THE

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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, FEBRUARY 20, 1941. NUMBER 2404: VOLUME 93

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS

Owing to the paper shortage the JOURNAL, *in common with all other papers, is now only supplied to newsagents on a "firm order" basis. This means that newsagents are now unable to supply the* JOURNAL *except to a client's definite order.*

To obtain your copy of the JOURNAL *you must therefore either place a definite order with your newsagent or send a subscription order to the Publishers.*

HOUSE IN NORWAY

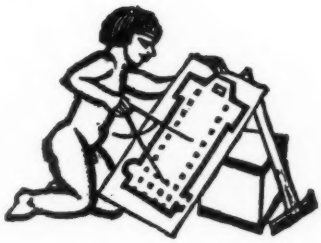
The house overlooks the Oslo fiord and cost £1,000. The basement is of concrete and the upper floors of timber. The walls are of 4-in. studs, insulated with two layers of building board and two layers of tarred paper and covered with three sheathings of ¾-in. boarding. The larger part of the boarding is painted red externally. The house was designed by Dick Advocaat.

THE MIDDLE TEMPLE

The Temple, in common with the other Inns of Court, has suffered damage from the aerial bombardment of the City and central London. The major part of the destruction has been confined to the 18th century sets of chambers which form the major part of the buildings of the Inns, but both Middle Temple Hall and Middle Temple Library have been severely damaged.

The photograph above shows the end wall of the Middle Temple Hall which was built between 1572 and 1575. Its double hammer-beam roof and the elaborately carved woodwork of its screen made it one of the best-known buildings of the early English Renaissance.

On the left is the Middle Temple Library which was swept by blast. The Library was built between 1858 and 1861: internally it bears a small-scale resemblance to Westminster Hall. Its designer was an undistinguished architect called H. R. Abraham, whose appointment is most easily explained by his wife's uncle being Sir Richard Bethell, Attorney-General at the time, and an ardent promoter of the Library building scheme.



RECONSTRUCTION: FIRST THOUGHTS

TO judge by its public expression, the consideration which architects have so far given to problems of post-war reconstruction has been confined to small parts of its physical aspects—rebuilding in cities and the construction or æsthetics of post-war building.

This apparent limitation of the profession's interest does not necessarily mean that architects think that details of construction and æsthetics are more than the last wag of the tail of the reconstruction dog—nor that they think they can influence the eventual form of the dog by writing to *The Times* about these things. But it probably does mean that many architects feel that until reconstruction comes down to matters of layout, construction and æsthetics architects have no concern with it.

This view the JOURNAL believes to be wrong. Architects have little time at present to think about reconstruction, but the part building will play in it is so vast that it is vital that every architect should do his best to understand what problems of reconstruction will have to be solved, and the way in which they probably will be solved, before bricks and mortar come into the matter. So far as one can prophesy anything in February 1941, post-war reconstruction must consist of two parts: (1) formation of political and industrial policy and the organization needed for its execution; (2) actual construction, including control of materials and the solution of structural and æsthetic problems.

Part 2 of reconstruction will be the chief concern of the building industry. But the worth of Part 2 will be so dependent on the solutions found for Part 1 that it is worth while, even at this stage, to try to sketch the general form which those solutions will have to take.

One or two points are already plain. The longer the war lasts the greater will be the difficulties of the changeover to a peace economy and the longer the time for which central guidance will be required. The war has already taught us (if the Nazi economy has not) that, providing labour and materials are available, finance is a secondary consideration in any national effort. Thirdly, all major industries will need guidance and assistance in redevelopment over a period of years to meet post-war conditions.

Once it is admitted that industry will need this guidance and assistance if the Armed Forces are to be reabsorbed—and precious few now doubt it—the general form of Reconstruction, Part 1, begins to take shape. From Government responsibility for the re-establishment of industry, there follows inevitably a large measure of responsibility for the location of industry, for securing "industrial balance" in each area, for factory reconstruction and extension, and finally for the housing and social and public services needed by each industrial group. In short, the Government must guide and assist industry after the war and this help cannot be given in any effective way without bringing in its train a positive territorial planning policy on the one hand and great changes in local government on the other. For if post-war industry is to set the pace for recovery, and it must, reconstruction must be built up around industry or industrial groupings and such a reconstruction will cut across, at every stage, the present local government system where one authority looks after the drains, another the housing and schools, another the town planning. In England and Wales there are at present 63 administrative counties, 83 county boroughs, and a host of lesser authorities, all at odds with each other, the days of telephones, motors and wireless in which we live, and the logical industrial groupings of their areas.

Therefore central guidance for industry, a positive territorial planning policy and local administrative reform, will almost certainly be the main methods by which Reconstruction, Part 1, will be carried out.

These methods and their results will affect architects and architecture radically. They will do so, first of all, because the territorial planners and the architect-townplanners working with them will be the real architects of the new Britain. That is one point to which architects, so long uninterested in town planning, would do well to pay attention.

Secondly, they will influence the construction, and therefore the æsthetics, of all post-war buildings. This is unavoidable. The re-establishment of peace industries will be the first post-war need, and there can be no doubt that the Ministry of Building will both control materials to this end and will also change over as many war factories as possible to the manufacture of building materials. Such materials will be dry, light and standardized and they will be used because there will be nothing else to use.

These are a few—only a few—of the reasons why architects who wait until reconstruction becomes a matter of sites and elevations before they take an interest in it may well find themselves in a world of which they understand not one single thing.

The Architects' Journal
45 The Avenue, Cheam, Surrey
Telephone: Vigilant 0087-9.

NOTES & TOPICS

MR. C. F. A. VOYSEY

THE news of the death of Mr. C. F. A. Voysey, one of Britain's most notable figures in architecture and the allied arts, will be heard with regret by architects throughout the world—and by British architects with the consciousness that only just in time, only last year, had they paid to Mr. Voysey an honour trebly earned a quarter of a century before. Only last year was Mr. Voysey given the Royal Gold Medal.

*

This forgetfulness of the man himself, while his works were mentioned in every review of the architecture of the past half century, can be in part explained, though not excused, by Mr. Voysey's attitude to life and to architecture. No man cared less for limelight or controversy or "modernity" in any form, and no prophet had more resolutely refused to mount the pedestal prepared for him. Moving sedately in clothes designed by himself between his chambers in St. James's Street and his chair at the Arts Club, Mr. Voysey watched all the architectural moves of 1919–1939 without any comment.

*

His outlook towards architecture was, so far as one can understand his view, Gothic. He let external form grow "naturally" from plan in the light of the limitations and properties of the materials he used. This, of course, is the outlook of modern architects—but it was a revolutionary outlook when Mr. Voysey practised it in his famous houses; and it is for this redirection of architectural energy that we owe him so much.

*

With Mr. Voysey's death, one of our few remaining links with the world of William Morris, Philip Webb, and the Art Workers' Guild has gone. And it seems somehow fitting that the corner at the Arts Club which he occupied for so long should have gone too.

THE NEW SHELTER

The new steel table shelter, which made its bow to the public last week, and is shown on p. 134 of this issue, has considerable points. It cuts out treks to Tubes or to the garden—a physical and psychological advantage of great importance. It allows normal use of the room it occupies. It provides the great psychological reassurance of having "cover" where it can be used instantly. This third advantage, to my mind, is the greatest. I have passed two or three bad Blitz nights in a Civil Defence Post which had a billiard table. Those on duty seemed to Astragal men wholly devoid of nerves, but it was noticeable that those not otherwise engaged always assembled about the billiard table as the storm grew greater.

*

In addition, the new shelter will be used in spaces from which some at least of the sights and sounds of the Blitz are excluded.

*

The actual physical protection given by the shelter is far more difficult to assess than its other qualities. The house next door, or next door but one, to a direct hit usually suffers no more than doors and windows blown in, ceilings down and sometimes partial collapse of floors and one party wall. To all of these the new shelter should stand up well. At the risk of claustrophobia for the occupants, I would have preferred sheet steel sides, both for cross-bracing and to stop things like glass splinters. But no doubt these things have been well considered in conjunction with the present steel supply.

"WITH THE GREATEST POSSIBLE SPEED"

Last week the Minister of Building appointed Major-General K. C. Appleyard to be Director of Emergency Reconstruction at the Ministry of Building. The new Director's primary job will be to see that war factories damaged in air raids are repaired with the greatest possible speed.

*

The measures to be used for this purpose seem excellent. But I hope the new Director will not allow himself to be satisfied by the paper perfection of any plan, but will make sure, by heart to heart chats with those who have tried to carry out high-speed repair, where the weakness of previous schemes lay. Here is a story that may help him:

*

An architect attached to a certain Department possessed knowledge of the materials and labour available for priority repairs in a certain area, and the day after that area had been bombed he was told to go up, *at once*, and place himself at the disposal of the technical officers and factory engineers concerned with the repairs to certain classes of factory.

*

The area affected was large, the inhabitants were unaccustomed to Blitzes and were somewhat put out, and about 20 factories were involved—located in a dozen dreary one-hotel-three-taxi industrial towns. The architect arrived after a 14-hour journey at 6 a.m. Filled with desire to get things done, he dumped his stuff in the first hotel, shaved and breakfasted and took the only taxi to the first factory. (Trams, trains and buses were more than a little wonky.)

*

By the time opposite numbers had been collected in the factory and a rough plan of action evolved, it was 3 p.m. The architect got back to the hotel at 11 p.m. The next day he got a lift to the next factory, but had to take a town's only taxi to a materials dump and back (three hours). At 7.30 (the taxi having disappeared) he made

his way by bus and tram back to his hotel. The journey, including waits, took two hours and a half for seven miles and was indescribable.

*

I need not go through the rest of that twelve-day trip. The surroundings were macabre, the hitches (in telephones, letters, missed meetings and misunderstandings) were beyond recollection, the hours were never less than fourteen a day and once were twenty-four. But my acquaintance, and those with whom he worked, left nothing to chance and nobody who could help untried. And before the end, the factories all had working conditions restored and were all at work.

*

Then came the sequel. Three weeks later the architect's expense account was sliced practically in half on the grounds (*a*) that the hotels he patronized were too expensive, and (*b*) that no taxi fare was chargeable without proof that other means of conveyance was unobtainable.

*

Now, it is clear that if the public purse is to be protected the expenses incurred by the staff of Departments must be subject to scrutiny. But in my view they should be subjected to intelligent scrutiny—meaning personal enquiry, by an intelligent person possessing powers of discretion, into the circumstances of individual claims.

*

To the business man, even to architects, the idea of our Blitz-chaser spending his first morning in a bombed area arranging for a suitably placed lodging at a certain cost and the next twenty-four hours working out (mostly interrupted) bus and tram routes between factory and factory, seems farcical. But not to Civil Servant accountants. One hopes Major-General Appleyard will make them think differently.

JAUNT FROM SWINDON

Should you ever be condemned to pass a couple of hours or so at Swindon, go and have a look at Lydiard Tregoze—a tiny village within sight of Swindon's brickwork, but still living in another century. It lies three miles or so to the north-west of the town, and is reached through a gateway off the Purton Road. The village itself is only a huddle of thatched cottages of no particular interest, but beyond, approached along a lofty avenue, lies the little church, almost hidden in the shadow of Lydiard Park.

*

I walked up to it the other day, and finding the churchyard gate locked decided to ask for the key at the house. This was a vast peeling mansion, of which two façades were stone-faced, pedimented, and sashwindowed, and the rest was a tangle of crazy roofs, diamond panes and Elizabethan plasterwork. The drive was moss-covered, the shrubs untended. The high windows gazed down uncurtained and relentless. A miasma of dignified and melancholy decay, like that distilled from the stones of Irish country houses, hung about the heavy chimneys and broken urns upon the parapet.

*

I reached the front door and pulled the bell. Faintly it tinkled in a distant pantry. No footsteps came, and I peered through a side window. A stuffed puffin in a glass case regarded me with a beady and unfriendly eye. I rang again, and this time a side door in a stable-wing opened, and a voice announced, "The young Lord is out shooting." I asked for the key of the church, but that, alas, was out shooting too, snug in the pocket of the steward.

*

I scaled the churchyard wall and approached the church, which is small, built of golden-pink stone and graced with pierced-stone lattices in its tower. I found a window which gave a fine view of a really remarkable interior—full of richness and colour. The screen was an elaborate and semi-classical affair painted white and gold. Resting upon it, and almost filling the chancel arch, was the Royal Arms in full relief and gay with heraldic colours, while round the walls was ranged a magnificent collection of memorial sculptures, in relief and in the round, both uncoloured and elaborately painted. In the corner of the window through which I looked was a small etched panel and a few words. It read, "I, T. Tanner, Plumber Glazier and Painter releaded this light on June 10th, 1819."

*

I hope if you go to Lydiard Tregoze you will be more fortunate with the key than I was. But in any case do not go on to Lydiard Millicent. Externally the church is similar—inside, it is a dreary waste of primrose distemper and stained oak.

SCALE

I had not seen him since the beginning of the war, but had heard he was now a junior lecturer at a provincial school of architecture. I asked him how he liked his job.

*

"Oh, all right," he answered; "they're an intelligent lot on the whole, and I'm beginning to get the hang of lecturing now. To-morrow I'm giving them a talk on scale!" He gave an embarrassed laugh. "Can you imagine a more awful thing to try to explain?"

"Scale, scale," I said, reminding him of the old A.A. couplet, "you are the reason why we fail!"

"The best judge of scale I ever met," he said, "was a St. Bernard dog."

I accepted the part of stooge.

*

"It was years ago," he said, "when I was doing a post-graduate course in America. The Faculty of Architecture building was a simple oblong place, built of stone, and about thirty feet high. The main elevation was blank except for a small row of windows at cornice level and a tiny entrance door, only about six foot six high. Hopelessly out of scale of course. The building just looked like a model of something much larger. All the design lecturer had to do was to take us out and make us look at the thing. That was enough for most of us."

*

"But how about the dog?" I said.

*

"Oh, yes. It belonged to the janitor. It was a huge great brute—nearly five feet high when sitting upright—and most intelligent. It used to lie most of the day on the lawn, and watch the entrance door to the architecture school. Sooner or later the lecturer would bring out a class for their object lesson. The dog would watch until the talk reached its climax, and then, slowly rising to its feet, it would pad heavily over to the door, and then sit down in the middle of it—its head almost touching the transom. It was the crowning comment. It made the building look about ten feet high!"

ASTRAGAL

NEWS

R.I.B.A.

NEW MEMBERS

On February 4, 1941, the following members were elected :—

As Hon. Fellow (1).—Churchill, the Right Hon. W. S., P.C., C.H., M.P. (London).

As Hon. Corresponding Members (2).—McCornack, W. R. (Cleveland, Ohio) ; Wright, F. L. (Spring Green, Wisconsin).

As Fellows (6).—Gale, A. H. (London) ; Illingworth, A. J. A. (Bristol) ; O'Rorke, E. B., M.A. (Camb.), R.D.I., N.R.D. (London) ; Ritchie, T. (London). *Overseas.*—Keesing, G. S. (Sydney, N.S.W.) ; Streeter, F. R. (Ndola, Northern Rhodesia).

As Associates (10).—Bailey, H. G. (Northwood, Middlesex) ; Capon, C. K., A.A. Dipl. (Architectural Association) (London) ; Crowe, R. V. (Architectural Association) (London) ; Dyson, D. L. (Leeds School of Architecture) (Leeds) ; Holland, R. B. (Architectural Association) (London) ; Nash, P. B., Dip. Arch., Leeds (Leeds School of Architecture) (Huddersfield) ; Smith, Miss S. B. (Architectural Association) (London) ; Whatley, Miss J. (Architectural Association) (Treflach, near Oswestry, Shropshire) ; Widdup, F. M., Dip. Arch. (Distinction) (Leeds School of Architecture) (Barnoldswick, via Colne). *Overseas.*—Brandt, A. J. (Architectural Association) (Shanghai).

As Licentiates (4).—Beech, W. (Walkden) ; Buttle, A. (Paignton) ; Reid, J. (Newcastle-upon-Tyne) ; Rutter, J. W. (Sunderland).

DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY RECONSTRUCTION

Lord Reith, Minister of Works and Buildings, has appointed Major-General K. C. Appleyard, C.B.E., to the post of Director of Emergency Reconstruction, within the Building Priority Department.

It is one of the principal duties of the Ministry of Works and Buildings to exercise general direction and control over the building programme throughout the country. For this purpose a special Building Priority Department was established, and in the last three months much of this Department's attention has necessarily been devoted to the immediate requirements of emergency reconstruction in bombed areas. The arrangements which were made for Coventry and elsewhere are now being extended and regularized, so as to include the permanent establishment of area officers throughout the country. These area officers will work in close liaison with the emergency services organization of the Ministry of Aircraft Production and its local Emergency Reconstruction Panels.

The objective of the Director of Emergency Reconstruction, co-ordinating with the emergency services organization of the Ministry of Aircraft Production, will be to concentrate on the repair of vital factories and buildings with the greatest possible speed, so that the war production may suffer as little as possible. Thus, engineers and surveyors will be on the spot, possibly before the raid is over ; materials rushed in, to whatever extent may be necessary ; and local interests fully co-ordinated. Special action is being taken to deal with all labour problems. The organization, though primarily intended for war factory repair, will be available for any urgent repair of a similar nature.

Major-General Kenelm Charles Appleyard, who is 46 years of age, is associated in civil life with a number of mechanical engineering, mining, and civil engineering concerns in this and other countries. A keen Territorial officer, he was appointed Chief Engineer to the R.A.F. component of the B.E.F., and was responsible for raising a large number of construction and artisan works companies of the Royal Engineers in a very short space of time. On the evacuation of the B.E.F. he was appointed a Director of Labour Supply and Industrial Adviser to the Minister of Labour, later forming the International Labour Branch, of which he is now the head, and acting as liaison officer between the War Office and the Ministry of Labour. He is a member of the Industrial Capacity Committee of the Production Executive of the War Cabinet, and was awarded the C.B.E. last December for service in France.

AUCKLAND COMPETITION RESULT

Sir Giles Gilbert Scott, R.A., F.R.I.B.A., the assessor, has now made his award in the competition for a Cathedral for the Diocese of Auckland, and his report has been sent to the promoters in New Zealand. His award places the following competitors in the four premiated positions :—

1*st* (*Premium* £1,000) : *Design No.* 22.—Mr. Charles Towle, A.R.I.B.A., A.N.Z.I.A., 901-2 Barrack House, 16 Barrack Street Sydney, N.S.W.

2*nd* (*Premium* £400) : *Design No.* 23.—Mr. Amyas D. Connell, A.R.I.B.A., A.N.Z.I.A., Well House, Well, near Long Sutton, Hants, England.

3*rd* (*Premium* £200) : *Design No.* 14.—Messrs. Fergus G. F. Sheppard, A.N.Z.I.A., 35 Challenger Street, St. Heliers Bay, Auckland, E.1, and J. R. P. Blake-Kelly, B.Arch., A.R.I.B.A., A.N.Z.I.A., P.O. Box 829, Auckland, New Zealand.

4*th* (*Premium* £100) : *Design No.* 7.—Messrs. T. K. Donner, A.R.I.B.A., A.N.Z.I.A., and H. Bartlett, B.Arch., A.R.I.B.A., A.N.Z.I.A., Bank of N.Z. Chambers, Swanson Street, Auckland, C.1, New Zealand.

The four premiated designs are on exhibition at the New Zealand Government Office, 415 Strand, London, W.C.2.

VACANCIES FOR ARCHITECTS

The following information from the A.A.S.T.A. Employment Register has been sent to the Ministry of Labour and National Service. The request for the information was made to the deputation which was received at the Ministry on January 11.

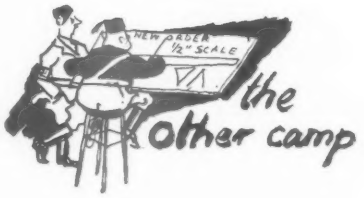
Of the vacant positions notified to this Association since October 1, 1940, approximately 200 situations were for architects or architectural assistants in connection with work of national importance, 170 being in dangerous areas and 33 in safe areas. Our Employment Register was able to put forward the names of about 43 men for the jobs, but it has been found very much more difficult to fill positions in the country than in the towns.

The date mentioned above was chosen to include the effects of the first large-scale bombing of London. At the moment the Employment Register has particulars of 26 vacant situations, and has a list of nine men who might be suitable.

DECORATING DAMAGED SHOP FRONTS

Artists and art students in Liverpool have volunteered to paint and decorate boarded shop fronts damaged in air raids. They are being encouraged in their work by the Merseyside Civic Society, which has launched a scheme to brighten the bombed parts of the City. A sub-committee, composed mainly of architects and artists, has been formed to conduct the campaign.

Mr. C. F. A. Voysey, whose death last week is the subject of a note by Astragal on page 124.



SINCE the Nazi and Fascist parties came into power, a measurable proportion of party energy has been spent on telling the German and Italian peoples that there was a good time coming. Broadcasting has naturally played a large part in the campaign—the People's Car, the People's Flat, and People's Smallholdings in Libya have all been promised and described on the air. Latterly, these broadcasts have become more frequent, and many of them have dealt with the good things that are coming, after the war, in the way of buildings. Below, the JOURNAL *prints a further selection of what is now being promised to those who do what they are told in The Other Camp.*

Deutschlandsender 1571 m. In German for Germans : Two News Items and a Talk.

Churchill Planning Skyscrapers

Churchill's illusions now take the form of skyscrapers. He has entrusted an architect with the reconstruction of London after the war. In this, skyscrapers play a large part. Churchill even got himself elected an honorary member of the Royal Institute of British Architects. Churchill, who cannot cope with the problems of the war, is occupying himself with plans which will never be realized.

Steel Shares and London Reconstruction

While practically all sections of the London Stock Exchange are paralysed and the turnover in shares has been shrinking, steel shares are an exception. The rise in steel shares is due to the fact that speculators regard it as a foregone conclusion that Sir John Reith and his architects will rebuild London in concrete, steel and glass with Epstein statues as suitable decoration.

Hitler Can Prepare for Peace

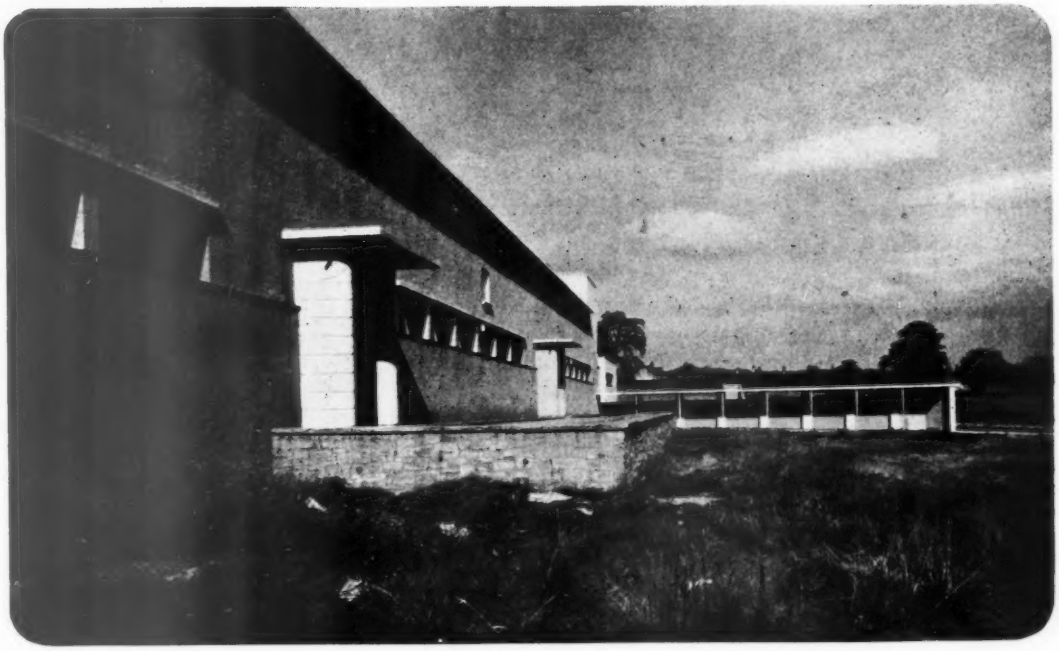
Hitler's plan for new workers' houses after peace is signed is not just a promise. In fact, nothing has been promised. But all plans are being organized. In England a similar campaign would have been launched by thousands of speeches ; but nothing would have been done. In the last war "Homes for Heroes" were mere politicians' promises. The German plans, to which the Fuehrer contributed his expert advice, are an advance from good to better. National Socialism did away with bad slums. Now the Reich population is increasing and it is part of the Fuehrer's policy to foresee difficulties and eliminate them before they arise. English workers may be interested to hear that for four to five room dwellings, with further accommodation, the weekly rent works out at 7s. 6d.

Britain is doing no planning. But in Germany even building could be started immediately. Materials are available here, though Britain cannot even build sufficient safe shelters. The B.B.C. has jeered at this gigantic German project because air raid shelters are going to be provided in the new homes. But if you take out insurance against fire you do not intend to start a conflagration, unless you belong to the Chosen Race. Hitler never wanted this war, nor does he want any future one.

SCHOOL

SIR JOHN BURNET, TAIT AND LORNE, ARCHITECTS

FREDERICK MACMANUS
CHIEF ASSISTANT



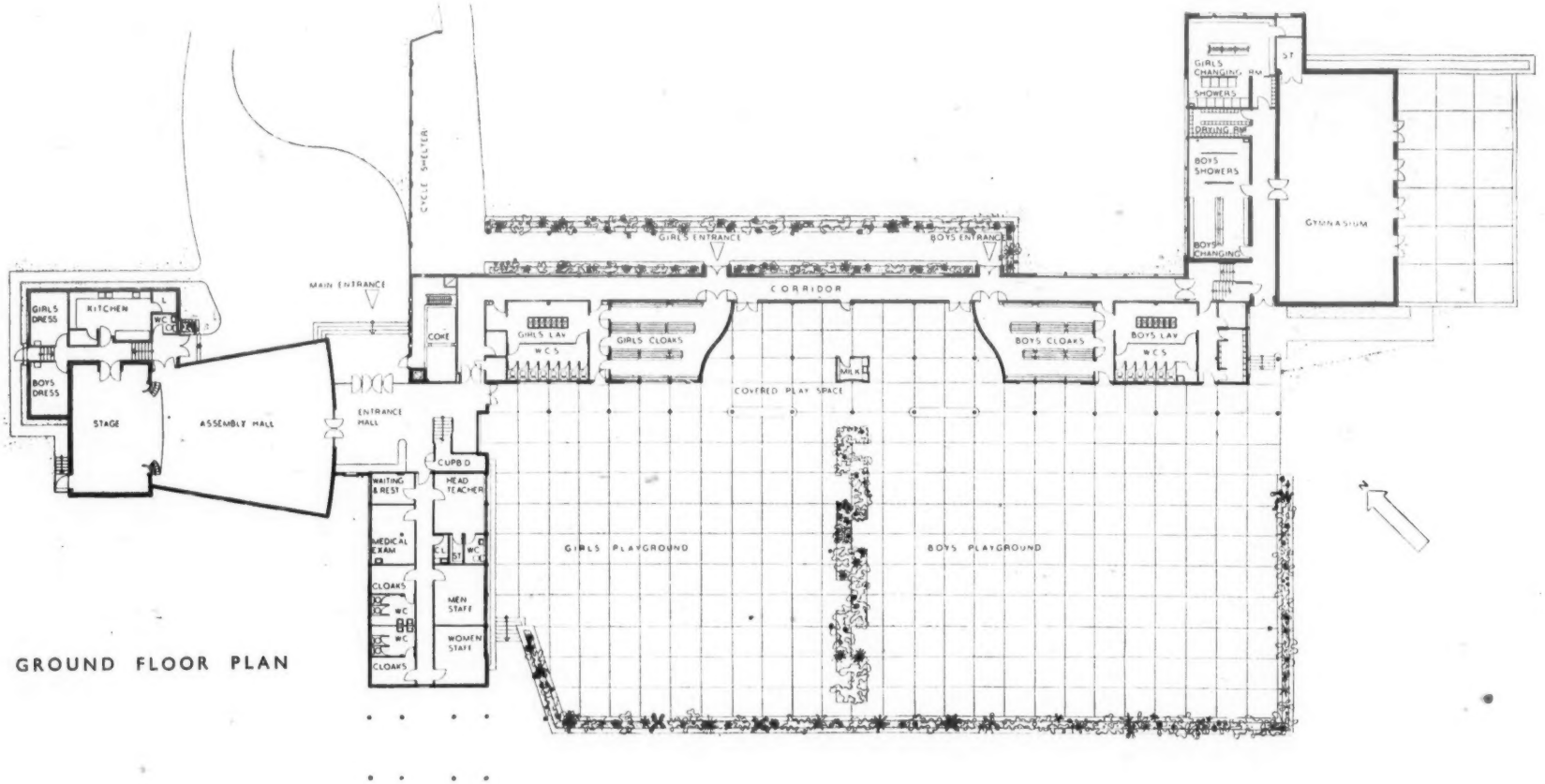
GENERAL—Mixed senior school for the West Riding County Education Committee, accommodating 280 children and standing on a site of about 10½ acres, just off the High Street of Ecclesfield town. The school buildings and playground occupy about one acre of the site, leaving the remainder for playing fields.

CONSTRUCTION—Light steel frame, with panel walls of brickwork. All partition walls are independent of the main structure so that future alterations can be easily made. The walls externally are rendered with waterproof cement and finished with Derbyshire spar dashing. Plinths, retaining walls and flower boxes are of random rubble stonework. Internally the walls and ceilings of the first floor rooms are lined with special insulating material to reduce heat losses.

Top, notice board at entrance gates : it is of bronze with enamelled lettering and coat of arms. Above, corridor side of laboratory wing, showing pupils' entrances

The school from the south ; on the extreme right is the gymnasium

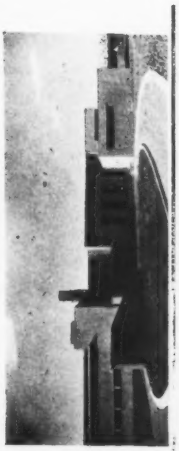
FIRST FLOOR PLAN

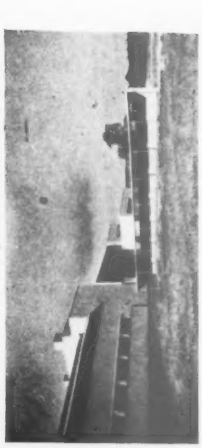


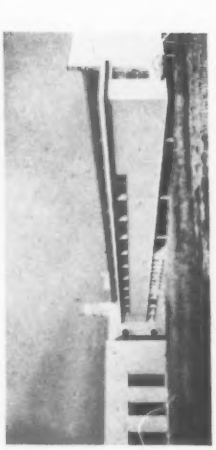
GROUND FLOOR PLAN

PLAN—The assembly hall can be used as a social centre in the evenings without interfering with ordinary school purposes, and the entrance hall is large enough to be used as an exhibition hall. A kitchen adjoins the assembly hall, and from it about fifty of the children, who come from a distance, can be served with dinner. The stage is used as a dining hall to avoid having to move the assembly hall seating each day. The changing rooms and shower baths connected with the gymnasium have direct access from the playing fields.

SCHOOL AT ECCLESFIELD, YORKSHIRE • BY SIR JOHN BURNET, TAIT AND LORNE





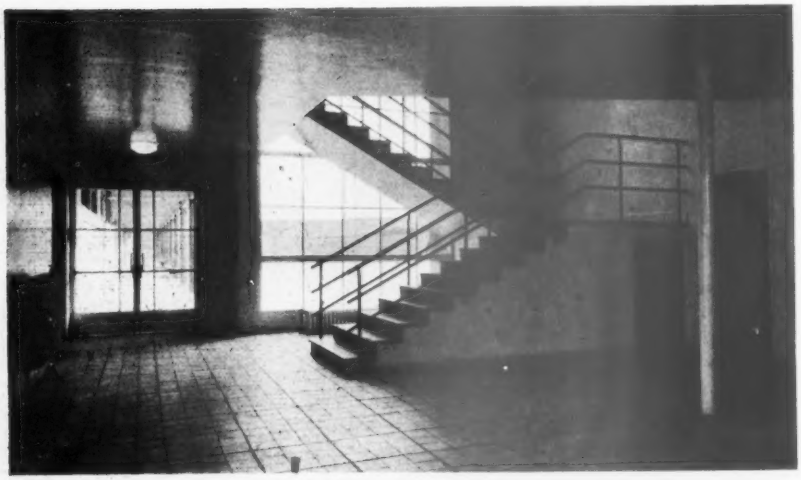


Left, from top to bottom, main entrance and assembly hall ; corridor side of laboratory block ; classroom wing, corridor side ; laboratory block from south-east. Above, classroom block.

INTERNAL FINISHES—Main staircase hall : stairs, reinforced concrete, with oiled teak treads and risers ; handrails, teak on tubular metal posts, the latter painted turquoise blue ; walls and ceilings painted white ; wood doors Indian red, metal doors and windows white ; floor, buff quarry tiles laid with wide joints at 18 in. centres. Main staircase landing, white walls, turquoise blue cement glazed dado ; landings and corridors, oak strip flooring. Classrooms : walls, ceilings and woodwork painted white except the blackboard wall, which is pale blue ; doors, pale blue ; cement glazed dadoes, turquoise blue ; floors, deal boards. The five kitchenettes have partitions up to eye level of cement-glaze on concrete, finished mottled turquoise blue and white. Dadoes are similarly treated and walls and ceilings are a pale buff. The floor is of quarry tiles with a dark blue linoleum centre. Assembly hall : rear wall lined with sound-absorbing tiles in 1 ft. by 2 ft. panels, left their natural buff colour ; walls and ceilings, white ; dado of rear wall and radiators, pale blue ; floor, oak blocks ; window curtains, rust coloured ; stage curtains, turquoise blue ; front of stage painted rust colour. The stage is fully lighted and wired for sound projection. A cinema projection room is provided.

Left, part of laboratory block ; right, main staircase window.

SCHOOL AT ECCLESFIELD, YORKSHIRE • BY SIR JOHN BURNET, TAIT AND LORNE



SCHOOL AT ECCLESFIELD, YORKSHIRE

SERVICES—Central heating by low-pressure accelerated hot water. The gymnasium is heated by ceiling coils to keep the wall and floor space free for the gymnasium apparatus. The hot water supply to the gymnasium showers is thermostatically controlled for the safety of the children.

The general contractors were Messrs. A. F. White, Ltd.; for list of sub-contractors, see page xxiv.

Facing page, top, main staircase; centre, domestic science room; bottom, a classroom. Above, main entrance hall.

DESIGNED BY SIR JOHN BURNET, TAIT AND LORNE

LETTERS

War-time Patents

SIR,—Many manufacturers in our industry are worried about the loss of cover period for their patent and other registration rights, due to their plants being on National work for the duration of the war. It is suggested that the Government might arrange for an automatic extension of the cover, up to the period thus put in abeyance, subject to a fee being paid by the applicant.

Many patents have also been taken out in the Dominions and Colonies, and extensions in these cases will, of course, take considerable time to arrange. Overseas authorities, however, usually follow the procedure of the Mother Country in deciding such questions, so that a ruling given here would be of tremendous importance.

"A MANUFACTURER"

Architects' War Service

SIR,—May I, a serving member of the profession, express my reactions on reading your correspondence on the subject of the employment of architects in the present emergency?

I am one of many "over military age" architects who voluntarily resorted to the army in despair of being employed professionally.

We are in the wrong work, and we know it, and are anxiously watching for an opportunity to return to our vocations where we could be usefully employed, and it is difficult to reconcile the emptiness of your "Appointments Vacant" columns with all this talk of the urgent need of architects.

I suggest that it is quite unnecessary to reserve men of military age who should be in the Army, when hundreds, if not thousands, between the ages of 40 and 60 are available, and that those in the Army over military age should be withdrawn.

"GET ON WITH THE JOB"

L.C.C. Hall Extension

SIR,—I wish very sincerely to express my regret that in my article on the Year's Work in your New Year Number I did not, in mentioning the recent additions to the County Hall, give the name of Mr. Frank Hiorns, architect to the London County Council, as architect, and that of Sir Giles Scott as consultant, instead of describing the building as the work of the latter.

C. H. REILLY

NEWS ITEMS

FIRST-AID REPAIRS

Deptford's Emergency Committee have asked their council to call the Government's attention to a "grave state of affairs" in the organization for first-aid repairs to properties damaged in raids.

The committee, expressing "considerable alarm," say that many damaged houses could, with immediate temporary repairs, have been made fit for occupation again, but that the weather has now made these totally uninhabitable without extensive repairs.

The main reasons, they suggest, are:

Lack of skilled labour owing to the calling of men to the Forces.

Difficulty in getting suitable trained or experienced men to supervise the work.

Lack of regulations to ensure that contractors give priority to Councils' orders.

Shortage of materials.

The committee hold that the whole system of first-aid repairs to damaged properties needs reorganizing.

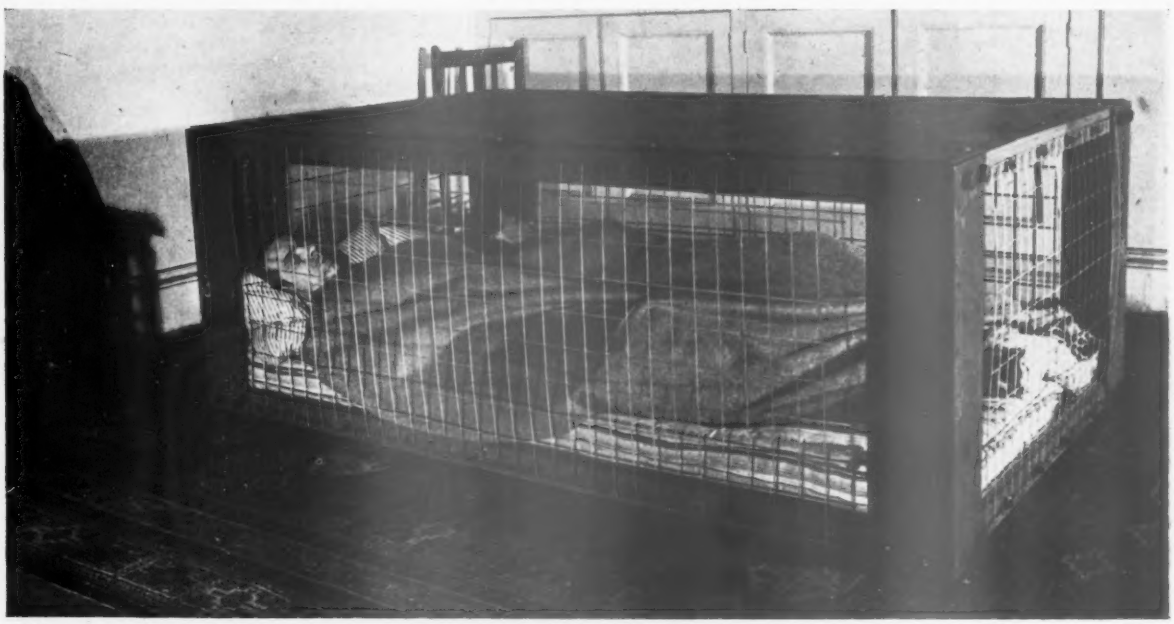
TIMBER CONTROL

The Control of Timber (No. 19) Order, 1941, which came into force on February 5, contains a provision which enables supplies of home-grown mining timber for the South Wales and Monmouthshire collieries to be obtained from areas more distant than those from which supplies can be obtained within the existing maximum prices.

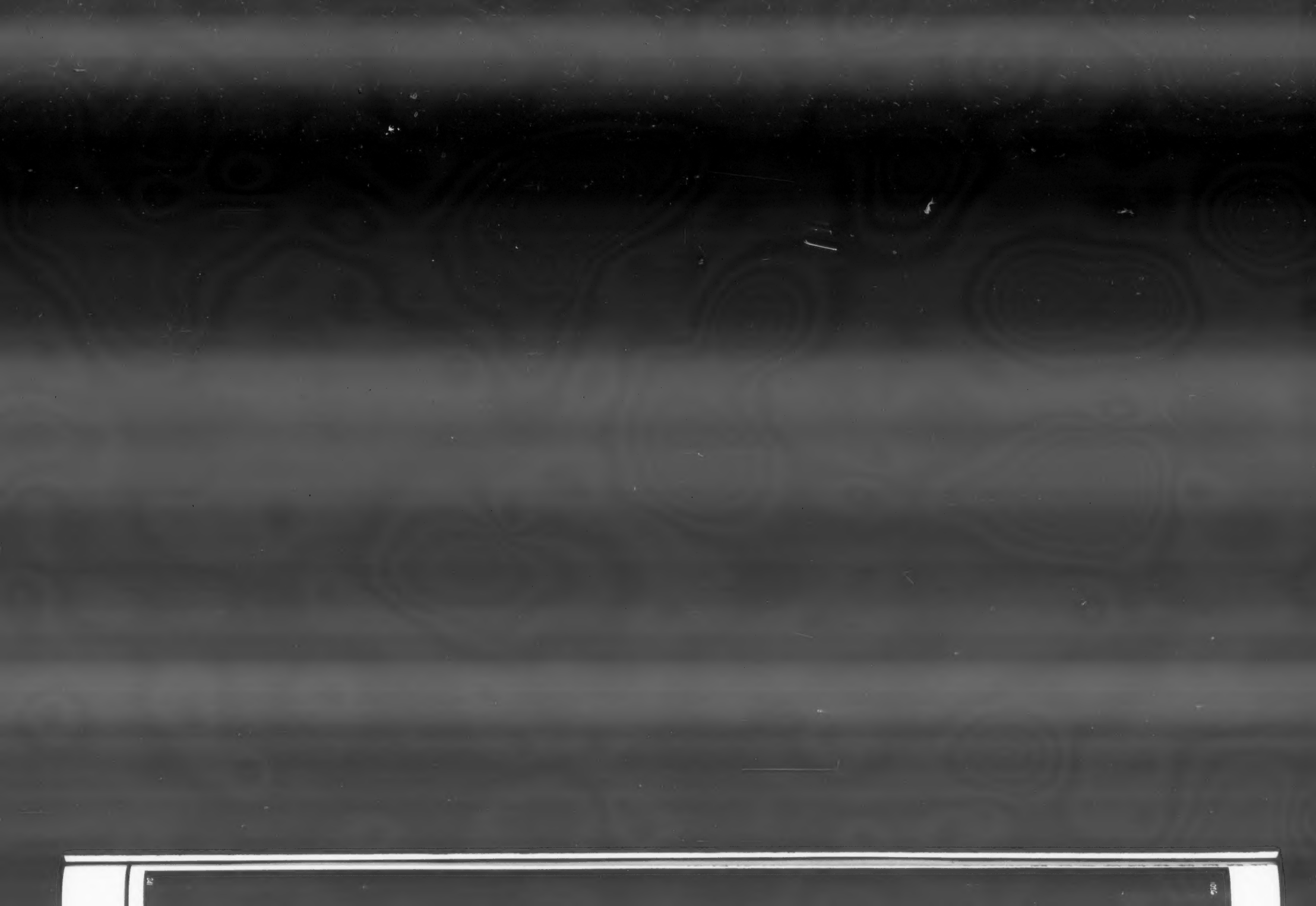
Under the new Order the maximum prices provided for home-grown mining timber under the No. 17 and No. 18 Control Orders may, in the case of deliveries of such timber to coal mines in the South Wales and Monmouthshire colliery area, be increased by the amount, up to a limit not exceeding 10s. per ton, by which the charge for carriage only by rail or sea, or both, exceeds the rate of 15s. per ton. This excess amount must always be shown separately on the invoice.

Where the excess over 15s. per ton for carriage is greater than 10s., the new Order allows the maximum prices to be increased by the total amount of the excess provided that (1) the approval of the Minister of Supply shall have been obtained in advance by both buyer and seller, and (2) the excess charged is shown separately on the invoice. In such cases, applications for permission to increase maximum prices should be submitted by both parties to Timber Control Department III, Ministry of Supply, Clifton Down Hotel, Bristol, 8.

The provisions of the new Order apply also to deliveries of home-grown mining timber (1) to coal mines which do not produce coal for sale and are not, therefore, eligible for the transport subsidy, and (2) to mines other than coal-mines.

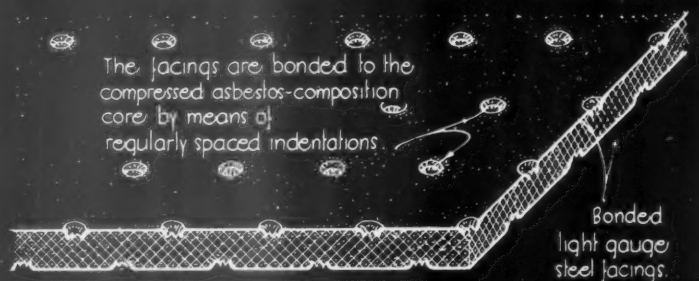


The new steel indoor shelter which is now becoming available to families whose incomes are less than £350 a year. The shelter is of mild steel plate and measures 6 ft. 4 ins. by 4 ft. It has a sprung wire mesh floor and can be assembled by householders. The steel mesh side screens can be removed in the daytime to allow the shelter to be used as a table. Two adults and two small children, or one older child, can sleep under it. The shelter is referred to by ASTRAGAL *on p.* 124.



THE ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL LIBRARY OF PLANNED INFORMATION

DURASTEEL 3 DF 2 PATENT STEEL-AND-ASBESTOS FIRE PROTECTION PANELLING



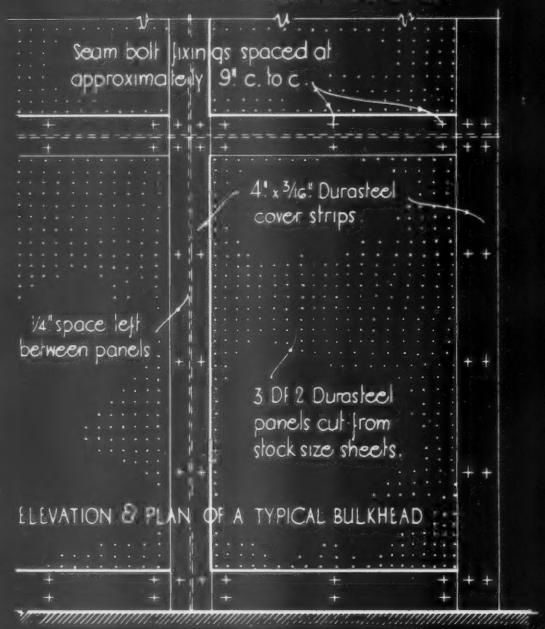
SKETCH SHOWING 3-PLY CONSTRUCTION OF SHEETS (Not to scale).

TABLE GIVING SIZES AND WEIGHTS.

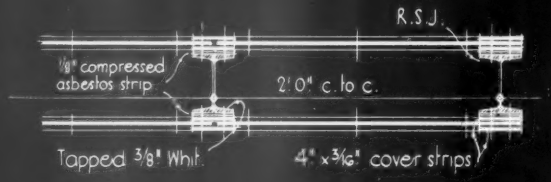
SIZE OF SHEET.	THICKNESS INS.	APPROX. WEIGHT PER SHEET.	APPROX. WEIGHT PER SQ. FT.
nominal 6' x 2' 6"	3/16	44 lbs.	2·9 lbs.
actual 5' 11½" x 2' 5½"	3/8	77 lbs.	5·1 lbs.
	3/4	143 lbs.	9·5 lbs.
nominal 8' x 2' 6"	3/16	58 lbs.	2·9 lbs.
actual 7' 11½" x 2' 5½"	3/8	102 lbs.	5·1 lbs.
	3/4	190 lbs.	9·5 lbs. *

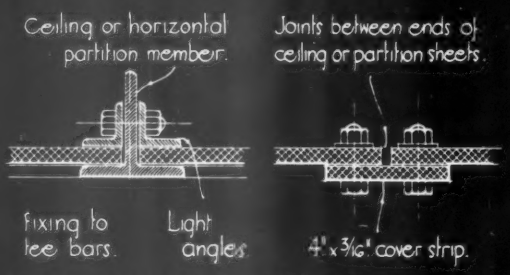
* Manufactured to special order only in this size.

DETAILS SHOWING TYPICAL METHODS OF ERECTING THE SHEETS IN STEEL STRUCTURES



ELEVATION & PLAN OF A TYPICAL BULKHEAD.

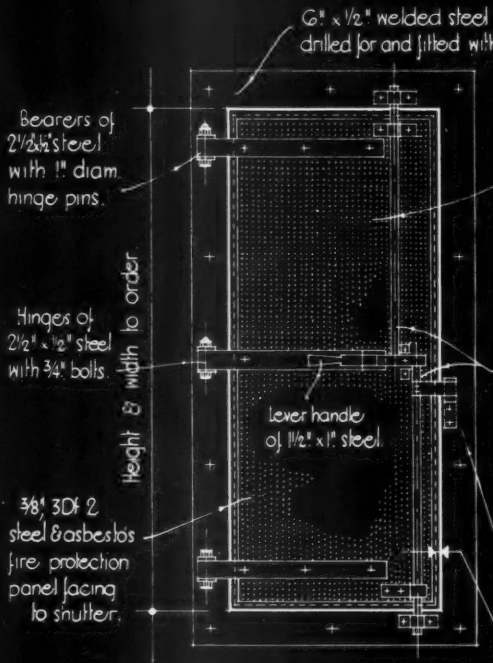




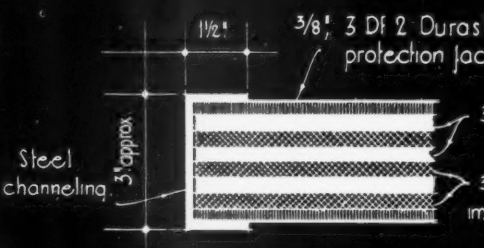
TYPICAL CEILING & PARTITION FIXINGS.

TYPICAL DETAILS OF DURASTEEL COMPOSITE SPLINTER PROOF SHUTTERS AND DOORS.

Shutters are available in thicknesses of 3/4" (Type B), 1½" (Type C), and 3" (Heavy type as illustrated).



OUTSIDE ELEVATION OF SHUTTER.



¼ F.S. SECTION OF SHUTTER SHOWING CONSTRUCTION.

Information from Durasteel Roofs Ltd.

INFORMATION SHEET : STEEL & ASBESTOS FIRE PROTECTION PANELLING & COMPOSITE A·R·P SHUTTERS AND DOORS.
SIR JOHN BURNET TAIT AND LORNE ARCHITECTS ONE MONTAGUE PLACE BEDFORD SQUARE LONDON WC1

THE ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL
LIBRARY OF PLANNED INFORMATION

INFORMATION SHEET

• 818 •

(Replacing Nos. 611 and 779)

A.R.P.

Product : Composite Steel-and-Asbestos Panelling

Description :

The Durasteel 3DF2 patent fire protection panelling illustrated on this Sheet is a form of steel and asbestos construction, and is designed both for interior and exterior use. Each panel is a composite flat sheet, consisting of two light-gauge steel facings keyed to a compressed asbestos-composition core. A pressure of over two tons to the square inch is used during manufacture, and the strength and fire resistance obtained in the final product enables the material to be used, where space and weight are limited, in place of brickwork or air-space fire-protecting construction.

Properties and Sizes :

Sheets are available in stock lengths of 6 ft. and 8 ft. (nominal) by a standard width of 2 ft. 6 in. (nominal) in $\frac{3}{16}$ in., $\frac{3}{8}$ in. and $\frac{3}{4}$ in. thickness of weights as tabulated on the front of this Sheet. The actual lengths of stock sheets should be taken as 5 ft. 11½ in. and 7 ft. 11½ in., respectively, and the maximum width of any panel cannot exceed 2 ft. 5½ in., but intermediate lengths can be cut to exact dimensions within these limits. When stock size panels are cut down, all area calculations for pricing should be taken on the next successive 6 in. increment in length and width, excepting glazing widths between 2 ft. and 2 ft. 3 in. where special size steel sheets are used and dimensions can be taken to 1 in. increments. Where necessary channel steel binding can be fitted to exposed edges.

The sheets are capable of withstanding temperatures up to 1,000°C., without disintegration when exposed to direct flames.

The method of bonding the outer faces by means of regularly spaced indentations back and front, gives extra rigidity to the steel, and permits the erection of light, unbreakable partitions, without elaborate bracing. Such partitions allow easier removal than with heavier forms of fire-resisting structure.

Tests :

The heat transmission coefficient is 0·69 B.T.U.s per square foot per hour for 1° F. difference in temperature. A bulkhead of the type detailed overleaf has been subjected to official test, and passed by the Fire Brigades Association.

Under various fire, water, explosion and chemical combustion tests, including Thermite and Electron incendiary agents, the material remains practically undamaged, and is suitable for various uses as typified below :

Heavy—¾ in. 3DF2—for overhead protection—roofing and canopies, also blast walls, shutters, etc.

Medium—⅜ in. 3DF2—for fireproof partitions, doors, false ceilings, etc.

Light—$\frac{3}{16}$ in. 3DF2—for replacement of glazing and black-out work, also light panelling and covering timber structures, etc.

Fixing :

The fixing and erecting details show various methods of securing and jointing the sheets. All thicknesses of panelling are readily drilled for the bolts and screws for angle iron or timber framing. The sheets may be butt-jointed behind cover strips, or brought together against T-iron. See detailed drawing overleaf. (This method obviates drilling the Durasteel sheets.)

In general panelling and partition work, the seam bolts along cover strips should be spaced at about 1 ft. 6 in. centres. The given example of bulkhead construction requires bolts at about 9 in. centre to centre. In ceiling work, fixing bolts may be at approximately 12 in. centres.

Finishes :

Galvanized finish is the standard recommended for outdoor use and damp conditions. Black steel finish and aluminium heat resisting finish (on black steel) are supplied to special order.

Other metal facings, such as copper (non-magnetic) and aluminium (for extreme lightness) can be manufactured to order subject to raw material supplies.

Erection :

The manufacturers have a special department to deal with fire-protection schemes and air raid precautions construction. Estimates can be prepared to include for steelwork and erection, as well as the supply of the sheet material.

COMPOSITE SHUTTERS AND DOORS:

These are faced with Durasteel 3DF2 Fire Protection panelling, and have a core composed of mild steel plates and Impact Absorbing sheets. All shutters are purpose made to site requirements, and can be varied to meet the degree of resistance required. There are three types commonly called for :

Type B.—¾ in. overall thickness, giving a high resistance to fire and a certain degree of resistance to blast.

Type C.—1½ in. in overall thickness giving blast and splinter protection equal to a ⅜ in. M.S. plate, as well as a high fire resistance.

Heavy Type.—3 in. in overall thickness as shown on this Sheet, having protective properties equal to 14 in. brickwork, and capable of resisting flying splinters resulting from the explosion of a 500 lb. G.P. bomb at a distance of 50 ft.

Fixing :

Typical fixing details are shown in the drawings.

Gas Proofing :

All shutters can be made gas proof with suitable jamb linings and rubber cushion strips. Triple action locking gear is standard, and the tapered bolts control compression of the rubber gasket.

Manufacturers : Durasteel Roofs, Ltd.
Address : Oldfield Lane, Greenford, Middlesex
Telephone : Waxlow 1051/2
Telegrams : Endurafire, 'Phone, London

SOME QUESTIONS ANSWERED THIS WEEK :

★ *WHAT is the best covering for a concrete floor which has become soaked with paraffin?* - **Q653**

★ *WHAT paints can be applied to the walls of shelters to reduce condensation?* - - - **Q654**

★ *IF I pass the final examination (architects' section) of the Incorporated Association of Architects and Surveyors, will I be able to register as an architect?* - - - **Q655**

THE ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL

INFORMATION CENTRE

THE Information Centre answers any question about architecture, building, or the professions or trades within the industry. It does so free of charge and its help is available to any member of the building industry.

Enquirers do not have to wait for an answer until their question is published in the JOURNAL. Answers are sent direct to enquirers as soon as they have been prepared. The service is confidential ; and in no case is the identity of an enquirer disclosed to a third party. Samples and descriptive literature sent to the Information Centre by manufacturers for the use of a particular enquirer are forwarded whenever the director of the Centre considers them likely to be of use.

Questions should be sent by post to—

THE ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL
45 THE AVENUE, CHEAM, SURREY

—but in cases where an enquirer urgently requires an answer to a simple question, he may save time by telephoning the question to—

VIGILANT 0087

the reply will come by post.

Q653

SURVEYOR, BRADFORD.—*I would be glad if you could inform me of an appropriate FLOOR COVERING in the case of a concrete floor in an Engineering Works, which has become saturated with paraffin due to spillage from machinery. The present surface is badly worn and pitted due to the action of the oil and paraffin, and the movements of the operatives and trolleys, and the floor covering will have to stand up to a constant repetition of this spillage and wear.*

There are many floor hardeners and waterproofers which give a dustless, waterproof and greaseproof surface under normal factory conditions. It is usually satisfactory to clean the floor thoroughly, hack the surface to form a key, brush on a slurry of cement and lay ¾ in. of granolithic while the slurry is wet. Then while the granolithic is still wet, a further topping should be added of ½ in. granolithic waterproofed with the appropriate waterproofer. Names of some of the manufacturers of floor hardeners and waterproofers are given in the footnote on the next page and you would be advised to adhere to the methods recommended by the particular manufacturer selected. Should there be exceptional wear in certain places you

might like to consider the use of iron floor tiles, some manufacturers of which are also given below*.

Q654

ARCHITECTS, BIRMINGHAM. — *We should be glad if you would let us have the names of any PAINTS which can be applied to the walls of shelters TO REDUCE CONDENSATION. The walls are quite water-tight but an unpleasant amount of condensation occurs on them shortly after the shelters are occupied, particularly in wet weather. We are, of course, conversant with the well-known method of applying granulated cork to a varnished surface, but this is not very suitable and we believe that better methods have been introduced.*

Messrs. Thos. Parsons & Sons, Ltd., of 315 Oxford Street, London, W.1, manufacture a paint called Cork-Tex-B which has much the same effect as granulated cork applied to a varnished surface, but is more satisfactory in many ways. It can be applied in one or two coats by spray or brush. It is of an off-white colour and can be finished with water paint or flat oil finish. There are also two cement coatings which we can recommend to reduce condensation and which are decorative in appearance, namely, "Ellicem," made by the Adamite Co., Ltd., Mansfield House, Strand, London, W.C.2, and "Snowcem," made by the Cement Marketing Co., Ltd., Coombe Hill, Kingston, Surrey. The manufacturers will in each case forward full particulars and will make recommendations for a particular job.

Q655

ARCHITECT, WALES.—*I should be glad if you would kindly answer the following question for me. If I pass the FINAL EXAMINATION (Architects' Section) of the INCORPORATED ASSOCIATION OF ARCHITECTS AND SURVEYORS, will I be able to register as an Architect?*

You will not be qualified to register as an Architect if you pass the Final Examination of the Incorporated Association of Architects and Surveyors; you may only register after passing the final or special final examination of the R.I.B.A. or the final examination of one of the recognized schools of architecture given below†. When the necessary examinations have been passed you should apply for forms to the Registrar, Architects' Registration Council of the United Kingdom, 68 Portland Place, London, W.1.

Q656

ARCHITECT, LONDON.—*I have been at some pains since the commencement of the "blitz" to turn myself into an estimator to study March, 1939, prices, and generally to comply with the provisions of the Government Compensation Scheme when preparing claims for War Damage. As soon as I began to feel reasonably competent the War Damage Bill came along and now I am back where I started. It seems that the cost of the work as finally carried out will be allowed and that 1942 prices will be more applicable than 1939. Can the JOURNAL predict the end of the War and publish prices for that date? To a person of my mean intelligence the whole matter is very confusing and any guidance you can give me as to the best methods of PREPARING AND PRICING CLAIMS at the present time will be most welcome.*

Unfortunately the JOURNAL can not predict the end of the War, but this is not necessary as, even if payments are to be based on the actual cost of the work as finally carried out, it is unlikely that the Government will expect an exact assessment prepared in advance. Actually the War Damage Bill is not yet law and as its provisions will be made retrospective you cannot do wrong by continuing the procedure you have adopted in the past. It is, however, probably a waste of time to assess claims in detail in accordance with 1939 prices. In the early stages many architects and surveyors expected district valuers to agree their claims without much delay and concentrated on the pricing of the claim rather than on a detailed schedule of damage, as they felt that the physical nature of the damage would remain obvious. It now seems that the agreement of claims is likely to be delayed for a considerable period and that a careful record of the damage is important, and also that an assessment based on 1939 prices is likely to be of less importance. We consider that an owner's interest is best served by a professional man submitting a careful record of the damage in the form of a schedule akin to a schedule of dilapidations, which can be priced in whatever manner is required at any time, and further that it should be accompanied by an approximate covering figure only, as careful pricing in accordance with 1939 prices may be of little use and may not justify the fees incurred. We must emphasize that this is our own opinion and no official ruling can be given.

REFERENCE BACK

[*This section deals with previous questions and answers*]

Q615 *December 19, 1940.*

In answering this question, we stated that no details have been published of official tests showing the effect of blast from bombs of different calibres exploding at different distances from the glass.

Messrs. Pilkington Bros., Ltd., have pointed out that it might be assumed from this statement that no official tests have, in fact, been made and, therefore, that the official views on wired glass mentioned in the answer are not based on any very scientific data.

This assumption would, of course, be incorrect. For instance, it is stated in A.R.P. Handbook No. 5, page 55, that tests have been carried out and the remarks contained on page 56 (mentioned in the answer) are observations on these tests.

TRADE NOTES

"Count them on the road!"

A certain company of car manufacturers, the Standard Motor Company I think, always used the above phrase as a slogan at the head of their press advertising copy. Times alter customs and, though even to-day counting Standard cars on the road might be an irksome task, counting bicycles would be infinitely more wearying. Parking facilities for bicycles are therefore a greater necessity to-day than ever they were, and in the "Stelcon" parking-block there is an

* *Floor Hardeners and Waterproofers (for greaseproof floors): The Ironite Co., Ltd., 11 Old Queen Street, Westminster, London, S.W.1. The Sal-Ferricite & Trading Co., Ltd., 119 Victoria Street, London, S.W.1. Sealocrete Products, Ltd., Atlantic Works, Macbeth Street, Hammersmith, London, W.6.*
Iron Floor Tiles: The Butterley Co., Ltd., Butterfly Iron Works, near Derby. Stelcon (Industrial Floors), Ltd., Cliffords Inn, London, E.C.4. The Stanton Ironworks Co., Ltd., near Nottingham.

† *Aberdeen; Birmingham; Cardiff; University of Dublin; Edinburgh; Glasgow; Leeds; Liverpool; Architectural Association, London; University of London; Polytechnic, Regent Street, London; Manchester; Newcastle; Sheffield.*

eminently practical and simple solution to the parking problem.

The "Stelcon" block is a pre-cast concrete block, 1 ft. by 2 ft., and 4 in. thick and approximately 80 lb. in weight; in each block there is a groove in which the cycle wheel (front or back) is simply and securely wedged; the block can be let into the surface of the parking space, as in the accompanying illustration, or merely laid on top. For schools and factories and busy shopping centres they provide an orderly and unobtrusive means of bicycle parking. The great advantage of these blocks over the older and more complex forms of parking devices is that they can be laid practically anywhere to suit the space available, and that in cases where they are let flush into the surface of the parking space they cause no obstruction when not in use—like most good ideas, they are essentially simple.

All prices and particulars may be obtained from Stelcon (Industrial Floors), Ltd., Clifford's Inn, London, E.C.4.

Simple Bicycle parking at Welwyn Garden City.

The Buildings Illustrated

SCHOOL AT ECCLESFIELD, YORKSHIRE (pages 127-133). Architects: Sir John Burnet, Tait and Lorne. Chief Assistant: Frederick MacManus. The general contractors were A. F. White, Ltd. The sub-contractors and suppliers included: Twisteel Reinforcement, Ltd., high tensile steel reinforcements; F. & E. Eastman, Ltd., floor and wall tiling; J. Cooke & Son, patent flat roofing; W. Beardmore & Co., Ltd., acoustic treatment to assembly hall; Horsley Smith & Co., Ltd., hardwood flooring; George Parnall & Co., Ltd., wood doors; Venesta, Ltd., w.c. divi-, sions and shower screens; W. & R. Leggott Ltd., ironmongery and mat rims; Light Steelwork, Ltd., bronze handrail; Aston Construction Co., Ltd., constructional steelwork; Standard Metal Window Co., metal windows, doors and screens; T. W. Sampson & Co., electrical installation, electrical cable, electrical mains connection; Sheffield Gas Co., Ltd., gas mains connection; Palorit Paints, Ltd., cement glaze dadoes; Shanks & Co., Ltd., sanitary fittings; J. H. Shouksmith & Sons, Ltd., heating and hot water installation; H. W. Turner, Ltd., cellar flaps, iron frame and door for boiler house; County Council Supplies Dept., linoleum flooring; Troughton & Young, Ltd., electric light fittings to assembly hall proscenium; Daymonds, Ltd., exit signs; Eric Munday, Ltd., notice board to entrance gates; Bratt Colbran, Ltd., electric fires and radiators; Smith & Wellstood, Ltd., "Mrs. Sam" range; J. Glover & Sons, Ltd., gas drying cabinet; Jackson Electric Stove Co., Ltd., electric cookers; Richmond Gas Stove Co., Ltd., gas cooking equipment.