one hundred and fifty feet in length, the provisions of this by-law shall not be deemed to apply if the following conditions are complied with; that is to say:—

(1) Such main or other drains shall join such common drain in the direction of the flow of such common drain; and

(2) Such common drain shall be laid in a direct line or in direct lines; but no right-angled junction shall be formed therein; and

(3) At every point where any drain of any such building shall join such common drain, and at every point where there may be a change of direction in such common drain, suitable means of access to such common drain shall be provided; and

(4) Such common drain shall be provided with a suitable trap and means of access, situated as far as may be practicable from such buildings, and as near as may be practicable to the point at which such common drain may be connected with the sewer or other means of drainage.

(5) Such common drain shall, wherever practicable, be laid at such a level that its upper surface shall be 2 ft. 6 in. at the least below the surface of the ground, and where such drain shall be laid so that the upper surface of any part of the drain is less than 2 ft. 6 in. below the surface of the ground, the drain shall in that part be completely embedded in and covered with good and solid concrete at least 6 in. thick all round.—(Extract from "By-Laws sanctioned by Local Government Board.")

The method adopted by some local authorities for relieving themselves of their obligations to maintain combined drains is by requiring owners who propose to construct combined drains to enter into an agreement that they (the owners) shall be responsible for the maintenance of such drains.

There is some doubt if such an agreement would be binding upon subsequent purchasers of the property, although they purchased with notice of the agreement. A covenant of this nature is not considered such a one as will run with the land so as to bind subsequent purchasers. It has been clearly decided that only restrictive covenants, or those of a negative nature, will run with the land, as, for instance, where the purchaser covenants not to build upon a piece of ground, if he sells it, it is still subject to the same restriction.

But covenants of an affirmative nature, i.e. to do a certain thing, do not run with the ground so as to bind subsequent purchasers.

The authorities on this point are: *Hayward v. Brunswick Building Society*; *Austerberry v. Corporation of Oldham*; *London and South Western Railway v. Gomm*.

Taking into consideration the following clauses of the Housing and Town-Planning Act, 1919, it would appear that the local authority could reasonably be expected to approve of a plan for new houses showing the drains on the "*combined system*."

SECTION 25.

(1) Notwithstanding the provisions of any building by-laws, a local authority may, during a period of three years from the passing of this Act, consent to the erection and use for human habitation of any buildings erected or proposed to be erected in accordance with any regulations made by the Local Government Board.

(2) The local authority may attach to their consent any conditions which they may deem proper with regard to the situation, sanitary arrangements, and protection against fire of such buildings; and may fix and from time to time extend the period during which such buildings shall be allowed to be used for human habitation.

(3) If any person feels aggrieved by the neglect or refusal of the local authority to give such consent, or by the conditions on which such consent is given, or as to the period allowed for the use of such buildings for human habitation, he may appeal to the Local Government Board, whose decision shall be final, and

shall have effect as if it were the decision of the local authority, provided that the Board may, before considering such appeal, require the appellant to deposit such sum, not exceeding ten pounds to cover the costs of appeal as may be fixed by rules to be made by them.

NOTE.—The date mentioned in the above Clauses has been extended by the Expiring Laws Continuance Act, 1922.

The resolution of the Council as suggested by the writer is as follows:—

If it appear to the Council that two or more houses, plans for which have been approved after June 1, 1898, may be drained more economically or advantageously in combination than separately, and a sewer of sufficient size already exists or is about to be constructed within 100 ft. of any part of such houses, the Council may order that such houses be drained by a combined drain, to be constructed either by the Council, if they so decide, or by the owners in such manner as the Council shall direct, and the costs and expenses of such combined drain and the repair and maintenance thereof shall be apportioned

between the owners or occupiers of such houses in such manner as the Council shall determine, and may be recovered by the Council from such owners or occupiers in a summary manner.

"That the houses intended to be erected in Street, as shown on the plan No. deposited by Mr. of and approved by this Council on the day of may be drained more economically and advantageously in combination than separately and a surface water drain and sewer respectively of sufficient size already exist within 100 ft. of any part of such houses. Now therefore this Council do hereby order that such houses be drained by combined surface water drains and sewers respectively to be constructed by the owner or owners in such manner as this Council shall direct, and that the costs and expenses of such combined surface water drain and sewer respectively and the repair and maintenance thereof shall be apportioned between the owners or occupiers of such houses in such manner as this Council shall from time to time determine."

All-Electric Houses

The Gateshead Scheme

[FROM A CORRESPONDENT.]

IN so far as domestic consumers are concerned, in many areas cheap electrical energy is already available. In quite fifty supply areas electricity is being sold to-day at 1d. or less per unit. This cheap supply is, of course, additional to lighting. But then it is only in such applications as electric cooking, heating, and hot-water supply, that cheap rates are necessary to bring the benefits of electric service within reach of the ordinary citizen at a cost competitive with that of alternative methods. The all-electric house, instead of remaining a dream of the future, is becoming a realization of to-day. Many local municipal and housing bodies have shown laudable enterprise in erecting all-electric houses, and beyond doubt others will follow suit at an early date.

A Recent Scheme

One of the most recent of such schemes to be put in hand is that of the Gateshead Borough Council, which provides for the erection under the Wheatley Act of 200 all-electric houses. It is noteworthy that the decision to make these houses all-electric was adopted by the unanimous vote of the local housing committee and of the Council. Erection of the first six houses having been completed, an electrical exhibition was recently held to assist the Council to arrive at a decision as to the type and make of appliances to install, and the initial orders have now been placed.

The Gateshead all-electric housing scheme provides for the erection of three-, four-, and five-apartment semi-detached dwellings at an average cost of £530. They will be let at rentals, inclusive both of rates and electrical equipment, ranging from 10s. 6d. to 15s. 6d. per week, according to size. An interesting fact is that by adopting the all-electric design—which provides for one coal grate only—the saving in building cost effected by the elimination of chimney-breasts, grates, and overmantels, etc., more than offsets the cost of the electrical equipment. In other words, the all-electric house, wired and with its complete electrical equipment, is quite as cheap to erect as—or is even cheaper than—a house of similar size on more orthodox lines and unequipped. Obviously this is a point worthy the earnest consideration of all bodies responsible for housing and housing schemes.

The electrical equipment of these houses covers lighting and switch-points in every room, and also two-way switch-

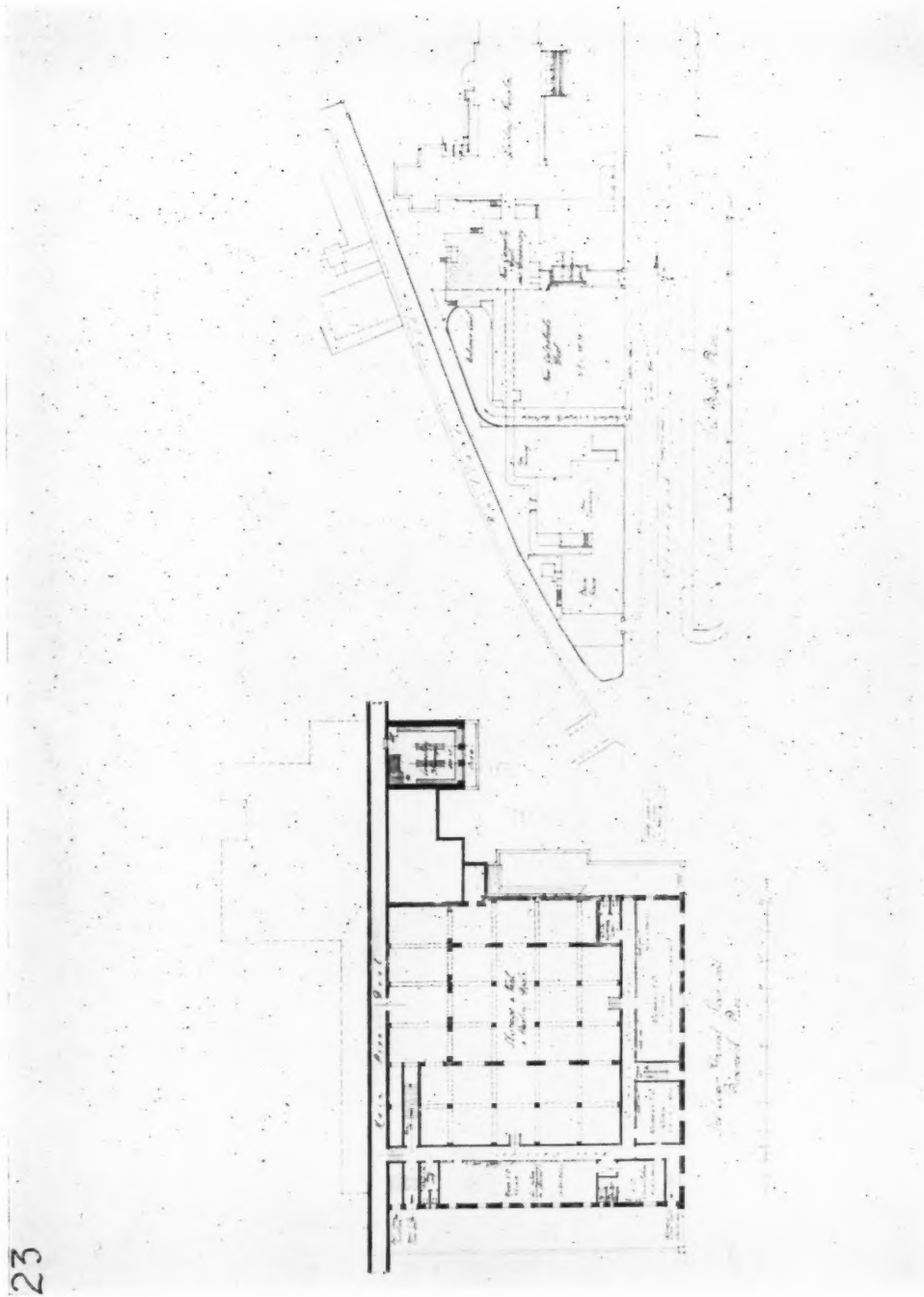
ing of the landing light. As regards heating, all rooms are fitted with 15-amp. combined switch plug; a separate ironing plug is provided in the kitchen, and a portable 2-kw. radiator constitutes part of the landlord's fixtures. In the kitchen is installed an electric cooker capable of meeting the requirements of a family of six persons, and an electric wash-boiler for clothes washing. Water heating is generally considered a difficult problem as regards electric operation, but the scheme adopted in these Gateshead houses is simple, while providing economical service for widely varying conditions.

Some Details of the Scheme

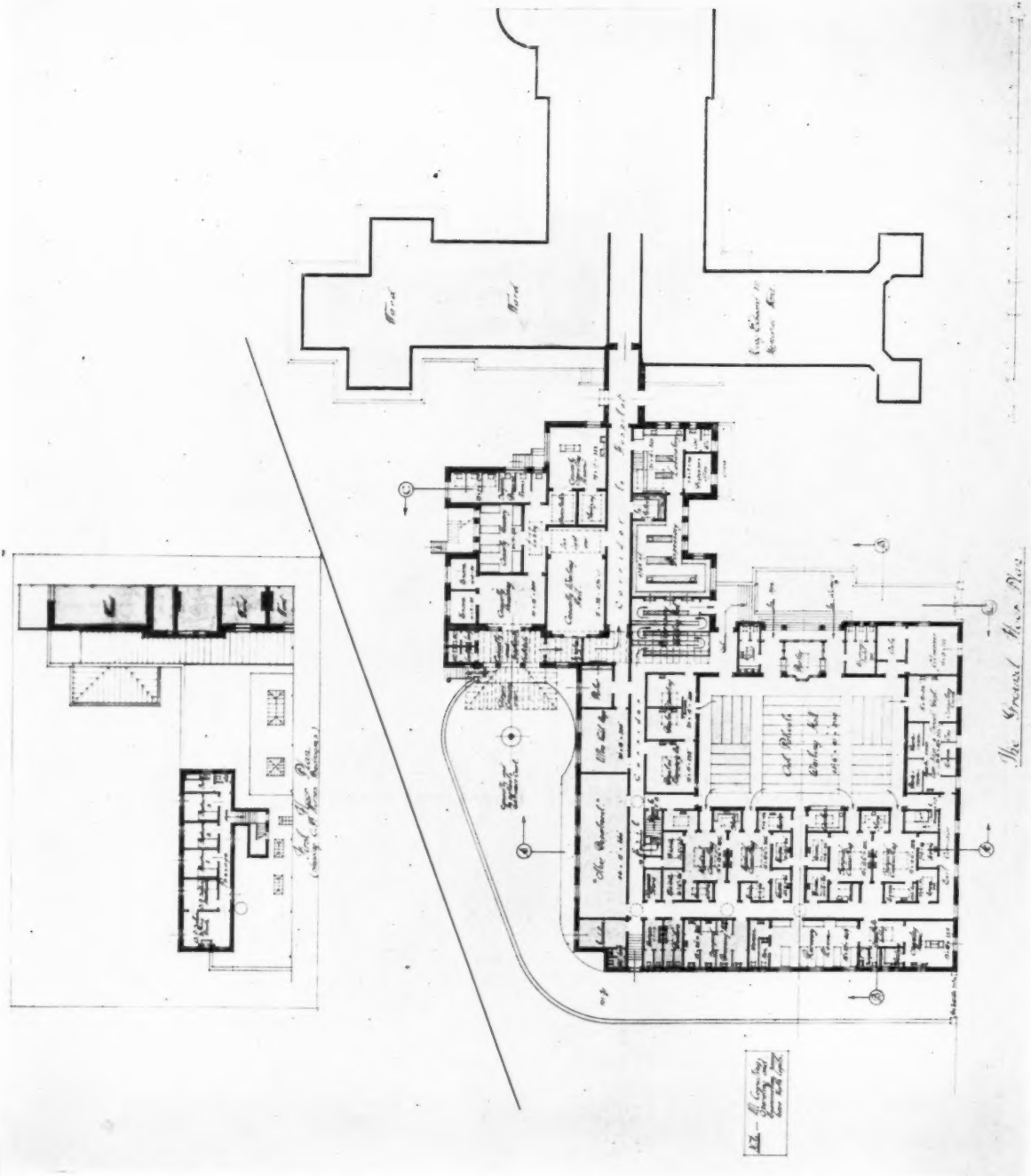
First, there is a hot-water storage tank, fed from a boiler at the back of the single coal grate that is provided in each house. In conjunction with this an electric circulating water heater is fitted. By the combination of these two pieces of apparatus tenants may meet their hot-water requirements: (a) either entirely from the coal range; (b) use electricity to supplement the coal range; or (c) entirely by electricity.

Electricity is supplied to the housing estate by the County of Durham Electrical Power Distribution Co., Ltd., and is sold on the following two-part tariff. There is an annual fixed charge of £2 2s., £2 8s., and £2 14s. (3s. 6d., 4s., and 4s. 6d. per week respectively) for the three, four, and five-apartment houses, and a secondary charge of 1d. per unit for all units consumed per annum up to 2,040 units; additional energy consumption above this figure being supplied at 3d. per unit. At this tariff the cost to the tenants of running these all-electric houses should not, broadly speaking, be more than would be involved by other methods; quite possibly it may be less. The novel features of the Gateshead housing scheme, of course, are that the electrical equipment has been purchased out of the saving effected by building the houses; it is, with the house, the property of the Council, and its inclusion does not add to the rental of the house in comparison with similar size non-electric houses. On the other hand, the tenant gets all the advantages of a modern electric labour-saving home, the rent and running expenses of which are no greater than those in which a more old-fashioned dwelling would involve him. For these reasons the development of the Gateshead scheme will be particularly interesting to watch.

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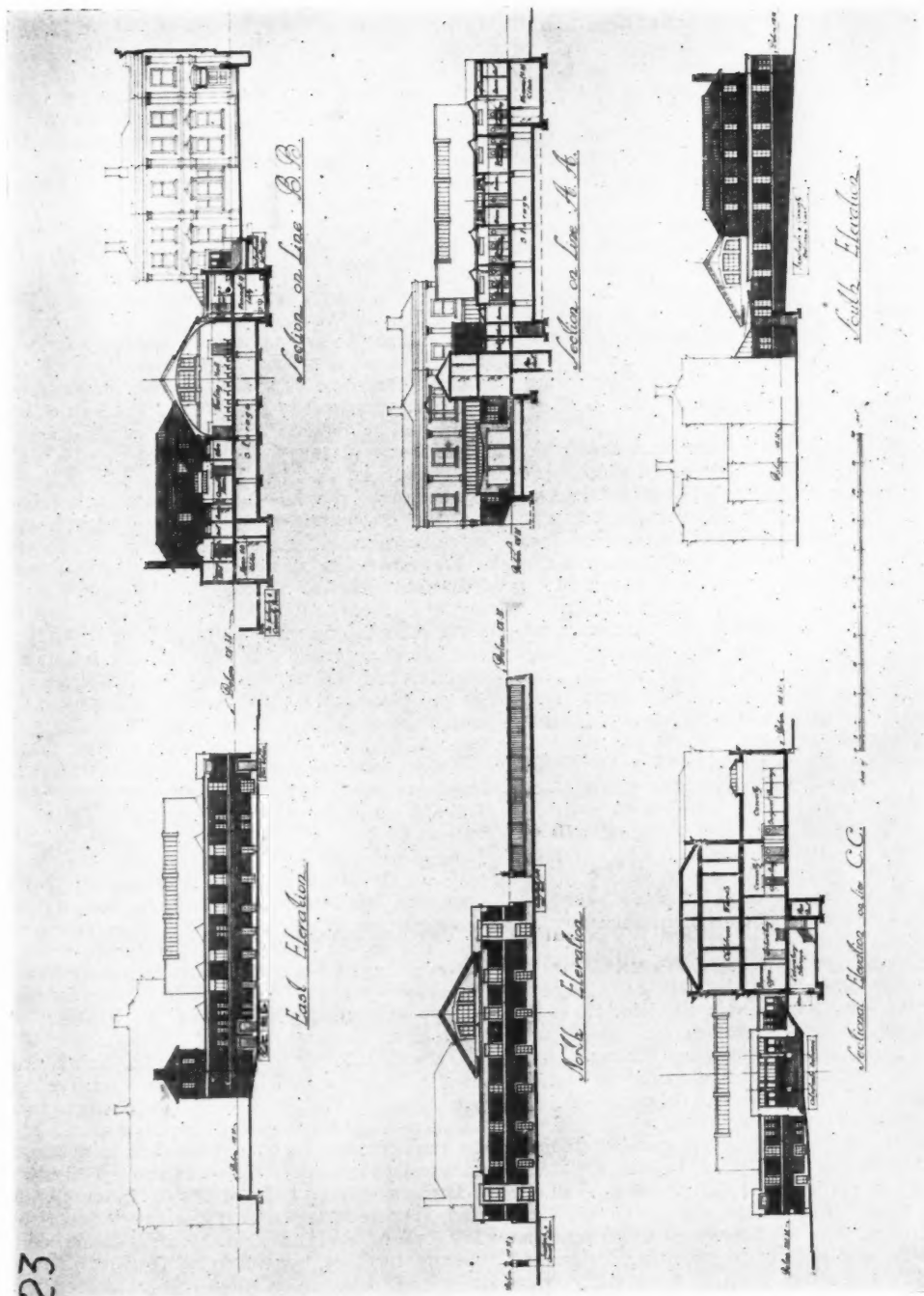


WOLVERHAMPTON HOSPITAL COMPETITION: NEW OUT-PATIENTS' DEPARTMENT. TWINNING DESIGN.
ELCOCK AND SUTCLIFFE, ARCHITECTS.



WOLVERHAMPTON HOSPITAL COMPETITION: NEW OUT-PATIENTS' DEPARTMENT. WINNING DESIGN.
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WOLVERHAMPTON HOSPITAL COMPETITION: NEW OUT-PATIENTS' DEPARTMENT. WINNING DESIGN.
ELCOCK AND SUTCLIFFE, ARCHITECTS

Town-planning Oxford

By B. S. TOWNROE

THE lay Press have paid many tributes to the Oxford City Council for their wisdom in approving this autumn of a preliminary statement of proposals for the development of Oxford. Architects, and those experienced in town-planning, will be more restrained in their appreciation, for, as will be observed from the facts stated below, the Oxford Council are still not all enthusiasts on civic art.

Many who attended the R.I.B.A. conference last year noticed with some alarm that ugly shops were being built in the Corn Market; that the approach from the north along the Woodstock Road was bordered with some fantastic villas; and that some of the most beautiful views in England were being spoilt by pretentious hoardings. Since then a hideous red warehouse, that may in time be turned into a cinema, has been completed to the west of Carfax, and is completely out of harmony with its surroundings. Without the control of a town-planning scheme a cinema made of galvanized sheet-iron or stucco could be built under the very shadow of Magdalen Tower; and, indeed, new public conveniences already exist within a few yards of the Martyrs' Memorial.

The scheme to protect Oxford against such desecration has received approval not a day too soon. It would probably never have reached even its present stage if it had not received persistent support from a few reformers who, helped by the "Times," the "Manchester Guardian," and other papers, succeeded in persuading their colleagues that Oxford was a national heritage, and was worth saving from speculative shopkeeper and shortsighted builder.

It must, however, be remembered that the Oxford town-planning scheme has only passed the preliminary stage after six years' hard work, and that there are two other stages yet to pass. That is the reason why some of the aspects of the present position are worth consideration as a warning for the future.

Before describing the scheme it will be well to say a word about an influential Oxford resident, Major fiennell, who is taking a most active part in the plans for Oxford. He has given one park, and has arranged for another to be a public open space. His enthusiasm and material benefactions have done much to encourage the Council to proceed with a town-planning scheme which for years has been advocated in vain by certain farsighted aldermen and councillors.

It was found impossible to plan for the County Borough alone, and therefore the rural districts of Abingdon, Headington, and Woodstock were invited to join. Thus the area now included in the scheme has an approximate acreage of 19,004 acres, and extends from Wolvercot and Water Eaton on the north, to Headington on the east, to the County Asylum and Foxcombe Hill on the south, and Cumnor on the west. The main objects are:—

(1) To prevent the erection of inappropriate buildings in the University quarter of the city; (2) to ensure that the present character of certain residential areas shall be preserved; (3) to ensure that buildings of the factory class shall be confined to appropriate areas; (4) to prevent the erection in the city, and also in the adjoining district, of unsightly hoardings and structures; (5) to prevent within the city the erection of signs of an obtrusive or unsightly character; (6) to regulate building densities; (7) to secure open spaces.

These objects are well carried out in the detailed scheme that has now been approved. The city engineer, Mr. J. E. Wilkes, has been rightly congratulated on the comprehensiveness and skill of his planning, and the Town-planning Committee have carried through a most difficult task in the face of considerable local apathy and ignorance.

For Oxford has a place in our national history, and its

university buildings and colleges are among the architectural glories of the world. Last year the sweep of Broad Street, bordered by Balliol, Trinity, Exeter, and leading to the Sheldonian, would have been disfigured if the "Times" had not come to the rescue and awakened public opinion to the danger of proposals that were slipping through.

To-day there is an opportunity presented to the Oxford City Council in St. Aldate's. Will they seize it? Will they act in the spirit of the town-planning scheme that they have approved in the letter?

Architects who were at the R.I.B.A. conference will probably remember passing, after the banquet in Christ Church Hall, under Tom Tower, and looking down a narrow, rather squalid street towards Folly Bridge. This is the main artery from the south of England to the Midlands, through Birmingham, and ten years ago the Council decided to widen the road to 50 ft. This year they have begun at last to act, and old and shabby houses to the east of St. Aldate's are being pulled down.

Even from the narrowest commercial standpoint there are strong arguments in favour of leaving this space uncumbered by buildings. Visitors from all parts of the world bring thousands into the city each year, and if it is protected and beautified its attractiveness will be enhanced. The space can be developed in ways that will bring revenue, and the surrounding offices and shops might have increased rateable value, if St. Aldate's is not again spoilt.

The town-planning scheme states as one main object, "the prevention of the erection of inappropriate buildings in the University quarter." To create another potential slum and a second-rate shopping street is surely a mistake, and all who cherish our architectural beauties will hope that this autumn the Oxford Council will reconsider their present plans and steadfastly resist the proposals to allow inappropriate buildings under the very shadow of Christ Church Hall.

Events are moving quickly. Already advertisements have appeared inviting tenders for seventy-five years' building leases along the new frontage. The Christ Church authorities have also been discussing the pulling down of some of their unsightly buildings close to the path that leads to the Broad Walk, and are considering a plan to open out their own property, and to place memorial gates leading to St. Aldate's, using for this purpose a war memorial fund of some £4,000. In the City Council, however, there is shortsighted opposition to those who hope that St. Aldate's may be widened to 90 ft., and the site left open to give new and spacious views of the "House," of Corpus, Merton, and Magdalen.

Oxford's M.P., Mr. A. C. Bourne, has rightly drawn attention to the need to re-house those who live in the poky houses near to Folly Bridge, but these only cover one and a half acres, and for reasons of health it would be far better for the occupiers to be re-housed on a new estate a few minutes' walk away to the south across Folly Bridge.

If the governing body of Christ Church give a generous lead, then it is hoped that the City Council will follow. The college and town authorities should certainly co-operate together, regardless of possible petty jealousies, in order to make the best possible use of the site now being cleared. Shall the Broad Walk, that is really too narrow for the proper growth of the trees, be continued and improved? Shall the land be utilized to provide the tennis courts and other facilities for recreation demanded by the increasing industrial population of Oxford? Shall the Ministry of Transport be allowed to run a by-pass road across from Folly Bridge to Magdalen Bridge? These and other issues will have to be considered if good will prevails and the present site is not to be covered by petty buildings that would disfigure the southern entrance to Oxford.

Lord Crawford on the Preservation of Ancient Buildings

The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress gave a reception at the Manchester Town Hall in honour of the Earl of Crawford and Balcarres in his capacity as president of the Ancient Monuments Society. Many of the guests were leaders in the movement which led to the founding at the Rylands Library months ago of the Ancient Monuments Society.

After explaining the aim of the Ancient Monuments Society—the preservation of ancient buildings in the Northern counties—Lord Crawford said that Manchester, a famous commercial community, paid too little heed to its historic past. The public libraries of Lancashire had admirable collections of prints and water-colour sketches of old buildings notable for their dignity, charm, and repose. These buildings had belonged to an age of vigour and progress, and their qualities were not incompatible with the vigour and progress necessary to-day; yet what a contrast they showed to our own! The Ancient Monuments Society desired to do its utmost to save whatever of this quality still survived, especially as in the area for which it was concerned individual buildings of renown were far from numerous. A schedule of buildings worthy of preservation had been prepared for the society, and showed that Lancashire, in relation to its size and population, had fewer than any other county. Public opinion on the matter was, however, being aroused, and the Ancient Monuments Society sought to provide a centre and rallying ground for it. He instanced the work of the society for the preservation of Platt Hall, Samlesbury Hall, and the very beautiful Bramall Hall, near Stockport, the safety of all of which, he hoped, was now secured. No other towns in England could compare with Oxford and Cambridge for the richness of their endowment in old buildings; but apart from these jewels we had many towns like Wells, Salisbury, and Winchester, some of which, like Bath, had long realized that their prosperity depended on their historic character. Norwich, Newcastle, and Salisbury, had set up special committees of their corporations to deal with ancient buildings. That at Norwich was empowered to consider the plans of all old buildings in the borough in connection with any proposed changes, to consider the proposed erection of new buildings adjacent to old which might destroy their charm, and to protect natural beauty spots. This was welcome evidence of a revolution in public sentiment. Our laws were not so strong in this matter as those of France or Italy or Germany, but we had one advantage over those countries—we knew more of the technique of preservation. A school of young architects had been growing up who had devoted their lives to the study of the preservation of old buildings. After describing the existing means and machinery for preserving ancient monuments, he said that what was chiefly needed was an organized public opinion to support efforts at preservation.

Leeds University Extensions

The University of Leeds are appealing for funds to improve and extend the University buildings. The total sum required is estimated at not less than half a million, but it is contemplated that the erection of the new buildings should be gradual, and it is pointed out that £50,000 a year would enable this to be completed in ten years. The appeal is signed by the Duke of Devonshire as Chancellor, and other representatives of the University. It says that Yorkshiremen have good reason to be proud of the success of Leeds University. From small beginnings it has come, within the short period of 21 years, to occupy a place in the front rank of the provincial universities of the United Kingdom. The present number of whole-time students—over 1,400—is more than twice the number in attendance in 1913-14, and during the same time the teaching and research staff has risen from 178 to 268. The field of knowledge covered by the University contains over 40 separate departments and about 100 subjects of investigation. The present efficiency of the University is, however, seriously hampered, and its future efficiency imperilled, both by want of accommodation and the unsuitability of much of the existing accommodation. About a third of the chief departments are housed in temporary buildings having a short lease of life, or are located in transformed private dwelling-houses. Research and instruction of the highest order are being carried on under these unsatisfactory conditions. The necessary ground for building exists. The sum required, it is urged, is small in proportion to the wealth of the county. It means, however, everything to the future of the University.

Rome Scholarship in Sculpture, 1925

On the recommendation of the Faculty of Sculpture of the British School at Rome, the commissioners for the Exhibition of 1851 have awarded the Rome Scholarship in Sculpture of 1925 to Mr. Emile Jacot, B.A. (Oxon.), a former student of the Slade School. Mr. Jacot, who is 29 years of age, studied at the Slade School of Art from 1919 to 1922, where he was a pupil of the late Havard Thomas. He was educated at King Edward VI's School, Birmingham, and at Queen's College, Oxford, where his residence was interrupted by the war. In August, 1914, he was commissioned in the Royal Warwickshire Regiment, with which he served throughout the whole period of hostilities. He was severely wounded on the Somme, at High Wood, in July, 1916. After the war he returned to Oxford to take a Distinction in the Shortened Course of the Honour School of English Literature. He rowed in the Queen's boat and played in the University Rugby Football Trials, but his career at the University was distinguished chiefly in his literary activities. Most notable, perhaps, was his first book, "Rolls," a volume of satirical verse, published in his first year of residence. On leaving Oxford he entered the Slade School, but still continued his poetry as a contributor to the leading reviews. His latest book, "Nursery Verseries," has just been published. The works executed in the final competitions for the Rome Scholarships of 1925 will be shown at the British School at Rome Exhibition at the Royal Academy early next year.

Elton Hall, Stockton-on-Tees

Following is a list of the contractors for Elton Hall, illustrated on page 580 *et seq.* The general contractor was Mr. R. J. Marshall, of Hartlepool; and the sub-contractors were as follows: Dunhouse Quarries, Barnard Castle (stone); Dorman Long & Co. (steel work); Dawber, Townsley & Co., Ltd., Darlington (slates and tiles); The Pennycook Patent Glazing Co. (patent glazing and fittings); Blakeborough Rhodes, Ltd., Stockton (stoves, grates, mantels, art metal work, and heating apparatus); Pickersgill and Sons, Ltd. (plumbing and sanitary work); Adamsez, Ltd., Scotswood (sanitary ware and fittings); Geo. P. Bankart (lead down-pipes and r.w. heads); W. Mallinson and Sons, Ltd. (flooring); R. W. Crosthwaite, Ltd., Thornaby-on-Tees (mosaic, marble, stone flooring); E. D. Barker, West Hartlepool (electric wiring and bells); H. H. Martyn & Co., Ltd., Cheltenham (fibrous and modelled plaster work and special woodwork); Verity's, Ltd. (electric light fixtures); N. F. Ramsey & Co., Newcastle (door furniture); J. Boanson and Son, Ltd., West Hartlepool (wall papers and wall hangings); Pickerings, Ltd., Stockton-on-Tees (lifts); Milner's Safe Co. (strong-room doors, safes, etc.); James Backhouse and Sons, Ltd., York (shrubs and trees); Burton and Son, Ltd., West Hartlepool (furnishing).

Mr. William Fletcher, of Norton-on-Tees, was the contractor for the garage and power-house, etc.

Electricity Demonstration Hall at Hackney

This contribution to the civic life of the district has been undertaken by the Electricity Committee upon the advice and recommendation of Mr. L. L. Robinson, M.Inst.C.E., M.I.E.E., M.I.Mech.E., the Borough electrical engineer. The building is illustrated on page 586 *et seq.*

The general contractors were Messrs. J. Jarvis and Sons, of London, and the sub-contractors were as follows: Carter & Co., Poole (tiling, terrazzo, and sanitary fittings); Cashmore Art Workers (decorative plaster); The Cement Marketing Co. (cement and lime); The Empire Stone Co. (stone façade); Haywards, Ltd. (wrought iron); J. F. Ebner (wood-block flooring); John Tann, Ltd. (strong-room doors); Lewis Berger and Sons, Homerton (paint work); Marryat and Scott, Ltd. (lifts); Plowman's Brickfields, Ltd. (bricks); Ragusa Asphalt Co. (asphalting); Rosser and Russell, Ltd. (heating apparatus); Smith, Walker, Ltd. (steel construction); Stuart's Granolithic Co. (artificial stone staircase, etc.); Williams and Williams, Chester (casements and showcases); Yannedis & Co. (ironmongery); the demolition work was carried out by Messrs. Henry Allen, Ltd.

The Week's News

Housing at Chelmsford.

At Chelmsford it is proposed to build 250 more houses.

Worthing Building Developments.

At the last meeting of Worthing Town Council plans were approved for 123 houses.

Housing at Dundee.

A proposal is being considered at Dundee for the erection of 250 houses.

A New Lock for Sunbury.

The Thames Conservancy Board have decided to make a new lock at Sunbury, at a cost of £17,500.

A New General Hospital for East Ham.

The East Ham Borough Council have approved plans for a new general hospital.

Birmingham Unemployment Schemes.

Schemes costing £625,000 are to be put in hand by the Birmingham City Council to relieve unemployment.

Housing at Farnham.

Sixty houses are to be built by private enterprise in the Farnham Urban District.

Tenders for Tilbury's Housing Scheme.

Tenders received and recommended for Tilbury's municipal housing scheme amount to £156,970.

Walsall Electricity Mains Extensions.

An application is to be made by the Walsall Corporation to the Electricity Commissioners for a loan of £30,000 for extensions of mains.

Ten New Churches for Southwark.

The erection of ten new churches and the provision of additional presbyteries and elementary schools are contemplated in the Southwark Diocese.

New Housing Site at Carlisle.

The Carlisle City Council have approved the purchase, at a cost of £10,000, of an estate of 98 acres at Newtown for the building of houses.

Bath Street Improvements.

The Bath Surveying Committee have adopted schemes for the widening of Southdown Road, Twerton (£18,000), the widening of How Hill, Twerton (£300), and the improving of a corner at Park Hill and Weston Road (£450).

New Main Road for Downham.

It is proposed to spend £22,000 for works and £600 for property in the construction of a main road across the London County Council's Downham estate from the Bromley Road by-pass to Grove Park Station.

A Wrought-bronze Gateway in Liverpool.

The wrought-bronze gateway in Liverpool Cathedral, illustrated on page 570, was made by The Bromsgrove Guild, Ltd., of Bromsgrove, Worcestershire. The architect was Sir Giles Gilbert Scott, R.A.

Sir John Soane Museum.

Sir John Soane's Museum, 13 Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C.2, will be open free on Thursdays and Fridays during October, from 10.30 a.m. to 5 p.m., and during November, from 10.30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Housing Extension at Sutton-in-Ashfield.

The Sutton-in-Ashfield Urban District Council have resolved to apply to the Ministry of Health for permission to raise a loan of £21,750 for the erection of a further 40 houses on the Hardwick Lane site.

Architectural Practice.

Mr. Herbert J. Stribling, A.R.I.B.A., has commenced practice as an architect and surveyor at 65 and 67 High Street, Slough. He will be glad to receive trade catalogues at that address.

Sir Walter Besant Plaque.

In connection with their work of indicating houses in London where distinguished persons have lived, the London County Council have affixed a glazed ware tablet at Froggnal End, Hampstead, where Sir Walter Besant the novelist and antiquary lived from 1893 until his death in 1901.

Proposed Pavilion for Deal.

The Deal Town Council discussed the question of the proposed pavilion, when the committee submitted a report from the architect with a design for an open band platform, at an estimated cost of £15,000. It was decided that a preliminary sketch be prepared for a covered pavilion to cost £15,000.

Nottingham Improvements.

The Nottingham City Council have decided to purchase the Lenton Abbey estate for £20,000. The erection of washing-baths at the junction of St. Ann's Well Road and Northampton Street, Nottingham, and alterations to Aston Hall, have also been approved.

Proposed New Technical School at Cookstown.

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 A.A. Exhibition of Holiday Sketches and Photographs.

The annual exhibition of members' holiday sketches and photographs opens at the A.A. on the evening of the first general meeting of the session (October 26). All sketches, etc., for exhibition should be forwarded to the A.A. not later than Thursday, October 22.

Town Planning at Torquay.

A resolution agreeing to the application of the Torquay Town Council for the approval of the Ministry of Health to the preparation of a town-planning scheme for Torquay, including portions of Cockington, Coffinswell, Kingsskerswell, and Stokeinteignhead, has been passed by the Newton Abbot Rural Council.

Richmond Bridge.

The Surrey and Middlesex County Councils have agreed to build a new bridge across the Thames just above Kew lock. It will be approached by a road across the Old Deer Park, Richmond, and will take all heavy traffic to Twickenham by way of the Avenue, St. Margaret's-on-Thames. Old Richmond Bridge is to remain unharmed.

The Excavations at Ur.

Mr. A. S. Whitburn, A.R.I.B.A., of "Elm Croft," Woking, has been appointed architect to this season's expedition to continue the excavations at Ur of the Chaldees. The expedition is being sent out jointly by the British Museum and the Museum of Pennsylvania University. It left last week under the direction of Mr. C. Leonard Woolley.

Devil's Dyke an Ancient Monument.

Devil's Dyke, the ancient British earthwork near Brighton, has been scheduled as an ancient monument. It is understood that a syndicate had planned to build thousands of houses on the spot. These plans will not be carried out, at least for the present, for the step taken by the Department of Ancient Monuments of the Board of Works will effectually preserve the site.

The A.A. Pantomime.

The A.A. pantomime will be performed in the galleries of the R.I.B.A., 9 Conduit Street, W.1, at 8 p.m., on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, December 16 to 19. There will be a matinee on Thursday (December 17) at 2.30 p.m. Applications for tickets (3s., 5s. 9d., 8s. 6d., including tax) should be made by letter or personally to Miss M. Hodson, 34 Bedford Square, W.C.1, or by telephone, Museum 4957. The profits will be in aid of the Architects' Benevolent Fund.

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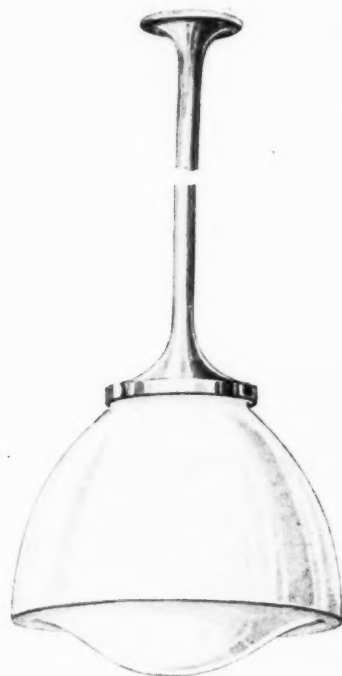
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