

NEARING COMPLETION
LIBRARY, LEEDS UNIVERSITY



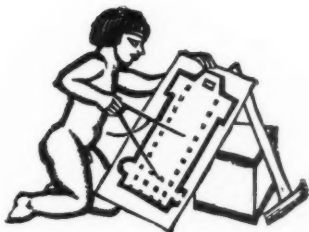
THE Brotherton Library, which forms part of Leeds University's new extension, is to be officially opened in October next. The architects are Lancaster and Lodge. Above is a view of the general reading room.



G E R M A N S T A T E M O T O R R O A D

On Monday of last week Mr. Hore-Belisha announced that the Ministry of Transport was about to assume complete control of the main trunk roads. The German highway system was similarly consolidated in June, 1933, and a plan to construct a network of State Motor Roads followed immediately. 250,000 workmen are at present engaged on the building of 1,725 miles of these roads, of which the first 625 miles will be completed this year.

All buildings, bridges, and signs near the Motor Roads are subject to strict control. The photograph is taken from one of the pedestrian crossing bridges on the Berlin-Stether road.



TRUNK ROADS

THE Ministry of Transport has announced its decision to take over the main arterial roads of Britain. And for the moment the public must be content with the brevity of this statement in the House.

The roads concerned are those trunk routes radiating from London to the north and west, and their total length is about 4,500 miles, but no details are yet available of how the Ministry intends to provide for their superintendence or reorganization.

The implications of Mr. Hore-Belisha's statement, however, provide more than enough for the public to think over for a week or so. They provide evidence both of a change in administrative policy of very considerable importance and, more directly, plenty of encouragement to rival definitions of what a main road ought to be.

Local government, painfully evolved into something like a system in the course of a century, has become a national institution in Britain. But its growth has not prevented Britons seeing that there was a lot to be said for centralised administration. So, very characteristically, they decided to have the best of both systems. Education, housing and, hitherto, the roads are all examples of national services in which a Government department encourages or chastises local executives by grants given or withheld.

From now on, local responsibility for the principal roads is to be ended. The reasons for such a step may have been many. The complication of divided responsibility when a road runs in the course of a dozen miles through the areas of several local authorities; local prejudice against the burden on local officials and resources when main roads avoid all local centres and thus bring little trade; the desire for greater simplicity and uniformity in layout and surfacing—all these would seem to show that the balance of advantage will lie with centralisation. None the less, the new state of affairs, so briefly, almost parenthetically, announced, is a great political development. It is the nationalization of another public service.

Watching the Ministry deal with its new responsibility will soon become the absorbing interest of the press, the public and the political world. Mr. Hore-Belisha will be praised, criticised and shuddered at until the volume of comment and gesticulation which surrounds him will render him immune from the small notes of those who are really interested in what happens to the surface of Britain.

It would seem as well, therefore, for those who are interested, and amongst them architects, not to wait

too long upon data for their speaking, but to talk at once. And their first remark might well be an open query: "What should a main road be?"

There will be many people, a multitude of associations, ready to answer. Amongst the answers there may be found one or two demands common to all. That main roads should have a good uniform surface, that they should be well lighted or not lighted at all, such beliefs will find almost universal acceptance.

But agreement may well end there. The greatest of all problems connected with main traffic routes is that of the best way of reducing the number of accidents which happen on them. Hitherto, the remedy of providing better roads—wider roads, straighter roads and better surfaced roads—has seemed to carry with it its own antidote. For as the roads have become better, speeds have increased and human carelessness has kept the level of accidents much as it was before. With such a state of affairs the broad straight road has become faced with a considerable opposition. It is maintained that the pleasure of the winding tree-bordered road has been sacrificed to no purpose, and that nine-tenths of accidents are due to fast driving merely for the aimless sake of driving fast.

Those who are interested in roads as a general problem in design, however, may consider that this attitude does not reach the real core of the question. No main road in Britain has ever yet been built after the complete consideration and planning of all its aspects. All have been compromises, touched and remodelled to fit an existing chaos, or laid down to be joined by minor roads and lined with buildings and a multitude of signs in accordance with all the whims of local authorities and private enterprise.

Mr. Hore-Belisha has recognized this at last. And the Ministry has also recognized that a system of reaction cannot be imposed upon a partial progress. For better or worse, the country is committed to the big road.

Architects may therefore hope at last that the trunk road will be subject to reasoned control and reasoned design. Of this control the first step will be double traffic routes, and the second some real meaning given to the Ribbon Restriction Act. It has long been clear that it is what is put beside a main road, rather than what goes on it, which must eventually govern its traffic efficiency. And it is *beside* the main road, amongst all the present litter of a thousand buildings and a thousand competing signs, that the real battle of town planning will be fought out—with the Minister of Transport as a probable protagonist.



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N O T E S & T O P I C S

DEPARTMENTAL VISIONARIES

THERE are several points of exciting importance about the Board of Education's new handbook on the planning of Elementary Schools, which was issued on Tuesday.

*

The last handbook was published in 1914 under the title of *Building Regulations for Elementary Schools*, and very soon after the war the Board, and other people, began to notice things that were wrong with it. It was very quickly badly out of date (not that architects would take exception to such a trifle in any building regulations); and worse was to come. Instead of being regarded as a minimum code it became the bible of school architects.

*

School after school was built fulfilling its letter with an air of pleased accomplishment, but rarely or never stepping an inch beyond it. The result was a dreary stagnation in school planning which at last caused the Board, in 1926, to withdraw it altogether.

*

For ten years the powers that be have been awaiting a pause in the quick changes and developments of educational ideas during which they could pop out with another handbook. No such pause has come; and the new handbook, this time not *Regulations* but, far more wisely, *Suggestions* has been published in a full recognition of the changes in being and to come.

*

In *Suggestions* one can see how far-sighted the Board wants to be—if only it hadn't the Treasury on one side and local authorities on the other. At the Conference held last Monday prior to publication it was possible to see that if the Board had a free hand Britain's schools would be very different.

*

Mr. E. G. Kendall, the Board's Architect, preserved behind his distinguished appearance and charming smile

every departmental discretion. Nothing was admitted, and that without prejudice.

*

But it did slip out that the Board wished to encourage single-floored schools, closely linked with the open air; really large sites with *real* gardens; a library in every school; as many "active" rooms as ordinary classrooms; and nursery classes if not nursery schools.

*

It did not need the pious architectural hope included at the end of the Press Notice to show how our schools might be transformed if local education committees decide that each new building shall be something for the Board to boast of.

NATIONAL PLANNING

Although, as I said last week, the nationalization of the trunk roads is a great advance, it must be remembered that roads are only part of the general organization of the country, and, being related to many other parts, cannot reasonably be dealt with in isolation. They should form one of the ingredients of a comprehensive national plan.

*

It is, however, satisfactory that someone has reached the conclusion that there *are* planning matters which should be treated nationally.

"ANOTHER RIVAL (CONTINUED)"

Following my note of July 2, a letter has been passed on to me from the Country Gentlemen's Association stating that they do charge on the R.I.B.A. scale of fees for their architectural services. I am obliged to them for letting me know this; and while I am glad that there is no undercutting of fees I still feel that it is hard for the private practitioner to be in competition with associations or bodies which can advertise their services.

MACHIAVELLI IN MERCHANDISE

Those readers of the JOURNAL who also find leisure to follow wider happenings in *The Times* and the *Manchester Guardian*, have no doubt been unable to prevent their eyes wandering now and then to the daily notes of "Callisthenes."

*

That gentleman's principles and policies are nearly always of good sense—sound stop-caution-and-go good sense—and often witty.

*

But once in a while there are exceptions. For a commentator whose up-to-dateness is nine-tenths of his justification for existence, "Callisthenes" on architecture is disappointing.

*

To be all things to all men is no doubt an essential achievement in running a store; to attempt it in architecture is to sound a prelude to calamity.

*

"Callisthenes," however, who has skirted this pit rather wobbily in previous notes, fell right in last week by endowing his conception of a super-store manager with a full knowledge of the technical details of building—just in addition to the million other gifts of that superb creation:

The modern executive should be as familiar with the essentials of the projected building as with the palm of his hand; should be able to detect instantly in a blue print that that beam, or projection, or ornamentation will hinder the freedom of internal routine. The beauty



The wedding took place last Saturday between Mr. G. A. Jellicoe, A.R.I.B.A., and Miss Ursula Pares. The photograph shows the bride and bridegroom leaving Hampstead Parish Church.

of the external design should be studied and the man of business will find much pleasure in making himself familiar with the basic principles of this fine art, but the internal arrangements must be thoroughly consistent with the requirements of the business.

*

The sweet blending of kindly patronage, platitude and a suggestion that the details of, and reasons for, construction can be picked up in half an hour or so by the "modern executive," is really very charming.

*

No, no, "Callisthenes," you really must not say such things. They're just—well, silly.

ANOTHER HOUSING DIFFICULTY

A case has just been heard in the Courts which illustrates how careful housing authorities must be, and also how unswayed the Courts are by popular needs. Justice must be done; and must appear to be done.

*

The Council of the County Borough of Sunderland decided to acquire a farm and to use part of the land for housing and part for a park. To this end it made a compulsory purchase order to which the farmer objected, and the Minister of Health held a local enquiry.

*

Then, before the Minister had given his decision, a deputation from the Council went to the Ministry to consult upon the general housing problems of the town, as the Housing Acts require it to do. Shortly afterwards the Minister confirmed the compulsory purchase order.

*

The farmer thereupon appealed to the Court to quash the order and, though it was denied that the particular farm in question was ever mentioned in the Council and Ministry's consultations, the Court has quashed

the order and Sunderland has lost 100 acres of land for housing and parks.

RARE AND REFRESHING EXPERIENCE

A friend of mine was reminiscing the other day; and amongst the memories he raked up was one which, from my knowledge of architecture, I should imagine is somewhat infrequent. On leaving an architectural school he entered, as did many of us, the office of quite a well-known firm of architects at a salary of £4 or £5 a week.

*

The office appeared to be quite a normal one, and nothing unusual occurred, as they say, until the end of the year, six months or so after he joined the firm, when with his usual cheque he was handed another for five or six times the amount, and was informed that it was his share of the annual profits.

*

This happened again at the end of the following year—only that time the cheque was for more than twice the first one. Whether my friend struck the only firm of architects who share some of their profits with their staff, I do not know, but I have never come across anyone else who has had that particular experience.

*

This friend had another experience with the same firm which was rather unusual. (Shall I?) On his first morning he was set to work on the drawings for the rebuilding of a large shop of ladies' outfitters. The office, a temporary one, in which he worked, was actually in the shop itself. After a little while the chief assistant sent him downstairs to check some measurements. Which he proceeded to do until suddenly confronted by a stout and screaming lady, in little besides a foundation garment. He then discovered that he was measuring up the ladies' fitting rooms. The rest of the checking was done after shopping hours.

TOWN PLANNING

At the conference of the institute of Public Administration, held at University College, Oxford, one of the speakers referred to the growth and development of Oxford from a University and market town into a great industrial centre. Since 1921 the population has increased by 24,000 and the rate of increase is being maintained.

*

The separate towns of Abingdon and Woodstock are becoming dormitories for the workers of Oxford; and sooner or later, unless it is checked, development is bound to connect them up.

*

With such an organization as the Morris Motor Company at Oxford, this industrial development might have been foreseen, and a plan prepared to meet it; but from the report of the speeches at this Conference no hint was given that this was done.

STOLEN GOODS

The theft of Adam fireplaces and such like things from empty houses is quite a common happening, but the theft of a 6-lb. lead gutter from an occupied factory must, I imagine, be a rare occurrence nowadays. Yet this happened a day or two ago in North London. The thieves must have been disturbed, for having ripped up the gutter and pulled the flashing from the parapet wall they departed leaving most of their swag behind them.

ASTRAGAL.

NEWS

POINTS FROM
THIS ISSUE

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SAVING THAMES VALLEY

Local authorities concerned with the amenities of the riverside areas between Putney and Staines decided, at a conference at Richmond last week, to extend the area for preservation to Windsor and to invite public bodies not now represented to join the Thames Valley Joint Town Planning Committee.

A meeting to consider the replies will be held in September.

THE SEVERN BRIDGE

The scheme for a new Severn Bridge, recently turned down by a Select Committee, is expected to be revived. Mr. Baldwin stated last week that if the scheme secured more definite support from South Wales, the possibility of its re-submission to Parliament might be discussed.

B.I.N.C.

"The general position of the building industry continues to be satisfactory," states the recent special quarterly issue of *The Building Industries Survey*, published by the Building Industries National Council. "The index of production for building materials and building compiled by the Board of Trade for the first quarter of 1936 was 10.4 per cent. above the corresponding period a year ago and 49.9 per cent. above the average for the year 1930. The rate of unemployment in the industry is below the level of the corresponding period of any

THE
ARCHITECTS'
DIARY

Thursday, July 16

ROYAL ACADEMY, Burlington House, Piccadilly, W.1. Summer Exhibition. Until August 8.
ROYAL SCOTTISH ACADEMY, At Edinburgh. Until September 5.

AUCTIONEERS' AND ESTATE AGENTS' INSTITUTE. At the Kingsway Hall, Kingsway, W.C.2. "Can Auctioneers and Estate Agents save Beauty from the Beast?" By Sir Arnold Wilson.

Friday, July 17

ARCHITECTURAL ASSOCIATION, 36 Bedford Square, W.C.1. Annual prize-giving and exhibition of work by students of the A.A. School of Architecture. 3.30 p.m.

Tuesday, July 21

LONDON SOCIETY. Visit to the Trinity Almshouses, Mile End Road, Stepney, E.1. 2.45 p.m. Also, July 22, at the same time.

Wednesday, July 22

INSTITUTION OF HEATING AND VENTILATING ENGINEERS. Annual Visit to the Building Research Station, Bucknalls Lane, Garston, near Watford. 6 p.m.

year since 1929. The total activity of the industry has been fully maintained," states the Council, "owing to an increase in non-residential construction. This movement may be expected to continue for some time, and the outlook for this type of work is favourable. The building plan figures show consistent increases since 1932.

"The position of public works contracting is still very disappointing. The amounts of loans sanctioned by the Minister of Health continue to increase as compared with the corresponding period a year ago, but the rate of unemployment is still above that of 1933. A seasonal increase in employment occurred in May, but the unemployment percentage was very high at 41.2. The rate among males was 41.4 per cent. Thus the astonishing position persists that the industry most dependent upon the policy of public authorities for employment has by far the worst record of any industry in the country. The outlook for the materials industries during the coming months is favourable. They have to look forward to an increase in demand which will probably exceed that to be expected on account of seasonal factors. The demand for materials used in building larger structures will show considerable advance, and in some cases this movement will be strengthened by construction for the national defence programme and a seasonal increase in public works activity.

"On a longer view, a gradual change in the type of material demanded will commence, those for which the main demand arises from new housing construction tending to decline, and those used in larger structures to increase. For materials with a footing in both markets the outlook is very bright, and in the case of those used mainly for housing the strength of the replacement demand must not be overlooked."

BUILDING EXHIBITION

Three-hundred-and-fifty firms and associations have already booked space in the

twentieth (biennial) Building Exhibition, which is to be held at Olympia, London, from September 16 to 30. This number of exhibitors is in excess of the number which exhibited on the last occasion in 1934, and an increase of about 10 per cent. in the total number may be expected. A feature of the Exhibition will be that many more stands will be designed by architects.

COMING EXHIBITION

An Industrial and Agricultural Exhibition, organized by the Government of the United Provinces, will be held at Lucknow from December 5, 1936, to February 4, 1937. The Wood Technologist of the United Provinces' Government would be glad if manufacturers of building materials, sanitary fittings and joinery, who desire to exhibit at the Exhibition would communicate with him. Letters should be addressed: S. B. Naider, Esq., B.G., A.M.I.E., Wood Technologist, Bareilly, United Provinces, India.

FULHAM HOUSING SOCIETY

H.R.H. Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone, will open, today, at 3.30 p.m. a block of flats in Clancarty Road, S.W.6, erected by the Fulham House Improvement Society. The architect is Miss J. F. Abram, L.R.I.B.A.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF BRITISH
SCULPTORS

The Royal Society of British Sculptors has awarded its medal "for the Best Work of the year by a British Sculptor in any way exhibited to the public in London" to Mr. Charles L. Hartwell, R.A., F.R.B.S., for his statue of St. George on the Marylebone War Memorial, in the centre of the new roundabout at the junction of St. John's Wood Road and Wellington Road, N.W.8.

APPOINTMENT

Mr. J. Harrison, of Winchester, has been appointed as county architect for Derbyshire in succession to Mr. G. H. Widdows, who is retiring. There were 80 applicants for the position. The position carries with it a salary of £1,150, rising to £1,400 per annum, with travelling allowance. Mr. Harrison, who is 40 years of age, was from 1925 to 1927 assistant architect to the City of Nottingham, and he has since been assistant architect to the Bucks County Council and deputy county architect for Hampshire.

OBITUARY

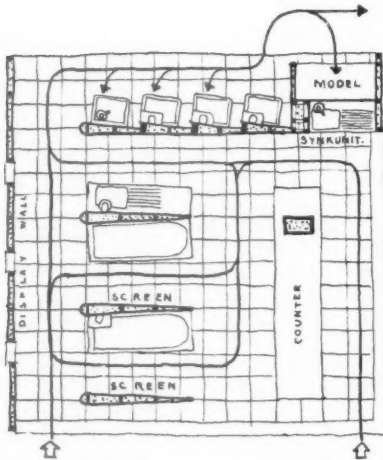
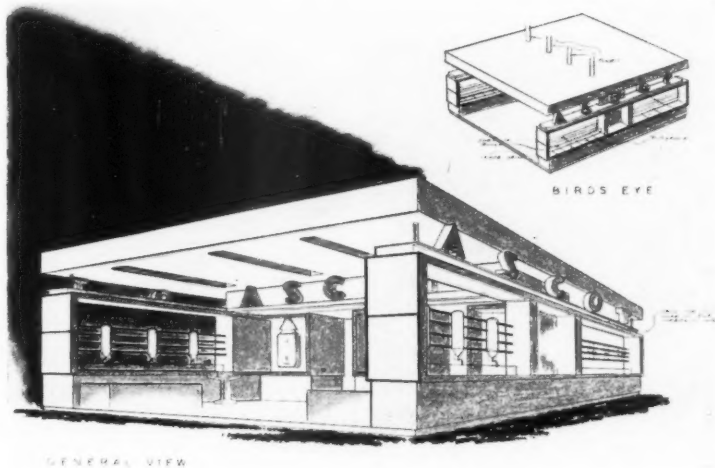
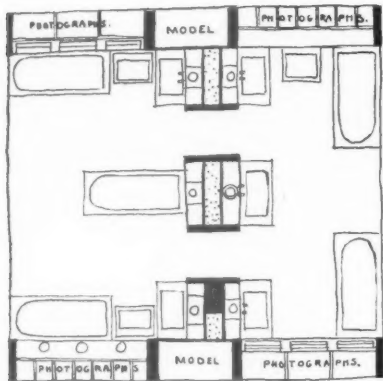
J. C. DERHAM

We regret to record the death of Mr. J. C. Derham, L.R.I.B.A., of Blackpool. Mr. Derham, who was fifty-four years of age, was architect to the Blackpool Tower and Winter Gardens companies, and for 21 years previously practised in London.

A. DOUGLAS CLARE

We regret to record the death of Mr. A. Douglas Clare, F.R.I.B.A., of Finchley. Born in 1889, Mr. Clare was articled to Messrs. Belcher and Joass. He was elected an Associate of the R.I.B.A. in 1919 and a

DESIGN FOR AN EXHIBITION STAND



The first and second premiated designs in the competition for a stand for Ascot Gas Water Heaters at the forthcoming Building Trades Exhibition: top, design placed first (sketch plan and perspective), by Rodney Thomas; bottom, design placed second (sketch plan and perspective), by W. Lewis and W. G. Sweet. The full award is given on page 78.

Fellow in 1935. Mr. Clare was responsible for the design of many buildings in London and the provinces.

R.I.B.A.

PROPOSED CAMERA CLUB

A preliminary general meeting is to be held at the R.I.B.A. on Monday, July 27, at 6.30 p.m., to consider the possibility of forming a Camera Club or Photographic Society. The meeting has been arranged by the R.I.B.A. Social Committee and all members and students interested in the proposal are invited to attend. As the formation of the Club will depend upon the support received at the meeting, the organizers request those who would wish to join to make a special point of being present.

COUNCIL MEETING

Following are some notes from a recent meeting of the Council of the R.I.B.A.:—*British Architects' Conference, 1937*: On the recommendation of the Allied Societies' Conference the Council accepted the invitation of the West Yorkshire Society of Archi-

teets to hold the British Architects' Conference in the area of the West Yorkshire Society in 1937.

The Court of Governors of the University of Sheffield: Mr. C. M. E. Hadfield (F.) was appointed as the R.I.B.A. representative on the Court of Governors of the University of Sheffield in place of the late Mr. E. M. Gibbs.

The British Council: Mr. Howard Robertson (F.), Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, was nominated to represent the R.I.B.A. on the British Council.

The Permanent International Committee of Architects: Mr. H. Chalton Bradshaw (F.) and Mr. John H. Markham (F.) were appointed as members of the British Section of the Permanent International Committee of Architects.

The International Association for Testing Materials: Second International Congress, London, 1937.—Mr. Thos. E. Scott (F.), Chairman of the Science Standing Committee, was appointed to represent the R.I.B.A. on the Organizing and Reception Committee of the Second International Congress of

the International Association for Testing Materials.

The Standardization of Under-Floor Duct Systems: Mr. Walter M. Goodesmith (A.) was appointed to represent the R.I.B.A. at a Conference called by the British Standards Institution to consider the standardization of under-floor duct systems and on the Technical Committee which will be set up should it be decided to proceed with the matter.

The Standardization of Glass and Glazing: Mr. Raymond McGrath (A.) and Mr. P. J. Waldram (L.) were appointed to represent the R.I.B.A. on the British Standards Institution Technical Committee B/41, Glass and Glazing.

British Standards Institution Technical Sub-Committee B/5/1, Slates: Mr. R. J. Angel (F.) and Mr. A. H. Barnes (F.) were appointed to represent the R.I.B.A. on the British Standards Institution Technical Sub-Committee B/5/1, Slates, in place of Mr. S. H. Loweth, who had found it necessary to resign therefrom.

British Waterworks Association: Standing Committee on Water Regulations: Mr. R. J.

Angel (F.) and Major C. F. Skipper (F.) were re-appointed as the R.I.B.A. representatives on the Standing Committee on Water Regulations of the British Waterworks Association.

Reinstatement: The following ex-member was reinstated: As Fellow: Mr. A. T. Heathcote.

Resignations.—The following resignations were accepted with regret: Messrs. P. Cutbush (A.), A. H. Coyle (L.), G. S. Hoffman (L.), and A. P. Miller (L.).

Transfer to the Retired Members Class.—The following members were transferred to the Retired Members Class:—*As Retired Associates:* Messrs. J. W. Stonhold and E. A. Taylor. *As Retired Licentiate:* Messrs. P. A. Chinoy and S. Piper.

ARCHITECTS' INDEMNITY INSURANCE

At the request of several members of the R.I.B.A. and some of the Allied Societies, the Practice Standing Committee is considering the question of architects' indemnity insurances, and in particular the high rates of premium which underwriters at present require for such policies. The Committee is now considering a scheme whereby members in private practice will be able to secure these policies at an annual premium which is believed to be considerably less than the premiums which are in operation at present. The scheme, however, cannot be put into operation unless a minimum number of 750 policies can be absolutely guaranteed.

In the R.I.B.A. Journal for February 9, 1935, an article by Mr. Maurice Webb, Chairman of the Architects' Benevolent Society Insurance Committee, drew attention to the fact that:—

(a) of the total number of architects in independent practice not more than 15 per cent. were insured;

(b) during the past thirteen years about 40 per cent. of those insured architects had claims made against them covered by the policies;

(c) about one-third of the claims notified had failed to mature; and

(d) the small percentage of architects insured, coupled with the relatively high ratio of claims, made it incumbent upon underwriters to charge premiums considerably higher in rate than would be the case if the profession generally made a practice of insuring.

It has been pointed out that unless more architects take advantage of these policies, this form of insurance may cease altogether.

The scheme at present under consideration by the Committee provides for a maximum cover of £5,000 for an annual premium of £8. In cases in which a firm consists of more than one person an additional premium of £2 for each partner over and above one, and for every technical assistant other than the clerical staff, would be charged; thus, for a firm consisting of three partners and three technical staff, the premium for a twelve months policy would be £18. Copies of a specimen policy may be obtained on application to the Secretary, R.I.B.A. Members who are prepared to support the proposed scheme are asked in their own interests to send their names at once to the Secretary, R.I.B.A., in order that the minimum number of 750 can be guaranteed and the scheme put into operation.



RECOLLECTIONS

UNITED STATES: 1893-1920

By FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT

In the following article publication is begun of a series of recollections by Mr. Frank Lloyd Wright of the state of architectural development in the U.S.A. at the end of the nineteenth century, and of the influences and observations which brought about his efforts to introduce a more rational approach to architectural design. As one of the great architectural pioneers, Frank Lloyd Wright has always been listened to: the interest of the present articles lies in the fact that they provide first-hand evidence of the development and reactions of one of the great figures in the modern movement at its beginnings—in most movements generally the most obscure and unrecorded period.

THE typical American dwelling of 1893 was crowding in upon itself all over the Chicago prairies as I used to go home from my work with Adler and Sullivan in Chicago to Oak Park, a Chicago suburb. That dwelling had, somehow, become typical American architecture, but by any faith in Nature implicit or explicit it did not belong anywhere. I was in my sixth year with Adler and Sullivan then, and they had completed the Wainwright building at St. Louis, the first expression of the skyscraper as a tall building. But after building the great Auditorium the "firm" did not build residences because they got in the way of larger, more important work. I had taken over dwellings, Mr. Sullivan's own house among them, whenever a client came to them for a house. The Charnley House was done in this way. I longed for a chance to build a sensible house, and—1893—soon free to build one I furnished an office in the Schiller Building and began my own practice

of architecture. The first real chance came by way of Herman Winslow for client. I was not the only one then sick of hypocrisy and hungry for reality. Winslow was something of an artist himself, sick of it all.

What was the matter with this typical American house? Well, just for an honest beginning—it lied about everything. It had no sense of unity at all nor any such sense of space as should belong to a free people. It was stuck up in thoughtless fashion. It had no more sense of earth than a "modernistic" house. And it was stuck up on wherever it happened to be. To take any one of these so-called "homes" away would have improved the landscape and helped to clear the atmosphere. The thing was more a hive than a home, just as "modernistic" houses are more boxes than houses. But these "homes" were very like the homes Americans were making for themselves elsewhere, all over their new country.

Nor, where the human being was

concerned, had this *typical* dwelling any appropriate sense of proportion whatever. It began somewhere way down in the wet, and ended as high up as it could get in the high-and-narrow. All materials looked alike to it or to anything or anybody in it. Essentially, were it brick or wood or stone, this "house" was a bedevilled box with a fussy lid; a complex box that had to be cut up by all kinds of holes made in it to let in light and air, with an especially ugly hole to go in and come out of. The holes were all "trimmed"; the doors and windows themselves trimmed; the roofs trimmed; the walls "trimmed." Architecture seemed to consist in what was done to these holes. "Joinery" everywhere reigned supreme in the pattern and as the soul of it all. Floors were the only part of the house left plain after "Queen Anne" had swept past. The "joiner" recommended "parquetry," but usually the housewife and the fashionable decorator covered these surfaces down underfoot with a tangled rug collection because otherwise the floors would be "bare." They were "bare" only because one could not very well walk on jigsawing or turned spindles or plaster ornament. This last limitation must have seemed, somehow, unkind.

It is not too much to say that as a young architect, by inheritance and training a radical, my lot was cast with an inebriate lot of criminals called buildings: sinners hardened by habit against every human significance except one—vulgarity. The one touch of Nature that makes the whole world kin. And I will venture to say, too, that the aggregation was at the lowest aesthetic level in all history. Steam heat, plumbing, and electric light were the only redeeming features, and these new features were hard put to it to function in the circumstances. Bowels, circulation, and nerves were new in buildings. But they had come to stay, and a building could no longer remain a mere shell in which life was somehow to make shift as it might.

BEGINNINGS

When I was eleven years old I was sent to a Wisconsin farm to learn how really to work. So all this I saw around me seemed affectation, nonsense, or profanity. The first feeling was hunger for reality and sincerity. A desire for simplicity that would yield a broader, deeper comfort was natural, too, to this first feeling. A growing idea of simplicity as organic as I had been born into it and trained in it, was new, as a quality of thought, able to strengthen and refresh the spirit in any circumstances. Organic simplicity might everywhere be seen producing significant character in the ruthless

but harmonious order I was taught to call Nature. I was more than familiar with it on the farm. All around me I, or anyone for that matter, might see beauty in growing things and, by a little painstaking, learn how they grow to be "beautiful." None were ever insignificant. I loved the prairie by instinct as itself a great simplicity: the trees, flowers and sky were thrilling by contrast. And I saw that a little of height on the prairie was enough to look like much more. Notice how every detail as to height becomes intensely significant and how breadths all fall short. Here was a tremendous spaciousness needlessly sacrificed—all cut up crosswise or lengthwise into fifty-foot lots, or would you have twenty-five feet? Reduced to a money-matter salesmanship kept on parcelling out the ground, selling it without restrictions. Everywhere, in a great new, free country, I could see only this mean tendency to tip everything in the way of human occupation or habitation up edgewise instead of letting it lie comfortably, flat-wise with the ground where spaciousness was a virtue. Nor has this changed much since automobilization has made it no genuine economic issue at all, but has made it a social crime to crowd in upon one another.

THE FUNDAMENTALS

By now I had committed the indiscretion that was eventually to leave me no peace and keep me from ever finding satisfaction in anything superficial. That indiscretion was a determination to search for the *qualities* in all things.

I had an idea—it still seems to be my own—that the planes parallel to the earth in buildings identify themselves with the ground—do most to make the buildings belong to the ground. (Unluckily they defy the photographer.) At any rate, independently I perceived this fact and put it to work. I had an idea that every house in that low region should begin *on* the ground, not *in* it as they then began, with damp cellars. This feeling—become an idea,

also—eliminated the basement. I devised one at ground level.*

And the feeling that the house should *look* as though it began there, *at* the ground, put a projecting basecourse as a visible edge to this foundation where, as a platform, it was evident preparation for the building itself and welded the structure to the ground.

An idea (probably rooted deep in racial instinct) that *shelter* should be the essential look of any dwelling, put the low-spreading roof, flat or hipped or low-gabled, with generously projecting eaves, over the whole. I began to see a building primarily not as a cave, but as broad shelter in the open, related to *vista*—*vista* without and *vista* within. You may see in these various feelings all taking the same direction that I was born an American child of the ground and of space, welcoming spaciousness as a modern human need as well as learning to see it as the natural opportunity. The farm had no negligible share in developing this sense of things in me, I am sure.

SCALE

Before this, by way of innate sense of comfort, had come the idea that the size of the human figure should fix every proportion of a dwelling or of anything in it. Human scale, was true building scale. Why not, then, the scale fixing the proportions of all buildings whatsoever? What other scale could I use? This was not a canon taught by anyone. So I accommodated heights in the new buildings to no exaggerated established order nor to impress the beholder (I hated grandomania then as much as I hate it now), but only to comfort the human being. I knew the house-dweller could seldom afford enough freedom to move about in built-in or built-over space, so,

* As still more "modern" we now have the house on stilts, entirely dissociated from the ground. Exposure which would be fatal to comfort in any chilly climate. Indecent divorce, violent anywhere.



The Coonley House, Riverside. Designed by Frank Lloyd Wright in 1908

perceiving the horizontal line as the earline of human life (the line of repose)—this, as an individual sense of the thing, began to bear fruit. I first extended horizontal spacing without enlarging the building by cutting out all the room-partitions that did not serve the kitchen or give needed privacy for sleeping apartments, or (as in the day of the parlour) serve to prevent some formal intrusion into the intimacy of the family circle. The small social office I set aside, as a necessary evil to receive "callers," for instance. Even this one concession soon disappeared as a relic of the barbarism called "fashion."

To get the house down to the horizontal in appropriate proportion into quiet relationship with the ground and as a more humane consideration anyway, the servants had to come down out of the complicated attic and go into a separate unit of their own attached to the kitchen on the ground floor. They liked this compulsion though the housewife worried. Cupboards disappeared as unsanitary boxes wasteful of room and airy wardrobes out in the rooms themselves served instead.

Freedom of floor space and elimination of useless heights worked a miracle in the new dwelling place. A sense of appropriate freedom had changed its whole aspect. The dwelling became more fit for human habitation on modern terms and far more natural to its site. An entirely new sense of space values in architecture began to come home. It now appears that—self-conscious of architectural implications—they first came into the architecture of the modern world. This was about 1893. Certainly something of the kind was due.

A new sense of repose in flat planes and quiet streamline effects had thereby and then found its way into building as we can now see it, admirable, in steamships, aeroplanes, and motor-cars. The age came into its own and the "age" did not know its own. There had been nothing at all from overseas to help in getting this new architecture planted on American soil. From 1893 to 1910 Adler and Sullivan's Wainwright Building (the first affirmation of the tall building as *tall*) these prairie houses, beginning with the Winslow House which followed the Charnley House, the Larkin building and Unity Temple—had planted it there. No, my dear Mrs. Gablemore, Mrs. Plasterbilt, and especially, now, Miss Flattop, nothing from "Japan" had helped, at all, except the marvel of Japanese colour-prints. They were a lesson in elimination of the insignificant and in the beauty of the natural use of materials.

NEW ARCHITECTURAL SENSE

As reward for independent thinking put into action as building and first plainly shown in the constitution and profiles of the prairie houses of Oak Park, Riverside and other suburbs and Chicago and other cities, Unity Temple at Oak Park and the Larkin Administration building in Buffalo, *an entirely new sense of architecture for anyone who could read architecture* had emerged. A higher concept of architecture. Architecture not alone as "form-following function" in Lieber Meister's sense, but architecture for the spirit of man, for life as life must be lived today: architecture spiritually—virtually—conceived as appropriate enclosure of interior space to be lived in. The enclosed space within them is the *reality* of the building. The enclosed space comes through as architecture and may be seen in these exteriors I have built as the *reality* of the building I wanted to build and did build, and am still building in spite of all opposition and the supreme obstacle—pretentious ignorance. This sense of the "within" or the room itself (or the rooms themselves) I see as the great thing to be realized and that may take the new forms we need as architecture. Such a source would never stultify itself as a mere style. This sense of interior space made *exterior* as architecture, working out by way of the nature of materials and tools, transcends, as fertilizing motive, all that has gone before. This clarifying motive of the whole makes previous ideas useful only as a means to the realization of a far greater concept of architecture. But the buildings I have conceived upon this basis still seem enigmatical, most of all they must seem so to those who profess the "modern." A chasm exists between profession and performance, because growth where the quality we now call organic is concerned must be slow growth. Eclecticism may take place overnight, but organic* architecture must come from the ground up into the light by gradual growth. It will itself be the ground of a better way of life for humanity.

(To be continued)

*The word "organic" should not be limited to its biological meaning but accepted with breadth as living "entity."

COMPETITION NEWS

EXHIBITION STAND

The result of the competition for a stand for Ascot Gas Water Heaters, Ltd., at the forthcoming Building Trades Exhibition was announced last week as follows:—

Design placed first (£100): Mr. Rodney Thomas, of 14a Elizabeth Street, S.W.1.

Design placed second (£25): Messrs. W. Lewis and W. G. Sweet, of 37 Clifton Gardens, Maida Vale, W.9.

Design placed third (£5): Mr. W. J. T. Godwin, of Oaken Cottage, Marlpit Lane, Coulsdon, Surrey.

Hon. Mentions: Mr. E. J. Starling, of 1 Addiscombe Road, Croydon; and Messrs. G. Provis and F. G. Woodward, of Joe Rock Studios, Boreham Wood, Herts.

62 designs were submitted; and the assessors were: Messrs. Keith D. P. Murray, A.R.I.B.A., G. Grey Wornum, F.R.I.B.A., and F. R. Yerbury.

WORKING-CLASS FLATS, BIRMINGHAM

We are informed that twenty-six schemes were submitted in the competition for working-class flats, Birmingham, the closing of which was July 11.

BANDSTAND, WEYMOUTH

The Weymouth Corporation is to hold a competition for designs for a bandstand, at a cost of about £30,000.

ARCHITECTS AND BOND STREET

A competition for a scheme of decorations for Bond Street for the Coronation is being promoted by the Bond Street Traders' Association in conjunction with the Architectural Association. Prizes of about £150 are to be offered and it is proposed to select a group to carry out the work.

PARLIAMENT HOUSE, SOUTHERN RHODESIA

An exhibition of the designs submitted in the recent competition for a new Parliament House, Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia, is to be held at the R.I.B.A., 66 Portland Place, London, W.1, from August 10 to August 20 inclusive.

The exhibition will be open to the public from Monday to Friday between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

THE FOLKESTONE COMPETITION

In the description of the designs submitted for the Folkestone Competition published in our issue for July 2, the authors of one of the commended designs were given as being Mr. R. C. Moira and Miss Betty L. C. Leed. The authors of this design were Mr. R. C. Moira and Miss Betty L. C. Leech.

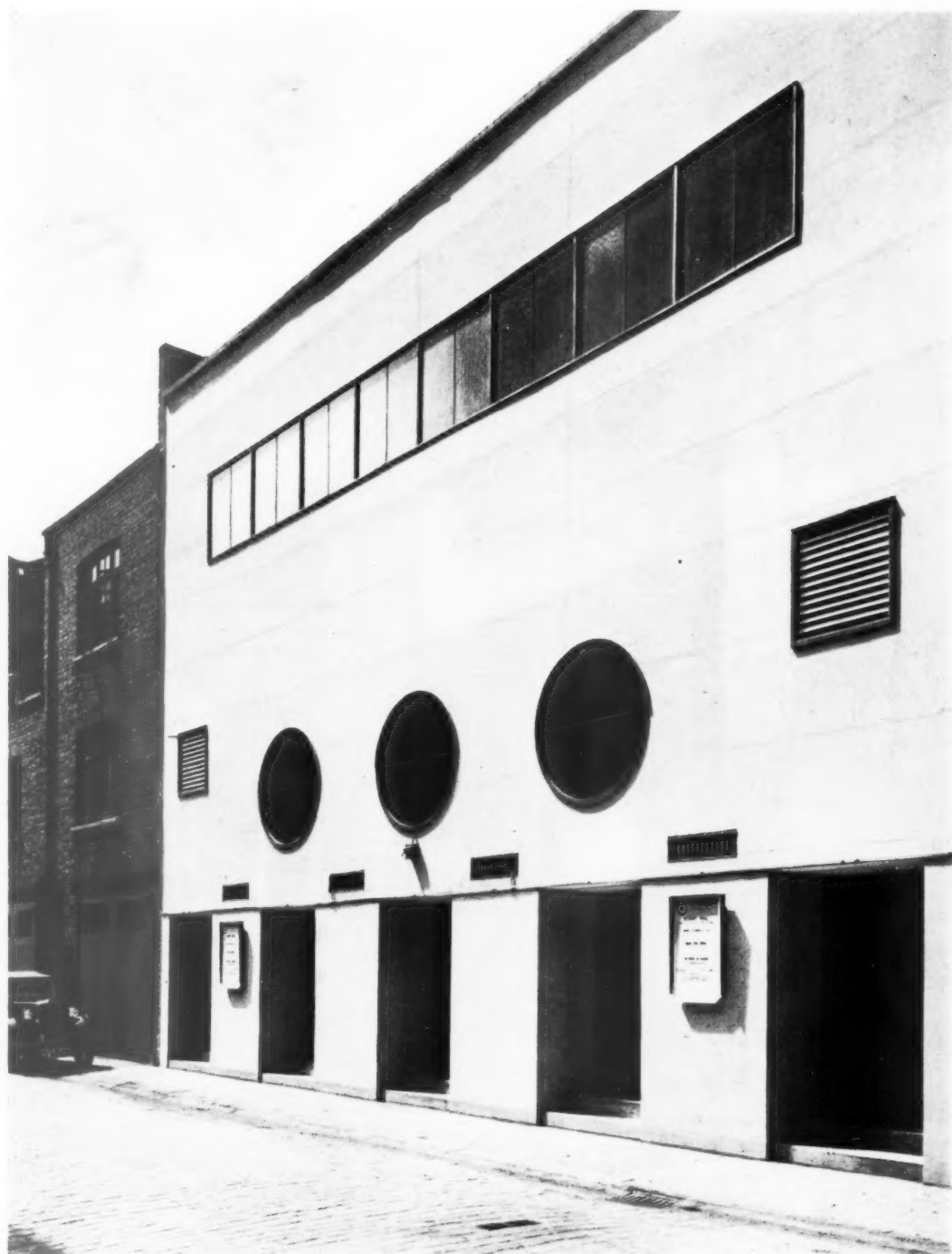
Announcements

Mr. W. Dobson Chapman, A.I.A.A., A.M.T.P.I., and Mr. H. Quentery Farmer, L.R.I.B.A., have entered into partnership, and are practising at Pear Tree House, Jordangate, Macclesfield, as Architects and Surveyors, at which address they will be pleased to receive catalogues.

The practice hitherto carried on by Mr. Chapman, as Consultant in Town Planning and Estate Development in succession to A. E. Brookes & Chapman, will continue to remain separate from the new partnership.

Mr. George H. Widdows has entered into partnership with his son Mr. Wistan Widdows and they are carrying on the former practice of Wistan Widdows under the style of George H. Widdows and Son, at 51 Queen Street, Derby.

BESANT HALL, RODMARTON MEWS, W. I.



D E S I G N E D

B Y A . L .

O S B O R N E

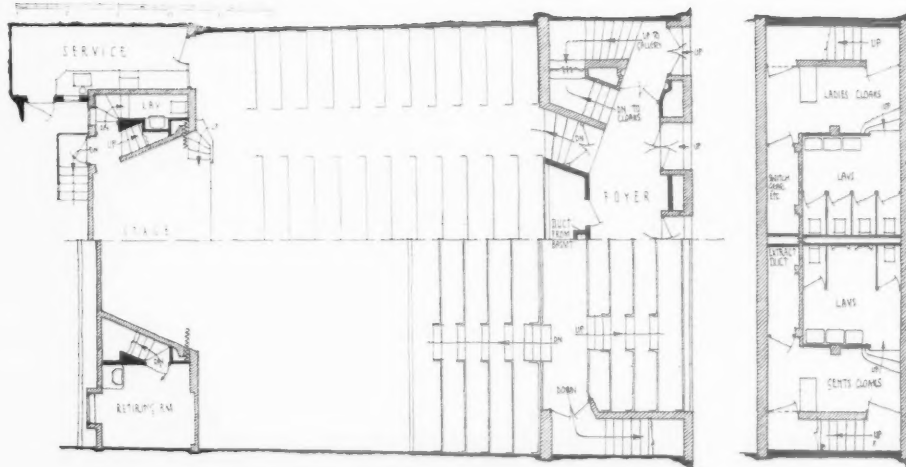
GENERAL PROBLEM.—Lecture hall for the Theosophical Society in England, designed primarily for the speaking voice. Accommodation was required for at least 400 persons (the hall actually seats 426), a stage with retiring rooms, service kitchen, public cloakrooms and lavatories for both sexes, entrance foyer and subsidiary escape, etc., on a site measuring approximately 40 ft. by 60 ft. Adequate light and air had to be maintained to the headquarters of the society, No. 50 Gloucester Place, at the rear of the new hall, and the rights of light and air of adjoining owners had to be respected.

The photograph is of the Rodmarton Mews front.

B E S A N T H A L L , R O D M A R T O N



The photographs show: left, looking from the hall into the foyer; above, the foyer; the doors lead, on the left into the hall, at the end up to the gallery, and on the right into Rodmarton Mews.



HALF PLANS AT AUDITORIUM AND GALLERY LEVELS; AND BASEMENT PLAN

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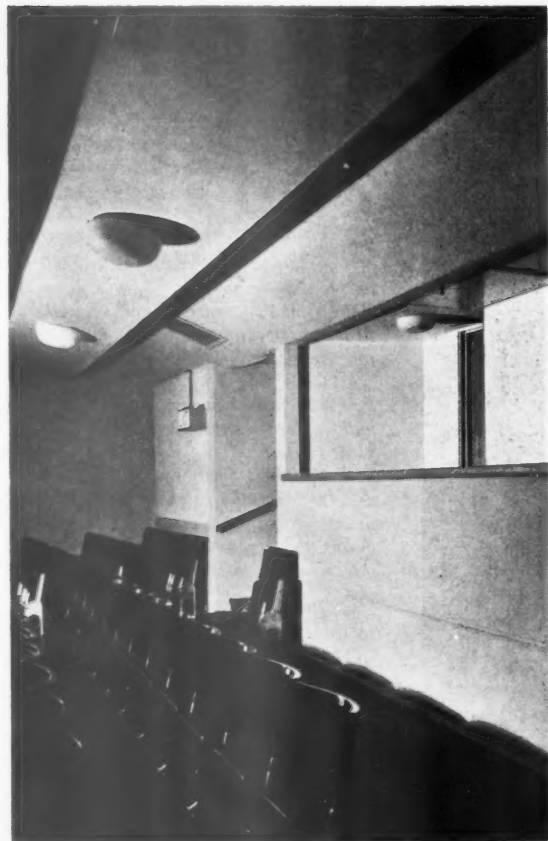
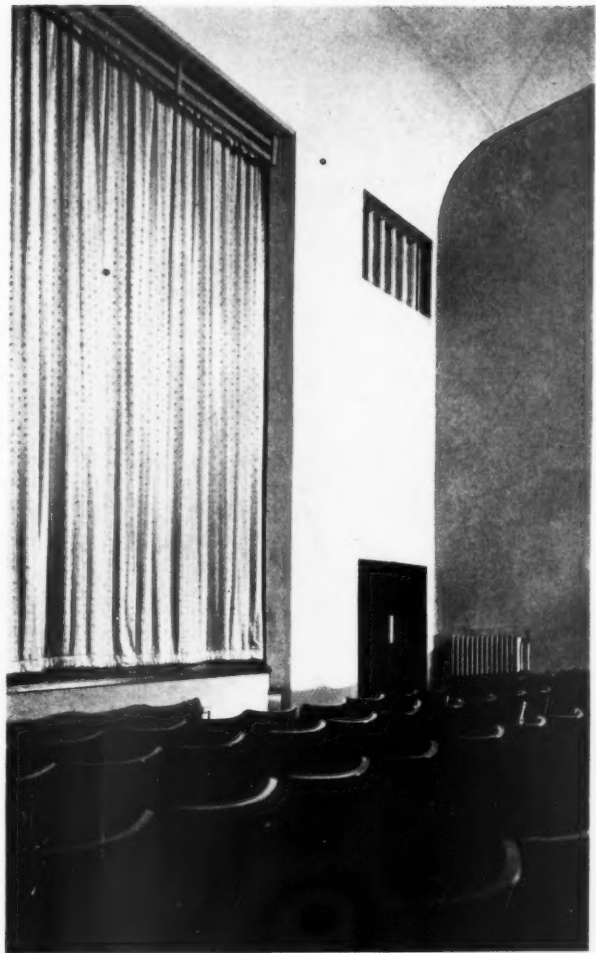
M E W S , B A K E R S T R E E T , W .

SITE.—The design was governed by important external circumstances; the most serious of which was the restriction of the site, the only access being from Rodmarton Mews. The refusal of the ground landlords to allow any noises to be heard from the building when in use necessitated the total enclosure of the hall, and consequently the incorporation of the heating and ventilating system, with its attendant plant houses and ducts, within the structure.

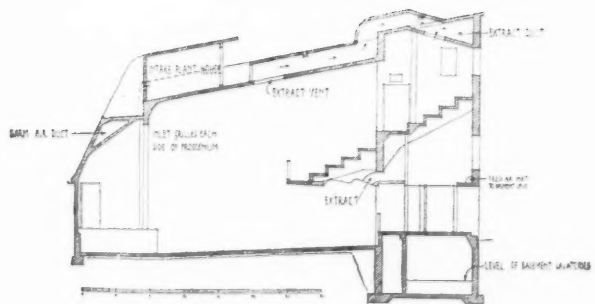
CONSTRUCTION.—No major load bears on the party walls, which were unreliable, and the roof is supported on the front and the back of the building. The sewer in Rodmarton Mews was unusable, and all sewage from the public lavatories cross the site under the building at the rear and into the sewer in Gloucester Place. To get sufficient fall, the lavatories were built on a raised platform 2 ft. above basement level, which in turn raised the level of the foyer. At the same time, the entire hall had to be kept as low as possible owing to rights of light of adjoining owners.

The reinforced concrete basement is completely tanked in asphalt. A 4½-in. brick wall is built against the asphalt on the party walls, and this also supports one side of the stairs. The ground is mainly sandy ballast on a firm clay, and the front wall to the mews and the rear basement wall is founded on this clay. The front wall varies from 9 ins. to 13 ins. in thickness, owing to the building line not being quite normal to the axis of the hall. The rear basement wall, 9 ins. thick, carries a wall column at each end, which support the main gallery beam, and above this the front main roof beam, designed in the form of a double frame. The proscenium consists of a frame, 9 ins. thick, the top horizontal beam carrying one end of the main roof beams, the other end being supported on the double frame. The gallery is supported on beams over the foyer, and cantilevers approximately 13 ft. beyond into the main hall.

The photographs show: right, the proscenium; below, the rear wall of the auditorium and the underside of the balcony.



D E S I G N E D B Y
A . L . O S B O R N E



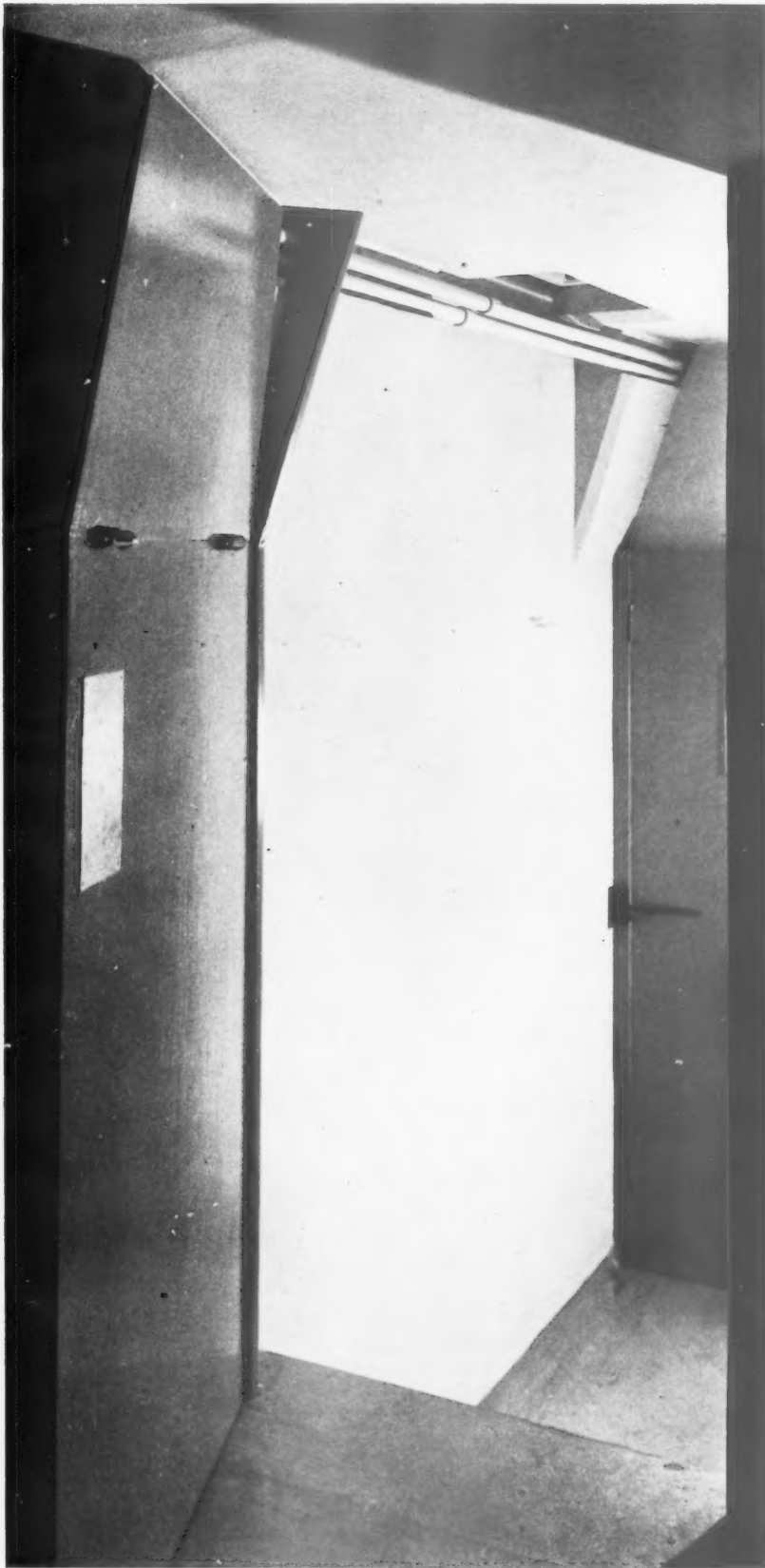
S E C T I O N

BESANT HALL, RODMARTON MEWS, W.

DESIGNED

BY A. L.

OSBORNE



HEATING AND VENTILATING. — *The intake plant house with heaters, air filter and fan, is on the roof, and connected directly with the upstands and ducts over the stage. The warm air enters the hall through openings on either side of the platform. The air is extracted from an opening in the centre of the main roof slabs, from two under the gallery, and from two more openings in a sloping reinforced concrete slab over the back of the gallery. This slab acts as a sound reflector, and forms the extract ducting at this end of the hall, which connects with the exhaust plant house over the balcony stairs. In the hall the light fittings are placed immediately under the extract vents to prevent discomfort from the heat generated by them during the summer. For general and sub-contractors see page 99.*

The photographs show: above, the rear of the balcony; left, the door leading to the men's lavatory. It is hinged at the top to enable it to fold back close to the splayed wall. Removed from the wall, the top of the door returns to a vertical position. This is but one of the many examples of the close planning necessitated.



From the exhibition of students' work, Leeds School of Architecture: Design for stage set. A six-hour sketch by C. Norton Hardman (first year student).

SOCIETIES AND SCHOOLS

THE LEEDS SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

Mr. Clough Williams-Ellis opened the annual exhibition of the work of the Leeds School of Architecture (Leeds College of Art), at the School, last week. He said that the people of Leeds did not yet realize what this School meant to them in terms of civic value. He hoped Leeds and Yorkshire and the North at large would learn to appreciate and make use of the School, because he was convinced that the time would come when architecture would become a State service, as important to the community as medicine.

He pointed out that the most civilized countries were the most architecturally minded, citing Sweden and Finland; and that planning was most essential to a civilized community. Mr. Williams-Ellis likened the School to an iceberg, only about one-fifth of its work being visible. The drawings on exhibition represented a terrific

amount of research and travel and thought, the students having set themselves to finding out the actual problems of business or manufacture, and learning to embody them in an economical, efficient plan. Impressed as one must be with the vastness of the field covered by student architects, he added, outside architects were still more impressed with the thoroughness of the Leeds School's work.

The exhibition amply fulfilled the promise that he observed on his last visit, two-and-a-half years ago, and the first-year work was particularly good.

Mr. J. C. Procter, who presided over the opening, said that he was glad the exhibition was housed in the School, as it gave parents an opportunity of seeing under what conditions their boys and girls had to work.

Mr. J. S. Allen, Head of the School, who also spoke, told how the School had grown from a small department to the second largest fully recognized professional school in the Provinces, securing this year many successes. The aim of the School was to equip a number of highly efficient architects to serve the coming generation.

VISIT TO SULLY TUBERCULOSIS HOSPITAL

The Tuberculosis Hospital at Sully was visited on the afternoon of Tuesday, July 7, by a large party of members of the Central Branch of the South Wales Institute of Architects, the Cardiff Civic Society and the Welsh School of Architecture, the Technical College, Cardiff.

The visitors were divided into three groups and were conducted round the building by Dr. William Davies, the Medical Superintendent, Dr. Dillwyn Thomas, and the Assistant Matron, Sister George.

Mr. John Powell of the Executive Committee of the Cardiff Civic Society, expressed the thanks of the visitors and Dr. William Davies responded.

EXHIBITION OF ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS

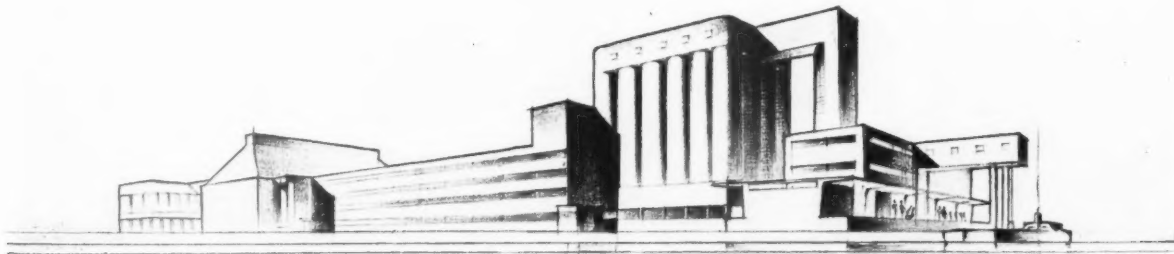
An Exhibition of Students' Work in architectural design, measured drawings, working drawings, etc., arranged by the South Wales Institute of Architects, in conjunction with the Welsh School of Architecture, the Technical College, Cardiff, was held in the Assembly Hall of the Technical College, Cardiff, on Thursday, July 9.

This Exhibition was of a somewhat unusual character as it did not consist of selected portions of the work done by various students but of the whole of the work done by one student (Mr. H. E. A. Scard) throughout the five years' course leading to exemption from the Final Examination for Associateship of the R.I.B.A. and qualifying for Registration under the Architects' Registration Act.

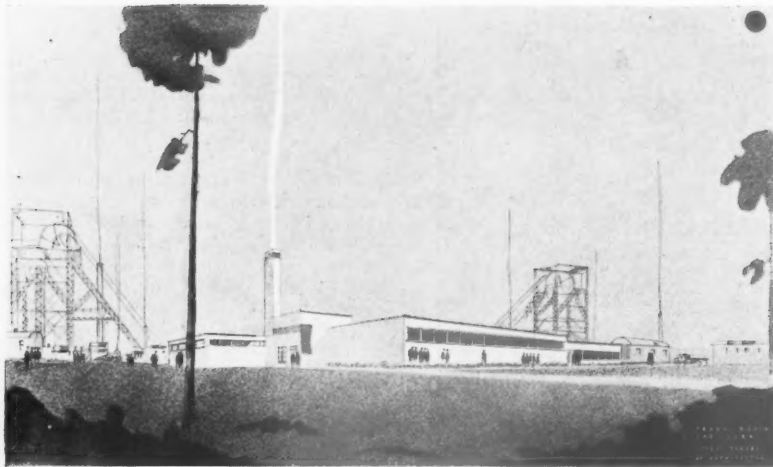
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BUILDINGS

The Board of Education's Building Regulations for Public Elementary Schools that appeared in 1914 quickly showed themselves to be out of date after the war, and were withdrawn in 1926. Since then managers, local education authorities and architects have been without readily accessible guidance to the principles now held to govern the planning of new schools or to advances on the technical side.

This week the gap is filled by the production of *Elementary School Buildings* as No. 107 of the Board's educational pamphlets (H.M.S.O., 2s. net). The publication



From the exhibition of students' work, Leeds School of Architecture: Thesis design for a brewery. One of a series of rapid sketch perspectives to illustrate the scheme. By R. Thompson (fifth year student).



From the exhibition of students' work, Leeds School of Architecture: Design for a Pithead Bath. By Frank Booth (third year student).

comes at a sufficiently opportune moment when Earl De La Warr, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education, has suggested a competition for the design of the ideal school building. It is a subject upon which a certain amount of experiment might have been expected to be carried on, since from so long ago as 1911 new school buildings have been exempt from the operation of local building bye-laws.

New materials and alternative construction seem unlikely, however, to make for substantial savings—except so far as timber is concerned (“many difficulties in modern educational development are due to schools built to last a century”)—but the Board have been impressed, the pamphlet states, “by the savings which can be effected in the ordinary brick-built school by lightness of structure, by standardization of units and constructional members, by attention to detail and finish and by judicious selection of materials and fittings of every kind; and they believe that in careful attention to such matters lies the secret of the inexpensive and serviceable school building.”

The pamphlet contains a good deal of sound educational philosophy, and it emphasizes the newer conceptions of the proper functions of a school which must be the background of the planner's mind when he gets down to designing a school—and “the best results, it is hardly necessary to say, will follow the employment of trained Architects. . . .” There are many changes to be taken into account. Since the Hadow Report all-age schools normally occur only in country districts. The senior school, with the upper age-limit of its occupants raised to 15, is the type for whose provision most guidance seems to be needed. Particular stress is laid on the value, and indeed the necessity, of the hall as the centre of corporate life. The necessity has always been there, but the stress upon it is fairly recent. There is a new formula (which has long been needed) for assessing accommodation, which will do away with the unduly large class and equally with the necessity of holding two classes in one room.

Proper stress is laid on the necessity of taking qualified architectural and town-planning advice. Among matters that seem

to be new as official expressions of what is desirable are the statements that “it will probably be not unreasonable to suggest that the accommodation of a senior school should be divided almost equally between classrooms and practical rooms”; that the standard size of site should be on the scale of not less than two acres per department—although this leaves no space about a senior school for the necessary two or three acres of playing fields; that the hall, especially in rural areas, has important social, as distinct from educational, uses; that a school library belongs properly to an elementary school because of “the increasing belief in the personal development of the individual pupil”; and that “every type of school, whether in town or country, should have a school garden.” Certain of these things, in urban circumstances, may be counsels of perfection, but they are really scarcely less essential than the guidance to acoustics and decoration which is here officially given for the first time.

OVERCROWDING

The Minister of Health has issued to local authorities a circular forwarding an order which he has made fixing appointed

days for bringing into operation the overcrowding provisions of the Housing Act of 1935 (No. 1560, H.M.S.O. Price 3d.).

In a circular issued on May 7, after consultation with the Associations of Local Authorities, the Minister indicated that he proposed to fix January 1, 1937, as the appointed day for districts where overcrowding had been shown as a result of the recent survey not to exceed 2 per cent. or to involve more than 100 houses. In the meantime opportunity has been afforded for local authorities to make suggestions, both for those who are outside these limits to apply for the order to extend to their districts and for those who are within the limits to apply for a postponement of the date.

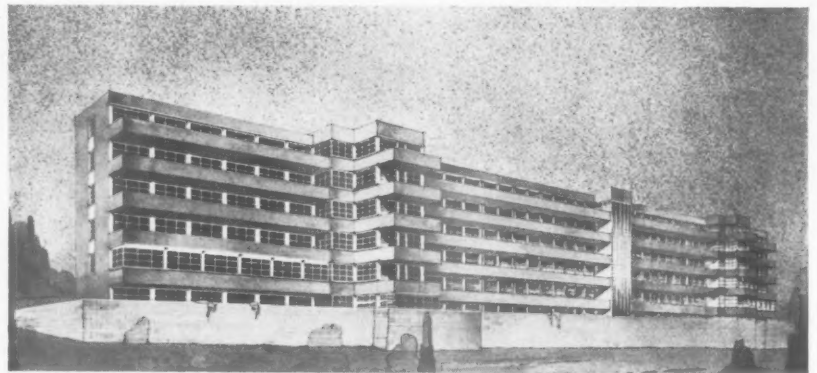
The result has shown a general desire for an early appointed day, and the order which has now been issued will apply to 83 per cent. of the local authorities of the country. The order will apply to rather more than half the county boroughs in the country, and it is noticeable that large towns like Liverpool and Manchester have expressed their desire for this date. In London the order is to apply to the six Metropolitan Boroughs of Kensington, Lewisham, Stoke Newington, Wandsworth, Westminster and Woolwich.

The remainder of London and the counties of Durham and Northumberland are the main areas excluded from the present order, with a number of individual districts in other parts of the country, mainly in the North, Midlands and Wales.

The Minister has under consideration the question of fixing appropriate appointed days for the remainder of the country and he has invited the local authorities concerned to make their suggestions for this purpose. The replies which have been received indicate that most of them will desire a postponement of not more than six months.

London's Green Belt

A paper entitled “London's Green Belt” was read by Alderman Ewart G. Culpin, F.R.I.B.A. (Chairman of the Greater London Regional Planning Committee), at a meeting of the Town Planning Institute on Friday last. The paper will be printed in full in our next issue.



From the recent exhibition of students' work, Liverpool School of Architecture. Maternity Hospital, Woolton Woods, near Liverpool. By J. H. Eglin (fifth year student).

WORKING DETAILS : 455

LICHTING FITTING • ARLINGTON HOUSE, ST. JAMES'S, S.W. • MICHAEL ROSENAUER



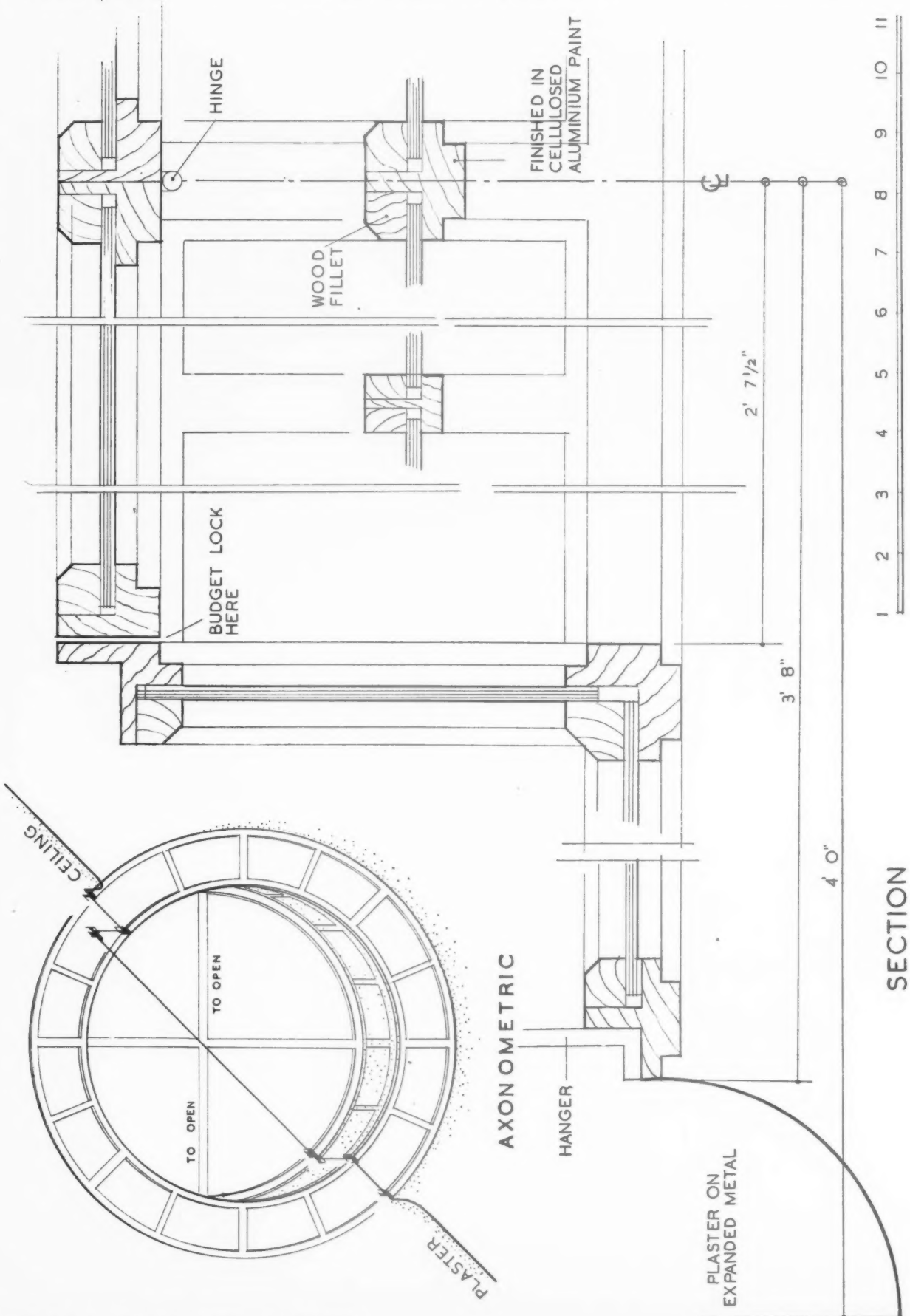
The light fitting shown in the drawings overleaf is an effective decorative feature in the entrance hall illustrated above. During the daytime light is admitted through glass bricks in the floor over, and at night it is lit indirectly by two lamps reflecting up on to the under-surface of the glass bricks. The bracket lamps seen on the walls provide the light necessary for ordinary purposes, the central light being mainly decorative. The fitting is carried out in obscured glass and wood finished with cellulosed aluminium paint.

WORKING DETAILS : 456

LIGHTING FITTING

• ARLINGTON HOUSE, ST. JAMES'S, S.W.

• MICHAEL ROSENAUER



Details of the light fitting illustrated overleaf

WORKING DETAILS : 457

COUNTER

• SHOP IN REGENT STREET, W. •

PAKINGTON AND ENTHOVEN



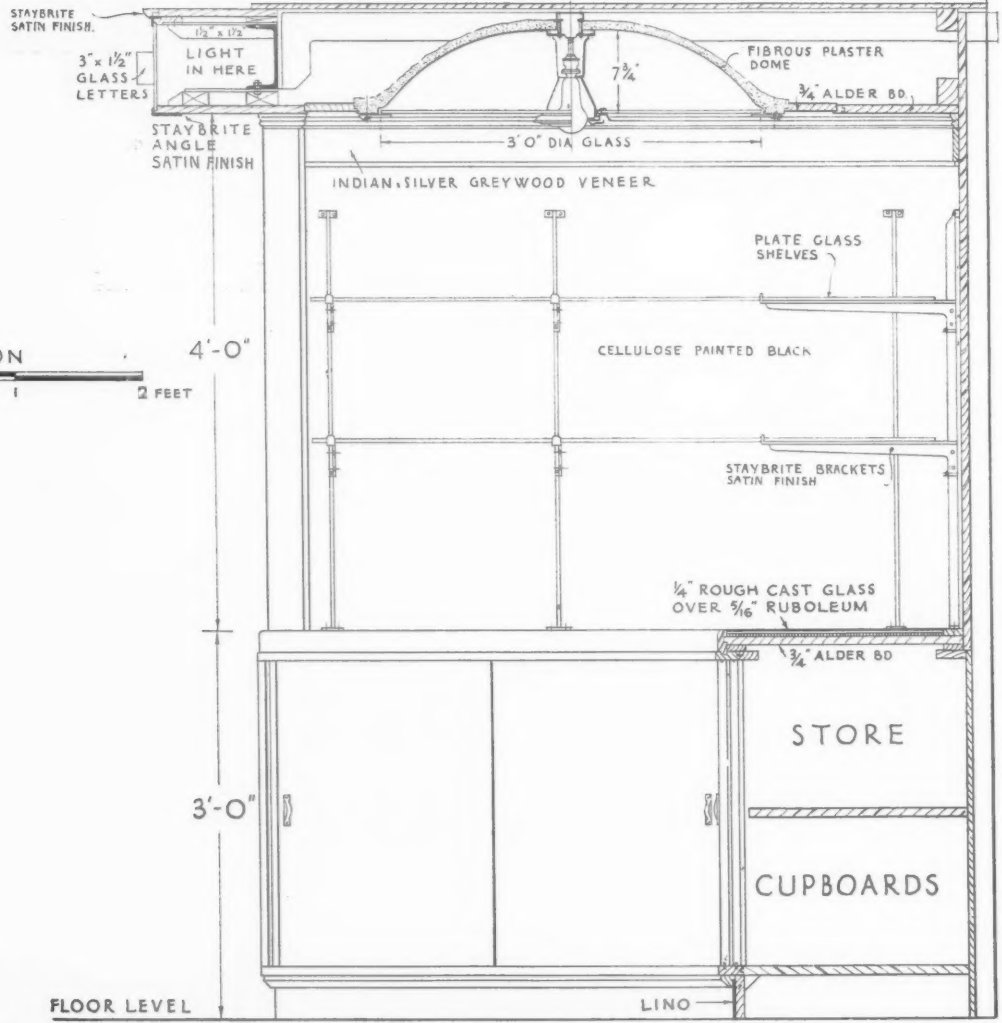
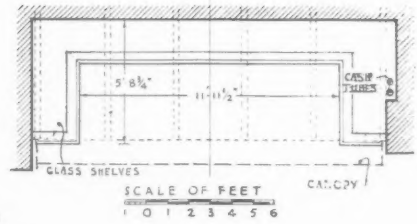
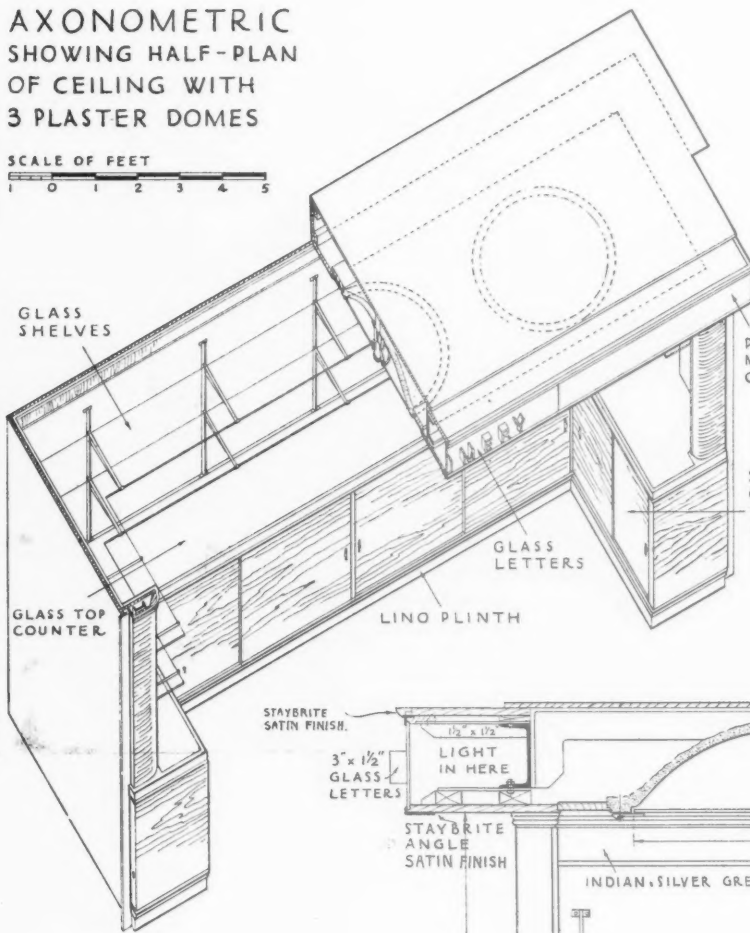
The perfumery counter illustrated was designed to stand at the end of a large showroom displaying many different kinds of goods. The small display counter at the front of the stand, which is shown in the photograph but not in the drawing, was not part of the architects' original design. The 3-in. glass lettering on the front of the canopy is illuminated by a light behind, slits being made in the peach mirror along the edge of each letter.

WORKING DETAILS : 458

COUNTER • SHOP IN REGENT STREET, W. • PAKINGTON AND ENTHOVEN

AXONOMETRIC SHOWING HALF-PLAN OF CEILING WITH 3 PLASTER DOMES

SCALE OF FEET
1 0 1 2 3 4 5



SCALE FOR SECTION
1 0 1 2 FEET

Axonometric and details of the counter illustrated overleaf.

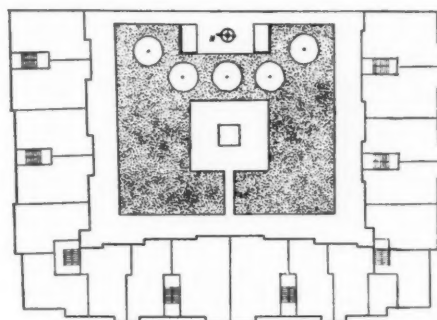
B L O C K O F F L A T S I N B E R L I N



D E S I G N E D

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E L L A B R I G G S



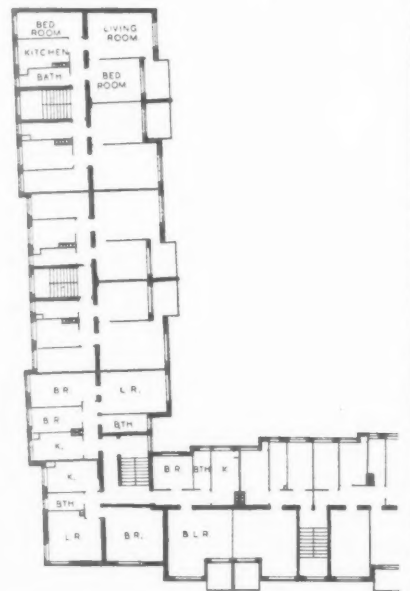
PURPOSE.—Group of flats at Berlin-Mariendorf. The client requested one corner of the scheme to include a shop, the remainder of the building being flats only. There are 53 flats, varying from two to four rooms, excluding kitchens and bathrooms. Each flat has a storeroom for fuel in the basement, and another store on the third floor, which is entirely devoted to store, tank and laundry rooms.

The photographs show : top, the west elevation ; left, the courtyard.

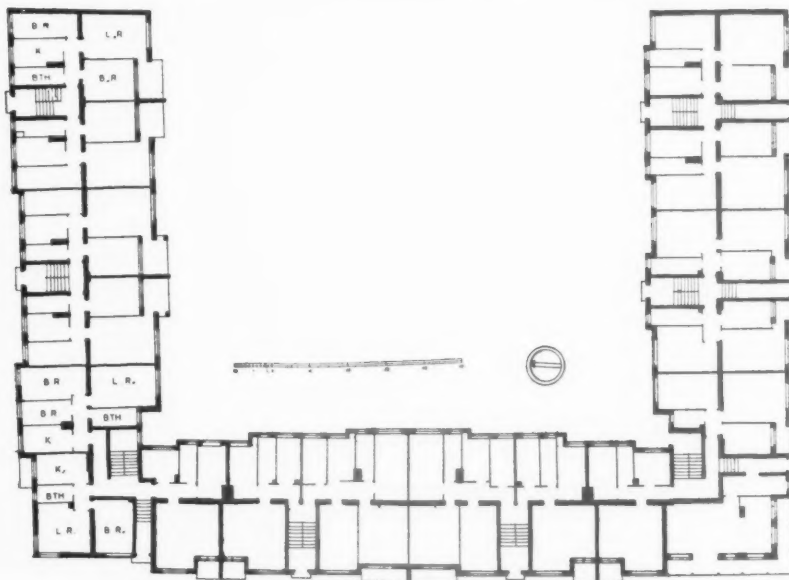
BLOCK OF FLATS IN BERLIN



DESIGNED BY ELLA BRIGGS



HALF PLAN OF FIRST FLOOR



GROUND FLOOR PLAN

PLAN.—The flats are of the internal access type, each stair serving two flats on each floor, save the two angle stairs which serve three.

CONSTRUCTION.—Of brick with brick party-walls and precast gypsum slab partitions. Floors are of hollow-block between filler joists, and roofs similar finished with asphalt.

ELEVATIONS.—Of yellow small-gravel roughcast. Balcony walls and recesses rendered smooth and painted blueish green. Basement walls and dressings are of dark red brick.

FINISHES.—Stair treads and risers are finished in linoleum, and staircase walls are painted. Entrance hall floors and dados are tiled, each stair being in a different colour scheme. Flat decorations and finishes are various according to the tenants' wishes.

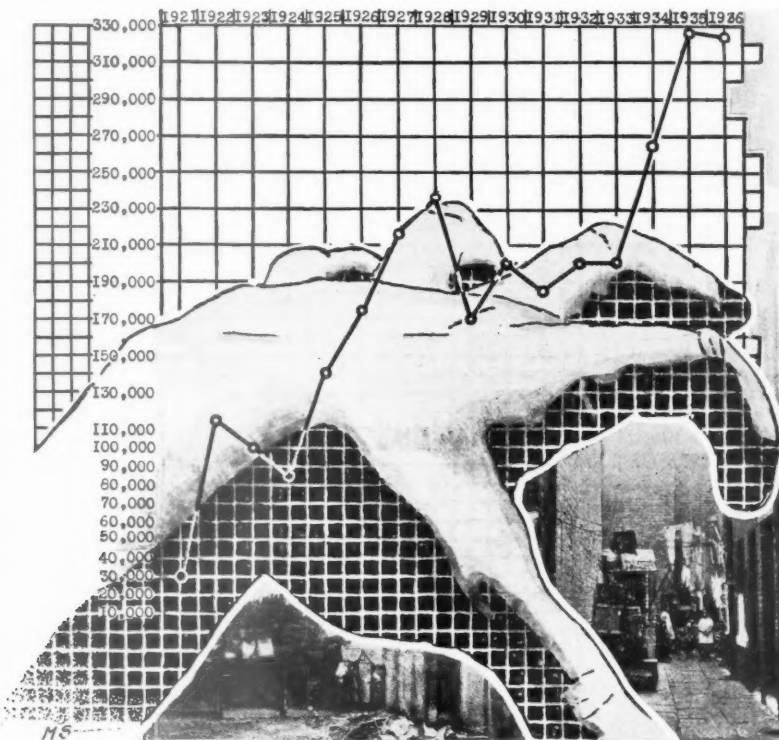
Above is a detail of the west elevation.

HOUSING PROGRESS

JANUARY — JUNE, 1936: TABLE OF PRINCIPAL EVENTS

COMPILED BY W. P. KEEN

In the JOURNAL for January 16 we published a table of principal housing events of 1935. It was originally intended to make this table an annual feature but, in view of the increasing interest now being shown in housing matters, it has been decided to publish it at the end of each half-year. The table printed on the pages following covers the six months ending June 30 last.



within the lowest rateable value—which, in most cases, still means a rent well above 10s. a week. It is obvious, therefore, that the cheapest of the houses built for sale are far beyond the working-class maximum.

With regard to local authority houses, the A.T.O. points out that most of these are to let, but only one in twenty of them is to let at less than 10s. a week in London and its environs.

What is the remedy? That of the A.T.O. is that 2,000,000 must be provided in the next ten years at rents below 10s. per week. To do this, to build at the rate of 200,000 houses a year, would require a considerable amount of money. Can the money be found? The A.T.O. says yes.

Perhaps the most important development with regard to legislation is the Government's intimation, made in May last, that after January 1 next overcrowding will be an offence in all areas where the number of overcrowded families is less than one hundred or is less than 2 per cent. of the number of working-class houses; and local authorities whose areas have more overcrowding than this standard were given the opportunity to apply to the Minister of Health before June 1 last to have the same date fixed for their areas. Local authorities in England and Wales have made a house-to-house survey of the dwellings overcrowded in their areas according to the schedule laid down in the Housing Act, 1935, and, so far, 1,462 local authorities have submitted their figures to the Ministry of Health. From these figures, which are set out on page 98, it will be seen that, of the 8,848,916 dwellings surveyed, no fewer than 340,917 are overcrowded, the percentage being 3.9. The next step is for the local authorities to submit to the Ministry of Health their housing proposals to remedy the overcrowding revealed by the survey.

The survey undertaken by local authorities in Scotland under Section 1 of the Housing (Scotland) Act, 1935, reveals that the total number of houses surveyed was 1,024,992, and that the total number of houses found overcrowded was 240,961, or 23.5 per cent. of the houses surveyed. There have, of course, been many

FOREWORD

SIR KINGSLEY WOOD, the Minister of Health, in a speech at Winchester last month, announced two housing achievements: the passing of the three million mark in houses built since the Armistice; and that, during the six months ended March 31 last, the total number of houses provided—174,009—was a record for any half-year. It would seem that the present Government is making a praiseworthy attempt to grapple with the evils of bad housing. But will its attempt succeed?

The erection of three million houses since the war—over 1,000,000 since the National Government first took office—is a colossal achievement. Yet, in spite of this achievement, the Architects and Technicians' Organization, which

has recently made a close study of the problem, is of the opinion that the housing conditions of most working-class families are nearly as bad to-day as at any time since the War. The A.T.O. also states that of the 1,000,000 houses erected by the Government since it first came into office in 1931, only 12½ per cent. have been within the reach of most working-class families. The figure of 12½ per cent. is arrived at in this way. Taking the half-years ending—

	Sept. 30, 1934	Mar. 31, 1935	Sept. 30, 1935
Total houses built by private enterprise	138,000	149,000	126,000
Total of these to let	26,000	31,000	27,000
Total to let at lowest rateable value of not over £13 (£20 in Greater London)	15,000	17,000	16,000

Thus only one in five houses built by private enterprise are to let at all, and only one in eight are built to let

The chart on this page shows the number of houses provided in England and Wales in the years ending March 31, 1921 to 1936.

other housing problems, but the subject is so formidable that it would be impossible to discuss them at any length in a single article. The following table has therefore been compiled which will be found to contain a reference to the principal events during the last six months. It has been divided into six sections—one for each month; and each section has been sub-divided under the following heads: 1, general; 2, publications. The list of publications does not, of course, include reference to all the literature issued by Government departments in con-

nection with housing; only publications of outstanding importance are mentioned. For a complete record of the housing literature issued by these departments, application should be made to H.M. Stationery Office for its "Consolidated List of Government Publications."

The writer wishes to acknowledge the courtesy of Mr. A. A. G. Suttle, of the Ministry of Health, who allowed him access to the information from which the overcrowding survey for England and Wales, printed on page 98, was compiled.

which they are put, the licence not to exceed a period of eighty years. Exceptional renewals after that to be for not more than ten years at a time.

2. All houses now belonging to local authorities to be transferred to public utility societies by purchase.

3. He estimates that the number of houses now requiring to be pulled down without more ado and replaced by new houses is 4,607,679

The number of new houses required in order to abolish overcrowding and permit each family to live in its own house is 1,415,000

The number of additional houses that will be required if agricultural development is undertaken on the lines he suggests is 350,000

The number of additional houses that will be required under a comprehensive scheme of land settlement such as he proposes is 200,000

Total 6,572,679

4. The formation of a National Mortgage Bank and the amalgamation of existing building societies into twelve regional units covering the whole country.

5. Housing and other selected income-yielding property to be financed by long-term credit through this bank, the regional building societies acting as its agents.

6. The private interests in the land of built-up areas to be bought out gradually in the course of eighty years, the land once bought being vested in National Land Commissioners.

7. National town planning before redevelopment is attempted on an adequate scale.

8. The location of industries to be controlled by licence.

9. All building of houses to be left in future to private enterprise.

10. If necessary, house-occupiers to be subsidized in proportion to their incomes and responsibilities rather than, as at present, that houses should be subsidized.

11. The formation of an agricultural belt round all towns, and on these belts able-bodied persons not in receipt of unemployment insurance benefit to be given, till re-engaged in their normal occupation, temporary work at standard agricultural wages.

12. Unemployment allowances to be based on previous earning ability instead of on arbitrary subsistence requirements as at present.)

TABLE OF PRINCIPAL EVENTS

January

General

THE Court (King's Bench Division), on the application of Sir Patrick Hastings, K.C., on behalf of the objectors to the London County Council's proposal to acquire thirty acres of Hackney Marshes for the purpose of its East End development scheme, granted a rule nisi directed to the Minister of Health prohibiting any part of the Marshes being used for housing. The rule nisi prohibited the Minister from doing three things: (1) giving his consent to the appropriation of the land; (2) giving a certificate approving the exchange; (3) holding a public enquiry. (The resolution of the L.C.C. to acquire the land was made last July.)

The first meeting of the Scottish Housing Advisory Committee set up under the Housing (Scotland) Act, 1935, was held in Edinburgh.

Decision of the Manchester Corporation to take over the responsibility for the interior decorations of its houses. Previously this was the responsibility of the tenants, except on change of tenancy.

Ayr County Council applied to the Secretary of State for Scotland for a ruling as to whether a housing subsidy is available to transfer families from slums in depressed areas to other districts in the County, where opportunities for employment exist. The Department replied that the Council may build subsidy houses anywhere in the County if they are for "overcrowded" families, or if it can show that an equivalent number of overcrowded families is being housed in fit accommodation as a result of the transference.

Opening, by Mr. P. Malcolm Stewart, Commissioner for the Special Areas of England and Wales, of an exhibition at Charing Cross Underground Station, London, devoted to the Special Areas of England and Wales. The exhibition was divided into four sections: the areas as they now are; the beginning of improvements; the activities of the Special Areas Commissioners; and "What the Public can do about it."

Exhibition, at the Housing Centre (London), entitled "Housing the Old."

Appointment, by the Minister of Health, of a rural housing committee, the object of which is to make recommendations to the Minister as to the Exchequer subsidy to be given for houses provided by rural district councils to relieve overcrowding among the agricultural population. Members of the committee: Sir Felix J. C. Pole (chairman), Mr. E. G. Gooch, Mrs. Peter Hughes-Griffiths, Mr. E. W. Cemlyn-Jones, Mr. R. Kettle, Mr. F. W. Showers, and Sir Seymour Williams.

Grant of £1,000 made by the Minister of Health to the National Federation of Housing Societies. Object of Federation (which was formed last July): to promote, assist and encourage the formation and work of housing societies.

Publications:

Publication, by the Ordnance Survey, of a map showing the density of population in Greater London. The scale is half-inch to the mile, and a profile chart is issued as a supplement to the map. Price of the map on flat paper is 1s. 6d., and of the profile sheet 9d.

The House—Inside and Out. By Geoffrey Boumphrey. London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd. Price 3s. (This book contains the bulk of the talks and discussions recently broadcast under the general title of *Inside and Out*, suitably re-cast.)

The Rebuilding of Britain. By W. Craven-Ellis, M.P., with a foreword by Sir Enoch Hill. London: Allen and Unwin. Price 2s. 6d. (This book, published at the end of last year, was inadvertently omitted from the list of housing books given in our issue for January 16 last. The author, believing that the gravest of all national problems is that of unemployment, has endeavoured to find a solution which is capable of giving continuity of employment without interfering with, or increasing the competition with existing industries. His fundamental proposal is that "except for such special houses and other buildings as shall after eighty years of existence be granted a licence to continue standing, and then the licence never to cover a period of more than ten years without renewal, all houses and other buildings in Britain should be pulled down and rebuilt every eighty years."

A summary of his proposals is given below:
1. All buildings to be licensed by the local authority according to the uses to

February

General

Proposal to appoint a city architect for Cardiff rejected by the City Council. It was decided to appoint a building manager in connection with the Council's housing estates.

Professor Patrick Abercrombie, F.R.I.B.A., appointed to advise the Department of Health for Scotland in a consultative capacity on the plans submitted by Scottish local authorities for the development of housing estates.

Exhibition of "Everyday Things" at the headquarters of the R.I.B.A., Great Portland Street, W.1. Opened by the Earl of

Bessborough on February 19. Objects of the exhibition: 1, to show that inexpensive mass-produced objects for household and similar use can be of good design as well as efficient; 2, to show that the minor fittings, equipment and furnishing of buildings are important factors in everyday life; 3, to show that production by machine processes of such objects for the community is an important field of study for the skilled designer.

Approval, by the Department of Health for Scotland, of a new housing scheme for the Johnstone Town Council, Renfrewshire, on a site at New Howwood. Architect: T. S. Tait, F.R.I.B.A. The scheme provides for the erection of flats, cottages and tenements, and will house approximately 4,000 persons; provision is also made for a community centre.

Decision of the L.C.C. to acquire compulsorily a site of 64 acres in Stoke Newington for housing purposes. Cost of the property and its partial development estimated at £750,000.

Statement by the Department of Health for Scotland with regard to the housing work accomplished during 1935. The number of houses built by local authorities during last year was 18,651; of these, 1,524 were non-assisted. 6,588 working-class houses were also erected by private enterprise.

Publications:

Britain Rebuilding: the Slum and Overcrowding Campaigns. By B. S. Townroe, with a foreword by Lord Amulree. London: Frederick Muller, Ltd. Price 5s. (A review of housing progress since 1919. Much of the book is devoted to the slum and overcrowding campaigns. One of the most interesting chapters is that devoted to London. The author points out that it is necessary not to over-emphasize the immediate troubles and complaints, but to take a longer view of the scheme for the central control of the rebuilding of the County of London. He stresses the fact that the piecemeal method of attack on the problem which in the past led to confusion and chaos has had to be abandoned; and that the new machinery is not yet in smooth working order. Parliament, he concludes, may have to give permission for still more machinery to be set up or else to simplify that already existing.)

I Lived in a Slum. By Mrs. Cecil Chesterton. London: Victor Gollancz. Price 6s. (A personal study of the slum quarters of four London boroughs—Kensington, Shoreditch, Southwark and Westminster. In the final chapter of the book the author states that if rehousing is to be carried through properly it must be done nationally, which means that personally and collectively we must make ourselves aware of what ought to be done, and the best way of doing it. Mrs. Chesterton suggests that the knowledge and experience of the municipalities, associations and trusts should be at the disposal of a representative National Housing Council, able to judge between the various schemes advanced and to recommend the most advantageous.)

National Federation of Housing Societies. Leaflet No. 1. Price 6d. (This leaflet gives the necessary information as to the formation



Flats on the Oaklands Estate, Poynders Road, Clapham, opened by Lord Snell in March last.

of a housing society, and the financial assistance available under the various Housing Acts.)

Interim Report of the National Housing Committee. London: 5 Duke Street, Adelphi, London. Free. (A voluntary organization constituted to consider National Housing and Planning Policy, known as the Amulree Committee. Members: Lord Amulree, Lord Balfour of Burleigh, Mr. E. B. Behrens, Sir E. Bonham Carter, Mr. Alfred Bossom, M.P., Sir Theodore Chambers, Mr. B. Seebohm Rowntree, Sir Arthur Salter, and Sir Raymond Unwin.)

March

General

Presentation, at the Building Centre, 158 New Bond Street, W.1, of a film illustrating the Mopin system of construction and prefabrication in practice at Drancy, Paris. The film deals fully with the system by which this large housing scheme has been erected.

First anniversary of the opening, in Suffolk Street, London, S.W.1, of the Housing Centre.

Opening, by Lord Snell, of the L.C.C. Oaklands Estate, Poynders Road, Clapham Park. Architect: E. P. Wheeler, Chief Architect to the L.C.C. Cost: £88,450. Accommodation for approximately 900 persons, as follows: 25 two-room flats; 113 three-room flats; 42 four-room flats; and five five-room flats. Rents: the rents, including rates and water charges, are as follows, the net rents fixed by the Council being indicated in brackets: two-room flats, 9s. 6d. to 11s. 3d. (7s. 3d. to 8s. 6d.); three-room flats, 12s. 6d. to 14s. 9d. (9s. 3d. to 11s.); four-room flats, 14s. 6d. to 17s. 6d. (10s. 9d. to 13s.); five-room flats, 17s. 6d. to 20s. 6d. (13s. to 15s.).

This scheme was carried out to provide flats for the relief of overcrowding in the neighbouring districts and is among the first to qualify for the Government subsidy payable under the Housing Act, 1935, in respect of dwellings provided for the relief of overcrowding.

In the King's Bench Divisional Court the Lord Chief Justice (Lord Hewart) and Justices Du Parcq and Goddard made absolute the rule *nisi* for prohibition which was granted on December 4, 1935, at the instance of the Hon. A. G. C. Villiers, of the Manor House, Riseholme Street, Hackney Wick, calling on the Minister of Health to show cause why a writ of prohibition should not be awarded to prohibit him from (a) consenting to the appropriation by the London County Council of a portion of Hackney Marshes for housing purposes; (b) issuing his certificate under section 103 (1) of the Housing Act, 1925, approving the giving in exchange for such portion of Hackney Marshes an area of land at Chigwell, Essex; and (c) holding a public local inquiry under section 103 (2) of the Housing Act, 1925.

The Lord Chief Justice, in delivering judgment, said: "While we recognize the difficulty which confronts the L.C.C. over its housing problem as it affects the population of overcrowded parts of the East End, we are bound to hold that the existing statutes do not permit the Council to use part of Hackney Marsh for this purpose."

Premiere (in London) of a short film entitled "The Great Crusade," made by Pathé Pictures, in conjunction with the Ministry of Health. The film—a Documentary—has been produced to show the pathetic housing conditions in the slum areas of important cities in this country and the strides that are being made by local authorities, under the national slum clearance scheme, to better the conditions and amenities of these stricken districts.

Visit of H.M. the King to the slum areas of Glasgow.

Announcement by the L.C.C. that it proposes to issue a revised handbook on the housing work it has accomplished up to the end of 1936. The book, to be published in January, 1937, will bring up to date the last volume, *Housing, 1928-30*, and, including a folding map showing all the Council's estates, will be put on sale at a popular price.

Completion of the L.C.C. overcrowding survey according to the standards laid down in the Housing Act, 1935. The survey disclosed that of the 1,014,633 families of which particulars have been obtained, 70,953 (about 7 per cent.) are living in overcrowded conditions; 57,389 (about 5.7 per cent.) occupy accommodation of the minimum size required by the Act, and 886,291 (about 87.3 per cent.) have accommodation in excess of that standard. The number of persons living in overcrowded conditions is 9.1 per cent. of the population of London (exclusive of the City of London). The accompanying table shows the number of working-class families in London (excluding the City of London) classified according

to size (children under 10 counting as half a person):—

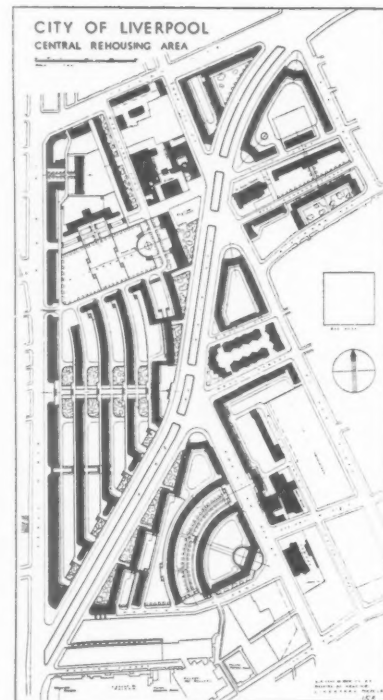
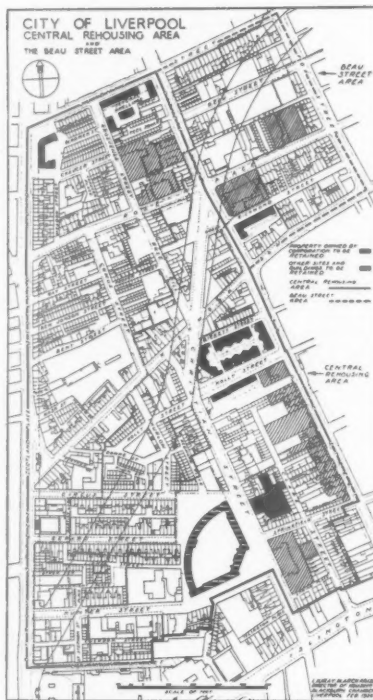
Persons in Family	Over-crowded	Not over-crowded	Total
1 ..	228	150,786	151,014
1½ ..	113	2,803	2,916
2 ..	1,957	265,502	267,459
2½ ..	3,264	79,817	83,081
3 ..	3,179	179,604	182,783
3½ ..	10,140	35,218	45,358
4 ..	12,064	97,098	109,162
4½ ..	3,885	21,024	24,909
5 ..	5,926	54,375	60,301
5½ ..	6,078	10,985	17,063
6 ..	8,086	21,493	29,579
6½ ..	3,452	5,478	8,930
7 ..	3,935	9,926	13,861
7½ ..	1,869	2,838	4,707
8 ..	2,994	3,298	6,292
8½ ..	1,274	944	2,218
9 ..	1,042	1,354	2,396
9½ ..	501	311	812
10 ..	445	404	849
10½ ..	213	104	317
11 ..	143	130	273
11½ ..	65	29	94
12 ..	47	72	119
12½ ..	20	16	36
13 and over	33	71	104
Totals ..	70,953	943,680	1,014,633

See also the overcrowding survey on page 58.

Promotion, by the Birmingham Corporation, of a competition for working-class flats to be erected, in concrete, on the Emily Street and Vaughton Street area. Assessor: Mr. Louis de Soissons, F.R.I.B.A. Premiums: £400, £250, £150 and £100. (Result will probably be announced at the beginning of August.)

According to the Annual Report of the Department of Health for Scotland, substantial housing progress was made during that year. Extracts from the Report: "The output of houses during 1935 by local authorities—18,651—was the highest ever achieved, and the number of houses built with State aid since 1919 has now reached the total of 200,284. These accommodate probably a fifth of the total population of Scotland. Altogether over 235,000 working-class houses, with and without State aid, have been built in Scotland since 1919. Progress in slum clearance during 1935: of the total output of houses by local authorities, over 15,000 were built under slum-clearance schemes; and the local authorities have now completed, after only two years' work, 37 per cent. of their total programme to clear the slums within five years. A start has been made also in bringing into action the programmes of local authorities, under the Housing Act of 1935, for the relief of overcrowding."

Adoption, by the Liverpool City Council, of the scheme by the Housing Director, L. H. Keay, for a central rehousing scheme to cost over £1,000,000. This is the first scheme of its kind to be submitted to the Minister of Health under section 13 of the Housing Act, 1935. It will provide for the rehousing of approximately 6,640 persons



Central rehousing area, Liverpool. Architect: L. H. Keay. Left, the site as at present; right, plan showing the proposed redevelopment.

in five-storey blocks with one-, two-, three- and four-bedroomed flats; and other buildings necessary for the various civic services—school, maternity and child-welfare clinic, meals centre, shops, etc.

Publications:

The Home Market. By Major G. Harrison and F. C. Mitchell, with a foreword by Frank Pick. London: Allen and Unwin, Ltd. Price 10s. 6d. (A handbook of statistics for Great Britain; the statistics are recorded mainly by pictorial representation.)

South Wales Needs a Plan. By H. A. Marquand. London: George Allen and Unwin. Price 7s. 6d. (For almost a decade the problem of the Depressed Areas has baffled governments. Can the newly-elected Parliament succeed where others have failed? Taking South Wales as an example, this book shows that resolute action upon an unprecedented scale is necessary. If a comprehensive plan be adopted, the problem can be solved. The author outlines a plan of government and private action in South Wales. It is a plan which might be adopted by a Conservative government without sacrifice of principle, and would yet secure the approval of the Opposition. By working out in detail how his proposals would affect South Wales the author points the way to a solution of the problem in every "Special Area." An important book.)

County of London Overcrowding Survey. (Carried out under the Housing Act, 1935.) Memorandum issued by the London County Council. London: P. S. King and Son. Price 1s. (See note under "General.")

Building Industries National Council Year Book for 1936. London: B.I.N.C. Price

9d. (The first year book of the Council describing the work of the Council from its inception, together with a brief account of why and how it was brought into being.)

Annual Report (1935) of the Department of Health for Scotland. Edinburgh: H.M. Stationery Office. Price 3s. 6d. (See note under "General.")

The Housing Act, 1935. By H. A. Hill, B.A., Barrister-at-Law, assisted by A. W. Nicholls, M.A., Barrister-at-Law. London: Butterworth & Co., and Shaw and Sons, Ltd. Price 30s. (This is a companion volume to *The Complete Law of Housing* [Second Edition], published in 1934. It is not only a guide to the new Housing Act, but also forms [together with Mr. Hill's earlier volume], a complete statement as to the present housing position. It is divided into three sections, as follows: 1, Summary of the main provisions of the Housing Acts; 2, The Housing Act, 1935, fully annotated and explained; 3, Supplement to Hill's *Complete Law of Housing*. Index to Hill's *Complete Law of Housing* and the new volume. This is a bulky volume, essential for those interested in housing, particularly local authorities.)

April General

Adoption, by the L.C.C., of a joint report of the Housing and Public Health Committee and the Parks Committee dealing with the proposal to acquire 30 acres of Hackney Marsh for housing purposes. The full recommendation of the Committees was as follows: "That application be made for the granting of powers in the session of Parliament, 1935-36 (i) to enable the Council to utilize for housing purposes a portion, about 30 acres in extent, of

Hackney Marsh, . . . ; (ii) to provide that the Council shall utilize as public open space the land, about 50 acres in extent, now forming part of the Chigwell housing site, . . . ; (iii) to provide that the Council may, with the consent of the Minister of Health, substitute as public open space such other land in lieu of land at Chigwell as the Council may determine; and (iv) to provide for any incidental matters in connection therewith."

Deputation from the National Federation of House Builders to the Minister of Health. Object: to explain to the Minister the effects upon building by private enterprise and the investment of money in house property of the large-scale housing operations now being undertaken by local authorities.

Circular issued by Department of Health for Scotland calling for the establishment of social centres at housing schemes.

Statement, by Sir Enoch Hill, that local authorities could now leave to private enterprise the problem of providing new houses, and themselves concentrate on slum clearance.

Opening, by Sir Josiah Stamp, of Pentland House, Wilkin Street, Kentish Town, N.W.5. Erected by the North St. Pancras Group of the St. Pancras House Improvement Society. Architect: Ian B. Hamilton. This block of flats forms part of the Litcham Street rehousing scheme. There are 11 four-room flats, eight three-room flats and one two-room flat. Several flats have a Rover bedroom, enabling accommodation to be adjusted. The cost per habitable room was about £160, including bathroom-w.c. and scullery, but excluding external works. The basic rent is 4s. 6d. per habitable room per week, inclusive of rates. For necessitous families this rent is reduced by a Rent Allowance. The contract price for the scheme was £13,004, but that figure included large expenditure for courtyard, gates, railings, flower beds, etc.

Exhibition, at the Housing Centre, entitled "Working-Class Housing." Promoters: The Architects' and Technicians' Organization. Object: To draw attention to the disgraceful conditions of working-class housing to-day; and to arouse all public opinion in support of demands for better, healthier, more conveniently situated houses and lower rents for the working-class.

In a letter to the Lords Provost of the four cities of Scotland and the Provosts of the other large burghs, the Secretary of State for Scotland pointed out that it was time for the more important local authorities to take advantage of the powers conferred by the Housing (Scotland) Act, 1935, to appoint local advisory committees.

Opening of House Furnishing, Ltd., Seymour Street, Euston, N.W. Object: To retail low-priced furniture and materials for the lower-paid workers.

A meeting of the Scottish Housing Advisory Committee was held at the Department of Health, Edinburgh. The

committee considered a remit from Sir Godfrey Collins, the Secretary of State for Scotland, in the following terms: "To consider and advise on the general question of the management of dwelling-houses provided by local authorities, with special reference to the employment of trained managers." The committee agreed to refer the remit in the first instance to the Urban sub-committee.

Publications.

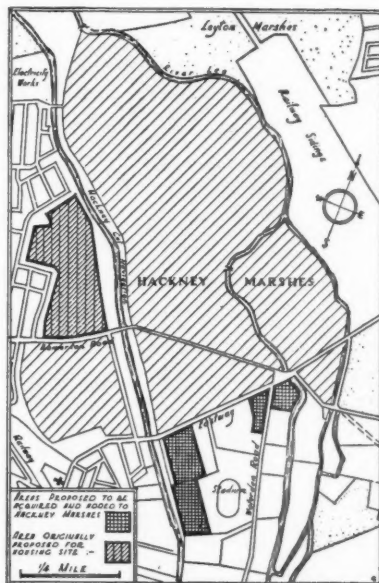
Working-Class Housing.—Pamphlet issued by the Architects' and Technicians' Organization in connection with its exhibition of working-class housing at the Housing Centre. Obtainable from the Secretary of the A.T.O. Price 4d. (The pamphlet is divided into four sections, telling a story of working-class housing conditions to-day, of the effect of housing on health, of the causes making for bad housing and of the remedy.)

Finance and Letting.—Memorandum issued by the Department of Health for Scotland. Edinburgh: H.M. Stationery Office. Price 9d. (A memorandum describing the provisions of the Housing (Scotland) Act, 1935, relating to finance and the letting of local authorities' houses.)

Annual Report of the London County Council, 1934 (Volume 2). Public Health, Main Drainage and Housing. London: P. S. King & Son. Price 1s. (Full report of the Council's housing activities during the period under review.)

May General

Rejection, by the L.C.C., of an alternative scheme (submitted by the Hon. Arthur G. C.



The controversy over the question of building on Hackney Marsh was settled in May, when the L.C.C. agreed to purchase a portion of an adjoining estate (the cross-hatched area to the south of the above plan), which will be added to the public open space, and to acquire for housing purposes land now forming part of the Marsh (the diagonal-hatched areas on the west).

Villiers, Manager of the Eton Manor Club, Hackney, and prepared by John Dower, A.R.I.B.A.) for using a portion of Hackney Marsh for housing purposes. Approval given by the L.C.C. to the draft of the Bill drawn up to obtain Parliamentary powers to utilize 30 acres of the Marsh for housing. The Standing Orders Committee of the House of Commons decided to allow the L.C.C.'s Hackney Marsh Bill to proceed for second reading. Its consent was necessary, because the Bill was presented so late in the Session that it would not comply with standing orders.

In the House of Commons, Sir Kingsley Wood, in reply to a question re the Hackney Marsh scheme, stated that he had invited Mr. Villiers, who, as a manager of the Eton Manor Club, was interested in the question of Hackney Marsh, in view of the voluntary work carried on by the club in the neighbourhood, to confer with him, and Mr. Villiers had, at his request, made an offer on behalf of the Club, which seemed likely to afford a solution of the problem that would be satisfactory to all parties. The offer had been commended by the Minister to the sympathetic consideration of the London County Council. Sir Kingsley said: "The offer made by Mr. Villiers is that the London County Council should acquire from the trustees of the Manor Charitable Trust certain lands which are owned by the Trust and adjoin Hackney Marsh. The total area of these lands is just over 20 acres. It is proposed that when they have been acquired by the London County Council they shall be added to Hackney Marsh and dedicated permanently as an open space. The London County Council will then be able, without legislation, to arrange for the use, for housing purposes, of a corresponding acreage of the land now forming part of Hackney Marsh upon which it desires to build, as it has power under the London Open Spaces Act of 1893 to exchange land forming part of Hackney Marsh for any other land adjoining the Marsh. The proposals appear to offer a satisfactory solution of the whole problem. Under them the London County Council will be able to build on the site which is considered by the Council to be the best housing site available. At the same time, a reduction in the area of the site to be developed from 30 to 20 acres will make it possible to maintain the remainder as an open space, an arrangement which will no doubt be much appreciated by residents in the immediate neighbourhood."

The L.C.C. accepted the offer made by Mr. Villiers. The cost of the exchange was estimated at £90,000.

Opening, by the Duchess of Kent, of a block of flats (St. Joseph's House) in Drummond Crescent, and the Basil Jellicoe Hall, which is the first social and occupational centre of the St. Pancras House Improvement Society. Architect: Ian B. Hamilton.

Proposal to appoint a city architect for Glasgow to co-ordinate all the architectural staffs in the various municipal departments of the Corporation. Question remitted back for further consideration.

Deputation from the R.I.B.A. to the Ministry of Health on the employment of architects on public building works. Object:

the need for the regular and responsible employment of qualified architects on all public building works whose planning and appearance are of importance. This object, it was stated, was not likely to be fully satisfied without legislation making the employment of architects compulsory on all local authorities. A considerable advance could be achieved by administrative action and public pressure without waiting for such legislation. The Minister was asked to back such efforts. Emphasis was laid on the vast prospective volume of house building by local authorities under the campaigns for slum clearance and abatement of overcrowding. The very success of those campaigns, on which the Government and Minister were warmly congratulated, increased, it was stated, the urgent need to remedy the grave national lack of design in constructional and reconstructional efforts.

Minister replied that the Deputation could rely upon him to use his best offices to secure, within the limits of local government, good design and good planning; and that, in default of employing an architect, the authorities would be invited to confer with the Architect's Department of the Ministry at the earliest stages.

Two-day conference at the Housing Centre. Subject: Lighting, Space, Heating and Hot Water Supply in Low-Cost Housing.

Publications:

Circular 1539. London: H.M. Stationery Office. Price 2d. (Issued by the Ministry of Health, explaining the further steps needed to bring into operation the whole of the overcrowding provisions of the Housing Act, 1935. January 1, 1937, fixed as the date from which overcrowding will be an offence in all areas where the number of overcrowded families is less than one hundred or is less than 2 per cent. of the number of working-class houses. Authorities whose areas have more overcrowding than the above standard were informed that they could apply to the Minister before June 1 to have the same date fixed for their areas. Also, statement with regard to the dates prescribed for the inclusion in rent books of a summary of the new provisions about overcrowding and a statement of the permitted number of occupants for the house in question. The circular also deals with suggested sizes of houses and the number and size of rooms which can be regarded as adequate for working-class families of various sizes).

Manchester Made Over. By Alfred P. Simon, with a foreword by Barry Parker. London: P. S. King and Son. Price 6s. (This book attempts to solve the problem of refashioning a large town without interfering with the everyday activities of its citizens. Manchester is chosen as a practical example, but the suggested technique is claimed to be applicable elsewhere.)

The Law of Housing and Town Planning. (Third edition.) By J. J. Clarke, M.A., Barrister-at-Law, with an introduction by Sir Leslie Scott. London: Pitman. Price 15s. (The previous editions of this book were published under the title, *Outlines of the Law of Housing and Town Planning.* The present edition has been enlarged, the format changed, and brought up to date to include references to the Housing Act, 1935, the Restriction of

Ribbon Development Act, 1935, and the Minister of Health's Model Clauses for Planning, 1935.)

Scottish Housing: Overcrowding Survey. Issued by the Department of Health for Scotland Edinburgh: H.M. Stationery Office. Price 3d. (Summaries of (i) overcrowding reports by local authorities under the Housing (Scotland) Act of 1935; (ii) building proposals by local authorities for the relief of overcrowding for the years 1936-38; (iii) principal contents of reports and proposals received. The report sets out the position at April 23, 1936, and records that: (a) The total number of houses surveyed was 1,024,992; (b) The total number of houses found overcrowded was 240,961, or 23.5 per cent. of the houses surveyed; (c) The total number of families found overcrowded was 269,758; (d) The great mass of overcrowding was found in houses of one and two apartments. The number of houses of these sizes surveyed was 472,153, and the number recorded as overcrowded was 183,281. The percentage of these small houses found overcrowded was therefore 38.8; (e) The number of houses consisting of more than two rooms that were surveyed was 552,839. The number found overcrowded was 57,680. The percentage of these houses found overcrowded was therefore 10.4; (f) The number of houses belonging to local authorities and found overcrowded was 34,560; (g) The total number of new houses estimated to be required, assuming all existing houses to be utilised to the best advantage as decrowding proceeds is 151,368, of which 71,973 are of three apartments, 64,770 of four apartments, and 14,330 of five apartments and over; (h) In the three years 1936-38 local authorities propose to complete 54,756 houses for the purpose of relieving overcrowding. Of these, 22,712 will be of three apartments, 25,115 will be of four apartments, and 6,909 will be of five apartments and over. (See table on this page and page 97).

Local Authority	Number of Houses Surveyed	Number of Habitable Houses found to be Overcrowded	Number of Families Overcrowded*	Number of Overcrowded Houses belonging to Local Authorities	Number of New Houses Estimated to be required
Aberdeen ..	41,066	9,953	10,915	1,421	5,367
Dundee ..	46,476	11,125	12,641	978	7,552
Edinburgh..	99,608	17,101	20,244	3,136	11,155
Glasgow ..	257,421	74,952	82,109	8,179	46,633
Paisley ..	21,293	6,753	6,946	1,023	4,631

Summary of overcrowding reports for burghs where the number of houses surveyed exceeded 20,000.

* Includes overcrowding families living in uninhabitable houses.

Town and Country Planning: Model Clauses for Schemes. Issued by the Department of Health for Scotland. Edinburgh: H.M. Stationery Office. Price 9d. (These model clauses superseding those dated 1931, are intended to assist local authorities in the preparation of schemes.)

June General

Official opening ceremony of the seven blocks of flats on the Grosvenor Housing Estate at Millbank, Westminster. Architect: Sir Edwin L. Lutyens, R.A. They comprise 616 dwellings on about six acres and have cost £431,600. The Duke of

Westminster gave the site and £113,650 towards the cost of the scheme.

Conference organized by the Joint Council of London Juvenile Organizations Committees, in co-operation with the New Estates Community Committee of the National Council of Social Service, held at County Hall to discuss the provision of community centres in new housing estates in and around London.

Resignation of Mr. P. R. Stratton from the secretaryship of the Housing Centre. Appointment of Mr. P. R. Rathbone as Assistant General Secretary. Appointment of Mr. Eugen C. Kaufmann as Director of Research.

Annual meeting of the Welwyn Garden City, Ltd. Statement that, "to meet the demand, arising from industrial development, for inexpensive houses to let in the town, plans have been prepared for a scheme of 366 houses and 28 flats at rentals of from 13s. to 17s. per week inclusive; and that it is hoped to complete arrangements to enable this scheme to be commenced at an early date."

Death of Dame Henrietta Barnett, the founder of Hampstead Garden Suburb.

The Minister of Health issued a circular to local authorities stating that he considered it undesirable that orthodichlorobenzene should be used for disinfecting inhabited houses from bed-bugs, pending further scientific inquiry into the question of its possible harmfulness.

Statement by the Department of Health for Scotland on slum clearance progress. "Between January, 1934, and April last, local authorities had secured the vacation

with a view to closure and demolition, of 28,529 unfit houses, of which they estimated there were 63,000 in Scotland at the end of 1933.

Private showing of a propaganda film dealing with the bed-bug in relation to housing conditions at the theatre of the Gaumont-British Picture Corporation, London. The film, entitled "Red Army," has been produced by Gaumont-British Instructional, Ltd., with the technical supervision of Mr. A. W. McKenny Hughes, of the British Museum (Natural History), and shows the life history of the insect and stresses the need for its eradication. It is designed for use by medical officers of health, housing societies, and

OVERCROWDING SURVEY: SCOTLAND

Areas	Number of Local Authorities having submitted Reports	Percentage of respective populations represented by Reports received	Number of Houses		Number of families over-crowded*	Number of over-crowded houses belonging to Local Authorities	Number of Local Authorities owning over-crowded houses	Number and percentage of surveyed houses found empty†	Additional Houses Required‡ (assuming full use of existing houses)			Total
			Surveyed	Habitable Over-crowded (with percentage)					Number of Apartments			
									3 apts.	4 apts.	5 apts. and over	
Burghs ..	195 (out of 195)	100.0	814,349	194,923 (23.9)	220,522	28,227	176 (out of 195)	4,499 (0.55)	60,533	51,783	11,074	123,390
Counties ..	21 (out of 33)	62.9	210,643	46,038 (21.9)	49,236	6,333	18 (out of 21)	2,200 (1.04)	11,440	12,987	3,256	27,683
Scotland ..	216 (out of 228)	88.7	1,024,992	240,961 (23.5)	269,758	34,560	194 (out of 216)	6,699 (0.65)	71,973	64,770	14,330	151,073

Summary of overcrowding reports up to April 23: * Includes overcrowded families living in uninhabitable houses. † These are fit houses and include houses only temporarily empty and houses not suitable for occupation by the working classes. ‡ Excludes 228 houses of one apartment and 67 houses of two apartments estimated to be required.

all those engaged in the improvement of housing.

The film can be hired or bought outright from G. B. Equipment, Ltd., Film House, Wardour Street, W.1, for use on standard (professional) or sub-standard 16 mm. projectors. The charges for hire range from 5s. for the first day and 1s. per reel on subsequent days.

Conference of representatives of local authorities in London and the Home Counties at County Hall, Westminster. The subject for discussion was housing and town-planning problems.

The Ministry of Health, in its half-yearly return on housing in England and Wales for the period up to March 31, 1936, stated that, at March 31, a total number of 2,981,417 houses had been provided since the Armistice, 861,048 by local authorities and 2,120,369 by private enterprise (the total excludes 15,017 houses provided to rehouse persons displaced under improvement and reconstruction schemes under legislation prior to the Housing Act, 1930). During the half-year under review the total number of houses provided was 174,009—27,198 by local authorities with State assistance; 888 by local authorities without State assistance; 194 by private enterprise with State assistance; 145,729 by private enterprise without State assistance. Under the campaign for the clearance and improvement of slum areas, local authorities passed resolutions for the demolition of 26,261 houses; the number of persons to be displaced by the demolition of these houses was 101,798. During the same period approval was given for the provision of 27,455 houses; 20,782 new houses were completed; and 21,125 houses were demolished, closed or were not to be used for human habitation. During the half-year 20,782 houses were completed which were specifically approved under the Housing Act, 1930, making a total of 80,611 houses up to March 31.

At the end of March the number of houses under construction by local authorities was 53,929 of which 41,598 were definitely allocated to the Act of 1930. At the end of

April these figures had increased to 55,455 and 42,411, respectively.

The return continues the more detailed information as to building progress in different parts of the country which was given for the first time in the last half-yearly return. These particulars cover the larger centres of population and those districts in which there has been a substantial amount of building.

Decision of the Southwark Borough Council to press for the improvement of the south side of the River Thames. Following recommendation adopted: "That the scheme and plans prepared by the borough engineer for the development of the northern end of the borough and improvement of the Thames bank be submitted to the London County Council for consideration, and that the London County Council be requested to convene a conference of representatives of the County Council, the City Corporation, the Borough Council and other bodies and persons interested in the improvement of the south bank of the River Thames for the purpose of dealing with the area in a comprehensive manner." The scheme provides for the erection of working-class flats.

Publications:

House Production, Slum Clearance, etc., England and Wales. Half-yearly Return, up to March 31, 1936, of the Ministry of Health. London: H.M. Stationery Office. Price 4d. (See note under "General.")

Wasted Lives. By W. F. Lestrangle. London: Routledge and Sons. Price 7s. 6d. (A survey of some of the appalling conditions which exist under the present social system.)

Poverty and Public Health. By G. C. M. McGonigle, Medical Officer of Health for Stockton-on-Tees, and J. Kirby. London: Victor Gollancz. Price 6s.

(Figures published by the Ministry of National Service shortly after the war as to the extent of physical unfitness among the adult British male population disturbed the public conscience. This book traces the common defects there shown to exist in high proportion backwards through adolescence, childhood and infancy to

their beginnings, and shows that the state of health among the British children of the working-class today gives promise of a very seriously unhealthy generation of adults in years to come. By means of a series of carefully planned investigations in Stockton, combined with consideration of material from elsewhere, Dr. McGonigle discloses some of the causal factors in the production of an A1—or a C3—population and proves how fundamentally important is the rôle played by nutrition. He has been brought to the conclusion that a very considerable proportion of the people in this country have not got enough to eat. Sir John Orr's recent revelations on the same subject he regards even as an understatement of the true state of affairs. In his opinion, this widespread malnutrition is largely caused by the fact that much too high a proportion of family income is spent on rent, and he gives details of how the removal of a section of the population of Stockton from a slum area to a Council estate, at increased rent, produced serious effects on the health and death-rate of the re-housed families. Dr. McGonigle also describes in detail the investigation carried out at Newcastle-upon-Tyne into the health of working-class children, and the serious extent to which ill-health of various kinds prevails among them. He shows that among working-class families, employed and unemployed, many have, not the minimum 4s. a week per head to spend on food, but an average of 2s. 3d. per head per week. And in discussing the death-rates of employed and unemployed workers, he shows that the death-rate among unemployed families is nearly three times, and that of employed families earning up to 75s. a week is more than twice as high as the "expected" death-rate, proving that death-rate and income are very closely correlated.)

Information received too late for classification:

Statement by the Ministry of Health showing the position of slum clearance and rehousing up to June 30:—

Clearance Areas and Orders.—During June, local authorities declared areas comprising 2,852 houses, representing the displacement of 17,274 persons, as compared with 2,621 houses and a displacement of

OVERCROWDING SURVEY: ENGLAND AND WALES

Local Authority	All Dwellings in Survey			Local Authority Dwellings only		
	Total	Over-crowd-ed	Per-cent-age	Total	Over-crowd-ed	Per-cent-age
LONDON, INCLUDING THE CITY OF LONDON						
City of London ..	1,692	68	4.0	—	—	—
Battersea ..	40,863	1,968	4.8	1,020	147	1.4
Bermondsey ..	27,502	3,163	11.5	2,688	538	20.0
Bethnal Green ..	26,093	3,894	14.9	1,737	338	19.5
Camberwell ..	59,722	2,950	4.9	2,390	234	9.8
Chelsea ..	8,496	749	8.8	572	69	12.1
Deptford ..	29,724	1,317	4.4	710	119	16.8
Finsbury ..	16,097	2,458	15.3	941	100	10.6
Fulham ..	38,882	1,795	4.6	490	29	5.9
Greenwich ..	20,540	1,091	5.3	1,854	183	9.9
Hackney ..	60,899	2,651	4.4	1,677	113	6.7
Hammersmith ..	35,286	1,728	4.9	2,813	160	5.7
Hampstead ..	17,917	449	2.5	214	3	.4
Holborn ..	5,858	700	11.9	1,115	131	11.7
Islington ..	89,428	6,757	7.6	2,203	164	7.4
Kensington ..	24,296	2,529	10.4	553	90	16.3
Lambeth ..	76,924	3,881	5.0	2,169	208	9.6
Lewisham ..	35,182	1,057	3.0	8,383	572	6.8
Paddington ..	27,212	1,998	7.3	8	4	50.0
Poplar ..	37,102	4,080	11.0	2,023	585	28.9
St. Marylebone ..	16,009	1,619	10.1	413	57	13.8
St. Pancras ..	48,210	4,464	9.3	1,194	155	13.0
Shoreditch ..	22,595	3,898	17.3	1,510	292	19.3
Southwark ..	41,208	4,096	9.9	1,934	309	16.0
Stepney ..	49,317	7,632	15.5	1,717	405	23.6
Stoke Newington ..	12,149	462	3.8	178	18	10.1
Wandsworth ..	81,365	1,801	2.2	5,444	204	3.7
Westminster ..	26,136	1,083	4.1	2,403	133	5.5
Woolwich ..	39,621	683	1.7	3,771	132	3.5
COUNTY BOROUGHES						
Birkenhead ..	33,421	2,014	6.0	3,544	612	17.6
Birmingham ..	222,647	8,136	3.7	39,084	1,413	3.6
Blackburn ..	34,898	383	1.1	1,935	22	1.1
Blackpool ..	30,886	424	1.4	1,345	21	1.6
Bolton ..	47,902	1,453	3.0	4,426	116	2.6
Bradford ..	65,565	1,572	2.4	6,991	210	3.0
Brighton ..	32,118	739	2.3	3,568	208	5.8
Bristol ..	93,812	1,962	2.1	13,328	652	4.9
Burnley ..	23,497	299	1.3	1,557	57	3.7
Cardiff ..	42,755	1,272	3.0	5,731	267	4.7
Coventry ..	34,787	671	1.9	—	—	—
Croydon ..	65,550	610	0.9	4,201	165	3.9
Derby ..	35,523	362	1.0	—	—	—
East Ham ..	38,442	812	2.1	727	57	7.8
Grimsby ..	21,853	199	0.9	571	3	0.5
Gateshead ..	31,181	4,729	15.2	2,109	123	5.8
Halifax ..	27,222	1,412	5.2	1,316	54	4.1
Huddersfield ..	28,891	1,341	4.6	3,669	228	6.2
Ipswich ..	23,723	399	1.7	2,254	77	3.4
Kingston-upon-Hull ..	70,355	2,151	3.0	8,475	180	2.1
Leeds ..	71,585	2,343	3.3	11,298	605	5.4
Liverpool ..	155,399	11,554	7.4	21,025	2,183	10.4
Manchester ..	190,361	3,920	2.1	24,828	398	1.6
Middlesbrough ..	30,448	2,100	6.9	3,578	256	7.2
Newcastle-upon-Tyne ..	79,779	8,552	10.7	10,506	793	7.5
Newport ..	25,196	648	2.6	1,897	142	7.5
Northampton ..	22,152	175	0.8	3,859	80	2.1
Norwich ..	29,062	763	2.6	—	—	—
Nottingham ..	68,835	1,015	1.5	12,277	360	2.9
Oldham ..	36,380	1,516	4.2	1,835	104	5.7
NON-COUNTY BOROUGHES						
Heston and Isleworth ..	24,474	349	1.4	1,616	146	9.0
Ilford ..	43,541	290	0.7	3,290	110	3.3
Leyton ..	34,255	590	1.7	382	8	2.1
Luton ..	24,237	125	0.5	909	10	1.1
Tottenham ..	40,644	1,322	3.3	2,880	190	6.6
Walthamstow ..	36,738	583	1.6	1,492	48	3.2
Willesden ..	43,898	1,833	4.2	1,228	71	5.8
URBAN DISTRICTS						
Dagenham ..	22,243	1,015	4.6	16,186	921	5.7
Edmonton ..	26,241	401	1.5	1,716	55	3.2
Enfield ..	21,500	341	1.6	1,725	110	6.4
Rhondda ..	33,105	1,207	3.6	—	—	—
RURAL DISTRICTS						
Easington ..	20,211	1,621	8.0	2,714	106	3.9
GRAND TOTAL UP TO JULY 4						
Local Authority	All Dwellings in Survey			Local Authority Dwellings only		
	Total	Over-crowd-ed	Per-cent-age	Total	Over-crowd-ed	Per-cent-age
LONDON, INCLUDING THE CITY OF LONDON (29) ..	1,016,315	70,731	7.0	52,124	5,492	10.5
COUNTY BOROUGHES (82) ..	2,994,624	126,195	4.2	343,446	18,791	5.5
NON-COUNTY BOROUGHES (275) ..	1,603,284	44,461	2.8	164,043	7,935	4.8
URBAN DISTRICTS (621) ..	1,778,924	56,732	3.2	200,916	8,627	4.3
RURAL DISTRICTS (455) ..	1,455,769	42,798	2.9	102,210	3,943	3.9
GRAND TOTAL (1,462) ..	8,848,916	340,917	3.9	862,739	44,788	5.2

Under the Housing Act, 1935, local authorities in England and Wales were called upon to submit to the Ministry of Health the number of dwellings in their area which are overcrowded according to the schedule laid down in the Act. The definition of "dwelling house" is given in Section 12 of the Act as "any premises used as a separate dwelling by members of the working classes or of a type suitable for such use."

The above table shows the returns of the London boroughs; the returns of local authorities in whose area the number of dwellings surveyed exceeds 20,000; and the grand total up to July 4 last. The grand total for London differs slightly from the sum total of the individual boroughs; this is due to one or two boroughs having submitted amended figures since the completion of the L.C.C. survey.

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10,212 persons in May. The figures for the quarter ended June show 11,717 houses declared in areas, as compared with 14,072 for the preceding quarter. The Orders submitted by local authorities during June covered 2,594 houses and the displacement of 13,148 persons, as compared with 2,912 houses and 13,643 persons in May. The house figures for the quarter are 8,468 as compared with 12,273 in the preceding quarter.

The Orders confirmed during June covered 2,687 houses and 13,291 persons, as compared with the record high number in May of 5,104 houses and 21,540 persons. The corresponding house figures for the two quarters are 10,860 and 11,791. This month's figures bring the total number of houses in confirmed orders over the 100,000 mark—the actual number being 102,114 involving the displacement of 442,486 persons.

Rehousing Progress.—New houses approved during June numbered 4,797.

Statement by the L.C.C. that, since the War, up to June 30, 1936, approximately 64,800 dwellings (including both cottages and flats) had been provided on the Council's

housing estates. Of these, about 3,100 were provided in the first six months of 1936. On June 30 some 5,800 further dwellings were in course of erection.

Slum Clearance.—By June 30 the Council had declared 135 areas or groups of areas to be clearance areas under The Housing Act, 1930. These areas, including in most cases adjoining land required for purposes of redevelopment, comprise about 250 acres, and the rehousing of more than 53,000 persons is involved. During the last six months the number of areas declared was 20, the area about 32 acres, and the number of persons to be rehoused about 6,000.

Statement by the Building Industries National Council that the number of houses built by local authorities has been increasing, and this movement may be expected to continue. Building for slum replacement under the 1930 Housing Act has increased, and must show considerably greater advances if the Government's aim is to be realised. Since the commencement of the five-year programme in September, 1933, 68,700 houses have been completed, leaving 231,300 to be completed before the end of 1938 if the plan is to succeed.

THE WEEK'S BUILDING NEWS

LONDON AND DISTRICT (15 Miles Radius)
BETHNAL GREEN. *Dwellings.* The B.C. is to erect dwellings on the Delta Street area, at a cost of £20,986.

EAST HAM. *Health Offices.* The Ministry of Health is to hold an inquiry into the scheme of the East Ham Corporation for the erection of health offices and clinic in Barking Road, at a cost of £38,000.

EAST HAM. *Rehousing.* The Corporation has prepared plans for rehousing 92 families on sites in Park Avenue and Folkestone Road.

EAST HAM. *Factory, etc.* Plans passed by the Corporation: Alterations, Premier cinema, High Street, for Mr. W. E. Trent; factory, Bypass Road, for Commercial Structures, Ltd.; alterations, 168 High Street, for Messrs. A. Lewis & Co. (Westminster), Ltd.; extensions, 11-13, High Street, for Mr. J. L. Cohen; 15 houses, Park Avenue, for Mr. W. Harris; additions, Earl of Wakefield P.H., Katherine Road, for Messrs. Hickman, Ltd.; workshop, Wellington Road, four houses, Aldersbrook Road, and extensions, shopping hall, Myrtle Road, for Mr. R. J. L. Slater; extensions, Trebor works, Katherine Road, for Messrs. J. C. Mellis & Co.

KENSINGTON. *Nursery School.* The Gas Light & Coke Co. are to provide a nursery school for 60 children as part of a community centre to be established in connection with tenements they are erecting in Ladbroke Grove, Kensington.

LAMBETH. *Flats.* The L.C.C. is to erect a further 230 flats on the Kennington Park estate, Lambeth, at a cost of £116,500.

LEWISHAM. *Shops, Flats, etc.* Plans passed by the B.C.: Shops and flats, Lee Road, for Mr. J. J. Briggs; flats, 167-199 Bromley Road, for Messrs. J. Watt (Catford), Ltd.; flats, 176 Devonshire Road, for Messrs. Furnsals, Ltd.; extensions, Britannic House Club, Kangley Bridge Road, for Mr. W. T. Parr; additions, Kinsler Works, Herschell Road, for Messrs. T. Sherborne & Co.; hall, Davenport Road, for Royal Arsenal Co-operative Society, Ltd.; maisonettes, 255 Baring Road, for Messrs. W. Whiteley, Ltd.; flats, 5-8 Eliot Bank, for Messrs. Edwards and Lancaster; rendering, Forest Hill Hotel, Stanstead Road, for Mr. W. G. Ingram.

MARYLEBONE. *Flats, etc.* Plans submitted to the B.C.: Six blocks of flats, Wellington Road, for Welling Estate, Ltd.; 11 blocks of flats, Barrow Hill Road, for Mr. H. K. Dyson; alterations, Mappin and Webb's premises,

Winsley Street, for Messrs. Yates, Cook and Darbyshire; block of flats, 2-4 St. John's Wood Road, for Mr. I. Schulz; shop and flats, 79 Marylebone Lane, for Mr. L. Mansfield; block of flats, 53-7 Portland Place, for Messrs. J. Stanley Beard and Bennett; block of flats, Garden Road, for Mr. R. Sargent; block of flats, Hall Road, for Messrs. A. Savill and Sons.

NORWOOD. *Extensions.* The L.C.C. is to enlarge the Norwood technical institute, at a cost of £25,290.

SHOREDITCH. *Reconstruction.* The L.C.C. is to reconstruct the Curtain Road school, Shoreditch, at a cost of £14,510.

SOUTHGATE. *Church Hall.* Messrs. Mitchell and Bridgewater have prepared plans for the erection of a church hall and parsonage in Sheringham Avenue, Southgate.

SOUTHGATE. *Development, etc.* Plans passed by the Corporation: Development, Westpole Farm estate, Cockfosters, for Messrs. E. Owers, Ltd.; five houses, Westpole Avenue, for Mr. C. E. Ward; dairy, Cockfosters Road, for Express Dairy Co., Ltd.; 55 flats, Chase Road and Avenue Road, for Mr. L. T. Swanne; 11 houses, Broadfields Avenue, for Mr. G. W. Newman; seven shops and flats, Bowes Road, for Mr. A. G. King; 18 flats, Crestbrook Avenue, for James Estates; six houses, Morton Way, for Mr. H. A. Nash; additions, De Bohun Club, Bramley Road, for Mr. W. H. Richards; four shops and flats, Chase Side, for Messrs. Marshall and Tweedy; 18 houses, vicinity of Nursery Road, for Messrs. Turner and Evans; 2 houses, The Spinney, for Mr. H. C. Wilkinson; two houses, Prince George Avenue, for Mr. B. E. Dixon; three houses, Waterfall Road, for Mr. E. Stott; six houses, Ringwood Way, for Mr. G. W. S. Ingram.

SOUTHERN COUNTIES

ALTON. *School.* The Hampshire Education Committee is to erect a senior school for 800 at Alton, at a cost of £30,388.

ELING. *School.* The Hampshire Education Committee is to erect an elementary school for 560 in the parish of Eling.

GRAVESEND. *Development.* Messrs. Hatten, Winnett and Hatten are to develop a building estate at Parrock Farm, Gravesend, for the Gravesend Land Co., Ltd.

GRAVESEND. *Houses, etc.* Plans passed by the Corporation: Two houses, Lower Higham Road, for Mr. W. Wicker; four houses, Orchard Avenue, for Mr. G. A. Maytum; 10 houses,

Lamorna Avenue, for Mr. M. W. Billing; 21 houses, Hillside Avenue, for Mr. W. T. Leggett; six houses, Larmorna Avenue, for Mr. C. A. Reid; two houses, Milton Hall Road, for Mr. S. Bridger; offices, Albion Parade, for Messrs. R. L. Priestley, Ltd.; two houses, Milton Hall Road, for Messrs. Wood Bros.; 50 houses, Valley Drive, for Mr. R. C. Harling.

MILLBROOK. *School.* The Hampshire Education Committee is to erect a senior school for 520 at Millbrook, at a cost of £23,316.

WHITCHURCH. *School.* The Hampshire Education Committee is to erect an elementary school for 200 at Whitchurch.

MIDLANDS

BURTON-ON-TRENT. *Houses.* The Corporation is to erect 55 houses in Rosliston Road, at a cost of £35,000.

NORTHAMPTON. *Houses, etc.* Plans passed by the Corporation: Six houses, Kingsley Road, for Messrs. A. P. Hawtin and Sons, Ltd.; offices, West Bridge works, St. James Road, for Messrs. Travis and Arnold; four houses, Greenfield Avenue, for Mr. A. Atkins; two houses, Pinelands Road, for Mr. H. W. Rainbow; seven houses, Malcolm Drive, for Messrs. Chowns, Ltd.; pavilion, off Rushmere Road, for Rushmere Tennis Club; shop, 152 Abington Avenue, for Messrs. E. H. Tibbs & Co., Ltd.; 32 houses, Foxgrove Avenue, for Manor Building Co.; 16 houses, Peverills Way, for Messrs. W. Higgins, Ltd.; two houses, Barn Way, and three houses, Freehold Street, for Messrs. T. Wilson & Co., Ltd.; 12 houses, Buttocks Booth Lane, for Messrs. A. Glenn and Sons, Ltd.

NORTHAMPTON. *Police Buildings.* The Corporation has approved plans by Messrs. J. C. Prestwich and Sons, architects, for new police buildings and court house, at a cost of £77,500.

NORTHERN COUNTIES

BRADFORD. *Houses.* The Corporation has asked the city architect to prepare plans for further houses on the Canterbury Road estate.

BRADFORD. *School.* The Bradford Education Committee has approved plans, by the city architect, for new premises for the Thornton Grammar school, at a cost of £40,800.

THE BUILDINGS ILLUSTRATED

BESANT HALL, W.1 (pages 79-82). The general contractors were Holloway Bros. (London) Ltd., and the principal subcontractors and suppliers included French Asphalte Co., asphalt; Macartney, Ltd., Maclast roofing; Greenwoods Ventilation Co., Ltd., skylights; Cork Insulation Co., Ltd., cork insulation to roofs and floors; Stic B. Paint Sales, Ltd., external paint on concrete; Blind Employment Factory, mats in foyer; J. N. Nicholson, Ltd., central heating and ventilation; Gas Light and Coke Co., gas fixtures; William Sugg & Co., Ltd., gasfittings; Bečive Electrical Co., Ltd., electric wiring; Merchant Adventurers of London, Ltd., and Oswald Hollman, electric light fixtures; Burn Bros., Ltd., drainage scheme; Shanks & Co., Ltd., and Twyford, Ltd., sanitary fittings; James Gibbons, Ltd., door furniture; Crittall Manufacturing Co., Ltd., casements; Coules and Son, iron staircases; May Acoustics, Ltd., acoustic plaster; Carter & Co., Ltd., wall tiling; Knight & Co. (Engineers), Ltd., stage curtain gear; John Lewis, Ltd., stage curtain; Gordon Russell, Ltd., platform furniture; Bath Cabinet Makers, Ltd., hall seating; Genk & Co., Ltd., clocks; Franco-British Electrical Co., Ltd., signs; Sound and Cinema Equipment, Ltd., portable cinema screen.

RATES OF WAGES

The initial letter opposite every 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.

Table with columns for location, county, and wage rates (I, II). Includes entries for ABERDARE, ABERDEEN, ABERGAVENNY, ABINGDON, ACCRINGTON, ADDLESTONE, ADLINGTON, AIRDRIE, ALDEBURGH, ALTRINCHAM, APPELBY, ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE, AYLESBURY, BANBURY, BANGOR, BARNARD CASTLE, BARNLEY, BARNSTAPLE, BARROW, BARRY, BAASINGTOKE, BATH, BATLEY, BEDFORD, BERWICK-ON-TWEED, BEWDLEY, BICESTER, BIRKENHEAD, BIRMINGHAM, BISHOP AUCKLAND, BLACKBURN, BLACKPOOL, BLYTH, BOGNOR, BOLTON, BOSTON, BOURNEMOUTH, BOVEY TRACEY, BRADFORD, BRENTWOOD, BRIDGEND, BRIDGWATER, BRIDLINGTON, BRIGHOUSE, BRIGHTON, BRISTOL, BRIXHAM, BROMSGROVE, BROMYARD, BURNLEY, BURTON-ON-TRENT, BURY, BUXTON, CAMBRIDGE, CANTERBURY, CARDIFF, CARDISLE, CARMARTHEN, CARNARVON, CARNFORTH, CASTLEFORD, CHATHAM, CHELMSFORD, CHELTENHAM, CHESTER, CHESTERFIELD, CHICHESTER, CHORLEY, CIRENCESTER, CLITHEROE, CLYDEBANK, COALVILLE, COLCHESTER, COLNE, COLWYN BAY, CONSETT, CONWAY, COVENTRY, CREWE, CUMBERLAND, DARLINGTON, DARWEN, DEAL, DENBIGH, DERBY, DEWABURY, DIDCOT, DONCASTER, DORCHESTER, DRIFFIELD, DROITWICH, DUDLEY, DUMFRIES, DUNDEE, DURHAM, EASTBOURNE, ELDBURGH, GLAMORGANSHIRE, EXETER, EXMOUTH, FELIXSTOWE, FOLEY, FLEETWOOD, FOLKESTONE, FRODISHAM, FROME, GATESHEAD, GILLINGHAM, GLASGOW, GLOUCESTER, GOOLE, GOPSPORT, GRANTHAM, GRAVESEND, GREENOCK, GRIMSBY, GUILDFORD, HALIFAX, HANLEY, HARRGATE, HARTLEPOOL, HARWICH, HASTINGS, HATFIELD, HERFORD, HERTFORD, HEYSHAM, HOWDEN, HUDDERSFIELD, HULL, ILKLEY, IMMINGHAM, IPSWICH, ISLE OF WIGHT, JARROW, KEIGHLEY, KENDAL, KEWICK, KETERING, KIDDERMINSTER, KING'S LYNN, LANCASTER, LEAMINGTON, LEEDS, LEEK, LEICESTER, LEIGH, LEWES, LICHFIELD, LINCOLN, LIVERPOOL, LLANDUDNO, LLANELLY, LONDON, LONG EATON, LOUGHBOROUGH, LUTON, LYTHAM, MACCLESFIELD, MALDSTONE, MALVERN, MANCHESTER, MANFIELD, MARGATE, MATLOCK, MERTHYR, MIDDLESBROUGH, MIDDLEWICH, MINEHEAD, MIMNUTH, MORECAMBE, NANTWICH, NEATH, NELSON, NEWCASTLE, NEWPORT, NORMANTON, NORTHAMPTON, NORTH SHIELDS, NORTH STAFFS, NOTTINGHAM, NORWICH, NUNEATON, OAKHAM, OLDHAM, OSWESTRY, OXFORD, PAISLEY, PEMBROKE, PERTH, PETERBOROUGH, PLYMOUTH, PONTFRAC, PONTYFRID, PORTSMOUTH, PRESTON, QUEENSFERRY, READING, REIGATE, RETFORD, RHONDDA VALLEY, RIPON, ROCHEDALE, ROCHESTER, RUABON, RUGBY, RUGELEY, RUNCORN, ST. ALBANS, ST. HELENS, SALISBURY, SCARBOROUGH, SCUNTHORPE, SHEFFIELD, SHIPLEY, SHREWSBURY, SKIPTON, SLough, SOLIHULL, SOUTHAMPTON, SOUTHEND-ON-SEA, SOUTHPORT, ST. HELENS, ST. SHIELDS, STAFFORD, STIRLING, STOCKPORT, STOCKTON-ON-TEES, STOKE-ON-TRENT, STROUD, SUNDERLAND, SWANSEA, SWINDON, TAMWORTH, TAUNTON, TEESIDE DIST., TEIGNMOUTH, TOLMORDEN, TORQUAY, TRURO, TUNBRIDGE, TYNDALE, TYNE DISTRICT, WAKEFIELD, WALSALL, WARRINGTON, WARRICK, WELLINGBOROUGH, WEST BROMWICH, WESTON-S-MARE, WHITBY, WIDNES, WIGAN, WINCHESTER, WINDSOR, WOLVERHAMPTON, WORCESTER, WORKSOP, WREXHAM, WYCOMBE, YARMOUTH, YEovil, YORK.

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

CURRENT PRICES

The wages are the standard Union rates of wages payable in London at the time of publication. The prices given below are for materials of good quality and include delivery to site in Central London area, unless otherwise stated. For delivery outside this area, adjust-

ment should be made for the cost of transport. 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. The whole of the information given is copyright.

WAGES

Table listing various trades and their wages, including Bricklayer, Carpenter, Joiner, Machinist, Mason, Plumber, Painter, Paperhanger, Glazier, Slater, Scaffolder, Timberman, Navy, General Labourer, Lorryman, Crane Driver, and Watchman.

MATERIALS

EXCAVATOR AND CONCRETOR

Table listing various materials for excavators and concretors, including Grey Stone Lime, Blue Lias Lime, Hydrated Lime, Portland Cement, Rapid Hardening Cement, White Portland Cement, Thames Ballast, Crushed Ballast, Building Sand, Washed Sand, Broken Brick, Pan Breeze, and Coke Breeze.

DRAINLAYER

BEST STONEWARE DRAIN PIPES AND FITTINGS

Table listing various drain pipes and fittings, including Straight Pipes, Bends, Taper Bends, Rest Bends, Single Junctions, Double Junctions, Straight channels, Channel bends, Channel junctions, Channel tapers, Yard gullies, Interceptors, Iron Drains, Iron drain pipe, Inspection bends, Single junctions, Double junctions, Lead Wool, and Gaskin.

BRICKLAYER

Table listing various types of bricks and facings, including Fletton, Grooved do., Porphyre bricks, Cellular bricks, Stocks, Blue Bricks (pressed and wirecut), Red Sand-faced Facings, Red Rubbers for Arches, Multicoloured Facings, Luton Facings, Porphyre White Facings, Rustic Facings, Midhurst White Facings, Glazed Bricks, and various stretchers and headers.

MASON

Table listing various masonry materials and services, including Portland stone, Bath stone, Yerk stone, Sawn templates, and Paving.

SLATER AND TILER

Table listing various slates and tiles, including First quality Bangor or Portmadoc slates, Duchsasses, Marchionesses, Countesses, Ladies, and various hand-made tiles.

CARPENTER AND JOINER

Table listing various carpentry materials, including Good carressing timber, Birch, Deal, Mahogany, Oak, and Pine.

PLYWOOD

Table listing various plywood specifications, including Thickness and Qualities.

SMITH AND FOUNDER

Table listing various tubes and fittings, including Tubes and Fittings, and a note about standard list prices.

SMITH AND FOUNDER

Table listing various tubes and fittings, including Tubes, Gas, Water, Steam, and various discounts.

SMITH AND FOUNDER

Table listing various fittings, including Gas, Water, Steam, and Rolled steel joists.

SMITH AND FOUNDER—continued

Table listing various metal items, including Mild steel reinforcing rods, Cast-iron rain-water pipes, Shoes, Anti-splash shoes, Boots, Bends, Heads, Swan-necks, Plinth bends, Half-round rain-water gutters, Stop ends, Angles, Obtuse angles, and Outlets.

PLUMBER

Table listing various plumbing materials, including Lead, milled sheets, Drawn pipes, Solder, Copper sheet, and L.C.C. soil and waste pipes.

PLASTERER

Table listing various plaster materials, including Lime, Coarse, Hydrated lime, Sirapite, Keene's cement, Gothic Plaster, Pioneer Plaster, Tinted plaster, Sand, Hair, Laths, and Lath nails.

GLAZIER

Table listing various glass items, including Sheet glass, Crown sheet glass, Flemish, Arctic, Figures (white), Blazoned glasses, Reeded glass, Cathedral glass, Plain, hammered, rimped, waterwite, Flashed opals, Wired cast, Georgian wired cast, Polished plate, Vita glass, and Calorex sheet.

PAINTER

Table listing various painting materials, including White lead, Linsed oil, Boiled oil, Turpentine, Patent knotting, Distemper washable, Whitening, Size, double, Copal varnish, Flat varnish, Outside varnish, White enamel, Ready mixed paint, and Brunswick black.

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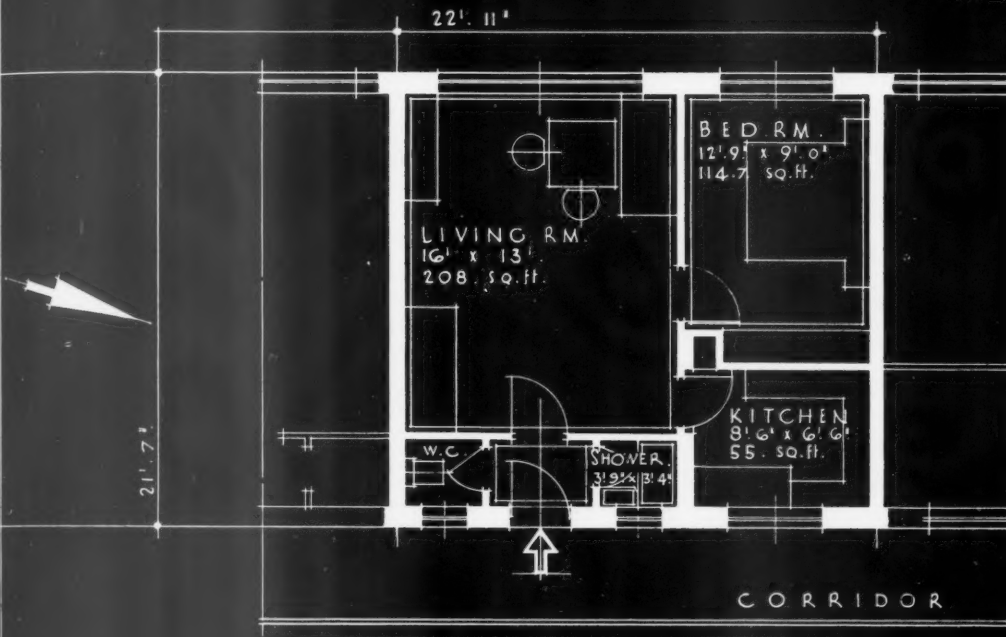
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TYPES OF FLAT UNIT: FRANKFURT, A.M.

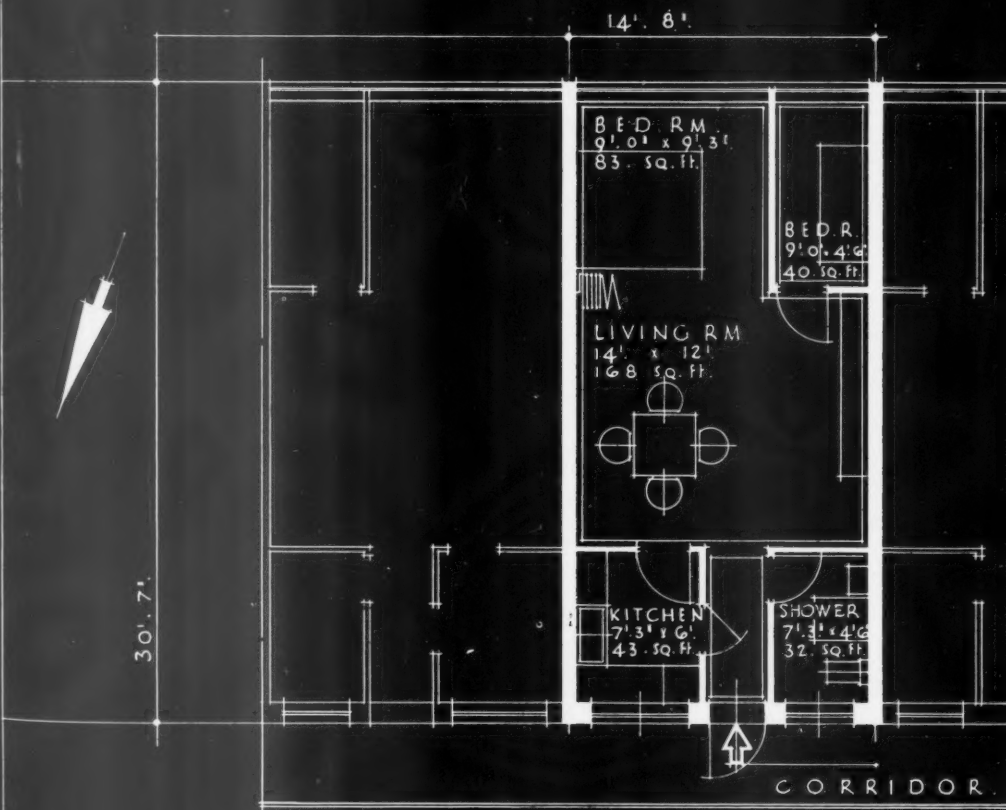
ACCESS: Balcony.
TYPE: 2 - room, kitchen, & bathroom.



Total area of unit: 496 sq. ft.

Service area: 95 sq. ft.

Habitable area: 322 sq. ft.



Total areas given include

the external walls,

1/2 the division walls between flats,

Balconies are not included.

Total area of unit: 449 sq. ft.

Service area: 97 sq. ft.

Habitable area: 291 sq. ft.



INFORMATION SHEET: INDUSTRIAL HOUSING 15.
SIR JOHN BURNET TAIT AND LORNE ARCHITECTS: ONE MONTAGUE PLACE, BEDFORD SQUARE, LONDON, W.C.I.

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INFORMATION SHEET

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INDUSTRIAL HOUSING UNITS—XV

Frankfurt A.M.

The Unit given on the upper part of this Sheet is one which gives a very narrow building, the unit being greater in frontage than in depth.

Being of the balcony access type, light and ventilation is obtained for all rooms and w.c. and Shower-Bathroom is provided.

The lower unit is of a different type with exceptionally narrow frontage and great depth. This gives a Living room lighted across the Bedroom or Bed recess.

A Bathroom is provided with shower-bath, w.c. and lavatory basin.

The service area includes all that space which is not used as living accommodation for the occupants, i.e. kitchens, wardrobes, baths, w.c.'s and lobbies.

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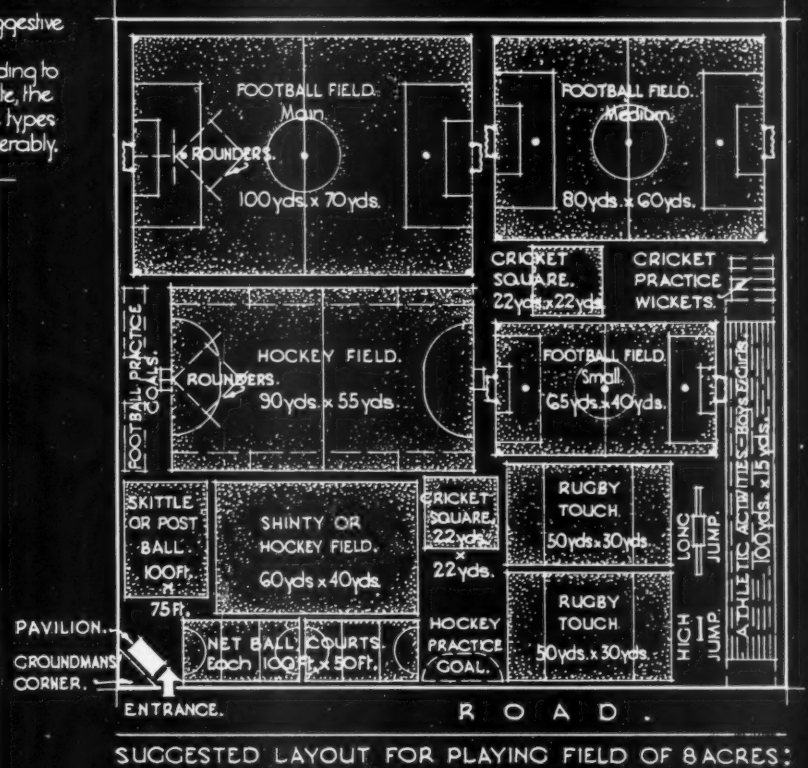
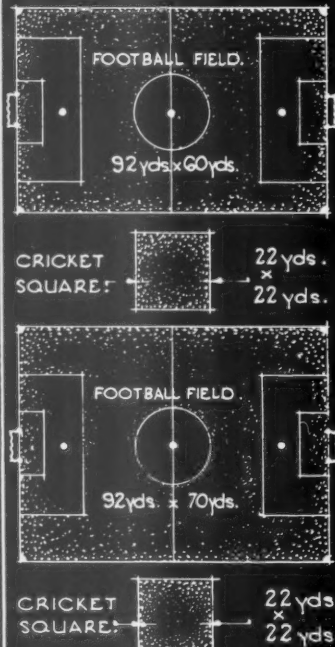
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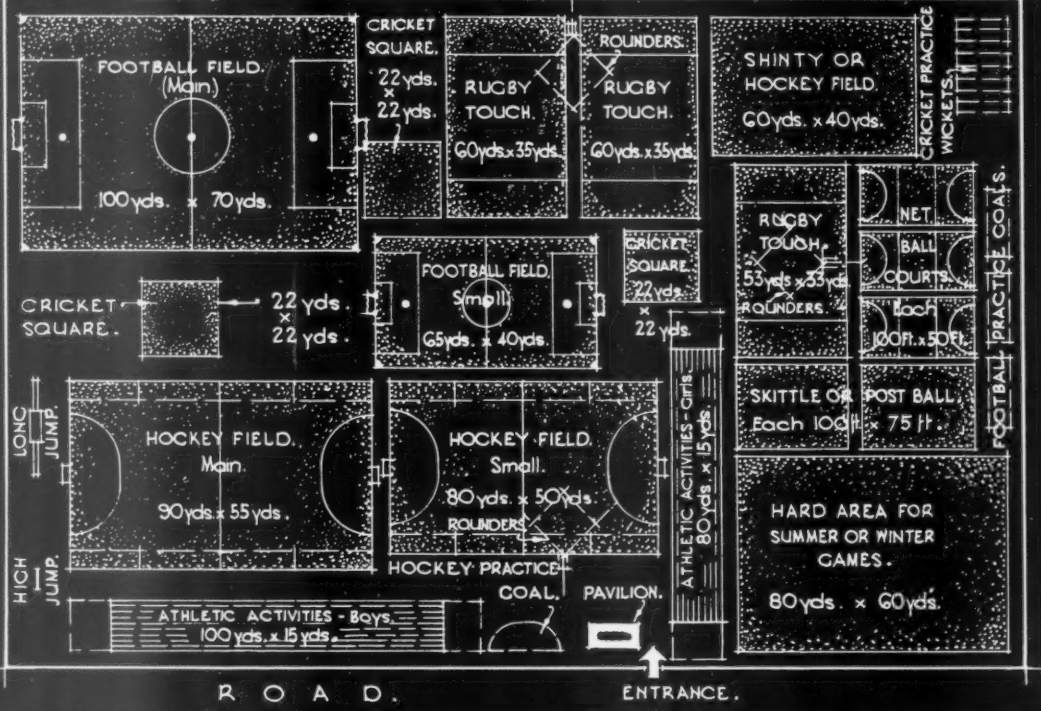
DIAGRAMMATIC PLANS OF THE LAYOUT OF PLAYING FIELDS OF 8 AND 16 ACRES :

NOTE : The plans as shown are merely suggestive and are intended only as a general guide.

The layouts must be adapted according to local conditions as regards the nature of the site, the numbers, age, and sex of the players, and the types of game to be played, for these will vary considerably.



SUGGESTED LAYOUT FOR PLAYING FIELD OF 8 ACRES :



SUGGESTED LAYOUT FOR PLAYING FIELD OF 16 ACRES :

Plans as prepared for the Board of Education (Booklet No. 80) by the National Playing Fields Association.

INFORMATION SHEET : PLANNING DATA : SCHOOL PLAYING FIELDS : SIR JOHN BURNET TAIT AND LORNE ARCHITECTS ONE MONTAGUE PLACE BEDFORD SQUARE LONDON WCI. *Osca. G. Payne*

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INFORMATION SHEET

• 380 •

SCHOOLS

Subject : Playing Fields.

The diagrammatic layouts of playing fields given on this sheet are based on those prepared for the Board of Education by the National Playing Fields Association and published in the Board of Education Educational Pamphlet No. 80. The Information is reproduced by permission of the Controller, H.M. Stationery Office.

Capacity of Playing Fields :

The playing fields shown are primarily intended to serve as central fields for the use of a number of schools.

In this connection Pamphlet No. 80 states :—

An 8-acre field should be capable of containing four pitches for major games and five for smaller ones. Given satisfactory conditions of soil and good organization such a field should be capable of providing weekly for at least 1,000 children. A field of 14 acres under similar conditions should be able to accommodate 6 pitches for major games and 15 for smaller ones, and admit of use by 2,500 children weekly. The larger ground has a greater proportionate capacity because a higher proportion of pitches for smaller games can be provided. Also the necessary free ground outside the pitches will be less in proportion to the total area of the field, and the larger ground permits of greater choice in the arrangements of pitches. The above figures are intended only as a guide to Authorities who are concerned to get the maximum use out of a limited space. They are not to be regarded as providing a ready method of reckoning the acreage of ground which can usefully be provided. For one thing they are based on favourable assumptions as to the condition of the ground and also as to organization which will not always be justified. Even on these assumptions additional ground may be highly desirable to provide a larger proportion of pitches for the major games, for the reservation of cricket tables and for other purposes.

Selection of Sites :

The following paragraphs are extracts from the pamphlet:

It should be unnecessary to emphasize the importance of not determining the selection of a site solely by considerations of purchase price. Account must be taken of special characteristics (i.e. of soil, levels, shape) which are likely materially to affect the probable cost of preparation and upkeep and the capacity for resisting hard wear. Odd pieces of ground which may have been left derelict through their unsuitability for other purposes are likely to suffer from defects which make them also unsuitable as playing fields. The tenure of the land should be of sufficient duration to warrant any reasonable initial expenditure which may be required to fit it for the purpose in view.

Soil.—The nature of the subsoil is all-important. A favourable sub-soil, whether natural or prepared, saves much subsequent trouble and expense. Good drainage is essential. The ideal subsoil is that

which drains quickly and has some 9 to 12 inches of good loam on top. A clay subsoil should be avoided if possible, because it necessitates an artificial system of drainage. Chalk and gravel are suitable subsoils provided there is a surface covering of loam ; they do not require artificial drainage. A sandy soil dries quickly in winter, but in summer the surface crumbles and a good crop of grass cannot be raised on it. It is desirable to ascertain the nature of the subsoil over the whole ground, as it may vary considerably. It is also useful to know the history of the ground.

Drainage.—If good natural drainage is not obtained artificial drainage will be essential, otherwise the ground will be unsatisfactory in use and expensive or impossible to keep in good condition. Artificial drainage should only be undertaken by an expert. The ground should not be turfed or sown for two or three months after the drainage is complete, as the drainage system will take some time to settle down and the level of the ground will often be lost.

Shape.—In so far as any choice exists, economy of space will be secured if the site is as nearly rectangular as possible. In selecting a school site it is important to secure one of such shape that the portion available for playing fields will be suitable and convenient for the purpose. Waste of space is likely to be avoided if a layout of the whole site is prepared before the exact positions of the building and playgrounds are settled.

Levelling.—If the ground is sloping and requires levelling it is important that the nature of the games to be played on it and the number and size of the pitches should be carefully considered and a plan of their layout prepared before the levelling is begun. Surface levelling is needed for the removal of irregularities which would prevent the games being played with freedom and skill. Hedges, ditches, walls, etc., which run across the proposed playing fields should be removed, levelled and filled in. Their retention involves much waste of space and consequently of opportunities for play, while increasing the difficulties of upkeep. For the same reasons trees ought always to be removed unless they are on the edge of the field, or are needed for shelter. After the levelling has been completed and the surface soil replaced, the ground should be allowed ample time to settle down. It is likely to settle down unevenly in some places and to need some releveling ; also if the ground is allowed to stand before seeding, superfluous growths, weeds, etc., can be got rid of.

Marking of Pitches.—It is important the pitches should be well and completely marked out. Games lose much of their accuracy and skill when marking is incomplete. A well-marked ground adds to the importance of the game. In some districts much use is made of spiked flagpoles for goals and for practice pitches ; their advantage is that pitches can be easily moved, thus minimising the wear of the surface and reducing the cost of marking. On the other hand, on some soils the wear thus spread over a large area may not be easily made good, whereas more localized wear, as for instance round fixed goals, though heavier, is more easily repaired. For permanent marking the advantage is claimed that the wear is minimized by reason of the fact that a ground marked for any particular game is not generally used for other games. Nothing destroys turf more rapidly than practice in the mouth of fixed football goals ; posts for shooting practice should, therefore, be put clear of the field of play. On large playing fields, used by many classes simultaneously, much time is saved in getting games started if the pitches are indicated by flags or poles of different colours and are allocated to the classes as they arrive by the groundsman.



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Data from Board of Education Physical Training Series, No. 14, by permission of the Controller, H. M. Stationery Office.

NOTES ON THE PLANNING, CONSTRUCTION & EQUIPMENT OF THE GYMNASIUM PROPER.

● SITUATION :

A position should be chosen which allows for free entrance of light and air.

As some noise is inevitable, the question of providing a separate building should be considered. This block should be connected by a covered way where possible.

If the gymnasium is part of the school building, it should be so placed to minimise disturbance to classes, & the floor should be constructed to deaden sound as far as possible.

● SIZE AND HEIGHT :

The dimensions are determined by the size of the classes and age of the pupils.

For classes of 30 persons, 60' x 30' is a min. For adults, institutions & schools of larger classes 70' x 40' is more suitable.

The widths given above represent the minimum floor measurements between pier faces or projecting radiators.

From floor to ceiling the height should be 16'-17'. Where roof trusses etc. project below the ceiling, height to the underside should be 15' min.

● ROOF :

In a gymnasium 60' x 30' five roof beams or trusses, i.e. six bays, are required to permit the most suitable arrangement of apparatus. In a gymnasium 70' x 40' use 5 or 7 beams, not six.

● CEILING :

The ceiling should be flat. If roof members project they must be cased in to avoid dust.

The ceiling should be specially strengthened at points of suspension of apparatus, e.g. Wall ladders, between the main roof supports.

● WALLS :

Doors in the longer walls are to be placed near the end to facilitate accommodation of the requisite number of wall bars. Doors in the shorter walls to be not more than two in number.

Plain plastered or enamelled walls are most satisfactory, but distemper is suitable, in light colours.

Electric light cables & heating pipes must not obstruct the fixing of apparatus.

If cavity walls are used the inner shell must be 9" thick min. for secure fixing of apparatus.

● LIGHTING & VENTILATION :

Roof lighting is undesirable. The gymnasium should be as light as possible, quickly ventilated by a range of wide opening windows along both sides with sills brought as low as the radiators permit, 3' 0" high max.

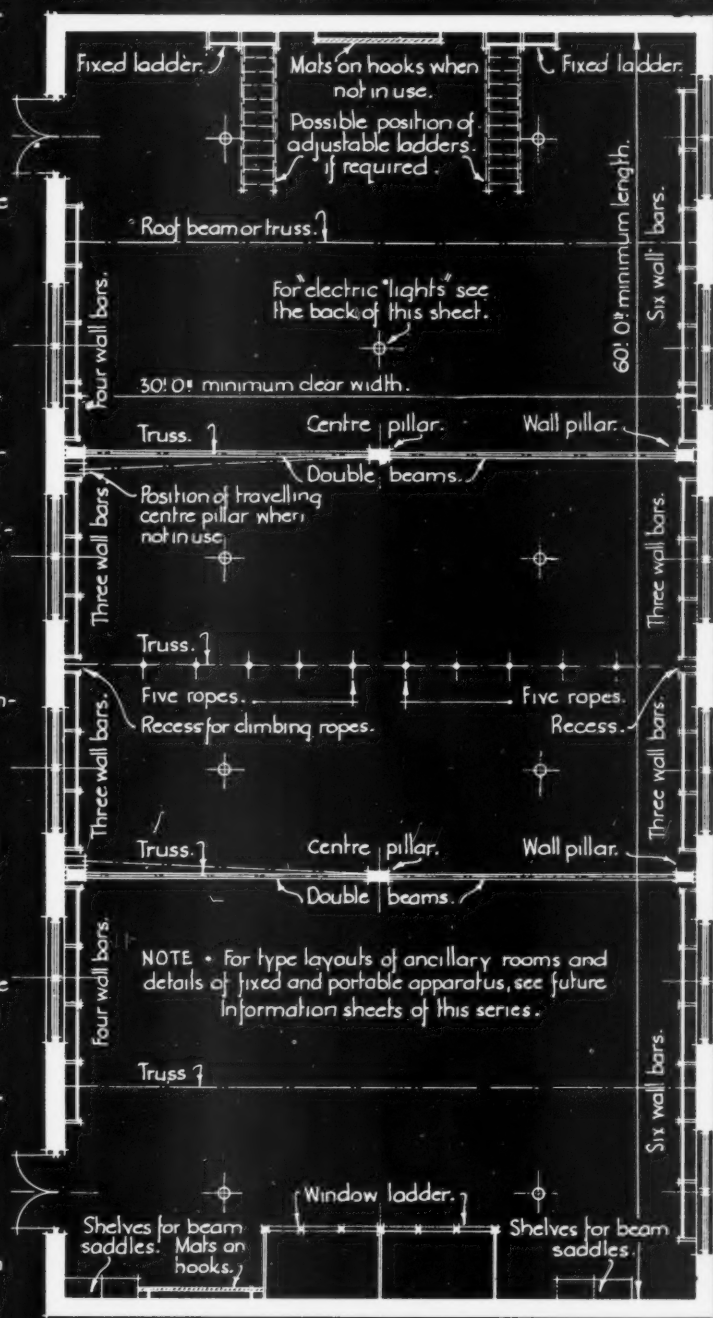
Windows to be 6' 0" wide max. to open outwards their full width & the lower part protected by a wire guard. Windows at ends to be placed not less than 9' 0" from floor to sill.

● HEATING :

Preferably by L.P. hot water capable of maintaining 50°-55° C. uniformly during the winter.

PLAN SHOWING ARRANGEMENT OF FIXED APPARATUS :

NOTE • To ensure continued safety in the use of the apparatus it is desirable that competent inspection should be maintained at periods not exceeding four months. Scale = 1/8 inch = 1 foot.



● FLOOR :

The floor must not splinter or become slippery. It must be easy to clean & durable. The most suitable wood is open grained oak.

The floor should be constructed of boards 4" max. width, free from knots or other defects, well cramped and secret nailed. The boards to be laid across the gymnasium, not longitudinally. This lessens the chance of slipping. Wood block floors lack spring. Felt on joists & sleeper walls adds to resilience and prevention of noise.

INFORMATION SHEET: GYMNASIUMS: I: PLAN OF FIXED APPARATUS FOR 30 PUPILS: SIR JOHN BURNET TAIT AND LORNE ARCHITECTS ONE MONTAGUE PLACE BEDFORD SQUARE LONDON W.C.I. *John A. Payne.*

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GYMNASIUMS

General.

Both the quantity and the arrangement of the gymnastic apparatus are important. A sufficiency of apparatus suitably arranged facilitates the work, whereas equipment that is either incomplete or badly arranged greatly hinders it. In selecting and arranging the distribution of fixed equipment, account must be taken of the dimensions and construction of the gymnasium. This involves technical considerations, and one or more of the apparatus manufacturers might, with possible avoidance of unnecessary cost, be invited to assist in the matter. Other considerations in choosing equipment are the size of the classes and the team organization employed in the class.

Quantity.

There should be sufficient of each type of apparatus employed to enable a class of normal size to work without undue loss of time in awaiting turns at the apparatus. Unless, for example, there are enough wall bars for at least half of the class at the same time, a prohibitive amount of time will be wasted in changing round, with a result that the wall bars will be little used and the money spent in purchasing them largely wasted. If space and finances permit, it is very desirable that a section of wall bars (i.e. bars between each pair of uprights) should be provided for each member of a class of normal size. In general, it is desirable to have a separate span of beams (i.e. the beams between any two uprights) for each team, usually four.

Arrangement.

In a gymnasium of 60 feet by 30 feet the beams are placed 20 feet apart and 20 feet from the ends of the gymnasium, and in a gymnasium of any other length the beams should be so fixed that they divide the floor space of the gymnasium into three equal or approximately equal parts. Such an arrangement allows for sufficient run for vaulting over the beams from any direction, and for the assembly of the class at either end of the gymnasium. The placing of the

wall bars on the side walls only permits of more effective supervision than when some of them are fixed on the end walls as well as on the side walls.

List of Apparatus.

A list of apparatus, including the movable pieces not shown on the plan, is given below:—

- 32 Wall Bars.
- 2 Double-span counter-balanced Beams.
- 3 Beam Saddles complete with shelves for storing.
- 8 Balancing Benches.
- 1 Vertical Window Ladder (see note (a)).
- 2 Sets Jumping Stands.
- 1 Vaulting Box.
- 1 Vaulting Horse.
- 1 Vaulting Buck.
- 10 Climbing Ropes.
- 3 Tricing Lines for ropes (see note (b)).
- 10 Safety Hooks for climbing ropes (see note (b)).
- 4 Mats (6 feet by 4 feet) complete with hooks on wall for storing.
- 1 Agility Mattress.
- 1 Headpad.
- 1 Beating Board (not required for boys).

Note (a).

The Vertical Window Ladder should be six squares wide and run from floor to ceiling, but height should not exceed 16 feet.

Note (b).

Hooks and Tricing Lines for Climbing Ropes should not be included if the sliding system of Climbing Ropes referred to in the preceding paragraph is adopted.

Equipment by Instalments

If it is considered desirable on financial or other grounds to provide the equipment of a gymnasium by instalments, the apparatus first provided should be arranged with a view to subsequent additions.

When the equipment is by instalments, the first apparatus provided should be one set of double span counter-balanced beams, 16 wall bars, eight balancing benches, vaulting box or horse, four beam saddles, two jumping stands and four mats; then the second set of beams, the remainder of the wall bars, and beam saddles and the climbing ropes; finally, the remainder of the apparatus. It is as well to have all permanent fittings that will eventually be required, such as the hooks for climbing ropes and tricing lines (see note (b) above) and rails for the travelling uprights of the beams, put in at the beginning.

Maintenance of Apparatus—Wear and Tear

It is very desirable that gymnastic apparatus should be inspected three times a year by a competent person in order that defects due to wear and tear may be discovered and made good and the continued safety of the apparatus ensured.