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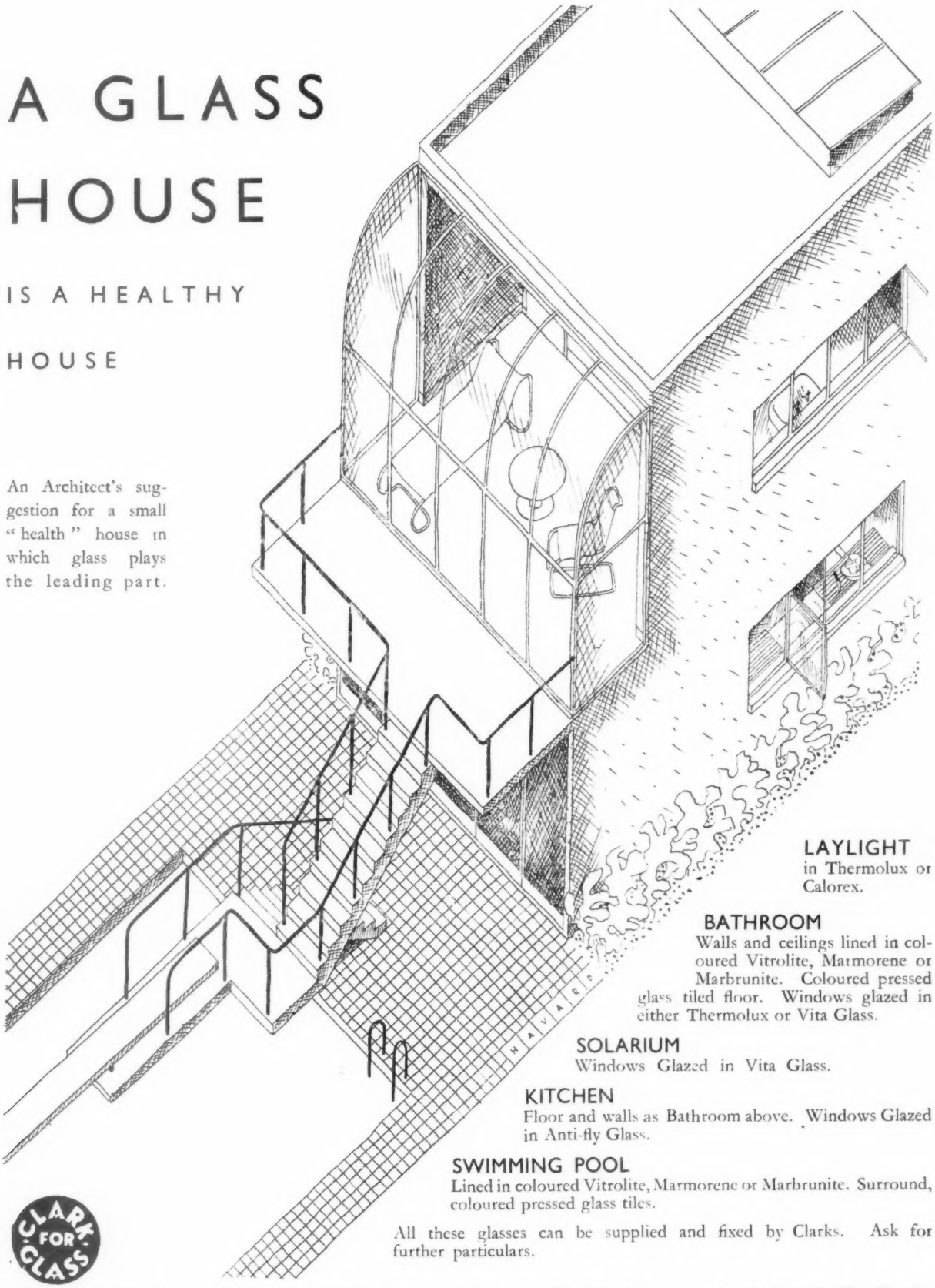

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THE ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL

THE ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL
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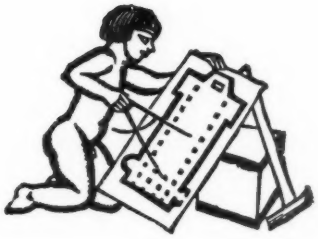
The Editor will be glad to receive MS. articles and also illustrations of current architecture in this country and abroad with a view to publication. Though every care will be taken, the Editor cannot hold himself responsible for material sent him.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 13, 1938. NUMBER 2243 : VOLUME 87

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS

The Belfry at Ghent. Another of the lithographs done by Thomas Shotter Boys during a tour of France and the Netherlands and published in 1839. The belfry was built about the year 1180.

Facing Leader



THIS YEAR I WILL *REALLY* TRY

THE JOURNAL's New Year Issue has a lot of resemblance to other New Year Issues. It is large in size, it is published quite a time after January 1, it reviews the events of 1937 at home and abroad—thus stealing the thunder of highbrow contemporaries ; and it contains one or two contributions which should not be taken too seriously—and so shows that it knows what is seasonable when it tries. It does not contain complete stories by Rosamund Lehman, Damon Runyon, J. B. Priestley and Hugh Walpole. It is sorry about this, but there it is. Within the limits of its proper sphere it does the right things; and if good resolutions do not have a large place, it is only because they are no longer fashionable.

Some place, however, they ought to have ; and this page appears to be the only space left. The architect, for presumably we must keep to so limiting a subject, may still make good resolutions. He is naturally conservative. This year if he does not take care he will find himself saying : " I *must* get out and about more. I stick far too much in the office. This year I really will join the Club and go to shows. Yes—I will tell Ethel that I will go out once a week. Well . . . anyway, once a fortnight." And that, if he does not take care, will be the end of his resolutions.

Now the JOURNAL does not maintain that its readers should not get out and about. Far from it. But even if he succeeds in a public appearance each week, the architect should not, in our view, rest content. Indeed no ; resolutions must go further.

An individual architect, private or salaried, should not allow himself to be too absorbed in the work in hand from motives of immediate self-interest. From motives of self-interest not so immediate but probably more lastingly important he must resolve sternly to watch public events so he may spot the earlier anything coming round the bush that will affect his kind.

Here may be recognized the thin end of a familiar wedge. The reader should not skip the rest on that account. And to stop the more infirm of purpose even trying to do so, the JOURNAL will now try to make your flesh creep.

According to the prophets, building and other industries will continue on a fairly high level for nine months or so and then there may be a slight fall—in plain language, a small slump. If this is so, the question for architects is whether they can do anything about it, except hope. The JOURNAL thinks they can. Architects—otherwise the most perfect of men—have a tendency not to look ahead, nor even outside the office, when times are good. They are only too well aware—privately—that decent jobs take long to nurse before the contract is signed. But they do not put this theory into practice collectively on anything like a wide enough scale.

Let us look at 1938 from this angle. At the moment probably two-thirds of the architects of the country are gaining their livelihoods from schemes put up by private individuals and companies or semi-private corporations. The remainder from Government or local authorities' schemes.

Now, supposing there is a little slump this time next year. Private clients will tend to sit tight, public departments will catch a little of the prevalent pessimism, money will be going begging and architects—if they make no effort in the meantime—will suffer. With folded hands (or fists clenched towards Portland Place) they will suffer whatever cold feet east of Temple Bar care to inflict on them.

Or they can do a little work during the next nine months in assisting their representatives to suggest to the Government a way of avoiding such misfortunes. The gist of a recent correspondence in *The Times* concerning a programme of public works during a slump has been that such a programme would probably be practical and desirable providing the works were really useful and necessary. This marks a great advance. And one cannot doubt that if a programme of works obviously and immediately desirable were drawn up (omitting Forth and Clyde Canals, Severn Barrages and afforestation) and efficiently placed before the public, public opinion could be easily brought near to deciding to go ahead—and therefore nearer to avoiding what is now called a business recession.

Housing, schools and work in connection with physical fitness are three obvious instances of work which is being to some extent held up by other pressure on the building trade. Trunk roads is another, although, in this, public opinion, like Mr. Leslie Burgin, has not yet been screwed up to recognize the inevitable.

The second resolution of an architect this year is therefore to help personally in preparing and making popular a programme of works that ought to be started directly private schemes enter an " off-peak " phase.

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NOTES & TOPICS

NEW YEAR

THIS week our New Year begins again, so we wish you a happy one. The publisher (most abstract of all public characters) has let it be known that from now on Astragal casts his pearls before more (pardon me) professional swine than have ever before bought this or any other architectural paper in Britain ; the circulation having hit a new all-time high.

*

As the one who is largely responsible, it falls to me to congratulate myself, but before the metaphor in the first paragraph brings a motion of censure from Portland Place, let the appropriate apologies be offered. Bovine would more accurately describe you. And alas ! my pearls ! Not even cultured ones it seems. In the past year I have been convicted of confusing Horace with Virgil and of writing *the Albany* instead of just plain *Albany*.

THE MARS EXHIBITION

I have been allowed a preliminary view of the MARS Group's exhibition at the New Burlington Galleries which, by the time these notes are printed, will be open to the public. Everyone knows the difficulties that a voluntary committee, even one of geniuses individually, has in getting work done ; but the exhibition shows professional thoroughness and consideration of detail in every part. How the busy architects who form the membership of the group achieved it beats me.

*

Nothing like it has ever happened before in England, so it is true, if trite, to say that the exhibition is a landmark in the history of modern English architecture. What is most impressive is the quality of the exhibition as a piece of modern design on its own account—apart, that is to say, from the story the exhibits tell.

*

The Burlington Galleries, which one usually thinks of as parquet floor-space surrounded by walls hung with paintings in gilt frames, has been transformed into an architectural fantasy of free plan-shapes and changing levels, gay with bright colours, glass screens, huge photographs and beautifully constructed models.

*

I can only mention a couple of details that stick in my memory, and leave the rest for visitors to discover for themselves : The garden loggia, with real grass and a real tree apparently growing out of the floor of the gallery —I imagine for the first time in a London art-gallery's history. The subtle idea in the Children's Section of raising the actual model nursery on a platform so that the visitor looks at it from the child's eye-level—usually no adult sees the height of things in a nursery as a child sees them.

*

I understand, by the way, that Mr. J. L. Martin, head of the very enterprising school of architecture at Hull, is bringing his whole school on an expedition south to view the exhibition. Others should follow suit.

SLUMP

On January 19 there is to be an Informal General Meeting at Portland Place, organized by the Junior Members Committee, when a number of distinguished speakers representative of the organizations most concerned will talk about "Architecture and the Next Slump."

*

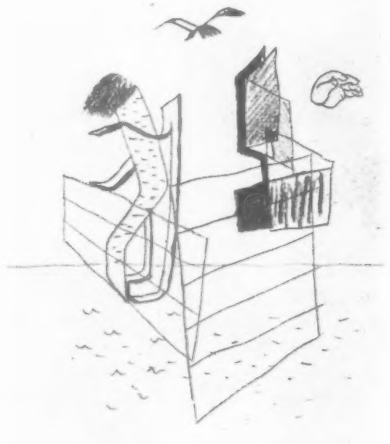
The R.I.B.A. has been taken to task for even introducing the word "slump" into a metropolis determinedly optimistic ; and since slumps are so much the result of mob hysteria and of pessimistic whispering east of Temple Bar, one can see why *John Bull* and the *Daily Express* object to slump talk.

*

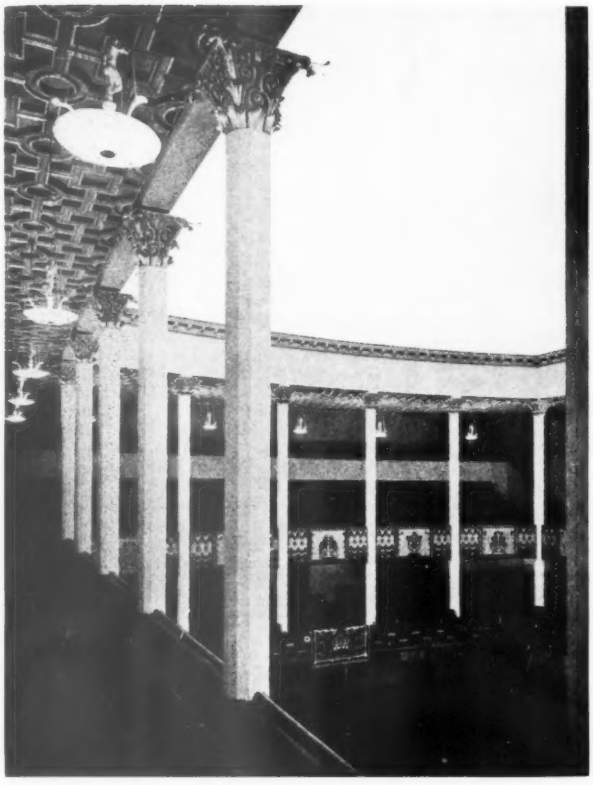
The Junior Members Committee, however, has good authority for its title. Unemployment figures (snowstorm or not) are up, and, mark this, *The Times* has said that now is the time to think about ways of ensuring a minimum volume of work through the times when private investors are disheartened. (My paraphrase.)

*

In any case I can see no reason why architects should allow themselves to be weakly dragged into depression—



Marcel Breuer and Moholy-Nagy leave for America : an artist's impression of the scene.



A detail of the large auditorium of the Stockholm Concert Hall by Ivar Tengbom, who was nominated on Monday as this year's Royal Gold Medallist.

if a minor depression *is* coming in a year's time—without recording a protest, and without any plan for helping themselves.

*

Hence the Meeting on the 19th. At 6.15-6.30 p.m.

ST. GEORGE'S

Conditions of the St. George's Hospital Competition are now obtainable from the House Governor, St. George's Hospital, Hyde Park Corner, S.W.1.

*

Possibly the most important, and technically intricate, competition since the Shakespeare Theatre, it will be assessed by Messrs. Lanchester and Lodge.

*

On a site flanked on one long and one short side by the second or third largest traffic circulation in London, the most important problem in the proposed building must presumably be noise, with ventilation coupled with it.

*

After planning as the third problem, the fourth will probably be mass form and elevational detail. Everyone will express views about these, the Royal Fine Art Commission will certainly have something to say, and the Assessors, in horrid and isolated responsibility, must presumably hope for something plain and wholesome in the London University manner.

*

Otherwise the Underground figures' uproar will be nothing to the disputes over St. George's.

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE

Mr. Verner O. Rees has been nominated as assessor of the competition for new municipal buildings at Newcastle. I have watched the end of this story with keen interest—the new Town Hall has been a burning subject for fifty years—and I hope that Tyneside's suspicions of architects and open camps are now, at last, removed.

BURLINGTON HOUSE

The attachment of a style or period of decoration is well known, and would make an interesting study were the psychology of colour a more exact science. Clear light green, for instance, one associates fairly definitely with the Swedish romantic movement, heraldic combinations of silver and gilt and red and green with the fourteenth century, black and white with the Holbein era, but I was not prepared for the lovely range of rich coral reds which dominate the Seventeenth Century Art Exhibition at Burlington House.

*

The link between this colour and the browns and russets of contemporary furnishings and decoration is so apparent that it serves once again to emphasize the link that always, I think, existed between a live school of painting and a stabilized architecture. This is the sort of link that, with our chaos of movements and controversies, we can never even aspire to.

*

It is a magnificent exhibition—quite moving in the manner in which it presents to one, very vividly, the ghost of a great epoch. The advantage of not being an art critic is that one's attention is not deflected by matters of technique or authorship. As one would expect, it is Holland that dominates the century culturally. Other countries have not quite freed themselves from their sixteenth century shackles; in the Dutch work Protestantism first demonstrated to the world that art was no longer either exclusively Italian or exclusively ecclesiastical, that painting in the genre could take its place on the highest plane.

HEADMASTER AS PILOT

" The idea is to make the school a bright and stimulating place for the children," said Mr. Oliver Hill, the architect, to a *Sunday Express* representative. " The old plan of building a school like a miniature town hall is psychologically wrong."

*

Quite so : but see how the *Sunday Express* editors turn it into " news " under a jolly heading of " School planned like airplane."

*

" Inside the ' wings ' will be glass-walled classrooms and craftrooms. The ' wing-tips ' are to be covered-in playgrounds, their slim pillars resembling airplane struts.

" The ' fuselage ' will be the assembly hall, with stage and cinema.

" One half of the ' tail ' will house a gymnasium, the other the art room and library.

" The ' pilot's cockpit ' is the headmaster's room, affording him a view over the main grounds, and placing him in the best position for control."

*

Ingenious, isn't it ? But shorn of the trimmings it sounds just like the old symmetrical plan—girls one side and boys the other.

ASTRAGAL

NEWS

POINTS FROM THIS ISSUE

ST. GEORGE'S HOSPITAL: RECONSTRUCTION

The President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Governors of St. George's Hospital invite architects practising in the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland to submit in competition designs for the reconstruction of St. George's Hospital, Hyde Park Corner. Assessors: Messrs. H. V. Lanchester, Mr. T. A. Lodge, FF.R.I.B.A. Premiums: £500, £300 and £200.

Conditions of the competition are obtainable on application to The House Governor, St. George's Hospital, Hyde Park Corner, London, S.W.1. (Deposit £2 2s.).

THE MARS EXHIBITION

On Tuesday last the exhibition of modern architecture, organised by the Mars Group, opened at the New Burlington Galleries, 3-5 Burlington Gardens, W.1. The exhibition will remain open until January 29 (except Sundays) between the hours of 10 a.m. and 8 p.m.

R.I.B.A.

ROYAL GOLD MEDAL, 1938

On Monday last the R.I.B.A. Council announced that it had decided to recommend that the name of Mr. Ivar Tengbom, the Swedish architect, should be submitted to the King as a suitable recipient for the Royal Gold Medal for 1938.

Mr. Tengbom was born in 1878 and studied at the Gothenburg Technical Institute, Stockholm Royal Academy (where he won the Royal Medal) and in Paris. He practised with Mr. Ernst Tomef in Gothenberg for five years, and then started on his own in Stockholm. In 1917 he was elected a member of the Swedish Royal Academy, and from 1916-1920 was Professor of Architecture in the Academy School. Among the buildings carried out from his designs are Stockholm Concert Hall, won in competition; Hogalid Church; city buildings in Stockholm, including the Swedish Match Company's head offices, containing Diana fountain of Carl Milles—one of many similar collaborations between these two artists, and numerous banks and business premises.

THE ARCHITECTS' DIARY

Thursday, January 13

HOUSING CENTRE, 13 *Suffolk Street, S.W.1. Exhibition: "Rural Housing." Until the end of January.*

INSTITUTION OF STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS. *At the Institution of Civil Engineers, Great George Street, S.W.1. "Moments of Floor Slabs." By By P. G. Bowie. 6.30 p.m.*

EXHIBITION OF MODERN ARCHITECTURE *arranged by the MARS Group. At the New Burlington Galleries, Burlington Gardens, W.1. Until January 29. 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.*

Friday, January 14

INSTITUTION OF STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS *(Western Counties Branch). At the Merchant Venturers' Technical College, Bristol. "The Application of Welding to Steel Structures." By C. R. Harman. 7.15 p.m.*

REIMANN SCHOOL, 4-10 *Regency Street, S.W.1. "The Harm of Antiquarianism." By John Betjeman. 8 p.m.*

Saturday, January 15

LONDON SOCIETY. *Special Exhibition, at Caxton Hall, S.W.1. of the "Westminster Tobacco Box." 2.45 p.m.*

Monday, January 17

INSTITUTION OF STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS *(Midland Counties Branch). At the James Watt Memorial Institute, Cardiff. "Steelwork Eccentricities." By R. de V. Chaplin. 6.30 p.m.*

Tuesday, January 18

INSTITUTION OF MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY ENGINEERS. *Joint meeting of the Metropolitan and South Eastern Districts of the Institution in conjunction with the Society of Chemical Industry (Road and Building Materials Group). At 35 Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C.2. "The Adhesion of Bituminous Binders to Road Aggregates." By B. H. Knight. 6.30 p.m.*

HOUSING CENTRE, 13 *Suffolk Street, S.W.1. Luncheon. "The Housing Situation in Glasgow." By Gilbert McAllister. 1 p.m.*

Wednesday, January 19

R.I.B.A., 66 *Portland Place, W.1. Informal General Meeting. Discussion on "Architecture and the next Slump." 6.15 p.m.*

INSTITUTION OF STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS *(Lancashire and Cheshire Branch—Junior Members' Section). At the Y.M.C.A., Peter Street, Manchester. "Building Construction." By W. B. McKay. 7.30 p.m. (South Wales and Monmouthshire Branch.) "Modern Garage Design." By G. E. Cooper. 7 p.m.*

LONDON SOCIETY. *Visit to the Royal Veterinary College, Camden Town. 2.45 p.m.*

R.I.B.A. PRIZES AND STUDENTSHIPS

At a general meeting of the R.I.B.A. 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. Fernand Billerey.

The drawings submitted for the prizes and studentships will remain on exhibition at the R.I.B.A., 66 Portland Place, London, W.1, until January 31, between the hours of 10 a.m. and 8 p.m., Saturdays 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Sundays excluded).

The President, Mr. H. S. Goodhart-Rendel, will present the medals and prizes for 1938 and will deliver an address to students, at a general meeting to be held at 66 Portland Place, London, W.1, on Monday, January 24, at 8.30 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 Library and Formal Garden in Northern Italy." The prize was awarded to: Mr. Ian Francis Warwick (Student R.I.B.A.), of Park House, East Molesey, Surrey. (School of Architecture, The Polytechnic, Regent Street, W.1.)

The Soane Medallion and £150 for Architectural Study Abroad. The subject set this year was "A Musical Centre in a Public Park." Awarded to: Mr. John Needham, DIP. ARCH., LEEDS, A.R.I.B.A. of 11 Hawes Mount, Little Horton, Bradford. (Leeds School of Architecture.) A certificate of honourable mention was awarded to: Mr. Tom Mellor (Student R.I.B.A.), 12 Milner Road, Ansdell, Lytham-St.-Annes, Lancs. (Liverpool School of Architecture, The University, Liverpool.)

The R.I.B.A. Silver Medal and £75 for Measured Drawings. Awarded to: Mr. William Alexander Bruce Robertson, A.R.I.B.A., of Dunduran, East Barnton Avenue, Davidsons Mains, Edinburgh. (School of Architecture, Edinburgh College of Art). A certificate of honourable mention was awarded to: Mr. Edward Sherrin, of 13 Featherstone Buildings, Holborn, W.C.1. (Royal Academy 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 Waiting Hall and Nursery in an Infant Welfare Clinic." Awarded to: Mr. Jack Ransom Tolson, DIP.ARCH., LEEDS, A.R.I.B.A., of 11 Carrholm Crescent, Leeds 7. (Leeds School of Architecture.) A certificate of honourable mention was awarded to: Mr. Ian Sinclair Gavin (Student R.I.B.A.), of 35 Mortonhall Road, Edinburgh. (School of Architecture, Edinburgh College of Art.)

The Royal Institute Silver Medal and £50 for an Essay. Not awarded. Certificates of honourable mention were awarded to: Mr. Arthur Montague Foyle (Student R.I.B.A.), of 12 Ridley Road, N.W.10 (Bartlett School of Architecture, University College, London), for an essay entitled "The Timber Manor Houses and Farm Buildings of Calvados"; and Mr. George Anthony Atkinson (Student R.I.B.A.), of 29 St. Leonard Street, S.W.1 (Bartlett School of Architecture, University College, London), for an essay entitled "The Middle Way, being a study in architectural development."

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 Greek Architecture on the Buildings in the British Isles." Awarded to: Mr. Denis Archer Gwilliam, Probationer, R.I.B.A., of 26 Thompson Avenue, Canton, Cardiff. (Welsh School of Architecture, The Technical College, Cardiff.) Certificates of Honourable Mention were awarded to: Mr. Peter Anthony Elwood Bryant, Probationer R.I.B.A., of 1 Cromer Road, Leeds, 2 (Leeds School of Architecture); Mr. Norman Harrison, Probationer R.I.B.A., of 21 Glenaire Drive, Baildon, Nr. Shipley, Yorks (Leeds School of Architecture); Mr. Russell Arnold Howells, Probationer R.I.B.A., of Tai House, Penygraig, Glam (Welsh School of Architecture, The Technical College, Cardiff); and Mr. John Nigel Grey Bruce (Student R.I.B.A.), 7 Onslow Gardens, S.W.7 (The Architectural Association School of Architecture).

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 "Municipal Offices and Assembly Hall." Awarded to: Mr. John Needham, DIP. ARCH., LEEDS, A.R.I.B.A., of 11 Hawes Mount, Little Horton, Bradford. (Leeds School of Architecture.)

The Grissell Gold Medal and £50 for the encouragement of the study of Construction. The subject set for this year was "An Exhibition Hall." Awarded to: Mr. William Alexander Bruce Robertson, A.R.I.B.A., of Dunduran, East Barnton Avenue, Davidsons Mains, Edinburgh. (Edinburgh College of Art.)

The Hunt Bursary: £60 for the encouragement of the Study of Housing and Town Planning. Awarded to: Mr. A. R. Peadon (Student R.I.B.A.), of Beamish House, The Avenue, Birtley, Co. Durham. (The School of Architecture, King's College, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.)

The Neale Bursary: A Certificate and £75 for the Measurement of Old Buildings. Awarded to: Mr. Frederic R. Stevenson, A.R.I.B.A., of 39 East Claremont Street, Edinburgh. (School of Architecture, Edinburgh College of Art.) A Certificate of Honourable Mention was awarded to: Mr. Emil C. Scherrer, M.A. (HONS.ARCH.), A.R.I.B.A., of 10 Claremont Place, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. (School of Architecture, The University of Manchester.)

The Arthur Cates Prize: £75. (In the current year the Prize was offered for the promotion of Architecture in relation to Town Planning.) Awarded to: Mr. W. A. B. Robertson, A.R.I.B.A., of "Dunduran," E. Barnton Avenue, Davidsons Mains, Edinburgh. (School of Architecture, Edinburgh College of Art.)

The Athens Bursary: £100 for study at the British School at Athens. Awarded to: Mr. Aldwyn Douglas-Jones, Dip.Arch. (Distinction) Liverpool, A.R.I.B.A., of 7 Gower Street, London, W.C.1. (Liverpool School of Architecture, University of Liverpool.)

The Ashpitel Prize, 1937. 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. Eric Arthur Roberts (Student R.I.B.A.), of Bryn Corach, Monk's Lane, Newbury.

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. William T. C. Walker, A.R.I.B.A., c/o British School at Rome, Valle Guilia, Rome, Italy. (School of Architecture, Edinburgh College of Art.) Commended: 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. Peter R. Whiston, Dip. Arch. (Edin.), A.R.I.B.A., of 19 Clark Avenue, Edinburgh, 5. (School of Architecture, Edinburgh College of Art.)

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. Andrew Renton (Probationer R.I.B.A.), of 18 New Row, Dunfermline. (School of Architecture, Edinburgh College of Art.) Certificates of Honourable Mention awarded to: Mr. Raymond J. Ash (Probationer R.I.B.A.), of 74 Lutterworth Road, Nuneaton. (Birmingham School of Architecture); Mr. Francis C. Dobson (Probationer R.I.B.A.), of 4 Lindale Road, Fenham, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. (School of Architecture, King's College, Newcastle-upon-Tyne); and Mr. Serge G. Kadleigh (Probationer R.I.B.A.), of 34 Margravine Gardens, London, W.6. (School of Architecture, The Architectural Association, London.)

The Archibald Dawnay Scholarships: Three Scholarships of the value of £50 each for the Advanced Study of Construction: Scholarships awarded to: Mr. Noel B. Dant (Student R.I.B.A.), 2 Etheldene Avenue, Muswell Hill, N.10. (School of Architecture, The Polytechnic, Regent Street, London.) 2. Mr. Geoffrey F. Horsfall (Student R.I.B.A.), "Bollard," Cross Cop, Heysham. (Liverpool School of Architecture, University of Liverpool.) 3. Mr. Richard D. Hammett (Student R.I.B.A.), 9 Genoa Avenue, Putney, S.W.15. (School of Architecture, The Architectural Association.)

The R.I.B.A. Henry Jarvis Studentship at the School of Architecture, The Architectural Association: £50. Awarded to: Mr. Arthur W. Nicol (Student R.I.B.A.), of 10 Highpoint, North Hill, London, N.6.

The R.I.B.A. Howard Colls Travelling Studentship at the Architectural Association: £15 15s. Awarded to: Mr. Henry E. H. Cleminson, of 32 Berkeley Court, Baker Street, London, N.W.1.

The R.I.B.A. Donaldson Medal at the Bartlett School of Architecture, University of London. Awarded to: Mr. Arthur M. Foyle (Student R.I.B.A.), of 12 Ridley Road, London, N.W.10.

The R.I.B.A. (Anderson and Webb) Scholarship at the School of Architecture, Cambridge University: £70 per annum. Awarded to: Mr. D. L. G. Scott, of the School of Architecture, University of Cambridge.

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. Kenneth E. Bradley (Student R.I.B.A.), of 51 Merseybank Avenue, Manchester 21. (Manchester Municipal School of Art.)

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:

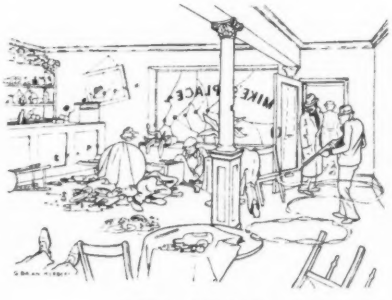
(a) *Essays.*—(1) A Prize of £3 3s. to H. G. Woffenden, of the Grammar School, Batley, for his essay on "Oakwell Hall, Birkstall." (2) A Prize of £2 2s. to P. B. Horsbrugh, of Canford School, Wimborne, for his essay on "Monastic Establishments of Northern Ireland."

(b) *Sketches.*—(1) A Prize of £2 2s. to Frank L. Evans, of Skegness Grammar School, for his drawings of Boston "Stump." (2) A Prize of £1 1s. to Thomas Renshaw, of Llanberis District County School, Caernarvon, for his drawings of The County Hall, Caernarvon. (3) A Prize of £1 1s. to Thomas Rankine, of The Academy, Alloa, for his miscellaneous sketches. (4) A Prize of £1 1s. to D. J. Spate, of The Grammar School, Dudley, for his drawings of Kinver Church.

TECHNICAL TERMS ILLUSTRATED

"... well primed ... matt finish"

"Coarse Stuff"



"Wiped Joint"

NEWS BULLETIN

Informal General Meeting.—"Architecture and the Next Slump" is the title of the first informal general meeting of the session, to be held on Wednesday next, January 19, at 6.15 p.m. The "guest" speakers include three persons concerned with high politics of the building industry, namely, Mr. Sydney Tatchell (past-chairman of the Building Industries National Council), Mr. R. Coppock (General Secretary of the National Federation of Building Trades Operatives), and Lt.-Col. C. W. D. Rowe, M.B.E., who is managing director of London Brick Company and a member of B.I.N.C. The fourth speaker will be Mr. A. W. Barr, Secretary of the A.A.S.T.A., and Mr. R. Furneaux Jordan will be in the chair. Tea will be served from 5.30 p.m.

R.I.B.A. Social Events.—Members are advised to apply early for tickets for the party on February 7. Only two tickets, price 2s. 6d. each, can be allotted to any one member. Attractions will include an exhibition, a one-act play, a dance and a cabaret.

The next dance, organized by the Dance Club, will be on Friday, February 4. Since the party three days later may affect attendance at this dance, members who like dancing to a good band on a good floor with plenty of space are advised to attend.

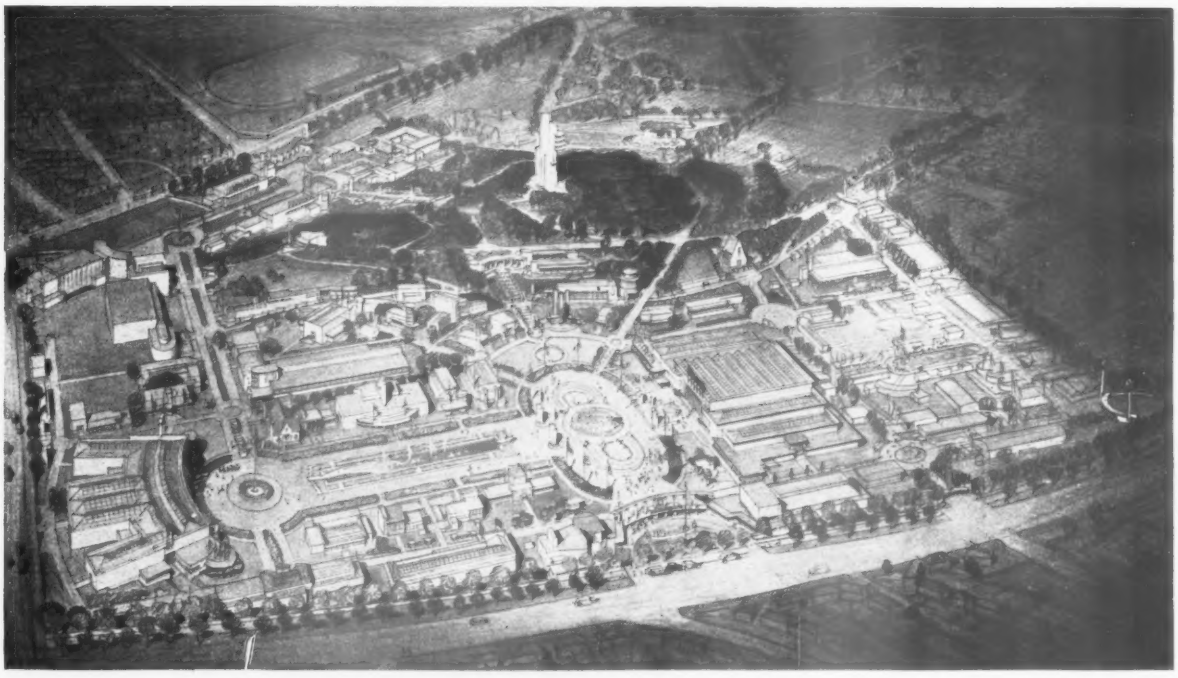
General Meeting.—Monday, January 24, is "students' night" at the R.I.B.A. The President will address them and present medals and prizes.

Exhibitions.—"Modern Schools" opens at Reading Museum and Art Gallery on January 17.

"Civic Centres" opens at Blackpool Art Gallery on January 17.

"Airports and Airways" opens at the Museum and Art Gallery, Leicester, on January 14.

A.B.F. Appeal.—The response to the appeal by the Architects' Benevolent Fund, while substantial, is not all that was hoped for. Members are advised that donations will still be accepted gratefully. One member sent £100 in commemoration of "50 years' practice of architecture that has had its ups and downs."



A perspective, by Mr. J. D. M. Harvey, of the Empire Exhibition in Glasgow. The architect is Mr. T. S. Tait (of Sir John Burnet, Tait and Lorne.) The Exhibition is to be opened by the King on May 3.

LETTERS FROM READERS

Official Architecture

SIR,—The Joint Committee of representatives of the Executive Committee and the Official Architects' Committee has been appointed and has held its first meeting.

The Committee consists of the following members: Mr. E. Stanley Hall (chairman), Mr. W. T. Curtis (Architect to the Middlesex County Council) (vice-chairman), Mr. W. H. Ansell, Mr. A. C. Bunch (Architect to the Warwickshire County Council), Mr. W. G. Davies (City Architect, Sheffield), Mr. Henry M. Fletcher, Mr. Norval R. Paxton, Mr. A. L. Roberts (Architect to the Hampshire County Council), Mr. Archibald Scott (Chief Architect, Ministry of Health), Mr. L. Sylvester Sullivan, Mr. B. M. Ward, Sir James West (Chief Architect, Office of Works).

Sir IAN MacALISTER, Secretary of the R.I.B.A.
PROFESSOR C. H. REILLY
R. C. FISHER
J. F. BUTLER, of the British Reinforced Concrete Engineering Co.

At the first meeting of the Committee it was decided, instead of preparing a short statement, to review the whole question of the Institute's attitude on the building work of public authorities and to submit a comprehensive report to the Council.

IAN MACALISTER

Japanese Imports

SIR,—We trust that you will be able to find space to publish the following list of Japanese building materials and other articles with which architects have to deal, which are habitually imported into this country. The items and values quoted have been obtained from the official list of exports published by the Japanese Government which is available from the Board of Trade.

We think that, in view of the international situation, such a list may well be of interest to our fellow architects.

	Yen (1s. 2d.) (1936 figures not yet available)	
	1935	1934
Japanese oak and other sawn timber (of which Great Britain imports from Japan a far greater quantity than any other country)	3,496,000	2,885,000
Veneers (of which Great Britain is also Japan's biggest customer)	2,131,000	2,201,000
Electric lamps, sockets and shade-holders, etc. (excluding those for use in cars or flashlights and excluding lanterns)	1,019,000	2,117,000
Potteries and glass	1,697,000	1,518,000

These are the main imports from Japan. In addition, the following products are imported in smaller quantities: Paints, pencils, rubber erasers, matting and grass-paper, and a few iron, copper, brass, bronze and tinned iron sheet manufactures and fittings.

C. H. REILLY
R. C. FISHER

Galvanizing

SIR,—We are pleased to note on page 1065 of your issue for December 23, the withdrawal of a suggestion recently published that galvanized iron embedded in concrete is liable to disintegrate. It is not customary for any form of reinforcement to be galvanized, but anybody who does wish to use galvanized iron material for reinforcement may do so with confidence. Millions of square feet of wiped-galvanized steel have been used in the United States of America for reinforcement during the past 25 years, and there is no case recorded in which any trouble has been encountered.

It is suggested in your paragraph that there may be corrosion of galvanized iron at the point of emergence from the concrete. Presumably this is intended to mean that all steel, whether galvanized or not, should be painted where it emerges from the concrete. It is probable, however, that if the ends of bars were galvanized where they project, the galvanizing would be a more lasting protection than paint.

J. F. BUTLER

The British Reinforced Concrete Engineering Co., Ltd.

The Architects' Journal Library of Planned Information

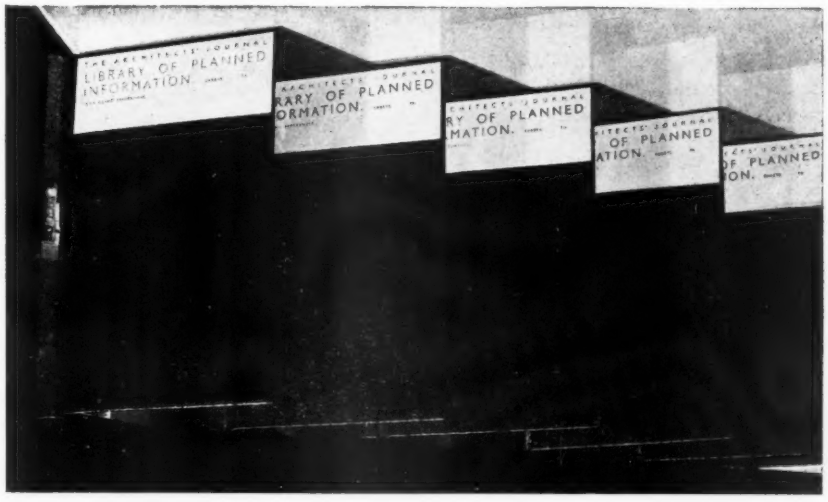
INFORMATION SHEET

SUPPLEMENT

SHEETS IN THIS ISSUE

591 Sanitary Equipment

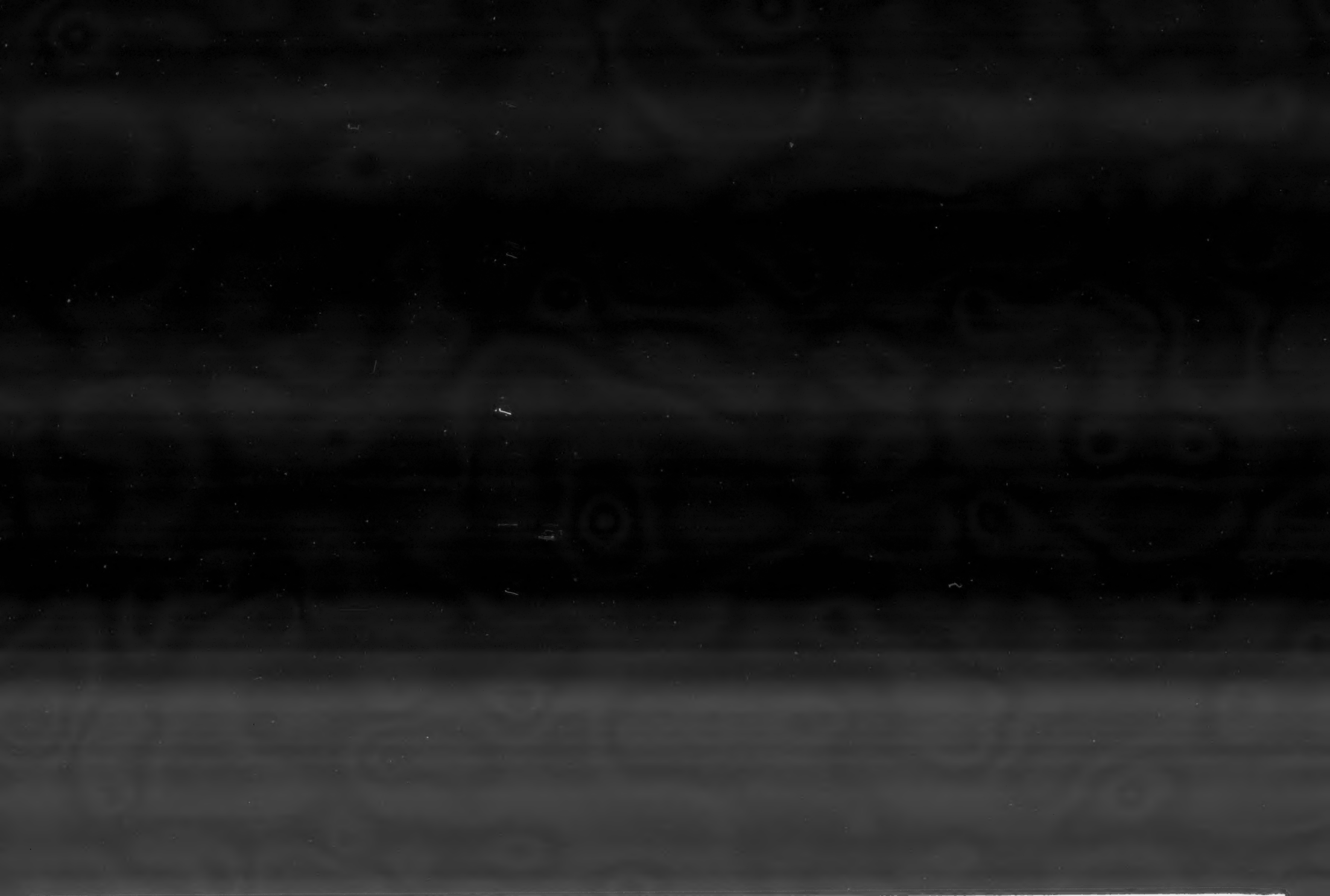
592 The Equipment of Buildings



In order that readers may preserve their Information Sheets, specially designed loose-leaf binders are available similar to those here illustrated. The covers are of stiff board bound in "Rexine" with patent binding clip. Price 2s. 6d. each post free.

Sheets Issued since Index :

501 : Aluminium
502 : Fixing Blocks
503 : Approximate Estimating—XII
504 : Aluminium
505 : Aluminium
506 : Approximate Estimating—XIII
507 : Plumbing : Jointing of Copper Pipe
508 : Roofing—Valley Flashings
509 : The Equipment of Buildings
510 : Aluminium
511 : Elementary Schools—II
512 : School Lighting
513 : Approximate Estimating—XIV
514 : Air Conditioning
515 : Insulation of Buildings
516 : Cycle Parks
517 : Cycle Parks
518 : Plumbing Systems—II
519 : Kitchen Equipment
520 : Roofing—Flashings
521 : Motor Cycle Parks
522 : Reinforced Asbestos-Cement Roofing Tiles
523 : Poison Gas Precautions
524 : Kitchen Equipment
525 : Metal Reinforced Asbestos Cement
526 : Leadwork to Photographic Developing Tanks
527 : Asbestos-Cement Corrugated Sheets
528 : Cycle Parks
529 : Kitchen Equipment
530 : Asbestos-Cement Corrugated Sheets
531 : Plumbing
532 : Roofing—Flashings
533 : Asbestos-Cement Corrugated Sheets
534 : Insulation of Buildings
535 : The Equipment of Buildings
536 : Asbestos-Cement Ventilators
537 : Slate Window Cills, etc.
538 : Petroleum Storage
539 : Linoleum
540 : Plumbing
541 : Linoleum
542 : Garage Equipment
543 : The Equipment of Buildings
544 : Sheet Leadwork
545 : Elementary Schools—III
546 : Elementary Schools—IV
547 : U.S.A. Plumbing—III
548 : Wallboards
549 : Elementary Schools—V
550 : Elementary Schools—VI
551 : U.S.A. Plumbing—IV
552 : Sheet Leadwork
553 : Kitchen Equipment
554 : Burnt Clay Roofing Tiles
555 : A.B.M. Draining Boards
556 : Kitchen Equipment
557 : Asbestos-Cement Roofing
558 : A.B.M. Rainwater Pipes
559 : Flashing
560 : Kitchen Equipment
561 : Asbestos-Cement Roofing
562 : A.B.M. Rainwater Gutters and Fittings
563 : Asbestos-Cement Roofing
564 : The Equipment of Buildings
565 : Air Conditioning
566 : A.B.M. Rainwater Gutters and Fittings
567 : Plywood—I
568 : Leadwork
569 : Gas Cookers
570 : A.B.M. Moulded Gutters and Fittings
571 : Fuel Storage—I
572 : Electrical Equipment
573 : Wallboard and Insulating Board
574 : Sanitary Equipment
575 : Plywood—II
576 : Plumbing
577 : Leadwork
578 : Plumbing
579 : Sanitary Equipment
580 : Condensation in Industrial Buildings
581 : The Equipment of Buildings
582 : Heating Stoves Burning Solid Fuel—II
583 : Plumbing
584 : Free Standing Gas Panel Heaters
585 : Leadwork
586 : Brickwork
587 : Flush Doors
588 : Roof, Floor and Wall Tiling
589 : Automatic Stokers
590 : Heating



602.

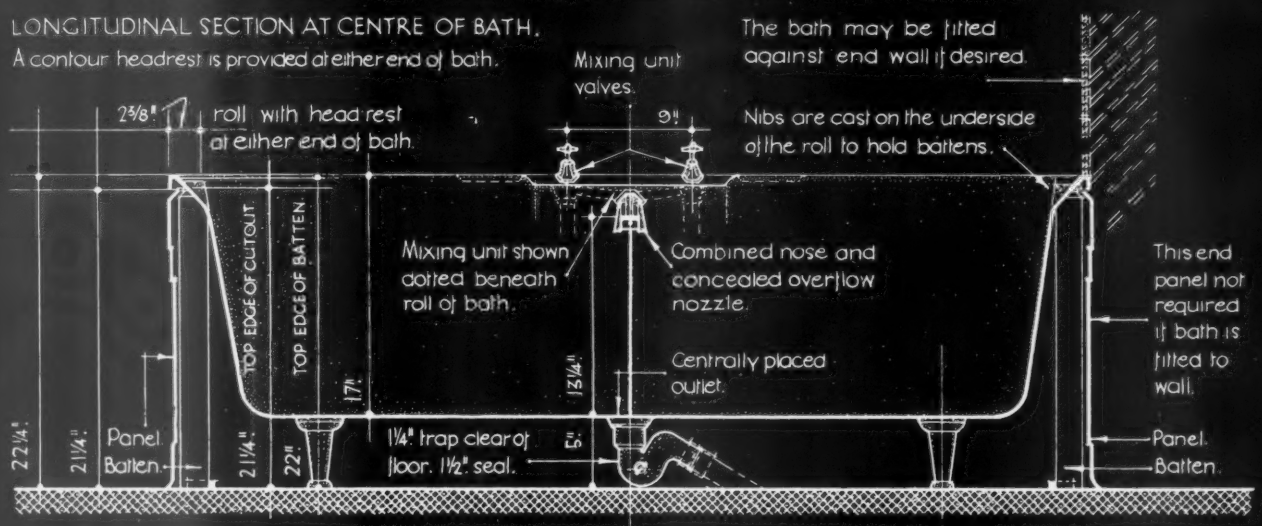
THE ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL LIBRARY OF PLANNED INFORMATION

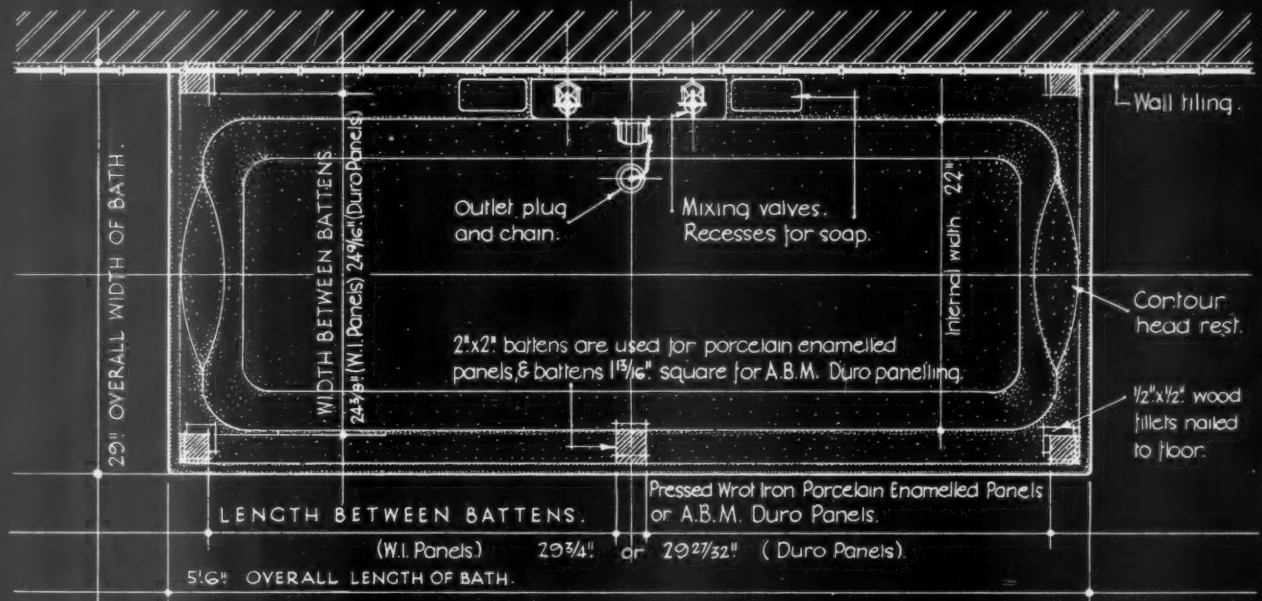
METHOD OF INSTALLING & PANELLING THE "A.B.M. BRETTON" P-E. CAST IRON BATH: 1" = 1'0"

Bath should be placed in position before the wall tiling is bedded down on to the forward sloping rolls.

LONGITUDINAL SECTION AT CENTRE OF BATH.

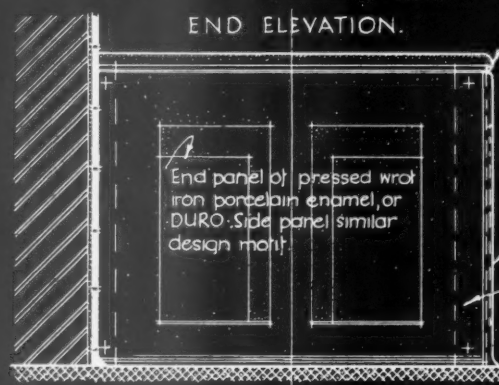
A contour headrest is provided at either end of bath.





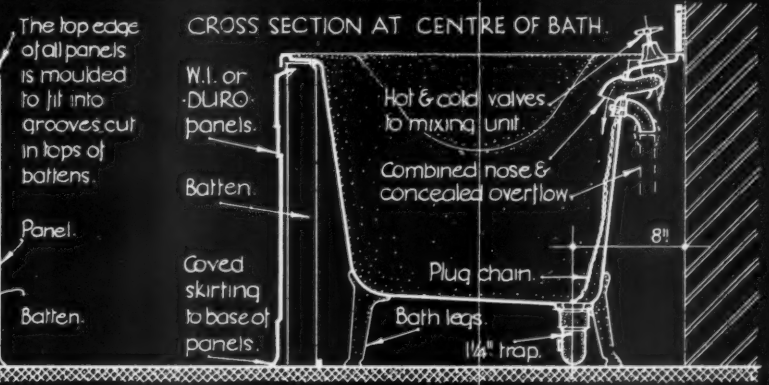
DIAGRAMMATIC PLAN OF BATH SHOWING POSITION OF PANEL FIXING BATTENS.

END ELEVATION.



The top edge of all panels is moulded to fit into grooves cut in tops of battens.

CROSS SECTION AT CENTRE OF BATH.



Information from Associated Builders' Merchants Ltd.

INFORMATION SHEET: SYMMETRICAL BUILT-IN BATHS WITH CENTRAL SERVICES:
SIR JOHN BURNET TAIT AND LORNE ARCHITECTS ONE MONTAGUE PLACE BEDFORD SQUARE LONDON WC1. Oliver A. Bourne.

THE ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL
LIBRARY OF PLANNED INFORMATION

INFORMATION SHEET

• 591 •

SANITARY EQUIPMENT

Product : A. B. M. Bretton Bath

Description :

The Bretton bath is of the rectangular type with the overflow and waste in the centre, and both ends are steeply sloped and provided with a shaped head rest at the level of the roll. This shaped head rest, and the shape of the bath interior itself, gives the bath a greater interior length for this size of bath than any other design. The bath is cast iron, finished white or pastel green enamel. Either side of the patent mixer valve are two recesses provided in the roll to receive soap and washing requisites.

Notwithstanding the attention given to the design and the advantages embodied, the bath is entirely a standard product, making possible a price-standard equivalent to the non-luxury types. The sum of the different refinements incorporated in the layout of the fitment constitute a considerable advance on many other types.

Services :

The mixer valve is of unusual design and includes an internal deflector to ensure perfect mixing of hot and cold water by equalising uneven pressure, while from the deflector the size of the outlet is increased to adequately take the double supply and discharge with a minimum noise and splash. By allowing complete drainage the dip at the centre of the valve ensures that no water remains to stagnate, or to be accidentally syphoned back into the water system or cause hammer in the pipes. Outward appearance of the mixer when fitted is achieved by the fixing of chromium-plated hexagon shields and compact capstan work, the addition of which without extra cost has involved the introduction of special manufacturing processes connected with finishing and polishing. The chromium-plated combined nose and overflow is so proportioned as to carry off the water of both taps without protruding unnecessarily into the bath. The $\frac{1}{4}$-in. screw holding the fitting in position is also used to receive the link of the chromium-plated waste chain.

Plumbing :

In designing the various fittings, due regard has been given to the simplicity of the accompanying plumbing, and detailed instructions for the correct preparation and assembly of the $\frac{3}{4}$-in. hot and cold water services and $1\frac{1}{4}$-in. overflow pipes are given with each bath. It should, however, be mentioned that replacement of washers, etc., to the mixer unit can be made without in any way disturbing the bath when fitted. The simple design enables the complete valve units to be removed from the top, this function not only permitting easier first fitting of the unit, but also enabling all the plumbing connections to be completed before the bath is placed in position.

Trap :

A $1\frac{1}{4}$-in. internal diameter brass P trap 4 ins. deep overall with side cleaning eyes and $1\frac{1}{2}$-in. water seal to comply with the byelaws of the sanitary authorities, is supplied with each bath, and the bath itself is designed to allow this trap to be fitted without the necessity of cutting away the floor.

Panels :

The choice of two grades of panelling is available, these being pressed wrought iron porcelain enamelled or A.B.M. Duro composition. These registered design panels embody a curved base to facilitate cleaning and sweeping, whereas the top is made with a reverse curve both to facilitate cleaning and to prevent the possibility of moisture creeping behind the panel.

The A.B.M. Duro type panel has an asbestos-cement base, and is supplied complete finished blue-beige, or plain for finishing according to the design of the surrounding walls. Alternatively, the Duro panel is supplied with panelled front as indicated on the end elevation, finished in highly glazed cellulose enamel in white, black or pastel green to match the bath. If desired, the sunk panelled front may also be supplied in wrought iron, finished porcelain enamel in white, black or pastel green.

The panels are fixed by screwing to battens (not supplied), and detailed instructions are included for every installation. The battens are held at the floor by wooden fillets as indicated, and are cut so that they wedge into position under the roll, where cast-on nibs are provided to hold them. Chromium-plated angle cover strips form the finish at the junction between front and end panels.

Previous Sheets :

Sheets already published dealing with A.B.M. products are Nos. 540, 555, 558, 562, 566, 570, 574 and 579.

Standardized Designs :

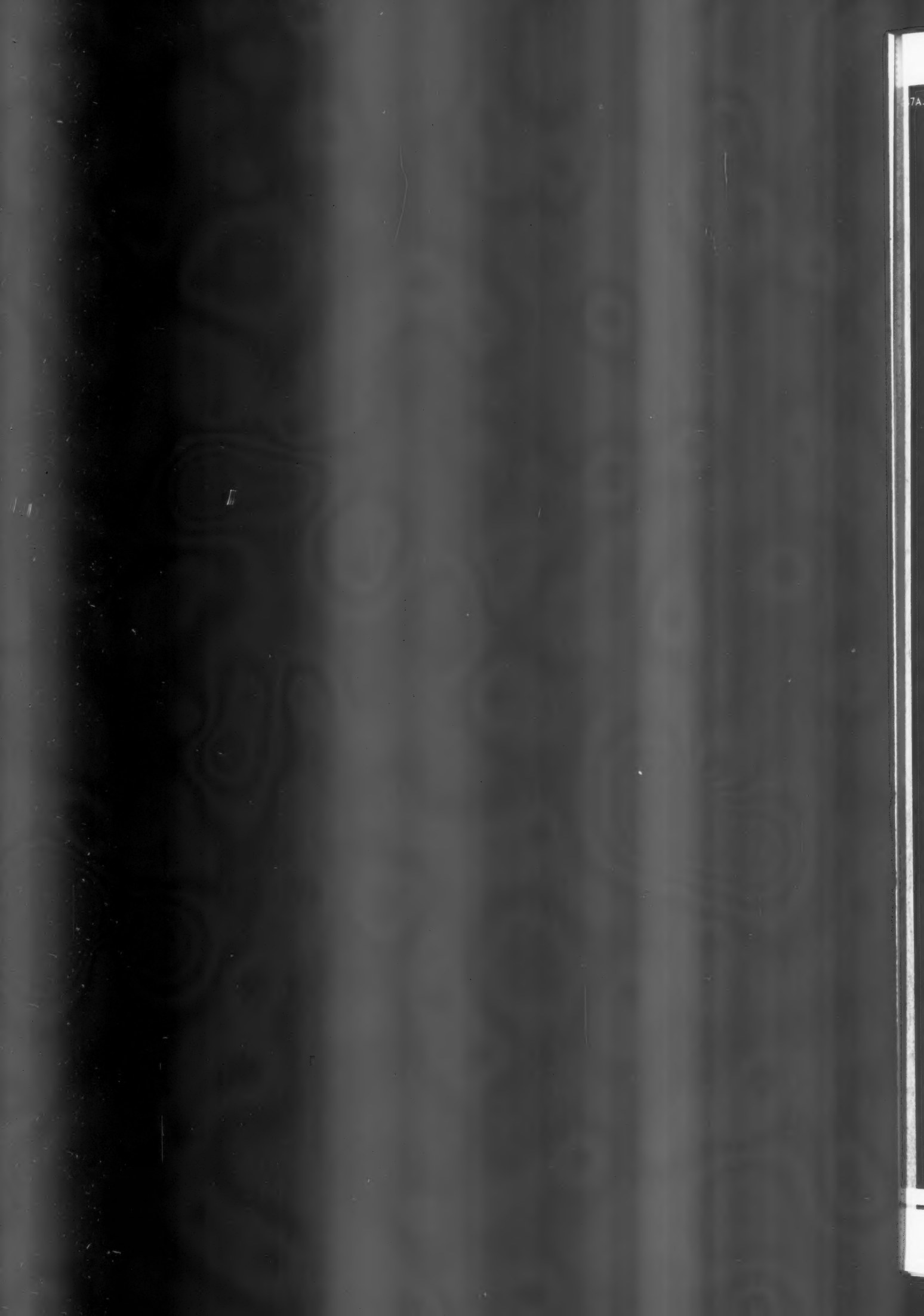
The Associated Builders' Merchants is a non-trading organization devoted to the standardization of the design of building materials and equipment.

Materials and equipment made by a number of manufacturers are stamped with the following symbol 

indicating that they conform to the standard of design and quality laid down.

Information from : The Associated Builders' Merchants, Ltd.

Address : Peters Hill, Upper Thames Street, London, E.C.4

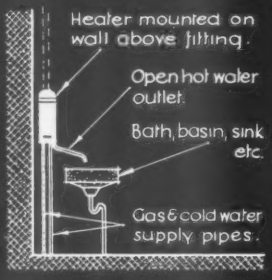


7A. THE ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL LIBRARY OF PLANNED INFORMATION

DIAGRAMS & PARTICULARS OF COMMON TYPES OF GAS-FIRED WATER-HEATING APPLIANCES :

(A) INSTANTANEOUS OR NON-STORAGE GAS WATER HEATERS : (i.e. instant and constant water at limited rate).

(1.) Single point and open outlet type.

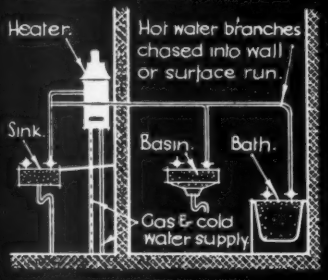


CAPACITIES AVAILABLE: 2½ pts.–4 gals. hot water per min, raised through 40°. Max. temp. is boiling.

FLUE: Required for all but smallest sizes.

INSTALLATION: No hot water piping, taps or lagging required. Mains or cistern cold water supply.

(2.) Multi-point pressure type (1 or more points).

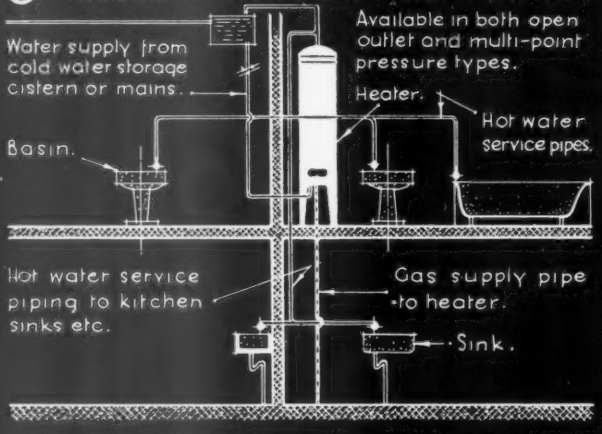


CAPACITIES AVAILABLE: ⅞ to 4 gallons per minute raised through 40-100°F.

FLUE: Not required with smaller sizes.

INSTALLATION: Hot water branches & taps to fittings, lagged if over 25' run. Mains or cistern water supply.

(B) THERMAL STORAGE GAS WATER HEATERS :

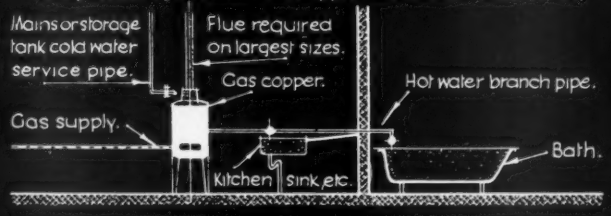


CAPACITIES AVAILABLE: 1 to 20 gals. or more raised through 80° or 100° F. Flues unnecessary up to 2½ gals.

INSTALLATION: Central, ventilated position. Hot water branches lagged if over 25 feet run.

(C) GAS WASH BOILERS :

Independent, or used to supply also baths and sinks.



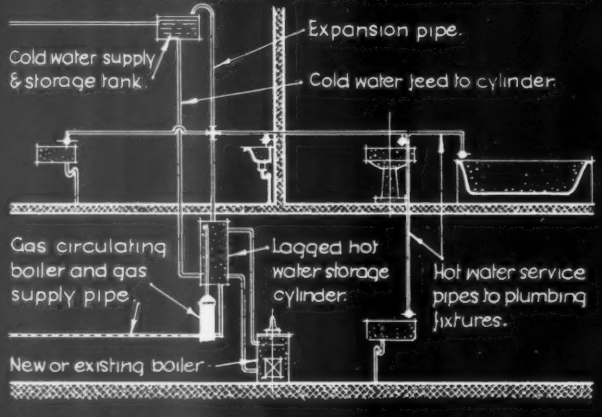
NOTE : If the wash boiler is used to provide hot water for a bath & sink as shown, gravity feed is possible with the boiler set on fairly high legs, and anchored to the wall.

CAPACITIES AVAILABLE : 10 to 20 gallons of water raised through 100° to 140° F. FLUES : Required for largest sizes.

INSTALLATION : Central, ventilated position. The boiler should be fixed to the floor, and long pipe runs lagged.

(D) GAS HOT WATER CIRCULATORS :

May be independent, or auxilliary to solid fuel water heater.

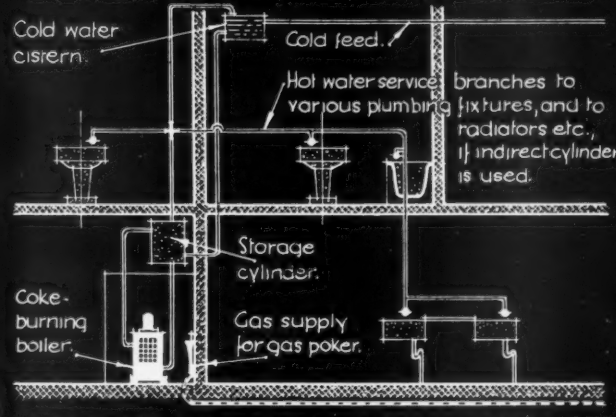


CAPACITIES AVAILABLE: 3½ to 100 gallons per hour raised through 40 to 100° F. May not be connected direct to mains.

INSTALLATION : Numerous methods of installation possible. Flues are required except for smallest sizes. All pipes should be lagged.

(E) GAS-COKE BOILERS :

Coke-burning boilers started by gas jets or poker.



CAPACITIES AVAILABLE: All sizes for domestic, industrial or general heating purposes. Flues required for all types.

INSTALLATION : As any standard type of system.

Information from The British Commercial Gas Association.

INFORMATION SHEET : THE EQUIPMENT OF BUILDINGS : WATER HEATING BY GAS : No. 6.
SIR JOHN BURNET TAIT AND LORNE ARCHITECTS ONE MONTAGUE PLACE BEDFORD SQUARE LONDON WC1 · Oliver A. Bayne

THE ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL
LIBRARY OF PLANNED INFORMATION

INFORMATION SHEET

• 592 •

THE EQUIPMENT OF BUILDINGS

Subject : Gas-fired Water Heating Appliances

General :
This is the sixth of a series of Information Sheets on the installation of gas services in buildings, and deals with the differences between six common methods of obtaining hot water by means of gas-fired water heaters.

Particulars of flue diameters, sizes of cold water and gas connections, minimum head of water and details of gas governors, cut-outs and pilot safety devices, automatic valves and thermostatic temperature controls, will be supplied by the individual manufacturers of the different makes of heater.

Method A (1) :
The instantaneous or non-storage type of bath or sink water heater, with an open outlet for discharge at a single fitment only, is generally known as a single point instantaneous water heater. Although no fittings should be added to the outlet, it is in most cases permissible to attach a hose or other temporary device for supplying by gravity an adjacent bath, basin, sink, etc. Most Water Boards permit these heaters to be connected directly to the mains under certain conditions.

The gas consumption ranges between 20 and 200 cubic feet per hour, depending upon the hot water output of the model and the range of temperatures through which the water is required to be raised. Flues are not usually needed for the smallest sizes, below about 60 cubic feet per hour consumption, depending upon the size and ventilation of the room.

Use :
The open outlet type instantaneous heater is most suitably used in isolated situations where small amounts of really hot water are required at regular or frequent intervals. The fitting may also be used economically in alteration work where an isolated plumbing fixture may be supplied with hot water by a minimum of new pipe work.

Method A (2) :
The pressure or closed outlet type of instantaneous heater may be connected to one or any number of points, either on the same floor, or within certain limits on floors above and below. The opening of any one of the taps automatically turns on the gas and brings the heater into operation.

The gas consumption of this type ranges between 120 and 240 cubic feet per hour and is dependent upon the hot water output of the model. These heaters can in some instances be fitted direct to the main but are more usually fitted to a pipe served from a cold-water storage tank. Flues are normally required.

Use :
The single or multi-point pressure type instantaneous heater is best placed centrally in a situation where quantities of hot water are required by a group of plumbing fixtures placed in different rooms. The ordinary boiler circulating system is eliminated, and, as distinct from the instantaneous type heater previously described, fixtures may be supplied with hot water without the necessity of having the heater in the same room. Hot water is available instantaneously but the rate of flow is slower than in the case of storage heater (below).

Method B :
Thermal storage type gas water heaters are also made both in the single-point open outlet type and the multi-point pressure type. They may be used directly fed from the main when water regulations permit and if the type with integral ball valve mechanism is chosen. They are based on the hot water storage principle, the whole contents of the insulated container being maintained at any predetermined temperature and available for instant use by the opening of any tap connection. The choice of size is dependent upon considerations of total storage in relation to maximum demand at any one period, and also upon the relation of the recovery or reheating period to the intervals between demands.

The gas consumption of storage heaters is low, ranging between 10 and 90 cubic feet per hour, according to the storage capacity of the model, the hot water output and the recovery rate. With the lower rate of gas consumption flues are generally dispensed with when the fitting is placed in a well-ventilated room, but flues may be used if desired.

Use :
The storage type heater is economically suited to establishments where known quantities of hot water are required at regularly spaced and comparatively wide intervals of time, for example, in small flats in which the use of hot water during the day is negligible, but where at night immediate and rapidly-flowing supplies are required for basins, sinks, etc., and a fixed maximum number of baths. The space required by a storage heater depends on the capacity of the container but is greater than for the instantaneous types.

Method C :
Gas wash boilers, where initial costs must be minimised, may be used to provide hot water to sinks and baths in addition to their use for clothes washing purposes. As well as the precautions necessary with this form of installation, however, such arrangements have a larger gas consumption per gallon of water heated than other methods described. The cold water supply to the boiler must be of the broken feed type.

Use :
Gas wash boilers are particularly economical for certain types of tenement and re-housing schemes, or other situations where it is possible to combine the method of heating the water for the various household functions with that for clothes washing purposes. They are best placed outside the bathroom. Hot water discharge may be by gravity or displacement. The drawing shows gravity discharge with the copper at relatively high level.

Method D :
Gas circulating boilers may be used as independent hot water providers, or as boosters or stand-by heaters for summer use in conjunction with any form of solid fuel burning water heater. When used in conjunction with other apparatus, precaution should be taken against local overheating of the water. The circulators may be connected up in a variety of ways to new or existing piping, but in all cases both storage tanks and pipe runs should be lagged.

The thermal storage type of gas water heater may also be used in this way.

It should be noted that an instantaneous gas water heater cannot be used as a booster to a hot water storage cylinder as may the gas circulating boilers under discussion, although in instances where an alternative heater is desired, an instantaneous type may be fitted as a separate working unit by connecting it to the secondary flow with suitable cocks, and providing a separate cold feed. In this connection also, auxiliary hot water may be obtained by the use of gas-fired immersion heaters applied to the existing hot water storage cylinder.

The gas consumption of gas-fired circulating boilers ranges between 10 and 80 cubic feet per hour, or even more, depending upon the hot water output.

Use :
Gas circulating boilers may be used with hot water installations either as an auxiliary to the existing boiler or as a replacement of it. Where space permits, this type of equipment is recommended to eliminate the heat of solid fuel kitchen boilers during summer months.

Method E :
Gas-coke boilers are designed usually with a small water-jacket to supply any ordinary hot water storage cylinder, the coke fuel being ignited by means of an integral gas jet or an independently supplied gas poker. This separate form of boiler has the additional advantage of supplying abundant hot water irrespective of the varying degrees of heat necessary for the normal fast and slow cooking requirements of a back-of-range type of boiler.

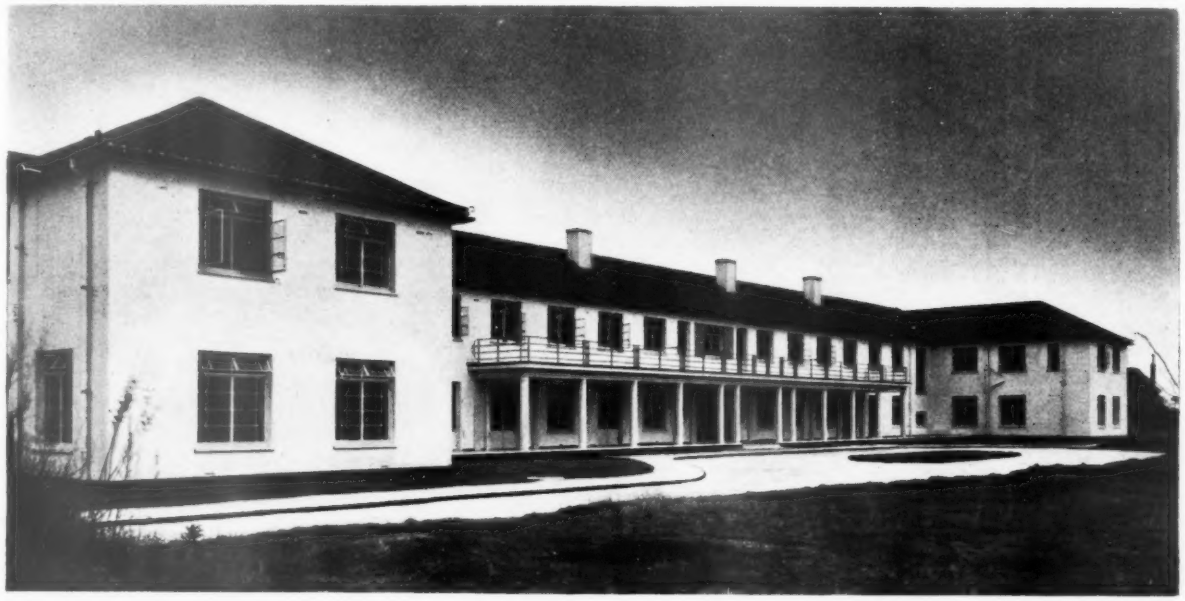
The cost of the gas used in lighting the coke is negligible, the actual consumption being dependent upon the size of the boiler chosen. Boilers capable of feeding practically any size of storage tank are available.

Use :
Gas-coke boilers are suitable for any domestic or industrial heating installation where economy in firing, cleanliness and attention is important.

Issued by : British Commercial Gas Association
Address : Gas Industry House, 1 Grosvenor Place, London, S.W.1
Telephone : Sloane 4554

CONVALESCENT HOME, RUSTINGTON

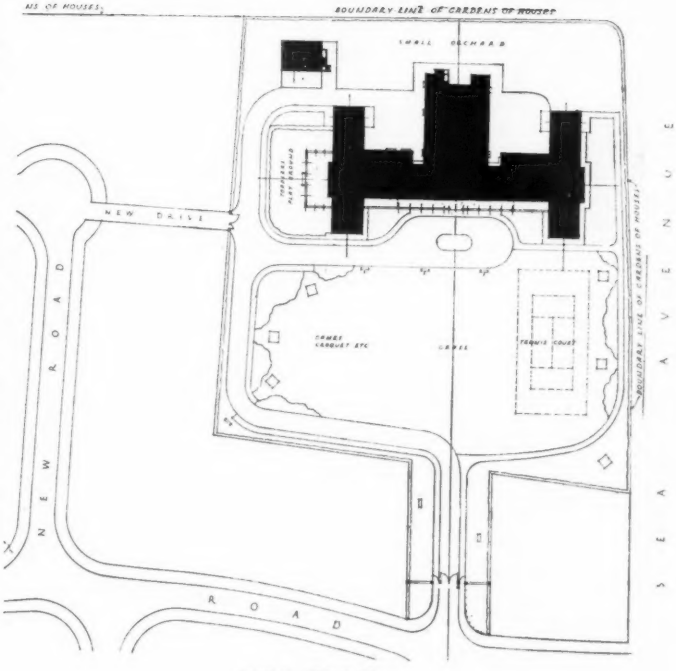
DESIGNED BY STANLEY HALL AND EASTON AND ROBERTSON



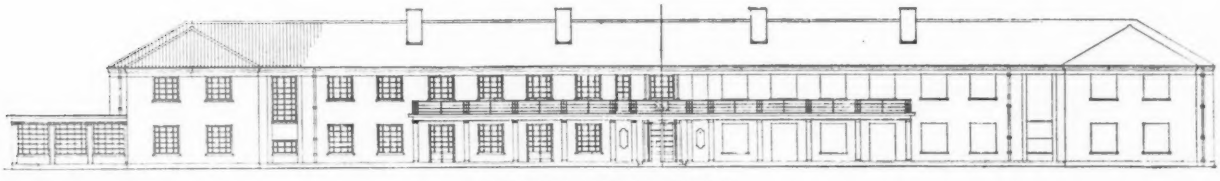
GENERAL PROBLEM—*Convalescent home for mothers, babies and toddlers, built for the Trustees of the Zachary Merton Trust on a 2¾ acre site in Rustington, Sussex, facing the sea.*

PLAN—*Accommodation is for 30 mothers and 30 babies, in double and single bedrooms, and for 12 toddlers, in the night nursery. Each double bedroom has its own separate wash-room attached, and each single bedroom is fitted with a lavatory basin and a babies' bath. The mothers have two sitting-rooms and two quiet rooms, and there are two infants' nurseries where the babies can be left in charge of a nurse while the mothers are at meals in the dining-room. The toddlers occupy the west wing on the ground floor and have their own day and night nurseries, baths, a loggia with glazed folding windows, where the children rest on stretchers at appointed times, and an enclosed playground with sandpit, etc. Each staff bedroom contains a lavatory basin and a built-in cupboard. The boiler room is placed under the north-west end of the central wing and is approached by external steps outside the kitchen. In the porter's lodge is a garage and tool store on the ground floor, and living accommodation over.*

The photograph is of the south front, facing the sea.

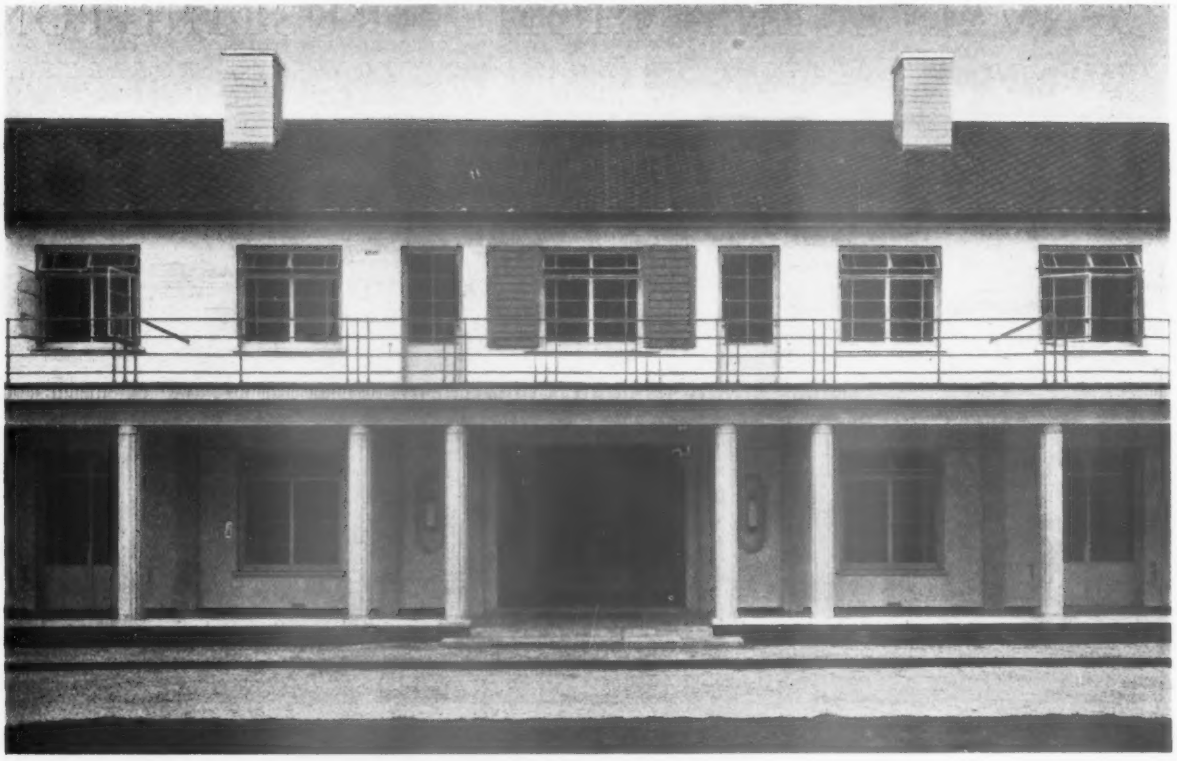


SITE PLAN



SOUTH ELEVATION

G

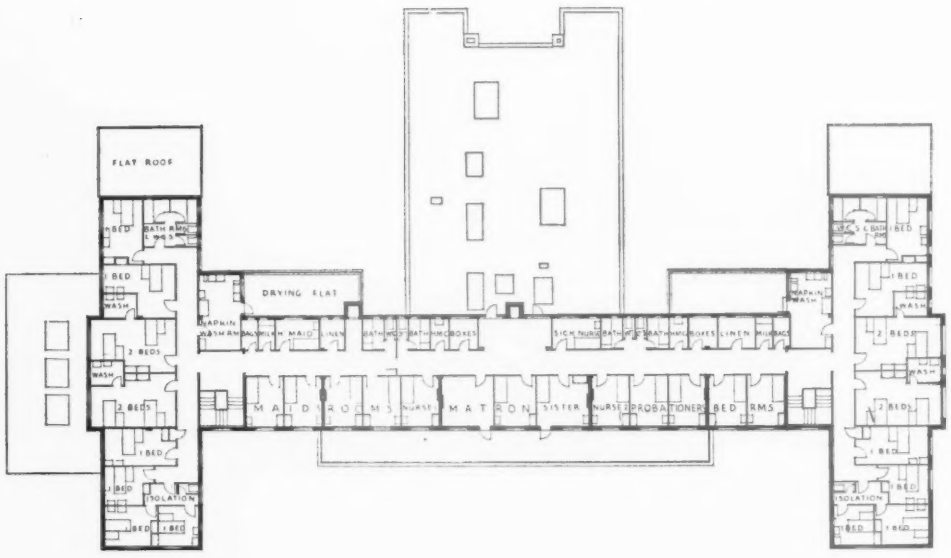


CONSTRUCTION—*Brick cavity weight-bearing walls, finished externally in cement; internal partitions, 4½-in. or 3-in. brick according to their positions; main roof covered with hand-made sand-faced tiles of pantile variety; flat roofs finished with vulcanite. Floors are concrete and hollow tile; windows, metal casements in wood frames. Cills to windows, and copings, etc., are in reconstructed Portland stone; and staircases are reinforced concrete. The covered verandah on the south front is of reinforced concrete, finished in terrazzo with fluted columns and cornice. The loggia on the west side is constructed in a similar manner, with the addition of sliding folding metal windows.*

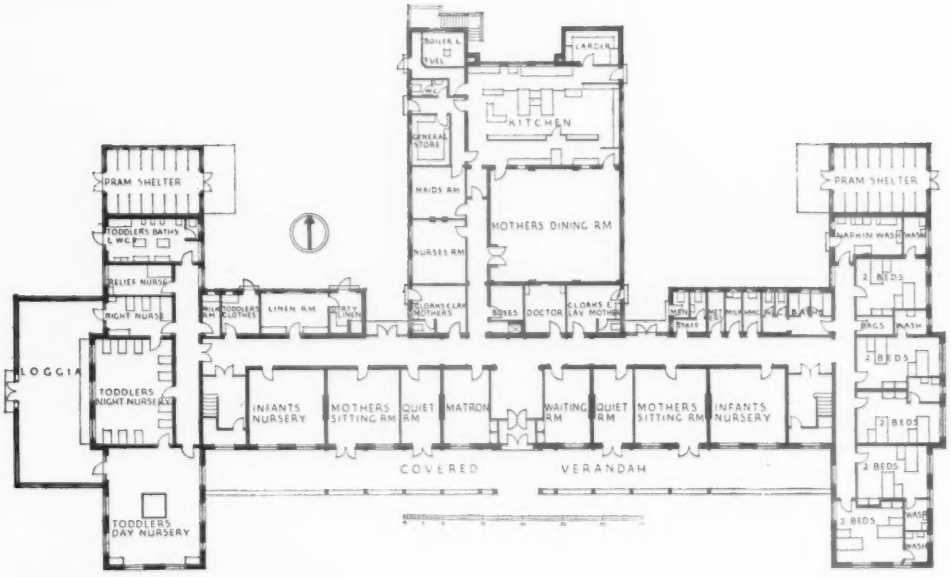
INTERNAL FINISHES — *Walls generally are plastered, and distempered or painted; floors generally are finished with Rhodesian teak wood blocks; corridor floors with inlaid linoleum. The milk rooms, bath-rooms, w.c.s and lavatories have tiled walls to dado height and quarry tile floors. The staircase is finished in terrazzo and has a metal balustrade and oak handrail. Internal doors are of the hospital flush type, faced with alder on both sides, stained a walnut colour and wax polished, the names of the rooms being indicated on the doors with synthetic ivory blue and cream letters. In all bedrooms, linen-rooms, and toddlers' day nursery, etc., are built-in cupboard fitments.*

The photographs show: above, the main entrance and the centre portion of the south front; left, looking along the south front from a first floor window in the east wing.

On the facing page is a detail of the columns, cornice and balcony railing to the verandah on the south front.



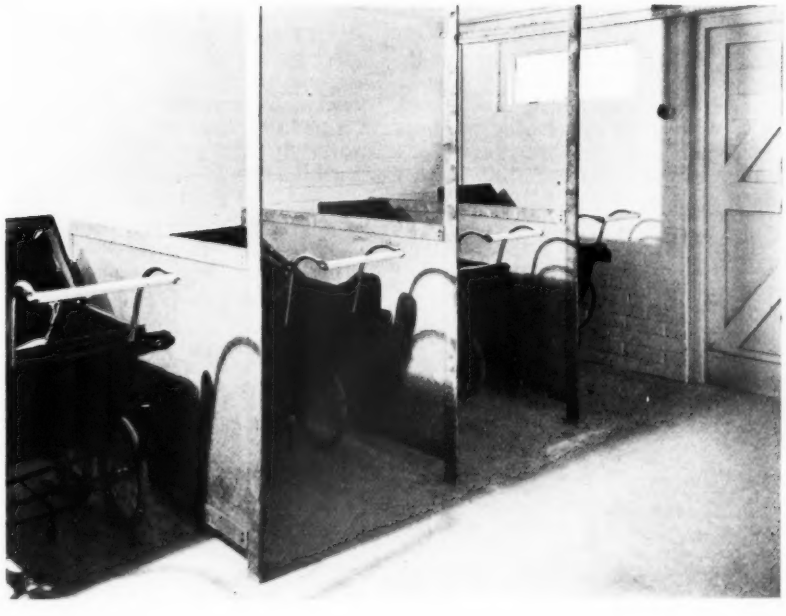
FIRST FLOOR PLAN



GROUND FLOOR PLAN

The photographs show : left, a single bedroom (for mother and child) containing a lavatory basin and a baby's bath : right, a double bedroom (for two mothers and two children) having its own separate wash room attached.

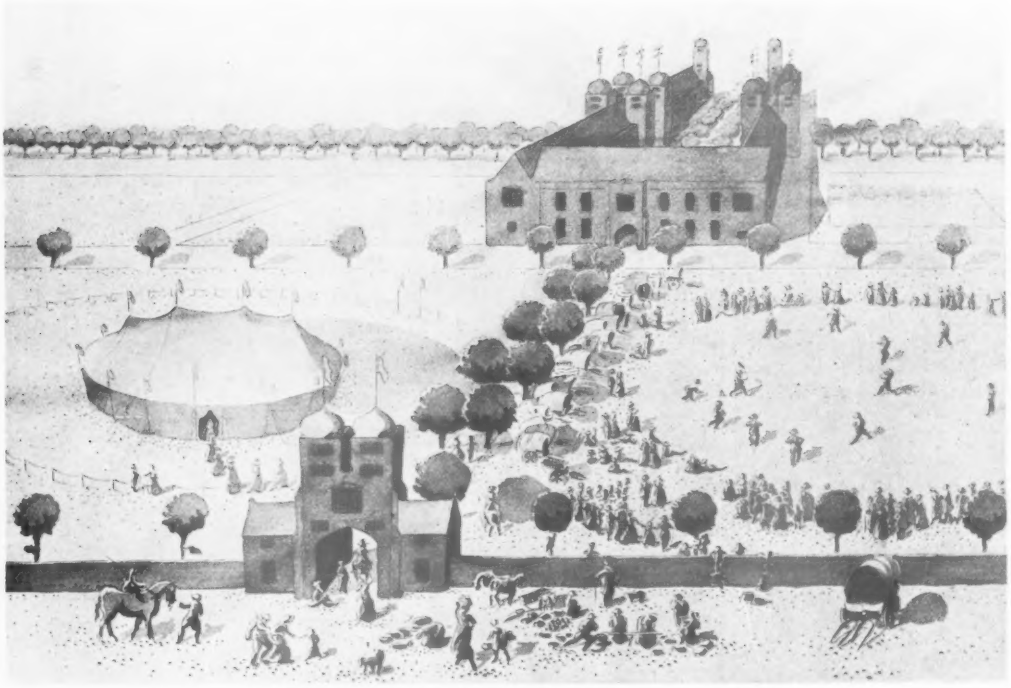
CROSS SECTION



SERVICES — *Heating is by a combined accelerated low pressure hot water system, with a calorifier system for hot water services. There are gas fires in all sitting-rooms, infants' nurseries, etc.*

The photographs show: left, top, the north-east corner of the mothers' dining-room; in the north-west corner is another servery and service door of similar design, but reversed; above, the toddlers' w.c.s; right, top, the toddlers' day nursery; right, a view in one of the pram sheds.

For list of general and sub-contractors see page 112.



1. The East Front of Strawbury Hall.

A Restoration Railway

(By James Kenward)

DURING the last hundred years the sight of a railway train moving across the countryside has become as familiar as the sight of a wagon, or a team of horses, or a plough, and for most people the wonder is that railways came so early. This is strange. How strange it is can be seen when we have rid ourselves of two misconceptions—the first that a railway cannot exist without steam, the second that it needs to have metal rails.

When, in 1821, an Act of Parliament was passed to authorize the construction of a railway between Stockton and Darlington, the directors hesitated whether they would use horses or steam, and their hesitation was quite natural. Nearly two centuries before that there had been railways in England, mostly in the colliery districts, and the wagons of these had been drawn by horses. Similar horse railways were built to work as feeders to canals when the canal mania swept over England. At first rails and sleepers were made of wood, and only after the invention of the heavy locomotive did it become necessary to make rails entirely of metal, although for some time before that it had been customary to use metal for strengthening at the corners.

The wonder is not that railways came so early, but that they came so late. They might have followed soon after the invention of the wheel. They might have come in the Middle Ages, or in Elizabethan times. They might have come at the Restoration, and, as it happens, they very nearly did—if the conclusions that have been drawn from a remarkable discovery made earlier this year, at Strawbury in Suffolk, are correct.

Strawbury is in one of the flattest parts of that flat, or gently undulating county, a typical Suffolk village, in size almost a town, consisting of one wide street, and at the northern end, just before the street becomes a road into the open country, there is the village church—some count it the third most fine after Lavenham and Long Melford—looking across to the gateway towers of Strawbury Hall.

Strawbury Hall, where the discovery was made, under the lining of an old deed-box, stands back from the street in grounds that are half park and half garden, being laid out in rectangular lawns, with a high wall enclosing them; and the present building, which occupies the site of an earlier one burnt down during the Civil Wars, dates from Charles II's reign. It is built around three sides of a courtyard. The main entrance, in the short eastern side facing the village street, is a very modest affair; but those in the centre of the long northern and southern wings are supported each by four imposing towers, the purpose of which has been a mystery that architects and travellers have been unable to solve. There the towers stand, each looking down an avenue which ends, as abruptly as it begins, north and south, in the blank boundary wall. There is no sign of a road having existed in the avenue, and there would seem to be no reason for one running parallel with the village street. This avenue would probably have remained a mystery with the towers, if the present owner upon inheriting the property had not chanced to give an " exploration party " during which every piece of furniture was opened to find out what it contained.

The discovery that was then made is in the form of a half-dozen plans, or drawings, here reproduced in the order in which they came to light. Let us consider them in this order.

1: The first is a view of Strawbury Hall from the east entrance, where a street market is being held, while in the grounds some game, which may well be an ancestor of our modern cricket, is being played. Gentlemen who designed themselves a country house in King Charles II's reign were seldom content with a mere architectural statement; they had to go further than that and show ladies and gentlemen enjoying it in a proper stately way. But the interest for us is in the towers. These are not shown, as subsequently they came to be built, square topped, but each has a dome, and upon the dome a mast carrying what at first was taken to be a flag.

2: Perhaps the main interest here is the avenue running north and south across the page and through the courtyard in the centre, for under the trees can be discerned, faintly drawn, very faintly—some lines. The significance of these was not at first apparent, nor that of the merchant traffic, surely a little out of place in the grounds of a country house, nor the troop of horsemen rather too military-looking to be gentlemen riding for their pleasure. The figure on the mound may be the unknown architect watching over his creation with pride.

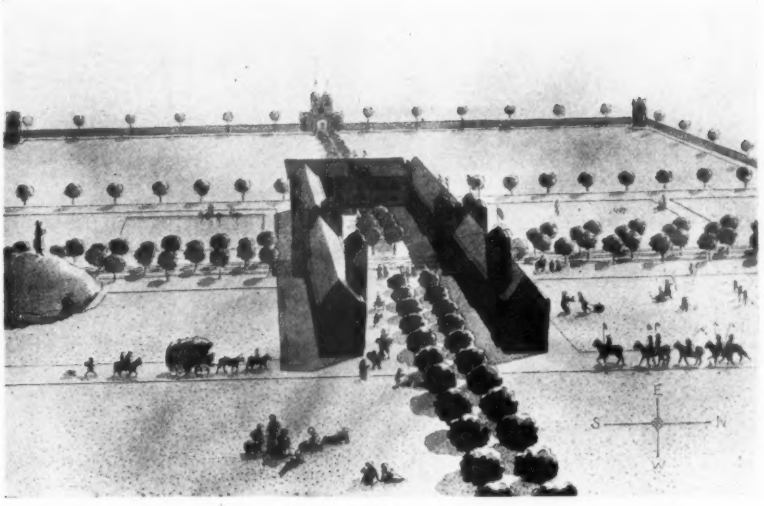
3: Here is the south front, and here, perhaps, the solution of the mystery. The signals on the tower tops can be plainly seen, and the lines running into the courtyard are, as plainly, railway lines.

Several ladies and gentlemen are enjoying themselves in the grounds, and this has prompted the suggestion that the building was to be used as a country club to which persons of elegance and distinction would be transported swiftly, even in the most muddy months, to admire the countryside and to go to picnics, to take their pleasure and their ease, although apparently a certain amount of merchandise would also have been conveyed. Note the inevitable fishpond and, behind the cavalier fishing, a group of merchants doing what we should call nowadays "arguing the toss." It is tempting to suppose that the lady on the lawn has made this into the rendezvous for an elopement—she appears to have either a letter or a time-table in her hand—but far more likely she is a daughter of the fishing cavalier and is feeling bored. Perhaps she is on her way round into the courtyard to meet a train.

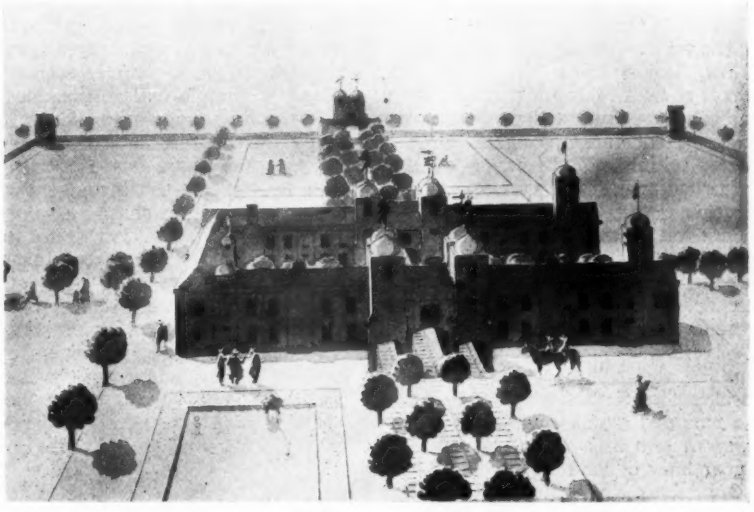
It is a great pity that the previous drawing (2) does not show a train arriving. But we can imagine the scene—the horses, probably six or eight of them, panting and steaming, the guard clambering down with his horn that he blew as the train entered under the archway, and all the turmoil of unloading on to the carriages and the huge broad-wheeled wagons that are to make their way to outlying country houses and farms and villages through the thick summer dust that has been all winter a morass of mud.*

4: Here we see the proposed method of working the signals. It is rather like bellringing. One gentleman stands with a scroll in his hand, evidently directing the efforts of the two others who are holding the ropes, and we can imagine the inside of the tower hung with instructions—like a belfry with lists of

* Great as the advantages of railway travel are now, they would have been far greater in Charles II's reign; for then even main roads were impassable in winter, and in many country districts it was found expedient to divert the lanes leading from farm to farm and village to village along the more trustworthy pebble beds of streams. Elsewhere there was no recognised road, and each vehicle picked out a fresh unrutted way of its own.

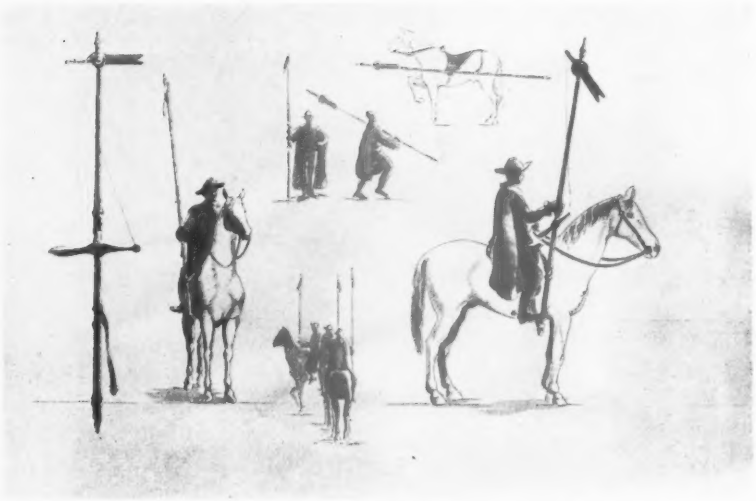


2. *A view from the west.*



3. *The south front.*

4. *A detail of the south front.*



5. A drawing which shows the mounted signalmen apparently employed.

the changes for a " plain course " or a course of " grandsire doubles " hanging on the walls.

Now, leaving the designs for what appear to be medals until later on, let us go back for a few moments to the third drawing. In winter the signals would be clearly visible to drivers even after trains had entered the avenue, but what of summer when, as shown here, a thick foliage was on the trees?

5: Here is the answer. Signalmen, mounted and unmounted, were to be in attendance along the line, the unmounted men to take up their positions at the courtyard entrances in summer when the tops of the signal towers would be obscured by the foliage of the avenue, the mounted men to ride afar, perhaps to serve also as a guard against those " gentlemen of the road " who might be expected to appear where not one carriage at a time, but many, flogged across the country with persons of wealth and consequence inside. Regarding these mounted men an interesting theory has been put forward. It has been suggested that the little medal in the previous drawing, which bears the figure of a horseman on one and a number on the other (probably the obverse) side, was to enable signalmen to prove upon demand that they were not highwaymen. This theory is a likely one.

The hand-signal shown on the left is a reminder that our ancestors wrought balance and proportion into every tool. It is obviously heavy—see how one of the little figures at the top of the page is carrying one—but it does not look a cumbersome thing. It has some of the dignity of an old two-handed sword. Then note the delicate design, perhaps a metal inlay, in the handle of the signal-lever, also the moulding of the hand-grasp just above.

6: There is a good deal of uncertainty whether this represents a country inn beside the railway, or a rustic picnic house for town ladies and gentlemen to make holiday dancing around a fiddler on a green and pretending for a few hours on a summer evening that they are simple village maidens and hardy youngsters of the plough. Certainly the little round room, thatched on top, the same shape as the rick near by, reflects the town gentleman's idea of a rustic dwelling. So does the one dormer window. It was not for the countryman to be pampered but to be picturesque.

Let us return to the fourth drawing, and the medals. It is thought that these may be tokens, the forerunners of our modern tickets, admitting travellers to the trains.

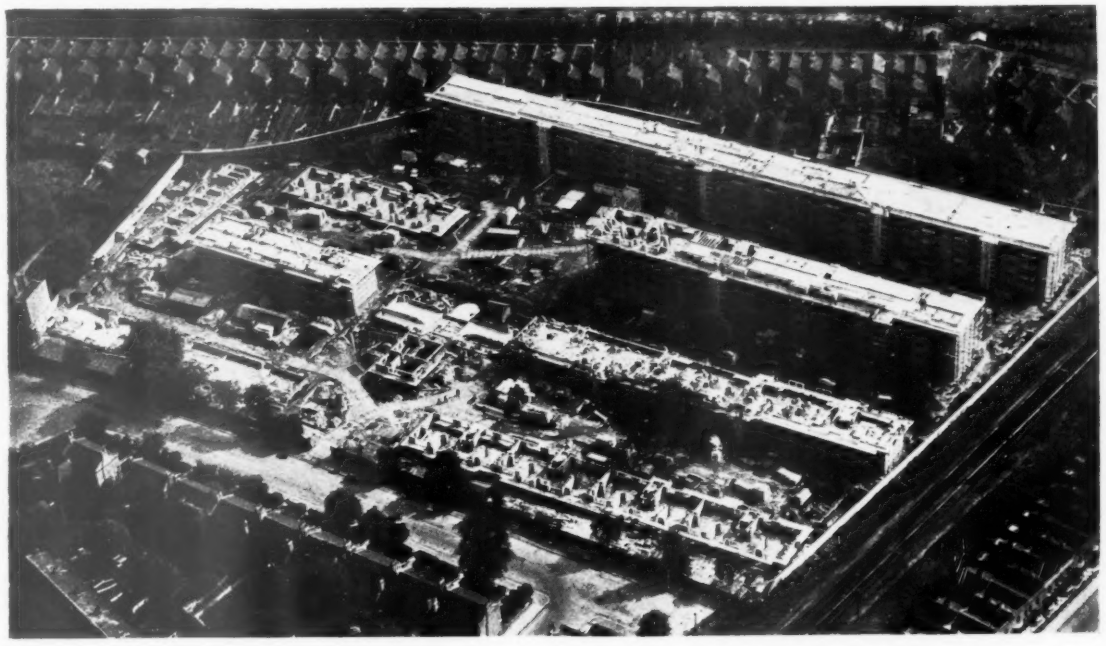
In that case the largest, with the design of entrance-towers, would be the obverse of a first-class ticket, and on the left of the page would be its reverse. On the extreme right would be the two sides of a second-class ticket. And it is possible that the little token in the left-hand top corner was to be for admission to the gardens only, a kind of " platform-ticket "; on the other hand perhaps it was to be carried as a proof of their employment by the gardeners and workmen along the line, but this is less likely. Such a token would be worn, and this one, unlike the horsemen's token, is not pierced for wearing.

To sum up. Whether the drawings are authentic or not, and their authenticity has yet to be proved, they deserve a few moments' thought, for it is worth while reflecting that railways might have come in Restoration times, and if they had the chances are that their stations would have been more gracious buildings, set among trees, with yards like the courtyards of inns. In the course of time Mr. Pickwick would have had something to say about them. In our own day they would have had their landlords, and their darts, and beer not served in fly-blown refreshment rooms but in bar-parlours with comfortable settles by the fire where we could sit and tell travellers' tales. In provincial towns where the market is held beside the railway the station would be the market inn. And on summer evenings we would be tempted to ride a few miles down the line to some wayside station like a country inn with horns of the R.A.O.B. upon the wall, and " slate club " notices, and somebody nestling back between the late sunlight and the shadows to tell a gullible stranger how Dick Turpin passed there once upon his ride to York. There is a hint to railway companies in this, and a reminder that stations need not have been such ugly things.

6. A somewhat mysterious drawing of which the scene represented is not quite clear.

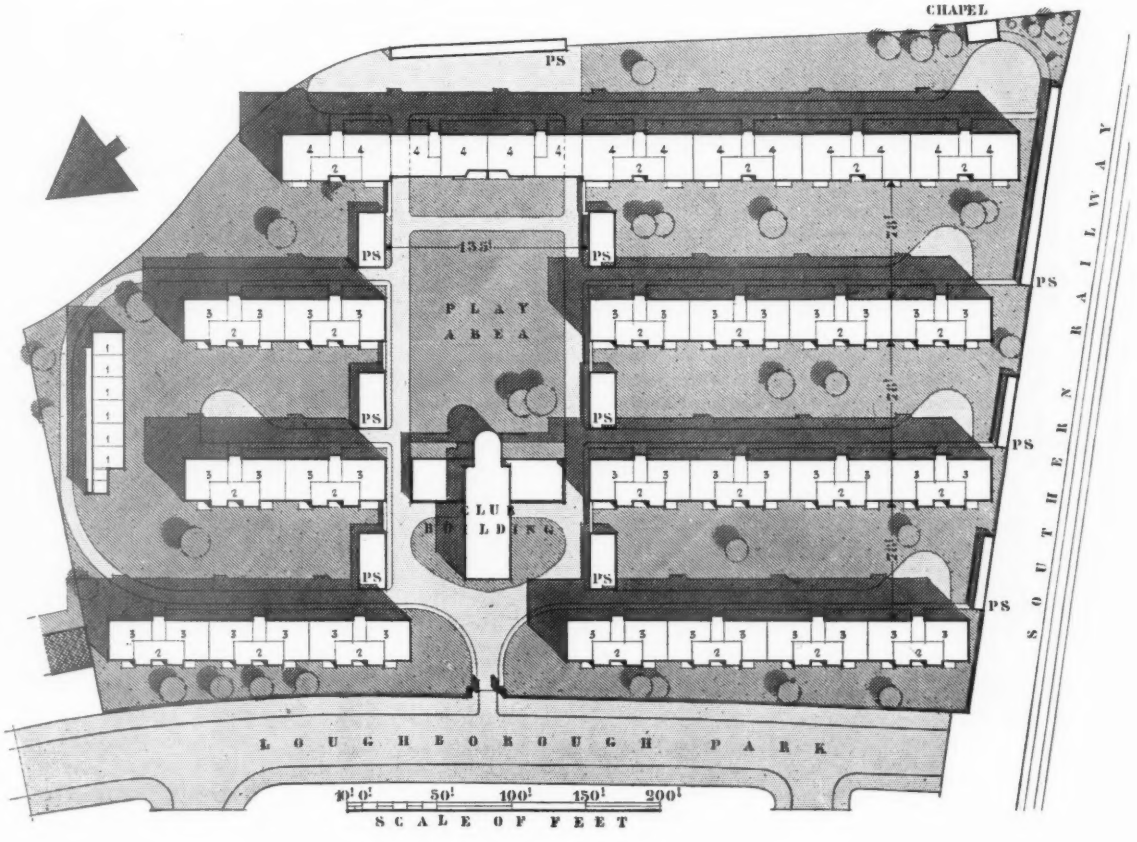
HOUSING ESTATE, BRIXTON, S.W.

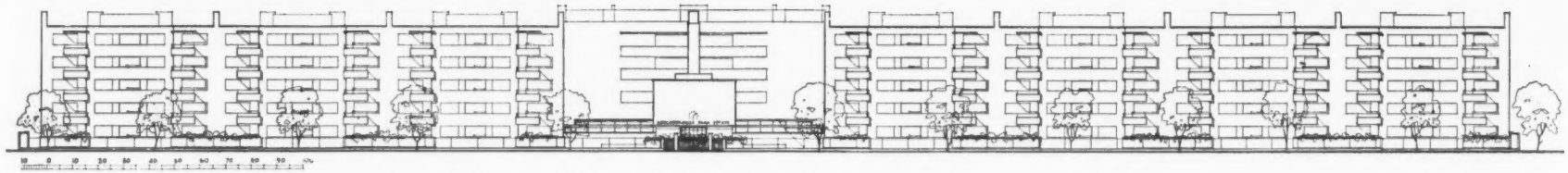
DESIGNED BY EDWARD ARMSTRONG



PROBLEM—*A housing estate for the Guinness Trust nearing completion at Loughborough Park, Brixton, containing 398 flats of different sizes, a special flat and office for the resident supervisor and various auxiliary buildings containing club-rooms for tenants, steam-heated drying-rooms, fuel stores, workshop, pram and cycle sheds, and a chapel of repose. The scheme contains 1,102 habitable rooms and has accommodation for 1,653 persons.*

Above is an air view from the west.



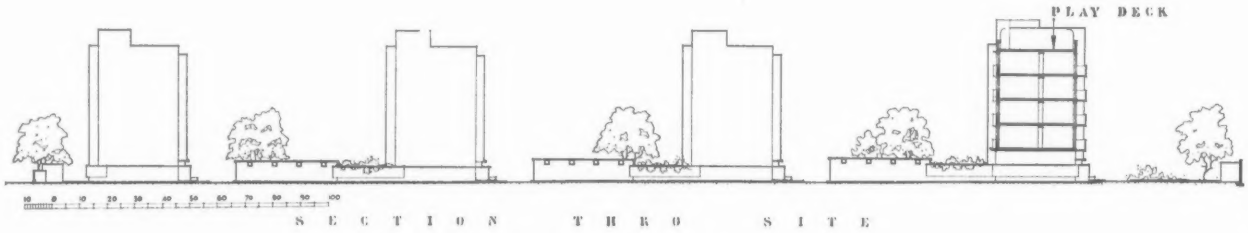


ELEVATION TO LOUGHBOROUGH PARK

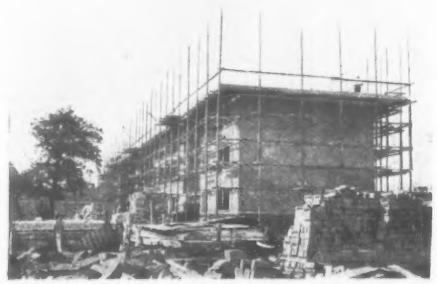
SITE—*The site, an area of about 6½ acres, is conveniently placed for local shopping centres and fairly near the occupational area of most of the future tenants.*

LAYOUT—*The principle that as many rooms as possible should receive available sunshine resulted in a general layout of parallel blocks with main axis running north and south, whilst still being grouped about a central play area. Bedrooms generally are on the east side and living-rooms on the west side of each block. A separate block on the northern boundary contains one-room flats for old people, all flats of which face south.*

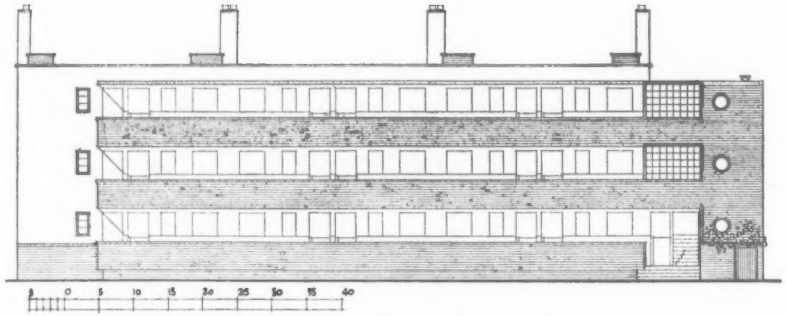
On this page is a view of the site and three photographs showing work proceeding on the various blocks. The photographs were taken on the following dates: left and centre, June, 1937; right, October, 1937; below, November, 1937.



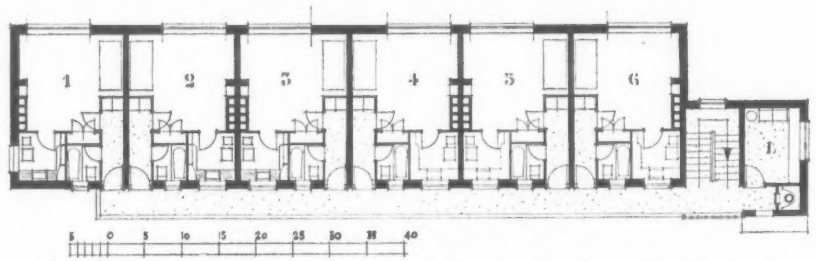
SECTION THRO SITE



SECTION THRO SITE



ELEVATION



TYPICAL FLOOR PLAN

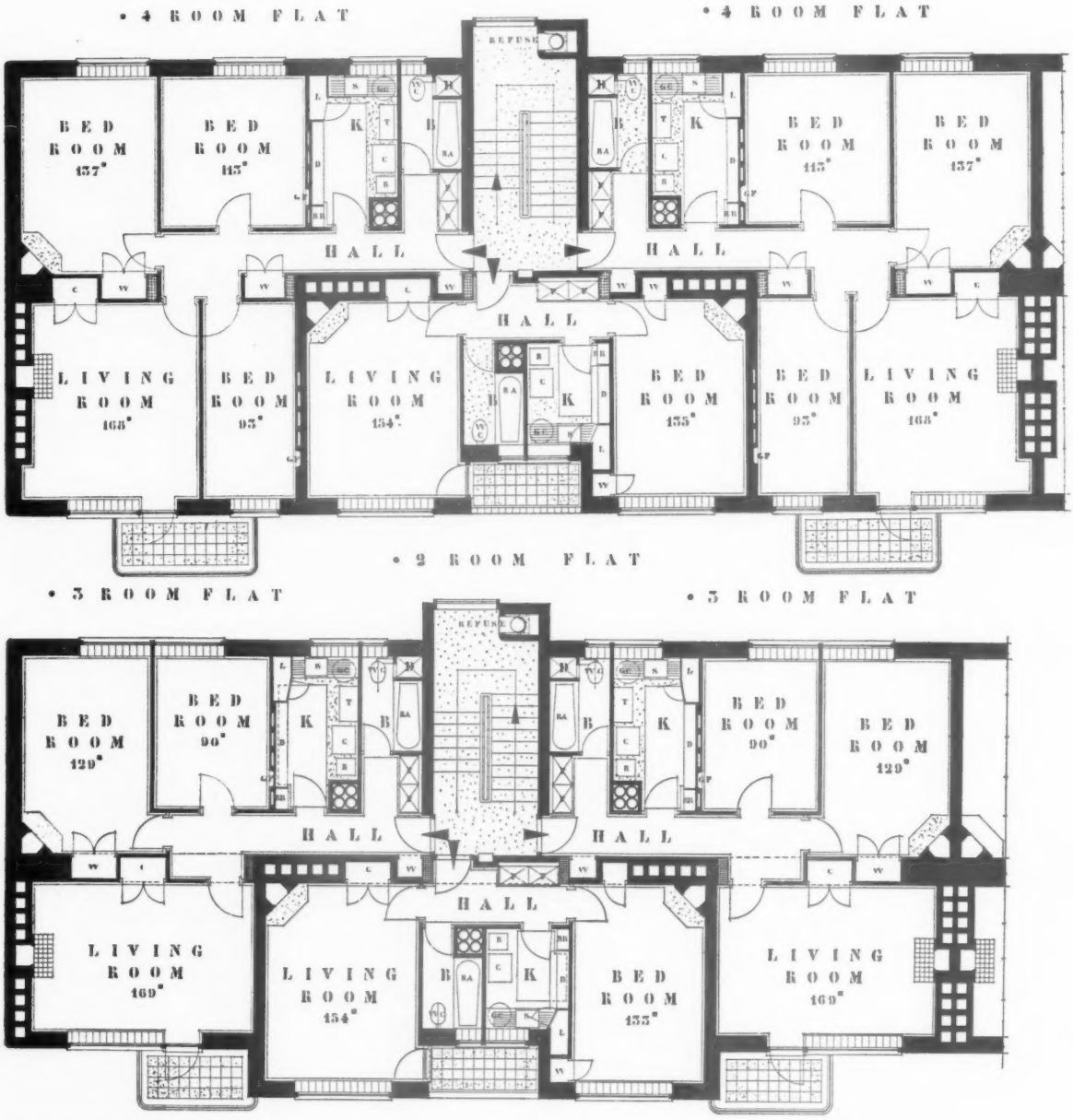
PLAN—*All flats, save those for old people, are in buildings five storeys in height with internal access stairs serving three flats per floor. Four-room, three-room and two-room flats are provided. Each flat has its own fitted kitchen, bathroom with w.c., and private balcony facing west. Net average rentals are 13s., 11s. 3d., and 8s. 6d.*

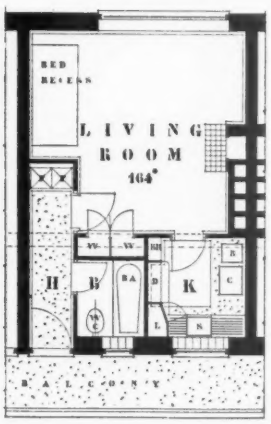
One-room flat block for old people is three storeys in height and of balcony access type. Each flat consists of lobby, living-room with bed alcove, kitchen and bathroom and w.c. All flats are fairly fully provided with built-in wardrobes and cupboards. The net average rental is 5s. 3d.

CONSTRUCTION—*R.C. internal frame, floors and balconies. External walls of 13½ in. brick full height with plinth of dark brick as a guard against dirt. Light buff bricks used above for cheerfulness. R.C. balconies are struck direct from smooth shuttering and finished in one operation. Party and staircase walls are in 9 in. brick, internal partitions of 2 in. breeze.*

Asphalt roofs are laid on foamed slag screeding overlaid by a further insulating membrane and are covered with white marble chippings.

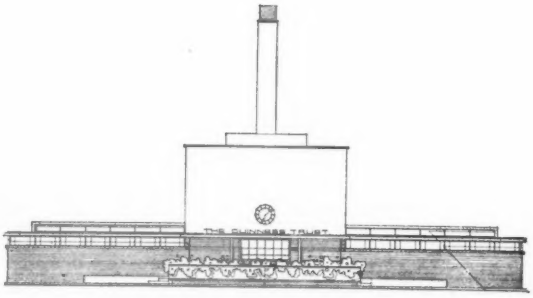
Below, two progress photographs taken in October last.



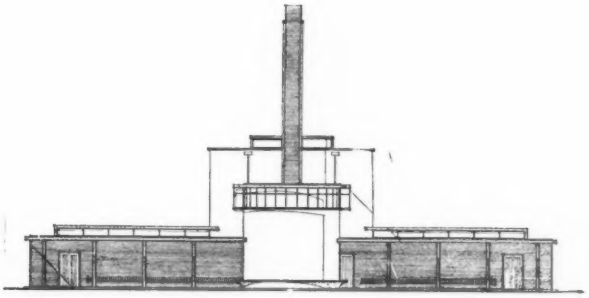


• 1 ROOM FLAT

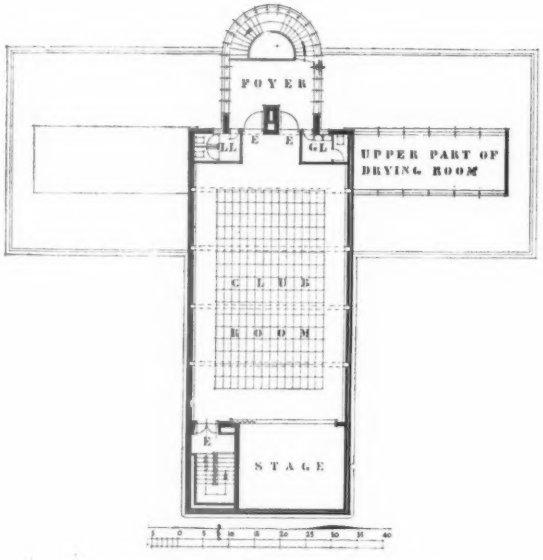
FINISHES—*Windows are steel in solid wood frames with quarry tile cills. Doors are flush in steel trim, grouted solid. Bathroom floors are quarry tile. Other floors are in wood block, finishing against quarry tile skirting. Baths are built-in three sides with metal panel in front. Staircase walls are in cold glaze brick for the full height. Picture rails are 1 in. by ¼ in. flat metal bars, fixed clear of the walls.*



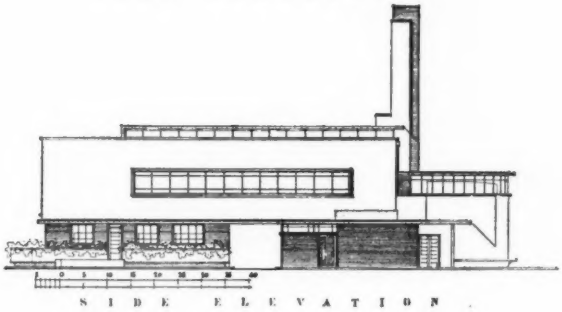
ROAD ELEVATION



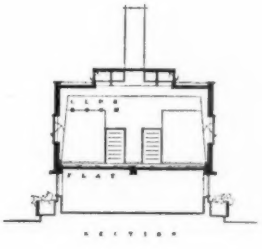
REAR ELEVATION



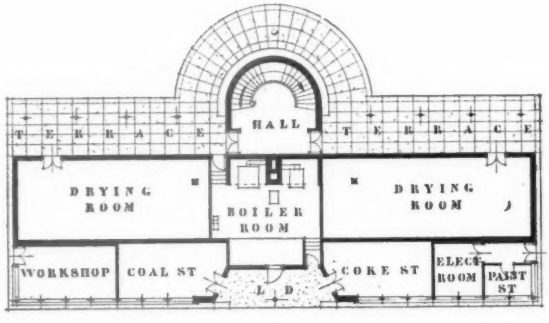
FIRST FLOOR PLAN

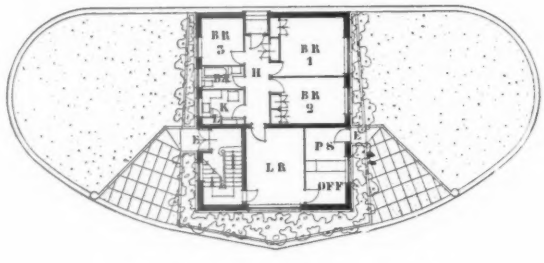


SIDE ELEVATION



THE CLUB BUILDING

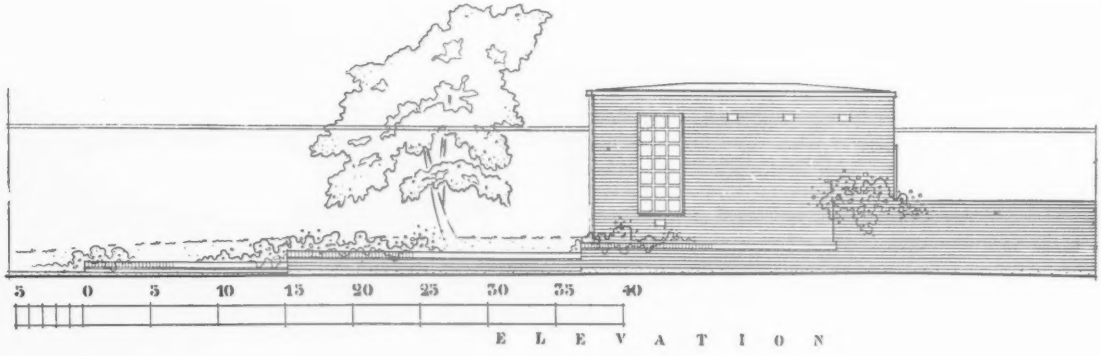


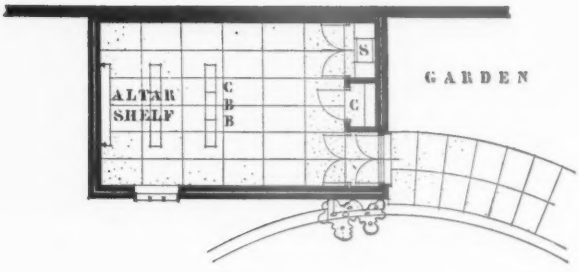


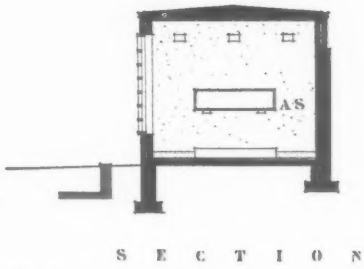
GROUND FLOOR PLAN

PLAYGROUNDS—*The club building screens the central space from the road, and this space is reserved as a children's playground. An extensive shelter for the use of the children in wet weather is formed by a wide projecting roof across the rear of the club building. A sun deck for the more particular use of mothers and infants, and furnished with garden seats, is situated on the roof of the block immediately behind the children's playground, with a view over the central open space towards the road. This deck is protected by metal mesh screen sand provides a place where infants can safely be left unattended, if need be. As many of the existing trees as possible have been preserved, while the provision of lawns and flowers has been considered as an integral part of the design. The segregation of the children's playground in the centre allows the open spaces between the flanking buildings to be laid out in grass. The windows of all flats look out on the quiet lawns thus formed. These lawns are further screened from the main service road by small blocks containing pram sheds, connected to the main buildings by raised flower troughs. All other private balconies are equipped for removable flower-boxes, which can be hired at a small charge.*

SERVICES—*Living-rooms and principal bedrooms have coal fires; secondary bedrooms, gas fires; kitchens have gas cookers with slow combustion solid fuel boilers capable of burning a certain amount of refuse and supplying copper, sink and bath, and a ventilated larder, broom cupboard and dresser. Buildings are carcassed for electrical power in case it is desirable to instal electric heating and cooking in future. One-room flats are similarly equipped save that communal laundries are provided instead of coppers. Above, an air view from the north.* *For list of general and sub-contractors see page 112.*



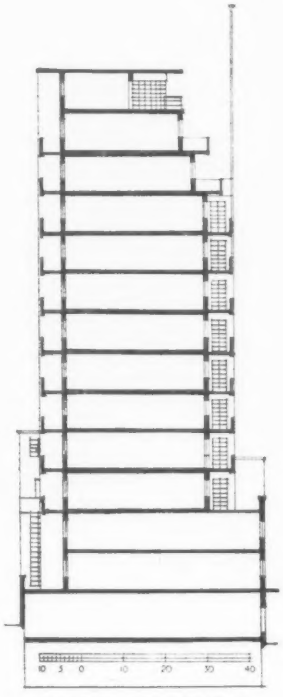




THE CHAPEL OF REPOSE

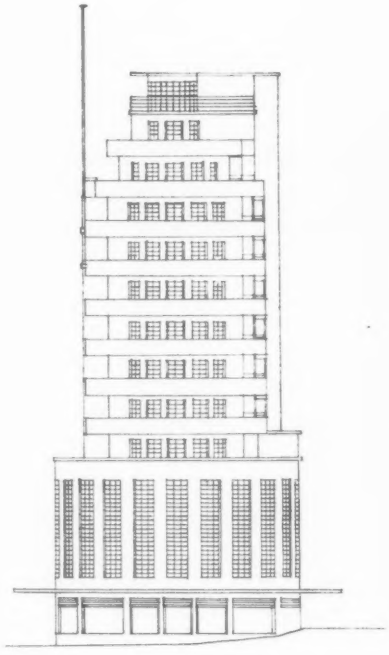
MARINE COURT, ST. LEONARDS-ON-SEA

DESIGNED BY KENNETH DALGLIESH AND ROGER K. PULLEN

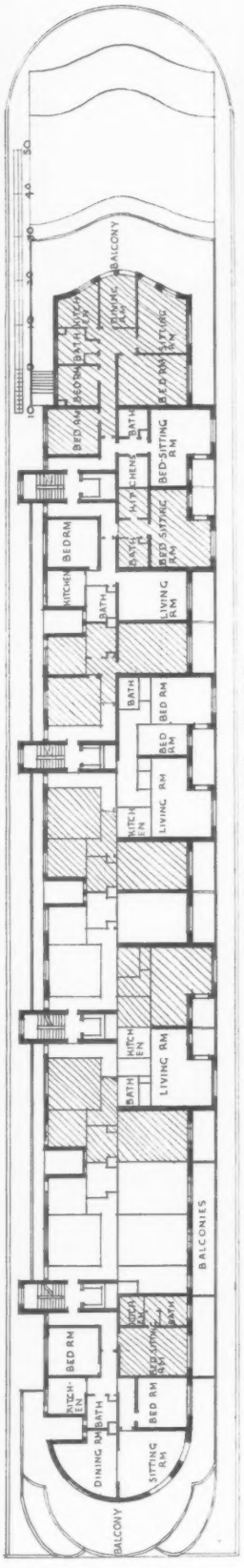


CROSS SECTION

GENERAL PROBLEM—*Block of flats, with shops on the ground floor ; restaurants on the first and second floors, east end ; and a tea lounge on the fourth floor, east end. The smallest flats comprise a bed-sitting room, bathroom and kitchen ; the largest a sitting-room, dining-room, four bedrooms, bathroom and kitchen. All the flats above the second floor have balconies overlooking the sea, and on the thirteenth floor is a promenade deck for the use of the tenants. The photographs show two views of the south front, taken in opposite directions.*

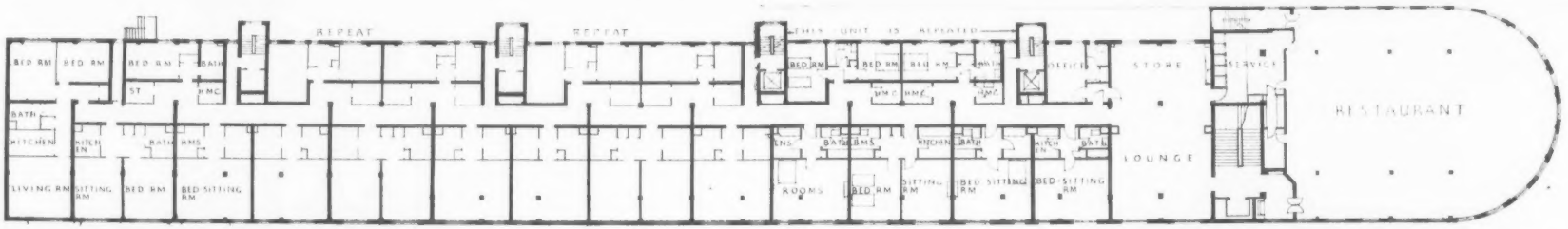


ELEVATION: EAST END



TENTH FLOOR PLAN

TENTH FLOOR PLAN



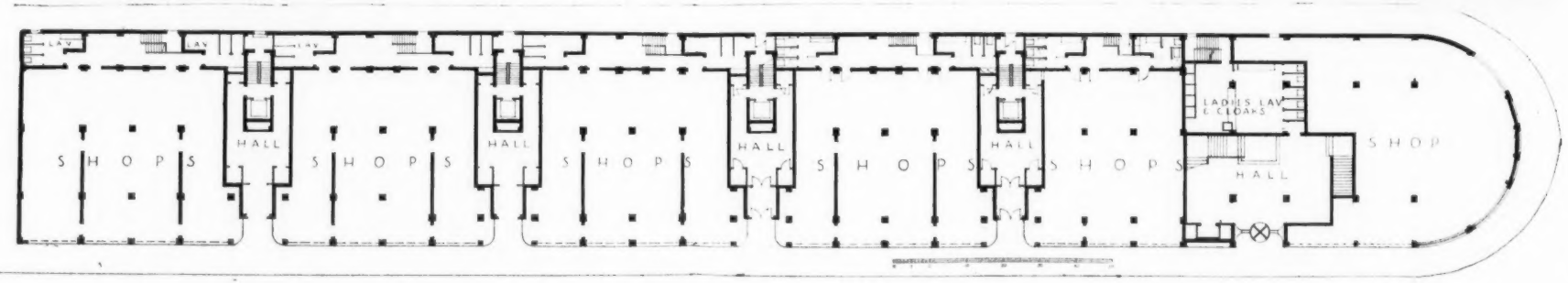
FIRST FLOOR PLAN

PLAN—*Owing to the narrowness of the site the building had to be planned vertically. Above the second floor the plan consists of four separate entities, each served by lifts and staircases. Every flat has a southern aspect and a view of the sea.*

CONSTRUCTION—*Steel frame, with vertical lattice framing to resist the wind pressure due to the great height and narrowness of the building and its exposed position. External walls are 11 in. brick cavity; roofs, reinforced concrete finished with tiles; floors, hollow block; internal walls and partitions, breeze. The elevations are in golden stock facing bricks, the balcony fronts in reinforced concrete, and the windows are metal casements.*

The photographs show: above, a general view of the south front taken from the pier; left and right, two detail views of the south front.

BELOW: GROUND FLOOR PLAN



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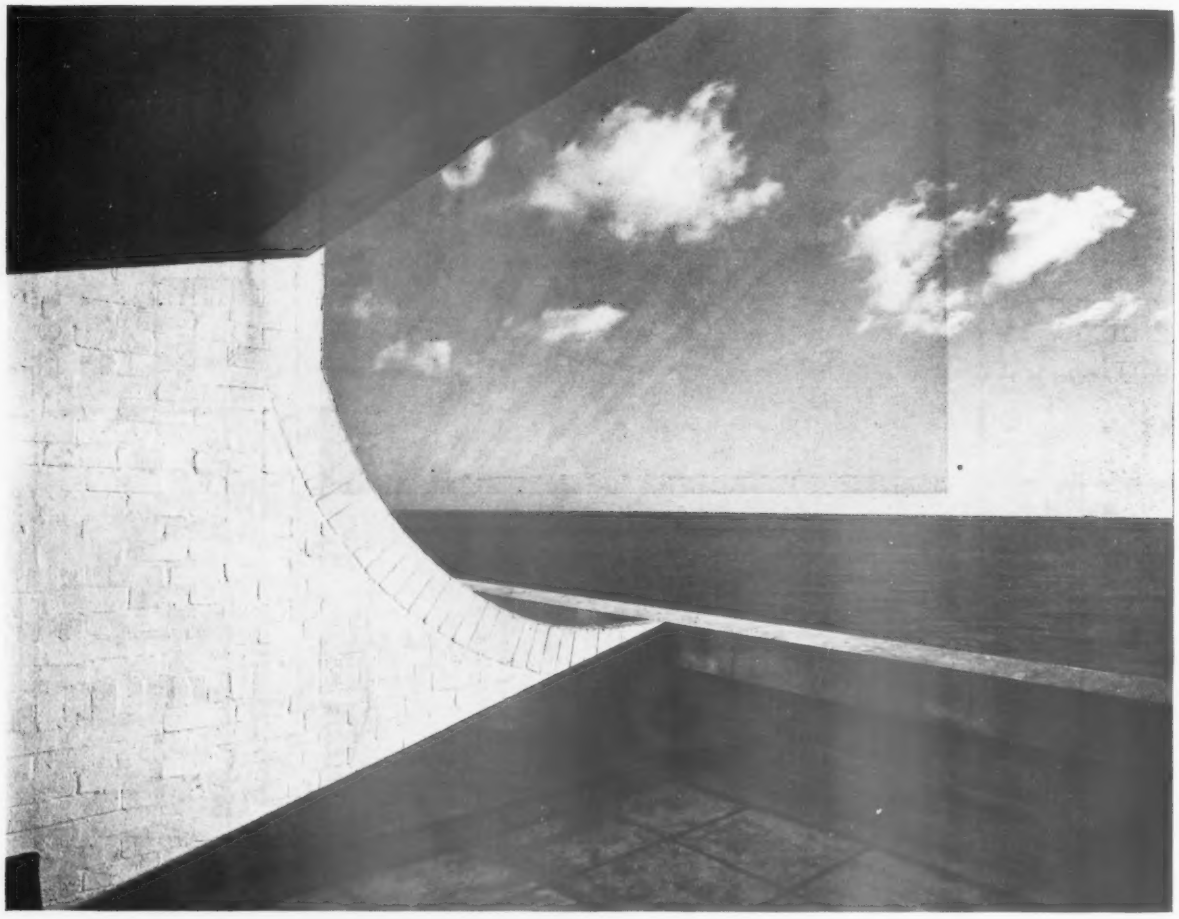
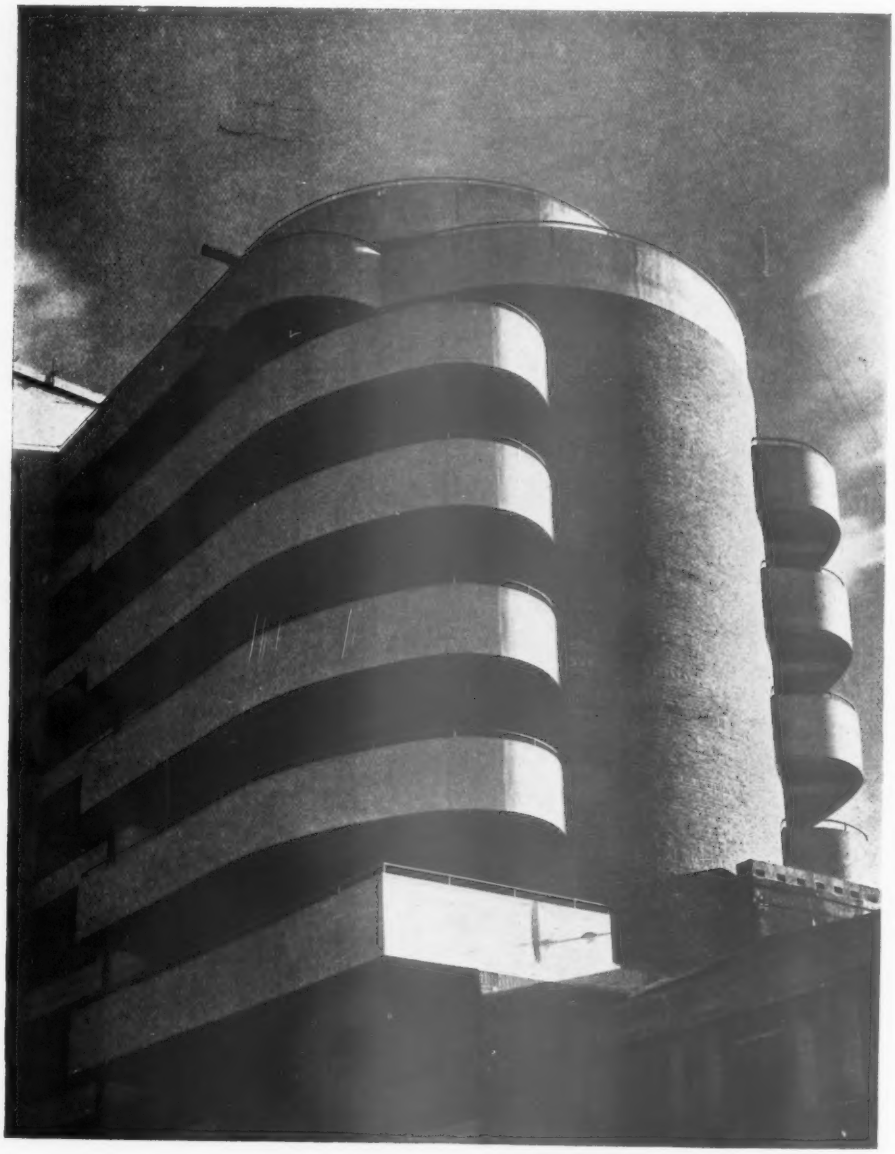


INTERNAL FINISHES—*In the flats the walls and ceilings are plastered and distempered ; and the floors are boarded and have fitted carpets. All the joinery is painted and all the ironmongery chromium plated. The bathrooms and kitchens are tiled to a height of 5 ft. Each bathroom has a built-in bath, and each kitchen built-in fitments and a combined cooker and refrigerator. The staircases and corridors are plastered and scumbled.*

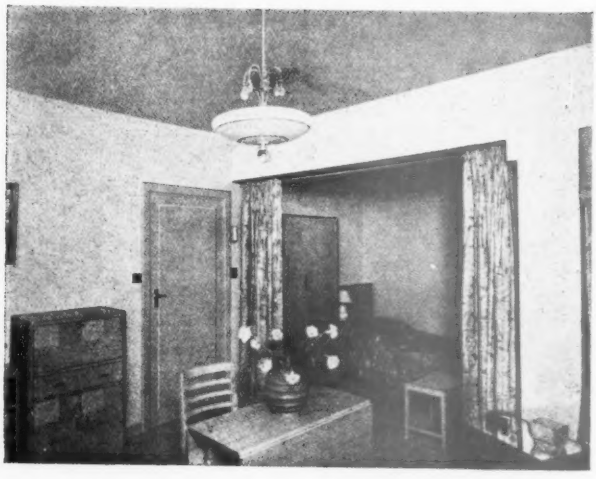
SERVICES—*There are five service lifts from the main kitchen in the basement ; and five passenger lifts, two of which communicate with the car park under the promenade. Heating is by electric panels under the windows and electric fires ; and hot water by electric thermal storage. The internal bathrooms and kitchens are provided with artificial ventilation. Public and inter-communicating telephones are installed. All pipework is copper and is contained in ducts running vertically through the building. The one-pipe system of drainage has been adopted.*

The photographs show : two views from a balcony. On the facing page is a photograph of the promenade deck on the thirteenth floor.



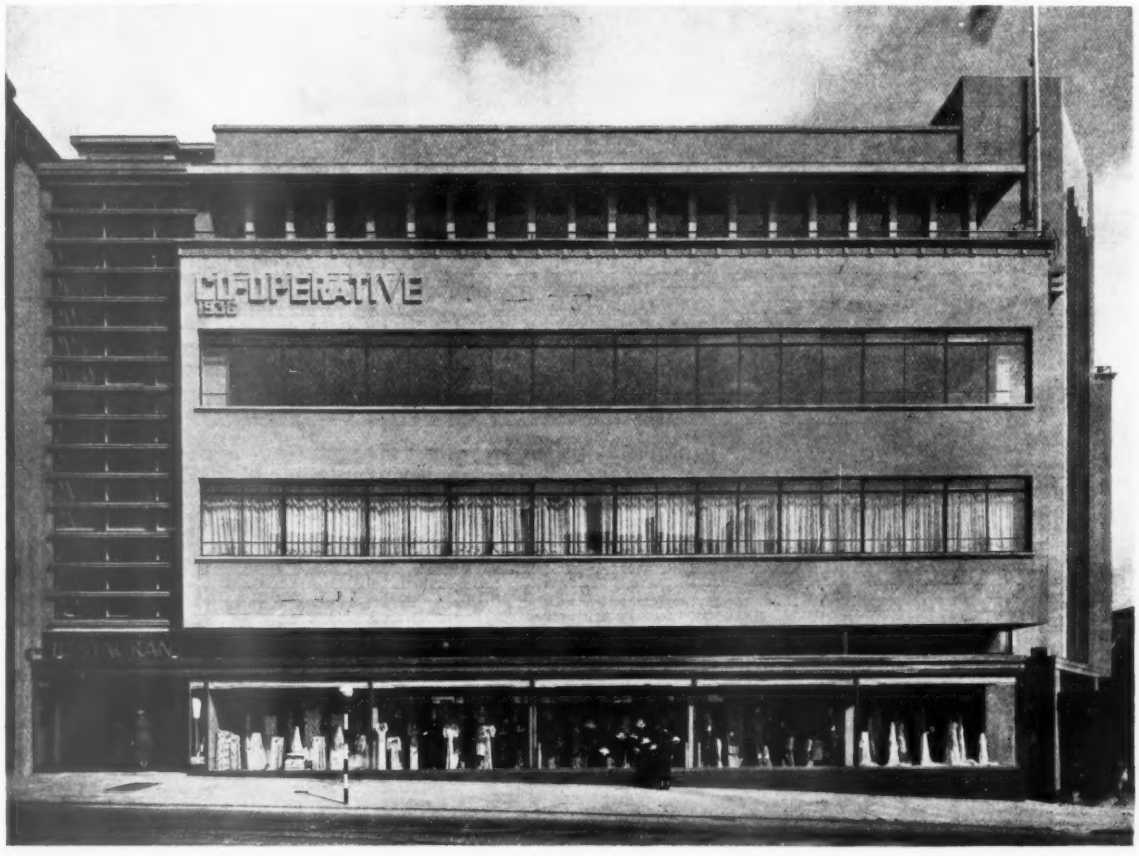
The photographs show : left, the top storeys at the west end of the building. Below, a bed recess and a sitting-room in a one-room flat.

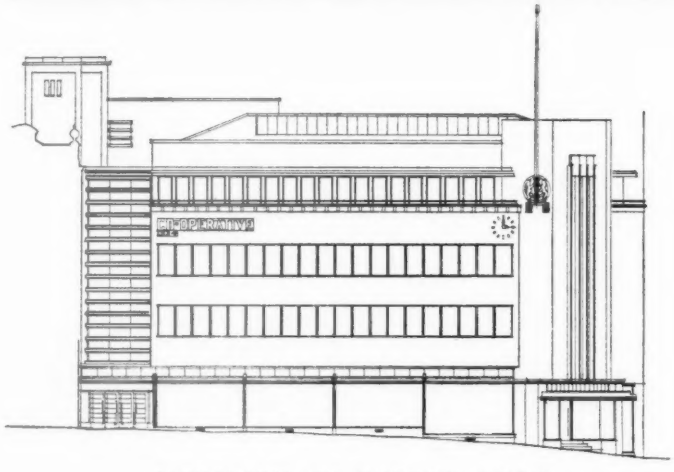
For list of general and sub-contractors see page 112.



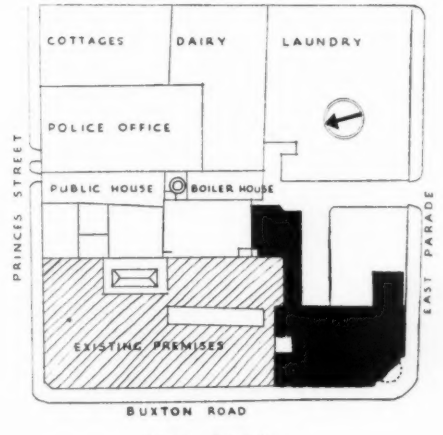
DRAPERY STORE, HUDDERSFIELD

W. A JOHNSON, ARCHITECT : J. W. CROPPER, ASSISTANT





ELEVATION TO BUXTON ROAD



SITE PLAN

GENERAL PROBLEM—*Extension of shop premises for the drapery department of the Huddersfield Industrial Society, Ltd., including a restaurant and an assembly hall. The sales departments are in the basement and on the ground and first floors ; the restaurant is on the second floor and the assembly hall is on the third floor.*

SITE—*In Buxton Road, a main thoroughfare, and in the centre of a busy shopping district. No rights of lights were involved, but the building is given a splayed corner to comply with the town planning regulations of the borough.*

CONSTRUCTION—*Steel framed, with reinforced concrete floors, and with 14-in. ashlar faced walls to front and side elevations, and 14-in. brick walls to rear. Internal partitions are 4½-in. brick ; w.c. partitions, 2½-in. white glazed brick ; basement walls, reinforced concrete. Roofs are : over the assembly hall, steel trusses, boarded and felted, and covered with slates and patent glazing ; over the kitchen, staircase, lavatories, etc., reinforced concrete, covered with asphalt. The shop fronts are in bronze ; the stallboards in red and amber granite. The four large mullions to the corner window and the transomes to the staircase window on the Buxton Road elevation are in reconstructed stone.*

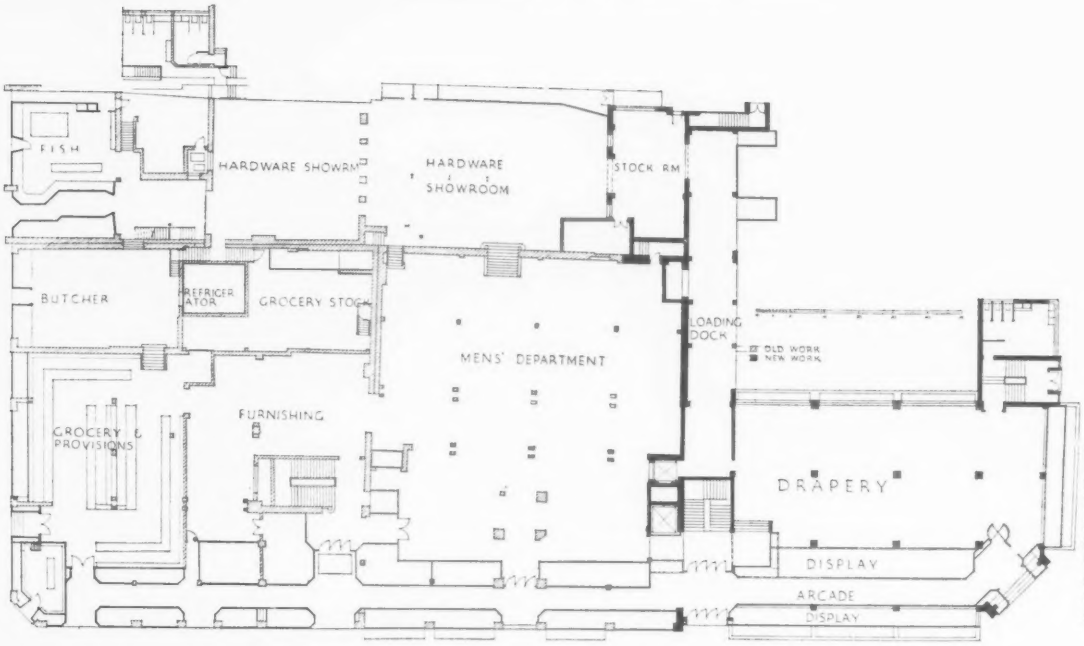
The photograph is of the Buxton Road front.

PLAN—*The extension is planned with large open steel bays to obtain maximum clear floor space, and in direct communication with the old adjoining building so that the public can circulate freely, a new staircase and passenger lift being placed alongside the old building to facilitate access from floor to floor. The arcade on the ground floor, when the alterations to the old building are completed, will run the complete length of the Buxton Road front. When the restaurant and the assembly hall are in use after the sales departments are closed, the departments on each floor are cut off from the main staircase and lifts by geared roller shutters. The restaurant on the second floor can be sub-divided by a folding partition.*

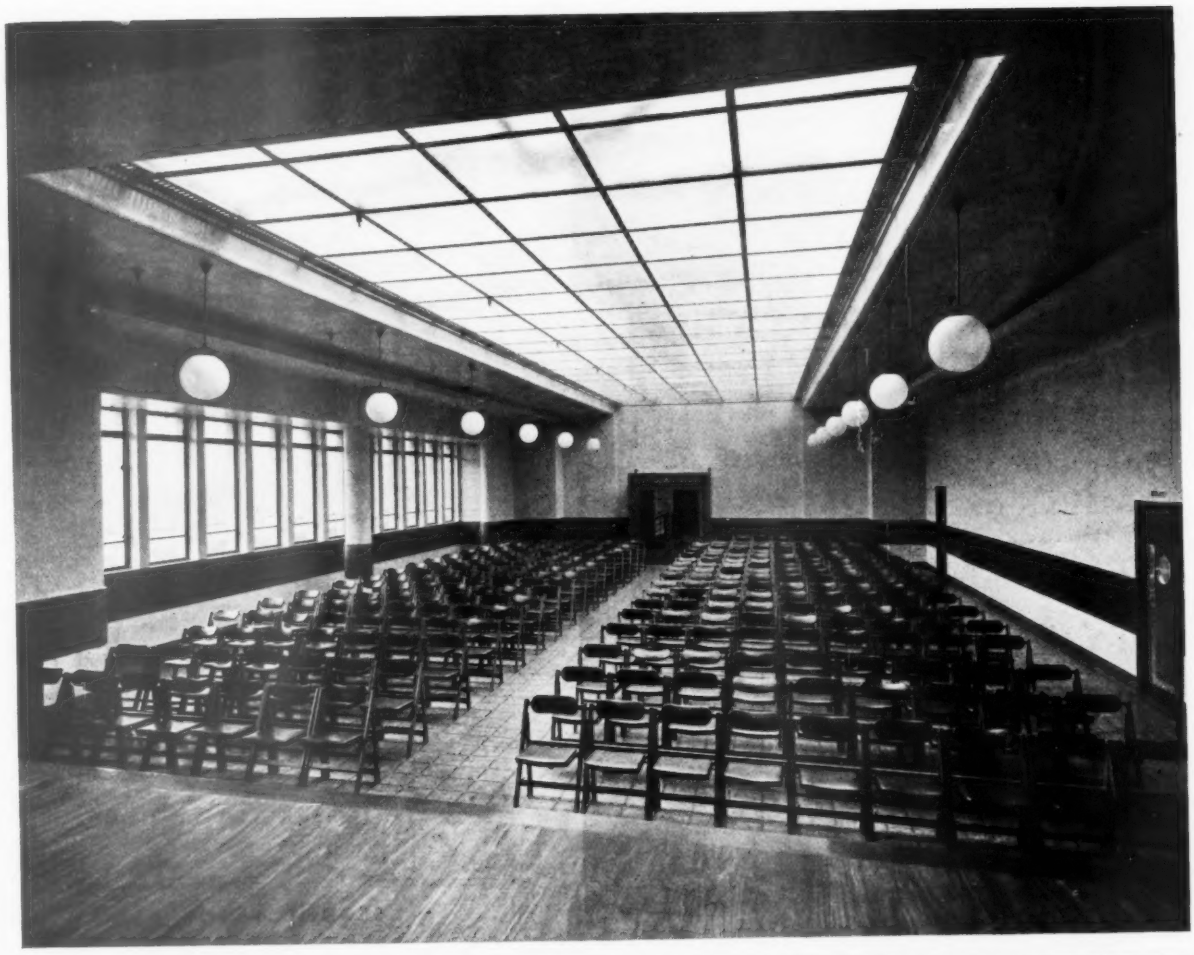
INTERNAL FINISHES—*The shop fittings and columns in the basement and on the first floor are polished oak; and those on the ground floor are polished Honduras mahogany. Ceilings are fibrous plaster slabs. In the restaurant the columns are walnut with concealed lighting in the fibrous plaster caps; the dado is walnut; the ceilings and beams are fibrous plaster, decorated; and the floor is finished in linoleum. The assembly hall has a dado of polished veneered oak, fibrous plaster ceiling and columns, a large laylight in the ceiling and a parquet floor. The main staircase has a marble dado 3 ft. 9 ins. high. Stair treads and risers are in linoleum, with non-slip nosings, and with the outside upstands and curbs to the balustrade in marble. Passenger lift doors are metal, cellulose sprayed.*

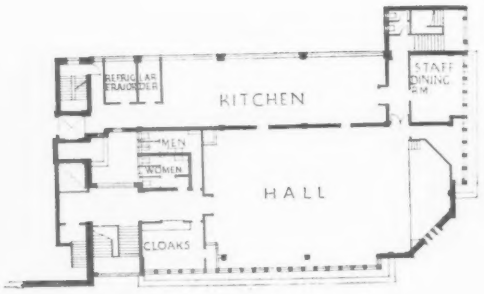
The photograph is of the East Parade front.

On the facing page the photographs show: above, the assembly hall, and a general view in the drapery department.

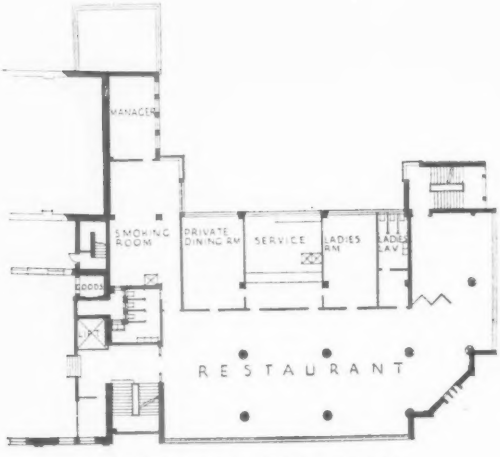


GROUND FLOOR PLAN OF THE COMPLETE STORE, showing the alterations to the old building and, on the right, the new drapery department.

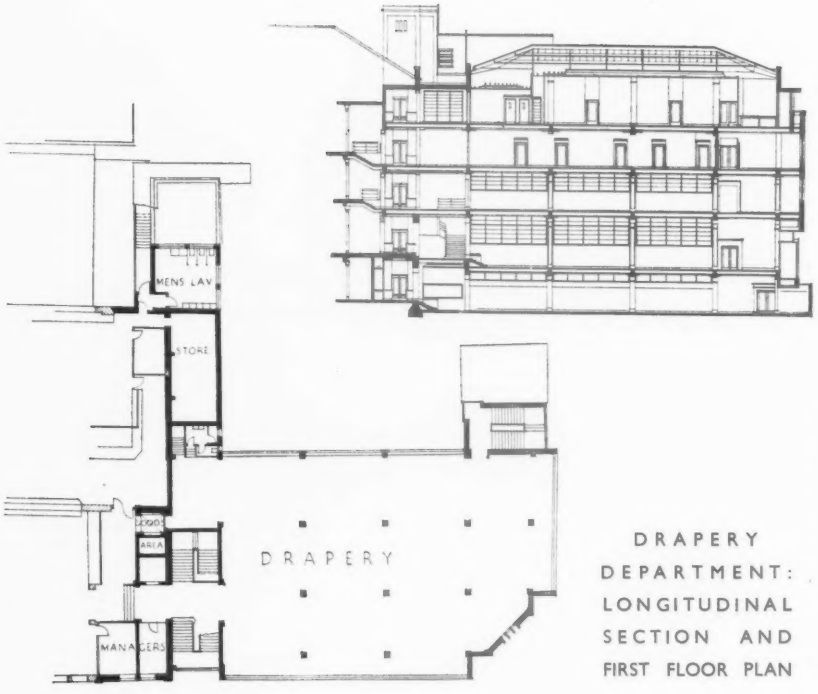




THIRD FLOOR PLAN



SECOND FLOOR PLAN



DRAPERY DEPARTMENT: LONGITUDINAL SECTION AND FIRST FLOOR PLAN

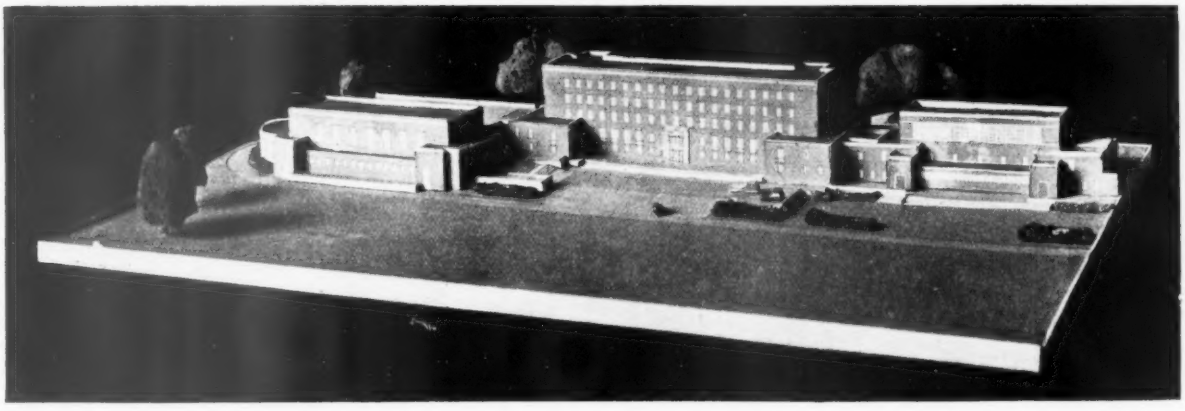
SERVICES—*The extension is served by a passenger lift, carrying 15 persons, and having a speed of 250 ft. per minute. There are also a goods lift, sprinklers, and panel heating. The tubes for the vacuum cleaning and the pneumatic cash carrier systems are concealed in the column casings and the fibrous plaster beams.*

The photograph is of a display stand for ladies' hats.

For list of general and sub-contractors see page 112.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LIBRARY, SWANSEA

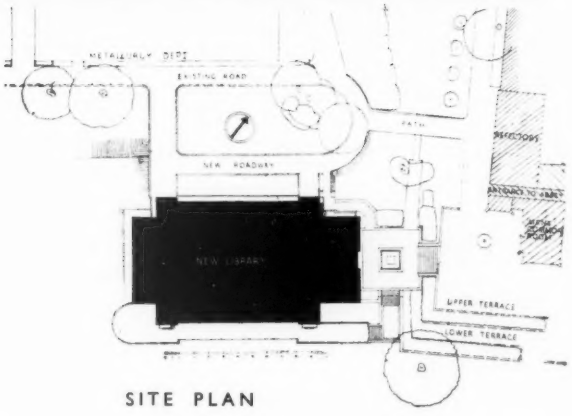
DESIGNED BY VERNER O. REES



GENERAL—*The building was won in a competition by Mr. Rees held in 1924.*

SITE—*Singleton Park, on the western outskirts of Swansea. Singleton Abbey, the Strawberry Hill Gothic residence of Lord Swansea, and its grounds were bought by the Corporation. The grounds are used as a public park and a considerable area of land was presented to University College, on part of which the new University Library has been built. The Abbey is used as the administration centre and the new building is linked up with it by steps and terraces.*

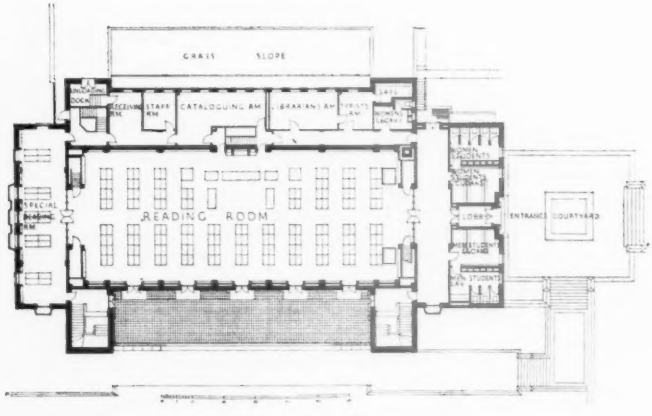
The photographs are : above, a model showing the relationship between the library and the proposed assembly hall and Faculty of Arts building ; below, the south-east front.



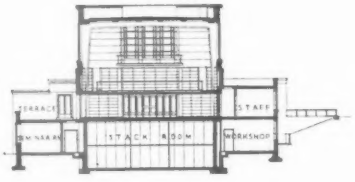
SITE PLAN

PLAN—*The building is planned as a unit in a larger development to include an assembly hall and a building or buildings for the Faculty of Arts. The original (competition) design was amended so that the stack room might in future hold 160,000 volumes on two floors. The stackroom is placed under the whole building, which gives maximum space, and is arranged to be used in sections as required.*

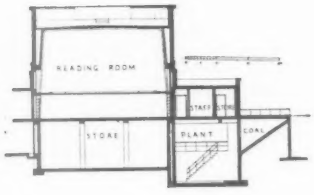
CONSTRUCTION—*Reinforced concrete with the exception of the outer walls to the Seminar rooms. The reading room is constructed with trusses of 40 ft. span carrying the coffered concrete ceiling 30 ft. above the floor. The internal structural concrete to the trusses and the ceiling is exposed to view everywhere and has an aggregate of local Pennant stone. The concrete ceiling of the reading room, arranged in large splayed coffers, has a thickness in places of only 4½ ins. On this has been placed screeding, 1 in. of asphalt and 2¼ in. of vibrated concrete tiles to protect the ceiling concrete against extremes of outside temperature. Above is a view looking across the entrance courtyard.*

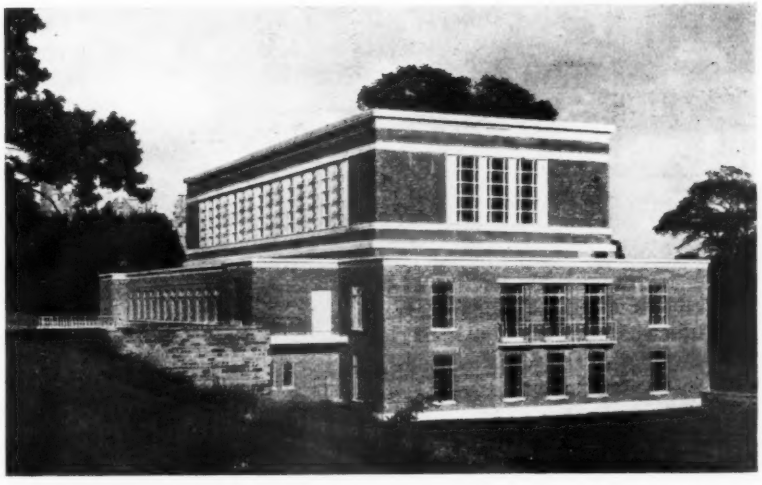


PLAN



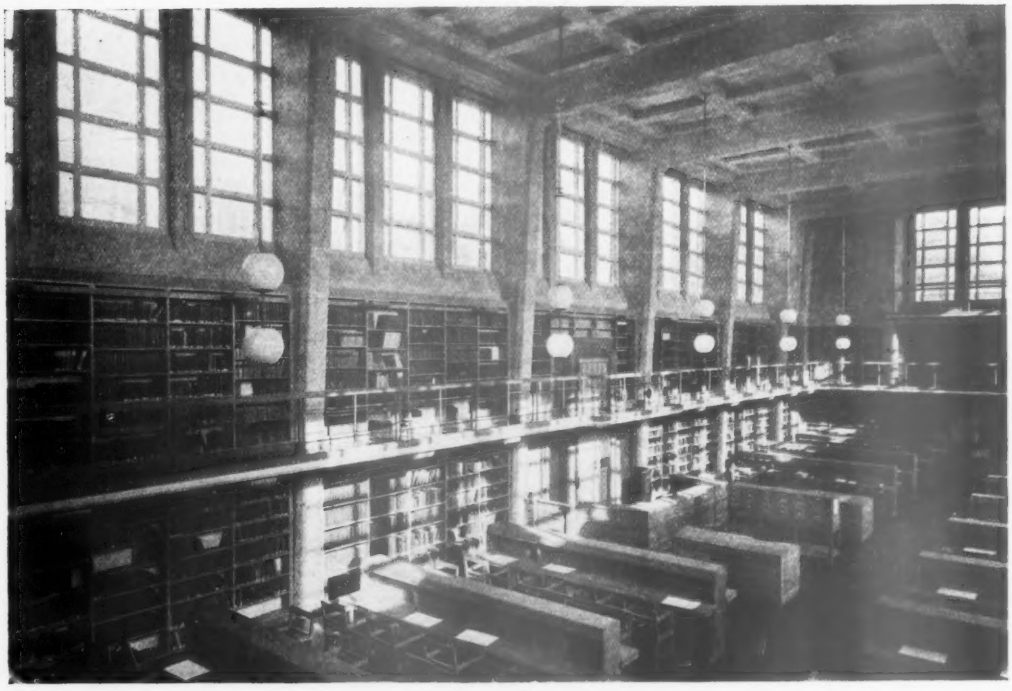
SECTIONS

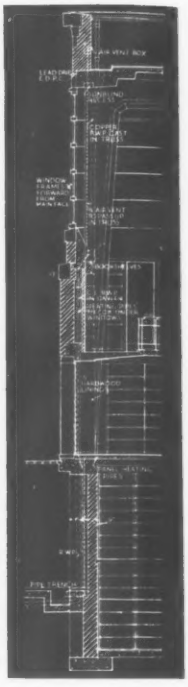


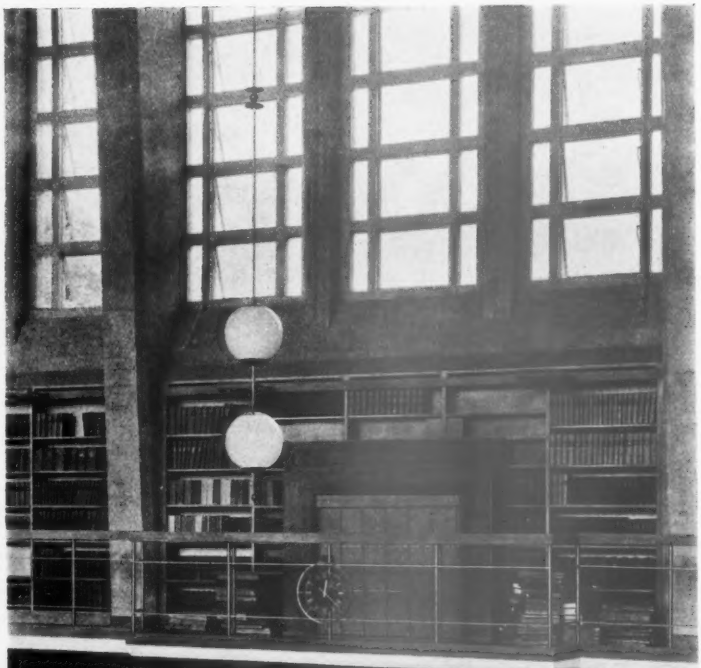


ELEVATIONAL TREATMENT—*Facings are 2⅜ in. buff bricks worked 4 courses to 13 ins. giving ¾ in. joints. The bricks are bedded in a lime mortar, with a 5 in. cavity and 3 in. internal tile partition on which the plastering to the rooms was applied or against which metal stacks were placed. Where the Portland stone dressings butt against concrete they have been coated on the inside with an elastic bituminous product against cement stains.*

The photographs show: Above, the main entrance; above, right, one of the entrances on the south-east front; right, a view from the west.







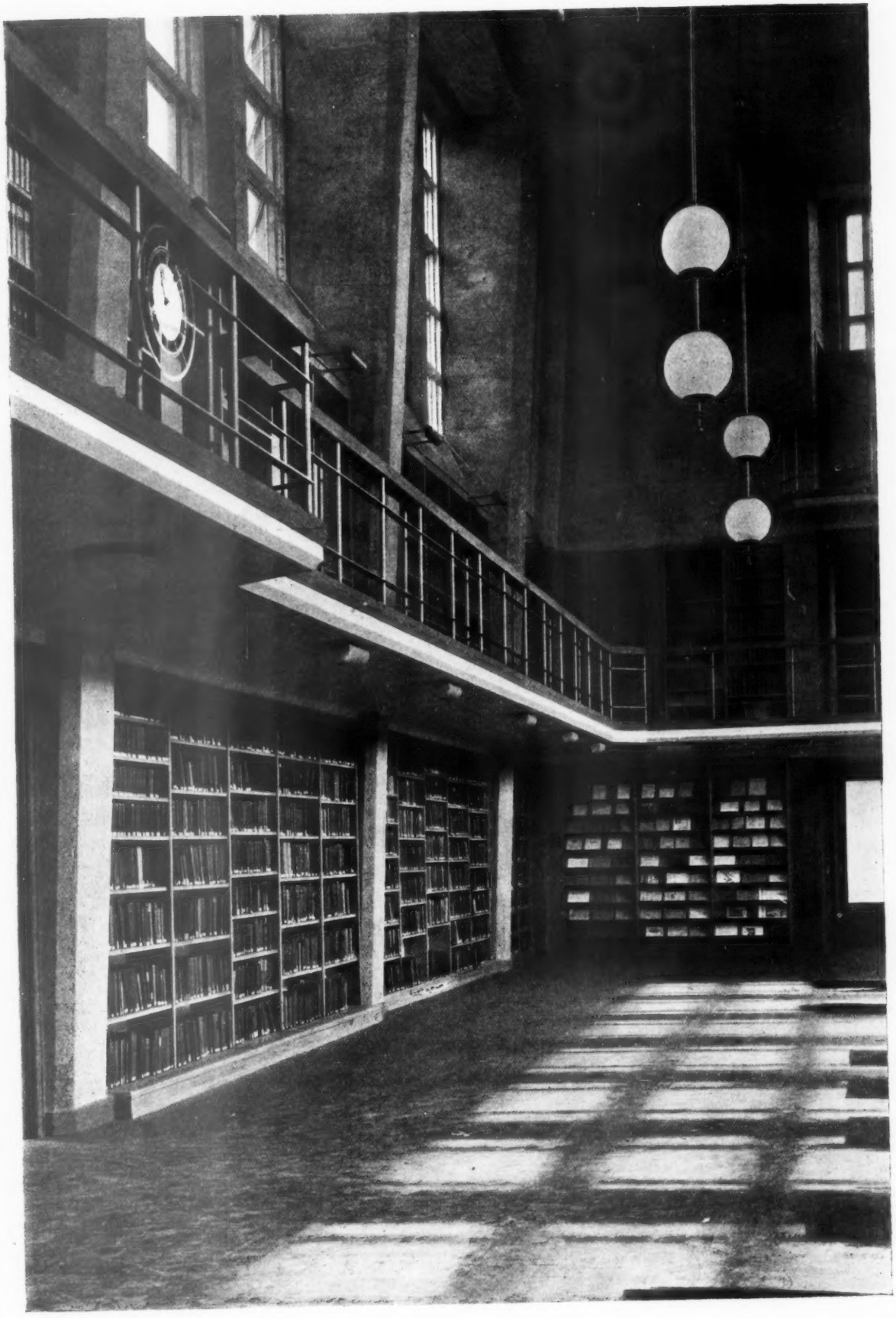
INTERNAL FINISHES—*The various tones of the concrete aggregate have been brought out by using a special solution of silicate of soda. Metal shelving throughout has been stove-enamelled a royal blue colour.*

EQUIPMENT—*The warming of the reading room is by means of coil pipes over the entire area of the floor, bedded in 5 in. of screed on which has been laid 1¼ in. teak strips. "Finned" pipes have been carried under the clerestorey behind a splayed capping on top of the upper stacks as a precaution against down draught. Warmed and cleaned air is supplied to the stack rooms through ducts and extracted by a fan on the roof: it is used for about 1½ hours a day.*

CONTRACT PRICE—*£34,280 excluding furniture. Price per ft. cube, 1s. 7d.*

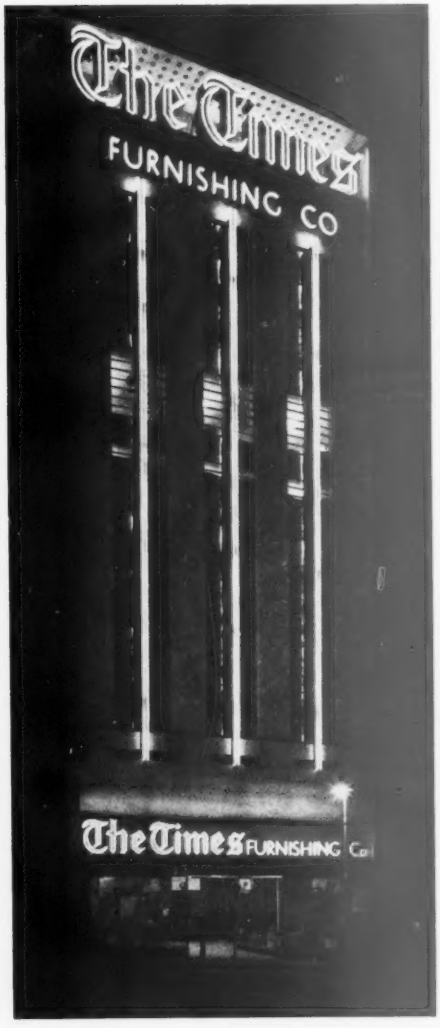
The illustrations show: Above, left and on the facing page, the reading room; and a section through the reading room wall.

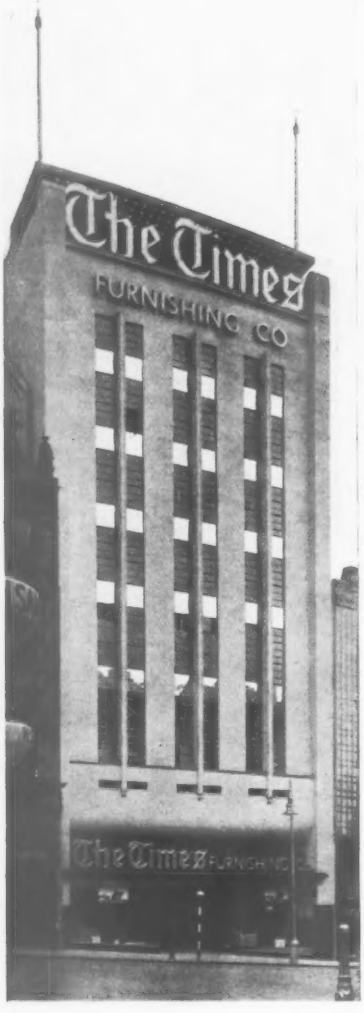
For list of general and sub-contractors see page 112.

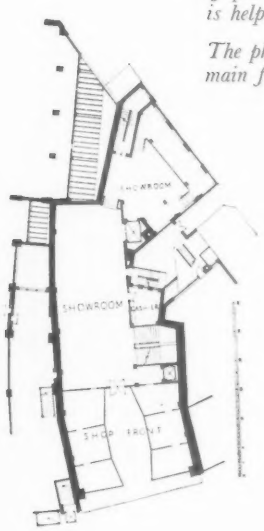


FURNITURE SHOWROOMS, BIRMINGHAM

DESIGNED BY C. J. EPRILE







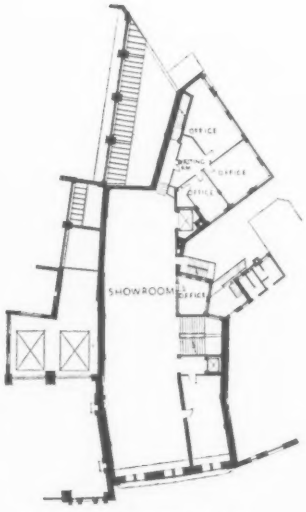
GROUND FLOOR PLAN

SITE — *The building accommodates a furniture shop, showrooms and offices, and is built on a very irregular site, which has steep falls, both down and across it. The site is vested in two interests, and the building is designed with the line of demarcation emphasized structurally, and with each part of the building on either side of the line of demarcation having separate service lifts and staircases. The shape of the back of the building is caused by restrictions due to rights of light, etc. Under the rear of the site is a railway tunnel, and to comply with the conditions of the railway company the foundations of the building had to be carried down below the level of the track.*

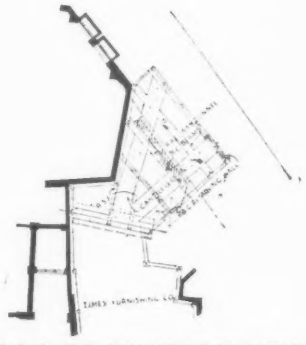
CONSTRUCTION—*Steel frame encased in brick; hollow tile partitions; and pre-cast concrete floors. The steel-framed superstructure was not unusual except that solid steel pin bearings were used to support the large plate girders at second floor level to ensure concentric loading on the stanchions.*

The rear portion of the building projected for an average distance of 15 ft. over the main line L.M.S. tunnel, and was supported on two large reinforced concrete cantilevers 6 ft. wide and 8 ft. 6 ins. deep. The loads from these cantilevers, along the face of the tunnel, were transmitted to solid rock at approximately rail level by a reinforced concrete wall. The counterbalance was effected by a reinforced concrete unit, which in turn collected as much load as possible from the main building. The design was made more difficult by the restricted width of the site coinciding with the position of the counterbalance. Further complications to the design were caused by the dual ownership of the site, making possible the removal of part of the building which at present is helping the counterbalance effect.

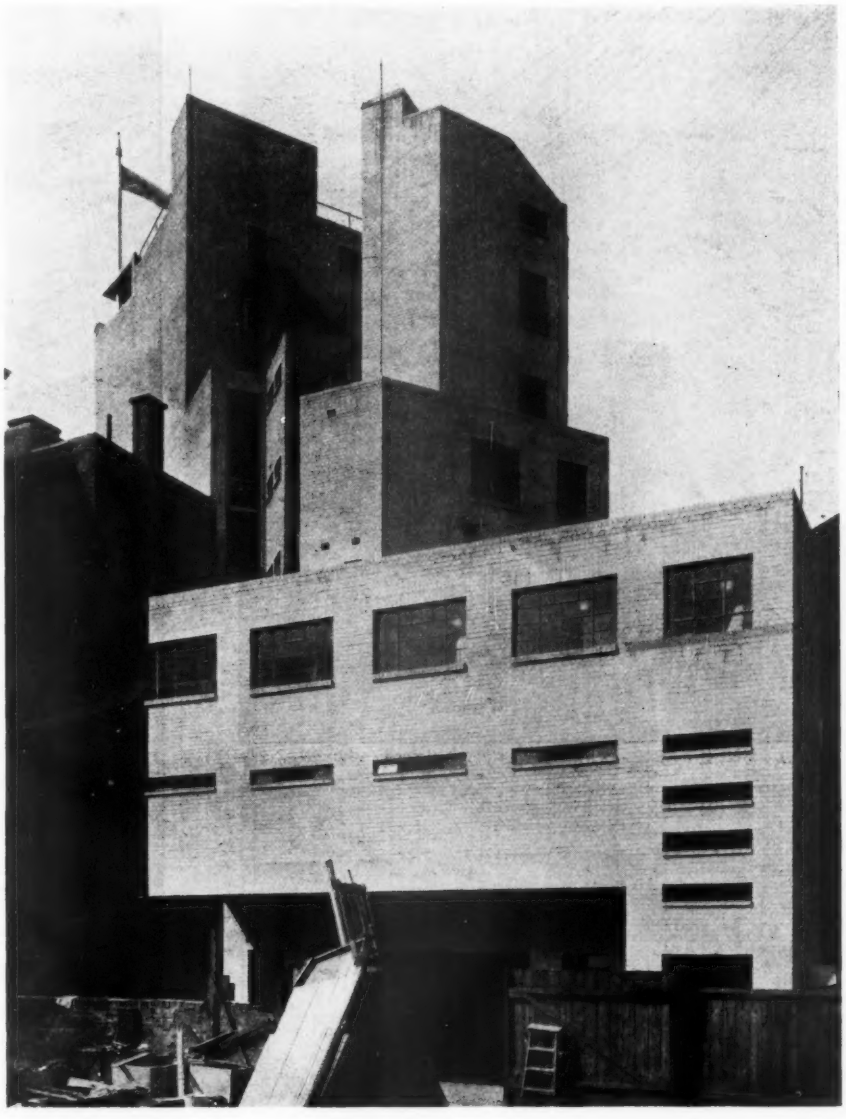
The photographs show three views of the main front, one taken by night.

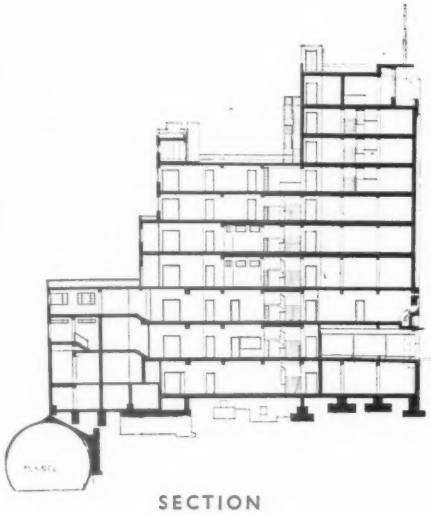


FIRST FLOOR PLAN



PLAN OF REINFORCEMENT OVER RAILWAY TUNNEL



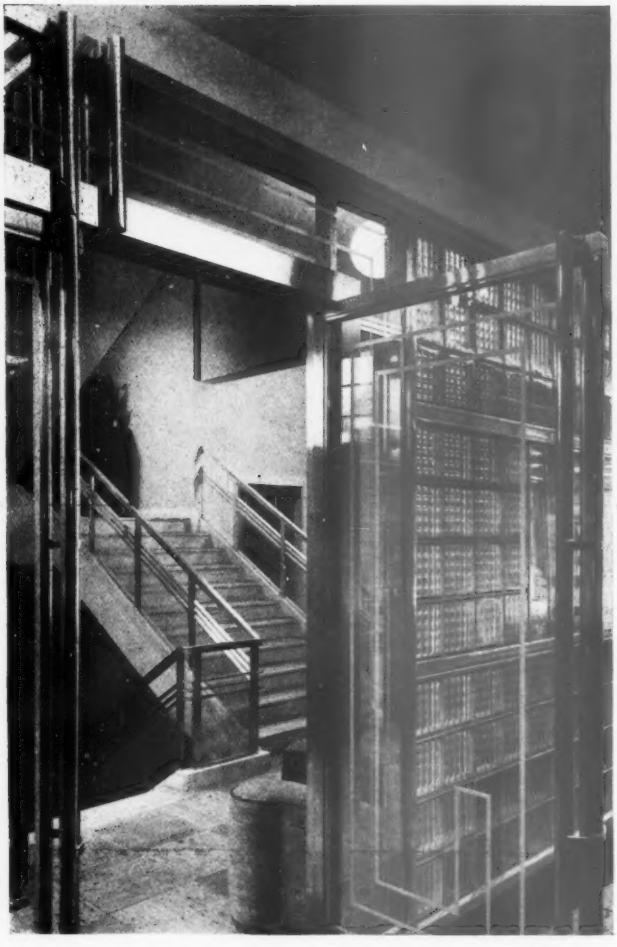


SECTION

EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL TREATMENT—*The main front is faced with Portland stone and has a granite base ; steel window panels, a glass brick front to the uppermost storey and a reinforced concrete hood, floodlit. The client's trade lettering and the neon lighting have been incorporated in the design of the exterior. Floors generally are oak battens. The staircases are in travertine with aluminium balustrading, framed and glazed. Interior finishings are simple and there are no cornices.*

COST—*£50,000.*

The photograph shows the back of the building, the shape of which was caused by restrictions due to ancient lights, etc.



The photographs show two views in the showrooms and two views of the main staircase.

On the facing page is a photograph in the arcade.

For list of general and sub-contractors see page **112.**

I

In the centre of "The Cinema" there are published weekly two pages of racy film criticism which aim at being a reliable guide to renters as to probable box office appeal. In its New Year Issue the JOURNAL has felt that the unique and piquant literary style of these criticisms might be happily applied to current offerings in another field. These are presented below with suitable acknowledgments and apologies in the hope that this new technique may be widely followed by our contemporaries.

1

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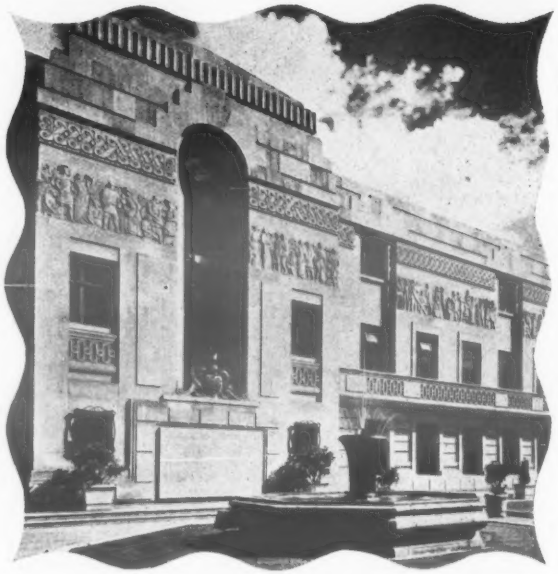


3

Location.	Title.	Viewpoints.	Type and Entertainment Value.	Suitability.	Treatment.
Odeon, Leicester Sq. 1	"Leopard Woman."	Now familiar story of substitution of new lamps for old. Cleverly stylized, direction of necessarily stagey subject results in charming and infectiously gay sequence of romantic and comic incident adroitly attuned to period and mood. Extremely effective, enhanced by beautifully presented quotations, important asset in colourful development of fantasia ingeniously presented.	Romantic costume comedy with music; fair.	Excellent general entertainment; obvious box-office possibilities with indulgent patrons.	Piquant and breezy.
Dolphin Square Flats. 2	"Fifty Million Flatlets Can't Be Wrong."	Artless tongue-in-cheek narration provides considerable measure of well-proven popular treatment with occasional emotional appeal providing social background for scheming wives and woman-to-woman angles of acrimonious back-chat *re* erring hubbies. Direction creates convincing atmosphere alternately slow and swift in development. Competent apartment settings. Good quality production.	Large scale domestic comedy drama; fair.	Dependable popular attraction.	Heartily commonplace.
Wandsworth Town Hall. 3	"Ali Baba Goes To Town."	Narration has artless yet charming appeal with pleasant romantic angles and termagant comicalities. Plenty of vigorous enrichment covers phases of mother-love, parental harshness, romance and death-cell horror, treated somewhat episodically but blending into agreeable finale. Stimulating situation and enlivenment prevailing rather than dramatic incident.	Romantic comedy; good.	Pleasant light romance with mainly feminine appeal.	Old-fashioned and fanciful.
London	"Campus	Reminiscent American appeal. Effective staging contributes towards clever sequence of intri-	Collegiate melo-	Acceptable offering for	Forthright.

London University. 4	"Campus Days."	Reminiscent American appeal. Effective staging contributes towards clever sequence of intriguing and consistently entertaining incident much enhanced by dignified ascent to built-up climax, provocative of many deeply moving moments emphasized by crowds of happy, singing co-eds. Authentic academy settings. Smooth all-round technique.	Collegiate melodrama; good.	Acceptable offering for masses.	Forthright.
Zoo, Dudley 5	"Bring 'Em Back Alive."	Narrative angles somewhat lost in maze of comedy characterization, crazy by-play and prodigality of pseudo-laughter bids which do not quite register, but compensation to hand in heartiness of play, fervid partisanship and keen atmosphere, with occasional note of stark drama. Brilliant technical quality settings.	Animal extravaganza; very fair.	Provocative light entertainment of sophisticated pattern, notably for good-class patronage.	Wittily incisive.
Civic Centre, Dagenham. 6	"New Deal."	Basically familiar theme supported by good taste in settings. Straightforward story of cleanup in small town politics, put across with smoothness and pace with commendable, though modest, climax. Good production qualities. Marked advance on recent offerings.	Political comedy-drama; good.	Goodish reliable popular offering for go-ahead towns.	Slight but original.

4

5

6

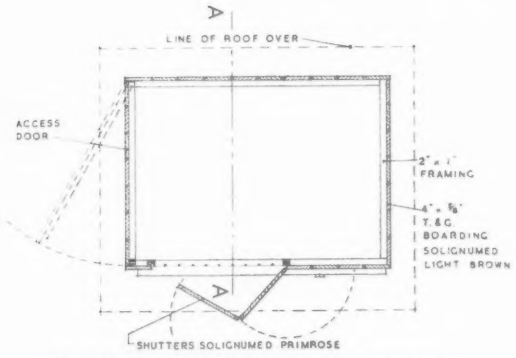
(With acknowledgments to "The Cinema")

WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOUR

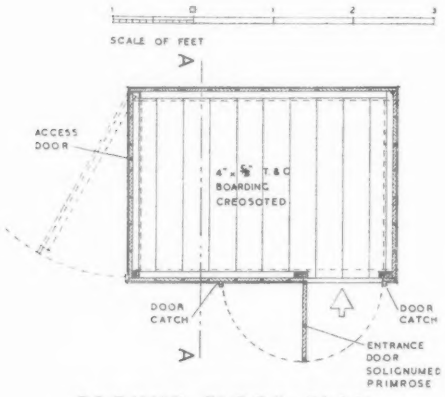
LIGHTNING GUIDE TO ALL CURRENT OFFERINGS

SMALL TIMBER RESIDENCE, FINCHLEY, N.

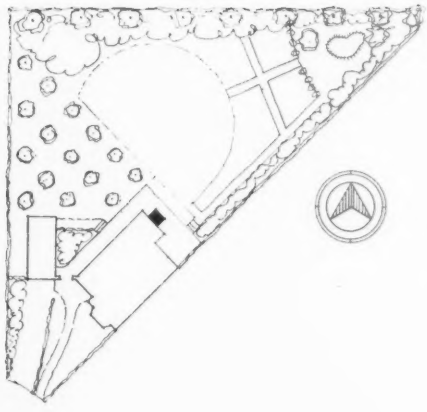
PRINCIPAL ELEVATION



PLAN THROUGH CLERESTORY



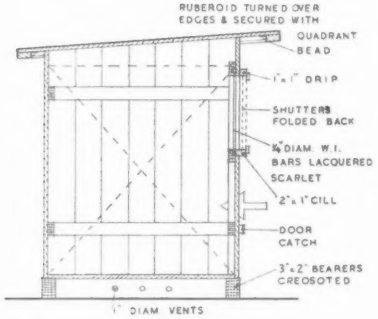
GROUND FLOOR PLAN



SITE PLAN

DESIGNED BY

G. BRIAN HERBERT



SECTION

THE CLIENT

GENERAL PROBLEM—*Client required comfortable, durable and economical bachelor quarters, warm in winter and cool in summer. Access was to be easy in case at any time it should prove prudent to retire for the time being from public life.*

SITE—*The house stands in its own grounds which are pleasingly and conveniently treed. Spacious and well-screened approach.*

PLAN—*The main entrance opens directly into the bed-sitter which is also provided with a large access door for hygienic reasons, and an observation window (two-way).*

CONSTRUCTION—*Walls, roof and floor t. and g. boarding, battened, all nailed together with infinite pains. Roof covered in Ruberoid. Framed front door and shutters.*

ELEVATIONAL TREATMENT — *Light brown walls. Dark brown creosoted plinth. Grey Ruberoid roof covering. Primrose Solignum front door and shutters. Window bars lacquered scarlet.*

INTERNAL FINISHES—*The whole interior finished in a charming shade of light but useful brown Solignum. Floor creosoted.*

COST—*Approximately 27s. 6d., excluding labour, profit and architect's fees.*

PRICE PER FOOT CUBE—*7⅜d. approx.*

The general contractors were Messrs. G. B. Herbert, and the principal sub-contractors and suppliers included: Joyce & Co., timber; Fred Hodge, Ltd., Ruberoid roofing; Solignum, Ltd., preservative stain; F. W. Woolworth & Co., Ltd., lacquer; Parker Bros., ironmongery.

THE PAST YEAR

[*By ASTRAGAL*]

NINETEEN hundred and thirty-eight—as the years flash by the wheels of life move ever faster and faster. Those things—whether they be structural experiment or æsthetic achievement—which a hundred or even twenty years ago would have seemed so important, so significant, are born today only to be forgotten tomorrow. The link with the past, the one thing which proves us to be the same poor mortals we always were, is that sheer quality of achievement is as hard to come by as it always was; harder, for there is less time to think and more to think about. Looking down my crowded files the surprising thing is not that there is so much, but that there is so much that one has forgotten and so little worth remembering.

Impossible as always to assess the significant, for tomorrow inevitably proves one wrong. The last weeks of 1936 saw the passing of the Crystal Palace and only then perhaps did we fully realize that we had lost the first great modern building; 1850 stands out as a clear watershed, industrial and imperial complacency on one side, arts and crafts, *art nouveau* and God knows what on the other. Eighty years went by before we knew it—how, then, can one evaluate Paris 1937? The last death rattle of the Renaissance, the end of façade, the end of make-pretence . . . the twin horses of romanticism and tensile stresses harnessed to the chariot of functional logic, driving a little dizzily down a Beaux Arts avenue—for the lay-out was in the very best tradition—with commerce holding the reins, Science and nationalism her willing passengers.

R.I.B.A. GOLD MEDAL

The year opened with the presentation of the R.I.B.A. gold medal to Sir Raymond Unwin—in view of his achievement the Institute could hardly do less. Sir Raymond, in the William Morris tradition, is an old fighting Fabian, and his contemporary counterpart is not encouraged, but that is a trick which time is always playing. The year closed with a triple R.I.B.A. event—the presentation of the London Architecture Medal, the Registration Bill and "stale chocolate." The medal, as we expected, went to the Nurses' Home in Great Ormond Street, which must almost make a hat trick for Easton and Robertson. I have no complaint to make—far from it—but nevertheless I look forward to the day when it will go to a little four-roomed suburban house; say what you will, size and importance do count. Of the Registration Bill I have said all I had to say at the time of the passing of the Second Reading. When the time comes for more action I shall, in my modest way, tell you what ought to be done.

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Mr. Goodhart-Rendel's presidential address was a most satisfying bombshell. The repercussions are not yet finished with, but they show all the signs of indignant fury rather than reasoned documented denial. In other words, the thing was to some extent true. The work of official architects in this country is apt to be dull. If there are brilliant men hidden away in our municipal departments then their style is being cramped and the sooner it is freed the better. This is one of the things that should be done n 1938.

CORONATION

And so Coronation—like the rapidly changed scenes of a pantomime it all fades very quickly from the mind, but it can hardly be passed over. It showed that mediæval pageantry was still pageantry—and still mediæval. It gave Selfridges a chance to do some specially vulgar decorations, and it enables me to award the carrot for the year's oddest vandalism to the Church of England. There have been bigger vandalisms, but they had the outward excuse of "progress" and business with which to defend themselves, whereas the St. James's, Piccadilly, gateway was very charming and was pulled down merely that a dozen people might see the procession a little better.

CHANGING LONDON

It has been, incidentally, a good year for vandalism. The last scrap of Nash has gone from Lower Regent Street and the Pantheon has almost gone from Oxford Street. Both these were inevitable, sooner or later, and one's regrets can only be sentimental. The Adelphi has gone, too—that was unnecessary. Mr. Hamp has designed its successor. Brunswick Square will have gone before the summer is here—if it could be Tudor for a day we could rouse all England to rescue it. Also the matter of All Hallows. There is now a "Georgian Group," but for a true appreciation of London in its Augustan Age we turn to Denmark: Mr. Rasmussen's book was perhaps the most charming of the year.

EDUCATION

An assessment of 1937 is no place to speak of the future, but it is in 1937 that the seeds have been planted. Gropius is at Harvard; Moholy-Nagy is opening the new Bauhaus at Chicago. It will be 1947 before judgment can be passed, before we know to what extent the McKim-Mead-and-White-via-Paris tradition is to be deflected. In the meantime architectural education in this country must look to its laurels—not quite a Bauhaus, I don't want that—but something drastic and terribly realistic to smash the present compromise, and that something quickly. Two other seeds have been planted—one, the St. George's Hospital Competition, has just fertilized after a sad story; the other, the National Theatre, is really fecund and will soon blossom into an acanthus plant.

ROYAL ACADEMY

The architecture room at the Royal Academy must be mentioned because hundreds of men and women in this country still think that it stands for British architecture. It has the seal of royal approval, it can be criticized on the highest plane and since it exhibits itself it is, presumably, satisfied with itself. Well, it was no worse than usual and the Salon des Refusés was rather better, containing as it did some of the best work of Messrs. Maufe, Atkinson, Wornum and Easton and Robertson. As to the R.A.'s, themselves, they have not had a very prolific year, whether this is chance or portent I don't know. Waterloo Bridge has been dismissed once and for all, I feel, by one more august than I—"entertaining but costly caprice." For a summary of the position with regard to Charing Cross Bridge *see* New Year issue of this JOURNAL for 1920. Sir Edwin Lutyens has given us a cenotaph at Windsor to George V—quick work—and a scheme for replanning Hyde Park Corner. This was a good scheme, but in an enlightened country, of course, it would have been done by the winner of the St. George's Hospital competition. In this matter of R.A.'s there has also been a National Library in Wales and an L.M.S. Hotel in Leeds—"cosmopolitan classic with a decided transatlantic flavour." The scaffolding has been stripped from the Brobdingnagian tower of the London University and from the Bank of England. Bearing in mind the fact that solid construction was a condition, the former could hardly be better and a visit to the boiler-room of the latter gave me one of the æsthetic thrills of the year.

It should also be recorded that the largest building in the world has been erected in a London suburb.

LONDON TRANSPORT

Mr. Frank Pick and London Transport are to be congratulated on maintaining that high standard of design in minor matters which goes such a long way towards making life pleasanter.

FLATS

The mushroom flats steadily replace the Regency terraces and gilded saloons

of the 'twenties and 'sixties—one can scarcely keep count. Athenæum Court is chaste and yet, oddly enough, expressive of its clientele. The authors have realized that they are on a good thing and are repeating the formula in Exhibition Road. In spite of discouragement the Mopin system has been used in Leeds. Flats at East Acton by Mr. Jellicoe and Partners, and Avenue Close by Easton and Robertson, are as skilful as they are attractive. Most of the others are just like the others.

FACTORIES

It was a pity that the President of the Architectural Association, in his address on Industrial Architecture, showed us only exteriors—symptomatic. Work is done inside a workshop, and from a thousand points of view it is the inside that matters. Any right-minded planner—and here planning is all—will make a factory efficient in the first place, and a little more than decent if he can. Humidity and lighting rank far above good brickwork. Surveying the year it is the interior of Mr. Chermayeff's offices for Messrs. Gilbey, a factory for Berlei by Sir John Brown, a soap works at Irlam by Mr. W. A. Johnson, Sir Owen Williams's 100-ft. spans for Odhams, and the interior of the Glenlee power-house that provide a thrill. Such work must always remain limited in its emotional appeal, but as far as it can go it goes.

SCHOOLS

It has been a momentous year in the matter of schools. The R.I.B.A. Exhibition of Modern Schools gave us a good general survey of what was being done and what could be done, whilst the "Ten Year Group" continued to ram home the propaganda essentials. One of the least pleasant of our national institutions has its home in Fleet Street, but credit must be given where credit is due; a great newspaper has done more than many educational departments to forward a great cause and the future of the English school is likely to be very different by reason of the *News Chronicle* campaign. Mr. Clarke Hall's winning scheme, as shown in the final model at Dorland Hall, is as good as modern skill and research could make it—that is, very good indeed. Whilst on the subject of schools two charming buildings must be mentioned, the village colleges at Bottisham and Linton, both by Mr. Urwin. The Burlington School for girls, by Sir John Burnet, Tait and Lorne, is everything that one would expect it to be, and must be regarded as one of the more important buildings of the year.

LEICESTER SQUARE

The last touch of the gay and saucy days of George Edwardes and Charles Wyndham has vanished from Leicester Square. I do not particularly regret the passing of the Alhambra, but the work which Messrs. Mather and Weedon have done for Mr. Oscar Deutsch can hardly escape comment, for in itself it can hardly be escaped. Big, black and shiny without, lush, leopard skin and gilt within—it has turned Leicester Square into a Montmartre of a kind.

SHIPS

One turns with relief to the refinement and genuine delicacy of touch which Brian O'Rorke has exercised with ingenuity in the s.s. "Orcades." Of almost equal charm, I think, is the very playful and deliciously appropriate reinforced concrete baroque of Mr. Lubetkin's Zoo at Dudley. Surely it is right that concrete should give birth to these graceful curves rather than to Egypto-American masses. When I saw the Zoo, however, it had little tin cartouches of flags fixed to it, and there was an enamel tea advertisement in the middle of a fresco.

HOUSES

Domestic work is legion, it is difficult to pick and choose. If we take Mr. James's own house at Hampstead and Mr. Lubetkin's own bungalow at Whipsnade as typifying two points of view, then I can only say that when the standard is so high there is room for both. It is because it is seldom so high that there is so much bickering and disagreement. Most laymen who discuss modern architecture have never seen a *good* modern building. Messrs. Connell, Ward and Lucas's house at Wentworth is an admirable example of modernity in harmony with a particular setting; so is Mr. Maxwell Fry's house at Kingston. The house of the year which, personally, I would most like to inhabit is the one at Hampstead which M. J. H. and Charlotte Bunney have built for themselves. I voted for it in the London Street Architecture Medal ballot; I wonder if I was in a minority of one—I hope not.

OTHER BUILDINGS

What else? The L.C.C. Fire Brigade Offices and Mr. J. H. Markham's Telephone Exchange at Kingston are fairly honourable exceptions to the "stale chocolate" controversy, the latter more honourable than the former. Messrs. Newberry and Fowler's effort to be good mannered in a neighbourly way in Portland Place has nearly come off. Messrs. James and Pierce's municipal building at Slough will be entirely successful when complete; at present the composition suffers from a missing wing.

THE EXHIBITION

And so we turn, not over-regretfully, to 1938. The Paris Exhibition was significant in one respect; it showed how far organized reaction could go—the German pavilion was tragically ludicrous; it also showed how complacent the British can still be—the British Pavilion was snob, good snob if you like, but snob; it also showed what a long way Russia has yet to travel—the Russian pavilion didn't say very much and said it loud; it also showed that the Dominions are still uncivilized, and, finally, it showed us that it is still to cultured, worldly France and to the little "northern neutrals" that we must look for guidance and for that facile charm and gaiety of touch which is so obviously not part of our own birthright. The Paris Exhibition must have taught us a lot, but I am making no prophecies about the future. In the air there is both hope and the opposite. There are signs that some of the big things—the big things of planning, trunk roads, depressed areas, the missing green belt, agriculture, industrial zoning, and so on—could be tackled. In some quarters the necessity is realized, and then just as something is going to be done, vested interest or sheer stupidity gets in the way and we start all over again.

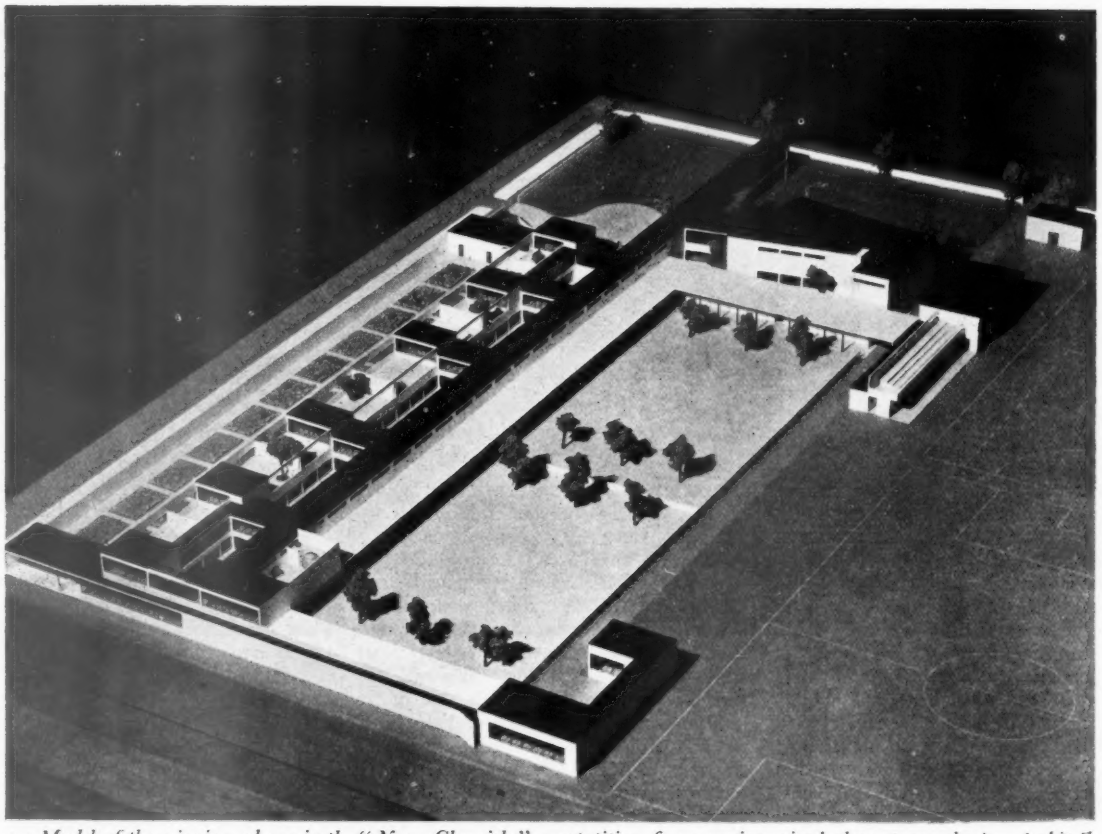
The most hopeful thing of all, even if it irritates you, is that what someone once called the "socially constructive passion" has seized on the younger generation of this country. That may get things done even if there is blood and tears on the way. It is not only Tyneside and the East End that this generation is concerned with—there has always been that more or less—it is rather that they have been born into a civilization which is slipping under their feet. They have been trained and have trained themselves to visualize a new world. The things that might be done today . . . as Wells has written in the New Machiavelli:—

"We do go on, we do get on. But when one thinks that people are living and dying now, quarrelling and sulking, misled and misunderstanding, vaguely fearful, condemning and thwarting one another in the close darkness of these narrow cults—oh, God! one wants a gale out of heaven, one wants a great wind from the sea!"

When I think of the progress of physical and mechanical science, of medicine and sanitation during the last century, the power now available for human service, the merely physical increment, and compare it with anything that has ever been at man's disposal before, and when I think what a little straggling, incidental, undisciplined and unco-ordinated minority of inventors, experimenters, educators, writers and organizers has achieved this development of human possibilities, achieved it in spite of the disregard and aimlessness of the huge majority, and the passionate resistance of the active dull, my imagination grows giddy with dazzling intimations of the human splendours the justly organized state may yet attain. I glimpse for a bewildering instant the heights that may be scaled, the splendid enterprises made possible. . . .

L'Hôtel de Ville, Arras. From one of the lithographs published in 1839 in the set called "Picturesque Architecture in Paris, Ghent, Antwerp, Rouen, etc. Drawn from Nature on Stone by Thomas Shotter Boys." The Hôtel de Ville dates from about the beginning of the sixteenth century.

To face page 86



1

1 : Model of the winning scheme in the "News Chronicle" competition for a senior mixed elementary school. Architect, Denis Clarke Hall. Model made by Kenneth McCutchon.

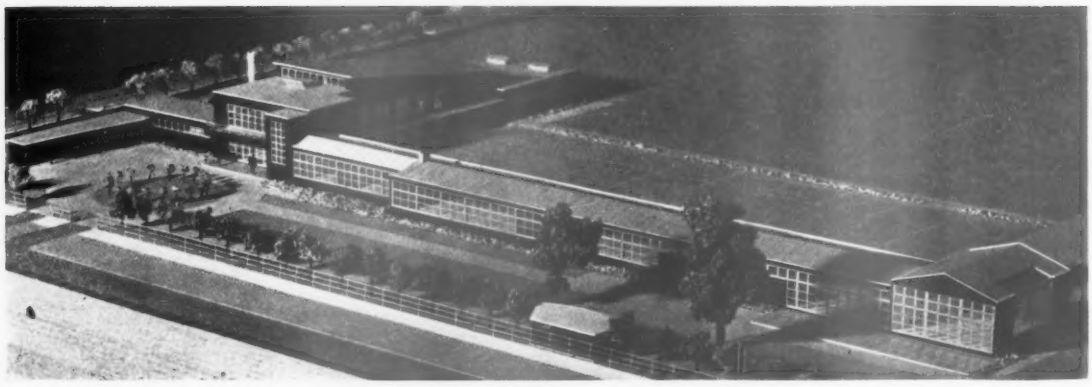
THE PAST YEAR: 1

THE YEAR'S WORK AT HOME

[*By PROFESSOR C. H. REILLY*]

LOOKING over the thousands of illustrations from *The Architectural Review* and *The Architects' Journal* which have been sent me as the work of 1937, I find it more difficult than ever to choose one building and say that that is the building of the year. It is a pity, for it was not merely fun in a year of big blocks of flats and offices to choose the Penguin Pool at the Zoo as the most significant building; neither was it so last year when I settled on the colliery group by my friend the enemy of Manchester, Professor Cordingley. He had definitely extended the limits of recognized architecture. I did not quite mean by that, what an American daily paper of vast circulation implied when six months after the event it came out with a brave headline: "Britain places colliery building ahead of cathedrals." Never mind, the world would be a dull place without these examples of American hustle and condensation.

The real reason why I cannot this year choose a significant building is an excellent one. It is that the transition period from the as-you-were architecture to the new world is clearly ending. Buildings that point the way do not stand out when that way is already thronged. The people who stay put and the people who say an emphatic "no" to all change, like the dear old Royal Academy folk, are nowhere. I turn the pile over and over for works by the greater Academicians and the lesser, for buildings by Sir Edwin Lutyens and Sir Giles Gilbert Scott and by Sir Herbert Baker and Sir Edwin Cooper and I can find none. Even the more recent men who, once they have been guaranteed free from bolshevism, seem to have been chosen by the painters—the real selectors—for their capacity for pleasant companionship as well as pleasant buildings, rather than for the mere cubic contents of the latter as was the old way, have apparently done very little of late. To judge from these illustrations the elegantly courteous Mr. Green, the delightfully ribald Professor Richardson and now the gentle James have between them not more than one building to show or they do not care to show more. The great new hotel at Leeds, to which we will return later on, appears to represent them all. I hope this state of affairs will not last. It would be sad if these younger men by allowing themselves to be elected had destroyed themselves. The ignorant public which once thought membership of the Academy a sign of virtue may just as thoughtlessly jump to the other extreme and assume, even when its members change their style, as no doubt they soon will, that membership implies being academic and therefore being old-fashioned. But the ridiculous nonsense, indeed the danger, of having an Academy at all and particularly one styled "Royal," in a country which already suffers so much from its



2 : Model of the winning design in the "News Chronicle" Schools Competition for a senior mixed elementary school in rural surroundings. Architects : Durell, Penn and Walter. Model made by Kenneth McCutchon.

conservatism of thought and action, is another question and one I should reserve for another place. Let us return to the facts of the year 1937.

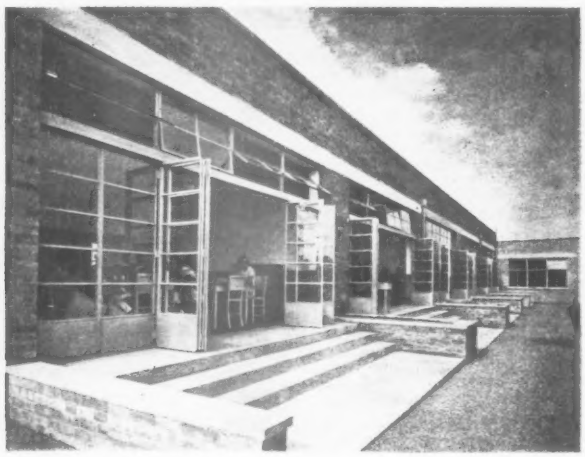
If there is then no outstanding building because on the whole it has been such a good year, there has certainly been an outstanding architectural event. It was, of course, the *News Chronicle* Competition for the ideal school. (1 & 2) That a great national newspaper with one of the largest circulations should hold a proper architectural competition with proper prizes under the best R.I.B.A. Queensberry rules and assessed by architects suggested by that body, instead of confining its competition activities to crossword puzzles and such idle hour amusements, was certainly notable. The provision of good architecture, and particularly of the new, clean, logical architecture so clearly expected from the competitors was, for the first time, treated in such a paper from day to day and week to week as of national interest. The result of the competition and its implications were given the same prominence as the Louis-Farr fight or even the Derby. This strangely good and stimulating work, so novel in Fleet Street, seems almost immediately to have had practical results. Denis Clarke Hall was very quickly given a good-sized school to design by the North Riding County Council, which has often proved itself to be one of the most wide-awake councils in the country. Far beyond this immediate result, however, must have been the wider influence of the competition, for by means of it contemporary architecture has been made a living issue to great masses of the general public. No school authority for many years to come will be able to disregard the results arrived at, and the paper very wisely is seeing further to this by its educational exhibition of the Ideal School and its equipment, which I hope will now become an annual affair like the Ideal Home Exhibition, but of a far more serious and useful nature.

Schools

With this as the chief event of the year it is appropriate that we should begin our survey with schools. Of elementary schools the school at Linton, Cambridgeshire, (4) by S. E. Urwin, but with large hall and class-rooms for adults, so that the school can form a recreation and social centre for twelve villages, is probably the best. The long lines of its range of class-rooms with windows from wall to wall and all opening on to steps and terrace and flanked and protected by the more solid blocks of laboratories and hall at either end, make, with their flat roofs, a composition which admirably suits the widely flowing Cambridge landscape. The same type of school at Bottisham (3) by the same architect, if the long sweep of its class-rooms to a pleasant curve were not broken in the centre by a short length of upper storey, would be as good.

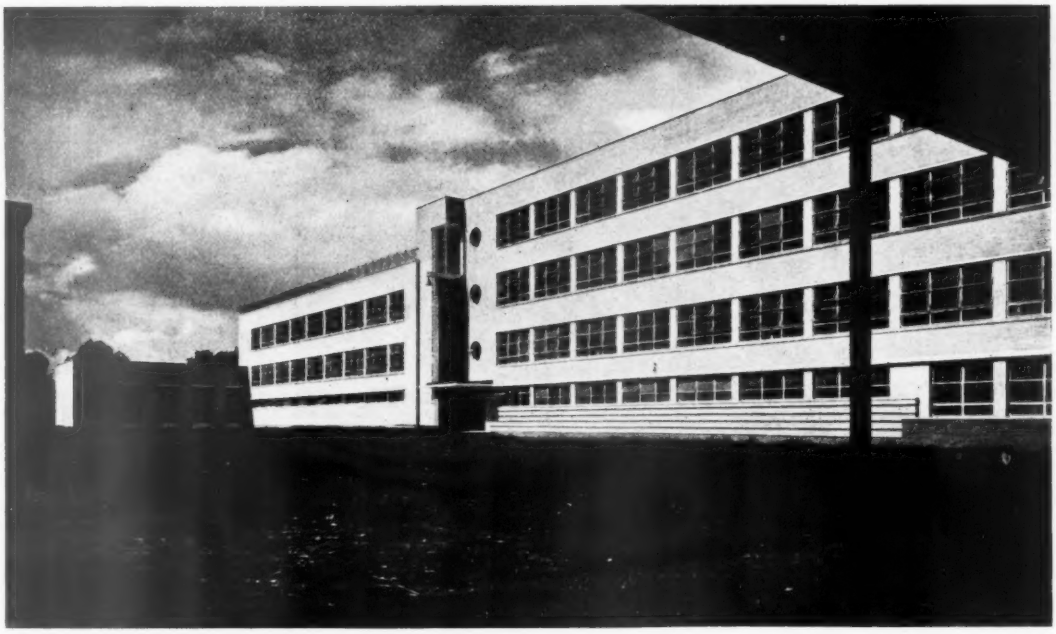
The Burlington Secondary School for girls at Hammersmith, (5) by Sir John Burnet, Tait and Lorne, while having excellent individual features like the interiors of the great hall and the library such as this firm could not help providing, suffers in my opinion externally and probably internally too by the reiteration of four storeys of similar classrooms one above the other. It looks like a warehouse for storing sets of books rather than a place where the child mind could expand and grow in comfort. This piling of similar room upon similar room is probably owing

3 : Village College, Bottisham. By S. E. Urwin.



4 : Village College, Linton. By S. E. Urwin.

5: Burlington School for Girls, Hammersmith. By Sir John Burnet, Tait and Lorne.



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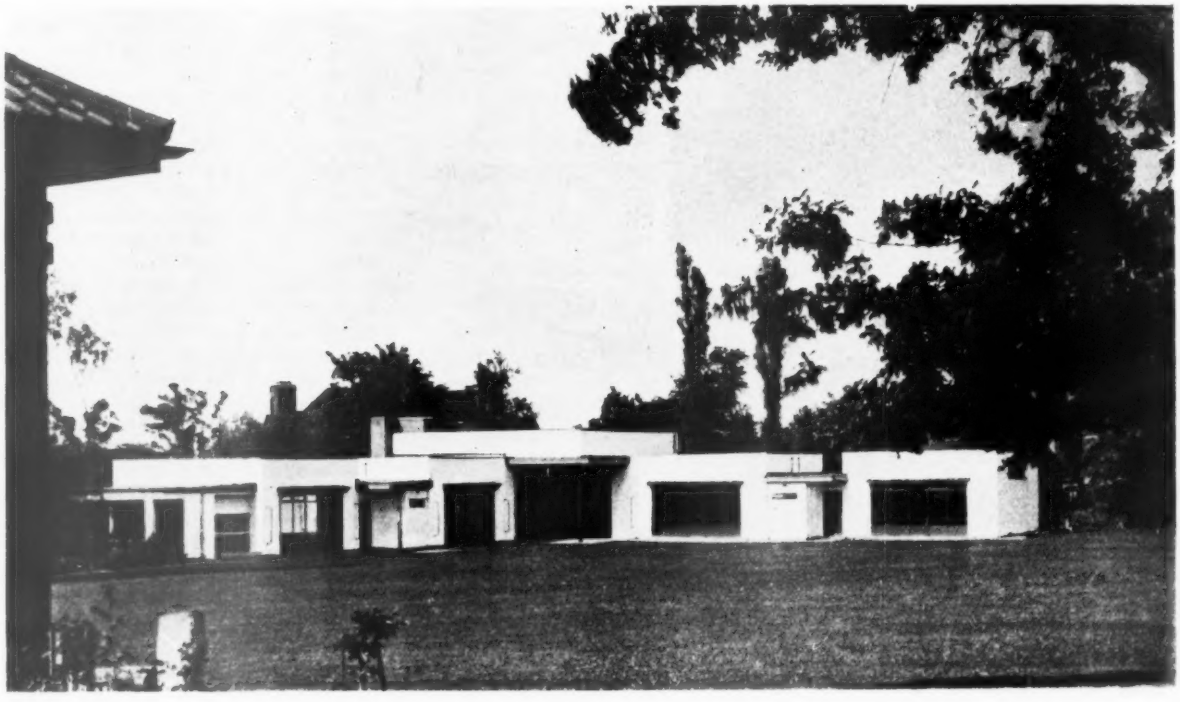
6: King Alfred School, Hammersmith. By E. C. Kaufmann.

to the exigencies of the site and the price of the land and, if so, is but another instance of the tax we pay to avoid a tax on that unearned increment we all help to make but so few of us possess.

The little junior school of the King Alfred School, Hampstead, (6) by E. C. Kaufmann, is, with its isolated and varied classrooms each with its own paved terrace for outdoor work and loosely held together by a covered playground, a much more humane arrangement if a much easier one to achieve. The white blocks of its classrooms with great windows opening like a series of small hangars are not unpleasant under the trees and suggests an effective and easy way of designing a school where both space and cost are not too tight.

Mr. Curtis, for the Middlesex County Council at Ruislip, (8) has done another of his efficient-looking two-storeyed schools, very simply and directly designed as usual, but in this case with big semicircular masses containing staircases breaking the monotony of his main front. Behind this he has a courtyard, but there seems to be little provision for enjoying it.

Lastly we have among the school buildings I have selected a large boarding-house for Mill Hill School, (7) by Stanley Hamp, in a simplified Georgian manner with certainly a little Georgian frippery built up round the front door, but otherwise with rather a telling series of rectangular masses, some projecting and some recessed, some taller and some shorter, which would be more telling still if the reason for the varied projections was



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7: Boarding-house at Mill Hill School, N.W. By Stanley Hamp.

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8: School at Ruislip. By W. T. Curtis. H. W. Burchett, Assistant Architect for Educational Buildings.

more obvious. I think architects of the older generation, who have not been brought up on the ideas of the conquest of space which the new architecture really implies, "spatial metaphysics and all that" as someone irreverently called them, are well to keep today to a simplified version of their once highly decorated masses and façades, such as Mr. Hamp has used here, rather than venturing into the wilderness and attempting to make play with strange shapes with the meaning of which they have no clear conception.

Factories

Factory buildings are perhaps those to which the new architectural synthesis based on light and space has brought the greatest change. They are no longer draughty, dirty places where machines and human beings are packed together with little regard to the efficiency of either. Instead, the volumes of well-lit space they include today are, in the hands of a modern architect, made into such striking compositions that the danger is that their owners are beginning to see in them advertising possibilities undreamt of a generation ago and, not content with the impressive advertisement a fine factory makes in itself, wish to add the unnecessary towers and façades of which the Great West Road offers so many examples. The corset factory at Slough, (9) by Sir John Brown, Henson and Hartley, avoids these excrescences and, by surrounding its main shed of dog-tooth roofs by inspection rooms and offices, obtains a simple form with long, pleasant lines on all sides, at any rate as seen from the ground. The great semicircular glass brick cylinder which seems to light a reception hall and staircase is a strong, simple and impressive feature, well suggesting, if not exactly helping to provide, a clean and bright interior to the building as well as giving considerable character to the total masses; but apparently nothing so striking or dramatic as the great Boots factory at Beeston—a very cathedral of factories—has been produced this year.

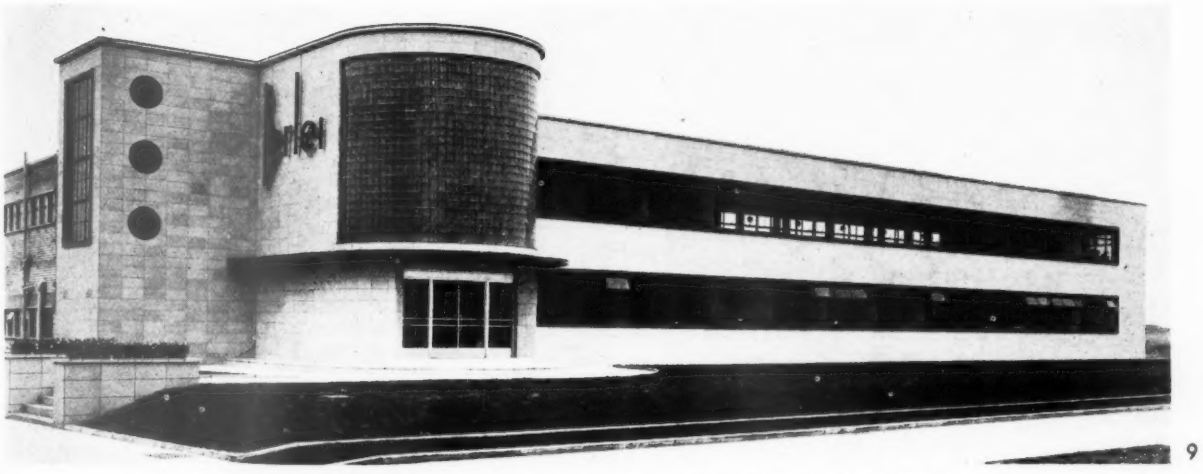
Akin to factories are the large modern garages in big towns which, with their ramps, ought to produce fine modern buildings and do in student theses time after time. The best of these is Mr. Emberton's big one at Olympia, (10) but even on the scale he has been working there he has not, perhaps through limits of height, managed to produce corresponding imaginative effects to those one has so often found elsewhere in his buildings.

Hospitals

In hospitals it has not been a great year as was 1936, but one has been produced, that at Scarborough, (11) by Mr. Wallace Marchment, which, if a little reminiscent of the famous Freemason's one, is nevertheless a fine composition as seen from most directions and full of good, clean, well-lit shapes suggestive of its purpose as well as in themselves good architecture. I like particularly the welcoming entrance block which contains the nurses' home on the upper floors. An even more delightful hostel (13), and on a larger scale, has been added to London Hospital by Edward Maufe. His modern Italian way, one must not call it Fascist with so charming a man, of bringing the stone frames of his rather square windows forward in front of the plane of his brickwork is a thing to be noted with interest as is the dignity and simplicity of this architect's work, both here and wherever one meets it today. How he has so long escaped the Royal Academy, not being at heart a revolutionary, I cannot imagine. I expect his after-dinner stories, if he has any, which I doubt, are really a little too delicate and refined, like some of his buildings.

Flats and Tenements

In flats and tenements, though the amount of great blocks may be a little less than in previous years, the approximation of the block of luxury flats in external appearance to the block of workmen's tenements is clearly growing, and a very good thing too. When the various classes of the community appear more similarly housed not only will

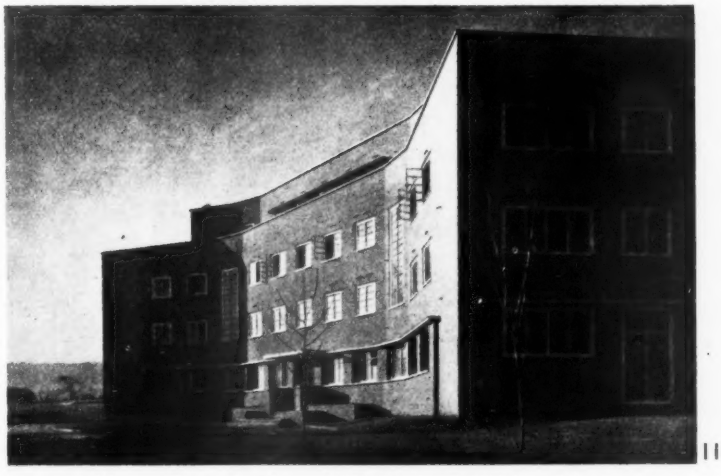


9 : *Berlei Factory, Slough. By Sir John Brown and Henson in association with W. David Hartley.*

the town gain as a whole by a further suppression of the nineteenth century individualism, but I should imagine the class war itself will have receded a stage. The two blocks I have selected, one of tenements, Kensal House (17) by Mr. Maxwell Fry and one of luxury flats, Athenæum Court (18) by Messrs. Adie. Button and Partners in Piccadilly, might from the front view if one saw them side by side be part of the same scheme. If one saw their back views one would see how many pleasant additions in the way of sun balconies, a sunk circular playground for children and a sweeping loggia for a semi-outdoor nursery school the tenement block has over the luxury one. Of course, one does not have children if one lives in Piccadilly. One has extra bathrooms instead. The cleverest thing about Mr. Fry's big scheme, on which he was supervised by a committee of really nice architects who no doubt helped rather than hindered him, is the way he has utilized for his sunken playground the pit formed by an old gasometer. One must, however, admit that his balconies of varying size for meals, for hanging out washing, some projecting and some sunk, do give a rather temporary and haphazard look to the sunny sides of his blocks. The disadvantage of the Gropius scheme of one similar block behind another is, apart from the harshness of its repeats, that it hides nothing. Is it really possible to live in a town with any decency and expose one's back premises equally with one's front ones? Athenæum Court very discreetly hides its hinder parts. Its two main fronts though, are as clean and straightforward as those of any tenement building, which I hope is a real satisfaction to those who live in it.

To Avenue Close (12) at Hampstead, Messrs. Stanley Hall and Easton and Robertson have built another block in their pleasant brick manner which seems to give even to a great scheme like this a certain suggestion of homeliness

10 : *Garage at Olympia, W. By Joseph Emberton.*



11 : *Nurses' Home, Scarborough Hospital. By Wallace Marchment.*

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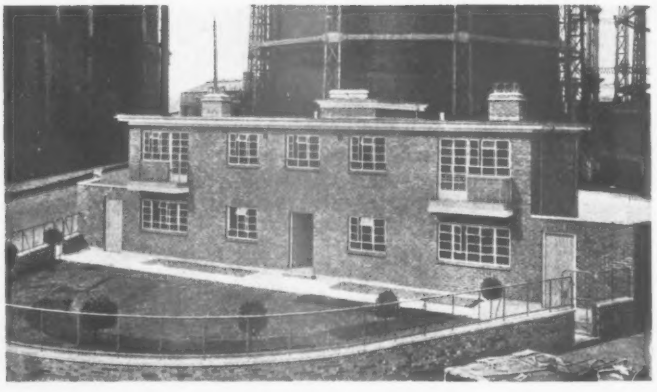

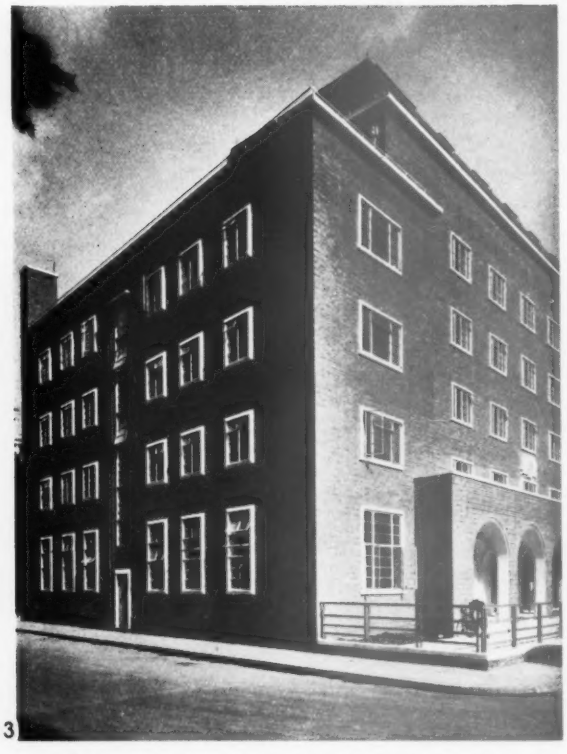

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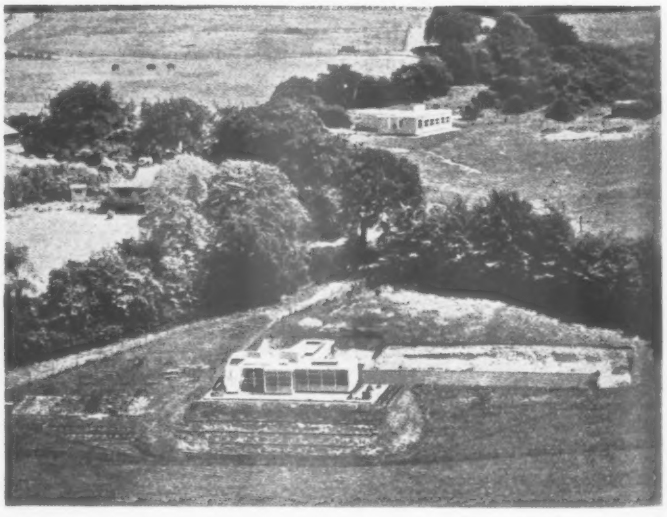
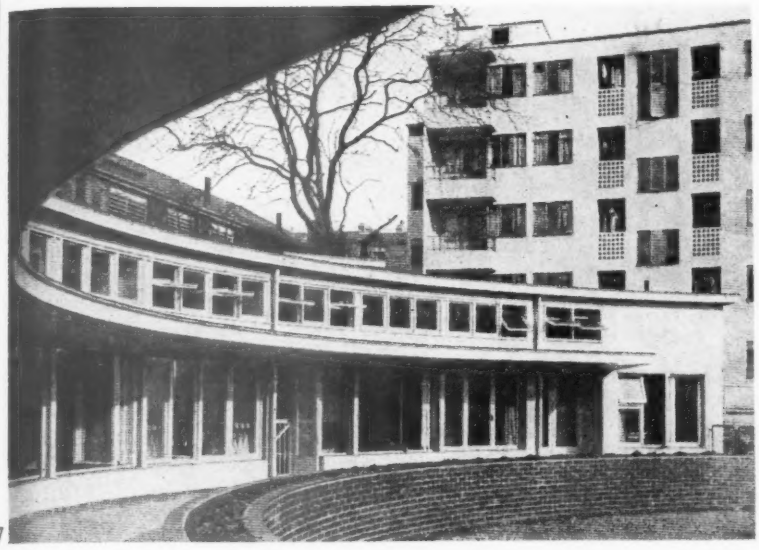


12 : Staircase at Avenue Close Flats, Hampstead. By Stanley Hall and Easton and Robertson. 13 : Hostel, London Hospital. By Edward Maufe. 14 : Flats at East Acton. By G. A. Jellicoe and Partners. 15 : Demonstration Flats at King's Cross. By John Dower. 16 : Bungalows at Whipsnade. By Lubetkin and Tecton.

still invaluable I imagine in letting the flats. The interior finish, to judge from a single illustration of a staircase, is clean and interesting at the same time. Messrs. Jellicoe and Partners' flats at East Acton (14) have the same good qualities which are a little easier to maintain, of course, on the smaller scale in which they have been working there but are none the less welcome. At King's Cross (15) Mr. John Dower has built for the British Steelwork Association a charming little block of demonstration flats which might well be a demonstration of how to build the



17: *Kensal House, Ladbroke Grove, W. By a group of architects and a housing consultant.*

18: *Athenæum Court, Piccadilly, W. By Adie, Button and Partners.*

small two-storied blocks of tenements such as Scotland delights in, but does so abominably, and make them attractive. I believe this block is meant to demonstrate various other things, such as the possible uses of steel, but it certainly does this. Glasgow slum landlords should certainly take note of it and repent in sackcloth and ashes and start rebuilding.

Houses and Bungalows

With houses and bungalows Mr. Maxwell Fry and Tecton come to the top again. The former's house at Kingston (19) seems to me as good as his last year's one at Hampstead, and set in a park this time, his fine roof terraces and long ranges of windows are even better justified. Against fully grown trees, the house demonstrates how well such honest unpretentious shapes suit our English landscape. I wish the C.P.R. would take note of that and instruct all their well-intentioned retired colonels up and down the country so that they no longer oppose these buildings on their rural councils and cause so much unnecessary trouble to every one. The Tecton pair of bungalows (16) at Whipsnade, though illustrated this year, are really a little older. They are clearly there intelligently to enjoy the widespreading landscape to the full, with the result that the landscape appears to enjoy them. By now they belong to it quite as much as any old barn, but in a more lively and interesting way, like a group of whitewashed coastguard cottages often belongs to the cliffs on which it stands, appearing exactly the right thing at a particular spot as one sails round the coast. Mr. McGrath's house at Virginia Water (20), set too in old trees, is more elaborate than Mr. Fry's or the Tecton bungalows, and is more consciously, I think, a design for living in a modern way. I can see great possibilities of drama, real or imaginary, in its curved stairs, landings and terraces all looking at one another from different angles. The main entrance hall where the strange

19: *House near Kingston. By E. Maxwell Fry.*

20 : *House at Virginia Water. By Raymond McGrath.*

dramatic effects are most evident seems to me an ideal setting for a Tchehov play where everyone seems slightly mad to begin with, but where sympathy gradually breaks through till in the end one thinks one understands, and one certainly loves all the characters. I imagine it would be the same with this house if one stayed in it a little while.

Shops and Showrooms

I am rapidly coming to the end of my space and there are masses of good things yet to mention. It must be only a bare mention then in most cases. Grey Wornum's Gas Light and Coke Showroom and Offices (21) at Leytonstone have that light graceful touch which everything he does possesses and which makes one so confident for his great ship. Edward Maufe's additions (24) to Messrs. Heal's building have a magnificent staircase window at the side, and on the front wisely continues the original architect's now historic elevation.

Offices and Warehouses

Here the big, clean, pleasantly-shaped building (23) by Serge Chermayeff for Messrs. W. and A. Gilbey at Camden Town is clearly the best building of the kind in the past year or in several past years. That the architect managed to get the alignment of the streets at the corner of his building altered to give him a right-angle corner and then a pleasant concave curve seems to me a fundamental achievement, but one few of us would be hopeful in carrying through.

The Practitioner Offices, (27) by Messrs. Stanley Hall and Easton and Robertson, are well worth detailed study. They show how a great ground landlord can do his best to spoil a good design and yet be outwitted by a good architect. The result is a compromise externally, but an achievement internally, and the compromise itself is not one to be ashamed of, but much the reverse.

Steel House, Tothill Street, (22) by Sir John Burnet, Tait and Lorne, is a straightforward piece of design in which the architects by slightly overhanging their long horizontal stretches of wall between the storeys have got a well simplified effect which is further enhanced by the strong shadow they have permitted themselves across their top storey windows, which nevertheless can hardly be welcome inside.

The temporary headquarters building (26) for the National Bank of Scotland by Thomas Marwick and Sons is far better than ninety-nine per cent. of our permanent bank buildings. Nos. 23 and 25 Portland Place, (25) by Messrs. Newberry and Fowler, is as clean and negative a building in the old classical manner as possible. As an office building in Portland Place on a lordly estate it had to wear no doubt a bathing dress of university proportions. It does so gracefully. I wish the new block opposite the R.I.B.A. building were as good. These ground landlords are not to be trusted at all even with carrying out consistently their own ill-conceived rules.

The great Nine Elms warehouse for the Southern Railway (28) is imposing in the way of the great new Queen's Hotel at Leeds (29) in that both offer across an open space a big broad face to the world. This warehouse, however, faces squarely without batting an eye what is in front of it. The erections on the roof, too, are not temples and look as if they served some useful purpose.

21 : Gas Light and Coke Company's showrooms, Leytonstone, E. By G. Grey Wornum.

23 : Gilbey's Offices, Camden Town, N.W. By Serge Chermayeff.

22 : Steel House, Tothill Street, S.W. By Sir John Burnet, Tait and Lorne.

24 : Heal's Premises, Tottenham Court Road, N.W. By Edward Maufe.

Hotels

The great new L.M.S. Hotel at Leeds (29) by Messrs. Curtis Green and Partners also puts a brave stone face to the world, but one soon sees round the corner, if one is ill-mannered enough to try, and finds the Mary Anne back. This brick stuff is solid and sensible like a good north-country lass, but the stone front is a little finicky in its detail and it certainly batts an eye more than once. There are three little temples on the roof which look as if they served no useful purpose, but I found that behind their pilasters and pediments lurked the lift machinery. We all did that sort of thing a few years ago, but somehow we don't expect it to be done today. Mr. Curtis Green certainly manages the classical tradition more delicately and elegantly than his few remaining colleagues. He uses its finer materials gracefully, but I wish he would not at the same time try and make concessions to the rising generation. Here he has twice cut through the horizontal lines

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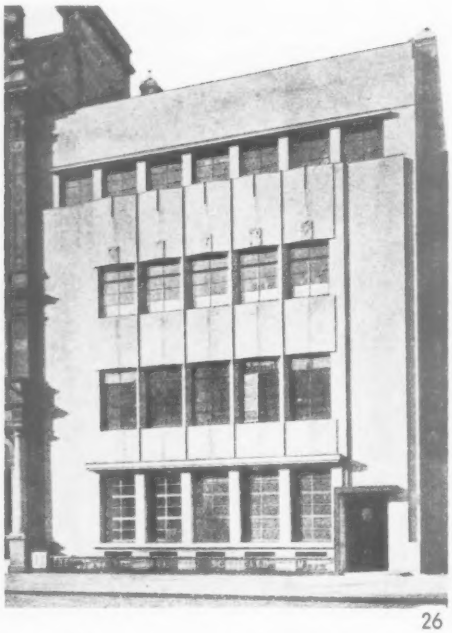

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25 : Office Building, Portland Place, W. By Newberry and Fowler. 26 : National Bank of Scotland, Edinburgh. By Thomas Marwick and Son. 27 : "The Practitioner" Offices, Bentinck Street, W. By Stanley Hall and Easton and Robertson. 28 : Nine Elms Warehouse, Vauxhall. By Oscar Faber.

of his classical façade with long "modern" continuous vertical staircase windows. No doubt they are meant as a graceful gesture to the oncoming battalions, but I would sooner see the old guard (now I have deserted them), go down with flags flying.

Cinemas

Strangely enough I have only one cinema among my piles, but that is a very graceful and beautifully finished little interior called "The London Theatre Studio" (38) at Islington by Marcel Breuer and F. R. S. Yorke. As if to make up for this I have the great Earl's Court Exhibition building (31) which seems to have one façade and a great number of backs ; but it is unfair to say any more till one has seen it.

Municipal

The best piece of municipal work, if one may so class it, is the Telephone Exchange at Kingston (30) by Mr. John H. Markham of the Office of Works. I notice in one respect Sir James West, the chief architect, has gone one better even than his predecessor, Sir Richardson Allison. The latter first introduced to the public the names of the assistant architects with his own. Sir James now lets them stand alone. All honour to him ! Would that the borough engineers and surveyors throughout the country whom we know rarely do any of the architectural work to which they brazenly add their names, showed a little of this honesty and decency.

The Council Offices at Welwyn Garden City (36) by Messrs. Elsom and Stone is

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another of the buildings where the honest back and flanks are more appealing than the slightly dressed up front, which has stolen a *flèche* from some neighbouring squire's stables. These flanks are really very good, especially the ones where the fire station resides.

Wandsworth Council Offices (34), especially the courtyard, are like a strange dream of the past. One might be looking at a drawing in the Soane Museum for a building containing the private suite for the Governor of the Bank of England, and very much more interesting it would be than anything he is being given today.

I see there is something by Messrs. James and Roland Pierce after all—the Slough Public Offices (33). The plan looks good, but the exterior seems strangely out of date even for a new A.R.A. I suggest if they have exhausted their Swedish compromise, instead of falling back on the pediments and *flèches* of the eighteenth century they might try an approach to more modern ways, like another great firm has done, by way of Dudok and Holland.

Churches

Churches seem to be becoming more rare again. A year or two ago we seemed to be entering a church-building era. By far the best, but not perhaps quite so dignified externally as his Blackburn one, but with lovely reredos and altar and baldacchino, is Mr. Velarde's St. Monica's at Bootle (32). At the other extreme religiously but lovely too in its quiet simple way is the Collier's Wood Methodist Mission building (39) by Mr. Edward D. Mills.

Libraries

Among libraries, Messrs. Thomas Worthington and Son have done a fine straightforward one, good to work in, for the University of Manchester's Faculty of Arts.

Conclusion

Finally there are, to mark the year's work, perhaps more than anything, three works of the imagination, each breaking fresh ground and each deserving an article to itself, but which can

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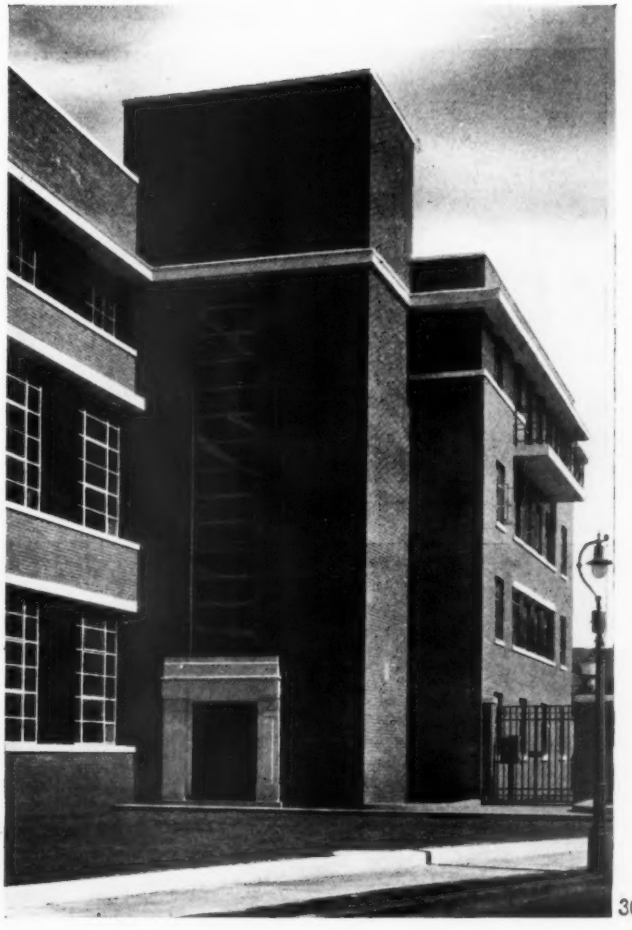
29 : Queen's Hotel, Leeds. By W. Curtis Green, R.A., Son, and Lloyd, in association with W. T. Hamlyn.



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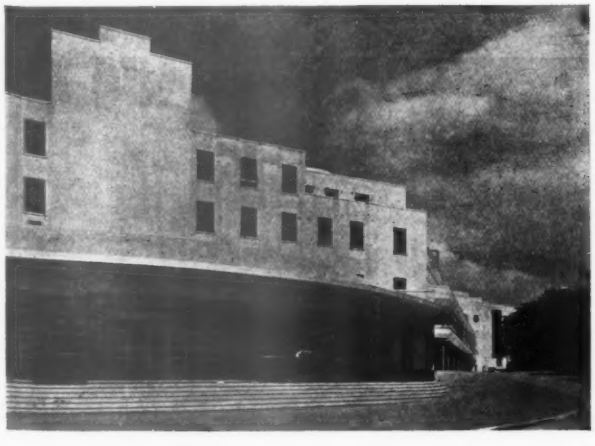
30 : Kingston Telephone Exchange. By John H. Markham.

31 : Earls Court Exhibition Buildings. By C. Howard Crane.



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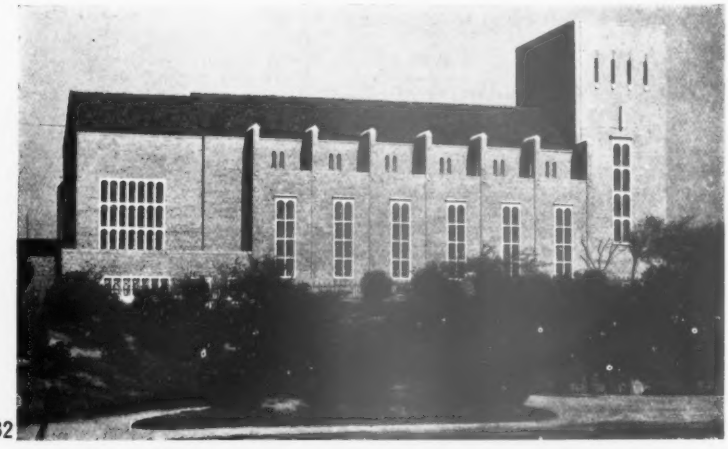
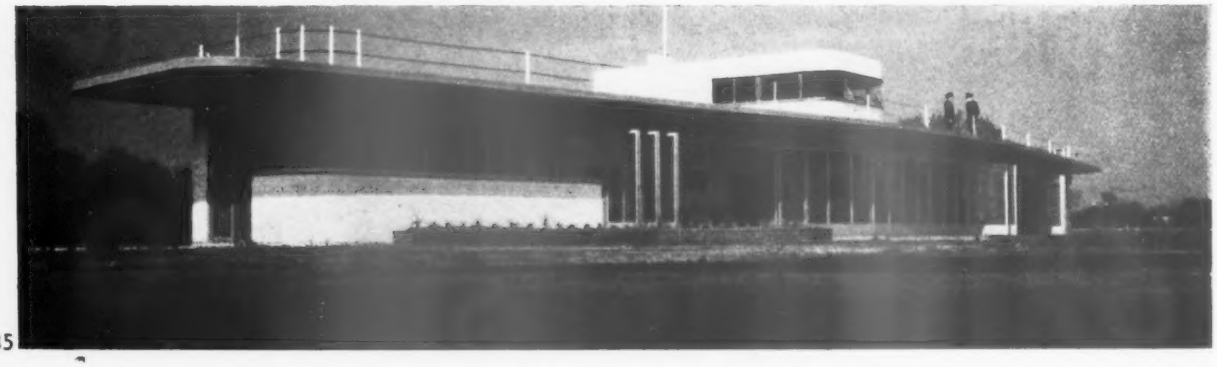


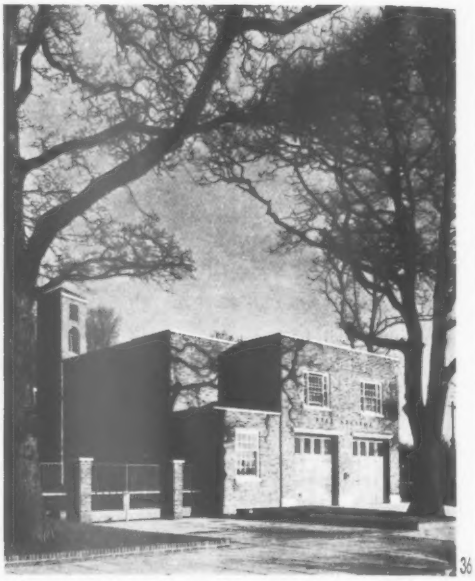
32 : *Church at Bootle. By F. X. Velarde.*

33 : *Council Offices, Slough. By C. H. James and S. Rowland Pierce.*

34 : *Wandsworth Municipal Offices. By W. and E. Hunt.*



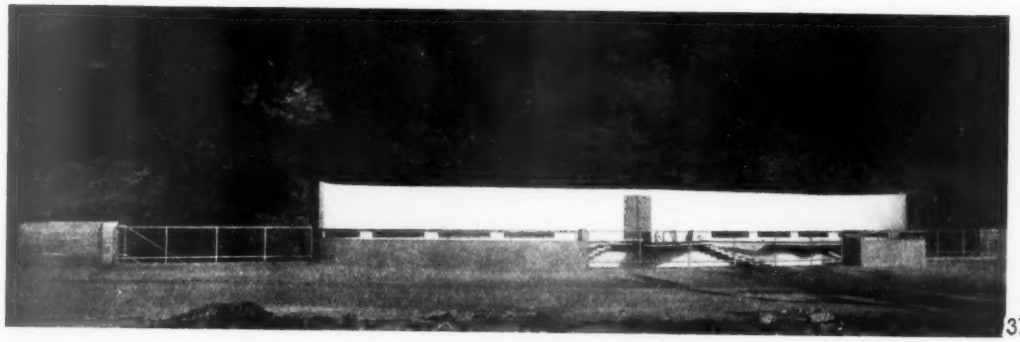
35 : *Aero Club, Ramsgate. By D. Pleydell Bouverie.*



36 : *Council Offices at Welwyn Garden City. By Elsom and Stone.*

now only be recalled to memory. It is enough if any one has seen them. They are first the little Aero Club (35) at Ramsgate by Pleydell Bouverie, which seems to have come to rest from the sky, the romantic new Zoo (37) at Dudley by Messrs. Tecton, who appear to have the faculty of seeing into the minds both of animals and humans and making them each enjoy the other to the full. No greater inventiveness, I am sure, has been shown in buildings, since the war shall we say, than in the homes for the animals combined so gracefully with theatres for the humans which these architects have devised first at Regent's Park and Whipsnade and now on a larger scale and to a more complete scheme at Dudley Castle. Last there is Bryan O'Rorke's s.s. *Orcades*, fit successor to his s.s. *Orion* and like her now sailing the ocean proudly as a ship and not as a gin palace. It is interesting that it was left to a young man, who would probably never have won a competition as ordinarily assessed today, to win back for us our traditional inheritance on the seas as builders of honest ships.

37 : *Penguin Pool, Dudley Zoo. By Tecton.*



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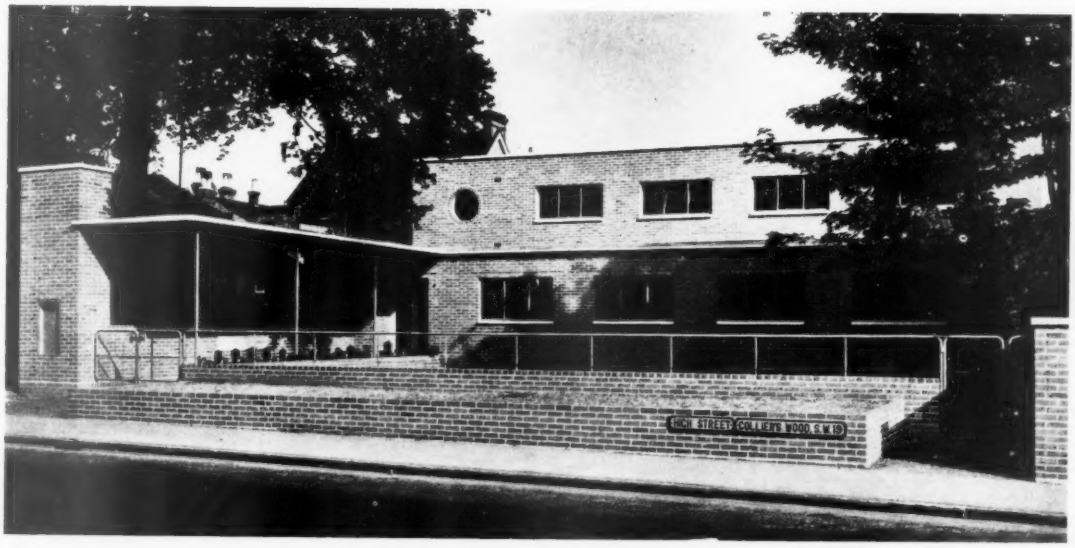
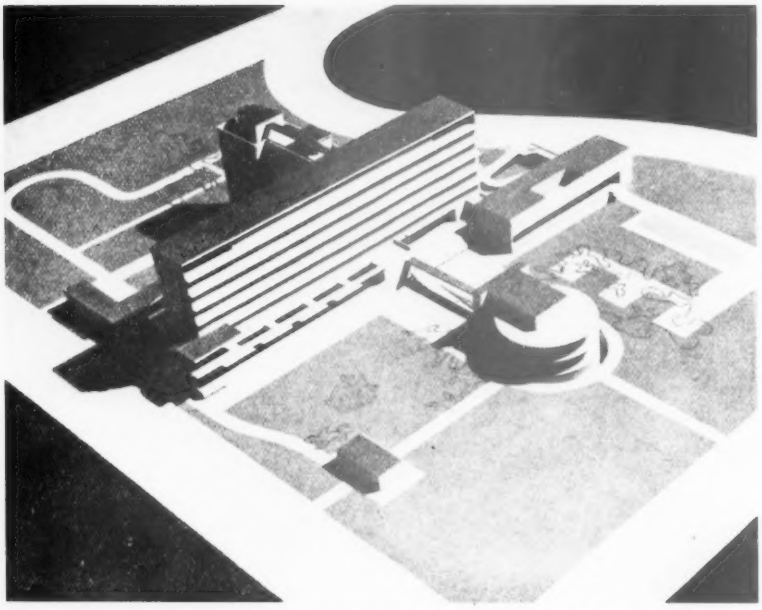
38 : *The London Theatre Studio, Islington, N. By Marcel Breuer and F. R. S. Yorke.*



39 : *Methodist Mission, Colliers Wood, By Edward D. Mills.*



The more important municipal jobs in Italy are often put up to competition : a hospital scheme by Latis and Longoni.

THE PAST YEAR : 2

ABROAD

[*By PHILIP SCHOLBERG*]

ALTHOUGH Paris has been the objective of most holiday trips and the subject of most conversations during the past year, a tour of the Exhibition does not give a potted history of architectural progress in Europe—nor, of course, could it reasonably be expected to do so, for the temporary architecture of display is the expression of a passing exuberance very much of its time and only too liable to the sudden changes of fashion. Yet, in the countries of the dictators, there is an officially approved type of architecture and the Paris pavilions very naturally conform to it.

Recent rebuilding work on the Italian railways : a station at Siena, by Angiolo Mazzoni.

Italy has definitely gone modern, by decree from Mussolini, who says, in so many words, " Dead bones belong to yesterday and we are living to-day : build, therefore, with to-day's materials in a style suited to an awakening nation." With this official encouragement from the head of the state it is not altogether surprising that the modern manner should be taken as the proper expression for a nation striving after efficiency in all things, and the work of Gio Ponti, Marcello Piacentini and others is equal to, if not better than, anything that the rest of Europe can show—a surprising result when one remembers that quite a lot of the best work is done jointly by several architects. Not, apparently, architects in partnership as we understand it in this country, where a building designed by one man may be attributed to all the partners of a firm, but by what seems to be a genuine co-operative effort, for one finds the same names cropping up in association with other designers on different jobs, and all of them seem to share an equal degree of responsibility. At a time when the future of architectural practice is thought to lie in the direction of regular associations or groups of specialists working always as a single firm this development is an interesting one, though it is improbable that it will ever be very popular in an individualist country such as this, where very definite opinions are held as to what is and what is not architecture.

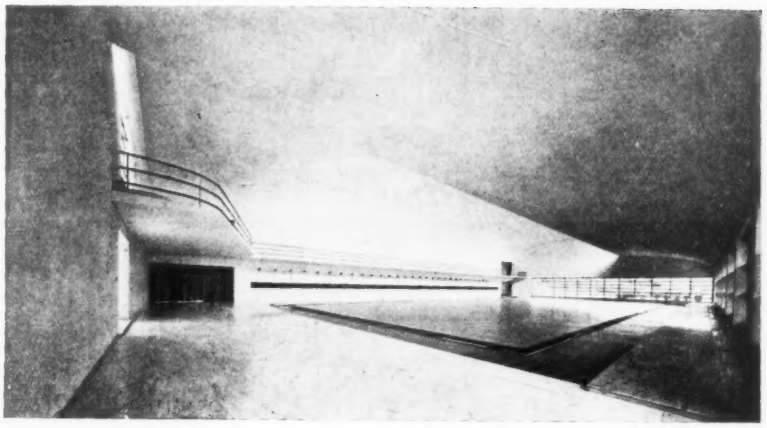
In provincial Italian towns there is a good deal of municipal work going on, the more important jobs, such as law courts and town halls often being put up to competition, with the less important jobs going to local architects, either singly, or in one of the groups mentioned above. Roughly the same policy is practised by the railways, new stations and goods yards going to local men and not being executed by a staff architect. Town-planning competitions are also held in some quantity, though the process of carrying out the approved schemes is naturally rather slow.

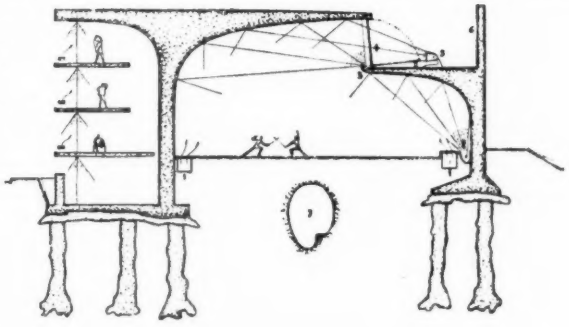
In a country where large bonuses are paid to parents with large families one naturally expects to find a considerable emphasis on housing schemes, and developments here are mainly towards flats or maisonnettes in terraces or in medium to small blocks, with no particular stress upon the small house with its own garden. This, at any rate, is what one finds in the newer towns such as Sabaudia, where reclaimed land has been laid out with a coherent plan from the very beginning, and one may therefore assume that housing of this type constitutes the official policy of the Government. To compensate for the absence of gardens much is done in the

way of maternity and infant welfare clinics, and there are numerous seaside colonies for the older children, who thus get holidays in healthy surroundings, whatever one's private opinion may be of the virtues or otherwise of the Fascist curriculum.

The same problem is being solved in a different way in Germany, where the Aryan spirit disapproves strongly of flats, possibly on the general grounds that they found favour in the time of the Republic (and are therefore automatically wrong) possibly as a result of the experiences in Vienna, where it was thought that communal services and children's playgrounds gave the parents a certain amount of spare time during which they might discover that they were discontented. But whatever the reasons behind it, the fact remains that nearly all recent German working-class re-housing work consists of small detached or semi-detached houses, all built in the local vernacular, and for the most part very well done.

As opposed to Italy, Germany, as everyone knows, has gone traditional. For the first year or so after the arrival of the Hitler regime architects did not seem to know quite where they were, or, rather, they were very busy trying to go on being modern and yet give the impression that they were being traditional at the same time. Discretion suggested that a low-pitched roof was less likely to arouse official wrath, and there are still plenty of buildings going up where the architect has done his best to serve the Bauhaus and the Führer at the same time. But there are signs that German architects have given up the unequal struggle and are beginning to believe that salvation may lie in a careful (and often very sensitive) subservience to local tradition. Take, for example, the villa in the Bavarian Alps illustrated on this page. Ten years ago one might not unreasonably have expected it to have long unbroken sweeps of window, a big semi-circular balcony at first floor level, a flat roof with screen walls for sunbathing and a plan designed to make the ground floor melt gradually into the garden. Two or three years ago the windows would have been less exuberant, the roof would have been pitched, the garden would have been acknowledged only to the extent of a

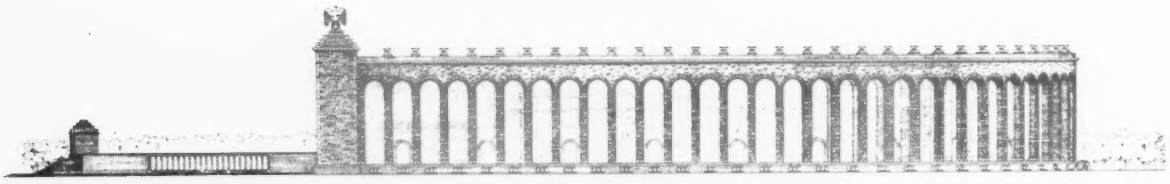


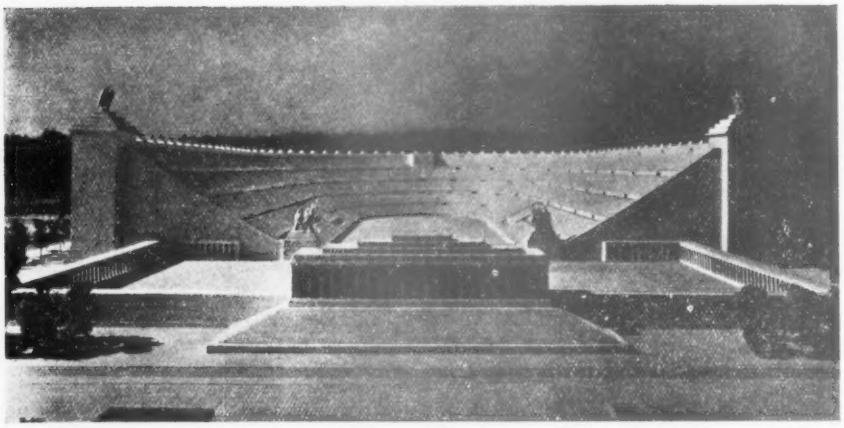


The official architecture of Italy belongs definitely to the modern school : interior and section of a fencing school in the Mussolini Forum, by Luigi Moretti.

Centre : Many German architects have given up the unequal struggle of combining modernism with the Aryan spirit and have become wholeheartedly traditional : a country house near Allgäu, by Sepp Plenk.

Right : Working-class housing in Germany consists mainly of detached and semi-detached houses : a colony near Stuttgart, by Aldinger Weippert and Dürr.





Professor Albert Speer's grandiose stadium scheme at Nuremberg.

pair of glazed doors in the living room, and the balconies would have dwindled almost to the size of shelving, probably with wrought iron fronts. Whether today's design is better than that of ten years ago is a matter on which there may well be two opinions, but there seems no doubt that straight tradition is preferable to the non-committal safety first of the intermediate period.

Government and Municipal architecture, on the other hand, is more subject to stylistic variation. When it is a question of national prestige there is the heavily monumental manner of Professor Albert Speer, demonstrated by the Paris pavilion and by the vast stadium schemes of Nuremberg—great lumps of masonry well calculated to crush rebellion in the most recalcitrant. Yet some of the municipal work, swimming baths and such-like, is as light and airy as one could wish.

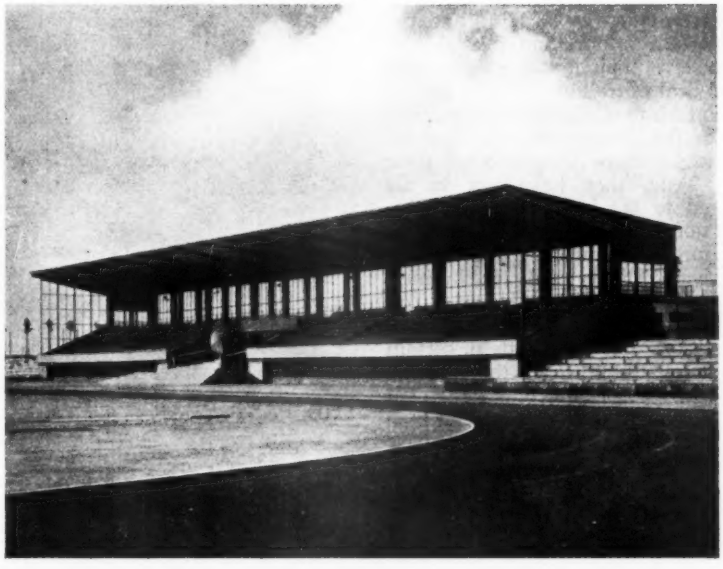
Just how far current design is influenced by the metal shortage it is hard to tell, but many of the small country jobs keep to wooden door latches and such-like, possibly in order to stay traditional all the way through, possibly because metal prices are high.

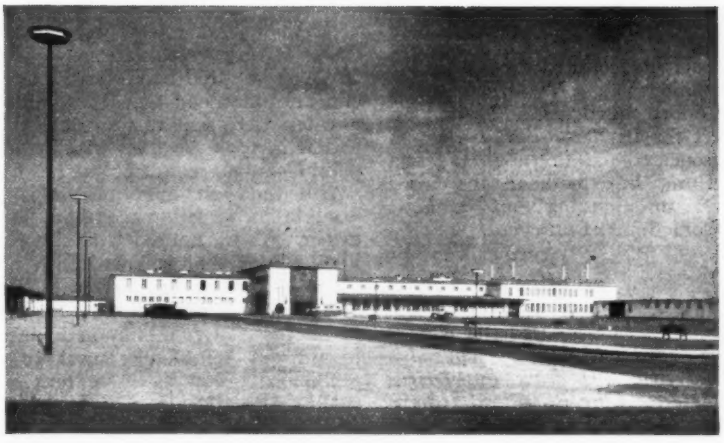
Russia, once regarded as the modernist's paradise, has now swung over to a tradition of a peculiarly baleful kind. The official reason given for this change is that modernism is essentially bourgeois in conception, but there are one or two other factors which may have influenced this decision. It must be realized first of all that there is a vast amount of building to be done in Russia, and there is only a limited number of skilled

Russia has now swung over to a tradition of a peculiarly baleful kind: the Moscow Hotel, by Shchousiev, Savyelev and Stepran.

craftsmen capable of working with the accuracy and finish so essential if large unbroken surfaces are not to look dull and shoddy. Stakhanovite workmen laying some fantastic number of bricks a day ("Not brick laying—brick murder" in the words of a visiting English trade union official) are hardly the type for working to fine limits, and it is therefore hardly to be wondered at if the early attempts at modernism are not very satisfactory as buildings. The other reason is largely political. Many of the larger government buildings and hotels are used for the reception of workers' and peasants' delegations travelling to Moscow for congresses and meetings. In the words of an official spokesman: "These people, who very often live only in poor huts, are to see that the greatest luxury is thought fit for their reception. They are to return home with the feeling that they are citizens of a great and wealthy country." This seems to be the real explanation. Modernism is, after all, rather a sophisticated taste and to peasants living in poor huts the impression of "a great and wealthy country" can probably best be conveyed by a certain lavishness and a profusion of unnecessary ornament, implying that there is plenty of wealth available for trimmings. Even if this lavishness were executed with real scholarship it would still be regrettable, but Russian architecture, to quote the words of a review in this JOURNAL, is now "a bogus classic, too vulgar to find a parallel in any other European country."

Ignoring, for the moment, questions of taste, there is one subject in which nearly all European architects seem to take an interest, and that is the problem of defence against aerial attack. Looking through book lists and the architectural papers, one is constantly finding long articles on the gasproofing of rooms, the penetrating power of different types of bomb, precautions to be taken against the spread of fires and the planning of air-raid shelters. While it is none too easy to discover exactly what is to be done in this country, the rest of Europe seems to have made up its mind about a good many of the problems. In France at least one





Top: many of the American railways have had the intelligence to employ competent designers: an interior, by Paul P. Cret, for the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fé Railroad. Centre: in buildings for sport German architecture is still allowed to look fairly light and airy (a grandstand, by Professor Paul Bonatz); nor does the Cologne airport (bottom), by Professor Mehrtens, show any signs of submission to the current régime.

Ministry has a complete suite of underground rooms to which the whole of its staff can be transferred, and the Government has for some time had powers to build shelters and to make arrangements for evacuating the civil population. Germany has done little in the way of shelter construction, except for a refuge in the Alexanderplatz for "several thousand" persons, but there are numerous fireproofing regulations for new buildings and the marked herd instinct of the German nation makes it possible to rely on a large amount of co-operation from the civil population, the Luftschutzbund, or Air Protection League, now being claimed to have about six million members. Italy, too, has various building regulations and a recent decree compels all tunnels in urban centres to be capable of conversion into permanent air-raid shelters, while the Central Station in Rome and a considerable length of its approach lines is to go underground. Russia is alleged to have made great preparations, but details of the structural methods adopted are lacking and the only certain information available is that the civil population has undergone a good deal of training.

But to turn to a slightly more cheerful subject, the modernists in America seem to be more than holding their own. True, they have not so far managed to get hold of an excessive proportion of the New Deal's building programme, but such work as they do for private clients and for business firms is of a very high standard. The Government's habit of holding open competitions has met with a certain amount of disapproval, though one cannot help suspecting that some of it comes from energetic commercial men who prefer to get their jobs by industrious lobbying.

In housing, the Wagner-Steagall Bill has finally become law, but in such a mutilated form that the experts do not hope for very much from it. Next year's New York World's Fair is beginning to take shape, and looks like being better than the last effort at Chicago.

Social conscience, as exemplified in the films, is about where it was, save that a recent effort called *Dead End* had an architect for its hero. True, he was first discovered painting a shop fascia in a slum, but to hear the word architect in anything but a news reel is something of an event.

The illustration on this page shows a house in Queen Anne's Gate, S.W. (c. 1700) and is reproduced from "London: The Unique City," by Steen Eiler Rasmussen. (Jonathan Cape, price 15s.)

THE PAST YEAR : 3

BOOKS

[By H. MYLES WRIGHT]

AN annual review of books is a very unsatisfactory business. A hundred books have a frightening appearance ; and over a hundred and ten were sent to the JOURNAL for review in 1937, together with booklets, pamphlets and what not galore.

With the best intentions it is impossible to reread more than half-a-dozen with an approach to thoroughness. Once that is done, with notes made to prevent confusing the hero of one with a new sanitary appliance in another, stern resolution is needed to prevent refresher courses in the remainder becoming more and more perfunctory.

And all the time there is a doubt as to whether anyone is going to read a long catalogue of snippets about so many books. The danger of not being read is one which must be risked throughout journalism, and even more widely. But to try to deal adequately with a hundred books in a New Year Issue certainly appears, if one may so put it, to be playing with fire.

One can assume that anyone who reads this review will do it with the chief aim of seeing whether he has missed any outstanding books. And it is to those which appear to deserve this title more than others that this review will be restricted. On the whole, there are not many of them.

Many publishers continue to think

that architects will be interested in very odd books. Some publishers, having produced a really good text-book in 1910, bring out new editions almost unaltered in the apparent hope that architecture has stood still for their benefit in the meanwhile. (And, it may be added, so rare is a good text-book, that often one published pre-war is all that is available.) And one notices that the flood of books dealing with the beauties of old buildings and the country in an elfin and sugary manner still continues. It is a good thing that it does; but it would be a great deal better if some great publisher could manage to put industrial Britain across the possessors of saloon cars and romantic souls.

But to return to the better books:

Progress at Pelvis Bay. By Osbert Lancaster. John Murray. Price 3s. 6d.

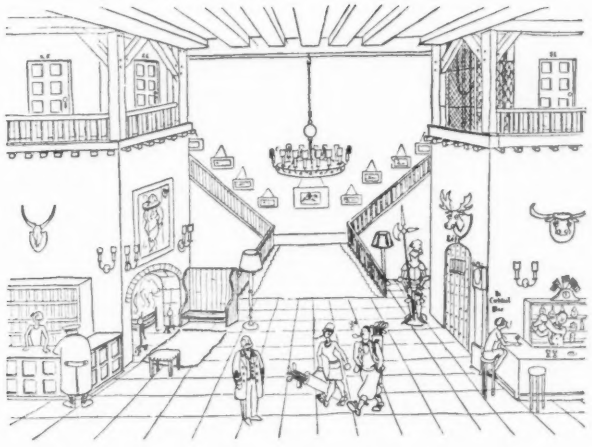
It is a pity that Christmas is past, and that one forgot Pelvis Bay. In what is called "one of our contemporaries," Mr. Lancaster made Pelvis Bay famous as a watering-place that moved with the times. Here preserved for ever, by the courtesy of Messrs. Murray, is its determination to do the right thing:

> "it was decided to recondition the pier, and, at the suggestion of one of the councillors who had recently visited the Colonial Exhibition at Paris, it was built in the Moorish style with the most happy results, the two kiosks at the entrance blending very happily with the Neo-Egyptian façade of the Hotel Splendide opposite."

It is all great fun, and may even cause enterprising municipalities to pause for a moment in the beautifying of their city.

At bottom, however, Mr. Lancaster puts a question which the most enlightened of us would not hurry to answer. It is this: granted that we are not all geniuses, and that the wealth of modern materials is likely to prevent a homogeneous style for twentieth-century architecture evolving naturally, should we or should we not be compelled to conform in urban areas to a set external appearance?

If we say "yes," at the best we have Bath and at the worst Tudor semi-detacheds. If we say "no," at the best we have the Cambridge Colleges and at the worst Oxford Street. For architects, Mr. Lancaster's joke within the joke is that the architects ought to decide the question. In fact, we ought not to be allowed to shuffle out of it.



The Ship Hotel, 1922. From "Pelvis Bay."

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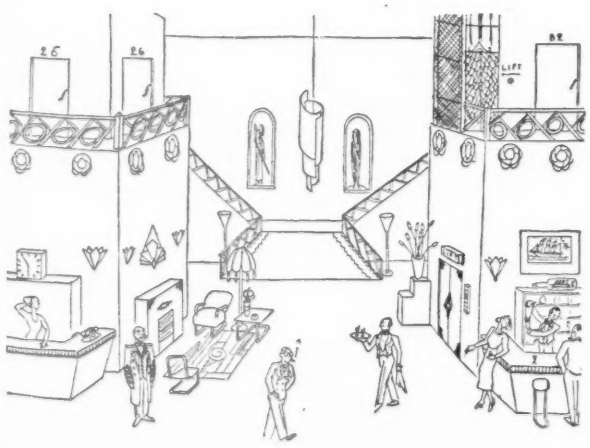
Metropolitan Man: The Future of the English. By Robert Sinclair. George Allen and Unwin. Price 10s. 6d.

Greater London, we have been told in the Third Report on the Special Areas, occupies an area of 1/127th part of the surface of Great Britain. It contains one-fifth of the inhabitants of Britain and one-quarter of the total rateable value. Mr. Sinclair realizes the enormous influence and undesirable effects of this concentration just as others do—but his realization is one, to be vulgar, with knobs on. The advantages of London may be few. Mr. Sinclair brushes them aside. We are given a picture of peculiar grimness: the number of Londoners who die in workhouses, the disease, wretchedness, slums and inefficient overlapping of local authorities—in 323 pages we learn them all if we stay the course; while chapter headings like Stink and Darkness and the Lazar House whet our appetites for what is coming.

Architects ought to read *Metropolitan Man.* They may earn their livings by putting up still higher buildings on crowded sites in crowded districts. They can't help that; they must do what they can for their clients. But they ought also to think just a little about ways of improving London. If they don't, no one else is likely to.



The Ship Hotel, 1930. From "Pelvis Bay."

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The Land of Wales. By Eiluned and Peter Lewis. Batsford. Price 7s. 6d.

This is one of the English Heritage Series, and will presumably cause some annoyance to Welsh and Scottish nationalists on that account.

Like the others of its kind, for which Batsfords have now become famous, it is well illustrated and produced and its contents keep present-day questions in the background in an agreeable summer-holiday way. This last sentence, nowadays, needs explanation; it does not mean that the authors should have mentioned the class struggle, but that *The Land of Wales* should tell one more about what goes on there besides holiday-making. No reasonable person will expect a tirade on the misfortunes of South Wales *à la* "*Metropolitan Man.*"

At the same time, the visitor-reader, with attention undistracted and a desire to learn, might be gently brought to an understanding of why Welsh industries have risen and fallen, with much benefit to himself and Britain in general.

Batsfords ought to think about this.

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Shell Guide to Northumberland and Durham. By Thomas Sharp. Batsford. Price 2s. 6d.

Shell Guides, which Messrs. Batsford took over a year ago, have always tried to give the square deal to counties which has been suggested in the previous paragraph. Within extremely small limits they have summarized the more important sides of life—as well as slipping in a good deal of special interest to the motorist.

The job has been terribly difficult: within very few pages industry and agriculture, the appearance of the

country and the towns had to be contained—as well as hotels, antiquities, recreations, maps and other fare more specifically tourist. The level of success has been so high that Shell have now a reputation for enlightenment which brackets them first in Britain with London Transport. And this in spite of the extraordinary people who seem to resent industry's appearance in any Guide and complain that Potton Minor (pop. 24) does not appear in the index.

Northumberland and Durham naturally causes resentment to a Northumbrian. For he suspects that Mr. Sharp, great expert on County Durham, was just asked to throw in Northumberland, the second (or is it the third ?) largest county in England, as a bleak, coaly place with nothing much except a Roman Wall.

This may be county nationalism at its worst. Two points ought to be made clearer about Northumberland. First, if you draw a line from Heddon-on-the-Wall (16 miles up the Tyne) to Blyth (16 miles up the coast from the Tyne), you have cut off almost all the industrial area of Northumberland. The rest is moor and agriculture. Second, there is an area of nearly 400 square miles in Northumberland unpenetrated by any through road. Those who like quiet and fine hill country can bear this in mind.

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The Building Encyclopædia. Vols. 1 and 2. Edited by S. G. Blaxland Stubbs. The Waverley Book Co. Price £1 1s. per volume.

This is what is called an ambitious work. It is meant to be a permanent reference work for all connected with building, and specially for the "working builder." It is outstanding because it is so ambitious and because it makes such interesting reading. There are special articles by well-known contributors and a great number of useful items of information—but by far the most outstanding quality in it is the courage of its publishers.

There can be no firm interested in architectural publishing and few architects who have not had visions of a perfect book on construction and building detail. All since the war have apparently been unable to find the right form.

The Building Encyclopædia has plunged right in. It claims to exclude purely passing fashions in design, but doors and doorways labelled "Distinctive Types for Speculative Builders" and a horrible range of modern fireplace designs rather let down this boast.

One can say, however, that a third of the two volumes are valuable and instructive, and this is a good deal in an appallingly difficult form of reference work.

English Homes: Periods 1 and 2. Vol. II. Mediæval and Tudor, 1066–1558. By H. Avray Tipping. Country Life.

Country Life's stately illustrations of stately houses must by now have included everything worth photographing in the British Isles. This volume, collected by the late Avray Tipping, is in the best pre-war tradition, when the owners of big houses did not face extinction if two deaths occurred in a year. Twenty-seven houses illustrated by 550 photographs and many plans are contained in it. Architects, unless specially interested, do not buy such books nowadays—indeed, one wonders who does—but they ought to be published. For sooner or later we will have to decide what is to be done with such houses as are not taken over by the Office of Works or the National Trust.

•

London: The Unique City. By Steen Eiler Rasmussen. Jonathan Cape. Price 15s.

Mr. Rasmussen's is possibly the book of the year if architecture must follow the book clubs. *London* is the other side of Mr. Sinclair's picture in *Metropolitan Man.* Mr. Rasmussen is a Danish architect who likes us, knows London as probably none of its inhabitants does, and likes it ; so we naturally feel that he knows what he is talking about. Such a man cannot be far wrong.

The principal view of the book is that the "domestic scale" of London—meaning, of course, eighteenth and nineteenth century scale—is the right one, and if London with ten million inhabitants must sprawl in consequence, well then it must.

After looking at the photographs of old Hampstead, Gray's Inn, the Temple, Queen Anne's Gate and Bloomsbury, one is almost convinced. The sad story of Regent Street and the Adelphi pile on the agony ; the photos of Hyde Park make us seem almost civilized. Yet all the time we know it is not true.

Nowadays, we know London is far too big, but we do not do anything about it. Mr. Rasmussen's favourites, the civilized urban squares and streets, are disappearing into Oxford Street flat blocks. In twenty years we will still have the Temple, Gray's Inn and Lincoln's Inn, and that will be all. Unless London decides that civilization means something more than hot water, electric fires, refrigerators and £250 a year in rent.

•

Design. A Treatise on the Discovery of Form. By Percy E. Nobbs. Oxford University Press. Humphrey Milford. Price 30s.

Mr. Percy E. Nobbs deserves some attention for an odd book. His is a difficult subject ; he has given a lot of attention to it in four hundred pages of small print ; his knowledge is obviously immense ; and if he had only produced a book of 80 pages or so one is sure his public would have been considerable.

Some of the chapter headings are : Nature of Colour Vision, Realization of Form, Materialization of Ornament, The Graphic Arts.

One example of his more serious style is worth quoting. (His anecdotal includes a story of how he once flirted with a woman old enough to be his mother.)

"Crocés schematic diagram of the four steps of spiritual (or mental) activity can be left standing ; but it seems necessary to extend the lowest step till it becomes a wide platform ; his steps would then conform to the æsthetic here enunciated. On this wide platform carpets may be laid. The platform is expression, the carpeting art. The platform has been investigated, and the carpets as well. These carpets we find can only be trodden when unrolled on the platform, of which they then become an integral part. The expression of emotion remains mere ejaculation, when unsupported by expressional exposition of something else."

•

Britain and the Beast. By Twenty-six Authors. Edited by Clough Williams-Ellis. Dent. Price 10s. 6d.

Here, gathered at Mr. Williams-Ellis's famous battle-cry, are the views of twenty-six people who object to the form, detail and extent of building development outside urban areas during the last eighteen years. They object to other things as well, but, despite the title, it is the damage to the countryside which has upset them nearly all.

Britain and the Beast has had a good press. It has probably made a lot more people wonder what ought to be done. The danger is that the results will be seen only in "restrictions." The debate in the Commons early last year showed only too clearly how the idea of restriction is the only cure which has occurred to our legislators ; and this cure, of course, was only to apply to comparatively undeveloped areas. The idea of industrial or even urban areas being anything save places of horror simply had not occurred to them.

The authors of *Britain and the Beast* are enlightened people. On re-reading most of the contributions one is sure of that, and one agrees with their protests. Yet, save for Mr. Boumphry's admirable article and that of Mrs. Tattom Brown (which won this JOURNAL's competition in its last New Year Issue), one suspects that their cause is hopeless. For they seem to ask for a kind of benevolent, highly cultivated Government Department to prevent all building where possible, and where not, to persuade into being a gigantic crop of gentlemanly garden villages.

This is just a little sweeping as a statement—but not wildly so. One cannot avoid the feeling that though

Craigievar Castle. From "The Shrines and Homes of Scotland." Alexander Maclehose. Price 10s. 6d.

most of the contributors would give much to get what they want, they would not give as much as is necessary. They would not, for instance, admit that the gross abuses of which they complain cannot be cured without both large-scale planning and great limitations of private use of private land. And until this is admitted and acted on, nothing very much can be done.

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The Modern House in England. By F. R. S. Yorke. Price 15s. *Smaller Retail Shops.* By Bryan and Norman Westwood. Price 10s. 6d. *The Modern Flat.* By F. R. S. Yorke and Frederick Gibberd. Price 30s. *Glass.* By Raymond McGrath and A. C. Frost. Price £3 3s. London: The Architectural Press.

All of these are very important books published in 1937.

Two of them deal with "modernism," which, whatever individuals think about it, has come to stay. It is almost impossible to talk about any aspect of modern architecture now without using hackneyed phrases; but one cannot refrain from doing so on that account, for we are all going to live with it and in some measure design it for the rest of our lives. In houses the craft method of construction as opposed to assembling factory-produced units will probably linger longest; but in all houses the tendency towards simple units and surfaces is now becoming apparent.

The Modern House in England proves again what has been long obvious—that modern architecture is easier to do badly than any building form yet known. It proves this by the fact that in 142 pages it contains almost all the good modern houses yet built in England—and yet how common is modernism of a kind. It also proves the widening scope of modern architecture; it is no longer a question of concrete or pseudo-concrete. Brick, timber, asbestos cement, or combinations of them, are used equally. In this probably lies modernism's future.

The Modern Flat, armed as it were with *The Modern House*, attacks the Englishman's strongest conviction. Its moral is oldish now. It is that on an area of, say, 20 acres of good land, it is better, more sensible, more civilized, more everything, to build one flat block containing 120 flats and reserve the odd 19½ acres as garden and playspace than to carve and twist the land into miserable 200 × 50 ft. plots and build on them 120 £900 horrors of houses.

And so it is. One could have bowls, tennis, swimming, decent lawns and all sorts of things in the 20 acres, and a population of 550 (even if they were all there together) would never make a crowd. Why then does one resent the idea? Is it experience of Kensington flat blocks with flunkeys, nasty lifts, tight little bright little corridors, and vest-pocket kitchens that causes revolt—or something deeper? Architects are the people who must think this out.

In the meantime, *The Modern Flat* illustrates examples everywhere except on a 20-acre site from all over the place, excellently produced and illustrated.

Smaller Retail Shops will be largely familiar to JOURNAL readers. It contains the articles which were published serially in the JOURNAL, although they have been rearranged and additional illustrations added. Shop design is a tricky business, and more and more architects are being asked to provide the little something which the shopfitters miss. The brothers Westwood know the whole story, list the things that matter, summarize the fittings necessary in most types of shop, and go into the details of fascias, neon signs, ventilation, blinds, and the other difficult points. Anyone who is asked to do a shop ought to spend 10s. 6d.

Glass. In the 664 pages of this large book there is all about glass, its making,

history, properties and uses in architecture and decoration. After several years of work and revisions of many kinds, Messrs. Raymond McGrath, Frost and the Architectural Press have produced a *magnum opus* which will obviously be *the* reference book for many years. Since *Glass* has been published only for a few and has not yet been reviewed in the JOURNAL, nothing more will be said here about it. But it is something very special.

•

1851 and the Crystal Palace. By Christopher Hobhouse. John Murray. Price 7s. 6d.

Lastly, when thinking of glass, Mr. Hobhouse's *Crystal Palace* might be mentioned. For the Crystal Palace instantly suggests Victorianism, and both are in the news.

The first half of the book, the familiar story of the competition and the building excellently illustrated in contemporary line drawings, is the most entertaining for architects, and loses nothing by being well known. The second half is a tour of the Exhibition; it is amusing and instructive, but just a little sad. Paxton's famous revolt in the architectural desert, his creation of the first light prefabricated building and his defeat of the Academicians—these were so encouraging. The contents of the Exhibition showed very clearly that one brilliant revolt was not enough to influence the art and craftsmanship of Victorianism. From their results we are not wholly escaped eighty-seven years after.

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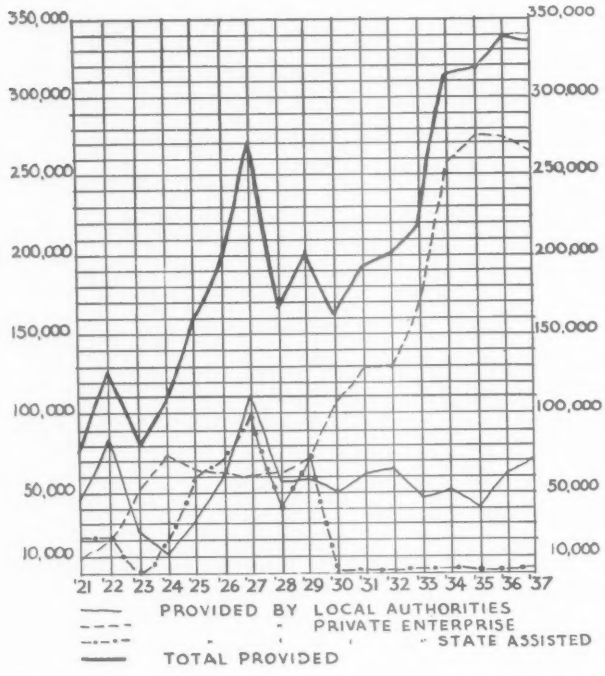
"THE BIRTH OF AN IDEA"



The above chart shows the number of houses provided in England and Wales in the years ending September 30, 1921 to 1937.

THE PAST YEAR: 4

HOUSING

[*By W. P. KEEN*]

AT the International Housing Congress held in Prague in June, 1935, I met a delegate who was the "official observer" for two of the chief housing agencies in America—the housing division of the Public Works Administration and the Federal Housing Administration. His appointment was made at the request of the Department of State in Washington. He told me that, apart from attending the Congress to read a paper on housing conditions in the United States, he was commissioned to visit most of the countries in Europe to obtain first-hand information of how each country was solving its housing problem, particularly England, because, in his opinion, "England is twenty years ahead of America in housing matters."

It appears that the result of the "official observer's" visit is about to bear fruit for, in December last, President Roosevelt announced details of a scheme—a gigantic building boom—by which he hopes to lift American business out of its present depression. He proposes to launch a five-year plan for housing by private enterprise with Government co-operation, which he describes as "the largest and most promising single field for private enterprise." He estimates that, during the next five years, 600,000–800,000 houses need to be built each year, at a total cost of approximately $2,600,000,000. And of this sum the Government's grant is suggested as $50,000,000 to mortgage associations and a reduction in interest rates. So far, agreement has not been reached between the two Houses on the Bill which was drafted to enact President Roosevelt's recommendation, but it is expected that the final enactment of the measure will take place some time this month.

The reason for the President's gigantic housing drive is not hard to seek. He is undoubtedly of the opinion that, if the building boom carried England out of the slump, then there is no reason why the same method should not do the same for America. He has every reason to hope that his scheme will succeed, for the latest figures recording the housing progress in England and Wales shows that the production of houses still continues at a high level.

THE PRESENT POSITION

So much for America. Now, let us get down to the main purpose of this article—housing progress in England

Wales and Scotland during the past year.

First, it is necessary to record the position at September 30 — the figures for which were given in the Minister of Health's half-yearly return issued on December 30 last. The report states that, since the Armistice, no fewer than 3,484,132 houses have been built in England and Wales ; and that the total number built during the half-year under review was 155,728—a decrease of 25,740 from the total number provided during the previous half-year, and 8,857 less than the half-year ending September 30, 1936. An analysis of how these figures are arrived at is of much interest, particularly in view of the fact that it has generally been expected for some time that the output of private enterprise will diminish. The number erected by private enterprise without State assistance during the last half-year was 118,392—27,397 less than the number provided in the preceding half-year. The approximate figures for private enterprise during the last three years are as follows :

1934–1935	..	286,300
1935–1936	..	272,300
1936–1937	..	273,500

It will be seen from the above figures that, in all probability, the output of private enterprise for the year 1937–38 will, if the number for the present half-year averages the same as the previous period, show a marked decline.

Local authorities have, however, topped their total for the previous half-year, having built 36,457 houses—an increase of 1,463. The report also includes details of progress in slum-clearance. During the half-year ending September 30, 1937, 36,098 houses were completed by local authorities under the Housing Acts, of which 26,367 were allocated for the purpose of slum clearance and 2,379 for the purpose of the abatement of overcrowding. The total number of houses under construction by local authorities under the Housing Acts at September 30, 1937, was 68,391, the large majority of which are being provided for the purpose of slum clearance. During the year ended September 30, 58,439 houses were demolished or closed, as compared with 45,148 during the previous twelve months. Up to September 30, 163,274 houses (with accommodation for 764,669 persons) had been provided for the purpose of rehousing persons displaced in connection with slum clearance operations ; 54,207 of these houses were completed in the year ending on that date.

OVERCROWDING

Enquiry at the Ministry of Health reveals that every area outside London has had an "appointed day" fixed ; also all the Metropolitan Boroughs except Bermondsey, Bethnal Green, Finsbury, Islington, Poplar, Shoreditch and Stepney. The "appointed day" means, briefly, that each local authority has the duty of seeing that all existing cases of overcrowding in its area are abated as soon as possible, and that new cases do not arise ; and that, after the "appointed day" for any given area, a house is overcrowded if the number of persons sleeping in it either :

1 : Exceeds the "permitted number of persons" as defined in the Act ; or

2 : Is such that any two of those persons, being ten years old or more, of opposite sexes, and not living together as husband and wife, must sleep in the same room.

The full standard laid down by the Act is too well known for me to describe here. Therefore, it is only necessary to point out that, in practically the whole of the country, overcrowding has now become a penal offence on the part of the occupier who causes it and the landlord who permits it. I am also informed by the Ministry of Health that the latest figure for houses built for occupation to abate overcrowding at November 30 last was 5,775.

NEW LEGISLATION

The King, in opening the new Session of Parliament in October last, stated that Bills would be introduced to amend the financial provision for slum clearance and the abatement of overcrowding, and to make further provision for the improvement of agricultural housing. A few weeks later, the Minister of Health gave some particulars in the House of Commons of the new housing legislation which, he said, he would shortly be introducing in Parliament and also stated that it would be necessary for the legislation to be passed through all its stages before March 31, 1938. Exchequer contributions, he said, would be payable at the present rates for houses completed by December 31, 1938. He was anxious that local authorities should be in a position to attack both the slums and overcrowding with equal vigour. The present difference in the amount of financial assistance available for these purposes was not likely to produce that result. He did not think that there was any such difference in the economic conditions of those living in unfit and overcrowded houses as justified the present material differences in the financial arrangements. It would be both convenient and equitable to have the same amount of Exchequer contribution for both purposes. He would, therefore, propose that for houses completed after December 31, 1938, the Exchequer contribution for both slum clearance and overcrowding should be of the same amount, and should take the form of payment for each new house built for these purposes. It would be necessary to make special provision for agricultural housing and for flats built on expensive sites. He was at present in consultation with the local authorities on the Exchequer contributions payable. He believed that the completion of slum clearance and the abatement of overcrowding were vital elements in the health services of the country, and that the new houses provided for these purposes must be let at rents within the means of those who were to occupy them, and that he could not seek to obtain this object at the price of imposing an unreasonable burden on local rates.

PROGRESS IN SCOTLAND

A statement received from the Department of Health for Scotland, on Monday last, points out that from 1919 to November 30, 1937, 226,779 houses have been erected in Scotland with State assistance. Of these, 183,726 were erected by local authorities and 43,053 by private enterprise.

During the first 11 months of 1937, 12,118 houses were completed by Scottish local authorities and were used for slum clearance or decrowding purposes. At the end of November there were 27,732 houses under construction, and the houses contracted for but not begun numbered 10,051.

In the 11 months these authorities closed 8,324 unfit houses and displaced 38,283 persons from unfit houses. They also removed 8,994 families from fit but overcrowded houses to larger houses, of which 7,454 were owned by local authorities.

The completion and occupancy of one new house often enables more than one family to be satisfactorily rehoused, because fit houses, when decrowded, become available for families from unfit or smaller overcrowded houses.

PROGRESS IN LONDON

The following statement of housing progress in London since the War has been supplied by the London County Council:—

Since the War—Approximate number dwellings provided by the Council since the War up to December 31, 1937 : in block dwellings, 18,467 flats ; at cottage estates, 56,850 houses and flats. The number of dwellings provided by the Council from January 1, 1937, to December 31, 1937, is as follows : in block dwellings, 2,987 flats (approximately) ; at cottage estates, 3,550 houses and flats (approximately). Number of dwellings in course of erection or under contract at December 31, 1937 : in block dwellings, 4,971 flats ; at cottage estates, 2,068 houses and flats.

Slum Clearance Operations—The Council has declared 209 areas or groups of areas to be clearance areas under the Housing Act, Part III. These areas, including in most cases adjoining land required for purposes of re-development, comprise in all about 450 acres, and involve the displacement and rehousing of some 97,030 persons. Other areas are under consideration. Of the 75,317 new dwellings completed since the War 14,732 have been allocated for re-housing 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

with the relief of overcrowding, the Council has acquired or appropriated, or is taking steps to acquire, a number of sites in London for the erection of block dwellings. Some of these sites are in course of development. Of the completed dwellings, 1,894 have been allocated for relief of overcrowding.

Cottage Estates.—Apart from cottage estates in course of development, further sites have been or are being acquired for new cottage estates in or in the vicinity of the County 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 is about to be submitted to the Minister of Health for approval.

CONSTRUCTION

The next, and perhaps the most important, feature—from an architectural viewpoint—of the housing events of 1937 was the publication of the final report of the Departmental Committee of the Ministry of Health on the Construction of Flats for the Working-classes. This Committee was appointed in July, 1934, "to enquire into and report upon materials and methods of construction suitable for the building of flats for the working classes with special reference to the efficiency and cost." The Committee published an Interim Report in 1935. In its Final Report the Committee reviewed a variety of modern methods of construction, and reached the conclusion that, apart from normal brick construction, several other systems have "distinct promise." It recommends that several of the steel-framed and reinforced concrete-framed systems described in the Report should be given a trial.

One of the most important points dealt with by the Committee was the provision of lifts. The Report stated that "in a block of flats up to four storeys a lift might be regarded as a luxury at the present time, but for six storeys it becomes almost a necessity." The Committee also reached the conclusion that a lift for a five-storey or six-storey block would cost about £800 for the engineering portion of the work, apart from that necessary to form the well, and that the extra price for additional storeys would be very little.

The labour scarcity in Scotland last year led the Commissioner for the Special Areas of Scotland to seek means by which houses could be built by methods of construction alternative to brick. He expressed the opinion that there was no reason why concrete houses should not be satisfactory, and pointed out there were not only adequate supplies of cement, but that concrete also required about one-tenth of the labour needed for brick construction. He also suggested the use of timber houses in districts liable to surface subsidence. Replying to a question in the House of Commons last December, the Secretary of State for Scotland stated that timber had been brought into use as a means of overcoming the shortage of orthodox building materials and labour. He said that, apart from temporary houses, timber houses for permanent occupation had been provided by the Town Council of Dundee and the County Councils of Aberdeen and Ayr with State assistance: "The houses in Ayr County were only recently completed, and I am informed that experience shows that the houses built in Dundee and Aberdeen counties are in every way suitable."

NEW SCHEMES

Two "experimental" flat schemes were completed during the year—both in London. They are: Kensal House, Ladbroke Grove, W.11, designed by a group of architects, and the block at King's Cross, erected from the design of Mr. John Dower.

Kensal House, opened in March last, was built by the Capitol Housing Association (a company formed by the Gas Light and Coke Co.), as a practical experiment in mass automatic fuel service to low-rental flats (three-room, 9s. 6d. per week; four-room, 11s. 6d. per week, including rates). The block by Mr. Dower was built by the Sheet Steel Market Development Committee (an offshoot of the British Steelwork Association), as an experiment. In this building sheet and pressed steel has been used for nearly every purpose—frame, floors, ceilings, partitions, trim, doors, equipment, etc.

The three schemes designed by architects in private practice for the L.C.C. are now nearing completion. These architects (Messrs. Edward Armstrong, Louis de Soissons and Victor Wilkins) were appointed by the L.C.C. in 1935 to supplement the Council's own housing department for expediting the erection of dwellings in connection with its housing programme.

RENTS

In June last the Minister of Health and the Secretary of State for Scotland appointed a Committee "to enquire into and report upon the present working of the Rent Restrictions Acts and to advise what steps should be taken to continue or terminate or amend these Acts." Last month (December) the Committee issued its findings in the form of a Majority Report, signed by the Chairman (Viscount Ridley) and 11 members, subject to a reservation by two members; and a Minority Report, signed by three members. A summary of the recommendations is given below:—

MAJORITY REPORT

This Report recommends that houses in the upper range of the present controlled Class B (i.e., houses with a rateable value between £35 and £45 in the Metropolitan Police District and Scotland and between £20 and £35 elsewhere, which at present become decontrolled on change of tenancy) shall be decontrolled throughout Great Britain in 1938. The Report says: "The general conclusion which might be drawn from the various facts is that as regards Class B houses, of which there are now about twice as many as there were at the end of the war, there is not now such a shortage that if control were renewed scarcity rents could be exacted." It is recommended that the remainder of the houses in the present Class B should be combined with the present Class C to form one controlled class in which control should be continuous notwithstanding that the landlord may obtain vacant possession. This recommendation involves an added measure of control for approximately 650,000 houses in England, Scotland and Wales, i.e., they would no longer be decontrolled on change of tenancy. Thus, the new upper limit of rateable value of the houses remaining in control would be £35 in the Metropolitan Police District and Scotland and £20 elsewhere.

For England and Wales only, this Report also recommends a scheme for the gradual reduction and eventual termination of control over a period of years varying as between different areas based on the degree of overcrowding in the area. This scheme would be brought into operation in two distinct stages, in 1940 and 1942. In 1940 the Minister of Health would settle the areas to be treated as single units for control purposes, and the upper rateable value limit of the controlled class would be reduced by £5 in all areas where there was less than 4 per cent. of overcrowding. In all other areas the limits of the controlled class would remain unchanged and in this way differentiation between different areas would be begun.

In 1942 the time-table for the eventual termination of control would be settled on the following basis:—

Percentage of Overcrowding	Termination of control
Over 4 per cent.	1950
Between 3 and 4 per cent. ..	1948
Between 2 and 3 per cent. ..	1946
Between 1 and 2 per cent. ..	1945
Under 1 per cent.	1944

The time-table would be fixed by orders to be issued by the Minister of Health in 1942, which in the normal case would provide for the upper limit of rateable value of the controlled class to be reduced by successive stages of £4 until control had been finally brought to an end by the date shown in the table.

The advantages which the majority of the Committee claim for this scheme are, among others, that:—

(1) All houses in the present Class C, i.e., houses with a rateable value of £20 or under in London and £13 or under elsewhere would remain controlled until after 1942, the smallest houses thus being protected for the longest time.

(2) The scheme would greatly reduce the uncertainty as to the future of the Acts, which has in the past created difficulties for landlords and tenants alike.

Scotland. The housing shortage in Scotland is considered to be so much more acute than in England and Wales that no change is recommended apart from the decontrol of the larger Class B houses. It is thought that a further investigation may have to be made later on before any further measure of decontrol is introduced.

Rural Housing. In view of forthcoming legislation to deal further with the problem of the housing of the agricultural population, the Majority Report does not recommend special provisions for control for agricultural cottages after it has been terminated for working class houses generally.

Various useful minor amendments are recommended by the Majority Committee, some of which would be of assistance to landlords and others to tenants.

Some of these amendments are as follows:—The onus of proving in Court proceedings that the house is decontrolled to be placed on the landlord; the full name and address of both the landlord and his agent to be inserted in rent-books. The right to apply for an Order for possession of a house required by the owner for his own occupation without proving the existence of alternative accommodation which is now only enjoyed by owners who acquired their houses before July, 1931, to be extended to owners who acquired their property before the date of the Committee's report.

Decontrolled Class B houses in the lower range of rateable values to be registered in the same way as the present decontrolled Class C houses ; no further registration of decontrolled Class C houses after three months from amending legislation and even for Class B houses the registers to be finally closed within a year of amending legislation.

The benefit of the compounding allowance for rates to go to the landlord.

The period for recovering over-payments of rent to be extended from the present six months to one year.

The Rent Restrictions Acts should be consolidated.

The Majority Report is signed by all except the three Labour members of the committee, but Alderman Sir Miles Mitchell and Mr. Graham White, M.P., add a reservation stating that they do not approve of the measures for securing decontrol. They consider that it is wrong to take the overcrowding standard of the government as a basis for decontrol and they strongly object to the proposed automatic time limit.

THE MINORITY REPORT

This Report recommends that "control of some kind is desirable as a permanent feature of the housing service." It suggests that the present statutory standard of overcrowding represents too low a standard of accommodation to serve as a basis for the reduction and termination of control and may conceal a substantial increase of bad housing. It states that it would be most undesirable if, as a result of decontrol, tenants were forced into dwellings of a less desirable type and suggests that any measure of decontrol based on average conditions may occasion much hardship in individual cases. The three signatories of this Report, while dissenting from the main recommendation of the Majority Report, state that the scheme recommended in that Report is preferable to one involving immediate decontrol of Class C or the lower Class B houses.

In addition, the Minority Report urges that the period for recovery of over-payments of rent should be subject only to the Statute of Limitations, that distress should in all cases be levied only by leave of the Court, that it should be made the duty of local authorities to exercise their powers to supply information to landlords and tenants and that the right of an owner desiring his house for his own occupation to apply for an Order for possession without proving the existence of alternative accommodation ought not to be extended to owners who acquired their property after 1931 (the date in the present Acts).

CONFERENCES

In July last housing experts from no fewer than 24 countries gathered in Paris for the International Housing and Town Planning Congress, promoted by the International Housing Association (of Frankfurt-on-Maine) and the International Federation for Housing and Town Planning (of London). The three subjects discussed were : "Horizontal and/or Vertical Development" ; "National and Regional Planning" ; and "Rents for the Working-Classes." Reports on these problems have been published in book form. Incidentally, details of this year's Congress, to be held in Mexico City from August 13 to 20 next, have just been announced and the subjects for discussion are : "Underground Planning," "Housing in Tropical and Sub-tropical Countries," and "Planning Recreation and the use of Leisure Time." The Congress will be followed by a week's study tour of some of the most important developments in Mexico. Details may be had from the General Secretary of the International Federation for Housing and Town Planning, 25 Bedford Row, London, W.C.1.

Other major conferences held during the year included those promoted by the National Housing and Town Planning Council and one convened by the Dumbartonshire County Council, which was attended by representatives of local authorities in all parts of Scotland. The object of the conference was to seek solutions to the housing problems confronting the various Scottish authorities and, as a result of the meeting, it was decided to send a resolution direct to the Government demanding Parliamentary control of all house-building materials, control of diversion of materials from house building to luxury building, substantial increase of subsidies and the provision of financial assistance towards the erection of houses to meet the needs other than those of slum clearance and relief of overcrowding.

EXHIBITIONS

Housing exhibitions are becoming extremely popular. Last year a record number was held ; for instance, no fewer than nine were shown at the Housing Centre. Two of the most interesting were those organized by the Council for Art and Industry, one in London and the other in Edinburgh, exhibiting furniture and household equipment suited to limited incomes.

COMPETITIONS

The £500 premium in the competition for the layout of the Kincorth Estate, Aberdeen, for the Aberdeen Town Council was won by Messrs. Clifford Holliday, R. Gardner-Medwin, and Denis Winston, The scheme makes provision for 1,810 tenements, 1,100 flatted houses, and 380 dwellings. Another housing competition was also held in Scotland. The Glasgow Corporation, in connection with the Housing and Health Exhibition in Glasgow last October, invited designs for (*a*) a five-apartment cottage (to be built of normal construction), and (*b*) a flatted block of four-apartment houses (to be built of materials other than stone, brick or pre-cast concrete blocks, but of a permanent nature and the method of construction to be such as practically to eliminate the employment of masons or bricklayers). The winners were : Section (*a*), Mr. M. Cormie ; Section (*b*), Messrs. John G. Tedcastle and Leonard J. Pond.

Having dealt with competitions across the border I would like to mention that excellent progress is being made with the Birmingham flat scheme, which was the subject of an open competition in 1936, and won by Messrs. Wornum and Tripe. I would like to deal fully with this and the other housing activities in the provinces, such as the progress of the Quarry Hill (Mopin system) flats in Leeds, and the delay, now over, in the acceptance of tenders for some of the other housing work in that city ; the housing progress in Liverpool, Manchester and other cities, but unfortunately it is impossible to do so in this article.

BOOKS

In 1936 a record number of books on housing and allied subjects were published ; last year, however, there was a considerable drop in literature of this type. The most important was the Building Centre's volume entitled *Housing : A European Survey*, which dealt with working-class housing in six countries—England, France, Holland, Sweden, Denmark and Spain—the function of which "is neither to support nor oppose any political theory on housing, nor yet to offer proposals for the solution of the housing problem, but to supply to those interested an unbiased report upon what has already been done, so that they may benefit from the experience of others and have before them an analytical record of facts upon which they may form their own judgment." The volume includes 32 European schemes illustrated fully and described minutely, with essential facts about the housing laws of the countries concerned. Each has been chosen by the housing directors or others responsible for the housing works of the cities concerned as being representative of their work.

London Housing, issued by the L.C.C., deals mainly with the work of the Council, but space is also given to the work of the City of London Corporation and the Metropolitan Borough Councils, and to the more important philanthropic trusts, semi-philanthropic societies, and housing companies providing working - class dwellings for letting, but organized on commercial lines. This book is well illustrated.

Other books included *Britain and the Beast*, a collection of essays, edited by Mr. Clough Williams-Ellis, on the preservation and future development of the countryside ; *Metropolitan Man*, by Robert Sinclair, comprising a collection of data with reference to social conditions in London ; *Rent Rebates*, by Mr. Geoffrey Wilson, explaining a method of achieving lower rents without higher subsidies ; the second edition of *The Law of Housing and the Housing Acts*, by Mr. Alfred R. Taylour (the first edition was issued in July, 1936) ; *The Law of Housing and Town Planning*, by Mr. J. J. Clarke ; two booklets by Miss Olive Mathews—*Housing the Old* (third edition) and *Housing the Infirm*—the former reviews the housing needs of old people and the latter suggests improvement of old institutions and the planning of new ones. Mention should also be made of the literature issued by Government Departments ; for a complete record of these publications application should be made to H.M. Stationery Office for its Consolidated List of Government Publications.

THE BUILDINGS ILLUSTRATED

ZACHARY MERTON CONVALESCENT HOME, RUSTINGTON (pages 49-54). Architects: Stanley Hall and Easton and Robertson. The general contractors were Chapman, Lowry and Puttick, who were also responsible for the flush doors; and the principal sub-contractors included: Val de Travers Asphalte Paving Co., asphalte; Aga Heat, Ltd., cookers; Best and Lloyd, Ltd., electrical fittings; Drake and Gorham, electrical installation; Ferndern Fencing Co., Ltd., fencing; Vulcanite, Ltd., flat roofing; Diespeker & Co., Ltd., constructional floors; Carter & Co., Ltd., floor and wall tiling; Inlaid Ruboleum Tile Co., floor coverings (Ruboleum); Acme Flooring Co., Ltd., block flooring; Wontner-Smith, Gray & Co., Ltd., heating and hot water installation: Carter and Aynsley, Ltd., ironmongery; Henry Wilson & Co., Ltd., kitchen fittings; British Challenge Glazing Co., Ltd., lantern lights; J. A. King & Co., Ltd., roof lights; L. Christopher and Sons, Ltd., hand-power lifts; E. H. Samouelle, Ltd., cold water services and wastes and gas services; George Wright (London), Ltd., iron railings and stairs balustrades and gas fires; Harry Thornton & Co. (Leatherhead), Ltd., roof tiling; John Bolding and Sons, Ltd., sanitary fittings; Redpath, Brown & Co., Ltd., steelwork; The Croft Granite Co., Ltd., artificial stone; Diespeker & Co., Ltd., terrazzo works and reinforced concrete stairs; The Crittall Manufacturing Co., Ltd., steel windows; The Branham Nurseries, Ltd., hedges an dgarden work; Joseph Freeman, Sons & Co., Cementone; Moler Products, Ltd., "Fosalsil" flue bricks.

FLATS FOR GUINNESS TRUST, BRIXTON (pages 57-62). Architect, Edward Armstrong, F.R.I.B.A. The general contractors were C. Miskin and Sons, Ltd., and the principal sub-contractors and suppliers included: Frazzi, Ltd., paropa roofing; Crittall Manufacturing Co., Ltd., metal windows; Joseph Sankey and Sons, Ltd., metal door frames; Jos. Ebner, Ltd., wood block flooring; Cornes and Haighton, Ltd., hot water installation; F. H. Wheeler & Co., electric light installation; Freeman Heating Co., Ltd., heating installation; South Metropolitan Gas Co., gas services, gas coppers and gas fires; Austin Veneer Co., Ltd., doors; John Bolding and Sons, Ltd., sanitary fittings; O'Brien Thomas, Ltd., fireplace surrounds; Nettlefold and Sons, Ltd., ironmongery; Allen and Greaves, Ltd., balcony railings; Pilkington Brothers, Ltd., dome lights; Nautilus Fire Co., flue blocks; Ragusa Asphalte Paving Co., Ltd., asphalte; Co-Plastering, Ltd., plastering; Matthew Hall & Co., plumbing and rain-water heads; Stuart's Granolithic Co., Ltd., pre-cast concrete stairs and vents; Nobel Chemical Finishes, Ltd., paint: Carter & Co., Ltd., glazed tile cills, etc., Moler Products, Ltd., "Fosalsil" flue bricks and "Fosalsil" insulating partition blocks.

MARINE COURT, ST. LEONARDS-ON-SEA (pages 63-68). Architects: Kenneth Dalgliesh and Roger K. Pullen. The general contractors were Griggs and Son, Ltd., who were also responsible for the foundations. The sub-contractors and suppliers included: H. W. Pannett, Ltd., demolition and excavation; Engert and Rolfe, asphalte; Kleine Co., Ltd., reinforced concrete and patent flooring; Synthetic Stone, Ltd., artificial stone; Edward Wood & Co., Ltd., structural steel; Roberts Adlard & Co., Ltd., tiles and sanitary fittings; Field and Palmer, Ltd., special roofings; Electrical Installations, Ltd., central heating, electric wiring and electric heating; Towler & Son, Ltd., boilers; Matthew Hall & Co., Ltd., ventilation and plumbing; N. F. Ramsay, Ltd., door furniture and cloakroom fittings; Grittall Manufacturing Co., Ltd., casements and window furniture; Reliance Telephone Co., telephones; Caston & Co., Ltd., folding gates; Central Perivale, Ltd., fireproof doors and joinery; D. Sebel & Co., Ltd., iron staircases; F. J. Barnes, Ltd., stonework; Maple & Co., Ltd., furniture; J. and E. Hall, Ltd., lifts; Garrard Clocks, Ltd., clocks; Adams and Jarrett, Ltd., signs; R. Passmore & Co., Ltd., cement, facing bricks, plaster, etc.; Plastona, Ltd., waterproofing; F. R. Bones and Son, and J. J. and S. W. Chalk, timber; Scaffolding (G. B.), Ltd., scaffolding; Eldridge and Cruttenden, Ltd., sand; Masonite, Ltd., concrete shuttering; Clock House Brick Co., hollow bricks; T. W. Palmer & Co., balustrades and guard rails; Stonehenge Bricks, Ltd., bricks; Gypsum Mines, Ltd., Sirapite plaster; Goodlass Wall & Co., Ltd., Sussex paints; Davidson & Co., Ltd., ventilating plant; Sissons Bros. & Co., Ltd., Hall's distemper and tungcrete paint; Johnson and Phillips, cables; Pirelli, Ltd., cables; Christie (Decorators), Ltd., decorating; English Electric Co., Ltd., main switchgear; Bastian and Allen, Ltd., immersion heaters; General Electric Co., conduits and switchgear; Julius Sax & Co., Ltd., bell transformers and indicators; "M.K." Electric, Ltd., switch plugs; Kolster Brandes, Ltd., "community" aerial; Chloride Electrical Storage Co., emergency lighting; Laurence Scott and Electromotors, Ltd., electric motors; J. Gardner & Co., Ltd., air ducts; Simplifix Couplings, Ltd., compression joints; Pulsometer Engineering Co., Ltd., pumps; Mather and Platt, Ltd., tanks; Davis Bennett & Co., Ltd., sanitary services; Storry, Smithson & Co., Ltd., paint; British Oxygen Co., Ltd., welding; Walworth, Ltd., copper tubes; S. Dixon and Son, Ltd., fire equipment; Burn Bros. (London), Ltd., cast-iron drains; Rheostatic Co., thermostats; Crosby Valve and Engineering Co., Ltd., mixing valves; Automatic Sprinkler Co., Ltd., sprinklers; Green Bros., kitchen fitments; John Mealey (London), Ltd., concrete roof lights; Adamite Co., Ltd., "Bull Dog" floor clips; Cozens and Sutcliffe, Ltd., steel erection; C. Butterfield & Co., flagstaffs; Fraser Colour Products, Ltd., aluminium paint; Jackson Electric Stove Co., Ltd., electric cookers; Honeywill and Stein, wood block flooring.

EXTENSIONS AND ALTERATIONS TO HUDDERSFIELD INDUSTRIAL SOCIETY'S CENTRAL PREMISES. Architect: W. A. Johnson (pages 69-72). General contractors, The Co-operative Wholesale Society, Ltd., who were also responsible for gasfitting, plumbing, joinery, shop fittings and shop fronts. The sub-contractors included: Trussed Concrete Steel Co., Ltd., and the Grip Steel Bar Co., Ltd., reinforced concrete and floors; Elliott's Bricks, Ltd., bricks; Joe Shaw and Sons, stone; Empire Stone Co., Ltd., artificial stone; James E. Norris & Co., Ltd., structural steel; Vulcanite, Ltd., roofing felt; Pilkington Brothers, Ltd., glass; W. H. Heywood & Co., Ltd., patent glazing and ventilation; T. K. Yeates & Co., woodblock flooring; Super Floors, Ltd., patent flooring, lintile linoleum and stairtreads; Richard Crittall and Co., Ltd., central heating and calorifier; County Borough of Huddersfield, kitchen gas fixtures; Huddersfield Ind. Society, Ltd., electric wiring; General Electric Co., Ltd., electric light fixtures; Huddersfield Corporation, ventilation; Doulton & Co., Ltd., sanitary fittings: W. R. Leggott, Ltd., door furniture; Crittall Manufacturing Co., Ltd., casements and window furniture; G.P.O., telephones; Haskins, and Mather and Platt, Ltd., rolling shutters; Haywards, Ltd., iron staircases and pavement lights; Van Kannel Revolving Door Co., Ltd., revolving doors; Haskins, sunblinds; J. Eastham and Sons, plaster; L. Stead and Sons, decorative plaster; Birmingham Guild, Ltd., and George Wragge, Ltd., metal work; H. Ashton Floyd, A.R.C.A. (SC.LOND.), stonework carving; Plymouth Grove Studios, stonework; J. and H. Patteson, Ltd., marble; W. Fisher and Sons, tiling; British Leather Mat Co., rubber mats; Etchells Congdon and Muir, Ltd., lifts; Gent & Co., Ltd., electric clocks; Mather and Platt, Ltd., sprinkler installation; Lamson Engineering Co., Ltd., cash carrier system and vacuum cleaning installation; S. Newton & Co., Ltd., signs.

NEW LIBRARY FOR THE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF SWANSEA (pages 73-77). Architect: Verner O. Rees, F.R.I.B.A. The general contractors were E. Turner and Sons, Ltd., and the principal sub-contractors and suppliers included: C. Isler & Co., Ltd., trial borings; Excel Asphalte Co., Ltd., asphalte work; Buckley Junction Brick Co., bricks; Waygood-Otis, Ltd., trolley lift; Luxfer, Ltd., metal bookstacks; J. A. King & Co., Ltd., concrete glass laylights; James Gibbons, Ltd., metal windows; J. and E. Hall, Ltd., ash hoist; F. Bradford & Co., Ltd., precast stone clerestory windows; T. Clarke & Co., Ltd., electrical installation; Runnymede Rubber Co., Ltd., rubber flooring; H. H. Martyn & Co., Ltd., gallery and balcony railing; G. N. Haden and Sons, Ltd., heating and hot water; Hollis Bros. & Co., Ltd., teak flooring; D. J. Weaver, bronze pull handles; North of England School Furnishing Co., cloakroom fittings; Best and Lloyd, Ltd., electric light fittings; Ben Evans & Co., Ltd., sunblinds.

TIMES FURNISHING CO., BIRMINGHAM (pages 78-81). Architect: C. J. Eprile. The general contractors were Bovis Ltd., and the consulting engineer was C. J. Pell. The principal sub-contractors and suppliers included: Siemens Schuckert (Gt. Britain), Ltd., telephones; A. C. Cossor, Ltd., metal letters; Ionlite, Ltd., neon signs; Etna Lighting and Heating Co., Ltd., electrical installation; Concrete, Ltd., floors, roof, canopy, and staircases; F. Sage & Co., Ltd., aluminium handrails, balustrading Staybrite panels; Crittall Manufacturing Co., Ltd., metal casements; Potter Rax Gate Co., Ltd., shutter gates and bronze tracks; Comyn Ching & Co. (London), Ltd., heating installation; Marbello and Durus, Ltd., travertine to main staircase; Hammond and Champness, lifts; Nettlefold, door furniture; H. D. Foulkes, Ltd., sanitary fittings; C. Bryant and Son, Ltd., Portland stone; Haskins, escape staircase; Rubery, Owen & Co., Ltd., steelwork; Pollards, shop front; Pilkington Bros., glass; Martin Van Straaten, tiling; Bull Motors (Branch of E. R. & F. Turner), silent motors.

Manufacturers' Items

The Tunnel Asbestos Cement Co., Ltd., write: "We desire to inform you that we have concluded an agreement with Turners Asbestos Cement Co., branch of Turner and Newall, Ltd., whereby that company will, in future, exclusively market all Tunnel Asbestos Cement products. In consequence of this arrangement, our selling organization will be discontinued after December 31, 1937, so that it will assist us greatly if those who have orders or contracts outstanding with us on that date will consent to their being taken over and invoiced by Turners Asbestos Cement Co. As our future activities will be vested solely in the manufacturing side of the business at our works at West Thurrock, we should like to express the earnest hope that our merchant distributors will co-operate wholeheartedly with Turners Asbestos Cement Co., and in that way continue to participate in the future development of Tunnel Asbestos Cement Products, to our mutual advantage."

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The Ruberoid Co., Ltd., have taken over new and enlarged premises at Manchester. The new address will be 708 Chester Road, Stretford, Manchester. Trafford Park 1902.

Catalogue Received

L.W. Panel Board. Issued by Brown and Tawse, Ltd., of St. Leonard's Street, Bromley-by-Bow, E.3. (This brochure will be reviewed in a future issue.)