THE ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL

THE ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL
WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED THE BUILDERS' JOURNAL AND THE ARCHITECTURAL ENGINEER IS PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY BY THE ARCHITECTURAL PRESS (PUBLISHERS OF THE ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL, THE ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW, SPECIFICATION, AND WHO'S WHO IN ARCHITECTURE) FROM 45 THE AVENUE, CHEAM, SURREY

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

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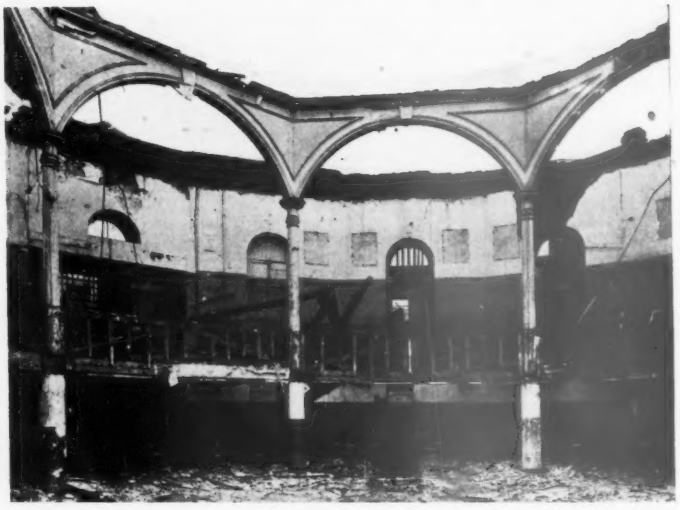
Owing to the paper shortage the JOURNAL, *in common with all other papers, is now only supplied to newsagents on a "firm order" basis. This means that newsagents are now unable to supply the* JOURNAL *except to a client's definite order.*

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.*

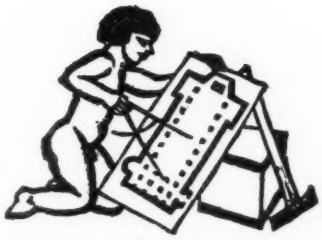
ROYAL ACADEMY EXHIBITION

The one hundred and seventy-third summer exhibition of the Royal Academy was opened to the public last week, and some of the works hung in the Architecture Room are reproduced on pp. 323-328 of this issue. Above is St. Alban's Church, North Harrow, by Arthur W. Kenyon.



THE RING AT BLACKFRIARS

The Ring at Blackfriars, formerly famous as the Surrey Chapel, has been almost completely destroyed by enemy bombing. The Surrey Chapel was built by the Reverend Rowland Hill and was opened on June 8, 1783. Mr. Hill preached in the chapel for fifty years, and was buried beneath his chapel pulpit when he died in 1833. The congregation removed from the chapel in 1881, and it thereafter became well known as a centre for prizefights.



MODERNITY'S BLACK BOOK

IN a recent issue of an American architectural monthly there is illustrated a very pleasing timber house*—a modern house. It has a well-arranged plan, large—but not too large—windows, and a distinguished one-slope roof. And if we know anything of the U.S.A. its equipment will be perfect.

BUT—and everyone interested in modern architecture as practitioner or student should notice this "but," which would have been printed in fire had technical resources allowed—it also has a staircase. This staircase is the only staircase, has winders at top and bottom, is formed of polished white oak treads without any rises at all and without any handrail, inside or out.†

Before the news of homicide or the sharp snap of breaking legs comes over the cables it would seem profitable for all the bolder spirits of British architecture to pause and take thought. (And it would seem only decent for some of them to cross their fingers and murmur: "There, but for the Grace of God . . .")

The subject the JOURNAL proposes to these men for reflection is NOVELTY. And it would be just as well if all architectural students joined them in their contemplation. Novelty in architecture, as in other things, means doing something which has not been done before and may take a thousand forms. The design of an architectural novelty has always a spice of daring about it, even when—as in the case of a garden bird bath—almost all that one risks is an æsthetic flop. The architect who dares a novel solution to a fundamental part of a building is in a very different case. He takes a chance with the everyday convenience and even the personal safety of those who use the building, and would be wise to weigh these things carefully in the balance against all possible æsthetic bull's-eyes. And it is not going too far to suggest that in the piping days of peace some bolder British architects, fired with novelty's success in a loggia or a sun terrace, laid about a homely fireplace with results that made themselves felt in the farthest linen cupboard.

It therefore seems worthwhile to use the present pause in architecture's progress to compile a small Black Book of Novelty—a list of first-class floaters—which all students should be encouraged to learn by heart.

Easily first on this list is the riserless stair. People carry trays upstairs even in modern houses and use the risers to feel their way. Those not in their first youth have been known to slip on stairs and would be certain to do so on a polished hen walk which would blanch an athlete's cheek. Forbidden Novelty No. 2 is the tight spiral stair (other than external and ornamental). Only a caterpillar never yet seen by naturalists could ascend such a stair without discomfort and, in any case, only those wearing trousers can do so with decorum when the stair is of metal. No. 3 (painfully widespread) is the use of light flat paint on any hard-worked surface.

After these three it is necessary to single out from three-score of novelty's smaller flops that ten which, despite all the experience of others, entrap new feet each peacetime year. And since we began with stairs let us continue with them.

All winders are bad; the basic requirement of a handrail is that it should be of a size to be gripped by a hand; no small house staircase should have a solid balustrade: these three pronouncements should be written out fifty times in stencil caps by all first-year students. They can be usefully followed by Seven Dont's for all with modernist leanings. Don't think you can use full-size bricks indoors; don't think sliding and folding partitions are so called because they slide and fold; don't fancy bunk beds for children are a good idea; don't think a lock-spring alone will ever prevent lever handles flopping; don't believe Bale's catches and fixed knobs are just the thing for room doors; don't think a strong wind accompanied by heavy rain will ever cease to blow up the slope if you design a one-slope roof; and don't think you will be the only man in Britain to be completely successful with cement rendering.

The scrupulous observance of these warnings would, in time, remove the commonest blemishes from the face of modernism. And the possibility of new errors coming forward to fill the place of the old will be much diminished if all modern architects remember what fools the public are when confronted by novelty.

Any doubts architects may still have on this point will be removed by a sad and, it is believed, true story. The architect of a new showroom fitted it with plate glass swing doors in a narrow metal surround and placed, down its centre, a foot-high trough of water, gold fish and plants. There was fifteen feet of space on each side of the tank; but the owners celebrated the opening of the showroom with a party, during which the room became very full. An elderly and influential lady then stepped back to admire a display, tripped over the trough's edge and fell in. Two hours later, a caterer's man, swooping out with a large tray on his head, failed to notice the doors and cracked one of them. The plate glass sheet was removed the same evening and delivery of a new one promised for the next day. At 7 a.m. the next morning a charwoman approached the doors carrying brushes in one hand and a bucket in the other, turned round, as was her wont, to bump open the doors with her stern, and fell through the empty frame and broke her leg.

With such people no one, not even a modern architect, should take liberties.

* House at Clinton, New Jersey, by George Kosmak and Ernst Payer. *Architectural Forum*, March, 1941.

† The falling bodies of those who have essayed transit are prevented from pitching into the hall by vertical yellow pine poles.

See p. 320.

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

NOTES & TOPICS

LAST SATURDAY

IT was almost inevitable that sooner or later the Houses of Parliament would be seriously damaged by bombs. The target is enormous and the Renaissance plan of this Gothic Revival mass must be clearly recognizable in moonlight. The Palace in general stands for many things our opponents dislike; and Westminster Abbey and many other famous buildings are so close that near misses offer possibilities to the Luftwaffe almost as attractive as a bull's eye.

*

The surprise is that the damage caused by a determined attack should have been so small. The "House" itself, we are told, has been wrecked, and all the multitude of most justified complaints about this chamber—that it could only seat half our M.P.'s, that its lighting and atmosphere were appalling—are forgotten in the thought that the centre of British political life for a century is *hors de combat*.

*

For the rest, a visitor unarmed with the most potent passes can see little damage. Westminster Hall, the largest of all mediæval halls and Parliament's only genuine antique, lacks its lantern and has suffered internal damage. Big Ben suffered shock but still looks exactly itself; and all architects, as well as every one else, will be glad to be told by Mr. A. L. N. Russell, F.R.I.B.A., architect to Westminster School, that the main fabric of the Abbey is intact and the damage is chiefly confined to a 19th-century roof.

*

Once again the chief damage caused by this raid was damage by fire. And once again the fire-watching scheme showed serious deficiencies. We will learn in time.

JOBS AND THE MEN

When architects filled in the duplicate index cards sent to them eight months before war began, the Central Register seemed one of the most sensible of all preparations for the worst. At a central clearing house, one understood, details were to be kept of the experience and qualifications of every individual possessing professional or scientific skill; at the headquarters of each particular profession duplicates were to be kept of all cards of members of that particular profession; and as each Government department or other organization found that it wanted, say, an architect, it was to apply to the Central Register, which, after consultation with the R.I.B.A., would recommend a suitable man.

*

Some little difficulties were only to be expected before this machine ran perfectly, but it would have taken a rare pessimist to prophesy that after twenty months of war the machine would still be running very badly indeed as far as one profession was concerned.

*

Yet this does seem to be the case. There are jobs: many jobs, for which architects are needed now: every Ministry confesses that it is so. On the other hand, there are architects who have had their names on the Central Register for several months and have not yet been offered a job. It is clear that if blitzs continue and more and more housing is needed for war workers this state of affairs cannot be ended too soon.

*

Whatever the cause of the present bottle-neck, architects must bear a share of the blame for the inefficient working of the Register during the past year. When war began, Government departments did not at first use the Register for the relatively few jobs they had to offer which were suitable for architects: officials preferred to appoint the "friend of a friend of mine," and thus the first fault was not the profession's. But the second and third faults were.

*

Neither the "friends of a friend," nor those who after several months of waiting found other jobs for themselves, bothered to inform the Central Register. And thus when, last autumn, considerable numbers of applications for architects began to be received from Government departments and other bodies, the Register's index cards were found to be sadly incorrect.

This was annoying enough for those who were trying to run the Register at the R.I.B.A. end. Even more unhelpful was the attitude of some members who rejected offers of jobs with scorn, or did not reply at all, instead of furnishing a reasonable explanation of why they could not accept them.

*

These snags should have been largely overcome and the efficiency of the Register immeasurably increased by the interdepartmental agreement that all appointments of architects were to be made through the Central Register. But these results do not appear to have been obtained, and one Ministry at least is contemplating becoming, or has already decided to be, a blackleg and to ask architects to apply direct to it for employment. If this occurs the whole Central Register scheme will rapidly disintegrate.

*

It would therefore be very interesting to know how many architects there are who notified the Central Register over two months ago that they desired a whole time appointment and have not since received an offer. Any details of such cases which architects are willing to send to me will be a great help towards discovering where the block lies: and all details will, of course, be regarded as confidential.

FINANCIAL

The R.I.B.A.'s balance sheet for 1940 gives some reason to hope that the financial effect of this war on architects will not be quite as ruinous as that of the last, for to a great extent the R.I.B.A.'s income reflects the financial circumstances of its individual members.

*

The R.I.B.A.'s income in 1940 was £9,000 less than in 1939. But expenditure was also less, by £14,000; and this saving of £5,000 during a year in which every institution was faced with calls on its funds for many purposes which could not be foreseen, is a very creditable achievement. Architects are rarely financial experts, and therefore are apt to give far too little credit to those members and officials who manage the R.I.B.A.'s finances.

*

Messrs. J. D. Hossack and J. Maclaren Ross, the honorary auditors, warn us all that the full effect of the war has not yet been fully felt by the R.I.B.A.—notably, no doubt, in receipts from examination fees. But in other ways there seems reason for not being too depressed.

*

In the last war whether members joined the Forces or not their incomes dropped almost to nothing. In this war, it has at last been realized, after nearly two years, that architects are as badly needed as they prophesied they would be: if not more so. There is now a job which urgently needs doing ready for every architect who is not already in the Forces. And it therefore seems probable that a considerable proportion of R.I.B.A. members will be at least able to continue to pay their subscriptions.

PROFESSIONAL PROPHETS

A few weeks ago some readers may have heard Messrs. Gloag, Grey Wornum and Christian Barman giving us a forcaste of some of the things which war may do to building materials and methods. I did not hear this broadcast but read it in the *Listener*: and my reading was punctuated now and then with sighs.

*

They were sighs from the heart at the thought of how much we will all have to learn in the first few years after the war. Pre-war, the construction which we learnt in our youth—of bricks and timber and tiles, three-coat plaster, framed joinery and trailing plumbing—still formed the main mass of the knowledge an architect needed about construction and finish. We all had to have at our disposal several dozen packets of knowledge about newer developments as well—about reinforced hollow tile, plasterboard, flush heating, partition blocks, plywood, and so on—one or more of which were needed on each job; but in the background our old friends "traditional methods" were always there, or very nearly always there. And sometimes when they weren't their absence was subsequently regretted. Messrs Gloag, Wornum and Barman have now added to my belief that after this war traditional methods may fade out completely from large sections of building.

*

Mr. Gloag said that metal can now be welded direct to glass, and prophesied that glazing bars of large windows will also be heating coils. He also believed that small houses will very soon be assembled from prefabricated units of structure and equipment.

Mr. Wornum, who dealt with plastics, told us that wartime plumbing, partially carried out in plastics to save metal, may lead to bathrooms of which all plumbing is in coloured plastics; and that electric heating elements embedded in plastic sheets as a de-icing device on aeroplanes have equally obvious peacetime applications.

Mr. Barman, as prophet No. 3, left his readers in no doubt that aluminium, light, rustless, easy to work and possessed of considerable heat insulating powers, will play a very big part, structurally and decoratively, in the architecture of post-war.

*

One feels sure that all three are quite right, that every architect will have to go to school again and remain at school for the first seven post-war years, or else become very much a back number. And throughout the land will echo a slapping noise as *Jaggard and Drury*'s are shut for ever.

ME TOO

But when I had finished reading these prophecies, I found that I myself had become for the moment possessed of prophetic powers; and I saw, with perfect clearness, a post-war dining-room panelled throughout with electroplastic heating panels. I was the designer of the room and a guest at its table.

*

I was just raising my first glass of Pommard when a silver-grey wall panel opposite me began a slow and ghastly pullulation. It turned black in the centre, three huge blisters rose, popped silently and emitted a terrifying stench of celluloid and rubber. A long drool of melting resin began to run down towards the floor. A moment more and three panels resembled a glimpse into a pre-war tar boiler.

*

"Perhaps, Mr. Jenkins," I heard myself say as I licked powerful chemicals off dry lips, ". . . it might be better to throw the main switch."

NOTHING LIKE WATER

The Ministry of Home Security is complaining that the readiness of its officials to attend tests of proprietary methods of putting out incendiary bombs is being abused. Apparently after a bored but dutiful official has put in an afternoon watching inconclusive hurlings of powders and squirtings of liquids, he has been pained to see an advertising announcement which runs: "Tests conducted in the presence of Home Office Officials proved beyond doubt that Bango puts them out like billy-o," and so on.

*

The Ministry has therefore stated bluntly that the liquid it recommends for fighting incendiary bombs is water—applied by a stirrup pump. And as for powders, there is nothing to beat sand.

*

A veteran of London's A.F.S. agrees with these sentiments entirely. A C.T.C. extinguisher (found on most motors under another name) is handy for minor petrol and electric flare-ups, but apart from this the only cases in which he would not use water at once and in preference to all other methods are an incendiary in the street, an electrical fire, and a big oil or petrol fire. In the first case he would use a sand-bag, in the second he would do nothing at all till the current was switched off, and in the third case he would use water, gingerly, in a spray until foam arrived.

ASTRAGAL

NEWS

WAR DAMAGE TO BUILDINGS AND LAND

The War Damage Commission announces that its Regional Offices for England, Scotland and Wales were opened on May 12. The addresses of the offices, and the areas each will cover, are:

NORTHERN.—5, Grosvenor Villas, Grosvenor Road Newcastle. Area covered: Northumberland, Durham, Yorkshire (North Riding).

NORTH-EASTERN.—36, York Place, Leeds. Area covered: Yorkshire (East and West Ridings).

NORTH-MIDLAND.—Magdala House, Lucknow Road, Nottingham. Area covered: Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Rutland, Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, Northamptonshire.

EASTER.—County Bowling Club, Brookland Avenue, Cambridge. Area covered: Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridge, Hunts, Beds, Herts, Essex, other than those areas included in N.W. and N.E. London.

SOUTHERN.—Coley Park, Reading. Area covered: Bucks, Oxfordshire, Berkshire, Dorset, Hampshire, Isle of Wight.

SOUTH-WESTERN.—4/5, Worcester Road, Bristol, 8. Area covered: Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, Somerset, Devonshire, Cornwall, Scilly Isles.

WALES.—88/90, Lake Road East, Cardiff. Area covered: Flint, Denbigh, Carnarvon, Anglesey, Merioneth, Montgomery, Radnor, Cardigan, Pembroke, Carmarthen, Brecknock, Glamorgan, Monmouth.

MIDLAND.—Midland Hospital, Easy Row, Birmingham. Area covered: Salop, Hereford, Worcestershire, Warwickshire, Staffordshire.

NORTH-WESTERN.—Lancaster House, Whitworth Street, Manchester. Area covered: Cheshire, Lancashire, Westmorland, Cumberland.

SCOTLAND.—Dunedin House, 102, George Street, Edinburgh.

SOUTH-EASTERN.—Old Town Hall, Tunbridge Wells. Area covered: Sussex, Surrey, and Kent other than those areas included in S.E. and S.W. London.

Notifications of damage to land and buildings, or claims in respect of such damage already suffered, in any of these places, are to be made to the appropriate office. Where an owner of damaged premises has already completed Form V.O.W.1 and returned it to the District Valuer he or she need take no action until approached by the War Damage Commission's regional office and invited to fill up a second form giving certain necessary particulars.

In the event of future damage, application should be made to the Commission's regional office, or to the District Valuer, for Form C.1, the new and simpler Form by means of which notification is to be given. This form will also be obtainable at most Town Halls and Council Offices. A pamphlet giving a short explanation of that part of the War Damage Act which relates to land and buildings will be issued with Form C.1.

It should be pointed out that the Commission's Regional Office is in no way concerned with the insurance of goods and chattels.

R.I.B.A. NEW MEMBERS

On April 22 the following members were elected:

AS HON. FELLOWS (2)

REITH OF STONEHAVEN, THE RIGHT HON. LORD, P.C., G.C.V.O., G.B.E., D.C.L., LL.D., M.INST.C.E.
GREENE, THE RIGHT HON. SIR W. A., P.C., O.B.E., M.C., HON.D.C.L., HON.LL.D.

AS FELLOWS (10)

GADD, G. C. (Bromsgrove, Worcestershire).
HOBBS, G. B. (London).
METAYERS, LIEUT. H. A., R.E. (Corsham, Wilts).
MILLETT, D. G. (London).
PENBERTHY, A. J. (Wolverhampton).
STEELE, F. R. (Bristol).
BARKER, H. M. (Glasgow).
BARR, E. S. (London).
HOWARTH, F. (Towyn, Merioneth).
TURNER, S. R. (London).

AS ASSOCIATES (24)

BEECHAM, Miss P. B. (The Polytechnic, Regent Street, London) (Watford, Herts).
BULL, W. R. (Architectural Association) (London).
CORNER, T. H. (Middlesbrough).
DOREY, W. A. (Southport, Lancs).
DOWLAND, B. H. (Bowness-on-Windermere).
EDWARDS, G. L., Dip. Arch.(Cardiff) (Welsh School of Architecture) (Cardiff).
FERGUSON, W. K. (London).
FISHER, A. (Keighley).
GILFILLAN, Miss J. C. S. (Glasgow School of Architecture) (Glasgow).
GOULD, S. C., P.A.S.I. (Southampton).
JOHNSON, R. D. (Macclesfield, Cheshire).
KNOWLES, R. W. (University of Liverpool) (Wallasey).
LEVER, H. (Heywood, Lancs).
LEWIS, B. A. P. W. (University of London) (Hatch End, Middlesex).
LEWIS, D. E. W. (Nottingham).
MURRAY, J. E. (Glasgow School of Architecture) (Ayr).
SANDERSON, G. S. (Harrow, Middlesex).
STRONG, A. J. (Clacton-on-Sea, Essex).
WAITES, R. R. (Pontefract).
WILKINSON, J. (Manchester).
WILLIAMS, A. B., B.Arch.Hons. (Liverpool). (University of Liverpool) (Mold, N. Wales).

(OVERSEAS)

BENNETT, R. C. C. (Durban, South Africa).
CALLAHAN, R. C. (Port Elizabeth, South Africa).
JENNINGS, Lieut. C. O., R.E. (Singapore).

AS LICENTIATES (4)

BELL, M. (Newcastle-upon-Tyne).
CARTER, E. A. H. (London).
CLARKE, G. W. (London).
WALKER, R. W. (Sleaford).

LORD REITH AND THE CIVIL ENGINEERS

Lord Reith, speaking at a luncheon of the Institution of Civil Engineers on April 30, said last year he addressed them unexpectedly and briefly from the left of the Chair. He told some harrowing tales of early struggles with such of their great ones as Ernest Moir and Sir Alexander Gibb. Today he might tell of struggles with such of their successors as Mr. Hugh Beaver and Colonel Howard Humphreys, both of whom he had the sense and fortune to procure for the Ministry of Works. He said last year that he wished his elevation to the left of the Chair had been due to achievement in the profession and not to the incidental occupancy of Ministerial office. And here he was on the right of the Chair. If it was the first time that one of their Members has been so placed he was the more honoured.

Do not let anyone think, he said, that what he or anybody else might be doing about the machinery for planning detracted from the war effort. The idea of a planned and ordered reconstruction was surely an incentive to and an encouragement of war effort. And surely engineers, of all people, so careful in planning their own works, should welcome planning in this larger sphere. They should, in fact, be among those who, insisting on a proper design of whatever they were about to build, must welcome a design for living not only in planned and ordered communities of concrete and bricks and timber and stone and steel; of highways and byways; of farms where farms should be, and flowers and grass and trees where they should be; of industrial communities where they should be (and definitely not where they should not be). There must be co-ordination between living and working and moving and playing, with amenities natural and otherwise of civilized life, instead of the haphazard, confused disorder and inconvenience of our lives, the monstrous and obscene mutilations of the countryside. In this connection he welcomed contacts with the President and Sir Clement Hindley, and congratulated the Institution on the steps taken to investigate many of the post-war problems of concern to engineers.

Staircase in a house in New Jersey, U.S.A., which is referred to in this week's leading article.

GOVERNMENT BUILDING WORKS

A new system of allocation of wartime building work for Government Departments has been started under the control of the Ministry of Works and Buildings.

To each department will be allotted a quota, and each department will in future arrange its own priorities. For the first time, it has now been calculated how much work can be done by the labour available, and on that calculation the national programme has been adjusted.

This work is by no means completed. The next step is in the nature of a census of all building work now in progress. Detailed statistics are being sought by the Ministry of Works of where building labour is and of all building work in hand. It is then intended to draw a line between essential war work, such as that being done for the Government or for local authorities, and non-essential work, so that the whole of the building industry may be concentrated on the war.

BRICKS

The Minister of Health, in a circular to local and other authorities, states that, with a view to keeping all existing brickworks in operation, which is necessary to ensure that the supply of bricks equals the demand, and to avoiding unnecessary transport of bricks, the Works and Buildings Committee of the Ministry of Works and Buildings have decided that contractors should be instructed to take all reasonable steps to exhaust supplies of suitable bricks within 50 miles of jobs before going further afield, even though the prices of local bricks might be higher than those obtainable elsewhere. The Minister of Health understands that the maximum extra cost due to the use of local bricks would be £1 per thousand, with an average of 6s. to 8s. per thousand, and requests that local and other authorities will endeavour to secure the observance of this decision in placing any future contracts or jobs.

•

LAW REPORT

Meikle and Others v. *Maufe and Others*

IN the Chancery Division on Tuesday, May 6, Mr. Justice Uthwatt resumed the hearing of an action by Mr. Joseph Abraham Meikle, F.R.I.B.A., of Cantling Avenue, Tulse Hill, Mrs. Clara Ellen Smith (widow) of Bath Road, Bournemouth, and Mr. Douglas Chaplin of Uphill Road, Mill Hill, against Mr. Edward Maufe, A.R.A., M.A., F.R.I.B.A., of Pickering Place, St. James's, and Heal and Son, Ltd., furnishers, etc., of Tottenham Court Road.

Mr. Meikle's claim is in his personal capacity and the plaintiffs, Mrs. Smith and Mr. Chaplin, is in the alternative as executors of Arnold Dunbar Smith, deceased, for damages and infringement of the copyright in the architectural drawings and plans made by Cecil Claud Brewer and Arnold Dunbar Smith for part of the building occupied by Heal and Son, Ltd., in Tottenham Court Road and in the building as an architectural work.

The defendants deny the infringement alleged.

Mr. C. Harman, K.C., and Mr. J. Mould (instructed by Lee and Pembertons, solicitors) appeared for the plaintiffs, and Mr. Shelley, K.C., and Mr. Guy Aldous (instructed by Sydney Redfern and Co., solicitors) represented the defendants.

Mr. Meikle was further examined, and he said that the features in the Maufe drawings were similar to the Smith and Brewer drawings in regard to the octagonal columns, with the caps and bases of Smith and Brewer, and also in regard to the shop front marble architecture.

Mr. Shelley interposed and asked what point was now being put before the court.

Mr. Mould said he was endeavouring to show that the working drawings of Maufe included work in the original drawings of Smith and Brewer.

Mr. Shelley went on to the Judge's Bench to cross-examine Mr. Meikle, as he wished to point out to the judge the difference between the plans and drawings. Mr Meikle and Mr. Mould were also up on the Bench.

Mr. Shelley said Mr. Meikle's plan showed a cast head gutter with certain embellishments.

Mr. Meikle said that was so.

Mr. Shelley: The gutter on our building is in cast iron and embellishments are different ?"

Mr. Meikle: I agree.

Mr. Shelley next questioned Mr. Meikle about the lion's head gargoyle of Smith and Brewer and put it to Mr. Meikle that Mr. Armitage had designed the lion's head.

Mr. Meikle agreed.

Mr. Shelley: A lion's head on buildings is not unusual ?—No, it's going back to history. It is the positioning of them that is in the design.

Mr. Shelley next passed to the idea of the trade signs and suggested that they were the idea of Sir Ambrose Heal, and witness agreed and said that idea was worked out by Smith and Brewer. Witness now complained that the signs in the southern section could not have been worked out without regard to the original signs.

Mr. Shelley then passed to the question of infringement by the erection of the building. He reminded Mr. Meikle that in the examination-in-chief he said that a substantial part of a certain part of the new building was partially copied, by a combination of things.

Witness said in his view the general proportions were the same, including the mouldings. Certain portions had been influenced by the Smith and Brewer design. His complaint was that many things in the new building were substantially the same, though there were slight differences.

Mr. Meikle agreed that the staircase and lift in the new building was totally different from Smith and Brewer's designs. With regard to the interior of the front block he was certain that it was a copy of Smith and Brewer's plans.

At this point the evidence was interposed of an accountant, who stated that of the gross fees of six per cent. received by the plaintiffs, two per cent. represented the overhead charges.

Mr. Meikle again went into the witness box and said he made no complaint as to the siting.

Mr. Meikle said he agreed that Mr. Maufe had inserted in the frames of Smith and Brewer's windows a non-reflecting type of glass.

On Wednesday Mr. Meikle was still under cross-examination.

Mr. Shelley asked him if he agreed that Mr. Maufe did not faithfully copy the exact width of the triple and single bays ?—Mr. Meikle: That may be.

I suggest it is understood that in the employment of an architect the client shall make reasonable use of the plans including a copy of them for any reasonable purpose such as rebuilding, if the building falls down ?—May I refer you to the conditions of engagement of an architect as published by the R.I.B.A.

Mr. Meikle quoted from the R.I.B.A. Calendar of 1935-6, which stated that the copyright in all drawings, and in the work executed from them, will remain the property of the architect.

Mr. Shelley suggested that not to continue the southern building similar to the north would have been an architectural crime ?—It would have been a mistaken design.

Mr. Meikle replying to further questions said he never understood that any essential part of his copyright would be taken for the extension. He expected the main line to be followed so that there might be uniformity in architecture. He had no complaint to make about the carrying on the levels of the floors. He certainly thought that in 1935 he owned the copyright in the drawings of Smith and Brewer.

Mr. Shelley: If you knew you had the copyright why did you not mention it to Sir Ambrose Heal ?—I had not the slightest occasion to do so. Sir Ambrose is a designer and he knows copyright as well as anybody. To follow out and develop in contemporary manner means a new design.

Mr. Shelley then referred to an opinion he gave on the matter, which was published in a technical journal.

Mr. Meikle said he read the opinion given by counsel (Mr. Shelley), but nothing in that opinion induced him to bring the action. He studied the Act and consulted his solicitors.

Mr. Shelley: Till you read that opinion you never thought of any claim ?—That is nonsense.

I suggest you fully understood that subsequent architects are entitled to repeat the old building for the purpose of making an extension, because there is an implied consent by an architect when you put up a building that the plan may be repeated ?—I do not agree with that suggestion.

Mr. Shelley: As an architect, if you put up a building and an extension is to be added to the building, would you prefer your original idea to be carried out, or would you prefer some totally different structure to be put up, so that the artistic value of yours is destroyed ?—I don't think any architect would put up any extension that was not in architectural unity—not in harmony, in other words.

Mr. Shelley drew Mr. Meikle's attention to an advertisement of Crittalls in which it was stated that Smith and Brewer were the architects of the new building, and Mr. E. Maufe architect of the extension.

Mr. Meikle agreed that that was a proper way to put it.

Mr. Shelley questioned Mr. Meikle as to the fee he would have asked for a licence for his designs, and suggested that £200 would be a generous fee for such a licence ?—Mr. Meikle: I suggest that would have been a ridiculous fee.

Replying to other questions, Mr. Meikle said he had designed many buildings in London and he regarded his work as valuable copyrights.

In re-examination, Mr. Meikle said the real designer of the plans in question was Mr. Brewer alone.

Mr. Meikle said he claimed copyright in the general design of the building.

Mr. Harman: What is your object in this action ?—First of all to get compensation for myself and for my partner and, secondly, to retain the recognition that the design is that of my predecessors.

Mr. Henry Vaughan Lanchester, F.R.I.B.A., of Bedford Square, was the first witness called for the plaintiffs. Mr. Lanchester said he was familiar with Heal's building prior to the extension. He admired the building as an extremely distinguished building with individual character. The building was well known in the architectural world and had impressed it both in England and abroad.

Cross-examined, Mr. Lanchester agreed that Mr. Maufe held a high reputation as a designer. Witness had designed the extension to Morley College, and he believed that Mr. Maufe had carried out a further extension. Witness believed his firm gave Mr. Maufe a set of their drawings and took no fee.

Professor Stanley D. Adshead, F.R.I.B.A., said the profession regarded the design of Heal's building as very original, with delicacy and detail.

With regard to the extension by Mr. Maufe,

Professor Adshead thought that Mr. Maufe did what was inevitable to produce the best results in repeating the exterior of the building He saw no difference in the detail.

On Thursday the hearing was resumed.

Professor Adshead again entered the witness box and was cross-examined by Mr. Shelley. He agreed that the work Mr. Maufe produced was in the best interest of the parties concerned.

Mr. Sidney Clarke, A.R.I.B.A., a partner with Mr. Meikle in the firm of Smith and Brewer, said the drawings and plans produced in court were the joint work of Smith and Brewer, who often settled together problems of design and construction. He was astounded to see the repetition of the southern half on the lines of the northern building designed by the plaintiffs. He did not agree that it was a contemporary design, but it was contemporary with the old building.

This closed the evidence for the plaintiffs.

Mr. Mould then summed up the case for the plaintiffs. He submitted that Smith and Brewer were the joint owners of the plans of the original new building and that they were the original owners of the copyright in the plans and the buildings. Next he submitted that the copyright descended through a chain of succession so that now the copyright was vested in Mr. Meikle and that at the time of the breach complained of was vested in Mr. Meikle or Mrs. Dunbar Smith. Whichever was the legal owner now was of small importance because all parties were before the court.

Counsel, proceeding, said his next point was that Mr. Maufe having access to the plaintiffs plans had taken advantage of their work to reproduce a substantial part of that work by drawings and plans and erecting his building, and further that Heal's authorised and sanctioned what was done.

Whilst denying liability, Mr. Mould said the defendants had delivered up all the plans of the work.

The plaintiffs claimed damages in respect of the breaches he had mentioned, which plaintiffs suggested should be measured by the loss of fees they had sustained or profits which could have been earned by the persons in a position to execute the work if they had been permitted to do so.

Mr. Harman, replying to his Lordship, said the cost of the building erected to the plans of the defendants was between £80,000 and £100,000.

THE DEFENCE

Mr. Shelley, in opening the defence, submitted that there was no separate copyright in the building made from the plans apart from the copyright of the plans, and if there was any copyright it was vested in the building owner and not in the architect. Copyright only subsists in the original of the work. In a legal sense the architect had no copyright with the building, but only in the plans. On the question of damages counsel said the degree of damages must be considered in the light of how much had been copied. If his Lordhsip came to the conclusion that the façade was copied, then the damages would be on that basis alone. If there was copyright in the plans, where was the title? Firstly, was this work really joint work or the work of Cecil Brewer? Plaintiff must prove that he was the author of the plans or that he had acquired a title from the author, and until he did this he had not proved his case. That onus was on the plaintiff, and counsel submitted that he had failed to prove his case in this respect. All the plaintiffs had was an equitable right, and it had been held that in that case a plaintiff was not entitled to damages. If his Lordship came to the conclusion that Brewer was the original author of the plan, then counsel submitted that there was no assignment to bring the asset into the partnership, and the claim failed.

Mr. Harman said this took him by surprise, and after discussion his Lordship granted leave to amend the writ and the pleadings to bring the personal representative of Mr. Brewer before the court, he having died some years ago.

Mr. Shelley said he would deal with the matter again when he saw the amendment.

Proceeding, Mr. Shelley contended that these plans were not the joint authorship of Smith and Brewer. If his Lordship found there was a joint authorship, then he submitted the damages to Mr. Meikle should only be half of amount of the damages.

Counsel further submitted that where there was knowledge that a building would be extended, there was an implied licence that the building owner might utilise the plans in any normal and reasonable manner for the purpose of repairing or extending his building. This licence need not be in writing.

The hearing was adjourned till May 13.

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LETTERS

DAVID PERCIVAL, A.R.I.B.A.
(*Hon. Secretary of the Committee of Technicians in the Building Industry*)

PERCY W. SANKEY

Architects and Politics

SIR,—In your issue of April 24, Astragal quotes from and replies to our recent letter to you on the subject of reconstruction and vested interests. He rejects the points which we had (within the limits of extreme brevity) tried to make, on two grounds. To deal first with the disagreement of word definition: we suggest that in the term "vested interests" he includes much more than is usually meant; that is, interests that are not fully susceptible to democratic control. "Anyone who represents anything represents vested interests" he says, including "trades unions as well as landowners." The vested interests to which we referred, however, and whose exclusion from government we advocated, are those groups of people, every year diminishing in number as they increase in power, who own and control the land, natural resources, plant and capital of our country and its dependencies. But Astragal's fundamental disagreement is on the degree to which technical people should concern themselves with political matters. This is a question which architects and technicians of all kinds are discussing more and more widely as events turn out more and more frustrating and disappointing. At a time of desperate crisis in the building industry and for the architect as a creative member of society, after two post-war decades of admitted failure to achieve a planned reconstruction, and in the middle of the second world war in our generation, the question whether problems of planning and reconstruction are capable of solution without political action really can no longer be dismissed as outside our scope. After all, the very material of both town planning and government is the same—*people*, in all their activities. Technicians are finding themselves forced to ask: in whose interests is our government actually carried on? Why, in the face of the enormous potentiality of our technical and human resources has our achievement been so abortive and the scope, the social usefulness, and even the security of the technician so unsatisfactory?

This Committee consists precisely of those of us who consider that these are perfectly relevant questions for technicians to ask; and if the conclusion we come to is that the government is not carried on in the interests of the mass of ordinary people but in those of a minority, then the replacing of such a government by one really representative of ordinary people does follow as a prerequisite of sound reconstruction.

By many architects this conclusion is not accepted; but whether it is or not, may we put in a plea for this, at any rate: that it is useless to consider the problems of our profession (such as reconstruction) apart from the political and economic structure which will condition their solution.

DAVID PERCIVAL.

London

Astragal writes:

It seems probable that post-war debates on a reconstruction which will require both amalgamation of smaller local authorities and the use of new methods of building construction may prove my definition of vested interests more accurate than Mr. Percival's.

As to politics, Mr. Percival may have misunderstood my note. My contention was that a technical society *will rapidly diminish its own public influence in technical matters if it makes pronouncements on political questions which do not intimately and immediately concern its own technique.*

Taps and Fire Fighting

SIR,—Many householders and tenants must have experienced during the last few months of blitzes disgust at their inability to fix their garden hose to any of their water supply taps, due to the variation in the shapes of the taps and their inaccessibility.

There are round taps, elliptical taps, taps with threaded nozzles, and taps so fitted that they almost touch the basin surface and to which no hose (without union) however thin could be fixed. Then, again, there are several kinds of unions.

Could not the hose manufacturers and tap manufacturers work together and evolve standard fittings which could be quickly and reliably utilized?

The plumber should be compelled to fix the taps with a space behind to enable a union to be quickly fixed. This is a point, however, that may effect the tap manufacturer more than the plumber.

Further, why not fit a tap to a Tee-piece on the main cold water supply tank in the loft, independent of the ball-valve, to which a hose could be permanently fixed?

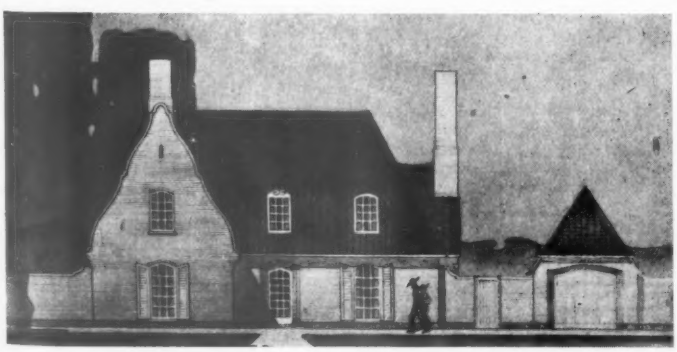
PERCY W. SANKEY

London

R. A. EXHIBITION, 1941

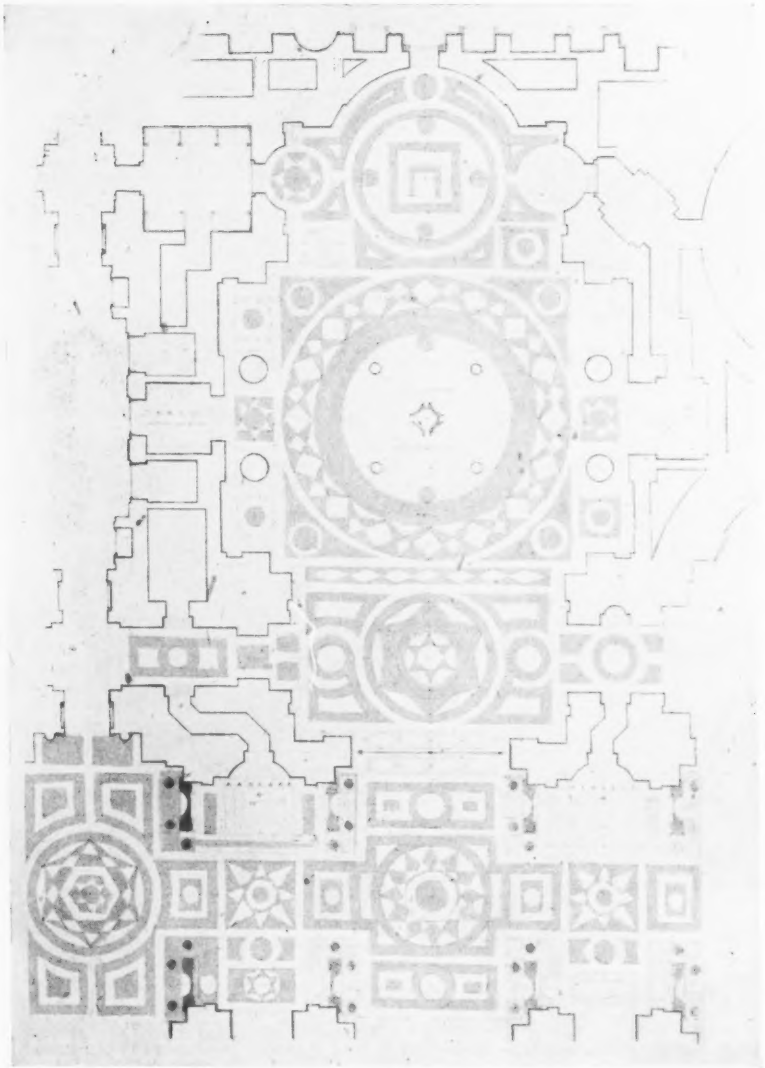
The one hundred and seventy-third summer exhibition of the Royal Academy was opened to the public last week.

Architectural thought and feeling may be stimulated and re-directed by a state of war. But architecture, unlike other arts, can in modern war find few channels of expression. It is therefore not surprising that the architectural exhibits of this year's Academy are few in number and were almost without exception designed before war began. It is with these things in mind that architects must regard the small selection of architectural exhibits which the JOURNAL reproduces on the following pages.

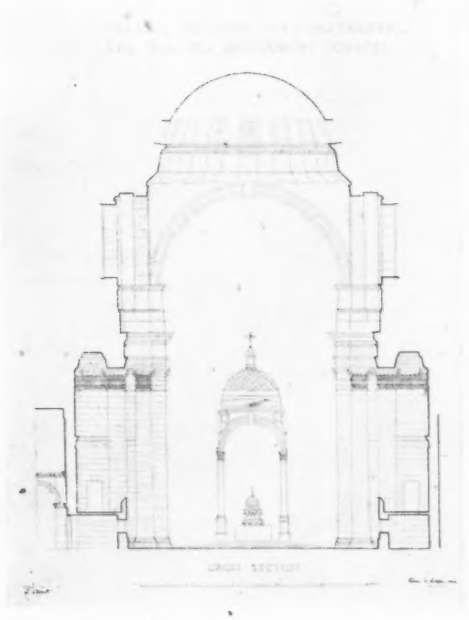


Above: St. James's Church, Piccadilly (designed by Christopher Wren). *Pastel drawing by Edward Bishop, 1941.*

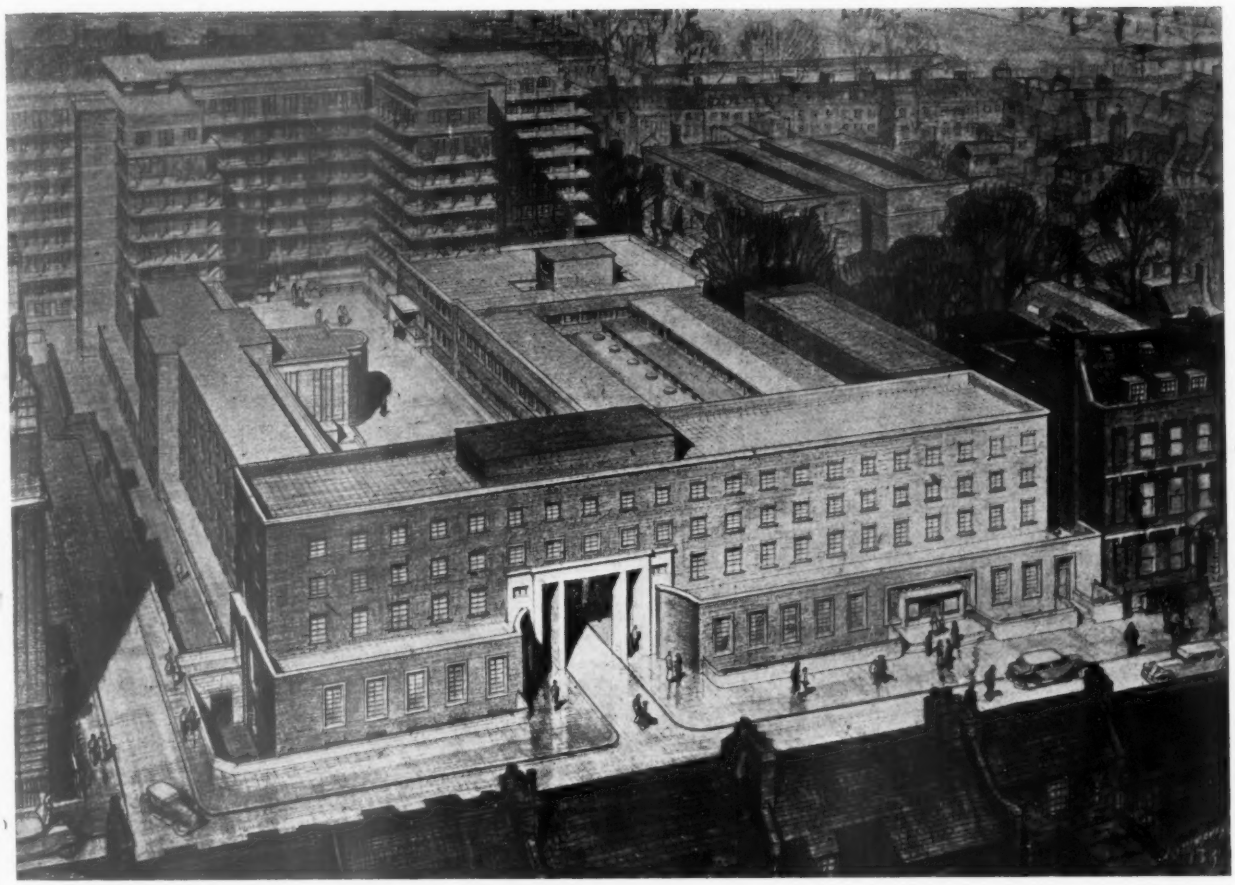
Left: Proposed houses at Banstead, Surrey. *By T. J. R. Winn.*



LIVERPOOL METROPOLITAN CATHEDRAL : BLESSED SACRAMENT CHAPEL. *By Sir Edwin Lutyens, P.R.A.*



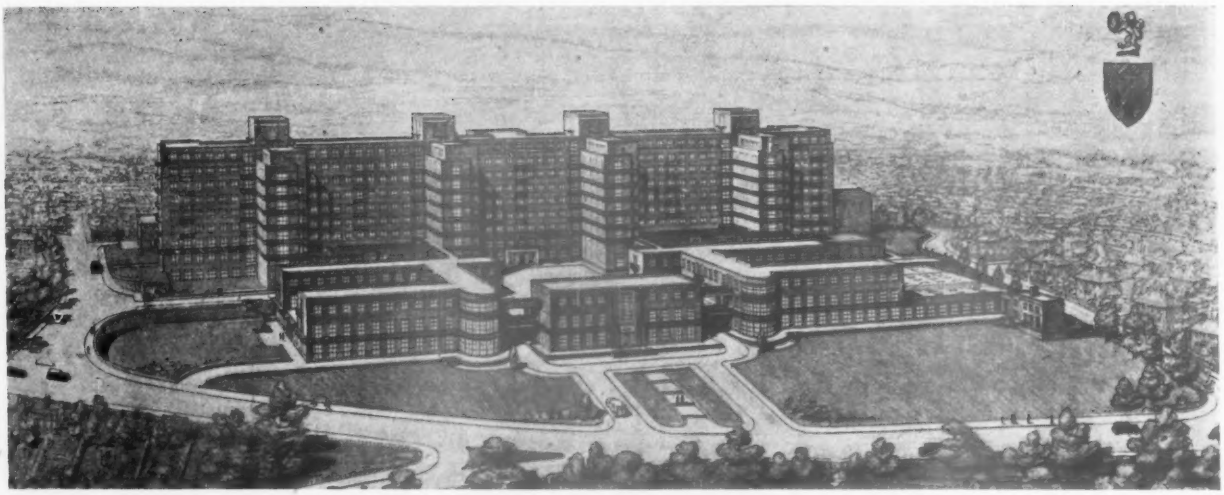
ARCHITECTURE AT THE ROYAL

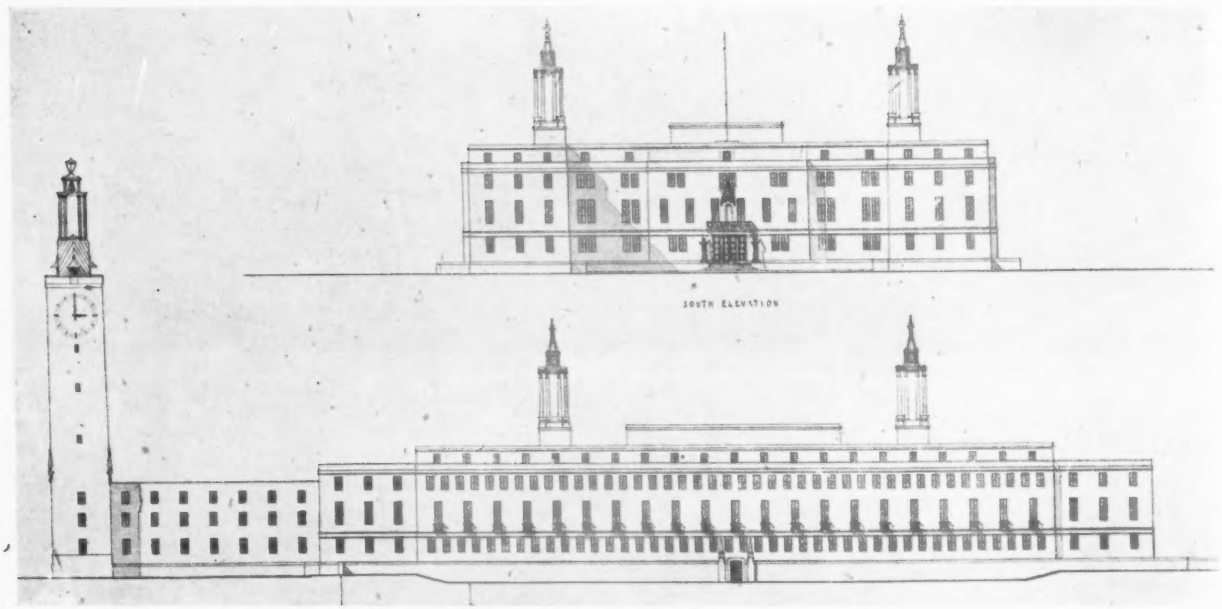


NEW HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN, GREAT ORMOND STREET, W.C. *By Stanley Hall and Easton and Robertson.*

PROPOSED COTTAGE, FAWLEY GREEN, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE. *By Charles Read.*

ACADEMY EXHIBITION, 1941





Top: ROYAL SHEFFIELD INFIRMARY.
By Adams, Holden and Pearson.

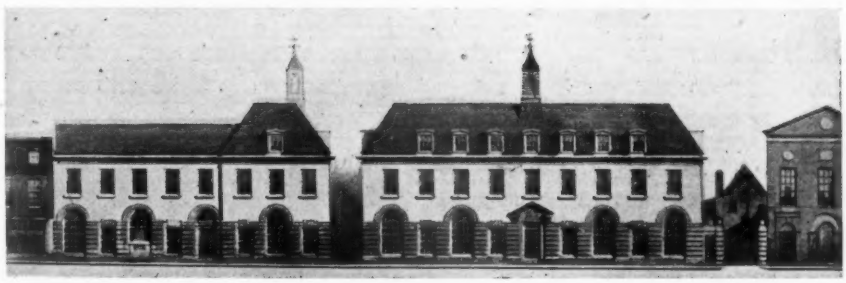
Above: DESIGN FOR A TOWN HALL.
By W. Curtis Green, R.A., Son and Lloyd.

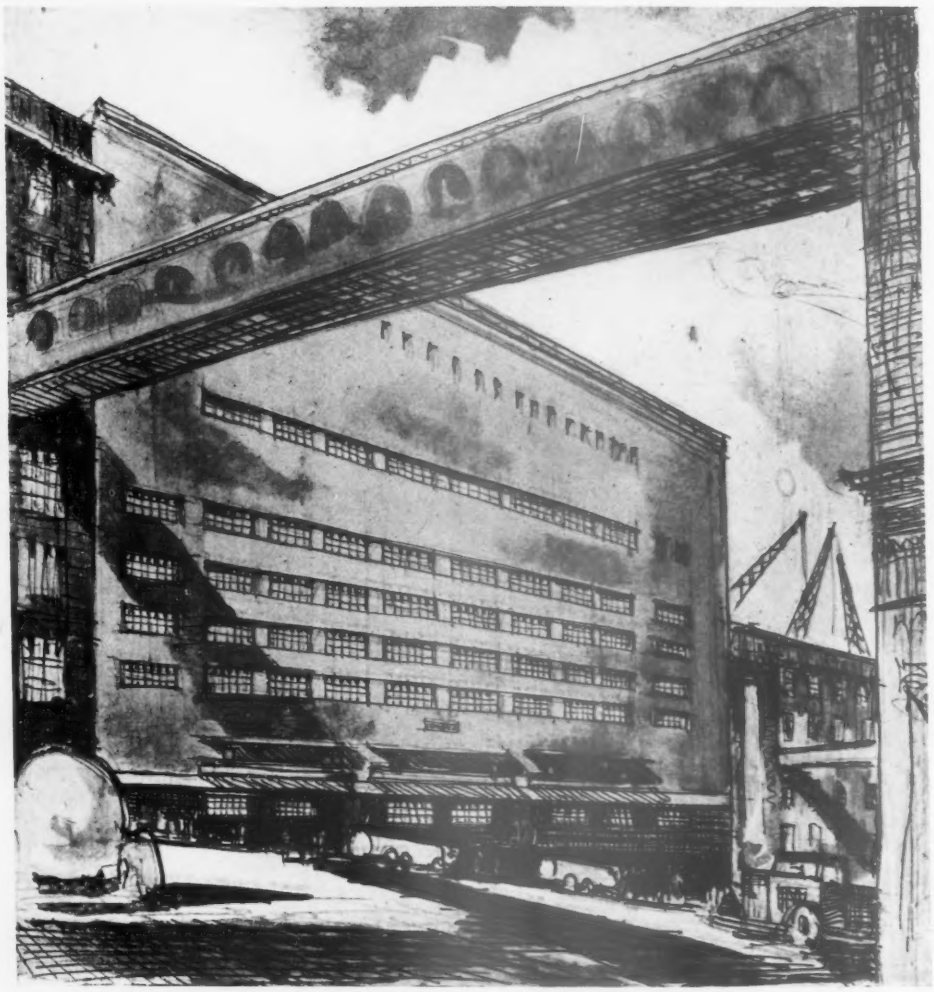
ARCHITECTURE AT THE ROYAL A

Top: SHREWSBURY SENIOR MIXED SCHOOL : EAST COURT. *By Julian Leathart.*

Centre : SOUTHWARK NEW POLICE STATION. *By G. Mackenzie Trench.*

Bottom : PROPOSED POST OFFICE AT TRURO. *By H. E. Seccombe.*





Top: EXTENSIONS TO BRADFORD CATHEDRAL. *By Edward Maufe, A.R.A.*

Above: NEW OIL REFINERY: FIRST STUDY. *By S. Colwyn Foulkes.*

ARCHITECTURE AT THE R.A. EXHIBITION, 1941

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BUTT WELDS : THEIR APPLICATION AND PERMISSIBLE STRESSING :

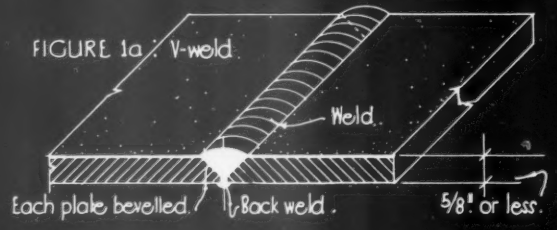

FIGURE 1a : V-weld.

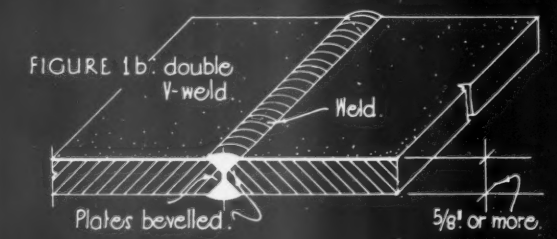

FIGURE 1b : double V-weld.

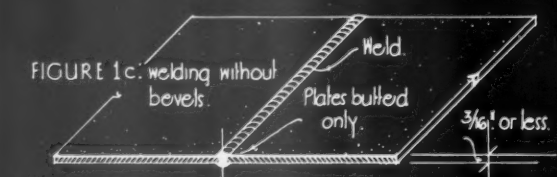

FIGURE 1c : welding without bevels.

TYPES OF BUTT WELDS FOR PLATES OF DIFFERENT THICKNESSES.

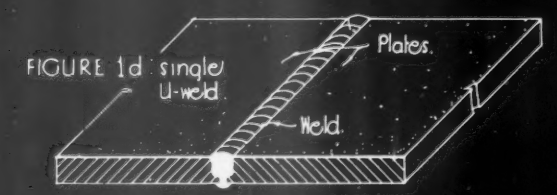

FIGURE 1d : single U-weld.

EXAMPLES OF U-BUTT WELDS.

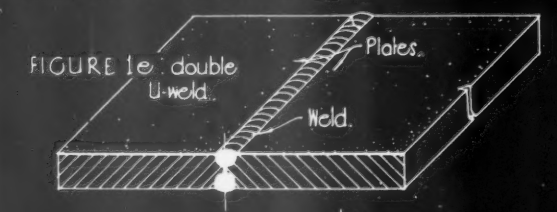

FIGURE 1e : double U-weld.

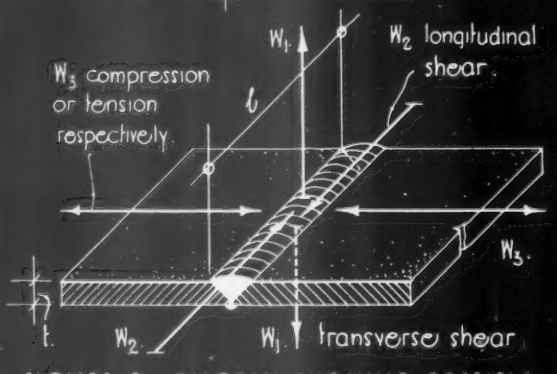

FIGURE 2 : DIAGRAM SHOWING POSSIBLE DIRECTIONAL STRESSES IN BUTT WELDS.

PERMITTED LOADS IN TENSION & COMPRESSION IN ALL BUTT WELDS OTHER THAN U & BEVEL WELDS.

Plate thickness Ins.	Tons per linear inch of weld.
1/4	2·00
5/16	2·50
3/8	3·00
7/16	3·50
1/2	4·00
5/8	5·00
3/4	6·00
7/8	7·00
1	8·00

FIGURE 3.

PERMITTED SHEARING LOADS IN BUTT WELDS IN WEBS OF PLATE GIRDERS AND JOISTS.

Plate or web thickness; Ins.	Tons per linear inch of weld.
1/4	1·50
5/16	1·88
3/8	2·25
7/16	2·63
1/2	3·00
5/8	3·75
3/4	4·50
7/8	5·25
1	6·00

FIGURE 4.

PERMITTED SHEARING LOADS IN BUTT WELDS OTHER THAN IN WEBS OF PLATE GIRDERS AND JOISTS.

Plate or web thickness; Ins.	Tons per linear inch of weld.
1/4	1·25
5/16	1·56
3/8	1·87
7/16	2·18
1/2	2·50
5/8	3·12
3/4	3·74
7/8	4·36
1	5·00

FIGURE 5.

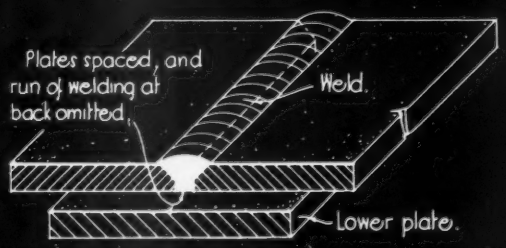

FIGURE 6a : V-WELDING PLATES WITH PLATE UNDER.

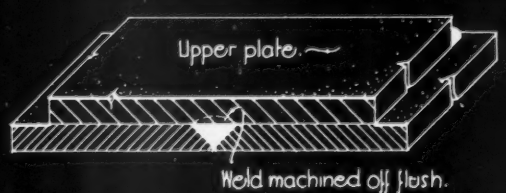

FIGURE 6b : V-WELDING PLATES TO BE OVER-PLATED.

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INFORMATION SHEET : STEEL FRAME CONSTRUCTION, 50 : WELDING No 6.
SIR JOHN BURNET TAIT AND LORNE ARCHITECTS ONE MONTAGUE PLACE BEDFORD SQUARE LONDON WC1.

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INFORMATION SHEET • 827 • STRUCTURAL STEELWORK

Subject: Welding 6: Butt Welds; their Application and Permissible Stressing.

General:

This series of Sheets on welded steel construction is a continuation of a preceding group dealing with riveted and bolted construction, and is intended to serve a similar purpose—namely, to indicate the way in which economical design as affected by general planning considerations may be obtained.

Both the principles of design and the general and detailed application of welded steelwork are analyzed in relation to the normal structural requirements of buildings. The economies in cover and dead weight resulting from the use of lighter and smaller steel members and connections are taken into consideration in the preliminary arrangement of the building components in order to obtain a maximum economy in the design of the steel framing.

This Sheet is the sixth of the welding group, and deals with butt welds, their application and permissible stressing.

Types of Welds:

Unless special structural reasons obtain, butt welds are carried out in **V** form for plates up to a thickness of $\frac{5}{8}$", and in double **V** form for thicker plates. Only for plates not thicker than $\frac{3}{16}$", which are structurally rare, is it permitted to fill the space with weld metal without bevelling at all. See Figures 1*a*, *b* and *c*. **U** butt welds and double **U** butt welds (Figures 1*d* and *e*) are visualized by the regulations, but they are so much more difficult to execute that they have no practical importance.

Direction of Stresses:

Butt welds may be stressed by forces in any direction, as shown isometrically in Figure 2. Forces acting normal to the line of weld, but in the plane of the plate, are said to act in compression or tension. Forces parallel to the weld act in longitudinal shear, and forces normal to the plane of the plate would act in transverse shear.

Loading:

Usually, for tension and compression butt welds, 8 tons per sq. in. are permitted; and for shear, 6 tons per sq. in. in the webs of plate-girders and joists, but only 5 tons in any other butt welds. The stress in a butt weld is computed by dividing the force by the length of the weld and the thickness of the plate.

$$s=\frac{W}{lt}$$ where s=stress, W=force, l=length of weld and t=thickness of plate.

If a butt weld connects plates of different thickness, the smaller one is to be taken for computation of stresses.

Tables*:

The tables shown in Figures 3, 4 and 5 give the permitted stresses in compression, in longitudinal shear in the webs of plate-girders, and in all other cases where shear forces exist respectively. Every butt weld should be carried out in such a way that the thickness in the centre is at least 10 per cent. greater than at both edges (see Figure 1).

V Welds:

If the weld is of **V** type, one run of weld of unspecified thickness is to be arranged at the back of the weld. The back run can be omitted if there is another plate at the back, but in this case it is better to keep a certain distance between the plates joined by the **V** weld (see Figure 6*a*). Where another plate is to be arranged on top of the weld, the thickness of the weld should also be increased in the centre, but it is machined down (dressed flush) afterwards (see Figure 6*b*). The stresses in such cases are not clearly specified in the Bylaws, but it is good practice to reduce at least 10 per cent. compared with a normal weld.

Use:

Butt welds occur in the splices of plate girders, trusses, columns, frames, etc., and they should be used wherever possible as they represent the most economical type of construction, transferring the stresses directly from one plate or flange to another without intermediate construction.

Vibration:

Butt welds stressed in tension should not normally be used if there is danger of vibration or shock—e.g., in railway bridges, crane girders, etc. See also Sheet No. 8 of this group.

Fillet Welds:

Butt welds cannot be used where two members in different planes have to be joined, and for connections of this type fillet welds are adopted, as, for instance, between the flange and web of a plate girder, the connection of two different members of a truss, a column base, etc. See Sheet No. 7 of this group.

Previous Sheets:

Previous Sheets of this series dealing with structural steelwork are Nos. 729, 733, 736, 737, 741, 745, 751, 755, 759, 763, 765, 769, 770, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 780, 783, 785, 789, 790, 793, 796, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 816, 819, 822, 823, 824, and 826.

Issued by: Braithwaite and Co., Engineers, Limited

London Office (*Temporary Address*):
King's House, Haymarket, London, S.W. 1

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* The tables in Figures 3, 4 and 5 on the front of this Sheet are taken from "Building Design and Construction" (Vol. I), by Samuely and Hamann, and reprinted here by permission of the publishers, Messrs. Chapman and Hall.

SOME QUESTIONS ANSWERED THIS WEEK:

★ *WHO supplies large single-span sheds, about 70 feet by 60 feet?* - - - - - Q703

★ *CAN you define the meaning of five terms in a Bill of Quantities?* - - - - Q704

★ *WHAT is the best method to employ to prevent dusting from a new Granolithic floor after a month's wear?* - - - - - Q707

THE ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL

INFORMATION CENTRE

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

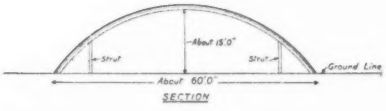
VIGILANT 0087

The reply will come by post.

Q703

ARCHITECT, RUGBY.—*An agriculturist wishes to erect, as simply and cheaply as possible, a large SHED TO HOUSE AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS. It is required to be about 75′ by 60′ with unobstructed floor space.*

My client has seen an aeroplane shed, consisting merely of a segmental roof as sketch below, and formed of light



SECTION

timber centres covered with galvanized ribbed or corrugated steel, which he considers would serve his purpose.

I should be obliged if you could give me the name and address of the firm who supply this particular type of structure and of any other firms who supply buildings of a similar kind.

There is little doubt that the aeroplane shed seen by your client was one of the Blister Hangars invented by William C. Inman and Graham R. Dawbarn (Consultants: Norman and Dawbarn, Architects and Engineers), for which patents have been

applied for. Full particulars can be obtained from C. Miskin and Sons, Ltd., Contractors, St. Albans, Herts.

The Blister Hangars usually have special ends, curved on plan as well as curved on elevation, which gives the true "blister" appearance. These are virtually shadowless and, after suitable camouflage, cannot be picked out in air photographs.

All-Purpose Blister Buildings, which would be suitable for your needs, are similar in appearance but without the special ends. Several standard types of normal vertical ends with doors and windows can be supplied if required. Particulars can be obtained from the same source.

For your purpose the smallest standard size of Blister Building would be suitable, the dimensions being as follows:

Clear span between uprights	45′ 0″
Clear height at centre of arch	14′ 3″
Clear height at uprights ...	6′ 10″
Overall depth	59′ 11″

Standard size No. 1 can be built of timber; for larger sizes steel is necessary.

The structure normally needs no foundations and can take up moderate inequalities in ground levels; a cross slope, up to 1 in 45, can be tolerated. Erection is both simple and quick.

The price in January, 1941, for the Basic Structure, without ends (size No. 1), F.O.R. St. Albans, was:

	Per ft. run. £ s.
In wood, including platforms	11 0
In welded steel, exlcuding platforms	9 15
Add for platforms if required	2 0

These prices are, of course, subject to confirmation. Messrs. Miskin are prepared to submit prices for any variation on the Standard Types and to undertake erection, if required.

We presume that your client is in a position to obtain the necessary permits for the materials.

Q704

ENQUIRER, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE. — *I have come across the following ITEMS IN a Bill of QUANTITIES and should be greatly obliged if you would define them:*

1. *E.O. Flettons for facing and pointing.*
2. *E.O. Flettons for f.f. and pointing.*
3. *Internal f.f. and pointing.*
4. *Fair internal face and pointing.*
5. *Pointing to match fair face.*

E.O. means Extra over.

Fletton is a particular type of brick used for ordinary structural work.

Facings.—Where the bricks used for the face of a wall differ from the ordinary building bricks, the wall is said to be faced, and the term implies that the face will be finished neatly and accurately, all chipped or irregular surfaces being hidden as much as possible. The bricks used for the face are termed "facing bricks" or "facings," and the other bricks "common" or "backing bricks."

Fairface.—Where the surface of a wall is finished neatly and accurately as for a "faced wall" but no facing bricks are used—*i.e.*, common bricks are used for the whole thickness of the wall, the wall is said to be finished with a fair face. "Internally" merely denotes that an internal face is to be treated in this manner.

Pointing.—This term refers to the method of finishing off the exposed mortar in the joints. For faced work or fair-faced work a neat joint is usually required and the operation may consist of scraping off surplus mortar and pressing back the joint with a pointing trowel. There are many different ways of pointing however; sometimes the mortar is raked out to a depth of ½ inch and pointed with a different type of mortar.

It is customary and correct to measure brickwork as if it was all to be of common bricks and to measure any surface treatment as an "extra over"; thus "E. O. Flettons for facing and pointing" means the extra cost of using facing bricks instead of Flettons plus the extra labour involved in building the face fair and pointing. In the same way "E.O. Fletton for fair face and pointing" means the extra labour involved in building the wall fair and pointing.

It might be as well to note that "E.O. Flettons for facings and pointing" is not an adequate description in itself as it gives no indication of the type of facing brick or pointing to be used. These points may, however, be covered by a heading or by a general clause elsewhere.

The three descriptions in your letter referring to fair face undoubtedly mean the same thing, but again the description is inadequate unless the type of pointing has been dealt with in a covering clause.

"Pointing to match fair face" is not a very usual item on its own as it is unusual to point rough brickwork. The meaning is clear, however, and that is that the brickwork is to be pointed to match the pointing elsewhere described for fair-faced work.

Such a description might easily apply to an old wall which is to be finished to match new fair-faced work, but in this case it should read, "rake out joints of existing brickwork and point to match fair face."

It is impossible to discuss the whole problem of facings and pointing here, but as a guide the following description might be adequate for facings if brickwork and mortar had been dealt with fully, but no particular reference had been made to facing bricks.

Example. — Extra over common brickwork as described for facing in Flemish bond with facing bricks p.c. 100s. per 1,000 delivered to site and pointing as the work proceeds with a neat struck joint.

Q705

ARCHITECT, YORKSHIRE. *A small farm-house in a north moorland district is to be fitted with a new KITCHEN RANGE, the existing one (now worn out) has a side hot-water tank AND is heated by an open fire. It is proposed to provide a similar type of range but of modern design. I should be grateful if you would give me names of manufacturers or suppliers of this kind of fireplace.*

I should also appreciate your advice regarding DAMPNESS IN the OUTER WALLS of the building. The walls are built of local sandstone (18 inches to 2 feet thick) and of coursed masonry medium dressed built in lime mortar, the joints pointed in cement. The walls are plastered inside the building with lime plaster and this is now falling away from the stone. Would it be advisable to treat the walls against damp by treatment inside the building?

We give below a few manufacturers of modern kitchen ranges.*

We regret that we cannot answer your second query as your description of the construction does not suggest any cause for the dampness. We should have expected walls 18 inches to 2 feet thick to be waterproof if properly constructed, although, of course, damp may be rising from the ground or percolating down from some defect at the eaves. You could write to the Building Research Station at Garston, near Watford, Herts, but we very much doubt whether they could trace the cause without much fuller data.

You could render the walls internally with a waterproof rendering, and we shall be pleased to give you

* *O'Brien Thomas & Co., Ltd., 17, Upper Thames Street, London, E.C. 4; Smith & Welstood, Ltd., 11, Ludgate Circus, London, E.C. 4; The London Warming Co., Ltd., 2, Percy Street, Rathbone Place, London, W. 1; The Eagle Range and Grate Co., Ltd., Catherine Street, Aston, Birmingham, 6; The Standard Range and Foundry Co., Ltd., Watford, Herts; Sydney Flavell & Co., Ltd., Leamington.*

the names and addresses of manufacturers of suitable waterproofers if desired. But it seems that this would be covering up the defect, rather than eliminating it. We think the most satisfactory course would be to seek the advice of somebody with a good deal of local experience of similar trouble, either a fellow architect or a builder, who could visit the site.

Q706

ARCHITECT, CHESHIRE.—*I am a Registered Architect, aged thirty-six in July, at present engaged by the Local Authority. The Architectural Department is shortly to be closed and consequently my engagement will eventually be terminated.*

I have had fifteen years' experience in the erection and supervision of most kinds of buildings, including a period as Clerk of Works on a Reinforced Concrete Building, and hold the highest references.

(a) To whom should I write in connection with an APPOINTMENT either AS an ARCHITECT or CLERK OF WORKS on buildings being erected by the Government (or otherwise)?

(b) To whom should I communicate with regard to VOLUNTEERING FOR one of the SERVICES in a technical capacity?

If you want a job in connection with Government work you should apply to the Central Register, Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster, London, S.W. 1. Alternatively you might be able to obtain a job in connection with private work through the R.I.B.A., 66, Portland Place, London, W.1, or through the Clerks of Works Association, Carpenters' Hall, Throgmorton Avenue, London, E.C. 2. (Applications should be addressed to the Secretary, W. J. Allison, 17, Daysbrook Road, London, S.W. 2), or by advertising in one of the architectural papers.

If you wish to volunteer for the Services you should apply to the nearest recruiting centre; there are different centres for the three different Services. Your nearest combined recruiting centre for the three different services is at Manchester.

If you have registered you must notify the local Labour Exchange that you are volunteering. If you have been through the medical examination you cannot now volunreer.

Q707

ARCHITECT, OXFORD.—*I should be glad of your help in a problem I have encountered in connection with a school completed last year.*

In this building the floors of the corridors are made of GRANOLITHIC FLOORING, composed of one part cement, two parts sharp sand, AND three parts fine granite chippings floated on a concrete raft. This floor is now DUSTING very badly, and I should be grateful if you could recommend to me any firms who supply a material which would give a hardened surface to this flooring, so that it could be treated or even lightly polished to prevent it from dusting. I might add that this dusting is severe and is spoiling the wood-block floors and other floors in the building, in addition to making the whole school extremely dirty from the dust.

The firms listed below* will supply a liquid which can be brushed on to the surface which will harden the floor and render it less likely to dust. It is doubtful, however, if this will remain very satisfactory if the flooring is subjected to hard wear. A much better method, though more expensive, would be to lay a new floor incorporating one of the hardeners manufactured by the same firms, after either hacking up the existing paving or hacking the surface to form a key for the new paving.

* *Sika-Francois Ltd., 39, Victoria Street, London, S.W. 1; Geo. Lillington & Co., Ltd., 30, Denman Street, London Bridge, London, S.W. 1; Sealocrete Products Ltd., Atlantic Works, Macbeth Street, London, W. 6; Joseph Freeman, Sons & Co., Ltd., 96, Garratt Lane, London, S.W. 18; Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd., Nobell House, Buckingham Gate, London, S.W. 1; Sal-Ferricite & Trading Co., Ltd., 748, Fulham, Road, London, S.W. 6; "Antigele," 5, Oswald Street, Glasgow, C. 1.*