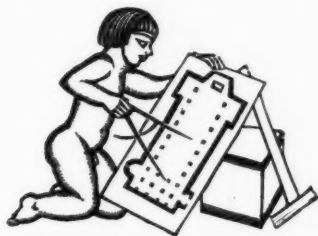


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CHRISTIAN BARMAN, *Editor*

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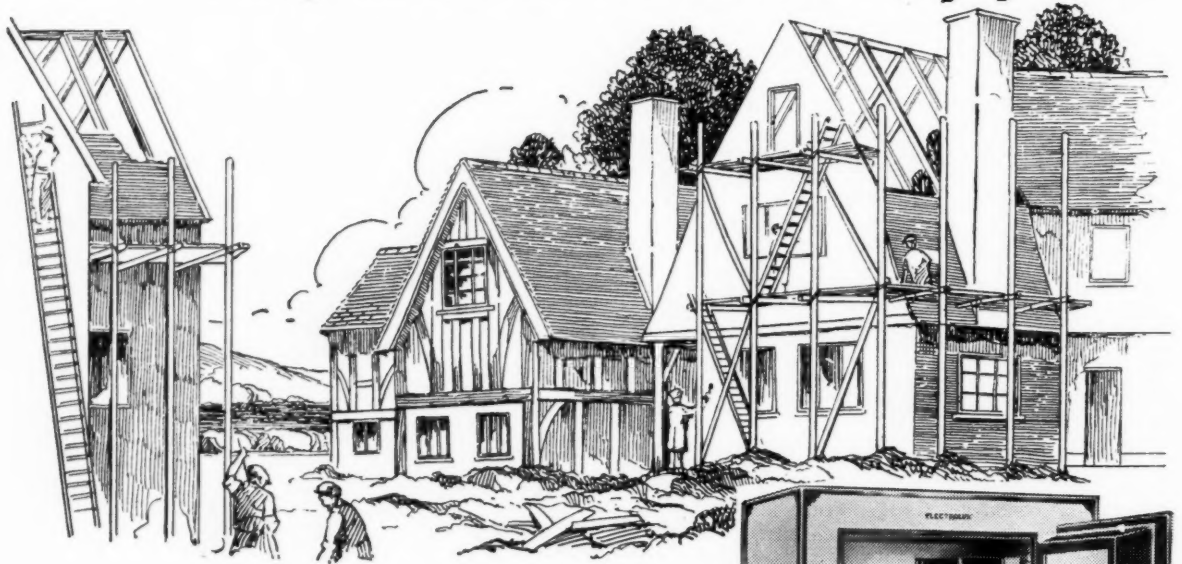
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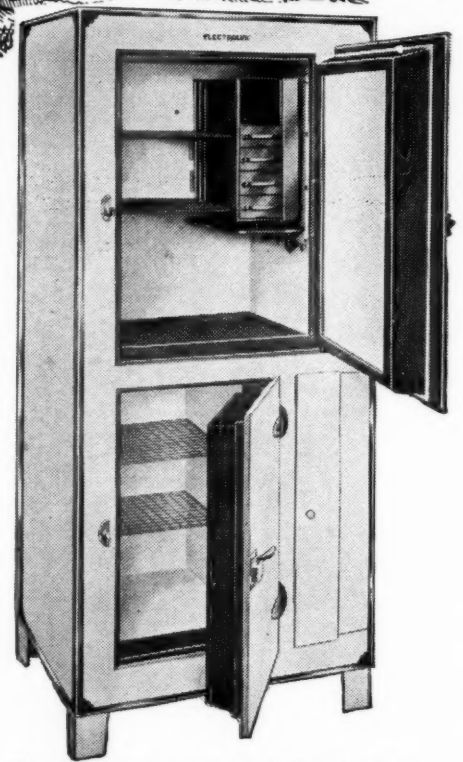
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[A working detail of this stonework appears on the following page]

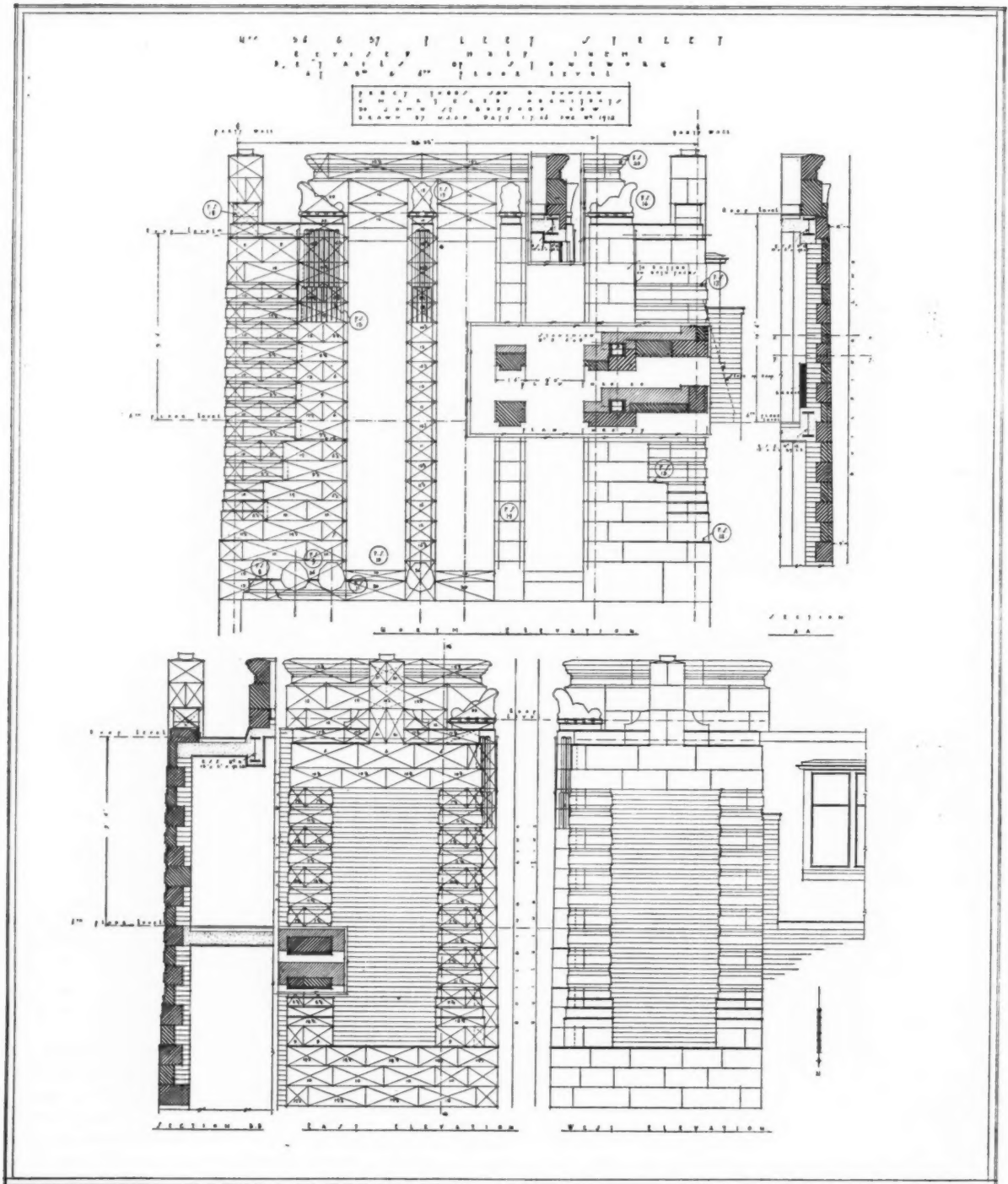
STONWORK DETAILS

[BY PERCY TUBBS, SON AND DUNCAN]

THE WEEK'S DETAIL

[BY PERCY TUBBS, SON AND DUNCAN]

The Fleet Street frontage of the "Glasgow Herald" building was very restricted, being 24 ft., while the height was 80 ft. Verticality was the dominant note, and was frankly accepted. To have attempted to disguise this characteristic by strong horizontals would have been merely a contradiction in terms. The cornice at the fifth-floor level is scarcely more than a stringcourse, and serves to carry flood-lighting lamps. The adjoining buildings are much lower, and it was therefore necessary to treat the party walls in some architectural manner. The upper portion of the building, as seen from Fleet Street, is virtually a tower.



A photograph of this detail is given on the preceding page.



Wednesday, November 9, 1927

THE CATHEDRAL COMMISSION

THERE is no doubt that the commissioners appointed by the Church Assembly have made a valuable report on the cathedrals. It is particularly useful in regard to the finance and organization of these foundations. But this, though welcome to all Englishmen, is not the proper business of architects. Our interest in the report rests with the recommendation which will affect the fabrics of the cathedral buildings.

Concerning these the Commission recommends that "In regard to questions affecting fabric, fittings, and ornaments, including monuments and memorials, authority should lie with the Chapter. The Chapter should always have a competent consulting architect, who should inspect and report upon the fabric at regular intervals, and whose advice should be obtained by it, not only as to the condition of the fabric, but also as to the fitness of all ornaments, furniture, monuments, or memorials offered to or placed in the cathedral."

It is to be noted that the functions of the cathedral architect are not precisely defined, and one very important rule in this regard is omitted. Before making further reference to this rule some comment may be made as to the title of the man who shall serve a chapter in this important capacity. The title surveyor has much to recommend it; it has a dignity derived of older use. The surveyor to St. Paul's Cathedral and the surveyor of Westminster Abbey are noble appointments, highly respected on account of their great responsibility and because of the list of distinguished men who have held these offices in old days. And the title surveyor is better fitted to indicate the duty of this servant of a cathedral than is that of architect, because—and this touches on the omitted rule referred to above—the person occupying this position should be forbidden to design any new buildings, ornaments or fittings which from time to time may become necessary. This is important. The present surveyor of Westminster Abbey holds this view strongly, though there is none more capable of such work than he is. Shortly put, the surveyor or architect appointed to supervise the maintenance and repair of cathedral buildings and to advise on the suitability of new works should be paid a regular salary for his work, and one which will not be increased with an increase of the changes made to the building. The surveyor should carry through all the ordinary repairs that may be necessary; he should advise the Chapter when a second opinion is desirable; he should be free to analyse and explain what are the merits and defects of such an opinion when it is obtained, and this not only in regard to structural matters, but also as to those affecting æsthetic changes. It may be held that thus to

limit the functions of the cathedral architect (for we will return to the title used by the Commission) is to belittle his office. This is not so, for if a man with the high qualities of Professor Lethaby is willing to impose voluntarily these limits to his duties no other need fear to follow his example.

That the restriction is of the utmost importance we will readily admit when we think of regrettable changes that have been made within our memory by architects whose duty it was to conserve the ancient rather than to enjoy the delights and fruits of designing men.

And this architect will also be responsible for the maintenance of the buildings within the forecourts of the cathedral, the houses of the close, the walls about it, and the gateways in the walls.

The Commission makes another important suggestion, namely, the formation of a central fund for the repair of cathedrals; this seems very desirable in the interest of those Chapters who have not the sympathy of the public, and also to prevent the abuse of that sympathy. It is a sorry enlightenment to read that the recent appeal for Westminster Abbey, with its exaggerated alarms, actually left that body with more money than is really needed for the maintenance of the building. "It appears that £12,000 per annum might be sufficient to meet ordinary repairs," but they have £13,550 specially subscribed or set aside for this purpose. Few do not hope that no part of this money will be diverted to build new halls as places for the memorials to England's dead. Many feel that it should be an undeviating rule that no new buildings should be added to a group of such historic value as is that at Westminster.

And while we consider this sum so doubtfully described as being possibly sufficient for the upkeep of Westminster Abbey, it is interesting to compare the estimates made for other cathedral churches. For Southwark, £500 per annum is thought enough; for Peterborough, when the present exceptional repairs are done, £1,500 per annum; for Canterbury it appears £3,000 may be enough. At Norwich the interest on £10,000 is the figure stated.¹

The centralization of the funds devoted to the upkeep of cathedrals also may be followed by another advantage. It is possible that through it a school of workmen specially expert in repair may come into existence, drawn from the present staffs of the various Chapters, which would be comparable to those which have come into being under the Ancient Monuments Department of H.M.O.W., and in a lesser degree under Mr. Wm. Weir and the S.P.A.B.

¹ At Westminster it is hoped that the Dean's salary may be raised by £1,000 per annum.

NEWS AND TOPICS

THE ASSISTANTS' MINIMUM WAGE—THE DINNER TO MR. VOYSEY—THE R.I.B.A. PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS—A WESTMINSTER VALHALLA—GREATER LONDON TOWN PLANNING

THE news that the three years' negotiations between the A.A.S.T.A. and the R.I.B.A. on the question of minimum salaries have ended in the R.I.B.A. Council turning down the proposals is most unsatisfactory and disquieting. That there is a real need of them cannot for a moment be seriously questioned, since the ridiculously low salaries now paid to assistant architects are well known. The A.A.S.T.A.'s report gives one a distinct impression that so far as the R.I.B.A. Council is concerned the proceedings have been more or less a calculated farce. To at least half of the members, and many non-members, the establishment of a basic minimum rate of remuneration is a very real issue. Unfortunately, very few of the men affected sit on the Council. The Council is almost exclusively composed of principal and employing architects, and appears not to have realized the danger of differentiating between employing and salaried members. It seems to have forgotten the existence of a certain scale of charges, in itself a full justification of the A.A.S.T.A.'s claim for equal treatment all round.

The complete silence on the part of the R.I.B.A. since turning down the proposals is not reassuring; neither is the fact that each joint-committee agreed on the detailed recommendation, nor that the principal allied societies were in favour of the proposals. That there will be a strong feeling of resentment against this harsh and unreasonable decision I have no doubt, as well as a renewal of those complaints which become more and more common, that the Royal Institute, apart from awarding a diploma, does nothing material towards improving the status of its salaried members. In any case it is obvious that the incentive to make private practitioners charge according to the R.I.B.A. scale of charges can come about only if they have to pay adequate salaries to assistants. I believe many employers favour the establishment of minimum salaries for this reason alone.

In signaling the completion of the seventieth year of Mr. Voysey's active life by entertaining him at a public dinner (on November 17) the Council of the Royal Institute of British Architects has, in a most happy way, identified itself with the sentiment of admiration of all who know his work, and with the esteem and affection with which he is regarded by his many acquaintances and friends. In honouring Mr. Voysey (writes a correspondent) the Institute does honour to itself; for the same independence of thought which has placed all architects—whether they know it or not—in his debt, has led Mr. Voysey to stand apart from the Institute, of which he has never been a member. The forthcoming dinner, therefore, is no family affair of a mutual admiration society, but a spontaneous expression of the high esteem of British architects all over the world for the achievements of one who, in the most literal sense, is an independent practitioner.

Mr. Voysey's work, both in domestic architecture and in the field of furniture, fabrics, and wall-paper design, is well known. His individuality as an artist is, in fact, so strong that once to see any design of his is to recognize any other of his works. It may be said that the force of this individuality has never been surpassed by any designer, and

that in architecture it has never been equalled. It is remarkable, too, that this individuality was mature when Mr. Voysey was himself very young. At thirty he was in active practice as a prolific designer of houses and their accessories, and the work of those early days is as emphatic in its identity as any he has done since or is doing now. Those who were not on the scene when Mr. Voysey suddenly appeared, fully equipped, upon it may thus form an idea of the effect produced by the freshness and independence of his work; it was an event that has had no counterpart since; but those only who were actively on the field can know the force of the example sustained in "Voysey designs," for only they know the vigour of the innovations involved in them. Since those days the ideas presented by Mr. Voysey have been absorbed by designers; many of his devices are now commonplaces of modern house architecture, and the principles he then inculcated are established in the angle from which the practising architect of today approaches his work. Thus it is that a new generation is imperfectly aware of what architecture owes to the genius of C. F. A. Voysey, just as it is imperfectly aware of the genius of an artist in another field, a contemporary of our architect—Mr. Rudyard Kipling.

Mr. Walter Tapper's presidential address to the R.I.B.A. on Monday night took the form of a calm survey of the Institute's year past and the probable events of its year to come. There was nothing exciting. Some mild hopes were expressed for the provision of an adequate home for the Institute, and the little matter of Registration is to be pressed forward. It seems likely that the R.I.B.A. will have one of the most conservative two years it has experienced. The Dean of Westminster, who moved the vote of thanks, simply had to mention the Abbey, and he took the opportunity of saying that the question of finding room for its monuments was not a new one. Gladstone had raised it, and the whole thing had been dealt with in a Blue Book in 1890. Whatever controversy might be raised, the matter was not one for the referendum of the man in the street, nor for any democratic action whatsoever, but would be settled only by the aristocracy of art. During the evening the London Architecture Medal was presented to Mr. Hubert Lidbetter. A surprise of the evening was the election to membership of Mr. M. H. Baillie-Scott.

It is always interesting to learn how other countries are meeting similar architectural difficulties to our own. I hear that one of America's most historic villages, Yorktown, has been sadly spoilt of recent years by industrial buildings and by injudicious restoration. During the war a number of ugly frame houses, munition stores, and oil supplies were built, for Yorktown was the place where the Atlantic fleet was held in readiness. Various historic houses in the town, dating from the Queen Anne period, have been spoilt by incongruous additions. There is, for example, "Ye Olde Yorktown Hotel," where George Washington and Lafayette are supposed to have been entertained, sadly disfigured. In another case, Digges House, said to date from 1705, the owners very wisely called in an experienced architect, and the restoration has been carried out in accordance with the traditions of the Early Georgian period. A granite memorial, erected to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the surrender of Yorktown in 1881, is quite out of keeping with this village, which is regarded as one of the architectural treasures of the United States.

I am glad to see the strong line taken by the Cathedrals Commissioners, whose report was published last Friday, against unwise restoration of architectural features. It is pointed out, for example, that at Durham Cathedral the architect is suggesting the replacement of moulding which had been removed by Wyatt in the late eighteenth century. "If our information was correct," states the report, "we think that this is to be deprecated, and that there are very strong objections to any attempt at restoration of this character." All through the report there is considerable attention given to architecture. This, no doubt, is partly due to one of the members on the Commission being Mr. Walter Tapper. Especially as regards the suggested place of the National Memorial, to be erected within the grounds of Westminster Abbey, is the greatest sympathy shown to architectural considerations. One suggestion is that a new building should be erected between the Chapter House and Old Palace Yard, for which Sir Herbert Baker has already prepared some rough sketches and plans. "If the elevation were kept low, the building would not seriously spoil the view of the Chapter House (not in itself externally one of the most beautiful of the Abbey buildings) and Henry VII's Chapel, and might even enhance the grouping and beauty of these structures." It is suggested that a skilful and imaginative architect could be trusted to devise schemes for relieving any monotony of the suggested cloisters. There is a good deal of opposition on the part of some of the Commissioners to the proposal, specially associated with the late Mr. Pearson, for a new north aisle stretching from the north transept to the west front. Such a building would, of course, be in full harmony with the French associations of the Abbey architecture, and would resemble similar features in the Cathedrals of Notre Dame at Paris and of Amiens. Lord Crawford is of the opinion that this is "the ideal scheme," but probably popular opinion will regard any complete change in the normal aspect of the Abbey with dislike, if not with resentment.

* * *

A past generation of architectural students frequently exercised its artistic skill in the creation of ideal memorial halls to contain effigies of the famous dead, and now this purely academic training in the design of "a National Valhalla" would seem to have been more useful than we were inclined to suppose. The proposal of the Cathedrals Commission revives, in official form, a notion that has been long familiar, for various schemes of this nature have been published from time to time during the last thirty-six years. Opinion is divided as to the merits of the scheme, for anything that would hide or disfigure the effect of the ancient Abbey will be repugnant to the antiquarians, and the Society for the Preservation of Ancient Buildings has already made this point clear. There would seem to be far less objection to the erection of a separate building on another site, and the success of the Winchester memorial cloister may be quoted in defence of the general idea of new memorial buildings being erected near to old-established works without detriment to the group effect. Whatever is done should be the result of careful planning and public criticism; and Mr. W. Reynold-Stephens, president of the Royal Society of Sculptors, has made a pertinent suggestion that "a public exhibition of possible schemes should be held—not merely drawings, which few of the public understand—but models all made to one scale." If the proposed building could be made to contain

some of the existing too terribly classic memorials with which the Abbey is at present overcrowded, the scheme might meet with hearty approval from lovers of medieval architecture who visit or worship in the building, and who find its present appearance distracting in the extreme.

* * *

The London County Council have admittedly shown a spirit of procrastination in their general attitude towards London's bridges. The Conference of the Greater London Joint Town Planning Committee, held at the Ministry of Health last Wednesday, revealed an equal lack of appreciation of the magnitude of the problem, or of the inevitable expense in preparing a development plan. American cities have raised large sums by voluntary subscription, from business men, who wished communications to be improved and open spaces provided. The plan for New York, for example, cost nearly \$300,000. Even Manchester was ready to pay more than London for its regional plan, and over £8,000 a year for three years was available. But Greater London, with an area of 2,000 sq. miles, double that of the Manchester region, and with far more complicated problems to solve, imagines that it will obtain a satisfactory plan for £4,400 per year. If the L.C.C. as a body had a tenth of the vision and enthusiasm displayed by American and Manchester business men, they would have voted £10,000 at least a year in order that no time might be lost, and experts engaged in order to try and relieve the increasing pressure upon the centre of London.

* * *

The well-known Berlin architect, Geheimrat Hermann Muthesius, has lost his life in a tragical manner. Stepping out of a motor-car and crossing the street without looking round, he was knocked over by a tramcar and died shortly afterwards. Hermann Muthesius's equivalent in this country was, perhaps, the late Ernest Newton, and he was one of a very exclusive circle of German architects, such as the late Ernest Newton, Sir Ernest George, Mr. Guy Dawber, Professor Lethaby, and a few others formed here. Erich Mendelssohn, Hans Poelzig, and Bruno Taut were shunned by Muthesius, and when we are able to take a long look back we shall probably find that the work of Muthesius and his circle was the most real. Born in 1861 in Grossneuhausen, he studied in Berlin, and at first practised in Japan. Then he came to London as technical attaché to the German Embassy, when he received the inspiration for his two books which obtained for him friends and followers here, *The Newer Ecclesiastical Architecture of England* and *The English House*. Well acquainted with English domestic work and the domestic life of the last century, in Germany he was able to speak with knowledge of the importance of the small house, to the "moral influence of living in the one-family house," and he condemned the apartment-house hitherto so popular in Berlin. He established himself in his own country as a practical architect, and his comprehension of his profession is evidenced in the opening words of his *Kleinhaus und Kleinsiedlung*: "Architecture is the great educator of the people, and all efforts to cultivate the feeling for beautiful things are in vain so long as we suffer our country to be filled with ugly buildings."

* * *

All who have practical experience of the actual cost of building houses must at times be annoyed at announcements in the daily Press, and statements by politicians

that at last cottages are being built at low cost, and let at low rents. I recently investigated a statement that working-class cottages were being built at £360 each and let at 5s. a week. This was true, but the writer omitted to state that the £360 was exclusive of the cost of the land, roads and sewers, of the architect's fees for the preparation of the drawings, specifications, and tenders, or of the clerk of works salary, or of the local surveyor's fees. Including these costs the price worked out at £450. Furthermore, the rent of 5s. a week failed to cover the cost, and there was a net dead loss per annum of £9. In short, the statement was grossly misleading. These grotesque announcements are wrongly encouraging the public to expect a considerable fall in prices.

* * *

Bell Yard, of which I give a photograph, has altered so vastly since this little picture was taken that few would be likely to recognize it as here portrayed. The erection of the Law Courts on its immediate west was responsible for the destruction of all the houses on that side and the substitution of the iron railings which reach from Fleet Street to Carey Street. Like so many of these by-ways, it takes its name from a tavern once existing in it. This hostelry belonged to the priors of St. John in early days, and is mentioned in the Parish Register for 1572. There is, I think, little doubt that the street was actually formed out of the old inn yard. At a later time, when people of importance lived hereabouts, Fortescue, the friend of Pope, was a resident in Bell Yard, while in later times, when fashion had gone to the West, Neckitt, who was employed at Coavinses, and "the man from Shropshire," both lived here, as readers of *Bleak House* (wherein one chapter is headed "Bell Yard") are aware. At one time Bell Yard must have been quite a busy little commercial thoroughfare (although Fortescue called it a "filthy old place"), if we are to judge by the number of trade-tokens that have survived and which were issued by former inhabitants.



Bell Yard, Fleet Street.

A newspaper item, stating that one day last week an ornamental fragment of the plaster ceiling of the Southwark Cathedral chapter house incontinently fell to the floor, need not excite our special wonder. We are becoming accustomed to such occurrences. Canons are callous to them, nor do bishops blench. All plaster ceilings must fall sooner or later, and this chapter house was built in 1702. A plaster ceiling a century and a quarter old could hardly be expected to withstand the nasty jars of modern motor traffic. It happened that a meeting of the Chapter was being held when the fragment fell, but nobody was hit, and the church dignitaries present continued their palaver unscathed and unscared. Possibly some of them recalled the antiquated jest that has been profanely thought proper to such an accident, namely, "*fiat justitiam, ruat CEILING.*" For my part, I hold that such a perversion is distinctly unclerical, if not absolutely heretical. "Joking apart," it may be useful to note that this Southwark Cathedral chapter house was originally a church dedicated to St. Thomas. It was at one time used as a chapel pertaining to St. Thomas's Hospital, which stood adjacent to it until 1862, when the South-Eastern Railway Company bought the hospital site for £296,000, thus enabling the governors to rebuild on the magnificent river-side site opposite the Houses of Parliament.

* * *

It is not possible to consider Bath from any one of the aspects upon which one can usually form ideas of a town; architecturally, geologically, and geographically it is superb, and yet even after taking all these contributions together and adding the proper literary, musical, historical, and social values the idea is hopelessly incomplete. Bath is, in fact, an atmosphere—a great idea which seems to run back through the centuries, and which is comparable only with a man's love of the country which bred him. The atmosphere is primarily of the eighteenth century; while you are in the city you seem to catch a breath of the pompous splendour which once ruled there; the gossip and intrigues; the fine clothes and the elegance and the nice gentility. That, better than anything else, proves the genius of John Wood; he found a tradition in Bath, and starting from that nucleus, he built and thought in advance of his own time; and yet his own age was forced to accept and value what he gave it; and not only his age, but succeeding generations have been continuously saturated with the idea which Wood held, and have carried on the tradition.

* * *

The lesson of the Spirit of Bath is one which could profitably be learnt by every other town in the country, and by the community at large. We are in the midst of an age when town planning has come into the forefront of men's minds, but, unlike Wood, we have utterly failed to appreciate the innate fitness of things to certain neighbourhoods; we plan the surface admirably, but we do not strike deeply enough at the emotional roots of the matter, either in laying out a district or in designing the houses; we have much still to learn of the subtleties of architecture and town planning. And it is something strange to consider that the "Bath Clause" should have been evolved and adopted by that city which, from surface appearances at least, has the smallest need of it.

ASTRAGAL

MY FIRST JOB

[BY M. L. A.]

iii: P. QUENTIN SMARTERLY

AN enterprising young man whose identity is here veiled in the name of Smarterly, an assistant in the office of a practising architect, waited and waited for a client. None of the people he knew, nor any of their friends, seemed to have any strong leaning towards building houses of their own; competition work might be a useful source of clients in the long run, but it is also precarious and apt to be expensive; advertising was out of the question. "Se no va el otero a Mahoma, vaya Mahoma al otero," was a piece of fine resignation on the part of the prophet, but such conduct would be horribly unprofessional in an architect. But being cooped up in somebody else's office, with small chance to let his imagination and ideas have their freedom, bored and irritated Mr. Smarterly, so he went on thinking, and at last he thought of a stratagem.

There existed at that time a pleasant village, not too far from London, and yet quite in the country, and just beginning to feel the breeze of development. It was not, in any sense of the word, "suburbia," but had a definite character of its own, and there was a considerable amount of land for sale in and around it; it was, in short, an admirable place from Mr. Smarterly's point of view. So he chose a site which had plenty of good building land on all sides, and there he built himself a house. A good house it was, echoing the vernacular style of the neighbourhood and yet unquestionably new, and full of a character of its own. When it was finished he decorated and furnished it tastefully, and properly in harmony with its design; then he moved in.

When a trap has been laid it must be left for a time before being actually set, so that all traces of human agency may disappear; so Mr. Smarterly lived on in his house while it gradually acquired the atmosphere of occupation, and, after a suitable interval, put up a notice board stating that it was "To be Sold." Before very long the fish began to nibble; people passing in the road (which was a good, broad road) would stop and look at the house; some of them came in to have a closer inspection; but when they asked how soon they could have possession they were always told: "Not for six months, at least." That was a great pity; it was a charming house—the very thing; but six months—hm!

Having got them thus far, Mr. Smarterly suggested that, as they liked the house so much, they should build one for themselves on the same lines—adding, of course, that by so doing they could incorporate their own ideas; he emphasized the need for a good architect, and followed with a discourse upon the salient qualities of that being, who would prove himself to be their best friend in giving expert advice and in shouldering the responsibility for the actual building operations, and so forth—and all for a proportional fee! How long would the house take to build? About three months. Who built *this* house? Well, as a matter of fact—!

It was some little time before anybody finally yielded to these blandishments, and actually commissioned from Mr. Smarterly his "first job"; and when the time came at last, it so turned out that his first and second houses were to be

so interdependent that it is impossible to dissociate them from one another.

The first client was a lady who, however, had so clear an idea of what she wanted that, instead of following blindly the design of the house which had taken her fancy, she determined upon a bungalow. The "Proposed Bungalow" had a court in front of it, and the architect made a most elaborate and attractive crayon sketch in perspective, of the sort best calculated to dispose of any fears which a client might have; this he submitted, with the drawings, to the agents who administered that particular estate. There was, of course, the usual delay which, in this instance, lasted so long that the client had time to change her mind, and would now build, instead of the bungalow, a two-story house. So Mr. Smarterly started afresh on a completely new design, and this was eventually carried out.

Now, but for Mr. Smarterly's peculiar good fortune, the bungalow drawings would have represented little but an expensive waste of time. But these drawings were still lying on the table at the agent's office, since they were no longer of any value to the architect, and the agent dared not, on his own responsibility, destroy them. A young couple who were shortly going to be married walked into the house agent's room one day to inquire about houses vacant in the neighbourhood; they saw the drawings and fell immediately in love with the design. Seeing the name on the various sheets they called at once on Mr. Smarterly, and in due course the bungalow was built almost exactly on the lines chosen by the previous client.

Having once established a footing in the neighbourhood, work followed almost automatically, as each client, as he was satisfied, recommended his architect to his friends who had ideas of building; so that before very long Mr. Smarterly had a thriving practice in and about his village, and even began to draw work from farther afield.

When one hears of jobs arising so directly and so rapidly out of one another, the whole idea of starting a practice sounds most invitingly easy (even accepting the time and trouble of making the first move); but there has been, in point of fact, another factor, which has not yet been mentioned, but which has contributed enormously to success in this instance, and which, so far from being a question of luck or chance, has been a definite part of the architect's diplomacy. Mr. Smarterly is a strong believer in the personal element. "Never write to people," he says. "Go and see them. If a prospective client writes to you asking for information, don't write the answer to him; 6 per cent. looks rotten on paper and will probably frighten him; send him a postcard to say that you will be in his neighbourhood in a day or two and will call. Then you can watch his face for signs of distress and hasten to reassure him." That is his invariable rule; and it is, of course, well known that where a man cannot steel himself to give a refusal by word of mouth he will seek refuge in the telephone or by writing, after first asking for time to consider!

Mr. Quentin Smarterly's most recent job came to him just because of that personal contact with his client. He had a letter asking for information about a house which he proposed to build: How long would it take? What fee would the architect ask? And so forth. The architect went down to see him and his wife, and they discussed the question until the client knew the answers to all his questions, and had, besides, quite a new idea of architects and their uses; they all had dinner; then they had a drink or two; and parted, leaving the architect master of the situation, and the client well satisfied that "Smarterly's a jolly good chap."

BECKENHAM TOWN HALL COMPETITION

[BY MAXWELL FRY]

BECKENHAM is one of the small town formations that lie among the little hills of South London; not entirely of the metropolis, nor yet quite out of range of the winking glass eye of the Crystal Palace. Like most of these towns, its character is mixed; the sturdy Georgian of its high places standing like islands above a sea of speculative building.

Not so very long ago the fine old houses that occupy the best positions along the main road stood bowered in trees, with gardens stretching to the fields. Now the fields are gone, and in their place stretches a panorama of tiny houses, filling up all the gaps and invading the very precincts of the main road itself. But since rates are valued on other than architectural values, Beckenham grows rich by numbers, and must have a town hall to cope with its multitudes.

It will be seen from the plans published this week that the site occupies the back portion of land adjoining the main road, with access and some frontage to it, between a row of shops and the vicarage garden. The ground falls away from the main road so that the town hall will occupy no commanding position, and in point of fact will front along its important façade a row of fussy little villas. This is not very promising ground to work on, and the difficulty of the problem is still further increased by the requirements of the Council, who wish to use the main road frontage for electricity showrooms, and suggest that the main elevation and entrance to the town hall should face the side road with an axis roughly at right angles with the major axis of the electricity showrooms.

The accommodation demanded by the conditions is classified under the heads of council chamber suite, town clerk, treasurer, surveyor, and public health, with the clinic and the electricity showrooms outside the main circulation, but directly accessible from it, while space is to be left on the site for police headquarters to be erected at a future date.

The solution of the problem calls for direct axial planning on these two major axes, with a main circulation connecting all departments with the entrance hall and with the rates office, which must presumably occupy some central position on the ground floor under the council chamber. That this is so is abundantly proved by the winning design of Messrs. Lanchester, Lucas and Lodge, which, in a class apart, is as simple and direct as any plan could be. The electricity showrooms extend the full allowable frontage on the main road in three bays, forming wide windows through which the showrooms will be very visible from the pavement. Four small "model rooms" are tucked away in the corners, while the centre bay is carried back to form an apsidal-ended staircase-well, which effectively masks the change in direction and leads directly along a corridor to the main circulation.

The town hall proper needs no comment. It is a straightforward arrangement of rooms around an open court, with a council chamber occupying a central position on the first floor, and staircases leading pretty directly to it. It seems a pity, descending for a moment to detail, that the axis in the council chamber itself should be at loggerheads with that of the approach to it. I should like to be able to see the chairman's throne closing the vista, or, at least, to feel that it was in some way the climax to the staircase. However that may be, it is only a detail of the plan and does not affect the main clarity of its disposition. The clinic building, placed so that it will eventually act as a connecting-link between the town hall and the police headquarters, is in the same order of planning, and a very neat, economic piece of work. The little "pram park" is a happy thought.

Messrs. Webber's and Cheadle's scheme, placed second, follows the winning scheme in its main disposition, but includes within the town hall block the clinic, which most competitors made a separate building. I do not think that its inclusion within the circulation of the town hall need cramp the accommodation unduly, and it must be ascribed to other causes if this plan has a rather tight and uncomfortable look about it. The corridors are rather too narrow for their length, and at their junctions with staircases and entrances receive not quite enough accentuation, nor yet much light. The plan, in short, is a little rigid, and lacks generous handling.

The third premiated design of Mr. W. Naseby Adams pursues a line of its own, and attempts to give greater significance to the town hall and electricity department by boldly cutting a road across the site, separating entirely the clinic from the main block and, unfortunately, owing to the limitations of site, the electricity department too.

It is hard to see why he has done this. It may have been to add dignity to the main block that he isolated the site, or, again, the awkward ending of the electricity showrooms may have prompted him to a line of action that led him to a bold way out of his difficulties. The result gives a certain monumentality of plan on the main axis of the council chamber, but it is a fictitious value since this is an aspect of the group never to be realized from the new road. In order to achieve some symmetry in this approach he is led to play with cornice heights between main block and council chamber, in spite of disparity in bulk.

The elevations arising out of these plans are most unexpectedly disappointing. The assessor is right in saying that the winning design alone exhibits the character of a town hall. The others do fall short of what one may reasonably expect in such a building, and yet I beg leave to say that it is high time that this overwrought type of brick and stone building which is so familiarly the accepted pattern for town halls, and which the winning designer serves up again, has had its day. It may exhibit all the virtues of good and suave planning, and yet the thing is a failure, purely because the elevations are worked to a formula postulated in the dim and distant past when a tower with sculptured ladies handling fruit on convenient niches was a thing to wonder at.

It seemed to me that Messrs. Lanchester, Lucas and Lodge's scheme considered in detail was ill-proportioned, not only in the relation of void to solid, but in the balance of part with part. With such a good plan it ought to be easy, with study, to produce elevations that are a refined and well-proportioned reflection of it.

FOUR HOUSES IN DEVON

[BY T. S. ATTLEE]

AMONG the duties imposed upon the architect none is more important than that of subordinating his own fancies to the character and traditions of the country into which he is to introduce his buildings. In the devastated areas of modern industrialism a touch of the fantastic and extravagant is welcome amid those dull and monotonous stretches of streets and factories. But the rich, contented countryside of Devon, packed full with the beauties of moor, stream, and sea, asks for a sympathetic restraint in the architect, if his creations are to settle down comfortably as natives, instead of standing awkwardly about as intruders.

The houses by Messrs. Orphoot, Whiting and Bryce at Bideford, illustrated here, fulfil this condition admirably. Plastered faces and thatched roofs, a squat and spreading chimney-stack, walls of stone quarried from the very hill on which the house stands—all these show a sympathetic appreciation of the tradition and resources of the locality. The houses grow out of the soil, and if "Tordown," at Budleigh Salterton, with its black glazed pantiles, green shutters, and scrolly Dutch gables seems to strike another note, it must be remembered that we have crossed to the other side of the county, and not far off, at Topsham, there is old work of a like character to keep it in countenance.

In comparing these houses it is interesting to observe that the architects are most successful where the difficulties were greatest, and the restrictions most numerous. At

"Landfall," Instow, the site comprised only one-third of an acre; all building had to be confined within a square of 50 ft., right against a busy main road; no windows, or only obscured ones, could be allowed on the north-west side; it was essential to take full advantage of the beautiful view across the Torridge estuary on the south and south-west.

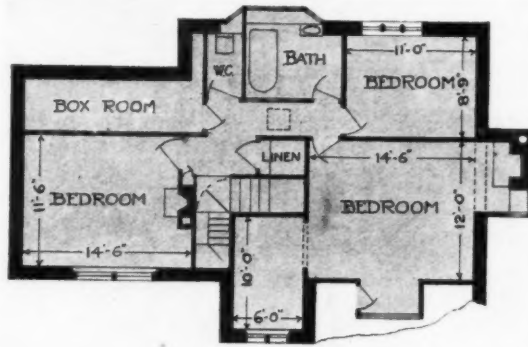
Consideration of the plan will show how admirably these conditions have been met. A screened courtyard (on which are grouped the baths, pantries, etc.) secures privacy from the road; all the rooms, except one bedroom, face in the desired direction, and the fall of the ground is utilized to the full in the provision of a garage under the smoking-room. The smoking-room itself is entered half-way up the stairs, looks over its shoulder, so to speak, to get its share of the view, and, with its simple open timber roof, contrasts well with the low ceilings elsewhere in the house. The elevations have been treated very simply, almost with austerity; but where the architect has allowed himself to smile, as in the delightful little staircase angle above the courtyard, the corbelled corner on the north side, and the little bow window in the smoking-room, the effect is very happy.

At "Goatshill," Northam, the architect had to deal with a position of unusual beauty. High above the River Torridge the hill slopes steeply down to the water's edge. On the east side it is wooded, and in the distance in front lies the town of Bideford. The site had to be levelled out



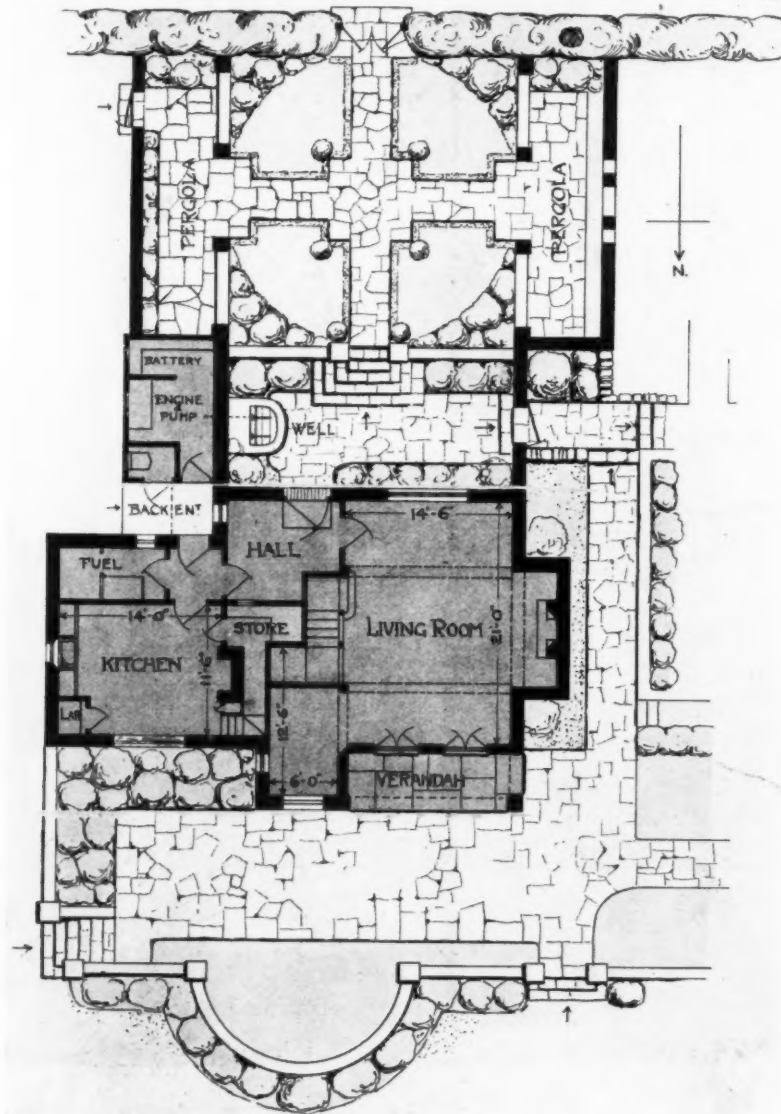
House at Bideford, North Devon. By Orphoot, Whiting and Bryce. The entrance front.

of the hill. The stone so obtained was used for the walls of the house (lined with breeze blocks and a cavity for warmth and dryness), and the beams and much of the woodwork came from the *Revenge*, the last-built wooden British warship, which was broken up at Appledore close by. Thus the very stones of Bideford and the memories of its seafaring have been built into the house. The excellent thatching (of Norfolk reed) is an encouraging sign that that art is still far from extinction. The outstanding features of the plan are the studio on the first floor and the loggia, with satisfactorily stout angle piers below it. One wonders here, however, whether the



latter might not have spared another foot of needful width to the dining-room.

When an architect has at length brought a design to a state that almost satisfies even himself, and has been able to view his creation translated into actual material existence, nothing is more devastating to his complacency than to see the owner fail in his part, and the rooms so carefully contrived blocked up with great juggernauts of book-cases or submerged in deplorable upholstery. But in looking at these illustrations it will be seen how fortunate these architects have been. Their children are in good hands. The furniture is not only good, but inevitable,



House at Bideford, North Devon. By Orphoot, Whiting and Bryce. Above, the first-floor plan. Below, the ground-floor plan and garden lay-out.



and indicates a very desirable sympathy between owner and architect.

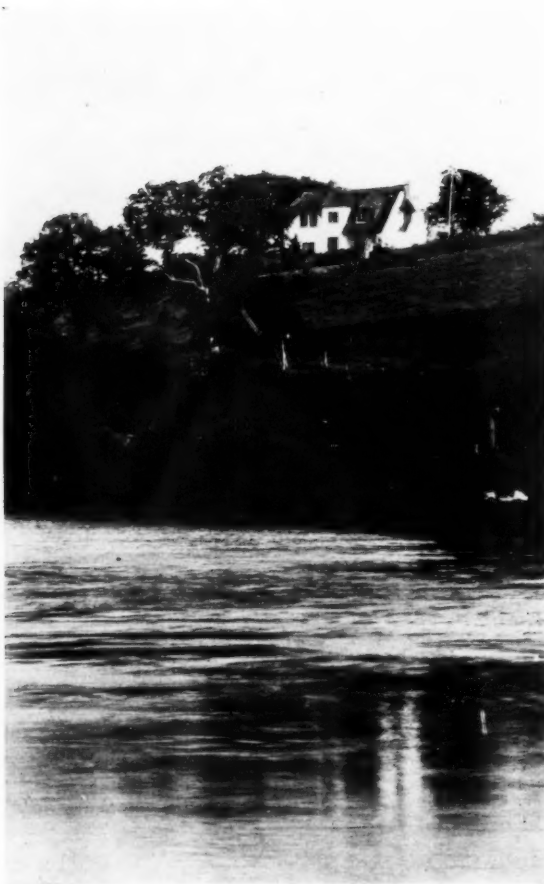
That sympathy is, perhaps, the fruit of imaginative insight into the actual detailed requirements of the everyday life of the house's occupant. "Littlecroft," at Bideford, where an architect himself dwells, exemplifies this trait very felicitously. A grand piano is at once an endless delight and an abominable nuisance. Its nature, without

form and void, unfits it for existence in a small room, and you seem to spend half your days dodging its sprawling presence. Here it has been coaxed into a recess, and the adjacent staircase is so cunningly contrived that, though it is imprisoned, it is given outlet enough to be audible.

All the staircases, by the way, in these houses are worth study, for their balusters, handrails, and newels are very satisfactory indeed, the going is easy, and the landings



*House at Bideford, North Devon. By Orphoot, Whiting and Bryce.
Above, view from the north-east. Below, view from the north-west.*



*House at Bideford, North Devon.
By Orphoot, Whiting and Bryce.
Above, view from the south,
looking towards Bideford, with
the Long Bridge, of which Mr.
Whiting is warden, in the distance.
Below, a view from the river.*



House at Bideford, North Devon. By Orphoot, Whiting and Bryce. Above, the living-room, looking towards the staircase, and the piano recess. Below, the kitchen, with the scullery fitment opened.



GROUND FLOOR

FIRST FLOOR

Scale 10 5 0 10 20 30 40 50 FEET

House at Northam, North Devon. By Orphoot, Whiting and Bryce. Above, the garden front. Below, the plans.



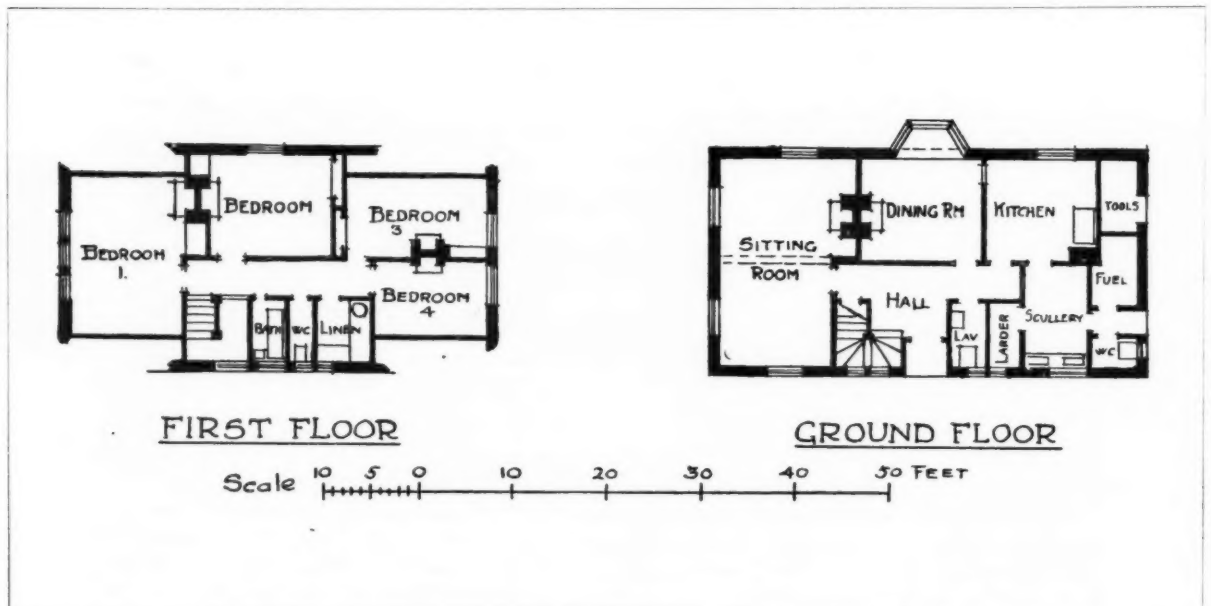
House at Northam, North Devon. By Orphoot, Whiting and Bryce.



ample. The misery of dark, steep, and winding stairs will be minimized only by those who, engaged in business all day, lodge rather than live in their houses, and regard the stairs as only a ladder to bed or breakfast.

The scullery fitment at "Littlecroft" is another piece of work that shows a real appreciation of the small and overwhelmingly important details of existence. Here,

surely, is the work of a man who has himself "washed up" not infrequently, and, in consequence, is determined to convert that daily drudgery to a work of art. It is the curse of the age that the people who design things are not the people who use them. More than once has one heard the wish expressed—not without a certain malignant emphasis—that architects, before they are allowed to



House at Budleigh Salterton, Devon. By Orphoot, Whiting and Bryce. Above, the north (entrance) front. Below, the plans.



House at Budleigh Salterton, Devon. By Orphoot, Whiting and Bryce. Above, the south (garden) front

design houses, might have a prolonged experience of managing them; and those who daily wrestle in dark sculleries with saucepans that tremble on unstable hooks and plates that cascade from inadequate draining-boards will sigh enviously for this fitment, so ample, light, airy, convenient, and, above all, sightly.

As in "Goatshill," the fireplace has a roomy ingle-nook, that most delectable feature which doubles the comfort of a big room and is almost essential if you mean to burn wood, which makes the jolliest of all fires, but creates, too, a draught, which can only be eluded by building a nook that will baffle it.

The temptation to employ an elliptical arch (as here) over an ingle's opening is very great; its shape, with its hunched shoulders, is so convenient. But, to one architect at any rate, it rarely seems satisfactory. The smallest deviation from its exact line offends one; except over small spans, and with a deep soffit, there is a lurking suggestion of instability, which only disappears when the vousoirs are heavy and dig themselves deeply into the surrounding masonry.

As in the other houses at Bideford, there is a lovely view down the Torridge, past the famous Bideford Bridge and Appledore and Instow, with their deathless memories of Amyas Leigh and Salvation Yeo, down to the seas upon which those heroes sailed. Those who read Kingsley's book in their boyhood will find, on rereading it, that the passages which wear best are those intimately visualized descriptions of that rich, kindly county of Devon, with its secluded valleys, deep in fern, its farms among the apple trees, its sounding woods along shallow estuaries. How kindly that climate is appears in the charming forecourt of "Little-

croft," where in only four years' time the flowers and shrubs have taken the place in their arms, and the mimosa tree, which started life there no higher than your waist, has already reached the eaves and is in flower.

At "Tordown," Budleigh Salterton, we have a different environment and a different problem. Here is a bare site with no particular characteristic or difficulties. The problem was to provide the accommodation required. As a result we have a simple and economical plan, a long sitting-room with its recessed fireplace, a small dining-room with its smallness pleasantly relieved by a full bay window, and four bedrooms above grouped round a central landing.

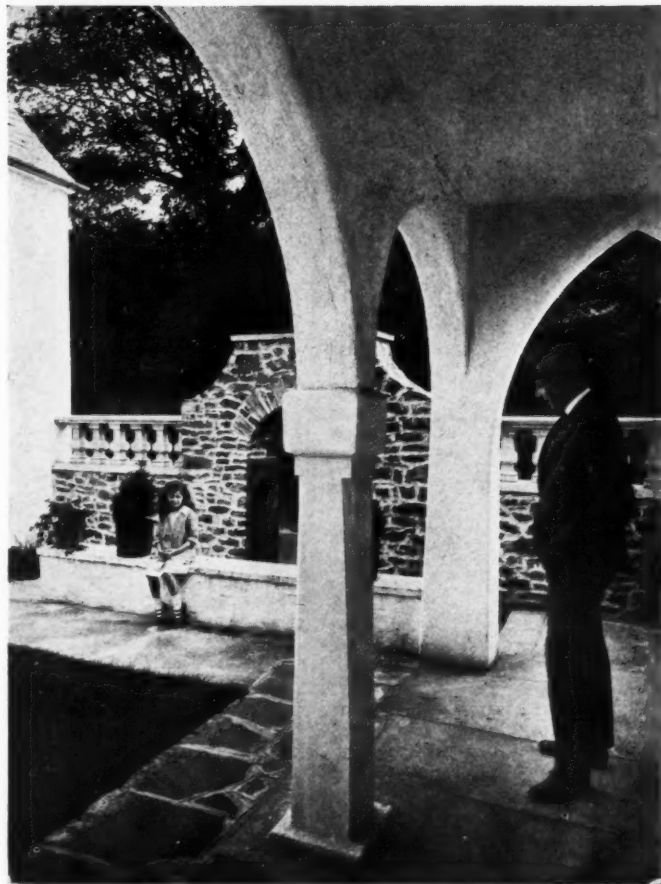
There is inevitably here some sense of restriction; the staircase has to admit winders; the bathroom and w.c. on the first floor touch the limits of smallness, and bedrooms three and four are just neatly contrived to give the necessary accommodation and nothing more.

But the treatment is appropriate to the problem. The interior is interesting for its use of Indian Gurjun for much of its woodwork—a wood rather like unstained mahogany, but slightly greyer, and used unstained and slightly waxed. Outside one notes with satisfaction the deep eaves with their boxed-in soffit, clearly the right treatment for pantiles, which here, black and glazed, reflect the sky, and look well against the creamy walls.

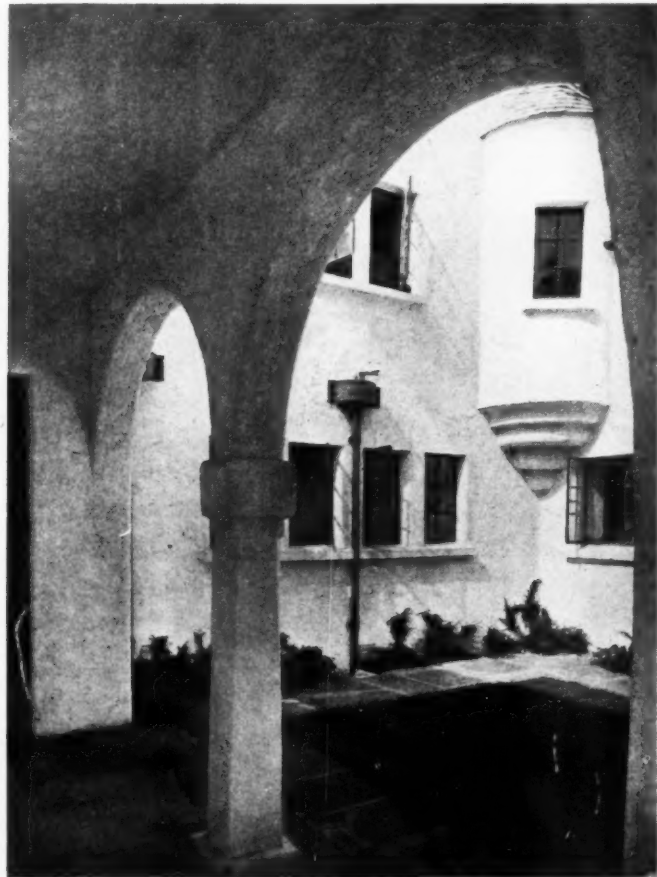
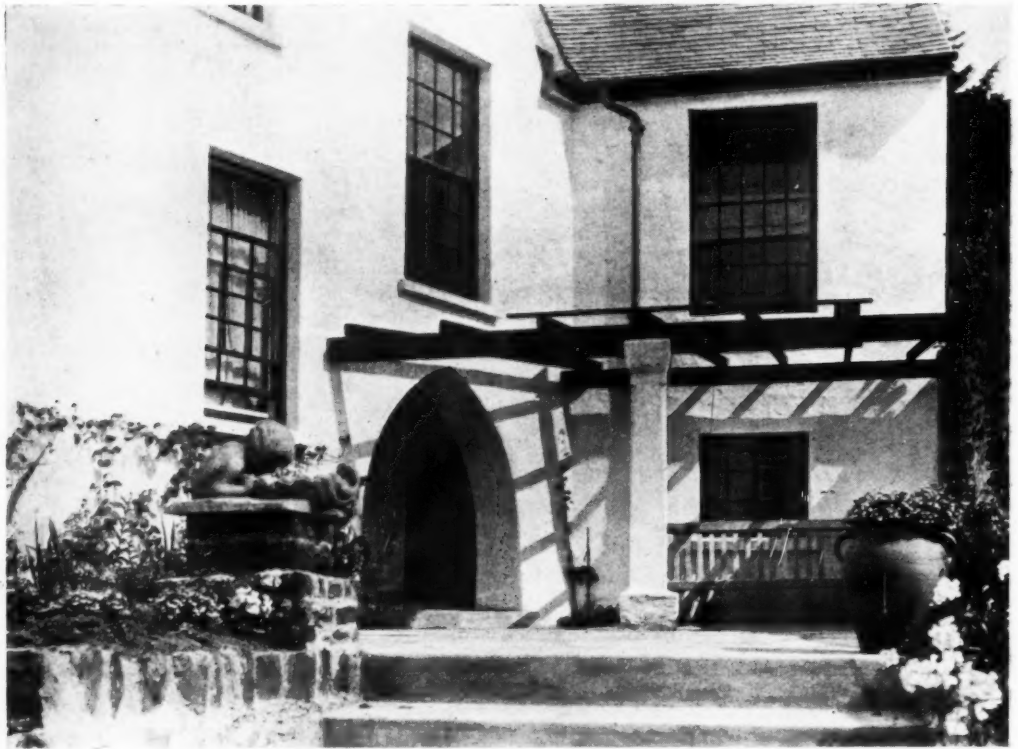
To those who have, like the writer, tramped round much of the Dorset, Devon, and Cornish coast, scrutinizing with mixed feelings the buildings that come trooping to the sea, it is reassuring to meet with houses such as these, hardy products of the soil, perennials which will be found alive, one hopes, long after the mushroom growths of bungalows have vanished away.



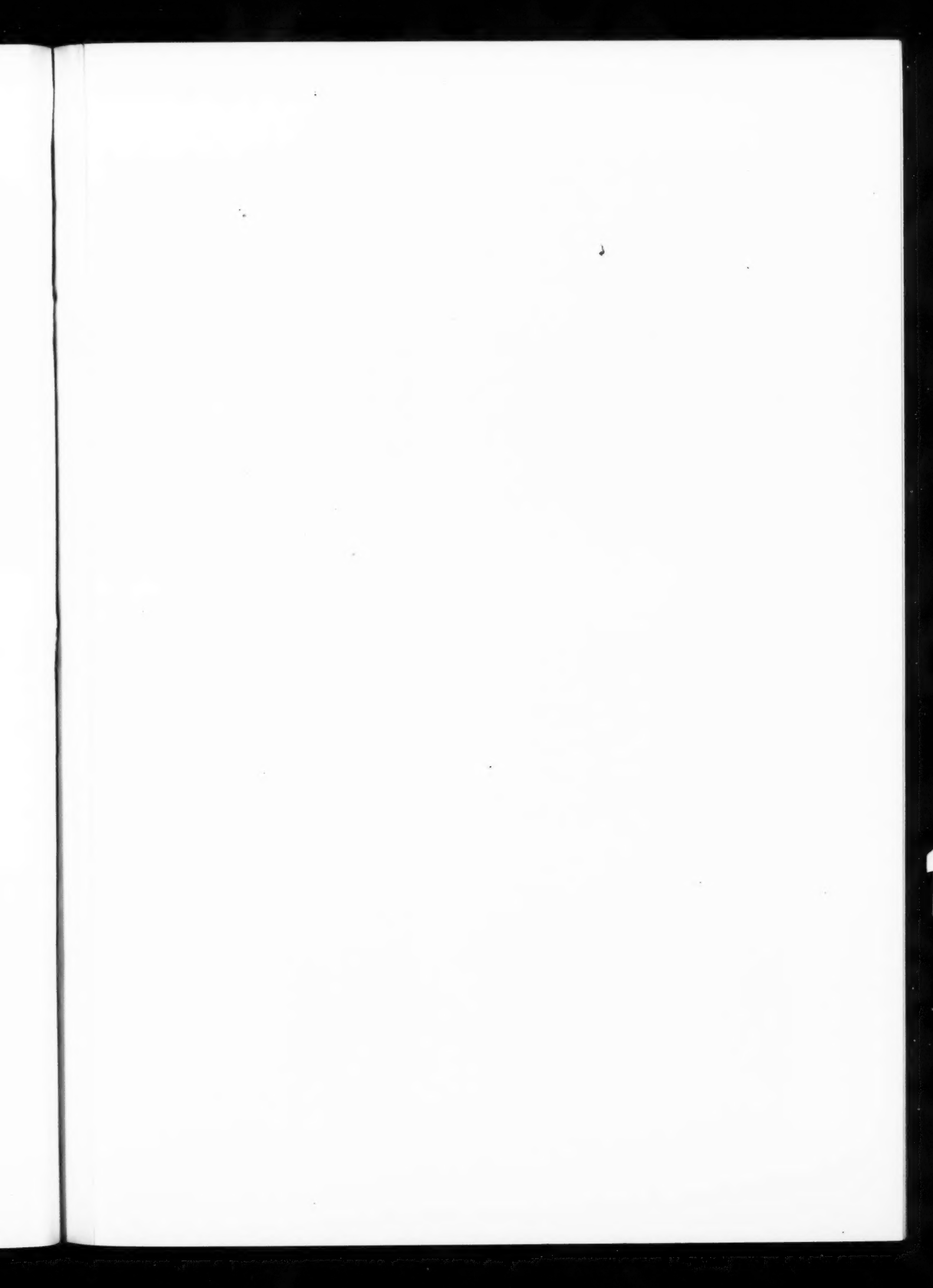
House at Instow, North Devon. By Orphoot, Whiting and Bryce. Above, the garden front. Below, the plans.



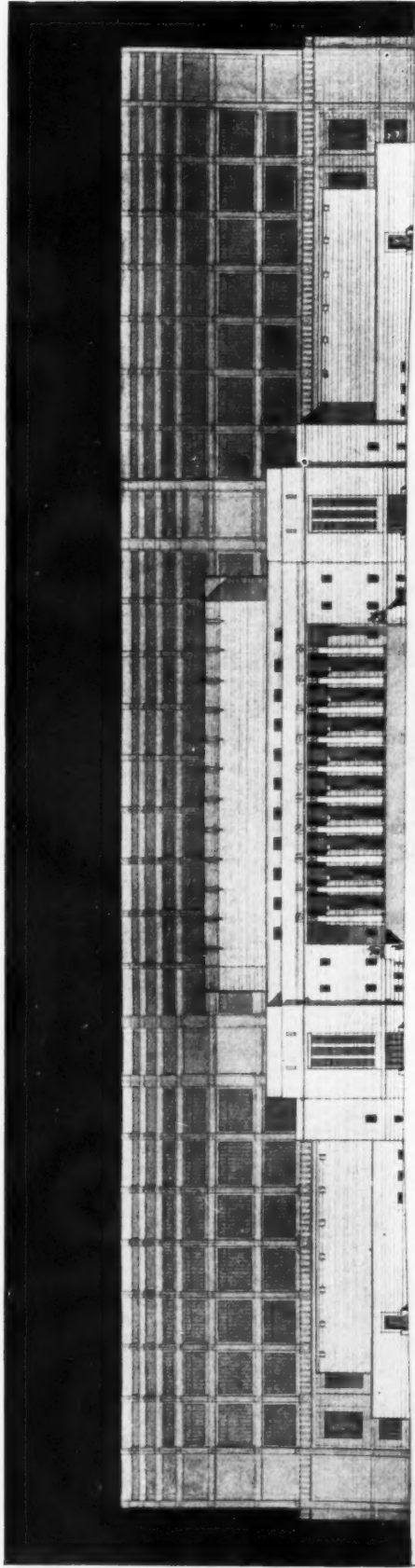
*House at Instow, North Devon.
By Orphoot, Whiting and
Bryce. Above, a view from
the road. Below, the entrance
court and covered way in.*



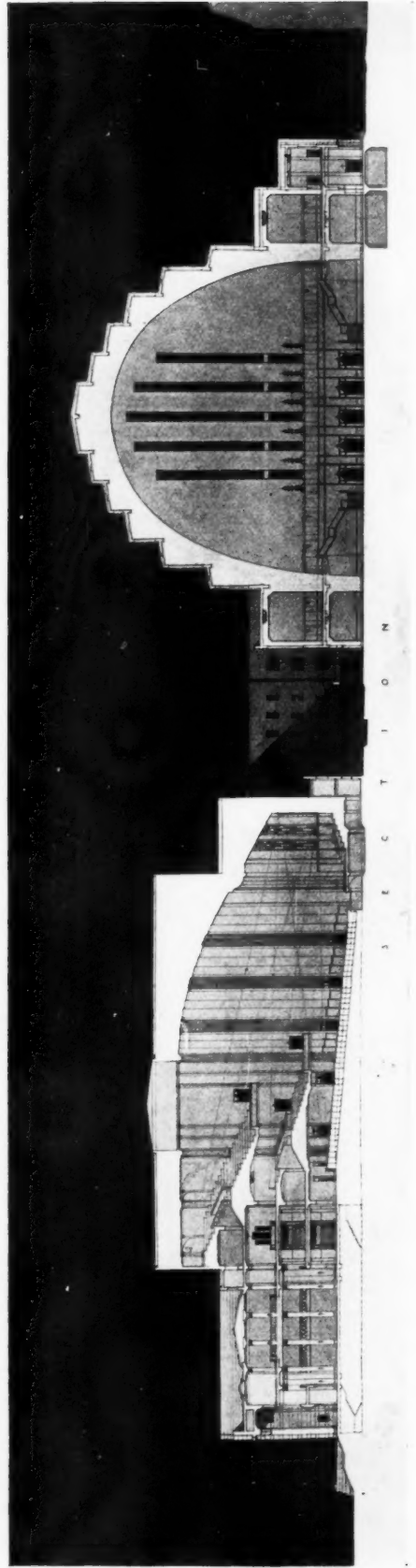
House at Instow, North Devon. By Orphoot, Whiting and Bryce. Above, the garden door, pergola, and bird-bath. Below, the courtyard and angle stair to attic.



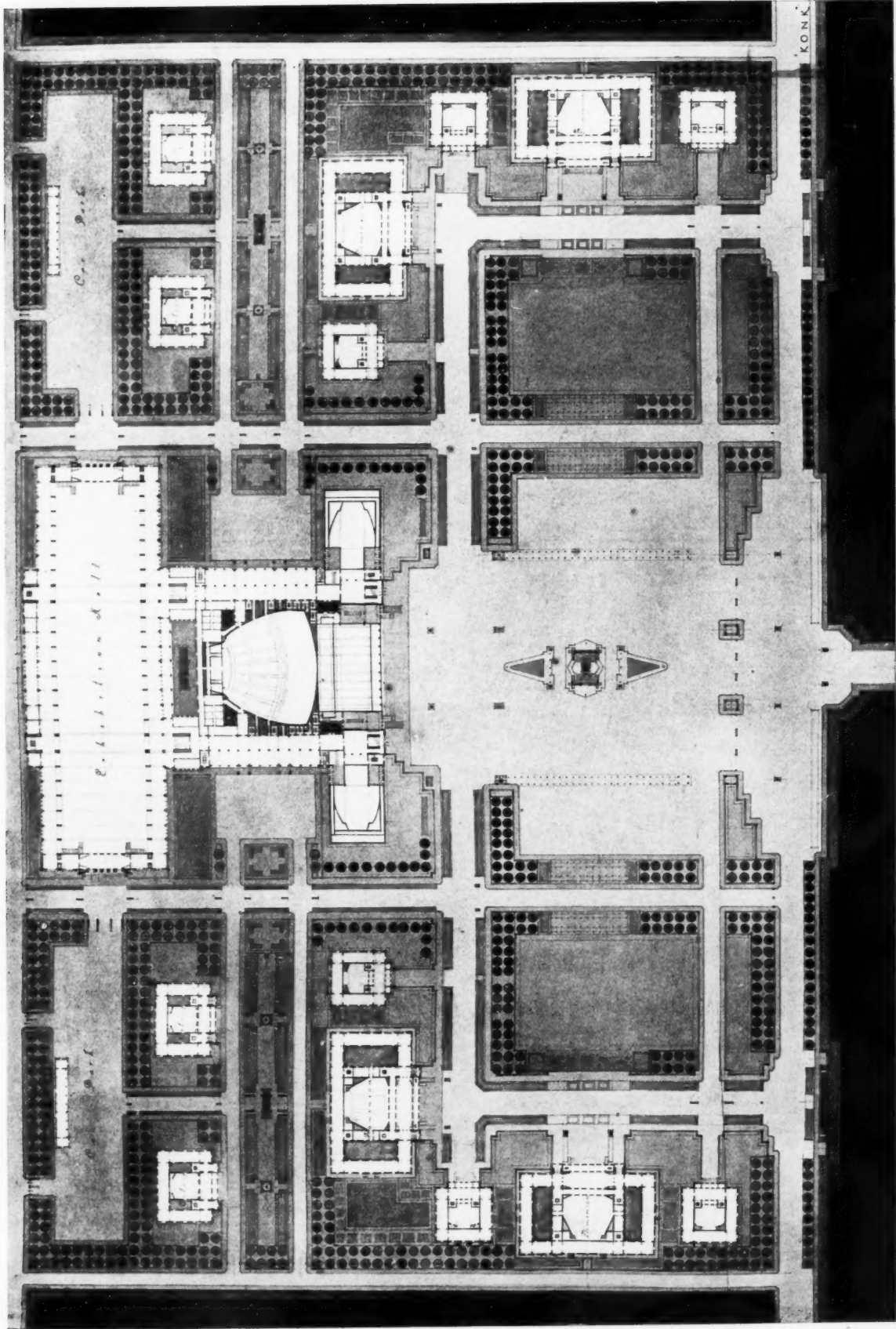
THE ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL COMPETITION SUPPLEMENT, NOVEMBER 9, 1927



ELEVATION



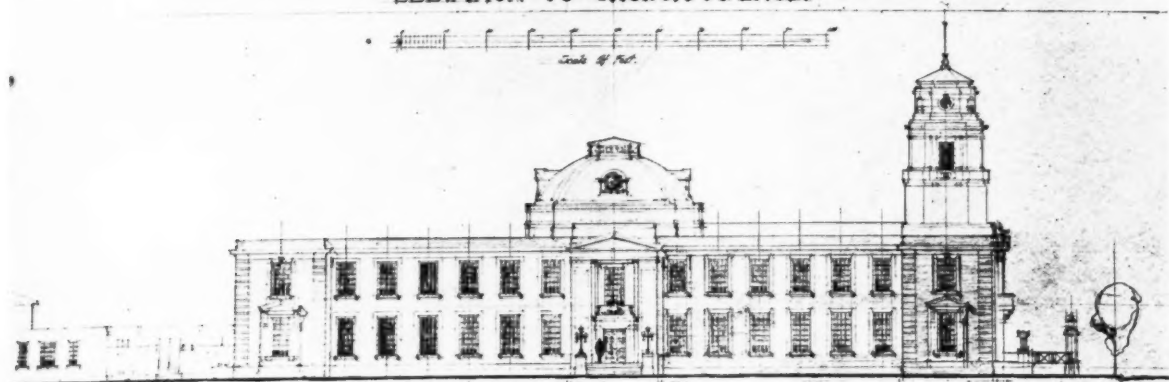
SECTION



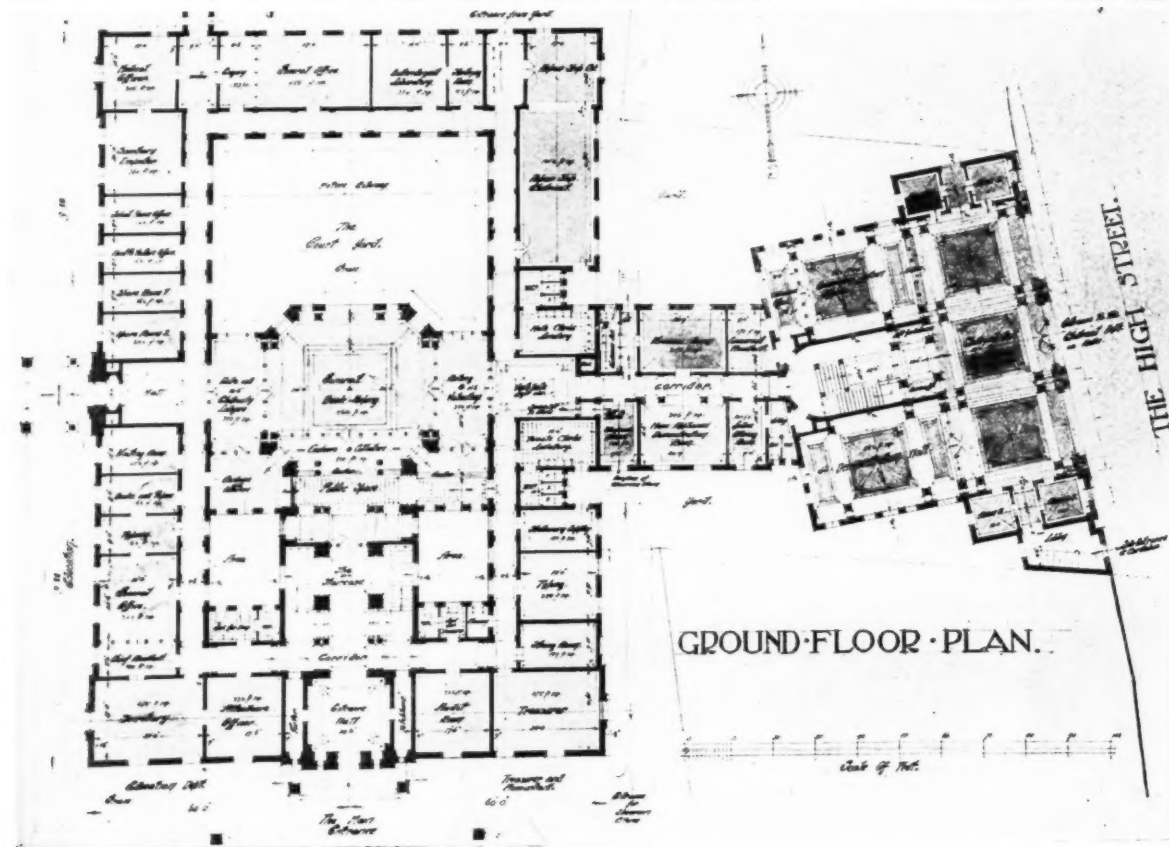
The Rome Scholarship. "An Empire Centre in a Capital City." The Winning Design. By R. P. Cummings.



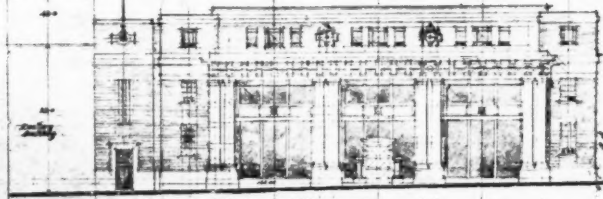
ELEVATION TO CHURCH AVENUE.



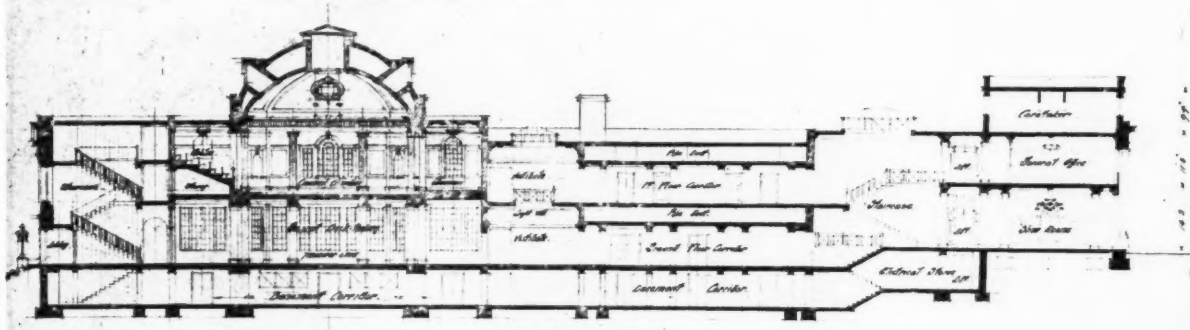
ELEVATION TO THE CRESCENT.



GROUND FLOOR PLAN.

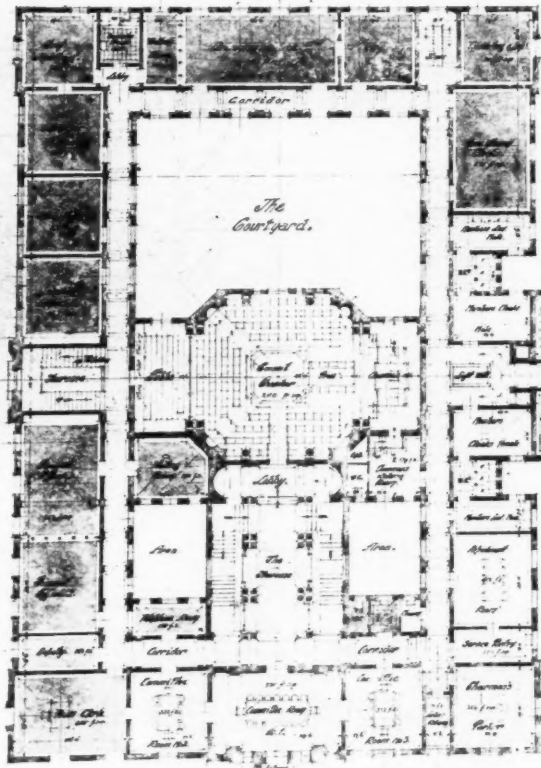


ELEVATION TO HIGH ST



SECTION A.A.

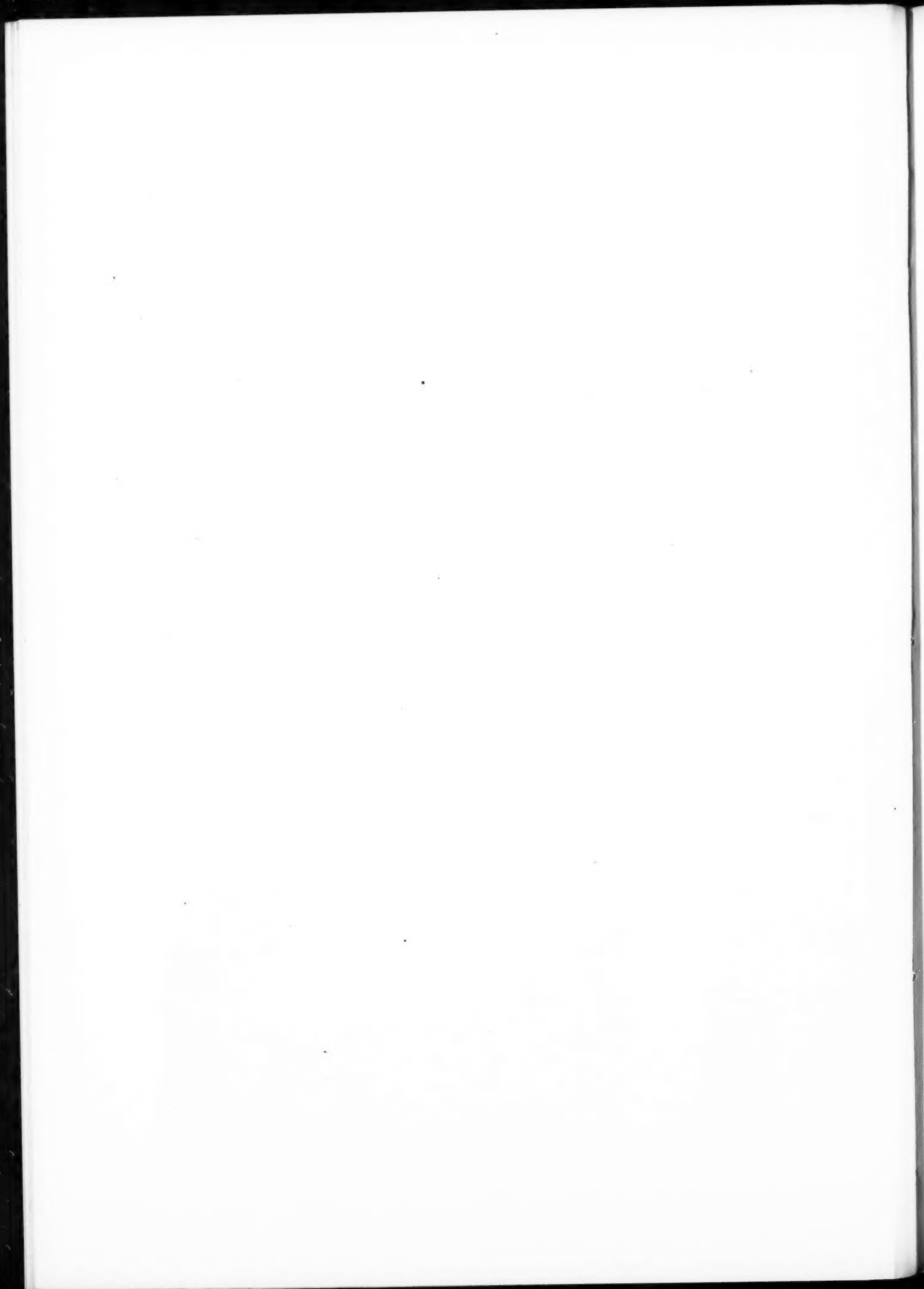
Scale of Feet.



FIRST FLOOR PLAN.

THE HIGH STREET.

Beckenham Municipal Buildings Competition. The Winning Design. By Lanchester, Lucas and Lodge.



BASKET-BALL COURTS

[BY EDWARD R. BILL]

IN the game of basket-ball the object of the contending teams is to get the ball into their opponents' goal (which in this case is a basket) and to prevent the ball from being put into their own goal.

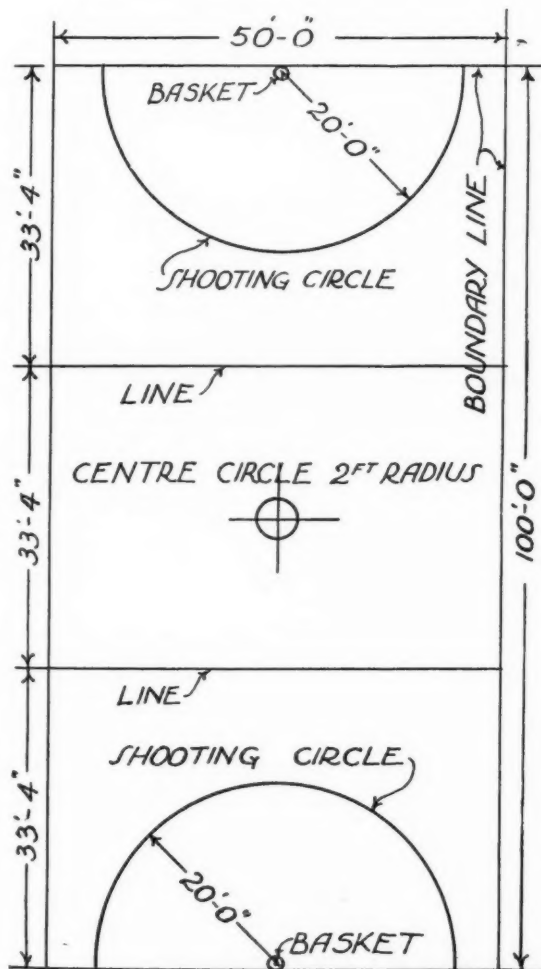
The rival teams, each consisting of five, seven, or nine players, are deployed in positions somewhat analogous to a football team; thus, for a team of nine players the arrangement would be :

	Goalkeeper	
Right defence		Left defence
Right centre	Centre	Left centre
Right attack	Centre attack	Left attack

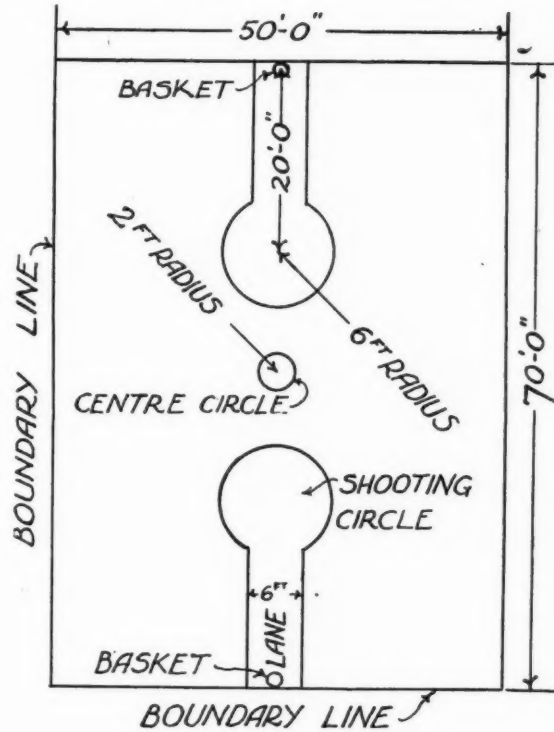
The ball, which resembles a football, is 31 in. in circumference and weighs 18 or 20 oz.

The goals, which consist of wood posts supporting baskets 18 in. in diameter and fixed at a height of 10 ft. above the floor, must be placed in the spot from which the radius of the "Shooting Circle" is described, and the basket should be so arranged that by means of a swinging pole the ball may be dropped out.

The shaft supporting the basket may be hinged in the centre for convenience in storing when not in use, the base being formed in the shape of a cross out of 3 in. by 3 in. deal, weighted for stability, and usually made detachable.



Court for inter-club matches.



Court for practice matches.

When the goal is supported from a wall it often takes the form of a net which permits the opening and closing of the bottom by means of a draw-string.

The official rules give the size of the court as 100 ft. in length by 50 ft. in width. They should be marked out with well-defined lines painted on the floor if under cover, or marked upon the ground with a tennis lawn-marker if outside.

The court is subdivided into three equal areas, each measuring 33 ft. 4 in. by 50 ft., by lines at right angles to the major axis.

At the intersection of the major and the minor axes a circle of 2 ft. radius is marked out, and it is into this circle that the ball is bounced to start the game.

The goals are placed in the centre of each 50 ft. boundary, and around each goal there is marked out a semicircle of 20 ft. radius.

The area enclosed by this semicircle is known as the "Shooting Circle," and it is only from within this space that a goal can be scored.

In the case of a foul the referee may grant a free throw for the basket from the 33 ft. 4 in. line nearest the opposing goal.

For practice games the court need not measure the full dimensions, and is often set out 70 ft. in length by 50 ft. in width, with the baskets set up in the centre of the end boundary lines as shown on the diagram.

In this arrangement, instead of the semicircle of 20 ft. radius around each goal, there is a "lane" 6 ft. wide leading up to a circle 6 ft. in radius, having its centre 20 ft. from the basket measured along the major axis of the court.

The "lanes" and circles indicate the area sacrosanct to the player throwing for goal, and any intruder within this area while a free throw is taking place is offside, and presents his opponents with a free throw for goal at a distance of 15 ft.

According to Dr. Luther Halsey Gulick (the inventor of the game) it may be played for amusement on any level space either outside in a field or inside on a gymnasium floor, and the size of the courts may vary from 40 ft. by 60 ft. to 100 ft. by 150 ft., but for all inter-club and school matches the size of the courts must be 100 ft. by 50 ft.

LITERATURE

SOME WALCOT ETCHINGS

THE "Masters of Etching" series, which is being published volume by volume by The Studio, Ltd., is one of the most valuable contributions of its kind to the world of art. The series is royal-quarto size, which is large enough to bring out all the details of each artist's work, and the very reasonable price brings the series within the means of everybody who is interested in the comparison of one master with the others. The plates are well produced in photogravure, which, although it is perhaps not the ideal medium for work of this sort, at least gives a good impression of the originals. There are twelve plates in each volume, and an introduction by Malcolm C. Salaman.

William Walcot is the sixteenth of a set, which embraces such names as James McNeill Whistler, Sir D. Y. Camerop, Anders Zorn, and Charles Meryon, and is probably finer than any of the previous volumes in that the method of reproduction does stricter justice to Walcot's work, with its tendencies to mezzotint and aquatint, than to the others who are to a greater degree purists. About the work itself it is hardly necessary to speak. Where Mr. Walcot's etchings are known comment is superfluous; and it cannot well be judged afresh from reproductions of this nature. Mr. Salaman's foreword touches the ideal of what such matter should be; it gives much information about the artist and his training, which is not only extremely interesting, but serves also as a valuable guide in the examination of the plates, without being in any way over-personal or didactic; it gives insight to the artist's technique without falling into technicalities which could embarrass the amateur; and it shows a very real appreciation and understanding of Mr. Walcot.

M. L. A.

William Walcot ("Masters of Etching" series), No. 16. The Studio. 5s. net.

ENGLISH CHIMNEYPieces

The story of the English fireplace reaches to the very heart of our civilization, and the development of the English house in each age and generation was in great measure controlled by the degree of comfort then attained. From earliest times the hearth has been the centre of home life, and there can hardly be a more alluring subject than to trace the evolution of fireplace and chimneypiece from Norman times to the present. This one is able to do in the new work by Mr. Guy C. Rothery, and published by Messrs. John Tiranti & Co. Following an introduction by Prof. A. L. Koche, there is a brief historical survey by the author in which he includes some sketches of fire-dogs and backs, baskets and grates. The very early hearth and fireplace types are herein mentioned, such as those at Conisborough Castle (1090-1110), but unfortunately no photographic illustrations are given. Then follow the collotype plates which depict about 177 examples, and the volume terminates with thirteen full-size plates of measured drawings with large-scale details.

The illustrations commence with Gothic work of the fifteenth century, then proceed to Tudor, tracing the effect of the Renaissance movement on English design down to the culmination and perfection of the style under Wren. The eighteenth century is represented by a wealth of examples supplemented by designs from works published at that time; in several instances important detail is shown "close up," a feature much to be commended.

Thus the styles of Kent, Gibbs, Chambers, and Adam may be studied from a wide range of specimens; neither is the work of Batty Langley, Swan, and the like omitted.

The author carries the story right into Victorian times, and gives one or two rather shocking examples, but such are well chosen, for they exactly reflect the spirit of the times. The

majority of the plates are good and most useful—some, however, it would have been better to omit; while many examples that the writer recollects as being both fine and typical do not find place in the pages; nevertheless, to the student the book should prove a mine of information.

JOHN C. ROGERS

English Chimneypieces: Their Design and Development from the Earliest Times to the Nineteenth Century. By Guy Cadogan Rothery. London: John Tiranti & Co. £2 10s.

HOW TO LIKE SCULPTURE

Recent developments in the facilities for world-travel have opened up Europe to a vastly larger company of earnest seekers after truth and beauty from the United States. The demand for books on the subjects thus laid before them is suddenly increased and a check on promiscuous reading provided. To meet both these points the American Library Association has wisely embarked on the publication of a series of brochures collectively known as the *Reading with a Purpose* series. Various subjects have been treated, and the latest is sculpture. Lorado Taft, the American sculptor, is also well known as a writer and lecturer, and no better pen could have been chosen to write on *The Appreciation of Sculpture*. It is not so much what to see in the plastic arts that the author directs his readers, but why they should see it and what they should make of it when seen. It is a chatty dissertation with bright passages and pithy sentences, and its chief value to the art is its insistence on carving.

K. P.

The Appreciation of Sculpture. By Lorado Taft. Chicago: American Library Association. Sm. 8vo, pp. 50. Price 35 cents, paper.

THE DISCOVERY OF ENGLAND

Everybody from the Prime Minister and Mr. Guy Dawber downwards is discovering England; discovering it while there is yet time, before it is completely obliterated and before it is completely rent and torn from end to end by the white gashes of arterial roads. Mr. Sydney Jones has written a useful little guide for those who want to make a modest motor run, a cycling or walking tour. The volume is well arranged. It is divided into five parts, each dealing with a section of England and each containing a preface and a description of four routes. The routes are on the whole well chosen. The information must of necessity be scanty, but it is pleasantly arrayed and, after all, it can always be amplified by more detailed guide-books. The book contains clearly-drawn map diagrams and delightful pen-and-ink sketches and some photographs. It is a book which should prove of greater value to the walker and cyclist than to the motorist, but, of course, anyone who really wishes to see the country knows that the only way to do so is to walk over it. The length of the tours varies from 120 to 200 miles—good distances for a walking holiday.

H. J. B.

Touring England. By Sydney R. Jones. Messrs. B. T. Batsford, Ltd., London. Price 7s. 6d. net.

THE CHESTERFIELD REGIONAL PLANNING SCHEME

This report deals with an area measuring about 20 miles each way and lying immediately to the south of Sheffield. The town of Chesterfield is almost exactly in the centre, and the region is practically bisected from south to north by the River Rother and the L. M. & S. Railway. West of this the country is pastoral in character, rising gently to the Derbyshire moors, while to the east coal-mining is the dominant industry. With the exception of the high moorlands along the western boundary, the general character of the ground is undulating, dipping down to the shallow valleys of the Rother and its tributary streams. Though there are a number of buildings interesting for their architecture and antiquity in the neighbourhood, such as Haddon Hall, Chatsworth, and Hardwick Hall, the only ones of outstanding interest actually

within the region dealt with are the well-known church at Chesterfield, with its twisted spire, and the Tudor castle at Bolsover.

Perhaps the main feature in the problem lies in the fact that this valley is on the direct line between the manufacturing districts of Yorkshire and the south of England. The canal connecting Chesterfield with the north was constructed by Brindley at the end of the eighteenth century, but was on too small a scale for modern requirements, and having become useless through numerous subsidences due to the coal-working, is now entirely abandoned. The suggestion is made that its route should be utilized for a new road, and this is embodied in the scheme for additional arterial and tributary roads which Professor Adshead rightly regards as one of the most important requirements of the region. Lying, as has been mentioned, due south of Sheffield, Rotherham, Barnsley, Wakefield, and Leeds, besides including important collieries and ancillary industries within its own boundaries, a good system of first-class roads is a primary need. This is at present lacking, and though the district is plentifully supplied with railways, the increasing importance of road transport renders a remodelling of the routes a matter of primary importance.

Perhaps the most interesting section of the report is that on the industrial development. Not only are there several large concerns working with exceptionally up-to-date plant, but it is considered by experts that the future of the district depends largely on taking advantage of the possibilities in dealing with the coal at or near the pit-head with a view to the production of electricity, the various types of commercial coke, and such by-products as tar, sulphate of ammonia, dyes, etc. Several leading authorities are quoted on this point, and Professor Adshead emphasizes that it is only possible to map out an area after a close examination of the different industries now carried on supplemented by such expert evidence as can be collected both from those connected with the actual undertakings and from other outside authorities.

But besides the economic aspects of the problem this report goes comprehensively into questions of housing, social requirements, and amenities. Besides the numerous plans and a few photographs it is exceptional among publications of its type by reason of the illustrations, by freely drawn sketches from Professor Adshead's own hand of representative scenery or views of salient features. With the utmost simplicity of technique these sketches seize the characteristics of the views depicted so vitally that they are a joy to look at, while they are of indubitable value as an aid to the visualization of the district generally, and the effect of the various proposals set forth in the latter part of the report as suggestions to the town-planning authorities within the region, on whom will devolve the duty of preparing statutory schemes in detail, for which schemes this regional study is a generalized sketch. It is assuredly an excellent example of its kind, and will be of great service in securing co-ordination in the detailed schemes to follow.

H. V. LANCHESTER

The Chesterfield Regional Planning Scheme. Report by Professor S. D. Adshead (with mining report by R. F. Percy). Wilfred Edmunds, Ltd., Chesterfield, 1927.

FIRE-RESISTING CONSTRUCTION

The subject of the eighth special report of the Building Research Board, *Fire-resistant Construction*, is of universal interest. Fire may attack almost any type of building, and the provision of materials that will endure great heat without disastrous failure in strength is an ideal that should be kept in mind by all designers. Research into the relative values of different materials in respect of fire-resisting qualities must necessarily be undertaken by experts if it is to be undertaken at all, for the chance of visiting a great number of buildings in which fires have just occurred is not likely to come in the daily practice of many architects or engineers, and the experimental investigations carried out at Bradford Technical College during the period 1922-24 are as welcome as they are necessary. The special report deals in a general way with the usual materials, such as metals, timber, and natural rocks, but

gives great prominence to artificial materials, such as specially fire-resistant cements and concretes. The claims of timber to be considered a fire-resisting material are touched upon in an early section of the report, and the value of "Slow-burning Mill Construction" is pointed out. Large solid balks of wood laid side by side in places where no fierce draughts fan the fire prove strangely satisfactory; for after the outside of the timber has become coated with a layer of charcoal, further progress of the fire may be extremely slow. But lack of natural supplies of this material will keep most inhabitants of the British Isles from resorting to this extravagantly costly method of building. Clay products are found to rank high in the list of fire-resistant materials, and some of the experiments have been directed towards the production of more fire-resistant cements and concretes by the addition of large percentages of clay suitably heated to render it stable under the reapplication of heat.

Two problems have to be solved in the design of a fire-resistant concrete in that the cement must not contain large quantities of free lime, or liberate them on heating; and the aggregate must also be capable of remaining but little changed by the increase of temperature. A mixture in which the proportion of cement was drastically cut down by the addition of burnt clay, and of which the aggregate was formed of brick-sand and broken brick, gave singularly reliable results, although its initial normal strength before heating was not extraordinarily high. A paragraph in the prefatory note suggests that the burnt clay or "pozzolana" would be better as an addition to the full measure of cement, rather than as a substitute for 40% of it; and it is claimed that by suitably apportioning the pozzolanic addition, extra strength might be obtained with little or no extra cost. Further experiment on this point seems eminently desirable, for if extra strength can be produced side by side with reliability in maintaining a fair proportion of strength after heating, the search for a fire-resistant material will not have been in vain. The warning against the misuse of "dirty or soft weak brick" must be regarded if good results are to be obtained.

A criticism that may be brought against the report is that its arrangement does not permit of sufficient emphasis being given to the most successful results. The highly valuable brick and burnt clay experiment is tabulated lower on the list than other materials whose percentage loss of strength after heating is greater, and the reader is left to discover its superiority by inferences which he may or may not have gleaned from references in the preface and in other pages. This is an excess of modesty, or impartiality of treatment, which does not make for practical utility. The authors have discovered a superior mixture, but have not been alive to the necessity of proclaiming its superiority clearly. The ideal presentation of facts in a booklet of this practical order is such that "he may run that readeth it," whereas it would be easily possible for a reader avid for information to miss the very point he is in search of.

Darwin, Huxley, Ray Lankester, Metchnikoff have all shown that it is possible to express scientific facts in the simplest possible language, if only trouble enough is taken in revision and rearrangement of the matter in accordance with this sound ideal.

Any reader might be excused for skipping such a sentence as the following: "Quartz crystals have a coefficient of expansion of 7.5×10^{-6} in a direction parallel to the hexagonal axis and 13.7×10^{-6} at right angles to this axis; in addition the α/β transformation point is 575 deg. C., at which an expansion of 0.4 per cent. occurs almost instantaneously."

As alpha and beta are not explained in the text, or introduced to the reader by any reference to a standard work on either crystallogeny (formation of crystals) or pyronomy (law of igneous action), it might appear that they are merely dragged in to adorn a tale. They are Greek to me.

WILLIAM HARVEY

Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. Building Research, Special Report No. 8. Fire-resistant Construction. By R. E. Stradling, M.C., D.S.C., PH.D., A.M.INST.C.E., and F. L. Brady, M.Sc., A.I.C. London: Published under the authority of His Majesty's Stationery Office, 1927. Price 1s. 6d. net.

COMPETITION CALENDAR

The conditions of the following competitions have been received by the R.I.B.A.:

November 30. New town hall and municipal buildings, proposed to be erected on a site in the Broadway, Wimbledon, for the Wimbledon Corporation. Assessor: Mr. H. V. Ashley, F.R.I.B.A. Premiums: £200, £150, and £75. Particulars from Mr. Herbert Emerson Smith, LL.B., Town Clerk. Deposit £2 2s.

December 15. The Portland Cement Selling and Distributing Co., Ltd., announce a competition for architects, with prize awards totalling £1,000. The President of the R.I.B.A. has appointed the following assessors: Messrs. Maxwell Ayrton, F.R.I.B.A.; William Edward Riley, F.R.I.B.A., M.I.C.E., R.B.A., member of the Council of the Royal Sanitary Institute, late superintending architect of Metropolitan Buildings and architect to the London County Council; Douglas G. Tanner (Douglas G. Tanner and Arthur L. Horsburgh), consulting architects to the *Daily Mail* Ideal Home Exhibition; and Baker and Mallett, quantity surveyors. There will be two sections of the competition, "A" and "B"; the prize awards in each being: first prize, £250; second prize, £150; third prize, £100. In section "A," designs for a house in concrete costing £1,750 are called for, and in section "B," for a house in concrete costing £750. The winning designs will be erected at Olympia for the *Daily Mail* Ideal Home Exhibition.

TRADE NOTES

Electric Heating and Cooking

In the new display and demonstration rooms, just opened on the same site as the "Tricity" Electric Restaurant at the top of the Savoy Hill in the Strand, the British Electric Transformer Co., Ltd., exhibit the latest "Tricity" electric heating and cooking appliances, and particularly the Sun-ray heating inventions. The showrooms consist of a vestibule in which fireplaces are used to display the "Tricity" flame fires; a large room devoted to the display of "Tricity" cookers, heavy restaurant apparatus, etc.; a series of compartments designed to represent corners or portions of rooms where are displayed various designs of "Tricity" Sun-ray radiators and flame fires. These comprise a dining-room, a bedroom, a bathroom, a drawing-room, a small nursery, and a sun parlour. Here are shown the various forms of Sun-ray radiators made by the British Electric Transformer Co.; emitting rays that both look and feel like natural sunlight—one can recline on cushions beneath rays of gentle warmth or actually sit beneath a standard Sun-ray radiator. The architects were Messrs. Imrie and Angell.

Leeds Building Firm's History

The history of Messrs. William Nicholson and Son (Leeds), Ltd., builders, which was established 105 years ago, has just been published. It contains many facts of interest to architects and builders. The grandfather of the present chairman, the first William Nicholson, started in Leeds in 1822, when railways were spreading and banks were setting up outposts in all parts of the North of England. An interesting story of the start of a trades union in the firm is described. There had been so much trouble with the operatives that in the middle of the last century the second William Nicholson advised the men to form a union, urging that this would be for their own benefit, and so that he might have a representative body with whom he might conduct negotiations as to wages and conditions. Since then the trade has been on a much more stable basis, and many of the families of the workmen have been with the firm for nearly a century. The present chairman was president, 1906-1907, of the National Federation of Building Trade Employers, and was Lord Mayor of Leeds in 1911. The history, entitled *A Centenary of Building*, is illustrated by a selection of representative photographs. One of these is of the new head office of the Midland Bank in London, where Messrs. Nicholson are carrying out one of the largest contracts for internal fittings in the history of British building. They are fitting some very fine panelling in figured Indiana black walnut from the drawings of Sir Edwin Lutyens, R.A.

Waygood-Otis Club Dinner

The twenty-fourth annual dinner of the Waygood-Otis Club, held at the Leicester Corner Restaurant on October 28, was an enjoyable function. Mr. D. W. R. Green was in the chair, and among the guests were Messrs. H. C. Walker, R. H. Thorpe, C. H. J. Day, Norman Walker, Kimber Bull, W. H. Lambie, P. B. Sime, Gregory Edwards, and a large gathering of the staffs from both the offices at Fetter Lane and the works at Falmouth Road. The chairman, in proposing the toast of the Waygood-Otis Club and officials, warmly congratulated the club on the progress that had been made in all branches of its activities, and especially in cricket, football, bowling, and swimming. The new sports ground at Elmers End had been a great acquisition; the cricket and football pitches left nothing to be desired, and the tennis-courts and bowling-green needed only a little further time and care to reach something like perfection. The hon. secs., Messrs. S. Kirton and L. J. Sainsbury, gave detailed particulars of the club's successes in the field during the year, and emphasized also its social activities, which formed so important a part of its work. Mr. W. Carley, in proposing the toast of "Waygood-Otis, Ltd.," paid eloquent tribute to the happy relations which had always existed between the directors and the staff. The musical programme, under the direction of Mr. T. Warlum, was exceptionally good.

FOUR HOUSES IN DEVON

The contractors and sub-contractors who carried out work in connection with the houses illustrated on pp. 605-616 were as follows:

House at Budleigh Salterton, Devon. W. W. Howard Bros. & Co., hardwood flooring (Indian gurjun wood); Bratt, Colbran & Co., grates; W. W. Howard Bros. & Co., staircases (Indian gurjun wood).

House at Northam, N. Devon. Croft Granite Brick and Concrete Co., artificial stone; R. Farman, North Walsham, Norfolk, Norfolk reed thatch; The Aerogen Company, Ltd., gas fixtures; Henry Hope and Sons, casements.

House at Bideford, N. Devon. Croft Granite Brick and Concrete Co., Ltd., artificial stone; R. Farman, Norfolk reed thatch; Henry Hope and Sons, casements; Bratt Colbran & Co., grates.

House at Instow, N. Devon. Gardiner, Sons & Co., Ltd., structural steel; Pilkingtons, patent glazing; Bratt Colbran & Co., stoves and grates.

NEW INVENTIONS

[The following particulars of new inventions are specially compiled for THE ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL, by permission of the Controller of H.M. Stationery Office, by our own patent expert. All inquiries concerning inventions, patents, and specifications should be addressed to the Editor, 9 Queen Anne's Gate, Westminster, S.W.1. For copies of the full specifications here enumerated readers should apply to the Patent Office, 25 Southampton Buildings, W.C.2. The price is 1s. each.]

LATEST PATENT APPLICATIONS

- 27569. Bois, N. Stairs. October 17.
- 27687. Commin, F. J. Jointing corrugated roofing sheets. October 18.
- 28125. Frier, J. D. Shop windows, &c. October 22.
- 27836. Harper, W. Reproduction of drawings, &c. October 20.
- 27592. Simpson, F. M. Chimneys, ventilators, &c. October 18.

SPECIFICATIONS PUBLISHED

- 278433. Humphris, F. Joining or affixing perforated or expanded sheet metal.
- 278788. Garrow, J. R. Preparation of organic materials or aggregates for use with cements.
- 278879. Howell, G. E. Portable shelters and the like.
- 278894. Mosaic Tile Co. Trimming-machines for clay blocks.
- 278926. Davies, J. Magnesium oxychloride composition coverings or slabs for walls, floors, and ceilings.

ABSTRACTS PUBLISHED

- 276966. Philip, G. R., Northfield, Vermont, U.S.A. Sand-blast carving.

LAW REPORTS

ALTERATION OF APPORTIONMENT BY STIPENDIARY:
ILLEGAL ACT

Lord Mayor, etc., of City of Birmingham v. The Mother-General of the Convent of the Sisters of the Charity of St. Paul, and others. King's Bench Division. Before the Lord Chief Justice and Justices Avory and Salter

This appeal, under the Birmingham Corporation (Consolidation) Act, 1883, raised an interesting and important point in regard to the rights of the stipendiary at Birmingham to alter an apportionment made by the Corporation on certain frontages. The Corporation appealed against a decision of the stipendiary altering the apportionment of expenses to be paid by the frontagers on Greenland Road, Selly Park, Birmingham, under the Corporation Act in respect of private road improvements.

Mr. R. M. Montgomery, K.C., appeared for the Corporation, and Mr. Finnemore for the respondents, the charity.

Mr. Montgomery said that the point of dispute was whether the stipendiary magistrate was within his power in ordering that the provisional apportionment which had been made on the frontagers in respect of their frontages should be reduced, as by one-half of the amount of the apportionment of the Mother-General of the Convent, and as by two-thirds of the amount of the apportionment of the other frontagers. The effect with regard to the Mother-General was an apportionment not according to frontage, but according to benefit derived, and it has been held that to do such a thing was only within the jurisdiction of the local authority and was not a matter with which the magistrates or justices were concerned. The estimated cost of making up the street as a public highway was £5,441, and the amount was apportioned among eighteen frontagers, who, however, objected that the estimate was excessive and that the work was not necessary. The stipendiary decided the estimate was excessive, but that the street was in a bad state, and he altered the estimate and reduced the apportionment. Counsel, in reply to Mr. Justice Salter, said the work arranged to be carried out could not be done for less than £5,441. What he thought the magistrate ought to have done was to amend the specification of work that was to be carried out. He could have done that and he could have done it so that the work would have cost a less figure. If he had done that it would have been within the power of the Corporation to do less work, but it was not within their power to do less work at present.

Mr. Finnemore stated that the road was one hardly ever used by the general public. It was bordered on one side by fields owned by the Convent and on the other side were eighteen houses, none of the occupiers of which wanted the work carried out.

The Court allowed the appeal and remitted the case to the stipendiary for further consideration.

The Lord Chief Justice said, in the absence of any resolution of the Corporation, it was not permissible for the magistrate to reduce the apportionments. It was open to him on evidence to find the work was unnecessary, but it was vital he should bear in mind that the measure of apportionment was fixed by statute.

Justices Avory and Salter concurred.

DISPUTED BOUNDARY DITCH

Roake v. Freeman. Chancery Division. Before Mr. Justice Clauson

This was a dispute between neighbours at Horsall, Surrey, as to a boundary ditch. The plaintiff, Mr. E. H. Roake, is the owner and occupier of Whopshott Farm, and he claimed an injunction and damages against the defendant, Mr. G. W. Freeman, a neighbouring landowner, for wrongfully entering upon his land, pulling down his fence and obstructing a watercourse. Plaintiff claimed the whole width of the disputed ditch, which the defendant also claimed, together with a small strip of land. Defendant, in his turn, counter-claimed for wrongful entry and complained that the plaintiff had erected posts and barbed wire to the north of the ditch, and had committed other acts which had impeded defendant's scheme for development of the land for building.

Mr. J. H. Lightwood appeared for the plaintiff and Mr. E. M. Winterbotham for the defendant.

Plaintiff gave evidence in support of his case and stated that Whopshott Farm men had cleaned out the ditch.

Mr. Kenneth Wood, A.R.I.B.A., of Messrs. Wood and Jarvis, Woking, was called for the plaintiff.

Other witnesses also gave evidence to the effect that the ditch was cleaned from the farm and treated as part of it.

Mr. Winterbotham argued that the boundary line showed the ditch in his client's possession.

Mr. Fredk. Wm. Kinns, L.R.I.B.A., 14 The Broadway, Woking, architect and surveyor, said the particulars and conditions of sale, 1882, the conveyance of 1883, the conveyance of October 28, 1926, and the Ordnance Survey of 1915 all showed the same line, which it was perfectly simple for a surveyor to plot as on the south side of the ditch. Witness put south of the line an earlier structure than the existing earth closet. Surveyors for the Ordnance map took physical boundaries if they could find them and no line on the survey could be guaranteed for any particular purpose.

His lordship found that the title to the disputed land was the defendant's, who was in possession. There could be no suggestion against anybody in what had happened and he hoped the neighbours after his declaration would be friends. He found that a line on the plan from the face of the turf barn was an artificial line defining the boundary between the lands to the north and south and corresponding to nothing physical, and the true construction of the deed of 1883, he held, was that the boundary was a line exactly corresponding with the red line drawn by Mr. Kinns. He must assume the grantee was in possession of everything to the north of the red line. The readiness expressed by him not to interfere with the part of the earth closet which was north of the red line would be recorded with the judgment, which must be in the defendant's favour. He declared the boundary line accordingly, dismissing the action with costs, plaintiff also to pay the costs of the counter-claim.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT: DECISION OF JUSTICES UPHELD
Lomax v. Frearson. King's Bench Divisional Court. Before the Lord Chief Justice and Justices Avory and Salter

This appeal raised an interesting point of practice, Mr. W. Frearson, the clerk of the Skegness Urban District Council, appealing on behalf of the Council against a decision of the Lindsey (Lincs) Quarter Sessions in favour of Mrs. Lomax of Lumley Road, Skegness.

Mr. Montgomery, K.C., who appeared for the Council, stated that Mrs. Lomax was convicted by the Skegness justices of an offence against the Public Health (Buildings) Act for making an addition to her premises that brought it beyond the building line without the necessary permission of the Council. On her appeal coming before the quarter sessions, a misunderstanding arose as the Council's clerk was not on the spot to prove that he had authority to institute the proceedings in the first instance. Instead of granting an adjournment the sessions allowed Mrs. Lomax's appeal because of want of prosecution by the Council. Counsel argued that quarter sessions really never had heard and determined the appeal and they could not, therefore, allow it. Under these circumstances, he contended the appeal should be allowed, and the case should be remitted to the justices.

The Court, without calling upon counsel for the respondent, dismissed the appeal.

The Lord Chief Justice in giving judgment, said at the hearing before the justices, the counsel for the Skegness Urban District Council, wrongly conceiving that it was necessary to produce evidence of the clerk's authority to prosecute Mrs. Lomax, and being unable to do so, requested that an adjournment be granted. Counsel for Mrs. Lomax stipulated that the Council should pay the costs of the adjournment, but this suggestion was not accepted by the Council. In those circumstances quarter sessions decided to proceed as if the Council could not argue their case. Having given the Council their opportunity that was declined, quarter sessions were right in the action they took and the present appeal failed.

Justices Avory and Salter concurred.

THE WEEK'S BUILDING NEWS

Plans passed by the CROYDON Corporation: Eighteen houses, Stanford Road, for Mr. S. Boothman; alterations and additions, 18 South End, for Mr. H. Macintosh; eight shops and houses, Wickham Road, for Messrs. Crowley Brothers; alterations, 88 South End, for Mr. C. H. Ridge; alterations, 68 Westow Street, for Messrs. Freeman, Hardy and Willis, Ltd.; additions, St. Joseph's College, Beulah Hill, for Mr. B. J. McAdam; six houses, Hatch Road, for Messrs. Truett and Steel; showroom and office, Brighton Road, for Mr. W. J. Frewing; ten houses, Stanford Road, for Mr. W. T. Cripps; eighteen houses, Mount Park Avenue, for Messrs. Morgan, Baines and Clark; additions, Convent of the Faithful Virgin, Central Hill, for Rev. Mother Superior.

In connection with the proposal for the erection of market extensions at Hanley, and shops and offices in High Street, at a cost of £21,500, the STOKE-ON-TRENT Corporation has been notified that the Ministry of Health will only sanction a loan so far as the market is concerned, the Corporation having no statutory powers to erect shops and offices. The Corporation is therefore to proceed with the market extensions and to seek Parliamentary powers to enable shops and offices to be provided.

The HASTINGS Corporation is preparing a layout for dealing with the Old Town area when the property is demolished.

In connection with the Braunstone Park of 330 acres recently acquired by the LEICESTER Corporation, it has now been arranged that a large park shall be provided, and that the area is to be completely surrounded by town-planning roads of various widths.

The BATTLE R.D.C. is negotiating with the Hastings Corporation to arrange for drainage in connection with the development of the Filsham Farm estate, where sixty houses are to be erected.

The TORQUAY Corporation has passed plans submitted by Major A. O. Ellis for the erection of a cinema on the Hompton estate, St. Marychurch.

Plans passed by L.C.C.: Block of flats, Upper Tulse Hill, for Mr. G. Hayden Boshier; twenty garages, rear of 109 Tulse Hill, for Mr. P. E. Smith.

In connection with a proposal for the erection of baths and washhouses in Saville Street, the TYNEMOUTH Corporation has appointed a committee to inspect baths in neighbouring towns.

The HASTINGS Corporation is shortly to consider a proposal for the construction of a bathing pool, which it is reported will find work for many of the unemployed.

The Middlesex County Council is preparing plans for the conversion of Crauford College, MAIDENHEAD, into a mental colony to accommodate 108 patients.

The Middlesex Education Committee has acquired a site at The Hyde, HENDON, for the erection of a trade and technical school.

The Goldsmith Company is constructing streets and sewers on their estate south of Western Avenue, ACTON.

Plans passed by the SHIPLEY U.D.C.: Thirty-six houses, Nab Wood Drive, for Messrs. A. and J. Chippindale; club, Otley Road, for Shipley Hall Estate Co., Ltd.; two shops, workshop and store, Leeds Road, for Mr. J. Kendall; garages and sheds, Carmona Gardens, for Messrs. Burton and Chambers.

A sub-committee of the CROYDON Corporation has been appointed to consider alterations at the Town Hall.

Plans passed by the HASTINGS Corporation: Four houses, Priory Road, for Mr. J. Hunt, architect; additions, Belmont Hotel, Harold Road, for Mr. J. H. Howard, architect; dairy, Silverlands Road, for Mr. J. Hunt, architect; alterations, Primitive Methodist Chapel, Newgate Road, for Mr. Harold Burleigh, architect; business premises, Denmark Place, for Messrs. Callow and Callow, architects; alterations, off licence, Castle Hill Road, for Mr. J. H. Howard; private hotel, Warwick Square, for Messrs. Callow and Callow; new front elevations, 7, 8, 9, and 10 Breeds Place, and 1 Castle Street, for Messrs. Callow and Callow.

The KENSINGTON borough engineer has prepared plans for the erection of a welfare centre in Sirdar Road, at an estimated cost of £4,500, and tenders are to be invited for the work.

The OLDHAM Corporation has called for a further report on a scheme for the erection on vacant plots in partially developed streets of houses, which can be let at cheap rents.

The Ministry of Health has held an inquiry into the scheme of the BRADFORD Corporation for the erection of shops and offices in the central area at a cost of £210,000.

Sanction for a loan of £7,500 for alterations at the Sussex Street Council School has been obtained by the BRIGHTON Education Committee.

Sir Percy Simmons, chairman of the Improvements Committee of the L.C.C., has stated to the *Evening News* that it is not only too late to go back on the decision to build a new Lambeth Bridge, but that the County Council does not want to go back on it. He goes on to say that the committee are satisfied that they are doing the right thing, and though the tenders for the bridge cannot be invited until the new approaches are made, it is intended to push forward with the scheme as rapidly as possible.

The Highways Committee of the West Riding County Council proposes to make an additional grant of £500 (in addition to the sum of £18,888 previously approved) towards the construction of the new bridge at THORNE. The bridge is to have one span.

At a meeting of YORK Minster's General Committee the Dean (Dr. L. Ford), referring in his report to the general fund, said that at the present time the fabric needs of the Minster were £50,000, of which £30,000 was needed for the roof and stone work. They had received for the fund, so far, about £8,000, and they had promises amounting to about a further £3,000.

The County and Local Authorities concerned are pressing the Ministry of Transport to allow the scheme for widening the main road at EDGWARE, estimated to cost £158,000, to proceed. The delay is said to be jeopardizing building development in the district.

The joint committee of the Middlesex and Surrey County Councils has agreed to proceed with the scheme for the construction of two new bridges across the Thames at Richmond and Chiswick, along the line of the CHERTSEY arterial road. The scheme will cost £307,000.

The BRADFORD Corporation Improvements Committee has prepared a scheme for the construction of a new road to Oakenshaw, at an estimated cost of £100,000.

The UXBRIDGE U.D.C. is seeking sanction to borrow £29,250 for the erection of houses on the Rockingham site.

The HERNE BAY U.D.C. is to choose a site at West Cliff for the erection of a shelter.

The BOLTON Corporation has scheduled 290 acres in various districts for playing fields.

The MANCHESTER Education Committee has forwarded complete plans of the proposed elementary school and central school at Beaver Road, Didsbury, to the Board of Education for approval.

Plans passed by the OLDHAM Corporation: Eleven houses, Heron Street, for Mr. F. Lord; three shops and thirty-one houses, Heron Street, for Mr. F. Lord; iron staircase, Shaw Street, for Oldham Rope and Twine Co., Ltd.; six houses, Tunstall Road, for Mr. F. Thompson.

The OLDHAM Corporation proposes to seek Parliamentary powers to acquire property in the vicinity of Lord Street for widening purposes, and also for the construction of an omnibus centre.

Plans passed by the HERNE BAY U.D.C.: Two bungalows, Pier Avenue, for Messrs. Schooling & Co.; house, Sea View Road, for Mr. C. H. H. Kenworthy; house, London Road, for Mr. W. H. Stroud; bungalow, Central Avenue, for Mr. E. A. Edwards; house, Broadway, for Mr. E. Nicholas; house, Grange Road, for Mr. E. J. Line.

The CARLISLE Corporation has obtained sanction to borrow £122,000 for the erection of 314 houses and the construction of roads on the Raffles and Botcherby estates.

The lessees of Nos. 51 and 52 Cornwall Gardens, KENSINGTON, have obtained power for the conversion of the premises into separate tenements.

Messrs. W. J. Scudamore, Ltd., are to construct a new estate road and sewers between Manor Lane and Burnt Ash Hill, LEE.

Plans passed by the LEWISHAM Borough Council: Ninety-seven houses, Downham estate, for L.C.C.; eight houses, Charlecote Grove, for Mr. E. W. Wallis; eighteen houses, Davenport Road, for Mr. A. E. Thomas; school, at Durham Hill, for L.C.C.

At a meeting of the L.C.C. it was stated that there had been no further subsidences of Waterloo Bridge. No information was available as to the date of the report to be made by the engineers concerning the schemes for dealing with this bridge and the scheme for a new bridge at Charing Cross.

The BRADFORD Corporation Baths Committee has approved an amended estimate of £20,200 for the erection of district baths at THORNTON, and instructed the city architect to obtain tenders for the work.

The PLYMOUTH Corporation is seeking a site in Portland Place, Devonport, for the erection of a welfare centre.

The city engineer of the STOKE-ON-TRENT Corporation has prepared a layout for the erection of twenty-six houses on the housing site at Pittshill.

The trustees of the United Methodist Church are to erect a church and Sunday school on the North Prospect housing estate, PLYMOUTH.

The WATFORD Corporation is seeking sanction for a loan of £13,500 for further housing subsidies.

The WATFORD Christian Science Church is negotiating for a site in Cassiobury Drive for the erection of a church.

Messrs. William Cowlin and Sons, Ltd., are to build twenty-six houses at Kingsway and Bryants Hill, BRISTOL.

Messrs. William Cowlin and Sons, Ltd., have acquired land on the Sea Mills estate, BRISTOL, for the erection of two blocks of motor garages.

The BRISTOL Corporation has prepared a clearance scheme for the St. Philip's area of about 13 acres and comprising 430 houses with a population of 2,400.

Plans passed by the DARTFORD U.D.C.: Alterations, 33-37 High Street, for Mr. J. B. Walton; thirty-two bungalows, Firmin Road and Gainsborough Avenue, for Mr. W. J. Brise; two bungalows, Havelock Road, for Mr. G. H. Giles; alterations, Scala Cinema, for Mr. L. Morris; shops and offices, Spital Street, for Mr. F. J. Tolhurst; two bungalows, Havelock Road, for Mr. H. C. Wright.

The PLYMOUTH Corporation Housing Committee has asked the borough engineer to report further in regard to the provision of dwellings for small families.

Mr. E. W. Wallis is to have erected twenty-four garages in Arodene Road, BRIXTON.

The BIRKENHEAD Corporation has now decided to invite tenders for the erection of twenty terrace houses in Agnes Road, Mersey Park, in accordance with revised plans prepared by the borough engineer.

The Middlesex County Council is to obtain tenders for the construction of a bridge over the canal along the line of the North Circular Road, near Stonebridge Park, WILLESDEN; the county surveyor estimating the cost at £25,000.

The BRIGHTON Corporation Electricity Committee has approved estimates of the engineer for extensions to buildings at Southwick power station, at a total cost of £32,000.

Plans passed by the PLYMOUTH Corporation: Fifteen houses, Jephson Road, for Messrs. F. A. and A. Coad; alterations, "Posada," Union Street, for Messrs. Ellery & Co., Ltd.; dormitory, Abbotsfield, Courtfield Road, for Salvation Army; alterations, 35-36 Notte Street, for St. John Ambulance Brigade; four shops, Eggbuckland Road, for Messrs. Hender and Sons; cottage, Wesleyan Chapel, North Street, for trustees; twelve houses, Coleridge Road, for Mr. J. Rendle; club premises, 68-69 Chapel Street, for Devonport Liberal Association; four houses, Pennycross Street, for Mr. F. Worden; eleven houses, Salcombe Road, for Mr. J. Rendle; alterations, 34-35 Westwell Street, for Messrs. R. Humm & Co.; warehouse, Kinterbury Street, for Messrs. May, Roberts & Co., Ltd.; six houses, Browning Road, for Mr. F. W. Hockaday; four houses, Burleigh Park estate, for Mr. E. J. Morrish; six houses, Fleet Street, for Messrs. Soloman and Renny; layout of streets, Higher Venn estate, for Garden Estate Co.; additions, Presbytery, Beaumont Road, for Rt. Rev. Bishop Keily; alterations, Melbourne Inn, Cecil Street, for Plymouth Breweries, Ltd.

The governors of King James's Grammar School, KNARESBOROUGH, have prepared a scheme for extensions at a cost of £27,000, to be undertaken in three stages.

A site at FOLESHILL for the erection of public baths has been scheduled by the Coventry Corporation.

The COVENTRY Corporation Housing Committee has arranged to erect a further thirty houses adjoining the Radford housing estate, at a cost of £12,600.

The Jockey Club and the Race Stand lessees have adopted a scheme prepared by Mr. A. J. Taylor, for the construction of stabling and other improvements at the Brighton racecourse, at a cost of £15,000.

The OXFORD Corporation Water Committee has agreed to the details of the scheme prepared by Sir Alex Binnie, Son and Deacon, consulting engineers, for the extension of the water supply, for which purposes Parliamentary powers are to be sought. Meanwhile it is recommended that an additional reservoir be constructed at Headington Hill.

The borough engineer of the BOURNEMOUTH Corporation is to prepare plans for the erection of houses on the Charminster site. The Corporation is also seeking sanction for a loan of £10,000 for further housing advances.

The CHESTERFIELD Corporation is considering the acquisition of land at Whittington Hill for another housing scheme.

RATES OF WAGES

Table with columns for location, county, and wage rates (s. d. I, II). Includes entries for ABERDARE, ABERGAVENNY, ABERINGDON, etc., up to YARMOUTH.

The initial letter opposite each entry indicates the grade under the Ministry of Labour schedule. The district is that to which the borough is assigned in the same schedule. Column I gives the rates for craftsmen; column II for labourers; the rate for craftsmen working at trades in which a separate rate maintains is given in a footnote. The table is a selection only. Particulars for lesser localities not included may be obtained upon application in writing.

* In these areas the rates of wages for certain trades (usually Painters and Plasterers) vary slightly from those given. The rates for each trade in any given area will be sent on request.

PRICES CURRENT

EXCAVATOR AND CONCRETOR

EXCAVATOR, 1s. 4½d. per hour; LABOURER, 1s. 4½d. per hour; NAVY, 1s. 4½d. per hour; TIMBERMAN, 1s. 6d. per hour; SCAFFOLDER, 1s. 5½d. per hour; WATCHMAN, 7s. 6d. per shift.

Broken brick or stone, 2 in., per yd.	£0 11 6
Thames ballast, per yd.	0 11 0
Pit gravel, per yd.	0 18 0
Pit sand, per yd.	0 14 6
Washed sand	0 15 0
Screeded ballast or gravel, add 10 per cent. per yd.	
Clinker breeze, etc., prices according to locality.	
Portland cement, per ton	£2 19 0
Lias lime, per ton	2 10 0
Sacks charged extra at 1s. 9d. each and credited when returned at 1s. 6d.	
Transport hire per day:	
Cart and horse	£1 3 0
Trailer	£0 15 0
3-ton motor lorry	3 15 0
Steam roller	4 5 0
Steam lorry, 5-ton 4	0 1 5 0

EXCAVATING and throwing out in ordinary earth not exceeding 6 ft. deep, basis price, per yd. cube, 0 3 0. Exceeding 6 ft., but under 12 ft., add 30 per cent. In stiff clay, add 30 per cent. In underpinning, add 100 per cent. In rock, including blasting, add 225 per cent. If basketed out, add 80 per cent. to 150 per cent. Headings, including timbering, add 400 per cent. RETURN, fill, and ram, ordinary earth, per yd. £0 1 6. SPREAD and level, including wheeling, per yd. 0 1 6. FILLING into carts and carting away to a spot or deposit, per yd. cube, 0 10 6. TRIMMING earth to slopes, per yd. sup. HACKING up old gran. or similar paving, per yd. sup. 0 1 3. PLANKING to excavations, per ft. sup., do. over 10 ft. deep, add for each 5 ft. in depth, 30 per cent. If left in, add to above prices, per ft. cube, 0 2 0.

HARDCORE, 2 in. ring, filled and rammed, 4 in. thick, per yd. sup.	0 2 1
do. 6 in. thick, per yd. sup.	0 2 10
PUDDLING, per yd. cube	1 10 0
CEMENT CONCRETE, 4-2-1, per yd. cube	2 3 0
do. 6-2-1, per yd. cube	1 18 0
do. in upper floors, add 15 per cent.	
do. in reinforced-concrete work, add 20 per cent.	
do. in underpinning, add 60 per cent.	
LIAS-LIME CONCRETE, per yd. cube	£1 16 0
BREEZE CONCRETE, per yd. cube	1 7 0
do. in lintels, etc., per ft. cube	0 1 6
CEMENT concrete 4-2-1 in lintels packed around reinforcement, per ft. cube	0 3 9
FINE concrete benching to bottom of manholes, per ft. cube	0 2 6
FINISHING surface of concrete spade face, per yd. sup.	0 0 9

DRAINER

LABOURER, 1s. 4½d. per hour; TIMBERMAN, 1s. 6d. per hour; BRICKLAYER, 1s. 9½d. per hour; PLUMBER, 1s. 9½d. per hour; WATCHMAN, 7s. 6d. per shift.

Stoneware pipes, tested quality, 4 in., per ft.	£0 0 10
do. 6 in., per ft.	0 1 3
do. 9 in., per ft.	0 2 3
Cast-iron pipes, coated, 9 ft. lengths, 4 in., per yd.	0 5 6
do. 6 in., per yd.	0 8 6
Portland cement and sand, see "Excavator" above.	
Lead for caulking, per cut.	£2 5 6
Gaskin, per lb.	0 0 4½

STONEWARE DRAINS, jointed in cement, tested pipes, 4 in., per ft.	0 4 3
do. 6 in., per ft.	0 5 0
do. 9 in., per ft.	0 7 9
CAST-IRON DRAINS, jointed in lead, 4 in., per ft.	0 8 0
do. 6 in., per ft.	0 10 0

Note.—These prices include digging concrete bed and filling for normal depths, and are average prices. Fittings in Stoneware and Iron according to type. See Trade Lists.

BRICKLAYER

BRICKLAYER, 1s. 9½d. per hour; LABOURER, 1s. 4½d. per hour; SCAFFOLDER, 1s. 5½d. per hour.

London stocks, per M.	£4 15 0
Flettons, per M.	2 18 0
Staffordshire blue, per M.	9 10 0
Firebricks, 2½ in., per M.	11 3 0
Glazed sals, white, and ivory stretchers, per M.	24 10 0
do. headers, per M.	24 0 0
Colours, extra, per M.	5 10 0
Seconds, less, per M.	1 0 0
Cement and sand, see "Excavator" above.	
Lime, grey stone, per ton	2 17 0
Mixed lime mortar, per yd.	1 6 0
Damp course, in rolls of 4½ in., per roll	0 2 6
do. 9 in. per roll	0 4 9
do. 14 in. per roll	0 7 6
do. 18 in. per roll	0 9 6

BRICKWORK in stone lime mortar, Flettons or equal, per rod	£33 0 0
do. in cement do., per rod	36 0 0
do. in stocks, add 25 per cent. per rod.	
do. in blues, add 100 per cent. per rod.	
do. circular on plan, add 12½ per cent. per rod.	
do. in backing to masonry, add 12½ per cent. per rod.	
do. in raising on old walls, etc., add 12½ per cent. per rod.	
do. in underpinning, add 20 per cent. per rod.	
HALF-BRICK walls in stocks in cement mortar (1-3), per ft. sup.	£0 1 0
BEDDING plates in cement mortar, per ft. run	0 0 3
BEDDING window or door frames, per ft. run	0 0 3
LEAVING chases 2½ in. deep for edges of concrete floors not exceeding 6 in. thick, per ft. run	0 0 2
CUTTING do. in old walls in cement, per ft. run	0 0 4
CUTTING, toothing and bonding new work to old (labour and materials), per ft. sup.	0 0 7
TERRA-COTTA flue pipes 9 in. diameter, jointed in fireclay, including all cuttings, per ft. run	0 3 6
do. 14 ft. by 9 in. do., per ft. run	0 6 0
FLAUNCHING chimney pots, each	0 2 0
CUTTING and planing ends of timbers, etc., in cement	0 1 0
FACINGS fair, per ft. sup. extra	0 0 3
do. picked stocks, per ft. sup. extra	0 0 7
do. red rubbers gauged and set in putty, per ft. sup. extra	0 4 9
do. in salt white or ivory glazed, per ft. sup. extra	0 5 6
TECK pointing, per ft. sup. extra	0 0 10
WEATHER pointing, do. do.	0 0 3
TILE creasing with cement fillet each side per ft. run	0 0 6
GRANOLITHIC PAVING, 1 in., per yd. sup.	0 5 0
do. 1½ in., per yd. sup.	0 6 0
do. 2 in., per yd. sup.	0 7 0
If coloured with red oxide, per yd. sup.	0 1 0
If finished with carborundum, per yd. sup.	0 0 6
If in small quantities in finishing to steps, etc., per ft. sup.	0 1 4
Jointing new gran. paving to old, per ft. run	0 0 4
Extra for fishing gran. or cement paving around gullies, each	0 1 6
BITUMINOUS DAMP COURSE, ex rolls, per ft. sup.	0 0 7
ASPHALT (MASTIC) DAMP COURSE, ½ in., per yd. sup.	0 8 0
do. vertical, per yd. sup.	0 11 0
SLATE DAMP COURSE, per ft. sup.	0 0 10
ASPHALT ROOFING (MASTIC) in two thicknesses, ½ in., per yd.	0 8 6
do. SKIRTING, 6 in., per yd.	0 0 11
BREEZE PARTITION BLOCKS, set in cement, 1½ in. per yd. sup.	0 5 3
do. Do. 3 in.	0 6 6
BREEZE fixing bricks, extra for each	0 0 3

THE wages are the Union rates current in London at the time of publication. The prices are for good quality material, and are intended to cover delivery at works, wharf, station, or yard as customary, but will vary according to quality and quantity. The measured prices are based upon the foregoing, and include usual builders' profits. Though every care has been taken in its compilation it is impossible to guarantee the accuracy of the list, and readers are advised to have the figures confirmed by trade inquiry.

MASON

MASON, 1s. 9½d. per hour; DO. fixer, 1s. 10½d. per hour; LABOURER, 1s. 4½d. per hour; SCAFFOLDER, 1s. 5½d. per hour.

Portland Stone:	
Whitbed, per ft. cube	£0 4 6
Bashed, per ft. cube	0 4 7
Bath stone, per ft. cube	0 3 0
Usual trade extras for large blocks.	
York paving, av. 2½ in., per yd. super	0 6 6
York emplates given, per ft. cube	0 6 9
Slate shales, rubbed, 1 in., per ft. sup.	0 2 6
Cement and sand, see "Excavator," etc., above.	
HOISTING and setting stone, per ft. cube	£0 2 2
do. for every 10 ft. above 30 ft. add 15 per cent.	
PLAIN face Portland basis, per ft. sup.	£0 2 8
do. circular, per ft. sup.	0 4 0
SUNK FACE, per ft. sup.	0 3 9
do. circular, per ft. sup.	0 4 10
JOINTS, arch, per ft. sup.	0 2 6
do. sunk, per ft. sup.	0 2 7
do. do. circular, per ft. sup.	0 4 6
CIRCULAR-CIRCULAR work, per ft. sup.	1 2 0
PLAIN MOULDING, straight, per inch of girth, per ft. run	0 1 1
do. circular, do., per ft. run	0 1 4

HALF SAWING, per ft. sup.	£0 1 0
Add to the foregoing prices, if in York stone, 35 per cent.	
do. Mansfield, 12½ per cent.	
Deduct for Bath, 33½ per cent.	
do. for Chilmark, 5 per cent.	
SETTING 1 in. slate shelving in cement, per ft. sup.	£0 0 6
RUBBED round nosing to do., per ft. lin.	0 0 6
YORK STEPS, rubbed T. & R., ft. cub. fixed	1 9 0
YORK SILLS, W. & T., ft. cub. fixed	1 13 0
ARTIFICIAL stone paving, 2 in. thick, per ft. sup.	0 1 6
do. 2½ in. thick, per ft. sup.	0 1 9

SLATER AND TILER

SLATER, 1s. 9½d. per hour; TILER, 1s. 9½d. per hour; SCAFFOLDER, 1s. 5½d. per hour; LABOURER, 1s. 4½d. per hour. N.B.—Tiling is often executed as piecework.

Slates, 1st quality, per 1,200:	
Portmadoc Ladies	£14 0 0
Countess	27 0 0
Duchess	32 0 0
Old Delahole	Med. Grey Med. Green
24 in. x 12 in.	£42 11 3 £45 1 0
20 in. x 10 in.	31 4 3 33 0 6
16 in. x 10 in.	20 18 0 22 4 9
14 in. x 8 in.	12 1 0 12 16 3
Green Randoms, per ton	8 3 9
Grey-green do., per ton	7 3 9
Green pegs, 12 in. to 8 in. long, per ton	6 3 9
In 4-ton truck loads, delivered Nine Elms station.	
Chips, lead, per lb.	£0 0 6
Chips, copper, per lb.	0 2 0
Nails, compo, per cut.	1 6 0
Nails, copper, per lb.	0 1 10
Cement and sand, see "Excavator," etc., above.	
Hand-made tiles, per M.	£5 18 0
Machine-made tiles, per M.	5 8 0
Westmorland slates, large, per ton	9 0 0
do. Peggits, per ton	7 5 0

SLATING, 3 in. lap, compo nails, Portmadoc or equal:	
Ladies, per square	£4 0 0
Countess, per square	4 5 0
Duchess, per square	4 10 0
WESLMORLAND, in diminishing courses, per square	6 5 0
CORNISH do., per square	6 3 0
Add, if vertical, per square approx.	0 13 0
Add, if with copper nails, per square approx.	0 2 8
Double course at eaves, per ft. approx.	0 1 0
SLATING with Old Delahole slates to a 3 in. lap with copper nails, at per square.	
Med. Grey Med. Green	
24 in. x 12 in.	£5 0 0 £5 2 0
20 in. x 10 in.	5 5 0 5 10 0
16 in. x 10 in.	4 15 0 5 1 0
14 in. x 8 in.	4 10 0 4 15 0
Green randoms	6 7 0
Grey-green do.	5 9 0
Green pegs, 12 in. to 8 in. long	4 17 0
TILING, 4 in. gauge, every 4th course nailed, in hand-made tiles, average per square	5 6 0
do., machine-made do., per square	4 17 0
Vertical Tiling, including pointing, add 18s. 6d. per square.	
FIXING lead soakers, per dozen	£0 0 10
STRIPPING old slates and stacking for re-use, and clearing away surplus and rubbish, per square	0 10 0
LABOUR only in laying slates, but including nails, per square	1 0 0
See "Sundries for Asbestos Tiling."	

CARPENTER AND JOINER

CARPENTER, 1s. 9½d. per hour; JOINER, 1s. 9½d. per hour; LABOURER, 1s. 4½d. per hour.

Timber, average prices at Docks, London Standard Scandinavian, etc. (equal to 2nds):	
7 x 3, per std.	£20 0 0
11 x 4, per std.	30 0 0
Mixed or Equal. Slightly less than foregoing.	
Flooring, P.E., 1 in., per sq.	£1 5 0
do. T. and G., 1 in., per sq.	1 5 0
Planed boards, 1 in. x 11 in., per std.	3 0 0
Wainscot oak, per ft. sup. of 1 in.	0 1 6
Mahogany, Honduras, per ft. sup. of 1 in.	0 1 4
do. Cuba, per ft. sup. of 1 in.	0 2 6
do., African, per ft. sup.	0 1 3
Teak, per ft. sup. of 1 in.	0 1 6
do., ft. cube	0 15 0
Fir fixed in wall plates, lintels, sleepers, etc., per ft. cube	0 5 6
do. framed in floors, roofs, etc., per ft. cube	0 6 6
do. framed in trusses, etc., including ironwork, per ft. cube	0 7 6
PITCH PINE, add 3½ per cent.	
FIXING only boarding in floors, roofs, etc., per sq.	0 13 6
SARKING FELT laid, 1-ply, per yd.	0 1 6
Do. 3-ply, per yd.	0 1 9
CENTERING for concrete, etc., including horsing and striking, per sq.	2 10 0
TILING pieces to flat or segments soffits, 4 in. wide, per ft. run	0 0 4½
do. 9 in. wide and over per ft. sup.	0 1 2

continued overleaf

CARPENTER AND JOINER: continued.

Table listing carpentry and joinery work including shuttering, deal boarding, tongued and grooved flooring, and staircases with associated costs.

SMITH

Table listing smith work including mild steel in British standard sections, sheet steel, and mild steel in trusses.

PLUMBER

PLUMBER, 1s. 9d. per hour; MATE OR LABOURER, 1s. 4d. per hour.

Table listing plumbing work including lead milled sheet, drain pipes, solder, and milled lead and labour in gutters.

PLASTERER

PLASTERER, 1s. 9d. per hour (plus allowances in London only); LABOURER, 1s. 4d. per hour.

Table listing plastering work including chalk lime, hair, sand and cement, and lathing with sawn laths.

GLAZIER

GLAZIER, 1s. 8d. per hour.

Table listing glazing work including glass in crates, cathedral white, and glazing in putty.

Table listing glazing work including glazing in beads, lead lights, and glazing only polished plate.

PAINTER AND PAPERHANGER

PAINTER, 1s. 8d. per hour; LABOURER, 1s. 4d. per hour; FRENCH POLISHER, 1s. 9d. per hour; PAPERHANGER, 1s. 8d. per hour.

Table listing painting and paperhanging work including genuine white lead, lime whitening, wash, stop, and various finishing treatments.

SUNDRIES

Table listing sundries including fibre or wood pulp boardings, asbestos sheeting, and various building materials.

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