Bannerdown Estate, Batheaston, Bath. **Architect:** Edward Procter. **Contractors:** T. & E. Best.

'Phorpres' Cellular bricks were specified for the 11" cavity walls with roughcast facing

"As the position was very exposed we were anxious to get a warm and water-tight wall and you will be interested to learn that we are very pleased indeed with the results which we have obtained. Most definitely we can say that the house is warmer and drier than could be obtained with the ordinary solid brick and we are convinced that the Cellular bricks give a very high insulating value which is very pronounced in the summer"

PHORPRES
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THE ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED THE BUILDERS' JOURNAL AND THE ARCHITECTURAL ENGINEER, IS PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY BY THE ARCHITECTURAL PRESS (PUBLISHERS OF THE ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL, THE ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW, SPECIFICATION, AND WHO'S WHO IN ARCHITECTURE) FROM 9 QUEEN ANNE'S GATE, WESTMINSTER, S.W.1

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THE ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES ARE AS FOLLOWS: BY POST IN THE UNITED KINGDOM £1 3 10
BY POST TO CANADA £1 3 10
BY POST ELSEWHERE ABROAD £1 8 6
SPECIAL COMBINED RATE FOR SUBSCRIBERS TAKING BOTH THE ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW AND THE ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL: INLAND £2 6s.; ABROAD £2 10s.
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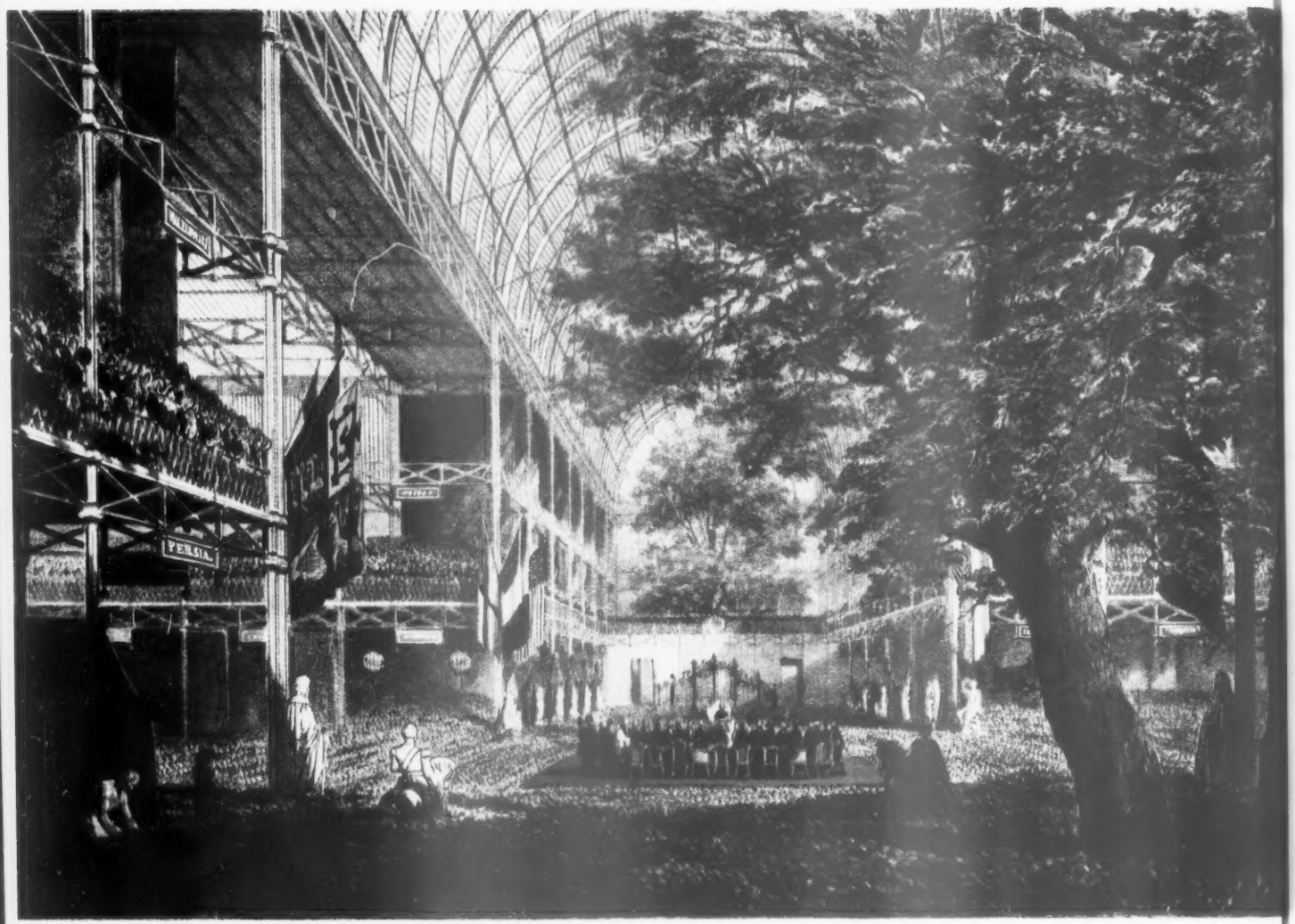
The Editor will be glad to receive MS. articles and also illustrations of current architecture in this country and abroad with a view to publication. Though every care will be taken, the Editor cannot hold himself responsible for material sent him.

THURSDAY, January 14, 1937. NUMBER 2191 : VOLUME 85

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS

London Landmarks—2.



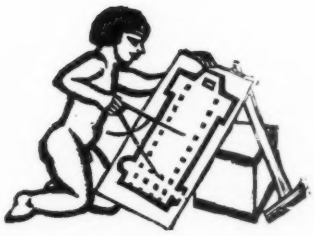
THE CRYSTAL PALACE, 1851-1936

On the evening of November 30 last year those who happened to be listening-in heard the startling news that the Crystal Palace was burning down, and were even able in some cases to see the glare on Sydenham Hill. And so dramatically there came to its end the extended and revised version of Joseph Paxton's idea.

On this page is reproduced a print of the closing ceremony of the Great Exhibition of 1851, which was held in the astonishing glass-house for which Paxton sketched out a rough design during a railway board-meeting at Derby.

On a raised throne on the dais is Prince Albert, about to deliver the speech with which he closed the Exhibition. The illustration is from one of Dickinson's Comprehensive Pictures of the Great Exhibition, which were made from the paintings executed for the Prince Consort by Messrs. Nash, Haghe and Roberts, R.A.

Facing Leader



THE HEALTH OFFENSIVE

THE days when the figures of a new year grow easier to write correctly used to be stern with self-criticism and splendid with private resolution. In this, as in other ways, if we are to believe tradition, we are not the equals of our fathers.

Conviction may have been lost during battles to end self-deception ; or the results of the self-determination of peoples may have put a question mark against individual self-determination. Whatever the causes, the good resolution nowadays seems to have lost its fire ; leaving only its preliminary—the New Year habit of glancing around to see where we are.

And it is possible that the good resolution is unpopular just because of the difficulty, or downright unpleasantness, of staring our circumstances squarely in the eye. There is a temptation to take first of all a very cautious peep ; just to see whether boldness is likely to be rewarded.

1937, thus inspected, has some comforting points about it. (For is not building booming and foretold to continue to boom ?) So a determination to see things boldly and broadly seems well worth risking.

Very broadly, in the international relationships which are as broad as any survey can go, it must be confessed that January, 1937, loses its comfort ; and from such a breadth of view, this particular survey must retreat. But not very far; for bound up with international offensiveness there are signs in this country of another kind of offensive which is so immediately and potentially important to this JOURNAL and its readers that our survey need go no further.

1937, by all signs, will be the year of a great offensive against ill-health—against bad physique, bad feeding, bad housing and physical unfitness of all kinds amongst the population of all ages. For once, inspired perhaps not by the best possible motives, but at any rate inspired, the Government looks as though it meant business in an offensive of a permanently constructive kind.

This determination, carried out on any measurable scale, must have architectural consequences of a stupendous order. It is tempting to consider those consequences in detail ; to think of the changes that must take place in town planning, housing, schools and health centres before physical fitness is the general possession of Britain's inhabitants.

But before such changes begin, there is a bigger point to be thought about. And that is what architects are doing, and have done, about the nation's health. Regrettably, in January, 1937, the answer seems to be : very little.

In the last ten years the R.I.B.A. has carried out a great work. It has consolidated the profession, vastly increased its prestige, ordered and protected its livelihood, and gained what is called " an excellent Press." But the next question to be asked of any professional society, after it has done a lot for its members, is what it has done for the public.

On another page of this issue *Astragal* lists the R.I.B.A.'s achievements in 1936. It is a long list, an impressive record of hard work. But it does not detract from its usefulness to say that it is mostly work of technical reform, of organising social events, and of propaganda in matters of design. Such things must be done by the R.I.B.A., but there is a danger, if its efforts are concentrated too greatly upon them, that the R.I.B.A. will become in the public mind only a dignified and decorous learned society ; associated with questions of art and design, preservation and amenity but never with the urgent bread and butter questions of existence.

There seems today a very real danger that when the public is looking for guidance upon contemporary problems like territorial planning, housing, slums and industrial location, it will never think of asking the R.I.B.A.'s advice. Indeed, has the R.I.B.A. (using that term, of course, as meaning the aggregate opinion of its members) any clear-cut views upon such things ?

Just now the offensive against ill-health is still in preparation. Scientists, military and physical-training experts, educational and playing-fields societies, are all offering their assistance and advice. But nothing has been heard so far from architects.

This JOURNAL has often said, and the outlook for 1937 reinforces its argument, that architects must increase the scale of their social usefulness, or see that usefulness narrowly limited by others who have no understanding of what an architect is. Already, architects have complained of town-planning and building regulations and legislation, but they have not yet adopted the remedy. They must either take themselves a great part, and properly a leading part, in preparing the framework within which they work or be content to retreat into working within a framework imposed on them. And with that framework already forming and certain to be extended in the future, they have not much time to lose.

During the health offensive of 1937, architects must necessarily have a big part. There is, however, only one way in which they can fulfil that part really well : by deciding, in outline, what is needed *before* the public comes to deciding what it wants.

The beginning of 1937 therefore has a special moral for architects. Not the moral that self-interest in an essential livelihood coincides with the public interest, but that self-interest can only be advanced, as opposed to being protected, by thinking in advance of the public; by having a programme prepared against public opinion becoming unanimous upon great problems.

And the next few months will see one of such occasions.

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NOTES & TOPICS

THE NON-CONFORMIST'S REVENGE

IF there ever was a man who earned the Royal Gold Medal that man is Sir Raymond Unwin. A few Royal Gold Medallists have influenced a few of the public through a few buildings; Sir Raymond has influenced the whole public through a few quotations.

*

Only those who are intimate with local authority politics and the ideology of town-planning departments can appreciate the overwhelming triumph that Sir Raymond, in his own lifetime, has had in his own field. Ideas that started out thirty years ago as the mild utterances of an apparently harmless, almost colourless, and obviously blameless garden city Fabian, have gone through two continents like a raging milk-bar, seeking whom they might be devoured by.

*

Today those same ideas are not merely accepted; their principles are regarded as the Ark of the Covenant of town planning, to contradict which is to argue yourself a bit of a crank. So the non-conformist has had his revenge.

*

We may not all agree with every word Sir Raymond has uttered. We can hardly be divided about the magnitude of his triumph, without which town-planning in England wouldn't exist at all.

ASTRAGAL IN FAREY-LAND

Can't we have done *once and for all* with these entirely irrelevant coloured "renderings" with which architects delight in advertising their buildings to the public? I am convinced that the conventional perspective is a big obstacle between architecture and its realistic understanding by laymen.

*

We are quite resigned to them in the annual R.A. Architecture Room, but don't I remember that we were promised that this year's winter R.A. show of British Architecture would be confined to working drawings and photographs?—a real advance, we said.

*

Yet here they are again: all our old friends, with their fetching atmospheres, graduated skies, chinese white window bars and shadows full of reflected lights. Don't think I criticise the practitioners of this peculiar art. I admire them enormously. It is all done by hand: a perfectly legitimate minor art—like poker-work or bead embroidery or building models of full-rigged ships in bottles; *but it has nothing whatever to do with architecture.*

*

This would have been twice as good a show if the organizers had kept their promise about no fancy perspectives—but lack of discrimination in this is only a part of a larger lack of discrimination. It would have been *ten* times as good a show if someone had decided first what the show was for.

*

What can one say of an exhibition of several hundred crowded perspectives, plans, photographs and models (incidentally, disappointingly few models) of assorted buildings of every description: the new Delhi; Regent Street Quadrant; Bexhill Pavilion; Winchester war memorial; Tudor cottage for —— Esq.; new Council offices for here, there and everywhere: ancient, modern, antiquarian, *moderne?* It isn't an exhibition: it's a jumble sale.

*

But all architects should go—to see the retrospective section in the South Rooms: an independent exhibition, beautifully selected, of English architects' drawings of the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. They should go if only to see how satisfying factual, descriptive architectural drawings can be. It puts the fancy work in the other rooms to shame.

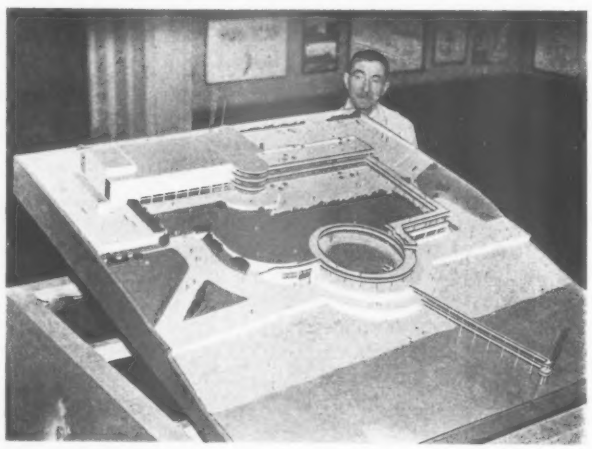
*

R.A. STATISTICS

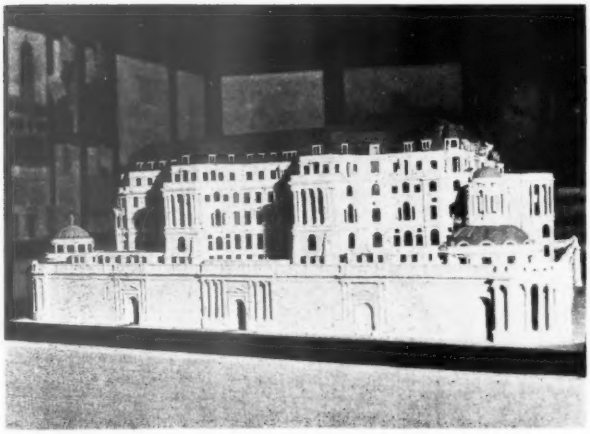
As a side-line I had a brief interview with a friendly statistician, who had spent most of his morning counting up exhibits of work by the Selection Committee.

*

Sir Edwin Lutyens came out top with 97 exhibits, Mr. C. H. James some way behind with 45, while Sir Reginald



From the exhibition of British Architecture now on view at the Royal Academy: Model of the De La Warr Pavilion, Bexhill. (Architects: Mendelsohn and Chermayeff.)



From the exhibition of British Architecture now being held at the Royal Academy: a model showing how the Bank of England will look when completed (Architects, Sir Herbert Baker, R.A. and A. T. Scott).

Blomfield (42) just beat Professor Richardson (41), Mr. E. Vincent Harris (39) and Sir Guy Dawber (36). The remaining three architect members of the committee suffered from an access of modesty and only just got into double figures.

*

But the amount of work exhibited by the committee adds up to quite a respectable total, 335 out of 1,375 exhibits, or just over 24 per cent.

FLOORS

Confound this fashion for using all manner of materials for floor finishings! Strips of wood, then a stretch of rubber and a blob or two of polished marble.

*

Recently visiting a building not far from the Nelson Column, where the floors are a mixed grill of wood, marble and carborundum, I was on two occasions brought to my knees. Not of course that I wanted to kneel—but one of these days some damaged personage will claim a substantial sum from the negligent architect—and then we shall no doubt realize that buildings are made to walk about in, some at high pedestrian speed.

*

And all this time we go on sneering at county surveyors for making roads like skating rinks.

ANONYMOUS TALKS ON DESIGN

Last Thursday the afternoon National programme at 2.50 had an argument between three anonymous speakers on Coronation souvenirs and street decorations. Topical subjects are being discussed in this way every Thursday afternoon.

*

There were two leave-it-to-muddle-itself individualists, and one believer in planning who had rather a thin time. His suggestion that Coronation decorations left in the hands of individual householders and shopkeepers usually looked like washing on the line and not very nice washing at that, was received with enthusiasm by the individualists. They said they liked it that way.

*

The speaker who wanted order also wanted everything everywhere planned by architects: the others believed in joyous anarchy, which, they insisted, was the only true reflection of the festival spirit. One of them asked the planning advocate whether he'd carry uniformity to the extent of putting all the troops in the procession into the same type of uniform.

*

He said "No." But he'd hate to see a Coldstreamer, a policeman, a private in the Highland Light Infantry, an unmounted Bengal Lancer and a Gurkha marching in the same platoon.

ASTRAGAL

INFORMATION SHEETS

Colour, perforation, and now photographs: step by step the Information Sheets in this JOURNAL *are being developed until the standard form of presentation allows for the inclusion of any information that can be said to add to the value of the Sheets.*

Drawings in line are the natural language of the architect, but elevations and sections can be deceptive, for drawings in two dimensions are, after all, merely a means towards the end of three-dimensional execution. It has been found in the past that in certain cases the actual Information Sheet form is, by its nature as a drawing, incapable of giving the full information of a product required, since it does not lend itself to the inclusion of photographs. After consideration it has been decided that this limitation must be overcome, and, on these grounds, that photographs shall be used, whenever they are necessary to the adequate presentation of the product described. These photographs, it should be emphasized, will only be used where, in the opinion of the Editors, their inclusion is an asset to the Information Sheet. To avoid changing the character of the Sheet they will be printed as a supplement on an additional leaf, so that the normal single leaf Sheet will remain exactly as before. The first photographs appear this week.

Some of the usual weekly features, Shops, Trade Notes, Current Prices, Rates of Wages, etc., are held over from this issue: they will be resumed next week.

NEWS

POINTS FROM THIS ISSUE

THE ARCHITECTS' DIARY

Thursday, January 14

ELECTRIC ILLUMINATION EXHIBITION. *At the Science Museum, South Kensington, S.W. Until April 25. Weekdays: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sundays: 2.30 to 6 p.m.*

EXHIBITION OF WORK BY MOHOLY-NAGY. *At the London Gallery, Cork Street, W.1.*

ROYAL ACADEMY, *Burlington House, W.1. Exhibition of British Architecture.*

BUILDING CENTRE, 158 *New Bond Street, W.1. Exhibition of the designs submitted in the competitions for police stations, etc., at Watford and Bishop's Stortford. The exhibition will remain open until January 16.*

ASSOCIATION OF ARCHITECTS, SURVEYORS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANTS. *At the Caxton Hall, S.W.1.* "*Working-class Housing in London.*" *By Lewis Silkin. 6.45 p.m.*

INSTITUTE OF WELDING, LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT BRANCH. *At the City Technical College, Liverpool.* "*The Welding of Lead and Low Melting Point Alloys by the Oxy-Acetylene and other Flame Processes.*" *By E. B. Partington. 7.30 p.m.*

INSTITUTION OF STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS. *At the Institution of Civil Engineers, S.W.1.* "*Steelwork in Buildings—Thirty Years' Progress.*" *By S. Bylander. 6.30 p.m.*

CHARTERED SURVEYORS' INSTITUTION (YORKSHIRE BRANCH). *General Meeting and Annual Dinner. At the Great Northern Hotel, Leeds. 7 p.m.*

Friday, January 15

R.I.B.A., 66 *Portland Place, W.1. Exhibition of the drawings submitted by students of Recognized Schools of Architecture for the competition for the design of traffic roundabouts with converging roads, including the treatment of street furniture, signs, lighting, etc. Until Saturday, January 23, inclusive, between the hours of 10 a.m. and 8 p.m., Saturdays 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.*

Monday, January 18

ELECTRIC ILLUMINATION EXHIBITION. *At the Science Museum, South Kensington, S.W.* "*Light and Vision.*" *By J. W. T. Walsh. 5.30 p.m.*

R.I.B.A.

THE ROYAL GOLD MEDAL 1937

The Council of the R.I.B.A. has unanimously decided to recommend that the name of Sir Raymond Unwin should be submitted to the King as a suitable recipient for the Royal Gold Medal for 1937.

Raymond Unwin, the younger son of William Unwin, M.A., of Balliol College, Oxford, was born in Yorkshire in 1863, and educated at Magdalen College School, Oxford. He was trained in engineering but soon discovered that he was more interested in architecture and town planning and the social questions connected therewith. He became acquainted with William Morris, Walter Crane, Edward Carpenter and others of the early socialists and from this realized afresh the close connection between the arts and social questions. In 1896 he entered into partnership with Barry Parker, F.R.I.B.A., lately President of the Town Planning Institute, and with him practised architecture, with Buxton as a centre.

Together they wrote *The Art of Building a Home*. In 1903 Mr. Parker and he were invited to enter a limited competition for the layout of the site at Letchworth, acquired for the building of the First Garden City. Their plan was selected and they subsequently removed to Letchworth and for some years supervised its development, which work Mr. Parker still continues. In 1906 Sir Raymond Unwin was invited by Dame Henrietta Barnett to make the plan for the Hampstead Garden Suburb. This work led to his removal to Hampstead, to the old house, one of the two then existing on the estate now occupied by the Garden Suburb with its 10,000 inhabitants. Sir Raymond Unwin controlled its development and designed many of its buildings till 1914, when he was invited by Sir Herbert Samuel to join the Town Planning Department of the Local Government Board, afterwards called the Ministry of Health. When the war interrupted all normal work, Sir Raymond Unwin became Director of Housing to a Department of the Ministry of Munitions and was responsible for the layout of Gretna, Mancol Village, Queensferry and much other work. After the war, Sir Raymond returned to the Ministry of Health and became Chief Architect and ultimately Chief Technical Officer for Building and Town Planning.

For several years Sir Raymond Unwin was special lecturer on Town Planning in the University of Birmingham: he has delivered many lectures in Germany, Austria, the U.S.A. and Canada, as well as in the British Isles.

Sir Raymond Unwin is an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada, Corresponding Member of the American Institute of Architects and the corresponding institute in Austria, and in 1935 he received the degree of LL.D. at Manchester University. The honorary degree of Dr. Tech. was conferred on him in Prague. Besides the First Garden City at Letchworth and the Hampstead Garden Suburb, Sir Raymond Unwin laid out New Earswick for the Rowntree Village Trust and other schemes and designed many buildings. He has served on several departmental Government Committees dealing with buildings for small holdings, rural cottages, building bye-laws. He was on Sir Tudor Walters' committee for housing, building construction, etc., which issued an important report in 1918: and was chairman of a building research committee. He has served for many years on the Building Research Board of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research and was chairman in 1933 and 1934. In 1928 Sir Raymond Unwin was elected to succeed Sir Ebenezer Howard as President of the International Federation for Housing and Town Planning, which position he held for three years. He is also a past-President of the Town Planning Institute. In 1928 he retired from the Ministry of Health under the age-limit rule for Civil Servants and early in 1929 was selected technical adviser to the Greater London Regional Planning Committee, retiring in 1934.

His best known book is *Town Planning in Practice*, which has been translated into French and German. He has also written *Nothing Gained by Overcrowding*, *Cottages and Commonsense*, and many other pamphlets and articles.

Sir Raymond Unwin was a member of the committee which, early in 1915, started the society which afterwards became the League of Nations Union. He was on the executive of that body for many years and wrote on the question of how to obtain better international relations.

Sir Raymond Unwin received his knighthood in the Birthday Honours in 1932.

From 1931 to 1933 Sir Raymond was President of the R.I.B.A. It was under his leadership that the profession passed through the worst years of the economic depression. He initiated relief schemes and a system by which unemployed architects were given work making town planning and architectural surveys, with the result that for two years between forty and sixty architects were employed on work of national value, receiving salaries contributed by the more fortunate members of the profession.

In recent years Sir Raymond has been appointed to the Crown Lands Advisory Committee, a body created to supervise the town planning and architectural side of the administration of Crown property.

He is a member of the Central Housing Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Health, which sits under the chairmanship of the Minister.

He was one of the founders of the independent committee of housing experts, the National Housing Committee (known as the Amulree Committee) which has published a number of extremely valuable reports on housing policy in Britain. He was first president (from 1932–35) of the Building Industries National Council, the formation of which was largely due to Sir Raymond's initiative. He is at present a member of the Council. At the moment Sir Raymond Unwin is in America, lecturing at Columbia University.

PRIZES AND STUDENTSHIPS

At a general meeting of the Institute, held on Monday last, the Council's Deed of Award, giving the results of the competitions for the annual prizes and studentships awarded by the R.I.B.A., was read, and a criticism of the work submitted was given by Mr. H. Austen Hall, F.R.I.B.A. The drawings submitted for the prizes and studentships will remain on exhibition at the R.I.B.A. until Saturday, January 30, between the hours of 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.).

The results of the various competitions are as follows:—

The Tite Prize: A Certificate and £50 for the Study of Italian Architecture. The subject set for this year was "A British School at Florence." The prize was awarded to: Mr. Paul Kennerell Pope (Student R.I.B.A.), of 43 Fitzroy Road, Regent's Park, London, N.W.1 (School of Architecture, Royal West of England Academy, Bristol).

The Victory Scholarship and £150 for the Advancement of Professional Education. The subject set this year was "A Maritime Terminal Station." Awarded to: Mr. George Alexander Lyall (Student R.I.B.A.), of 5 Craigcrook Terrace, Blackhall, Edinburgh, 4 (School of Architecture, Edinburgh College of Art).

The Pugin Studentship: A Silver Medal and £75 for the Study of Mediæval Architecture of Great Britain and Ireland. Awarded to: Mr. G. G. Pace (Student R.I.B.A.), of Fengate, 9 Eldon Avenue, Croydon (School of Architecture, The Polytechnic, Regent Street, London). A Certificate of Honourable Mention was awarded to: Mr. C. H. Hyde (Student R.I.B.A.), of 156 Yardley Wood Road, Moseley, Birmingham (Birmingham School of Architecture).

The Owen Jones Studentship: A Certificate and £100 for the Improvement and Cultivation of Knowledge of the successful application of Colour as a means of architectural expression. The subject set for this year was "The Staircase Hall of a Company of Fishmongers." Awarded to: Mr. Jackson N. Pollock (Student R.I.B.A.) of Medwyn Bank, Corstorphine, Edinburgh 12 (School of Architecture, Edinburgh College of Art).

The Royal Institute Silver Medal and £50 for an Essay. Awarded to: Mr. John Summerson, B.A.(ARCH.)Lond. A.R.I.B.A., of 23 Taviton Street, London, W.C.1 (Bartlett School of Architecture, University of London), for an essay entitled "The Tyranny of Intellect."

A Certificate of Honourable Mention was awarded to:—Mr. E. H. Louis Osman (Student R.I.B.A.), of 14 Lawn Road Flats, Lawn Road, Hampstead, N.W. 3 (Bartlett School of Architecture, University of London), for an essay entitled "The Development of Timber Architecture in Norway."

The Banister Fletcher Silver Medal and £26 5s. for the Study of History of Architecture.—The subject set for this year's competition was "The Influence of Northern Italian Romanesque Architecture on the Development of Later Mediaeval Building in France and England." Awarded to :—Mr. Fred Potter (Student R.I.B.A.), of "Broadlands," Middleton Road, Bromsgrove, Worcs. (Birmingham School of Architecture).

A Certificate of Honourable Mention was awarded to :—Mr. Kenneth H. Saunders (Student R.I.B.A.), of 3 Myrtle Terrace, Lancing, Sussex (Brighton School of Art).

The Alfred Bossom Travelling Studentship : A Gold Medal and £250 for the Study of Commercial Architecture in America. The subject set for this year was "A Municipal Airport." Awarded to : Mr. R. Fraser Reekie, A.R.I.B.A., of 87 Trinity Court, Gray's Inn Road, London, W.C. (Leeds School of Architecture).

Recognized Schools Bossom Silver Medals were awarded to :—Mr. H. H. Castle, Dip.Arch. Leeds, A.R.I.B.A., of 1 Chester Terrace, Regent's Park, London, N.W.1 (Leeds School of Architecture), and Mr. John Needham, Dip.Arch. Leeds, A.R.I.B.A., of 11 Hawes Mount, Little Horton, Bradford, Yorks (Leeds School of Architecture).

The Grissell Gold Medal and £30 for the Encouragement of the Study of Construction. The subject set for this year was "A Dance Hall." Awarded to :—Mr. Ernest H. Lockton (Student R.I.B.A.), of 4 Rosehill Road, Wandsworth, London, S.W.18 (School of Architecture, Architectural Association, London).

The Godwin and Wimperis Bursary : £200 for the Study of Works of Modern Architecture Abroad. Awarded to :—Mr. F. X. Velarde, B.ARCH Liverpool, F.R.I.B.A., of 3 Abercromby Square, Liverpool, 7 (Liverpool School of Architecture).

The Henry Saxon Snell Prize : £100. (Offered jointly by the R.I.B.A. and the Architectural Association for the study of the improved design and construction of hospitals, convalescent homes and asylums for the aged and infirm poor). Awarded to :—Mr. Herbert G. Porter, A.A.Dip., A.R.I.B.A., of 79c Belsize Park Gardens, London, N.W.3 (School of Architecture, Architectural Association, London).

The Hunt Bursary : £60 for the Encouragement of the Study of Housing and Town Planning. Awarded to :—Mr. Kenneth Easton (Student R.I.B.A.), of 8 Woodbine Avenue, Gosforth, Newcastle-upon-Tyne (The School of Architecture, Armstrong College, Newcastle-upon-Tyne).

The Arthur Cates Prize : £75. (In the current year the Prize was offered for the promotion of Architecture in relation to the application of Geometry to Vaulting, Stability of Edifice and Design). Not Awarded.

The Athens Bursary : £100 for Study at the British School at Athens. Awarded to :—Mr. J. S. Allen, B.ARCH., A.R.I.B.A., M.T.P.I., Leeds School of Architecture, Woodhouse Lane, Leeds, 2 (Liverpool School of Architecture, University of Liverpool).

The Henry L. Florence Bursary : A Certificate and £350 for the Study of the Greek and Hellenistic Architecture of the Mediterranean Basin. Awarded to :—Professor Bernard Ashmole, M.C., M.A., B.LITT.Oxon., Hon. Associate, of High and Over, Amersham.

The Ashpitel Prize, 1936. This is a Prize of books, value £20, awarded to the candidate who, taking the Final Examination to qualify as an Associate, shall most highly distinguish himself among the candidates in the Final Examinations of the year. Awarded to :—Mr. David Michael Hodges (Student R.I.B.A.), of 38 Cheyne Court, Chelsea, London, S.W.3.

The Rome Scholarship in Architecture : £250 per annum for two or three years' study and research at the British School at Rome. Offered by the R.I.B.A. and awarded by the Faculty of Architecture of the British School at Rome. Awarded to :—Mr. Philip E. D. Hirst, B.ARCH., A.R.I.B.A., c/o British School at Rome, Valle Giulia, Rome, Italy (Liverpool School of Architecture, University of Liverpool).

A Certificate of Honourable Mention and a premium of £100 was also awarded to :—Mr. Hubert Bennett, A.R.I.B.A., of 1 Chester Terrace, Regent's Park, London, N.W.1 (School of Architecture, University of Manchester).

The R.I.B.A. Silver Medal and £5 in Books for Students of Schools of Architecture recognized for exemption from the Final Examination. Awarded to :—Mr. H. E. A. Scard (Student R.I.B.A.) of 30 Hamilton Terrace, Milford Haven (Welsh School of Architecture, The Technical College, Cardiff).

The R.I.B.A. Bronze Medal and £5 in Books for Students of Schools of Architecture recognized for exemption from the Intermediate Examination. Awarded to :—Mr. I. F. Warwick (Student R.I.B.A.), of 38 East Dulwich Grove, London, S.E.22 (School of Architecture, The Polytechnic, Regent Street, London).

The Archibald Dawnay Scholarships : Three Scholarships of the Value of £50 each for the Advanced Study of Construction. Scholarships awarded to :—1 : Mr. Harold Wharfe (Student R.I.B.A.), of 1 Oxford Street, Oakworth Road, Keighley, (Leeds School of Architecture). 2 : Mr. Dewi P. Thomas (Student R.I.B.A.), of 23 Ducie Street, Liverpool, 8 (Liverpool School of Architecture, University of Liverpool). 3 : Mr. John Mytton (Student R.I.B.A.), of 44 Lea Road, Wolverhampton, Staffs. (Birmingham School of Architecture).

The Royal Gold Medallist, 1937 : Sir Raymond Unwin. (From a portrait by Sir George Clausen, R.A.)

The R.I.B.A. Henry Jarvis Studentship at the School of Architecture, The Architectural Association : £50 : Awarded to :—Mr. Ronald K. Rutherford (Student R.I.B.A.), Little Haugh, Banstead, Surrey.

The R.I.B.A. Howard Colls Travelling Studentship at the Architectural Association : £15 15s. Awarded to :—Mr. Geoffrey Robson (Probationer R.I.B.A.), of 95 Aston Road, Dudley, Worcestershire.

The R.I.B.A. Donaldson Medal at the Bartlett School of Architecture, University of London. Awarded to :—Mr. E. H. L. Osman (Student R.I.B.A.), of 1 Gordon Street, Gordon Square, London, W.C.1.

The R.I.B.A. Prize for Art Schools and Technical Institutions with Facilities for the Instruction of intending Architects (£5 in books) Awarded to :—Mr. H. M. Tardrew (Probationer R.I.B.A.), of St. Mary's Vicarage, Beverley, E. Yorks (City of Hull College of Arts and Crafts).

The R.I.B.A. Prizes for Public and Secondary Schools. These Prizes are of a total value of £10 10s. They are offered for an Essay of not more than 1,000 words or for sketches or scale drawings of a building or part of a building. The Prizes are offered for competition between boys and girls in Public and Secondary Schools.

The Prizes were awarded as follows : (a) *Essays.* (1) A Prize of £3 3s. to D. F. Shaw, of Saltley Secondary School, Birmingham, for his essay on "Berkswell Church, Warwick-

shire." (2) A Prize of £1 1s. to T. W. Atkinson, of St. George's School, Harpenden, for his essay on "The Stockholm City Hall." (3) A Prize of £1 1s. to Neill Johnston, of Hyland Secondary School, Glasgow, for his essay on "Queen's Park Church, Glasgow."

(b) *Sketches.* (1) A Prize of £3 3s. to N. Harrison, of the Grammar School, Batley, Yorkshire, for his drawings of Woodsome Hall, Almondbury, near Huddersfield. (2) A Prize of £1 1s. to Miss Mary England, of Colston's Girls' School, Bristol, for her drawings of the Elder Lady Chapel, Bristol Cathedral. (3) A Prize of £1 1s. to G. G. Shenstone, of Tonbridge School, for his drawings of Ferox Hall, Tonbridge School.

EXHIBITION

WALLPAPERS

Towards the end of the Victorian era, and into the Edwardians, the liberation from the repressions of the nineteenth century gave way to an illiterate exuberance in design. In most of their aspects these manifestations of a psychological liberty have been dealt with pretty thoroughly by now, but on the question of wallpapers—one of some importance in decoration—something still remains to be said.

Probably the conflict between a florid background of wallpaper and a dozen or so oleographs all as closely packed with incident as Frith's "Railway Station" could only be resolved in the mind of the succeeding generation by a violent reaction to plain surfaces, from which it has not yet recovered—and which is completely justified if pictures are to have their full value.

There were, of course, less æsthetic reasons for this reaction—when, for instance, Mrs. Carlyle is said to have taken with equanimity, and all as a matter of course, the slaying of bugs on Thomas Carlyle's study walls while he was engaged in writing his "History of the French Revolution," one hesitates to penetrate, even in imagination, the six or seven layers of paper that lay cosily over so many walls at that date.

Whatever the reason, there is undoubtedly a strong feeling today in favour of plain wall surfaces, accented by one or two well placed pictures or designs, and wallpaper, except, perhaps, as an occasional experiment in expensive work, or as a camouflage for crazed plaster has, for the last twenty years or so, been sliding rapidly down the social scale and fighting a losing battle. Nevertheless, some of the leading manufacturers are putting up a good fight, and even the most convinced blank-wall modernist can admire some of the more recent designs (with the exception of hotel-lounge "modèrne") and visualize rooms for which they are entirely suitable.

Sandersons are having an extremely interesting exhibition of early wallpapers in their showrooms at 53 Berners Street. These are mostly French scenic and panoramic papers of the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, and are part of the collection of M. André Carlhian, of Paris.

It is interesting to contrast them with English papers. In the sixteenth century stucco or painted canvas began to take the place of tapestry "stayned cloths for hangings," and these were painted in tempera so that the material would not crack when it fell into folds. At first, wallpapers were considered a feeble imitation of rich textiles, and although a few rare examples existed in England as early as the sixteenth century, chiefly in designs copied from Genoese or Florentine cut velvets, wallpapers did not come into general use until the early eighteenth century, with the fashion of that date for everything Chinese—and then only in limited quantities owing to the prohibitive tax which was placed on them.

In 1715, on a roll of sixteen to twenty-four sheets—the average size of a set—there was a penny tax on each sheet, with an additional stamp at each end, plus £4 a year stainer's licence. In 1744 Jackson set up at Battersea in competition with Chinese papers, but his designs were only poor.

In the eighteenth century, wallpapers became very popular in France in the homes of the rich bourgeoisie, who at that time were rapidly acquiring power and wealth—who were in fact beginning to to supplant the noblemen as the patrons of the arts. Their demands in architecture and art were different, rococo rather than baroque, but they had, through their wealth, great influence on design. The papers from M. Carlhian's collection were chiefly made, not for great mansions, but for such homes. Considering the labour involved in their printing they were amazingly inexpensive, costing from fifty to seventy francs for a set for a room in which perhaps sixteen hundred blocks and seventy colours had been used. They told a story, and if a room was too large for a set of say "the Travels of Captain Cook," or "The Shores of the Bosphorus" the necessary extra pieces were bought and the pattern repeated itself.

In 1801 the French invented the "endless roll." Up till then all wallpapers had been made from small squares joined together to form strips about eighteen inches wide and seven feet long. England, not wishing to lose the revenue from the import tax on foreign papers, forbade the adoption of this invention till 1829. So the wallpaper trade in England had a bad start, and flourished at a time when little was asked of design except that it should leave no blank space uncovered. From the Tartan of Balmoral, the sombre red flock of the middle class dining-room, the lincrusta of the staircase, the pseudo-tiles of the bath room and the outburst of flowers, bows and trellises that broke out like a rash over England, affecting equally Mayfair and the bulging plaster of the smallest cottage, we are only just recovering. In all our minds there lurks an inhibiting memory of some illness tormented by the maddening irregularities of an all too naturalistic climbing rose.

It is time to forget all that, and brace ourselves at any rate to look with an open mind at some of the simple colours and designs of today.

D. COSENS.

(See illustrations on page 90.)

COMPETITION NEWS

SCHOOLS COMPETITION

We are informed by the *News Chronicle* that over 600 applications have been received for the conditions of the competition for designs for ideal elementary schools. Inquiries have been received from the United States of America, India, China, Canada, South Africa, Sweden and Austria. Designs should reach the *News Chronicle*, Bouverie Street, London, E.C.4, not later than February 1.

Development of Limerick

The Corporation of Limerick has issued the following notice :

"The undersigned, acting on behalf of the Corporation of Limerick, requires expert technical assistance in the following matters.

(1) The formulation of a comprehensive scheme of development of the City within the existing boundary.

(2) The preparation of a scheme for the extension of the Borough boundary, with plan of future development of the area included in such proposed extension.

"The development scheme within the City will have special reference to the clearance of unhealthy areas, and the subsequent utilization of the sites. The comprehensive development plan both inside and outside the existing boundary will make provision for a scheme within the terms of the Town and Regional Planning Act, 1934, and the operation of a general housing programme, including Slum Clearance and rehousing, and the provision of houses for the ordinary requirements of the working classes.

"Applications are invited from Engineers or Architects (or Engineering or Architectural Firms) competent to render such assistance and provide all requisite plans and documents, stating their qualifications and experience of such work, and the terms on which they would undertake the preparation of such schemes.

"Any appointment made or proposals adopted within the foregoing terms will be subject to the sanction of the Minister for Local Government and Public Health. Such Engineering Surveys, public health statistics and inspection records, or other relevant data, as are in the possession of the Corporation would be placed at the disposal of the person or firm selected for the work. Interested persons are advised to ascertain the extent of such existing information before making applications. Proposals and applications will be received by me up to but not later than 12 o'clock noon on Thursday, January 21, 1937.—T. C. O'MAHONY, Limerick City Manager and Town Clerk, Town Hall, Limerick."

The Late H. D. Searles-Wood

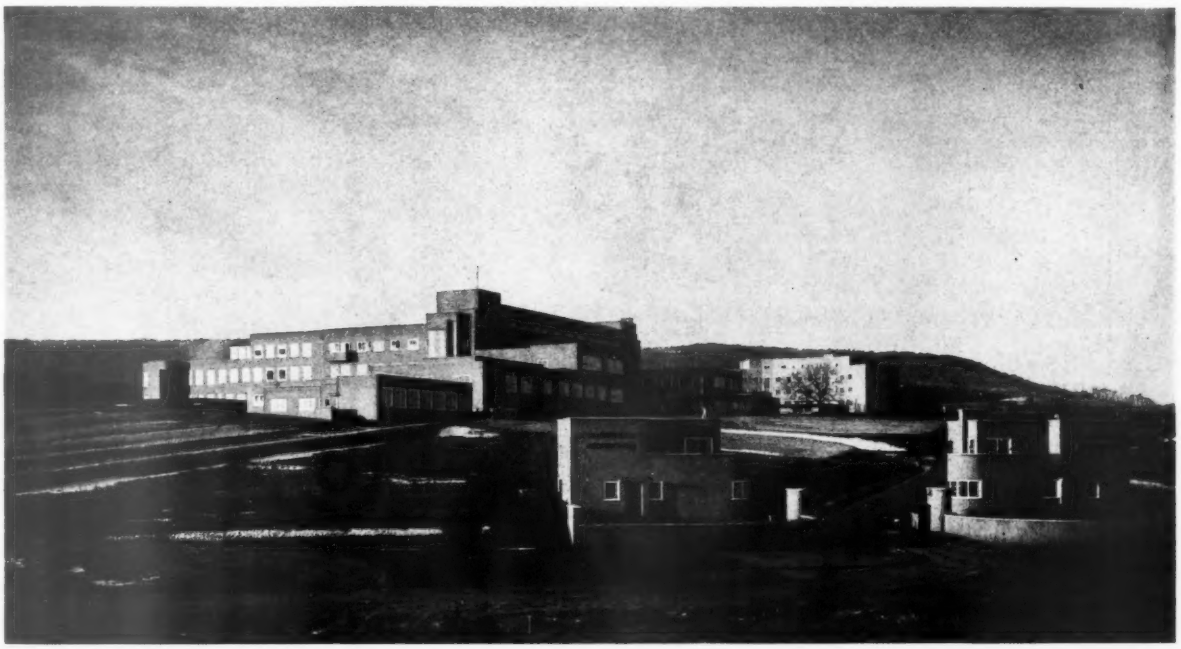
We regret to record the death of Mr. Herbert Duncan Searles-Wood, F.R.I.B.A. He was eighty-three years of age.

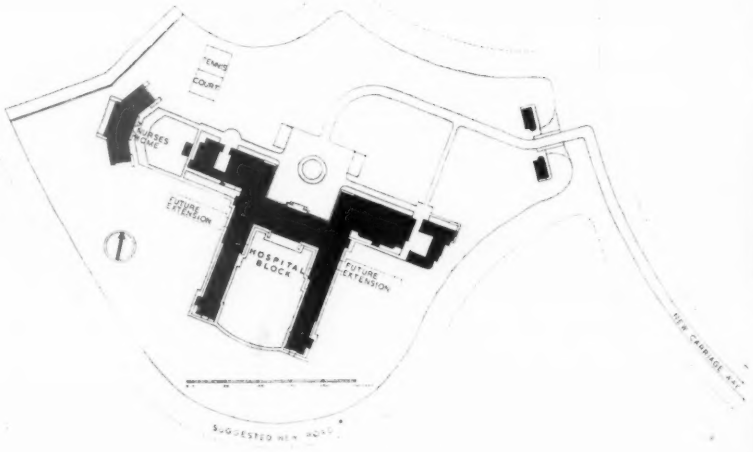
Mr. Searles-Wood was born in 1853, and received his architectural education at King's College, and the A.A. and R.A. Schools. He was articled to Henry Jarvis and Son, of Southwark, and commenced private practice in London in 1875. His works included : Epsom Infirmary and Workhouse ; Cuddington Infectious Hospital ; Painter-Stainers' Company's Hall and Chambers ; banks for the London and Provincial Bank and London Joint Stock Bank ; St. Paul's Church, Forest Hill ; and many warehouses and private houses.

Mr. Searles-Wood held the following appointments : President of the Architectural Association (1888-1889) ; Chairman of the Council of the Royal Sanitary Institute (1908-1910) ; President of the Concrete Institute (1918) ; President of the Institute of Arbitrators (1918) ; Vice-president of the R.I.B.A. (1921-1923) ; and a member of the R.I.B.A. Board of Examiners. He was connected for many years with the L.C.C. School of Building, Brixton ; and was the editor of *Modern Building Construction*, and the author of *Carpentry in Building Construction*.

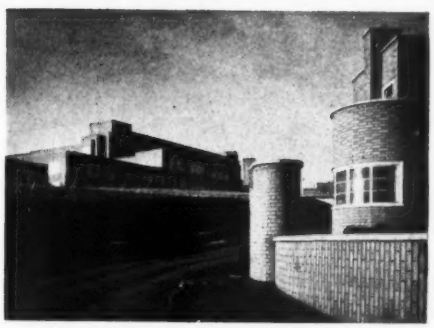
SCARBOROUGH HOSPITAL

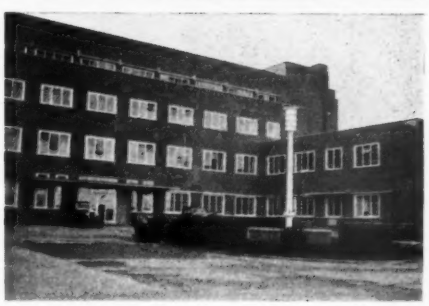
DESIGNED BY WALLACE MARCHMENT





SITE PLAN



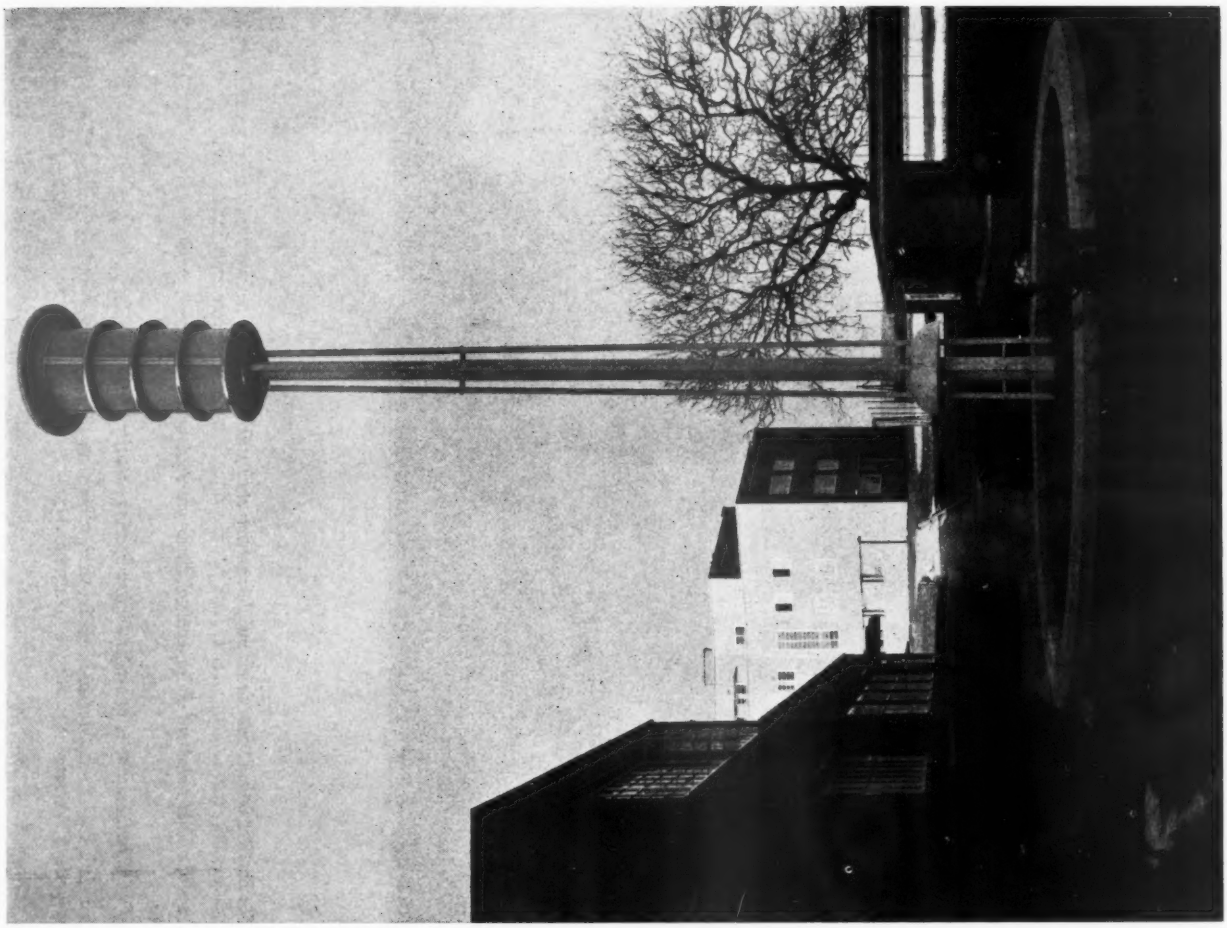


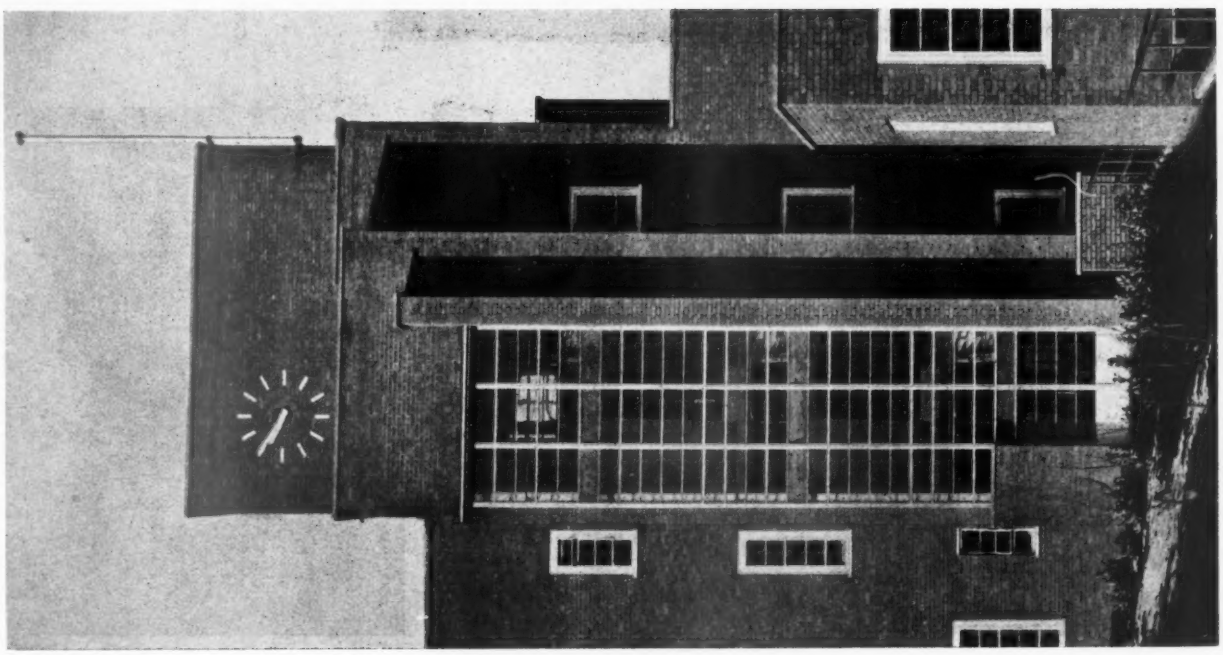
GENERAL PROBLEM—*Hospital with 140 beds, providing accommodation for surgical, medical, ophthalmic, maternity, children and paying patients. It is planned so that extensions may be made to double the present number of beds. The kitchen, operating theatres and administration offices are arranged to cope with any future additions without structural alteration. Adjoining the main building, which accommodates the matron's and house surgeons' quarters, the dining room and 26 maids' bedrooms, is the nurses' home. This is a separate building having 60 bedrooms. As the hospital is a recognized training school for nurses, a lecture room, and demonstration room are provided. For the recreation of the nursing staff, there are a beach bungalow, and hard and grass tennis courts.*

The design for the hospital won first place in an open competition promoted in 1932, Hubert M. Fairweather being the assessor.

The photographs are: above, a general view, showing, in the foreground, the lodges flanking the entrance and, in the background, the nurses' home; right, the main entrance from the road, and two views of the entrance front of the main building.

The photographs show : above, the entrance front of the nurses' home ; below, left, main staircase window ; right, central electric light standard in main courtyard.





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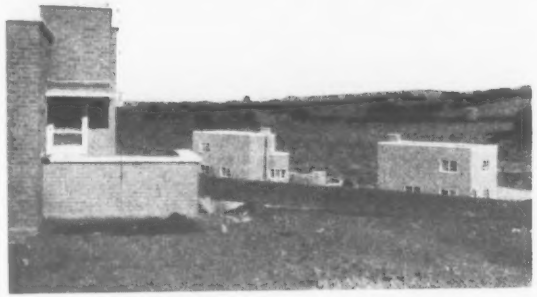
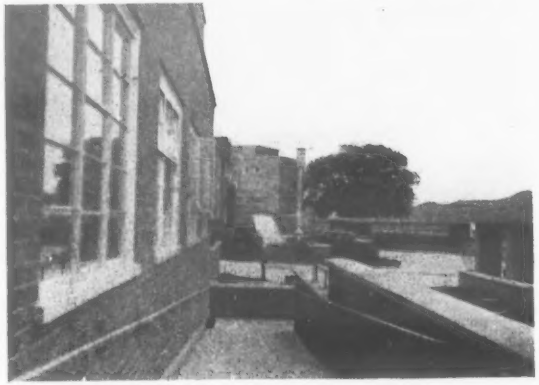


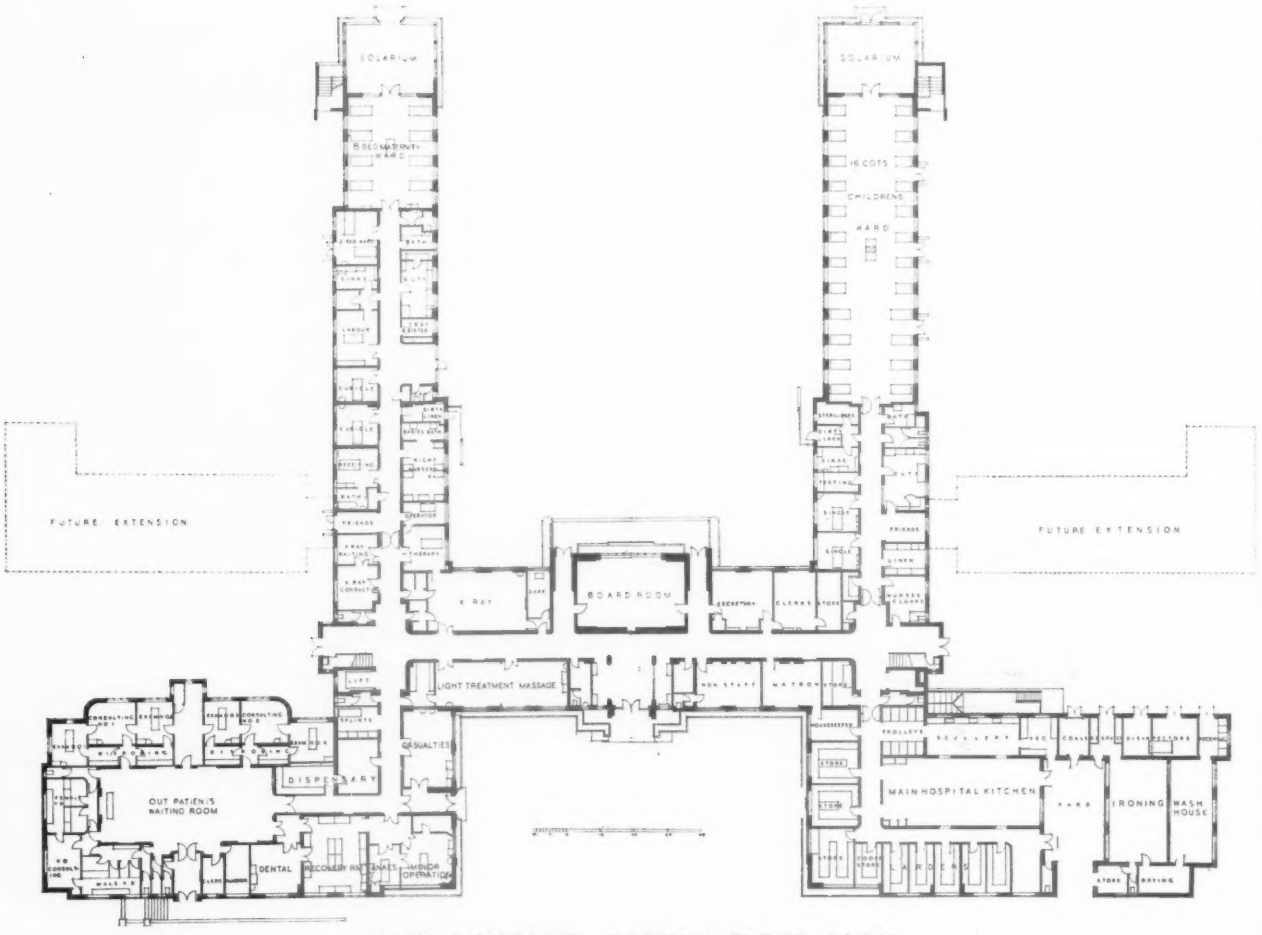


CONSTRUCTION—*The hospital is built with brick weight-carrying cavity walls, designed to keep the interior dry under gale pressure. Internal partitions are brick or breeze blocks, and floors and roofs are reinforced concrete hollow tile.*

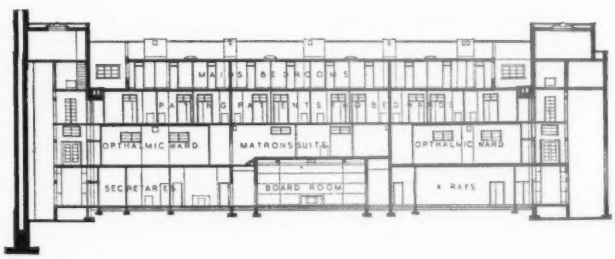
The exterior is faced with a light toned red brick, and windows are steel in wood frames, painted white. Copings and cills are Portland stone.

The foundations are of reinforced concrete to overcome the low bearing capacity of the subsoil.

The photographs show : left, top, a general view of the hospital, taken from the north ; centre, the entrance lodges ; bottom, looking from the out-patients' entrance towards the central courtyard : above, main entrance : below, sun balcony to maternity ward.

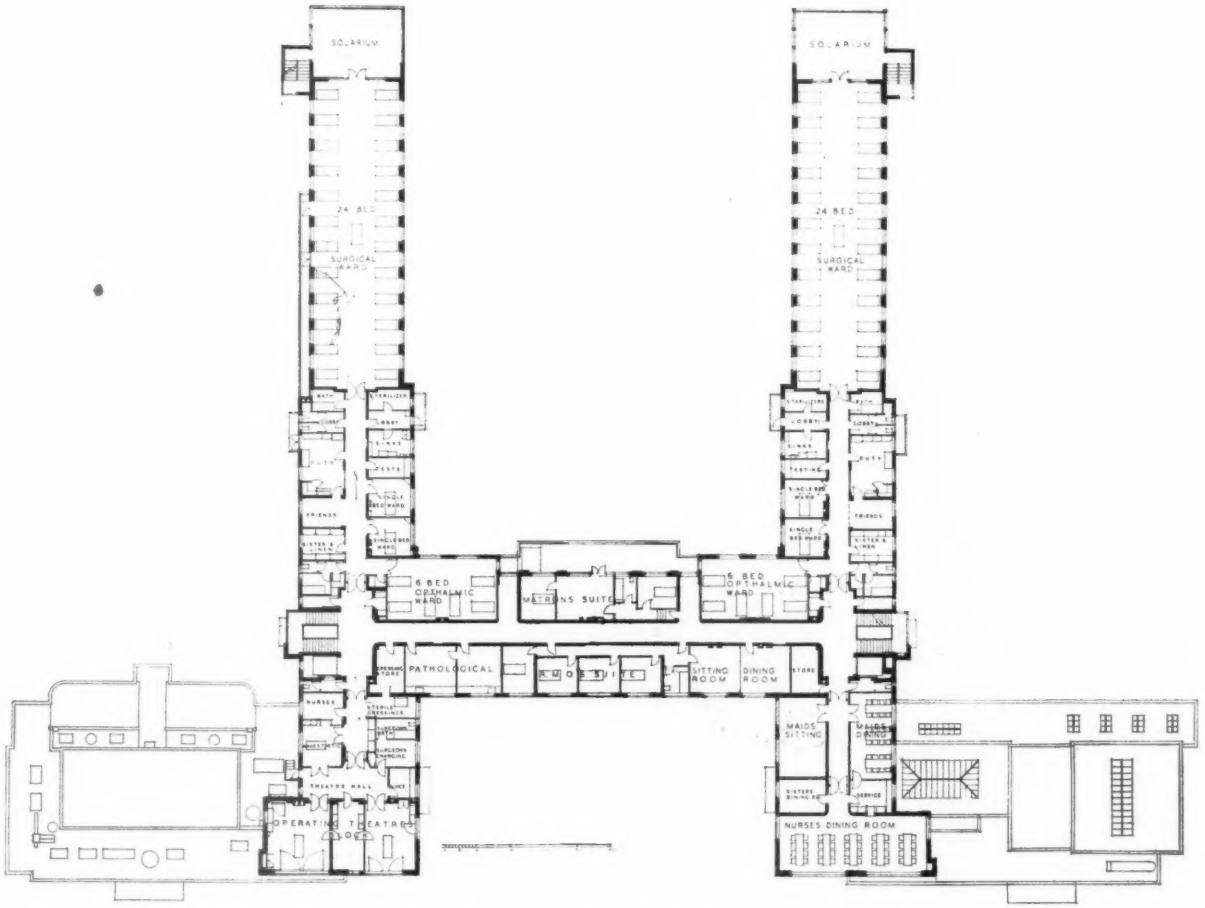


MAIN BUILDING: GROUND FLOOR PLAN

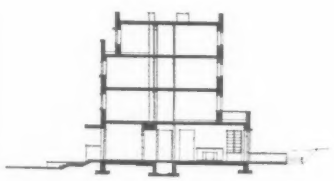


MAIN BUILDING: CROSS SECTION

MAIN BUILDING: LONGITUDINAL SECTION

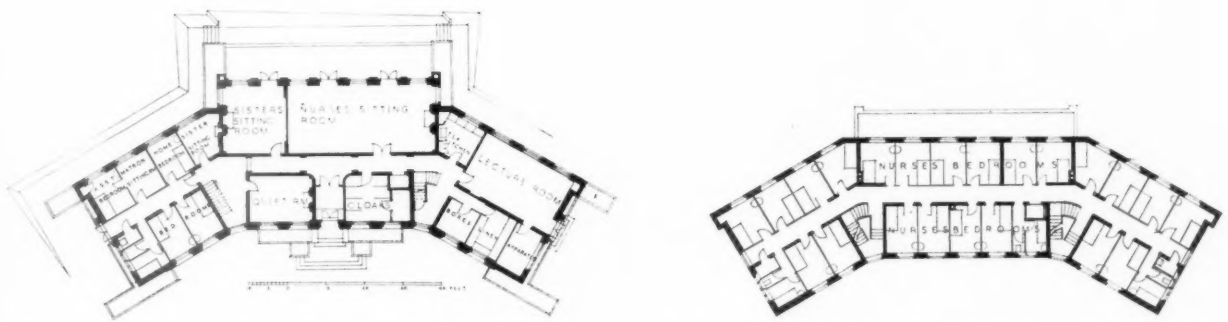


MAIN BUILDING: FIRST FLOOR PLAN



NURSES' HOME: SECTION

PLAN—*The site, on the Woodlands Estate, is approximately eight acres in extent. It is a steeply sloping one with a flattish area at its highest point, and demanded the concentrated planning of the main building. Accommodation for the patients is planned in two wings pointing south, and the administration section, kitchen, out-patients, etc., are placed at the north end of the wings and joining them. The maternity ward unit on the ground floor of the east ward wing is insulated against sound, as also are the private patients' wards. Corridors and doors are wide enough to allow beds to be removed to anywhere in the hospital. The site is surrounded by a belt of trees.*

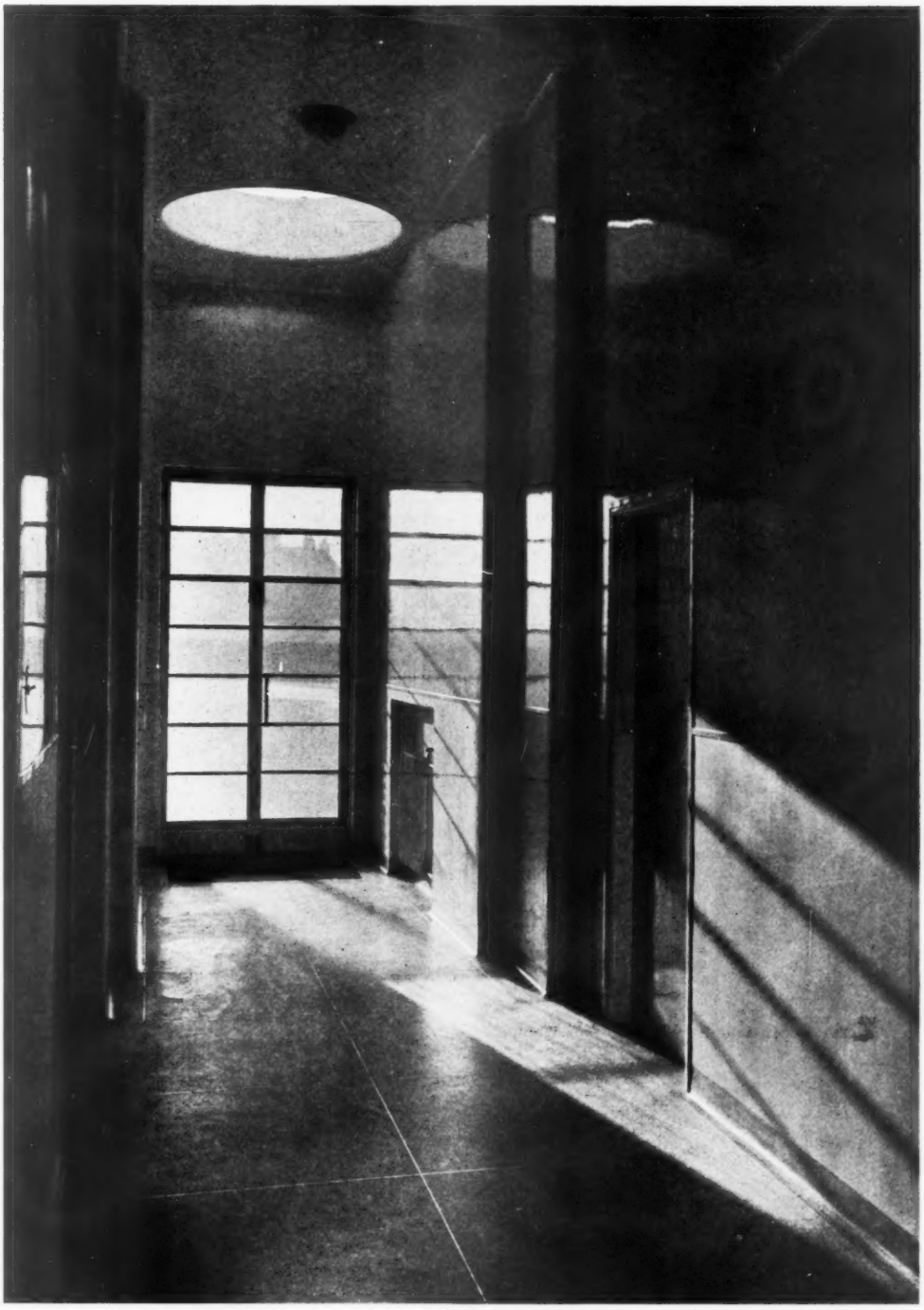


NURSES' HOME: GROUND AND FIRST FLOOR PLANS

INTERNAL FINISH—*Walls generally are plastered and enamelled. Floors are : teak blocks in the wards, terrazzo in the operating theatres and sanitary quarters, and linoleum elsewhere. The entrance hall and main corridor are panelled in terrazzo, and the main kitchen is finished in terrazzo tiles. Corridors and staircases have terrazzo dadoes, and stair treads of non-slip finish.*

The board room has a dado of Australian walnut, furniture of the same wood upholstered in green hide, and a fireplace surround in Swedish green marble. The fireplace surrounds in the staff rooms and offices are travertine.

The photographs show : above, the board room ; left, a main staircase.



SERVICES—*Central heating is supplied from domestic hot water boilers, hand fired, with automatically controlled draught. All pipes are concealed, but accessible. The main ducts are run under the corridors on the ground floor with small conduit branches to risers.*

There are two electric bed lifts, with rubber dadoes, and one electric service lift from the kitchen to the staff dining unit. Other services include an automatic telephone system, and silent self closing devices to all doors.

The photograph is of the ante-lobby to the board room. It serves also as a light bay to the main corridor.

The photographs show : below, the main entrance hall ; and, left, view from sterilizing room into main operating theatre.

For list of general and sub-contractors, see page 124.

COUNCIL OFFICES, WELWYN GARDEN CITY

DESIGNED BY C. H. ELSOM AND H. STONE

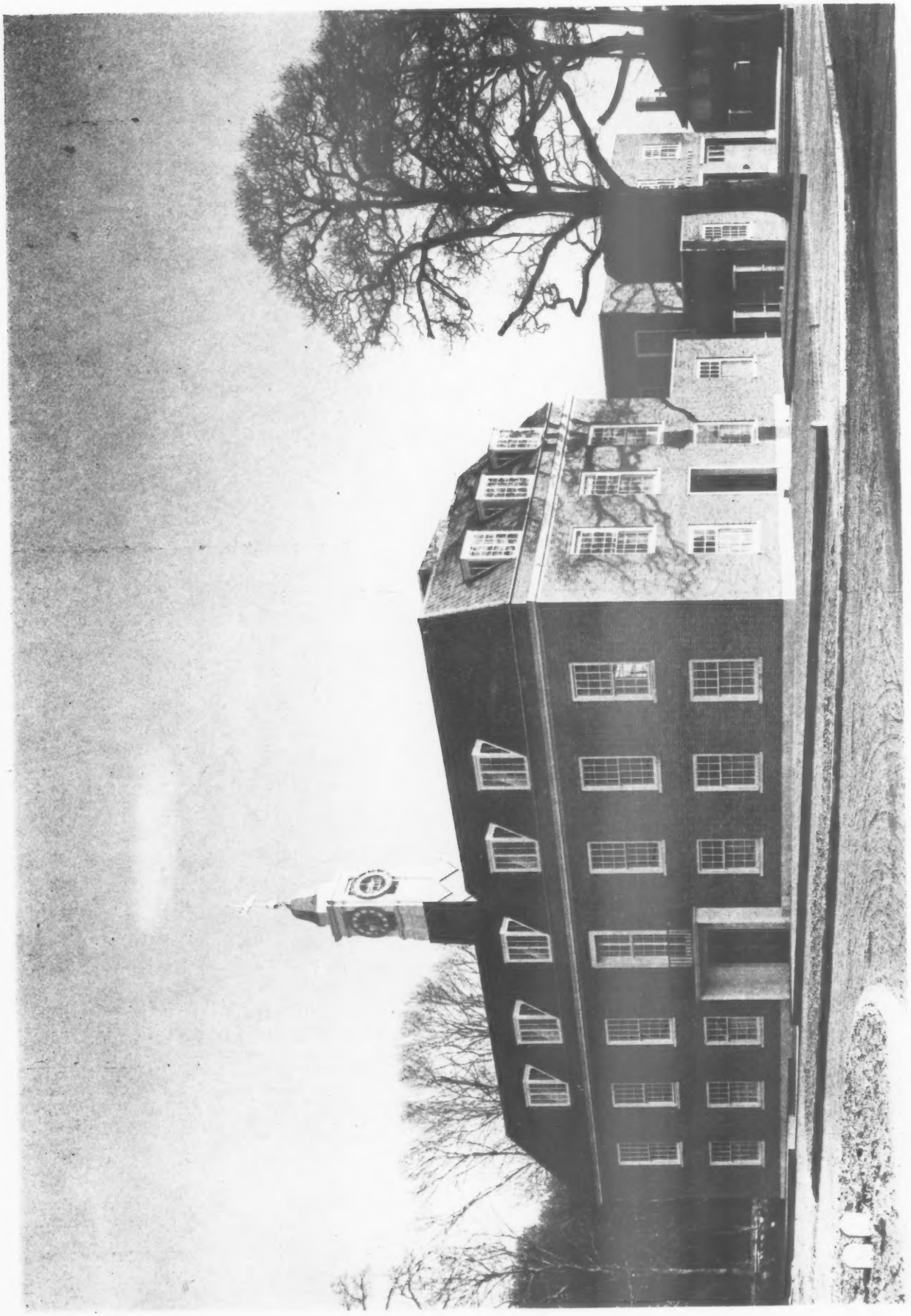
GENERAL PROBLEM—*Council offices, fire station with caretaker's quarters, hose tower, mortuary and garages. The design was awarded first place in an open competition held in 1935, and assessed by C. H. James.*

SITE—*At the junction of Bridge Road, a main thoroughfare, and the Campus, in Welwyn Garden City, Herts. The Campus is a semi-circular road, planned at one of the main axes of the garden city, and forms a lay-out for public buildings. The sites on the Campus follow the line of the road and are radial in shape. This, together with the necessity of placing the fire station on the Bridge Road frontage to facilitate the quick departure of fire engines, determined the general lay-out of the various buildings.*

CONSTRUCTION—*External walls are 14-in. brick on concrete foundations, internal walls are 9-in. brick, and internal partitions are of pre-cast blocks. Floors are hollow tile, and the flat roof is hollow tile on steel frame, the underside finished with fibre board, the top covered with screeding, cork and asphalt. The sloping roof is finished with battens, felt and tiling.*

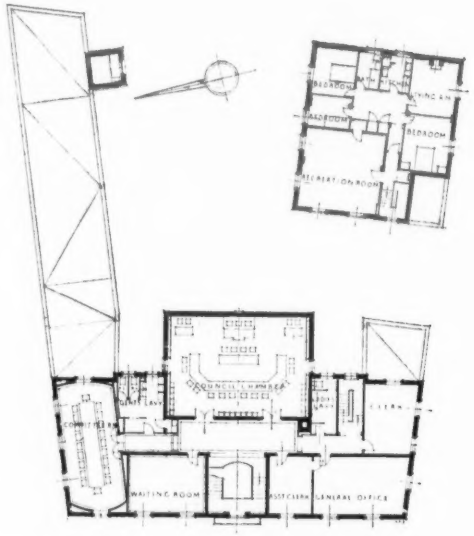
ELEVATIONAL TREATMENT—*The elevations are designed to harmonize with the architectural character of the garden city. Multi-coloured facing bricks, artificial stone dressings and hand-made sandfaced pantiles are the principal materials used.*

The photograph is of the fire station in Bridge Road.



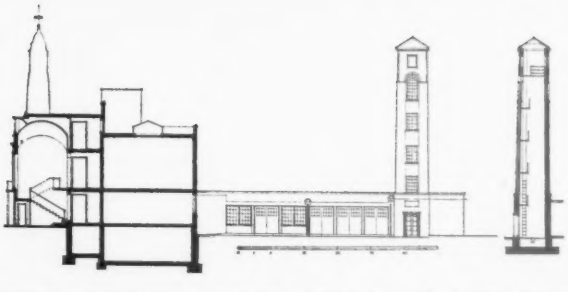
Above is a general view of the council offices taken from the corner of the Campus and Bridge Road and showing, on the right, the fire station.

The photograph on the left is of the main entrance to the council offices.



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

GROUND FLOOR PLAN



SECTION THROUGH COUNCIL OFFICES AND HOSE TOWER

INTERNAL FINISH—*The walls and ceilings of the general offices, corridors, staircases and the waiting room to the council suite are plastered and painted. The joinery in the general offices, corridors and staircases is painted. In the council chamber the walls are finished in acoustic plaster and spray distemper and have a dado of Australian walnut; ceiling, hard plaster, distempered; doors covered with hide; close carpeted floor. The committee room has walls finished in acoustic plaster and spray distemper, a ceiling of hard plaster, woodwork painted and a close carpeted floor. In the temporary library the fittings are in oak and pine, stained grey, with blue cappings and skirtings. The ceiling is finished in plaster and painted. The lavatories have walls finished to a height of 7 ft. in cream tiles, ceilings plastered and painted : and floors of heather brown quarry tiles. Other floor finishes are : general offices, grey linoleum ; waiting room of council suite, wood block ; corridor floors and stairs, terrazzo.*

In the fire engine house, the walls are finished in faience, the ceilings are plastered and painted, and the folding doors are teak. The watch rooms, changing rooms, and the caretaker's flat have the walls and ceilings plastered and painted, floors finished in linoleum and the joinery painted.

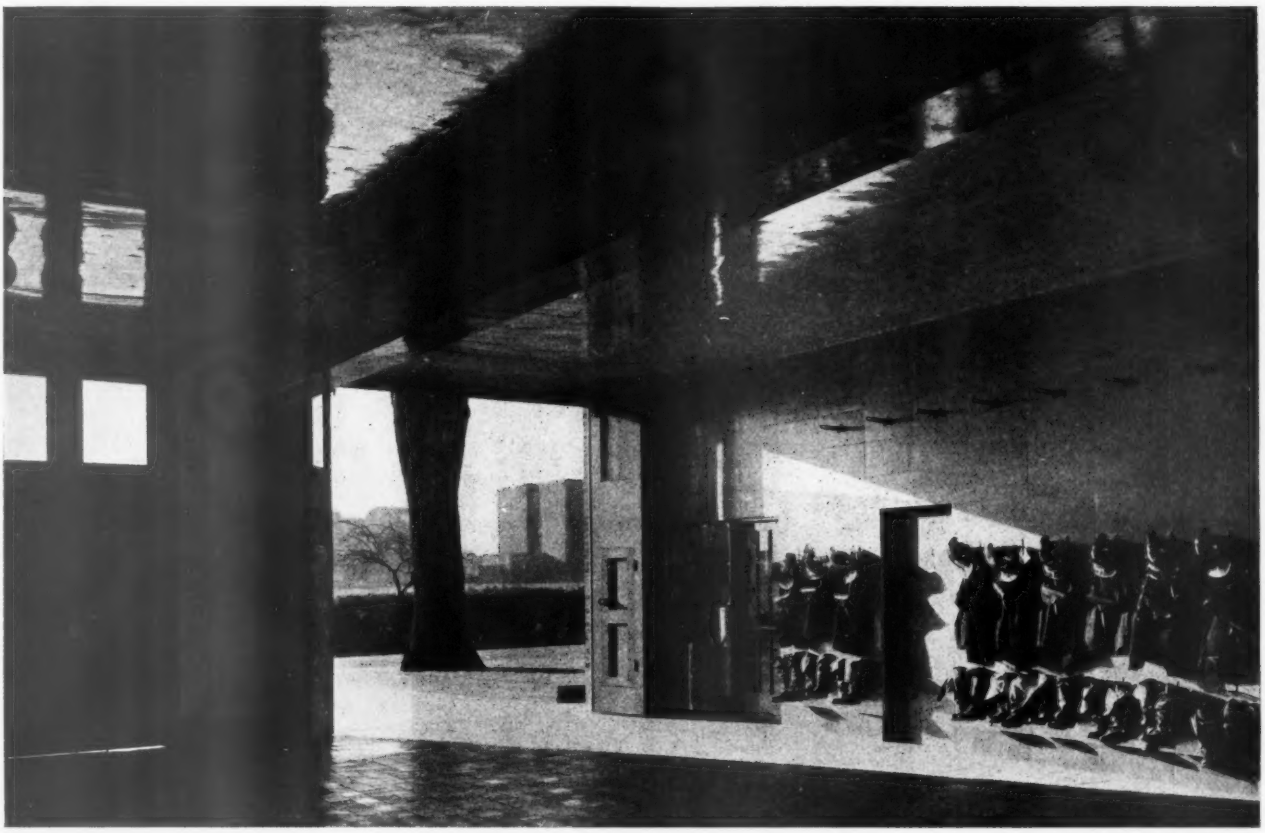
In the mortuary the walls are finished full height in white tiles ; the ceilings are plastered and painted, the floors are terrazzo and joinery is painted.

SERVICES—*Heating is by low-pressure hot water, forced circulation, run in wrought iron pipes from two coke fired boilers. There are 78 radiators. Hot water is by low-pressure gravity circulation with separate coke fired boiler and storage cylinder of 120 gallons. The flow and return pipes are of galvanized wrought iron. The boiler flue is of brick, lined with insulating bricks.*

The plenum system for the council chamber and the committee room comprises one steel plate centrifugal fan, driven by an electric motor forcing 83,000 cubic ft. of filtered and warm air per hour into the rooms and a similar fan for extracting 75 per cent. of the vitiated air.

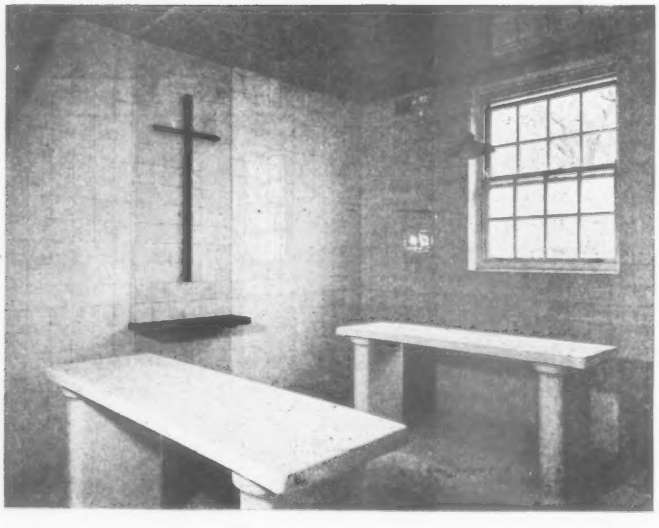
A cleaners' cupboard, with sink, is provided off the lavatories on each floor. General and house telephones are installed. An open coal fire is provided in the living room of the caretaker's flat. On the top floor of the council offices is a small room for teas and light refreshments.

The photographs show : left, the fleche and clock on the council offices; below, in the courtyard looking towards the entrance gates.



The photographs show : above, engine house in fire station; left, a corridor on the top floor of the council offices ; centre, the waiting room to council suite, and the committee room ; right, two views of the main staircase.

The photographs show: left, doors from council chamber to staircase landing ; below, left, the chairman's seat in the council chamber ; right, the mortuary. *For list of general and sub-contractors see page 124.*



ATHENÆUM COURT, PICCADILLY, W.

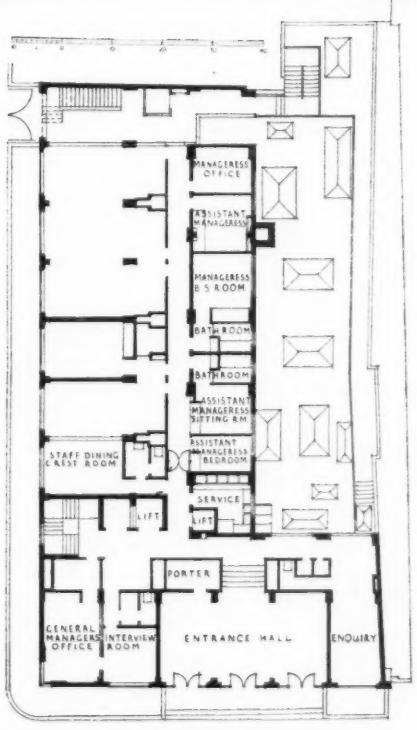
DESIGNED BY ADIE, BUTTON AND PARTNERS

GENERAL PROBLEM—*A block of flats to provide the maximum service facilities, and planned to be let as small single units or suites.*

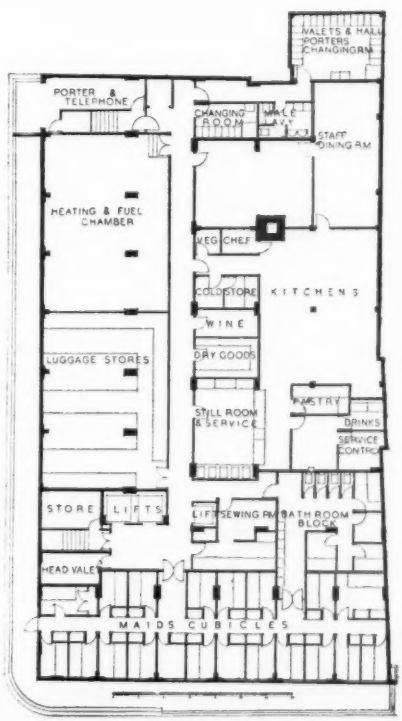
SITE—*116 Piccadilly, W.1, facing the Green Park, and at the corner of Down Street. The value of the site and its position dictated the desirability of building to the maximum height, and 11 floors are provided, including the ground floor.*

CONSTRUCTION—*The entire building is sound-proofed, the floors being insulated and sprung, and between flats all partitions are cavity. The building is of reinforced concrete, with the exterior main faces in artificial Portland stone, formed monolithic with the structure. Windows and sun blinds are designed as one unit and incorporate the ventilation louvres and filtration gauzes, the whole forming part of the structure of the building. No blinds are visible unless they are lowered.*

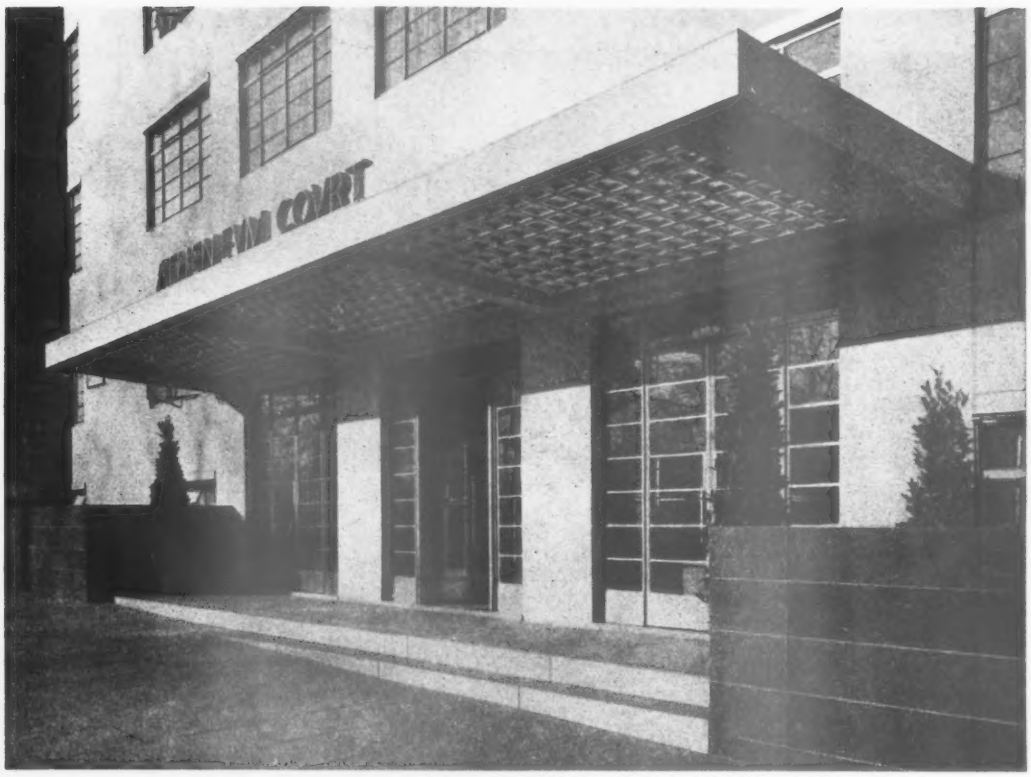
The photograph is of the upper part of the Down Street facade.



GROUND FLOOR PLAN



BASEMENT PLAN



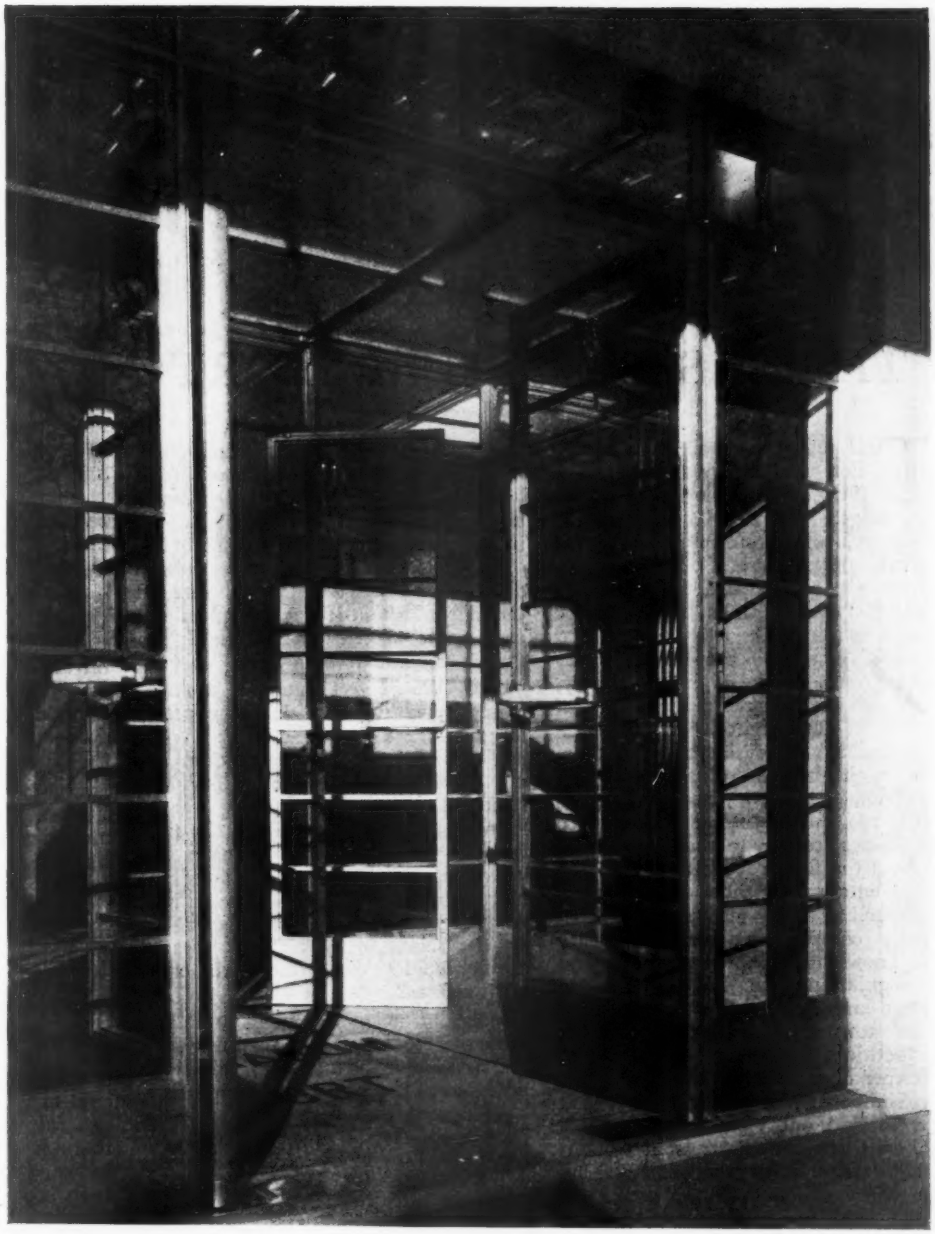
PLAN—*The main access is from Piccadilly; the rear access from Down Street. The circulation generally forms an L shape, the floor services on each floor being placed at the junction of the corridors.*

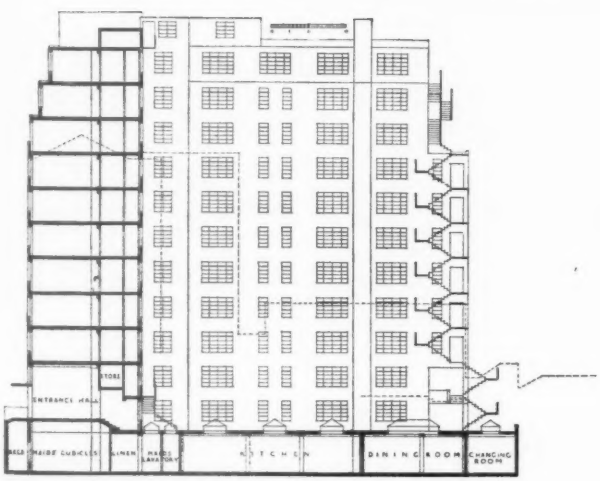
The photographs show: above, the main entrance from Piccadilly; left, the Down Street front, taken looking towards the Green Park; right, general view. The building is planned so that the maximum number of rooms overlook the Park.

INTERNAL FINISH—*Each flat has been decorated, furnished and equipped from the designs of the architects.*
SERVICES—*From the main servery to the service stations on each floor run five service lifts working in conjunction with electric indicators and controls, the services being connected with the bill office and control room by pneumatic message tubes. In addition to the internal telephone systems, electric indicators, in key positions, record every call from each flat for a maid or valet. This enables the head control office to observe every requirement throughout the building and how long it takes to attend to it. The main services, including plumbing, drainage and artificial ventilation are carried in ducts.*

The photographs show: right, main entrance doors from Piccadilly; below, the entrance hall.

For list of general and sub-contractors see page 124.





SECTION

1

THE ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL

COMPETITION

TERRITORIAL PLANNING IN 1987

THE ASSESSOR'S REPORT

THE JOURNAL staged this competition with its eyes open. The danger of a fiasco was obviously very large. It was a competition in prophecy, and prophecy, whether of the racing tipster or H. G. Wells variety, always carries with it a temptation to levity ; especially when, to encourage those who might otherwise be frightened of the subject's complexity, levity has been stated to be eligible. Secondly, there was the extreme probability that the expert would fight shy of a competition in which his considered reasonableness might be subordinated to some collection of literary wisecracks.

But the fulfilment of both these prophecies seems to have occurred without the fiasco. A high proportion of the entries were more amusing than constructive, and although at least twenty competitors showed a very real knowledge of town planning and its legislation, the assessor has no certain knowledge that a single professional town planner entered for the competition.

Neither of these facts, however, make the competition a failure. Its object was to find out what the JOURNAL'S readers thought about present tendencies in territorial planning, and perhaps to encourage them to think a little more about this terrific problem. Judged this way, the result is a modest success.

And now there comes the difficult part of this report. It is the assessor's duty (assessors of other competitions, please note) to indicate by what process of thought, or impulse, he has arrived at his verdict.

The first stage in looking for the prize-winners was to read all the entries. In case this may be thought obvious, the assessor emphatically states that in comparison with it the territorial planning of Britain seemed at the time a mere morning's work.

The second stage was one of reflection upon which group of entries ought to contain the winner.

The condition of town and territorial planning in 1987 must depend very greatly on the contemporary political, social and economic conditions ; but contributions which described in detail the complete socialization of Britain (there were several), or how Britain alone remained gloriously herself (one) must be ruled a little out of order. Similarly, it was thought that glimpses of one tiny aspect of territorial planning in 1987, intriguing though it might be, stood to get less marks than one which described that aspect, but also stated the idea of which it was the result and gave some sketch of how that idea gained general acceptance.

Thus, the perfect entry, it seemed, would seek (however parenthetically) to answer three questions : What is planning for ? Is there any governing practical principle sufficiently strong to allow a planning theory founded on it to triumph in the long run over individual opportunism and vested interest ? And, granted the first two are answered convincingly, what are the probable (not the logical or the scientifically perfect) lines of development ? What forces will effect what results ?

Generally nobody troubles to answer these questions, yet the planning idea will remain academic until somebody does—until the public, or their rulers, have agreed that such questions have been satisfactorily answered, and are determined to carry out the answer's implications. " The public or their rulers " have been said advisedly in the belief that in territorial planning there is, in G. K. Chesterton's words, a thin difference between good democracy and good despotism.

Of all the competitors, *City Beautiful* is the one who answers the first question most clearly and simply if not most grammatically ". . . painfully it was generally grasped that *the greatest asset of all nations is its mass of human beings* who with hand and brain mutually assist each other to live, that planning should be for them, for use by them, and *in relation to their real needs.*"

Here, if one really reads this and does not think of it as the political blurb it closely resembles, is the germ of the right idea.

It may be objected that we all know what those real needs are—good housing, food, some leisure, playing-fields and all the rest of it. *But*, it may be said, dockers must live near their work, etc., and all the rest of *that*. And what about the existing cities ?

Well, everyone must believe in some form of progress in the human race.

An excellent *Introduction to a Survey of Modern Town and Country Planning* (*Nehemiah*) notes that in 1936 " a number of thoughtful people were emphasizing the need for a reasoned solution to the problems that were even then apparent," and admits that they had " little historical tradition to guide them," in that a wider basis than Renaissance " Design " was needed " upon which to erect a framework which should carry effectively the load of modern development." But although he makes a masterly survey of conditions and probable developments up to and after the " National Planning Act of 1947," what kind of opinion guided the national plan *Nehemiah* does not say beyond describing it as " enlightened."

It is here that *Haywire* walks away with the competition. Vague in detail though her later suggestions are, they can afford so to be since they are founded on an idea which the reader feels he can, if necessary, himself apply where *Haywire* does not take the trouble to do so.

Haywire provides a comprehensive and comprehensible theory of relationships between various activities. Her answer to the planning questions that have been called the main questions, is to get all of industry that can be moved, together with its residential areas, out of existing towns ; and then to clear up the mess left behind.

Where one competitor says " turning now to the question of transport, it is distressing to note. . . " *Haywire* makes it clear that she does not regard transport as one of many isolated problems the sum of whose solutions would make a general solution. She believes that there is a relation between transport, industry and housing which has never been properly accepted ; that once this relationship is accepted it is seen that the relation of industry and housing to the land is dependent upon another relationship, the relationship between transport and power.

Upon this thesis she builds up an argument which has as its basis the idea that the existing chaos is due to the motor-car breaking down what the railway built up, and she proceeds to work out a solution, not on arbitrary fancies or on " solving the traffic problem," but on the probabilities inherent in the repercussion of certain kinds of transport, etc., upon existing forms of activity.

More need not be said since her essay is reproduced here, except that she gets the first place.*

* *Haywire* having indicated that, in the event of winning a prize, she did not wish to accept the prize money, the FIRST PRIZE devolves upon the entry placed second, the third gets the Second, and the fourth prize-winner thus created gets the Third Prize.

Because of his lack of a similar correlating idea *Nehemiah* sinks lower than the sweet reasonableness of his successive stages at first promised, while *Al Frescoe* moves up by a masterly leader and two centre-page articles from *The Times*. The latter describes the unfortunate affray at Wolverhampton (1960) between the devotees of the lobed and the horseshoe city, but he does not indicate how the planner, to avoid such academic controversy is to make a more real approach to his subject.

This entry, nevertheless, is a charming combination of satire and sense—and is a pleasure to read. "Our cities should rise, and in some cases do rise, clear from the rolling fields and woodlands like cathedrals, like full-rigged ships," is good prose, and "the slow concretion of administrative machinery grew from the drip which makes a stalactite to the jet which casts a monolithic building" is very good *Times*.

The temptation to quote indefinitely from the other competitions is tremendous. A score indulge in a National Survey, nearly all in a National Planning Board, while well over twenty both clear the field for territorial planning and send up architectural shares by a European War. We have yet to see whether these are the most fanciful of the entries. England becomes a World Museum, Bath and Cheltenham and the like become period pieces complete with costumes. The range and fertility of imagination shown promises well for the next fifteen years.

Some quotations deserve printing :

(MURUS) : I say this because logic is the one quality which will dominate the world and logic is not applicable to Capitalism, Religion or Royalty. . . .

The south of the river, I feel, will revert to what the Romans always considered it—a burial place—not of bodies but hopes.

(CAPULET) : Slums have been entirely wiped out. The official abolition of the final slum was carried out by the Minister of Health at Oxford in 1964. A demonstration slum has since been re-constructed in the Civics Museum, as a historical reminder to the young of today of the dark background from which we have emerged.

Flats were never meant to be a cluster of bungalows connected by staircases to the street, like grapes clinging by their stalks to the vine.

(WREN) : The concrete fertilizator has enabled us to produce shrubs on the site of any building within six months and the brick beetle will turn a desert of bricks and mortar into a garden within a year. . . .

The real thing which separates us from our grandparents is not the difference in materials or construction, not the mechanical discoveries nor the changes in administration; it is our attitude to life. We believe that the way in which people lead their lives is more important than the manner of getting about, or their marginal utility. We hold that a man's surroundings are more valuable than his means of production or distribution. . . .

(NOVO) : And there would be the same gay seats among beds of sweet-smelling flowers where one may idly turn the pages of a book from the bookshelves under the tree.

(JACK USE) : What is needed is one gigantic structure to accommodate the whole industry. In order to compass this very desirable object, you are faced with two alternatives—either to waive your existing restrictions on the height of buildings or to permit the building of underground structures. The first suggestion I cannot conscientiously recommend, since if it were right in 1936 to limit the height of buildings it cannot be reasonable in 1987 to remove that restriction.

I am, therefore, of the opinion that the erection of a New House of Industry fifty storeys deep would satisfactorily solve the problem. Before deciding to recommend this scheme, I consulted the President of the Combine as to its workability from the standpoint of industrial organization. Much to my surprise I found the suggestion most enthusiastically received by that gentleman, who stated that with a factory of this type he could—I quote his own words, My Lord Mayor—"Successfully put the lid on any stay-in strikes which might occur. . . ."

(MENE) : This is due entirely to the development of sewer-oil fuel (a by-product of the war) for which a special drainage system has been laid out over the whole country, necessitating the concentration of buildings around the sewer centres. Incidentally, too, this is the reason for the Ministry of Diet, as the proper feeding of the people is so important to the industry.

My impression is that there has been too much thinking and planning and not enough development by error.

Alas, the Huxley's, the Wells's, the Laplanders, visitors from Mars (the planet), the Australians — a large number of whom are as determined to shake up the Old Country's planning as they have already done her architecture—and all the others who were interested enough to enter cannot be dealt with adequately.

As for the prize winners, *Haywire's*, victory has been already listed. *Al Frescoe* gets second place for a really brilliant literary feat.

Nehemiah is placed third. He criticizes existing defects excellently, describes very reasonable stages of change equally excellently, and only fails in rising higher because he keeps today's outlook while getting rid of today's abuses. Whereas *Haywire* seems nearer reality in assuming that we will never get rid of those abuses until we change today's outlook.

Optimist gets the newly-created fourth reward partly because of his fertility of imagination and partly because he is a real architectural optimist. In his contribution architects may be said to save England by organizing the scientists and technicians. A young modern firm of architects takes in other experts, grows larger and more prosperous, founds a "modern school," becomes a kind of gargantuan M.A.R.S. and P.E.P. all in one, makes friends with the left-wing politicians and finally captures political power. It is all very entertaining, the control of London's climate (just done in passing to more important things) is made to seem as simple as drinking a glass of water.

Several competitors ran at least two of the prize winners very close, and deserve very honourable mentions, although they cannot be criticized in detail. They are : *Mene Tekel Upharsin; Rar, Wren, Edram, City Beautiful, and Capulet.*

Well deserved mentions are : *Elca, Skew-Jack, Merula, Saxon, Spring-bow, Scryer, H.J.E.P., Novo, and Murus.* And fully thirty others showed themselves, whether amusing, constructive or satirical, to be the result of very hard thinking.

The awards are summarised above :

THE AWARDS

FIRST : *HAYWIRE.*

SECOND (£20) : *AL FRESCOE :* J. R. Hilton, 9 Julian Road, Bristol 9.

THIRD (£10) : *NEHEMIAH :* F. Leslie Halliday, 14 Dalton Street, Manchester 2.

FOURTH (£5) : *OPTIMIST :* Clive Entwistle, 118 New Bond Street, W.1.

HONOURABLE MENTIONS

MENE TEKEL UPHARSIN (Daniel Roth, 21 Amherst Park, Stamford Hill, N.16) ; *R.A.R.* (R. A. R. Smith, 1 Longcroft Avenue, Banstead, Surrey) ; *WREN* (William Tatton Brown, 24 Woburn Square, W.C.1) ; *EDRAM* (A. Cooke, 1 Beaufort Street, S.W.3) ; *CITY BEAUTIFUL* (N. Lichman, 515 Commercial Road, E.1) ; and *CAPULET* (Patrick Wilson, 11 Torrington Square, W.C.1).

MENTIONS

SKEW-JACK ; MERULA ; SAXON ; SPRING-BOW ; SCRYER ; H. J. E. P. ; NOVO ; ELCA : and *MURUS.*

THE WINNING ENTRY

NOTES FOR THREE LECTURES ON

TERRITORIAL PLANNING: 1932-1987

LECTURE NO. 1

TOWN Planning first became a recognized problem after the World War, 1914-1918. One is immediately tempted to ask "Why?" Was it a post-war reaction, epitomized in the phrase "a land fit for heroes to live in" or was there a more substantial reason for this sudden interest in the subject?

If we consider the Town and Country Planning Act, 1932 (the first Act of any importance) in conjunction with two other Acts of the same period:

(i) The Restriction of Ribbon Development Act, 1935,

(ii) The Trunk Roads Act, 1937,

some light is thrown on the question. Both these Acts are concerned with the regulation of transport. We are apt to take the transport system for granted. Our present system works with an ease that appears natural. But we are only entitled to regard it as such if we assume that the manner in which population is distributed in the year 1986 is natural. At this point, with your permission, I will digress for a few minutes. I think that a short summary of the population movements between 1760 and the present day is necessary if you are to understand the nature of the problem which baffled previous generations for many years.

Outline of Movements of Population 1760-1986 *and their Causes*

(1) Before 1760 it is true to say that both population and industry were localized.

Industry was scattered up and down the country wherever water power could be found. The distribution of agricultural population was dictated by the nature of the land. The distribution of industrial population was dictated by the same local conditions that governed industry, taken in conjunction with the fact that most labourers had to be within walking distance of their work.

The distribution of population and industry was therefore very similar to what it is today, although the conditions which governed it were quite different.

(2) The period 1760-1860 saw two important changes in the conditions which governed the distribution of industry and population.

(*a*) The steam engine was invented. Industry was largely set free from local influences.

(*b*) The railway train became the chief means of transport. The railway is essentially a system of long distance transport. The fewer the halts the more efficient the service. Loading and warehouses were provided at infrequent points, determined by already existing centres of population. These points became "attractive" to industry.

These two inventions between them caused the tremendous concentration of population which formed the early twentieth century town. Curiously enough, this process was regarded as inevitable. The term "localization of industry," already out of date, was invented to explain the phenomena.

(*c*) The motor car, which became the commonest means of transport between 1900 and 1940 worked on an entirely different principle. The principle on which the railway works is concentration of traffic and therefore concentration of population. The principle on which the motor car works is diffusion of transport facilities. The motor requires for efficient working, diffusion of population. A marked tendency was immediately felt in this direction. Liberated by the motor car, man returned to his natural environment; wherever roads were made, houses were built.

Industry, however, remained indifferent to new development. Three factors contributed to keep industry in the towns, they were:

(1) The theory of localization of industry had such a strong hold on people's minds that nobody even considered the possibility of moving.

(2) The local government system of the period which left the duties of providing roads, sewage, light and transport and housing largely in the hands of municipal authorities, tended to attract industry to urban areas. Municipalities would not provide services outside their own area.

(3) Force of inertia.

To return to Town Planning Legislation. The first Town Planning Act was passed soon after the effects of motor transport began to be felt.

(1) It attempted to prevent the movement of population away from the towns on the grounds that "ribbon development" as it was then called, spoiled the country-side.

(2) It attempted equally to prevent the erection of tall buildings in the centre of towns. These were being put up at a great rate because traffic congestion, caused by the increasing use of motor cars, made movement inside towns more, not less difficult.

The effect of both provisions was to drive the working man back to the suburb. What they should have done, of course, was to bring industry out into the country. The corollary to localizing industry was "localizing ugliness." The fact that 90 per cent. of the population was condemned by this policy to live in ugliness did not appear to town planners to be any concern of their's. Town Planning was still a science only in name. It had no principles, and its traditions were derived from French landscape gardeners of the seventeenth century. Its attitude to industrial problems was the negative attitude of an "Art."

LECTURE NO. 2

Causes which led to the Reversal of the Policy of the 1932 *Town and Country Planning Act*

THE Town and Country Planning Act, 1932, remained in operation for the years 1932-42. Its adverse critics by that time felt themselves justified. The Act had, on the whole, worked harmfully, in so far as it had worked at all. The impulse to reconsider town planning policy did not, however, come from town planners — who still had an academic and restricted view of their responsibilities—but from the Minister of Transport and the Minister of Health. The difficulties in which these departments found themselves under the existing system led to a reconsideration of the whole problem. By 1940 the conception of town planning had undergone a great change; real town planning may be said to have begun with the passing of the Land Utilisation Act, 1942, passed as the Recommendation of the First Town Planning Commission of 1941. This Commission was set up as the result of recommendations contained in:

(i) The Transport Report, 1940.

(ii) The Report of the Electricity Commissioners, 1939.

(iii) The Inquiry into the Progress of Rehousing, 1939.

I would like to run quickly through the findings of these three Commissions, as it may give you some idea of the extraordinary state of the country at that time.

Report of Commission on Regulation of Motor Traffic, 1940.

By 1940 traffic congestion in London had become so bad that early in the year the Minister of Transport, by a regulation, forbade the use of motor cars within a radius of five miles of Charing Cross. There was great public outcry as a result of which a commission was set up, with wide powers, to

investigate the problem of motor traffic in large towns. After sitting for three months, and examining 2,091 witnesses, the commission reported that it could not proceed unless the scope of their inquiry was enlarged. The commission was accordingly reconstituted, with power to report on the co-ordination of all forms of transport throughout the United Kingdom.

The findings of the commission, in so far as they concern us, are :

(i) Ninety per cent. of the traffic in large towns was due to the daily migration of individuals to and from work.

(ii) This migration to and from work, resulting as it did in rush periods, was a particularly wasteful and undesirable feature of the system and should if possible be eliminated.

(iii) Zoning, as practised under the 1932 Act, tended to segregate industry in one area and population in another ; it therefore maximized this type of traffic.

(iv) Study of rush period traffic showed that on an average individuals in large towns travelled over 20 miles daily to and from their work. The tendency was for individuals to live in the country where possible. Their dispersion over still wider areas was only hindered by the necessity of living near their places of work, which tended to be concentrated together near the centres of towns.

(v) From the point of view of transport authorities, the transport of goods, which could be conveniently handled at any hour of the day or night, was much less wasteful than transport of individuals. Plant could be used continuously, and peak periods eliminated.

(vi) If the transport system was to be saved from complete breakdown, localization of population was necessary.

(vii) In the view of the Commission, localization of population could only be achieved by extensive decentralization of industry.

(viii) A Special Commission should be set up to see how this could best be effected.

The Report of the Electricity Commissioners, 1939.

In 1939 the Electricity Commissioners were asked to make a report on the working of the Grid System.

The process of electrifying the country, which had proceeded with amazing rapidity during the period 1926-36 had made little progress during the last four years. It had been hoped that Great Britain, which was 50 per cent. electrified in 1936, would be 100 per cent. electrified by 1940. The efficiency of the system depended largely on the universal use of electricity.

The Commission reported that :

(i) By 1940, 100 per cent. industrial plant used electric power, but domestic consumption had only risen to 20 per cent.

(ii) If domestic and agricultural consumption could be increased to 100 per cent. it would more than double the consumption of electricity.

(iii) From the point of view of the efficient working of the industry it was most important to secure increased domestic demand; domestic consumption balanced industrial consumption because the demand occurred when industrial plant was idle.

(iv) Domestic demand had in the past responded slowly because the cost of supplying a rural area, which had no industries to " balance " the private consumers, was comparatively high. Private individuals were unable or unwilling to bear the burden of a distributing station which was only working half time. The cost of electricity could only be reduced to a level which would make the potential domestic demand effective if industrial undertakings were more evenly distributed throughout the country.

(v) The committee recommended that a commission should be set up to enquire into methods of decentralizing industry.

Inquiry into the Progress of Rehousing, 1939.

The Commission was set up as the result of a public agitation. 2,000,000 slum dwellers signed a petition, and marched from all over the country in an attempt to present the petition to Parliament. They were, of course, dispersed by the police, but the demonstration made an impression on public opinion, and as the Elections were approaching, the Government decided to appoint a committee to report on the matter.

The main points in the report were :

(i) That rehousing was proceeding at a rate which barely kept pace with the need for new houses, leaving a very small margin for slum clearance.

(ii) That local authorities had done everything in their power to solve the problem under existing conditions ; circumstances over which they had at present no control made the problem an insoluble one.

These were : (*a*) The prohibitive cost of land in towns.

(*b*) The unwillingness of the working classes to live in the country, where land was cheap, because of the difficulty and the expense of getting to and from work.

(iii) That the present system of unregulated use of land led at one and the same time to :

(*a*) Slums which were the direct result of congestion ;

(*b*) Very high land values which made it impossible to clear the congestion, and in turn caused further congestion. Even the clearance schemes of the last few years, which had cost so much public money and added such great burdens to the rates, were themselves congested.

The committee suggested that a commission be set up to study the question of land utilization. They were in favour of preserving private ownership as far as possible, but they thought it should be possible to regulate the use of land so that :

(i) The value of land wherever it was situated should be its " real " value. They pointed out that the very high price paid for urban land was artificial. The difference in price between agricultural and building land they recognized as healthy. But the very marked difference between building land in rural and urban areas was, in their opinion, merely one of the harmful results of unnecessary congestion in large towns.

(ii) The increase in land value, when land was made available for building purposes by the construction of roads at public expense should benefit the public. Under the existing system it merely resulted in an increase of the rates.

If this were done, they pointed out that the housing problem would cease to exist because :

(*a*) The congestion which caused the formation of slums would cease.

(*b*) The houses which still had to be constructed for working-class people at uneconomic rents could be financed from the increase in land values.

The Town-Planning Commission, 1942.

The Town-Planning Commission was the result of these three reports. The cumulative evidence in favour of decentralization was too strong to be ignored. The particular problem the commission was asked to consider was land utilization, but by this time people were beginning to realize that town-planning problems could not be considered in isolation, The Commission was given powers to consider any question it might consider relevant. I have not time, unfortunately, to go through the report with you in detail. The result of their report was the Land Utilization Bill of 1943 which I will deal with briefly.

Land Utilization Bill, 1942.

The Land Utilization Bill was the second of the great planning measures of the twentieth century: the first was the Electricity Bill of 1926. The Electricity Bill was to a certain extent a model for the Land Utilization Act. There is, however, this great difference between the two Bills. The Electricity Act dealt with a specialized and limited problem; in this way it resembled the legislation of the nineteenth century. The Land Utilization Act is the prototype of twentieth-century legislation ; it is the first attempt to *relate* the activities of Government Departments which had previously been considered entirely independent. It dealt with housing,

land and transport. To us it seems obvious that these are interdependent, but it is impossible to understand the history of the period 1900-1940 unless we remember that to our grandfathers the connection was not obvious.

The Act of 1942 set up the Land Utilization Board—a body of seven people to be appointed by the Minister of Transport, and responsible to him.

The duty of looking after the Trunk Roads, which had been vested in the Minister of Transport since 1937, was transferred to the new board. In addition they had powers to :

(i) Select new areas for development by the construction of new roads (previously roads had only been constructed, like railways, between existing centres of population).

(ii) Buy up land at agricultural rates, along the line of the proposed new road, to a maximum width of four miles; two miles on either side of the road. (This was financed in the same way as the construction of the Grid ; by loan at a fixed rate of interest.)

(iii) Lease land for periods not exceeding 100 years, to approved companies for purpose of estate development. It was provided in the Act that :—

(*a*) The area of land rented to each company should not be less than two square miles.

(*b*) That development should conform to conditions laid down by the town planning commission. (The progress that has been made during the last 40 years has been in the framing of these conditions.)

(*c*) That a registered architect must be employed by the company. The rent of land let for the purpose of development was to be based on the rent of agricultural land in the area. In return for this concession the approved companies were required to provide a fixed proportion of houses at rents within the reach of working-class tenants. Rates were thus relieved of a great burden. Approved companies were given the right to sublet parts of their land to people who wished to build their own houses. Individual building was, however, subject to the same measure of control as company building. It had to form part of a scheme of development drawn up by a registered architect.

The Act also made provisions to secure close co-operation between the Electricity Board and the Land Utilization Board by appointing a member of the Central Electricity Board to act as permanent adviser to the Land Utilization Board. The effect of this scheme was that the supply of services, e.g., roads, light, etc., previously vested in municipalities and therefore tending to concentrate people in towns, were taken from local authorities and given instead to an authority whose interest was to *decentralize* the population. Before the passing of this Act a growing town was a reason for municipal satisfaction.

LECTURE NO. 3.

Amendments of 1958.

AS I mentioned before, progress since the passing of the 1942 Act has been chiefly a matter of changes made in the conditions which the T.P. authorities were allowed to impose, under the Act (subsection 22), on the development companies.

To begin with, these conditions were optional and rudimentary. There was great fear of imposing unreasonable financial strain on the companies.

By 1955, however, it became clear that the savings which resulted from intelligent use of land exceeded the wildest expectations. These were due to two causes :

(i) Rents which houses in the new areas commanded were far above the normal rents in rural areas. The middle classes, accustomed to paying £300 a year for five bedrooms in a town house, were prepared to pay £200 a year for the new houses in country districts planned so that their inhabitants continued to enjoy the conveniences of urban life. This was eight or nine times the rent commanded by isolated country houses, and left an ample margin of profit for the builder.

(ii) Rates, which in large towns had risen to be as much as half the rent of a house, fell to something nearer their present proportion. The cost of maintaining well-laid out units of manageable size, was of course, quite small—in comparison with the total house rent of a unit of population, negligible. The public benefited greatly—so did the builder.

Accordingly, the 1958 Amendment was passed. It incorporated in the 1942 Act certain provisions which had previously been left to the discretion of the Town Planning Authorities. Under the Amendment, it was compulsory for the companies to provide :

(i) Thirty per cent. of their area as open space for playing fields, gardens, etc.

(ii) Adequate space in suitable position for public buildings, schools, etc.

(iii) To restrict the density of population, taking an average for each two mile unit, to 20 per acre.

(iv) To have a strip of land 200 yards wide between the roadway and the nearest house (they were permitted, however, to use this strip as either allotments or playing fields).

I do not feel that it is necessary for me to summarize the results of the Land Utilization Act, 1942. They are before your eyes. It will be sufficient for me to give you a few figures illustrating the magnitude of the changes that have taken place.

(1) London, which had a population of 8,000,000 odd in 1940 has now shrunk to one-eighth its former size, and is still disintegrating. Land values have fallen to a corresponding extent.

(2) In 1942, 85 per cent. of industry was in urban areas. It is safe to say that the remaining 14 per cent. was situated in areas which, if not urban, were spoiled. Now 95 per cent. of industry is in country districts and the electric factories which have been universal since 1942 are clean and attractive.

(3) Traffic congestions is a term we do not understand. For 44 years our transport system has worked smoothly and easily. Yet in 1935 it took 60 minutes to drive the 20 miles between the Marble Arch and St. Albans. It took three hours to motor across London. In 1940, as I have already mentioned, the use of cars within a five mile radius of Charing Cross had to be forbidden.

I would like to add a few words, however, on the opportunities these changes give to us ; and more particularly on the Planning of Towns Bill, which will, I hope, be passed this year. Some of you may think that the measure scarcely deserves praise, because it is so long overdue. I hope, however, that I have made it clear to you why it is that there has been so much Town Planning and so little planning of towns. Until pressure on the towns had been relieved, it was impossible to undertake constructive planning in rural areas.

Decentralization is now sufficiently advanced for us to consider the re-planning of our important towns. The population of London has fallen to one-eighth its former size, and a corresponding amount of land has been set free. The new Act will reconstitute the old Town Planning Authorities, so that they will have powers to take full advantage of the changed situation. The new authorities will have powers analogous to those of the Land Utilization Board. But it is probable that they will differ slightly, because the town which is envisaged as the centre of the educational, administrative and cultural life of the surrounding area, will be a much larger unit than any dealt with by the Land Utilization Board, and must be planned as a whole.

The Town Planning Authorities will be responsible for the lay-out of their areas in the same way as the Land Utilization Board is responsible for the lay-out of the county. They will plan the road, locate the major parks and open spaces, and divide the land into reasonable-sized units, so that it may be developed by building companies. They will also have, however, the power of acting directly through the municipal architect. It is felt that public buildings should be designed as a whole, and that the best way of securing this is to entrust the supervision of all public buildings to one man. By public buildings I mean, of course, theatres, cinemas, opera houses, municipal buildings, museums, picture galleries, assembly halls and stations. Important shopping centres might also come under this category in certain instances.

I think I have said enough to make you realize the improvements that will be made possible by the new Act.

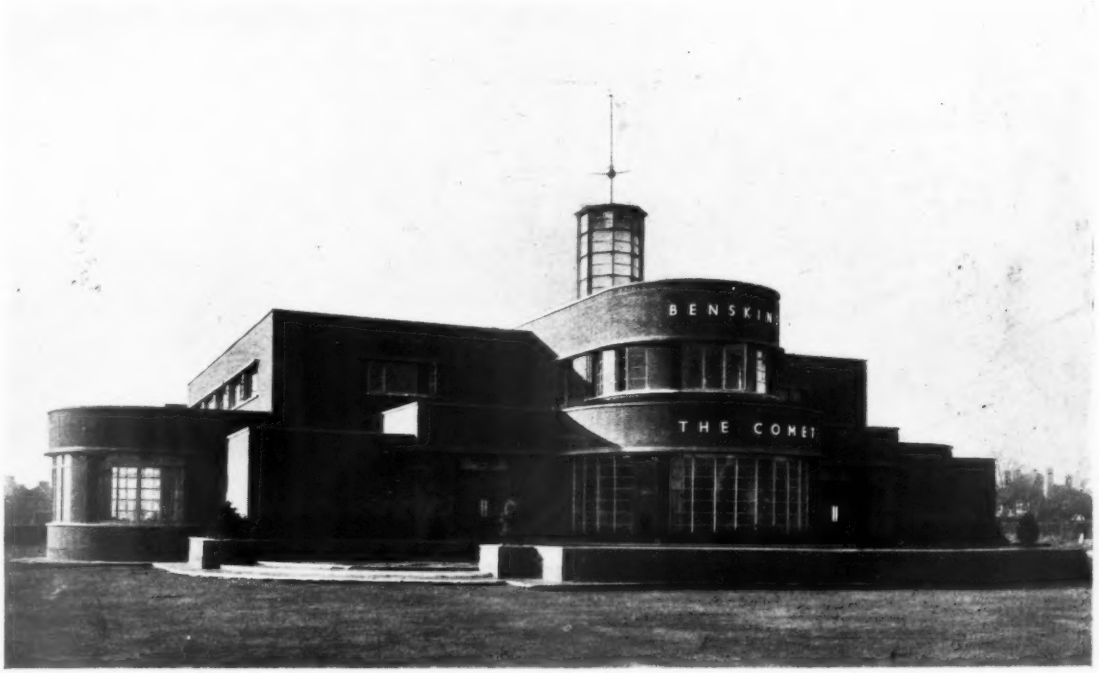
HAYWIRE

THE COMET, HATFIELD, HERTS

DESIGNED BY E. B. MUSMAN

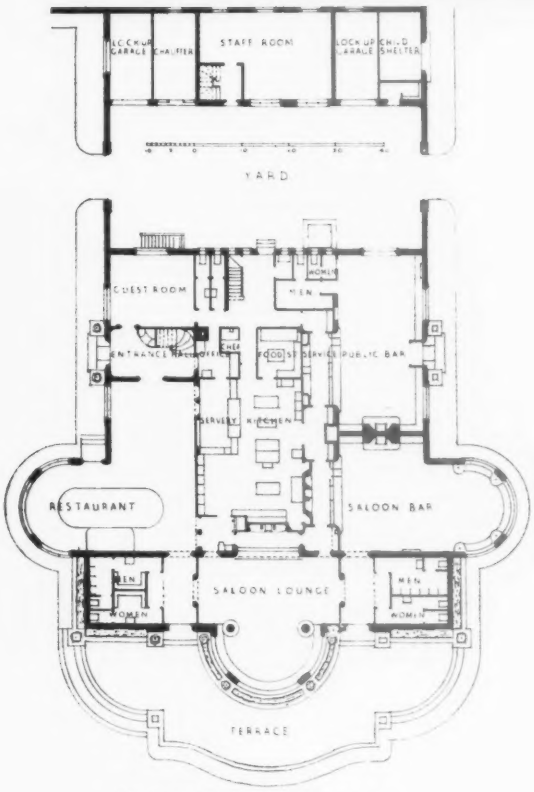
GENERAL PROBLEM—*Road hotel to serve the dual purpose of a public-house, with bars, and a restaurant and lounge for luncheons and dinners; there are also facilities for music and dancing. Twelve to fifteen bedrooms, with hot and cold water, are provided, also bathrooms and a private sitting room and dining room for the travelling public; tenants' quarters, a separate staff wing with independent access at the rear of the building, and a car park. In front of the saloon lounge is a tea garden.*

SITE—*At the fork of the Barnet-By-Pass and the St. Albans Road, close to the De Havilland aerodrome at Hatfield. The site is an open one. Land is available at the rear for future extensions and a garden layout.*

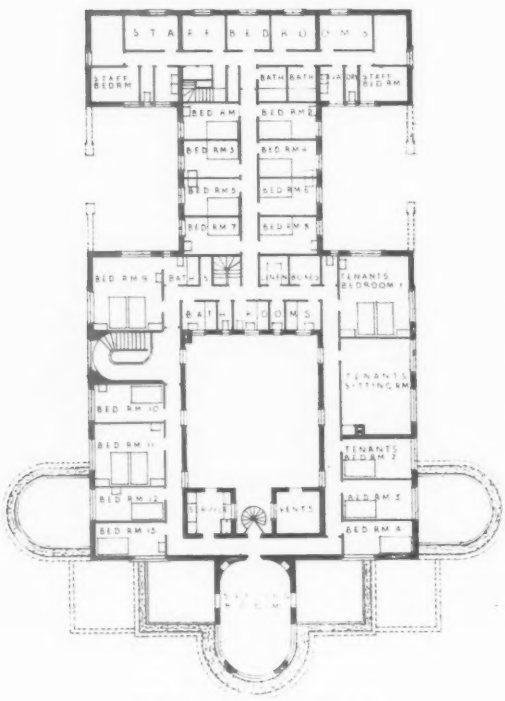


The drawings are of the site plan and the main elevation. The photograph is of the main front.

The photograph above is of the hotel entrance; that on the facing page is of the sign in front of the building.



GROUND FLOOR PLAN



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

PLAN—*The general shape is in the form of an aeroplane and was inspired by the clients' wish to perpetuate the memory of the Comet machine flown by Scott and Black to Melbourne, and made at the De Havilland factory nearby. The name Comet, given to the house, has been chosen for the same reason.*

CONSTRUCTION—*External walls are built in 1½-in. rough textured bricks, brown in colour and treated with linseed oil, and laid with recessed joints. Floors and roofs are hollow tiles; partitions are sound-resisting slabs. The internal structure is partly steel frame.*

ELEVATIONAL TREATMENT—*Cills and heads to windows and doors are in Clipsham stone and are continuous; copings to parapet and terrace walls are in the same material. Windows are in metal frames, painted a pastel blue, those to the circular bay of the lounge and sitting-room over being made to open back to the piers. The external doors are teak and the external lettering is Gill Sans type in white enamel. The yard gates are architect designed in teak; the terrace and paving is of squared random York stone; and the tower is in metal and glass with internal lighting to show green at night. The flat roofs leading from the private sitting-room on the first floor to the tower are finished in tile. No pipes of any kind are to be seen on any front. There are built-in troughs for flowers on the flat roofs over the lounge, restaurant and bars and also to the front terrace and front elevation on the ground floor.*

THE SIGN—*The sign in front of the building is the conception of the architect and is in the form of a stone pylon surmounted by a model of the Comet aeroplane, coloured red, intertwined with a celestial comet, coloured silver. The carving on the pylon was designed and carried out by Eric Kennington and represents 18 peculiar methods of flight.*

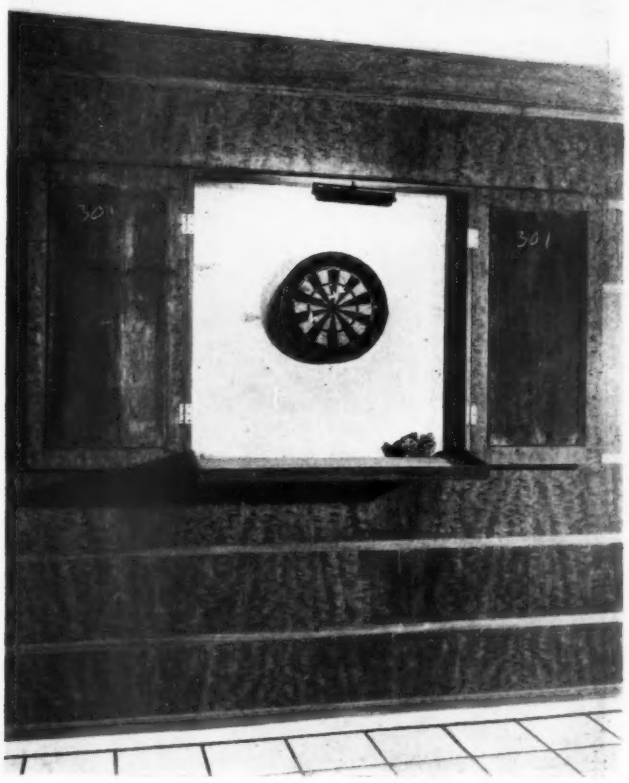
INTERNAL FINISH—*All internal decorations, furniture, fittings, carpets, curtains, etc., have been designed and selected by the architect. The special painting and carving have been carried out by Cosmo Clark and Miss Gertrude Hermes respectively, who were both chosen by the architect to collaborate with him.*

The photograph is of the centre portion of the main front.

SALOON LOUNGE—*The walls and ceiling are plastered and finished with a stippled plastic paint of a Beauvais cream colour. Doors, seats, counter front, etc., are in waxed teak, and the floor is rubber in 15-in. buff squares with ⅛-in. dark brown joints. The cabinet is lined with silvered stypolite glass, with concealed green lighting and carved teak pillars by Gertrude Hermes. The combined clock and wireless designed by the architect is flanked by paintings of four signs of the Zodiac by Cosmo Clark. Chairs are teak, upholstered in hide of dull yellow, and the curtains are patterned in two tones of the same colour. There is a large elliptical Indian rug in brown and white zebra pattern, and two ornamental trees about 4 ft. high, painted red, with carved wood magnolia buds. Circular tables are in teak, with tops finished in asbestos, coloured dark brown.*

SALOON BAR—*Walls are panelled 9 ft. high in veneered figured teak. There are a cabinet and carved teak pillars, clock, etc. as in the saloon lounge; paintings on the mirrored glass over the fireplace by Cosmo Clark; a large open fireplace in Napoleon marble, with interior and hearth of rustless armour bright metal; and a dart board designed as an enclosed fitment in the panelling. Curtains, lights, floors and furniture are as in the saloon lounge.*

The photographs show: right, the saloon lounge and the dartboard, designed as an enclosed fitment in the saloon bar; below, the saloon lounge, and bottom, the saloon bar.

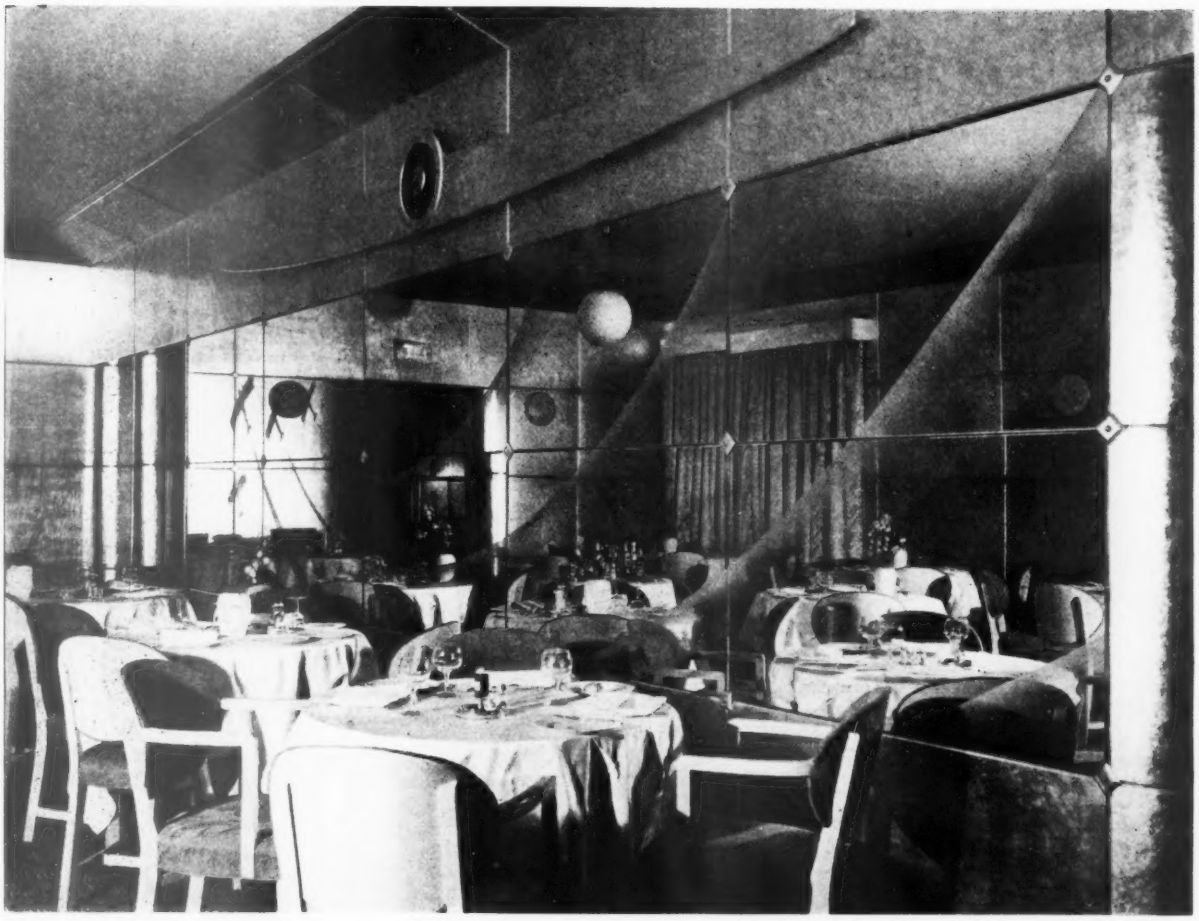


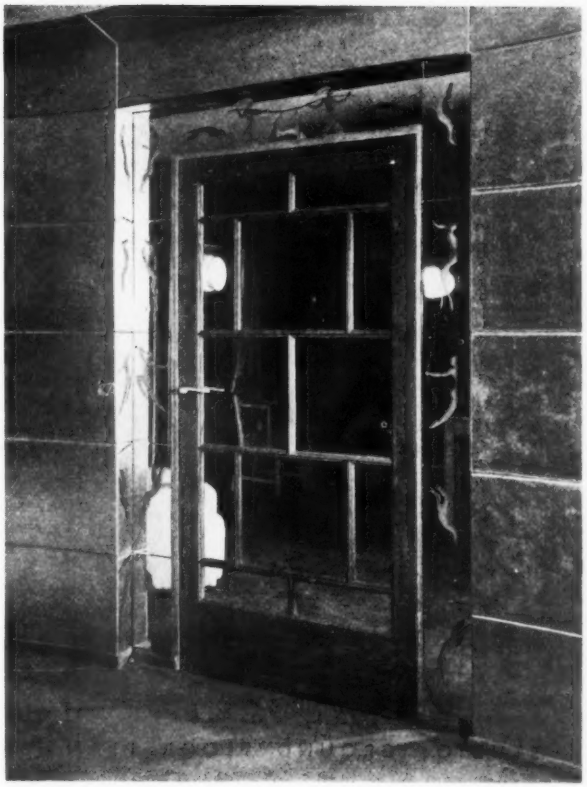
PUBLIC BAR—*Walls are lined with 4-in. brown tiles, eggshell finish, with teak capping and skirting, and counter front in tiles. The open fireplace has a tiled surround and rustless metal interior. The painting on the mirrored glass over the fireplace and the decorative frieze above the tiling all round the bar are by Cosmo Clark. There are fixed teak seats, provision for two dart boards; lighting and floor finish as in the saloon bar; and a cabinet of plain white mirrored glass with glass shelves and concealed lighting.*

HOTEL ENTRANCE AND STAIRCASE—*Walls are plastered and finished in stippled plastic paint, Beauvais cream colour, and have rounded angles everywhere. The floor and staircase is in terrazzo chippings, light buff in colour, mixed with mother of pearl. The circular mat is of special design, and the metal balustrade is painted shell pink and has a bronze handrail.*

SERVICES—*The building is centrally heated with radiators in every room, and extract ventilation plant is installed to all the bars, restaurant and kitchen. There is a service lift to the first floor, and a beer hoist to the cellar.*

The photographs show: above, the public bar; left, the staircase.





RESTAURANT—*Walls are finished in silver gilt panels from floor to ceiling. The west wall between the service doors has a panel in peach mirror, sand-blasted, with a design by the architect of five aeroplanes in flight. The clock and wireless, together with the openings for extract ventilation, have been designed as a decorative unit and placed on the panelling directly above the mirror. Furniture is in whitewood, upholstered in Chinese red and gold material. The carpet is of a zebra pattern, in nigger brown and dull gold; and curtains are gold satin, studded with small silver stars. The light fittings are of painted parchment with light flame coloured lamps. The ceiling is painted a warm parchment tone; the doors, skirting and woodwork generally are teak.*

PRIVATE SITTING ROOM—*Walls are panelled from floor to ceiling in silver gilt board; turquoise blue carpet and curtains; whitewood chairs with fawn upholstery; electric light fittings as in restaurant, and mirrored door with paintings on mirrored glass surround by Cosmo Clark.*

KITCHEN—*Tiled from floor to ceiling; tiled floor; all fittings, etc., in teak; large food store with built-in refrigerator.*

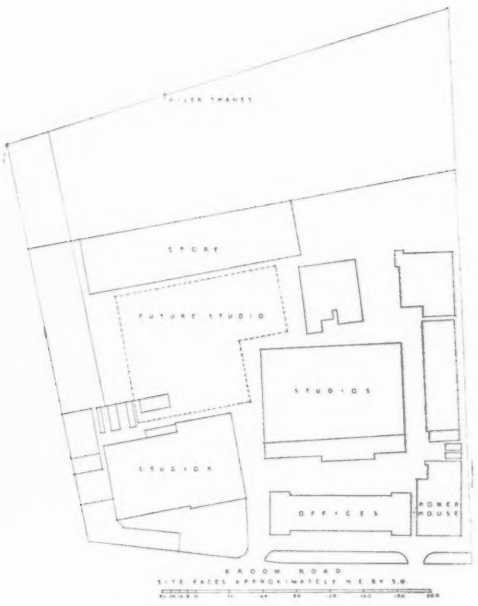
Lavatories and cloakrooms are tiled and have woodwork in teak.

The photographs show: above, the restaurant; right, the mirrored door in the private sitting room.

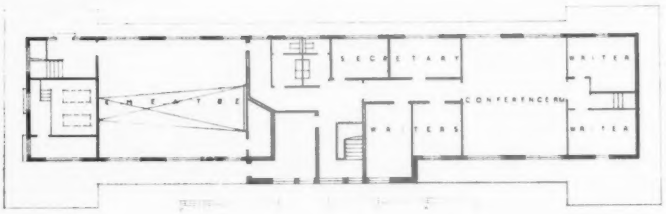
For list of general and sub-contractors see page 124.

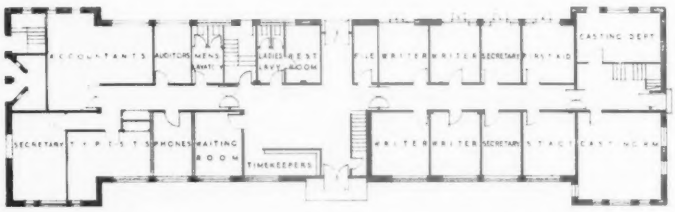
FILM STUDIOS, TEDDINGTON

BY A. STANLEY ROBERTS (NAYLOR AND ROBERTS)

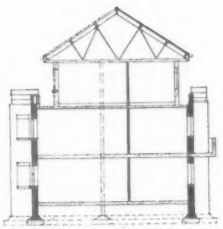


SITE PLAN

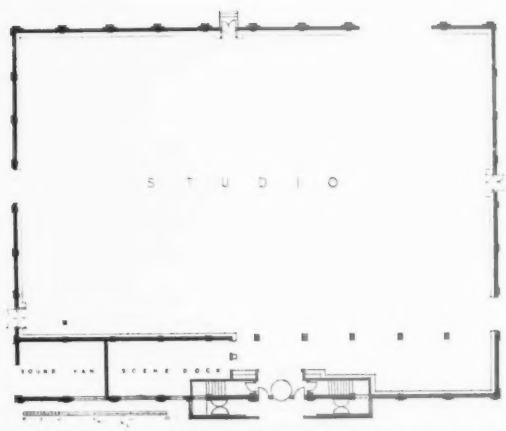




OFFICE BLOCK: GROUND AND SECOND FLOOR PLANS

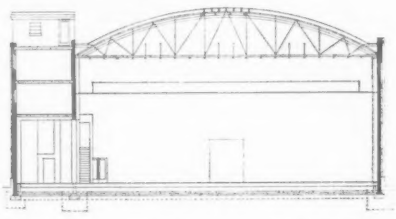


OFFICE BLOCK CROSS SECTION



STUDIO: GROUND FLOOR PLAN

GENERAL PROBLEM—*Studio, offices, power house and store for Messrs. Warner Bros. First National Productions, Ltd. The existing offices and the power house could not be demolished until new accommodation was built for them. Under agreements with the local authorities a length of river frontage to the Thames was sterilized to a depth of 125 ft. and a strip 40 ft. wide reserved for a future bridge approach.*
The photograph is of the main front of the offices.



STUDIO: CROSS SECTION

CONSTRUCTION—*The studio is steel framed with brick walls, built in lime mortar with a small cement gauging; and with the walls and roof insulated against sound. The interlacing double staircase at the entrance provides a separate staircase to the men's and women's dressing rooms and an alternate means of escape from both. Dressing room walls are finished in lime plaster; floors with cork and cork linoleum. Partitions and sanitary fittings are bedded on felt.*

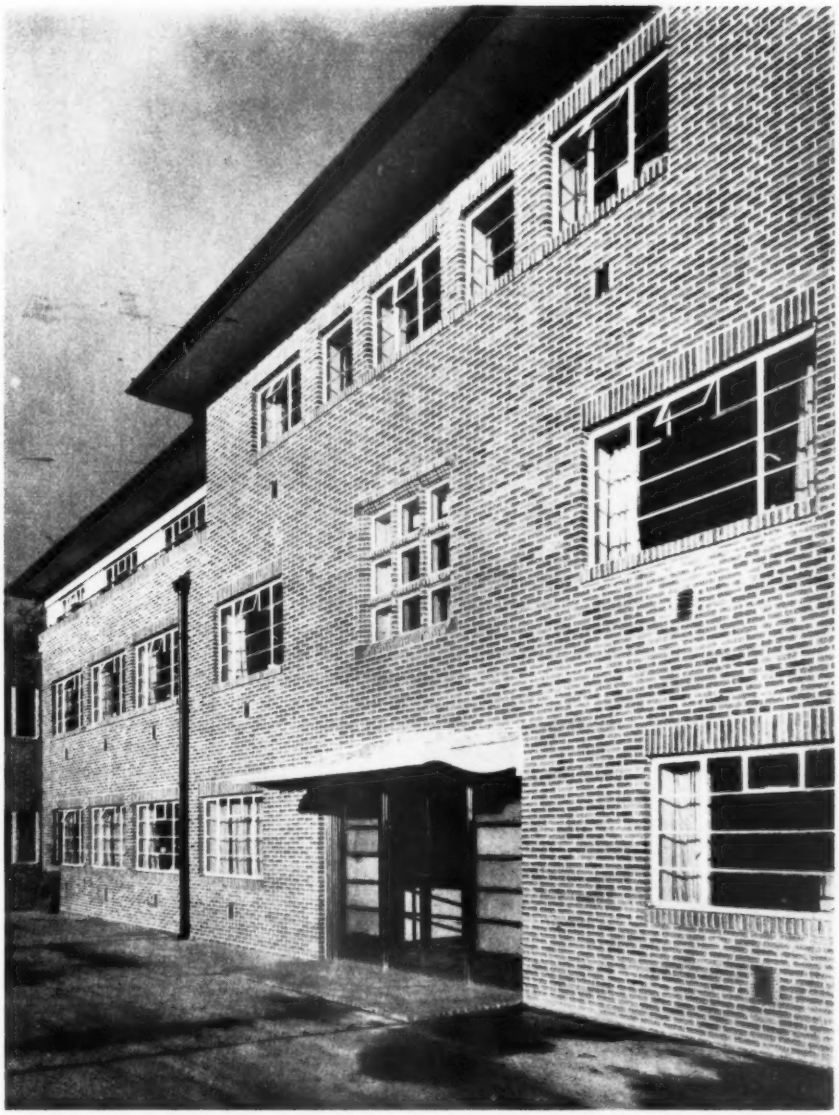
The offices were originally designed in reinforced concrete, but the local authorities desired a brick frontage to preserve the amenities of the road under their powers under the Town and Country Planning Act. The office block, therefore, is concrete beam and post, with hollow brick panel filling, and with the attic storey walls designed as constructional members and insulated internally against sound with cork. To reduce transmission of noise, floors are finished in cork and linoleum; partitions and sanitary fittings are bedded on felt; pipes passing through walls are covered with cork; and double partitions are filled with slag wool.

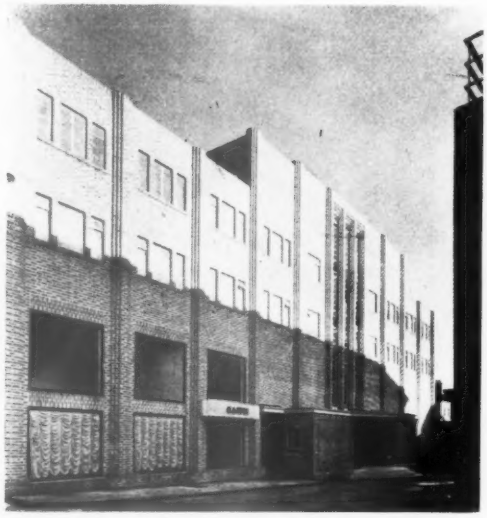
The power house is steel framed with 14-in. solid brick walls. The wood roof is constructed on steel principals with a transporter crane suspended from the tie beams and is insulated against sound. Double doors and windows are provided for sound insulation on the road frontage.

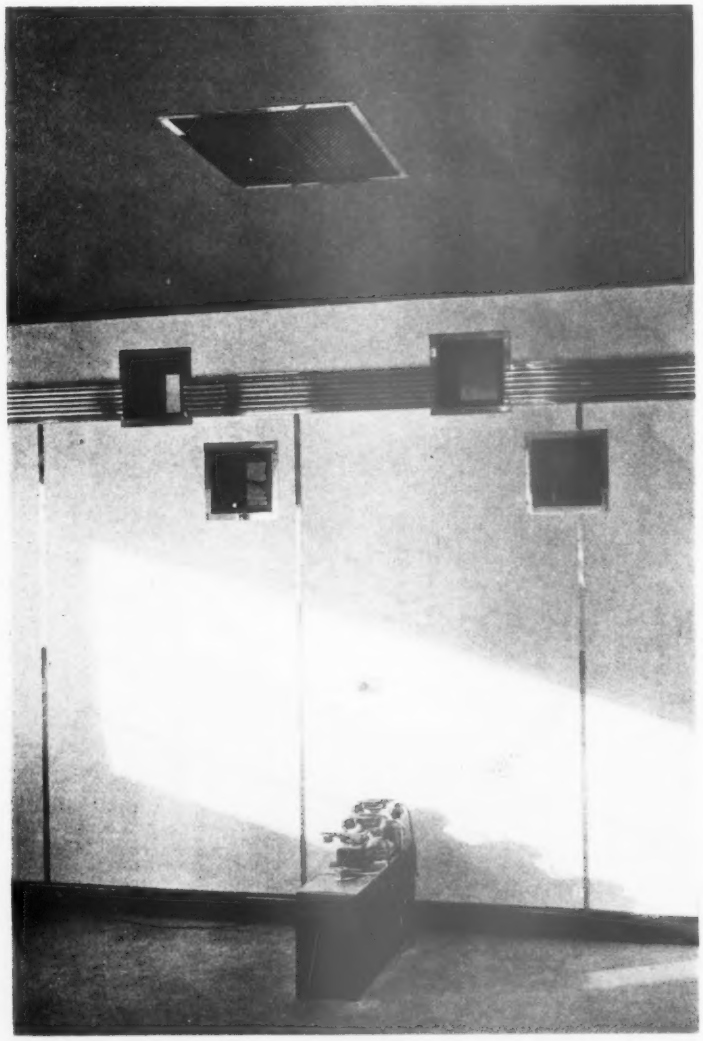
The store is of brick with central steel stanchions. Main floor beams are steel.

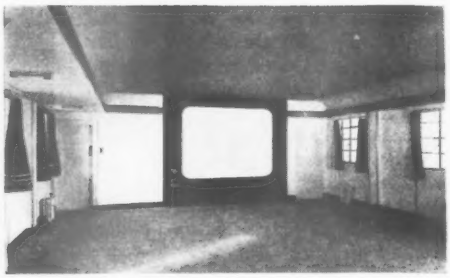
The photographs show: right, the entrance to the offices; below, the main front of, and the entrance to, the studio.

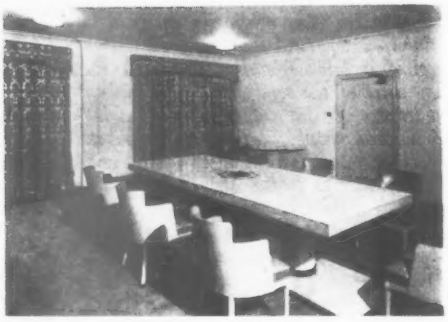
The studio front is designed for use as an external set, such as an hotel entrance, a street frontage with shops, or a block of flats. The photographs show the front being used as a set.











CONTRACT PRICE—*£60,000.*

The photographs show: top, the rear wall of the private view theatre; above, the studio; right, from top to bottom, the private view theatre; the board room; the entrance hall; and one of the "crowd" dressing rooms.

For list of general and sub-contractors see page 124.

INFORMATION SHEET
SUPPLEMENT

The Architects' Journal Library of Planned Information

RECENT developments have brought up for reconsideration the question of the looseness of Information Sheets.

When the series was first started, it was felt that readers of the Journal would have some grounds for complaint if in a feature that was clearly meant for it, no facilities for filing were provided; and the Sheets were therefore inserted loose in the paper.

This method has obvious advantages for filing, but it has also obvious disadvantages, which our readers have not been slow to point out.

As a permanent feature, loose inserts are a nuisance in a paper, since they have a way of dropping out in the street or the train, if not before they get into the reader's hands (we have periodical complaints that Information Sheets for such a week have not been delivered with the paper).

Or, what is nearly as bad, they have a way of sticking out slightly, and getting bent or torn.

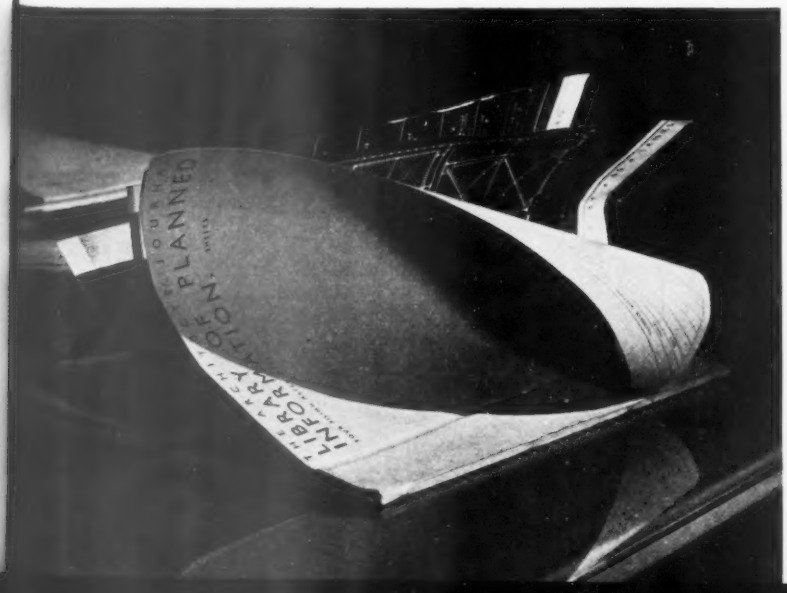
Furthermore, those architects who collect the sheets, and there are a great many, are often human enough to delay the act of filing for several days after receiving their copies, in which time the sheets again have a good chance to commit literary hara-kiri.

For all these reasons, it has been decided to make an obvious improvement.

By binding in the Information Sheets in the Journal so that they cannot fall out, their powers of self-destruction will be curtailed. And to insure that they can be as readily filed as before, the pages are now being perforated.

Colour, perforation, and now photographs: step by step the Information Sheets in this Journal are being developed until the standard form of presentation allows for the inclusion of any information that can be said to add to the value of the Sheets.

Drawings in line are, admittedly, the natural language of the architect, but elevations and sections can be deceptive, for drawings in two dimensions are, after all, merely a means towards the end of three-dimensional execution. It has been found in the past that in certain cases the actual Information Sheet form is, by its nature as a drawing, incapable of giving the full information of a product required, since it does not lend itself to the inclusion of photographs. After consideration it has been decided that this limitation must be overcome, and, on these grounds, that photographs shall be used, whenever they are necessary to the adequate presentation of the product described. These photographs, it should be emphasized, will only be used where, in the opinion of the Editors, their inclusion is an asset to the Information Sheet. To avoid changing the character of the sheet they will be printed as a supplement to the Sheet on an additional leaf, so that the normal single leaf Sheet will remain exactly as before. The first photographs appear this week.



INFORMATION SHEETS

457 Roofing

458 Sanitary Equipment

459 Hoods and Canopies

Sheets issued since Index :

401 : Plumbing to Baths
402 : Waterproofing
403 : Asbestos-aluminium Foil—I
404 : Roofing
405 : Joinery
406 : Asbestos-aluminium Foil—II
407 : Roofing
408 : Joinery
409 : Rubber-faced Building Slabs
410 : Places of Public Entertainment—II
411 : Electric Switchgear
412 : Lead Soakers to Valleys
413 : Plumbing in Welded Copper Pipe
414 : Electric Switchgear
415 : Electric Switchgear
416 : Insulating Board
417 : Work on Glass
418 : Plumbing in Welded Copper Pipe
419 : Places of Public Entertainment—III
420 : Tentest Metal Cover Strip
421 : Wood Preservatives
422 : Welding Sheet Copper Work
423 : Garages and Drives—II
424 : Roof Glazing
425 : Places of Public Entertainment—IV
426 : Asbestos-cement Roofing Tiles
427 : Asbestos-cement Roofing Tiles
428 : Welding Sheet Copper Work
429 : Flat Roofing
430 : Asbestos-cement Roofing Tiles
431 : Automatic Boilers
432 : Plumbing
433 : Places of Public Entertainment—V
434 : Plumbing
435 : Lifts—I
436 : Lead Soakers to Hips
437 : Coloured Cement Renderings
438 : Wallboards
439 : Wall Finishes
440 : Roofing
441 : Sash Operating Gear
442 : Roofing
443 : Wallboards
444 : Rainwater Goods and Fittings—I
445 : Roofing
446 : Rainwater Goods and Fittings—II
447 : Bathroom Cabinets
448 : Roof Glazing
449 : Places of Public Entertainment—VI
450 : Telephone Cabinets
451 : Hardboard
452 : Escalators
453 : Automatic Boilers
454 : Places of Public Entertainment—VII
455 : Places of Public Entertainment—VIII
456 : Ellipses

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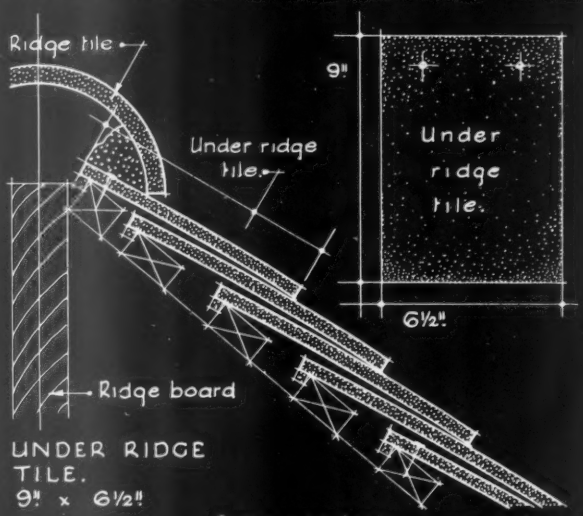
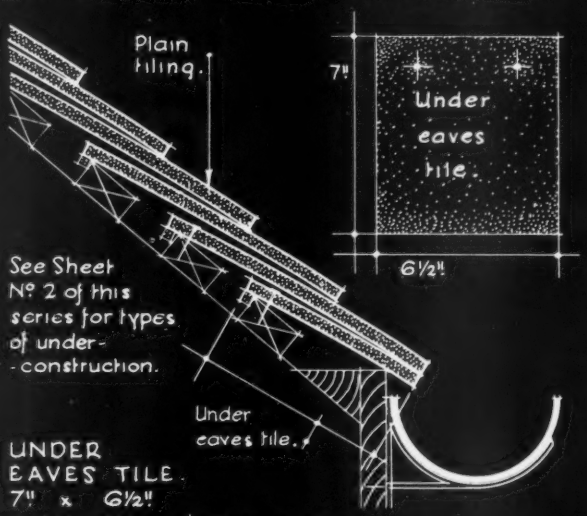
591. THE ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL LIBRARY OF PLANNED INFORMATION

CLAY PLAIN ROOFING TILES : PLAIN TILE FITTINGS.

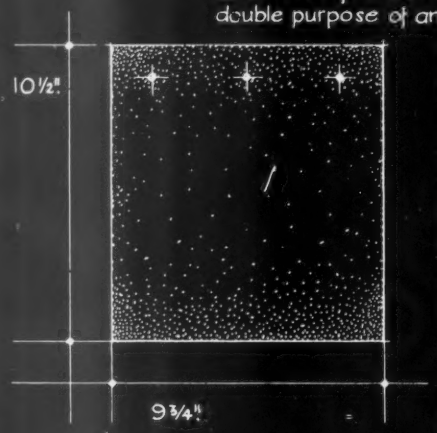


UNDER RIDGE TILE.
9" x 6½"



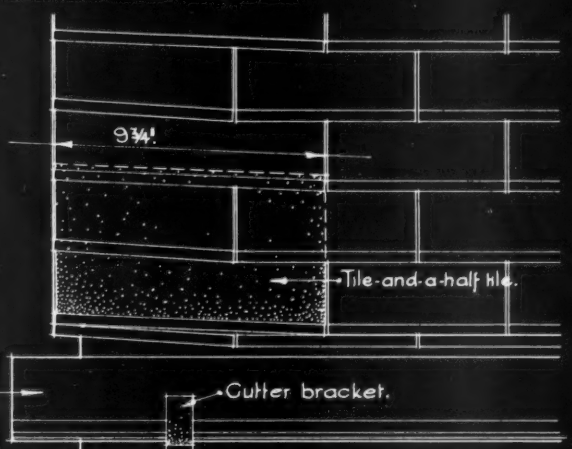
UNDER EAVES TILE.
7" x 6½"

Some manufacturers now make a special tile 8" long which serves the double purpose of an under eaves tile and an under ridge tile.

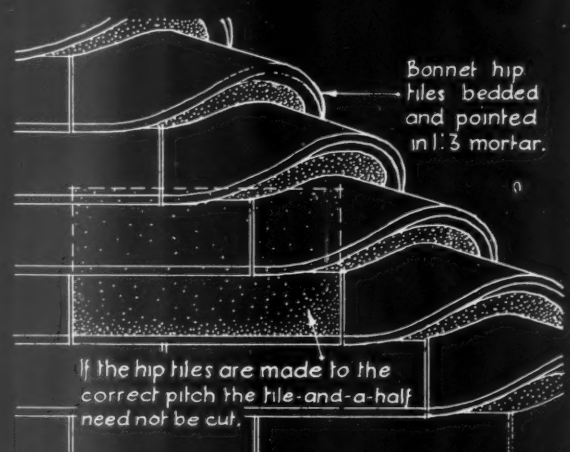


Fittings of the dimensions shown are for use on roofs tiled with 10½" x 6½" clay plain tiles.

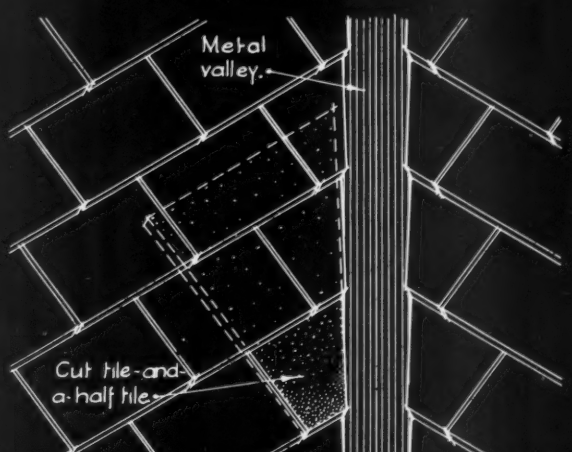
TILE-AND-A-HALF TILE.
10½" x 9¾"



TILE-AND-A-HALF TILE FINISH TO A VERGE.



TILE-AND-A-HALF TILES FITTING AGAINST BONNET HIP TILES.



TILE-AND-A-HALF TILES CUT TO FORM A CLOSE CUT VALLEY GUTTER.

Information from Clay Products Technical Bureau of Great Britain.

INFORMATION SHEET : THE TILING OF PITCHED ROOFS WITH PLAIN TILES : No. 4

SIR JOHN BURNET TAIT AND LORNE ARCHITECTS ONE MONTAGUE PLACE BEDFORD SQUARE LONDON WC1.

THE ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL
LIBRARY OF PLANNED INFORMATION

INFORMATION SHEET

• 457 •

ROOFING

Subject : Clay Plain Tiles of dimensions other than normal, used with normal sized clay tiles.

Dimensions :

The dimensions given overleaf for under-ridge and under-eaves tiles and for tile-and-a-half, apply to fittings associated with 10½ ins. by 6½ ins. (standard) clay plain tiles, and should larger (11 ins. by 7 ins.) or smaller (10 ins. by 6 ins.) tiles be used, the necessary modifications in the dimensions of the fittings must be borne in mind.

Under-ridge tiles.—These tiles, shortened to preserve the gauge at the junction of the roof with the ridge tile, are now produced by most tile makers to save cutting on the job, as are :—

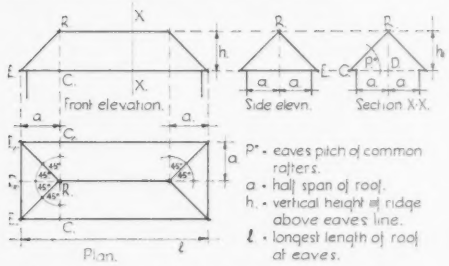
Under-eaves tiles, which act as an undercloak at the eaves beneath the lowest course of full length tiles.

Tile-and-a-half tiles are used to complete courses of ordinary width tiles where they abut on hips, verges, chimney stacks and other forms of abutment. Cut to a suitable bevel they are also applied in the formation of valleys, one example of which is shown.

Detailed Treatment of Hips, Ridges, Valleys and Verges, etc. :

Details of approved treatments of hips, ridges, valleys and verges, will form the subject of further sheets in this series.

Some Notes on Roof Mensuration :



1. Simplest case : roof square on plan, same pitch throughout.

Length of Common Rafter :

Examining the section through XX, RDC is a right-angled triangle in which :—

$\frac{RD}{RC} = \frac{h}{RC} = \sin P$, and $\frac{RC}{RD} = \frac{RC}{h} = \text{cosec } P$

Hence $RC = h \text{ cosec } P$.

$\frac{CD}{RC} = \frac{a}{RC} = \cos P$, and $\frac{RC}{CD} = \frac{RC}{a} = \sec P$.

Hence $RC = a \sec P$.

$\frac{RD}{CD} = \frac{h}{a} = \tan P$.

Now RC is the length of the common rafters, shown elsewhere in the drawings as RC_1 and RC_{11}, so that, if only a dimensioned roof plan and the pitch are given, the length of the common rafters can be calculated from the half span " a " if the value of " sec P " given in the equation RC = a sec P can be ascertained.

The values of this ratio for angles between 0 degrees and 90 degrees are given in the sets of tables usually found in handbooks or in specially published mathematical tables, such as Knott's Four Figure Tables.

In the following table the values for commonly used pitches are given.

TABLE I.—Length of Common Rafters at Various Pitches.

For eaves pitch of P°	For ridge angle of (180-2P)°	Multiply half-span a by sec P
37½	105	1·2605
38	104	1·2690
39	102	1·2868
40	100	1·3054
41	98	1·3250
42	96	1·3456
43	94	1·3673
44	92	1·3902
45	90	1·4142
46	88	1·4396
47	86	1·4663
48	84	1·4945
49	82	1·5243
50	80	1·5557

For other pitches the appropriate values of sec. P must be ascertained from tables.

Ridge Angle :

Referring again to the section through XX, angle CRD = half the ridge angle = 180°-90°-P° = 90°- P°.

∴ ridge angle = 2 × angle CRD = (180 - 2P)°.

Length of Hip Rafter :

The common rafters RC, RC_1, RC_{11}, etc., all meet the eaves line at right angles : hence in the plane of the roof slopes, the hip rafter (such as RE or RE_1) forms the hypotenuse of a right angled triangle, the other two sides being equal to the length of the common rafter RC and the half span " a " respectively. Hence :—

(Length of hip rafter)² = (Length of common rafter)² + (half span)².

i.e. $RE^2 = RC^2 + EC^2$

$= a^2 \sec^2 P + a^2$

$= a^2 (\sec^2 P + 1)$

or length of hip rafter $= a \sqrt{\sec^2 P + 1}$

In the following table the values of $\sqrt{\sec^2 P + 1}$ for commonly used pitches are given :—

TABLE II.—Length of Hip Rafters at Various Pitches

For eaves pitch of P°	For ridge angle of (180-2P)°	Multiply half-span a by $\sqrt{\sec^2 P + 1}$
37½	105	1·6090
38	104	1·6156
39	102	1·6297
40	100	1·6444
41	98	1·6600
42	96	1·6765
43	94	1·6940
44	92	1·7125
45	90	1·7320
46	88	1·7528
47	86	1·7748
48	84	1·7982
49	82	1·8230
50	80	1·8492

Previous Sheets in this Series :

No. 440 : Dimensions and properties of clay plain tiles.

No. 442 : Sub-roof construction beneath clay plain tiles.

No. 445 : Pitch, lap, gauge and covering capacity of clay plain tiles.

Information from : The Clay Products Technical Bureau of Great Britain
Address : 19 Hobart Place, Eaton Square, S.W.1
Telephone : Sloane 7805

593.

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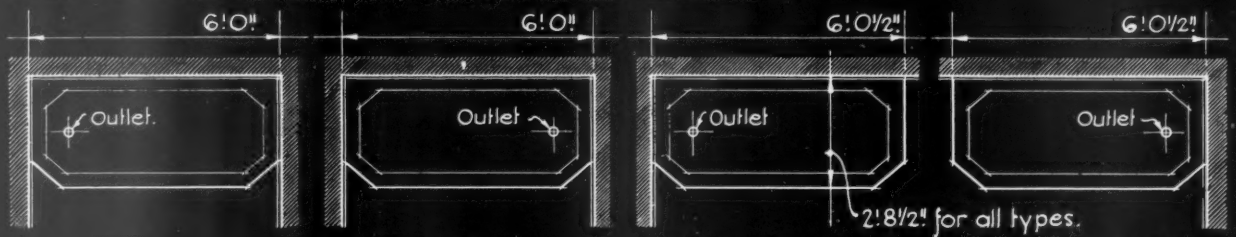
COMAR BATHS : LEADLESS GLAZED WHITE, OR COLOURED PORCELAIN ENAMEL.

Diagrams showing standard types for various positions :



TYPE : CL. TYPE : CR. TYPE : C²L. TYPE : C²R.

Standard fittings include ¾" hexagonal mixer valve, 1½" trap, hexagonal overflow and ball chain. The trap is of cast brass, fitted with an inspection eye & overflow connection & swivels in any direction.

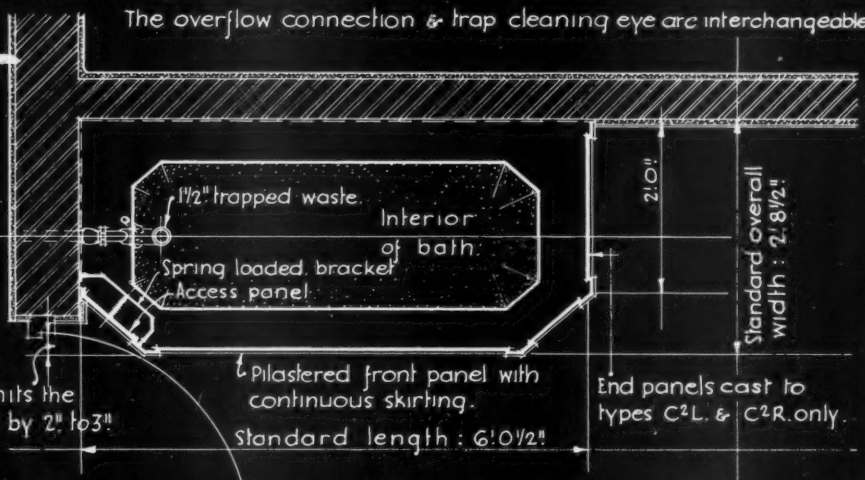
SECTIONAL PLAN SHOWING MINIMUM DOOR CLEARANCE REQUIRED AND TYPICAL DETAILS OF THE SPLAYED 9½" x 11¼" ACCESS PANEL TO TRAP ETC. SCALE : ½ inch equals 1 foot.

SPRING ACTUATED, PORCELAIN ENAMELLED METAL ACCESS PANEL.

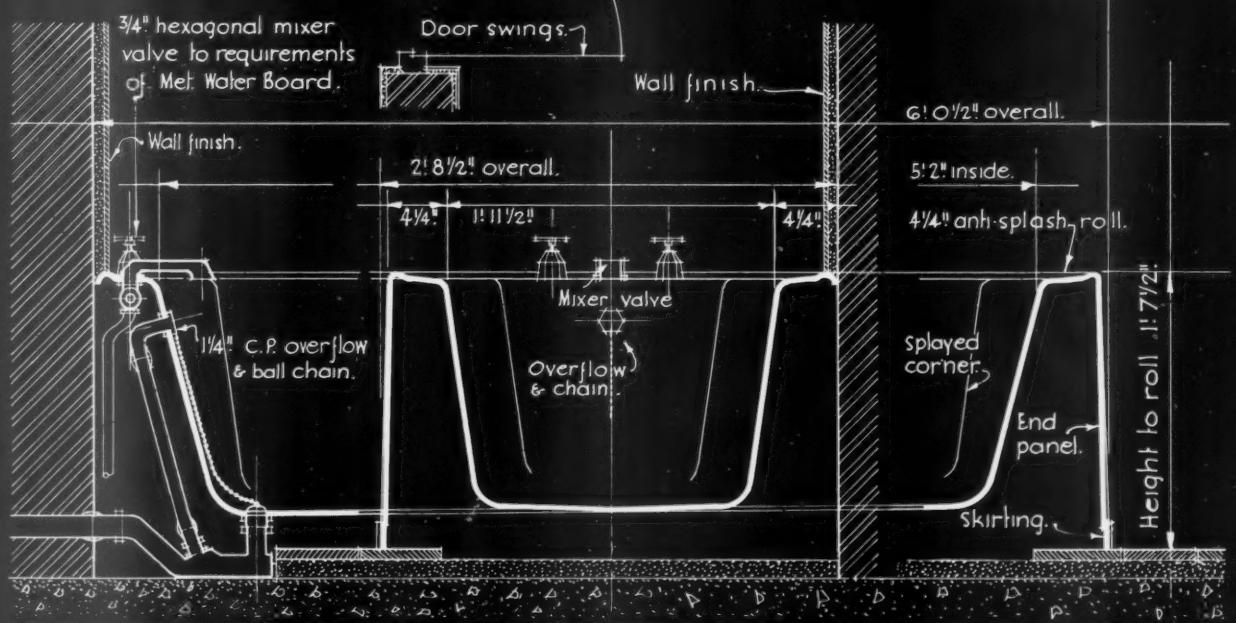
The narrow spring loaded bracket is first placed in position & secured by two pins to the wall & to the interior of the front panel.

The panel is pressed inwards back edge first, & by gentle pressure the spring automatically centres itself & transfers even pressure to all outer edges.

The overflow connection & trap cleaning eye are interchangeable.



The splayed corner permits the door to oversail the bath by 2" to 3".



LONGITUDINAL & TRANSVERSE SECTIONS OF TYPE C²L. BATH SHOWING FITTINGS AND SIZES.
Scale of sections: 1 inch = 1 foot.

Information from Edward Marshall Ltd.

INFORMATION SHEET : ONE-PIECE ENCLOSED BATHS WITH ACCESS PANELS

SIR JOHN BURNET TAIT AND LORNE ARCHITECTS ONE MONTAGUE PLACE BEDFORD SQUARE LONDON WC1. Oscar A. Bayne.

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INFORMATION SHEET

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SANITARY EQUIPMENT

Product : "Comar" One-piece Enclosed Baths with Access Panel

General :

On this sheet are given various details of Comar one-piece enclosed baths. The sheet shows four of the types : CL, CR, C2L and C2R, for different positions, with the waste and valves arranged to suit. All models have the two front corners of the enclosure splayed at an angle of 40 degrees, and all four corners of the bath proper are similarly treated.

The bath is manufactured under Patent No. 424,083. Registered Design No. 787,992.

Standard Fittings :

These include the Comar hexagonal $\frac{3}{4}$-in. mixer valve fitting supplied with a $1\frac{1}{2}$-in. special shallow trapped waste, and a $1\frac{1}{4}$-in. hexagonal overflow to which is connected the ball chain and plug. All exposed metal work is chromium-plated. The overflow connection and the cleaning eye fitted to the trap are interchangeable.

Fixing :

The plumbing is readily carried out, as connections to valves are made prior to the bath being placed in position. When this is completed, the bath is positioned, and the centre mixing nozzle can be attached and bolted by means of a hexagon headed washer from underneath. The valves are then screwed into position through the roll, the shields acting as lock nuts to the bath.

Maintenance of Fittings :

Access to the supply valves, overflow and trap is obtained by a $9\frac{1}{2}$-in. by $11\frac{1}{4}$-in. removable porcelain enamelled cast iron panel placed in the splayed corner nearest the fittings. The panel is incorporated in the design of the bath, and is spring actuated from behind, no screws or fixings appearing on the outside. It is removed by gentle pressure on the back edge. The spring-loaded bracket is placed so as to give automatically an even outward pressure on all edges of the panel.

Clearances :

Due to the splayed corners of the bath, the overall width is reduced to 24 ins. at either end, and this permits the door to oversail the bath by 2 ins. to 3 ins. if necessary. The opposite splayed corner also permits a closer arrangement of the bathroom fittings than would normally be possible.

Finish :

These baths are obtainable in best quality leadless glazed white finish, or in porcelain enamel coloured in standard shades of lavender, almond-green, primrose, old rose and ivory.

Prices :

Type CL or CR :	White	...	£15 15 0
	Colours	...	£18 18 0
Type C2L or C2R :	White	...	£17 5 0
	Colours	...	£20 10 0

The price for baths supplied with the range of fittings mentioned above is £3 extra.

Manufacturers : Edward Marshall, Ltd.

Head Office and Showrooms : 3, 4 University Street, Tottenham Court Road, W.C.1

Telephone : Euston 4201 (3 lines)

580.

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EVERITE ASBESTOS-CEMENT HOODS AND CANOPIES :

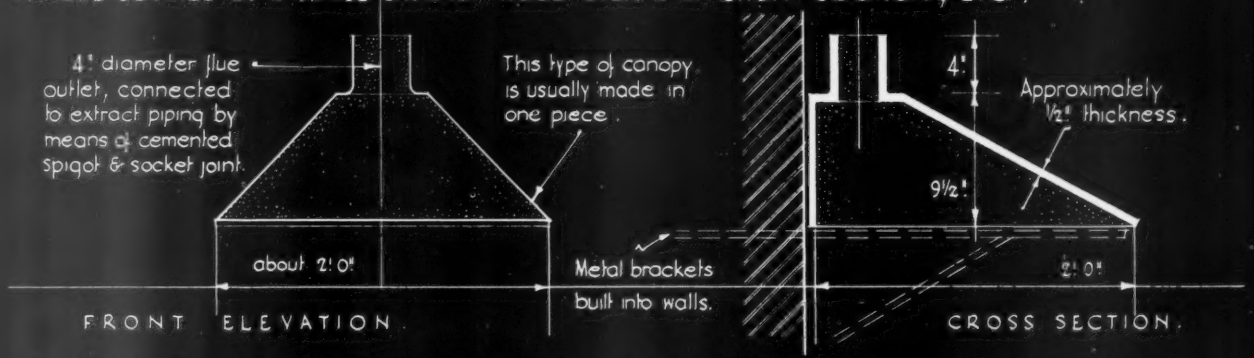
For extracting fumes, gases, dust or vapour from cookers, grills, industrial machinery, laboratory benches, etc.

SIZE & SHAPE. Asbestos-cement hoods and canopies are not stocked in standard sizes, but can be supplied to any dimensions, moulded to any shape.

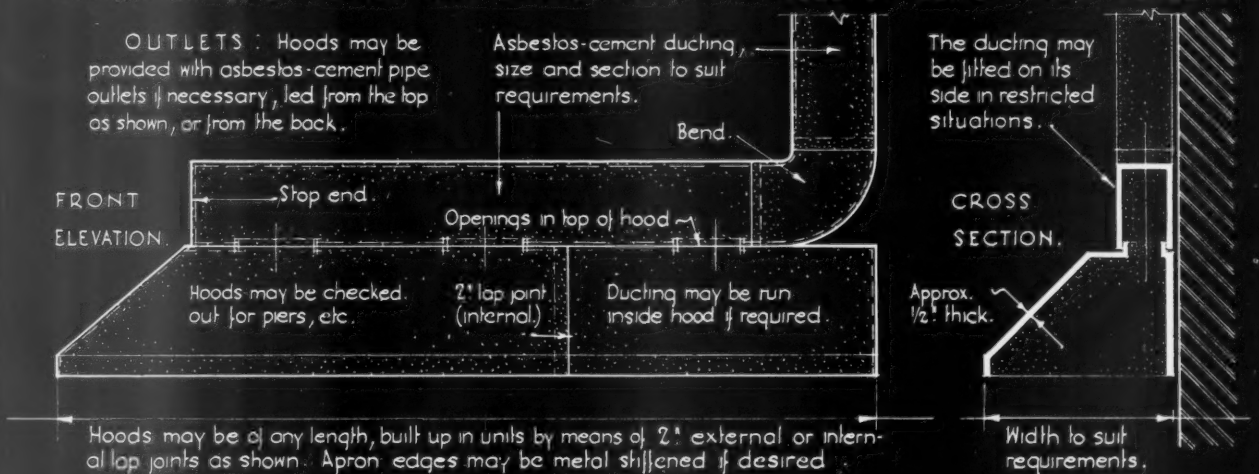
OUTLETS. Any shape of outlet can be formed in any position to meet the requirements of the system.

SUPPORTS. Hoods adjoining walls may be supported on metal brackets at each side or by straps hooked over the top. Isolated hoods are usually hung from the ceiling on steel rods.

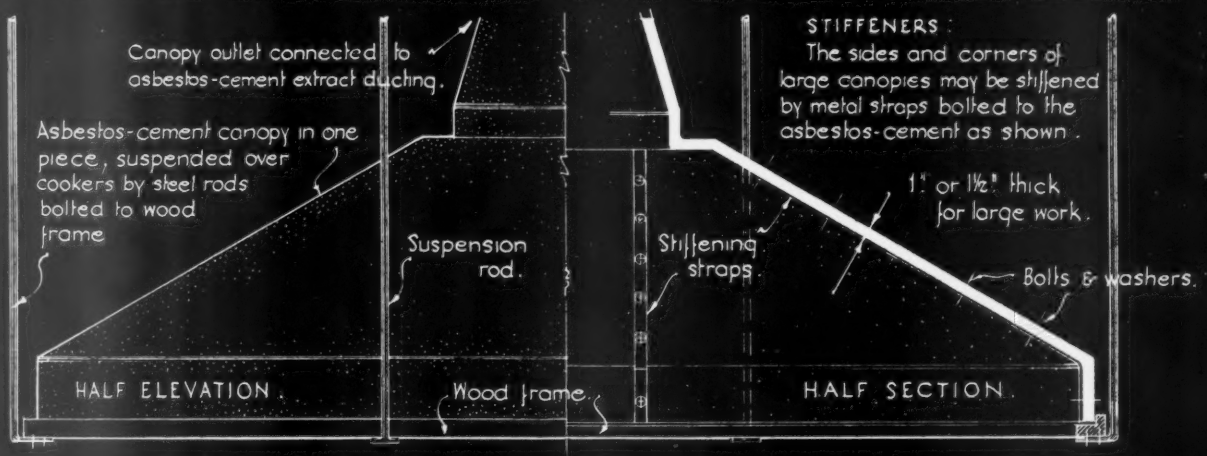
TYPICAL DETAILS OF A SMALL EXTRACT HOOD OVER A KITCHEN COOKER, ETC.



TYPICAL DETAILS OF A LARGE FUME EXTRACT HOOD WITH ASBESTOS-CEMENT DUCT OUTLETS.



TYPICAL DETAILS OF AN ISOLATED CANOPY EXTRACT OVER MACHINERY, GROUPED COOKERS, ETC.



Information from Turners Asbestos Cement Co. branch of Turner & Newall Ltd.

INFORMATION SHEET : ASBESTOS-CEMENT HOODS AND CANOPIES.

SIR JOHN BURNET TAIT AND LORNE ARCHITECTS ONE MONTAGUE PLACE BEDFORD SQUARE LONDON WC1 • Edwin A. Bayne

INFORMATION SHEET • 459 • HOODS AND CANOPIES

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ASBESTOS CEMENT HOODS AND CANOPIES

General :

On the face of this Sheet are set out typical examples of Everite asbestos cement hoods and canopies for fume and dust extraction purposes. The structure of these fittings is composed of layers of asbestos and Portland cement built up and regularly distributed and interlaced to form a kind of tough woven fabric. The material may be cut and trimmed to any shape by use of an ordinary hand saw.

Properties :

Hoods and canopies of Everite asbestos cement offer considerable resistance to the effects of heat and cold, and consequently reduce condensation to a minimum. The finished product is a clear grey in colour, and this is retained indefinitely without treatment either before or after erection.

Size and Shape :

There are no limitations to either size or shape of asbestos cement canopies. For small work, such as laboratory fume cupboards, regularly shaped hoods 9 ins. by 9 ins. may be required, while for industrial work shaped hoods 10 or 12 ft. long and 6 ft. high are able to be manufactured, in one piece. The limit of size is determined by the possibility of handling and transport.

Supports :

As indicated on the drawings, extract hoods fixed against a wall are usually supported on metal angle brackets built in. If desired, shaped brackets may be used, placed either inside or around the outer surface of the hood and fixed to the walling. The hoods may also be suspended along the outer edge by metal rods bolted to a light, rebated frame of wood or metal.

Isolated canopies extracting from machinery or groups of cookers, etc., are best hung on rods from the ceiling as shown in this Supplement, although they may be supported on metal or wooden posts from the floor if necessary. For this purpose a metal angle or wood frame is usually provided around the base of the canopy.

Dust canopies are occasionally held in position by metal straps bolted direct to suitable lugs on the machinery, and to the asbestos cement apron or sloping top of the canopy.

Stiffeners :

Large hoods or canopies may require metal or wood stiffening members, and these may be fitted inside or outside, bolted through the asbestos cement with flat washers on the opposite face. The apron edges of long hoods are suitably stiffened and protected by use of angle iron, to which supporting brackets or suspension rods are readily attached.

Jointing :

For convenience in transport and erection it may be necessary to design very long hoods in sections, and these are assembled on the site by means of joggled lap joints sealed with special bituminous compound or other suitable material.

Outlets :

Hoods and canopies may be supplied with any number of outlets of any size and shape. Connections to the asbestos cement ducting are made with socket and spigot joints. Special tees, bends, offsets, diminishing pieces, etc., are available for this purpose.

Chemical Work :

For chemical work a special preparation is given to Everite asbestos cement canopies to withstand the action of acid fumes. When used in conjunction with anti-acid ducting, the hoods and canopies then form a safe and efficient method of extracting all kinds of fumes.

Information from : Turners Asbestos Cement Co., Branch of Turner & Newall Ltd.

Address : (Head Office and Works) Trafford Park, Manchester, 17

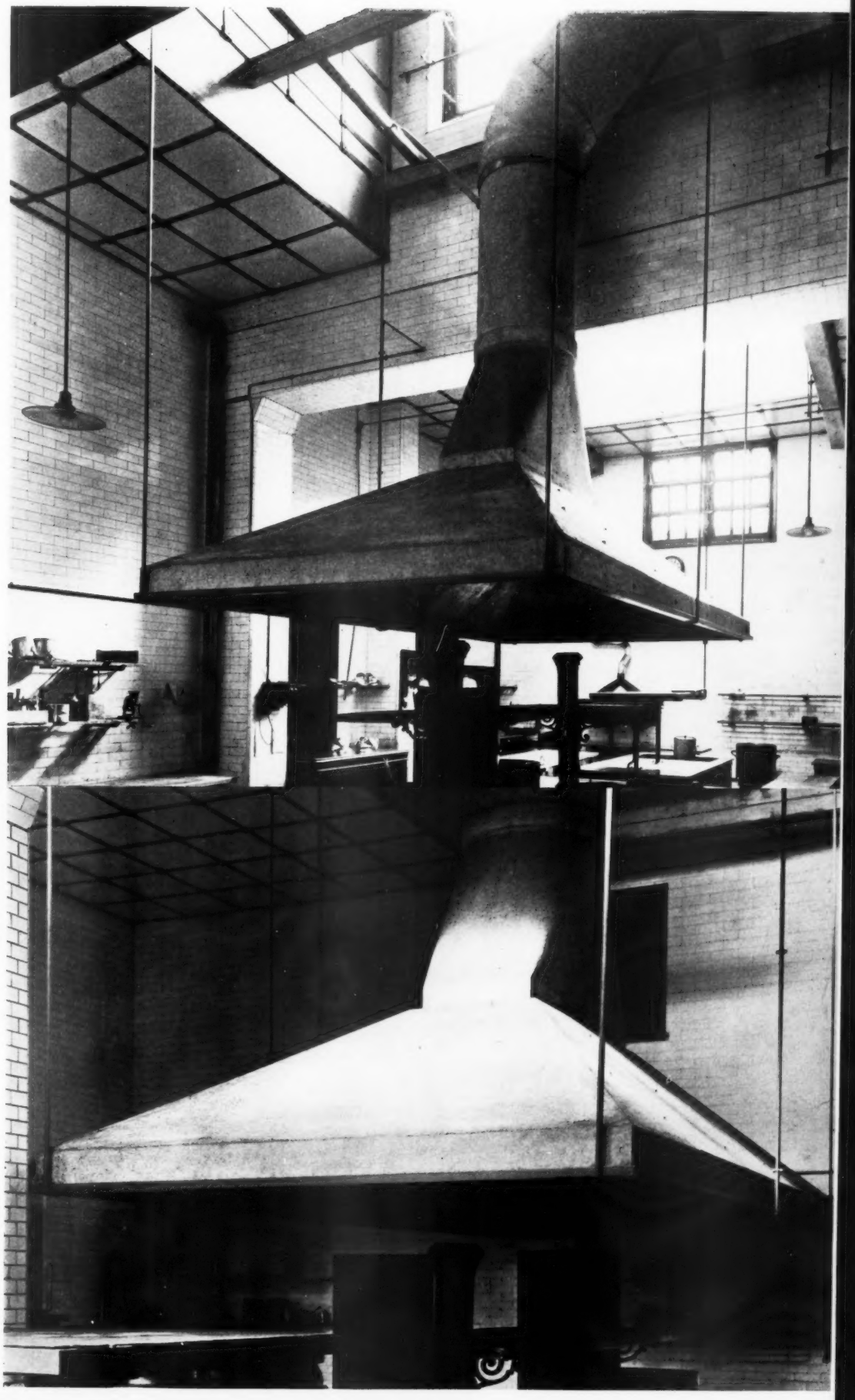
Telephone : Trafford Park 2181 (8 lines)

London Office : Asbestos House, Southwark Street, S.E.1

Telephone : Waterloo 4041

HOODS AND CANOPIES

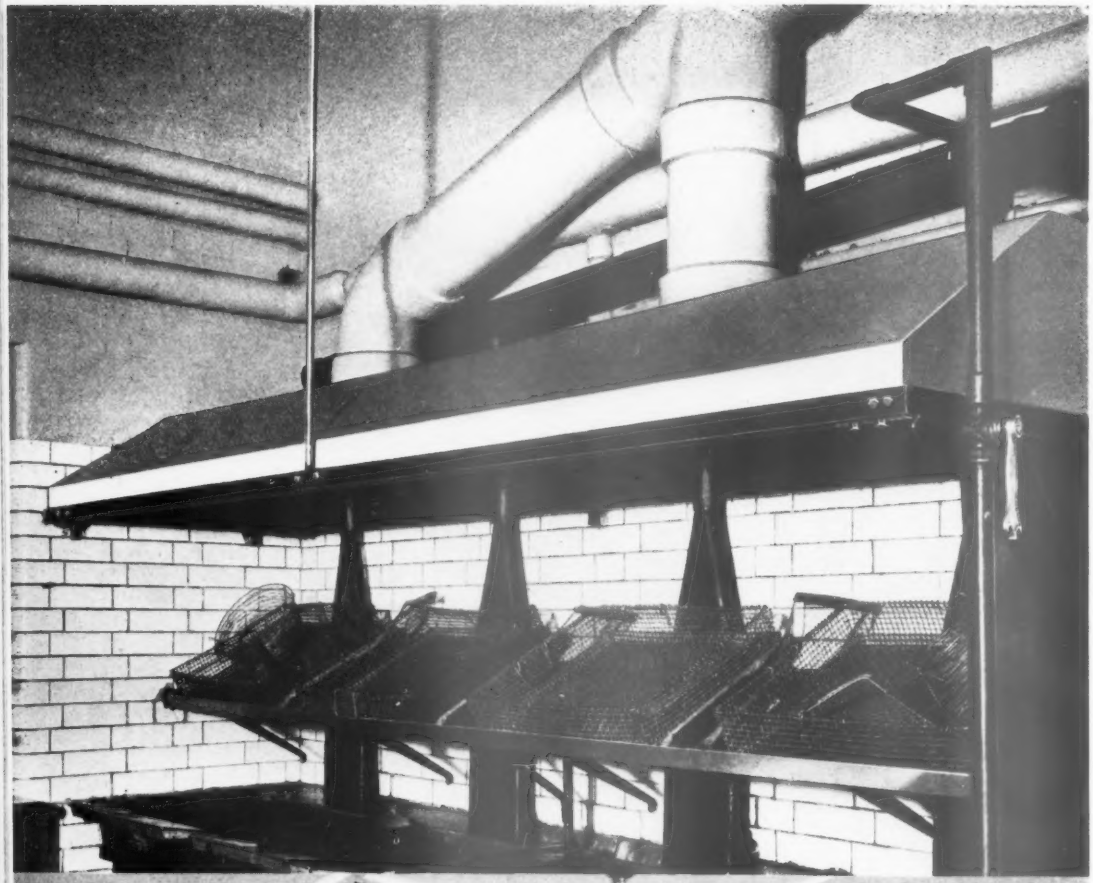
Asbestos cement hood and ducting over a large cooking range in an hotel. The upper photograph shows how the reducing fitting connecting the hood to the ducting can be readily moulded to shape. The bolt heads on the splayed face are the bolts which secure the metal stiffeners inside the hood.



A detail photograph of the hood showing a rebated wood frame around the lower edge of the light suspension rods.

Building : Grand Hotel, Eastbourne.

HOODS AND CANOPIES



A continuous asbestos cement canopy over a range of fish fryers. The canopy is stiffened on the lower edge with a light metal rim bolted on. It is supported against the walls with built-in wrought iron lugs, and the front edge is suspended by rods attached to the metal rim.

Building : Brentwood Mental Hospital.

A brewery installation with a similar type of canopy.

REVIEW OF

THE PAST YEAR

[*BY ASTRAGAL*]

BOOM: or something very much like it. More building, more money, more employment, more activity, more speculation, more cost, more work, more drawings, more exhibitions, more quantity——

But less quality, less thinking, less time for anything, less reason or reasoned conclusion, less individual work, less individual care, less broadness of outlook.

ARCHITECTURAL THEORIES

1936 has seen a curious consolidation of architectural theories, mostly subconscious. The "Georgian" merchants have dug in their heels and have decided to stick by their measured drawings. The other second-handers, the "*moderne*" men, refuse resolutely to improve their plans, but are now quite decided in their elevational tricks and trimmings. The much smaller but more sincere and intelligent group who deal in the real (modern) thing have settled down comfortably within their chosen limitations and are quite determined, and commendably so, to reach optimum development with almost uncivilized speed. And a still smaller group, wider in age-range than is generally suspected, refuse to join any cult or accept any limiting creed, refuse even to be known as a group, but keep their minds on first principles and are not afraid to use any methods, new or old, which make for a better architectural synthesis than has yet, collectively, been achieved.

Insistence on a well-defined structural basis, in better work, is weakening. The choice used to be between three structural methods, which, for some unexplained reason, had to be kept pure and well demarcated. First the old craftsmanship basis, the work of the bricklayer, joiner, slater or tiler, plasterer. Secondly, the framed basis, in timber or steel or reinforced concrete, had to be quite definitely a framed building and no nonsense. Thirdly, the reinforced concrete monolithic building, where everything had to be in R.C. work.

Purists, of course, will continue to work within their self-chosen technical limitations, just as there are still painters who think that a water colour drawing should look wet, and we shall still be treated to illustrations of a "typical brick building" or a "typical reinforced concrete building" by people who revel in these tags. But there is ample indication that our more qualified and generous-minded designers have weathered the literary storm and continue to concentrate on the real problem—the planning of accommodation for use and delight, and its enclosure by any means suitable and available in these times.

There is, for example, a contemporary house running parallel to Church Street, Chelsea, a luxury house it is true, and typical only of this "new" trend for composite construction. It uses materials catholically; brick walls where they are most useful, glass walls where they are most appropriate, steel lattice girders where they give some advantage, wood in desirable positions, reinforced concrete where suitable, central heating where such a solution is appropriate, an open coal fire where some usual warmth for relaxation is psychologically and sentimentally sound, and so on. Such is the building solution of the immediate future if one reads aright the developments of 1936. It only becomes confused and slightly ridiculous when unnecessary and almost always misleading labels are attached.

TIME-LAG

There is an increasing time-lag between developments in architecture and progress in building trade organization to give those developments economic realization in actual buildings. Specialists working on a contemporary job at least equal in numbers the men working in the old building craft divisions of labour. But the specialists are too narrow in their scope and it is becoming increasingly obvious that some major reorganization in the industry will be inevitable. The bricklayer is a specialist in brickwork, the mason in stonework—we want a broader man who will be a specialist in walling and not be a slave to one material. A carpenter is a specialist in structural timber—we want a specialist in floors, in shuttering, in roofing, a man who can use wood or sheet metal, nails or bolts and so concentrate on the job in hand rather than the adaptation of building crafts which were once admirably appropriate. A man who can use several alternative or combined materials to instal a serviceable water supply. And several sorts of men who can understand the fitting together of many pre-fabricated building elements without causing a strike among a smaller group of, say, plasterers.

This is a time-lag which manufacturers and contractors themselves are doing a good deal to shorten. Men who are not joiners are being factory trained to handle building elements substantially made of wood. Men who have no idea of plumbing craftsmanship are factory trained to make equipment in lead and copper and tin. And they make it better. Yet our building trade schools and organizations continue to turn out youths limited to craft divisions which were reasonable and economic centuries ago.

MUDDLING THROUGH

In spite of this we muddle through; building costs remain high, one has to pay for the best. On the other hand it is an indisputable fact that in the majority of cases, especially in domestic work (including flats, hotels, etc.), the standard of comfort which relies on structure is decreasing, and maintenance costs, more particularly for equipment due to the decreasing structural standard, are increasing. Thus a standard of building quite suited to the noise and activity of a large commercial building is used for a block of flats, where more defence against the elements and against noise is essential for mental and physical comfort. Central heating and more frequent redecoration takes care of the former, and more carpets and hangings and frequently added wall or ceiling linings more or less eliminate the latter—where these things can be afforded. Poorer people therefore almost invariably nowadays live within a reduced building standard. 1936 suburbs may have more light and air and open spaces than 1896 suburbs, but the 1936 room is less insulated and protected than the late Victorian room—unless considerably more money is spent and the room is exalted to the present-day "luxury" standard. It remains for the passing generation of the public to decide whether they would like the reduced

standard to continue or whether the 19th century standard is to be first regained and ultimately exceeded—and by what means.

SOCIETIES

Meanwhile activity within the profession has exceeded all records. There are now so many associations and societies to which an "unattached" architect may belong that it is almost the honour to be a member of the R.I.B.A. that I have always thought it should be. The Institute has indeed had a remarkably busy year. It started with the Everyday Things Exhibition, continued with the film of No. 66, Portland Place, put architecture most actively into the television programmes, organized more open competitions than ever before, had more and more attendances at General and Informal General Meetings, got well ahead with the campaign for the employment of only qualified architects on public buildings (and eventually I hope on all building works), took a leading part in working for better building byelaws, arranged an almost continuous variety performance of popular exhibitions and completed the initiating work for more 1937 improvements than even I can remember. For the first time a woman addressed a General Meeting, an active Camera Club was formed and the Dramatic Club gave us as sound and finished and inspired a performance of "Lilian" as could be seen anywhere. Not a little of the credit for all this activity goes to Mr. Percy Thomas, whose second year of presidency looks like confirming all rumours of his persistency and personal effort.

HOUSING

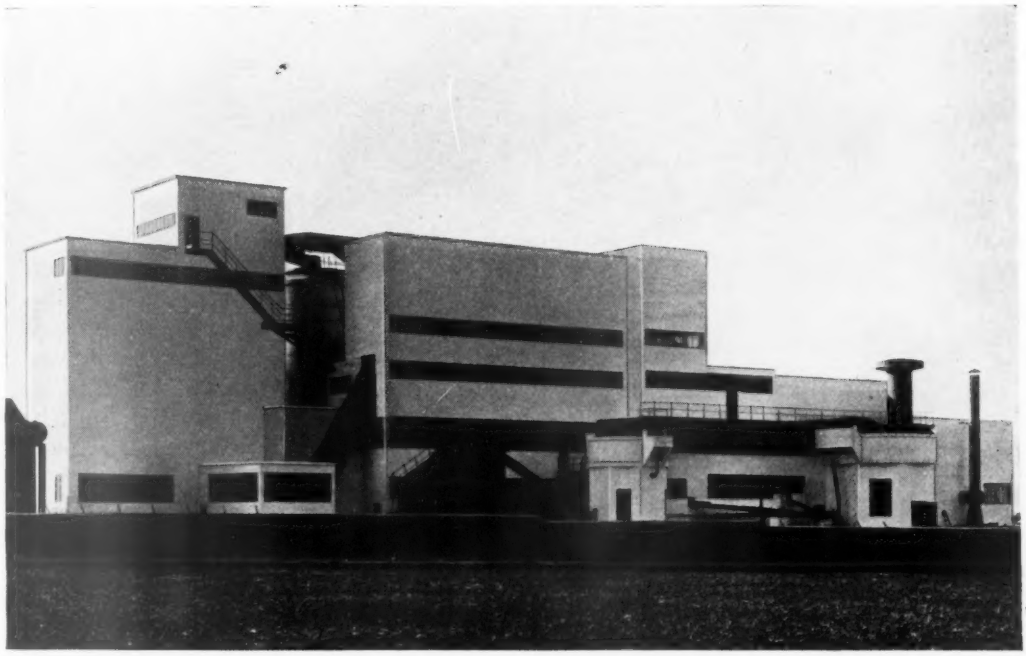
The major plea of Mr. L. H. Bucknell's presidential address at the A.A. does not yet appear to have taken practical form—a plea that, as all the re-housing work in the L.C.C. area forms an almost complete inner ring round London, it should all be properly related to form eventually an inner green belt, instead of an irritating zig-zag of bits and pieces, odd ends and futile focal points as devoid of interest as most of the blank tickets in a Christmas bran tub. Will none have the imagination and will to make this simple development a reality?—as real as it might have been had the advice been taken of "The Cottage Gardner and Country Gentleman's Companion" of 1849, to form a "green vegetable belt" of the nursery gardens encircling London and starting somewhere near the Euston Road, *i.e.*, on the line of most of the present day re-housing. Incidentally, the A.A. Planning School had over eight times more members in 1936 than in 1935.

Top: "Hyde Park Corner," one of a series of four wallpaper panels, showing the Park in 1820, designed by Sanderson and Sons, 1936, printed with 34 blocks and 52 stencil plates. Bottom: "Shores of the Bosphorus," designed in Paris in 1815 by Dufour, and printed in 68 colours from 1,599 blocks. From the Carlhian collection now on view at Sanderson's showrooms in Berners Street. *(See review on page 45)*

The old year saw several discoveries and re-discoveries, as well as one or two mystic declines. Timber as a building material was re-discovered, in spite of the apparently forgotten fact that all the oldest smaller buildings in England are built of timber. Surrealism was discovered, though no one seems to have owned up to it. The Mopin system promised great things, but does not seem to have yet fought through the peculiarly British difficulties any new system has to face. Decibel was divorced and mistress phon has not yet acquired unblushing support. Russia has made an architectural about turn and is now doing what a bourgeois might think a bolshie might think a bourgeois would do if he was told to be ever so free with Palladio and Callicrates. The Arts Club introduced a darts board into Dover Street and Cambridge immediately played 301 up for its School of Architecture, taking so long to get the last double that no one seems to know who won. A famous commercial man of Leeds who shouted brief years ago for a giant order in The Headrow has now discovered the D.I.A. and wants the existing galaxy of miniature orders removing to a warmer and more suitable climate.

A design for a reception-room by A. Fleiner, from "Colour Designs for Modern Interiors," a series of eighty plates showing the work of modern German and other Continental designers. (The Architectural Press.)

To face page 90



1: ". . . we solemnly announce that the Wallsend new colliery preparation plant structure, white and clean and carefully arranged by Professor R. A. Cordingley to express its function and do its work well and economically, is the best building of 1936."

THE PAST YEAR: 1

THE YEAR'S WORK AT HOME

[*BY PROFESSOR C. H. REILLY*]

THE great pile of illustrations from THE ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL before me makes it clear that the 1936 harvest in regard to what we may perhaps for brevity still call modern design is a very large one. The folk who keep to the non-traditional way of being traditional, that is by reproducing old mannerisms—not a practice by any means of the times they imitate—are clearly growing less. Those knights of the Royal Academy who still belong to this once overwhelming majority seem content to leave the field of battle to others, for I can find nothing illustrated by any of them. Even from Sir Edwin Lutyens and Sir Giles Scott, from whom one may always expect something with a kick in it, there is nothing but the latter's airy and slightly unbelievable sketch of his design for the new Bodleian Library at Oxford, which an unthinking world might well take for a new palace for Lord Nuffield. Why the great and impressive piles of brickwork at Park Royal, full, one likes to think, of Guinness' stout, are never illustrated I cannot imagine. No age but this could have built them, and no architect today but Sir Giles have given them their power. They are the sort of buildings I should like to write about.

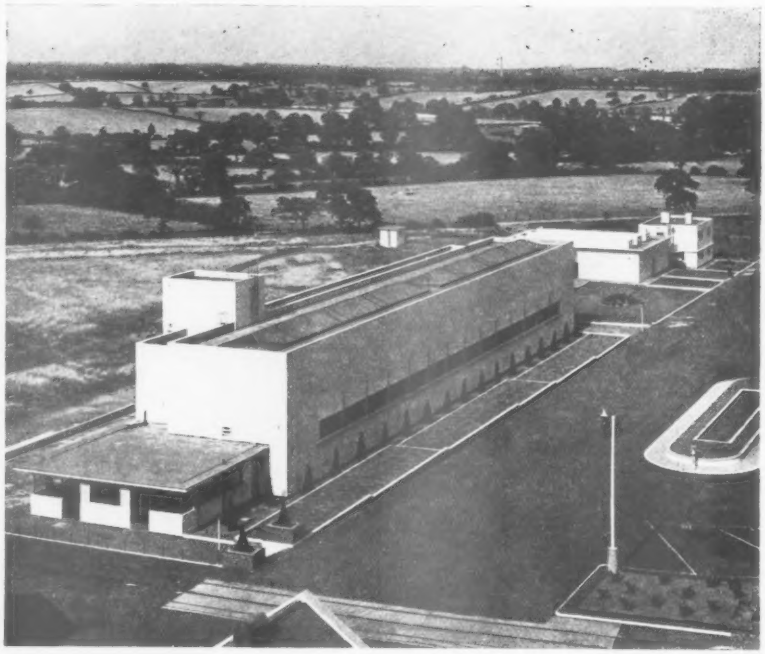
I am too old a fogey to appreciate to the full the nuances of all these reinforced concrete cardboard structures hopping about on their steel legs. They all seem to me very exciting, and yet all so alike, whether they are for hospitals, warehouses, offices or country houses. They all have the same long, vertical glass windows over the doors and the same long, horizontal ones wrapping parts of the structure like bandages. I realize they belong to the gay new world, the promised land I can only see from afar. Some thrill me like Mendelsohn's, Oliver Hill's, and Crabtree's buildings, with their delicacy and strange new charm, some like Emberton's with their strange new power. I feel, however, I am the wrong person to write about them, for I gape and wonder more than anything else; I find it very difficult to have any standards for them. There are no measuring rods like the dear old Orders by which to judge their proportions. I am the last person, therefore, to take up the rôle of critic, yet the Editor insists, and year after year I sit down about this time and make the attempt with more feebleness as I grow older and the buildings themselves get more strange. I confess, however, I get a little fun out of it. I hope others do too, and do not take my judgments too seriously.

THE BUILDING OF THE YEAR

Let us begin then. What is the best building of the year? If it is an obscure one by some beginner so much the better. One year I plumped for the Penguin Pool at the Zoo by Tecton. Who Tecton was I had no idea. He

might have been a penguin, indeed, so wise do they look. The result was approved. This year I am in far greater difficulties.

After consulting the more revolutionary of the staff of the Liverpool School (where I have been revisiting the glimpses of the moon), and finding them too, young and strange and happy with their surrealist scenery for their annual dance, we came to the conclusion that the palm this year lay between the Rising Sun Colliery, Wallsend, by Cordingley, the pithead baths at Coventry by W. A. Woodland, the Simpson Store by Emberton, the Peter Jones Store by Crabtree, Slater and Moberly & Company, the house in Frognal by a pre-Gropius Maxwell Fry, Our Lady of Lourdes Elementary School at Southport by F. X. Velarde, Tecton's houses at Haywards Heath, the London Gliding Club building at Dunstable by Christopher Nicholson, and the delightful little brick and timber house by Fry at Watford, which had the honour of being rejected by several district councils, panels and other great authorities. If it is noticed that the majority of the above architects are old members of the Liverpool School the circumstances I have described will make the reason for that clear enough. Finally, we decided on the colliery structure. *That* was the building of the year, although by a Manchester man. Will the lay press please note that the realm of architecture has from now onwards been extended to include colliery buildings and that we solemnly announce that the Wallsend new colliery preparation plant structure, white and clean and carefully arranged by Professor R. A. Cordingley to express its function and do its work well and economically, is the best building of 1936—cathedrals churches, hospitals, cinemas, schools, blocks of flats and country houses, King's or otherwise, notwithstanding. This result, reached with great deliberation, is a very useful one if we could only make the world accept it, for the meaning is that all buildings can be architecture however few really are.



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THE VARIOUS CLASSES

After this preliminary canter one had better settle down to the various classes. No one now need read any further. The illustrations should be enough. If anyone does read on, he or she must please take what I have to say as if I were the guide to a charabanc full of sightseers pointing out a few things of passing interest, such as "This is the house where Harriet Wilson lived and would not admit the Duke after the Peninsular War, being otherwise engaged," and not more seriously.

FLATS

Clearly the flat boom still continues, or did during the year. My pile of

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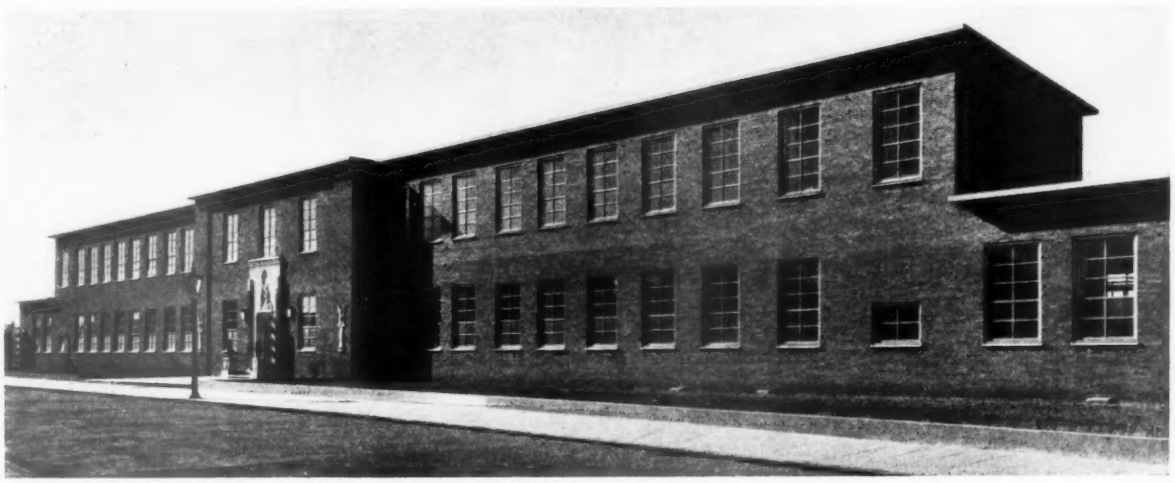

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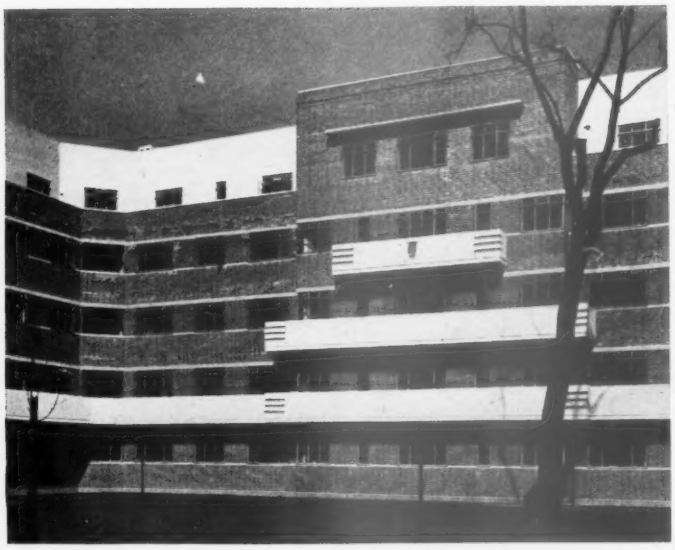
" We came to the conclusion that the palm this year lay between the Rising Sun Colliery, Wallsend, by Cordingley (1); the pithead baths at Coventry by W. A. Woodland (2); the Simpson Store by Emberton (14); Peter Jones Store by Crabtree, Slater and Moberly and Co. (3); the house in Frognal Way by a pre-Gropius Maxwell Fry (6); Our Lady of Lourdes Elementary School at Southport, by F. X. Velarde (7); Tecton's houses at Hayward's Heath (5); the London Gliding Club building at Dunstable, by Christopher Nicholson (4); . . . Finally, we decided on the colliery."



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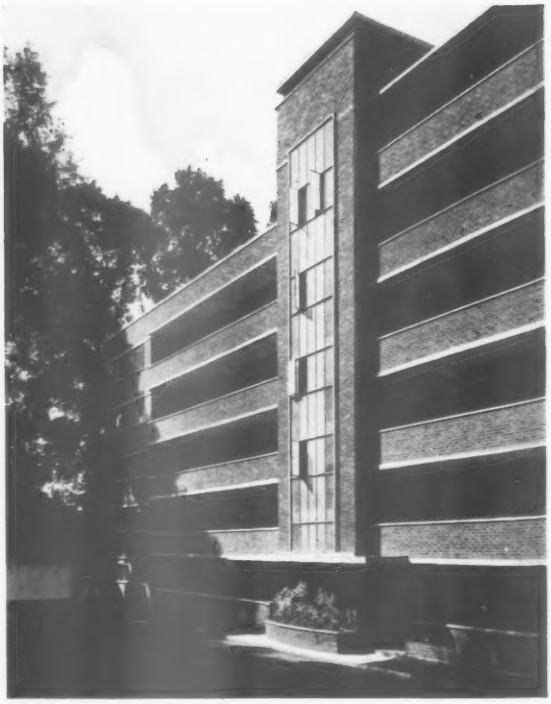
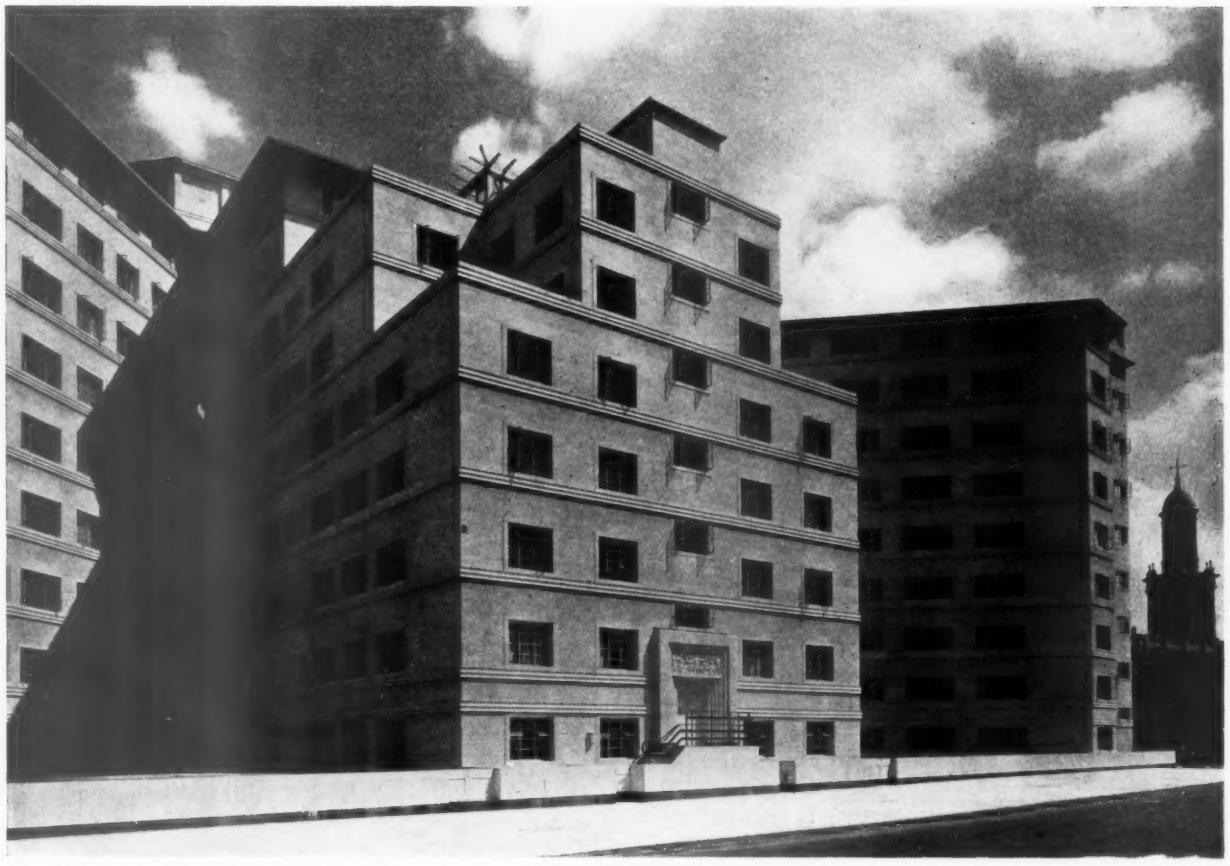


12

"Mr. Wheeler, for the L.C.C., has built at Clapham Park (8) a couple of great courts with their south sides open to let in the sun. Here the first floor balcony, in white concrete, is continuous round the courts, and the other balconies are spread round salient points, so that there is none or little of that unpleasant effect so common today in these buildings of a heavy balcony, solidly built to keep the draught from the baby's perambulator, which, nevertheless, looks as if it were overloading the building and pulling out its fragile walls. Stanley Ramsey, in a very elegant block called Selwyn Court, Richmond (9), has got over this difficulty by tying his balconies to a projecting stair-tower, and Armstrong and Bayne have done the same in a block called Brae Court, Kingston-on-Thames (12). . . The one-class society of our dreams appears really on the way. Even Arlington House, St. James's (11), by Michael Rosenauer, has occasional long balconies, though his tenants, I am sure, are not vulgar enough to have babies and perambulators. . . . Pullman Court, Streatham (10), by Frederick Gibberd, is a little nightmarish too, but its balconies have some fine long lines and from certain points the mass piles up well."

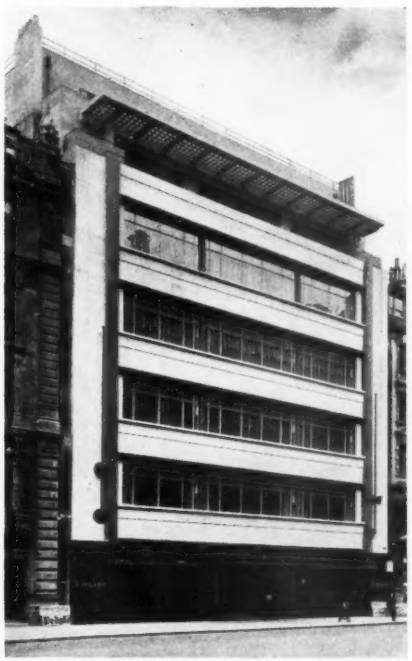


13 : "As a building by itself this White House, really a yellowy pink and much nicer at that, is a very interesting, even exciting, pile. Like so many American buildings and all their skyscrapers, it needs a unique site in the centre of a park with no near neighbours." (The White House, Albany Street, N.W.1. By Robert Atkinson.)

illustrations of them is one of the largest. Let us begin with the most vigorous, Robert Atkinson's great block at the head of Albany Street called "The White House." It is certainly alive and kicking, with limbs sticking out in all directions regardless of its surroundings. That is one of the, perhaps, necessary difficulties of the new architecture. It considers its own function before the function of its neighbourhood. These diagonal limbs no doubt mean excellent light and air for everyone within, but they can never align themselves with anything else.

As a building by itself this White House, really a yellowy pink and much nicer at that, is a very interesting, even exciting, pile. Like so many American buildings and all their skyscrapers, it needs a unique site in the centre of a park with no near neighbours.

Clareville Court, Kensington, by Grey Wornum, on the other hand, with its rectangular shape and plain flat face relieved with but one metal-fronted balcony and a charmingly recessed doorway would, from the photographs, fit into any square or street. Wornum's building, therefore, suits the town as it is today very much better than Atkinson's. In the town of the future, with sunken traffic streets and the rest a well-timbered park with tall buildings dotted about in it, Atkinson's would be the better. Needless to say,



14: Simpson's, Piccadilly, W. By Joseph Emberton.

Wornum's has happy decorations at various points.

Mr. Wheeler, for the L.C.C., has built at Clapham Park a couple of great courts with their south sides open to let in the sun. Here the first floor balcony, in white concrete, is continuous round the courts, and the other balconies are spread round salient points, so that there is none or little of that unpleasant effect so common today in these buildings of a heavy balcony, solidly built to keep the draught from the baby's perambulator, which, nevertheless, looks as if it were overloading the building and pulling out its fragile walls. Stanley Ramsey, in a very elegant block called Selwyn Court, Richmond, has got over this difficulty by tying his balconies to a projecting stair-tower, and Armstrong and Bayne have done the same in a block called Brae Court, Kingston-on-Thames. Here the other ends of the balconies are held by projecting masses, so that their faces really appear flush and tidy-up the building rather than untidying it.

It will be noticed that I am classing together what are called tenements and what by that disgusting phrase "luxury flats." Fortunately, in spite of the agents who invent such terms the two types are architecturally approaching one another very quickly. The

15: "The great scheme at Manchester, by Leonard Heywood, with the little wash house block in the centre like a dropped puppy, is not, as a whole, as happy as his great block of last year."

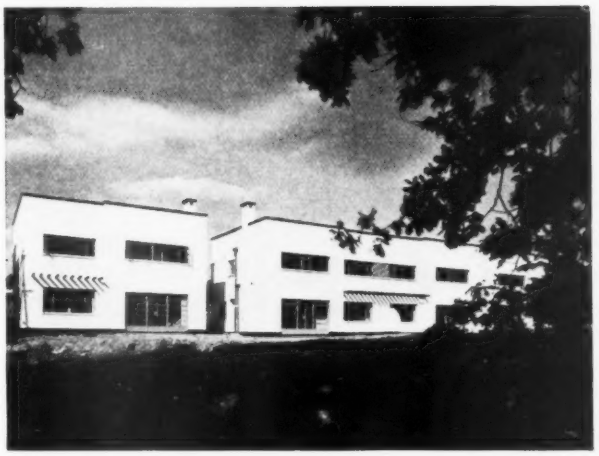
one-class society of our dreams appears really on the way. Even Arlington House, St. James's, by Michael Rosenauer, has occasional long balconies, though his tenants, I am sure, are not vulgar enough to have babies and perambulators. His plan allowing every one to look into each other's bedrooms as well as to get a glimpse of the Green Park is clever, though the internal result is a little nightmarish. The entrance hall, very simple and dignified, shows what this accomplished Austrian architect can do when he likes. Pullman Court, Streatham, is a little nightmarish too, but its balconies have some fine long lines and from certain points the mass piles up well. The great scheme at Manchester, by Leonard Heywood, with the little washhouse block in the centre like a dropped puppy, is not, as a whole, as happy as his great block of last year; whereas Sir Owen Williams's crude building at Stanmore must prove to anyone how naked and formless can look the work of an engineer without an architect to help him, however clever the construction.

DOMESTIC ARCHITECTURE

The next biggest pile of illustrations is of the houses. We have already mentioned two houses by Maxwell Fry as among the best things of the year; his one at Frognal Way, Hampstead, in reinforced concrete, slightly reminiscent of Lurcat's famous one, as all such houses on narrow suburban sites must be, and his weatherboarded and brick one finally accepted by Watford. I believe he had trouble with authorities over both. That is almost becoming a sign of merit. Both these small

16: "Clareville Court, Kensington, by Grey Wornum, with its rectangular shape and plain flat face relieved with but one metal-fronted balcony and a charmingly recessed doorway, would, from the photographs, fit into any square or street."

" We have already mentioned two houses by Maxwell Fry as among the best things of the year ; his one at Frognal Way, Hampstead, and his weatherboarded and brick one (20) finally accepted by Watford. They have what is necessary for architecture in however asymmetrical a design, unity ; the Watford one, perhaps, more than the Hampstead. At Hampstead Garden City there is a row of brick houses (18), rendered white, by Brian Herbert, some single and some in terraces, which seems . . . . . to solve the problem of the little ready-made suburban house . . . . . At Hunstanton in Norfolk there is a notable house (19) by Gerald Lacoste, strong and white and compact. At Stanmore, in Hertfordshire, Mr. Jellicoe and his partners have a dear little Essex type of house (17), most tenderly, if traditionally, designed which may lead us from these 'modern' ones to the King's house by C. Beresford Marshall (21). What is one to say about the King's house as a house of today ? One hopes and even thinks the new King will like it and lend it to a series of charming tenants, whose taste will not too quickly outgrow it. I imagine the last King's had already."



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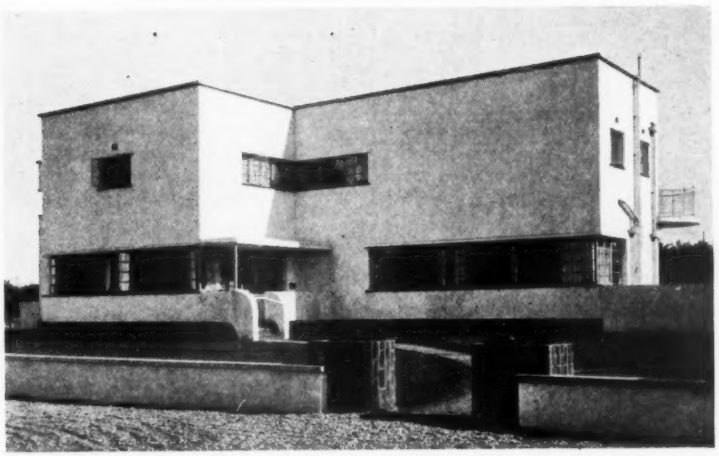
houses have internally the fine airy spaciousness in their main rooms and that open-eyed outlook on the world the modern way of living calls for. They have, too, what is necessary for architecture in however asymmetrical a design, unity, the Watford one, perhaps, more than the Hampstead.

At Haywards Heath, softened by trees, are two groups, each of four little cubes of houses in brick, by Tecton, which, in spite of their flat roofs and horizontal windows and all the things the local authorities object to, make a charming little modern village of their own. I can imagine with their solid simple shapes they really look far more restful and suited, when new, to the countryside that any similar number of little villas with steeply-pitched roofs, however traditional their detail.

At Hampstead Garden City there is a row of similar brick houses, but rendered white, by Brian Herbert, some single and some in terraces, which seems equally well to solve the problem of the little ready-made suburban house as the Tecton ones do that of the little country house. Any young architect could start life in either without disgracing himself.

At Hunstanton in Norfolk there is a notable house by Gerald Lacoste, strong and white and compact, which looks as if it could withstand the North Sea storms and be comfortable to live in the winter and yet open out to the sun in summer.



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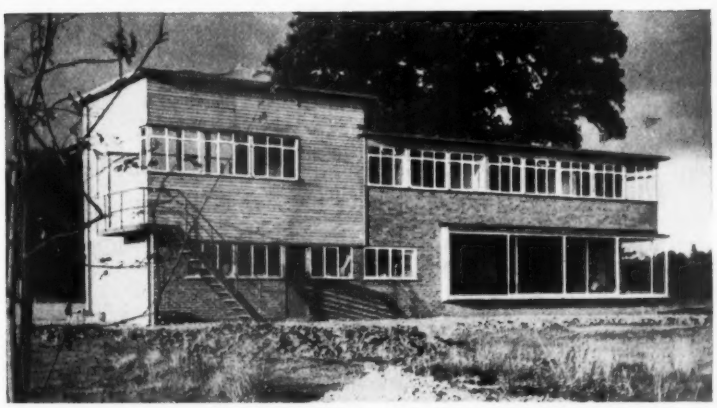

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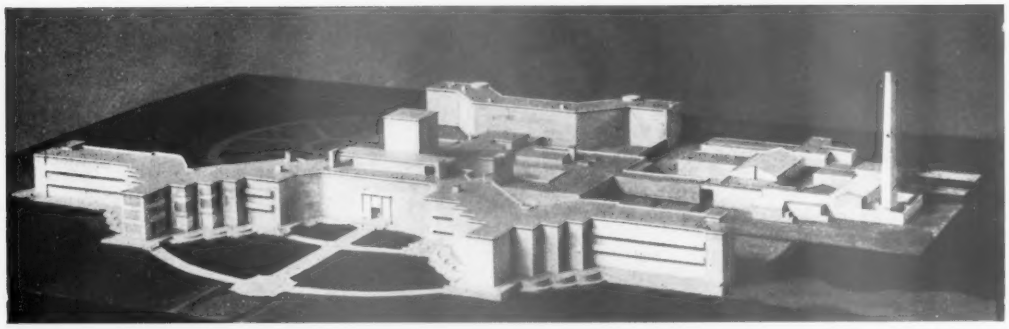

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"Sully Tuberculosis Hospital, Cardiff (22), looking over the Bristol Channel, by William A. Pite, Son and Fairweather, has an interesting block plan with diagonal arms and various steppings forward to the south for wards and balconies and a reversed shape to the north for the nurses' homes. The detail looks clean-cut and workmanlike."

23

"Surbiton Hospital (23), by Wallace Marchment, is a group of flat-roofed, quiet, low buildings in brick, with good broad surfaces, such as brickwork calls for, and pleasant lines to the exterior of the group."

24

At Stanmore, in Hertfordshire, Mr. Jellicoe and his partners have a dear little Essex type of small house most tenderly, if traditionally, designed which may lead us from these "modern" ones to the King's house, regretting on the way that there are no illustrations this year of houses by Oliver Hill or Mendelsohn and Chermayeff, and that though there are a number by Messrs. Connell, Ward and Lucas, none of them seem to come up to the fine standard they set themselves and other people in the original "High and Over" house at Amersham. I say "the original," for in passing it the other day I saw it had brought forth a number of rather ungainly colt-like offspring in the field in front of it.

What is one to say about the King's house as a house of today? It is spacious and comfortable-looking, it was chosen by famous people, it has touches of Scott and Lutyens about it, and no doubt its plumbing is correct. One hopes and even thinks the new King will like it and lend it to a series of charming tenants, whose taste

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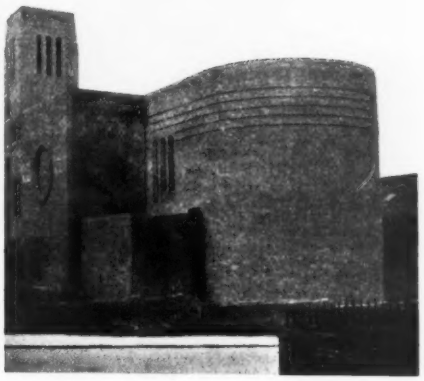
"Sir John Burnet, Tait and Lorne's additions to the German Hospital (24), from the illustrations, do not look as satisfactory, but additions rarely are. Balconies and roof seem to jut out with a suddenness which make the adjoining walls and windows seem uncomfortable."

" The only church before me is the Hillsborough Church at Sheffield (26 and 27), by Hadfield and Cawkwell. This has a sturdy exterior, an excellent mosaic over the altar by Eric Newton, and a poor ceiling which does not seem to fit the walls which carry it."

26

" W. G. Newton and his partners have added a long low ward building to Devizes Hospital and a charming traditional house for the nurses (25) which would be more worthy of the name ' Queen's House ' than the other was of ' King's House.' "



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" Paisley Hospital (28), by Sir John Burnet, Tait and Lorne, is a great scheme, of two-storied isolated blocks, each one of which is quite a delightful building in itself."

29 : " Pilichowski's School at Preston Park is clearly the most interesting school and with the best plan, but knowing the building I wish he had had more money to spend on it. Nothing is going to do these modern reinforced concrete buildings more harm than a poor finish."

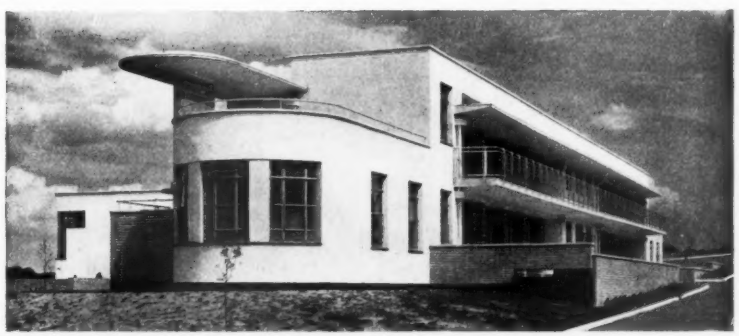
will not too quickly outgrow it. I imagine the last King's had already.

HOSPITALS

The next largest group of illustrations is of hospitals, but it is impossible, of course, to do an atom of justice to their intricate planning in this casual way.

The largest scheme is that for the Sully Tuberculosis Hospital, Cardiff, looking over the Bristol Channel, by William A. Pite, Son and Fairweather. It has an interesting block plan with diagonal arms and various steppings forward to the south for wards and balconies and a reversed shape to the north for the nurses' home. The detail looks clean-cut and workmanlike, but the circular staircase towers do not seem to compose very well with the angularity of the rest. The same firm's sanatorium at Rugby School, in brick, is very much better than the rest of that famous school's buildings in spite of one ugly external staircase, showing the advantage to the architect of living in a straightforward, honest era when the purpose of a building may be—nay, must be—the first consideration.

The Paisley Hospital, by Sir John Burnet, Tait and Lorne, is another great scheme, but this time of two-storied isolated blocks, each one of which is quite a delightful building in itself, finished with all the skill of the



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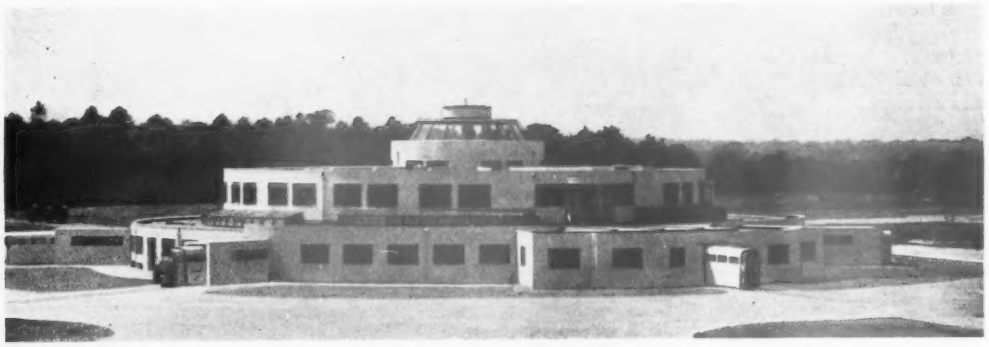
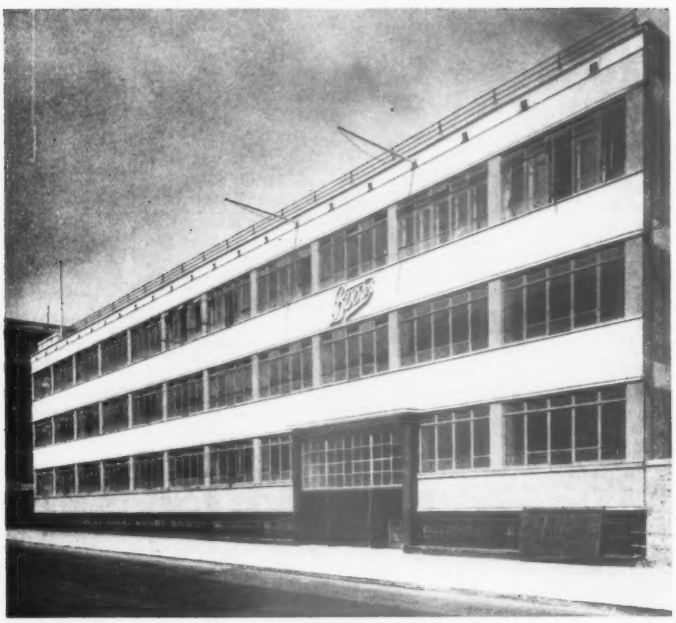


30: "Gatwick aerodrome (31), by Hoar, Marlow and Lovett, certainly suggests a Wellsian film and is very interesting internally from its centralized planning."



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"The office building pile, thank goodness, is a rather small one. The newspaper building on the Embankment (34), by Herbert O. Ellis and Clarke, seems to hide a steel frame behind a façade which starts with arches at the ground level and ends with a frieze of windows and cornice in the old way. The office building (31), in Stamford Street, for Messrs. Boots, by Messrs. Henry Tanner, is clearly the best, with its straightforward planning and long façades of glass and concrete in well-proportioned masses. The Research Laboratory at Birmingham (33), by Williamson and Beckett, seems to me rather a poorly designed building with its tall segmental window over the door, too weak to command its long front. The Shoe Warehouse (32), by Sir Owen Williams in its clumsy appearance seems to me to have little to commend it externally."

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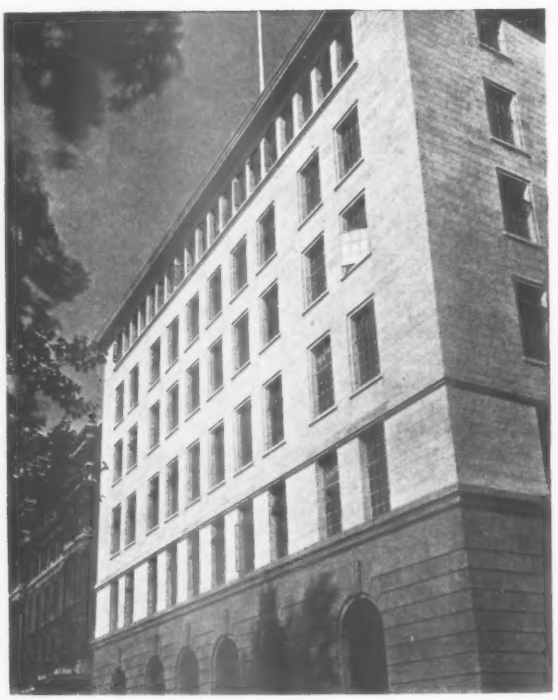

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35: "Denham Film Studios, by Messrs. Joseph, looked very fine as a group on the perspective with the great studios rising above the lower masses, but like most things connected with the cinema got spoilt in execution."

authors of the Masonic Hospital at Ravenscourt Park. Their additions to the German Hospital, from the illustrations, do not look as satisfactory, but additions rarely are. Balconies and roofs seem to jut out with a suddenness which make the adjoining walls and windows seem uncomfortable.

W. G. Newton and his partners have added a long low ward building to Devizes Hospital and a charming traditional house for the nurses which would be more worthy of the name "Queen's House" than the other building was of "King's House."

The Surbiton Hospital, by Wallace Marchment, is a group of flat-roofed, quiet, low buildings in brick, with good broad surfaces, such as brickwork calls for, and pleasant lines to the exterior of the group. I suppose the plan has the requisite number of water closets for the wards or it would not have won the competition, but I cannot find them.

SCHOOLS

Schools next. Pilichowski's one at Preston Park is clearly the most interesting and with the best plan, but knowing the building I wish he had had more money to spend on it. Nothing is going to do these modern reinforced concrete buildings more harm than a poor finish. They will be looked at by the public as was the early Ford car. F. X. Velarde's school at Southport has the greatest charm in its long façade and centre feature, but the plan is determined and spoilt by existing rooms. The Girls' Hostel at Nottingham, by Bromley Cartwright and Waumsley, is clearly the result of a compromising situation between a handsome Georgian gentleman and little functional serving maid.

The science block, by Oswald Milne, St. John's, Leatherhead, is a better compromise. The parents were nearer together in station and the result, as is often the case with such love matches, is a good looking offspring.

The School of Geography at Cambridge, by Stanley Hall and Easton and Robertson, is, of course, a different sort of thing altogether and should not have got into this pile. It is a fine, straightforward block with good rooms for library and lectures. The Research Laboratory at Birmingham, by Williamson and Beckett, seems to me on the other hand rather a poorly designed building with its tall segmental window over the door too weak to command its long front.

OFFICE BUILDINGS

The office building pile, thank goodness, is a rather small one. The newspaper building on the Embankment, by Herbert O. Ellis and Clarke, seems to hide a steel frame behind a façade which starts with arches at the ground level and ends with a frieze of windows and cornice in the old way. Inside it seems more truthful. The office building in Stamford Street for Messrs. Boots, by Messrs. Henry Tanner, is clearly the best, with its straightforward planning and long façades of glass and concrete in well-proportioned masses. I am afraid the Bradford Co-operative store building by W. A. Johnson is a little crude and coarse, and not equal to his similar building in Manchester; while the shoe warehouse by Sir Owen Williams in its clumsy appearance seems to me to have little to commend it externally.

BUILDINGS OF THE FUTURE

The Gatwick aerodrome and the Denham Film Studios must come in a

36: "The School of Geography at Cambridge, by Stanley Hall and Easton and Robertson, is a fine, straightforward block with good rooms for library and lectures."

37 : " The great plain polished travertine piers and stairs will clearly look magnificent as a background to the heraldic colours of an academic procession or with just one solitary figure in the middle distance, as in an old-fashioned perspective drawing." Ceremonial hall and staircase, Senate House, University of London. By Charles Holden.

group by themselves of, shall we say, buildings of the future. The former, by Hoar, Marlow and Lovett, certainly suggests a Wellsian film and is very interesting internally from its centralized planning. The film studios looked very fine as a group on the perspective with the great studios rising above the lower masses, but like most things connected with the cinema got spoilt in execution. Here the great letters which have been added to the studios to advertise them are enough to destroy a town.

ECCLESIASTICAL

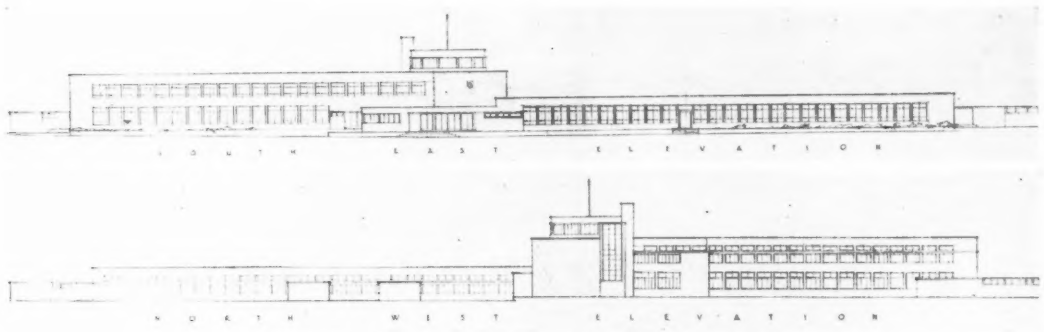
Neither the major prophets of ecclesiastical work, Sir Giles Scott and Edward Maufe, nor the minor ones soon to be major themselves, F. X. Velarde, B. A. Miller and Cachemaille-Day, have apparently published anything, and the only church before me is the Hillsborough Church at Sheffield by Hadfield and Cawkwell. This has a sturdy exterior, an excellent mosaic over the altar by Eric Newton, and a poor ceiling which does not seem to fit the walls which carry it. Besant Hall by A. L. Osborne is, I suppose, some sort of religious building and has a pleasant appearance on the outside: the inside I cannot find. Stanley Hall and Easton and Robertson have, I am told, converted the old library at Cambridge into a series of rooms elegantly furnished and coloured, and fit for Mrs. Maufe or Sir Ambrose Heal. I wish one could say the same, or anything approaching it, for the conversion of Eltham Palace.

STORES

Lastly we come to Emberton's fine store in Piccadilly, strong without and elegant within; and the Peter Jones one, by Crabtree, Slater and Moberly and Company, elegant without but with poor electric lighting and not very happily arranged fixtures within—not the fault of the architects, I can swear to that.

And last of all there is the charming little Vega Restaurant in Regent Street by Harding and Thompson, the lovable and indeed rather noble looking pithead baths at Coventry by W. A. Woodland. Who could have imagined it possible to apply such epithets to such a building a few years back, or the words " imposing, balanced and dignified " to the colliery buildings by Professor Cordingley with which we started? They are true, nevertheless, and they represent, I think, the great architectural conquest this age has made.

P.S.—After scribbling all this I have had Charles Holden's University of London building thrown at my head—an important and massive enough series of blocks (with no steel, I believe, in the walls to lighten them with a little lying) to upset any balance. Clearly no real appreciation is possible now, and I cannot pretend to compete with Professor Richardson in finding the right *mot;* summary if not always quite just. The exterior perspective of the tower with its supporting masses has thrilled us all for a long time, while the general grouping of the buildings into one long mass exhibiting to the world the unity of all knowledge, with its series of wings to show its variety, has always seemed to me a masterly conception. Now that the interior detail has suddenly appeared I can only say I am happy with it up to the ceilings but these I already want to treat as my young architect friends do theirs when they have to live in Victorian houses. Perhaps the photographs exaggerate—the cinema has taught them how. The great plain polished travertine piers and stairs will clearly look magnificent as a background to the heraldic colours of an academic procession or with just one solitary figure in the middle distance, as in an old-fashioned perspective drawing. I will leave it at that until I see the buildings themselves and I advise every one else to do the same.



Elementary Schools, Folkestone. By E. Wamsley Lewis.

THE PAST YEAR: 2

COMPETITIONS OF 1936

[*BY PROFESSOR W. G. HOLFORD*]

IN the quality and variety of its architectural competitions, the past year has not been a dull one; and, judging by the general increase of building activity all over the country, it may prove to have been only a prelude to a more exciting period. Even now we are awaiting the results of competitions at half a dozen different centres, and in the first two months of the new year as many more will be submitted. Between one sending-in day and another it is almost a relief to step out of the main current of the stream, and with a nice impartiality comment on the course that it is taking. At such a time, and from such a vantage point, competitions are seen to compete with one another, the trend of architectural history becomes apparent, and even the august company of assessors may be themselves assessed.

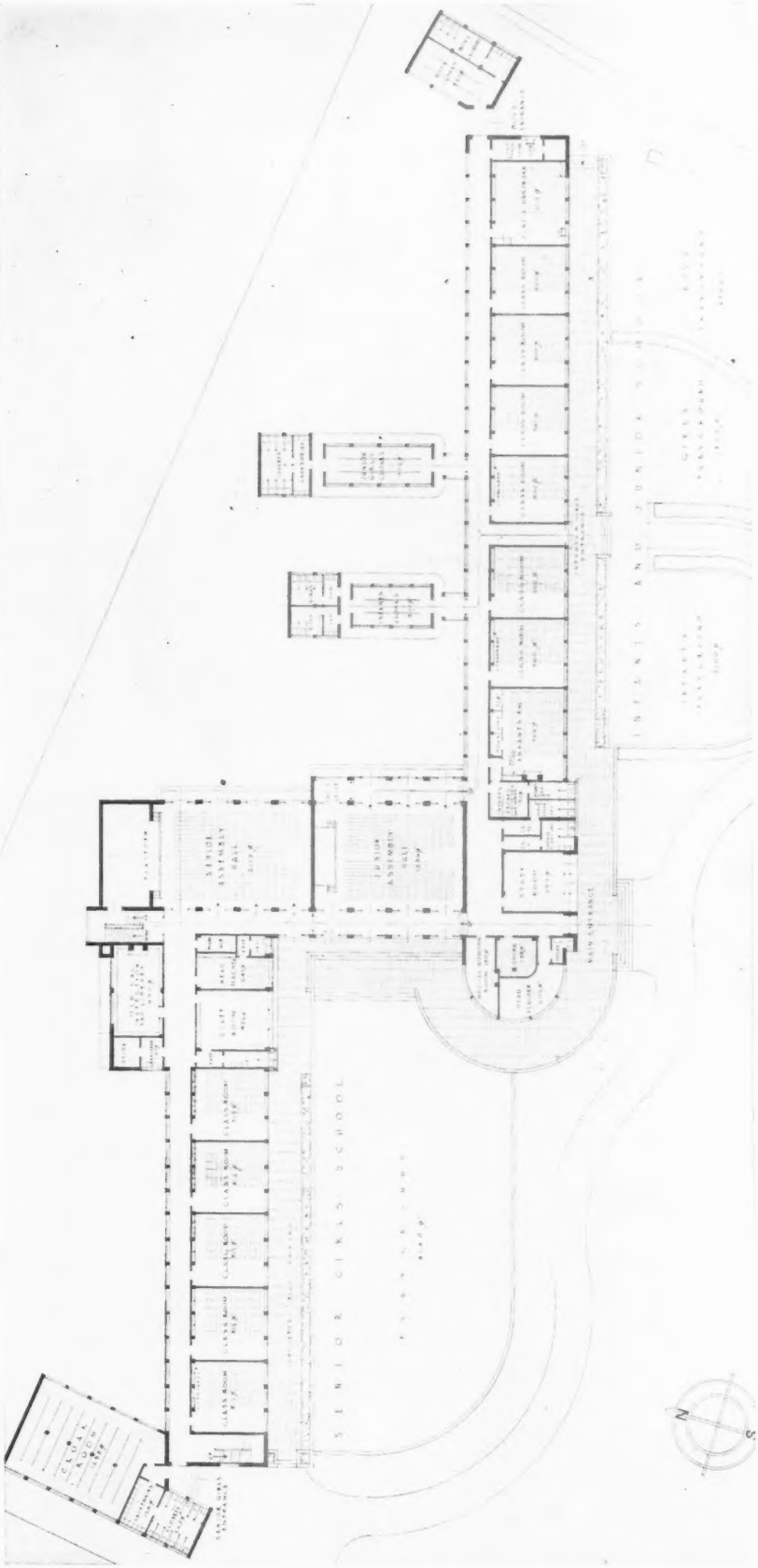
Looking back over the dozen major open competitions whose results have been made known within the year, one is struck by the fact that none of them are connected with buildings in London, although many were initiated in the southern counties. With the exception of the Parliament House at Salisbury, the most important localities were Coatbridge, Portsmouth, Bury, Harrow, Harpenden, Luton, Folkestone, Pontypridd, Birmingham, Barking, Llandudno, Leeds and Newport; but to atone for this, a building erected as the result of a competition in 1933, namely, the Hornsey Town Hall, designed by Mr. R. H. Uren, has this year been awarded the London Architecture Medal by the R.I.B.A. Many of us remember that competition, and the two hundred oddly assorted designs assembled in the Alexandra Palace after the award had been made. But whatever our views may have been on the winning scheme, as a competition drawing, we are now reassured by the fact that the building that resulted is well above the average in quality.

TWELVE MAIN COMPETITIONS

The quantitative results of an analysis of a dozen of the main competitions of 1936 are surprising. Expressed in round figures, they read as follows. The number of individual schemes was a thousand, the aggregate of premiums paid, including some first premiums that will eventually be merged in the commission, was ten thousand pounds, and the building costs of the projects for which the competitions were held totalled a million pounds. On the average, therefore, each scheme cost the promoters in general ten pounds, and the premiums as a whole, excluding the additional fees paid to the winners as commissioned architects, represent 1 per cent. of the cost of the work done If the first premiums are discounted and the assessor's fees added, the fees paid even then represent only 6.66 per cent. of the total building cost. The economic question as to whether an architect should be straightway commissioned at a cost of 6 per cent., or a competition held to secure an architect at the eventual cost of 6·66 per cent., is clearly answered. From the promoters' point of view—and still considering promoters as a body—a competition carries with it many advantages. From the point of view of the competitors, competitions are obviously uneconomic; since even if they receive in due course their proportionate share of premiums, which on this reckoning they would do once in every twenty-five competitions, it would only average out at ten pounds per competition. And as everybody knows, it is absolutely impossible to work to that figure. In spite of this, the appeal of competitions remains strong. Year after year we throw ourselves enthusiastically into the gamble, either to win, or to gain a certain notoriety in the attempt. There remain a considerable number of people who enter competitions when times are slack, to keep themselves or their staffs in practice. A noticeable drop in the size of entries this year, as compared with some lean years in the past, proves that competition entries are a sort of building barometer.

DEFINITE RULING NEEDED

There is another interesting point in connection with the figures just quoted and that is the situation which arises when the winner of a competition is *not* commissioned to carry out his design, even in a purely advisory capacity. (Such a case occurred this year in the competition for the lay-out of the Lumps Fort Site at Portsmouth.) It may then happen that another architect receives as a regular commission for the layout of part of the site, or even for an isolated building forming an element in it, a sum vastly in excess of the premium paid as full quittance to the author of the whole scheme.



Winning design, elementary schools, Folkestone : ground floor plan. By E. Wamsley Lewis

This is obviously absurd; and there is a paragraph in the R.I.B.A. Regulations governing the promotion of architectural competitions which states that "the author of the design placed first by the Assessor shall be employed to carry out the work." It is a pity that a parallel ruling cannot be secured for other kinds of competitions such as those of a more "town planning" character which, though not purely architectural in character, are mainly so, and which are responded to in a large measure by architects. No one would wish to eliminate the "competition for ideas," or to make a town planner responsible for the carrying out of all the details in a large scheme, but it is certainly desirable that the author of a winning design should have some interest in the way in which it is carried out.

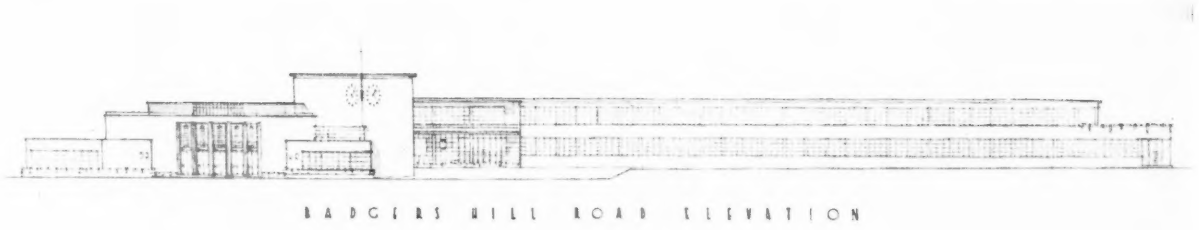
That a definite ruling at the outset is of advantage to promoters, assessors and competitors alike is proved by the enquiry into the conditions of an award made in July of this year, when the Council of the R.I.B.A. affirmed the principle that an assessor should not premiate any design, whatever its architectural merit, which contravenes any of the conditions which he has drawn up. This is necessary as a basis of understanding between all parties. But the point is also emphasized in the Regulations, that absolute conditions should be minimized, and a clear distinction drawn between instructions and suggestions. The general intention is not therefore to underline the letter of the law at the expense of its spirit, but to recommend that an assessor should lay down but few conditions, and having done so that he should abide by them. This places a great responsibility on the Assessor; and fortunate are those who can work to a programme which is definite on big issues and helpfully unprejudiced about little ones. For the big issues in a competition may include not only the size of site, the aspect, the cost and the main accommodation, but the character of plan and elevation, and through that the whole nature or style of the building. In the Bury competition, for instance, the following statement was included in the conditions :

> "*Bury is an industrial town with plenty of mills already, and this will be taken into account in making the award.*"

The conditions of the *News Chronicle* competition for schools, on the other hand, state that :

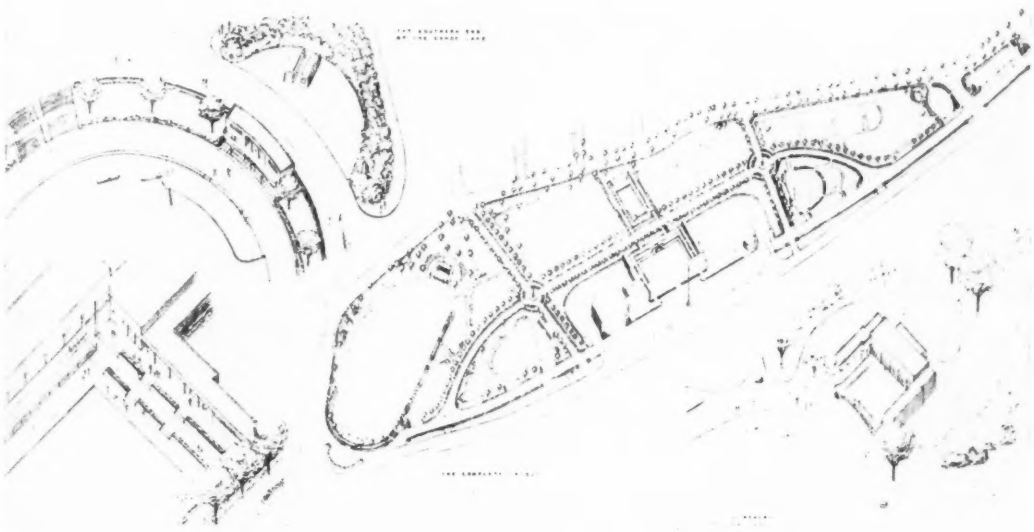
> "*new ideas and fresh lines of thought will be welcomed in this competition. . . . Architects should consider themselves unfettered by tradition or convention of plan, elevation, internal fittings, material and methods of construction.*"

The four guiding principles that should govern the design are then expressly given. In both these competitions, despite the difference in subject and intention, a certain character is definitely demanded. There is no doubt in



BADGERS HILL ROAD ELEVATION

Above: Winning design, secondary school for boys, Luton. By Marshall and Tweedy.



Right: Winning design, lay-out of the Lumps Fort Site, Portsmouth. By Wesley Dougill and E. A. Ferriby.

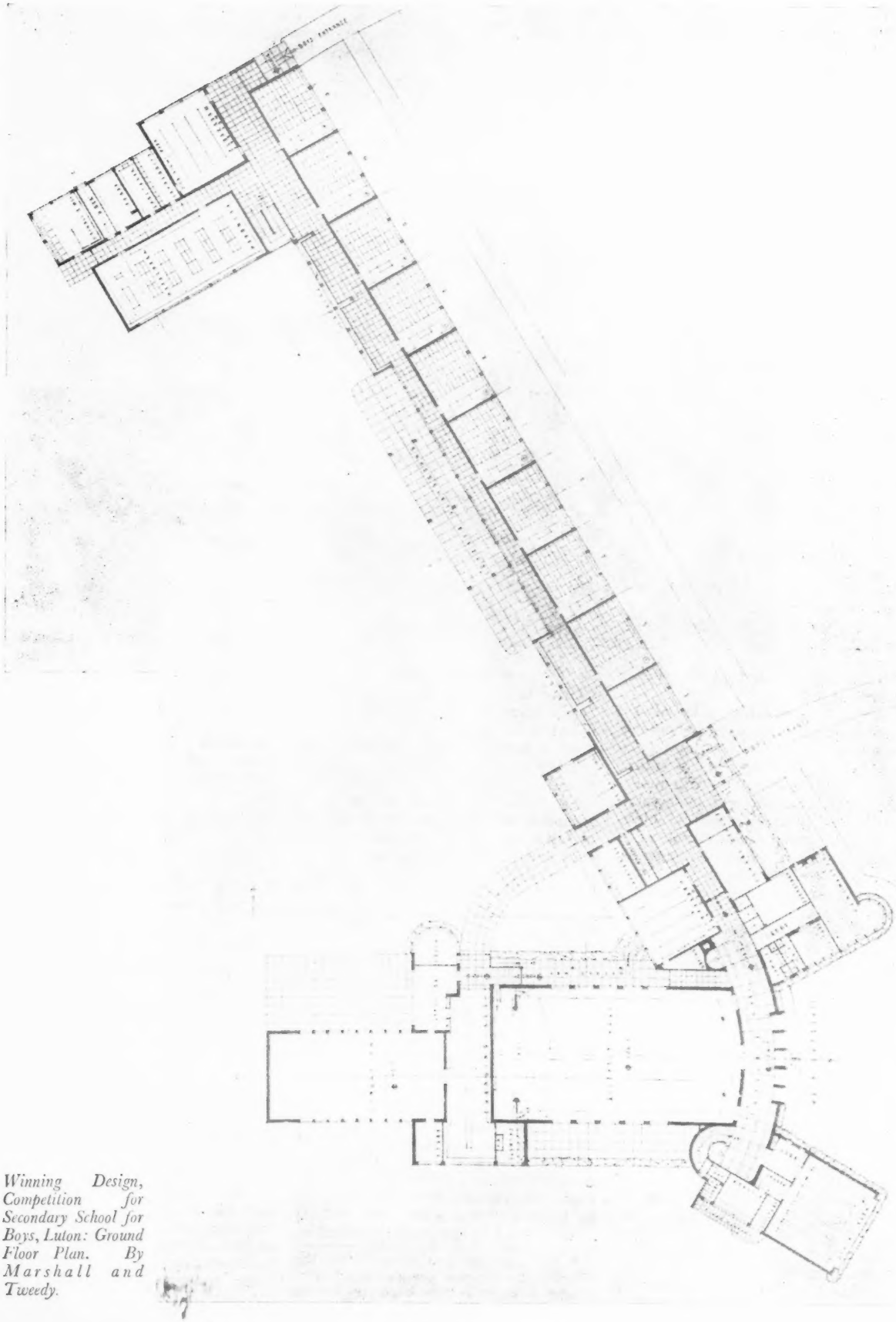
the competitor's mind as to what is required of him.

The most interesting side of the competition problem is not, however, connected with statistics, with regulations, or with the manner of stating conditions. It is concerned with quality rather than amount, and its greatest contribution is in the field of ideas. In the long run, architectural value counts for more than competence; and a real contribution to our architectural advance and scope is eventually worth more than all the buildings in which the adventurous or pioneer spirit is lacking, however highly premiated they may have been to begin with. Competitions sometimes provide not only a new idea, but an index of a change in attitude among members of the profession and the public towards a new architectural movement. The competition for the Entertainment Centre at Bexhill was certainly one of these. It had an enormous influence on design in this country, particularly in the schools and among those interested in recreational facilities. No matter what criticisms on the score of suitability, cost, external finish or style may be levelled against it, or what the recumbents of that celebrated resort may think about it, the Bexhill competition, and the Pavilion that grew out of it, advanced architectural progress by another step. Therefore, the building has significance not only for Bexhill itself, but for architects and the public in general.

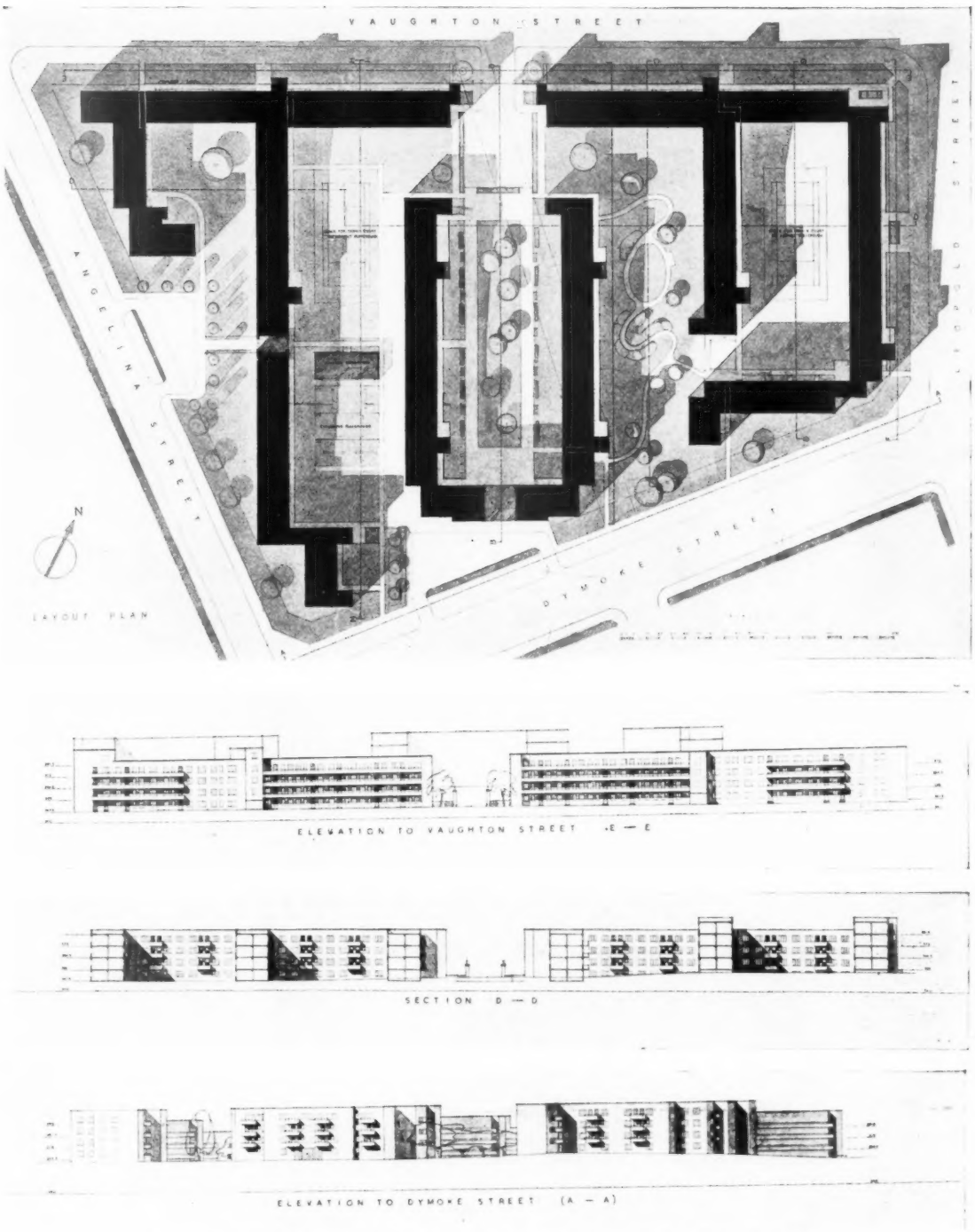
ORIGINAL IDEAS

There is a chance that some of last year's competitions, and one or two others to be decided in the near future, may achieve a like distinction, by making a valuable contribution to the cause of modern architecture. The most interesting results of the year's competitions were those for the schools at Luton and Folkestone, the working-class flats at Birmingham, and the lay-out of the Lumps Fort site at Portsmouth.* In all these instances, the successful competitors achieved their result by meeting the conditions of the programme in the simplest and most efficient way. But what made these results of particular importance was the fact that they managed to do this by original means, with thought instead of mere contrivance, and by creating designs which no other century but our own could have produced. This is a valuable quality of competition designs, and even today it is all too rare. As a rule, the unconventional design will only stand a chance of being premiated when the Assessor has courage as well as experience and ability. A significant competition must therefore be fortunate in three different ways: the subject as introduced by the promoters must be an interesting and a contemporary one; the assessor must be able to translate it into a clear and stimulating programme; and the competitors must be intelligent enough to rise to the opportunity. It would appear, from the evidence of the last twelve months, that the subject which has most appeal for the architect of the present day is the school. Of the four interesting competitions just mentioned, the two which seem destined to bear the most valuable fruit are those of Luton and Folkestone, the one a secondary and the other an elementary school. Town halls and municipal offices break a link in their traditional chains every year, whenever competitors are allowed, or even invited, to suggest civic dignity by straightforward unpretentious means rather than by clothing their designs in stylistic robes of office. But the change in school competitions has been almost revolutionary in its suddenness, and has proved startling in its results. It is only fair to say that the Continent anticipated us in this. The schools in post-war Germany, and more particularly the schools by Lurçat at Villejuif and by Beaudouin and Lods at Suresnes, had already proved that educational buildings could be gay and exciting as well as serviceable. It is not long, however, since these latter schools were built; and that we are so soon to have in England, not an isolated example of a modern school but a new standard of school design, is a stimulating thought. The Luton and Folkestone

* To these has just been added the award in the Newport Competition, where, as often happens in these important events, (from the Baptistery Doors at Florence down to the present day), the design placed second is more significant, though less conscientious, than the design placed first.



Winning Design, Competition for Secondary School for Boys, Luton: Ground Floor Plan. By Marshall and Tweedy.

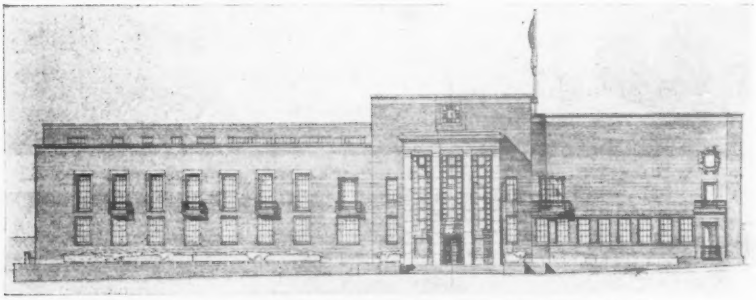


Winning Design, flats at Birmingham. By G. Grey Wornum and Anthony C. Tripe

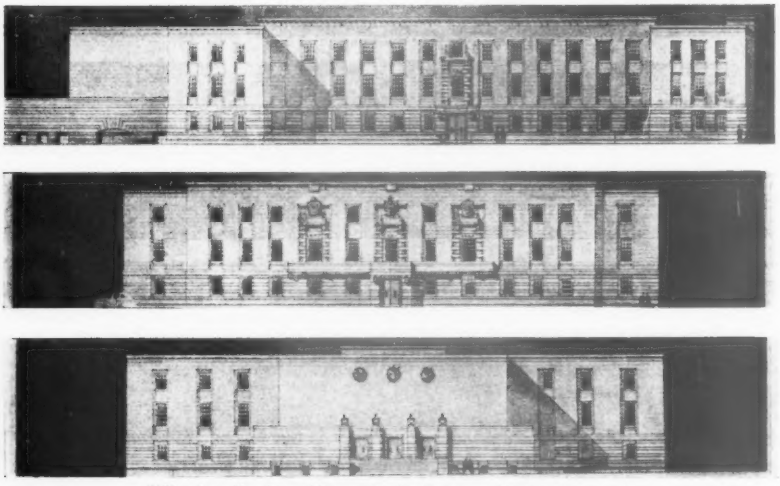
competitions, of which Professor W. G. Newton and Mr. Verner O. Rees were the respective assessors, and Messrs. Marshall and Tweedy and Mr. Wamsley Lewis the respective winners, occurred soon after Mr. Oliver Hill had been asked to design a model school for the L.C.C.; and they were followed by the limited competition at Doncaster, which Professor Newton also assessed, by the *News Chronicle's* open competition for ideas in school buildings, by the organization of the Reimann School of Industrial Art in London, and more recently by the appointment of Mr. T. S. Tait as architect for a new school in Battersea for the L.C.C., and of Mr. F. X. Velarde for schools in Southport and Bootle. All this activity in such a short space of time is bound to focus public attention on educational buildings, from technical schools down to crèches; and it will also have its effect upon the attitude of the Board of Education and the local Councils.

In spite of occasional scepticism concerning the immediate value of a competition in any specific case, the principle of the open competition is obviously a very sound one. When there is dissatisfaction over the accepted forms of any type of building or layout, when a particular tradition has become

Winning Design, Parliament Buildings, Southern Rhodesia. By E. Berry Webber.



Winning Design, Municipal Offices, Harrow. By Verner O. Rees.



Winning Design, Town Hall, Bury. By R. Edmonds.

outworn, or a new social need is seeking concrete expression, an open competition is a valuable outlet for creative force and an excellent focus for general interest. It is then, in the best sense, topical; and the buildings that result are bound to express a certain vitality, which is always present when a contemporary problem is met by present-day resources. This is already happening in the case of recreational buildings, hospitals and schools; there is no reason why it should not happen in the other spheres of architectural interest, and particularly with regard to housing and town planning. The Cement Marketing Board competition of 1935 was a stimulating one, but it did not directly produce any buildings. Last year Mr. Grey Wornum won the competition for working-class flats in Birmingham. Can we look forward to competitions in connection with the other branches of housing—terraces at 15 or 20 houses to the acre, taller blocks of flats with lifts, and even re-development schemes and community centres containing various types of housing accommodation, together with the indispensable social adjuncts? There have always been opposite extremes in the architectural range where competitions have been of very doubtful use. The one lies in the specialized field, where a particular technical problem is studied by individuals, or by experts in collaboration, and where competition is almost unnecessary; the other concerns buildings in which style, personality or taste is of primary importance, such as restorations, and certain types of churches and monuments. This has always been a favourite field for competitions, nevertheless, particularly in connection with designs for war memorials; but the results have very seldom proved the worth of the competitive system. Between the two extremes, however, there are many subjects which are neither of a specialized nor of an emotional character, about which many of us have something to say, and which need to be opened up and, so to speak, published, by means of competitions and subsequent discussion. Housing is one, shopping centres another, the re-planning of the built-up areas of our towns a third. The interest aroused all over the world by the competition for the re-planning of a portion of Stockholm could be roused again for the benefit of some of our English towns, and for London in particular. In Italy there have been town-planning competitions for nearly every town of any importance within the last eight years. In fact, there were probably too many. Most of them were too limited and too hasty in character to achieve any real significance.

But there is no doubt that a large-scale competition in England, fully documented (but not encumbered) by precise conditions, and ably assessed, would today command an enthusiastic response. The little "competition in ideas" which this JOURNAL is now sponsoring is a slight indication of the way the wind is blowing.

A bierkeller and gas-proof shelter in a hotel in Stuttgart.

THE YEAR'S WORK: 3

ABROAD

CURRENT TRENDS IN DESIGN AND PRACTICE

[*BY PHILIP SCHOLBERG*]

EXACTLY a year ago an attempt was made to show how the architecture of Central Europe had become a by-product of current political creeds, particularly in Germany and Italy, where design is on the one hand traditional, on the other modernistic, both by official decree. This process is still going on, in Italy, so far as one can make out, without any particular amount of ill-feeling, in Germany with a good deal of discontent, for after the firm control of 1935, 1936 has shown a slight but unmistakable return towards a rational outlook. In 1935 the German periodicals quite obviously spent their time illustrating the sort of work which was likely to appeal to authority, but in 1936 they have occasionally broken away, illustrating not only interiors which are definitely modern both in spirit and execution, but also a certain number of small houses which look much as they looked in the earlier 1930's, and a few of the familiar grandiose *projets* for seaside hotels on sites which have patently been modified to meet the ideas of a preconceived scheme.

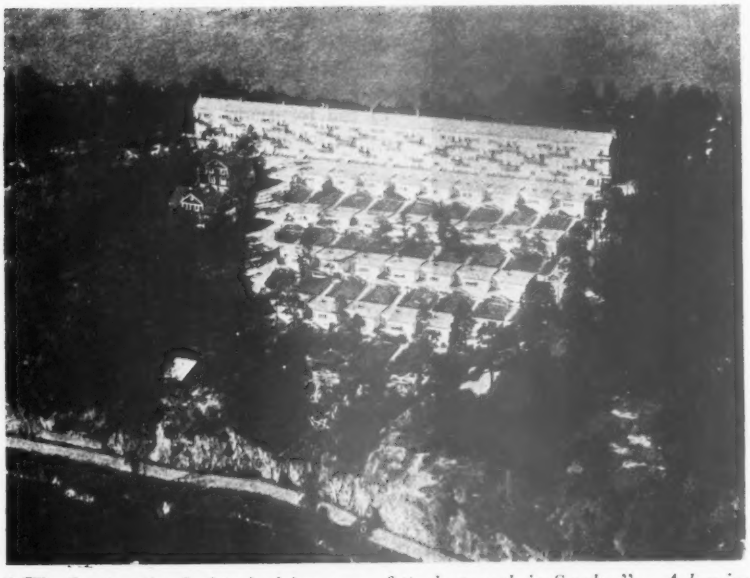
Whether or not the recent Goebbels decree of "No criticism" will make very much difference remains to be seen. As in every other country, the German periodicals are usually kind to the work of their own architects, reserving their most scathing comments for foreign work, which, not infrequently, deserves it. Technical information and general articles continue to lay stress on the problem of protection from air raids, concentrating very largely on defence against attack by gas rather than by the incendiary and high explosive bombs which we seem to expect in this country.

With these comparatively unimportant variations, the conclusions drawn last year remain more or less true for 1936, and it therefore seems worth while to ignore, for the moment, the larger countries, and glance briefly at the smaller Baltic countries which, if they cannot be ranked among the great European powers, are, none the less, in the fortunate geographical position of being able to keep out of trouble, while the inhabitants maintain a sufficiently liberal outlook to be able to take advantage of developments in neighbouring countries.

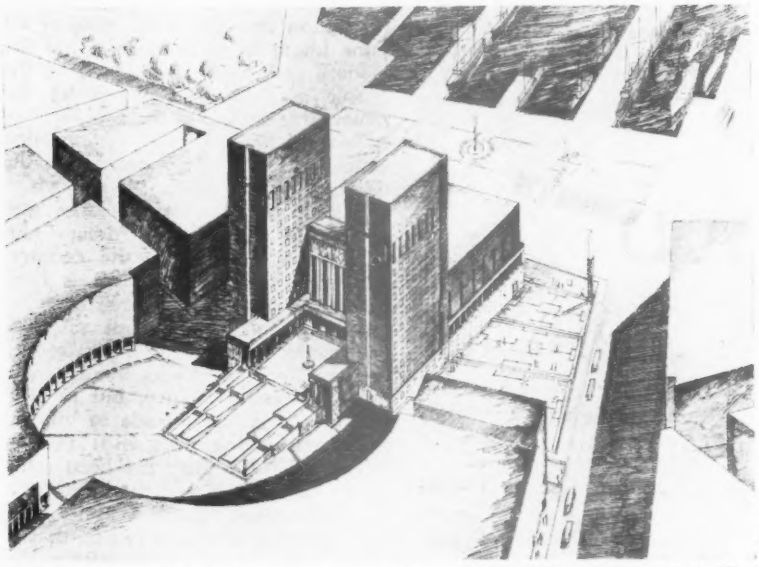
Sweden, for example, after the almost unparalleled invasion of ten or fifteen years ago, when the Stockholm Town Hall was the focus of every architect's pilgrimage, has settled down to a general acceptance of what, for want of a better term, we may call sane modernism. For some years after the "Town Hall period" most of the highly publicised work in Sweden was done by the Östberg Tengbom school, but Gunnar Asplund, after his City Library, was given general control of the 1930 exhibition, and, since that date, the younger Swedish architects have not necessarily followed his lead, but have had the undoubted advantage of an established man with a European reputation who thinks in terms of the same idiom as themselves. That the modern movement is accepted by the people of Sweden is shown by the remarkable success of the Swedish Co-operative Society, an organization which sells practically everything the ordinary person can need, and which has a chain of shops, factories and warehouses as good in design and planning as anything in the country. The Society's chief architect is Eskil Sundahl, who has a large staff of assistants, and the amount of work done under his direction is prodigious.

Norway, compared with Sweden, is a distinctly poorer country, but in Oslo an attempt is being made to build a town hall which shall rival that of Stockholm: the work has been going on for some years, but the building is not yet finished. Both buildings have the same kind of waterside site, that of Stockholm being rather better. The Oslo building is very definitely traditional, though a good deal of the recent Norwegian work is modern in outlook, but with a very marked Norwegian twist. This twist is probably part of the current Norwegian mentality which has, since the break with Sweden, tended to adopt a *plus royaliste que le roi* outlook, accentuating the Norwegian-ness of all its place-names and generally trying to be as un-Swedish as possible—a natural though somewhat regrettable state of affairs in two countries with a common frontier line. But whatever the reason for it, the Oslo town hall will apparently be a good monument to craftsmanship: perhaps twenty years too late, perhaps too, for no one can foretell the power of the reactionary, it may be fifteen years too early.

Holland continues much as before: since the death of Dr. Berlage it is to



" The Co-operative Society is doing some of the best work in Sweden." A housing estate near Stockholm.



" Though a good deal of Norwegian work is modern in outlook, the new Oslo Town Hall is definitely traditional."

" The work of the senior French academicians makes our reactionaries seem almost angels of simplicity."

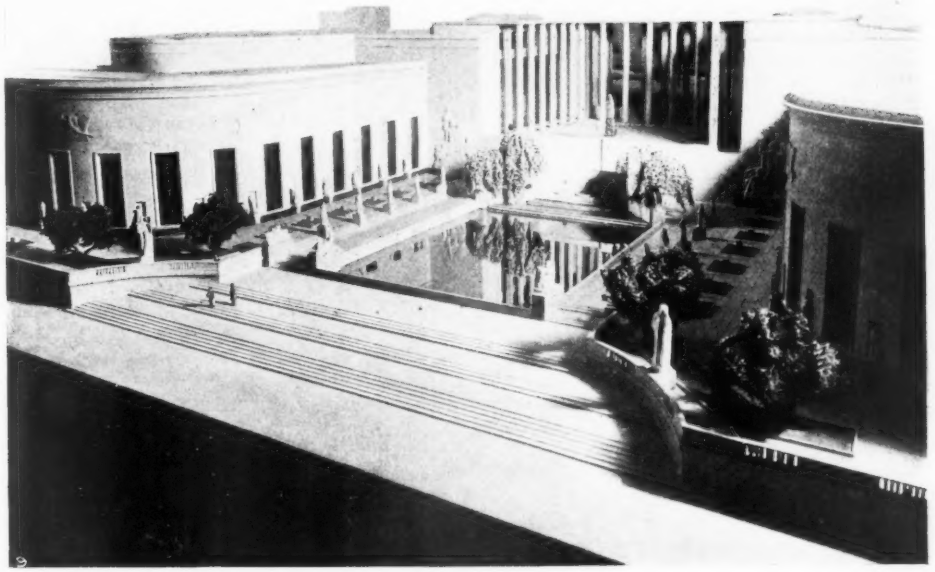
be assumed that the leadership has fallen upon Dudok, who does a good deal of work, shops and suchlike in Amsterdam and other large towns, as well as his town-planning and building in Hilversum. There are, however, signs that his work is not as popular as it once was with the younger members of his profession. As an explanation for this one can only quote Dudok himself, saying, of one of his own Hilversum buildings : " I cannot defend the arch which you see here, but I like it because it is a beautiful shape." An honest statement of personal opinion, but one which could not hope to find favour with the *avant-garde*.

France is in the throes of the Paris Exhibition, and much of the other straightforward building work that is going on can hardly be called interesting. It is usual in this country to look on France as a modernist's paradise, but buildings of the Corbusier type are comparatively few, and the work of the senior academicians, or at any rate such of it as is illustrated in the more stolid periodicals, can only make most people shudder. Young men in this country are wont to complain petulantly of the frightful things done by the old, but a careful study of a good deal of current French work should convince them that the reactionaries in this country are, by comparison, severe and restrained, and when it comes to decoration are almost angelic in their simplicity.

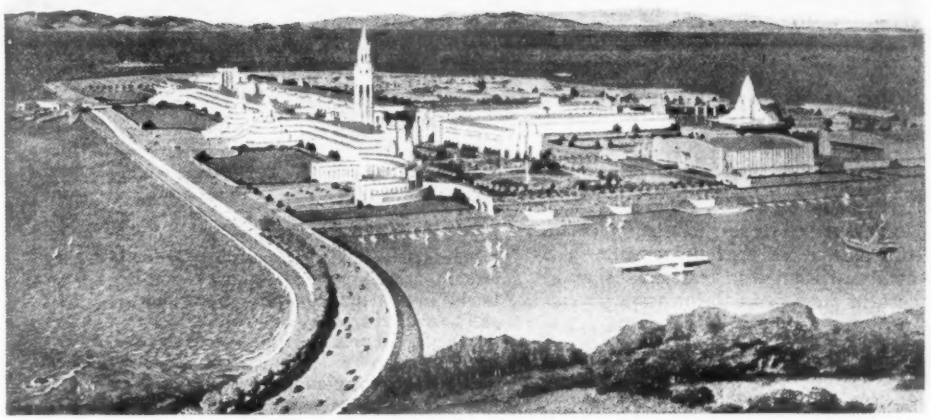
This year's Paris Exhibition seems, from the published perspectives, to be much the same as most other exhibitions. A great deal of work to be done in a very short time, and a great number of hands very busy designing units without any very clear idea of what the resultant whole will look like, or even of what it is intended to show. Constant repetition has inured most visitors to the usual series of pavilions devoted to this, that and the other, all the exteriors bearing the right modernistic cliches, the circulations carefully planned, stunt lighting, simple furniture designed in an even newer way than the year before, and the exhibits themselves arranged to tell some sort of a story.

And what story? Exhibitions invariably seem too large for any coherent result to emerge : the gas and electrical pavilions, for example, have the same essential story to tell, but they tell it separately, with needless overlapping, and the visitor remembers neither, but wanders quietly off to the amusement park.

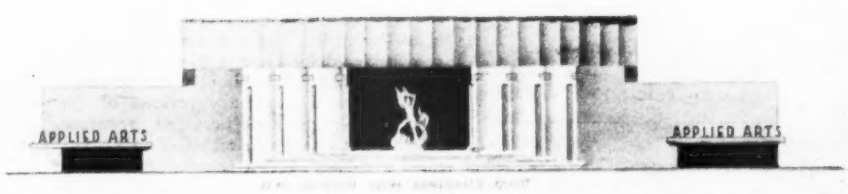
But at this point comes a bright light from the United States. New York is to have, in 1939, a huge $50,000,000 World's Fair, and the suggestion is made that present-day fairs and exhibitions are all wrong. As the *Architectural Forum* points out, 28 million people went to the Chicago Fair in 1893, 39 million went to Paris in 1900, yet, in spite of easier transport and



" This year's Paris Exhibition seems, from the published perspectives, to be much the same as most other exhibitions."



" The usual series of pavilions devoted to this, that and the other, with all the exteriors bearing the right modernistic cliches." Model for the Golden Gate International Exposition.



The winning scheme submitted in competition for the Applied Arts pavilion at the New York World's Fair of 1939.

unlimited methods of publicity, only 22½ million went to Chicago in 1933.

The revelation comes from Lewis Mumford, who maintains that the wonders of a mechanical age are no longer news. "The machine is no longer accepted as an undiluted blessing: modern man no longer is awed by mechanical ingenuity or scientific accomplishment; he takes the automobile and transoceanic flights and television as a matter of course. But he is wondering what it all proves, what it means to him in the way of better living. Project a picture of a planned environment using modern technical resources to their fullest extent, present the social implications of the machine, and you will have a timely theme. A fair presenting the picture of a society consistent with the present state of its technics might project a pattern which would fulfil itself in the future of our whole civilization. And the 'style' of the architecture would take care of itself."

And yet it seems probable, judging by the published competition designs, that the 1939 fair will be much the same as Paris this year or Chicago of four years ago. Amusing, no doubt, perhaps even faintly stimulating, but finally providing only a source of inspiration for mediocre furniture designers for the succeeding years until the next show comes along.

If exhibitions are still unsatisfactory, there are signs that America is developing a social conscience. American films

can hardly be assumed to direct public opinion, but they are a fairly certain mirror for current popular beliefs. The social significance of the incomparable Disney has already been ably demonstrated in this JOURNAL by Mr. John Hilton, and films like *My Man Godfrey* or *Mr. Deeds Goes to Town*, show virtue not only as triumphant as usual, but triumphant through finding jobs for out-of-works. A fig-leaf has been firmly planted over the mouth, at least, of Mae West, and the very rich, instead of being shown as crooks of the more sinister type, appear merely as poor senseless nonentities who can't take it when it comes to a show-down. While it is doubtful if this can be taken as a symbol of all-round recovery, it seems certain that recovery point, at any rate in the building industry, has definitely been reached, for the returns for the first half of 1936 show nearly double the amount of work than the corresponding months of 1935. And it seems agreed that housing for the poorer workers should be the duty of the Government. Town planning and zoning laws are regarded as not being strict enough, and efforts are being made to have them tightened up, not, it would seem, in order to make more work for architects, but in order that the community shall be efficiently run.

And here is the most encouraging sign of all. America has for many years been a country full of brilliant technicians who have not always been able to visualize the possibilities of the things they have invented, the instance of the cinema being a hackneyed but none the less true illustration of this. It would seem that the architects are now providing the technicians with a certain amount of the necessary vision, in return for their help in solving the problems of planning.

In this country architects tend to look on the engineer, the town planner, the industrialist, the speculative builder and technicians of all kinds as something rather unfortunate but perhaps necessary. The complexity of present-day living is regarded, not as a reason for modifying the practice of architecture, but as a tiresome state of affairs which must be twisted by rule and regulation until it can fit into the normal architectural pattern.

The American collapse of a few years ago was severe enough to shock architects into the belief that they must supply an essential service or starve. As a result, American architects are working busily on real schemes of national planning, and are doing so in conjunction with the myriads of specialist technicians who can supply the expert knowledge required. And they are doing so gladly, because they have been forced to realize that "architecture" is not enough.

Has the centre of civilization spread further westwards than we had thought, or do we need another financial crisis?

The Pantheon, Oxford Street, 1772. From a print in the possession of Messrs. W. & A. Gilbey. From "James Wyatt Architect."

THE PAST YEAR: 4

BOOKS

[BY H. MYLES WRIGHT]

THE painstaking records of the JOURNAL state that one hundred and forty-two publications were sent to it for review during 1936. And even when less important reports of learned societies and Government departments, and what are called "prestige publications" of big business, have been weeded out, there still remain a well-rounded hundred that are books in all the outward appearance of stiff backs and a certain amount of thickness.

A hundred books have a most frightening appearance in the mass. It is so obviously impossible to mention them all, so necessary for a summary which hopes for a single reader to keep itself within a readable length, that a quick escape into classification seems far more urgent than any recording of first impressions.

But general impressions of architectural books—by which is meant the books which are considered by their publishers to be of interest to architects—ought to be of some significance. The literary reviews of the world at large have created separate divisions, and separate scales of values, in which nearly all books can find a detailed appraisement—neatly labelled under Theology, Art, Biography, Fiction or Miscellaneous, they meet their fates without "The Green Blood Affair" ever having to struggle for notice against "Aspects of Primitive Metallurgy"; at least not in the very best periodicals.

Books on architecture are different. They can only really be divided into two groups: strictly Professional, and Semi-technical Background. And some publishers' ideas on what an architect wants, or ought to or might want, in the way of a semi-technical literary background are really very odd.

Moreover, categories so few and wide as this increase the value of all-round impressions of the books of 1936. For in some senses these books must be a mirror of contemporary architecture and architects; they ought to show something of where the practice of architecture is moving and what kind of people the public (as represented by publishers) imagine architects to be.

And with this defence of the value of general impressions it may be bluntly said that, by and large, 1936 was disappointing. Perhaps the people who might have written very exciting books were all too busy to do so.

Perhaps architecture is developing so fast at present in all its aspects that 1936 was a bad time for a last word, or even for a preliminary report, on any of the questions that matter most in current practice. But, whatever the cause, it was not until the later months that a dozen books came to save the year's reputation; and most of them concerned the history or wider implications of architecture and its practice. Those who have waited are still awaiting really first-class books on construction, on comparative solutions to the planning of working-class housing accommodation and on those huge problems of standardization and prefabrication which appear to be daily coming nearer some solution without anyone having so far dared to predict the exact form of that solution.

But even if a first sight of the hundred books of last year gives few major thrills, it is certainly unfair to judge them by what is not amongst them. If "Whither Architecture?" has tempted no prophets and "Architecture Here and Now" very few, there are quite a lot of meaty candidates for a place at the elbow of the architect dealing with a special problem, and several for the elbows of all architects. And, after that, there is the multitude which might be said to be aimed at the architect's wider background. With this encouragement,

An aerial view of Eastbourne and Beachy Head taken by means of the Ilford infra-red process. From "Aircraft."

generalizations and anonymity can perhaps be abandoned.

OUR SCHOOLS

One of the earliest appearances last year was *School Construction*, being the building supplements to *Education* during 1935. Events at home and abroad during the last six months have been particularly unfortunate for British education. In May there had been at long last built up a very general determination to do something about the buildings in which State education is carried on. Although the school-leaving age had not been uniformly raised throughout the country, public opinion had at least reached the state of feeling that badly-lit, badly-heated and usually congested schools were something of a reflection on one of the richest countries in the world—and that there were limits to the acceptance of local education authorities' excuses of "no money."

Unfortunately, the political events in the last months of 1936 have taken schools off the public conscience, in spite of the splendid effort of the *News Chronicle* to put them back again. Meanwhile the schools themselves remain unaltered.

School Construction illustrates some of the schools built during 1935. Some of the buildings shown in it prove that school architects are still trying to make progress in spite of local and national apathy. Others equally obviously prove that their designers have given up the battle; the general impression being that no competition has greater possibilities of raising general standards than that which the *News Chronicle* is now holding. There are also several interesting articles on construction and equipment in *School Construction*, but no sign, yet, that education authorities generally have the same views as a witness before the Council for Art and Industry—"That the ideal is that the education authorities should give such consideration to the design of things in daily use that the school will do for the mass of children what the cultured home does for the few."

After this the JOURNAL's records in order of arrival contain several books which make one covet the review technique of a cinema periodical whose classified list of releases makes such fine gripping reading. (Direction: smooth. Entertainment value: so-so. Plot: Big footage of indifferent gunplay, several good triangle situations and three certain laughs.) Many books would sell on three certain laughs, but space makes it essential to keep to those with a certain interest.

The final volume of *London Life and Labour* takes a high place amongst these. Much of what has been found out by Sir Hubert Llewellyn Smith and his workers of the London School of Economics is what one would have expected: the Londoner drinks less, works on the average an hour less and his leisure activities (and smoking?) have greatly increased—as has the leisure time of the working man's wife, blessed with a family (on the average) much smaller.

Conclusions on the results of the survey and the implications arising from them are in an introduction by the Director. They are worth reading by those who will be responsible for the surroundings of the social developments which are foreshadowed in them.

ANNUALS

And then come two annuals dividing happily between them almost all that concerns the practice of architecture.

The *Studio's* annual, called DECORATIVE ART—which, when one thinks about it, is rather an odd title—is a news film of the latest ideas in furniture, interior decoration and buildings (mostly houses), and has, as usual, its complement of good photographs. What are considered the surroundings most worth creating by those who can afford exactly what they want are shown in a range of international glimpses. After enjoying *Decorative Art's* tour there remains the impression that experiments with the colour and textures of materials used in plain surfaces and simple compositions are still the main passion of progressive artists in decoration; and even of some architects. Hardly the simplest moulding dares to cast its shadow in these pages; and it is almost certain that a single fluted Corinthian pilaster would devastate half the cultural vanguard of Europe.

But there can be no doubt that the experiments shown in *Decorative Art* are the healthiest of forecasts for the future. The thousand new materials of architecture and decoration are being studied in all their uses, and in all simple combinations, are being tested in conjunction, contrast and by themselves. Wherever architecture may eventually arrive after present trials, designers will at least have honesty in materials; rubber and plaster will not understudy marble and plywood will be used as plywood. And that will be quite a famous victory.

The second annual is *Specification*, which seems to be going from strength to strength in a double ambition. It aims at keeping its general guidance thoroughly up to date in all branches; and at amplifying this general guidance each year by a number of special articles. *Specification 1936* has three such articles on Industrial Buildings, Swimming Pools and Metal Windows—and all are of a very high standard. In addition, the "Demolition, Excavation and Foundations" section has been revised and now has a series of diagrams on shoring, underpinning, retaining walls, concrete foundations and piling.

Bath. From "English Panorama"

The ironmongery question, always a difficult one, is now made almost enjoyable by *Specification's* pages of illustrations of all the principal types of locks, hinges and door springs. Mr. F. R. S. Yorke has deprived architects of one joke (that *Specification* always escaped into dots when it came to the phrases that matter), but he has given them far more time to enjoy other jokes. Which is on balance a substantial gain.

Consideration of one aid to the intricate business of specification recalls another, *Laxton's* price book, which has one first-class claim to notice here. For this book contains (as well as many other things) a list of trade names for proprietary materials and fittings, together with names of manufacturers. Any client who shows surprise at his architect not knowing some pet material might be referred to this list. It contains well over ten thousand titles. And I wonder if even *Laxton's* has got them all.

BIRD'S EYE VIEW

A little escape from daily technicalities might be appropriate here; and it is an escape in the most distinguished company of Le Corbusier, who has written, or one might say more happily, exclaimed, a book called *Aircraft*. Number one of the New Vision Series contains 120 odd photographs (and some very good ones among them) for five shillings. Nothing, one feels, could be more appropriate than to have Le Corbusier as author to an untechnical book on such a thrilling subject. But results are disappointing. In the words of the JOURNAL's reviewer last April, Le Corbusier provides "an ecstatic running commentary, full of the high emotional content of Miss Wilhelmina Stitch." Not even this famous author's lapses, however, can spoil the aerial photographs over which his aeronauts stoop like falcons.

With such an aerial vantage point once gained, and accompanied no doubt by a sense of detachment which can be so easily felt in the air, it seems a pity to come down again without a little pondering over the lives people are enjoying or barely tolerating down below.

The *Good New Days* and *The English at Home* are both out to help us peel off our coloured glasses of snobbery, prejudice and self-interest and have a look at things as they really are. And naturally (if we are not really ruthless with ourselves) *Good New Days* seems much more true.

Marjorie and the late C. H. B. Quennell show us that progress does not die—that in spite of all our muddles we are trying to make things better and that now and then, even if by accident, we do things well. Simplicity in houses and surroundings, the splendid lines of aeroplanes and the *Normandie*, are there to tickle our sense of superiority. And though the bad new things are there too, one is left with the feeling that their abolition is merely a matter of time. If only politicians had not made us hate that phrase so much.

Mr. Brandt has very different ideas. He wants to deal with our self-complacency by satirical contrasts in sixty-three photographs. Wealth *versus* misery, comfort against penury—this is his theme. But, alas! he has not escaped that peculiar brand of pathos celebrated for all time by Mr. Beverley Nichols's Poor Little Rich Girl. "Ascot enclosure: within and without" shows those without looking far more at their ease than those whose private lives had been approved by authority. But Mr. Brandt's fine photography does still make us acknowledge that most of us will have to work and think quite hard for the most of our lives before we can rest comfortably on the balance to our credit shown in *Good New Days*.

Messrs. Batsford's have probably never got the appreciation they deserve for their books on historical architecture—especially for their more general books published, one supposes, primarily to interest the layman.

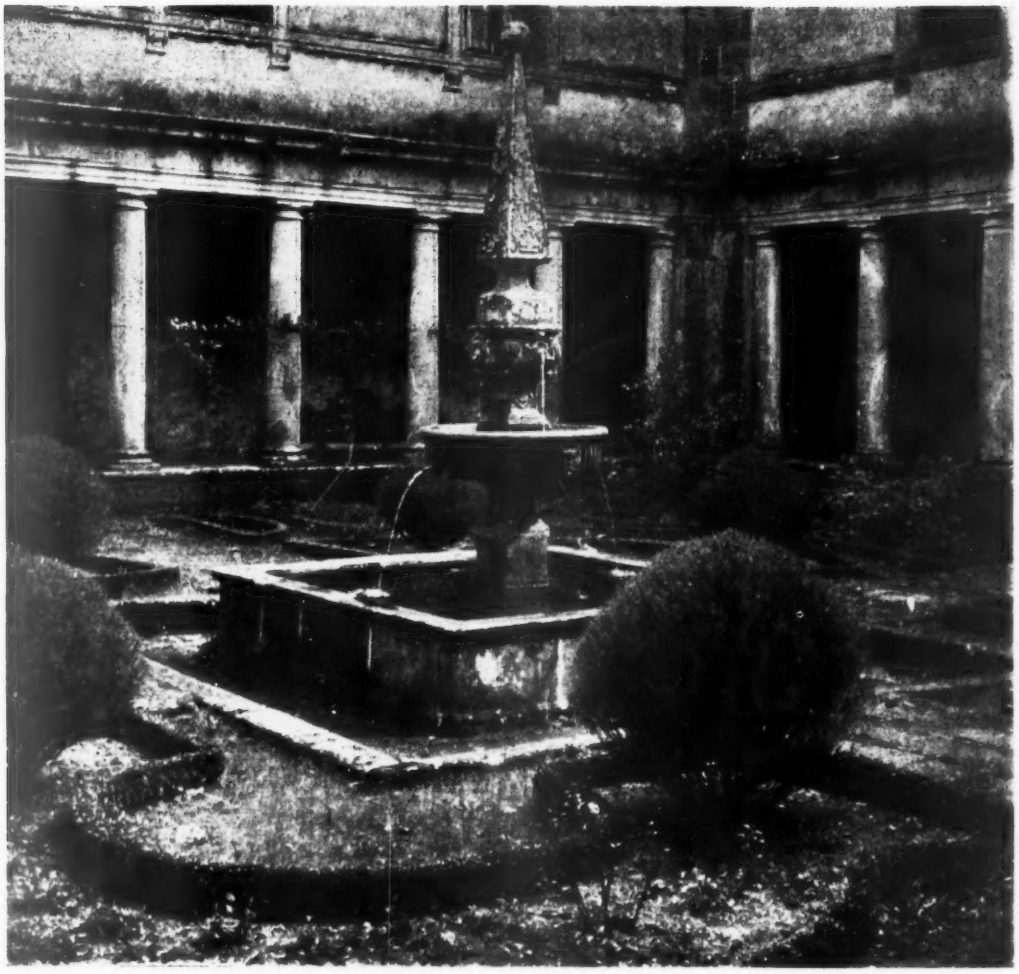
Today it is difficult to decide what kind of book is a best seller. In fact, if one takes impressions from the publishers themselves, each and every book is a loss: merely smaller or larger, according to its merits. And in such desperate times one supposes that *The English Castle* could only have come from its publisher's decision that such a book deserved publishing—and the public could take it or leave it. *The English Castle* is beautifully illustrated with aerial and other photographs of the more famous castles in England and Wales, and Mr. Braun summarizes the development of the fortified building from a mound to the final post-artillery phase of the fortified manor house. It is worth noting that there were once over 1,500 castles in England; it may even be worth saving the three hundred or so which now show any visible remains.

READY REFERENCE

Two books for the competitor's elbow should not be forgotten at about this point. The first is E. and O. E.'s *Planning* and the second *Town Halls*: the first being notes and illustrations of the general and detail planning of all sorts of buildings and the second concerning itself with one building type only.

E. and O. E.'s book is really a wonderful bargain at its price and gives a synopsis of the regulations and current planning layouts for fifteen building types—varying from Small Flats to Schools, and Hotels to Factories. Its most valuable characteristics lie in its summaries of regulations and in its host of dimensions for various seats, fittings and layouts. The circulations and larger plan layouts, however, perhaps present a framework to be improved on rather than examples to be copied.

Town Halls, as its title implies, confines itself to that most common of all competition subjects—the municipal building scheme. Reception and Council Suites, Municipal Offices, Assembly Halls and Law Courts are dealt with and a large number of opinions



A Portuguese court in which the lines of the clipped box echo closely those of the architecture. From "Garden Decoration and Ornament."

are quoted of people who work in such buildings.

It is suspected that Mr. Cotton, the author of *Town Halls*, found himself in a difficult position while writing it — or perhaps confronted with a vicious circle. He obviously felt, as others feel, that the planning of Civic Centres will never really improve until somebody torpedoes the "two-floored pomp" conception of a town hall. But he recognized that promoters like two-floored pomp, that assessors and competitors must give promoters substantially what they want—and that *Town Halls* would not be of much value to competitors if it disregarded this state of affairs.

The result is a compromise in which the author puts forward all views and underlines none, and his principal illustrated schemes show the variety of opinion held by those who have won recent competitions. And in addition there are small scale drawings of nearly every scheme which has won an open competition since the War. So competitors can make their choice of what they study—and assessors no doubt will continue to make their's.

The second volume of *Planned Information* containing all the Information Sheets published in the JOURNAL during 1935, is another time saver which should be useful to those who are bad at collecting week by week. There are 118 Sheets in this volume with all the usual variety of subjects. Bottle racks, painting costs, loft ladders, metal fencing and roof-glazing—information about these and 113 other matters of day to day concern is set out in the notes and beautiful draughtsmanship presided over by Mr. Oscar Bayne. The general index to *Volume 2* covers the sheets in *Volume 1* as well, so that it passes unperturbed that acid test of all indexes—how quickly it can be found that something is *not* in it.

Steelwork textbooks have been few during recent years, the reason no doubt being that most constructional engineers have been forced to wait until the L.C.C. said turn before they could theorize with any hope of the result proving useful. In 1936 six books risked being useless and made an appearance ; three being on steel and three on reinforced concrete. *Structural Steelwork for Building and Architectural Students* bases its standards on the L.C.C. code of Practice and hopes that this code will become part of the bye-laws. Almost a pathetic hope. The book is well set out, uses very little mathematics (a shrewd bid for architectural patronage), and detailed drawings and calculations are given for a warehouse at the end of the book. At its price it is a good investment.

Four books on heating or heating and ventilating appeared last year, the most solid and exciting looking being by Oscar Faber and J. R. Kell. It is difficult to review several hundred pages of information photographs, graphs and drawings without very ample space, in addition to more than the knowledge possessed by the reviewer, but those heating systems which are known to him are very fully considered in the book, as well as all the principal alternatives. Alternative fuels, domestic heating, air-conditioning and refrigeration are also described.

Mr. G. A. Jellicoe, to turn abruptly to another of the more esoteric aspects of architecture, is an expert on gardens. And in *Garden Decoration and Ornament* he tries to overcome any suspicion aroused by the title by confining himself to the contemporary garden : which he qualifies by the phrase "of established aspect."

"There is," the author says, "nothing so mean in a garden as false sentiment and nothing so fine as the sentiment that rises out of a garden built logically and straightforwardly in the materials of the time."

The illustrations to the book bear out this statement. But those really impressive are regrettably of other times than our own, and no triumphant improvements are shown on the "playful" figure and herbaceous border motif in suburbia's quarter acre. The photographs, however, will help everyone to draw their own conclusions about what is the matter with the contemporary garden—or its owner.

HISTORY

James Wyatt Architect is one of the most stimulating books that appeared last year. Its author has been criticized adversely for failing to make use of all the information available about Wyatt and his work, but

the book's exciting qualities do not depend on its scholarship. Its real thrill for those who are practising architecture in the 1930's is in its story of an architectural career in the grand manner—of fame and fortune at twenty-six, of being an A.R.A. two years later, of warfare between the giants of the profession and of the unlimited sums which the nobility and gentry were prepared to spend on building in the days of James Wyatt.

A second reading of the book causes some doubts about Wyatt. Was he an exceptional architect or an exceptional opportunist? It is difficult to judge without knowing more than one of his works; but if he was an opportunist, his abilities in grand design were astounding. The Pantheon, the work which brought him fame, might be called a blend of Sir William Chambers and the Adams, and his country houses did much to justify the brothers' accusation that Wyatt was stealing their thunder. But Fonthill and his Gothic country houses were his own; they were his expression of the passion for the romantic which was gathering force throughout his life, and they show that at times Wyatt could come very near to greatness.

What is almost more, he moved with the times (though always late for appointments). Kew Palace was abandoned in 1811 when it had already cost half a million—what would that be today?—and no drawings of it appear to have survived. But it is said to have been almost entirely made of cast-iron and might have earned for Wyatt the place later filled by Paxton.

Improvident, dilatory, and overwhelmed by far more work than he could carry out, Wyatt's charm was emphasized by all his contemporaries. To us, in duller days, he is worth hearing about.

OUR ENGLAND

English Panorama takes as distinguished a place as *James Wyatt Architect* in the output of 1936, but a place very different in kind. Mr. Dale's book deserves to be read as a tonic to jaded spirits, as a true tale of the glamour, opportunities, feuds, beliefs and personalities during the beginning of the Romantic Revival.

English Panorama also tells a story, but a story which is not yet ended. It deals with the English scene—how it grew and changed from forest and bog into what we can see today in city and countryside, on by-pass and by-lane. And it ought to be bought and read and thought about by architects because, in some measure, each of us can influence the story's continuation.

English Panorama first presents a paradox. Its author considers how odd it is that our towns and cities (in which most of us live and spend nearly all our time) should in general be squalid, dreary and repellent—while the country landscape, no less man made, should in general display so high a degree of civilization.

It may be that when the scale and design of our landscape was decided Englishmen had a sense of the appropriate, of pattern and harmony, which they also brought to bear on the towns they built for themselves. Since those days Englishmen and their towns have changed whilst much outside them remains as it was—simply because, so far, it has paid nobody to change it.

Mr. Sharp does not state that this is his explanation, but he implies something very similar in his opening chapter. And then he begins a review of the changes in the English scene. The open field system of agriculture, the first real towns under the Normans, the long, slow process of enclosure, hedgerow and tree planting, landscape "improvement" and the discovery of the street are all studied from the viewpoint of the effect of their superimposition on the English landscape.

And then at that dreadful date about 1820 there comes the first signs of the rot that was to ruin large patches of the English picture and spatter the rest with growths of most threatening kinds.

New industrial processes and new hopes of wealth, a huge increase in the poorest section of the population, the failure of the almost non-existent urban sanitary systems to stand the strain and the invention of suburbia through a middle-class desire to imitate its betters' way of living—all came in such quick succession that the English population forgot everything save a desire to survive, to make more money than the next man and to live in the next best thing to a country house.

Mr. Sharp sketches all these contributions to our great confusion, mentions the escapist theories of garden cities and tries to look into the future. And if his chapter on Tomorrow seems a little too vague and some of his new ways too sweeping ever to be voted for in the House of Commons, one must agree that, for any good solution to be possible, suburbia must go.

But that refuge for those who earn their money in a town they have made too horrible to live in, a refuge whose only justification seems to lie in its forty by twenty strip in which to air the baby, seems likely to die hard. It is a British compromise and nothing else can be defended with more desperate devotion.

WHERE WE ARE

Lastly, a book which tries to show us where we all are in the things that concern us most closely, should be seriously considered at the beginning of a new year. *Pioneers of the Modern Movement*, by Nikolaus Pevsner, is a first-class story of development in architecture and art and craftsmanship from William Morris to 1936. And, besides its scholarship, it is extremely entertaining.

Mr. Pevsner begins with Sir Gilbert Scott trying to make Lord Palmerston swallow Gothic. But in the end it was Sir Gilbert who did the swallowing. Sir Gilbert, "in sore perplexity, swallowed the bitter pill." He "bought some costly books on Italian architecture and set vigorously to work."

From this comedy Mr. Pevsner moves on to the old battle between the artist and the machine. And some of the examples of work exhibited at the Great Exhibition give us a new realization of what Morris, Ashbee Voysey and the rest were fighting against.

In architecture Norman Shaw's Queen Anne romantic reasonableness seemed to be as far as fashion would go in a break with tradition. And then Voysey dropped romanticism and took reasonableness a long way further—but was still only a mild rebel. Townsend and Mackintosh in England, Frank Lloyd Wright, Peiret, Garnier, Endell, Behrens and Loos abroad—these are the first to believe in constructional possibilities as a final escape from style. And their work is analysed with thoroughness.

Mr. Pevsner's conclusions are not all easy to agree with. He seems to be certain that a prototype of a new architecture has now been achieved, that the transition period is over, and "modern architecture" can now move forward to its masterpieces.

But can it? The men whose work he describes have done great things. They have proved that structure, economy and usefulness are more important than style, they have taught us the possibilities of the surfaces and textures of the present day materials when simply grouped, and they have made us beware of applied decoration which the machine at the moment does badly.

Under their influence we have cleared our decks and are thinking hard about what we do next. But it is still hard to feel that architects now all share the same convictions, and instinctively work within the same general framework of principles to the extent which has in the past been necessary to ages of great architectural achievement. For these things we may yet have to wait a little.

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Below is a list of the books reviewed in "Books of 1936" in order of their mention:—

School Construction: Supplements to *Education* during 1935. London: Councils and Education Press, Ltd. Price 7s. 6d.

The New Survey of London Life and Labour. Volume IX. Life and Leisure: London School of Economics. London: P. S. King and Son. Price 17s. 6d.

Decorative Art. The Studio Year Book. 1936. London: The Studio, Ltd. Price 10s. 6d.

Specification 1936. Edited by F. R. S. Yorke. London: The Architectural Press. Price 10s. 6d.

Laxton and Lockwood's Builder's Price Book, 1936. Edited by P. T. Walters, F.S.I. London: Kelly's Directories, Ltd. Price 10s. 6d.

Aircraft. By Le Corbusier. The New Vision Series—No. 1. London: The Studio, Ltd. Price 5s.

The Good New Days. By Marjorie and C. H. B. Quennell. London: Batsford. Price 6s.

The English at Home. 63 photographs by Bill Brandt. With an Introduction by Raymond Mortimer. London: Batsford. Price 5s.

The English Castle. By Hugh Braun. With a Foreword by Hilaire Belloc. London: Batsford. Price 7s. 6d.

Planning: An Annual Notebook. By E. & O. E. London: The Architect and Building News. Price 5s.

Town Halls. By A. Calveley Cotton. London: The Architectural Press. Price 6s.

The Architects' Journal Library of Planned Information. Volume 2. London: The Architectural Press. Price 21s.

Structural Steelwork for Building and Architectural Students. By Trefor J. Reynolds and Lewis E. Kent. London: The English Universities Press, Ltd. Price 12s. 6d.

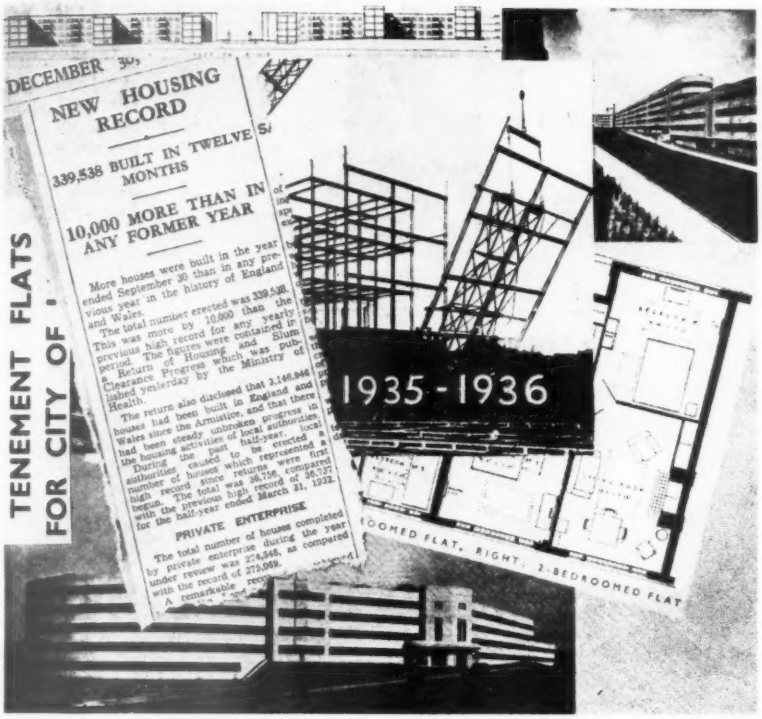
Heating and Air-Conditioning of Buildings. By Oscar Faber and J. R. Kell. London: The Architectural Press, Ltd. Price 25s.

Garden Decoration and Ornament. By G. A. Jellicoe. London: Country Life. Price 12s. 6d.

James Wyatt Architect. By Antony Dale. Oxford: Basil Blackwell. Price 12s. 6d.

English Panorama. By Thomas Sharp. London: J. M. Dent and Sons. Price 7s. 6d.

Pioneers of the Modern Movement: From William Morris to Walter Gropius. By Nikolaus Pevsner. London: Faber and Faber. Price 10s. 6d.



THE PAST YEAR: 5

HOUSING

JULY—DECEMBER: A CHRONOLOGICAL TABLE

[*COMPILED BY W. P. KEEN*]

AUTHOR'S NOTE.—In the JOURNAL *for July 16 last there appeared a table of the principal housing events covering the period January to June, 1936. The table on this and the pages following deals with the last half of the year. It has been divided into six sections—one for each month; and each section has been subdivided 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 connection with housing; only publications of outstanding importance are mentioned. For a complete record of the housing literature issued by those departments application should be made to H.M. Stationery Office for its "Consolidated List of Government Publications," which is issued for each half-year ending June 30 and December 31. The Stationery Office also issues at the end of each month a booklet giving a list of publications issued during the month.*

If it were necessary to select one outstanding housing event in the past year, then undoubtedly it would be the publication of the Minister of Health's report on the overcrowding survey in England and Wales, carried out under the Housing Act, 1935. This report showed that out of 8,924,523 dwellings inspected, no fewer than 341,554 were found to be overcrowded according to the standard laid down in the Act. The report was issued in July; by the end of December the Minister was able to announce that he had fixed an "appointed day" for 1,477 out of the 1,536 towns and districts in the country. Thus, there remain only 59 areas where the overcrowding provisions of the Act of 1935 will not have come into operation by July 1 next. It should be remembered that overcrowding which exists on the "appointed day" does not constitute an offence; it is only fresh overcrowding which is prevented. Any new cases of overcrowding which arise after the "appointed day" must be reported to the local authority by either the occupier or the landlord. Then we had the passing, in July, of a new Act—a consolidating measure; the settlement of the controversy to build on Hackney Marsh and the laying of the foundation stone of the first block to be built on this land; the L.C.C.'s scheme for the redevelopment of an area in Bethnal Green—the first proposal to be considered by the Council for dealing with a large scale redevelopment area under the new procedure laid down in the Housing Act, 1935; approval, by the Minister of Health, of the scheme for the redevelopment of the central part of Liverpool—the first of its kind under the Housing Act, 1935; the "New Homes for Old" Exhibition at Olympia; the result of the competition for working-class flats in Birmingham; the debate in the House of Commons when "a bitter and justifiable attack was raised against bad housing conditions in some parts of Scotland"; and the statement that, except for six county councils, all the local authorities in Scotland had completed their overcrowding surveys and had submitted their reports to the Department of Health for Scotland.

July
General

THE Royal Assent was given to the Housing Act, 1936. (This is an Act to consolidate the Housing Acts, 1925 to 1935, and certain other enactments relating to housing.)

An Application was made in the High Court by Land Development, Ltd., and Shepherd's Bush Exhibition, Ltd., asking that a compulsory purchase order made by the L.C.C. in June, 1935, in respect of 50 acres of land at Bloemfontein Road, W., (part of the White City Housing Site), should be quashed. The application was dismissed.

The Housing and Public Health Committee of the L.C.C. reported that the number of houses and flats completed on July 4 by the Council since the War exceeded 64,800, and in the eight weeks preceding that date 1,166 dwellings (an average of more than 145 a week) were completed, while 5,840 more houses and flats were in course of erection on that date.

The scheme for a block of dwellings on the Stockwell Road site, Lambeth, was adopted by the L.C.C. The architect for the scheme is Mr. Louis de Soissons, one of the three architects in private practice appointed in February, 1935, to assist the architects' department of the L.C.C. Accommodation: 17 two-room, 85 three-room and 33 four-room dwellings, making a total of 135 dwellings containing 421 rooms. Area of the site: two-and-one-third acres. Cost: approximately £72,900.

Decision of the Liverpool Corporation to apply the powers conferred by the Housing Act of last year so as to begin its proposed central area development scheme. The scheme was drawn up by Mr. L. H. Keay, F.R.I.B.A., Liverpool Director of Housing, two months after the Royal Assent had been given to the Act, and is stated to be the first of its kind in the country.

Visit of Sir Kingsley Wood, the Minister of Health, to Manchester, in order to inspect some of the City Council's housing operations, and to open "Greenwood House," a block of residential flats. The Rt. Hon. Arthur Greenwood, M.P. (a previous Minister of Health), was also present and laid the foundation stone of some further flats which will be named "Kingsley Wood House."

The promise of £500 yearly for three years to the Housing Centre by the directors of the Gas Light and Coke Company was reported to the Centre's annual meeting by Sir Reginald Rowe.

Statement by the Department of Health for Scotland that, during the half-year ending June 30, the Department received intimation of the declaration of 14 clearance areas involving the demolition of 968 houses and the displacement of 3,424 persons. In the same period the Department confirmed 18 clearance orders and 11 compulsory purchase orders for the demolition of the buildings in clearance areas.

Returns made to the Department of Health for Scotland by local authorities showed that during the quarter ended June 30 last substantial progress continued to be made in Scotland with the improvement and reconstruction of dwellings for rural workers under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts.

July
Publications

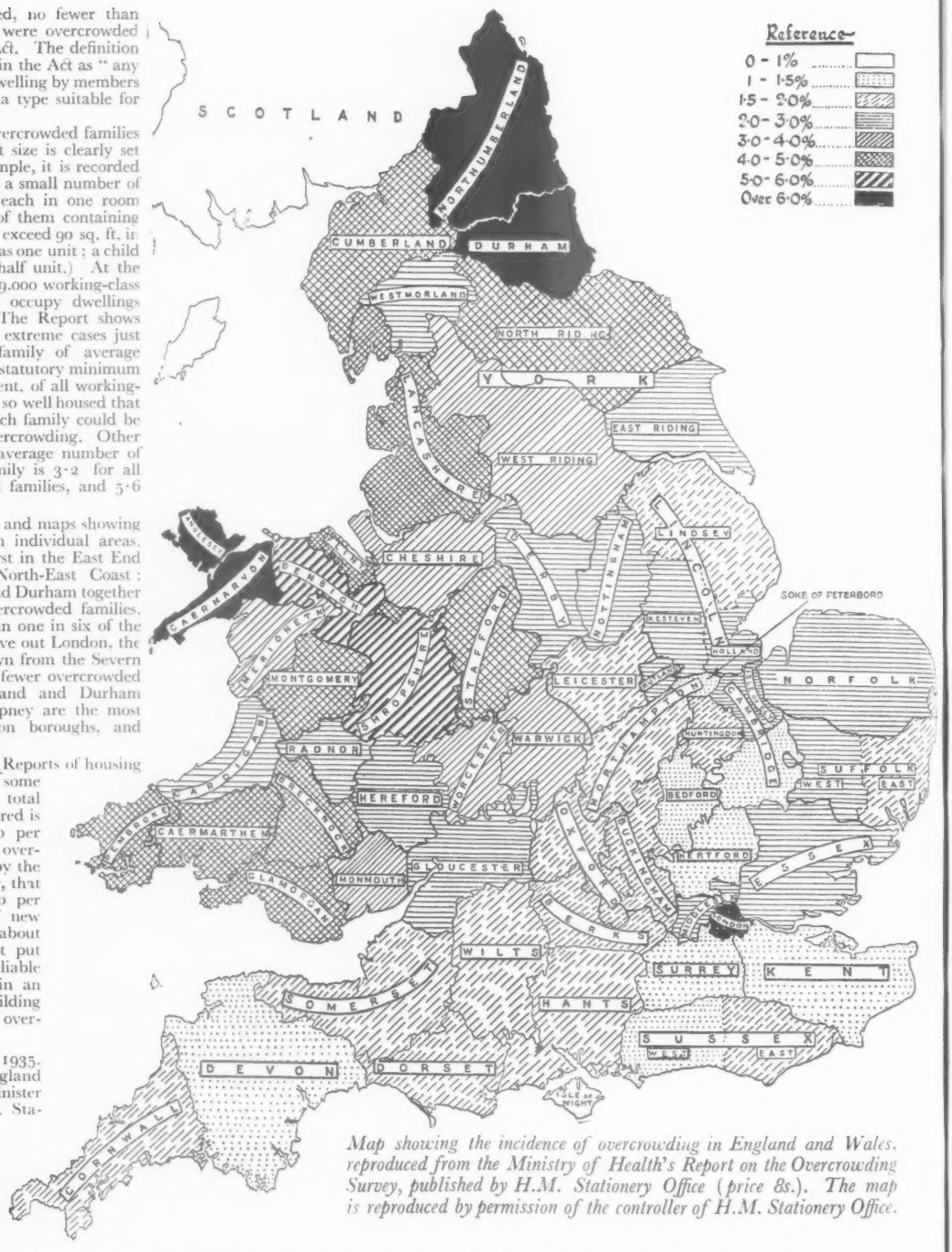
Report on the Overcrowding Survey in England and Wales. Issued by the Ministry of Health. London: H.M. Stationery Office. Price 8s. (This report on the overcrowding survey carried out under the Housing Act, 1935, contains a wealth of information about the size and housing accommodation of working-class families in England and Wales. The Report records that, at the time it was written, 1,472 local authorities in England and Wales—out of a total of 1,536—had submitted returns. The salient fact brought to light is that out of

8,924,523 dwellings inspected, no fewer than 341,554 (or 3·8 per cent.) were overcrowded within the meaning of the Act. The definition of a dwelling-house is given in 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 distribution of these overcrowded families among dwellings of different size is clearly set out in the Report. For example, it is recorded that 35,537 families up to, in a small number of cases, 10 units in size live each in one room only, 3,740 of which (one of them containing a family of nine units) do not exceed 90 sq. ft. in floor area. (An adult counts as one unit; a child between one and ten as a half unit.) At the other end of the scale over 89,000 working-class families of only two adults occupy dwellings with six rooms or more. The Report shows clearly that, in spite of the extreme cases just quoted, the working-class family of average size is housed well above the statutory minimum standard, and that 46 per cent. of all working-class families are shown to be so well housed that the number of persons in each family could be doubled without causing overcrowding. Other calculations show that the average number of units in a working-class family is 3·2 for all families, 3·1 for uncrowded families, and 5·6 for overcrowded families.

The Report contains tables and maps showing the overcrowded position in individual areas. It is, for the most part, worst in the East End of London and on the North-East Coast: London, Northumberland and Durham together contain two out of five overcrowded families, though they contain less than one in six of the whole population. If we leave out London, the country south of a line drawn from the Severn to the Wash contains 8,000 fewer overcrowded families than Northumberland and Durham alone. Shoreditch and Stepney are the most overcrowded of the London boroughs, and Woolwich is the least.

The Report concludes: "Reports of housing needs already received from some authorities suggest that the total estimate of new houses required is likely to be well under 50 per cent. of the total number of overcrowded families as found by the survey. Assuming, however, that it might be as much as 60 per cent., then the number of new houses required would be about 200,000. This figure is not put forward as any sort of reliable estimate, but solely to obtain an idea of the extent of the building problem involved in abating overcrowding.")



Map showing the incidence of overcrowding in England and Wales, reproduced from the Ministry of Health's Report on the Overcrowding Survey, published by H.M. Stationery Office (price 8s.). The map is reproduced by permission of the controller of H.M. Stationery Office.

Circular 1560. Housing Act, 1935. To Housing Authorities (England and Wales). Issued by the Minister of Health. London: H.M. Stationery Office. Price 1d. (Circular issued by the Minister of Health to local authorities forwarding an order which he had made fixing appointed days for bringing into operation the overcrowding provisions of the Housing Act of 1935. The circular pointed out that in a previous 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 the 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. . . . The Minister has under consideration the question of fixing appropriate appointed days for the remainder of the country.")

Statutory Rules and Orders, 1936. No. 665. Housing, England. Abatement of Overcrowding. The Housing Act, 1935 (Operation of Overcrowding Provisions) Order (No. 1), 1936, dated June 26, 1936, made by the Minister of Health under the Housing Act, 1935. London: H.M. Stationery Office. Price 3d.

Housing Bill. As amended by the Joint Select Committee. London: H.M. Stationery Office. Price 3s.

Circular No. 85. Housing (Scotland) Act, 1935: Measurement of Rooms. Issued by the Department of Health for Scotland. Edinburgh: H.M. Stationery Office. Price 1d.

Housing Circular No. 86 (1936). Explanation of Form 22 (Closing Order in respect of a dwelling-house). Issued by the Department of Health for Scotland. Edinburgh: H.M. Stationery Office. Price 1d.

The Law Relating to Housing and the Housing Acts. By Alfred R. Taylour, M.A., Barrister-at-Law. London: Hadden Best & Co. Price 30s. (This book, by a legal member of the Housing Committees of two metropolitan borough councils, deals, in a comprehensive manner, with the law relating to housing. The author, in his foreword, writes: "The fact that three long Acts dealing with housing have been passed within the short space of ten years indicates that the problem is an urgent one, and finality is still far from attainment. In struggling with it, Parliament in 1930 practically revised the Act of 1925, which was intended to consolidate the law, and in 1935 considerably amended both the Acts of 1925 and 1930, actually going so far as to amend part of the

section of the former Act retrospectively by offering compensation to those who had suffered hardship under it. Naturally these repeated amendments have added to the task of lawyers in interpreting this branch of the law, and they now have also to take into consideration an increasing number of authorities on the doubtful points which are constantly arising. This work is offered therefore in the hope that it may tend to simplify their task and to present the law of housing as a consistent whole. The sections of the various Acts have been carefully annotated and the relevant cases inserted in their appropriate places. Some of these have only within the last few weeks appeared in the reports." The book is divided into two parts. The first is devoted to the various measures introduced since the passing of the Small Dwellings Acquisition Act of 1899; and the second is devoted to appendices. A complete index is included.)

Consider Her Palaces. By Rosamond Tweedy. London: The Over Thirty Association. Price 6d. (The object of this booklet is to influence both voluntary housing associations and the housing authorities to include in their plans a proportion of low-rented, comfortable one-room flats to meet the needs of women workers who live alone, and whose incomes are in the neighbourhood of thirty-five shillings a week—or less.)

Rent Rebates. By Geoffrey Wilson. London: New Fabian Research Bureau and Victor Gollancz. Price 1s. (Three common defects in local authority housing schemes are the lack of sufficient variation in the sizes of houses, the lack of sufficient variation in the types of families accepted as tenants, and the application of available subsidies to the houses instead of to the tenants. This booklet is directly concerned with the last of these factors and indirectly with the other two.)

August
General

Result of the competition for working-class flats to be erected by the Birmingham Corporation on the Emily Street and Vaughton Street Area. (Assessor: Louis de Soissons, F.R.I.B.A.) Design placed first (£400): Messrs. G. Grey Wornum, F.R.I.B.A., and Anthony C. Tripe. Design placed second (£250): Messrs. Praxis and Mr. David Goddard, AA.R.I.B.A., in collaboration with Miss M. J. Blanco White (and with the British Steelwork Association). Design placed third (£150): Messrs. Howes and Jackman, AA.R.I.B.A. Design placed fourth: (£100): Major T. Cecil Howitt, F.R.I.B.A.

According to a statement issued by the Department of Health for Scotland, 6,498 houses of a working-class type were completed in Scotland during the quarter ended June 30 last.

August
Publications

The Housing Act, 1936. London: H.M. Stationery Office. Price 3s. (This Act, which received the Royal Assent on July 31, consolidates the Housing Acts, 1925 to 1935, and certain other enactments relating to housing.

Statutory Rules and Orders, 1936. Housing, England, No. 739. The Housing Acts (Form of Orders and Notices) Regulations, 1936, dated July 23, 1936, made by the Minister of Health under Section 57 of the Housing Act, 1930. Price 1s. 5d. *No. 740:* Public Right of Way Extinguishment. The Housing Acts (Extinguishment of Public Right of Way) Regulations, 1936, dated July 23, 1936, made by the Minister of Health under the Housing Acts, 1925 to 1935. Price 1d. *No. 741:* The Housing Acts (Equalization Account) Regulations, 1936, dated July 23, 1936, made by the Minister of Health under Section 57 of the Housing Act, 1930, and Section 46 (1) of the Housing Act, 1935. Price 1d. *No. 765:* Overcrowding and Miscellaneous Forms. The Housing Acts (Overcrowding and Miscellaneous Forms) Regulations, 1936, dated July 25, 1936, made by the Minister of Health under the Housing Acts, 1925 to 1935. Price 2d. *No. 838. Housing, England.* Abatement of Overcrowding. The Housing Act, 1935 (Operation of Overcrowding Provisions) Order (No. 2), 1936, dated August 21, 1936, made by the Minister of Health under the Housing Act, 1935. Price 1d. (London: H.M. Stationery Office).

September
General

"New Homes for Old" Exhibition. (At the Building Exhibition, Olympia.) Organized by the Housing Centre, in collaboration with the MARS Group and the Architects' and Technicians' Organization. Object of the exhibition: "To point out how human needs can be more fully satisfied in rebuilding, by utilizing the technical skill and knowledge which is now available." The exhibition was divided into four sections: infancy, childhood, manhood, and old age.

During his visit to Olympia King Edward VIII spent most of his time at the Housing Centre's display which, he said, he hoped large numbers of the public and representatives of public bodies would see, so that they might discover what still had to be done in the provision of good housing. He stated his appreciation of the need for trees and grass for children, and inquired particularly about the provision of nursery schools.

Criticism by the MARS Group (in a letter to the press), of the winning design in the competition for working-class flats for the City of Birmingham. Extracts from letter: . . . "It is with great regret that we observe that the design which has been awarded the first prize in this competition possesses several grave faults, the like of which it was hoped in these enlightened times would no longer find a place in a design for this class of building. . . . The most elementary defects of this design are, first, the return to the old-fashioned principle of planning flats in narrow closed courtyards, which results in haphazard orientation of the windows, the minimum privacy and fresh air and the maximum noise and dirt; secondly, the provision of access by means of external balconies on to which many of the bedrooms face. The disadvantages through loss of light, air and privacy of this method of planning are obvious. Other defects become apparent on examination of the competition drawings and the result is a lowering of the high standard of modern flat design which modern architects have achieved through laborious trial and research. . . .

"May we, in conclusion, reinforce the plea that has already been made for the establishment of some form of central government housing committee which could bring to the notice of municipalities advances in housing design and enable them to avoid engaging on housing schemes designed on principles already obsolete."

Criticism, by the Architects' and Technicians' Organization (in a letter to the press), of the winning design in the Birmingham flats competition. Extracts from letter: "In our opinion, the design placed first does not seem to be successful in avoiding all those points in flat block planning which are now generally accepted to be undesirable. Points at which criticism might be levelled from this standpoint are: (1) The provision of closed courts, with the consequent tendency towards shaded angles and the accentuation of noise from children playing in them. (2) Access by fairly long balconies on to which a proportion of the bedrooms face. (3) The provision of cupboard accommodation, which appears to fall short of modern needs. (4) Refuse-chutes of the 'letter-box flap' type at some distance from individual flats. (5) A number of bedrooms facing north. (6) The treatment of the private balconies as purely architectural features and not as an extension to the living-room accommodation. (7) It is contended in the winners' report that wooden windows give the most satisfactory result. It is doubtful whether the advantages of steel windows in strength, durability, ease of cleaning and glass area support this statement."

The Minister of Health made a series of visits to southern towns to investigate local government and open housing estates, hospitals, schools and other buildings. The places visited included Portsmouth, Plymouth, Bristol, and various towns in Wilts and Somerset.

Resolution passed at the annual conference of the National Labour Housing Association that the Government should provide 100,000 houses for agricultural workers "in view of the impossibility of securing an adequate supply of houses built by rural authorities at rents within the ability of agricultural workers to pay."

September
Publications

Housing (Rural Workers) Act, 1926. Circular issued by the Department of Health for Scotland (H. & T.P. Circular 8; 1927) Edinburgh: H.M. Stationery Office. Price 2d. (The Act authorises local authorities to give financial assistance towards the reconstruction and improvement of dwellings for agricultural labourers and rural workers. A new edition with amendments.)

Housing Bill (H.L. 159). Fourth Report by the Joint Committee of the House of Lords and of the House of Commons appointed to consider all Consolidation Bills in the present Session, together with an Appendix, Proceedings of the Committee and Minutes of Evidence. London: H.M. Stationery Office. Price 2s.

How Allotments could be made an Amenity Asset to the Community. By Lady Allen of Churtwood. The Housing Centre. Price 3d. (The author states the case for allotments and offers suggestions for their improvement in layout, planting and equipment. Designs, by Mr. William Tatton Brown, for a social community centre and different forms of hut units are included in the book.)

The Housing Act, 1936. By Alfred Fellows, B.A. London: Hadden Best & Co. Price 2s. 6d. (A comparative table of the sections and schedules of the Act, showing where the repealed sections of the previous Acts may be found in the new Act.)

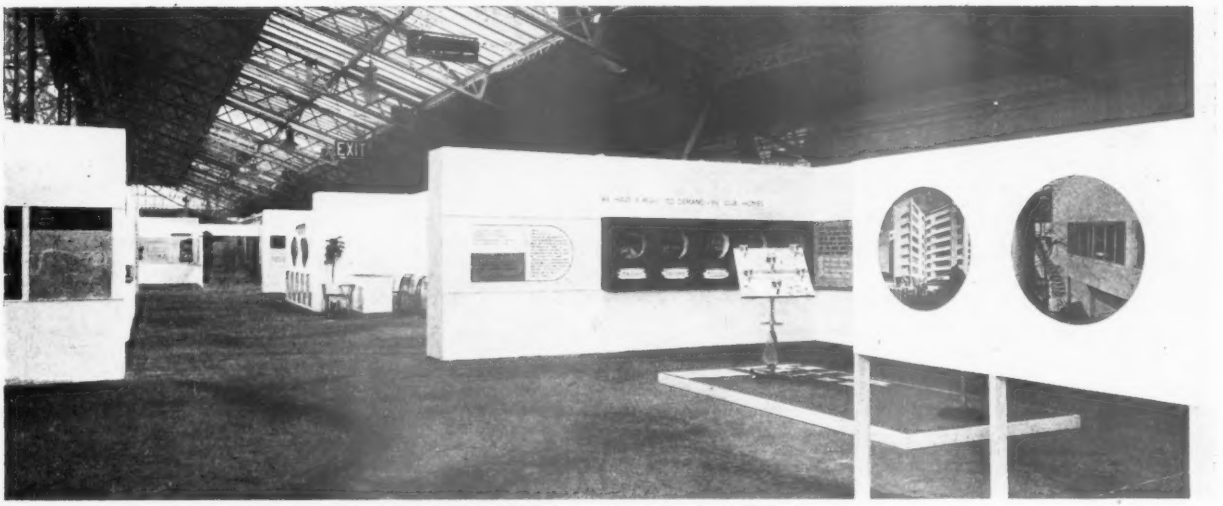
The Housing Act, 1936, With Index. By Leslie Maddox, B.A., Barrister-at-Law. London: Eyre and Spottiswoode. Price 10s. 6d. (A comparative table showing the correspondence between the sections of the Housing Act, 1936, and the sections of the previous Housing Acts.)

October
General

Statement, by the Minister of Health, that he had made an order, affecting 36 housing authorities in England and Wales, which fixed April 1, 1937, as the date for bringing into operation the overcrowding provisions of the Housing Act, 1935. January 1 had already been fixed as the "appointed day" for the 1,290 authorities where overcrowding was less than 2 per cent. At the time this statement was made there remained approximately 200 authorities for whom it had not yet been possible to fix the "appointed day."

The Housing Committee of the Liverpool Corporation approved plans for the layout of a "satellite town" on 359 acres at Speke. The scheme provides for 5,000 houses, etc. The estate is intended to cater for all classes, and with rents varying from 4s. to 30s. a week. Capital cost is estimated at £2,116,000.

Exhibition, at the Housing Centre, entitled "Forbidden Houses for the Gentlemen of the Slums." Organized by the ex-servicemen's group of the Hundred New Towns Association. It is claimed by the promoters of the exhibition that the types of dwellings proposed, although forbidden by the law of the land, are what the slum-dwellers really want. They state that they satisfy two important conditions: "(1) Nobody shall be required to ascend more than one flight of stairs to the principal living-room; and (2) there must be a street



A general view of the "New Homes for Old Display" at the Building Exhibition held at Olympia in September last.

playground or other recreation space immediately accessible from the front or backs of the houses, where children can play immediately under their mothers' eyes."

Arising out of a survey, undertaken by the Health Section of the League of Nations, into the applications of medical and technical research to housing, a committee was formed on health and comfort conditions in housing in this country.

The committee meets at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and it represents the Ministry of Health, the Department of Health for Scotland, the British Medical Association, the Building Industries National Council, the Building Research Station, the Industrial Health Research Board, the Institution of Electrical Engineers, the Institution of Gas Engineers, the Institution of Heating and Ventilating Engineers, the Institution of Municipal and County Engineers, the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, the Royal Institute of British Architects, the Royal Sanitary Institute, the Society of Medical Officers of Health, and the Town Planning Institute.

The Committee will serve as a link between the building industry and organisations concerned with medical and technical research bearing on health and comfort conditions in housing. It will not as a general rule initiate work but it will attempt, in co-operation with existing institutions, to co-ordinate and interpret work that is being done in this field. The Committee hopes to interpret and present the results of research falling within its terms of reference so as to make these results conveniently available to practising architects, engineers, the building industry, and to local health authorities. In addition, in common with committees that have been set up in various other countries, it will forward from time to time suitable communications to the Health Section of the League of Nations so that the information at the disposal of the League may be representative of current practice and accepted data and methods. Full information is obtainable from the Secretary of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Keppel Street, W.C.1.

Mr. L. H. Bucknell, in his presidential address to the Architectural Association, said: "The new Survey of London Life and Labour following the survey by Charles Booth, 1889, divides the population of London into five main groups.

1: The lowest class of degraded or semi-criminal population.
2: Those living below the Charles Booth poverty line.
3: Unskilled labourers and others of similar income, but above the poverty line.
4: Skilled workers and others of similar grades of income.
5: The middle classes and the wealthy.

"These are broad divisions, and many streets have a mixed population, but taking that broad division and including the first three sections only, the lowest and semi-criminal, those below the poverty line, and the unskilled labourer class, it will be found that the area covered forms a ring round the inner part of London. Starting at Regent's Park and tracing it eastwards it passes through Islington to Whitechapel, southwards, and over the river to Bermondsey, westward through Southwark, Kennington and Battersea, across the river again to Fulham, northwards through Wormwood Scrubs to Kensal Green, and eastwards again to Regent's Park.

"This forms a natural ring of property which must be rebuilt within half a century. It not only forms a ring, but it connects at some points to natural outlets. From Fulham there is an outlet through Barnes Common to Richmond Park, from Hampstead Road to the Heath, from Bethnal Green to Victoria Park, and the Lee Valley. If this inner area were gradually cleared, it would be possible to house the present tenants in modern flats, and to save enough land to provide playing fields, swimming baths, children's play centres and clinics, schools, and playgrounds, and all those amenities necessary to a healthy life, and at the same time provide London with a healthy inner ring which could eventually be connected by arteries to the outer green belt which is gradually being formed."

October

Publications

Statutory Rules and Orders, 1936. No. 1017. Housing, England. Abatement of Overcrowding. The Housing Act, 1935 (Operation of Overcrowding Provisions) Order (No. 3), 1936, dated September 25, 1936, made by the Minister of Health under the Housing Act, 1935. London: H.M. Stationery Office. Price 1d.

L.C.C. Regulations. London: P. S. King and Son. Price 2s. 6d. (General regulations of the London County Council in operation on June 1, 1936.)

Seventeenth Annual Report of the Ministry of Health, 1935-1936. London: H.M. Stationery Office. Price 5s. (This annual report now appears in its seventeenth number and in a revised form. The chief featnres of the report are the sections devoted to housing and town planning. The Government's policy in housing is divided into three parts: 1: slum clearance; 2: abatement of overcrowding; 3: general house building.)

Basil Jellicoe. By Kenneth Ingram. London: The Centenary Press. Price 6s. (An excellent biography of the late Father Basil Jellicoe, founder of the St. Pancras House Improvement Society and a leader of the voluntary housing movement. Father Jellicoe died in August, 1935, at the age of 36. Almost a decade ago he tackled the problem of rehousing in Somers Town and made a success of it. Perhaps his most surprising achievement was to make rehousing pay, and to continue to pay, over a number of years.)

November

General

Paper, entitled "Rehousing from the Slum-dweller's Point of View" read by Miss Elizabeth Denby, before the R.I.B.A. (London). Points from paper: "For no apparent reason it seems to be assumed that over one-fifth of a workman's income should be spent on rent, but this is manifestly far too high a proportion . . . Flats are intensely unpopular among working people, who consider that they provide an environment which is entirely unsuitable for family life. . . . I agree with the working man and woman that the choice for a town dweller between a flat at 50 and a cottage at 12 to the acre is a choice between two unpractical and unnecessary extremes. The rows of terrace cottages built in the Regency days, with a small garden in front and a long one behind, were built at a density of 30 and 40 dwellings to the acre. That is the density at which we are now building flats. The popularity of these coherent and dignified little streets and squares seems equally shared by the well-to-do and the private speculator who covet these areas. The pleasure and pride taken by working people in the few areas left to them seems to point pretty clearly to the popularity of some kind of re-development of central areas in this form. It would certainly be cheaper than tenements, the density would be identical, and the tenants would be able to add considerably to their food supplies while living centrally in touch with many kinds of work."

The Housing and Public Health Committee, in association with the Town Planning and Building Regulation Committee and Highways Committee, submitted to the L.C.C. the first proposal to be considered by the Council for dealing with a large scale redevelopment area under the new procedure laid down in the Housing Act, 1935. The scheme is for the complete redevelopment, including a rearrangement of roads and open spaces and the redistribution of industrial and residential districts, of an area of about 46 acres in the northern part of Bethnal Green. The total population of the area is 5,471 and the redevelopment will involve the displacement and rehousing of 4,700 working-class people. Provisional estimate for acquiring and securing the site, etc.: £1,250,000; provision of rehousing accommodation for the displaced population: approximately £500,000. The

Council also approved plans of a new type of block dwelling to be introduced, where appropriate, in conjunction with existing types, to give added variety to future housing schemes. The new plans are based on the principle of staircase access as opposed to the balcony access type which has been universally adopted by the Council for many years.

Approval, by the L.C.C., of the development of a site of 50 acres formerly occupied by the White City Exhibition at a cost of £1,437,000. The scheme provides for 2,286 dwellings containing 7,290 rooms.

Approval, by the L.C.C., of proposals for the erection of flats on ten sites in Hackney, Lambeth, St. Pancras, Stepney and Southwark at a total cost of more than £929,000.

A "Housing Week" was held in East London, the purpose of which was to stimulate interest in housing in Poplar, Stepney and other East End boroughs, and to enlist public interest in the work that is being and will be done.

National Housing and Town Planning Conference, at Harrogate. Papers read during the Conference included: "Facts and Figures regarding the present Housing Situation and the Progress of the Anti-Slum Campaign in England and Wales," "The Provisions of the Housing Act, 1935, and the Results of the Overcrowding Survey." By John G. Martin (Secretary of the National Housing and Town Planning Council.) "The Present Position of Housing and Town Planning in Scotland." By Sir William E. Whyte (Hon. Secretary of the Scottish National Housing and Town Planning Committee). "Re-Development Areas under the Housing Act, 1935." By L. H. Keay, O.B.E., M.ARCH. (Liverpool), F.R.I.B.A. (Director of Housing, Liverpool). "Design for a Small Community." By J. M. Mackintosh, M.A., M.D., D.P.H. (Barrister-at-Law, County Medical Officer of Health of Northamptonshire). Point from the second paper by Mr. Martin: "Notwithstanding the construction of this large number of houses, there is still a serious shortage in many parts of the country of modern dwellings which can be let at rents within the means of the lower-paid wage-earners."

Statement, by the Department of Health for Scotland that, at September 30, except for six county councils, all the local authorities in Scotland had completed their overcrowding surveys and had submitted their reports thereon to the Department of Health for Scotland. In all, 1,071,652 houses were surveyed (813,384 in burghs and 258,268 in counties); and of these 247,032 were found to be overcrowded (194,413 in the burghs and 5,619 in the counties). In the burghs 23·9 per cent. of the houses were overcrowded, and in the counties 20·4 per cent. The number of families living in overcrowded houses was 221,362 in burghs and 57,232 in counties—a total of 278,594 overcrowded families. Of the overcrowded houses, 34,819 were owned by local authorities themselves. About 23 per cent. of the houses owned by town councils and about 24 per cent. of those owned by county councils were found to be overcrowded. The numbers of new houses which local authorities showed to be required (after making allowance for full use of existing houses) in order to put an end to overcrowding were 123,634 in burghs and 32,668 in counties —a total of 156,302 new houses. One hundred and eighty-three town councils and 16 county councils had submitted to the Department their building programmes for the period to the end of 1938. These programmes showed a total of 58,109 houses proposed to be built in that period. The total would be substantially increased when all programmes had been framed and submitted. An ever-increasing number of local authorities were now engaged in the erection of houses in fulfilment of their programmes.

Approval given by the Minister of Health to the Liverpool Corporation's £1,000,000 scheme for the redevelopment of the centre of the city, comprising 51 acres in the neighbourhood of Scotland Road. This was the first scheme of its kind to be submitted to the Minister of

Summary of Sections 2, 3 and 5 of the Housing Act, 1935.

1. *After the day of 19 , an occupier who causes or permits his dwelling to be overcrowded is liable to prosecution for an offence under the Housing Act, 1935, and, if convicted, to a fine not exceeding five pounds. Any part of a house which is occupied by a separate family is a "dwelling."*

2. *A dwelling is overcrowded if the number of persons sleeping in it is more than the "permitted number," or is such that two or more of those persons, being ten years old or over, of opposite sexes (not being persons living together as husband and wife), must sleep in the same room.*

3. *The "permitted number" for the dwelling to which this Rent Book relates is persons. In counting the number of persons each child under ten years of age counts as half a person, and a child of less than one year is not counted at all.*

4. *The Act contains special provisions relating to overcrowding already existing on the above-mentioned date or which is due to a child attaining the age of either one or ten years after that date, or which is due to exceptional circumstances. Full information about these special provisions and all provisions as to overcrowding can be obtained free on application to the Local Authority, whose address is Lambeth Town Hall, Brixton Hill, S.W.2*

Reproduction of a page from a rent book for a flat in a South London Borough giving a summary of the overcrowding provisions of the Housing Act, 1935.

Health under Section 13 of the Housing Act, 1935. Architect, L. H. Keay. A statement issued by the Minister described the scheme as "a typical example of what can be done under the new powers conferred on local authorities by housing legislation in respect of clearing and redeveloping congested areas," and that "similar plans prepared by other large urban authorities are nearing their final stages."

A statement was issued by the Leeds Council showing the effect of the changes in the Rent Rebates Scheme in Leeds.

	Sept., 1936	Nov., 1935
Number of tenants paying full rent	8,525	4,460
" " " reduced "	3,695	5,315
" " " no "	—	1,235

Rent relief thus varies from 1d. to 11s. a week with a minimum rent of 1s. Although there is a considerable increase in the number of tenants paying full rent, not all of them necessarily pay more since the present "full rent" is lower than the previous "full economic rent."

Statement by the Department of Health for Scotland that, at the end of October, local authorities in Scotland had 19,375 houses under construction. This is the highest total yet achieved. The number of houses completed during the month was 1,439 as compared with 1,603 during September.

November

Publications

Special Areas, England and Wales. Third Report of the Commissioner. H.M. Stationery Office. Price 3s. 6d.

English Panorama. By Thomas Sharp. London: Dent and Sons, Price 7s. 6d. (The author traces the growth of the English countryside from the original wilderness to the highly civilized and humanized landscape of the eighteenth century. Mr. Sharp would replace the horrors of the urban slum, the jerry built "garden suburb," the chaos of the overgrown town stretching its ribbons out into the country, by well-planned towns and satellites, sufficiently compact to bring the countryside within walking distance for everyone. An excellent study of the countryside.)

Housing: Working-class Housing on the Continent and the Application of Continental Ideas to the Housing Problem in the County of London. Report by the Chairman of the Housing and Public Health Committee of the L.C.C., Mr. Lewis Silkin, M.P., as the result of a visit to continental housing estates in September and October, 1935. London: P. S. King. Price 1s. (It is obvious from this report that in the total volume of rehousing work London leads easily, but in size of individual schemes the Continent has it. The author summarizes his impressions as follows: "It was impossible, in the comparatively short time of our visit, to obtain detailed data on all matters of interest, but sufficient was seen to convince me that there are many aspects of working-class housing which have received close study on the Continent, and are worthy of further investigation. I have confined myself to a number of suggestions, for consideration and the financial implications will have to be thoroughly examined before decisions are reached. While direct action against the evils of bad housing and overcrowding conditions appears to have advanced further in England than in other countries, and the overcrowding formula under the Housing Act, 1935, compares favourably with most continental conceptions of adequate accommodation for securing proper sleeping and living conditions, I have formed the opinion that some of the amenities which tend to make tenements in block dwellings comfortable homes for persons of the working classes, and which provide facilities for social welfare, rest and recreation, have received more thought and have been carried out to a greater extent in connection with housing work abroad than is the case in London. In my view, these amenities are necessary ancillaries to good housing and should receive careful attention by all concerned with the welfare of the masses of the population."

What Labour has Done for London. London Labour Party. Price 1d. (This booklet deals with the work of the various Committees of the London County Council since 1934—when the Labour Party gained control of the Council ——up to the autumn recess of 1936.)

December

General

The Minister of Health, Sir Kingsley Wood, issued a further Order fixing "appointed days" for bringing into operation the overcrowding provisions of the Housing Act of 1935. The first Order fixed January 1, 1937, as the appointed day for 1,282 local authorities. The second Order fixed April 1, 1937, as the appointed day for a further 36 authorities. The Order issued this month fixed July 1, 1937, as the appointed day for 159 authorities. The three Orders together have fixed an appointed day for 1,477 out of the 1,536 towns and districts in the country, so that there remain only 59 areas where the Act will not have come into operation by July 1, 1937. Of these 59 outstanding authorities, 13 are in London, 10 are county boroughs and 12 are districts in Wales.

Statement obtained from the L.C.C., giving approximate number of dwellings provided by the Council since the War up to December 31, 1936: in block dwellings, 15,480 flats; at cottage estates, 53,300 houses and flats. The number of dwellings provided by the Council from January 1, 1936, to December 31, 1936, is as follows: in block dwellings, 5,290 flats (approximately); at cottage estates, 1,720 houses and flats (approximately). Number of dwellings in course of erection or under contract at November 30, 1936: in block dwellings, 4,347 flats; at cottage estates, 4,550 houses and flats.

Slum Clearance Operations.—The Council has declared 155 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 re-development, comprise in all about 312 acres, and involve the displacement and renousing of some 67,000 persons. Other areas are under consideration. Of the 68,780 new dwellings completed since the War 13,000 have been allocated for rehousing purposes in connection with slum clearance.

Sites for Rehousing Purposes.—To enable the Council to proceed steadily with its slum clearance programme, a large amount of rehousing accommodation is required on sites other than the clearance areas themselves. With this object in view and also for the provision of a considerable proportion of the accommodation which will be required in connection

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with the relief of overcrowding, the Council has acquired or appropriated, or is taking steps to acquire, sites in London comprising about 420 acres for the erection of block dwellings. Some of these sites are in course of development. Of the completed dwellings, 711 have been allocated for relief of overcrowding.

Abatement of Overcrowding.—The results of a survey carried out by the Metropolitan Borough Councils under the Housing Act, 1935, show that of 1,014,633 families included in the survey, 70,953 families were overcrowded on the standard laid down in the Act, and 57,389 families had just sufficient accommodation for their needs. The remaining 886,291 families had accommodation in excess of the standard. The net estimates of the Metropolitan Borough Councils show that the number of new dwellings required to abate overcrowding in the County of London is 23,780. This estimate makes allowance for the fact that the accommodation at present occupied by overcrowded families will, to a large extent, be available for reletting in combination with other rooms in the same houses, and allows for the proportion of the overcrowding (about 11 per cent.) which will be dealt with in the course of slum clearance operations.

Cottage Estates.—Apart from cottage estates in course of development, further sites have been or are being acquired for new cottage estates in the vicinity of London.

Redevelopment area in Bethnal Green.—In December, 1936, the Council declared an area in the northern part of Bethnal Green, about 46 acres in extent, to be a proposed redevelopment area under the Housing Act, 1935. A redevelopment plan showing the manner in which it is intended that the area should be laid out and the land therein used, is in course of preparation, and will be submitted to the Minister of Health in due course for approval.

The foundation stone of the first block of flats on Hackney Marsh was "laid" by telephone by Dr. Parsons, Bishop of Southwark. The Bishop gave the signal over the telephone from the London County Hall and Mr. E. G. Culpin, F.R.I.B.A., vice-chairman of the L.C.C. actually laid the stone. The ceremony was held in the County Hall owing to the risk of bad weather. The Hackney Marsh site is regarded by the L.C.C. as the key to rehousing and redevelopment in East London on a much greater scale than has hitherto been possible.

Exhibition, at Charing Cross Underground Station, of the "New Homes for Old" Exhibition. The display comprised sections of the exhibition on view at Olympia in September. The opening ceremony was performed by Lord Horder.

Mr. Hudson, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Health, received a deputation from the Over Thirty Association, who urged that the Ministry should immediately investigate the need for the provision of one-roomed flatlets in connection with housing schemes, and to suggest a means by which this need could be met. It was stated by Miss Eleanor Rathbone, M.P., for the deputation, that although 6·7 per cent. of all families in England and Wales consist of one person only, local authorities had no power to build special accommodation for them with the benefit of a subsidy except in connection with the clearance of slums and the abatement of overcrowding. The greater proportion of these "one-person families" were women, and a large and increasing percentage were middle-aged and elderly women, who lived alone and were under the necessity of earning their own livelihood. Private enterprise could not be depended upon to solve the problem, and local authorities should therefore be encouraged to provide accommodation independently of their slum clearance and overcrowding proposals and be given a subsidy towards the cost.

Mr. Hudson, in reply, said the Minister was fully alive to the problem, and that the Minister had asked him to tell them that he was asking the General Purposes and Technical Sub-committee of the Central Housing Advisory Committee to examine it further.

Approval, by the Public Health Committee of the Manchester City Council, of a survey of overcrowding in the city prepared on the basis of what is known as "the Manchester standard." "The standard" shows that 19,673 working-class houses out of a total of 174,010 may be regarded as overcrowded—approximately five times as many as the official number based on the standard laid down in the Housing Act of 1935.

The "Manchester standard"—adopted by the city for statistical but not yet for administration purposes—considers a house overcrowded if there are more than 2½ persons to each bedroom (children counting as a half) while the Act has a standard of 2½ persons per room, whether living or bedroom.

The General and Parliamentary Committee of the Manchester Corporation considered a proposal, put forward by the Housing Committee, for the acquisition of the Bowlee Estate at Middleton. The estate, which covers 488 acres, is at present the property of the Waterworks Committee, and the Housing Committee proposes, if it gets it, to build upon it 6,000 houses as part of its five-year programme of housing. The General and Parliamentary Committee decided to defer consideration of the matter for two months in order that it might get further information upon it.

The Department of Health for Scotland announced that in November local authorities completed 1,488 houses. This is nearly 500 less than a year ago.

Mr. George Buchanan raised in the House of Commons the question of the housing conditions in Glasgow, and said that one-third of the population were living under conditions which, judged by modern standards, were indefensible. In Gorbals alone it would take the Corporation, at the present rate of progress, quite six-and-a-half years to rehouse those living in insanitary dwellings. If they were to deal with overcrowding it would take them 20 years—and probably much longer—to deal with that problem in his division alone. Mr. Elliot, Secretary for Scotland, replying, said that much of what had been said was no exaggeration, but in fact was an under-statement. Unless a tremendous spurt was made, Glasgow would fall far short of the figure for housing construction for the year. What was worse, the houses under construction to his mind did not indicate that the 3,000 figure would be reached, and that it would be considerably less than that next year. In Scotland 23 per cent. of the houses were overcrowded against 3·8 per cent. for England and Wales.

Statement by the Department of Health for Scotland: "In the Appendix to Housing Circular No. 85, 1936, the Department suggested a model form of letter for the guidance of the Local Authority in carrying out the duty which Section 7 (2) of the Housing (Scotland) Act, 1935, places upon them to inform the landlord and occupier of a house of the permitted number of persons in relation to the house. It has now come to the notice of the Department that the receipt of intimations under the subsection has caused anxiety in the minds of landlords and occupiers of overcrowded houses in some districts. Without knowing that it is the statutory duty of the local authority to give notice of the permitted number of persons as soon as may be after ascertaining the floor area of the rooms of a house, these landlords and occupiers mistakenly assume, where their houses are occupied by a number of persons in excess of the permitted number as defined by the Act, that the intimation of the permitted number of persons is a prelude to penal proceedings under the Act.

"To avoid misunderstanding, therefore, the Secretary of State suggests that the local authority should add a footnote to any intimations which they may issue in future explaining the true position. The explanation might be to the following effect: 'Notice to occupiers. This intimation is made in accordance with Section 7 (2) of the Act, and no legal penalties will arise from it.'"

Statement, by the Department of Health for Scotland, that, following its suggestion to local authorities to provide facilities for recreation in their housing schemes, "a welcome proposal has been made by the Glasgow Corporation." In its housing scheme in the Calton area, which is densely populated, the Corporation proposes to form a playground in a large open quadrangle partly surrounded by three-storey tenements.

December

Publications

Housing: House Production, Slum Clearance, etc., in England and Wales. Position at September 30, 1936. Issued by the Ministry of Health. London: H.M. Stationery Office. Price 4d. (This is the fifth of the series of half-yearly returns showing the progress in dealing with housing in England and Wales. The report records that, at September 30 last, 3,146,946 new houses had been provided since the Armistice—897,846 by local authorities and 2,249,100 by private enterprise. [The total excludes 15,035 houses provided to rehouse persons displaced under improvement and reconstruction schemes under legislation prior to the Housing Act, 1930.]

The total number of houses completed during the year ended September 30 last was 339,538—a record for any year, being 10,432 more than the previous high record for any yearly period (namely, the year ending March 31, 1935). The total number of houses completed by private enterprise during the year just missed beating the record for the previous year—274,348 as compared with 275,069 for the year ended September 30, 1935. The number of houses included in this total which were completed during the six months April 1-September 30 was 127,727, which is 2,067 more than for the half-year ended September 30, 1935, but 18,894 less than for the half-year ended March 31 last.

The number of houses built by local authorities during the past half-year was a high record for the period since the present returns were begun (in 1934) being 36,756 compared with 36,737 for the half-year ended March 31, 1932. The number thus completed is 8,628 more than for the previous half-year.

The proportion of small houses provided by private enterprise remains unreduced; proportionately the number of houses built for letting is rising (38·9 per cent. as compared with 35·5 per cent. for the half-year ended September 30, 1935). Progress at the final—and effective—stages of slum clearance is shown by the increasing number of new houses completed under the Act of 1930 and of houses demolished. During the year 45,148 houses were demolished (24,023 during the last half-year) as compared with 30,890 in the previous year. During the year 49,238 houses were completed under the Act of 1930 (28,445 during the last half-year) as compared with 32,915 during the previous year.

The return concludes with a statement showing for each administrative county and county borough the number of houses provided in the half-year ending September 30, 1936, by (1) the local housing authorities for those areas, and (2) the number provided by private enterprise in those areas.

Also, statement by the Ministry of Health (in a circular to the press) giving the latest figures showing the position of slum clearance and rehousing.

Clearance Areas and Orders.—During November local authorities declared areas comprising 4,721 houses representing the displacement of 18,844 persons, as compared with 4,308 houses and a displacement of 16,341 persons in October. The Orders submitted during November

covered 3,763 houses and the displacement of 13,700 persons, as compared with 4,805 houses and the displacement of 19,851 persons in October. The Orders confirmed during November covered 4,055 houses and 16,382 persons, as compared with 5,604 houses and 24,818 persons in October. The total number of houses in such Orders is now 121,561, involving the displacement of 525,133 persons.

Rehousing Progress.—The latest available figures are those for October. At the end of that month there were 57,329 houses under construction, as compared with 58,409 at the end of September and 57,302 at the end of August.

In a circular letter to local authorities about the action to be taken by them in the New Year under the Overcrowding Act of 1935, Sir Kingsley Wood recalled that during 1937 the Act would come into full operation in most parts of the country, and that it would be the duty of the local authority to see that existing overcrowding was abated as soon as possible and that no fresh overcrowding should arise, except as temporarily licensed for special reasons. The letter points out that: "Most families are overcrowded through no fault of their own, and the object of the Act is to help such people and not to injure them. The Act clearly provides that any occupier who is unfortunately living in overcrowded conditions is not thereby committing any offence, and there can be no question of putting pressure on him to abate the overcrowding by splitting up his family and by other drastic measures of that kind. The overcrowding is to be abated by finding him a house of a suitable size, suitably situated and suitably rented, in which he and his family can lead a healthy and comfortable life."

Draft Statutory Rules and Orders, 1936. Housing, England. Form of Orders and Notices. Draft, dated December 11, 1936, of the Housing Act (Form of Orders and Notices) Regulations, 1937. Price 1d. *Abatement of Overcrowding: The Housing Act, 1935 (Operation of Overcrowding Provisions) Order (No. 4), 1936*, dated December 22, 1936, made by the Minister of Health under the Housing Act, 1935. Price 1d. London: H.M. Stationery Office.

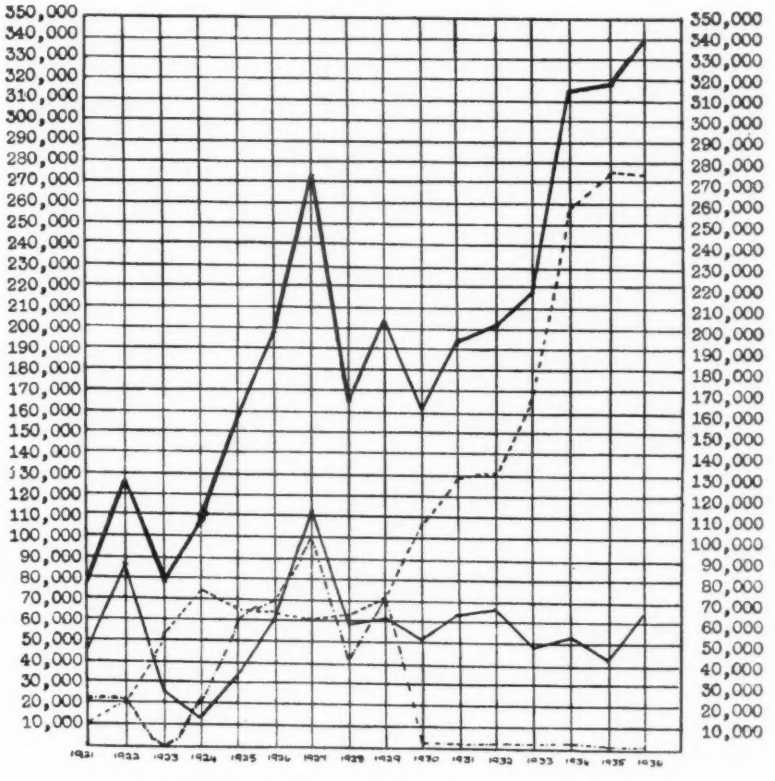
Housing Act, 1936. Table of Comparison. Issued by the Ministry of Health. London: H.M. Stationery Office. Price 6d. (This booklet shows, 1: the mode in which earlier enactments are dealt with by the Act. 2: The sections of the Act and corresponding provisions in earlier Acts.)

Rural Housing. Report issued by the Minister of Health. London: H.M. Stationery Office. Price 6d. (This report was drawn up by the Rural Housing Sub-Committee of the Central Housing Advisory Committee. Its object is to bring home to local authorities the importance of making known to cottage-owners and cottage-dwellers the facilities which are available to them under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts for re-conditioning old and dilapidated cottages.)

Community Life in New Housing Schemes. Memorandum issued by the Department of Health for Scotland and the Scottish Education Department. Edinburgh: H.M. Stationery Office. Price 1d. (The object of the memorandum is to encourage local authorities, particularly authorities who have large new housing schemes, to provide in their schemes ample facilities for the development of community life.)

Housing, Scotland. The Housing (Miscellaneous Forms) Regulations (Scotland) dated December 12, 1936. Edinburgh: H.M. Stationery Office. Price 1d.

The table on the right shows the houses provided in England and Wales since the Armistice 1, by local authorities; 2, by private enterprise. (This Statement does not include 15,035 houses provided to rehouse persons displaced under Improvement and Reconstruction Schemes made under the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890, and the Housing Act, 1925.)



The above chart shows the number of houses provided in England and Wales in the years ending September 30, 1921 to 1936.

	Number of houses provided up to September 30, 1936			
	By Local Authorities	By Private Enterprise	Total	*Total in rural districts* (included in previous column)*
1. Houses provided under—				
Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1919	170,090	4,545	174,635	*35,915*
Housing (Additional Powers) Act, 1919	—	39,186	39,186	*15,979*
Housing, etc., Act, 1923	75,309	362,738	438,047	*118,261*
Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1924:				
(*a*) In Agricultural Parishes	29,444	2,062	31,506	*30,114*
(*b*) In other Parishes	475,074	13,718	488,792	*36,833*
Housing Act, 1930	108,278	789	109,067	*8,679*
Housing Act, 1935	742	—	742	*60*
Housing Act, 1925 and other Acts	38,909	—	38,909	*6,675*
Totals (item 1)	897,846	423,038	1,320,884	*252,516*
2. Houses provided by private enterprise without State assistance with a rateable value—				
(*a*) Up to £26 (£35 in Greater London)	—	1,501,885	1,501,885	*379,419*
(*b*) £27 to £52 (£36 to £70 in Greater London)	—	289,611	289,611	*44,006*
(*c*) £53 to £78 (£71 to £105 in Greater London)	—	34,566	34,566	*5,342*
Totals (item 2)	—	1,826,062	1,826,062	*428,767*
Grand Totals	897,846	2,249,100	3,146,946	*681,283*

* Many houses which were provided in rural districts are now in urban districts, mainly owing to alterations in areas made as a result of the County Reviews under the Local Government Act, 1929. The figures in the last column in respect of houses provided under the Acts of 1925 (after September 30, 1935), 1930 and 1935 relate to rural districts as now constituted, those in respect of houses provided under the Acts of 1919, 1923 and 1924 to districts which were rural districts when the final returns under those Acts were made, and the remaining figures to houses in districts which were rural districts when the houses were built.

Number of Houses	During the half-years ending			
	March 31, 1935	September 30, 1935	March 31, 1936	September 30, 1936
In clearance areas declared ..	24,195	26,176	26,261	22,629
In orders confirmed and purchased by agreement	25,072	21,529	19,733	22,337
Approved	26,406	38,774	27,455	24,791
Completed	14,345	18,570	20,793	28,445
Demolished, closed or not to be used for human habitation	14,095	16,795	21,125	24,023

The above table shows the rate of progress with the work of slum clearance in England and Wales under the Housing Act, 1930.

INFORMATION RECEIVED TOO LATE FOR CLASSIFICATION

Housing, Scotland.—Statement showing the number of houses completed with and without state assistance from January 1, 1936, to November 30, 1936, and September 30, 1936, respectively.

	Local Authorities		Private Enterprise	Total
	Ordinary Schemes	Slum Clearance Schemes		
With State assistance	1,835	11,182	—	13,017
Without State assistance	1,522	—	*5,176	6,698
Total	3,357	11,182	5,176	19,715

* These are houses of five apartments and under completed between January 1, 1936, and September 30, 1936, the latest date for which Returns are available. In addition 294 houses of more than five apartments were erected during the same period.

Hostels.—Six hostels containing 85 single apartments have been completed with state assistance between January 1, 1936, and November 30, 1936.

THE BUILDINGS ILLUSTRATED

SCARBOROUGH HOSPITAL (pages 47–56). The general contractors were Foster and Dicksee; quantity surveyors, Taylor and Smith; clerk of works, E. Appleton. The principal sub-contractors and suppliers included: Proctor and Lavender, facing bricks; London Brick Co., walling bricks (flettons); Caxton Floors, hollow-tile R.C. floors, R.C. stairs, etc.: James Slater & Co., Ltd., heating, hot water, ventilation, sterilizers, cooking plant (automatic combustion plant to boilers for heating); Peers & Sons, Portland stone copings, cills, etc.: Scarboro' Gas Co., Portcullis gas fires; Troughton & Young, Ltd., electrical installation, fittings, emergency lighting equipment, etc.; Freer, plumbing, etc.: William Livesey & Sons, plastering; E. S. Crowe, paintwork: Blundell Spence & Co., Ltd., paint; Hollis Bros., teak block floors; Tonks & Sons, linoleum floors; Art Pavements and Decorations Ltd., terrazzo and marble work; Carter & Co., Ltd., tiling; Crittall Manufacturing Co., Ltd., steel windows, roof lights, fanlights; Luxfer, glass saucer dome lights; Doulton & Co., sanitary goods, drains and fittings, linen chutes; Limmer & Trinidad Lake Asphalte Co., asphalt work (roofs and tanking); Johnsons R.C. Co., reinforcement to R.C. foundations; Bratt Colbran & Co., Ltd., special electric ward fires; James Gibbons, ironmongery, medicine cabinets; J. P. White, flush doors (also lead-lined doors); W. Rowntree & Sons, board room furniture; Thackray, ward sterilizing equipment, iron railings to stairs, and panel; B'ham Guild, bronze floor covers; Moler Products Ltd., hollow partitions (Fosalsil); Merchant Trading Co., panelled (standard) doors; Geo. Wright, coal fires, electric bed and service lifts; Etchells, Congdon & Muir, hand power goods lift; Furze, lightning conductors; P. C. Henderson, sliding door tracks; Staines Kitchen Equipment, plate racks; Kodak, X-Ray viewing boxes (built in); Ilford, dark-room developing unit; Educational Supply Association, pathological laboratory fittings; Hunter & Hyland, cubicle curtain runners; W. G. Canon & Sons, body racks in mortuary; D. & J. Tullis, laundry machinery.

COUNCIL OFFICES, WELWYN GARDEN CITY (pages 57–62). The general contractors were Welwyn Builders Ltd., and the principal sub-contractors and suppliers included: Helical Bar and Engineering Co., Ltd., solid floors; F. H. Wheeler & Co., Ltd., electric light; Young, Austen & Young, heating; Horsley Smith & Co. (London) Ltd., wood block floors; Tibbenham, flush doors; H. H. Martyn & Co., Ltd., panelling, fibrous plaster and wrot iron; Merryweather & Sons, Ltd., fire station equipment; Tile Decorations Ltd., tiling; Art Pavements & Decorations Ltd., terrazzo; Keystone Paint & Varnish Co., Ltd., paint; Kinematograph Equipment Co. lino and blinds; Skellorn Edwards & Co., Ltd., curtains; Kinematograph Equipment Co., curtains; Peter Jones, carpets; H. J. Perris & James Gibbons, Ltd., ironmongery; H. J. Perris, sanitary fittings; Bath Cabinet Makers Co., Ltd., furniture (Council Chamber and Committee Room); Edgleys Ltd., office furniture; Magneta Time Co., clocks; Roberts Adlard & Co., Ltd., roof tiling; Ragusa Asphalt Co., asphalt; W. T. Lamb & Sons, bricks (facings); Shaw's Glazed Brick Co., faience; Newall's Insulation Co., Asbestos Spray, acoustic plaster.

ATHENÆUM COURT, PICCADILLY, (pages 63–65). The general contractors were the Trussed Concrete Steel Co., Ltd. and the principal sub-contractors and suppliers included: Demolition & Construction Co., Ltd., demolition; Imperial Chemical Industries, pioneer blocks, partitions; H. W. Cullum & Co., Ltd., patent flooring; Richard Crittall & Co., Ltd., central heating and ventilation; Troughton & Young, Ltd., electric wiring, light fixtures and heating; A. Grant & Sons, plumbing; Doulton & Co., Ltd., sanitary fittings; Cork Insulation Co., Ltd., stair treads; Walter Cassey, Ltd., door furniture; Crittall Manufacturing Co., Ltd., casements and window furniture; General Constructional and Engineering Co., Ltd., iron staircases; Joseph Avery & Co., sunblinds; Wm. Nicholson & Son, Ltd., joinery; Fenning & Co., Ltd., stonework and marble; F. Burbridge & Co., Ltd., tiling; Trollope & Sons, furniture; Marryat & Scott, Ltd., lifts; United Water Softeners, Ltd., water-softening plant; Fordham Pressings Ltd., pressed steel cisterns.)

THE COMET, HATFIELD (pages 71–77). The general contractors were Allen Fairhead & Sons, Ltd., and the principal sub-contractors and suppliers included: Proctor & Lavender, Ltd., bricks; Laminated Wood Products, Ltd., doors and flush panelling; W. H. Heath, Ltd., counters and pewtering; Dorman, Long & Co., Ltd., steelwork; Helical Bar & Engineering Co., hollow tile floors; Rashleigh, Phipps & Co., Ltd., electrical installation; Abbey Heating Co., heating and ventilation; Thos. Parsons & Sons, Ltd., paint and distemper; Cope & Co., Ltd., wall tiling and terrazzo; Crittall Manufacturing Co., lantern light and metal windows; Taylor, Pearse & Co., ironmongery; Galsworthy, Ltd., lettering, bronze balustrade and lamps; metal work to tower and sign; Rowley Galleries, Ltd., furniture and electric light fittings; and silver-gilt panelling to restaurant and sitting room; Heal & Son, Ltd., carpets and curtains; H. Norman Davis, wireless and clocks; Express Lift Co., lifts; Kelvinator, Ltd., refrigeration; Benham & Sons, Ltd., kitchen equipment; Damer Bros., stone work; Korkoid, Ltd., floor coverings; Pugh Bros., plain and decorative mirrors; Lane's Nursery, garden layout; George Wright (London) Ltd., sanitary fittings and fireplaces; Hollis Bros, dance floor; Gray's Pottery, crockery; Arthur Glover, fibrous plaster work; Institute of the Blind, mats; Frazzi Ltd., Paropa roofing.

STUDIO, OFFICES, Power House and Store for Messrs. Warner Bros. First National Productions Ltd., Teddington (pages 76–78) The general contractors were W. H. Gaze & Sons, Ltd., and the principal sub-contractors and suppliers included: Ragusa Asphalt Paving Co., Ltd., asphalt; Brick Makers and Factors, Ltd., and London Brick Co., Ltd., bricks; Dorman Long and Co., Ltd., structural steel; Builders' Merchants (London) Ltd., tiles; Turners Asbestos Cement Co., special roofings; Hoffman Sprinkler Co., hydrants; J. W. Gray & Sons, lightning conductor; Absorbit Ltd., insulation and sound-proofing; G. N. Haden and Sons, Ltd., central heating and ventilation; Ruston and Hornsby, Ltd., diesel engines and boilers; B. Finch and Co., Ltd., sanitary fittings; Yannedis and Co., Ltd., and Taylor Pearse and Co., Ltd., door furniture; Crittall Manufacturing Co., Ltd., and Haywards, Ltd., casements; Siemens Bros. and Co., Ltd., telephones; Potter Rax Gate Co., Ltd., folding gates; Dennison Kett and Co., rolling shutters; C. Spreckley and Co., Ltd., revolving doors and shopfittings; Allen and Greaves, Ltd., metalwork; Eldridge, heating; electric wiring by Warner Brothers' electrician, Mr. C. Evamy; reinforced concrete engineers: L. G. Mouchel and Partners and Mr. J. L. Wheeler, A.M.I.C.E.

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Messrs. Pratt and Company (Advertising), Ltd., of London and Manchester are now celebrating their Jubilee year, and to mark the occasion they have issued a booklet entitled "50 Years: a Cavalcade of Advertising Progress." In the booklet the founder of the firm, Mr. A. E. Newby, writes: "In the early part of 1887, a certain Mr. Pratt took small offices at 55 Market Street, Manchester, to set up business as an advertising agent. Gradually a small clientele was established, but this was not sufficiently remunerative to maintain expenses. By chance I heard of this, and concluded that by persistent effort, success could be achieved, and I thereupon arranged with Mr. Pratt to take over the business and to throw every ounce of my energy into it. Efforts were thereupon concentrated upon the formation of a reliable advertising agency. By adopting fresh methods, new clients were secured, confidence was established, and so the uphill climb from a very small beginning was begun.